



Role panchayati raj institutions in Haryana: Participation of women: A study of Rohtak district

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Abstract

The theme for democratic decentralization advised by Balwant Rai Mehta Study Team in 1957 that had been recognised to enquire into the causes of the failure of the Community Development Programme (1952) and therefore the National instruction theme (1953) to enlist common support for mobilizing human and material resources for rural development. It had been mistakenly given the name of Panchayati rule once it absolutely was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of Bharat, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, at Nagaur in Rajasthan on October a pair of, 1959. Though the theme had envisaged that the civic and biological process functions area unit performed by a democratically electoral and organically connected III tier structure comprising of the Gram Panchayats at Village level, punchayet Samitis at block level, and therefore the Zila Parishads at the district level.

Keywords: democratic decentralization, PRI, panchayats, participation, election, amendment

Introduction

Haryana State came into existence on first November month, 1966 and also the Panjab Gram panchayet Act, 1952 was created applicable to the PRIs in Haryana followed by the 73rd Constitutional amendment in 1992, the Haryana Panchayati dominion Act, 1994 was framed that came into force w.e.f. April 22, 1994. Thenceforth Haryana Panchayati dominion Election Rules, 1994 were developed on 24 August, 1994 followed by Haryana Panchayati Rules, 1995, notified on 16 February 1995. afterward the Haryana Panchayati dominion Finance Budget/Accounts/Audit/ Taxation and works rules 1996 were additionally notified on ordinal August, 1996. Beneath the Haryana Panchayati dominion Act 1994, the Panchayati dominion establishments are entrusted with duties & functions associated with all the 29 subjects listed in Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. Three-tier structure of Panchayati dominion establishments in Haryana was introduced at its beginning. Haryana as a state was graven out of erstwhile geographic area state. Therefore, it has adopted the geographic area Gram panchayet Act, 1952, and also the geographic area Block Samiti and Zila Parishad Act, 1961. The 3-tier system of Panchayati dominion as introduced earlier within the state, enclosed Gram panchayet, Block Samiti and Zila Parishad. there's a statutory body referred to as Gram Sabha comprising all the adult residents of a village besides the on top of expressed three-tiers. Zila Parishads, the apex body of PR, were abolished in 1973 within the state following the recommendations of Maru Singh leader Committee. Since then, Haryana was having the two-tier structure of Panchayati dominion, i.e., Gram panchayet and Block Samiti. However, it couldn't fulfil the goal of democratic decentralization within the state. Once the creation of Haryana as separate state in 1966, the elections of Panchayati dominion establishments weren't conducted at regular intervals and so, the powers of those bodies were focused within the hands of forms. It indicates the shortage of

political can of the regime towards the economical functioning of PR within the state. In compliance with the 73rd Constitutional amendment, Associate in Nursing Act referred to as The Haryana Panchayati dominion Act was enforced on April 22, 1994, substitution the sooner Acts enacted and adopted within the state. This Act provides for the three-tier system of PR, viz., Gram panchayet at village level, Block Samiti at block level and Zila Parishad at district level.

Back ground of Haryana state

Haryana is a leading contributor to the country's production of food grain and milk. Agriculture is the leading occupation for the residents of the state; the flat arable land is irrigated by submersible pumps and an extensive canal system. Haryana contributed heavily to the Green Revolution in the 1960's, that made India self-sufficient in food production. According to census, 1991-2001 about 71.07% of Haryana's population was living in rural area and the agricultural sector contributed 31.19% (Rs. 16625.71 crores) to the Net State Domestic Product. For the year 2006-07 this figure dropped to 21.45% (Rs. 24795.16 crores) which shows decline in the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors. Land, the main asset in rural area, is concentrated amongst a few. As per Economic survey, the Primary Sector (which comprises Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fishery and Mining Sectors) has increased from Rs. 21127.82 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 21344.82 crore in 2007-08 showing an increase of 1.0 percent. As per available data, about 66% of the total Sub-region i.e. 8862.48 Sq. Km. is under rural area, where about 56.73 lakhs i.e. 66% of the total population resides. As per Census 2011, the total rural population of NCR was 172.6 Lakhs, which accounted for 37.5% of the total NCR population, whereas in the Haryana Sub-region the total rural population was 56.73% of the total Sub-Region population. There are approx. 2300 rural settlements in the Sub-region as per Census, 2011.

Table 1.1: Share of Urban and Rural Population

	NCR		Haryana Sub Region	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural Population	1,72,68,387	37.50%	62,58,375	56.73%
Urban Population	2,87,80,645	62.50%	47,73,140	43.27%
Total	4,60,49,032	100%	1,10,31,515	100%

Source: Census of India, 2011 & Draft Revised Regional Plan- 2021 NCR

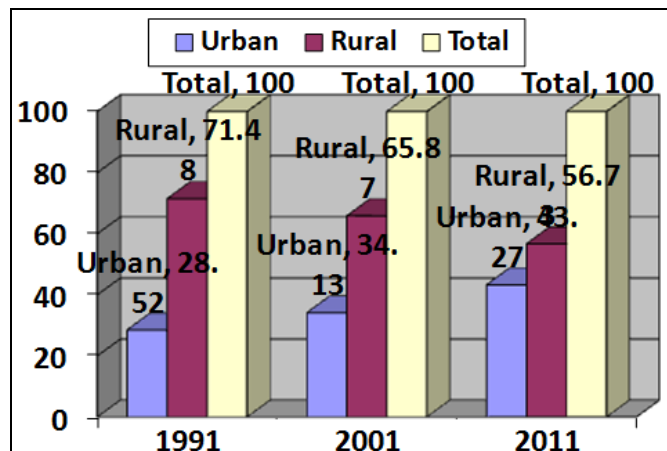


Fig 1: Urban and Rural Population in Sub-Region 1991-2011

Total rural population in the Sub-region was 62, 58, 375 in 2011 that is 56.73% of the total population. Compared to the rural population, urban population has increased from 28.52% in year 1991 to 43.56% in year 2011. Whereas rural population has been continuously declining from 71.48% in 1991 to 56.73% in the year 2011. Hence, the above table shows that urbanization has been continuously increasing since 1991 in the Sub-Region. However, majority of the population resides in rural areas and is dependent on the employment generated through the primary sector.

Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2015

Haryana State Assembly passed the Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2015 which seeks to amend the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and fixes minimum educational qualification relating to eligibility criteria for elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The bill was presented by Haryana Agriculture Minister OP Dhankar and by virtue of this Haryana became the second state after Rajasthan to fix educational and other qualifications as eligibility criteria for the candidates contesting Panchayat elections.

Highlights of the bill

- Now it is mandatory for the candidates to have a functional toilet at home and payment slips of power bills.
- For general candidates contesting the Panchayat elections matriculation is the essential qualification.
- For the women (general) and Scheduled caste candidates, essential qualification is middle standard or class 8th passed.
- The educational qualification for women SC candidates should be class V passed.
- Persons against whom charges have been framed by the

competent court for criminal offences punishable by not less than 10 years of imprisonment will not be allowed to contest the elections till they are acquitted by the court.

- Cooperative loan defaulters will also be debarred from contesting the elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Significance

This is to improve the quality of leadership and governance in gram panchayats and also to enable elected representatives of PRIs to be more accountable and responsible towards their people.

Constitutional Provisions

The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. Fundamental Rights, among others, ensure equality before the law and equal protection of law; prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and guarantee equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment. Articles 14, 15, 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(b), 39(c) and 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in this regard.

Constitutional Privileges

1. Equality before law for women (Article 14), II. The State not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them (Article 15 (i)), III. The State to make any special provision in favour of women and children (Article 15 (3)), IV. Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State (Article 16), V. The State to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood (Article 39(a)); and equal pay for equal work for both men and women (Article 39(d)), VI. To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity and to provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or scheme or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities (Article 39 A), VII. The State to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief (Article 42), VIII. The State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46), IX. The State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people (Article 47), X. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51(A) (e)) XI. Not less than one-

third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat to be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat (Article 243 D(3)), XII. Not less than one- third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level to be reserved for women (Article 243 D (4)), XIII. Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every.

Municipality to be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Municipality (Article 243 T (3)), XIV. Reservation of offices of Chairpersons in Municipalities for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in such manner as the legislature of a State may by law provide (Article 243 T (4)).

Material and Method

One of the major operating aspects of the implementation of the constitutional 73rd Amendment is the devolution of a framework, which different State Government are expected to adopt to make the PRIs fully functional. While article 243G of the Constitution visualizes Panchayats as institutions of self-government and it subjects the extent of devolution of powers and functions including 29 items in 11th Schedule to the will of the State Legislatures. As expected, the Government of Haryana initiated the process of devolution of powers and functions to the Panchayat Raj bodies. The State Government vide memo no. DPH-LA-95/23517-726 dated 23.5.95, has delegated certain duties and functions to the three levels of PRIs in respect of 16 important departments 20. These departments are:

1. Development and Panchayat Department.
2. Food and Supply Department.
3. Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Department.
4. P.W.D., Public Health Department.
5. Social Forestry and Farm Forestry Department.
6. Social Defence and Security Department.
7. Horticulture Department.
8. Ayurveda Department.
9. Education Department.
10. Health Department.
11. Irrigation Department.
12. Women & Child Development Department.
13. Rural Development Department.
14. Agriculture Department.
15. Animal Husbandry Department.
16. Power Department.

Rural development schemes

Some of the major schemes implemented by the Rural Development Department are as follows:

- Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

- Sampooran Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- Watershed Development Projects/Hariyali Scheme
- Desert Development Programme(DDP)
- Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)
- Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY)
- Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)
- Swarnjayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna (SJSRY)
- Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)
- Integrated Wasteland Development Projects (IWDP)
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)
- Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra (BNRGSK)
- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)/Aajeevika
- Backward Region Grant Fund
- Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

An Analysis of Rohtak District of Panchayat Woman Representative

Table 1: Gender wise classification of Respondents

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	83	59.71
Female	56	40.28
Trans Gender	00	00
SC	29	20.86
OBC	8	5.75
General +Other	102	73.38
Total	139	100

Sources: Computed from primary data

The table 1 presents the Gender wise classification of the respondents. A perusal of the table reveals that out of total sample of 139 female respondents (40.28 per cent) in total sample. SC respondent are 29 (20.86 percent) its small representative in Rohtak district. No representative found transgender in Rohtak district. 102 representative are belong to General + other category.

Table 2: Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Educational Qualification	Number	Percentage (%)
5 th class pass	00	00
8 th Class pass	22	15.82
Matric	78	56.11
Senior Secondary	16	11.51
Graduate and Above	23	16.54
Total	139	100

Sources: Computed from primary data

The table 2 depicts that majority of our respondents 56 per cent were matric passed. 11 per cent were studied up to senior secondary level. Followed by graduate level 16 per cent and 15 per cent respondents were 8th class pass and only 00 per cent respondent were illiterate. Education level was very low in this area. Education is essential to bring awareness in the respondents in context to PRI's.

Table 3: Sources of Income of the Respondent's Family

Occupation	Number	Percentage (%)
Agriculture	27	48.14%
Govt. Job	06	10.71%
Private Job	05	8.92%
Other	08	14.28%
Total	56	100%

Sources: Computed from primary data

Table 3 show that majority 48 14%per cent of women respondent's family were engaged in agriculture for livelihood, followed by 10.71% per cent respondent's family

in Govt. job and after that 8.92% per cent and 14.28% per cent respondent's family were engaged in private job and other works respectively.

Table 4: Awareness level of the Respondents about the Panchayati Raj

Awareness	Respondents saying 'yes'	Percentage (%)
Knowledge of Panchayati Raj Act 73rd Amendment	17	30.35%
Sources of Income of Panchayats	13	23.21%
Power & Works of Panchayats	14	25%
Seats reserved for women in PRI's, Assemblies & Parliament?	12	21.42%

Sources: Computed from primary data

Table 4 shows that respondents have very less awareness about the Panchayati Raj Institution. They have very little knowledge about the Panchayati Raj Act 73rd Amendment, power and works of the Gram Panchayats, sources of income of Gram Panchayats and reservation of seats PRI's, assemblies and parliament. So we found less awareness of the respondents about various issues of PRI's and constitutional bodies.

Findings

1. When we analyze all the data collected from the respondents, we found that majority of respondents participate in the electoral process as voter.
2. From this study we found that respondents have very less awareness about the Panchayati Raj Act 73rd Amendment. They know that every village have a Panchayat which works for the development for the village but they do not know the various power, works etc. of the Panchayats.
3. They have a very little knowledge about the reservation of seats for women in Gram Panchayats.
4. During this survey we found that most of our respondents cast their vote to that candidate whom their husband chooses. Even they do not have that right to cast their vote for their own choice.

Conclusion

The present study entitled "Participation of women's in Panchayati rule Institutions" may be a study conducted to grasp the attention and constitutional data of women's in PRI's. The study has been conducted on fifty-six women's respondents in District Rohtak Haryana. The study shows that participation of women's within the affairs of panchayet Elections isn't up to mark. They need less awareness concerning the Panchayati rule Act 73rd change and also the operating of gram Panchayats. Even Our respondents have terribly less data concerning the reservation of seats for women's in Panchayats, Assemblies and Parliament. Our respondents conjointly don't understand the varied sources of

the gram Panchayats. So, within the lightweight of the higher than analysis, it's quite obvious that variety of reasons like illiteracy, poverty, ancient family values and pattern of society, male dominance society etc. Are chargeable for their less participation in Panchayati rule establishments.

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