

## PANCHAYATI RAJ AND DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN IN HARYANA, A CASE STUDY OF KAITHAL DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

The 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution's Article 243D established the entry of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) into local politics through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) elections, which designates seats reserved for SC/ST women equal to at least one-third of the total number of seats reserved for SC/ST. At least one-third of the total number of officers and chairpersons in panchayats at each level would be elected directly to fill these positions (Government of India, 2010). And in line with that, we discover that women are also elected in the current Panchayati Raj Systems.

The rural population has the opportunity to get involved at the grassroots level in overcoming all of the nation's difficulties thanks to Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs). With a 33 percent women's reservation, rural women's participation is guaranteed for full societal inclusion. As a result, we now discover that women are also elected as members of PRIs.

In the Kaithal district, nearly 92.67 percent of the population comes from rural areas, and the sex ratio of 961 clearly demonstrates that women make up a significant portion of the rural population.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The primary focus of this study is on the relevance, role, involvement, and contribution of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions as it examines local self-government through the analysis of PRIs as they have changed since the British Raj up to the present. As one of them is from the "dominant caste" and the other is a "Dalit," it also aims to investigate the differences in the styles of administration between the educated and uneducated female Sarpanches.

The study will also examine the broader perspective on women's empowerment, which has received less attention in earlier studies that focused only on women's presence in PRIs. This perspective emphasizes the role that women play and the changes that follow in terms of their awareness, attitude, knowledge, and skills. Women's leadership and effective engagement in development programs of governments, international and bilateral agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and women's rights organizations is becoming more and more obvious. This study reveals the considerable role that women play in the development process across a wide range of sectors as major actors and decision-makers. Governments are

under increasing pressure to encourage and ensure women's participation and leadership in governance systems, particularly in the political sphere. The constitution of India includes "affirmative action" for women and underrepresented groups. The Constitution (73rd Amendment Act), 1992 mandates that at least one-third of the seats in India's locally elected governing bodies, often referred to as Panchayati Raj Institutions, be reserved for women (both as members and as chairpersons) (PRIs).

The Indian government approved a 50% female reservation in PRIs in 2009, and as a result, states like Haryana and Odisha introduced legislation with a similar goal. In accordance with this modification, PRIs must also "create and implement programs for economic development and social justice."

### **Women and Panchayati Raj Institutions**

The recognition of women's rights to political and social equality within the framework of the Indian constitution represented a retreat from both pre-existing views of women's rights that were largely prevalent in developed and advanced countries as well as from conventional notions about the position of women as citizens. Women have been isolated within the confines of their homes for ages, and they seldom ever leave to take part in public events.

Since the introduction of women's suffrage, all female activists have been very concerned with raising the active engagement of women in leadership from a variety of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, as well as other areas of political life. Women are now able to vote in almost an equal number of countries as males, but they do not hold the same number of governmental positions. Numerous suggestions were made to address this gender disparity during the United Nations Decade of Women (1975). Several resolutions focused on the necessity for all political parties to designate women members to various significant political offices were passed during the Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, held in Nairobi in 1985.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 marked a turning point in the history of the country's women. The basic right to vote, guaranteed by the Constitution, did, however, significantly improve the situation for Indian women in society over their pre-existing status quo. However, the Panchayati Raj Act, which went into force on April 24, 1993, and which features a progressive and forward-looking provision for not less than 1/3 of the elected members to be women and not less than 1/3 to be chairpersons, offered them the opportunity to wield more authority. The 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution gave women a wide range of possibilities to realize their importance, becoming autonomous and self-reliant in the process.

### **Statement of Problem**

Now women in politics have taken on a new facet around the globe. Today, more and more women are entering politics. Women's traditional, long-established roles as solely wives and mothers had been reinforced by progressive social policies.

Women have fought for problems that affect them, particularly their rights to vote and own property in the nineteenth century and to equal pay, child care, and abortion in the twentieth.

Women have historically had little place in decision-making political bodies, such as PRIs in India, because politics has always been largely disregarded and sidelined.

The current study will examine the PRI-related adjustments made by female sarpanches in their particular areas. The primary focus area that needs to be examined through this study will be the topic of women's empowerment through PRI leadership.

### **Objectives**

1. To examine how women's roles have evolved in Indian PRI since independence.
2. To evaluate the development of PRIs.
3. The chance of sustainability of the SHG increases with an increase in the levels of literacy status of and family support to its members.
4. The nature of functioning of SHG, a direct contribution to social and economic empowerment of rural women.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research design will be used for the study. Since, the study will be based on research design, the factors: economic, social and political being the independent variable has been probed to the rural women; the dependent variable being effectiveness of self help groups. The questionnaires will be framed in such a manner that even the illiterate women could answer. Due to the social background of the women, the questions will be asked by women either at their houses or under the shade of the tree. The most important data questionnaire collects are the most appropriate research based on experiment, observation and study.

### **Study Sample**

This research study explores the Effectiveness of SHGs in women empowerment in rural parts of Kaithal, Haryana. SHGs have become a likely tool for the empowerment of women, social harmony and betterment of the rural women in their own setting. However, there are certain areas where more work needs to be done by the agencies especially in enhancing the social and the economic status of women. To sustain the success of SHG movement and effectiveness of microfinance it is important to provide some production, marketing and business-related training, with a focus on improving productivity and income earning capacity of rural women, so that the borrowers can improve their livelihood further. There are 13 Panchayat Samitis in Kaithal District, Haryana. All the Panchayat Samitis will be select for the study.

### **Impact of research**

The results of this study will be of great benefit to federal and state governments, financial institutions and self-help organizations. This study will be of great help to anyone involved in self-help groups in assessing the performance and impact of activities on rural women's empowerment and well-being as a result of

empowerment. In addition, this research will help self-help groups and rural women to expand their businesses and find new avenues and markets to earn more money.

### Study Contribution

This research focuses on the economic, social, political and cultural empowerment of rural women through SHG. This study provides crucial knowledge and information for the general empowerment of women, particularly in rural areas. It provides a high-quality research and analytical framework for policymakers, academics, self-help groups to explore various forms of rural women's empowerment. Moreover, since the number of studies in the existing literature is limited, this research has more confidence in generalizing the findings, and opens up new avenues for us to conduct future research in this area and discover new and additional aspects.

### 3. DATA ANALYSIS

The main goal of self-help organizations is to improve the personal and socioeconomic situation of their members, as well as the community and society as a whole, especially rural areas. Self-help groups help rural women achieve economic empowerment by providing and arranging credit, encouraging entrepreneurship, encouraging savings, providing training and promoting products. The empowerment of rural women requires a range of dynamic techniques that help women reach their full potential and establish distinct identities in their communities and societies. Rural women are empowered through self-employment. This leads to better status at home and in society, and a better understanding of education, health, the environment and human rights at all stages of life.

#### Educational qualification of rural women SHG members

**Table 3.1: Educational qualification of rural women SHG members**

S. No.	Educational Qualification	Number of Women Members	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	50	12.50%
2.	Upto 7th Standard	50	12.50%
3.	Middle	100	25.00%
4.	Secondary	100	25.00%
5.	Higher Secondary	50	12.50%
6.	PUC & Above	50	12.50%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The results show that, 12.5% of rural women self-help group members are illiterate, with primary school education (12.5%), middle school education (25.0%), secondary school education (25.0%), higher secondary school education (12.50%), and graduation (12.50%).

**Caste of rural women SHG members**

**Table 3.2: Caste of rural women SHG members**

Sl. No.	Caste	Number of Women Members	Percentage
1.	General Caste	100	25.00%
2.	Backward Caste	20	5.00%
3.	Most Backward Caste	80	20.00%
4.	Scheduled Caste	150	37.50%
5.	Scheduled Tribe	150	37.50%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The results show that, scheduled caste accounts for 37.50% of rural women self-help group members, followed by most backward caste (20.0%), general cast (25.00%), backward caste (5.0%) and Scheduled Tribe (37.5%)

**Motivator for rural women to join SHG**

**Table 3.3: Motivator for rural women to join SHG**

Sl. No.	Motivator	Number of Women Members	Percentage
1.	Friends	50	12.50%
2.	Relatives	150	37.50%
3.	NGO's	200	50.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The results show that, NGO's are the motivators for 50.00% of rural women self-help group members, followed by friends (12.50%) and relatives (37.5%).

**Monthly income before joining SHG**

**Table 3.4: Monthly income of rural women members of SHG before joining SHG**

Sl. No.	Monthly Income Before Joining SHG	Number of Women Members	Percentage
1.	No Income	110	27.50%
2.	Less than Rs.6,000	90	22.5%
3.	Rs.6,001– Rs.8,000	50	12.50%

4.	Rs.8,001– Rs.10,000	100	25.00%
5.	More than Rs.10,000	50	12.50%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The results reveal that 22.5% of rural women members of self help groups have monthly income of less than Rs.6,000 before joining self help groups followed by Rs.6,001–Rs.8,000 (12.50%), Rs.8,001–Rs.10,000 (25.00%), no income (27.50%) and more than Rs.10,000 (12.50%).

**Monthly income after joining SHG**

**Table 3.5: Monthly income of rural women members of SHG after joining SHG**

Sl. No.	Monthly Income After Joining SHG	Number of Women Members	Percentage
1.	Less than Rs.9,000	200	50.00%
2.	Rs.9,001– Rs.12,000	100	25.00%
3.	Rs.12,001– Rs.15,000	80	20.00%
4.	More than Rs.15,000	20	5.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The results show that, 50.00% of rural women who join SHGs had a monthly income of less than Rs.9,000, followed by Rs.9,001–Rs.12,000 (25.00%), Rs.12,001–Rs.15,000 (20.00%), and more than Rs.15,000 (5.00%).

**4. CONCLUSION**

As a result main objective of this research work was to discover the level of women`s empowerment through PRIs at Kaithal District in Haryana after 73rd constitutional amendment act, 1992. It was found in the examination that earlier than the enactment of the panchayati raj act, 1992, the level of political, social, economical and cultural awareness of women and participation of women was very low in Kaithal District. But later than passing of 73rd constitutional amendment act and one-third of total number of seat reserved for women, after that women social, economical, cultural and political status had improved. Thus may be concluded that reservation in panchayati institutions had changed the status of women in family and rural society, so it should be extended in national politics so that the political empowerment of women can be achieved to large level.

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