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Political Awareness and Participation Among Scheduled Caste Women in Jalaun District

Abstract

The Scheduled caste, also known as "untouchables", are often limited from equal and meaningful political participation due to the persistence of discriminatory practices and their weak economic, social and political position in caste-affected countries. Scheduled caste women are particularly vulnerable and marginalized as they suffer from multiple discrimination as women, as poor and as Dalits. Reservation of women means enabling them to function independently or authorization that is enduring to equip women with all attributes. The study deals with Activeness and awareness of Scheduled caste women in Politics. The constitution of India recognizes equality right of women and allows special measure for women and children to realize the guarantee of equality. Despite different gender specific law women's status in society continues to be devolved hence the focus should be on women awareness so that they can participate in political and legal framework of society. This paper deals with the Scheduled caste women and their political participation. There is a need for change in society building in dealing with women. The objective of this paper is to find out the activeness of Scheduled caste in Political participation and encourage them in political participation. It is a small exploratory and descriptive study designed to analyze and interpret the Scheduled caste women in Jalaun district. The sample size will be 40 Scheduled caste women. The result is being discussed in the full length paper.

Keywords: Scheduled caste, Reservation, Positive Action, Awareness.

Introduction

Jalaun District one of the 100 poorest districts according to the Planning Commission of India. In socio-economic backward district about 50 per cent of the area of Jalaun is drought prone. The sex ratio is very low in this region at 749 women per 1,000 men as opposed to India (933/1,000) and even UP (898/1,000). The conditions of Scheduled caste women are miserable, women in this District have far more limited access to both educational and employment resources, the socio-economic development is very low in scheduled group women relative to men. Generally the condition of women in Jalaun is worst and for centuries in society they are already discriminated on the basis of gender because of the defective value based society which understand women as second and low class human and make the subject of the exploitation. Because of this the status of women in society is low and they are deprived of equal participation in all governance process. Few women or small group of women from elite class and caste have access to power playing centers. The Dalit women are nowhere in the race or they are far behind.

Existing Positive Actions for Women and Scheduled Caste and Impact upon Dalit Women

Actions For Women

1. Reservation of women in National Assembly
2. Reservation in Local bodies
3. Mandatory Provisions for inclusion of women
4. Free education
5. National commission for women

Operationalization of Concepts

Scheduled Caste

Scheduled Castes means such castes, races, or tribes, parts or groups within such castes, races or tribes as are deemed under article 341 to be Scheduled castes for the purpose of the constitution of India



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Awareness

Having knowledge or discernment of something.

Reservation

Reservation has been made to bring underprivileged classes at par with privileged or general ones.

Positive Action

Positive Action is a systematic educational program that promotes an intrinsic interest in learning and encourages cooperation among students.

Research Methodology

Table 1: Scheduled Caste Population in Jalaun District

Year	Total Population	Total Sc Population	Male(Sc)	Female(Sc)
1991	1219377	333472(27.34%)	184381 (15.12%)	149091 (12.22%)
2001	1454452	393307(27.04%)	214871 (14.77%)	178436 (12.26%)
2011	1689974	468178(27.70%)	252588 (14.94%)	215590 (12.75%)

Source:-www.up.gov.spatrika.in

Population of Scheduled Caste Women

S.N	BLOCK	POPULATION
1.	JALAUN	20439
2.	KUTHOND	17653

Universe and Sample

All the 2 blocks of Jalaun District will constitute the universe of study.

2 blocks (20 Scheduled Caste women from each block) selected through random sampling from the list produced from Economic and Statistical department of Jalaun district.

Sample was 40 scheduled case women.

Research Design

Exploratory and Descriptive research design have been used.

Area Of The Study

Jalaun and Kuthond are the area of study.

Unit Of The Study

The unit of the study is Scheduled Caste women.

Tools Of Data Collection

Interview Schedule used for the collection of Primary data. The interview schedule divided into two parts- (1) Part will comprise questions concerning the Political awareness of Scheduled Caste women.(2) Part will comprise questions concerning the Political activeness Scheduled Caste women.

Sources Of Data

Both Primary as well as Secondary data have been used.

Statistical Method

Measures or central tendency used for collection of Data. Pie-chart, histogram, Frequency distribution table and bar graph used to represent the data.

Objectives

1. To find out the Political awareness among Scheduled caste women.
2. To find out the political activeness between the Scheduled caste women.

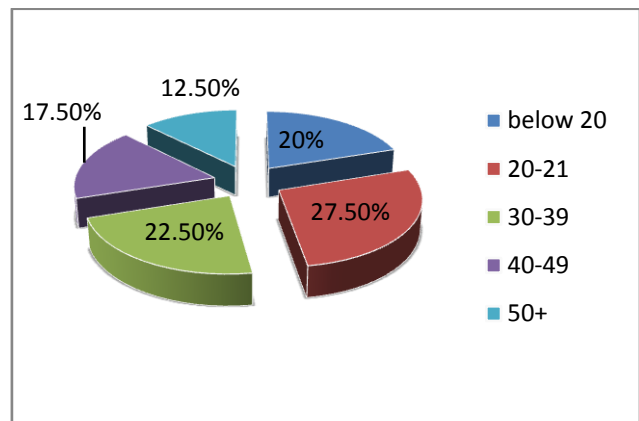
Hypothesis

1. There is political awareness among the Scheduled caste women
2. There are less active in Political participation in Scheduled caste women.

General Information

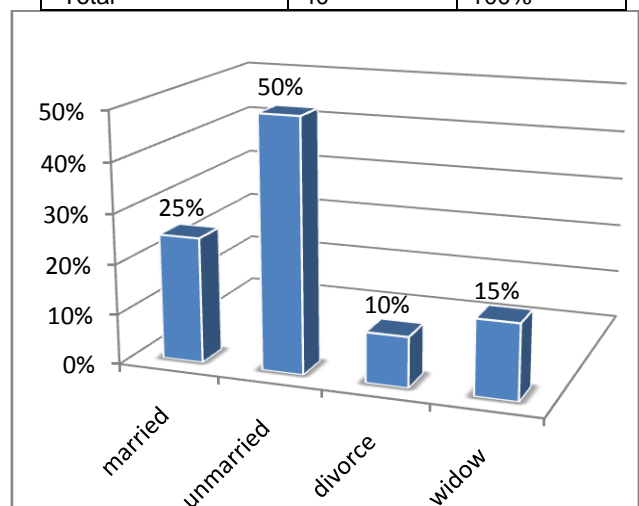
Age (in years)

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 20	8	20
20-21	11	27.5
30-39	9	22.5
40-49	7	17.5
50 +	5	12.5
Total	40	100%



Marital Status

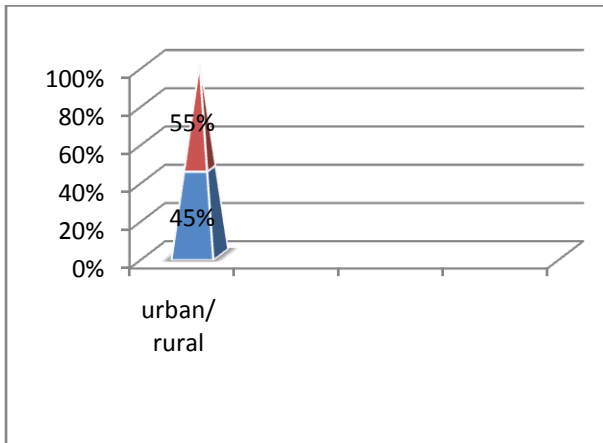
Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	10	25
Unmarried	20	50
Divorce	4	10
Widow	6	15
Total	40	100%



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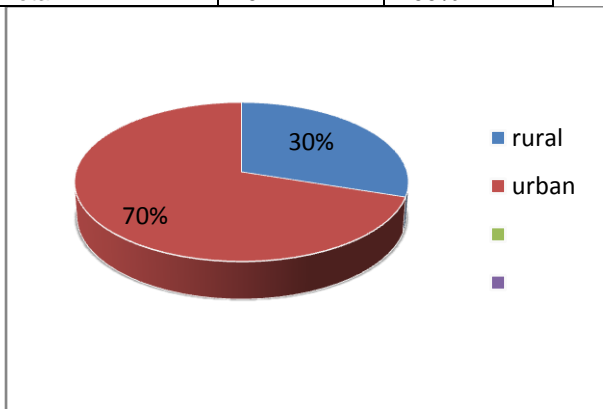
Birth Location

Birth location	Frequency	Percentage
Urban	22	55
Rural	18	45
Total	40	100%



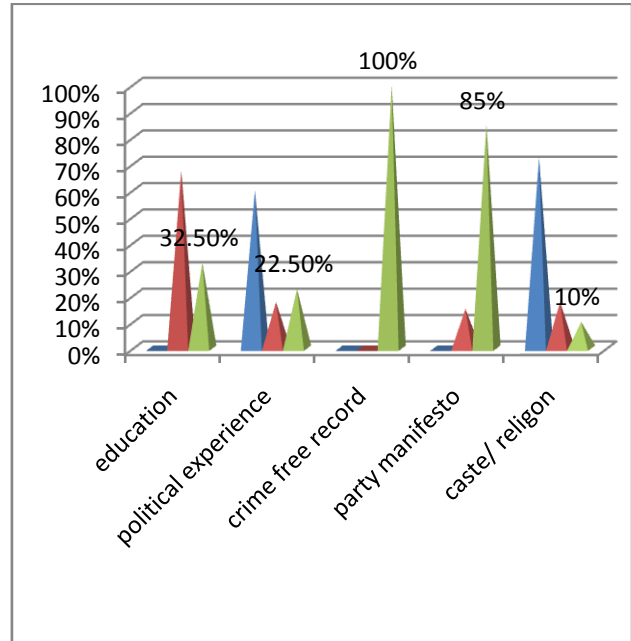
Residence

Residence	Frequency	Percentage
Urban	28	30
Rural	12	70
Total	40	100%



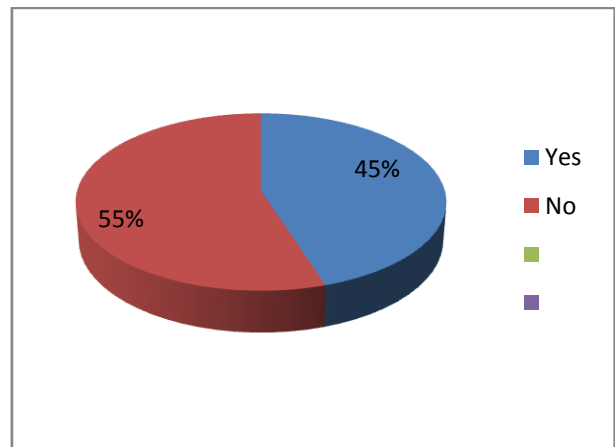
What are the Criteria in Choosing A Candidate When You Vote?

Criteria	Least important	Moderately important	Most important
Education	00 00%	27 67.5%	13 32.5%
Political experience	24 60%	07 17.5%	09 22.5%
Crime free record	00 00%	00 00%	40 100%
Party manifesto	00 00%	06 15%	34 85%
Caste/religion	29 72.5%	07 17.5%	04 10%



Do You Discuss Politics with Your Family, Friends, Relatives etc?

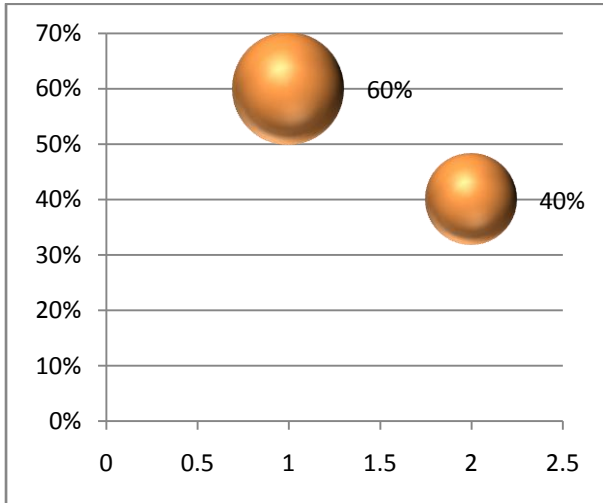
Options	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	18	45
No	22	55
Total	40	100%



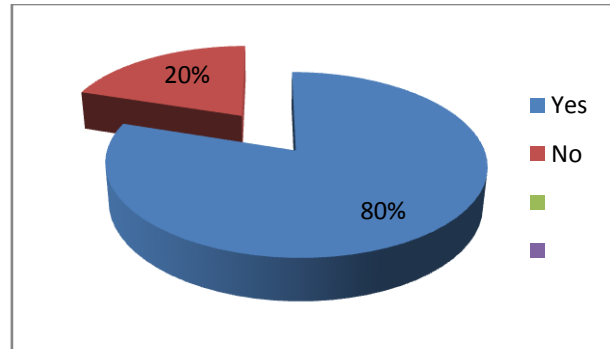
Do You Foresee Any Change from Increased Women's Participation in Politics?

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	24	60
No	16	40
Total	40	100%

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	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	32	80
No	08	20
Total	40	100%

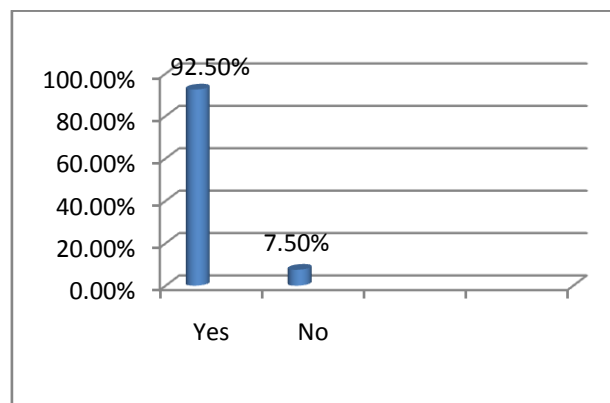
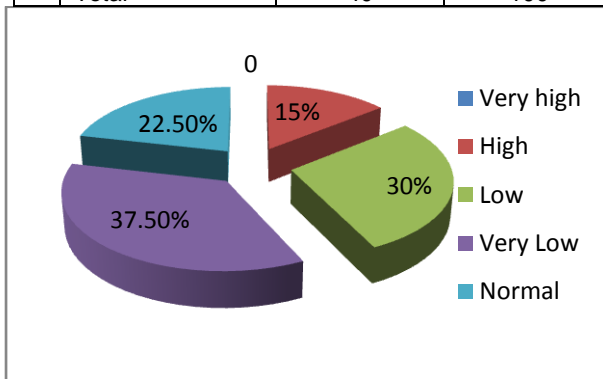


What is the Role of Women in Politics?

	role of women	Frequency	Percentage
A	Very high	00	00
B	High	06	15
C	Low	12	30
D	Very Low	15	37.5
E	Normal	09	22.5
	Total	40	100

Do you think Scheduled caste women should go in Politics?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	37	92.5%
No	03	7.5%
Total	40	100%

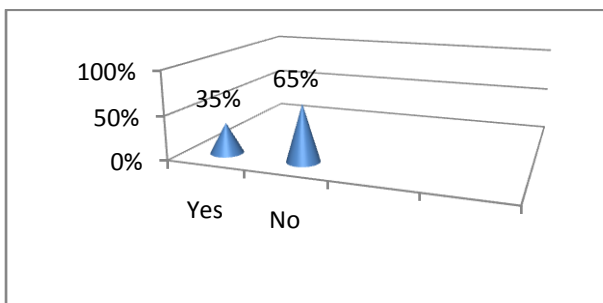


Do you Know about the Reservation and other Provision in the Favor of Dalits?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	14	35
No	26	65
Total	40	100%

Do you Feel Equality with the Constitutional Safeguards Which are Provided to Scheduled Caste?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	29	72.5
No	11	27.5
Total	40	100%



Have you Taken Any Benefits from the Government Policies and Reservation?

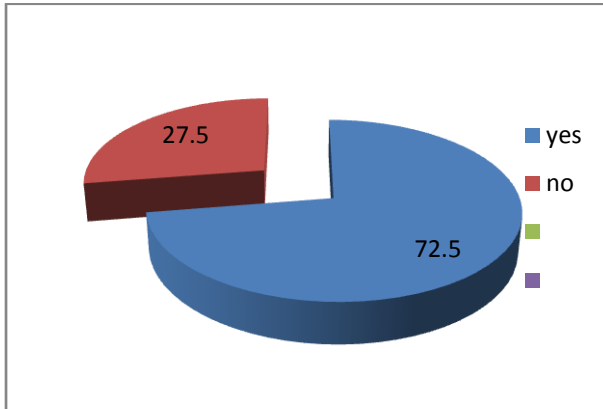
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Recommendations to Improve the Situation

1. Focus explicitly on the political empowerment of Scheduled caste women in national development plans;
2. Implement and monitor strictly government sanctions against proxy candidature as well as gender and caste discrimination;
3. Provide mandatory trainings to government officials on such issues of proxies and discrimination, and sanctions against those who allow both practices to operate;
4. Monitor the election of Scheduled caste women as well as their participation in local governments, conduct special capacitating trainings for them, take prompt action on complaints from them, and to facilitate this work, establish support offices with adequate facilities.

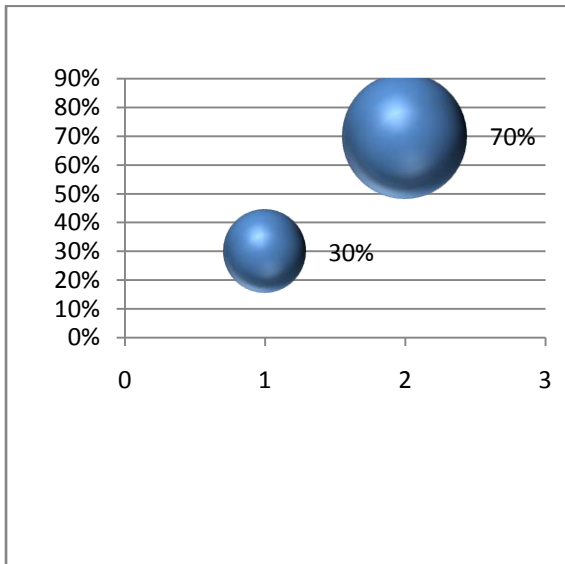
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Is Reservation is Helping in Removing Casteism in Jalaun?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	12	30
No	28	70
Total	40	100%



Conclusion

Reservation policy is a very important step for the empowerment of women. Unity among diversity is a constitutional motto but the integration is not an easy task to maintain it. For this the government will have to go forward with specific programs for marginalized and poor communities. Until and Unless Scheduled caste community so called untouchables are not brought into the governance process and cannot give the due respect to the Scheduled caste women for the participation, national integrity will remain confined to the constitution only.

Though the government has planned various gender friendly programs for women in general, it is an irony that the Scheduled caste women have not been beneficiaries from these all. Still they are deprived of participating in the committees for planning the policies for women and forgotten to have the accessibility in the welfare programs.