

**MANAGEMENT SPONSORED**

**MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT**

**On**

**Political Participation of Women in  
Gram Panchayat – A Case Study**

*By*

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# **Political Participation of Women in Gram Panchayat – A Case Study**

## **ABSTRACT**

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Women's involvement and engagement in the election process are key indicators of a country's democracy's development and efficiency. Reservations for women in local governments are a necessary and courageous move towards women's empowerment. It is critical to include women in government to ensure that all social perspectives are represented in policy and decision-making processes. Women's empowerment must be measured through local body elections in order to determine the need for legislative intervention to improve the situation. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments are landmark laws that granted India the distinction of having more elected women representatives (EWRs) than the rest of the world united. The 73rd Amendment, which guaranteed the election of 10,48,148 EWRs out of a total of 28,51,739 representatives in nations with PRIs, ushered in a quiet revolution in the country's parliamentary democracy decentralisation process. For this study Prakasam district is purposively selected. The district consists of 3 divisions namely Ongole, Kandukur and Markapuram. The study is confined to Ongole division of Prakasam district.

The objectives of the study are: to examine the socio, economic and educational background of women leaders and their political knowledge; assessment of the level of awareness of the elected women members about their role and responsibilities; their involvement in decision making and the problems faced by the elected women representatives. The primary and secondary data sources are used in this research study Primary data is collected from elected women representatives at all levels of governance using quantitative and qualitative methods. The data is elicited from Grama Panchayat Ward Members; Sarpanches; MPTCs; ZPTCs. The primary data is collected from Ongole division of Prakasam district. For the study an appropriate per cent of representative sampling is considered. That is 5% of Ward Members, 25% of Sarpanches, 25% MPTC and 100 % of ZPTCs are selected. Thus the total sampling consists of 198 elected representatives.

The study is divided in six Chapters. Chapter - I includes introduction to the problem of research, Political status of Indian women, objectives, methodology, sample design and scheme of the study. The Review of Literature is furnished in Chapter – II. The Women reservations in Local bodies in Prakasam district are presented in Chapter III, Chapter – IV analyses the problems and prospects of women in Local bodies in the study area. Chapter – V gives the Views and perceptions of elected sample representatives, followed by Summary and Conclusions is in Chapter VI.