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## Empowering women in Panchayati Raj system A case study of Ekma Block

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In Panchayati Raj system is a revolutionary step of govt. of India to build up new equitable society. It is very fruitful step in our society. Enhancement of Panchayati Raj system and people participation improved the democratic value, change the development process Birth control, implementation of rural development programme, upliftment of weaker section and women segment.

### Area and Location of Ekma Block:

The present area of study is Ekma Block is an important district of the state of Bihar, Located, in Saran commissioner of North Bihar and head quarter of the Saran Division is at Chapra. Geographically, it lies between  $25.36^{\circ}$  to  $26.13^{\circ}$  north latitudes and  $84.24^{\circ}$  to  $85.15^{\circ}$  east longitudes. The District of Saran is a part of the Ganga, Ghaghara doab has a different physiography; although there are a number of tals, ox-bow lakes and deserted channels of river particularly along the Ghaghara and in the eastern Parts.\*1 This area is known as Bhangar soil region.

The length of the study area is 122 km from the river Gandak in the east of Sonpur sub-division. Its width varies from 65 km in the east and 44 km in the west. It extends over an area of 2641 Sq km and contain a population of 3,943,098 persons according to the census 2011. The stape of the Ekma Block is like a triangle with its apex at the confluence of boundary of Gopalganj District and Gandak – Ganga river and

Ghaghara – Gandak which encircle the district from south, north, east and western sides respectively the area of whole district is constituted a alluvial plain of river Ganga Gandak and Ghaghara.

### **Role of women in our society:**

Our society is formed by combination of men and women it is a two parallel wheel of the society. Men and women is complementary of each other. So in this way the role of women in our society is very important.

In the earlier period the position of women is well. The women were considered with respect and dignity. During this period, there were women rishis and held in high esteem. In the royal households women were given respect and they even rendered a significant contribution in the decision making and administrative functions.

### **Political life of the women:**

As per declaration of constitution of India, Each and every citizen of Indian territory have right to participation in decision making process of development in anywhere. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women's political status is essential for the achievement of both transparent in all area of life.

Women's equal participation in decision making process is a demand of good democratic government or the social justice women's participation in this process is requirement of achieving goal of development of new era. Misusing this segment of society is root cause of unbalanced development. Thus the active participation of women at every levels of decision making, the goal of equality, development and peace can not be achieved. The women segment of the society is debarred from all human rights and opportunities from very beginning of time. India tracing the history of women's participation there decision making process, there are no good response and record of active participation. The Indian society is guided by mythical aspects of Hindu caste system, a feudalistic society from very beginning.

Lack of access to literacy and some level of schooling for women has several adverse consequences for the process of development itself and more importantly human development for instance, the level of mother education influences child mortality. According to the UNDP (2005).

### **Literacy rate of women in Ekma Block:**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>
Female Literates	775,649	96,038
Average Literacy	65.04%	75.13%
Male Literacy	76.49%	82.32%
Female Literacy	53.17%	67.24%

Source –Census of Bihar 2011.

This data show that compare of men, women literacy is low. It needs to improve for balance development of society. There are many barriers in the upliftment of women education like remote area have less facilities of well and higher education. There are some social victims which take less participation of women development.

How ever in the Panchayati Raj system the contribution of women in local self governance is well.

The representation in local self government of women in Ekma Block are as follows :-

**Table - 1**

### **Zila Parishad, Saran 2011**

<b>Total Seat</b>	<b>Total General Seat</b>	<b>Total women</b>	<b>Total sea (%)</b>
47	24	33	48.9%

**Table - 2****Category wise women representation in Zila Parishad, Saran**

Total Seat	Total Non SC women	% of total women	Total SC women	% of total SC women	Total BC women	% of Total BC women	% of total seats
47	16	69.5%	03	13%	04	17.3	100

Source – Zila Parishad, Chapra 2011.

The table and figure shows that the participation of women in Panchayati Raj is equal in their roster reservation seat in the study area. It shows that women are very desirous to participation. Participate in politics the government of India have given this opportunity to this section of the society to take part in constitutional system. The some laws are very protective and safe guards of women like Domestic Violence Act 2001, women reservation in Panchayati Raj system etc.

**Objectives of the study area:-**

1. It help to know about the participation of women in local self government.
2. It help to know about literacy rate of women in urban and rural area.
3. This paper show that women are curious to participate in politics as well as household works.
4. It encourage to gain another white colour job of women segment.
5. It is a source to know about government schemes towards women segment.

**Suggestion:-**

1. Government and local people should have to provide more opportunity for the upliftment of women segment.
2. It needs to gain higher education of women to developed study area in all aspects.
3. The government should be a transparent in all schemes of welfare programme towards women segment.

## References

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