An Analytical Study On Role Of Women Leaders In Urban Local Governance

Dr. Nasra Shabnam (Assistant Professor) Department of Adult & Continuing Education & Extension, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India. Correspondence Email-nshabnam@jmi.ac.in

Abstract

Political empowerment of women is the need of the hour to ensure inclusive growth in contemporary society. Women empowerment in local governance is recognized as an important requisite for the fulfillment of inclusive growth and sustainable development in the country. Decentralized forms of governance are believed to make the process of local democracy more inclusive by creating spaces for increased participation and wider representation by various marginalized or excluded groups from main stream political processes. Throughout the history, the central role of women in society has ensured the stability, progress and development of nations. India has a federal form of government, with devolved powers. Women's political participation has emerged as a key element of the political development in India. This paper focuses on the role of women in the urban local governance. The attempt of the paper is to study the attitude of the people towards the women as a leader and to study whether the women local leaders are executing their power and authority and to study whether women leaders are more sensitized towards the needs of women. This Paper also aims to study the attitude of people towards female local leaders in urban local governance. The data was collected through the primary source. The researchers developed interview schedule and collected data from randomly selected sample and location. The study reveals that women leaders are playing effective role in urban local governance and they shows concerns for inclusive development of the society and they are playing important role for women development.

Keywords: Women Local Leader, Urban Local Governance, Development.

Introduction:

The term 'political participation' is not only related to 'Right to Vote', but simultaneously relates to participation in: decision-making process, political activism, political consciousness. Women in India participate in voting, run for public offices and political parties at lower levels more than men. Political activism and voting are the strongest areas of women's political participation. For women, urbanization can facilitate: increased legal protection; the narrowing of gender gaps in primary schooling and higher university attendance; improved access to

services and infrastructure; greater employment opportunities; and a relaxation of gendered sociocultural restrictions compared with rural settings To combat gender inequality in politics, the Indian Government has instituted reservations for seats in local governments. Women empowerment in urban society is similar to that of other structure, that is, not many women are involved in it, especially in the decision making bodies. It is hard for them to participate in public spheres such as the political, administrative, judiciary and trade union due to cultural barriers, low educational levels, domestic responsibilities and other problems. The empowerment of women needs to develop and utilize women's full potential a resources for national development in it economic, political and social-cultural matters. Economic growth does not necessarily lead to human development.

Need of the present study was to know the socio – economic profile of the participants to study the attitude of the people towards women as a leader to study whether women local leaders are executing their power/ authority and also to study whether women leaders are more sensitized towards needs of women The primary aim of the paper is to know and under the people's review towards the female politicians and their demand over male and female politician's. The study was conducted on a small sample of two communities Sangam Vihar and Taimoor Nagar in Delhi region

Objective

1. To know the socioeconomic profile of the participants.
2. To study the attitude of the people towards women as a leader.
3. To study whether women local leaders are executing their power and authority.
4. To study whether women leaders are more sensitized towards needs of women.

Methodology

The present study is research is an exploratory and descriptive study. The data was collected through survey method. Interview schedule was developed by the researchers to collect information from the sample of the study. It was administered on a sample of randomly selected 40 families out of them 28 were from Sangam Vihar and 12 were from Taimoor Nagar. Data collected through interview schedules were tabulated and analyzed by the researchers. Interpretations and conclusions were drawn on the basis of analysis.

Sample

The researchers used purposive random Sampling Method for data collection. The sample comprised with Forty families of two different communities from Delhi region i.e. Sangam Vihar and Taimoor nagar.

Tool used in the study

The researchers used an interview schedule comprising of socioeconomic profile related statements and Urban governance and the role of women in urban governance statements.

Data Analysis

Keeping in view the objectives of the study the collected data was analyzed by using appropriate statistical methods and tools.

INTERPRETATIONS

1. Socioeconomic Profile: - The social and economic condition of the respondents have been dealt with respect to these variables: age, gender, religion, caste, income, type of house.

1.1 **Age Group**

Table 1.1 Age group wise distribution

S.no	Age	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	19-26 years	27	67.5%
2	27-34 years	03	7.5%
3	35-42 years	04	10%
4	43-50 years	03	7.5%
5	51-58 years	01	2.5%
6	59-66 years	02	5%
	Total	40	100%

Source primary data

The age group of the selected respondents from the communities is presented in Table 1.1. It can be noted from the table the highest number of the respondents are from 19-26% and least are from age 51-58%. The age group of the respondents were 18 above.

1.2 Gender

Table 1.2 Gender wise distribution

S.No	Gender	Sangam Vihar	Percentage
1.	Male	22	55%

2	Female	18	45%
	Total	40	100%

Source primary data

The above table 1.2 shows based on collected data gender distribution of the total respondents from two communities is shown . From the above table this can be seen that total number of 22 male respondents have reverted to the questions i.e. 55% and about 18 females i.e. 45% of the total respondents.

1.3 Religion

Table 1.3 Religion wise distribution

S.no	Religion	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Hindu	29	72.5%
2	Muslim	09	22.5%
3	Sikh	01	2.5%
4	Christian	01	2.5%
	Total	40	100%

Primary Source

The above data shown in table 1.3 reveals the number of respondents with their religions based on the collected data. Out of 40 respondents from 29 respondents are Hindu, 09 are Muslim, 01 is Sikh and 01 is Christian respondents.

1.4 Caste

Table 1.4 Caste wise distribution

S.no	Caste	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	OBC	13	32.5%
2	General	22	55%
3	SC	05	12.5%

Source Primary data

The above table 1.4 shows caste wise distribution of the respondents with their religion based on the collected the data and it shows that 55% respondent families are General and 32.5% OBC and 12.5% are SC.

4266 | Dr. Nasra Shabnam   An Analytical Study On Role Of Women Leaders In Urban Local Governance

1.5 Type of House

Table 1.5 House wise distribution

S.no	Type of house	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Owned house	21	52.5%
2	Rented house	19	47.5%
	Total	40	100%

Source primary data

The above table 1.5 show the type of house based on the collected data that 21 families have owned house and 19 families have Rented house.

1.7 Income

Table 1.7 Income wise Distribution

S.no	Income	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	10,000 & below	06	15%
2	10,000 – 20,000	20	50%
3	20,000 – 30,000	08	20%
4	30,000 – 40,000	03	7.5%
5	40,000 – 50,000	03	7.5%
	Total	28	100%

Source Primary data

The above table shows the data based on the collected data that 50% family earns 10,000-20,000 respondent's families. While 20% families earn up to 20000-30,000.

1. **Role of women in Urban Governance:** This section of the interpretation will deal with the attitude of the people towards the role of the women in the urban governance.

1.1 Women as a Leader are supportive

Table 2.1 Women as a leader are supportive

S.no	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agree	29	72.5%
2	Disagree	04	10%
3	Can't say	07	17.5%
	Total	40	100

Primary Source

The above table 2.1 shows the data & it shows that 72.5% people agreed with the statement that women are more supportive as a leader & 10% disagreed with the same statement.

2.2 Motivation

Table 2.2 Motivational role of women leader

S.no	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	32	80%
2	No	08	20%

Primary Source

The above table shows the people attitude based on the collected data towards the statement that women leader inspires and motivate other women for activities and the data reveals that 32 respondents say yes and 08 say no to the statement.

2.3 Solution of Problem by women Leaders

Table 2.3 Solution of Problem by women leaders

S.no	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	28	70%
2	No	12	30%

Primary Source

The above table shows the people attitude based on the collected data towards the statement that women leaders solve the problems and analysis issues effectively and the data reveals that 28 respondents say yes and 12 say no to the statement.

2.4 **Friendly relationship with the public & teamwork**

Table 2.4 Women leaders build friendly relationship with the public & teamwork

S.no	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Agree	25	62.5%
2	Disagree	10	25%
3	Can't say	05	12.5%
	Total	40	100%

Primary Source

The above table 2.4 shows the data based on the collected data that 62.5% people agreed with the statement that women leader's friendly relationship while 25% disagreed and 12.5% can't say.

2.5 **More demanded over men politicians**

Table 2.5 Female politicians are more demanded over men politicians

S.no.	Statement	Number of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	15	37.5%
2	No	07	17.5%
3	Not Sure	18	45%

Primary Source

The above table 2.5 shows the data based on the collected data that 37.5% people agreed with the statement that Female politicians are more demanded over male politicians while 17.5% disagreed and 45% are not sure.

2.6 **More sensitized to needs of the same gender**

Table 2.6 Women leaders are more sensitized to needs of the same gender

	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	30	75%
2	No	10	25%

Primary Source

The above table shows the people attitude based on the collected data towards the statement that Women leaders sensitized to needs of the same gender and the data reveals that 30 respondents say yes and 10 say no to the statement.

2.7 Execution of their powers

Table 2.7 Women Local leader's Execution of Powers

S.no.	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	19	47.5%
2	No	06	15%
3	Don't Know	15	37.5%

Primary Source

The above table 2.7 shows women role based on the collected data that 47.5% people of agreed with the statement that Women local leaders executing their powers and 15% disagreed with the same statement. 37.5% don't Know.

2.8 **Focuses on girl child education**

Table 2.8 Women Leader focuses on girl child education

S.No	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	32	80%
2	No	08	20%

Primary Source

The above table shows the people attitude towards the statement based on the collected data that Women leaders focuses on girl child education and the data reveals that 32 respondents say yes and 08 say no to the statement.

2.9 **Adequate representation in government elected position**

Table 2.9 Women's adequate representation in government elected position

S.No	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	25	62.5%
2	No	15	37.5%

The above table shows the people attitude based on the collected data towards the statement that women are adequately represented in government elected

position and the data reveals that 62.5% respondents say yes and 37.5% say no to the statement.

2.10 **Voting Percentage**

Table 2.10 Voting Percentage in the last local election

S.No	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	28	70%
2	No	12	30%

Primary Source

The above table shows the Number of respondents based on the collected data who have voted in the last elections and the data reveals that 70% respondents say yes and 30% say no to the statement.

2.11 Voting Percentage

Table 2.11 Voting Percentage to Women Candidates

S.No	Gender	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	18	45%
2	Female	10	25%
3	No one	12	30%

Primary Source

The above table shows the Number of respondents based on the collected data to whom they have voted in the last elections and the data reveals that 45% respondents voted to male and 25% voted to the female while 30% respondents.

2.12 Girl's safety

Table 2.12 Women politicians work concerning girl's safety

S.no	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	26	65%
2	No	04	10%
3	Don't Know	10	25%

Primary Source

The above table 2.12 shows the data based on the collected data that 65% people agreed with the statement that Women leaders work on the girl's safety and 10% disagreed and 25% don't Know.

2.13 Encouraging gender equity programs

Table 2.13 Women leaders are encouraging the gender equity programs

S.no	Statement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	31	77.5%
2	No	09	22.5%

Primary Source

The above table shows the Number of respondents based on the collected who feels that women leaders are encouraging the gender equity programs and the data reveals that 77.5% respondents say yes and 22.5% say no to the statement.

Major Findings

- Maximum respondents belong to age group of 19-26 years in both the communities.
- Most of the respondents are male.
- Most of the respondents are in good socioeconomic conditions.
- Most of the respondents are Hindu and least are Sikh and Christian.
- Most of the respondents feels that women are more supportive as leader.
- With the statement that women leader inspires and motivates other women for activities 80% shows positive response and 20% shows negative response.
- Most of the respondents agree that Women leaders are more sensitized to the needs of both the genders.
- 62.5% agreed with the statement that women are adequately represent in government elected positions.
- 45% voted male candidate in their last election and 25% voted for female candidate in their last local election.
- 77.5% respondent says that women leaders are encouraging the gender equity programs.

Conclusion

The study reveals that people are very fond of male politicians over female politician but they are also aware about the benefits and positive outcomes of the female politicians when elected. Most of the respondents were giving positive response on various statements when asked about the work of female politician's.

Most of the respondents feel that women are more supportive as a local leader. With the statement that women leader inspires and motivates other women for activities 80% shows positive response and 20% shows negative response. Most of the respondents agree that Women leaders are more sensitized to the needs of both the genders. 62.5% agreed with the statement that Women are adequately represented in government elected. 45% voted male candidate in their last election and 25% voted for female Candidate in their last local election. 77.5% respondent says that women leaders are encouraging the gender equality programs. On the basis of the observation of the researcher it is noted that people are aware and are in favour of the female politicians but when it comes to elect they give priority to the male candidate.

References.

- Ghosh, A. (2010). Role of women councillors in urban local bodies; A case study of the Kolkata and the Howrah Municipal Corporation. Kolkata: Pragatishil Prokashak.
- Lal, S.K. and Kumar, S. 2007. A study of issues and challenges in Empowerment of Women through their Participation in the Panchayat Raj Institution: A Case Study of Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh". Paper presented during Seminar on "Gender Issues and Empowerment of women" Platinum Jubilee of Indian Statistical Institute, Feb 1-2, 2007, Kolkata
- Mahendra Sethi, Shilpi Mittal. "Gender Inequities in India's Urban Governance" International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR) 1069-1073 August 2015
- Rai, S. 1995. "Women and Public Power: Women in the Indian Parliament" in IDS Bulletin
- Rout, Akshay. "Women's Participation in the Electoral Process". Election Commission of India. Retrieved 22 March 2014
- Sethi, M. 2012. Editorial-New Horizon for Women Centric Cities, Urban India
- Shabnam, N. 2019, Sustainable Development Goals and inclusive development: An Overview, International journal of Humanities and Social Science, IJHSS, Peer Reviewed/Refereed, Vol. 5, No. (1-2), Apr. to March 2019, ISSN: 2348-7429.
- Shabnam, N. 2019, Barriers to Economic Development in Developing Countries, AITEA International Journal of Education and Humanities, Vol. No. 6, (No. 11), Page no. 76 - 84, April – September 2016, ISSN: 2231 – 380X, Global Books Organisation, New Delhi, WWW.aijeh.com
- Sharma, S. 2015, Creating Spaces for Women: Inclusion through Reservation in Urban Local Governance, Journal of Politics & Governance, Vol. 5, No. 1, March 2015

- https://www.cmi.no/publications/5930-women-in-local-government-potential-malawi
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_political_participation_in_India