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## **TRIBAL WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE: A STUDY OF PROBLEM AND CHALLENGES**

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### **Abstract:**

*Tribe Women in local governance with reference to Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state. This paper is based on primary data, the data have been collected from interview schedule method. The study covers total 300 respondent as sample size across Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State. Finally the study reveals that, It has opened many opportunities to them in terms of participation and to fight against negative impact of patriarchy. Though, schedule tribe women facing problems still she has so many opportunities to grow. So, here participatory democracy has great significance in the process of women empowerment.*

**Keywords:** Tribal Women, Problems, Governance, Panchayats

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### **Introduction:**

Local governments have relevance nowadays because they are responsive, transparent, participatory and accountable to the people and in the Indian context, the most deprived sections of society such as the dalits, tribals, and women. It is said that ‘politics is about power’, but democratic politics is and should be about bringing power down to the people or empowering them. Decentralization therefore may be defined as the empowerment of the local population through the empowerment of local governments. The constitution defines Panchayats as “institutions of self-government”

“Tremendous political opportunities emerge from the extension of participatory democracy through the institutions of village Panchayat, Gram sabha, affirmative provisions for dalits, tribals, women and so on. Real improvement in the self-esteem of the vulnerable sections of society can come only through a process of meaningful participation. The nature of the accountability arrangements is also expected to move downward to the people rather than to the bureaucratic superior officers. The efficient use of local resources through decentralized spatial planning mandated in the constitution is an important means to promote economic development. Enhancing the quality of public service delivery, be it primary school, primary health care, drinking water supply, sanitation and so on can be ensured only through citizen’s involvement and participation. This is an important means to promote horizontal equity in a country known for its widespread disparities in the level of endowment and development”. This reservation was extended to the posts of presidents participation through increased political



representation 25% of reservation to women was raised to 33% in a span of 10 years from 1983 to 1993 witnessed an important amendment to the constitution of India. The amendment namely 73rd Constitutional amendment provided for 33% reservation to women at all levels of PRIs covering the rural India. To see that women representatives perform as leaders of these organizations 33% of the posts of Member, President and Vice-President was earmarked for women representatives.

### **Review of Literature:**

Keeping the above analysis, literature pertaining to the present topic has been reviewed and analysed here.

1. Manikyamba, P(1989) entitled 'Women in Panchayat Raj Structures' is an examination of the working of PRIs in general, the role of women as beneficiaries and benefactors in the socio-economic and political process of development, assessing the role of women presiding officers of the PRIs. She was of the view that given the opportunity, talented and interested women can play very effective leadership role politics
2. Sivanna, N (1990) in an empirical study dealing with the PRS under the Act of 1959 argues that, the involvement of women members in PRIs was not up to the expected mark. He observes that, although there are statutory provisions to ensure their representation, their socio-economic conditions are not conducive to their effective involvement.
3. Chandra Sekhara and Anand Inbanathan (1991)'s study of Women Zilla Parishad and Mandal Panchayat Members in Maharashtra revealed that the reservation of seats for women has given them an opportunity to take an active part in the political processes of the state and rural areas in particular.
4. Susheela Kaushik (1993): "Study of Women and Panchayati Raj"- The Author has given detailed information regarding women and Panchayati Raj. In the first part, she has presented women in the election process, and the problems and kind of support in terms of remedial measures to overcome etc.
5. B.S. Khanna (1994), is an extensive book which analyses the development of panchayati raj system. In the first part the author gives the general review of the development of panchayat raj system particularly in the national perspective like heritage, Self Government during the first decades, and community development programme, genesis of panchayati raj and growth of the panchayati raj and Ashok Mehta Committee Recommendations, present position of PRIs and also conferment of Constitutional status, steps towards the implementation of panchayat raj system in India.
6. Susheela Kaushika's (1995) study of PRI in action and the challenges to women's role focuses on specially the experience of women in election process, the hardship and obstacles they undergo and the kind of support in terms of remedial measures to overcome etc.



7. ShakuntalaNarasimhan(2000) her study on the empowerment of women reveals that though many of panchayats women are illiterate and poor and come from backward community, many of them have proved their metal and won action as able administrators.

### **Objective and Methodology of Study :**

The main objective of this paper is to study problem and prospects of schedule Tribe Women in local governance with reference to Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state. This paper is based on primary data, the data have been collected from interview schedule method. The study covers total 300 respondent as sample size across Chandrapur District of Maharashtra State

### **Influencing Factors Enter into Politics :**

The information collected regarding entrance to politics by tribal women respondents with their own interest. They said different opinion regarding their interest in entering politics. The study reveals that majority of the respondents of 95% (286) entered politics with their own interest and only 5% (14) respondents have entered politics without their own interest. The data clearly reveals that PRIs system has given the direct and active participation for Tribal women in local governance in study area.

### **Problems Faced in Political Participation :**

It would be appropriate to sum up that there are number of obstacles in the way of effective participation of women respondents of panchayat raj institutions. They may face all kind of obstacles in the field. For this purpose, researcher has collected the information about the problems in active participation by the tribal women respondents in this paper.

“The data shows that, out of 300 interviewed respondents 43% (128) of the respondents have faced all type of problems like economic, social, political, cultural, 15% (45) of the respondents have faced the problems in participation because troubles from upper caste people, 31% (94) of the respondents have faced problem of economic and other problem, 08% (24) of the respondents have faced problem in participating in panchayats due to social problem, 02% (07) of the respondents have faced problem by the influenced groups, 01% (02)of the respondents have faced problem of non-cooperation from male members. The table reveals that they have faced all kind of problems like economic, social, political and cultural. Basically, study area is most backward and tribal’s area in the state; hence respondents in the study area face many problems regarding the participation”.

### **Problems Faced By Tribal Women in Politics :**

Tribal women have faced several problems with respect to the economic, social, political and cultural. Here tribal women were asked the questions in this regard and different opinions were collected by the respondents and are analyzed below.



Table No 1: Problems faced by tribal women in politics

Sr. No.	Problem	F	Percentage
1	Political, social, economic and educational	137	46
2	Social disabilities	24	8
3	All type of traditional problems	96	32
4	Illiteracy, ignorance & other problems	43	14
<b>Total</b>		300	100

**Above table No. 1** shows that the Problems faced by tribal women in politics. Out of 300 respondents, 46% (137) respondents having political, social, economic and educational problem, 8% (24) respondents having problem of social disabilities, 32% (96) respondents having all type of traditional problem, and 14% (43) respondents having problem of illiteracy, ignorance and other problems. This data reveals that the majority of respondents are having problem of political, social, economic and educational problems in politics in the study area.

### **Motivational Factors and Political Participation:**

Participation of tribal women representation in politics is mainly motivated by several factors like educational opportunities, empowerment process, changing roles by the women, reservation policy and decentralization of power.

### **Conclusion :**

Tribal women must get greater social and political exposure so that they can be dynamic in active politics. "If they take active participation, they can contribute a lot to the all-round development of their regions. They must be provided with better education facilities and offered necessary training at all levels. Efforts must be made to bring about a thorough transformation in their attitude and mindset. Only then the process of Tribal women empowerment through political representation becomes meaningful and realistic. This is not impossible but requires committed and dedicated efforts. All these observations should not lead us to a negative conclusion about the very policy of reservation to Tribal women. It has opened many opportunities to them in terms of participation and to fight against negative impact of patriarchy". Though, schedule tribe women facing problems still she has so many opportunities to grow. So, here participatory democracy has great significance in the process of women empowerment.

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