

# Status of women in PPDANA

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**Abstract - The present study was conducted on “status of women in PPDANA” in district Sirsa. They were interviewed by a well structured Questionnaire with objectives in mind to access the elected women’s participation in Panchayati Raj Institution and the role of women in PPDANA for women Empowerment. The scenario of women’s participation has increased due to literacy and the women who are more educated are bold, good communicator, confident, participating in meetings and who are less educated they are being supported by their Male Counterpart and on their behalf, their Male counterpart are representing them. Women PRI leaders who are literate are more Active and doing their work in transparent manner. Women reservations in PRI and PPDANA are helpful in women Empowerment to a very great extent. Among the total PRI women leaders majority don’t feel free and less no. of women feel free in Interaction in PRI meetings. At Gram Panchayat level majority of Panches don’t feel free while at Panchyat Samiti level most of women and at Zila parishad level all the women feel free while interacting in PRI meetings. Among the total some of women leaders do not take decision while some take decision sometimes and few leaders take decision often. Women’s are more active as Sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti Member and Zila Parishad Members. Attitude of family members of women PRI leaders are most of the families are happy and supportive, some are partially happy and few are not happy. The reason was found that women leader create problems in household work. However the families who are happy and supportive and partially happy have other women in their home to complete their household task.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is the main reason for existence of abject poverty in rural areas. The Government of India has always been making efforts to make better lives of unskilled labour by creating infrastructure and establishing institutional set-up for rural poverty alleviation. To achieve this aforesaid objective, the Government of India have implemented many rural development schemes such as the Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna (JGSY), and the Work for Food Programme (WFFP), the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojna (SGRY), etc.

These all above schemes have provided employment but did not ensure guarantee to the people for employment. There were a lot of problems in implementation of these schemes for instance, inconsistencies between schemes’ aims and with village necessities, lack of resources, manipulation in records, corruption, etc.

To eliminate all these problems and ensures guarantee of wages employment, the Government of India has passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) (now PPDANA from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010), 2005 w.e.f. 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2006 in 200 districts through notification in first phase, 130 more districts in second phase from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007 and the remaining districts of India from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. This scheme is demand based in spite of supply based. Corollary to it, the Right to Information, Public Accountability and Transparency are, overtly embodied in the Act. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has many concrete provisions by which we can say that in real sense it is the “Law of the Masses”. Because, firstly there was a wide discussion held with different organizations while drafting this Act. Secondly, this Act is according the basic necessities of the village community. Thirdly, people participation in planning, role of Gram Sabha and social audit are many aspects which give an opportunity for active participation to all the rural community. So, this Act is really an act of the people, for the people and by the people.

Therefore the objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNAREGS) under MGNAREGA are: enhance the livelihood security of people in rural areas by generating wage employment through works that develop the infrastructure base of that area, protection of environment, empowerment of village women, social equality and stop the migration from village to cities. Thus it would be useful to study the “Role of

Implementing Agency (IA) at various levels in the implementation of PPDANA, A comparative study of district Sirsa.”

*The objective of the study was*

1. To access the elected women's participation in Panchayati Raj Institution.
2. To access the role of women in PPDANA for women Empowerment.

## II. RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

The districts of Sirsa was the sample of the study. The present study uses conclusive research methodology. For the present study two blocks from district Sirsa i.e. (1) Block Dabwali and (2) Block Rania which are based on best performance indicators of PPDANA at different levels through Simple Random Sampling. Sample size was 224 Panchayati Raj Representatives. For the present study primary as well as secondary data was collected. Primary data was collected directly from respondent through Questionnaires. Primary data was collected from different levels of PRI representatives at Village Panchayat, Block and Zila parishad level and the officials involved in the implementation of PPDANA programme at all the three tier panchayat system of district Sirsa and secondary data from internet, journals, magazines and books. In the present study the ratio method, percentage method and tables were used as tools of analysis of data.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table: 1 -Sample of women leader participants in PRI in Sirsa Districts.

PRI Women Representatives.

Districts	Gram Panchayat		Panchayat Samiti member	Zila parishad member	Total
	Panch	Sarpanch			
Sirsa	71	7	29	4	111

Out of total 224 PRI women leaders 111 are from District Sirsa.

Table 2- Education Qualification of PRI representatives

Qualification	Sirsa				Total
	Panch	Sarpanch	P.S.M	Z.P.M	
Illetrate	50	3	11	0	64
Upto X	14	2	10	2	29
Upto XII	7	1	7	1	16
B.A.	0	1	1	1	2
M.A.	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>111</b>

Education among women has increased but still participation of educated women in PRI's is low. Participation of educated women in Sirsa in becoming the part of PRI functionary.

*Male Support to Women PRI Leaders*

In male dominated traditional society, women are not considered as a leader of full capacity, capability, and potentials. Women have to keep pardaa during PRI meeting also. Feeling of shy and hesitation is there. Table 3 explains the feeling of Rural Women leader about the support of male counterparts.

Table 3-View of Respondents about Male Members in Sirsa

Schemes	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Zila	Total
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	Panch	Sarpanch	Member	Parishad Member	
Yes, male support	58 (40.84)	05 (33.34)	20 (33.90)	06 (75.00)	89 (39.74)
They don't get support	30 (21.12)	03 (20.00)	10 (16.95)	02 (25.00)	45 (20.08)
They help us	40 (28.17)	06 (40.00)	24 (40.67)	---	70 (31.26)
They discourage us	14 (9.86)	01 (06.66)	05 (08.48)	---	20 (08.92)
<b>Total</b>	142 (100)	15 (100)	59 (100)	08 (100)	224 (100)

Figures in bracket show percentage.

This table data reveals that 159 (71.00%) respondents say that male members support and help the female while remaining 65 (29.00%) opined that their male counterparts don't support them and discourage them. Majority 58 (40.84%) of women Panches respond that they get support from male members followed by 40 (28.17%) who get help from male member. While 44 (30.98%) Panches told that don't get support and are encouraged by them. At the same level 11 (73.34%) women Sarpanches viewed that they get support and help from male members, 4 (20.00%) believe neither they get support or help from males. At the Gram Panchayat level women representatives argued that dominance is one of the main factors behind the lack of support and help to them. At Panchayat Samiti and Zila parishad level situation is different. The women PRI member argued that due to illiteracy observation of social custom/values (Ghungant keeping silence before elders) lack of communication and self-confidence. They don't get support and help as they should get being a PRI's representation. So at Panchayat Samiti level 44 (74.57%) and 6(75%) members of Zila Parshad say that they get help and support.

#### *Participation of Women PRI leaders in Meeting*

Table 4 describes the level of participation of rural women PRI leaders in meeting.

Table 4-Level of Participation of Respondents during Meeting in Sirsa

Level of Participation	Gram Panchayat		Panchayat Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
	Panch	Sarpanch			
Listen to others	36 (25.35)	04 (26.67)	34 (57.62)	---	74 (33.03)
Discuss issues	30 (21.13)	04 (26.67)	17 (28.88)	05 (62.50)	56 (25.00)
Keep sitting silently	40 (28.17)	05 (33.33)	05 (08.48)	---	50 (22.33)
N.R.	36 (25.35)	02 (13.33)	03 (05.08)	03 (37.50)	44 (19.64)
<b>Total</b>	142 (100)	15 (100)	59 (100)	08 (100)	224 (100)

Figures in bracket show percentage.

This table 4 elaborates the level of participation of PRI leaders during meeting. 50 (22.33%) respondents just keep silent in the meeting and listens other members only, 56 (25.00%) discuss the issues and problems. Similarly at Gram Panchayat level 40 (28.17%) women Panches and 5 (33.33%) Sarpanches just keep sitting silently, 36 (25.35%) Panches listen to others, 30 (14.48%) Panches discuss the issue. At the same level 4 (26.67%) women Sarpanches listen to others. Further at the Panchayat Samiti level percentage of participation/discussing issues is

also not so high i.e. 17 (28.32%). The participation of Zila Parishad 5 (62.50%) women member is sound in comparison to first two level of PRI, while 3 (37.50%) Zila Parishad member don't expressed any of their opinion regarding level of participation in PRI meeting.

Thus on the basis of above data we may conclude that at the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad level Women rural leaders participate more efficiently and effectively than Gram Panchayat.

#### IV. FEELINGS OF WOMEN PRI LEADERS

In India women constitute nearly 50 percent of the population and Indian Constitution has provided equal rights to women to improve their status and become a part of mainstream of the society. It is presumed that 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act created a sense of self confidence, belongingness and decision making capacity among women. We have tried to find out the feelings of women while working as PRI representatives in the table below.

Table 5-Feeling of Respondents

Factors	Gram Panchayat		Panchayat Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
	Panch	Sarpanch			
Feel changes	35 (24.65)	03 (20.00)	24 (40.68)	03 (37.50)	65 (29.02)
Don't feel change	69 (48.60)	03 (20.00)	08 (13.55)	02 (25.00)	82 (36.61)
Empowered and responsible person	34 (23.94)	07 (46.66)	27 (45.76)	03 (37.50)	71 (31.69)
Frustrated persons	04 (02.81)	02 (13.33)	---	---	06 (02.68)
<b>Total</b>	142 (100)	15 (100)	59 (100)	08 (100)	224 (100)

Figures in bracket show percentage.

Table 5 reveals that that 82 (36.61%) women leader don't feel any change, 71 (31.69%) feel empowered and responsible person, 65 (29.02%) feel change and remaining 06 (02.68%) feel frustrated after being elected in PRI. Majority 69 (48.60%) women Panches don't feel any change, 34 (23.94%) feel empowered and responsible, 35 (24.65%) feel changes and rest 4 (2.81%) feel frustrated after being a PRI representative. Majority 7 (46.66%) women Sarpanches feel empowered and responsible person while 2 (13.33%) feel frustration after becoming PRI Sarpanch. At the Panchayat Samiti level 24 (40.68%) women member feel change while 8 (13.55%) feel any type of changes after joining PRI. At the Zila Parishad, 80% of 6(75.00%) member feel that changes empowerment and responsibility came in their life while 2(25.00%) women don't feel any change. On the basis of above table we can conclude that majority of women enjoying the feeling of change in their day to day working.

*Feeling of women leaders about Freedom of Interaction in Meeting*

The Table-6 below presents the response of women leader about the freedom of interaction while in PRI meeting.

Table-6-Feeling of Respondents about Freedom of Interaction in PRI Meeting

Response	Gram Panchayat		Panchayat Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
	Panch	Sarpanch			
Yes	30 (21.12)	06 (40.00)	42 (71.86)	08 (100)	86 (38.39)
No	112 (78.87)	09 (60.00)	07 (28.14)	---	138 (61.61)
<b>Total</b>	142 (100)	15 (100)	59 (100)	08 (100)	224 (100)

Figures in bracket show percentage.

This table reveals that 138 (61.61%) representative don't feel free while interacting in meeting with other persons followed by 86 (38.39%) who feel free while interacting. At Gram Panchayat level 112 (78.87%) Panches and 9

(60.00%) Sarpanches don't feel freedom of interaction. Similarly at the Panchayat Samiti level, 42 (71.86%) and at Zila Parishad level 100% members are feel free while interacting in PRI meeting. Now we may conclude that PS & ZP members freely interact with their colleagues in compare to Panchayat members.

#### V. EXERCISE OF DECISION-MAKING POWER OF WOMEN PRI LEADERS:

Women empowerment is directly linked with the decision-making power of women leaders. Decision making is an act of determining in one's own mind upon an opinion or course of action.

Table-7-Exercise of Decision-Making Power of Respondents

Schemes	Gram Panchayat		Panchayat Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
	Panch	Sarpanch			
Yes	19 (07.04)	02 (13.34)	08 (13.50)	02 (25.00)	31 (13.84)
No	66 (46.48)	04 (26.66)	06 (10.18)	---	76 (33.93)
Sometimes	37 (26.05)	05 (33.34)	27 (45.76)	03 (37.50)	72 (32.15)
Often	20 (14.08)	04 (26.66)	18 (30.50)	03 (37.50)	45 (20.08)
<b>Total</b>	142 (100)	15 (100)	59 (100)	08 (100)	224 (100)

Figures in bracket show percentage.

This table reveals that 76(33.93%) women leaders do not take decision while 72(32.15%) take decision sometimes and 45(20.18%) leaders take decision often. Only 31(13.84%) leaders do take decision in PRIs. At Gram Panchayat level 66(46.88) Panches and 4(26.66%) Sarpanches do not take decision while 37(26.05%) Panches and 05(33.34) Sarpanches do take decision sometimes. At Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad level 27(45.76%) and 3(37.50%) members respectively do take decision sometimes.

From above analysis we can conclude that women are more active as Sarpanch Panchayat Samiti Member and Zila Parishad members.

#### VI. ATTITUDE OF FAMILY MEMBER OF WOMEN PRI LEADERS

The Table-8 below presents the data on attitude of family member of women about their role as elected PRI leaders:

Table-8-Attitude of Family Member of Respondents

Attitude of Family	Gram Panchayat		Panchayat Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
	Panch	Sarpanch			
Happy and Supportive	85 (58.86)	12 (80.00)	50 (84.75)	06 (75.00)	153(68.30)
Partially Happy	35 (24.65)	02 (13.33)	09 (15.25)	02 (25.00)	48 (21.43)
Not Happy	22 (15.49)	01 (6.67)	---	---	23 (10.27)
<b>Total</b>	142 (100)	15 (100)	59 (100)	08 (100)	224 (100)

Figures in bracket show percentage.

These tables shows that 153 (68.30%) families of women PRI leader are happy and supportive, 48 (21.43%) are partially happy and rest 23 (10.27%) are not happy about the role as an elected PRI leader. Similarly 85 (58.86%) women Panches, 12 (80.00) Sarpanches, 50 (84.75%) Panchayat Samiti member and 6 (75.00%) Zila Parishad members are happy and supportive. On the other side, families of 35 (24.65%) women Panches, 2 (13.33%) women

Sarpanches, 9 (15.25%) Panchayati Samiti members, and 2 (25.00%) Parishad members are partially happy. Rest of the families i.e. 22 (15.49%) Panches, 1 (6.67%) women Sarpanche are not happy. They give reason that the PRI responsibilities/duties of women leader create problems in household work.

It is significant to describe that the families who are happy and supportive and partially happy have other women in their home to complete their household task. The other reason is this that respective families support the elected women leader to enter in rural politics.

#### VII. OUTMOST QUALITY OF WOMEN PRI LEADERS

For the purpose of present study women leaders are asked about their opinion regarding quality, background or role of a PRI leader. The Table-9 below presents the opinion gathered from respondents:

Table-9-Perceived Outmost Quality of Respondents

Types of quality	Gram Panchayat		Panchayat Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
	Panch	Sarpanch			
Regularly attending the meeting	43 (30.28)	06 (40.00)	24 (40.69)	03 (37.50)	76 (33.93)
Educated & Helpful	38 (26.76)	02 (13.33)	16 (27.11)	03 (37.50)	59 (26.34)
Hardworker & Honest	26 (18.31)	05 (33.34)	07 (11.87)	---	38 (16.96)
Any other (bold etc.)	35 (24.65)	02 (13.33)	12 (20.33)	02 (25.00)	51 (22.77)
<b>Total</b>	142 (100)	15 (100)	59 (100)	08 (100)	224 (100)

Figures in bracket show percentage.

This table shows that 76 (33.93%) women leaders believe that one must attend the meetings regularly and one should give consideration to poor, 59 (26.34%) opined that one should be educated and helpful fellow, 51 (22.77%) say that one must have the quality of boldness, good communicator, resourceful and skillful person in the field, 38 (16.96%) respondents opined that a PRI woman leader must be hardworker and honest. Similarly at Gram Panchayat level, 43 (30.28%) Panches believe that a PRI leader must have the quality to attend PRI meeting regularly and always consider poor people in their agenda, while 26 (18.31%) Panches opined that a PRI leader must be a hardworker and honest. 2 (13.33%) Sarpanches believe a PRI leader have a quality of educated and helpful person, 2 (13.33%) Sarpanches opined in other quality like boldness. 6 (40.00%) Sarpanches and 24 (40.69%) Panchayat Samiti members believe in the quality of regular attending the meeting and consideration for poor. 16 (27.11%) Panchayat Samiti members opined that a PRI leader must have quality of educated and helpful, 3 (37.50%) Zila Parishad members told that a PRI leader obtain the attribute of educated and helpful person and same 3 (37.50%) opined that a PRI leader should regularly attend the meeting and consider about the poor people in their agenda.

Table-10-Does women reservation in PPDANA helpful in Women Empowerment?

District	Block	Village	To a very Great extent	%	To some extent	%	Not helpful	%
Sirsa	Rania	Dhottar	22	78.57	5	17.85	1	3.58
		Mamber khera	23	82.14	5	17.85	0	0
	Dabwali	Kaluana	22	78.57	6	21.43	0	0
		Ganga	21	75	6	21.43	1	3.58

		Khanak	22	78.57	4	14.28	2	7.15
		Gurera	20	71.42	5	17.85	3	10.73

This table shows that 75.89 percent PRI women leaders accepted that reservation in PPDANA has helped in women empowerment to a very great extent and 17.85 percent to some extent and only 6.26 percent said that it was not helpful in women empowerment.

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

- PRI women leaders in Educated Sirsa.
- The scenario of women's participation has increased due to literacy and the women who are more educated are bold, good communicator, confident, participating in meetings and who are less educated they are being supported by their Male Counterpart and on their behalf, their Male counterpart are representing them.
- Women PRI leaders who are literate are more Active and doing their work in transparent manner.
- Women reservations in PRI and PPDANA are helpful in women Empowerment to a very great extent.
- Among the total PRI women leaders majority don't feel free and less no. of women feel free in Interaction in PRI meetings.
- At Gram Panchayat level majority of Panches don't feel free while at Panchyat Samiti level most of women and at Zila parishad level all the women feel free while interacting in PRI meetings.
- Among the total some of women leaders do not take decision while some take decision sometimes and few leaders take decision often.
- Womens are more active as Sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti Member and Zila Parishad Members.
- Attitude of family members of women PRI leaders are most of the families are happy and supportive, some are partially happy and few are not happy. The reason was found that women leader create problems in household work. However the families who are happy and supportive and partially happy have other women in their home to complete their household task.

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