

Role of Lady Councilors in the Community Development

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ABSTRACT

The present study was to assess the role of lady councilors in the community development in Faisalabad city. A total of 50 lady councilors were selected through simple random sampling techniques. The data were collected through well-structured interviewing schedule. The collected data were analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics. Results indicated very positive impact of the lady councilors on the development in different sectors.

Key Words: Union Council; Lady Councilors; Community; Development; Local Government System

INTRODUCTION

Women are key determinant of human development. Their involvement in the public discourse brings some of the key people who are reluctant but may be knowledgeable about and committed to issues such as community development, land rights, health, education, violence in the community and the environment into formal decision making bodies. They can improve the quality of life in their own communities by helping to reduce maternal and child mortality, birth rate, improve family nutrition and ensure the use of safe drinking water.

Since the creation of Pakistan women were never given their due right in politics. After the change of government in October, 1999 women got a breakthrough in the form of new local government, in which women were directly elected for the first time in the history of Pakistan at the Union Council level. Before the elections, it was expected that a very small proportion of women will contest the election, but approximately 62000 women contested election at district, union council and tehsil levels. Total of 32000 women were elected at union council level as councilors and Nazims. Women's political participation is a critical element in the development of a democratic society, and offers practical experience and lessons for strengthening civil society in general. It is an integral part of the women enhanced status that involves issues of power and powerlessness; equal access and control over resources and the strategies that can create change agents.

Brunner (1998) has documented that female principals have a caring relationship and collaborative style; a style that has been viewed as instrumental to the moral of staff and students. According to Bergin (2003), the women feel more comfortable with their own, natural way of communicating and problem solving. Women leaders have the advantage of being strongly focused on relationships, comfortable with direct communication, working on webs, skilled at multi-tasking and integrating what they know at work and home.

According to Hassan (2000), the history has brought us to a point where neither politically correct statements nor a superficial analysis of the serious problems of women in Pakistan will suffice to change or even camouflage reality. Much hard work need to be done to examine and understand the root-causes of discrimination against women in Pakistan.

This study was carried out to (i) articulate and frame challenges facing lady councilors in urban Faisalabad, (ii) study how lady councilors can highlight problematic issues in Faisalabad city, (iii) study the role of lady councilors in Faisalabad city, and (iv) investigate how lady councilors can work for women liberty and empowerment.

METHODOLOGY

The present study assessed the role of lady councilors in the community development. A total of 50 Lady councilors were selected through simple random sampling techniques. The data were collected through well-structured interviewing schedule. The collected data were analysed by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was found that 30% respondents were in the age of 35 years, 44% are in the age 36 to 49 and 26% in the age of 50 and above. Among the respondents, 12% were illiterate, 38% were up to middle, 30% were in the category of matric to F.A. and 20% were graduate and above.

The respondents were 70% general councilors and 22% labour councilors and 8% are none of them. According to 56.0% respondents that Local Govt. is good and 44% said that Local Govt. System is very good. As far as problem solving is concerned, 20% said it was due to political plate form, 8% due to approach to Institutions, 38% due to individual capacity to solve the problems and 16% effective social role and 18% gave no response. The problem in solving problems was attributed to lack of funds by 30%

respondents, and 30% due to negative attitude of males, 18% due to lack of TA/DA and according to 22% due to un-effective political role.

Data revealed that among respondents, 58% provided health services, and 84% worked for education. Of the respondents, 70% wanted further education development in their areas. Table I indicates the value of financial schemes got approved by the respondents. Development in different sectors by the respondents is given in Table II. It was found that 22% benefited from Khushali scheme, 26% Zakat funds, 24% from Bat-ul-Mall, 14% from first women scheme, 4% from allowance for old people, and 10% benefited from more than one scheme. Some (28%) of the respondents said that their domestic life was disturbed after becoming councilor; 78% claimed that they have played important role in the solution of female problems, while 22% of the respondents think that they did not do so.

Recommendations

1. The education of lady councilors must be at least Matric. So that they may represent properly.
2. Professional Females should come forward in politics because they are more confident than others.
3. Lady councilors should be trained so that they may become aware of their actual role.
4. Lady councilors should focus their attention on female empowerment/liberation instead of other problematic issues.

Table I. Percentage distribution of the respondents according to their approved Financial Schemes

Schemes	Frequency	Percentage
2 Lac	7	14.0
More than 2 Lac	21	42.0
Nothing	11	22.0
Less than 2 lac	11	22.0
Total	50	100.0

Table II. Percentage distribution of the respondents about the Sectors which developed

Sectors	Frequency	Percentage
Education	17	34.0
Health	3	6.0
Employment	3	6.0
Infrastructure	14	28.0
Sewerage	5	10.0
Roads	6	12.0
Others	2	4.0
Total	50	100.0

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