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## WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN PANCHAYATI RAJ, THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND: A CASE STUDY OF GUNTUR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH



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### Short Profile

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### ABSTRACT:

In the context of women political participation is regarded as one of the key factors that, perpetuate empowerment. Political participation has long been acknowledged as a central theme of democratic governance, where the citizens enjoy the right to participate in governance. Women are to participate in the political process electively is based on their Socio-economic and Political background. This article try to find out the realities at grassroot level and provide some of the suggestions to improve their conditions.

### KEYWORDS

*Socio-Economic , Political Background , women political participation , political process.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

The approach of empowerment in politics which gained currency only in 1990s has become a very important dimension of power. As Barret assumes empowerment goes hand-in-hand with politics. Empowerment, in the view of scholars implies the process of exchange of power. People empower themselves through, a positive way of being political. They become political without being manipulative. Thus, empowerment involves the development of positive political skills among the people. In another way, people can be empowered politically, by involving themselves in the political process.

In the context of women political participation is regarded as one of the key factors that, perpetuate empowerment. Political participation has long been acknowledged as a central theme of democratic governance, where the citizens enjoy the right to participate in governance. In other words, political participation in a democracy has got a wide connotation, which ranges from popular participation in electing representatives to the actual participation of representatives in the process of governance. The over all development of a nation requires maximum utilization of human resources without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion or sex.

A look into the past and present image of women in Indian society projects a mixed and yet complex picture of ambivalence, which ranges from their contempt and hatred to deep fascination. The study of status of women in this country is indeed very crucial and also fascinating because, it goes a long way in providing a correct understanding of its inherent nature. Traditionally, women in India are widely regarded as the weaker sex and a marginalized section who are ignored as well as, exploited for centuries together. Political empowerment of women has become a worldwide accepted strategy for the development of women.

It needs to be mentioned here that certain States had introduced the system of reservations of seats for women in the local bodies through making necessary amendment to the concerned Acts even before the enactment of the Seventy Third Constitutional Amendment Act in 1992.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

Lokesh, K., Prasad, (1991) in his article "An Inquiry into the participation of women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions", is of the opinion that it is a matter of national pride that India became the only country in the world that not only paved the pathway for the creation of institutions of local Self Government, but has also reserved one-third seats for women. He believes that empowered by the constitutional status, active participation, involvement and control of women in the development process would give rise to a socio-political system more conducive to attain economic development along with a greater degree of social justice because to make democracy meaningful in the traditional society like India, full involvement of women was nothing less than a necessity.

Bidyats Mohanty's (2000) in her study on the women reservations in the Panchayati Raj bodies noted that by providing reservations of seats for women in the local bodies, our policy makers aimed not only to increase the number of women leaders in these bodies but also to improve their economic independence and access to different facilities including education.

Reflecting on the need for women empowerment Marino Pinto (1995) insisted upon the involvement of women in the development process for attaining the goal of political empowerment of women along with their socio-economic development. The author also pleaded strongly that the fruits of development should not only be passed on to the women, but also made them the partners of this process and such participation leads to their empowerment supported by economic independence. The

author concluded that the empowerment of women is a sin qua non for creating an egalitarian society.

### OBJECTIVES:

The main objective of the present study is:

To examine the socio-economic conditions and Political background of the selected women leaders who are occupying different political positions in the Panchayati Raj bodies functioning in the area of the present study.

### Sample Selection:

The present study is conducted in the Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. This district, is selected for several reasons. Women political functionaries working in the Panchayati Raj Bodies at the three levels i.e., Zilla Parishad, Mandal Parishads and Village Panchayats situated in this district, above said objectives were covered under the present study. The political executives of these bodies selected for the present study include the Sarpanches of Village Panchayats, the Presidents of Mandal Parishads, Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency Members. The number of the respondents selected from the each category of these political executives, is furnished below:

**TableNo-1.2**  
**No of Sample Selected from Different Political Offices of the Panchayati RAj Bodies:**

| Political Functionary                 | Z.P.T.C. Members | Mandal Presidents | M.P.T.C. Members | Sarpanches of village Panchayats |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total Number of Women Functionaries   | 22               | 21                | 358              | 313                              |
| Number of sample respondents selected | 9<br>(40.9)      | 9<br>(42.9)       | 150<br>(41.9)    | 132<br>(42.2)                    |

Note: Figures given in the brackets indicate the percentage to the total sample.

The statistical technique stratified sample with propositional allocation adopted for picking up the sample from among the total number of elected women functionaries existing in each category of Political Office in the Panchayati Raj bodies is as follows:

1. Sarpanches of the Village Panchayats =  $313/714 \times 300 = 131.6$  (132 members)
  2. Presidents of Mandal Parishads =  $21/714 \times 300 = 8.8$  (9 members)
  3. Z.P.T.C. Members =  $22/714 \times 300 = 9.2$  (9 members)
  4. M.P.T.C. Members =  $358/714 \times 300 = 150.4$  (150 members)
- Total number of samples respondents = 300

**METHODOLOGY AND SOURCE OF DATA:**

The present study is basically an empirically-oriented exercise and hence the major part of the data was collected from the field by means of techniques of empirical research, such as: 1. Questionnaire 2. Interview 3. Observation. 4. Discussions. Apart from the primary data, necessary secondary data was also collected from various sources.

**Data Analysis:**

This paper attempts to analyze the socio-economic profile of the respondents selected as sample from among the universe of the study which includes Village Panchayats, Presidents of Mandal Parishads and member of the M.P.T.Cs and Z.P.T.Cs covered under it. The political background of the respondents along with their political knowledge is examined in this paper.

It is asserted that a probe into the socio-economic and political background of the political leaders is vital to any study which attempts to examine the leadership pattern at the grassroot level. Hence a detailed assessment of the socio-economic and political background of the respondents of the study was attempted it includes factors such as age, caste, religion, education, occupation, assets including land, sources of personal and family income, residence and so on of the respondents.

**Age Factor:**

Age is an important factor that influences the style, quality and capabilities of the leaders of the all the political bodies including the Panchayati Raj bodies. The age of the respondents of the present study is presented in the following table:

**TABLE – 1.5**  
**AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.N<br>O | Age<br>group(in<br>Years) | No of Respondents |           |          |                              |           |          |                                     |           |          | Total     |           |          |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|          |                           | Sarpanch          |           |          | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Members |           |          | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad |           |          | Coun<br>t | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% |
|          |                           | Coun<br>t         | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% | Coun<br>t                    | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% | Coun<br>t                           | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% |           |           |          |
| 1        | 21-30<br>Years            | 29                | 41.4      | 22.0     | 40                           | 57.1      | 25.2     | 1                                   | 1.4       | 11.1     | 70        | 100       | 23.3     |
| 2        | 31-40<br>Years            | 51                | 45.1      | 38.6     | 59                           | 52.2      | 37.1     | 3                                   | 2.7       | 33.3     | 113       | 100       | 37.7     |
| 3        | 41 -50<br>Years           | 35                | 44.9      | 26.5     | 41                           | 52.6      | 25.8     | 2                                   | 2.6       | 22.2     | 78        | 100       | 26.0     |
| 4        | 51&Year<br>s above        | 17                | 43.6      | 12.9     | 19                           | 48.7      | 11.9     | 3                                   | 7.7       | 33.3     | 39        | 100       | 13.0     |
| Total    |                           | 132               | 44.0      | 100      | 159                          | 53.0      | 100      | 9                                   | 3.0       | 100      | 300       | 100       | 100      |

Field data computed

A glance at the above table shows that the majority of the respondents accounting for 37.7 per cent are between 31-40 years while the next highest number i.e., 26 per cent are in the age group of 41-

50 years. Further, a good number of respondents constituting 23.3 per cent are in the age group of 21-30 years. The remaining 13 per cent of them are above 51 years of age. As it can be observed from the above data the majority of the respondents who are Sarpanches are in their middle age i.e., between 31 and 40 years and most of the M.P.T.C. and Z.P.T.C. members are also in the same age group. It can also be noted that there are only a limited number of respondents who are young i.e., below 30 years.

#### EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS:

Education is one of the foremost factors that determines the capabilities and effectiveness of the political leaders. This principle applies equally to the leaders of all levels and genders. It is often remarked that the rural women areas generally less educated or even illiterate. It is same in the case of women who are holding political positions. This general situation is evident in the case of the sample respondents of the present study also as evident from the following table:

TABLE – 1.2  
EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

| S.No  | Educational Status | No of Respondents |       |       |                             |       |       |                                  |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                    | Sarpanch          |       |       | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C. Members |       |       | President of the Mandal Parishad |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                    | Count             | Row % | Col % | Count                       | Row % | Col % | Count                            | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Primary            | 57                | 42.2  | 43.2  | 74                          | 54.8  | 46.5  | 4                                | 3.0   | 44.4  | 135   | 100   | 45.0  |
| 2     | High School        | 25                | 39.7  | 18.9  | 37                          | 58.7  | 23.3  | 1                                | 1.6   | 11.1  | 63    | 100   | 21.0  |
| 3     | Intermediate       | 9                 | 52.9  | 6.8   | 8                           | 47.1  | 5.0   |                                  |       |       | 17    | 100   | 5.7   |
| 4     | Graduate           | 7                 | 35.0  | 5.3   | 10                          | 50.0  | 6.3   | 3                                | 15.0  | 33.3  | 20    | 100   | 6.7   |
| 5     | Post-Graduate      | 2                 | 40.0  | 1.5   | 3                           | 60.0  | 1.9   |                                  |       |       | 5     | 100   | 1.7   |
| 6     | Illiterate         | 32                | 53.3  | 24.2  | 27                          | 45.0  | 17.0  | 1                                | 1.7   | 11.1  | 60    | 100   | 20.0  |
| Total |                    | 132               | 44.0  | 100   | 159                         | 53.0  | 100   | 9                                | 3.0   | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

It is distressing to note from the table 1.2 that as many as one-fifth of the total sample respondents are totally illiterate as they have no formal education at all. Even among the respondents who are educated, a majority of them who constitute 45 per cent of the total respondents have completed only primary school education i.e., 5th class, while 21 percent of them have studied upto X Class. The respondents who passed intermediate or having a bachelor for degree is highly negligible, while those who are post graduates is extremely meagre. This dismal position exists among all the three categories of respondents. Sarpanches, Members of M.P.T.C. and Z.P.T.C. and Presidents of Mandal Parishad without any exception. Thus, the present study reveals that the women leaders of the Panchayat Raj bodies are either illiterates or having minimum education which is not at all a healthy trend and certainly may have negative effect on the functioning of the Panchayati Raj bodies in this state.

Religion of the Respondents:

Religion is said to have some influence on the personality of the people. It influences their attitude, behaviour and also plays a role in their respective fields. Hence, the religion of the respondents

is ascertained and the relevant position is presented in the table given below:

**TABLE- 1.3**  
**RELIGION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.NO  | Religion  | Respondents |          |          |                              |          |          |                                     |          |          | Total |          |          |
|-------|-----------|-------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|----------|
|       |           | Sarpanch    |          |          | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Members |          |          | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad |          |          | Count | Row<br>% | Col<br>% |
|       |           | Count       | Row<br>% | Col<br>% | Count                        | Row<br>% | Col<br>% | Count                               | Row<br>% | Col<br>% |       |          |          |
| 1     | Hindu     | 122         | 43.7     | 92.4     | 148                          | 53.0     | 93.1     | 9                                   | 3.2      | 100      | 279   | 100      | 93.0     |
| 2     | Christian | 9           | 50.0     | 6.8      | 9                            | 50.0     | 5.7      |                                     |          |          | 18    | 100      | 6.0      |
| 3     | Muslim    | 1           | 33.3     | .8       | 2                            | 66.7     | 1.3      |                                     |          |          | 3     | 100      | 1.0      |
| Total |           | 132         | 44.0     | 100      | 159                          | 53.0     | 100      | 9                                   | 3.0      | 100      | 300   | 100      | 100      |

Field data computed

It can be noticed from the above table that the highest number of respondents accounting for 93 per cent of the total respondents are Hindus, while only 6 per cent of them Christians. The remaining 1 per cent of them are Muslims. The above table also indicates that almost the same situation prevails in the matter of religion among all the three categories of respondents i.e., Sarpanches, Members of MPTCs and ZPTCs and Presidents of the Mandal Parishads.

#### Caste of the Respondents:

It is a well known fact that the caste plays a very key role in Indian politics. It strongly influences the functioning of the political system. It determines the behavior, role and performance of those persons who are occupying leadership positions in the political system at all levels. In view of this fact, the caste data of the respondents of the present study are collected and the outcome is incorporated in the table given below:

**TABLE- 1.4**  
**CASTE OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.NO  | Caste | Respondents |          |          |                              |          |          |                                     |          |          | Total |          |          |
|-------|-------|-------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|----------|
|       |       | Sarpanch    |          |          | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Members |          |          | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad |          |          | Count | Row<br>% | Col<br>% |
|       |       | Count       | Row<br>% | Col<br>% | Count                        | Row<br>% | Col<br>% | Count                               | Row<br>% | Col<br>% |       |          |          |
| 1     | OC    | 46          | 40.4     | 34.8     | 63                           | 55.3     | 39.6     | 5                                   | 4.4      | 55.6     | 114   | 100      | 38.0     |
| 2     | BC    | 44          | 48.4     | 33.3     | 45                           | 49.5     | 28.3     | 2                                   | 2.2      | 22.2     | 91    | 100      | 30.3     |
| 3     | SC    | 40          | 45.5     | 30.3     | 46                           | 52.3     | 28.9     | 2                                   | 2.3      | 22.2     | 88    | 100      | 29.3     |
| 4     | ST    | 2           | 28.6     | 1.5      | 5                            | 71.4     | 3.1      |                                     |          |          | 7     | 100      | 2.3      |
| Total |       | 132         | 44.0     | 100      | 159                          | 53.0     | 100      | 9                                   | 3.0%     | 100      | 300   | 100      | 100      |

Field data computed



As the above table reflects, the majority of the respondents who form 38 per cent of the total respondents belong to the forward or upper castes followed by the respondents of Backward Castes (30.3). The respondents of Scheduled Castes occupy the next position constituting 29.3 per cent of the total respondents and the remaining 2.3 per cent of the total respondents are Scheduled Tribes. The above data also makes it clear that the caste background is almost same with only minor variations among the three categories of respondents.

## ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS:

### Occupational pattern of the Respondents:

The research in the rural sociology or economics reveals that generally the women living in the rural areas do not do any job. However, women belonging to the poorer or weaker sections work because of their poverty. The women belonging to the middle and upper classes mostly confine to their homes and perform domestic work like the cooking of food, looking after children and other house hold activities. Hence, the vast majority of rural women act as the house-wives, a popular term applied to the women in the Indian Society, both rural and urban. Hence it is but natural that most of the women political leaders also belong to this category, especially those living in the rural areas. This salient feature can also be noticed in the case of the respondents of the present study as reflected by the following table:

TABLE- 1.5  
OCCUPATIONAL PATTERN OF THE RESPONDENTS

| S.N<br>O | Occupation          | Respondents |           |          |                              |           |          |                                     |           |           | Total     |           |          |
|----------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|          |                     | Sarpanch    |           |          | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Members |           |          | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad |           |           | Coun<br>t | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% |
|          |                     | Coun<br>t   | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% | Coun<br>t                    | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% | Coun<br>t                           | Ro<br>w % | Co<br>l % |           |           |          |
| 1        | Cultivator          | 16          | 47.1      | 12.1     | 18                           | 52.9      | 11.3     |                                     |           |           | 34        | 100       | 11.3     |
| 2        | Agricultural Labour | 11          | 29.7      | 8.3      | 26                           | 70.3      | 16.4     |                                     |           |           | 37        | 100       | 12.3     |
| 3        | Business            | 2           | 50.0      | 1.5      | 2                            | 50.0      | 1.3      |                                     |           |           | 4         | 100       | 1.3      |
| 4        | Private Job         | 4           | 66.7      | 3.0      | 2                            | 33.3      | 1.3      |                                     |           |           | 6         | 100       | 2.0      |
| 5        | House Wife          | 99          | 45.2      | 75.0     | 111                          | 50.7      | 69.8     | 9                                   | 4.1       | 100       | 219       | 100       | 73.0     |
| Total    |                     | 132         | 44.0      | 100      | 159                          | 53.0      | 100      | 9                                   | 3.0       | 100       | 300       | 100       | 100      |

Field data computed

As above table reveals the overwhelming majority of 73 per cent of the total respondents have no occupation and hence can be considered as house wives. A limited number of the respondents are engaged in the agricultural sector either as agricultural labour 12.3 percent or cultivation 11.3 per cent. The respondents who are doing jobs or business are extremely negligible in number, constitute less than 2 per cent.

### Land Holding Pattern of the Respondents:

The land holding which reflects the economic position of the persons has considerable bearing on the performance of the leaders in the rural areas. Table-1.6 gives an idea about the position of respondents in this important aspect.

**TABLE- 1.6**  
**LAND HOLDING PATTERN OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.N<br>O | Size of<br>land<br>holding(i<br>n acres) | No of Respondents |           |          |                               |          |          |                                     |           |          | Total     |           |          |
|----------|--|-------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|          |  | Sarpanch          |           |          | M.P.T.C. &<br>Z.P.T.C.Members |          |          | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad |           |          | Coun<br>t | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% |
|          |  | Coun<br>t         | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% | Coun<br>t                     | Row<br>% | Col<br>% | Coun<br>t                           | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% |           |           |          |
| 1        | Landless                                 | 76                | 43.9      | 57.6     | 95                            | 54.9     | 59.7     | 2                                   | 1.2       | 22.2     | 173       | 100       | 57.7     |
| 2        | Below 2.5                                | 50                | 46.3      | 37.9     | 52                            | 48.1     | 32.7     | 6                                   | 5.6       | 66.7     | 108       | 100       | 36.0     |
| 3        | 2.5-5                                    | 6                 | 40.0      | 4.5      | 9                             | 60.0     | 5.7      |                                     |           |          | 15        | 100       | 5.0      |
| 4        | 5-10                                     |                   |           |          | 1                             | 50.0     | .6       | 1                                   | 50.0      | 11.1     | 2         | 100       | .7       |
| 5        | 10-25                                    |                   |           |          | 2                             | 100.0    | 1.3      |                                     |           |          | 2         | 100       | .7       |
| Total    |  | 132               | 44.0      | 100      | 159                           | 53.0     | 100      | 9                                   | 3.0       | 100      | 300       | 100       | 100      |

Field data computed

It can be observed from the above table that slightly more than half of the respondents i.e., 57.7 per cent are landless as they have no land in their name. While the next highest number of the respondents constituting 36 per cent are either marginal or small farmers having less than 3 acres of land which is their own. The number of middle and big farmers having more than 5 acres and less than 25 acres of own land is extremely insignificant. It is also evident that almost all the numbers of the MPTCs and ZPTCs and the Sarpanches are landless having no land at all in their names. Thus it can be concluded that mostly women are landless got elected to the positions in the Panchayati Raj bodies, a small or marginal farmers.

### Pattern of Income of the Respondents:

Table- 1.7 which projects the income position of the respondents reveals that about 2/3rd of the respondents have no income since they are unemployed.

**TABLE- 1.7**  
**PATTERN OF INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.NO  | Position in PRI                  | Response |       |       |       |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                                  | Yes      |       |       | No    |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                                  | Count    | Row % | Col % | Count | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Sarpanch                         | 28       | 21.2  | 36.4  | 104   | 78.8  | 46.6  | 132   | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2     | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C.Members       | 49       | 30.8  | 63.6  | 110   | 69.2  | 49.3  | 159   | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3     | President of the Mandal Parishad |          |       |       | 9     | 100   | 4.0   | 9     | 100   | 3.0   |
| Total |                                  | 77       | 25.7  | 100.0 | 223   | 74.3  | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

The above table further indicates that almost the same situation can be found in the case of respondents of the three different categories that they have no income since they are unemployed.

Source of Income of the Respondents:

The sources mentioned by those respondents who earn income are included in the following table.

**TABLE- 1.8**  
**SOURCE OF INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.N O | Source of Income   | No of Respondents |       |       |                            |       |       |                                  |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                    | Sarpanch          |       |       | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C.Members |       |       | President of the Mandal Parishad |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                    | Count             | Row % | Col % | Count                      | Row % | Col % | Count                            | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Noearning          | 104               | 46.6  | 78.8  | 110                        | 49.3  | 69.2  | 9                                | 4.0   | 100   | 223   | 100   | 74.3  |
| 2     | Agriculture        | 15                | 45.5  | 11.4  | 18                         | 54.5  | 11.3  |                                  |       |       | 33    | 100   | 11.0  |
| 3     | Agriculture Labour | 11                | 30.6  | 8.3   | 25                         | 69.4  | 15.7  |                                  |       |       | 36    | 100   | 12.0  |
| 4     | Business           | 1                 | 20.0  | .8    | 4                          | 80.0  | 2.5   |                                  |       |       | 5     | 100   | 1.7   |
| 5     | SHGs.              | 1                 | 100.0 | .8    |                            |       |       |                                  |       |       | 1     | 100   | .3    |
| 6     | Salary             |                   |       |       | 2                          | 100   | 1.3   |                                  |       |       | 2     | 100   | .7    |
| Total |                    | 132               | 44.0  | 100   | 159                        | 53.0  | 100   | 9                                | 3.0   | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

As the above table depicts the overwhelming majority constituting 74.3 per cent of the total respondents have no income. Among those respondents who earn income 12 per cent of them get income by working as agriculture labour while 11 per cent of them earn from cultivation which is their main occupation. DWCR and business are the sources of income mentioned by the rest of the respondents.

### Extent of Income of the Respondents:

The extent of income earned by respondents who are reportedly engaged in some economic activities is presented in the following table.

**TABLE- 1.9**  
**EXTENT OF INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.N<br>O | Income<br>Range(inRs<br>0 | No of Respondents |           |          |                                  |           |          |                                     |           |           | Total     |           |          |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|          |                           | Sarpanch          |           |          | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Member<br>s |           |          | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad |           |           | Coun<br>t | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% |
|          |                           | Coun<br>t         | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% | Coun<br>t                        | Ro<br>w % | Col<br>% | Coun<br>t                           | Ro<br>w % | Co<br>l % |           |           |          |
| 1        | No earning                | 104               | 46.6      | 78.8     | 110                              | 49.3      | 69.2     | 9                                   | 4.0       | 10.0      | 223       | 100       | 74.3     |
| 2        | 10,000-<br>20,000         | 18                | 35.3      | 13.6     | 33                               | 64.7      | 20.8     |                                     |           |           | 51        | 100       | 17.0     |
| 3        | 21,000-<br>25,000         | 6                 | 37.5      | 4.5      | 10                               | 62.5      | 6.3      |                                     |           |           | 16        | 100       | 5.3      |
| 4        | 26,000-50,<br>000         | 2                 | 28.6      | 1.5      | 5                                | 71.4      | 3.1      |                                     |           |           | 7         | 100       | 2.3      |
| 5        | 51,000-<br>1,00,000       | 2                 | 66.7      | 1.5      | 1                                | 33.3      | .6       |                                     |           |           | 3         | 100       | 1.0      |
| Total    |                           | 132               | 44.0      | 100      | 159                              | 53.0      | 100      | 9                                   | 3.0       | 10.0      | 300       | 100       | 100      |

Field data computed

As can be noted from the above table the vast majority of 74.3 per cent of the total respondents have no income as they are not employed. 17 per cent of the respondents are earning between Rs 10,000 and 20,000 per year, while, 5.3 per cent of them are getting an income ranging between Rs 21,000 and 25,000 per year. A very insignificant number of 2.3 per cent of the total respondents are earning an income between Rs 26,000 and 50,000 rupees per year. But, only 1 per cent of the respondents are earning between Rs.51000 but below Rs 1,00,000 rupees per year. Thus, the present study reveals that the majority of the respondents fall in the income group ranging between Rs. 10,000 and 20,000 only. This indicates that a large majority of the respondents have no income and a few of them belong to the low income group.

### Income Pattern of the Families of the Respondents:

The income earned by the families of the respondents can be seen from the following table:

**TABLE- 1.10**  
**INCOME PATTERN OF THE FAMILIES OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S. NO | Income Range(inRs) | No of Respondents |       |       |                           |       |       |                                  |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                    | Sarpanch          |       |       | M.P.T.C. &Z.P.T.C.Members |       |       | President of the Mandal Parishad |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                    | Count             | Row % | Col % | Count                     | Row % | Col % | Count                            | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | 25,000-30,000      | 58                | 37.9  | 43.9  | 92                        | 60.1  | 57.9  | 3                                | 2.0   | 33.3% | 153   | 100   | 51.0  |
| 2     | 31,000-50,000      | 37                | 52.1  | 28.0  | 33                        | 46.5  | 20.8  | 1                                | 1.4   | 11.1  | 71    | 100   | 23.7  |
| 3     | 51,000-1,00,000    | 25                | 46.3  | 18.9  | 25                        | 46.3  | 15.7  | 4                                | 7.4   | 44.4  | 54    | 100   | 18.0  |
| 4     | Above 1,00,000     | 12                | 54.5  | 9.1   | 9                         | 40.9  | 5.7   | 1                                | 4.5   | 11.1  | 22    | 100   | 7.3   |
| Total |                    | 132               | 44.0  | 100.0 | 159                       | 53.0  | 100.0 | 9                                | 3.0   | 100.0 | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

As the above table reflects the families of half of the respondents, i.e, 51 per cent earn a moderate income in the range of Rs 25,000 – 30,000 per year while 23.7 per cent of the respondents family members income fall in the range of Rs.31,000 to 50,000 per year. The income of the families of 18 per cent of the respondents varies between 51,000 and 1, 00,000 per year. The family income which is above Rs 1 lakh per year is earned by a very negligible number of 7.3 per cent of the total respondents. The families of the majority of the Sarpanches and members of MPTC and ZPTC fall in the low income group i.e., 25,000 – 30,000 per year. The families of majority of the Presidents of Mandal Parishad earn upto 1, 00,000/- per year. Thus, the present study reveals the family income of the vast majority of the respondents is quite moderate as it is below 50,000/- per annum.

#### Housing position of the respondents:

The housing position of the respondents of the present study is evident from table 1.11

**TABLE- 1.11**  
**HOUSING POSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.No  | Position inPRI                   | No of Respondents |       |       |                     |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                                  | Having own house  |       |       | Having no own House |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                                  | Count             | Row % | Col % | Count               | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Sarpanch                         | 129               | 97.7  | 45.3  | 3                   | 2.3   | 20.0  | 132   | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2     | M.P.T.C. &Z.P.T.C.Members        | 148               | 93.1  | 51.9  | 11                  | 6.9   | 73.3  | 159   | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3     | President of the Mandal Parishad | 8                 | 88.9  | 2.8   | 1                   | 11.1  | 6.7   | 9     | 100   | 3.0   |
| Total |                                  | 285               | 95.0  | 100   | 15                  | 5.0   | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100.0 |

Field data computed

The above table indicates that the overwhelmingly great majority of respondents accounting for 95 per cent of the total respondents have own houses of one type or other.

#### Assets Position of the Families of Respondents:

Since the respondents of the present study have no assets of their own, the assets of their families are taken into consideration for the purpose of analyzing their economic position. Table-1.12 denotes that the families of majority of the respondents accounting for 43.3 per cent possess land, where as the next highest number of 30.3 per cent of the total respondents have assets in the form of deposits in the banks or other financial institutions like the co operative societies. and so on. The families of next highest number of respondents i.e., 22.7 per cent have gold ornaments. The families of the remaining respondents have assets like cattle, agricultural implements, electronic goods and so on. As per the table mostly the families of sarpanches, members and MPTC and ZPTC and Presidents of Mandal Parishads own land which is their main asset.

TABLE- 1.12  
ASSETS POSITION OF THE RESPONDENTS

| S.NO | Name of the assert      | No of Respondents |       |       |                           |       |       |                                  |       |       | Total |       |       |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|      |                         | Sarpanch          |       |       | M.P.T.C. &Z.P.T.C.Members |       |       | President of the Mandal Parishad |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|      |                         | Count             | Row % | Col % | Count                     | Row % | Col % | Count                            | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1    | Land                    | 55                | 42.3  | 41.7  | 69                        | 53.1  | 43.4  | 6                                | 4.6   | 66.7  | 130   | 100   | 43.3  |
| 2    | cattle                  | 2                 | 33.3  | 1.5   | 4                         | 66.7  | 2.5   |                                  |       |       | 6     | 100   | 2.0   |
| 3    | Agricultural implements |                   |       |       | 2                         | 100.0 | 1.3   |                                  |       |       | 2     | 100   | .7    |
| 4    | Ornaments               | 32                | 47.1  | 24.2  | 35                        | 51.5  | 22.0  | 1                                | 1.5   | 11.1  | 68    | 100   | 22.7  |
| 5    | Buildings               |                   |       |       | 2                         | 100   | 1.3   |                                  |       |       | 2     | 100   | .7    |
| 6    | Electronic Goods        |                   |       |       | 1                         | 100   | .6    |                                  |       |       | 1     | 100   | .3    |
| 7    | Cash                    | 43                | 47.3  | 32.6  | 46                        | 50.5  | 28.9  | 2                                | 2.2   | 22.2  | 91    | 100   | 30.3  |
|      | Total                   | 132               | 44.0  | 100.0 | 159                       | 53.0  | 100   | 9                                | 3.0   | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

#### POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS:

##### Whether the respondents are in politics before assuming the present position:

It is essential to have information about the political background of the leaders to estimate the nature and quality of their leadership. Accordingly, the political background of the sample respondents of the present study is ascertained by means of posing them a series of relevant questions. At the first instance it is attempted to know whether they are already in politics before they assumed the present position in the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The picture emerged is given in the following table.

**TABLE NO-1.13**  
**WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS ARE IN POLITICS BEFORE ASSUMING THE PRESENT POSITION**

| S.No  | Position in PRI                  | Response |       |       |       |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                                  | Yes      |       |       | No    |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                                  | Count    | Row % | Col % | Count | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Sarpanch                         | 112      | 84.8  | 42.4  | 20    | 15.2  | 55.6  | 132   | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2     | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C. Members      | 143      | 89.9  | 54.2  | 16    | 10.1  | 44.4  | 159   | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3     | President of the Mandal Parishad | 9        | 100   | 3.4   |       |       |       | 9     | 100   | 3.0   |
| Total |                                  | 264      | 88.0  | 100   | 36    | 12.0  | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

As can be noted from the above table an overwhelming majority of 88 per cent of the total respondents revealed that they have been in the politics since quite some time before they were elected to the present position in the Panchayati Raj bodies. This is certainly a positive trend as the respondents are not political novices but have political experience.

#### Extent of Political Experience of the Respondents:

After knowing from the respondents whether they are in the field of politics before assuming the present position in the Panchayati Raj bodies they were also asked to state since how long they have been in the politics. The information gathered from the respondents on this issue reveals that the highest number of respondents have very limited political experience which is less than three years where as only negligible number of them possess political experience which extends up to 10 years. This trend is apparent from the following table.

**TABLE NO-1.14**  
**Extent of Political Experience of the Respondents**

| S.No  | Position in PRI                  | Years    |       |       |           |       |       |             |       |       |                |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                                  | 1-3years |       |       | 4-6 years |       |       | 7- 10 years |       |       | Above 10 years |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                                  | Count    | Row % | Col % | Count     | Row % | Col % | Count       | Row % | Col % | Count          | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Sarpanch                         | 122      | 92.4  | 44.7  | 1         | .8    | 25.0  | 7           | 5.3   | 36.8  | 2              | 1.5   | 50.0  | 132   | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2     | M.P.T.C.&Z.P.T.C.Members         | 145      | 91.2  | 53.1  | 3         | 1.9   | 75.0  | 9           | 5.7   | 47.4  | 2              | 1.3   | 50.0  | 159   | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3     | President of the Mandal Parishad | 6        | 66.7  | 2.2   |           |       |       | 3           | 33.3  | 15.8  |                |       |       | 9     | 100   | 3.0   |
| Total |                                  | 273      | 91.0  | 100   | 4         | 1.3   | 100   | 19          | 6.3   | 100   | 4              | 1.3   | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

As per the above table as many as 91 per cent of the respondents are reported to have very limited political experience as are in the range of 1 – 3 years. It is also evident that considerable length of political experience i.e., up to 10 years is reported by extremely little number of respondents i.e., 6.3 per cent of the total respondents. It can be concluded that the respondents of the present study are politically very less experienced if not totally inexperienced. Certainly, this would have some impact on the performance of these respondents.

#### Whether the Respondents are Members of Any Political Party:

It is widely held that having membership in political parties is a very common factor in politics. Generally, people prefer to contest to any political position as a candidate of one or other political party. Hence, it is attempted to know whether the respondents of this study are members of any political Party and the result of this enquiry is presented in the following table – 5.15.

TABLE- 1.15  
WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS ARE MEMBERS OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY

| S.No  | Position in PRI                     | Response |       |       |       |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                                     | Yes      |       |       | No    |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                                     | Count    | Row % | Col % | Count | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Sarpanch                            | 98       | 74.2  | 39.2  | 34    | 25.8  | 68.0  | 132   | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2     | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Members        | 143      | 89.9  | 57.2  | 16    | 10.1  | 32.0  | 159   | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3     | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad | 9        | 100.0 | 3.6   |       |       |       | 9     | 100   | 3.0   |
| Total |                                     | 250      | 83.3  | 100   | 50    | 16.7  | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

As the above table depicts overwhelmingly large number of respondents accounting for 83.3 per cent of the total respondents have joined various political parties while 16.7 per cent of the sample respondents have not joined to any political party. This trend prevails among all the three categories of the sample respondents or the other.

#### Political Party of the Respondents:

The party wise break-up of the respondents is presented in Table-1.16. According to this table a large majority of the respondents constituting 59.3 per cent are members of the Congress Party, where as 23.7 per cent of them belong to the Telugu Desam Party. There is one member in CPM.



**TABLE-1.16**  
**POLITICAL PARTY OF THE RESPONDENTS**

| S. N O | Position in PRI                  | Name of political party |       |       |          |       |       |        |       |       |        |       |       | Total  |        |       |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
|        |                                  | No Membership           |       |       | Congress |       |       | TDP    |       |       | CPM    |       |       | Coun t | Ro w % | Col % |
|        |                                  | Coun t                  | Row % | Col % | Coun t   | Row % | Col % | Coun t | Row % | Col % | Coun t | Row % | Col % |        |        |       |
| 1      | Sarpanch                         | 34                      | 25.8  | 68.0  | 64       | 48.5  | 36.0  | 33     | 25.0  | 46.5  | 1      | .8    | 100   | 132    | 100    | 44.0  |
| 2      | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C. Members      | 16                      | 10.1  | 32.0  | 106      | 66.7  | 59.6  | 37     | 23.3  | 52.1  |        |       |       | 159    | 100    | 53.0  |
| 3      | President of the Mandal Parishad |                         |       |       | 8        | 88.9  | 4.5   | 1      | 11.1  | 1.4   |        |       |       | 9      | 100    | 3.0   |
| Total  |                                  | 50                      | 16.7  | 100   | 178      | 59.3  | 100.0 | 71     | 23.7  | 100.0 | 1      | .3    | 100   | 300    | 100    | 100   |

Field data computed

Thus the members of the Congress Party dominate the members of other political parties in number among the respondents. This leads to the conclusion that the Congress Party is strong in the area under the present study.

#### Whether the Respondents Contested Any Elections in the Past:

The respondents were asked to inform whether they have contested in any elections in the past and their response is presented in table 1.17.

**TABLE- 1.17**  
**WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS CONTESTED ANY ELECTIONS IN THE PAST**

| S. N O | Position inPRI                   | Response |        |       |        |        |       |        | Total  |       |  |
|--------|----------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--|
|        |                                  | Yes      |        |       | No     |        |       | Coun t | Ro w % | Col % |  |
|        |                                  | Coun t   | Ro w % | Col % | Coun t | Ro w % | Col % |        |        |       |  |
| 1      | Sarpanch                         | 11       | 8.3    | 36.7  | 121    | 91.7   | 44.8  | 132    | 100    | 44.0  |  |
| 2      | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C. Members      | 16       | 10.1   | 53.3  | 143    | 89.9   | 53.0  | 159    | 100    | 53.0  |  |
| 3      | President of the Mandal Parishad | 3        | 33.3   | 10.0  | 6      | 66.7   | 2.2   | 9      | 100    | 3.0   |  |
| Total  |                                  | 30       | 10.0   | 100   | 270    | 90.0   | 100   | 300    | 100    | 100   |  |

Field data computed

The above table reflects a discouraging fact that very vast majority of the respondents accounting for 90 per cent of the total respondents have never contested any election in the past. The

remaining respondents who are very insignificant in number have contested the elections in the past. They contested in the elections held to the different positions in the Panchayati Raj bodies including the ZPTC, MPTC Members, and Sarpanches of village Panchayats and so on.

#### Whether the Family Members of the Respondents are in Politics:

In order to get an understanding about their political background, it is attempted to ascertain from the respondents whether any of their family members are in politics at any level. The following table gives an idea about this aspect.

TABLE-1.18  
WHETHER THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE RESPONDENTS ARE IN POLITICS

| S.NO | Position in PRI                     | Response |       |       |       |       |       | Total |       |       |
|------|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|      |                                     | Yes      |       |       | No    |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|      |                                     | Count    | Row % | Col % | Count | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1    | Sarpanch                            | 70       | 53.0  | 46.1  | 62    | 47.0  | 41.9  | 132   | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2    | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Members        | 73       | 45.9  | 48.0  | 86    | 54.1  | 58.1  | 159   | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3    | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad | 9        | 100.0 | 5.9   |       |       |       | 9     | 100   | 3.0   |
|      | Total                               | 152      | 50.7  | 100   | 148   | 49.3  | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

The above table suggests that half of the respondents i.e., 50.7 per cent of the total sample respondents have family members who are in the profession of politics at various levels and in various capacities. Thus half of the respondents are not politicians by profession.

#### Which Relatives of the Respondents are in Politics:

Table- 1.19 gives an idea about which family member or relative of the respondents is in the field of politics. According to this table the husbands of 38.7 per cent of the respondents are in politics, while 4.3 per cent of the respondents have their sons in this field. The fathers or grand fathers of 3.3 per cent of the respondents adopted the profession of politics. In the case of remaining respondents their brothers are politicians.

TABLE NO-1.19  
WHICH RELATIVES OF THE RESPONDENTS ARE IN POLITICS

| S. NO | Position in PRI                  | The kind of Relative |       |       |                     |       |       |         |       |       |          |       |       |        |       |       | Total |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                                  | No Relatives         |       |       | Father/Grand father |       |       | Husband |       |       | Brothers |       |       | Uncles |       |       | Son   |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                                  | Count                | Row % | Col % | Count               | Row % | Col % | Count   | Row % | Col % | Count    | Row % | Col % | Count  | Row % | Col % | Count | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Sarpanch                         | 62                   | 47.0  | 41.9  | 3                   | 2.3   | 30.0  | 54      | 40.9  | 46.6  | 2        | 1.5   | 40.0  | 4      | 3.0   | 50.0  | 7     | 5.3   | 38    | 13.2  | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2     | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C. Members      | 86                   | 54.1  | 58.1  | 7                   | 4.4   | 70.0  | 54      | 34.0  | 46.6  | 3        | 1.9   | 60.0  | 4      | 2.5   | 50.0  | 5     | 3.1   | 38.5  | 15.9  | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3     | President of the Mandal Parishad |                      |       |       |                     |       |       | 8       | 88.9  | 6.9   |          |       |       |        |       |       | 1     | 11.7  | 7.9   |       | 100   | 3.0   |
| Total |                                  | 148                  | 49.3  | 100   | 10                  | 3.3   | 100   | 116     | 38.0  | 100   | 5        | 1.7   | 100   | 8      | 2.7   | 100   | 13    | 4.3   | 100   | 30    | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

Involvement of the Respondents in the Social Service:

The extent of involvement of the respondents in the community service i.e., activities of Civil Society Organizations is elicited for assessing their role in the development of their respective areas in different fields. The following table provides information on this aspect.

TABLE-1.20  
INVOLVEMENT OF THE RESPONDENTS IN THE SOCIAL SERVICE

| S. NO | Position in PRI                  | Response |       |       |       |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                                  | Yes      |       |       | No    |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                                  | Count    | Row % | Col % | Count | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Sarpanch                         | 90       | 68.2  | 43.5  | 42    | 31.8  | 45.2  | 132   | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2     | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C. Members      | 114      | 71.7  | 55.1  | 45    | 28.3  | 48.4  | 159   | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3     | President of the Mandal Parishad | 3        | 33.3  | 1.4   | 6     | 66.7  | 6.5   | 9     | 100   | 3.0   |
| Total |                                  | 207      | 69.0  | 100   | 93    | 31.0  | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

A glance at the above table indicates that a sizeable majority of 69 per cent of the respondents reported that they are associated with the working of various community or social service organizations, while the remaining 31 per cent of the respondents are not involved in any community service activity or activities. The respondents who are involved in the social service activities held positions in the organizations with which they are associated (See Table-1.21)

**TABLE- 1.21**  
**POSITION HELD BY THE RESPONDENTS IN THE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

| S.NO  | Name of the Position                    | Position in PRI |       |       |                              |       |       |                                  |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|---|-----------------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |   | Sarpanch        |       |       | M.P.T.C. & Z.P. T.C. Members |       |       | President of the Mandal Parishad |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |   | Count           | Row % | Col % | Count                        | Row % | Col % | Count                            | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | 0                                       | 42              | 45.2  | 31.8  | 45                           | 48.4  | 28.3  | 6                                | 6.5   | 66.7  | 93    | 100   | 31.0  |
| 2     | Member of Self Help Group               | 77              | 41.0  | 58.3  | 110                          | 58.5  | 69.2  | 1                                | .5    | 11.1  | 188   | 100   | 62.7  |
| 3     | Chairman of Health Committee            |                 |       |       | 1                            | 100   | .6    |                                  |       |       | 1     | 100   | .3    |
| 4     | Chairman of Village Education Committee | 12              | 100   | 9.1   |                              |       |       |                                  |       |       | 12    | 100   | 4.0   |
| 5     | Member of Women's Association           | 1               | 33.3  | .8    | 1                            | 33.3  | .6    | 1                                | 33.3  | 11.1  | 3     | 100   | 1.0   |
| 6     | Member of Water Committee               |                 |       |       | 2                            | 66.7  | 1.3   | 1                                | 33.3  | 11.1  | 3     | 100   | 1.0   |
| Total |   | 132             | 44.0  | 100   | 159                          | 53.0  | 100   | 9                                | 3.0   | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

#### Social Service Activities Conducted by the Respondents:

A welcoming feature of the respondents of the present study is that they are taking up various types of social service activities for the benefit of the people of their area apart from performing their roles as the political executives of the Panchayati Raj Bodies. It can be seen from the Table-1.22 that almost all the sample respondents are conducting several Community Services activities for improving the living conditions of people of their villages and for achieving their all-round development. These activities include conducting awareness camps for promoting the knowledge of the villagers about the various problems they face in their daily life such as the health problems. Particularly, for the illiterate people and women belonging to the down-trodden section conducting campaigns and processions, to educate the people about the evil effects of certain bad habits, traditions, customs etc., conducting health camps for promoting the health of pregnant women and children, adult education programmes for promoting general and functional literacy among the adults, training programmes to the youth etc., to improve their occupational skills for employment and so on.

**TABLE NO-1.22**  
**SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE RESPONDENTS**

| S.NO  | Name of the Event   | The position you are presently holding in the PRI |          |          |                              |          |          |                                     |          |          | Total |          |          |
|-------|---|---|----------|----------|------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|----------|----------|
|       |   | Sarpanch  |          |          | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Members |          |          | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad |          |          | Count | Row<br>% | Col<br>% |
|       |   | Count   | Row<br>% | Col<br>% | Count                        | Row<br>% | Col<br>% | Count                               | Row<br>% | Col<br>% |       |          |          |
| 1     | No  | 5   | 33.3     | 3.8      | 10                           | 66.7     | 6.3      |                                     |          |          | 15    | 100      | 5.0      |
| 2     | Organizing Awareness<br>Camps and processions                   | 93  | 44.1     | 70.5     | 111                          | 52.6     | 69.8     | 7                                   | 3.3      | 77.8     | 211   | 100      | 70.3     |
| 3     | Conducting Training<br>Programmes                               | 6   | 35.3     | 4.5      | 10                           | 58.8     | 6.3      | 1                                   | 5.9      | 11.1     | 17    | 100      | 5.7      |
| 4     | Conducting awareness<br>programmes                              | 2   | 66.7     | 1.5      | 1                            | 33.3     | .6       |                                     |          |          | 3     | 100      | 1.0      |
| 5     | Conducting women and<br>children health<br>promotion programmes | 25  | 49.0     | 18.9     | 25                           | 49.0     | 15.7     | 1                                   | 2.0      | 11.1     | 51    | 100      | 17.0     |
| 6     | Conducting adult<br>education programmes                        | 1   | 33.3     | .8       | 2                            | 66.7     | 1.3      |                                     |          |          | 3     | 100      | 1.0      |
| Total |   | 132   | 44.0     | 100      | 159                          | 53.0     | 100.0    | 9                                   | 3.0      | 100      | 300   | 100      | 100      |

Field data computed

The above table reflects that all the respondents are involving themselves in various types of constructive or social service activities for the benefit of various sections of the people particularly, women, children, youth and weaker sections. Such a service zeal and outlook are highly required of the leaders of the grassroot level bodies particularly, in the rural areas where people lack necessary awareness and knowledge on various vital issues and problems the root cause for the backwardness and poverty of these areas.

#### Whether the Respondents Are Involved in Any Political Activities:

Table 1.23 provides information about the political activities in which the respondents are participating apart from carrying out their respective official functions and responsibilities.

**TABLE-1.23**  
**WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS ARE INVOLVED IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES**

| S.<br>No | Position in PRI                     | Response |          |          |       |          |          | Total |          |          |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------|----------|----------|-------|----------|----------|
|          |                                     | Yes      |          |          | No    |          |          | Count | Row<br>% | Col<br>% |
|          |                                     | Count    | Row<br>% | Col<br>% | Count | Row<br>% | Col<br>% |       |          |          |
| 1        | Sarpanch                            | 129      | 97.7     | 43.4     | 3     | 2.3      | 100      | 132   | 100      | 44.0     |
| 2        | M.P.T.C.<br>&Z.P.T.C.Members        | 159      | 100      | 53.5     |       |          |          | 159   | 100      | 53.0     |
| 3        | President of the<br>Mandal Parishad | 9        | 100      | 3.0      |       |          |          | 9     | 100      | 3.0      |
| Total    |                                     | 297      | 99.0     | 100      | 3     | 1.0      | 100      | 300   | 100      | 100      |

Field data computed

It is heartening to note from the above table that all most all respondents i.e., 99 per cent are taking active part in various political events and activities conducted in their areas by the political parties etc. Thus, the present study reveals that the respondents are politically active.

### The Political Activities in Which the Respondents Are Involved:

Table-1.24 indicates the specific political activities in which the respondents are involved very frequently. As is evident from this table the sizeable majority of 76 per cent of the total respondents informed that they are participating in the public meetings held by their respective political parties in their respective areas regularly for various reasons. A considerable number of respondents i.e., 23 per cent reported that they are participating in dharnas, rallies demonstrations, hunger strikes etc. organized in their areas by their political parties for different causes apart from party meetings for discussing the party matters.

TABLE-1.24  
THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE RESPONDENTS ARE INVOLVED

| S. No | Position in PRI                  | Name of the Activity |       |       |                             |       |       |  |       |       | Total |       |       |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|       |                                  | No                   |       |       | Conducting Party Activities |       |       | Attending the party meetings regularly |       |       | Count | Row % | Col % |
|       |                                  | Count                | Row % | Col % | Count                       | Row % | Col % | Count                                  | Row % | Col % |       |       |       |
| 1     | Sarpanch                         | 3                    | 2.3   | 100   | 44                          | 33.3  | 63.8  | 85                                     | 64.4  | 37.3  | 132   | 100   | 44.0  |
| 2     | M.P.T.C. & Z.P.T.C.Members       |                      |       |       | 21                          | 13.2  | 30.4  | 138                                    | 86.8  | 60.5  | 159   | 100   | 53.0  |
| 3     | President of the Mandal Parishad |                      |       |       | 4                           | 44.4  | 5.8   | 5                                      | 55.6  | 2.2   | 9     | 100   | 3.0   |
| Total |                                  | 3                    | 1.0   | 100   | 69                          | 23.0  | 100   | 228                                    | 76.0  | 100   | 300   | 100   | 100   |

Field data computed

### CONCLUSION:

The above analysis projects the socio-economic and political profile of the respondents selected for the study. It can be noted that most of the respondents who are occupying different political offices in the panchayati Raj bodies belong to the upper castes and mostly they are middle aged or young. Most of them are literates but less educated. A vast majority of respondents are house wives and only a few of them are employed in the agricultural sector. The highest number of respondents are Hindus. The respondents are landless but their families have land which is limited and so belong to the marginal and small farmers categories. Economically, their families come from low and middle income groups.

Regarding the political background of these respondents a vast majority of the respondents have been already in politics but the length of their political experience is short. Almost all of them are members of political parties, either Congress or T.D.P. Very few of them are holding positions in their respective political parties. The highest majority of the respondents have never contested in any elections to any political offices in the past. Nearly half of the respondents hail from families, which are in the profession of politics. The respondents are actively involved in various social service and community

service activities besides performing their political roles.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

On the basis of the present study certain suggestions can be made for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the performance of the women leaders working Panchayati Raj bodies:

1. It is necessary that, the women political functionaries working in the Panchayati Raj Institutions should be ensured necessary co-operation and help from the higher level political executives and also officials.
2. It may be suggested that, the women Panchayat Leaders who live below poverty line should be provided, with land through necessary land reforms. As the present study reveals, there is a high degree of landlessness among the women Panchayat leaders, particularly, those belonging to the weaker sections. Hence, this landlessness must be eradicated through distribution of land. This would lead to economic empowerment of women which leads to their political empowerment.

It is imperative that, necessary awareness should be created among the women leaders particularly, among those belonging to the SC, ST and BC in order to, enhance their effectiveness. This can be achieved through conducting training and orientation programmes regularly.

3. As indicated by this study lack of education is the most important inhibiting factor in the way of building dynamic and efficient women leadership at the local level. Hence, necessary steps should be taken to promote functional literacy among the women living in the rural areas.

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