

To Study Women Empowerment in Arunachal Pradesh's Kamle District Area from Political Aspect

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ABSTRACT

The study demonstrates that many myths that were associated with the entry of women into the position of Panchayat leadership would be hindered by socio-economic and political profile in terms of their age, marital status, occupation, family size, educational qualification, religion, party affiliation, and their involvement in socio-economic organizations are now disapproved of. This is the conclusion that can be drawn from the findings of the study. As a matter of fact, the evidence that was gathered from the field research makes it abundantly evident that the leadership of women is unquestionably compatible with the framework that is geared toward tribal patriarchy. First-generation women have been able to establish themselves in grassroots politics thanks to the allocation of reserved seats for them, which has also contributed to the expansion of their participation in the political arena. As a result of this, analyses have shown that just 1.85 percent of the women who are representatives at all levels of the Panchayat have joined the politics of the Panchayat with the assistance of the women reservation policy. The vast majority of them were driven by a variety of circumstances, including the encouragement of family members, the desire of the public, and even political parties for a few of them.

Keywords : Women's empowerment, marital status, occupation, family size, educational qualification, religion, party affiliation.

INTRODUCTION

The word "Empowerment" refers to the increasing Competence in the areas of the economy, politics, society, education, women, and religion of an individual (Mandal, 2013). Women's empowerment has gained global attention in the past few decades, especially in India (Sindhu, 2022). All around the world, prejudice against women and gender inequality have long been problems. The main goal of empowerment is to encourage the needy and impoverished to help themselves (Swarnalatha, 2019). In the history of this country, due to the restrictions placed on women in a patriarchal society, relatively few women participated actively in local politics. In the household, women did not speak up and found it challenging to speak up in front of their male family members. It is noted that even though women are actively engaged in domestic work, due to their low socioeconomic standing, they have a relatively minor role in local political decision-making (Radhe, 2018). Before the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts (CAA), there was a very low level of female political participation in the country. These laws set a new standard for gender equality in local governance. Many rural and urban women have joined local bodies voluntarily since the law's adoption. In India, local councils are the first stage of political engagement because they enable women to take part in electoral

activities with the encouragement and encouragement of our family and relatives(Swarnalatha, 2019).

The level of equality and freedom that women experience in shaping and sharing power, as well as the importance that society places on this role of women, can be used to characterise women's political engagement (Heger& Hoffmann, 2021; Vats, 2004). A nation's political growth can be measured by how many women participate in various political activities, which is also a sign of a developing country. The complete process of the progress of women is considerably aided by the equitable involvement of women in political career. This is not merely a call for principles of natural justice or democratization, but it may also be considered as necessary when the well-being of women is taking into account. The inclusion of women's perspectives at all levels of judgement call and their active involvement are the only ways to attain the ideals of equity, progress, and peace (Khan & Ara, 2006). In India, women make up about half of the population, although they almost always make up a very small minority in the number of elected offices. This highlights the requirement to recognise and incorporate women's social and economic concerns and goals in development (Kumar, 2020). Following the United Nations declared Women's Development Decade (1975–85), women's political engagement in India attracted much attention. The importance of reserving seats for women in local democratic bodies like Panchayats and municipalities as a practical way has been laid down to guarantee their involvement in the process of development (Kumar, 2017; Buch, 2013).

WOMEN'S POSITION IN INDIA: PAST AND PRESENT

The status of women refers to where they stand concerning men in society. They have significantly fewer chances than men in most economic and social fields. However, there is a strong correlation between several features of women's status or place in society and trends in migration, fertility, and death, among other demographic variables. This relationship is proven more robust regarding reproduction and the social processes connected to it (Rajan, 2022; Kirk, 1996). Women started to lose the position in society they earned during the Vedic era in the post-Vedic period. They became a target of protection and lost their independence. The prominent sage of the Hindu religion, Manu, declared, "Women should be held day and night in servitude by males of the family—women have to be protected by their father in childhood, husband in young age, and by their father in childhood, husband in young age, their sons in old age. At their marriage, they become someone else." The Manu codes also serve as the Hindu family's source of legal power. When it came to Vedic ceremonies, the men did not treat women equally place with themselves. The study of the Vedas and the usage of mantras during rituals, except for marriage, were not open to women (Husein, 1951).

NEED FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The idea of women's empowerment is widely shared as it is a multifaceted strategy that includes fundamental retaliation and an understanding of women's rights, capacities, and possibilities for overall development in all facets of life. Women's empowerment is the process of achieving women's independence in terms of economic, political, and social progress. This suggests that women may have different desires than males, but also that they may have various capacities for decision-making due to differences in gender-based access to resources and bargaining power. Additionally, it refers to strengthening women as people and as groups on the spiritual, political, social,

academic, gender, and economic fronts (Swarnalatha, 2019; Waghmode & Kalyan, 2014).

Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Secretary-General, stated that the organisation had long practised empowerment. Empowerment is at the heart of our long-standing efforts to uphold human rights, encourage job development, and achieve better access to energy, water, sanitation, education, and healthcare. Ensuring that individuals have access to the opportunities they need to live better, secure lives. However, we are also pursuing new horizons in empowerment. He claimed that the creation of “United Nations Women” gave the campaign to advance gender equality and empower women around the world a significant boost (Sukma et al., 2022; Bennett, 2002).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Yadav (2016) mentioned that women continued to be excluded entirely from participation in the “traditional caste Panchayats, village Panchayats, and the British local government system”. According to the recommendations of the “Balwant Rai Mehta Committee and the Ashok Mehta Committee”, Panchayat Raj was introduced in India after independence. However, by giving rural women sufficient opportunity to engage in the process of development, the “73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992” brought a new chapter to the history of rural women in India. It also provided the Panchayat Raj system with a new dimension. There is a tonne of literature on the position of rural women in Panchayati Raj that considers their involvement, aspirations, issues, etc. These works discuss rural women as recipients of numerous Panchayati Raj programs and elected Panchayat members who participate in community development.

Mathew (2003) claims that women’s participation in representation and voting in colonial India was minimal when examining the situation of women in Panchayati Raj both during and after that time. However, in response to the need to engage women in rural decision-making processes, the idea of engaging the participation of women in Panchayats emerged after independence. Panchayati Raj was hence seen as a turning point in empowering women, which enabled them to become more aware of their place in PRIs, and have more political aspirations and leadership roles.

Rai (2022) reported that the performance of women representatives is hampered by social and personal reasons such as gender relations, caste, and patriarchy.

DIMENSIONS OF WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

Mandal (2013) states that empowerment is multifaceted since it includes a person’s ability to make decisions regarding their finances, social knowledge, and political consciousness. These components fall under the political, social, and economic empowerment categories.

EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT

According to Babbar (2022), The much more effective way to improve women's position in society is through education. Any nation's population view education as a vital right and a top priority. It is a powerful tool for decreasing inequality since it may help people becoming independently. Education is a necessary step towards female equality since it can assist women in overcoming challenges, challenging their gender values, and transforming their life. Global concern surrounds women's issues, because both both formal and informal initiatives place a heavy emphasis on female political freedoms.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Patel (2021) asserted that the nation has made tremendous strides in lowering poverty and boosting education. Still, more work has to be done to reduce inequality and hunger, decrease maternal mortality rates, and give the vast majority of its citizens greater access to water and sanitation.

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

As per Alexander (2016), political empowerment is a process that enables women to gain more self-assurance and avoid feeling alone in politics. Additionally, it helps them build their self-esteem and performance and establish a public life in which they may take part in decision-making within a framework of expanding awareness and affecting the course of growth. Political equality comprises equal voting rights and giving access to institutionalised centres of power more weight. As a result of the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment acts, 33 of the currently reserved seats in Gram Panchayats in our nation were made provisional in 1991.

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN THRIVING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Vedpathak (2021), a panchayat's objectives should be to organise common individuals in the manner of consistently bettering themselves via their work while also increasing their strength and self-reliance. The first step in achieving this is "citizen engagement" in electoral institutions and "quality management" for regional public goods such as potable water, universal sanitation, medical services, early education, and building maintenance. Since "community engagement" and "customer service" are the core principles of centrally controlled constitutional republic as conceived throughout the 1957 Balvantray Bhai Study Team Document and indeed the 73rd Proposal toward the Indian Constitution which also tried to follow, a panchayat's main objective is to launch an attack a compromise between the two values.

PROPOSED RESEARCH

Rural local self-government, often known as the panchayat system, refers to the control of a small region by a group of locals. A long-held ambition based on the Gandhian principle of Grama Swaraj was the rule of the people in a location by their people, as well as the creation and implementation of policies at the local level. According to Mahatma Gandhi, most people in India live in villages, and the only way for the nation to flourish and close the "haves and have nots" gap is by developing the villages. Article 40 of the Indian Constitution's Directive Principles of State Policy's Part IV states that "the state shall take steps to organise Village Panchayats and to endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as the units of self-government," these Gandhian principles have been incorporated (Swarnalatha, 2019).

OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the existing participation of women in Gram Panchayats of Kamle District
2. To understand the influence of different barriers in the participation of women in Gram Panchayats of Kamle District

HYPOTHESES

H1: The Kamle district has significant number of educated women.

H2: The Kamle district has significant number of women who are actively follow the political changes in the Gram Panchayats of Kamle District.

H3: The Women in Kamle district are actively participating in Gram Panchayats of Kamle District

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This empirical study builds on the political empowerment of women in Kamle District local bodies. The researcher chose both the administrative blocks; PuchiGeko and Tamen Rega of the district encompassing each Taluka and Tehsil because she wants to carry out a comprehensive study. This district is important since it was created in 2017 and no such study has been taken specifically in this regard. Therefore, this district would allow the study to achieve all of the aforementioned objectives. According to the report, women participate in politics as legislators, members of the legislative assembly, and even at the local level in gram panchayats. The researcher may therefore be able to examine the excellence of women's representations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data will be gathered and analyzed using the descriptive research survey approach to investigate the contribution of different factors empowering and limiting women empowerment in district-level politics in different blocks, Taluka and Tehsils of Kamle district of Arunachal Pradesh encompassing the local social diversity. This study will also ascertain the statistical significance of the relationship between empowerment and economic and social growth. The researcher will interview a variety of subjects who were chosen at random from the intended geographical area.

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

In politics, the aspect of women's empowerment is an important topic to be studied and has been investigated by many researchers about the various factors and contexts associated with it. The research entitled "TO EXAMINE THE POLITICAL CHALLENGES AND ISSUES FACING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH'S KAMLE DISTRICT" will dive deep into the socio-political narratives set in the district of Kamle, Arunachal Pradesh that governs the factors responsible for both enabling and limiting the idea of women empowerment.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The collection of a representative sample is a must for the research to be carried out and interpreted successfully. With the unusual exception of the scenario in which a full sense is obtained, research is typically always conducted using a sample, from which generalizations about the community from which the sample was gathered are generated. A random sample technique will collect information from more than 500 respondents across the district.

PLANNING AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Data analysis is a method of putting the vast amount of research findings into order, pattern, and interpretation. The data will be collected through a survey method, both online and offline, using a questionnaire in this research. This questionnaire will comprise a pre-defined set of questions to seek every aspect of the intended research data comprehensively. The researcher will use SPSS and MS excel for analysing the data collected via survey and questionnaire methods. The application of graphical representations will also be carried out through the software.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND STRATEGIES

This kind of exploratory and descriptive. We adhere to the data collection and

storage procedures for the study. We would investigate and use case research after data collecting. The below methods of data collecting will be used by us:

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

The primary data seems to be a place where we can get first-hand knowledge or authentic data on such a subject. According to the specified number of possibilities, this would result in a more accurate type of content being obtained.

SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

We'll gather secondary resources from already printed newspapers and articles. This is a small but equally significant portion of the study. Data will be gathered for this section via websites, publications, books, publications, and an organization's records. Another individual or organization will gather and maintain this type of data, perhaps for quite unrelated reasons.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The main reason the researcher chose the Kamle district is to research how many women are represented in life choice bodies, where such involvement is ensured by a 50% seat restriction for women in scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Considering that 50% of the seats are set aside for women at this grassroots level, women's concerns and issues have to be included and studied in mainstream decision-making processes to cater to their crucial political participation. This would be a significant step towards realizing substantive equality for women by enabling women to exercise and enjoy their constitutionally protected rights. In the Parliament, State Legislatures, and decentralized municipal authorities, women still make up a very small or inconsequential portion of the political decision-making bodies. We'll gather secondary resources from already newspaper and magazines and articles. This constitutes a small but equally significant portion of the study. Data will be gathered for this section via websites, publications, books, publications, and an organization's documents. Some other individual or organization will gather and maintain this type of data, perhaps for quite unrelated reasons.

By the means of this demographic analysis of different aspects contributing to and limiting the entry of women in district-level politics will be done. It is expected that the issues like patriarchy, education, and the economy will exhibit a more substantial significance and influence on this study. The fundamental research will be sponsored by the institute of my admission and the support of local people and their representatives. The study has already been influenced by other literature on the study of women empowerment in politics in Arunachal Pradesh and thus seeks to fill the existing gaps.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table-1
Party affiliation of the Elected Women Respondents

Political Party	Number	Percentage
INC	218	43.60%
BJP	221	44.20%
NCP	6	1.20%
IND	32	6.40%
Others	23	4.60%
Total	500	100.00%

Table 1 indicates that 44.25% of the participants are affiliated with the Bharatiya Janata Party, whilst 43.68% are associated with the Indian National Congress. The National Congress Party secured 2 seats, while a total of 16 independent candidates were registered. Meanwhile, the category of 'Others' refers to respondents who were elected but chose not to divulge their party affiliation during the survey. The data indicates that all the current political parties included in the table participate in state elections. Similar to Assembly elections and national level politics, elections of Panchayati raj institutions are also contested based on party affiliations. This suggests a growing level of party influence on the operations of the Panchayat.

Table-2
Reasons for Low Level of Participation of Women Leaders

Response	Number	Percentage
Lack of interest	17	3.40%
No Time	396	79.20%
Low Status of women	29	5.80%
Incompetent	13	2.60%
Male Domination	23	4.60%
Not Aware	22	4.40%
No Response	0	0.00%
Total	500	100.00%

This table displays the responses given by respondents indicating their reasons for abstaining from participating in Panchayati Raj Institution elections. 79.20% of the participants identified lack of time as a significant factor. Additional factors cited include the subordinate position of women (5.80%), male hegemony (4.60%), lack of enthusiasm (3.40%), inadequacy (2.60%), and lack of awareness (4.40%).

CONCLUSION

Within the framework of the notion of women's empowerment, the Gandhian approach primarily placed a focus on the equality and dignity of women. The first thing that Gandhi did was campaign for the political rights of women and stress the need of treating them with the same level of respect as men. He was quite adamant that women should be included in the political process and decision-making processes. When it comes to women being on equal footing with males, particularly in the realm of politics, however, the India of his dreams has not yet been fulfilled.

Furthermore, it draws conclusions based on the summary, and it proposes to make certain suggestions concerning the future developmental issues that are associated with women's empowerment in the Kamle district of Arunachal Pradesh. In the following, an effort has been made to provide the results of the research in a chapter by chapter format.

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