

Women Representation in Local Self Government: A Study in Srikakulam District

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Abstract:

This paper intends women Representation in Local Self Government in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh. Srikakulam District is northern District of Andhra Pradesh. This District has one municipal corporation, three revenue divisions, 38 mandals and 1865 revenue villages. As per 2011 census: around District population 2,703,114 with in this male population is 1,341,376 and female population 1,361,376. Sex ratio- 1015 per 1000 male. Average literacy 61.74% male literacy -71.61% and female literacy 52.08 % all these above details influenced to Women Political participation at Local level. We can reasearch what is the relation between Political perticipation of women and above facts. Compare with Andhra Pradesh sex ratio ant Political participation of women in Local level is higher than men. We can observed from this paper how it is possible and also can observed role and place of women representatives of Local bodies in public life. This study depends on secondary and primary data like Government websites, news papers, various Research articles, from friends and family and some respondents. This Scholar gathered some case studies from women representatives at Local level. This paper recommended to how women rule independently at Local level.

Key Words: Women, Local Self Government, Political participation, Srikakulam District, Representation.

Introduction

Political participation of women as voters higher than men in srikakulam district. But as representatives lower than men. But we can observe one new thing here women representation higher than men in local bodies of srikakulam district. This paper intends women Representation in Local Self Government in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh. Srikakulam District is northern District of Andhra Pradesh. This District has one municipal corporation, three revenue divisions, 38 mandals and 1865 revenue villages. As per 2011 census: around District population 2,703,114 with in this male population is 1,341,376 and female population 1,361,376. Sex ratio- 1015 per 1000 male. Average literacy 61.74% male literacy -71.61% and female literacy 52.08 % all these above details influenced to Women Political participation at Local level. We can reasearch what is the relation between Political perticipation of women and above facts. Compare with Andhra Pradesh sex ratio ant Political participation of women in Local level is higher than men. We can observed from this paper how it is possible and also can observed role and place of women representatives of Local bodies in public life. This study depends on secondary and primary data like Government websites, news papers, various Research articles, from friends and family and some respondents. This Scholar gathered some

case studies from women representatives at Local level. This paper recommended to how women rule independently at Local level.

Objectives:

To know women political participation in Srikakulam District.

To study women representation in local bodies in Srikakulam District.

Methodology:

This paper depends on secondary and primary data. This data gathered from Government websites, news papers and reports. Few interviews gathered from representatives and observed flexies, news papers and advertisements.

Back ground of women political participation as representatives in rural India:

At the local level the 73rd Constitutional Amendment act of 1992 has made two important provisions for the involvement of women in decision making and preparation of plan for development. This Amendment has made a provision that at least one-third of women would be members and chair persons of Panchayats. (yojana)

WOMEN ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT

Women participated in electoral politics as voters, candidates and as representatives in Srikakulam district. They participated in general elections to Lok Sabha, Assembly and Local body elections. Srikakulam district has one Lok Sabha constituency and ten Assembly constituencies. Regarding local government there are a) 1097 Gram Panchayats, 38 Mandal Parishads and one Zilla Parishad covering rural regions; and b) four Municipalities and one Nagara Panchayat covering urban regions. The district is divided into 38 Mandals and 1,802 villages as per 2011 Census (District HandBook 2011). Srikakulam was formed as a full-fledged district in 1979. (District HandBook 2011) So this study considers data from election reports after 1979. This study observes data for Lok Sabha elections from 1980, Assembly elections from 1983 and information regarding local body elections is considered after implementation of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments. Data for 1995 Panchayati Raj elections were not available because election reports were not computerized at that time. So the district Panchayat office could not give the data. The website of Election Commission of Andhra Pradesh also does not show these results. Information of local body elections of 2001, 2006 and 2014 local body elections reports were present. This is used in the present study.

Panchayati Raj Institutions

There is a three-tiered rural local self government structure in Andhra Pradesh as in the rest of India. They are: the gram panchayats (Village Councils) at the village level; the Mandal Parishad at the mandal level (which is the sub district Division - covering a cluster of 10 – 25 villages with a population around 25 – 40 thousand) and the Zilla Parishad at the district level. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1994) provided women a reservation of

33% of the seats and of the presiding offices of all these local bodies. The government of Andhra Pradesh has increased this quota to 50% from 2013. Members to these bodies are elected directly by the voters of the local village wards. The Presidents of Village Councils known as sarpanches are also elected directly but the presidents of the Mandal Praja Parishad and of the Zilla Parishad are elected by the members of the respective Mandal Parishads and Zilla Parishad. The term of office of all these local government bodies is five years. The detail of elections to the Village Councils (Gram Panchayats) was not available. But the District records mention that there are 1,097 Gram Panchayats in the district and that there are a total of 10,408 wards in these local councils. (Srikakulam District Handbook 2011) So it is estimated that up to 2011, as per the 33% reservation provision, there should have been more or less 3,469 women ward representatives in the Srikakulam Gram Panchayats and more or less 365 women sarpanches (Presidents of Village Councils) presiding over the village councils. Elections to these local bodies (Gram Panchayats) have not been held since 2011.

Women in Srikakulam Mandal Praja Parishads

The members of Mandala Praja Parishad are known as Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) members. The election of MPTC members is done on a party basis. The elections are conducted by the State election commission. Women had a quota of 33% upto 2013 and 50% since then, in all the Mandal Praja Parishads representative membership. They were also provided similar reservation to positions of president ship of the 38 Mandal Praja Parishads of Srikakulam district. The data regarding women's participation in the middle tier of rural Local Governance namely the Mandal Parishad.

Women in Srikakulam Zilla Parishad Elections

Zilla Parishad (The District Council) is the highest tier of the rural local government structure. Srikakulam Zilla Parishad had 38 seats which due to reconstitution of Srikakulam urban regions is presently reduced to 35 seats. Among these seats, Women had 33% reservation which is now increased to 50%.

Municipal Elections

The urban region of Srikakulam district has five municipal councils and one Nagara Panchayati (a form of urban local body). These are Srikakulam, Amadalavalasa, Ichapuram, Palasa, and Rajam municipal Councils and Palakonda Nagarapanchayati. On the website of the Andhra Pradesh state Election Commission, reports of the municipal elections for 2014 only are available. So the data in this analysis is confined to 2014 municipal elections. Also note that in 2014, municipal elections were not held for Rajam and Srikakulam urban municipal councils due to legal cases pending in the judiciary regarding their status. So details are given for three municipal councils only. (Women reserve to chair in 1995 Boddepalli Satyavathi (Amadalavalasa) in 2004 Paidisetti Jayanthi, Padmavathi (Srikakulam) Swarna Mani (Palasa))

Conclusion

In local body elections women candidates are above the reserved quota. From the details of women's participation as candidates to the different levels of rural and urban local self government bodies it is obvious that they have contested and won from general category also. This is a notable feature.

Reference:

District Hand Book Srikakulam

Census of India

Election commission of Andhra Pradesh

http://yojana.gov.in/publicaccount_2016sep.asp#:~:text=At%20the%20local%20level%20the, and%20chair%20persons%20of%20Panchayats.

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