

Women in Panchayat Raj Institutions – A Study on Warangal District of Telangana State

¹G. Swapna, ²Prof. G. Ram Reddy

¹Research Scholar, ²Professor,
Department of Political Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad

Abstract: Panchayats have been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning of recorded history. In 1946 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the father of the India nation had aptly remarked that the Indian independence must begin at the bottom and every village ought to be a republic or Panchayat having powers. Gandhiji's dream has been translated into reality with the introduction of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system to ensure people's participation in rural reconstruction. The 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution have impacted nearly 600 million Indian people in 500,000 villages. Interestingly the percentage of women at various levels of political activity has risen from 4-5% to 25-40%. The State of Telangana spans over an area of 1,14,840 sq.kms. It is bound by the states of Andhra Pradesh on the south and east, Maharashtra on the north and north-west, Karnataka on the west and Chhatisgarh to the North-east. The state comprises ten districts, namely, Hyderabad, Khammam, Nalgonda, Warangal, Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Mahaboobnagar and Ranga Reddy. Presently the state has 31 districts. The total strength of the ZPTC, MPTC and Sarpanch in Warangal district of Telangana This paper presents a detailed profile of the Warangal District of Telangana State which was selected for the study. It mainly focuses on the women participation in Panchayati Raj System in the District. The historical background, geographical, and political situation existing in the District are briefly discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Constitution, Elections, Panchayat Raj, Participation, Women Empowerment

Introduction:

Panchayats have been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning of recorded history. In 1946 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the father of the India nation had aptly remarked that the Indian independence must begin at the bottom and every village ought to be a republic or Panchayat having powers. Gandhiji's dream has been translated into reality with the introduction of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system to ensure people's participation in rural reconstruction. For the interest of the weaker sections of the population including women, SCs, and STs, an amendment in the constitution of India took place in the year 1992. This 73rd amendment act marks a new era in the federal democratic set up of the country and provides constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The main features of the act are (i) A 3-tier system of Panchayati Raj for all states having population of over 20 lakh. (ii) Panchayat elections regularly in every 5 years. (iii) Reservation of seats for SC, ST and women (not less than 33% of seats). (iv) Appointment of state Finance Commission to make recommendations as regards the financial powers of the Panchayats and (v) Constitution of districts planning committees to prepare development plans for the district as a whole (Anonymous, 2002 and Ganguly, 2003).

The 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution have impacted nearly 600 million Indian people in 500,000 villages. Interestingly the percentage of women at various levels of political activity has risen from 4-5% to 25-40%. Both nationally as well as at the state and local levels women in elected bodies have been very few and even those who have been elected when observed from closer quarters present a complex picture (Chandra, 2007). Empowerment of women is essentially the process of up-liftment of economic, social and political status of women who are traditionally underprivileged ones in the society. It involves the building up of a society wherein women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation apprehension, discrimination and the general feeling of persecution which goes with being a woman in a traditionally male dominated structure (Lal and Kumar, 2007).

Telangana State – A Brief Profile

On 2 June 2014, Telangana became the 29th state of India, consisting of ten districts with Hyderabad as its capital. The State of Telangana is located in the Southern region of India. Most of it was part of the princely state of Hyderabad, which was ruled by the Nizams during the British Raj until 1947, and later until 1948, when it joined the Union of India. In 1956, Hyderabad state was dissolved and Andhra state was merged with the Telangana region of the state of Hyderabad to form the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The State of Telangana spans over an area of 1,14,840 sq.kms. It is bound by the states of Andhra Pradesh on the south and east, Maharashtra on the north and north-west, Karnataka on the west and Chhatisgarh to the North-east. The state comprises ten districts, namely, Hyderabad, Khammam, Nalgonda, Warangal, Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Mahaboobnagar

and Ranga Reddy. Presently the state has 31 districts. The total strength of the ZPTC, MPTC and Sarpanch in Warangal district of Telangana State is as follows

Demographic Profile

Telangana with a population of 351.9 lakhs (according to the 2011 census) accounts for about 3.6% percent of the total population of India. Out of this, 177.0 lakhs (50.2%) are males and 174.90 lakhs (49.8%) are females. The sex ratio of the state is 988 as against the national figure of 943. The population density in the state is 307 persons / sq.km. The rural population of the State according to the 2011 census is 215.8 lakhs which amounts to 61.3% of the state's total population. The three districts with the highest rural population are Mahaboobnagar (85.0%), Nalgonda (81.0%) and Nizamabad (76.9%).

After decades of movement for a separate State, Telangana was created by passing the AP State Reorganization Bill in both houses of Parliament. Telangana is surrounded by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh in the North, Karnataka in the West and Andhra Pradesh in the South and East directions. Major cities of the state include Hyderabad, Warangal, Nizamabad and Karimnagar.

Capital City	Hyderabad
Area	112,077 Sq. Kms.
Districts	31
Revenue Divisions	69
Towns (as per Census, 2011)	158
Municipal Corporations	6
Municipalities	136
Zilla Praja Parishads	9
Mandal Praja Parishads	438
Gram Panchayats	12,751
Revenue Mandals	585
Revenue Villages (as per Census, 2011)	10,434
Inhabited Villages (as per Census, 2011)	9,834
Un-inhabited Villages (as per Census, 2011)	600
Households	83.04 Lakhs
Population	350.04 Lakhs
Male	176.12 Lakhs
Female	173.92 Lakhs
Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	988 Ratio
Density of Population	312 per Sq. Km
Decadal Growth Rate (2001-2011)	13.58 Rate
Rural Population	213.95 Lakhs
Rural Population Male	107.05 Lakhs
Rural Population Female	106.90 Lakhs
Rural Population Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	999 Ratio
Rural to Total Population	61.12 %
Urban Population	136.09 Lakhs
Urban Population Male	69.07 Lakhs
Urban Population Female	67.02 Lakhs
Urban Population Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	970 Ratio
Urban to Total Population	38.88 %
SC Population	54.09 Lakhs
SC Population Male	26.93 Lakhs
SC Population Female	27.16 Lakhs
ST Population	31.78 Lakhs
ST Population Male	16.08 Lakhs
ST Population Female	15.70 Lakhs
Child Population (0-6 years)	38.99 Lakhs
Child Population (0-6 years) Male	20.18 Lakhs
Child Population (0-6 years) Female	18.81 Lakhs
Child to Total Population	11.14 %
Child Sex Ratio (Female per 1000 Males)	932 Ratio
Literates	206.97 Lakhs
Literates Male	117.02 Lakhs
Literates Female	89.05 Lakhs
Literacy Rate	66.54 %

Literacy Rate Male	75.04 %
Literacy Rate Female	57.99 %
Total Workers	163.42 Lakhs
Main Workers	137.20 Lakhs
Marginal Workers	26.22 Lakhs
Members of Parliament (MPs)	17
Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs)	120
Member of Legislative Council (MLCs)	40
Towns (Statutory)	136

Profile of the Warangal District:

Warangal district is located in the northern region of the state of Telangana, India. The administrative seat is Warangal. The district is at a distance of approx. 80 km. from the state capital Hyderabad. Warangal District has an area of 12,846 km², and a population of 3,246,004 of which 19.20% was urban as of 2001. The district is bounded by Karimnagar District to the north, Khammam District to the east and southeast, Nalgonda District to the southwest, and Medak District to the west.

Warangal is well known for its granite quarries (notably the black and brown varieties) and as a market for rice, chili pepper, cotton, and tobacco. The Warangal district headquarters is also Warangal. This includes Warangal, Hanamkonda and Kazipet areas the towns in the district includes Parkal, Mahabubabad, Janagaon, Narsampet, Thorrur, and Bhupalpally.

History

Warangal district consists of many Prehistoric habitation sites, which were explored by the Indian Archaeological authorities. Paleolithic Rock art paintings are found at Pandavula gutta (Regonda) and Narsapur (Tadvai) in the district. The lower valley along River Godavari is a rich belt of Neolithic settlement extended to the neighbouring Khammam district also.

Jainism

Padmakshi Gutta consists of a Jain temple dedicated to Goddess Padmavathi (Padmakshi), located on a hilltop in the heart of the town of Hanamakonda, was originally constructed during Kakatiya reign. Till the Kakatiya Kings renovated and established the Goddess Padmakshi, previously it was a 'Basadi' a Jain temple. The temple also has rich sculpture of the Jain Tirthankara's and other Jain Gods and Goddesses. The Kadalalaya basadi or Padmakshi Temple is built on a large rocky out crop. Angadi Veerannagudi a Jain temple located at Biranpally village in Maddur Mandal in the district.

Kakatiya Reign

Warangal was the capital of Kakatiya kingdom ruled by the Kakatiya dynasty from the 12th to the 14th centuries. Warangal is also known as Orugallu, Ekasila Nagaram. The old name of this place is Orugallu. Oru means one and Gallu means stone. The Kakatiyas left many monuments, including an impressive fortress, four massive stone gateways, the Swayambhu temple dedicated to Shiva, and the Ramappa temple situated near Ramappa Lake. The cultural and administrative distinction of the Kakatiyas was mentioned by the famous traveller Marco Polo. Famous or well-known rulers included Ganapathi Deva, Prathapa Rudra, and Rani (queen) Rudrama Devi. After the defeat of Pratapa Rudra, the Musunuri Nayaks united seventy two Nayak chieftains and captured Warangal from Delhi sultanate and ruled for fifty years. Jealousy and mutual rivalry between Nayaks ultimately led to the downfall of Hindus in 1370 A.D. and success of Bahmanis

Deccan Empires

Bahmani Sultanate later broke up into several smaller sultanates, of which the Golconda sultanate ruled Warangal. The Mughal emperor Aurangzeb conquered Golconda in 1687, and it remained part of the Mughal empire until the southern provinces of the empire split away to become the state of Hyderabad in 1724 which included the Telangana region and some parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Hyderabad became an Indian state in 1948. In 1956 Hyderabad was partitioned as part of the States Reorganisation Act, and Telangana, the Telugu-speaking region of Hyderabad state which includes Warangal, became part of Telangana. Warangal District is currently a part of the Red Corridor.

Geographical Features of Warangal District:

Sl. No.	Item	Unit	Year	District
1	Geographical Area	In Ha.	2015-16	209466
a	Area	In Sq.Kms		2094.66
b	Forest Area	In Ha.	2015-16	10441
c	% to Total Geographical Area	%		5
2	Villages / Gram Panchayats / Mandals / Mandal Praja Parishads:			
a	Revenue Divisions	Nos.	As per G.O.	2
b	Revenue Villages	Nos.	As per G.O.	225
c	Revenue Villages	Nos.	As per Agrl. Census	229
d	Gram Panchayats	Nos.		269
e	Revenue Mandals	Nos.	As per G.O.	15
f	Mandal Praja Parishads	Nos.		
g	ZPTCs	Nos.		14
3	Population (as per 2011 Census):			
a	Total Population	Nos.		7,18,537
b	Male	Nos.		3,60,315
c	Female	Nos.		3,58,222

Geography

Warangal district occupies an area of 12,846 square kilometres (4,960 sq mi), comparatively equivalent to the island of Jamaica or the US state of Hawaii.

Demographics

According to the 2011 census Warangal district has a population of 3,522,644, roughly equal to the nation of Kuwait or the US state of Connecticut. This gives it a ranking of 82nd in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 274 inhabitants per square kilometre (710/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 8.52%. Warangal has a sex ratio of 994 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 66.16%.

Household indicators

In 2007–2008 the International Institute for Population Sciences interviewed 956 households in 40 villages across the district. They found that 94.1% had access to electricity, 94.3% had drinking water, 40.6% toilet facilities, and 30.4% lived in a pucca (permanent) home. 17.5% of girls before the legal age of 18 and 87.2% of interviewees carried a BPL card.

Economy

In 2006 the Indian government named Warangal one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). It is one of the thirteen districts in Andhra Pradesh currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF).

Power sector

APGENCO has set up a 500 MW (and another unit of 1x600MW unit is under construction, thus the total capacity will become 1100MW) super thermal power plant in the Chelpur/ Bhupalpally area. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited is having a 630MVA, 400/220KV Substation in the Oglapur village in Atmakur mandal.

Tourism

In February 2013, Warangal was accorded World Heritage town status by UNESCO.

- Thousand Pillar Temple
- Warangal fort

- Ramappa Temple
- Pakhal Lake
- Sunset at Bhadrakali Lake
- Medaram

Political Profile of the District:

The three tier system of Panchayati Raj was introduced in October 1959 along with entire state as consequence of recommendation of Balwanth Rai Mehta Committee Report. These Panchayat Raj Institutions were functioning according to the two Panchayati Raj Acts introduced by Government Andhra Pradesh namely, the Andhra Pradesh Zilla Parishad and Panchayati Samithi Act of 1959 and the Gram panchayat Act of 1964. Subsequently, several changes were introduced in the functioning of these bodies through various Amendments made from time to time to concerned Acts by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

At The Village Panchayat:

There is one sarpanch and the total number of ward members. According to the Andhra Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act of 1994, a gram panchayat consists of 5 to 21 elected members inclusive of its sarpanch depending upon the size of its population. The members of Village panchayats are elected by all the registered voters of gram panchayat from wards whereas the sarpanch is elected by all voters of the Village Panchayat and they continue in the office for a period of five years unless otherwise removed from the office. However, the upa- sarpanch of Panchayat is elected by the elected members of the Panchayat.

Reservation for Women:

As a consequence of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 33 per cent of the political offices in each tier of the offices were reserved for women. In Warangal District the numbers of political offices in each tier of panchayati Raj reserved for women in given below:

Political Functionary	Men	Women	Total
Ward Members	4887	4887	9774
Sarpanches	395	460	855
Mandal Parishad	27+1 (1 No Election)	31+1 (1 No Election)	50
M.P.T.C	336	369	705
ZPTC	23	23	46

Source: Zilla Parsihad Office, Warangal

As the above table indicates, there are total number of 9774 of Ward Members in the Warangal District of them, 4887 Ward members are Women. There are total number of 855 of village Sarpanches in the District of them, 460 Sapanches are women. At the Zilla Parishad level the Office of Chairperson is reserved for women. Hence, the present chairperson of this Zilla Parishad is a woman. There are 23 Z.P.T.C.women members where as the total number of ZPTCs is 46. There are 31 women Mandal Parishad Presidents and 369 M.P.T.C. women members where as the total M.P.T.C. membership is 705. This indicates that there are women in all the political positions in the three tier of the panchayati Raj System. Among the three categories of the Panchayati Raj Bodies in Warangal District all most all the communities were participating in grasroot politics. Most of the respondents were belong to middle class families but some of them have belongs to forward community and financially, politically sound background. They account for 33 per cent of the total office barriers which is in accordance with Andhra Pradesh Panchayari Raj Act.

No. of Elected Sarpanches in Warangal District in 2014 Elections (Mandal Wise)

Sl. No.	Name of the Mandal	Nos. of Elected Sarpanches
1.	Eturnagaram	06
2.	Tadvai	05
3.	Ghanpur (Mlg)	07
4.	Parkal	11
5.	Govindaraopet	04
6.	Shayampet	09
7.	Venkatapur	07
8.	Mulug	09
9.	Regonda	15

10.	Mogullapally	09
11.	Chityal	17
12.	Bhupalpally	07
13.	Dornakal	08
14.	Kesamudram	11
15.	Kuravi	14
16.	Maripeda	12
17.	Narsimhulapeta	07
18.	Nekkonda	10
19.	Nellikudur	09
20.	Thorrur	09
21.	Chennaraopet	09
22.	Duggondi	13
23.	Gudur	11
24.	Khanapur	02
25.	Kothaguda	09
26.	Nallabelly	09
27.	Narsampet	07
28.	Bachannapet	11
29.	Palakkurthy	10
30.	Cherial	12
31.	Devaruppula	11
32.	Jangaon	07
33.	Kodakandla	07
34.	Lingalghanpur	08
35.	Maddur	11
36.	Narmetta	09
37.	Raghunathpally	14
38.	Eturnagaram	03
39.	Govindaraopet	01
40.	Mulug	01
41.	Atmakur	15
42.	Dharmasagar	11
43.	Geesugonda	08
44.	Ghanpur (Stn)	15
45.	Hanamkonda	02
46.	Parvathagiri	06
47.	Raiparthy	10
48.	Sangem	11
49.	Wardhannappet	08
50.	Zaffergadh	08
51.	Hasanparthy	05
	Total	450

Detailed Election Results of Elected Women MPTCs in Warangal District

Sl. No.	Name of the Mandal Parishad	MPP reserved for
1.	Atmakur	BC
2.	Chityal	SC(W)
3.	Dharmasagar	UR(W)
4.	Dornakal	BC(W)
5.	Duggondi	SC(W)
6.	Eturnagaram	BC(W)
7.	Geesugonda	UR(W)
8.	Ghanpur(M)	SC(W)
9.	Govindaraopet	BC(W)
10.	Hasanparthy	UR
11.	Kesamudram	BC(W)
12.	Kodakandla	ST(W)
13.	Kuravi	UR(W)
14.	Lingalaghnapur	UR(W)
15.	Maddur	SC(W)
16.	Maripeda	BC
17.	Mogullapally	BC(W)
18.	Mulug	ST
19.	Narmetta	ST(W)
20.	Narsampet	ST(W)
21.	Narsimhulapet	BC
22.	Nellikudur	SC
23.	Palakurthy	ST
24.	Parkal	UR(W)
25.	Parvathagiri	BC(W)
26.	Raghunathpally	UR(W)
27.	Rayaparthi	ST(W)
28.	S.S. Tadvai	BC(W)
29.	Shayampet	BC(W)
30.	Zaffergadh	UR(W)
31.	Venkatapur	ST(W)
32.	Mahabubabad	BC
33.	Hanamkonda	UR
34.	Mangapet	BC(W)

Above table reveals that the elected women MPTCs in Warangal out of the 34 Mandal Praja Parishads 22 mandal parishads are reserved for women. In these reservations caste wise 9 seats reserved for Backward castes women, 4 seats for SC women, 5 seats for ST women and 6 seats for un reserved womens respectives. 10 seats reserved for general seats.

Detailed Election Results of Elected Women ZPTC members in Warangal District

Sl. No.	Name of the ZPTC	ZPTC Reserved for
1	2	3
1	Athmakur	UR(M/W)
2	Bachannapet	BC (W)
3	Bhupalpally	ST (W)
4	Chennaraopet	UR(M/W)
5	Cheriyal	BC (W)
6	Chityal	BC (M/W)
7	Devaruppula	SC (W)
8	Dharmasagar	BC(M/W)
9	Dornakal	BC (W)
10	Duggondi	BC (W)
11	Eturnagaram	UR (W)
12	Geesugonda	ST (W)
13	Ghanapur (M)	BC(M/W)
14	Ghanpur (Stn)	ST
15	Govinderaopet	SC (W)
16	Gudur	UR(M/W)
17	Hanmkonda	BC (W)
18	Hasanparthy	BC (M/W)
19	Jangaon	UR (W)
20	Kesamudram	BC (W)
21	Khanapur	UR (M/W)
22	Kodakandla	SC (W)
23	Kothaguda	UR (W)
24	Kuravi	BC (W)
25	Lingala Ghanpur	UR (M/W)
26	Maddur	BC (W)
27	Mahabubabad	BC (M/W)
28	Mangapet	UR (M/W)
29	Maripeda	BC (M/W)
30	Mogullapally	UR (W)
31	Mulugu	BC (M/W)
32	Nallabelli	BC(M/W)
33	Narmetta	SC (W)
34	Narsampet	ST (W)
35	Narsimhulapet	SC
36	Nekkonda	SC
37	Nellikudur	BC(M/W)
38	Palakurthy	SC
39	Parkal	BC(M/W)
40	Parvathagiri	SC
41	Raghunathpally	ST (W)
42	Rayaparthi	SC (W)
43	Regonda	BC (W)
44	Sangem	ST
45	Shayampet	UR (W)
46	Tadvai	UR (W)
47	Thorrur	ST
48	Venkatapur	ST
49	Wardhannapet	ST
50	Zaffargadh	ST (W)

Detailed Election Results of ZPTC in Warangal District

Sl.No	Name of the Urban Local Body	Chairperson Reserverd for	Person Declared Elected as Chairperson	Party Affiliation	Person Declared Elected as Vice-Chairperson	Party Affiliation
1	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Bhupalpally	SC	Smt.Bandari Sampurna	TRS	Sri.Arukala Ganapathi	BJP
2	Jangaon	UR(W)	Premalatha Reddy Gadipelli	TRS	Venkatesh Nagarapu	BJP
3	Parakala	SC	Martha Rajabdraiah	IND	Devunuri Ramya Krishna	BJP
4	Narasmpet	BC	Sri Pallely Ramchandraiah	INC	Smt Munigala Padma	INC
5	Mahabubabad	ST(W)	Smt Bhukya Uma	INC	Sri Surnapu Somaiah	CPM

Elected Women as ZP Chairperson in Warangal District

1	SC(W)	Gaddala Padma	TRS	Chettupally Muralidhar	TDP	Shaik Abdul Nabhi	Mohammad Ibrahim
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CONCLUSION

From the angles of people's eye though there are some against voice but majority of the people informed that women members as well as male members communicate regularly with the people. Most of the activities done by the women members are scheme oriented. They are functioning as the agent of the govt. for the implementation of the scheme. Regarding the flow of information women members play a crucial role. Survey indicates that in this patriarchal and male dominated society it will take time for women members to have the confidence of others in the neighborhood.

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