

interest  
diverse  
comparative  
strategies  
ing, and  
nary in  
research

# International Journal of Political Science

January - June 2018  
Volume 4 Number 1

---

## Contents

---

### *Review Articles*

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Harmonizing National Interest with Global Norms: The Plight of Stateless Rohingyas in Myanmar</b><br>Arunoday Bajpai   | 5  |
| <b>Tibetans in Exile: An Overview</b><br>Anupma Kaushik   | 17 |
| <b>India's Strategic Interests in Central Asia in the Post-Soviet Years: Expanding Vistas of Partnership</b><br>Raj Kumar Kothari   | 23 |
| <b>Gender Issues and Sociological Concerns of Women in Panchayati Raj: Impact of 73<sup>rd</sup> constitution Amendment Act, 1992</b><br>M.R.B. Anantha Padmanabha, M.R. Biju | 33 |
| <b>Guidelines for Authors</b>   | 50 |

Pocket-II  
2754205

Authors Affiliation

<sup>1</sup>Deputy Editor, South Asian Journal of Socio-Political Studies [SAJOSPS], <sup>2</sup>Dean, School of Social Sciences and Head, Department of Public Administration and Policy Studies, Central University of Kasaragod, Kerala 671316, India.

Reprints Requests

M. R. Biju, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Head, Department of Public Administration and Policy Studies, Central University of Kasaragod, Kerala 671316, India.

E-mail:

[mrbijueditor@yahoo.com](mailto:mrbijueditor@yahoo.com)

Received on 11.05.2018

Accepted on 19.06.2018

## Gender Issues and Sociological Concerns of Women in Panchayati Raj: Impact of 73<sup>rd</sup> constitution Amendment Act, 1992

M.R.B. Anantha Padmanabha<sup>1</sup>, M.R. Biju<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

Gender Equality and Empowerment of women are appears to be much publicised cliched concepts of the 21st Century. Though media talks about it, the politicians talk about it, leaders talk about it, policy makers talk about it, the international community talk about it, yet women are no where near to being full and equal participants in public policy choices that affect their lives. The lack of adequate Political participation in decision-making has far-reaching consequences. It deprives women of important rights and responsibilities as citizens, their viewpoints and perspectives tend to remain unheard or under-represented and in some instances ignored while taking key decisions on national issues and while setting up priorities for the Government. There was a widespread perception that with the improvements in social indicators, education and growing number of women in the various employment sectors, women would automatically gain space in the decision-making bodies. However, this does not appear to be happening and there is a growing opinion that an affirmative action to increase the number of women in representative bodies is required. Women's struggle is not over when they enter political institutions just because they enter a male domain. The local bodies are the products of male dominated or exclusively male political processes like most of the institutions of governance and hence their institutional masculinity continues to be their invisible characteristic (Buch, 2010). The challenge of mainstreaming gender in rural local governance is to address the continuing patriarchal resistance in various forums reducing the potential of the contribution of women in panchayats to engender governance eradicating discriminations, neglect and apathy affecting even equitable utilization of resources e.g. in centrally sponsored schemes in social sectors. A number of measures has been suggested from time to time to empower women in panchayats, to perform their role in rural governance and in delivery of public services which is an important part of their responsibilities. This requires their effective participation in articulation of their needs and demands overcoming the social and institutional constraints.

**Keywords:** Empowerment; Gender; Sociological Concerns; Amendment.

Gender Equality and Empowerment of women are appears to be much publicised cliched concepts of the 21st Century. Though media talks about it, the politicians talk about it, leaders talk about it, policy makers talk about it, the international community talk about it, yet women are no where near to being full and equal participants in public policy choices that affect their lives. The lack of adequate Political participation in decision-making has far-reaching consequences. It deprives

women of important rights and responsibilities as citizens, their viewpoints and perspectives tend to remain unheard or under-represented and in some instances ignored while taking key decisions on national issues and while setting up priorities for the Government. There was a widespread perception that with the improvements in social indicators, education and growing number of women in the various employment sectors, women would automatically gain space in the decision-