

## ***Chapter-6***

### ***Concluding Observations***

## **Chapter-VI**

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*"It is for women, the condemned one that we are conceived and it is from her that we are born. It is woman that we are engaged and married with. It is woman, who is our lifelong friend and it is she who keeps our race going on. It is woman through whom we establish our social ties, and then we denounce her from whom even kings and great men all born."*

*Shri Guru Nanak Devji.*

Tribal women's poor participation in Tripura Legislative Assembly shows a gloomy picture in political empowerment. However, it has been observed that regarding exercising franchise more and more women take part. In fact they too take active participation in mass meetings, political activities, processions and in other political activities. However, regarding contesting in election their participation is very poor. Being male dominated, parties do not show effortful attempt to make active women's participation regarding contesting in the election. As a result, women cannot show their potentiality in politics. This issue becomes vital for the poor participation of women in politics.

The survey, for this research has been conducted in 59 Pecharthal (ST) Constituency. The Pecharthal got the status of Assembly Constituency from 1977 onwards. In 59 ST Pecharthal Constituency of Tripura (from 1977 to till 2008) in the Assembly Election only thirty-one male and only five women has contested. Out of seven-elected ST MLA, only one woman has been elected namely Ratna Prava Das (ST) in the year of 1983. Minati Roy (ST) in 1988, Smt Nirupama Chakma twice (1998, 2003) and Bosirong Reang in 2008 had also contested from this constituency. This picture of Pecharthal Constituency regarding Assembly Election shows poor participation of

women (ST) which lacks the healthy level of political empowerment of tribal women in this state.

The study comprises of political participation and its relation with empowerment of Chakma (ST) women with particular reference to (59 ST) Pecharthal Constituency in North Tripura district of Tripura. Throughout the research work the formulated hypothesis were tested. Most of the formulated hypotheses are fully supported by the survey data, some were partially supported and some were not supported at all.

The first hypothesis that the *political participation of women is very low in comparison to male participants* has been fully supported. The data shows that in parliament, in Legislative Assembly and in other spheres their participation rate is very low in comparison to men in general. In the lok Sabha Election (from 1952-2009) only one tribal lady has been elected in the year of 1991. After and before this year no footprint of women has been seen in Lok Sabha from Tripura (Table-IV.I).<sup>1</sup> In the Legislative Assembly, women who constitute almost half of the total population, never represent more than seven percent. And in case of tribal women it could not cross even 4 (four) percent (Table-III.I).<sup>2</sup> The number of women representation in Rajya Sabha is only two (1952-2010) (Table-IV.II).<sup>3</sup> These both elected women belong to Bengali community. No tribal woman has been elected still last Rajya Sabha election (2010). In case of Pecharthal Constituency (Survey Area) out of seven elected MLA there was only one female member in the year of 1983. In conducting the research work the researcher came across different assertion in case of three tiers Panchayat Raj System and Village Committee under sixth schedule area. In these both areas reservation for women has ensured their 33% seats, though this elected number of women are still less comparing to men.

The second hypothesis, *that women suffer more from the participatory conflict than men do* also have been fully supported by the present study. Throughout the study in has been observed that men in general suffer less from participatory conflict than women in the arena of politics. Table 2.2 reveals the fact that for what problem women suffer to

participate in politics. She faces all these problems as because of only she is women. And these problems affect a lot for active participation of women in politics.

The third hypothesis-*Illiteracy, lack of awareness, domestic responsibilities and economic dependence prevents women from participating in active politics* are partly supported by this study. The chi square test finds out significant association between education, family income, occupation and political interest. However, in case of the variables like domestic responsibilities the chi square test failed to find out any association. Thus in these cases null hypothesis has been retained.

The hypothesis - *Political participation and political efficacy are actively associated with age, marital status, and nature of family, higher level of education, occupation status, and family income and with the membership of associations* are partly associated with the survey data. In examining the socio-economic variables the study, finds out significant correlation between education, family income and occupation status. However, it failed to find out any correlation with membership of associations.

On the basis of these hypothesis the following objectives has been taken into consideration under this study. For this research work the first objective has been taken under investigation is -to assess the extent, to which women participate in different sphere of political activities ranging from decision making to exercise the right to vote. The second chapter '*Conceptual Framework*' analyses this objective. This chapter analyses to what extent women do take part in decision making process. Regarding this the participation of women in politics in the contest of global, national and of course in Tripura has been focused in this chapter.

The second objective- to measure political interest, awareness, sense of political efficacy, political ambition and partition preference of the tribal women respondent- has been analysed in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter- '*Political Orientation of Tribal Women in Tripura*'. On the basis of survey conducted in Pecharthal Constituency data has been processed and analysed. Chi-square test has been done to find out the relation between dependent and

independent variables. And on that basis null hypothesis has been detained and remained only at the 0.5 level.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> chapter together filled up the demand of third objective of this study that is- to identify the factors that hinders or facilitates negligible participation in electoral politics. In the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter chi-square test has find out the factors which hinder the participation of women in politics. Moreover the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter also highlights on some of the issues by observing and examining different data regarding political participation of tribal women in Tripura.

And the 4<sup>th</sup> and last objective - to assess the role of political parties towards the tribal women participation and their empowerment has been assessed in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter- '*Political Participation of Tribal women in Tripura*'. Here information from different political parties regarding the participation of male and women counterparts in highest decision making body has been depicted the picture of above said. The number of women in highest state level decision making body of different political party of Tripura is very less comparing to men in general (Tables-I,II,III,IV,V,VI).<sup>4</sup>

### **Field Realities:**

- In an attempt to find out the differences between the general respondents and the representative respondents it has been found that there are differences in the level of partisan preference. In case of general respondents rate of partisan preference is lower than representative respondents (Tables-4.1, 4.2).<sup>5</sup> And regarding political efficacy the level is near about same in case of general and representative respondents (Tables-5.1, 5.1A)<sup>6</sup>
- Almost all the respondents have a highly optimistic approach towards participation of women in politics, irrespective of their socio-economic variables. So it appears that positive attitude of women towards their political participation is an enlightened empowerment which might have helped them towards active participation in politics. Whenever the feelings to live for safe her own existence

will be there in her mind the word empowerment will come in true sense with reality. ‘This is relevant to the entire humanity as one can see for oneself that it is difficult to inborn tendencies. George Wiegel, a conservative American scholar said, “the great battle in the world remains inside the heads of human beings that it’s battle of ideas” They who have but once in their life fixed their mind would aim at speeding up development and argument financial resources to promote and generating employment and ensuring women’s empowerment.<sup>7</sup> We may call it as ‘ENLIGHTEN EMPOWERMENT’- the feelings of inner potency. She must acquire every sweat to arrive at greater perfection to be means in every respect, to make progress in all in which she has been toward the back, so that man will be compelled to concede her equal capacity and attainment.

- Representations of women in the highest state level decision making bodies of different political parties of Tripura are very low comparing to men in general(Tables-I,II,III,IV,V,VI)<sup>8</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> chapter on ‘*Political Orientation of Tribal Women in Tripura*’ portrayed the picture of their representation in different political parties of Tripura.
- The present survey conducted in Pecharthal Constituency finds out significant association between age and interest in politics by chi-square test (Table-1.2)<sup>9</sup> In this case the null hypothesis has been thus rejected.
- In examining the relation between nature of family and interest in politics chi-square test has shown a significant association between these two variables(Table-1.4)<sup>10</sup>
- The chi-square value shows a significant association between the variables education and interest in politics (Table-1.5)<sup>11</sup> The researcher’s data thus show a positive correlation between education and interest in politics. The null hypothesis thus rejected.

- The chi square test shows that there is significant association between occupation and interest in politics (Table-1.6).<sup>12</sup> The null hypothesis thus rejected
- The chi-square test shows significant association between family income and interest in politics (Table-1.8).<sup>13</sup> The null hypothesis has been thus rejected.
- The present study shows that the positive mindset towards politics or political ambition is quite high in case of general respondents (Table-2.1).<sup>14</sup>
- Political efficacy is the capacity for producing desired result. It is the capacity of individual which can affect the decision making process and thus participation as vice-versa. Political efficacy level is very high among the tribal women (general respondents) in Tripura. They were in strong favour of women's participation in politics (Table-5.1).<sup>15</sup>
- 76% of representative respondents joined in politics due to ideological belief, 34% for personal interest, 16% accordingly for favourable environment, family heritage and for favourable inspiration (Table-1.9).<sup>16</sup>
- In the case of Tripura the tribal women have shown a higher degree of partisan preference though their participation in politics is not in satisfactory level (Tables-4.1, 4.2).<sup>17</sup> It means the tribal women have interest in politics and assumption can be made that if the women will get proper opportunity to take part in the politics they can prove themselves in the field of politics.
- The variables like political interest the marital status, associations and interest in politics taken into consideration do not find out any significance association between them. Thus all the socio –economic variables do not bear a positive

association with mentioned variables. Some are significant in some cases. Others do not play a significant role.

- In three tiers Panchayat Raj System of election in Tripura, the reservation status has been well followed.
- In the three elections of Gaon Panchayat ST women, SC women once secured highest percentages of seats and thus the ST women have shown their active representation in Gaon Panchayat election (Table-VII.I).<sup>18</sup>
- In the yearly Panchayat Samiti, elections ST women have secured the highest percentage of seats in comparison to SC and General Women. Moreover, in 2009 ST women have scored 66.66 percentages of seats that is the highest among all percentage of seats secured by women of different community in different year (Table-VI.II).<sup>19</sup>
- In the two election of Zila Parisad (Table-VI.III),<sup>20</sup> the ST women, SC and General women once secured highest percentages of seats respectively. However, in the year of 2004 ST women representation was 75 percent, which is a mark of great success rate. However, in 2009 the percentage rate came down to only 25 percent, which is necessarily to be examined to reveal the fact.

This present study reveals that tribal women are less educated, economically weak. They are suffering from lower level of family income. Even different types of occupations have an effect on their political participation. The chi square test finds out significant association between these variables and political interest. Political party here does not show any special interest regarding participation of women member in politics. It remains as a male dominated arena. These may be identified as some of the limitation, which prevent women from taking active part in politics.

## **Recommendations:**

On the basis of field realities and observation the following recommendations have been made to meet the fulfillment of this research work.

- ❖ Tribal women suffer much in fact, more by virtue of their belonging to tribal community. The first and foremost forecast that tribal women should not be treated apart from their community. Rather than they might be looked as an important and equal part of the tribal community. Throughout the study the history shows that they are suffered in the hands of non-tribal and marginalized in the process of development. Hence importance lies in involving the tribal women in the development process and makes them enthusiastic in governing the scheduled areas as well as in state politics.
- ❖ Political parties lead a good contact with general people. Thus they have the opportunity to make people politically conscious and hence might take keen interest for women's political participation. Their active role towards women's political participation can change the present scenario of women's poor political status and the responsibilities fall on them for making women politically empowered.
- ❖ Since women constitute one –third Panchayat representative as it is reserved for them it is in need to keep in mind that they have emerged as a new leader. They have to face challenging role in tribal politics. To ensure tribal women's political participation reservation of seats for them is essential. Along with this efforts are needed to ensure tribal women's political participation go beyond the reservation number and thus to foster women to take active part in politics independently and unreservedly.

- ❖ Non Government Organization (NGO) has a strong links at the grass root level of social structure. These links with general public have the ability to make more and more people conscious regarding their right. Thus to make women empowered they can play a vital role. Thus to ensure NGO's proper role towards empowering women make a positive change towards empowering women.
- ❖ The most important thing is that tribal women must not treat as tribal but only as women. This is because they have always been deprived from decision making process ranging from family to society as well as in political sphere. Today when in some cases the seats are reserved for tribal women gradually they have occupied those seats. But as they come out from different restrictions, domination and subordination somehow they hesitate to take important decision as a representative. Hence the requirement of time urge to government, political parties, NGO's and also to civic society to take initiative steps to make them empowered regarding their role as a leader and as a decision maker. Proper orientation program, awareness camp, nurturing to increase education level, magnifying their economic status may work in a true sense to make them politically empowered as well as a decision maker.

**Notes & References:**

1. Table-IV.I, p121.
2. Table-III., p.120.
3. Table-IV.II, p.123.
4. Tables-I, II, III, IV, V, VI, pp.110.111,112,113,115, 116.
5. Tables-4.1, 4.2, pp.91 & 93.
6. Tables – 5.1, 5.1A, pp.94 & 96.
7. Soni Kaur Jaspreet, Women Empowerment- The Substantial Challenges, Authors Press, First Published- 2008, p.15.
8. Tables-I, II, III, IV, V, VI, pp.110.111,112,113,115, 116.
9. Table-1.2, p. 76.
10. Table-1.4, p. 78.
11. Table-1.5, p. 79.
12. Table- 1.6, p. 80.
13. Table-1.8, p. 82.
14. Table-2.1, p.83.
15. Table-5.1, p. 94.

16. Table-1.9, p. 106.
17. Tables-4.1, 4.2, pp. 91 & 93.
18. Table-VI.I, p. 127.
19. Table-VI.II, p. 128.
20. Table VI.III, p. 130.