

# A Study of Challenges regarding Political Participation of Tribal Women in Local bodies in Sawale Village, Andar Maval, Taluka Maval, Dist. Pune

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## Abstract

Right to political participation of women includes their full access to the political and public life without any discrimination. The political sphere includes the government, the parliament and local governing bodies such as municipalities and local councils or local bodies. Three key actors can be defined as strongly affecting political rights and participation of women in the public and political life: first, decision makers such as governmental institutions and senior staff, the actual political structure and lastly, the media.

Women constitute nearly fifty percent of the population of the world, but when it comes to their representation at higher levels of political positions in the government, they account for only less than ten percent. Panchayats, as people's bodies, have been existence since long in the country. Women, however, were not an integral part of this system.

Political participation has been defined in various ways. Political participation means not only exercising the right to vote, but also power sharing, co-decision and co-policy making at all levels of governance of the state. The tribal women face the challenges regarding political rights and participation. Political participation is a major component of empowerment. It also tries to draw attention to the position of tribal women in state politics and the adverse effects of low participation of women in political process.

The present paper is based on primary data. The study will focus on the issues of political rights of tribal women in Sawale village. Also the study will discuss on the current scenario of political participation of these women.

**Key words:** Political participation, Political rights, local council, Empowerment, etc.

## Introduction:

Right to political participation of women includes their full access to the political and public life without any discrimination. The political sphere includes the government, the parliament and local governing bodies such as municipalities and local councils or local bodies. Three key actors can be defined as strongly affecting political rights and participation of women in the public and political life: first, decision makers such as governmental institutions and senior staff, the actual political structure and lastly, the media.

There has been growing acceptance of the importance to society of the full participation of women in decision making and power at all levels, including inter-governmental, governmental and nongovernmental sectors. Towns and cities contribute substantially to the economic development of the country. If democracy in parliament and State Legislatures is to remain strong and stable, its root must reach towns and villages and the cities where the people live.

Political participation has been defined in various ways. Political participation means not only exercising the right to vote, but also power sharing, co-decision and co-policy making at all levels of governance of the state. The tribal women face the challenges regarding political rights and participation. Political participation is a major component of empowerment. It also tries to draw attention to the position of tribal women in state politics and the adverse effects of low participation of women in political process.

The Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Amendment Bills relating to *panchayats* and municipalities respectively were introduced in the Parliament in 1991. Panchayats and municipalities are constitutional bodies forming third tier to federal polity of India. Thus, the passage of Seventy-third Amendment in Constitution marked a watershed in the history of modern India. With this amendment, a uniform structure of *panchayats* emerged throughout the country.

The Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Constitutional Amendments provide for reservation of 33 percent of elected seats for women at different levels of local governance in both rural as well as urban local bodies. Even, one third of the seats are further reserved for women belonging to the SC/ST community.

In this paper the researcher will discuss the political participation of tribal women of Sawale village as in this area women are working in fields and never come out of the house for any other purpose.

## Objectives of the study:

1. To study the political participation of tribal women in Sawale village
2. To understand the current scenario of political participation of tribal women in Sawale village.

### **Review of literature:**

Gargi Das (2012) revealed that the women in study area had high decision making in house hold activities such as house hold expenditure, their own expenditure, visiting to relatives, treatment of sick etc. But they were passive in decision making at community level. The literacy rate of tribal women was low. But they had positive attitude towards the girl's education.

Dr. Nagaraja S. (2017) studied that tribal women should get greater political and social participation so they can be dynamic active politics. If they are provided the opportunity to take active participation in politics, they will contribute a lot to the development of their regions. The process of tribal women empowerment will start with the active participation in politics. There was negative impact of patriarchy on political participation of tribal women.

Dr. Nagaraja S. and Dr. Pallani Kusugal revealed that the participation of women in panchayats provides an opportunity to solve the problems in community and public. Political participation will help the tribal women to improve their position. This will also relate with the empowerment process of tribal women.

### **Profile of study region:**

The Sawale village is located at the western part of Pune. It is 100 KM from Pune city. There are three wadies in the village. Most of the population is belongs to tribal. They either work as agriculture labors or they have their own land for farming. There are two schools in the village. One is Zilla Parishad and other one is private school. Two sub tribes such as Mahadev Koli and Katkari are prominent. Hence, researcher has selected the village for the said study.

### **Inclusive criteria:**

The researcher has selected only tribal women for the study between the agegroup of 18 to 46 years.

### **Methodology:**

In the said study, the descriptive research design is used as the researcher is describing the situation of tribal women regarding political participation. The probability research method is used and for sample selection simple random sample is used. As primary data is concerned the researcher

selected only tribal women in the village and self structured interview schedule has prepared as tool of data collection.

### Inference:

After collecting the data the researcher used SPSS for interpreted the data. Following tables are showing the inferences of the study.

**Table No. 1 Distribution of the respondent according to Sub - Tribe**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Mahadev Koli	52	86.7	86.7	86.7
Katkari	8	13.3	13.3	100.0
Total	60	100.0	100.0	

The above table depicts that the distribution of the respondents according to Sub- Tribe. It clearly shows that majority (87%) of the respondents are belongs from Mahadev Koli Sub-Tribe and rest of the respondents (13%) are belongs from Katkari Sub – Tribe.

The table concludes that majority of the respondents belongs from Mahadev Koli Sub-Tribe. Since the demographic situation covers dominating population of Mahadev Koli community in Maval block of Pune District.

**Table No. 2 Distribution of the respondent according to Age**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18 to 25 years	20	33.3	33.3	33.3
25 to 32 years	19	31.7	31.7	65.0
32 to 39 years	12	20.0	20.0	85.0
39 to 46 years	9	15.0	15.0	100.0

	Total	60	100.0	100.0	
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Comparing respondents with their age group, it was found that there were 20(33%) respondents were between the age group of 18 to 25 years, 19(31%) respondents were between the age group of 25-32 years, 12(20%) respondents were between the age group of 32-39 and 9(15%) respondents were between the age group of 39-46 years.

**Table No. 3 Distribution of the respondent according to Education**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Illiterate	16	26.7	26.7	26.7
	Primary	15	25.0	25.0	51.7
	Secondary	22	36.7	36.7	88.3
	Higher Secondary	7	11.7	11.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

The above table depicts that the distribution of the respondents according to education. It clearly shows that the majority (37%) of the respondent completed education up to secondary level, illiterate respondents are 27%, the respondent completed primary education are 25% and less respondents 12% completed education up to higher education.

The table concludes that majority of the respondents had completed their education up to secondary level only.

**Table No. 4 Distribution of the respondent according to Occupation**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Farmer	49	81.7	81.7	81.7

	Agriculture labor	11	18.3	18.3	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

According to above table the majority respondents 82% are farmers and rest of the respondents 18% are agriculture labors. It clearly shows that the majority of respondents had their own farm land.

**Table No. 5 Distribution of the respondent according to Monthly income**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
below than 2500 in rupees	19	31.7	31.7	31.7
2501 to 5000 in rupees	32	53.3	53.3	85.0
7501 to 10000 in rupees	5	8.3	8.3	93.3
10001 to 12500 in rupees	1	1.7	1.7	95.0
12501 to More in rupees	3	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	60	100.0	100.0	

The above table depicts that the distribution of the respondents according to monthly income. It clearly shows that the majority (53%) of the respondent earned monthly income up to 2501 to 5000 rupees, 19% of respondents earned below than 2500 rupees ,5% of the respondents earned 7501 to 10000 rupees 3% of the respondents earned 10001 to 12500 rupees and less respondents 1% earned up to more than 12501 rupees.

The table concludes that according to monthly income the majority of the respondents are belongs to BPL families. .

**Table No. 6 Distribution of the respondent according to marital status**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Married	57	95.0	95.0	95.0
	Unmarried	3	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

The above table shows the marital status of the respondent. Majority of the respondents 95% are married and only 5% respondents are unmarried.

**Table No. 7 Distribution of the respondent according to Participation in political party**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	4	6.7	6.7	6.7
	No	55	91.7	91.7	98.3
	3.00	1	1.7	1.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

The above table depicts that the distribution of the respondents according to participation in political party. It clearly shows that majority of respondents 92% were not participated in any political party. Only 7% of the respondents were participated in BJP party. 1% respondent did not aware about the political party.

The table concludes that the respondents were neutral about the participation of the politics.

**Table No. 8 Distribution of the respondent according to Interest in politics**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	26	43.3	43.3	43.3
	No	34	56.7	56.7	100.0



	Total	60	100.0	100.0	
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The above table shows the interest of the respondents in politics. 57% of respondents were not interested in politics. 43% of the respondents were interested in politics.

**Table No. 9 Distribution of the respondent according to Participation in *gramsabha***

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	15	25.0	20.0	20.0
No	45	75.0	75.0	95.0
Total	60	100.0	100.0	

The above table depicts that the distribution of the respondents according to participation in *gramsabha*. The majority 75% of the respondents were not participates in *gramsabha* and only 25% of the respondents were participated in *gramsabha*.

The table concludes that the respondents were neutral about the participation in the *gramsabha*.

**Table No. 10 Distribution of the respondent according to Active participation in discussion of *gramsabha***

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	05	33.33	33.33	33.33
No	10	66.66	66.66	66.66
Total	15	100.0	100.0	

The above table shows the active participation of respondents who attend the *gramsabha* Only 33% of respondents participated actively in *gramsabha*. Rest of the 66% respondents were participated in *gramsabha* but not taken the part actively.

The table clearly concludes that there is less participation of respondent in *gramsabha*, since the respondents are neutral about the participation in politics.

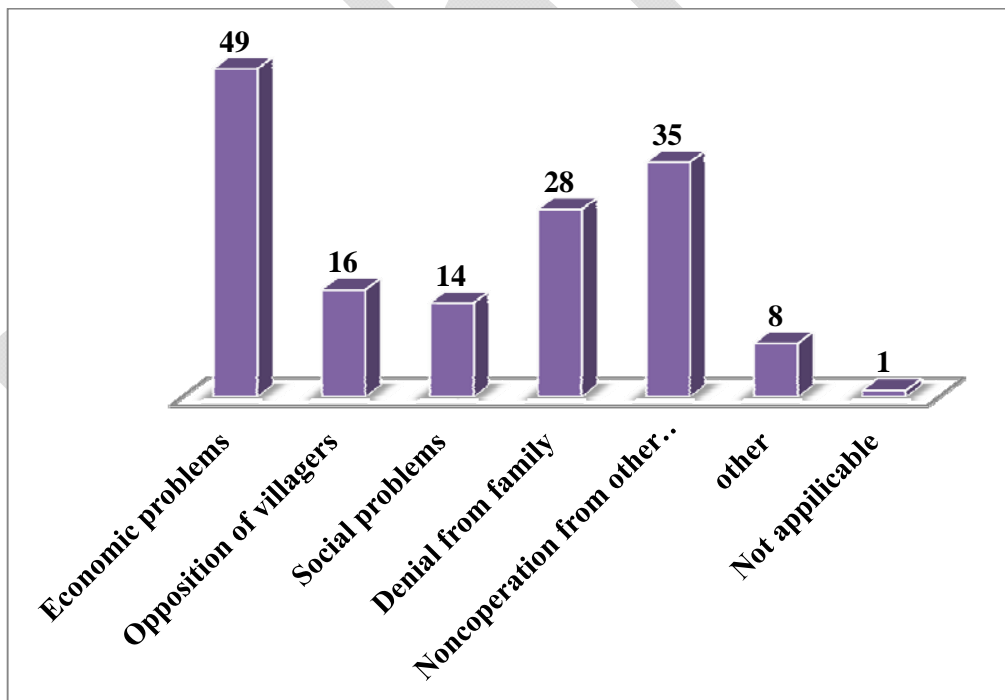


**Table No. 11 Distribution of the respondent according to Tribal women face more problems than other women**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	57	93.4	93.4	93.4
	No	3	4.9	4.9	98.4
	Not applicable	1	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	61	100.0	100.0	

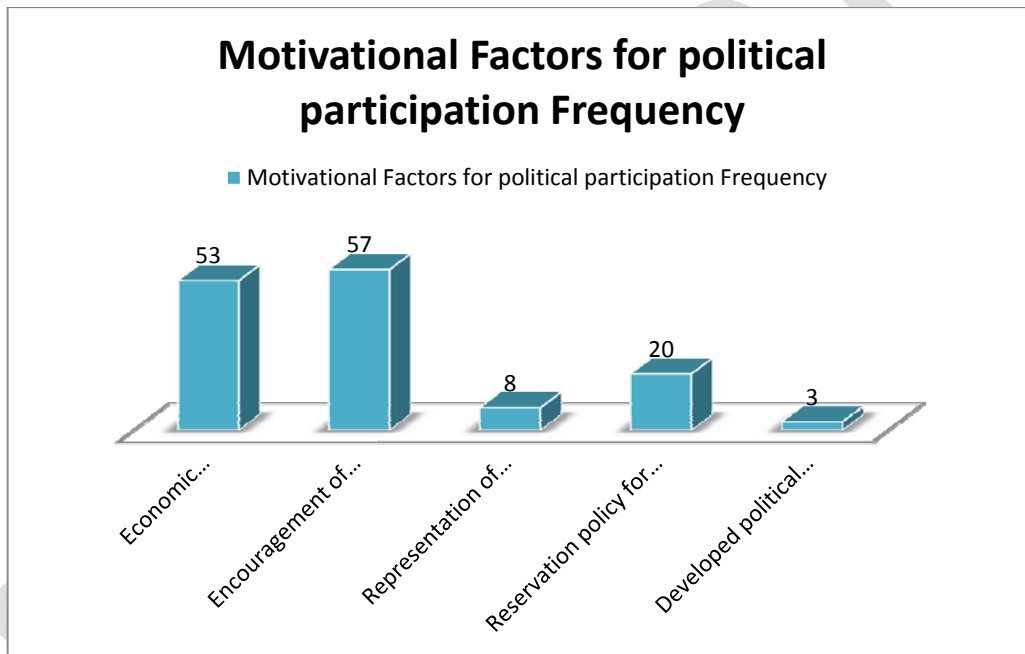
The above table shows that 93% of the respondents were agreed that tribal women face more problems than other women regarding political participation. Only 5% respondents disagreed with the said statement. 2% respondents didn't have any opinion regarding the said statement.

**Graph No. 1 Opinion of respondents according to Problems in political participation (multiple choice questions)**



The above graph shows distribution of respondents according to problems in political participation. Majority of the respondents (49) feels that economic conditions are the responsible factors for the political participation. 16 respondents responded that opposition of villager is the main factor which affects the political participation. Social status is the major thing which influences the political participation responded by 14 respondents, Political participation is affected due to denial from family are the response of 28 respondents. 35 respondents feel that non cooperation from other male members is the major component which affects the political participation.

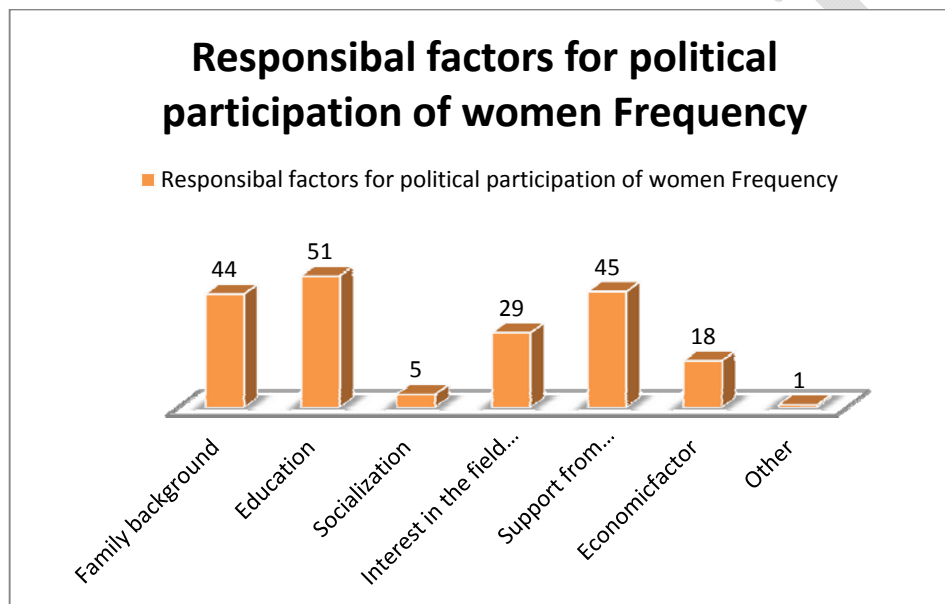
**Graph No. 2 Opinion of respondents according to Motivational Factors for political participation (Multiple choice questions)**



The above graph discuss about the opinion of respondents according to motivational factors for political participation. Majority of respondents (57) responded that encouragement of education is the main motivational factor for political participation. 53 respondents feel that economic empowerment is the major motivation for political participation. Rather than these, reservation of women in politics as a motivation is the key component for political participation, response by 20 respondents. 8 respondents replied that representation of women in politics is the most important

motivational factor for political participation. Fewer respondents (3) replied that political participation is depending upon developed political status of women in politics.

**Graph No. 3 Opinion of respondents according to Responsible Factors for political participation (Multiple choice questions)**



The above graph illustrates opinion of respondents regarding to responsible factors for political participation. Education is the main responsible factor for political participation, is the response of 51 respondents. 45 respondents replied that support from husband is the vital factor which is responsible component for political participation. 44 respondents replied that family background plays vital role in the political participation. Rather than these 29 respondents opinion is , interest in the field of politics makes difference for political participation. Economic factor is the also the responsible factor for political participation replied 18 respondents. Only 5 respondents feel that

socialization is the responsible for political participation. 1 respondent replied that there is another factor rather than these all but cannot explain it.

## Findings:

1. Majority of the respondents belongs from Mahadev Koli Sub-Tribe. Since the demographic situation covers dominating population of Mahadev Koli community in Maval block of Pune District.
2. Majority of respondents were between 18 to 25 years age, Since the population is young age.
3. Majority of the respondents had completed their education up to secondary level only.
4. Majority respondents 82% are farmers and rest of the respondents 18% are agriculture labors. It clearly shows that the majority of respondents had their own farm land and farming is their main occupation.
5. According to monthly income the majority of the respondents are belongs to BPL families. .
6. Majority of the respondents were married.
7. Majority of respondents were not participated in any political party. The respondents were neutral about the participation of the politics.
8. Majority respondents were not interested in politics.
9. The majority of the respondents were not participates in *gramsabha* , since the respondents were neutral in participating for the *gramsabha*.
10. Less respondents raised their issues in *gramsabha* rather other respondents only attend the *gramsabha*.
11. As the majority of respondents were agreed that tribal women face more problems than other women regarding political participation. Thus tribal women face many problems regarding political participation.
12. The table No 12 shows distribution of respondents according to problems in political participation. Majority of the respondents (49) feels that economic conditions are the responsible factors for the political participation. 16 respondents responded that opposition of villager is the main factor which affects the political participation. Social status is the major thing which influences the political participation responded by 14 respondents, Political participation is affected due to denial from family are the response of 28 respondents. 35 respondents feel that non cooperation from other male members is the major component which affects the political participation.

13. The table no 13 discuss about the opinion of respondents according to motivational factors for political participation. Majority of respondents (57) responded that encouragement of education is the main motivational factor for political participation. 53 respondents feel that economic empowerment is the major motivation for political participation. Rather than these, reservation of women in politics as a motivation is the key component for political participation, response by 20 respondents. 8 respondents replied that representation of women in politics is the most important motivational factor for political participation. Fewer respondents (3) replied that political participation is depending upon developed political status of women in politics
14. The table no 14 illustrates opinion of respondents regarding to responsible factors for political participation. Education is the main responsible factor for political participation, is the response of 51 respondents. 45 respondents replied that support from husband is the vital factor which is responsible component for political participation. 44 respondents replied that family background plays vital role in the political participation. Rather than these 29 respondents opinion is , interest in the field of politics makes difference for political participation. Economic factor is the also the responsible factor for political participation replied 18 respondents. Only 5 respondents feel that socialization is the responsible for political participation. 1 respondent replied that there is another factor rather than these all but cannot explain it.

### **Conclusion:**

Sawale is small village consisting of 80% of tribal population. Women in that village are doing hard work in the field. Many of them are not yet seen the taluka place also. The income is very less and it is depending up on the farm grains. They grow only to fulfill their family needs only. Due to house hold work and agriculture work the women is not able to participate in politics. Like other villages in India, the patriarchy is influenced in the political participation of women. Even the women are not attending the gramsabha. After 72 years of independence the women is not able to take her own decision about the political participation and power. In 1992, Constitutional Seventy-third amendment passed about 33% of reservation policy for women in local bodies but after 27 years, the situation has not change in the village. Some women are willing to participate in politics but there is opposed from husband and family members. Only those males are having political background and elected as Sarpanch in the village they only allowed their females in family to enter in politics by the purpose to occupy the seat by the family member only. Hence there is less political participation among the women in the village.

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