



Political Empowerment of Women : A Comparative Study

*There still exists a wide gap between the enunciated goals and situational reality of status of women in india. this paper focuses on the role of education on political empowerment of urban and rural areas women. Study was done using 585 women respondents of Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot, Surendranagar District. The result of the study indicate that due to certain Political foundation and unavailable circumstances, the Political empowerment level of urban areas women respondents was higher than rural areas women respondents because of that Political level of urban areas women respondent was higher than the rural areas women respondents. **Key Words** : Political empowerment of women, Women empowerment, women education and empowerment.*

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Introduction :

The political empowerment of women is one of the most important aspects in the overall empowerment of women for it gives women the capacity to influence the decision-making process. The political empowerment of women in India has made considerable strides with only 4.4 percent women being represented in the first Parliament of 1952-57 to 7.4 percent in the election of 1996. Women's representation in the Rajya-Sabha has however, shown greater improvement, having increased from 7.7 percent in 1952 to 15.5 percent in 1991. Besides the 33 percent reservation of seats for women in the Panchayati Raj institutions is certainly a revolutionary step towards empowerment of rural women. The Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Constitutional Amendments paved the way for the emergence of about one million women as leaders and decision-makers in the rural and urban elected bodies. Of these, 75000 will be Chairpersons in rural areas. This will really empower women politically at the grass-roots level in a revolutionary fashion and it will enable them to take interest at the local level to energize and improve the situation of women in areas like health, education and employment, which essential to their basic existence, This will also train them for further political assertions in the form of Members of State Legislatures and Parliament. As a result of the system of periodical elections, woman even in remote rural areas of the country are now familiar with the elections though not with their mystique.

However, with the Panchayati Raj institutions getting Constitutional status by way of the Seventy-third Amendment Act, it is hoped that the women will have greater participation in the political process and decision-making capacity as the Act made such a role mandatory and universal

in the whole of India. But, it must be remembered that a change cannot be brought about overnight. Women have been subjected to exploitation forages and this cannot break free of all the shackles of illiteracy, poverty and tradition at one stroke. Even today, most of the women are educated but not the ability of decision making and Womens low or no property and Live in a tradition-bound society. In such a case, the politically powerful can make them contest elections for their own political gains. Another problem is that women, especially in rural areas, would not come forward to fight the elections. In case, they do come forward, it would be along the patriarchal whip, under the command and guidance of the males, as proxies and signing or stamping on the dotted lines. But it is a fact that a breakthrough has been made.

Gender empowerment strategies under these circumstances require structural systemic change and basic attitudinal and value change. The real empowerment of women requires a thorough going renewal of the political process on a democratic basis. Unless women are equipped with the necessary skill in political decision-making, their increased representation in the local bodies may not alter the existing set up. It is, therefore necessary to sensitize the women in the women's perspective, not in the narrow feminist sense, but in the sense of honourable co-existence with men for this will enable women to exercise their "will" and advance towards their complete emancipation. This, of course, requires sensitizing men as well, as they are currently the holders of power. Besides the success of the Panchayati Raj institutions largely depends on the collective participation, they are at a take off point, where the basic indicators are positive and the women who will be elected in the election have a challenging and an operas task ahead.

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And, thus there is a need to extend greater affirmative action from the Panchayati level, to the state and national level and political conscious raising and supportive action by women's organization at the voter level to enhance self-potency and political efficacy. If these measures are followed, political participation of women will open up new vistas of development, which will automatically result in the real political empowerment of women in the society.

Objectives of The Study :

To compare the level of political empowerment of women in Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot and Surendranagar District urban and rural areas respondents.

Material & Method :

Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot, Surendranagar District women's are randomly selected as sample. Total sample is 585, Urban Areas women's are 428 and Rural Areas women's are 157 & then divided into different political empowerment level of women .Statistical analysis was done using mean, standard deviation, standard error, significance test. & T- test. Calculation was done using both the level of significance.

Table 1 : Showing Scores Obtained By Urban and Rural Respondents Regarding Political Empowerment of Women

Class	Frequency	
	Urban	Rural
21-30	1	0
31-40	4	1
41-50	19	12
51-60	58	27
61-70	119	47
71-80	124	44
81-90	74	22
91-100	22	3
101-110	7	1
Total	428	157

Group Statistics					
Political Empowerment	Area	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
	urban	428	71.5397	13.08075	.63228
	rural	157	68.2739	12.32811	.98389

Independent Sample Test				
Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of means		
Political Empowerment	df	Mean difference	Std. Error Difference	T
Equal variances not Assumed	293.187	3.26583	1.16954	2.792
t-value is Significant at 0.01 level				

Discussion :

Shows that the mean score of urban respondents was 71.5397 and the rural respondents was 68.2739. The standard deviation of urban respondent was 13.08075 and rural respondent was 12.32811. Standard error of mean of

urban respondents was .63228 and rural respondent was .98389. The difference between mean was 3.26583 and it was in favour of urban respondent. The standard error of difference was 1.16954 and t value was 2.792 which was significant at 0.01 levels.

So it can be said that the role of education on political empowerment of urban respondent was higher than the rural respondents.

Conclusion :

The women engaged in varies fields of urban and rural areas respondents of jamnagar, morbi, Rajkot and surendranagar district were taken into consideration. The result of the study indicate that due to certain social foundation and unavailable circumstances, the Political level of urban areas women respondents scored more than rural areas women respondents because of that political level of Urban areas women respondent was higher than the rural areas women respondents.

Acknowledgement :

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