

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN KHAMMAM DISTRICT- DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

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Abstract

The Research work done in any field is said to be more meaningful and purposeful when the data collected is carefully processed and systematically analyzed. On the basis of this analysis and interpretation, the researcher will be able to arrive at meaningful conclusions and draw proper inferences, a covers with Socio-Economic Profile of the Total Number of Women Leaders in the two Divisions i.e. Khammam and Kalluru of Khammam District. Division deals with The Perception of Sample Respondents from the 6 Mandals selected from the 2 divisions of Khammam District. It consists of the Public Perception of Women Leaders.

Introduction

Profile of the Khammam district

Khammam is a city in the Khammam district in the Indian state of Telangana. It is the fourth largest city in the region. It is the headquarters of Khammam district and Khammam Mandal¹. It is about 193 km from the state capital Hyderabad, 61 km from Surjanpet, 120 km (75 mi) from Warangal, and 121 km from Amaravati. The capital of Andhra Pradesh, the Muneru River, flows from the city's western side². As of the 2011 census, the Greater Khammam district has a population of 313,504³. However, on October 19, 2012, Khammam district was designated as the district office Khammam Business Announcement Update about 3,07,000⁴.

Data analysis

Data analysis involves studying the tabulated material to determine the inherent facts or conclusions. It involves breaking down existing complex factors into simpler parts and putting them together in new arrangements for interpretation purposes. According to Carter, V. Goode, A.S. Barr, and Douglas, E. Scates, 'Analysis is a process which enters into research in one form or the other from the very beginning. The research consists of two more significant steps- gathering and analyzing the data. In the analysis process, no similarities, differences, trends, and outstanding factors should go unnoticed, and the data should be studied from as many angles as possible to find the facts.

Statistical Computations

After the quantification of data, various statistical measures such as Cross Tables, Simple Percentages have been calculated and presented in this Chapter.

Socio-Economic profile of the total number of women representatives

Table No 1

Distribution of Women representatives according to their Socio-Economic wise Representation in P.R.I.'s

Sl. No.	Division	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Khammam	172	53.8
2	Kalluru	148	46.2
Total		320	100
Position-wise sample respondents			
1	Chairman (Z.P.)	0	0
2	Chairman (M.P.P.)	9	2.81
3	Z.P.T.CS	9	2.81
4	M.P.T.CS	51	15.9
5	Sarpanch	99	30.9
6	Ward members	152	47.5
Total		320	100
Social Group			
1	General / OC	116	36.3
2	Backward Caste	80	25
3	Scheduled Caste	24	7.5
4	Scheduled Tribe	100	31.3
Total		320	100
Age			
1	0-35 years	72	22.5
2	36-45 years	92	28.8
3	46-55 years	108	33.8
4	56 above years	48	15
Total		320	100
Qualifications			
1	Illiterate	136	42.5
2	Primary	104	32.5
3	Secondary	48	15
4	Graduation	32	10
Total		320	100
Occupation			
1	Agricultural Labours	116	36.3
2	Small Business	52	16.3
3	Cultivation	24	7.5
4	House Wife	128	40
Total		320	100
Political Experience			
1	TRS	190	59.4
2	Congress	98	30.6
3	B.J.P.	12	3.75
4	T.D.P.	9	2.81
5	CPI & CPM	5	1.56

6	Independent	6	1.88
Total		320	100

Source: Primary data

The Khammam part is leading between the two parts of the Khammam region, followed by the Kallur part. Overall, 58% of all female leaders in the Khammam region are women. One-third of women leaders are women due to reservations about women's leadership. Around 320 women members were elected, marking a significant change in the strengthening of women's political leadership. This has far-reaching implications for the participation of women in politics.

Most of the 152 (47.5%) respondents out of 320 selected were from the district. 99 (30.9%) respondents were Sarpanches, and 51 (15.9%) were MPTCs. 09 (2.81%) respondents of Z.P.T.Cs. 9 (2.81%) respondents were Chairpersons (M.P.P.).

The top women in the open category were 36.3% respectively. 31.3% of women leaders belong to the S.T. category, 25% VS. and 7.5% SC. So, most selected women are in the open category, S.T., followed by the B.C. category.

Their largest share (33.8%) falls between the ages of 46 and 55, and (28.8%) - in the age group between 36 and 45 years. These (22.5%) were in the age group of 0-35. Of them (15%) were aged 56 years and above. Therefore, most fall in the 46-55, 36-45, and 0-35 age groups.

The majority of the middle class, 42.5%, are illiterate, and 32.5% have completed primary schooling. Considering that 15% have higher education, 10% have higher education.

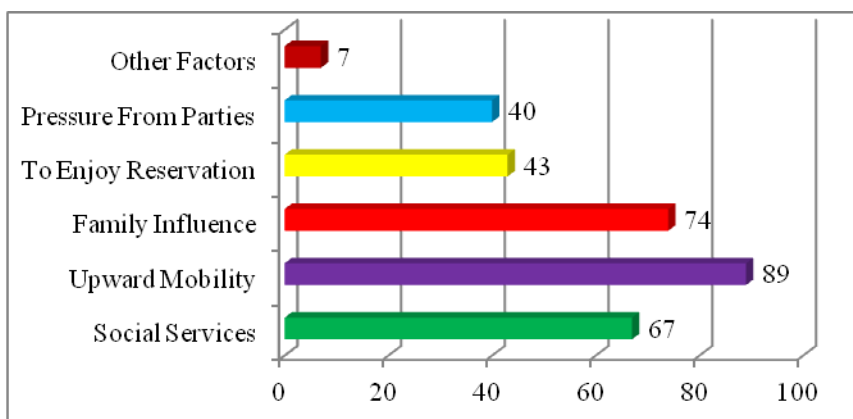
The surprising conclusion of the above analysis is that majority of the women are illiterate.

Mostly, 36.3% are agricultural workers, and less, 7.5% are farmers and others. 40% are homemakers, and 16.3% are owners of small businesses.

The majority, 59.4%, are T.R.S., Congress (30.6%), B.J.P. (3.57%), T.D.P. (2.81%), C.P.I., C.P.M. (1.56%), and independents (1.88%). So, the analysis concludes that 59.4% are members of T.R.S., followed by Congress.

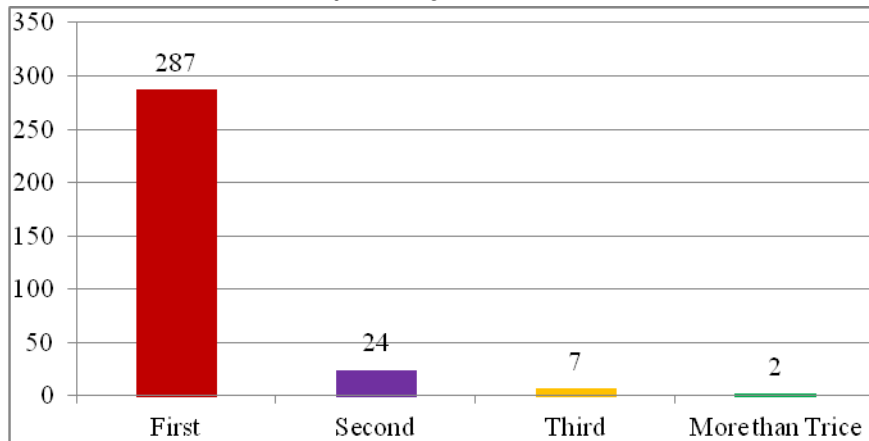
Table No – 2

Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the Factors which influenced them to Contest in the election



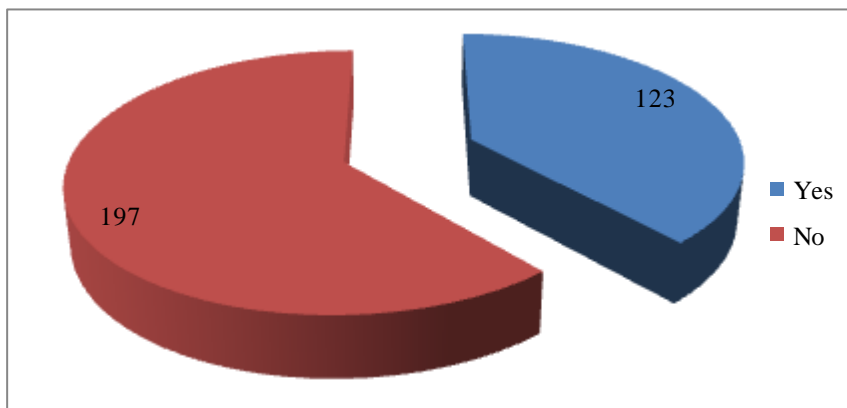
This figure shows the factors that influenced the Women Leaders to contest the elections. The highest number, i.e., 28.85%, opined Upward Mobility. As factor influence the contest in elections, followed by enjoying reservation (13.4%), Family influence (23.1%), Social services (20.9%), and Pressure from parties (12.5%).

Figure No – 3
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the number of times Elected to Panchayati Raj Institution



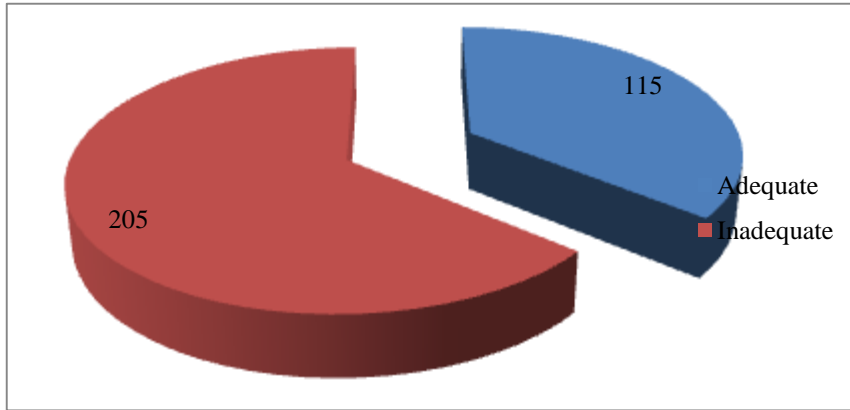
This figure shows the number of times people got elected to Panchayati Raj Institutions. The majority, i.e., 89.7%, got elected for the first time, while a negligible few, i.e., 2.19%, were elected for the third time.

Figure No – 4
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the Awareness of Duties & Powers



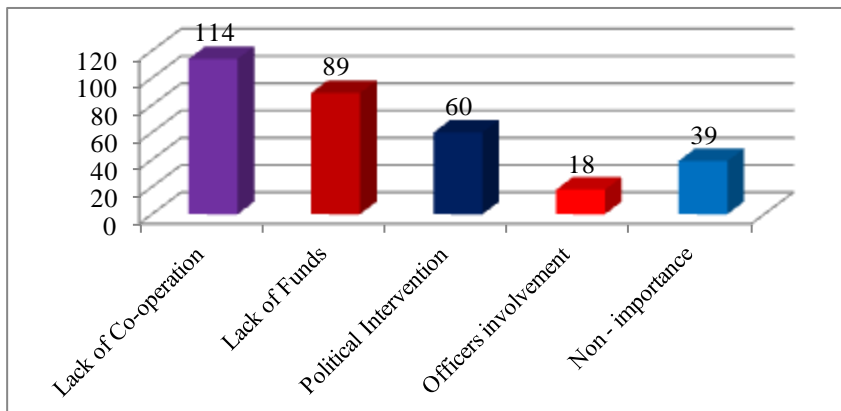
This figure shows whether Women Leaders know their duties and powers. The majority, i.e., 197 (61.6%), said they do not know their duties and powers. The remaining people, who constitute 123 (38.4%), said they know their duties and powers.

Figure No – 5
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the Adequacy of Powers



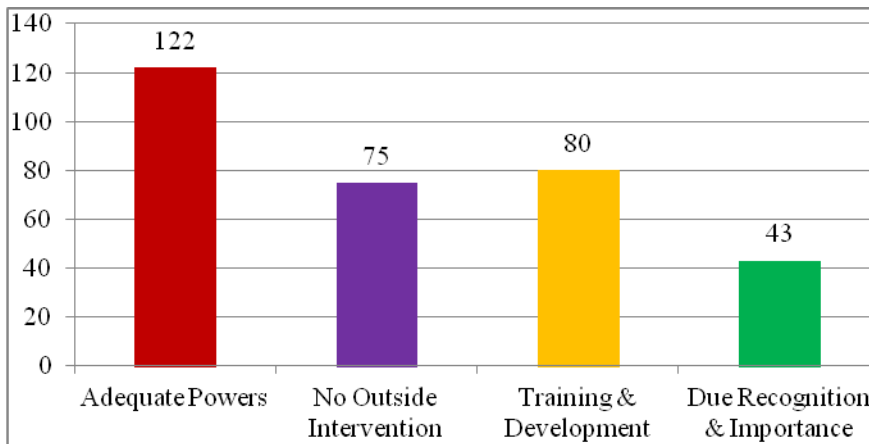
This figure shows the opinions of Women Leaders on the Adequacy of their powers. The majority, i.e., 205 (64.1%), felt that the powers they enjoy are inadequate. All the remaining Women Leaders i.e. 115 (35.9%) felt that the powers they enjoy are adequate.

Figure No – 6
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the Problems Faced while Discharging Duties



This figure shows the problems faced by Women Leaders while discharging their duties. There 35.6% of them said there is a Lack of cooperation followed by a Lack of funds (27.8%). Around 18.9% of them said they faced political intervention problems, followed by Non-importance (12.2%) and officer involvement (5.56%). Hence, the conclusion is drawn that the highest number, i.e., 35.6% of the Women Leaders, faced the problem of Lack of cooperation.

Figure No – 7
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the Suggestions to Strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institution



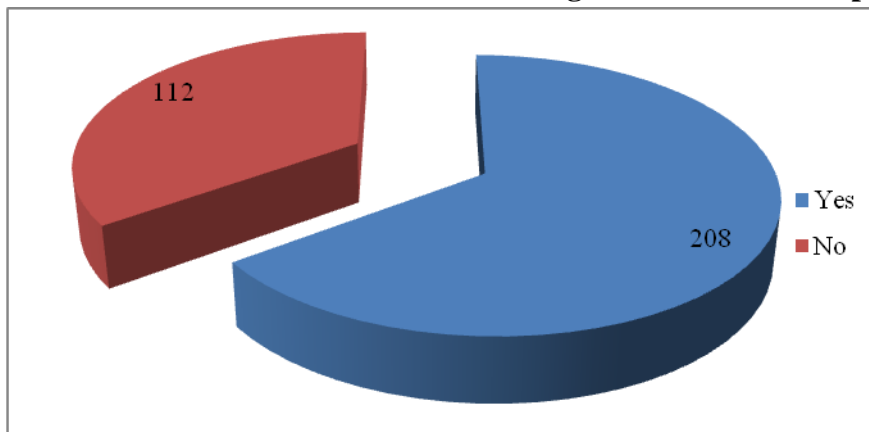
In this Figure, the Women Leaders put the following suggestions to entrench the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The highest number, i.e., 38.1%, mentioned adequate powers, followed by training and development (25%). There are 23.4% said that there should be no political intervention. The remaining respondents, i.e., 13.4%, felt they should be given due recognition and importance.

So, the conclusion drawn from the above figure is that the highest number, i.e., 38.08% of the Women Leaders, express the Adequacy of powers as a suggestion to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

The perception of sample respondents

Figure No – 8

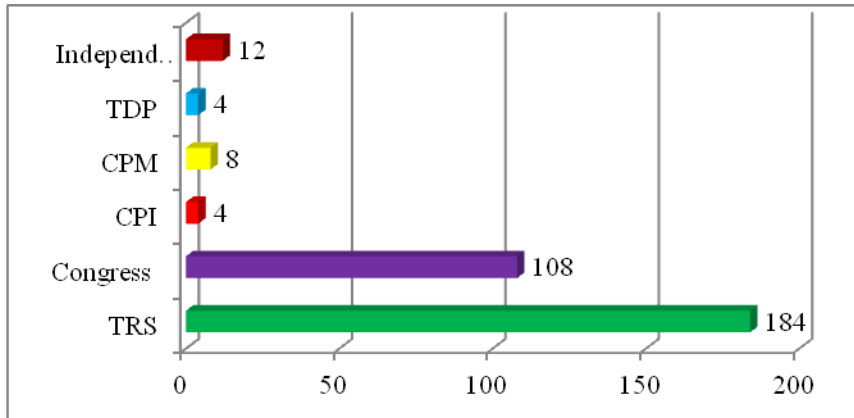
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their membership in the political party



The above figure reveals that most 208 (65%) Women Leaders come from families with political backgrounds. Most of the husbands of Women Leaders were Ex-Women Leaders of their respective villages. The remaining 112 (35%) Women Leaders were from non-political backgrounds. In conclusion, 65% of Women Leaders come from families with political backgrounds.

Figure No – 9

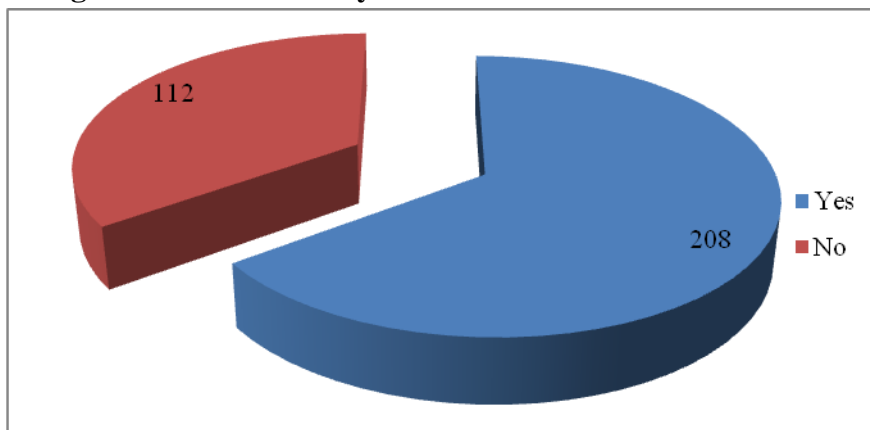
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their Affiliation to the Political Party Regional Division



The above figure reveals that half of, i.e., 57.5% of the Women Leaders, said they are associated with TRS. Though the Panchayati elections were held non-party, all the Women Leaders belonged to one or the other political party. Moreover, 108 (33.8%) of Women Leaders belong to the Congress (I) Party, While 4 (1.25%) of Women Leaders belong to TDP and CPI.

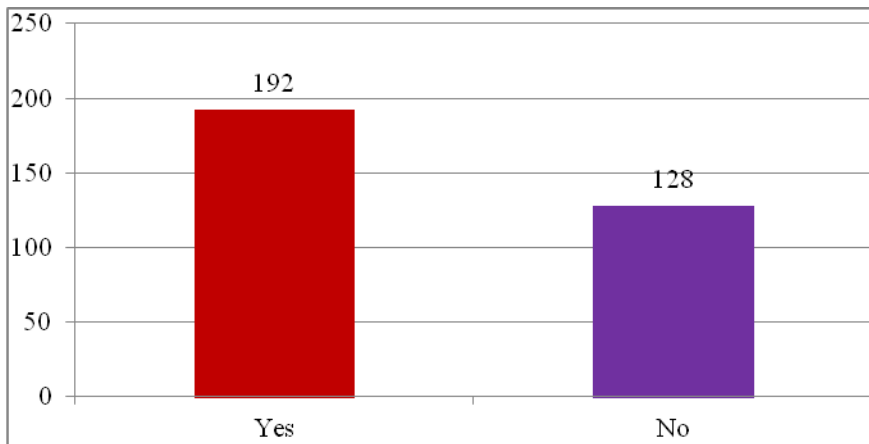
There are 12 (3.75%) women leaders who belong to Independents, and 8 (2.5%) women leaders belong to the CPM. It is believed that voters generally give preference to person and family background rather than party. Interestingly involvement of Political Parties or Party Affiliation was observed.

Figure No – 10
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their view regarding the political background of their family members



The above figure reveals that 65% of Women Leaders come from families involving political backgrounds. The remaining 35% of Women Leaders were of non-political background. In conclusion, we can say that 65% of Women Leaders come from families with political backgrounds.

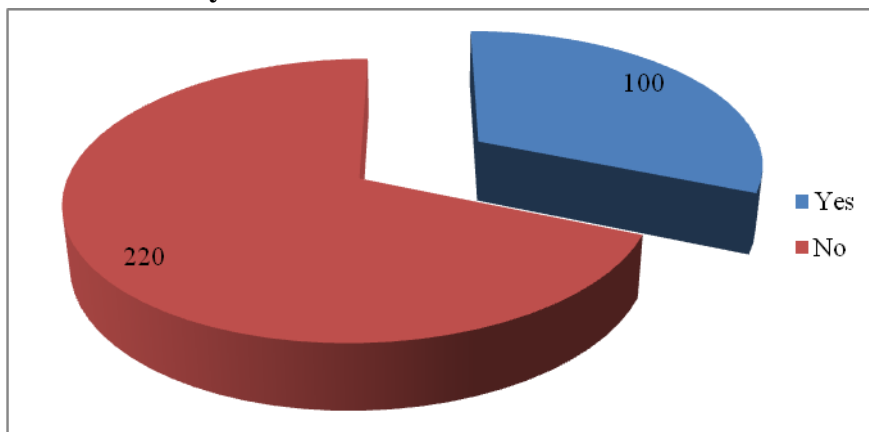
Figure No – 11
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their link with the political leaders of their area



The above figure reveals that 192 (60%) Women Leaders have a link with political leaders in their area. The remaining 128 (40%) Women Leaders were not linked with political leaders in their area. In conclusion, the majority of 192 (60%) Women Leaders have a link with political leaders in their area.

Figure No – 12

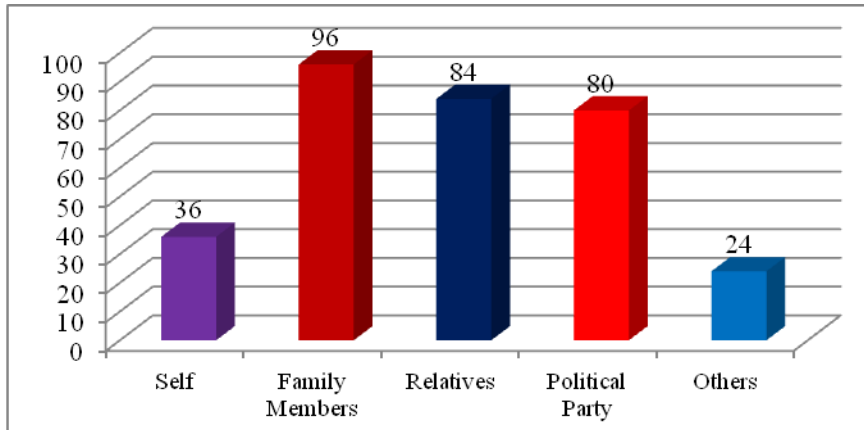
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their view regarding whether they have contested in any election.



The above figure reveals that 68.8% of Women Leaders did not contest any election. At the same time, only 31.3% of Women Leaders contested election.

Figure No – 13

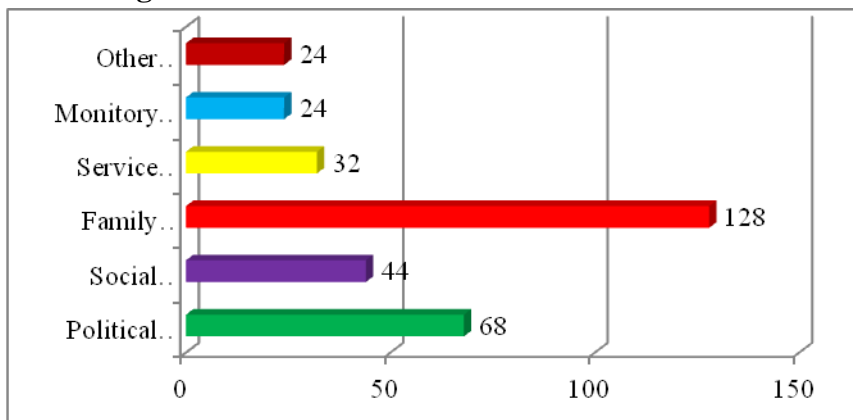
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the persons motivated them to contest in the election



The above figure indicates that the total number of sample respondents, i.e., 96 (30%) of the respondents, are motivated by family members. 84 (26.3%) of the respondents are motivated by relatives, and 80 (25%) are motivated by political parties. There 36 (11.3%) expressed the view that to contest an election has been by self.

Figure No – 14

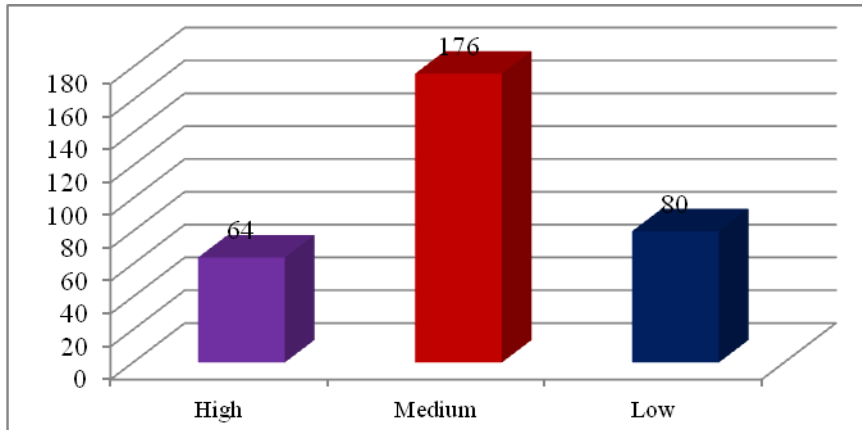
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the reasons for Contesting in the election



This figure shows that in the total sample, 128 (40%) of the respondents are for family pressure, 68 (21.3%) of the respondents have contested in elections for political status, 44 (13.8%) of the respondents are for social status, whereas 32 (10%) of the respondents are for service mentality, and (7.5%) of the respondents contested in elections due to monetary benefits and other considerations.

Figure No – 15

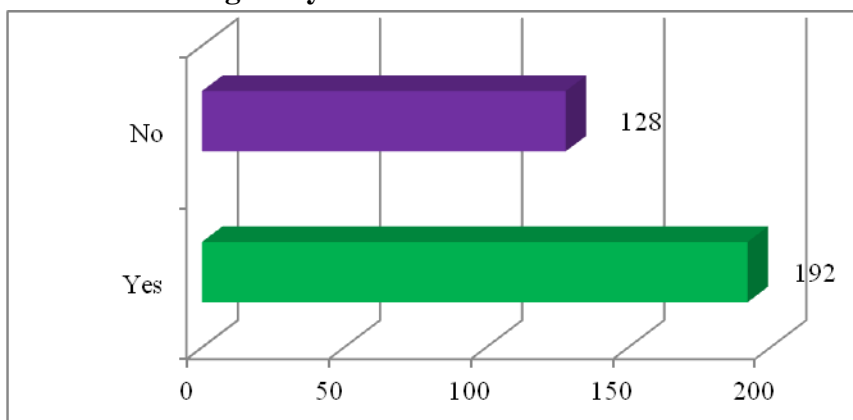
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the participation in Panchayati Raj Developmental Activities



The above figure shows the participation of Women Leaders in the development activities of PRIs. Regarding participation in Panchayati Raj, developmental activities are medium level, i.e., 176 (55%). There is low participation of Women Leaders, i.e., 80 (25%) respectively. About the Women Leaders have high participation, i.e., 64 (20%).

Figure No – 16

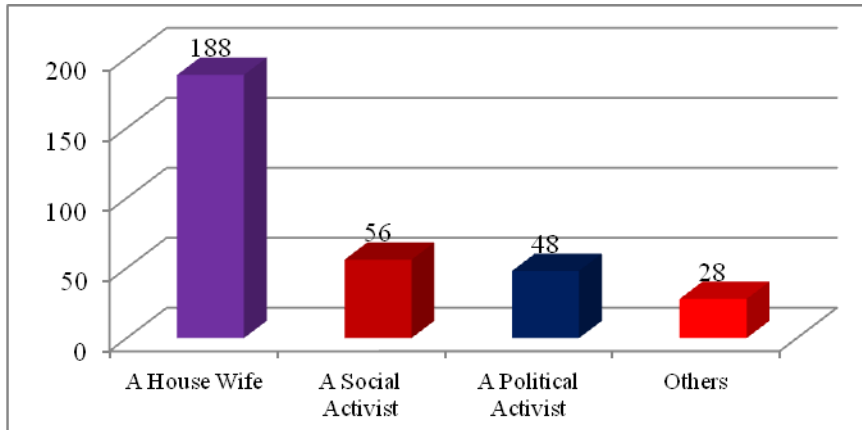
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding whether they meet the electorate regularly



This figure indicates the Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding whether they meet the electorate regularly. The majority, 192 (60%) of respondents, said they electorate regularly. Only 40% of respondents said they must meet the electorate regularly.

Figure No – 17

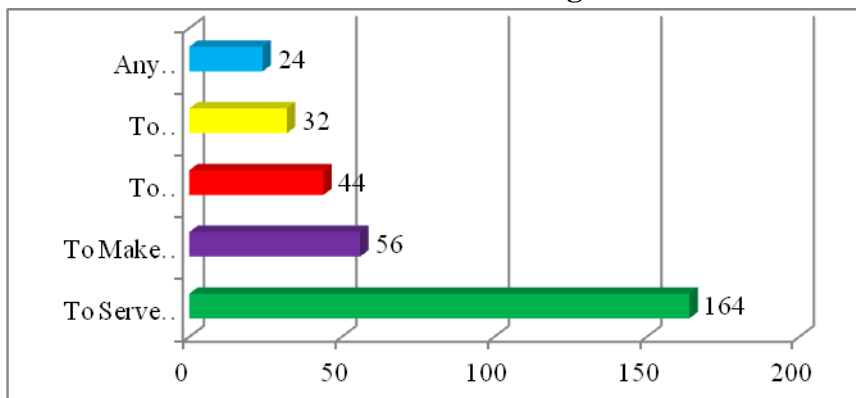
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding their status before they are based on their unique background



This figure shows the distribution of women leaders according to their opinion regarding their status before they are based on their background. The majority of 188 (58.8%) Women Leaders have hailed from the housewife status. Approximately 56 (17.5%) of the sample is from that social activists, and more than 48 (15%) of the sample hails from political activists. The remaining 28 (8.75%) of the sample are drawn chiefly from the members of women's self-help groups and NGOs. The political activists or supporters, primary members or organizational members of the influential political parties. Some of them are from families with a previous political backgrounds. The social activists are the members of Mahila Mandals, voluntary organizations, and pressure groups of the locality. The homemakers entered the political fray because of the 1/3 rd reservation given to the women to secure the births of the PRIs. Most of them entered the PRIs as proxies for their fathers or husbands.

Figure No – 18

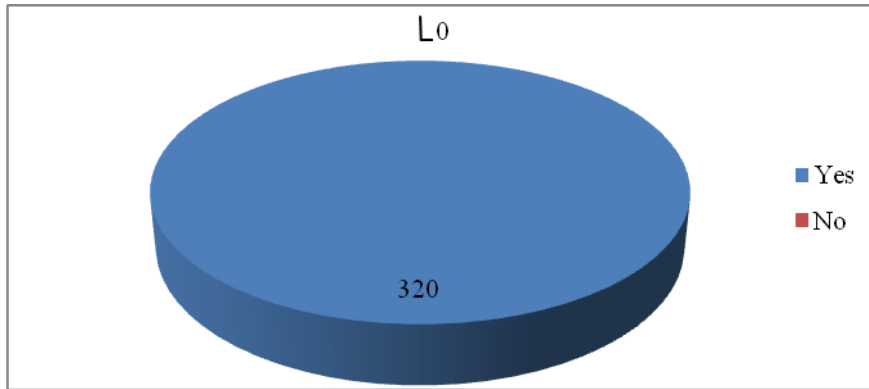
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their motto in contesting Elections



This figure shows with the distribution of women leaders according to their motto in contesting elections. The majority of 164 (51.3%) stated in unequivocal terms that their motto for entering the PRIs is to serve people. There are 56 (17.5%) marked preferences for making money. To capture political power is also the preference of 44 (13.8%). To improve conditions of weaker section 32 (10%). Those who preferred others emphasized, in particular, women's welfare as their motive under this category fell 24 (7.5%). The analysis inferred that the majority of 164 (51.3%) stated unequivocally that their motto for entering the PRIs is to serve people.

Figure No – 19

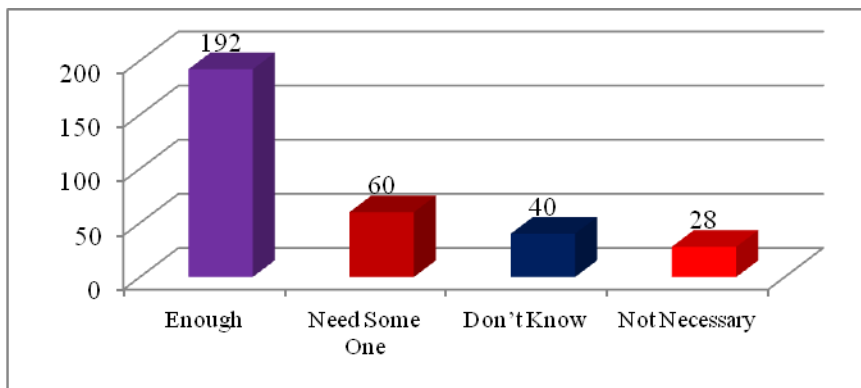
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding the need for women leadership



Almost all the Women Leaders believed that there was a need for women leadership in the local bodies and further believed that their problems would be solved only through their leadership among women. But they lamented that socio, economic, political, cultural, and educational problems were significant hurdles for their participation in local politics. The formation of Mahila Mandals (Women Councils), DWACRA, and other similar groups, would greatly facilitate the participation of more women in politics.

Figure No – 20

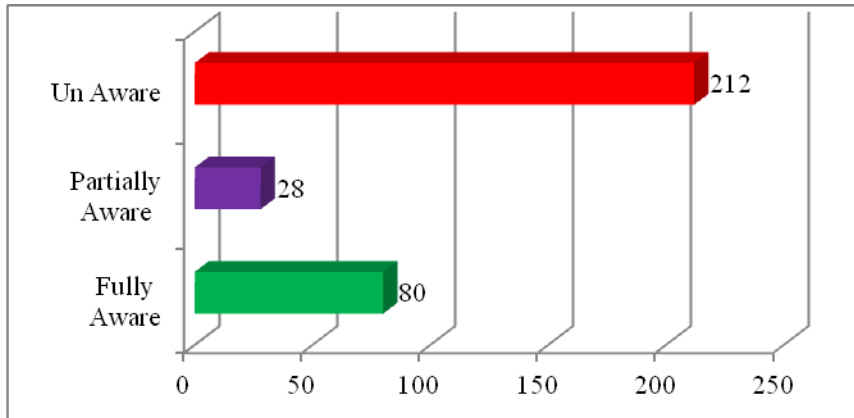
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding 33% Reservation of seats for women



Though several Women Leaders were illiterate and uneducated, they were aware of the provision of reservation of seats for women. The majority of 192 (60%) Women Leaders felt that 33% of Women's reservations were adequate. In comparison, 28 (8.75%) Women Leaders said that reservations were unnecessary for women as they viewed that women could get elected and join the political field on their own. Some of the above Women Leaders believe that reservations about women must be increased. Approximately 40 (12.5%) Women Leaders were ignorant about the reservation. It is observed that many respondents need to learn the actual percentage of reservations for women under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment or Andhra Pradesh Panchayati Act, 1994. Nevertheless, they know that women were given no preference in the local bodies. The analysis inferred that the majority of 192 (60%) Women Leaders felt that 33% of Women's reservations were adequate.

Figure No – 21

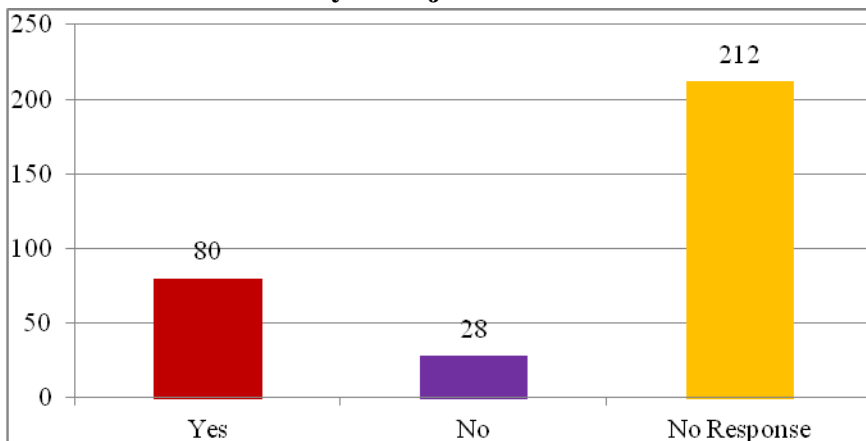
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding 73rd Constitutional Awareness and its main provisions



This figure shows the distribution of women leaders according to their opinion regarding the 73rd constitutional awareness and its main provisions. Almost all the respondents were unaware of the 73rd constitutional amendment act, i.e., 212 (66.3%) respectively. 80 (25%) respondents know more about the 73rd constitutional amendment act. Around 28 (8.75%) respondents partially know the 73rd constitutional amendment act. The analysis inferred that most respondents were unaware of the 73rd constitutional amendment act, i.e., 212 (66.3%) respectively.

Figure No – 22

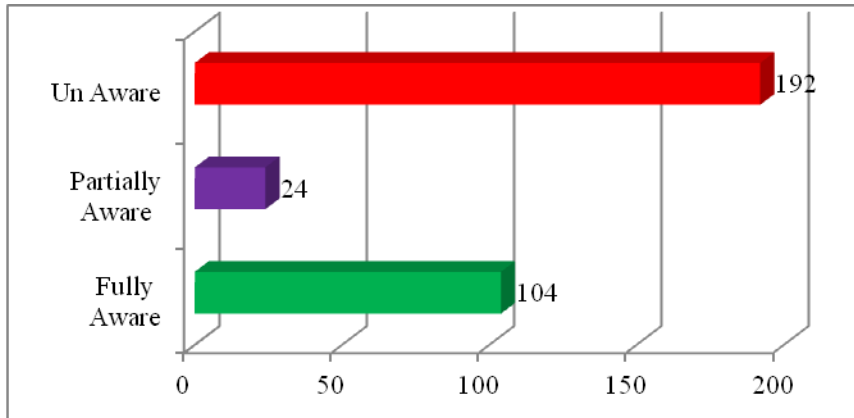
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding awareness about the duties in the Panchayati Raj Office



This figure indicates the distribution of women leaders according to their opinion regarding awareness about the duties in the Panchayati raj office. The highest number, 80 (25%) of the respondents, has high awareness. The respondents have a low level of awareness, i.e., 212 (66.3%) respectively. The respondents unaware are regarding the duties in Panchayati Raj Office i.e. 28 (8.75%) respectively. The analysis inferred that most respondents have a low level of awareness regarding the duties in the Panchayati Raj Office, i.e., 212 (66.3%) respectively.

Figure No – 23

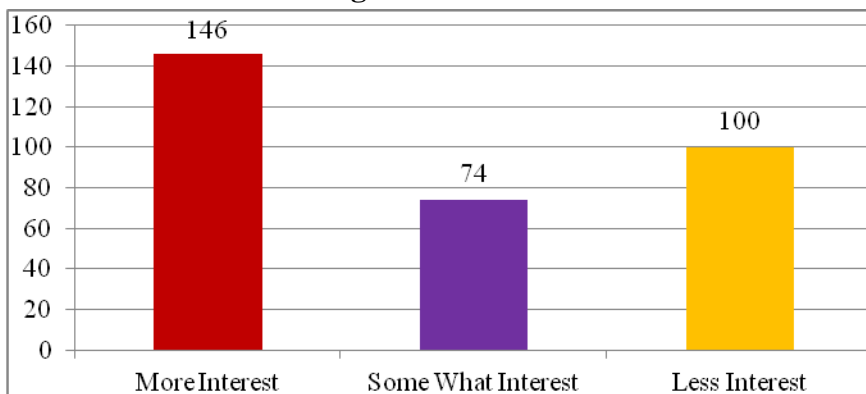
Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding awareness about practices and procedures in PRIs



This figure indicates the distribution of women leaders according to their opinion regarding awareness about practices and procedures in PRIs. The majority of 192 (60%) respondents need to be aware of practices and procedures in PRIs. The remaining 104 (32.5%) of the respondents are high awareness, whereas the respondents have a low level of awareness, i.e., 24 (7.5%) respectively. The analysis inferred that most 192 (60%) respondents are unaware of practices and procedures in PRIs.

Figure No – 24

Distribution of Women Leaders according to their opinion regarding their Interest in the Grama Sabha Meeting in PRIs



This figure shows the distribution of women leaders according to their opinion regarding their Interest in the Gram Sabha meeting in PRIs. The majority of 146 (45.6%) of the respondents have more Interest in Grama Sabha meetings. At the same time, 100 (31.1%) respondents have no interest in Grama Sabha meetings. The remaining 74 (23.1%) respondents have medium interest in Grama Sabha meetings. The analysis inferred that the majority of 146 (45.6%) of the respondents have more Interest in Grama Sabha meetings.

Conclusions:

A comparative analysis of political value orientations of women in leadership positions in rural and urban areas shows that there is no significant difference between different political conditions. However, many rural and urban women leaders prioritized local issues over national issues. Looking at the orientation of political values and the participation of women leaders, it can be concluded that local unit leaders are well aware of the political situation in the country and region. Your approach to political issues is generally positive and logical they believe in democratic institutions and constitutional mechanisms for change. They are firm in their beliefs and clear in their opinions

Findings:

1. On some political issues, our data shows that the majority of surveyed rural and urban women leaders support a two-party system in the country for a healthy and vibrant democracy.
2. Many women leaders believed that multi-party political system was the way out of Indian politics.
3. Many women leaders agree with the statement that individual freedom can be preserved when people actively participate in political activities.
4. Interestingly, more than half of the women leaders surveyed in both rural and urban areas agreed that only elections were necessary to change the current political structure.
5. Although many women leaders are not convinced that the country's governance will go well in the form of President's rule. Under parliamentary government.

Suggestions:

1. A comparative study of role performance can be done by analyzing the differences between men and women.
2. Various factors can be studied that contribute to the development of women's leadership positions
3. Although similar studies have been conducted with a larger sample of women politicians, different findings should be examined and different theoretical explanations should be explored.
4. Future research can be done on the performance of mandal representatives at the district level in panchayat raj institutions
5. Future research on women's outcomes in middle-income countries could use qualitative methods such as in-depth studies, research reports, and participant observation.

Reference:

¹ "Khammam". *Telangana state portal*. Retrieved 15 June 2015.

² "Krishna District Mandals" (PDF). *Census of India*. p. 145. Retrieved 21 February 2016.

³ "Provisional Population Totals, Census of India 2011 Cities having population 1 lakh and above" (PDF). *The Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India*. Retrieved 7 July 2014.

⁴ "Khammam Municipality upgraded". *The Hindu*. 20 October 2012.