

“WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN PANCHAYATHRAJ INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY OF SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT”

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INTRODUCTION

This universe ever since its origin has been a ground for many kinds of inequalities and distributive injustice. In fact, this philosophy of gender in equality was a socially accepted phenomenon, the society believed that to have cohesion and proper understanding it was necessary for man to go out of home earn lively hood to his wife, children and parents. The role of women as well girl children was confined to the four walls of the house. Women was expected to perform all domestic chores life, cooking, food, washing clothes, sweeping and muffling, looking after old aged persons and patents, giving birth to children and their upbringing and activates connected with this. Women assumed different roles to different persons at different phases in life. She was an obedient wife to her husband, of lively affectionate mother to her children and living daughter to parent, it was no surprise that the women was provide of this status and the enjoyed doing everything that was expected of her.

With the passage of time this kind of social classification Among men and women became the un written law and order of the day. The conviction was that men have to go out and work and women must look after household activities. This philosophy gave rise to a new kind of social system in which man was regarded predominant partner and the women, the sub servant domestic worker. Consequently, men had access to economic resources took decision not just for themselves but for the whole family including wife and children. In other words, men became heads of families and began to take decisions. On behalf of and for their wife, children and other Dependent female members of the family. This was true of even joint families. Men acted independently and enjoyed freedom. Women and the other hand had to be dependent on men. Her position was reduced to that of any other commodity or good. In Indian set up this kind of social structure prevailed for many centuries.

Mothers brought up their girl children in similar way and carved the philosophy that ‘pathiye paradaiva’ meaning husband was god personified. The wife is not expected to make quarries or ask questions to her husband. She has no right express objections to the work done or decision taken by her husband.

Thus women did not have any kind of rights. She had to act or perform work as per the decision of her husband or the male head of the family. She was deprived of socio economic status in the sense that she had no access to economic resources could not go out or do anything without the prior permission of her husband.

No person in society gave importance to or recognized the talent or skills possessed by women. Apart from performing domestic chores women at home was the residual eater after serving food to men and male children. Women was looked down upon and the birth of girl child was regarded as curse.

All sacrifices at family level were to be made by girl children women and girl children. Priority in food, opportunity, health requirements, education, possession of property was all given to only men and boys at home, women had no authority to question this kind of treatment given to her. Very occasionally, accidentally some women in different centuries came out of families and made name and fame in their respective fields. This could serve only as an example here and there. There was no hesitation from women as whole fighting for economic power a social or political right or status. If a women was found to be a ruler, a leader, a business head or a proprietor it was only to a miracle. In fact, in almost all the cases women did not like a women becoming a leader, business head, ruler, proprietor or assuming any other important and popular position or status.

CHANGING STATUS AND SCENARIO OF WOMEN:

In the modern era there is considerable change in the socio economic status of women across the globe. This future showed its elements in the 19th century gained momentum in the 20th century and has become a big MOVEMENT in the 21st century. The society as universally recognized the fact that women as been done with brutal severe injustice.

The society has universally recognized the fact that the women has been done with brutal and severe injustice all through. In the western world this realization came a bit earlier than in Asian Countries. There is gradual improvement in the status of women. She is now being treated as a human being. Her desires, wishes and requirements are being attended to. She has made her identity felt in all spheres of social and economic life. She has proved her capacity in par with man in the field of sports, music, fine arts, business, job market, social movement, and politics. All this is the result of education opportunity given to women population. All though man is the head of the family in most of the societies women's position as a productive member of the family has gained significance.

It is true that in comparison to men the participation of women is significantly less and marginal. This is for two reason. 1)Men at home does not allow women to become leader because he thinks that it is disrespect to him. 2)In most cases women are afraid of active political participation. They hesitate to freely mix and move

with other persons including women in society. They are less exposed to social economic and political spectrum. Even if they participate either voluntarily or because of force by family members, relatives and friends it is not whole hearted and fully active. Only in few stray cases women have assumed leadership.

Motivation for Leadership:

As said earlier there is slow increase in the tendency of women leadership. This is on account of many reasons.

1. Education is the most important reason which has given an identity to women. Education has brought awareness not just among women but also among men. Educated women started thinking in a different way. She has found that her capacity and skill has increased consequent upon getting education. Literate women has behaved and reacted more sensibly and with great amount of responsibility. She works in schools and colleges, private and public offices, banks and industries, business and marketing. She also manages domestic affairs along with her external role as an independent self decision making entity and leader.

2. The awareness that status or position ensures more respect to women in family as well as society is another factor which has motivated her to accept and develop leadership quality. Educated women goes out of home, gets exposed to externalities and public issues which makes her more experience. This exposure makes her work better and become more confident.

3. Women is an earning member of the family now. Employed women brings additional revenue to the family which improves socio economic status of the whole family. This provides economic security and confidence to women in particular and the family in general. This factor acts as a catalyst to a women to gain leadership quality.

4. All said and done, men are not willing to consider women as their equals. When causality occurs and women becomes husbandless if she is unemployed and confine to house only she has to face great misery, agony ill treatment and thus becomes frustrated. If similar problem appears to a working women or a women in politics or business she does not lose courage but successfully manages her profession, position or business. This makes women at home to go public take up some job are gain leadership.

5. The most important motivational factor that brought women to politics to become leaders is the reservation policy introduced by the Government of India. At present some seats in education institutions are reserved for girls. Some seats in employment market are reserved for women. Similarly some seats are reserved exclusively for women in three tier Panchayathraj administrative system. It is our hope that similar reservation of seats for women must be extended to State Legislative Assembly and Parliament.

Thus women have been forcibly drawn in to political arena to acquire leadership qualities and become leaders. However we are happy that there are some women Legislators, Parliamentarians, Speakers and Deputy

Speakers without their being any reservation. This is a healthy indicator in the form of improvement in the socio economic status of women. This is not enough. Women must become equal to men in all spheres in all areas and in all profession. Men must become generous and respect the capacity of women. In fact in performance of duty and discharge of responsibility in many areas women have proved better than men.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP:

Leadership gained by women becomes meaningful and effective only when it creates women empowerment. She must be allowed to have rightful role at all levels in decision making process and having access to economic power and resources. Women leadership without empowering women is of no use. That is why these two aspects are complementary to each other and they are regarded as two sides of the same coin. This is a universal phenomena and even the united nations and International Labor Organization have recognized the increasing role and importance of women across the globe. At this juncture it may be stated here the Eight Day of March every year is recognized at International Women's Day. The 12th day of May every year is regarded as Mother's Day. Similarly 11th day of October every year is celebrated as Girl's Child Day. This provides testimony to the fact that women are highly respected now.

Several measures and policies have introduced in many countries of the world including India for empowering women. This goes a long way in developing Women Leadership.

According to United Nations Organizations Women Empowerment is the process in which women elaborate and recreate what it is that they can do and accomplish in a circumstance that they were previously denied. .

Empowerment can be defined in many ways however, when talking about women empowerment, empowerment means accepting and allowing women who are on the outside of the decision making process into it. This puts a strong emphasis on a participation in political structure and formal decision making and in the economic sphere on the ability to obtain an income that enable to participation in economic decision making. Empowerment is the process that creates powers in women over their own lives society, and in their communities. Women are empowered when they are able to access the opportunities available to them without limitations and restrictions. Feeling entitled to make your own decisions creates a sense of empowerment. Empowerment includes the action of raising the status of women through education, raising awareness, literacy, and training. Women empowerment is all about equipping and allowing women to make life determining decisions through the different problems in society. Alternatively is the process for women to redefined gender roles that allows for them acquire the ability to chosen between known alternatives whom have otherwise been restricted from such an ability. There are several principles defining women's empowerments such as, for one to be empowered, they must come from a position of disempowerment. Furthermore one must acquire empowerment themselves rather than have it given to them by an external

party. Other studies have found that empowerment definitions entire women having the capability to make important decisions in their life's while also being able to act on them. Lastly, empowerment and disempowerment is relative to other at a previous time, therefore, empowerment is a process, not a product.

What is leadership?

Every organization needs a leader irrespective of its size and function leaderless organization is a muddle a man a mission. A country without leadership is anarchy a society without leadership is a violent and dangerous place to live. A leader is a person who influence and encourages a group of people to work towards realization of goals. The all mark of leadership is the capacity to influence others towards accompanying goals and towards betterment as Chester headwords sums it up "Leadership is the ability to supervise to influence the behavior of subordinate or group and Perceived them to follow a particular course of action. The characteristics of women leadership includes transformational leadership style. Women leaders are more transformational than men leaders. They functional as a role model their subordinates they inspire their team and spend a lot of time coaching their team they care a lot of their personal development. Women leader emphasis Team work and authentic communication as a key to success women leader all invariably focused on competition are task assigned with in deadlines. Women leader always promote cooperation and collaboration amongst the team members. Women leaders tend to be participate and process a democratic style of leading people . Women leaders often to appeal to modest are silent about their own accomplishment. Representation of women in different sectors representation of women in different sectors refers to the Percentage of women employees working in various sector in the USA women are 50.8 % of the total population who earns. they earns 60% of undergraduate degrees and 60% of all master degrees they fairly well law, medical degrees, business administration and management women account for 47 % of the USA labor force send 49 % of the college education work force.

Evolution of panchayat raj institutions in Karnataka

The panchayats are among the oldest institutions for local governance in rural Karnataka this is also known as panchayat Raj. (which means rule of village committee panchayat raj ensures proper execution rural development parogrammes. It encourages participation of general people in the development programmes.

Structural Constitution of Karnataka panchayat Raj

Panchayat Raj in Karnataka follows a three tier structural constitution. It has elected bodies each level, panchayat Raj constitutes of

1. The Grama panchayats fat the village level.
2. The taluk panchayats fat the sub district (taluk level)
3. The Zillah panchayats at the district level.

Karnataka has 30 Zillah panchayats, 176 taluk panchayat and 5659 Gram panchayats, all this three units of

the panchayat Raj have members directly elected by the people. The govt. does not any provision to nominate representative to any of these institutions.

Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act 1993

The Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act 1993 aims to achieve democratic decentralization especially for the rural areas, Karnataka enacted the new panchayat raj act in cooperating all the mandatory provision of 73rd amendment to the Indian constitution.

Objectives of Karnataka Panchayat Raj act 1993 are

establish a three tier structure for panchayat raj system at village taluk and district level.

Direct election for all these three levels

Indirect election for the post of chairperson vice chair person Reservation SCs and STs and women at all the three levels

Empower state finances commission to determine the sharing of funds between and panchayat raj bodies.

Maintain accounts and conduct at all the three tier of the panchayat raj system there has been several amendments Karnataka PRA 1993 since its inceptions **Constitutional amendments for women's' reservation**

The women reservation bill is the constitution bill (108 amendment) 2008 is on lapsed bill in the parliament of India which proposed to amend the constitution to reserve 33 % all seats in the lower house of parliament of India. The lok sabha and all state legislatures assemblies for women. The seats for proposed to be reserve in rotation would have been determined by draw of lots in such way SCs would be reserved only once in three consecutive general elections. The Rajya sabha passed the bill on 9 march 2010. However, the lok sabha never voted on the bill, the bill lapsed after the dissolution of the 15 the lok Sabha in 2014

Statement of the Problems:

Although women are being encouraged to go public in areas such as education, business, industry, fine arts and politics. It is observed that the women have developed indifference attitude to enter and be active in the field of politics. Identifying this deficiency amendment was made the Constitution of India to earmark 33 percent of seats in panchayat raj administration system which is known as three tier panchayat raj administration. In this we have Zella panchayat at the top and Gram panchayat at village level. In between there is taluk panchayat. The members of these bodies are elected by the voters of the respective constituency. In spite of reservation of seats to women in these bodies their participation has been less active and disinterested. In this back ground the researcher wants conduct a case study of women leadership in panchayat raj institution in Shivamogga District. The research problems is stated as follows.

Women leadership in panchayat raj system has to become more proactive and responsible for which the system has to create a favorable atmosphere for women leaders to perform better. This requires not only social acceptance but also introduction of policy measures. This enables one to examine to assess the contribution of women leadership to the better prosperity of panchayat raj administration system. Therefore, the researcher would like to make a research study on women leadership in panchayat raj administration a case study of Shivamogga District. It may be noted that Karnataka was the first state in India to introduce three tier Panchayat raj Administration system and provide reservation to women in accordance with the provisions of constitutional amendment.



Objectives of the study:

On the basis of the research gap reflected by the review of literature the following objectives have been laid by the researcher for this study.

- 1.To study the evolution of the concept of local self-administration in Karnataka State.
- 2.To study the panchayat raj institution act, its implications and latest amendments with reference to reservations for women.
- 3.To understand the socio economic back ground of women who entered PRI politics in Shivamogga district.
- 3.To examine the scope given to women leaders in panchayat raj institutions in Shivamogga district
- 4.To examine changes taken place in women after assuming leadership in PRIs in Shivamogga district.
- 6.To offer suggestions for strengthening women participation in Panchayat raj institutions.

Hypotheses:

Based on the objectives of this research study the following hypotheses have been scheduled.

1. There is inhibition among women to enter politics on account of lack of self-motivation and family opposition.
2. The elected women leaders in PRIs in Shivamogga district are less active and their spouses are in absentia elected leaders in reality.
3. After getting elected the status of women leaders has changed in their socio economic aspects, income level and education.
4. Women leaders in PRIs are more responsible in taking decisions and less corrupt relatively.

Scope of the study:

The proposed research study is a case study of women leadership in panchayat raj institutions in Shivamogga District. Shivamogga district has seventh taluks which have been divided in to two revenue sub divisions. The proposed study focuses on Shivamogga Zillaparishath, Two taluk panchayats Shivamogga and Bhadravathi and two-gram panchayat under each taluk. The two gram panchayat to be studied in Bhadravathi taluk are Arahatolalu and Koodligere. The two gram panchayat selected for study in Shivamogga taluk are Abbalagere

and Kommanalu. The study pertains to the latest to elections.

Methodology:

The research will be carried out by making use of both primary data and secondary data. Primary data will be collected from the selected samples by distributing a structured questionnaire. Survey method and personal interview method will be adopted to draw information. Secondary data will be obtained from published sources, government records and reports prepared by the Zilla parishath and State Government. Websites will also be approached for secondary data. The data thus obtained will be computed and compiled in the form of tables for interpretations and analysis. Pie charts, graphs and bar diagram will be used in support of tables. Thus simple statistical method is applied for proving hypotheses. A total 240 samples will be contacted for obtaining response to the questionnaire.

Limitations:

This study makes use of simple statistical tool like arithmetic mean, averages, co-efficient of co- relation and standard deviation. Other techniques will not be applied as the simple test provides appropriate results. The study is confined to only one Zillah panchayat two taluk panchayats and four Gram panchayats. All other aspects fall outside the purview of this study.

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