

Women Empowerment and Politics: A Study of Elected Women Representatives of Gram Panchayats of Kamrup (Rural) District, Assam

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I. Introduction

Women empowerment may be defined as the process and the result of the process- where the powerless or less powerful gain greater access and control over material and knowledge resources and challenge the existing discrimination and subordination. It is the challenge of ideology of patriarchy and the gender based discrimination against women in all institutions and structures of society. Particularly, women's empowerment is the transformation of the structures of subordination, including changes in the law, civil courts, property and inheritance rights, control over women's bodies and labour and the social and legal institutions that endorse male control.

For the women at the grass root level, empowerment means a range of activities from individual self assumption to collective resistance, protest and mobilization that challenge the basic power relation. For individuals and groups where class, caste, ethnicity and gender determine their access to resources and power, their empowerment begins when they not only recognizes the systematic forces that oppress them, but act to change existing power relationship as well. Empowerment therefore, is a radical process.

Empowerment of women involves many things - economic opportunity, social equality, and personal rights. Women are deprived of these human rights, often as a matter of tradition. In rural areas, women are generally not perceived to have any meaningful income generation capacity, and hence, they are relegated mainly to household duties and cheap labor. Without the power to work and earn a good income, their voices are silenced. Even in matters of sex and child bearing, women often do not have the ability to oppose the wishes of their men.

Singla Pamela said, the process of women's empowerment begins in the mind, by changing their consciousness. Their very beliefs about themselves and their rights; capacities; and potentials need to change but this change is seen to be possibly induced or stimulated by external forces. For example, one important external change agent is the 73rd amendment that reserves 33% of seats for women in the PRI's. It is a government initiative to empower the women. It is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to better participation more decision making power and greater control to initiate actions. Women need to discover their strength, alter their self image, acquire new skills and information, challenge the existing ideology structure, and gain more control over resources. Venessa Griffen describes women empowerment as adding to women's power, the list of characteristics of empowerment is as follows-

1. Having control, organizing further control.
2. Having a say and being listen to.
3. Being able to define and create women's perspective.
4. Being able to influence social choices and decisions affecting the whole society.
5. Being organized and respected as equal citizen and human beings with a positive contribution.

Area of Study

Therefore women empowerment is very much linked with decision making and participation in the process of decision making. But with the implementation of 73rd amendment of Indian constitution really the picture of powerlessness has changed or not, whether the effect of socio economic and political factors to influence it or not and what are grass root level picture of participation, is really an interesting field to study about. Therefore here in this paper we are doing a micro level study in the areas of Kamrup district, Assam.

The total population of Kamrup (rural) district is 1517542 according to 2011 census, and the male female ratio 1000:949 of the district and female literacy 69.47%. But unfortunately the female child population(0-6 age) is decreasing remarkably under census report which clearly depict that under 2001 census female child population 100519 and under 2011 census it reduce to 98345. This district covered 3,105 square K M. This District is situated between 25.46 and 26.49 North Latitude and between 90.48 & 91.50 East Longitude. It is bounded by Udalguri and Baksa districts in the north, Meghalaya in the south, Darrang and Kamrup

Metropolitan in the east and Goalpara and Nalbari district in the west. It has a total geographical area of 4, 34,500 acres.

The main occupation of the people shows that more than 63 per cent has been associated with cultivation either as farmer or agricultural labour. Next to cultivation, important source of livelihood of the population has been trade, whole sale or retail trade.

Administratively the district is divided into two subdivisions viz. Guwahati and Rangia.

Guwahati subdivision has eight Revenue Circles (Tehsils)- Boko, Chamaria, Chaygaon, Hajo, Nagarbera, North Guwahati, Palasbari with 11 blocks - Bongaon, Bezera, Boko, Chaygaon, Chayani, Chamaria, Hajo, Sualkuchi, Rani, Rampur, Goroimari.

Rangia subdivision has three Revenue Circles (Tehsils)- Rangia, Goewswar, Kamalpur with four blocks- Kamalpur, Rangia, Bihidia Jajikona, Goewswar.

The total number of revenue villages in the districts is 991 of which 735 are under Guwahati Sub Division and 256 villages are under Rangia Sub Division. There are a total of 162 Gaon Panchayats in Kamrup district covering 991 villages. There is one tribal belt in the district under Guwahati Sub Division.

Status of Women

When we discuss about the status of women of particular area we have come to know that though the literacy rate is quite satisfactory but economic status is very much pathetic as we witness that sex wise number of agricultural holdings and area operated, 25214.48 area in hector are belonging to male and only 0.96 area in hector are belonging to women and again in the study of district wise workforce participation rate in Kamrup district in rural is 48.02 percent of male and only 15.76 percent of women whether in Assam it is 49.41 percent male and 22.15 percent female. Although the status of women is socially better, but generally women of this area observe some rules of avoidance particularly with the senior male members of the husband's family. Women are not expected to talk face to face with senior male members. Women are not supposed to be go alone from home. The wife usually does not address husband by name. Married women are expected to cover their heads with the end of piece of cloth worn in the upper part of the body in presence of the elderly members of her husband's family as well as other respectable persons of the society.

Like other women in the country the Assamese women do all kinds of domestic works of cleaning, washing, cooking and of distribution of food items. But the participation of women in non profitable activities is higher. Male members are not expected to do some of the household works except in unavoidable circumstances. In fact, men generally avoid works assigned to women. Women observe some rules at the time of cooking. They do not generally enter into cooking room without taking bath.

Weaving is indispensable to Assamese women. Most of the Assamese women of the rural areas are engage in weaving. Though at present most of the educated women do not weave, in interior rural areas weaving is regularly done by some women. Rural women work in agricultural and allied work in family or as agricultural and allied work in family farms or as agricultural labourers.

Objective of the Study

1. To study and understand the socio-economic status of the elected women representatives of the selected area.
2. To assess the level of participation
3. To assess how different socio economic position affect the level of participation of the elected women representatives of selected area.

II. Methodology

In this study the descriptive research design has applied where researcher collects data in accordance with the requirement and applied different tools and techniques to analyzing it, regarding level of participation, reasons for low participation, whether attendance are proxy or not etc. For analyzing data different statistical tools like SPSS, MS EXEL are also applied. Data are collected through purely primary sources like interviews, watching records, observing meetings, government statistical handbooks etc. Several secondary data are also collected from different journals, magazines, newspapers, website etc.

Socio Economic Study Of Representatives of Panchayats of Kamrup District

Subordination of women has created fundamental hindrances to human development. It highly led to underestimation of the significance of women and overestimation of the importance of man. However in the traditional patriarchal society, the extent of participation of women is determined by multifarious factors like age, class, caste, education etc. therefore here we are doing a socio economic study of the representatives of the area –

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	26-30	34	34.0	34.0	34.0
	31-42	10	10.0	10.0	44.0
	43-55	33	33.0	33.0	77.0
	56-65	20	20.0	20.0	97.0
	>65	3	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	94	94.0	94.0	94.0
	Unmarried	3	3.0	3.0	97.0
	Widow	3	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
	Less than 2	13	13.0	13.0	18.0
	2	35	35.0	35.0	53.0
	More than 2	47	47.0	47.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	General	86	86.0	86.0	86.0
	SC	4	4.0	4.0	90.0
	ST	2	2.0	2.0	92.0
	OBC	8	8.0	8.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	L P School	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Under Matric	40	40.0	40.0	44.0
	Matric	28	28.0	28.0	72.0
	Higher Secondary	18	18.0	18.0	90.0
	Graduate	8	8.0	8.0	98.0
	Post Graduate	1	1.0	1.0	99.0
	Technial Education	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Regular	32	32.0	32.0	32.0
	Irregular	34	34.0	34.0	66.0
	Few	34	34.0	34.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	47	47.0	47.0	47.0
	Yes	53	53.0	53.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

In literature review we found that, “Mohanty(1999), while in the north such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the elected women are predominantly in the higher age group, i.e., above 50years , in the south and east women belong in to the younger age group are predominant among elected members of panchayat. That’s why we want to search what is the age level among the representative of women members of Gram Panchayat.

Percentage distribution of respondents by age and level of participation Here it is taken as a hypothesis that:-

The younger the age is relating to the level of participation level, it is expected that participation will be more regular of the younger members.

		Level of Participation				Total
		Regular	Irregular	Few		
Age	26-30	Count	16	8	10	34
		% within Age	47.1%	23.5%	29.4%	100.0%
		% of Total	16.0%	8.0%	10.0%	34.0%
	31-42	Count	1	7	2	10
		% within Age	10.0%	70.0%	20.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.0%	7.0%	2.0%	10.0%
	43-55	Count	13	6	14	33
		% within Age	39.4%	18.2%	42.4%	100.0%
		% of Total	13.0%	6.0%	14.0%	33.0%
	56-65	Count	2	11	7	20
		% within Age	10.0%	55.0%	35.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	2.0%	11.0%	7.0%	20.0%
>65	Count	0	2	1	3	
	% within Age	.0%	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%	
	% of Total	.0%	2.0%	1.0%	3.0%	
Total		Count	32	34	34	100
		% within Age	32.0%	34.0%	34.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	32.0%	34.0%	34.0%	100.0%

Above table depicted that among the members 32.0 percent is regular , 34.0 percent is irregular, 34.0 percent are few and maximum percentage of 47.1 who are regular in their activities and participation is belong to the category of 26-30 age group but it is shown in the picture that 29.4 percent of this age group is few in participation. But it is significant that, the percentage of irregular members are belong to the age group of 31-42 having 70.0 percent. May be several factors like house hold responsibility, child care, ignorance, lack of awareness, lack of sufficient mode of communication etc. can effect on the irregularity of the members. It is seems that 42.4 percent are few, who are belong to the age group of 43-55, and significantly the members belong to the category of more than 65 age having 0.0 percent regularity in their participation level. Accordingly it seems that the hypothesis is correct by analyzing above data.

Percentage distribution of respondents by age and extent of opportunity Here it is taken as a hypothesis that:-

The younger the age is, higher the level of expressing opportunity of their views and can present the problem actively

		Extent_of_opportunities_for_expressing_views_and_present_problem		Total	
		Yes	No		
Age	26-30	Count	23	11	34
		% within Age	67.6%	32.4%	100.0%
		% of Total	23.0%	11.0%	34.0%
	31-42	Count	8	2	10
		% within Age	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	8.0%	2.0%	10.0%
	43-55	Count	21	12	33
		% within Age	63.6%	36.4%	100.0%
		% of Total	21.0%	12.0%	33.0%
	56-65	Count	14	6	20
		% within Age	70.0%	30.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	14.0%	6.0%	20.0%
>65	Count	1	2	3	
	% within Age	33.3%	66.7%	100.0%	
	% of Total	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%	
Total		Count	67	33	100
		% within Age	67.0%	33.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	67.0%	33.0%	100.0%

The above table indicates that out of 100 members 67 percent have got the opportunity to express and present their views but 33 percent are of the view that they are not getting the opportunity to express their views,

it symbolizes passive role women are still huge. The facility and opportunity to speak and listen to should be there, as it is the important tools for empowerment. In 1st category of 26-30years women,67.6 percent are having the opportunity to express, but 32.4 percent said they don't get the opportunity, in 2nd category of 31-42 years, 80 percent are getting and 20 percent are not getting the chances, in 3rd category 63.6 are getting and 36.4 percent are not getting opportunity, in 4th category 70 percent are getting and 30 percent are not getting the opportunity, and in 5th category of 65 years 33.3 percent are getting and 66.7 percent are not getting opportunity to express views. Therefore the hypothesis is accepted.

Percentage distribution of respondents by age and reasons for not getting chances Here it is taken as a hypothesis that:

The higher the age is, higher the level of lacking knowledge or agenda for discussion and it is said that male domination is there.

			Reasons_for_not_getting_chance_to_participate_in_discussion			Total
			Not given opportunity by Chairman	Domination of male Pradhan	Lacking prior knowledge or agenda for discussion	
Age	26-30	Count	1	2	4	7
		% within Age	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.3%	8.7%	17.4%	30.4%
	31-42	Count	0	1	0	1
		% within Age	.0%	100.0%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.0%	4.3%	.0%	4.3%
	43-55	Count	2	2	5	9
		% within Age	22.2%	22.2%	55.6%	100.0%
		% of Total	8.7%	8.7%	21.7%	39.1%
	56-65	Count	1	1	2	4
		% within Age	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.3%	4.3%	8.7%	17.4%
	>65	Count	0	0	2	2
		% within Age	.0%	.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.0%	.0%	8.7%	8.7%
Total	Count	4	6	13	23	
	% within Age	17.4%	26.1%	56.5%	100.0%	
	% of Total	17.4%	26.1%	56.5%	100.0%	

Those women who do not have the chances to express their views out of them , themselves express that maximum 56.5 percent are not getting chances due to lack of prior knowledge of agenda for discussion and 26.1 percent express about the male domination and 17.4 percent are expressing about domination of chairman whether male or female. Here importantly the members of more than 65 years 100 percent of the express about their ignorance and lake of knowledge of agenda. The 5th category indicates that 25 percent facing domination of chairman, 25 percent facing dominance of male Prdhans and 50 percent express about lacking of prior knowledge. The 2nd category women of 31-42 years are facing maximum male domination i.e. is 100 percent. There for hypothesis is accepted that higher the age the higher the lack of knowledge.

Percentage distribution of respondents by age and problem faced in the allotment of schemes and funds Here it is taken as a hypothesis that:-

The younger the age is , higher the problems faced in higher level in allotment of schemes and funds

			Problems_faced_in_the_allotment_of_schemes_and_funds				Total
			GP levels	Block	Districts	others	
Age	26-30	Count	16	5	0	0	21
		% within Age	76.2%	23.8%	.0%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	27.6%	8.6%	.0%	.0%	36.2%
	31-42	Count	3	0	1	1	5
		% within Age	60.0%	.0%	20.0%	20.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	5.2%	.0%	1.7%	1.7%	8.6%
	43-55	Count	16	3	0	2	21
		% within Age	76.2%	14.3%	.0%	9.5%	100.0%
		% of Total	27.6%	5.2%	.0%	3.4%	36.2%
	56-65	Count	7	3	0	0	10
		% within Age	70.0%	30.0%	.0%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	12.1%	5.2%	.0%	.0%	17.2%
	>65	Count	1	0	0	0	1
		% within Age	100.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	100.0%

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	% of Total	1.7%	.0%	.0%	.0%	1.7%
Total	Count	43	11	1	3	58
	% within Age	74.1%	19.0%	1.7%	5.2%	100.0%
	% of Total	74.1%	19.0%	1.7%	5.2%	100.0%

The above table indicates that among the respondent 74.1 percent are facing problem in allotment of schemes and funds are at G.P. level, and 19 percent at Block level and in District level percent is 1.7 percent and in other level percent is 5.2 percent. But interestingly the 1st two categories of ages are facing problem at G.P. level i.e. 76.2 percent and 60 percent respectively. Therefore hypothesis is nullified.

1.5 Percentage distribution of respondents by age and occupation Here it is taken as a hypothesis that:-

The younger members are more involve in some occupation, as the life has become costlier day by day. It is also be verified the empowerment level of women before becoming member and it is taken as the hypothesis that the younger, the more holding some occupation.

		Occupation_before_becoming_member					Total
		Teaching	Businessman	Social & political worker	Other		
Age	26-30	Count	1	2	0	31	34
		% within Age	2.9%	5.9%	.0%	91.2%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.0%	2.0%	.0%	31.0%	34.0%
	31-42	Count	0	0	0	10	10
		% within Age	.0%	.0%	.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.0%	.0%	.0%	10.0%	10.0%
	43-55	Count	1	0	4	28	33
		% within Age	3.0%	.0%	12.1%	84.8%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.0%	.0%	4.0%	28.0%	33.0%
	56-65	Count	0	2	2	16	20
		% within Age	.0%	10.0%	10.0%	80.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.0%	2.0%	2.0%	16.0%	20.0%
	>65	Count	1	0	0	2	3
		% within Age	33.3%	.0%	.0%	66.7%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.0%	.0%	.0%	2.0%	3.0%
Total	Count	3	4	6	87	100	
	% within Age	3.0%	4.0%	6.0%	87.0%	100.0%	
	% of Total	3.0%	4.0%	6.0%	87.0%	100.0%	

But the above table signifies that the picture of employment is very gloomy. Only 3 percent are teacher , 4 percent businesswomen,6 percent are social and political worker and the rest 87 percent are other which depict most of them are house wives and related to non profitable jobs. But the table signifies that among the businesswomen maximum10 percent are belong to the age group 56-65. Among the social political workers 12.1 percent are of the age of 43-55.

Among the age group of 31-42 maximum 100 percent are belong to other, than followed by the age group of 26-30 which have 91.2 percent other. There for my hypothesis is incorrect.

Percentage distribution of respondents by age and reasons for lacking participation Here it is taken as a hypothesis that:-

The younger the age is, highly busy in household works and as a result lacking in the participation in the implementation of development policies.

		Reasons_for_lacking_participation_in_the_implementation_of_devel				Total	
		busy in household works	lacking freedom from the family	better supervision capacity of men	no need to supervise		
Age	26-30	Count	12	3	3	3	21
		% within Age	57.1%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	100.0%
		% of Total	20.3%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	35.6%
	31-42	Count	4	0	0	1	5
		% within Age	80.0%	.0%	.0%	20.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	6.8%	.0%	.0%	1.7%	8.5%
	43-55	Count	13	3	0	1	17
		% within Age	76.5%	17.6%	.0%	5.9%	100.0%
		% of Total	22.0%	5.1%	.0%	1.7%	28.8%
	56-65	Count	11	2	0	1	14
		% within Age	78.6%	14.3%	.0%	7.1%	100.0%
		% of Total	18.6%	3.4%	.0%	1.7%	23.7%
	>65	Count	1	0	1	0	2

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	% within Age	50.0%	.0%	50.0%	.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	1.7%	.0%	1.7%	.0%	3.4%
Total	Count	41	8	4	6	59
	% within Age	69.5%	13.6%	6.8%	10.2%	100.0%
	% of Total	69.5%	13.6%	6.8%	10.2%	100.0%

Out of 100 respondent 59 has given the answer of this question. Out of which 69.5 percent are lacking in participation developmental work is due to busy in household work, 13.6 percent are lacking in participation due to lacking freedom from family, 6.8 percent are thought that better supervision capacity of men and no need to supervise such things. In 1st category of 26-30 years 57.1percent busy in household work, in 2nd category also 80 percent busy in household work. In lacking freedom from the family maximum 17.6 percent are belong to the 43-55 years of age. Among them who thought that men has better supervision capacity 50 percent of them are belong to last category of above 65 years. Among them who thought no need to supervise the implementation of development works are maximum of 20 percent belong to the age group of 31-42. Therefore hypothesis is nullified.

Percentage distribution of respondents by age and level of participation Here it is taken as a hypothesis that:-

The younger the age is, higher the level of participation

		Level_of_Participation			Total	
		Regular	Irregular	Few		
Age	26-30	Count	16	8	10	34
		% within Level_of_Participation	50.0%	23.5%	29.4%	34.0%
		% of Total	16.0%	8.0%	10.0%	34.0%
	31-42	Count	1	7	2	10
		% within Level_of_Participation	3.1%	20.6%	5.9%	10.0%
		% of Total	1.0%	7.0%	2.0%	10.0%
	43-55	Count	13	6	14	33
		% within Level_of_Participation	40.6%	17.6%	41.2%	33.0%
		% of Total	13.0%	6.0%	14.0%	33.0%
	56-65	Count	2	11	7	20
		% within Level_of_Participation	6.3%	32.4%	20.6%	20.0%
		% of Total	2.0%	11.0%	7.0%	20.0%
>65	Count	0	2	1	3	
	% within Level_of_Participation	.0%	5.9%	2.9%	3.0%	
	% of Total	.0%	2.0%	1.0%	3.0%	
Total	Count	32	34	34	100	
	% within Level_of_Participation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	% of Total	32.0%	34.0%	34.0%	100.0%	

It is observe that out of 100 respondent 32percent regular , 34 percent are irregular and 34percent are attended only few meeting. Among the regular candidate maximum 50 percent are belong to the age group of 26-30, 40.6 percent are from 43-55 age group. Among the irregular candidates 32.4 percent belong to the age group of 56-65 and among the candidates who are attending only few meeting are mostly from 43-55 percent of age category.

From the above analysis of attendance of meetings of the women representatives, reflects the unhealthy condition of democracy where power is devaluated to deal with the problems, to deal with their affairs. But the women after being elected do not attend the meeting (34+34=68). But by analyzing above data said the younger age group respondents are regular comparative to other age group. It is may be due to they are less household burden as they are having less number of child, they are more educated and aware about their socio-political duty.

Percentage distribution of respondents by annual income and level of participation Here the hypothesis: Higher level of income related to higher the level of participation

		Level_of_Participation			Total	
		Regular	Irregular	Few		
Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	1000-5000	Count	4	0	0	4
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	100.0%	.0%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.7%	.0%	.0%	4.7%
	6000-10000	Count	8	13	16	37
		% within	21.6%	35.1%	43.2%	100.0%

		Annual_Income_after_becoming_member				
		% of Total	9.3%	15.1%	18.6%	43.0%
11000-15000		Count	12	13	7	32
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	37.5%	40.6%	21.9%	100.0%
		% of Total	14.0%	15.1%	8.1%	37.2%
16000-20000		Count	2	3	1	6
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%	100.0%
		% of Total	2.3%	3.5%	1.2%	7.0%
21000-25000		Count	1	0	0	1
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	100.0%	.0%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.2%	.0%	.0%	1.2%
26000-30000		Count	0	1	0	1
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	.0%	100.0%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.0%	1.2%	.0%	1.2%
>50000		Count	1	1	3	5
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.2%	1.2%	3.5%	5.8%
Total		Count	28	31	27	86
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	32.6%	36.0%	31.4%	100.0%
		% of Total	32.6%	36.0%	31.4%	100.0%

Among the 100 members, 86 answer this question and among them 32.6 percent are regular 36 percent are irregular 31.4 percent are belongs to few. Here from the highest income group of more than Rs 50000, 20 percent are regular 20 percent are irregular 60 percent are belongs to few. Among income group of Rs26000-30000, 100 percent are irregular .Among the income group of Rs.21000-25000, 100 percent are regular. Among income group of Rs 16000-20000, 33.3 percent are regular 50 percent are irregular 16.7 percent are belongs to few. Among income group of more than Rs 11000-15000, 37.5 percent are regular, 40.6 percent are irregular, 21.9 percent are belongs to few. Among income group of more than Rs 6000-10000, 21.6 percent are regular 35.1percent are irregular, 43.2 percent are belongs to few. Among income group of more than Rs 1000-5000, 100 percent are regular in participation. Hypothesis is nullified. Income level and level of participation is not related Percentage distribution of respondents by annual income and attendance is proxy or not. Here the hypothesis is:

Higher the level of income related to attendance of meeting by their own

Table2.9-Annual_Income_after_becoming_member*Whether_attendence_is_proxy_or_not
Crosstabulation

			Whether_attendence_is_proxy_or_not		Total
			No	Yes	
Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	1000-5000	Count	2	2	4
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	2.3%	2.3%	4.7%
	6000-10000	Count	20	17	37
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	54.1%	45.9%	100.0%
		% of Total	23.3%	19.8%	43.0%
	11000-15000	Count	14	18	32
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	43.8%	56.3%	100.0%

		% of Total	16.3%	20.9%	37.2%
	16000-20000	Count	2	4	6
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	33.3%	66.7%	100.0%
		% of Total	2.3%	4.7%	7.0%
	21000-25000	Count	1	0	1
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	100.0%	.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	1.2%	.0%	1.2%
	26000-30000	Count	0	1	1
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	.0%	1.2%	1.2%
	>50000	Count	2	3	5
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	40.0%	60.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	2.3%	3.5%	5.8%
Total		Count	41	45	86
		% within Annual_Income_after_becoming_member	47.7%	52.3%	100.0%
		% of Total	47.7%	52.3%	100.0%

By the above observation out of hundred 86 answer the question. Among them 47.7 percent are not giving proxy attendance and 52.3 percent are giving proxy attendance. Here from the highest income group of more than Rs 50000, among them 40 percent are not giving proxy attendance and 60 percent are giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs26000-30000, among them maximum100 percent are giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs11000-25000, among them maximum100 percent are not giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs16000-20000, among them 33.3percent are not giving proxy attendance and 66.7 percent are giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs11000-15000, among them 43.8percent are not giving proxy attendance and 56.3 percent are giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs 6000-10000, among them 54.1percent are not giving proxy attendance and 45.9 percent are giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs1000-5000, among them 50percent are not giving proxy attendance and 50 percent are giving proxy attendance. Here hypothesis is nullified, as higher level of income is not related with proxy attendance. But here picture is really gloomy as per 52.3 percent are giving proxy attendance which have a very negative impact on active participation in women part.

Findings

1. Significantly the picture of employment is very gloomy. Only 3 percent are teacher , 4 percent businesswomen, 6 percent are social and political worker and the rest 87 percent are other which depict most of them are house wives and related to non profitable jobs.
2. Out of 100 respondent 59 has given the answer of that why they are lacking in participation in developmental work. Out of which 69.5 percent are lacking in participation developmental work is due to busy in household work, 13.6 percent are lacking in participation due to lacking freedom from family, 6.8 percent are thought that better supervision capacity of men and no need to supervise such things.
3. It is observe that out of 100 respondent 32percent regular , 34 percent are irregular and 34percent are attended only few meeting. Among the regular candidate maximum 50 percent are belong to the age group of 26-30, 40.6 percent are from 43-55 age group. Among the irregular candidates 32.4 percent belong to the age group of 56-65 and among the candidates who are attending only few meeting are mostly from 43-55 percent of age category.

From the above analysis of attendance of meetings of the women representatives, reflects the unhealthy condition of democracy where power is devaluate to deal with the problems, to deal with their affairs. But the women after being elected do not attend the meeting (34+34=68). But by analyzing above data said the younger age group respondents are regular comparative to other age group. It is may be due to they are less household burden as they are having less number of child, they are more educated and aware about their socio-political duty.

1. Among the 100 members, 86 answer this question about level of participation and among them 32.6 percent are regular 36 percent are irregular 31.4 percent are belongs to few. Among income group of Rs26000-30000, 100 percent are irregular .Among the income group of Rs.21000-25000, 100 percent are regular. Among income group of more than Rs 6000-10000, 21.6 percent are regular 35.1percent are irregular and maximum 43.2 percent are attending only few meetings. Among income group of more than Rs 1000-5000, 100 percent are regular in participation. Hypothesis is nullified and significantly income level and level of participation is not related
4. By the above observation out of hundred 86 answer the question. Among them 47.7 percent are not The significant findings of this study is that maximum percent 40 percent of the women representatives are under metric that means studied upto 10th standerd. And minimum 1percent are having post graduate degree holders and only 1 percent are having technical education.
5. While discussing about their level of participation in functioning of the panchayats 32 percent are find to be regular and 34 percent are found to be irregular and 34 percent found to be attending only few functions of panchayat which is very alarming picture in matter of empowerment of women representatives.
6. Many a time the representatives were giving proxy attendance. Significantly here 53 percent are giving proxy attendance 47 are not giving proxy attendance.
7. The younger the age is relating to the level of participation level, it is expected that participation will be more regular of the younger members. But it is significant that, the percentage of irregular members are belong to the age group of 31-42 having 70.0 percent. May be several factors like house hold responsibility, child care, ignorance, lack of awareness, lack of sufficient mode of communication etc. can effect on the irregularity of the members. It is seems that 42.4 percent are few, who are belong to the age group of 43-55, and significantly the members belong to the category of more than 65 age having 0.0 percent regularity in their participation level. Accordingly it seems that the hypothesis is correct by analyzing above data. Highest 47.03 percent are regular representatives belong to the age group of 26- 30 years.
8. Out of 100 members 67 percent have got the opportunity to express and present their views but 33 percent are not getting the opportunity to express their views. It symbolizes passive role women are still huge. The facility and opportunity to speak and listen to should be there, as it is the important tools for empowerment. Here among 31-42 years, 80 percent are getting and 20 percent are not getting the chances to express and significantly maximum 66.7 percent, who are not getting opportunity are belongs to the age group of more than 65 years of age.
9. Among the respondent who do not have the chances to express their views out of them , themselves express that maximum 56.5 percent are not getting chances due to lack of prior knowledge of agenda for discussion and 26.1 percent express about the male domination and 17.4 percent are expressing about domination of chairman whether male or female. Here importantly the members of more than 65 years 100 percent of the express about their ignorance and lake of knowledge of agenda. The 5th category indicates that 25 percent facing domination of chairman, 25 percent facing dominance of male Prdhans and 50 percent express about lacking of prior knowledge. The 2nd category women of 31-42 years are facing maximum male domination i.e. is 100 percent. There for hypothesis is accepted that higher the age the higher the lack of knowledge.
2. giving proxy attendance and 52.3 percent are giving proxy attendance. Here from the highest income group of more than Rs 50000, among them 40 percent are not giving proxy attendance and 60 percent are giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs26000-30000, among them maximum100 percent are giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs11000-25000, among them maximum100 percent are not giving proxy attendance. Among income group of Rs1000-5000, among them 50percent are not giving proxy attendance and 50 percent are giving proxy attendance. Here hypothesis is nullified, as higher level of income is not related with proxy attendance. But here picture is really gloomy as per 52.3 percent are giving proxy attendance which have a very negative impact on active participation in women part.

III. Conclusion

Finally it can be said that reservations of the seats for women representatives is not an end in itself to achieve political empowerment. It is the socio economic development which will help them effectively participate in the decision making process or in the process of empowerment. The reservation scenario helps the women to socialize politically or participate in collective work rather than traditional jobs which are only confined to their home, but the above scenario represents that political empowerment is not enough to address the socio economic aspects. A lot of awareness is to be done by the Government about their duties, responsibilities and rights. Again the consciousness of their existence in the society as equal gender is also very important in the process of empowerment. Then only the true sense of empowerment can be achieved.

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