

Numerical analysis of women's representation in gram panchayat: A comparative study of village Barthata and Nandpur in the district Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India

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Abstract

The Panchayati Raj Institutions is the basic foundation of a strong and vibrant democracy. The concept of true democracy cannot be achieved unless the women are brought completely to the mainstream politics. The 73rd constitutional Amendment provided opportunity to the women to involve themselves in the grassroots politics. The participation of women has increased through the reservation policy which is provided by the State Government after the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.

The present paper seeks to analyze statistically the structure of Panchayati Raj in Himachal Pradesh in reference to women's participation in Gram Panchayat, their role in decision-making process, and the duty perform by them after contested and won the election. An attempt has been made to analyze the nature and extent of women's participation in politics in the State of Himachal Pradesh and to know the main factors which are responsible for relegating them to the secondary position in politics.

Keywords: government, reservation, education, local self-governance, amendment, statistical techniques

1. Introduction

The idea of Panchayats or village self-governance is not a recent development in Indian democracy. The tradition of local self-government in India, in fact, is as old as the Aryan civilization. The Rig Veda mentions the role of elected bodies like Sabha, which was assigned with the task of legislating as well as reimbursing justice. Panchayats, in ancient India, were usually elected councils with executive and judicial powers. With the coming of the foreign powers like the Mughals and then the British that brought with them fundamental socio-economic and structural changes, the importance of the system of Panchayats got severely undermined.

The term 'Panchayat' traditionally implied a body of five elders in a village set-up who were responsible for resolving conflicts and meting out punishment to the offenders, and the entire village held them in reverence. In this traditional conception of a 'Panchayat', women and lower castes were not allowed membership. During the Indian National Movement, Mahatma Gandhi came to champion the cause of local self – government at the village level as he considered village as the true center of knowledge. Local self – government at the village level is considered as the true level of knowledge. The idea of village self – administration found place in part IV of the Constitution of India as the Directive Principle of state policy ^[1, 5].

2. Women in local governance: a historical background

The Panchayat Raj, a system of self-governance, was introduced in 1959, following the submission of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee Report of 1957. The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee had recommended that besides 20 members of the Panchayat Samiti (block level body), there should be two women as co-opted members. This may be said to be the first official declaration for women to enter actively into the politics at the grassroots. In many parts of India, women were recruited to the Panchayati Raj by co-option rather than

through election. The 64th Constitutional Amendment Bill was introduced in Parliament in 1989, which provided for 30% reservation for women. But it could not be passed. The Bill was defeated by a narrow margin in the Upper House. The Bill was reintroduced in September 1991, as the 72nd & 73rd Constitutional Amendment Bills with an additional provision such as one-third representation for women in chairperson positions. The Bills were finally passed on December 1992. Ratified by half the states by April 1993, they came into operation as 73rd & 74th amendments to the Constitution of India on 24th April 1993. The provisions of the 73rd & 74th Amendment had far reaching consequences. It provided for direct elections to all the seats for the Panchayat – from the village level to the intermediary block committee (Panchayat Samiti) to the district level (Zila Parishad) for a period of five years. The act is most significant for the reservation for women & Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes ^[2, 9].

In September 1991, Government introduced the 73rd (Panchayat) and 74th (Nagar Palikas) Constitutional Bill in the parliament. They were referred to a joint select committee and the Lok Sabha passed the bills on 22nd September, 1992 and representation to women. Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 provides reservation of seats for women and Scheduled Caste /Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes in all Panchayat bodies. For the first time 33 percent reservation as given to women in three tiers of PRIs in the Pradesh. It was increased 50 percent in 2008. Although this has given women an opportunity to participate in the politics at the grassroots level, but here is mostly they were dominated by our social structure in Barthata and Nurpur villages of Shimla.

The main problem of the present scenario is no difference in the working and responsibilities between two categories as male and female at grassroots level. In statistical analysis the

null hypothesis is there is no difference in the performance of the both category.

Table 1: Barhata

S. No.	Area	Male (X ₁)	Female (Y ₁)
1	Barhata I	100	96
2	Sojla	128	135
3	Kelvi	95	95
4	Mural	42	39
5	Sumta	67	77
6	Barhata II	112	102
Total		544	544

The average mean of the population of males is $\bar{X}_1 = \frac{\sum X_1}{n_1} = \frac{544}{6} = 90.67$

The average mean of the population of females is $\bar{Y}_1 = \frac{\sum Y_1}{n_1} = \frac{544}{6} = 90.67$

Table 2: Nandpur

S. No.	Area	Male (X ₂)	Female (Y ₂)
1	Nandpur	134	139
2	Shalarh	128	155
3	Sanoli	51	46
4	Ruhil-Malog	249	228
5	Badiyaar	172	166
6	Annu	111	106
Total		845	840

The average mean of the population of males is $\bar{X}_2 = \frac{\sum X_2}{n_2} = \frac{845}{6} = 140.83$

The average mean of the population of females is $\bar{Y}_2 = \frac{\sum Y_2}{n_2} = \frac{840}{6} = 140$

Standard Error

$$SE = \sigma \sqrt{\frac{(n_1+n_2)}{n_1 n_2}}, \text{ where } \sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\{(n_1-1)\sigma_1^2 + (n_2-1)\sigma_2^2\}}{(n_1+n_2-2)}} \text{ and } \sigma_1 = S.D. \text{ of series } X_{1,2} \text{ series; } \sigma_2 = S.D. \text{ of series } Y_{1,2} \text{ series}$$

Critical Ratio

$$Critical \text{ ratio } (t) = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{SE}$$

3. Numerical Analysis for mans in two places of Himachal Pradesh

$$\sigma_{x1} = S.D. \text{ of series } X_1 \text{ series} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum d^2}{N}} = \sqrt{813.89} = 28.53$$

$$\sigma_{x2} = S.D. \text{ of series } X_2 \text{ series} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum d^2}{N}} = \sqrt{3640.47} = 60.34$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\{(n_1-1)\sigma_{x1}^2 + (n_2-1)\sigma_{x2}^2\}}{(n_1+n_2-2)}} = \sqrt{2227.23} = 47.194$$

Now, and

$$SE = \sigma \sqrt{\frac{(n_1+n_2)}{n_1 n_2}} = 47.194 * 0.5974 = 27.25$$

$$Critical \text{ ratio } (t) = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{SE} = -1.8407$$

4. Numerical Analysis for females in two places of Himachal Pradesh

$$\sigma_{y1} = S.D. \text{ of series } X_1 \text{ series} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum d^2}{N}} = \sqrt{832.79} = 28.86$$

$$\sigma_{y2} = S.D. \text{ of series } X_2 \text{ series} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum d^2}{N}} = \sqrt{3106.33} = 55.74$$

Now,

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\{(n_1-1)\sigma_{y1}^2 + (n_2-1)\sigma_{y2}^2\}}{(n_1+n_2-2)}} = \sqrt{1969.56} = 44.38$$

$$SE = \sigma \sqrt{\frac{(n_1+n_2)}{n_1 n_2}} = 44.38 * 0.5774 = 25.623$$

$$Critical \text{ ratio } (t) = \frac{\bar{Y}_1 - \bar{Y}_2}{SE} = -1.925$$

5. Result

The calculated statistical value of women efficiency is less than the table value. Therefore, for the Gram Panchayat of Himachal Pradesh reference to women participation, in which the role woman’s decision-making, is also capable to show their existence in the society. Hence the hypothesis is accepted that is women have equally strength to perform their responsibility independently.

6. Conclusion

The participation of women in the grassroots level is necessary for a Progressive democratic set up. After the 73rd Constitutional Amendment the New Panchayati Raj system in India have seen women strength in terms of their political participation. Rural women have shown much interest and have statistically proved that their talent in the functions of Panchayati Raj Institutions. No doubt after the implementation of 73rd Amendment electoral participation of women has increased in the state. To sum up, it may be said that woman's equal participation in politics as voters, candidates, representatives and decision-makers is essential not only for the success of a democratic political system but it can also play a vital role in their advancement as well as in the transformation of the society. The political empowerment of women is a must for their all-round development.

7. References

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