

Participation of Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) In India: A Case Study in Dibrugarh District of Assam

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Abstract

India is a country of villages and about 70 percent of its population lives in rural areas. Rural development can only change the socio-economic life of the people as well as the national economy of the country. Rural women can play an important role in the development of rural areas as they constitute about half of the total rural population. Therefore, their active participation in socio-economic and political processes is necessary for the overall growth and development of rural areas. There are various provisions in the Constitution of India for the empowerment of women. The 73rd Amendment Act provides some important provisions to encourage women to participate in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. In this study, an attempt has been made to know about the participation of rural women in the Panchayati Raj System. It is a case study conducted within the district of Dibrugarh, Assam. From the study, it is found that women are politically empowered after the inclusion of the reservation provision for women in the 73rd Amendment Act. The number of women participating in politics is increasing at a higher rate than men. The study also reveals that all the representatives are not equally competent to perform their duties.

Keywords: Participation, politics, decision-making, constitution, panchayat, rural, empower, PRI, amendment.

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