Determinants of Political Participation of SHG Women

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ABSTRACT: The present paper is focused on political participation and the political consciousness of SHG women. Considering the issues of women empowerment is assumed as one of the determinants of Political participation with objective to analyse the socio-economic factors of Political participation. The study embodied a sizeable primary data and using logistic regression analyses. Age, education, family size, caste, working status, saving, income, expenditure and total assets are independent variables while position held or not is considered as dependent variable to examine the political participation in rural, tribal and total sample respondents. The analysis reveals in rural area, age, education, BC and SC castes, income, expenditure and total assets variables have more impact than other variables on political participation. In tribal area, saving, income, expenditure and total assets have more impact than other variables on political participation.

I.   INTRODUCTION

AmartyaSen opines that there are systematic disparities in the freedom that men and women enjoy in different societies and these disparities are often not reducible to differences in income or resources. While differential wages or payment rates constitute the important part of gender inequality in most societies there are other spheres of differential benefits. There is a lot of indirect evidence of differential treatment of women and men and particularly of girls and boys in many parts of the world, e.g. among the rural families in Asia(Sen, 1995).

Over the years, the planning strategies on women and children in the country have evolved from „Welfare to development and to empowerment". The First Five Year Plan provided adequate services to promote the welfare of the women. It stressed the community development approach. The Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans continued the same approach for the welfare of the women. Education, employment opportunities and socio economic programmes for women were introduced.   The Report of Committee on Status of Women in India entitled „Towards Equality" which revealed that the dynamics of development has adversely affected women and created new imbalances and disparities. The report led to the emergence of new consciousness of women as critical input for nationaldevelopment rather than as target for welfare policies (Aruna, 2009).

Women Representation in Institutional Politics

Indian women had little representation in institutional politics since independence. There was more concern in the last two decades towards increasing women's participation in political institutions thereby leading to empowerment. Affirmative action has been accepted as a means to political empowerment. Leadership is necessary not just to govern but to change the nature of governance. Unfortunately affirmative action and women participation have failed to move beyond local government in India. The root to the participation of women in politics can be traced back to 19[th]century reform movement. The early 19th century social reforms and educational programmes initiated by various social reformersdealt with the social evils prevalent in the society. They thought that social change could be initiated by educating women and bringing progressive legislation. Social evils can be eradicated by raising consciousness and making people sensitive to injustice done to women. Social reformers like Rajaram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, MahadevaGovindaRanade, BehramjiMalabari raised their voices against the prevailing practices and social customs subjugating women. Their efforts rallied around issues affecting women's life adversely such as the practice of sati, female infanticide, plight of the widows, child marriage, polygamy etc. (Sinha, 2000).

Empowerment and Political Participation

Empowerment of women is a necessary basic condition for socio-economic development of any society. Although women constitute one half of the population, they continue to be subjugated, unequal in

socioeconomic and political status. Women have been struggling for self-respect and autonomy. Since mid-1980 owing to questioning by women they about their oppressed status and plight through varied women's movements, the issue of 'women empowerment' came into focus. Empowerment is a 'process that enhances the ability of disadvantaged (powerless) individuals and groups to challenge and change (in their favor) existing power relationships that place them in subordinate economic, social and political position' (Samitha, 2000).

During last two decades empowerment has become a popular dialogue in concerning human development and socio-economic progress of the country(Kabeer, 2001). Empowerment allows individuals to reach their full potential, to improve their political and social participation, and to believe in theirown capabilities (Rosen &Schultz, 1982). Political empowerment ofwomen is imperative for women's empowerment, because greater number of women in politics will support women cause at every level(Oxaal&Baden, 1997).

Political empowerment is the capacity to influence decision-making process, planning, implementation and evaluation by integrating them into the political system. It implies political participation which includes right to vote, contest, campaign, party membership and representation in political office at all levels and effectively influences decisions thereby leading to political empowerment(Subha&Bargava, 2000).

Significance of the Study

The discussion made in the previous sections is significant in understanding the situation of women in the political participation context. Empowerment resulting in increasing political participation is through economic Interventions such as employment, income generation and access to credit and integrated rural development programmes. Empowerment is assumed as one of the determinants of Political participation because empowerment is provides women a space for exercising their strength and opportunities that have abilities to solve their problems and commitment to reduce gender disparity. The empowerment of women regarding social, economic and political are interrelated. There are so many studies focusing on the contribution of self-help groups towards economic empowerment of women. Thus, this study is focused on political empowerment of women. The political consciousness and level of participation of women has been explored. Thus, the study is being pursued considering the above-discussed issues on women empowerment is assumed as one of the determinants of Political participation with following objectives an attempt has been made to understand and analyse the political participation of women with special reference to SHG women in selected North Coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Objectives
➢ To examine the socio-economic aspects of SHG women in the Study area.
➢ To analyse the determinants of Political participation of SHG women in the Study area.

Hypotheses
H_0: Socio-economic factors not determine political participation.
H_1: Socio-economic factors determine political participation.

II.   METHODOLOGY
The study embodied a sizeable primary data, which was collected by way of canvassing a questionnaire among selected sample of respondents. For survey, three districts (Visakhapatnam (VSKP), Vizianagaram (VZM) and Srikakulam (SKLM)) of North Coastal region of Andhra Pradesh have been selected, as the characteristic features of these districts are more or less similar. For data collection, a multi-stage stratified random sampling design was adopted. The sample has been drawn in such a way that all the households have equal chance of selection.

District is a sample unit at the first stage. At the second stage, Revenue Mandal was selected. The Study has selected Revenue Mandal for rural and tribal areas separately. From each sampled Revenue Mandal, three villages were selected at random. From each chosen village, 25 households were selected on the basis of systematic sampling from the SHGs list from Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) reports. Thus, from 18 villages, 450 households were selected in North Costal Andhra. Out of 450 households 225 for rural area and 225 for tribal are total were selected.

Logistic regression, being well suited for analyzing dichotomous outcomes, has been increasingly applied in social science research. Logistic regression is well suited for studying the relation between a categorical or qualitative outcome variable and one or more predictor variables. In the simplest case of one predictor X (say, IQ score) and one dichotomous outcome variable Y (say, diagnosed to be learning disabled), the logistic model predicts the Logitof Y from X.

$$\ln\left(\frac{\pi}{1-\pi}\right) = \log(odds) = logit = \alpha + \beta x.$$

$$\text{Hence, } \pi = \text{Probability}(Y = \text{outcome of interest} \lfloor X = x) = \frac{e^{\alpha+\beta x}}{1 + e^{\alpha+\beta x}},$$

Where π is the probability of the outcome of interest, or the "event", under variable Y, α is the Y intercept, and α is the slope parameter. X can be categorical or continuous, whereas Y is always categorical. Although a categorical variable may yield two or more possible categories, we focus on dichotomous outcomes only (Peng& So, 2002).

III.   RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic background of a community considerably influences the attitudes, values and perceptions of the individuals composing it. So for the proper analysis of the role of social factors to political participation, a brief account of socio-economic profile of sample respondents in particular is presented in this section. The institutions do not work in vacuum; the given socio-economic and political circumstances determine the shape of the institutional process. The socio-economic variables to a great extent determine the variations in political participation level. Political behaviour like any other aspects of human behaviour takes place in a particular socio-economic and cultural milieu. It is affected by social structure, economic development and historical factors combining together. Background characteristics of an individual play an important role in formulating his/her preference and decisions. With this background this section presents the socio-economic characteristics of the selected sample respondents.

Social Community

Table-1 reveals the picture of sample respondent's distribution based on social community. Out of total 450 sample respondents 56.9 per cent are belongs o ST community followed by BC community (21.8%), SC community (12.4%) and OC community (8.9%). Out of total 225 respondents in rural areas 43.6 per cent are belongs to BC community followed by SC community   (24.9%), OC community (17.8%) and ST community (13.8%). Only ST community people are selected in all the three districts in tribal areas.

Age

Age-wise classification of sample respondents is presented in Table-2. As the study is focused on political empowerment of SHG women, the respondents who has voting right i.e., above 18 years are only considered. Out of total 450 sample respondents, more number of respondents are belongs to 40-49 age group (43.8%) followed by 50-59 age group (32%), 18-39 age group (22.4%) and 60 & above age group (1.8%). In rural sample households, 40-49 age group (48%) placed in first position out of 225 sample respondents followed by 50-59 age group (32.9%), 18-39 age group (16.9%) and 60 & above age group (5%). Almost all the three districts are followed similar pattern. Out of 225 sample respondents in tribal areas, 40-49 age group (39.6%) occupied first position followed by 50-59 age group (31.1%), 18-39 age group (28%) and 60 & above age group (1.3%).

Education

Table-3 reveals sample respondents classification based on education level.Out of 450 sample respondents, 74.2 per cent are illiterates. Among the literate sample respondents, 11.3 per cent are educated up to primary level, 10.7 per cent are up to secondary level, 3.6 per cent are up to post-secondary level and only 0.2 per cent is studied technical education. In the case of literate sample respondents, primary education level received first place followed by secondary, post-secondary and technical education levels. In rural areas out of 225 sample respondents, 64.4 per cent are illiterates. Among the literate respondents, majority of them are completed secondary education level (16.9%) followed by primary education level (13.3%) and post-secondary education level (5.3%). None of the sample respondents is obtained technical education. In tribal areas out of 225 sample respondents 84 per cent are illiterates. In literate respondents, majority of them are completed primary education level (9.3%) followed by secondary education level (4.4%), post-secondary education level (1.8%) and technical education level (0.4%).

Family Size

Table-4 shows the pattern of family size-wise classification of sample respondents. Out of total 450 sample respondents, majority are belongs to 1-4 family size group (62.4%) followed by 5-6 family size group (27.3%) and 7 & above family size group (10.2%). This pattern is observed in both rural and tribal areas. This

pattern clearly reveal the transformation of Indian society i.e., from traditional joint family system to modern nuclear family system.

Working Status
Sample respondents classification based on working status is presented in Table-5. Out of total 450 sample respondents 91.8 per cent are workers. In rural areas out of 225 sample respondents 92.4 per cent are workers and in tribal areas 91.1 per cent of sample respondents are workers out of total 225 sample respondents.

Total Income
Sample respondents classification based on total income is presented in Table-6. Out of total 450 sample respondents 8.4 per cent are belongs to lowest total income group i.e., Rs. Below 10000 while 41.8 per cent are belongs to highest total income group i.e., Rs. more than 30000. In rural areas 6.7 per cent of sample respondents are belongs to lowest total income group while 62.7 per cent are belongs to highest total income group. In tribal areas 10.2 per cent of sample respondents are belongs to lowest total income group and 20.9 per cent are recorded in highest total income group.

Total Assets
Table-8 presents sample respondents classification based on total assets. Out of total 450 sample respondents" majority of them belongs to Rs. 50001-100000 (25.1%) worth total assets group followed by Rs. 25001-50000 (24.4%) and Rs. Below 25000 (21.6%). In rural areas out of 225 sample respondents more number of sample respondents are belongs to the total assets group worth Rs. 50001-100000 (25.3%) followed by Rs. more than 150000 (24.4%) and Rs. 25001-50000 (20.9%). In tribal areas more number of sample respondents belongs to total assets worth Rs. below 25000 (30.2%) followed by Rs. 25001-50000 (28%) and Rs. 50001-100000 (24.9%).

Saving
Sample respondents distribution based on saving amount is shown in Table-9. Out of 133 sample respondents more number of respondents is saving in the range of Rs. 10001-15000 (28.6%). In rural areas out of 84 sample respondents, 23.8 per cent of respondents are saving in the ranges of Rs. 10001-15000 and Rs. above 20000. In tribal areas out of 49 sample respondents, 36.7 per cent of respondents belong to savings amount in the range of Rs.10001-15000.

Political Participation
Table-10 presented sample respondents distribution based on their political participation. Out of 450 sample respondents only 34.2 per cent respondents are participating at various levels. In rural areas out of 225 sample respondents only 38.7 per cent are participating in politics. In tribal areas 29.8 per cent of sample respondents only have position out of 225 respondents. From the table it is clear that more number of rural respondents more when compared to tribal respondents.

Logistic Regression analysis
Age, education, family size, caste, working status, saving, income, expenditure and total assets are independent variables while position held or not is considered as dependent variable to examine the political participation in rural, tribal and total sample respondents.

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + \beta_4 x_4 + \beta_5 x_5 + \beta_6 x_6 + \beta_7 x_7 + \beta_8 x_8 + \ldots + \mu$$

Y	=	Position held (yes = 1 otherwise 0)
X_1	=	Age of the respondent (in years)
X_2	=	Education of the respondent (in Schooling years)
X_3	=	Family size
X_4	=	Social community of the respondent (Dummy variable) (if OC =1 otherwise 0, BC=1 otherwise 0, SC =1 otherwise 0 and ST=α)
X_5	=	Working status of the respondent (Dummy variable if worker =1 otherwise 0)
X_6	=	Income level of household
X_7	=	Expenditure of household
X_8	=	Total assets
X_9	=	Saving (Dummy variable if saving is positive =1 otherwise 0)

Table-11 elicits information on logistic regression analysis for determinants of political participation. The impact of these variables is found through odds ratio – if odds ratio is more than it has more impact otherwise less impact. In rural area, age, education, BC and SC castes, income, expenditure and total assets variables have more impact than other variables on political participation. In tribal area, saving, income, expenditure and total assets have more impact than other variables on political participation. In total area, age, education, OC, BC and SC castes, income, expenditure and total assets variables have more impact than other variables on political participation. The model explains 2.81, 1.58 and 0.99 percentages of variation in political participation by all independent variables together in rural, tribal and total areas.

Table-11: Logistic Regression Analysis Result

Variables	Rural			Tribal			Total		
	Odds Ratio	z	P>|z|	Odds Ratio	z	P>|z|	Odds Ratio	z	P>|z|
Age	1.0073	0.460	0.646	0.9988	-0.080	0.934	1.0012	0.120	0.907
Education	1.0580	1.420	0.154	0.9895	-0.170	0.867	1.0261	0.810	0.417
Family size	0.9776	-0.330	0.745	0.9618	-0.340	0.733	0.9808	-0.330	0.738
Other Caste (OC)	0.6438	-0.670	0.505	-	-	-	1.1323	0.270	0.790
Backward Caste (BC)	1.2162	0.440	0.661	-	-	-	1.3283	1.020	0.309
Schedule Caste (SC)	1.2117	0.410	0.683	-	-	-	1.3355	0.890	0.374
Working status	0.4512	-1.610	0.108	0.7487	-0.470	0.640	0.5646	-1.550	0.121
Saving	0.5713	-1.410	0.158	1.5288	1.010	0.313	0.9084	-0.350	0.728
Income	1.0000	1.470	0.141	1.0000	-0.580	0.560	1.0000	0.550	0.583
Expenditure	1.0000	-0.120	0.908	1.0000	-0.850	0.393	1.0000	-0.530	0.597
Total assets	1.0000	0.420	0.672	1.0000	-0.270	0.785	1.0000	0.080	0.935
Model Summary									
No. of Observations	225			225			450		
LR chi2(11)	8.37			4.42			5.72		
Prob> chi2	0.6799			0.8175			0.8911		
Log likelihood	-144.47			-137.28			-286.26		
Pseudo R2	0.0281			0.0158			0.0099		
Source: Computed from primary data.									

IV. SUMMARY

It is very interesting to observe from this family size distribution of sample respondents that large number of respondents belongs to small family size are found in tribal areas than in rural areas and contrasting to it more number of respondents belongs to large family size are witnessed in rural areas when compared to tribal areas in the study area. It is clearly observed that illiteracy is found to be more in tribal areas than in rural areas and From the table it can be observed that tribal area has more sample respondents than rural areas in the case of lowest total income whereas rural area sample respondents are more when compared to tribal areas in highest total income group. More number of respondents are belongs to 40-49 age group followed by 50-59 age group, 18-39 age group and 60 & above age group. Majority of sample respondents are belongs to 1-4 family size group followed by 5-6 family size group and 7 & above family size group. Among the 74.2 percentage of literate sample respondents, more respondents are educated up to primary level followed by secondary level, post- secondary level and technical education.

Age, education, family size, caste, working status, saving, income, expenditure and total assets are independent variables while position held or not is considered as dependent variable to examine the political participation in rural, tribal and total sample respondents by employing logistic regression analysis. In rural area, age, education, BC and SC castes, income, expenditure and total assets variables have more impact than other variables on political participation. In tribal area, saving, income, expenditure and total assets have more impact than other variables on political participation. In total area, age, education, OC, BC and SC castes, income, expenditure and total assets variables have more impact than other variables on political participation.

Table-1 SocialCommunity

Area	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Rural	40 (17.8)	98 (43.6)	56 (24.9)	31 (13.8)	225 (100.0)
Tribal	-	-	-	225 (100.0)	225 (100.0)
Total	40 (8.9)	98 (21.8)	56 (12.4)	256 (56.9)	450 (100.0)

Table-2 Age

Area	1-18	18-39	40-49	50-59	60&above	Total
Rural	-	38 (16.9)	108 (48.0)	74 (32.9)	5 (2.2)	225 (100.0)
Tribal	-	63 (28.0)	89 (39.6)	70 (31.1)	3 (1.3)	225 (100.0)
Total	-	101 (22.4)	197 (43.8)	144 (32.0)	8 (1.8)	450 (100.0)

Table-3 Education

Area	Illiterate	Primary Education	Secondary Education	Post-Secondary Education	Technical Education	Total
Rural	145 (64.4)	30 (13.3)	38 (16.9)	12 (5.3)	-	225 (100.0)
Tribal	189 (84.0)	21 (9.3)	10 (54.4)	4 (1.8)	1 (0.4)	225 (100.0)
Total	334 (74.2)	51 (11.3)	48 (10.7)	16 (3.6)	1 (0.2)	450 (100.0)

Table-4 Family Size

Area	1-4	5-6	7& Above	Total
Rural	114 (50.7)	71 (31.6)	40 (17.8)	225 (100.0)
Tribal	167 (74.2)	52 (23.1)	6 (2.7)	225 (100.0)
Total	281 (62.4)	123 (27.3)	46 (10.2)	450 (100.0)

Table-5 Working Status

Area	Worker	Non-worker	Total
Rural	208 (92.4)	17 (7.6)	225 (100.0)
Tribal	205 (91.1)	20 (8.9)	225 (100.0)
Total	413 (91.8)	37 (8.2)	450 (100.0)

Table-6 TotalIncome

Area	Below10000	10001-20000	20001-30000	Morethan 30000	Total
Rural	15 (6.7)	28 (12.4)	41 (18.2)	141 (62.7)	225 (100.0)
Tribal	23 (10.2)	101 (44.9)	54 (24.0)	47 (20.9)	225 (100.0)
Total	38 (8.4)	129 (28.7)	95 (21.1)	188 (41.8)	450 (100.0)

Table-7 TotalExpenditure

Area	Lessthan 10000	10000-20000	20001-30000	Morethan 30000	Total
Rural	-	27 (12.0)	29 (12.9)	169 (75.1)	225 (100.0)
Tribal	2 (1.3)	18 (12.0)	29 (19.3)	101 (67.3)	150 (100.0)
Total	2 (0.4)	68 (15.1)	108 (24.0)	272 (60.4)	450 (100.0)

Table-8 TotalAssets

Area	Below 25000	25001-50000	50001-100000	100001-150000	Morethan 150000	Total
Rural	29 (12.9)	47 (20.9)	57 (25.3)	37 (16.4)	55 (24.4)	225 (100.0)
Tribal	68 (30.2)	63 (28.0)	56 (24.9)	22 (9.8)	16 (7.1)	225 (100.0)
Total	97 (21.6)	110 (24.4)	113 (25.1)	59 (13.1)	71 (15.8)	450 (100.0)

Table-9 Saving

Area	Up to 5000	5001-10000	10001-15000	15001-20000	Above 20000	Total
Rural	15 (17.9)	18 (21.4)	20 (23.8)	11 (13.1)	20 (23.8)	84 (100.0)
Tribal	15 (30.6)	9 (18.4)	18 (36.7)	4 (8.2)	3 (6.1)	49 (100.0)
Total	30 (22.6)	27 (20.3)	38 (28.6)	15 (11.3)	23 (17.3)	133 (100.0)

Table-10 PoliticalParticipation

Area	Yes	No	Total
Rural	87 (38.7)	138 (61.3)	225 (100.0)
Tribal	67 (29.8)	158 (70.2)	225 (100.0)
Total	154 (34.2)	296 (65.8)	450 (100.0)

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