

WOMEN IN PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract

India is known as the world's largest democracy, with over half of its population residing in rural areas. Women hold a vital role in Indian society, constituting nearly half of the nation's population. Their significance in shaping the development of Indian society has been evident since ancient times. Despite women making up approximately fifty percent of the global population, their representation in political positions within the government remains disappointingly low, accounting for less than ten percent.

The 73rd Constitution Amendment Act is a significant milestone in the progression of grassroots democratic institutions in India. This act conferred constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), marking a momentous step toward decentralizing power and promoting local self-governance. However, the reservation of seats for women, particularly for positions of authority such as chairpersons, faced opposition. Some viewed these roles as sources of power, status, and opportunities for personal gain, leading to reluctance among males and political parties to cede them to women.

This reluctance stemmed from the belief that women might not be inclined to engage in practices aimed at personal financial gain. Furthermore, women were seen as less easily manipulated, especially in the context of the traditional gender divide. Maintaining appearances in the presence of women in leadership positions also posed a challenge for those accustomed to a male-dominated landscape.

The 73rd Constitution Amendment Act was a significant step toward rectifying this imbalance, though it faced resistance, especially concerning the reservation of leadership positions for women. Breaking down these barriers and promoting gender equality in politics remains a crucial goal for India's democratic development.

Keywords- Panchayati Raj, Women Participation, local bodies' governance

Introduction-

The 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, which conferred constitutional status upon Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), represents a significant milestone in the development of grassroots democratic institutions in India. It marked a pivotal moment in the country's efforts to decentralize governance and empower local communities. However, it's important to note that this

transformative step was not without its challenges, especially in relation to the reservation of seats for women, particularly for the position of chairpersons.

Some individuals and political parties expressed opposition to the reservation of seats for women, especially in leadership roles. They viewed these positions as sources of authority, power, and prestige, as well as opportunities to generate additional income. As a result, there was reluctance among males and political parties to relinquish these positions to women. This resistance stemmed from concerns that women might not engage in the same money-making practices and might be less susceptible to manipulation, especially given the prevailing gender dynamics in society.

To address these concerns and promote gender equality and women's participation in local governance, it is essential to recognize the importance of the constitutional amendment and the need for continued efforts to overcome such resistance. Emphasizing the significance of inclusive and equitable representation in PRIs can lead to more effective and responsive local governance, benefiting communities as a whole and need to keep appearances with women. After 73rd Constitution Amendment i.e. providing 33 per cent reservation to Women in Local Bodies changes the perspective of rural politics, and there were improvement in women participation as well as their political, economic and social status in society. The 73rd Constitution Amendment improved the women situation in society and provides them opportunity to take part in rural politics and participate in decision making process. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment of Indian constitution provided reservation of seats for women and it raised a new hopes and entire country is in the process of making the local bodies to take up the new challenges.

History of Local Bodies in India

Throughout India's history, villages have played a crucial role in the nation's development, serving as fundamental components of Indian society. India, one of the world's oldest countries, has a society that dates back as far as its history. The history of Indian local governance can be divided into six distinct periods: the Vedic Era, Epic Era, Ancient Era, Medieval Period, British Period, and Post-Independence Period.

During the Vedic Era, ancient Sanskrit scriptures mentioned the term "Panchayatan," denoting groups of five individuals, including a spiritual leader. These spiritual leaders eventually disappeared from some groups, and in the Rigveda, we find references to Sabha, Samiti, and Vidanta as local self-governing units. These bodies operated democratically at the local level, with kings granting them authority over specific functions and decisions.

Mario D. Zamora noted that during the Vedic age, villages were administered by respected village officials who received advice from a council of elders. In the Ramayana period of the Vedic age, these revered village officials were known as "Gemini."

The Epic Era can be divided into two periods: the Ramayana and the Mahabharata Period. In the Ramayana period, administration was divided into two parts: "Pur" or city and "Janpad" or village. Self-governance at the village level was prominent during the Mahabharata period, with units of 10, 20, 100, and 1,000 village groups. "Gramik" served as the chief official of the village, while "Dashap," "Vinshya Adhipati," "Shat Gram Adhyaksha," and "Shat Gram Pati" were chiefs

responsible for groups of 10, 20, 100, and 1,000 villages, respectively. These leaders collected local taxes and ensured the defense of their villages.

In the Ancient Period, village societies were primarily agrarian, and a self-governing system prevailed. Village administration was overseen by Panchayats, with annual elections held. While villages held a crucial role in governance, there is no evidence of women leading or participating in Panchayats during this period.

The Medieval Period saw the Delhi Sultans dividing their kingdom into provinces called "Vilayat." During the Mughal rule, village governance was managed by an officer known as "Kotwali." In the Delhi Sultanate, village governance was divided into three parts: "Mukkadam" for administration, "Patwari" for revenue collection, and "Choudhary" assisted by the Panch for settling disputes within the village community. Similar to the ancient period, there is no evidence of women participating in elections during the medieval period.

The British Period brought about significant changes in local self-governance. In 1870, local self-government was introduced in urban municipalities, with the Mayo's Resolution of 1870 being a key development. In 1882, the "Magna Carta of Local Bodies Governance" was enacted, requiring a two-thirds majority of non-officials elected to head these bodies. In 1907, the Royal Commission for Centralization, chaired by C.E.H. Hobhouse, acknowledged the importance of Panchayats at the village level. In 1919, the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms transferred local governance subjects to provincial control, reducing external interference. In 1925 and 1926, eight and six provinces, respectively, passed Panchayat laws, granting more power to local bodies and reducing taxes.

After Independence, our Constitution included Article 40 as part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, advocating for the formation of Village Panchayats. Article 246 empowers state legislatures to legislate on subjects related to local self-government.

India's history has witnessed the evolution of village governance from ancient times to the present day, with various periods shaping the structure and function of local self-government. Despite the historical significance of villages, gender disparity in participation, particularly by women, has been a persistent challenge that needs to be addressed in contemporary times.

Committees on Panchayati Raj

1. Balwant Mehta Committee (1957):

The Balwant Mehta Committee, established in 1957, proposed a three-tier governance model for India. This model consisted of Gram Panchayats at the village level, Panchayat Samitis at the block level, and Zila Parishads at the district level. The chairman of the Zila Parishad was to be the District Collector. Rajasthan became the first state to adopt these recommendations on October 2, 1959.

2. Ashok Mehta Committee (1977-1978):

The Ashok Mehta Committee put forward a total of 132 recommendations, some of which were highly significant:

- Transition from a two-tier to a three-tier structure.

- Inclusion of political parties in elections at all administrative levels.
- Granting constitutional recognition to Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions with taxing powers.
- Mandating the state council of ministers to designate a minister responsible for local self-government.

3. G.V.K. Rao Committee (1985):

The G.V.K. Rao Committee, in 1985, made several recommendations, including:

- Creation of the position of District Development Commissioner, who would serve as the chief executive of the Zila Parishad.
- Holding regular elections for Panchayati Raj Institutions at all levels.
- Acknowledging the pivotal role of Zila Parishads in decentralizing power and designating them as the principal bodies responsible for managing development programs at the district level.

4. LM Singhvi Committee (1986):

The LM Singhvi Committee, in 1986, proposed a series of recommendations, such as:

- Providing constitutional legitimacy to Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Establishing a three-tier system at the Village, Block, and District levels.
- Establishing Nyaya Panchayats to address legal matters within groups of villages.

These committees and their recommendations have played a crucial role in shaping the structure and functioning of local governance in India, promoting decentralization of power and ensuring greater participation of citizens in the democratic process.

Panchayati Raj System in India

We know reservation in Panchayati raj Institutions was started from the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act and its change the entire politics in India especially in rural areas. The 73rd Amendment added a new Part IX to the constitution titled “The Panchayats” covering provisions from Article 243 to 243(O) and also added a new schedule i.e. Eleventh Schedule that contain 29 Subjects related to functions of Panchayats in India. Article 15(3) of the Indian Constitution empowers the states to make special provision for women. The following Articles are related to Panchayati Raj System in India:

Article 243: Definition of Panchayati Raj

Article 243A: Gram Sabha

Article 243B: Constitutions of Panchayats

Article 243C: Composition of Panchayats

Article 243D: Reservation of Seats in Panchayats

Article 243E: Duration of Panchayats

Article 243F: Disqualification for membership

Article 243G: Power, Authority and Responsibility of Panchayat

Article 243H: Power to Impose taxes by, and funds of Panchayats

Article 243I: Constitution of Finance Commission to review financial problems

Article 243J: Audits of Accounts of Panchayat

Article 243K: Elections to the Panchayats

Article 243L: Application to the Union Territories

Article 243M: Part not to apply to certain Areas

Article 243N: Continuance of existing laws and Panchayats

Article 243O: Bar to Interference by courts in electoral matters.

Women in Panchayati Raj Institution

Women are an integral part of Indian society, and achieving equality for them is essential for the nation's progress and development. In a democratic system, political participation plays a pivotal role in the policy-making process, involving the exercise of political rights such as universal adult franchise and participation in pressure groups that influence government policies.

The empowerment of women is a significant objective of the 73rd constitutional amendment, which mandates the reservation of one-third of all positions across the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions for women. Women's participation in PRIs is a crucial aspect of their empowerment, as it ensures a democratic process and helps achieve development goals for women. Empowering rural women is particularly important for the overall development of rural India.

C. Prahalad (2011) emphasized that the 73rd Amendment Act provided a platform for women's empowerment, enabling them to challenge societal issues such as casteism and patriarchy. This constitutional amendment was a pivotal step towards decentralization of power and providing equal opportunities for all sections of society, especially Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women, to have a voice in the decision-making process.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act introduced reservations for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, leading to a positive impact on women's participation in Indian politics over the last three decades. In several states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, and Himachal Pradesh, the reservation for women has been increased to 50 per cent. According to data from 2020, out of 30.40 lakh elected representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions nationwide, approximately 45.2 per cent are women.

P. Srivatsa (2016) highlighted that the adoption of the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution had the potential to bring about a revolutionary change by establishing genuine democracy at the grassroots level. This amendment created a historic opportunity to transform rural India. Empowering women, especially in the political sphere, is essential for their advancement and for achieving gender equality in society. It is a critical step toward realizing the goals of equality, development, and peace.

Rural development is vital for the overall development of democracy, and Panchayati Raj plays a key role in rural development. It is our responsibility to encourage women's participation in the largest democracy in the world. Increased representation of women at the village level can

significantly contribute to addressing development issues related to women's well-being and ensuring their active participation in the decision-making process.

Panchayati Raj and Rural Development

Social roles of Women in Panchayati Raj

Women's participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) is pivotal for ensuring their voices are heard and their needs addressed in the political sphere. They represent the interests of women, advocating for crucial matters like health, education, and empowerment. Furthermore, their involvement has several important dimensions:

- 1. Skill Development and Capacity Building:** PRIs offer opportunities for women to enhance their skills and knowledge through various programs and initiatives.
- 2. Social Welfare:** Women in PRIs actively work toward the welfare of their communities, particularly focusing on women and marginalized groups. They initiate programs and policies aimed at improving access to healthcare, education, sanitation, and other essential amenities.
- 3. Empowerment:** PRIs play a significant role in empowering women by providing them a platform to voice their opinions and contribute to society. They help break traditional gender norms and stereotypes, encouraging women to take on leadership roles.
- 4. Leadership Positions:** Women hold leadership positions in PRIs, including village heads, members of Gram Panchayats, and members of Panchayat Samitis.

Women's Political Roles in PRIs:

Women play vital political roles in PRIs, contributing to grassroots development and inclusive governance:

- 1. Reservation of Seats for Women:** PRIs reserve a specific percentage of seats, typically one-third (or up to 50 percent in some states), exclusively for women. This ensures their active political participation.
- 2. Women as Sarpanch:** According to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, women are eligible to be elected as Sarpanch, the head of the village Panchayat, responsible for critical decision-making and administration.
- 3. Gram Panchayat Members:** Women can serve as members of the Gram Panchayat, actively participating in policy formulation, decision-making, and development program implementation.
- 4. Panchayat Samiti Members:** Women have opportunities to become members of the Panchayat Samiti, overseeing multiple Gram Panchayats, and contributing to policy-making and development at the block or tehsil level.
- 5. Zilla Parishad Members:** Women can be elected as members of the Zilla Parishad, the apex governing body at the district level, where they play a crucial role in decision-making, resource allocation, and development monitoring.
- 6. Political Representation:** Women leaders in PRIs effectively represent the interests and concerns of women at the grassroots level. They advocate for issues such as women's health,

education, empowerment, and social welfare, leading to the development and implementation of policies and programs to address these concerns.

7. Political Leadership: Women in PRIs exhibit their leadership skills and abilities, influencing the political discourse, shaping policies, and driving developmental initiatives in their communities.

In conclusion, women's participation in PRIs enhances gender equality and fosters more inclusive and effective local governance. Their presence ensures that women's perspectives and the needs of marginalized groups are considered in decision-making processes, ultimately contributing to equitable and sustainable grassroots development.

Women's Role in the Economic Development of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):

Women play a significant role in the economic development of Panchayati Raj institutions in India. The Panchayati Raj system, a decentralized form of governance, empowers local self-government at the village level, providing opportunities for women to actively participate in decision-making and contribute to community development. Here are the roles women play in the economic development of PRIs:

1. Agriculture and Livelihoods: Women constitute nearly 50 per cent of rural India's population and actively participate in agricultural activities and livelihood options. They are involved in farming, animal husbandry, horticulture, and other income-generating activities, contributing to food security, rural economies, and sustainable practices.

2. Self-Help Groups (SHGs): Women form SHGs within PRIs, pooling their savings and receiving loans for entrepreneurship and income-generation activities. SHGs provide financial support, training, and enhance women's decision-making abilities, leading to economic empowerment.

3. Microcredit and Microfinance: PRIs facilitate access to credit for women, with microfinance institutions providing loans for women entrepreneurs to start or expand small businesses. This contributes to poverty alleviation, employment generation, and overall economic development.

4. Natural Resource Management: Women play a crucial role in managing natural resources such as forests, water bodies, and land. They engage in activities like soil conservation, water harvesting, and sustainable resource utilization, ensuring the sustainability of resources.

5. Entrepreneurship and Skill Development: PRIs promote entrepreneurship and skill development among women, offering training, mentoring, and financial support for women interested in starting their own businesses. Women are encouraged to acquire new skills and become independent earners, fostering economic growth.

6. Social Welfare Programs: Women in PRIs actively implement government-sponsored social welfare schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA). They ensure the effective utilization of resources and fair distribution of benefits among community members.

Overall, women's participation in PRIs has led to inclusive economic development, poverty reduction, and enhanced social welfare. It has enabled them to become active contributors to rural economies and decision-making processes, leading to their overall empowerment.

Challenges faced by Women in Panchayati Raj Institution

1. One of the major political challenges faced by women in Panchayati Raj is the deep-rooted patriarchal mindset and gender bias prevalent in society. Despite legal provisions and affirmative action measures such as reservation of seats for women in local governing bodies, women often face resistance and opposition in participating effectively in the decision-making process.
2. One challenge is that women face limited support and encouragement to actively engage in politics and public life. There is a lack of awareness and acceptance of women's leadership and decision-making abilities, which leads to stereotypes and biases against them. This hinders their prospects of being elected or appointed to key positions in local government bodies.
3. Another challenge is that women often lack access to resources and networks that are crucial for political success. Women may not have the financial means to contest elections, and they may also lack the necessary political connections and support systems that can help them navigate the complex world of politics.
4. Women face social and cultural barriers that limit their participation in politics. Traditional gender roles and restrictive societal norms often discourage women from taking up leadership positions or engaging in political activities. They may face opposition from their families or community members who perceive women's political participation as a threat to established power structures.
5. Education can play an important role to develop the nation. In India, we see nearly 30 to 40 per cent women's are illiterate and their education is not efficient to take decision and take part in decision making process.
6. Lack of computer based knowledge and interest- Govt. started e-Panchayats project but we see many challenges comes in e-Panchayats process such as no connectivity of internet in govt. office i.e. Panchayat office, if internet is available then its speed is very low and mostly women in villages do not know how to work in computer and its uses and how to utilize it for Panchayat work.
7. Male dominant society- in India, society mainly based on male dominance, mostly people think that women are born only for household work and raising her children and family. This stereotype thinking is a obstruction for women development and it discourages women to take part in decision making process. When women elected, it is seen that all her administrative work done or controlled by her husband or male family member and its looks like she is in situation of a rubber-stamp.
8. Lesser participation in Public Posts- when women thinks about to participate or contesting in Panchayati raj institution, mainly one thing comes in mind that mostly all Panchayats posts

are filled or occupied by male members, so its very hard to work in this atmosphere as women's mostly uncomfortable to work with male member.

9. Lesser interest in Politics- women have low interest in politics. Generally women participated in election by not her choice, her participation mainly due to family pressure to contest in election and she is alternative option for male counterparts to take part in election. Mostly women do know her political rights they possess.
10. Negative opinion of public towards women's participation in Politics.
11. Lack of training course related to Political participation and Policy making in rural areas and if some courses are available then its very inconvenience for them to attend these courses as resources is not available for the same.
12. Violence against women in family as well as in society discourages them to take part in Panchayati Raj Institution.
13. Two child policies –In some states have two child norms for contesting Panchayats election, such type of laws restrict their entry into Panchayats.

Political Challenges

1. Women in Panchayati Raj often lack the necessary education and skills to effectively participate in the political process. Limited access to quality education and training programs limits their ability to engage in meaningful policy discussions, articulate their ideas, and advocate for their constituents' needs effectively.
2. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive efforts to promote gender equality and empower women in political decision-making. It may involve awareness campaigns, capacity-building programs, and creating inclusive spaces for women to participate and contribute. Moreover, there is a need to challenge societal norms and stereotypes that perpetuate gender bias and discrimination.
3. Efforts should also focus on bridging the resource and networking gap for women in politics. This could include financial support, mentorship programs, and creating opportunities for women to develop political connections and alliances.
4. Improving women's education and skills through initiatives such as training programs and scholarships can enhance their confidence and ability to engage effectively in politics. Supportive policies and measures should be implemented to ensure that women have equal access to education and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

In conclusion, while women in Panchayati Raj face numerous political challenges, it is essential to address these obstacles to promote gender equality and inclusive governance. By enabling women's active participation and representation in local government bodies, we can empower them to contribute meaningfully to the development and decision-making processes in their communities.

Economic Challenges

Women in Panchayati Raj face several economic challenges that hinder their empowerment and hinder their ability to actively participate in decision-making processes. These challenges include:

- 1. Limited access to resources:** Women in Panchayati Raj often have limited access to resources, including finances and credit. This limits their ability to invest in income-generating activities and start their businesses. Lack of access to resources also limits their capacity to participate effectively in local development initiatives.
- 2. Gender wage gap:** Women in Panchayati Raj often face gender wage gaps, where they earn less than their male counterparts for the same work. This wage gap not only affects their economic independence but also perpetuates gender inequality and reinforces traditional gender roles.
- 3. Unpaid care work:** Women in Panchayati Raj disproportionately bear the burden of unpaid care work, including household chores, childcare, and eldercare. This limits their ability to engage in income-generating activities outside the home, thus hindering their economic empowerment.
- 4. Lack of skills and education:** Many women in Panchayati Raj lack access to quality education and skills training opportunities. This limits their ability to access higher-paying job opportunities and engage in entrepreneurial activities.
- 5. Limited financial literacy:** Many women in Panchayati Raj have limited financial literacy, which hinders their ability to make informed financial decisions and access formal financial services. This lack of financial literacy further exacerbates their economic challenges and limits their ability to save, invest, and access credit.
- 6. Lack of access to markets:** Women in Panchayati Raj often face limited access to local and regional markets. This restricts their ability to sell their products and generate income. Lack of access to markets also limits their capacity to negotiate fair prices for their goods and services.

Limited representation in decision-making processes: Despite having reservations for women in Panchayati Raj, their participation in decision-making processes remains limited. This reduces their ability to influence economic policies and programs that affect their livelihoods and economic empowerment.

Social Challenges

Women in Panchayati Raj face several social challenges that hinder their active participation and leadership in local government. These challenges stem from deep-rooted societal norms, gender stereotypes, and discriminatory practices that limit women's agency and decision-making power.

1. One of the significant social challenges faced by women in Panchayati Raj is the persistence of patriarchal norms and values. Gender roles and expectations often dictate that women's primary role is within the domestic sphere, relegating them to limited roles in public life. This mindset perpetuates the notion that women are not suited for leadership positions, hindering their opportunities for political participation.

2. Another challenge is the prevalence of gender-based violence and harassment. Women involved in Panchayati Raj may face various forms of violence, including verbal abuse, physical assault, or threats. Such acts of violence are often used as a means to discourage women from actively engaging in politics and asserting their rights. The fear of reprisals can create a hostile environment that discourages women's political participation.
3. Additionally, women in Panchayati Raj may face social isolation and ostracism due to their involvement in public affairs. Society may view women in leadership positions as deviating from traditional gender norms and the expectations placed upon them. This isolation can have detrimental effects on women's self-esteem and confidence, making it harder for them to sustain their involvement in politics.
4. Furthermore, women's lack of representation and visibility in decision-making processes can perpetuate discriminatory practices and policies. Without adequate representation, women's perspectives, needs, and experiences may be overlooked, leading to policies that fail to address their concerns effectively. This lack of representation reinforces gender inequality and perpetuates power imbalances within society.

Addressing gender-based violence and harassment is paramount. Strict legal measures should be in place to hold perpetrators accountable and provide safe spaces and support systems for women in politics. Building a culture of zero tolerance for violence and harassment is essential for creating an environment where women can participate freely and confidently.

Promoting women's networks and support systems can also help mitigate social challenges. Mentorship programs and networking opportunities can provide women with the necessary support and guidance to navigate the obstacles they may face. Encouraging solidarity and building alliances among women can help overcome social isolation and create a support network for women involved in Panchayati Raj.

Women in Panchayati Raj face significant social challenges that impede their active participation and leadership in local government. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that challenges societal norms, tackles gender-based violence, and promotes networks of support for women in politics. By creating an inclusive and equitable environment, we can empower women to contribute effectively to decision-making processes and create positive social change.

Role of Women in Panchayati Raj Institution PRI

1. Encourages other women's take part in decision making-process.
2. Encourages young girl and women's to take part in election.
3. They can participate in the rural development process and make decision to take part in efficient policy making.

4. Women participation in Panchayati Raj Institution is also a form of social revolution, its cannot be neglected that increase in women participation makes women more empowered and encourage them to change the status of women in the society.
5. Women reduce the violence against women's and she work to make policy or law that reduce the violence against women and work towards upliftment of women in society.
6. Reducing corruption – from the independence, seven decades passed out but corruption in the system increase year by year. Women can help to reducing the corruption as women ethically more transparent in decision-making and they have lesser record of corruption.
7. Women participation helps to reduce violence against lower section of the society as we know women considered as soft-hearted and they always supported all sections of societies for their upliftment and development.
8. Women should also be encouraged to organise themselves.
9. Studies on women politics and women development in society have emphasized that contact with world politics and that make them active in political process.

Conclusion

The 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution has opened up significant opportunities for women representatives to actively participate in local government processes. However, despite the provision, the effective involvement of women representatives in the decision-making process within Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) often faces challenges. One of the key obstacles is the exertion of control by local elites over the roles and responsibilities of women representatives, which can limit their influence.

While the amendment has provided a platform for women to engage in local governance, the practical implementation of this empowerment can be hindered by the actions of local power brokers. These elites often seek to minimize the role and influence of women representatives within PRIs. They may do so for various reasons, such as maintaining their own authority and control over local affairs or resisting changes in traditional power dynamics.

To ensure that the constitutional provisions translate into meaningful participation for women in local governance, it is essential to address these challenges. Efforts should be made to empower women representatives, both through capacity-building initiatives and by creating an environment that allows them to exercise their rights and responsibilities effectively. This can include measures to counter the undue influence of local elites and promote a more inclusive and equitable decision-making process within PRIs. Ultimately, fostering the active participation of women representatives is crucial for achieving the intended objectives of the 73rd Amendment and promoting grassroots democracy in India. The seats reservation in PRIs is not enough condition for women's elective participation and till it is help in solving their socio-economic conditions in PRIs. Women's participation in the Panchayati Raj System (PRS) in India is a pivotal and transformative development in the country's governance and socio-economic landscape. This participation has not only enhanced gender equality but has also contributed significantly to inclusive and effective local governance.

If we provide more opportunities to women in Panchayati Raj Institution, she not only encourages others women's but also take part in decision making-process. Its need of hour to provide more resources and education as well as financial and social support so that they can take part in decision making process and helps in development process of the country. its states government responsibilities to provide minimum 50 per cent reservation to women in Panchayati Raj Institution and encourages them to take part in Political process and in decision making process. Women's involvement in the Panchayati Raj System is a testament to the transformative power of grassroots democracy. It not only empowers women but also contributes to the overall development and progress of India, making it a more equitable and inclusive society. Their participation has far-reaching implications for the future of Indian governance and gender equality.

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