

# Women Representative in Gram Panchayats in Haryana

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## Abstract:

*Haryana state is considered to be one of the developed states in the country. But, being a developed state, status of women is not considered to be better. Status of women can be improved through women empowerment. This is possible only with two way education and increase women participation in politics. This paper aims to analyze the women representation in gram panchayats in Haryana after implementation of new amendment rules in Haryana Panchayati raj Act.*

**Keywords:-** women participation, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Decision Making.

## Introduction:

Women participation in different level of politics and administration is a most powerful tool to empower the women in decision making process. We all know that women constitute the half of the society. Without women we cannot imagine the existence of the society. Women play multidimensional role in economic, political and cultural development of society. As per the Indian constitution women have equal right to participate in and benefit from all type of development process. Article 15 of Indian constitution clearly shows that we cannot discriminate anyone on the basis of religion, caste and gender in every field of life. Equal enjoyment of human rights by women and men is a universally accepted principal confirmed by Vinna declaration adopted by 171 nations at the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993. It has many dimensions including equal access to basic social services like education and health, equal opportunities for participations in political and economic decision-making, equal reward for equal work, equal protection under the law, elimination of discrimination by gender and violence against women and equal rights of citizens in all areas of life both workplace and private such as the home (UNDP, HDR 1995).

In India Panchayati Raj Institutions are the way to decentralize the political power and to implement the policy and programmes at grassroots level. The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee in 1959 suggested that an agency or institution should be set up at the village level which would not only represent the interests of the villagers but would also take up the development programmes of the government at its level. In 1977, Ashok Mehta Committee recommended a fundamental change in this concept of panchayati. This committee advocated for transformation of the panchayat from an implementing agency to a political institution (Mohanty. B, 1995). After that in 1992, 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment bills were passed by Indian parliament and PRIs got constitutional status. 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment gave a constitutional mandate for the setting up PRIs with many impressive features, like establishment of three tier structure of PRIs, established Gram Sabha at village level, reservation for SC and STs and most important reservation for women not less than one third seats etc. (Ganguly. V, 2013). After that many state government amended their PRIs Act and provide 50 percent reservation for women in PRIs. Table-1 shows the list of states which have 50 percent reservation for women in PRIs. Recently, Punjab government also announced the 50 percent reservation for women in PRIs.

Table-1

List of States which have 50 percent Reservation in PRIs.	<b>States:</b> Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamilnadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
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There are many empirical research works on empowerment of women through participation in Panchayati raj institutions have been done in different part of country. (Agnihotri and Singh, 2014) worked about women empowerment through reservation in Panchayati raj institutions in Himachal Pradesh. This shows that 56.71 percent of total seats reserved for women under different categories at all six posts at different level of PRIs namely, Pradhan and Member of Gram Panchayat, Chairman and Member of Panchayat Samiti and Chairman and Member of Zila Parishad. (Xaxa J. 2013) evaluated the Odisha government's policy about the women empowerment through participation in PRIs and appreciated the effort made by Odisha government to increase the women participation in PRIs. (Yamuna et.al, 2013) studied PRIs as an instrument for women empowerment in Haveri District of Karnataka which shows that due to

73<sup>rd</sup> amendment, situations is changing positively. Women are become aware about the schemes and programmes meant for their all over development.

Haryana State came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1966 and the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 was made applicable to the PRIs in Haryana. Pursuant to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional amendment in 1992, the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 was framed which came into force with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1994. Thereafter Haryana Panchayati Raj Election Rules, 1994 were formulated on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1994 followed by Haryana Panchayati Rules, 1995, notified on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1995. Subsequently the Haryana Panchayati Raj Finance Budget/ Accounts/ Audit/ Taxation and works rules 1996 were also notified on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1996. Under the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994, the Panchayati Raj Institutions have been entrusted with duties & functions related to all the 29 subjects listed in Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. With the passing of time state government amended Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994. Although, Haryana state is well known for its Khap Panchayats and their decisions. But the concept of Khap Panchayat is different from elected gram panchayats. Recently, in 2015 state government amends this act's rules for local government representative i.e. Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samities, Zila Parishads. As per Haryana Panchayati Raj Amendment Act 2015 some new rules regarding education qualification, criminal background, repayment of loans, payment of electricity bill and a condition of functional toilet at his/her place of residence. All these rules in new amendment act 2015 have their own importance. But most important rule which got high attention in print and electronic media was education qualification for Sarpanch and Panch. It was a very good decision by present government to strengthen, efficient and accountable local government. But some peoples opposed these new rules specially education qualification and filed a petition in Supreme Court. After some hearings, Supreme Court ruled in favor of state government and these new rules come into effect in the state. The 5<sup>th</sup> panchayat's election took place in January 2016 under these new rules.

The present paper is aim to analyze the women participation in present Gram Panchayats after implementation of new rules in 2015 as per the Haryana Panchayati raj Act Amendment 2015. This study is descriptive in nature which analyzes only women participation in gram panchayat in Haryana. Relevant statistical information regarding this study is collected by secondary sources i.e. various issues of Statistical Abstract of Haryana and State Election Commission Website.

**Result and Discussion:**

Haryana is one of the developed states in the country which has 2<sup>nd</sup> highest per capita income among all states. But with the development Haryana is also known for lowest sex ratio in the country. From the time of its separation sex ratio has been less compared to other state. As per population census 2011, Haryana has lowest sex ratio 877 women on 1000 men in all states and UTs and child sex ratio (age 0-6) is also lowest in Haryana. Haryana is some time also known for honor killing. But, nowadays situations become better. Women are looking forward to their participation in every field. Centre and state government is doing continue efforts to improve the sex ratio women empowerment. In these situations it becomes necessary that women participation in politics should be increased and women should be aware of participation in decision making process at all level. It can be possible only by making women more literate.

Table 2 shows the percentage of women sarpanch and panch during different phases. As per the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994 at least one third of seats will be reserved for women. Table-2 shows that first four phases of panchayat's elections from 1995 to 2010 shows that only 33 percent women were elected for sarpanch. However, in two phases of panchayat election in 2005 and 2010, more than 33 percent women were elected for panch in grampanchayats, 36.9 and 37 percent, respectively. At that time there is no education qualification and other rules for candidates. It is observed that elected women in politics act as proxies for men and almost all women are elected because of the status of their husband and other male members. In 2016's gram panchayat election state government implement the new rules as per Panchayati Raj Amendment Act 2015. After implementation of these rules 5<sup>th</sup> panchayat election was held in January 2016 and it came to see that elected women for sarpanch has increased from 33 percent in previous elections to 41.5 percent in 2016 election. Percentage of female panch has also increased from 33 percent to 42.2 percent. The main reason for the increase of elected women is that the number of educated women in rural areas found to be limited and where in some area male don't have education qualification as per new rules people made their female relative as candidate. It means education have positive effects on women participation in politics. Education is the most powerful weapon through which we can empower the women. Through providing good quality of education we can aware them that how they can play a significant role in the development of society. After the implementation of new rules state's gram panchayat considered to be educated panchayats.

**Table-2**  
**Total Female Sarpanch and Panch in Haryana**

Year	Total Sarpanch	Total Female Sarpanch	Total Panch	Total Female Panch
1995	5958	1994 (33.5)	54169	17928 (33.0)
2000	6035	2009 (33.3)	54682	18037 (33.0)
2005	6187	2113 (34.2)	60401	22294 (36.9)
2010	6083	2022 (33.2)	58857	21766 (37.0)
2016	6186	2565 (41.5)	60436	25495 (42.2)

Source: Various Issues of Statistical Abstract of Haryana.

Out of total female sarpanch in Haryana 23.4 percent are from schedule caste, 25.8 from other backward classes and 50.8 percent are from general categories. In almost, all districts have more than 40 percent of femalesarpanch except few districts (Appendix Table-1). It is very unfortunate that being a one of the developed state in the country women participation is very low as compare to other state. About 20 state of the country gave 50 percent reservation for women in PRIs. Out of these state most of the states are considered to be less developed as compare to Haryana. One interesting things is that female literacy rate is also better as compare to some states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.As far as female sarpanch's education is concerned, at present, out of total female sarpanch in the state 32.4 percent are 8<sup>th</sup> class passed, 44.7 percent are 10<sup>th</sup> class passed, 12.4 percent are 12<sup>th</sup> passed and 9.5 percent female sarpanch have education up to graduation and above.As far as female panch are concerned (Appendix, Table-2).

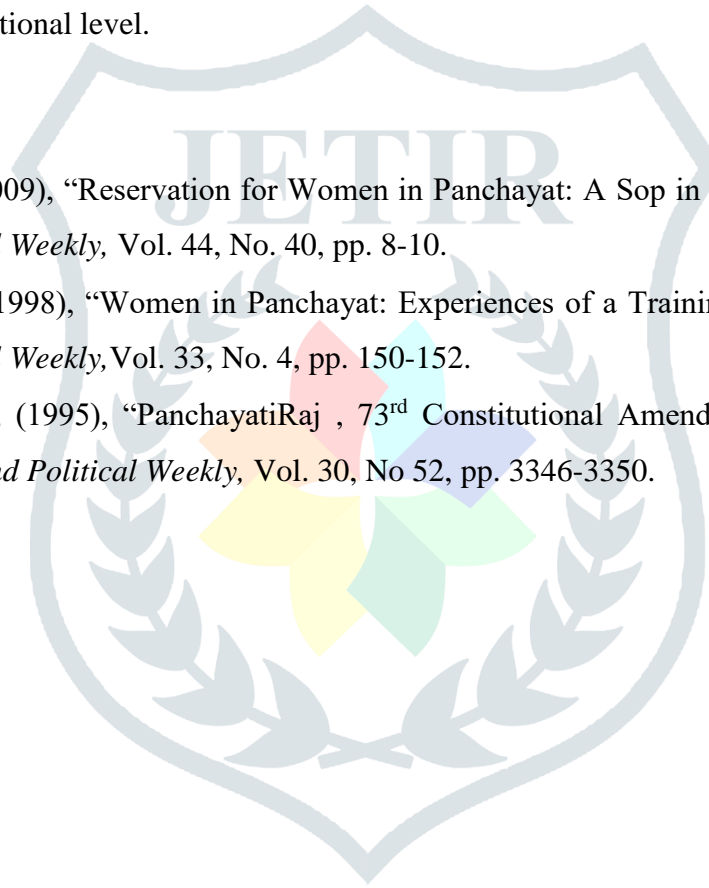
As far as female panch is concerned, Out of total female panch in Haryana 32.8 percent female panch are belong to schedule caste, 27.5 percent from other backward classes and 39.7 percent are from general categories (Appendix, Table-3 ). New rules of education qualification under new amendments in Haryana state Panchayti raj act are also implemented on panches. As per new rules, a woman belong to schedule caste shall be eligible for the post of panch who have passed at least 5<sup>th</sup> class. A woman shall be eligible if she has passed her 8<sup>th</sup> class and she is belonged to general or backward class. At present, out of total female panch in Haryana more than 45 percent female panch are secondary passed. About 29 and 12 percent female panch are 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and above passed, respectively (Appendix, Table-4).

**Conclusion:**

To sum up, women participation in gram panchayat is increased after implementation of new rules in Haryana. At present number of female sarpacnh and panch has increased as compare to previous phases of gram panchayat election. It indicates that education have positive and significant impact of women participation in gram panchayat. But, only increases in number of female in gram panchayat are not sufficient for women empowerment. We need to increase the decision making power of women. We need to provide equal participation of man and women at every level of politics. It is possible only to provide 50 per cent reservation for women in politics at local, state and national level.

**References:**

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**Table-3**  
**Districts-Wise Female Sarpanch in Haryana**

Districts	Total Sarpanch	Total Female Sarpanch	SC	OBC	GEN
Ambala	408	178 (43.6)	46 (25.8)	45 (25.3)	87 (48.9)
Bhiwani	468	179 (38.2)	41 (22.9)	20 (11.2)	118 (65.9)
Faridabad	116	47 (40.5)	11 (23.4)	11 (23.4)	25 (53.2)
Fatehabad	257	107 (41.6)	23 (21.5)	24 (22.4)	60 (56.1)
Gurugram	200	86 (43.0)	20 (23.3)	31 (36.0)	35 (40.7)
Hisar	308	126 (40.9)	28 (22.2)	25 (19.9)	73 (58.0)
Jhajjar	250	100 (40.0)	23 (23.0)	11 (11.0)	66 (66.0)
Jind	301	116 (38.5)	27 (23.3)	12 (10.3)	77 (66.4)
Kaithal	276	120 (43.5)	32 (26.7)	18 (15.0)	70 (58.3)
Karnal	380	174 (45.8)	41 (23.6)	23 (13.2)	110 (63.2)
Kurukshtra	392	161 (41.1)	38 (23.6)	46 (28.6)	77 (47.8)
M.Garh	346	143 (41.3)	36 (25.2)	74 (51.7)	33 (23.1)
Mewat (Nuh)	316	131 (41.4)	31 (23.7)	94 (71.7)	6 (4.6)
Palwal	259	108 (41.7)	22 (20.4)	29 (26.8)	57 (52.8)
Panchkula	126	44 (34.9)	11 (25.0)	13 (29.5)	20 (45.5)
Panipat	174	72 (41.4)	18 (25.0)	14 (19.4)	40 (55.6)
Rewari	358	139 (38.8)	32 (23.0)	67 (48.2)	40 (28.8)
Rohtak	139	56 (40.3)	14 (25.0)	3 (5.4)	39 (69.6)
Sirsa	337	144 (42.4)	27 (18.8)	29 (20.1)	88 (61.1)
Sonipat	304	122 (40.1)	29 (23.8)	12 (9.8)	81 (66.4)
Yamunanaga	471	212 (45.0)	50 (23.6)	60 (28.3)	102 (48.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6186</b>	<b>2565 (41.5)</b>	<b>600 (23.4)</b>	<b>661 (25.8)</b>	<b>1304 (50.8)</b>

**Table-4**  
**Educational Qualification of Female Sarpanch in Haryana**

Districts	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	Graduation & Above
Ambala	0	57 (32.0)	84 (47.2)	15 (8.4)	22 (12.4)
Bhiwani	0	45 (25.0)	88 (49.2)	24 (13.4)	19 (10.6)
Faridabad	0	12 (25.5)	19 (40.5)	8 (17.0)	8 (17.0)
Fatehabad	0	31 (29.0)	40 (37.4)	18 (16.8)	6 (5.6)
Gurugram	0	36 (41.9)	37 (43.0)	7 (8.1)	6 (7.0)
Hisar	0	42 (33.3)	60 (47.7)	12(9.5)	12 (9.5)
Jhajjar	0	29 (29.0)	59 (59.0)	5 (5.0)	7 (7.0)
Jind	0	31 (26.7)	45 (38.8)	25 (21.5)	14 (12.0)
Kaithal	0	38 (31.7)	57 (47.5)	14 (11.7)	7 (5.8)
Karnal	0	67 (38.5)	71 (40.8)	19 (10.9)	17 (9.8)
Kurukshtra	0	52 (32.3)	72 (44.7)	25 (15.5)	12 (7.5)
M.Garh	0	44 (30.8)	64 (44.7)	18 (12.6)	17 (11.9)
Mewat (Nuh)	0	57 (43.5)	49 (37.4)	12 (9.2)	13 (9.2)
Palwal	0	42 (38.9)	45 (41.7)	9 (8.3)	12 (11.1)
Panchkula	0	16 (36.4)	15 (34.1)	9 (20.5)	4 (9.0)
Panipat	0	18 (25.0)	35 (48.6)	11 (15.3)	8 (11.1)
Rewari	0	45 (32.4)	64 (46.0)	17 (12.2)	13 (9.4)
Rohtak	0	20 (35.7)	20 (35.7)	11 (19.6)	5 (9.0)
Sirsa	0	43 (29.9)	61 (42.4)	20 (13.9)	16 (11.1)
Sonipat	0	32 (26.3)	64 (52.4)	17 (13.9)	9 (7.4)
Yamunanaga	0	75 (35.4)	97 (45.7)	22 (10.4)	18 (8.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>832 (32.4)</b>	<b>1146 (44.7)</b>	<b>318 (12.4)</b>	<b>245 (9.5)</b>

**Table-5**  
**Districts-Wise Female Panch in Haryana**

Districts	Total Panch	Total Female Panch	SC	OBC	GEN
Ambala	3199	1504 (47.0)	640 (42.6)	420 (27.9)	444 (29.5)
Bhiwani	4748	2060 (43.4)	588 (28.5)	332 (16.1)	1140 (55.3)
Faridabad	1286	523 (41.4)	140 (26.8)	140 (26.8)	243 (46.4)
Fatehbad	2594	1111 (42.8)	474 (42.7)	203 (18.2)	434 (39.1)
Gurugram	1899	804 (42.3)	236 (29.4)	305 (37.9)	263 (32.7)
Hisar	3794	1518 (40.0)	522 (34.4)	315 (20.7)	681 (44.9)
Jhajjar	2620	1110 (42.4)	314 (28.3)	152 (13.7)	644 (58.0)
Jind	3214	1285 (40.0)	380 (29.6)	198 (15.4)	707 (55.0)
Kaithal	2835	1213 (42.8)	396 (32.6)	253 (20.9)	564 (46.5)
Karnal	3754	1640 (43.3)	564 (34.4)	366 (22.3)	710 (43.3)
Kurukshtra	3307	1555 (47.0)	552 (35.5)	543 (34.9)	460 (29.6)
M.Garh	3246	1435 (44.2)	408 (28.4)	711 (49.6)	316 (22.0)
Mewat (Nuh)	3133	1074 (34.3)	244 (22.7)	701 (65.3)	129 (12.0)
Palwal	2607	957 (36.7)	276 (28.9)	297 (31.0)	384 (40.1)
Panchkula	908	407 (44.8)	125 (30.7)	111 (27.3)	171 (42.0)
Panipat	2082	843 (40.5)	265 (31.4)	216 (25.6)	362 (43.0)
Rewari	3149	1370 (43.5)	435 (31.8)	662 (48.3)	273 (19.9)
Rohtak	1761	717 (40.7)	214 (29.8)	83 (11.6)	420 (58.6)
Sirsa	3447	1420 (41.2)	581 (40.9)	293 (20.6)	546 (38.5)
Sonipat	3246	1314 (40.5)	362 (27.5)	215 (16.4)	737 (56.1)
Yamunanaga	3607	1635 (45.3)	649 (39.7)	492 (30.1)	494 (30.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>60436</b>	<b>25495 (42.2)</b>	<b>8365 (32.8)</b>	<b>7008 (27.5)</b>	<b>10122 (39.7)</b>

**Table -5**  
**Education Qualification of Female Panch in Haryana**

Districts	5 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	UG & Above
Ambala	277 (18.4)	412 (27.4)	611 (40.6)	134(8.9)	70(4.7)
Bhiwani	239 (11.6)	512 (24.9)	1069 (51.9)	164(8.0)	61(3.0)
Faridabad	49 (9.4 )	148 (28.3)	248 (47.4)	61(11.7)	17(3.3)
Fatehbad	262 (23.6)	290 (26.1)	404 (36.4)	121(10.9)	22(2.0)
Gurugram	81 (10.1)	221 (27.5)	398 (49.5)	65(8.1)	30(3.7)
Hisar	228 (15.0)	368 (24.2)	748 (49.3)	139(9.1)	34(2.2)
Jhajjar	122 (11.0)	286 (25.8)	606 (54.6)	65(5.9)	31(2.8)
Jind	171 (13.3)	332 (25.8)	586(45.6)	147(11.4)	36(2.8)
Kaithal	217 (17.9)	315 (26.0)	528(43.5)	108(8.9)	41(3.4)
Karnal	253 (15.4)	477 (29.1)	735(44.8)	120(7.3)	55(3.4)
Kurukshtra	276 (17.7)	445 (28.6)	680(43.7)	108(6.9)	46(3.0)
M.Garh	187 (13.0)	415 (28.9)	680(47.4)	91(6.3)	62(4.3)
Mewat (Nuh)	107 (10.0)	387 (36.0)	446(41.5)	101(9.4)	33(3.1)
Palwal	110 (11.5)	301 (31.5)	447(46.7)	79(8.3)	20(2.1)
Panchkula	65 (16.0)	145 (35.6)	140(34.4)	40(9.8)	14(3.4)
Panipat	101 (12.0)	236 (28.0)	406(48.2)	77(9.1)	23(2.7)
Rewari	175 (12.8)	415 (30.3)	608(44.4)	111(8.1)	59(4.3)
Rohtak	90 (12.6)	165 (23.0)	361(50.3)	68(9.5)	30(4.2)
Sirsa	296 (20.8)	389 (27.4)	524(36.9)	152(10.7)	52(3.7)
Sonipat	130 (9.9)	322 (24.5)	725(55.2)	105(8.0)	32(2.4)
Yamunanagar	281 (17.2)	535 (32.7)	626(38.3)	118(7.2)	74(4.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3717 (14.6)</b>	<b>7116 (27.9)</b>	<b>11576(45.4)</b>	<b>2174(8.5)</b>	<b>842(3.4)</b>