

## A STUDY ON POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN HARYANA

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**ABSTRACT:** *Women are an integral part of every society and they play an important role in the survival and development of humanity and society as men do. In India women participate in voting, run for public offices and political parties, it is not related to voting but it also relates to participation in decision making and activism in politics and voting are the strongest areas of women's political participation. The Indian Government has instituted reservations for seats in local governments to combat gender inequality in politics. Indian women have held the posts of president and prime minister, as well as chief ministers of various states. The purpose of this paper is to understand the participation of women in local governance in Haryana, also the women's participation in the Rewari district of Haryana in Panchayati Raj Institutions. The study is basically depended on secondary data which is collected through various research paper, research reports, journal, books and internet. Percentage, averages, tabulation and graph is used for the data analysis. The study concluded that women's participation in Rewari and in Haryana is good, because elected women are in 42 % (Approx.) but it was less than 50% (equality).*

**Key Words:** : *Political Parties, Indian Women, Participation, Haryana*

### INTRODUCTION

Women are an integral part of every society and they play an important role in the survival and development of humanity and society as men do. As in many nationalist movements, women in India already took part in the struggle, in turn propelling a women's rights movement. The first post-independence Lok Sabha (the People's Council or the Parliament) had 4.4% women, which has increased two-fold to 45 in the 14th Lok Sabha. Similarly, in Rajya Sabha the percentage of women members has never crossed 12 per cent. These facts certainly lead us to conclude that there is a need for positive action in favour of women. Women's Reservation Bill that is still pending underscores the lack of political will to empower women politically. The male power prevails in the politics of India and women are forced to remain mute spectators.

The issue of political empowerment of women came to the forefront of the global debate at "United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held at Beijing in 1995. Women's equal access to, and full participation in decision-making was emphasized in the various stage was one of the vital areas of concern. It obviously declared that Women's equal participation in politics plays a pivotal role in the general process of the advancement of women.

Equal participation of women is not only a requirement for simple justice or democracy but also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account. Women empowerment is a multi-dimensional process and it should facilitate women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life. This is consists the greater access to knowledge and resources, greater autonomy in decision making to enable them to have greater ability to plan their lives, or to have greater control over the situation that influences their lives and free from shocks obligatory on them by custom, belief and practice. A strong patriarchy society with a deep-rooted socio-cultural value, that continues to affect women's empowerment in India. The need of the hour is an equal society, where there is no place for superiority. The Government of India should identify and eliminate such forces that work to keep alive the tradition of male dominance over its female equal by issuing inhumane and unlawful hindrances.

In pursuance of this concept of empowerment of women, the 73rd Amendment Act and the 74th Amendment Act reserved seats for women at the grassroots level bodies and governance, namely the Panchayats and municipalities with the hope that these will measure and set the trend to provide women with their lawful place in public life. Participation of women in the political field is integral to the advancement of women. Their political participation means not only having the right to using their vote, but also power-sharing, co-decision-making, and co-policy-making at all levels of governance of the State.

Education is the most vital and crucial tool for women empowerment. It makes women aware and attentive to their rights and responsibilities. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao became a nationwide mass movement to empowering and educating the girl child.

In Haryana, the literacy rate has increased by 67.91% (2001) to 76.64% in 2011 according to the census 2011. There is significant progress in female literacy but there is inequality in the level of literacy, today situation of women and girl's education is one of the critical areas of concern in Haryana. 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1992 Panchayati Raj Act, which provided autonomy to the common and it also provided reservation of one-third of seats for women in every Panchayat and municipality, not less than one-third seats shall be reserved for women belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Panchayati Raj brought more than one million women as members and chairpersons of local bodies and governance. However, the performance and election of women vary in different states.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

**Veena Poonacha's (1997)** observed in the study that paradoxically, the 1990s also saw the enactment of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments aimed at the progressive devolution of political powers to local communities. Through these enactments, more than one million women for the first time in history enjoyed political power within local communities and governance and yet, despite the success of these experiments the women's movement has not been able to meet enough support to ensure that passage of the 81st or the 84th amendments through which women could gain the right to representation in the state legislature and the parliament.

**Ghosh (1997)** observed that no or little experience in organizational matters, low education status and young age group act upon each other for creating hurdles before the women members to participate effectively in Panchayati Raj activities

**Singh (2002)** described in his study of Sonapat district that most of the respondents were in middle age group, had male (73%), medium to low level of family education. Most of them (51%) had undergone training and 6 per cent of Gram Panchayat members expressed their affiliation to political party.

**Prasad & Haranath (2004)** described that participation of women in PRIs in Andhra Pradesh has resulted in social identities and the development of political awareness. It has created an support to become a part of mainstream political, economic and social life. In despite of many social and cultural limitations, women have proved better leaders than their male counterparts.

**National Commission on the Status of Women (2010)** suggested in its report that women are not much active despite coming into the field of politics. Even though women are brought into political institutions, no effort is made to transform the patriarchal nature and culture of institutions.

**Vikas Nandal (2013)** studied that after the constitutional safeguards and legal frameworks, the participation is still very low. There are three indicators to assess the political participation of women that is participation in the political process as the voters and candidates in election, political attitudes and involvement in politics and autonomy in political action and behaviour their impact on the political process.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the concepts of women empowerment.
- To study the political empowerment of women in Haryana as well as selected district.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is exploratory cum descriptive in nature. For the study we selected randomly Rewari district in Haryana state. In Rewari, we studied the women's political empowerment in local governance. In local governance we study the women's participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions i.e. Gram Panchayat Chairperson (Sarpanch), Member of Panchayat (Panch), Member Block Samiti and Member Zila Parishad. For the present study secondary data was used. Secondary data was collected from various government records and other sources. Simple statistical tools were used in the while tabulation and chart and analyse and interpretation of the data.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The present study will considered the concept of political empowerment of women in Haryana. It will provide the help to understand the women's participation in Haryana and Rewari district of Haryana. The study will consider that Panchayati Raj Act and its amendment gives women 1/3 reservation in Haryana and it shows the positive and significant impact on women because in Haryana averagely 42 per cent women are elected at present in local governance.

**STRUCTURE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS**

The structure of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India different from state to state and generate by state legislators which were also varied; some states had a 3 tier structure of Panchayats at the village and some states had a 2 tier structure at the village block or district level. There is a few states in India had only a single tier Panchayat at the village level. India’s experiment with democratic decentralization started in Rajasthan with the formal inauguration of Panchayati Raj by Jawaharlal Nehru at Nagaur, Rajasthan in 1959. The Rajasthan model of PR revolved around the three statutory institutions viz.-Village Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad. This structure may be seen in the 73rd amendment act.

**The Three-Tier System of Panchayati Raj in India-** The states of Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim have two-tier panchayats- One is the village level and the other is the Zila or District level. In all other states, Panchayati Raj is a three-tier system-

- **Village Level**
- **Block Level**
- **District Level**

**Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)-**

In India, Women are much better represented in the Panchayati Raj Institutions as compared as the Parliament. The total representation of women in all three tiers of the Panchayat amounted to 36.87%. It seems to the Indian Constitution, mandating at least 1/3rd of the seats in all tiers of the Panchayat. A further Amendment to the proposed in 2009, increasing the reservation to 50%, but that was not passed. There are some states in India such as Bihar has 50% reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj as per the State Legislation, but not all the states in India have adopted similar legislation.

According to the census 2011, in Haryana, the literacy rate has increased by 67.91% (2001) to 76.64% in 2011. There is a significant improvement in female literacy but there are disparities in the level of literacy, today situation of women and girl’s education is one of the critical areas of concern in Haryana.

There are some numbers of obstacles of women participation in polities such as-

- Illiteracy
- Work and Family
- Lack of Political Networks
- Lack of Financial Support
- Societal and Cultural Norms

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

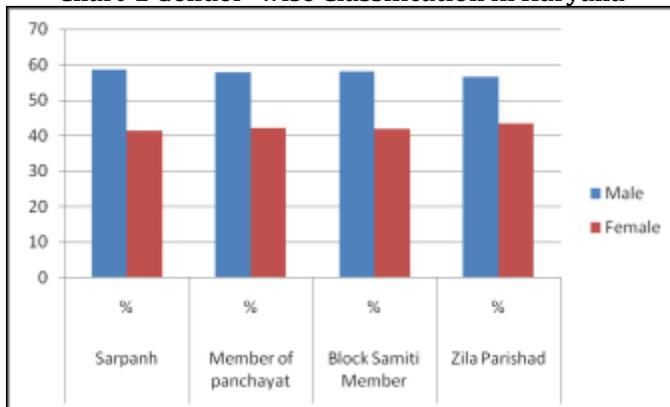
**An analysis of Haryana Woman Representative in Panchayati Raj Institutions -**

**Table-1 Gender- Wise Classification in Haryana**

Gender	Sarpanchs		Panchayat Member		Block Samiti Member		Zila Parishad Member	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Male</b>	3621	58.54	34941	57.81	1739	58.02	235	56.50
<b>Female</b>	2565	41.46	25495	42.19	1258	41.98	181	43.50
<b>Total</b>	6186	100	60436	100	2997	100	416	100

Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>

**Chart-1 Gender- wise Classification in Haryana**



Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>

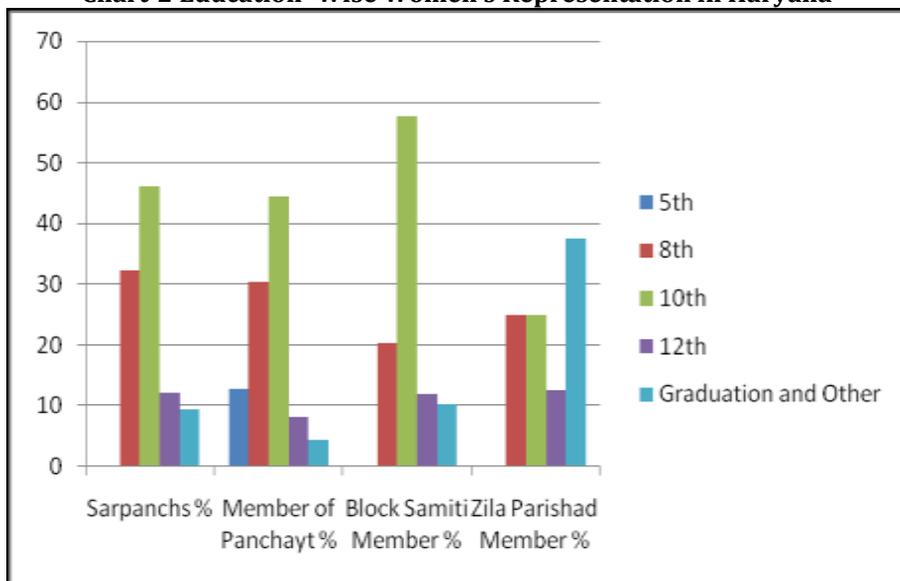
**Inferences:** It is found from the table-1 and chart1 that women’s participation in gram panchayat’s chairperson and member is 41.46 percent and 42.19 percent respectively, while in Block Samiti is 41.98 percent. Maximum participation of women is in Zila Parishad that is 43.50 percent. Averagely participation of women is 42 percent (approx.) in Panchayati Raj Institutions of Haryana.

**Table: 2 Education- Wise Women’s Representation of Haryana**

Education	Sarpanch	Member of Panchayat	Block Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
5 <sup>th</sup>	0 (0)*	3717 (14.58)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3717 (12.60)
8 <sup>th</sup>	832 (32.44)	7116 (27.91)	334 (26.55)	35 (19.34)	8317 (28.19)
10 <sup>th</sup>	1146 (44.68)	11576 (45.40)	633 (50.32)	73 (40.33)	13428 (45.53)
12 <sup>th</sup>	318 (12.40)	2174 (8.53)	206 (16.38)	28 (15.47)	2726 (9.24)
Graduation and Other	269 (10.48)	912 (3.58)	85 (6.75)	45 (24.86)	1311 (4.44)
<b>Total</b>	2565 (100)	25495 (100)	1258 (100)	181 (100)	29499 (100)

\*Figures in parentheses are percentage. (Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>)

**Chart-2 Education- Wise Women’s Representation in Haryana**



Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>

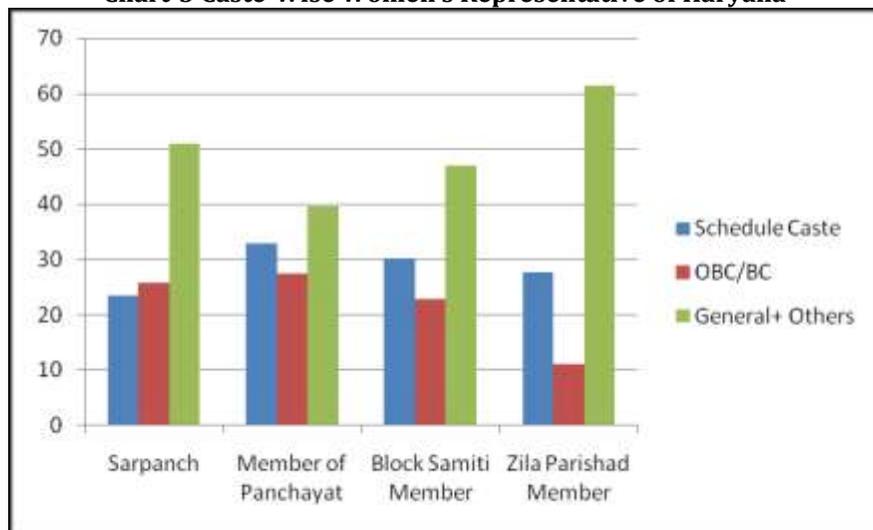
**Inferences:** From the table 2 and chart-2 it is found that maximum women having the education of 10<sup>th</sup> class in all level of Panchayati Raj Institutions in all over Haryana. It happened because the vision of Haryana government through the *Padhi Likhi Panchayat*. Only 14.58 percent women are having the education of primary level which belongs to member of panchayat (Panch).

**Table: 3 Caste-Wise Women’s Representative of Haryana**

Caste	Sarpanch	Member of Panchayat	Block Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
Schedule Caste	600 (23.40)*	8365 (32.81)	379 (30.13)	50 (27.62)	9494 (31.85)
OBC/BC	661 (25.77)	7008 (27.49)	288 (22.89)	20 (11.05)	7977 (27.04)
General+ Others	1304 (50.83)	10122 (39.70)	591 (46.98)	111 (61.33)	12128 (41.11)
<b>Total</b>	2565 (100)	25495 (100)	1258 (100)	181 (100)	29499 (100)

\*Figures in parentheses are percentage (Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>)

**Chart-3 Caste-Wise Women’s Representative of Haryana**



Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in>

**Inferences:** Table 3 and chart-3 shows caste wise representative of women in which general +others caste’s women having maximum portion in all level of local bodies i.e. Sarpanch, Member of panchayat, member of block Samiti and Zila Parishad Member as well as all over Haryana that was 41.11 percent.

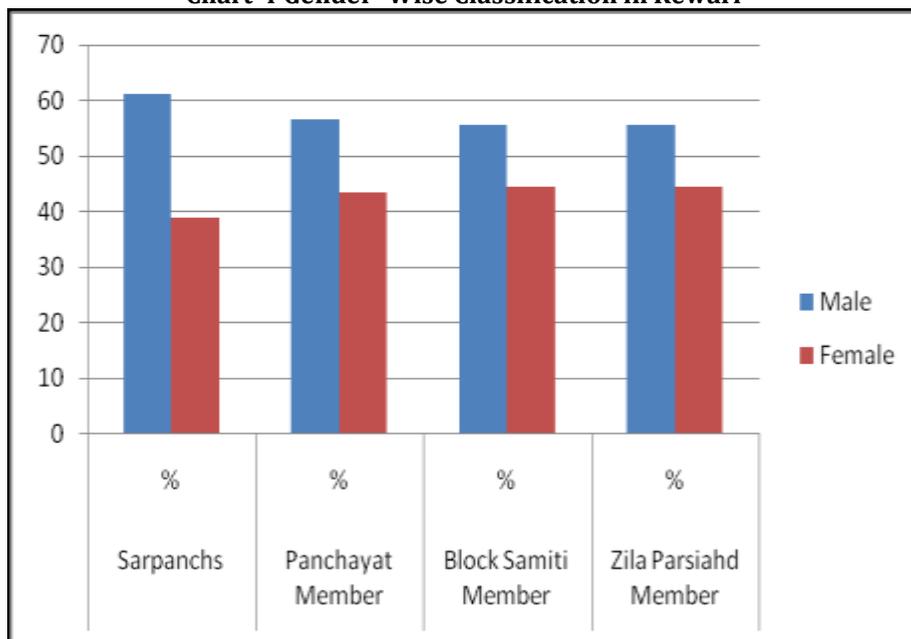
**An analysis of Rewari district of Panchayat woman representative -**

**Table-4 Gender -Wise Classification of Rewari**

Gender	Sarpanchs		Panchayat Member		Block Samiti Member		Zila Parsiahd Member	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Male</b>	219	61.17	1779	56.49	74	55.64	10	55.55
<b>Female</b>	139	38.83	1370	43.51	59	44.36	8	44.44
<b>Total</b>	358	100	3149	100	133	100	18	100

Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>

**Chart-4 Gender -Wise Classification in Rewari**



Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>

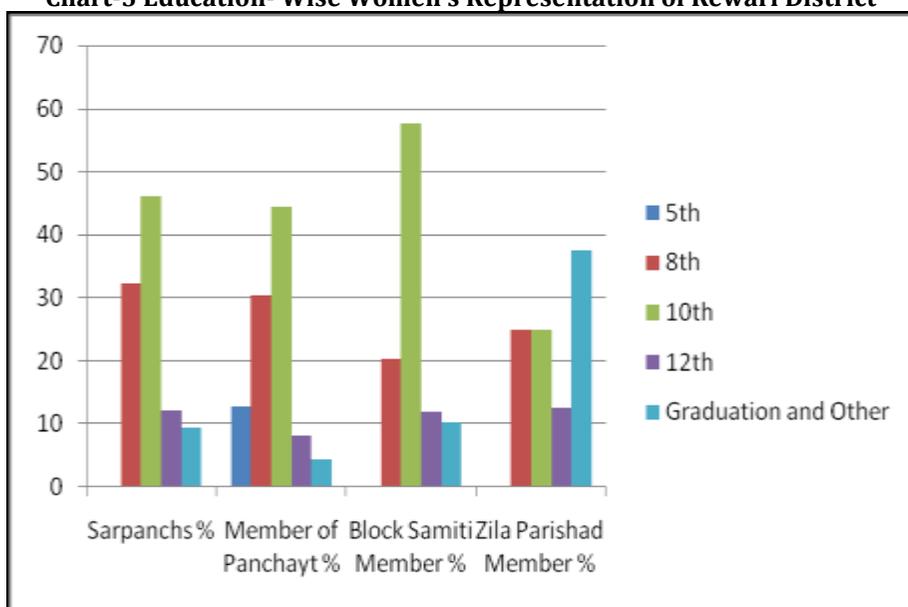
**Inferences:** From the table-4 and chart-4 we can see that women's are 38.83 percent as Sarpanch in Rewari district that is the lower with comparison of Haryana that is 41.46 percent. While the other level of Panchayati Raj Institutions is 44 percent (approx.) that was the higher from average of the Haryana's participation (42) percent.

**Table: 5 Education- Wise Women's Representation of Rewari District**

Education	Sarpanch	Member of Panchayat	Block Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
5 <sup>th</sup>	0 (0)*	175 (12.78)	0 (0)	0 (0)	175 (11.10)
8 <sup>th</sup>	45 (32.38)	415 (30.30)	12 (20.34)	2 (25.00)	474 (30.08)
10 <sup>th</sup>	64 (46.04)	608 (44.38)	34 (57.63)	2 (25.00)	708 (44.50)
12 <sup>th</sup>	17 (12.23)	111 (08.10)	7 (11.86)	1 (12.5)	136 (8.63)
Graduation and Other	13 (09.35)	59 (04.31)	6 (10.17)	3 (37.5)	81 (5.14)
<b>Total</b>	139 (100)	1370 (100)	59 (100)	8 (100)	1576 (100)

\*Figures in parentheses are percentage. (Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>)

**Chart-5 Education- Wise Women's Representation of Rewari District**



Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>

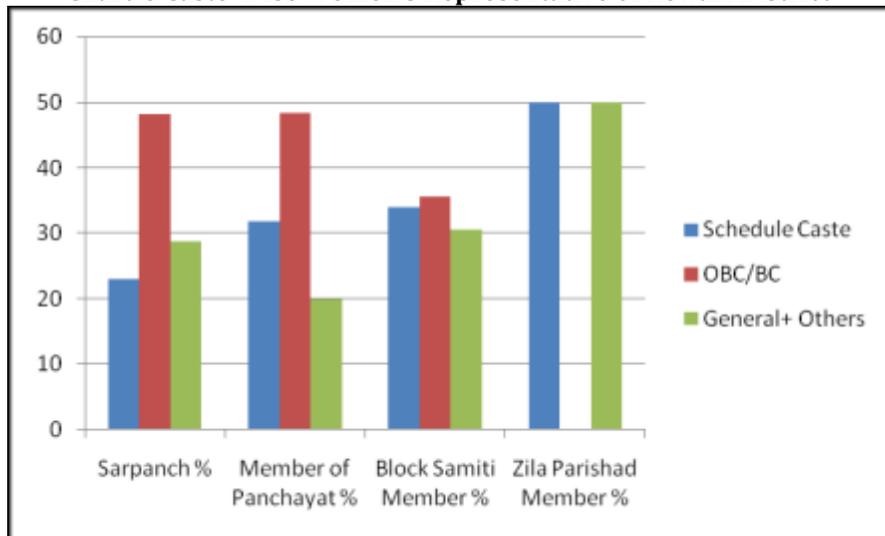
**Inferences:** Table 5 and chart-5 shows the education wise women's participation of Rewari district. 46.04 percent Sarpanch women are educated with 10<sup>th</sup> class and in member of Panchayat are 44.38 percent. In block Samiti member 57.63 percent women out of 59 women having education 10<sup>th</sup> class. But Zila parishad member maximum women (37.5) are graduated and other degree/Diploma.

**Table: 6 Caste-Wise Women's Representative of Rewari District**

Caste	Sarpanch	Member of Panchayat	Block Samiti Member	Zila Parishad Member	Total
Schedule Caste	32 (23.02)*	435 (31.75)	20 (33.90)	4 (50.00)	491 (31.15)
OBC/BC	67 (48.20)	662 (48.32)	21 (35.60)	0 (0)	750 (47.59)
General+ Others	40 (28.78)	273 (19.93)	18 (30.51)	4 (50.00)	335 (21.26)
<b>Total</b>	139 (100)	1370 (100)	59 (100)	8 (100)	1576 (100)

\*Figures in parentheses are percentage (Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>)

**Chart-6 Caste-Wise Women's Representative of Rewari District**



Sources: <http://prielections.nic.in/>

**Inferences:** It is found from the table 6 and chart-6 that backward caste (BC) and other backward caste's women representation is high as Sarpanch, Member of Panchayat, Block Samiti Member than other caste. Women in BC/OBC having zero participation in Zila Parishad Member and SC Women having half participation and other half of Zila Parishad Member is goes to general and others caste.

#### **FINDINGS**

1. From above Analysis we can say that women's participation at various levels of PRIs is less than 50 percent.
2. Only 3717 women out of 29499 having primary level education in Haryana, while it is 175 women out of 1576 in Rewari.
3. 12128 women that was elected in different level of PRIs in Haryana is belongs to General caste + others.
4. 750 women from OBC/BC elected in Rewari district. In Zila Parishad member no OBC/BC women was elected.

#### **CONCLUSION**

In Haryana Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) legislation reserve 1/3 seat for women and it having important and significant effect because averagely 42 percent women's are elected at different level in PRIs of Haryana. Although it is need for all (family, society, country) to respond to women's participation and remove the all hurdles and create a safe environment. The representation ratio of women is less than 50% in PRIs in Haryana. So there is need of some number of women representations in PRIs to secure the future of women and social, economic and political development of women in Haryana. We can conclude that women direction could be a method within which women gain managing over their own lives by knowing and claiming their rights in the slightest degree levels of society viz., international, national, native and house.

#### **LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The study is conducted only one aspects of women's empowerment that is political empowerment of women. It contains the local governance or Panchayati Raj Institutions and municipalities' bodies. Further limitation of the study is the conducted in the Rewari district and Haryana. The further studies will be conducted many district and many states of India. Also the study based on some demographical variable like education and caste and gender wise comparison in Haryana and in Rewari. It may be included others socio demographical variables like age, income, occupation, agriculture land, and family etc. the present study is conducted on secondary data. The research study may be conducted on primary data.

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