

## Chapter-V

### **Findings and suggestions**

73<sup>rd</sup> constitution amendment was passed in 1992 and effective since 1993 in all the states. Due to this provision, the condition of women is improving. Because prior to this amendment women were not more visible in the politics. Their presence in the politics was very low. After the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment women are more visible in politics now they are participating in decision-making process at grass root level. In most of the states their reservation is more than 45 percent, like in Bihar women's reservation is 50 percent. After the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment 33% reservation is compulsory for women. But this is still not much satisfactory.

It has been observed that effective participation of women in Indian politics cannot be ensured just by amending the constitution. The constitution amendment can only increase the percentage of women in politics but their actual participation is still far away. They do not participate actually in decision-making process. 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional Amendment was passed by government to empower women. But many studies find that due to patriarchal structure of society women at rural local government are facing many problems in their participation in panchayat. Present dissertation is the study of "Women Representation In Panchayati Raj Institution in Rewari District of Haryana". There are five blocks in Rewari district, Nahar, Rewari, Khol, Bawal, Jatusana. There are total 358 sarpanch in Rewari district.

For the present study sample of 40 women representatives was selected out of 139 women representatives. In order to collect the data from 40 representative, questionnaires were prepared and interview was conducted to get the responses from the representatives. On the basis of analysis of data following conclusions are made:

When age related data was collected then it was found that 27 respondents (67.5%) related to 25-35 age group out of 40 respondents. And when inquired about their tenure in politics then it was found that 33 women (82.5%) were first time entrants into the politics. During the interview, it was observed that most of the women occupied this seat only because of women reserved seats. The number of women percentage in Panchayati Raj have been increased by 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment.

The elder age group of women have a more progressive position and status in the society and therefore they can freely and easily interact with men. Hence, they are the preferred candidates to contest election in panchayat. But now the educational criteria called the literate women to contest the election in Haryana state in 2015-16 election because most of the elder women do not fulfil the educational criteria. Which result into participation and involvement of young women who get a chance to contest election. From the collected data, it can be concluded that 27 women which is the 67.5 % of the total 40 respondents belongs to the age group of 25-35.

When it was inquired to women respondent that whether their husband involved in politics then out of 40 women respondents 6 (15%) respondents accept that their husband involved in politics. And when it was inquired that other member of your family involve in politics then, 5 respondents (12.5%) accept that other member of their family involved in the political field. When researcher inquired to respondents that any other member of your maternal side involves in politics then 5 (12.5%) respondents accept that they have joined politics just because of their maternal family's involvement in politics and they have no knowledge or experience about the politics.

Out of the 40 women respondents all were educated, none of them is illiterate. Most of the women representatives were qualified up to 10<sup>th</sup> which is 21 (52.5%) of the total respondents. 4 (10%) women were qualified up to 12<sup>th</sup>. Only 6 women were found graduate or more than graduates and their percentage is 10 %. Women representatives accept that education play the important role in people's life, also it is the main factor which influence the representation of women representatives. When inquired to women representatives that which level of education is necessary for the women. Then they say that women should be educated up to at least graduation level. When an effort was made to know from the respondent that does your education level creates obstacles in the way of your life or participation in politics. Then 12 (30%) women accept that their education level creates obstacles in their work.

Most of women representatives accept that they take their field related decision by asking to their family members. It has been clear from the presented data women have got constitutional and legal rights but in actual or practical life they are unable to take decision freely. The presence of women can be seen in papers only not in actual life.

Also, it was found during the interview that most of the women accept that they never go to attend the meeting of panchayat and all the official work is done by the male member of their family.

The present study shows that reservation had a positive impression on the political participation of women as most of the women representatives came forward to join politics just because of reservation. But they have very little knowledge about the politics and panchayatiworks. These women are not interested in political works because, since ancient times they are limited to household duties. They live inside the four walls of home. Political knowledge is very significant for the political empowerment, and in this sense the reservation for women has had a powerful effect on empowerment. The reservation system has optimistic effect on women's lives, not only in politics but for the complete empowerment of women. Which is a good symbol.

PRIs has given a platform to the women at local level, resulting in that they have become more visible in politics. Women are raising various issues like alcoholism, divorces and dowry quarrels, and trying to solve these issues. But in Indian society women member are not treated as equal to men. Many of the women representatives of panchayati Raj in Rewari district also explained that they feel that they are not treated equally as men not only in the political field but also in every sphere of life. According to them, men do not give any reputation to them, and women are never informed about any of the political matter about panchayat meetings. Even when they want to suggest something about a subject they are totally ignored.

Reservations for women is the most important factor that motivates them to come forward into political field. Most of the women respondents specified that they get the motivation from their family members, mainly their husband motivates them to join politics. The main purpose behind this motivation is to attain the chair of sarpanch on the behalf of women reserved seat. Women are not actually working in the panchayat of Rewari district. The male member of the women representatives playing the real role of sarpanch. Most of the men are working on the behalf of their wife, mother etc. Women representatives are also not taking much interest in the politics due to burden of household works. They think that if they will actively participate in panchayat then who will take the responsibility of household work, and who will take care of children. This area is considered the area of men. Many of the respondents said that politics is made

only for men and women's work is to stay at home and fulfil the household tasks. They said that they have no time for politics. There are many obstacles in the way of their participation in politics and empowerment. Women respondents face many obstacles in the way of their political participation. These obstacles are:

1. Lack of Confidence

Lack of confidence is one of the chief cause of low level participation of women in politics at local level. With the help of confidence and willpower any women can reach at the uppermost stage in the political procedure. That is why women should trust in themselves and should keep away themselves with the prevalent perception that only men have to be their leaders. Women are also equal to men and have the equal potential or capacity as men. Only women can struggle for their constitutional rights. Women in rural areas have low level of confidence. Women are very good champions and coordinators and they should recognised their capacity their self. Women are totally ignored in rural areas by their male member of the family.

2. Lack of education and limited access to gain education:

Due to lack of education and limited access to gain education women in rural areas often finds it difficult to do something for their good and welfare. They are unable to know about their rights and duties provided by the constitution only due to lack of education. This is the main obstacles in the way of women's empowerment and their participation in politics. One main reason of women's lack of education is the old traditional thinking of society which do not want to give education to women. Assumption behind this is that women should stay at home and fulfil the household duties and education have no role in it.

3. Poverty:

Poverty is another main obstacle in the way of women's participation in politics because due to poverty women are unable to contest election. Money is important to contest election. Women in rural areas have no or say less source of income. Political area is progressively becoming commercialized. More and more cash is required to contest election. Women have deficiency of money and possession of industrious resource, which limits the opportunity of their political work.

4. Dual burden of household works:

Women hold an unequal portion of household work. Their involvement in politics is further controlled by poverty and by lack of education. Women have no option because they have to spend much of their time trying to manage the elementary requirements of families. In addition to that, however, few females may have permanent occupations as mothers and wives as well as other full-time jobs as teachers, lawyers or doctors etc. So, due to dual burden of household work and jobs they find it difficult to participate in politics.

5. Patriarchal structure of the society:

India is a male dominant country since ancient times. Only men are working in public field and women are not allowed to go outside the home.

6. Negative attitudes of men towards the female:

Men in our country think that politics is the area of men and women should not be allowed to participate in politics. Men often think that women are not able to do outside work. They think that women should do only household work and child rearing.

7. Low consciousness:

Women are very unconscious about their rights. This unconsciousness is only due to lack of quality education and limited access to education. And due to this unconsciousness women find it difficult to participate in politics.

8. Dependency of women on men:

The dependency of women on men is one of the main unfavourable issues to the political involvement of women in public political sphere. Women find it tough to participate in politics due to circumscribed time existing for them because of their dual roles in the creative and reproductive domains. With their key roles as sister, mothers and wives and carrying out local household tasks and maintenance work, they are left with slight time to take part in politics.

9. Involvement of women in financial actions remain unnoticed at the local level because of patriarchal social set up, Women are main contributors to nationwide saving via both their rewarded and their unpaid work. Rural Women's effort and their role as an important voter should not be miscalculated. The significance of Woman's biological and societal roles is very clear, their contribution in all fields of life often goes unnoticed. Eliminating poverty will have a constructive influence on women's enlarged involvement in the democratic procedure.

Financial empowerment of women, along with quality education will take women from the limitations of the domestic task to complete involvement in politics.

Another main obstacle in the way of women's participation in PRIs is the 'two-child norm' that has been made a condition for contesting elections in many states like Haryana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. In Rural areas, there's a high fertility rate Hence it becomes really difficult for some of the women to enter into panchayati raj if restrictions like 'two-child norm' are compulsory for women.

Thus, due to the occurrence of all these various obstacles, it has been observed that elected women representatives (sarpanches) in many a case does not go to meetings and not reply to the question raised in the Panchayat meetings and their husbands or other member go on behalf of them and the patriarchal set up of society does not allow them to go outside from their home.

In our society men want that women should not participate in politics they also think that politics is the area of men. And if there's reserved seat for women then male member of that women's family plays role on the behalf of her. Women contest election in the Panchayat only because of the pressure of their family member. Women who herself take decision to contest election faces more problem in comparison of women who contest election by the support of their family.

Reservation has been provided to women at local level to empower them. But alone reservation cannot help to empower women. Through reservation men are empowering themselves, because practically they are working on the women reserved seat. The nomination is filled by the name of women candidate and the real power is using by the male family member. Female cannot do political work herself if she wishes to do. It is the compulsion of female member. Because they face various problems. Various steps are taken by government to improve the condition of women. But these problems cannot be removed at once. The system which has been set up over centuries, cannot be terminate within a short interval of time. To accelerate this process, it is very important to apply some more strategies which encourage the self-confidence of women and remove obstacles in the way of women's empowerment.

Various problems faced by women to keep them out from the politics. Women are controlled by their husband and other male family member. They are unable to handle the power of sarpanch. Men still dominate in Rewari district of Haryana in panchayati raj even after the reservation of women.

The only signs of change can be seen, which is the name of female candidate in the official documents and the increasing percent of women in these bodies only in papers. Female presence in the political institutions is fundamental in a functioning democracy and the 73rd amendment has carried large numbers of women into the political field. The effect is quantitative as well as qualitative. In some states elected women up to a greater extent really fight against alcoholism, corruption, gender partialities in comparison of the village where there's a male sarpanch because women can better understand the problem of other women and try to involve more women into political field.

It has been observed that in Rewari district most of the women candidate does not go for the meetings of panchayat. Most of the respondent accept that they go for meeting only when it is compulsory for them and when S.D.M comes. They said that it is wasting of time. If they go there then who will work at home. One respondent said that women have less knowledge about the panchayati raj they are just limited to household works. Men know about the problems of villagers. Only they can solve the problems. It is good for the society because women have little or say no knowledge about the society.

When it comes about the training then one respondent said that "I want to go for training program but my husband does not permit me to go outside the home. My husband says that I am doing all the work of panchayat then what will you do there. He said this is none of your business, stay at home and do your work. She also accepts that when my husband goes to attend the training program then at training centre trainer refused him to give training by saying that you are not sarpanch. And this training program have been organized for the sarpanch only".

The Indian Constitution guarantees equality for both men and women but women haven't historically entered politics although they have had the right to do so. Prior to the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment participation of women was very negligible. by the 73rd amendment Seats have been reserved for them. This is only Reservation which made it possible for women to gain knowledge about the political process and to participate in the politics at local level.

There are many areas that need to be addressed before the goal of gender equality can be grasped in the rural areas affected by the 73rd Amendment. The 73rd Amendment has led to a change in the mindset of the women. Now women are thinking about their participation in the politics at local level of governance. It cannot be denied that women have attained a certain degree of power and confidence and this is only the result of reservation. It appears that the reservation is an important instrument for women's political empowerment. Husbands of women representatives play the role of women representatives. Women should be very conscious about their responsibilities and duties which has been provided by the constitution. If women representatives get all the facilities they will definitely will make the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment successful.

73<sup>rd</sup> amendment proved to be very useful because 33 percent seats have been reserved for women by this amendment. It has helped women to raise their voice and status. Because of the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment women are more visible in the politics at local level. Women have occupied this status in politics first time by the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment. But still they are now facing many problems in the way of their participation. They are not allowed to go outside the home because of existing political culture, patriarchal society, growing violence against character assassination. Due to these problems women does not participate in the politics. Most of the women who are sarpanch only by name, their real functions and powers are used by the male member of the family. It was observed during the study that most of the women respondents were not willing to contest the election at the local level. But they do it only on the request of their husband, father in law and brother in law. They accept that they have no prior experience about this field. In general election of 2015 Haryana government has start educational criteria for the candidate to contest election. Haryana's patriarchal society has suddenly remembered the need of women and their education after the Haryana government introduced this year Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Ordinance to allow only literate candidates to contest panchayat elections.

Women's entry into PRIs as a result of 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment which has provide reservation to women. But this reservation is not proving much helpful because most of the women who have been elected do not have the actual power of decision-making. It has been cleared from the present study that Most of the women respondent file their candidature for



elections in panchayati raj not by their own will, but due to the pressure of husbands, brother in law, father in law, son or other male member of the family.

Due to the 73rd amendment a large number of women have come forward to join politics. The percentage of women have dramatically increased as a result of this constitutional amendment. A change can be seen in percentage which has been increased from 4-5 percent before PRIs and 26 to 50 percent in some states after PRIs. But after 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional only percentage of women at grass root level has increased but their actual participation is still very low. They have just got status but not power by this amendment. There are only few states where women are working actually but it is not in all the states.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

1. More and more education should be given to women so that they can aware about their rights provided by the constitution. And can know about their status which has been provided to them by the constitution. They are equal to men but society and negative attitude of men have made the on secondary position.
2. Government should make such organization which helps women in their empowerment. And the work of these organization should not be limited only to papers only. Original efforts should be made by the governments to improve the condition of women. Because their condition is still not improved for 70 years of independence.
3. There should be more reservation so that more women can come forward to participate in politics. This reservation is not enough because women constitute half of the total population and this reservation is only 33 percent, and only at the level of grass root. Reservation should be at all the levels of governance.
4. The Government should provide security to women from criminals. Because women are not able to go outside their home just because of the fear from criminals.

5. Women should be encouraged to join politics by other women who are presently in politics by setting various examples so that they also can think about their empowerment. Only change can be there in our country if women will fully participate in the country. And when one women will support other women.
6. Negative attitude of men towards women should be eliminated by organising different awareness campaigns. These campaigns should be organised at regular time interval for the better result.
7. Mostly all the women depend on the male member of their family in matter of finance and many other things, and due to this dependency, they are deprived from many things. That's why women should have equal access to various basic rights such as education, wealth, property like men.
8. There are many self-help group have been settled in many states like Karnataka, Odisha by women and they are working very efficiently for the empowerment of women such SHG should be organised at Rewari district also. So, that the condition of women may get improved somewhat. Because most of representatives neither go to attend meetings nor they do the other functioning of gram panchayat. All the functioning of gram panchayat done by the male members of the representatives. They are working as proxies to men. For to eliminate this proxy problem government officers should be strict and give order that only women candidate would be present for the meeting and survey program should be organised to see that whether women representatives are working actually or not. If it is not found than there should be strict punishment for them. Most of respondents said that we have no knowledge about the panchayat, for this training program should be organised regularly to trained them.
9. Patriarchal structure of the society is mainly responsible for the worst condition of women. Women themselves come forward to improve their condition otherwise nothing will change. There should be such thinking in the mindset of both men and women that they both all are equal. And women should also have right to live with full freedom. Due to patriarchal structure they are unable to do anything what they want to do.