



Role of Elected Women Councilors in Governance with special reference to Panchkula Municipal Corporation of Haryana

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Abstract

Women play very important role in the growth and development of the nation and governance. The role of women in governance gives an opportunity to women to improve their status, and also encourage the women to be a part of governance and play their effective role in the functioning of urban governance. Elected Women councilors are the part of government plan, policy, Pogrammes, project planning, implementation, monitoring and maintenance but they are not play their role effectively, because they are less aware about their political rights, powers and the functioning of urban governance.

The present study "Role of Elected Women Councilors in Governance with special reference to Panchkula Municipal Corporation of Haryana" conducted on the sample of 20 elected women Councilors from Panchkula Municipal Corporation of Haryana. The main objective of this paper is to address the role of women councilors and their effective participation in the development of the urban governance. Paper will also consider the viewpoint of elected male councilors of Panchkula Municipal Corporation to check their perception regarding the women representatives of corporation.

Keywords:

Elected Women Councilors;
Elected Male Councilors;
Urban Governance;
Participation.

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6.1 INTRODUCTION

Women play important role in the development of the nation. but people think that the women are not doing the politics affairs they are only made for the domestic work. But the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment act, 1992 prove these myths wrong. This act provides an opportunity to the women to come forward and entered into the urban and rural politics and joins the governance. It creates an open and safe political environment for the women to come and work for the development of the rural and urban governance. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment act play an important and significant role in

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the upliftment of the women through reservation in rural and urban local bodies. And it also emerge women leadership in panchayats and in urban governance.

With the reservation of seats in the rural and urban local bodies women can also take part in the development of the rural and urban governance and also take part in the decision making process of these institutions. But with the reservation the contribution and involvement of women in the development process of the nation is not up to mark. Reservation of seats in rural and urban local bodies only increase the numbers of women but not increase the effective and active participation of the women. On the behalf of the women their husbands and male family members are enjoy their powers and functions. Women are presenting only and passive spectators in rural and urban local bodies except some women. So the upliftment of the women status through reservation in rural and urban local bodies is appreciative steps which are taken by the government.

Table No 6.1Statistic of Urban Haryana

Sr. No	Urban Haryana	Population
1.	Urban Population	8,842,103
2.	Urban Male Population	4,720,728
3.	Urban Female Population	4,121,375
4.	Urban Sex Ratio	873
5.	Urban Growth Rate (2011)	34.88%

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana (2016-2017)

6.2.1 Women in Haryana

Haryana is one of the North-Western states of the country. The census 2011, available by Government of India, for Haryana state, reveals that population of Haryana has enlarged by 19.90% in this decade compared (2001-2011) to past decade (1991-2001). The density of Haryana state is 1485 per sq mile. ⁱ

Table 6.2 Statistics of Haryana

Sr. No.	Statistics of Haryana	
1.	Area	44,212 sqk.m
1.1	Division	6
1.2	District	22
1.3	Sub Division	72
1.4	Tehsil	93

1.5	Sub-Tehsil	50
1.6	Blocks	140
1.7	Villages	6,841
2.	Literacy Rate	75.6%
2.1	Males	84.1%
2.2	Female	65.9%
3.	Sex Ratio	879

Source: Statistical Abstract of Haryana (updated in 2017)

Table 6.3 Administrative Divisions of Haryana




Sr. No	Divisions	Districts
1.	Ambala	Ambala, Kurukshetra, Panchkula, Yamuna Nagar
2.	Rohtak	Jhajjar, Rohtak, Sonapat, Charkhi Dadri, Bhiwani
3.	Hisar	Fatehabad, Jind, Hisar, Sirsa,
4.	Gurugram	Gurgaon, Mehendragarh, Rewari
5.	Karnal	Karnal, Panipat, Kaithal
6.	Faridabad	Faridabad, Palwal, Nuh

Source: Updated Statistical Abstract of Haryana 2017.



There are 6 divisions, i.e. Ambala, Gurugram, Hissar, Rohtak, Karnal and Faridabad.ⁱⁱ

6.2 NEW AMENDMENTS IN HARYANA MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 2016

For the development of the Local government the Haryana Assembly passed two important bill Bills making it compulsory for those contesting the polls for rural and urban local bodies to have a least educational qualification. As per the amendments, the minimum educational qualifications are

-  For a candidate of the general category would be Class X. In case of
-  For women candidates or those belonging to the Scheduled Caste category, the minimum qualification would be Class VIII,
-  For women of the Scheduled Caste category, it would be Class V.ⁱⁱⁱ

6.2.1 Similar Laws in other States are

-  In Bihar, toilet in house is mandatory for contesting in Panchayat polls.
-  In Andhra Pradesh, hearing and speech impaired, and leprosy patients cannot contest for Panchayat elections.

- ✚ Odisha also enacted similar criterion where no hearing, speech impaired, tuberculosis or leprosy patients are allowed to contest.
- ✚ In Karnataka, toilet at home is must or the candidate must give written undertaking to build it within one year.
- ✚ In Maharashtra, to contest for Panchayat election, the candidate cannot have more than two children and the state also disqualifies those who defecate in the open.
- ✚ Rajasthan is the first state to brought minimum qualification of Class X for contesting the Zilla Parishad or Panchayat Samiti polls, Class VIII to contest Sarpanch elections, and Class V for scheduled areas. The candidate should not suffer from leprosy.
- ✚ In Gujarat and Chhattisgarh, toilet at home is must to contest for elections.^{iv}

Table 6.4 Urban Local Bodies in Haryana (Municipal Corporation in Haryana)

Sr. No	City	District	Population (2011)
1	Faridabad	Faridabad	1,054,981
2	Gurgaon	Gurgaon	1,514,085
3	Ambala	Ambala	1,136,784
4	Panchkula	Panchkula	558,890
5	Yamunanagar	Yamunanagar	532,000
6	Rohtak	Rohtak	373,133
7	Hissar	Hissar	301,249
8	Panipat	Panipat	294,150
9	Karnal	Karnal	286,974
10	Sonepat	Sonepat	4,01,366

6.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To study the socio-economic and political background of women leaders in urban local bodies.
2. To study the awareness level of women councilors regarding the powers functions and responsibilities

3. To study the role of elected women councilors in area development.
4. To suggest the measures for improving the role of women councilors in Municipal Corporation.

6.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The urban governance cannot be strengthened without effective participation of women. With the passing of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 guarantee one third of the total seats for women in all elected bodies in urban governance. So it is the responsibility of the elected women councilors to play their effective and active role in the growth and development of the local areas. But due to lack of awareness about their powers functions and responsibility women are not performed their functions and duties. So it is very significant to study the role of women councilors in their ward or area development.

6.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the present study, both primary and secondary data was used. Primary data was collected by interview schedule. The study was conducted on the sample of 20 women councilors from Panchkula Municipal Corporation of Panchkula District of Haryana. The 20 elected municipal councillors were selected (earlier and current working in Municipal Corporation) of Panchkula District was adopted for selecting the sample. As our study were selected only women representatives from of these two Districts. Secondary data was collected from various government records and other sources.

Table 6.5 Details of the Total Sample of Present Study

Respondents	Numbers
Women Councilors	20(Including Present as well as Previous working)
Male Councilors	Present working in Municipal Corporation

Table 6.6 Details of the Selected Municipal Corporation, Panchkula

District	Sub Divisions	Tehsil	Sub Tehsil	Block
Panchkula (558,890)	Panchkula Kalka	Panchkula Kalka	Barwala Morni Raipur Rani	Barwala Pinjore Morni Raipur Rani

Table 6.7 Age of the Women Councilors

Age of Women Representatives	No of Respondent	Percentage
21-35 years	09	18%
36-50 years	09	18%
50 and above	2	04%
Total	20	

Sources: Primary Data

The study reveals that majority of the women councilors were belonged to the age group of 21-35 years, and 36-50 years, Only 04 percent of the women councilors were to the age group of 50 years and above.

Table 6.8 Educations of the Women Councilors

Education	Numbers	Percentage
Illiterate/ Signature only	02	04%
Middle/ Metric/ 10+2	12	24%
Graduate/ PG/ Diploma	06	12%
Total	20	

Sources: Primary Data

The study revealed that majority 24 percent of the women councilors were educated and passed middle/ matric/ senior secondary examination. 12 percent of the women councilors were graduate, post graduate and having some diploma. Only 04 percent of the women councilors were illiterate but they can only put their signature on the paper.

Table 6.9 become a member/ office bearer of MC for the

Become a member	Numbers	Percentage
First time	14	28%
Second time	05	10%
Third time	01	02%
Total	50	

Sources: Primary Data

The present study reveals that majority of the women councilors had elect for the first time in MC elections which is 28percent. 10 percent of the women councilors elect second time and three 02 percent of the women councilors elect third time in the MC elections.

Table 6.10 Reason to join the Municipalities

Reason to join the MCs	No of Respondent	Percentage
Reservation	16	32%
Interest/ Social consideration/ Development of ward	04	08%
Total	20	

Sources: Primary Data

Majority of the women councilors are not interested in to take participated in the politics. Only the reservation or reserved seats in their area is the reason to join the urban local bodies. 32 percent of the women councilors are only join the politics because of reservation. 08 percent of the women councilors were join the municipalities for their interest and for social consideration and for the development of their ward.

Table No 6.11 Awareness Level of Women Councilors related to the role in urban local bodies

Sr. No	Awareness	Respondent say YES / NO
1.	Are you aware of your powers and functions	16/04
2.	Are you aware of the working of Urban Local Bodies	12/08
3.	Are you aware about the role of Municipal Councilors	09/11
4.	Are you aware about the Urban Development Programmes (UDP)	08/12

The above table shows the awareness level of women councilors about the urban local bodies. Majority of the women councilors were awareness about the powers, duties, responsibility and functions of the urban local bodies. But most of the women councilors were not aware about the whole working procedures of the urban governance and also women councilors were not aware about the role of a Municipal Councilors, urban development programmes (UDP) which are related to the area development.

Table No 6.12 awareness of women councilors about problem in the development of area

Sr. No	Main problem in the development of area	No of Responses	Percentage
1	Lack of public cooperation	5	10%
2	More political interference	7	14%
3	Lack of MCs officials cooperation	03	06%
4	Lack of capable urban leaders	05	10%

The above table shows the viewpoint of the women councilors regarding the main problem in the development of their areas. Majority of the women councilors were felt that political interference was the main problems in the development of their areas. 10 percent were in favour of lack of public cooperation, 10 percent lack of capable urban leaders, and 06 percent were lack of MCs official's cooperation. They felt that the citizens and male members or officials were not faith on their efficiency.

Table No 6.13 Suggestion for development of area

Sr. No	Suggestions	No of Respondent	Percentage
1	Encourage local leadership (women)	16	32%
2	Spreading of education	02	04%
3	Mobilizing of people' participation	02	04%

The above table represented the opinion of women councilors about the development of their areas or wards. Majority of the women councilors were felt that encourage the local leadership specially women leadership. Women councilors are capable to do more and more for the development of their area but lack of support of family, public, cooperatives and officials were not faith on their ability. And there is also need to create more awareness among women related to their powers, functions and their role in MCs.

Table No 6.14 Measure suggested for improving the active role of women councilors in MCs

Sr. No	Suggestions	No of Respondent	Percentage
1	Spreading political education amongst women	2	04%
2	Training campus and orientation programmes	14	28%
3	Awareness about their rights	01	02%
4	Reservation in MCs	03	06%

The above table represents the viewpoint of the women councilors related to the measures for improving the active role of women councilors in area development. Majority of the women councilors felt that training is most important measures for improving the active role of women councilors in the area development. They also felt that when they were entered into the urban governance they are like a blank paper and do not understand to perform their duties efficiently. So urban governance provides the training and some orientation programmes for improving the active role of the women councilors in MCs.

6.6 FINDING OF THE STUDY

- The main finding of the study was majority of the women councilors were in the age group of 36-50. When they are free from all the responsibilities of the families then they are entered in the local politics.
- The women councilors are educated but they don't use their education in the area development or in the development of the urban governance. On the behalf of the women councilors their male members of the family were perform their functions.
- The women councilors were aware about the powers and functions of the urban local bodies. But most of the women councilors were not aware about the whole working procedure of the urban governance and also were not aware about the role of a Municipal Councilors, urban development programmes (UDP), which are concerned with the urban development.
- Local citizens or male of the ward are rarely approach the women councilors, on the behalf of the women councilors local people of the ward or area were approach their husband or male family members.
- Majority of the women councilors were felt that main problem in the development of their area was more political interference by the politician
- Majority of the women councilors were felt that encourage the women leadership. Women are more capable and do more work for the development of their area. But the male members and public do not faith on their efficiency.
- Most of the women councilors were felt that change in the mindset of society and people were helpful and uplift the women empowerment in MCs.
- Majority of the women councilors were felt and opinion that training campus and orientation programmes helpful in improving and increasing the active participation of women in urban local bodies. When they were entered into the urban governance they were not aware about the working of the urban local bodies and that's why they were depend upon their husband to do their work. So according to the womencouncilorstraining is must for understanding the role and procedure of urban governance.

6.7 SUGGESTIONS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OFWOMEN

- Most women are elected because of the status of their husbands, fathers or sons and that such women often act as proxies for men's view at the councils being advised by their men relatives. It shows that women councilors are unable to perform their

duties. We should change our negative mentality and government should also organized camps to restrict male members from intervening in their independent functioning.

- It has been mostly found that the husband of elected woman councilors always intervenes in her day-to-day functioning. The intervention is not only in small matters but he also intervenes in her decision-making matters which is a big drawback in the women's effective participation.
- It is seen that most of the time the political parties intervene in the functioning of urban local bodies. They even intervene in election process directly. It creates uncomfoted for the women contestants and women councilors. The government should take a strict action in such an intervention of political parties and elections should be conducted fairly.
- In urban areas political awareness among the women is negligible. It is the responsibility of the state administration and local government to teach the women about the political issues and create awareness among them. The government should organise training and awareness camps in urban areas with the help of local administration from time-to-time.
- The government should also make efforts to make the women realize about their powers, functions and leadership capacities through various programmes. Government should make special provisions for the women representatives and educate them about their powers. It helps them to work actively and effectively. From time-to-time there is essential need of particular training and update programmes and courses for women representatives should be conducted. It gives them confidence and create political awareness and power.
- There should be a provision to give honour to the women members. Special financial rewards/ incentives should be given to the ULBs

6.8 CONCLUSION

The urban local bodies and urban governance provide an opportunity to women to prove her as a good representatives, good administrator, and good decision-maker. This is providing opportunity to women to come out of their houses and participate in urban governance and political field. The government should make available additional financial, administrative or political support to women for the accomplishment of the provision of the Amendment. So it becomes necessary to encourage the women representatives

participated in such a largest democracy of the world. To give a proper status to the women, Government, NGOs, and other institutions have to play a meaningful and essential role in this field. Government should encourage the Universities to do better research in this field and find the problems in the way of implementation of different women programmes. There should be a proper check on the local level for the success of any programme.

References

ⁱ Statistical Abstract of Haryana. 2011.

ⁱⁱ Statistical Abstract of Haryana. Updated in 2017

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/after-panchayats-haryana-makes-educational-criteria-must-for-urban-local-bodies/> accessed on 12/04/2019

^{iv} <http://www.gktoday.in/blog/haryana-panchayati-raj-amendment-act-2015/> accessed on 23/09/2018