



## PANCHAYAT RAJ AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Rachana Dharmdas Wankhade and P.S. Shambharkar  
Sardar Patel Mahavidyalaya Chandrapur

\*Corresponding Author: [rachanawankhade87@gmail.com](mailto:rachanawankhade87@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT:

Since time immemorial, the Indian society has remained male-dominated. Under this system, women always had to occupy a secondary position. If we look at the history of thousands of years ago, it can be seen that the field of work of women was limited only to 'Chul and children'. They were not equal to men in any field. In the meantime, the path of sribhukti was paved in real sense through the tireless efforts of social leaders like Raja Rammohan Roy, Mahatma Phule, Karve, Savitribai Phule. After that gradually, by being conscious and aware of their rights, women start getting a place of honor with men. Today there is no sector in which women are not involved. In fact, there are examples of women performing better than men in some fields. The political sector is no exception. While commenting on the political participation of women, the 73rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution must be mentioned. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment has given constitutional protection to Panchayat Raj Institutions, as well as a golden opportunity for women to hold office at the local level.

**Keywords :** *Enablement, Democracy, Women, Panchayat Raj.*

### INTRODUCTION :

After independence, India had disordered democratic governance. India started the post-independence period by adopting the democratic system which was universally accepted and largely successful in modern Europe, be it the monarchy experienced for thousands of years or the dictatorship of the Muslim rulers. Democracy is not only a system but also a culture which is seen to be gradually developing. Decentralization of power is very important in a democratic system. Because even a person from the lowest strata of society is expected to be included in the decision-making process. Accordingly, India also stamped the decentralization of power in the form of Panchayat Raj system. On 2 October 1956, most of the constituent states of India adopted the Panchayat Raj system. Although the same type of system did not exist in all the constituent states, more or less the objective of the Panchayat Raj system was the same. Maharashtra has a three-tier system and Panchayat Raj institutions have got

constitutional protection as per the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. First Prime Minister of India Pt. Nehru's role in this regard is important. Like Gandhiji's 'Adarsh Gram Yojana', the roots of democracy should reach the villages, i.e. the lowest elements of the society. Nehru was decided to put more emphasis on people's participation. He was of the sincere opinion that it is necessary to develop rural leadership. A committee was appointed under the chairmanship of 'Balwantraji Mehta' in 1956-57 with the aim of including everyone in the democratic process. The committee presented a plan for democratic decentralization, a three-tiered plan. Gram Panchayat at Zilla Parishad at the committee and district level, there should be direct participation of the people in all these three levels, all the weaker sections of the society should get representation, etc. Recommendations were made that rural areas should be developed through this. The recommendations made by this committee were

accepted by the Center and all the states were directed to adopt this system. In this, the states were allowed to make some changes in the system if they wanted to. This system was first adopted in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra throughout India. After 1660 this system came into existence all over the country. This system itself was named as 'Panchayat Raj System'.

Although Panchayat Raj system was adopted by all the constituent states of India, there was no uniformity among them. By bringing this uniformity, the work of giving constitutional status to this system was done through the 73rd constitutional amendment. Late Prime Minister P.V. This Act was implemented from 24 April 1963 during the tenure of Narasimha Rao. Due to this act (due to the 73rd amendment), women also gained political participation along with the weaker and marginalized sections of the society. That is why this constitutional amendment is of unique importance in Indian history.

#### **Objectives of the research paper**

1. To explain the concept of Panchayat Raj system.
2. Explaining the nature of the 73rd Amendment Act.
3. To discuss the difficulties in women empowerment and suggest recommendations,

#### **Provisions of the 73rd Amendment Act**

1. This amendment gave constitutional status to the Panchayat Raj system.
2. The intervention of the state governments in the Panchayat Raj system ended. of ruling parties in Batak stateThis system was made mandatory for all the states by curbing the capriciousness.
3. There were instances of local self-government elections being held after 15 to 20 years in many states. Also, the term of elections was different according to the state. However, due to this amendment, holding

elections for a period of five years has been made permissible.

4. Provision was made that there would be a three-tier Panchayat Raj system in each state. In this the village level

Panchayat level and district level were decided.

5. A provision was made to elect all the members through direct voting.

6. A provision was made to hold a 'Gram Sabha' in the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Sabha has been given the right to

decide policy with respect to the constituent states, which is vested in the Legislature.

7. Reserved seats were provided for Scheduled Castes, Tribes, Other Backward Classes.

8. 1/3 seats are reserved for women. Such reserved seats were provided at all levels.

9. Provision was made to hold Panchayat Raj elections under the supervision and control of the State Election

Commission.

10. Provision was made for State Finance Commission to provide necessary funds for development. The Governor

of the State shall appoint such Finance Commission every five years. Finances of Panchayat Raj Institutions: This commission will take some measures regarding development.

#### **73rd Amendment and Women Empowerment**

Although the present constitutional amendment is noteworthy in many respects, this amendment has played a significant role in the empowerment of women. Initially, the number of seats reserved for women has increased from 1/3 to 50 percent. It has to be said that this matter is really commendable for Jaganya, who is seen as a neglected element in the society. Because women had a chance in politics even before India became independent, both men and women were given equal opportunities for political participation. But for thousands of years, many male political tyrants had imposed

a self-proclaimed political ban on women due to the mindset of possessing women. Women should not enter politics, politics is a men's domain. Women should only take care of the 'hearth and child'. With such a mindset, women were not given the opportunity to lead. Even in such a situation, women who entered politics unintentionally and got positions had to rule the government at the behest of their husbands.

Against this background, it is seen that women have gained a lot of power due to the constitutional reform. With 50 percent reservation in local self-government, the monopoly of men in this service has come to an end for years. It is seen that many prominent figures have entered politics on their own. Along with membership, women have started appearing in such important positions as reservation has been made for women in the posts of Sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad President. Despite accusations that women in politics are dominated by the men in their homes, many women are seen to be making decisions on their own. Due to this amendment, it is seen that the confidence of women has increased, the half of the population has always been neglected till date. But according to this amendment, the attitude towards women has changed to a great extent.

#### **Challenges in women's empowerment**

Although the 73rd Amendment allowed women to become political leaders, There are also some difficulties in enabling. their

1. The main objective of the Panchayat Raj system was to develop the rural areas in an all-round manner. It also aimed to bring rural women into the mainstream of political leadership. But even today majority of women in rural areas are illiterate. Due to carelessness, they face many difficulties while understanding this process.

2. Many women are afraid or shy to come forward due to insecurities despite having leadership potential in themselves.

3. Male ego is a major obstacle in women empowerment. Many men do not like their wives entering politics. They have a mentality that women should not go out of the house, should not sit in the four quarters. Therefore, despite the ability, women do not get leadership opportunities.

4. Many women do not know enough about their rights and duties. Women are also seen to be unaware of the reservation they are getting at the local level.

#### **Recommendations**

Women empowerment faces some difficulties as mentioned above. However, if these problems are solved, the researcher believes that women can become politically empowered. The following recommendations have been suggested for this.

1. It is necessary to work with the view of increasing the percentage of literacy in rural areas to make more women

literate is Even those women who are literate are not aware of the lack of basic rights. Therefore, there is a need to create awareness among them by conducting training classes for him.

2. It is necessary to hold elections in a fair and independent environment. Elections will be held under the pressure

of anyone Take care of this. Therefore, it should be ensured that there is no political involvement in the election at this level. It is necessary to provide protection to women candidates during elections.

3. It implies a broad idea that the field of work of women is not limited to the hearth and child village but is wide is

For this, it is necessary to change the mentality of men towards women.

4. Accomplished and successful political figures in the society have taken the initiative to bring women into politics

Should be encouraged to come. We should try to see how our knowledge and experience will benefit.

5. It is necessary to create awareness in the society about the fact that the rate of feticide is increasing day by day. It

is necessary to work in terms of equality between men and women.

6. Women who have achieved success at various levels of society have earned the name. It is necessary to work in

order to get the benefit of such women's knowledge and experience to rural women. To organize seminars, seminars for this.

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