

CHAPTER - THREE

3.1 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

S.K. Singh's article on '**73rd constitution Amendment: An Analytical Framework**', summarizes the main provisions of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act , and then while noting the important new elements, sought to be injected into P R Is , it focus attention on the areas that leave scope for rendering the Panchayats with powers and urges on to take remedial steps.

K.V. Palanidurai in his article '**Democratic Decentralisation in India – Retrospect and Prospects**', has traced chronologically the developments relating to the establishment of local self- government Institutions in the country. He has narrated the experience of few States which have attempted democratic decentralization. As pointed out by the author that still the position has not altered from 1978. He concludes that unless function- sharing and power sharing process begins with appropriate follow-up measures by the Central and State governments, it is difficult to achieve desired results.

Susheela Kaushik in **Women and Panchayati Raj** (New Delhi: Har Anand 1993) emphasizes political education and training as the

urgent imperatives and guards against intervention from traditional social structure and forces play a negative role. Hence the need for stimulating socio- political and educational action groups to play a catalytic role to mobilize women for their empowerment has been highlighted.

K. Chakraborty and S.K. Bhattacharya, in their book **Leadership Faction and Panchayati Raj**, bring out the working of democracy at grassroot levels in West Bengal and points serious problems in terms of Political awareness and participation. The book aptly notes the undercurrent of change and nature of change in leadership of PR, and interaction of political equals with "socio-economically unequals with a tilt in the latter's favors by PR under Jyoti Basu regime in West Bengal. It underlines the significant change in the nature of rural power structures and a just balance of rural forces with system oriented towards the poor. It reflects the instrumental role of decentralized democracy in influencing the interaction between social milieu and eco-political development.

B.P.S Bhadouria and V.B Dubey in **Panchayati Raj and Development**; clearly brings out the administrative and political decentralization is meaningless without financial decentralization

V.Venkatesan's book **Institutionalizing Panchayati Raj in India** is an exceptionally insightful account of the nationwide attempt at decentralization in India in the early 1950s known as the Community Development programme. Tracing the growth and decline of this program and of other decentralization program started since then, the author identifies three Forces: political factor, bureaucracy, and international organizations and bilateral devours, responsible for blunting, the effectiveness of decentralization. The concluding chapter gives an account of the future challenges facing Panchayati Raj Institutions.

P.S.K. Menon and Bakshi D. Sinha's work **Panchayati Raj in Scheduled Areas** conducted on behalf of the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, makes a critical evaluation and comparative analysis of implementation of the provisions of the Extension Act with special reference to the power of Gram Sabha. Based on oil, the field studies in the State of Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, it examines the nature, historical perspective and it suggests measure to achieve the goals, envisaged in extending the provisions of part IX of the Constitution.

Vinod Vyashulu, in his book, **'Panchayats, Democracy and Development'**, explores the ways as to which the 73rd Constitution

Amendment was being implemented. The book explores the manner which changes in PR are taking place in the Indian states today. It can provide scholars and practitioners several insights on how to further improve the status of local self- government.

Swapan Kumar Pramanik and Prahat Datta's. '**Panchayats and People : The West Bengal Experience** is a study on the working of gram panchayats based on intensive field survey and formal and informal interaction with leaders of the Gram panchayats and officials connected with the working of the bodies. The study focuses on the social background of the panchayat leaders and their role perception. The role of the party in the working of the Gram Panchayats and their role as instruments of social change and mass mobilization.

Md. Ayuh Mallick, in '**Panchayati Raj and Tribal Development in West Bengal.**' is a significant book in this area. The main objectives of the work are the study of development of tribal community under the impact of the new Panchayati Raj dispensation introduced in West Bengal since 1978. The objective of the study is to determine how the development and power structure of the tribal Community are influenced by the socio- political changes and institutional innovation like the extension of representative democracy at the grassroots level. It points to the kind of changes which has

taken place in the study area with the institutionalization of Panchayat and politicization of the tribal people by the left parties ever since 1978. The present study attempts to analyze other parameters such as education, health etc.

G. Palanithurai in the volume '**New Panchayati Raj** in Tamil Nadu provides State wise outlook of the devolution of powers. It aims at providing analysis of the performance of the institution in terms of the powers assigned to them.

The whole process of the transformation has been captured in this work from the experiences of the provinces.

K.B. Shukla's contribution "**Panchayati Raj Revisited**", is a detailed analysis of the report of the Asoka Mehta Committee on Panchayati Raj Institutions (1979), which maintained that the remodelling of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, formulation of their structures, functions, and the utilizations of financial, administrative and human resources of these institutions be determined on the emerging functional necessity of management of rural development.

In Shiviah's article "**Decentralisation and Panchayati Raj: A Developmental Perspective**", he suggests that decentralization has a

more complex dimension, political-cum-administrative. He also pointed out the vital role of 'democratic' decentralization for development in rural areas.

Dr. Prantosh Sen in an excellent research work entitled **“Official-Non-Official Relationship in the Panchayati Raj Institutions--- A study of the emerging relationship--patterns under the new Panchayat system in the district of Malda (W.B.)”** (1988), focused the interaction and emerging relationship patterns between the 'Officials' and the 'Non-Officials' at the three levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Malda district. This study pointed out the performance-gap between the official and non-official relation and it made a great historical survey of the structure and functions that prevailed before the introduction of the new system of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

P.Manikyamba in the study entitled **“Women in Panchayati Raj Structure”** (1989) identified active involvement and participation of women in the process of rural development. He discussed about the structural, functional, attitudinal and environmental constraints for women in the matter of involvement of politics. Finally, he highlighted the nature and extent of interaction of

women of rural India with the officials, the question of reservation of seats for women in PRIs and the style of rural women's leadership.

Snehalata Panda's study "**Emerging Pattern of Leadership Among Rural Women in Orissa**" (1996) focused mainly on women entered into politics and also the changes of women's outlook and behaviour. Panda also highlighted an opportunity particularly related to the labour and lower caste women in village politics.

Rashmi Arun in an excellent case study "**Role of Women in Panchayati Raj**" (1997), discussed about housewife women in Madhya Pradesh who recently played a big role in politics, most of them were illiterate. She also highlighted some younger women who were literate and elected in Panchayat election.

L.N. Sharma in an excellent case study "**Panchayati Raj Institution**" (1998), focused the importance of Panchayati Raj Institution in rural development. However, his review article emphasized the problems of policy-planners, involves an elite classes and the causes of people's unemployment.

Nirmala Buch has beautifully analysed the contemporary situation of women in Panchayati Raj before 73rd amendment and post 73rd amendment. In his work entitled "**Panchayat and Women,**

status of Panchayati Raj in the State and Union Territories of India” (2000) highlighted the women’s illiteracy and the conditions in the lower socio-economic strata.

Tanika Sarkar’s book **“Hindu Wife, Hindu Nation--- Community, Religion and Cultural Nationalism”** (2001) discussed the dominant conceptions of ‘womanhood’, ‘domesticity’, ‘wifeliness’, ‘motherhood,’ and India as a ‘Hindu’ nation. Her book included Bankimchandra Chatterjee’s novel ‘Anandamath’ as instances of a proto-nationalist definition of Hindu nationhood.

Biduyt Mohanty’s study on **“Women and Political Empowerment”** (2002) pointed out that 80-90% of women attend the Panchayat meetings regularly. In this study, he showed some important changes like, the increase of female literacy; the improvement of relation between husband and wife etc. Finally, Mohanty’s study indicated that now women became independent gradually after the 73rd amendment.

Parbhat Dutta and Panchali Sen in an exploratory study **“Women in Panchayats”** (2003), sought to examine the role of the daughters. This study is based on the in-depth interview of all the members in one block. This study also analyzed profile of the

members, their role perception, and measures to facilitate the process of empowerment of women members in the Panchayat bodies.

In the book entitled “**The Genre of Women leaders in Local Bodies**”, G. Palanthurai focused that women secured important position in the local bodies through Panchayat system. His experience suggests some important method which helps the women leaders to perform the assigned role in a better way.

Joyati Mitra’s book entitled “**Women and Society-- Equality and Empowerment**”, highlighted different aspects of equality and empowerment for the women who make half the world. In this book, she emphasized on sociology of women, women’s identity and professional life, women and development, mainstream women in men’s world. However, this is a useful work in the field of equality and empowerment of women.

In his essay, “**Organisational Analysis of Panchayati Raj**”, S.N. Dubey has pointed out some organizational dilemmas of the Panchayati Raj system and organizational relationship among the personnel working in the block administration. He also focused the multiple system of control over the staff, supervision of technical staff by the generalist administrators.

In Udia Prakash Sinha and Rekha Sinha's book entitled **"Women Empowerment and Family Management in Tribal Region"**, an attempt has been made to study the role of tribal women in family management and development of society as well as nation with special reference to the Santhals. This book analyzed the contribution of Santhal women in household economy, empowerment in decision-making, etc. This book emphasized on tribal women management, energy and food problem in the household.

Lalit Datta in her excellent work **"Women Development in India--- A statistical Profile"** (2005), presented a rich data bank on the status of women in social, economic and Political spheres. This book also has impact on various developmental programmes and schemes related to empowerment and upliftment of Women.

In her essay **"Women: Many Facts"** (2005), Soma Banerjee attempted to highlight various aspects of women. In this essay, she emphasized on Tagore's writing on New Women, identification of womanhood in the U.S. and India.

Meenakshi Thapan in her book **"Women and Migration in Asia, (Volume-2): Transnational Migration and the Politics of Identity"**, (2005), focused on Asian Women's experience of

immigration and its impact on their identity in the context of transnational migration. This book highlighted the fact that migration does not imply a break from the past for women.

S.K.Singh and S.P. Panda's great contribution **"Empowerment of Scheduled Caste Women---Through Self--Help Group"** (2007), analyzed the status of scheduled caste women and review^{ed} their access to micro finance for social and economic development. This book focused on micro credit, formation of SHG's, impact on micro finance and problems in micro financing in India and it also highlighted the imperative need for the gender equality and women empowerment.

Nandita Saijua in an overview on **"Indian Women--- A Social-Legal Perspective"** (2008), highlighted the women's rights in contemporary India. This book has three parts: discrimination, violence and protection. It deals with abuses of women's rights seen in everyday life and the protective measures and remedies, which are available to fight against these abuses. Nandita Saikia puts forward a personal perspective against a backdrop of the existing socio-legal framework of the country.

Neera Bharihoke in her book on “**Right of Hindu and Muslim Women**” (2008), pointed out the subjugation of women, regardless of their religion, caste or creed. The article highlighted the austere and blatant deprivation of women on their basic rights of life and living. This book also suggested that women empowerment can be achieved only by granting women the primary rights of expression, autonomy and decision-making.

F. Jahan on ‘Women in India’ presents comprehensive study on various facets of Women in India. It covers all aspects of emancipation and empowerment of women in India.

Jayashri Ghosh on ‘Political Participation of Women in West Bengal’ presents all aspects of women in political life, particularly in West Bengal in a comparative manner. It tries to indicate an analysis of the nature and extent of women’s participation for developing the society.

J. Nirmala’s ‘Empowerment of Women’ discusses the basic factors of women empowerment with special reference to Life Insurance Corporation and empowering women through participation in economic field.

J.K.Chopra's 'Women in the Indian Parliament' presents the number of women who were elected from 1950-1989 and adopts an analytical and critical approach on different aspects of women.

Kiran Saxena's book on 'Women and Politics' explores women's struggle for political power and tries to show how women achieve their position through various rights and policies given to them by the Constitution of India.

M.Mazumdar's 'Encyclopedia of Gender Equality through Women Empowerment' mainly presents an objective critique of the contradiction and consequences of the development and disparities of women.

M.Razia Parvin's 'Empowerment of Women' traces the evolution of Women Empowerment in India. It tries to show the position, historical perspective; reviews subordination of women and analyses the development of Indian Women through economy, NGO's and suggests some possible strategies for the real empowerment for women in society.

Marjorie Agosin on 'Women Gender and Human Rights' is the first collection of essays including a wide range of women's issues, including political & domestic violence, education, literacy, and reproductive rights.

N.R.Reddy's **'Women and Development : Challenges and Achievements'** mainly focuses on five important issues of Women Empowerment and Development, Participation and Development, Employment and Development, Health, Education and Development and Legal Rights and Development.

Nivedita Menon on **'Gender and Politics in India'** mainly focuses on different stands in Indian feminism, debates on various issues of women and structural adjustment policies and the impact of new technologies on women.

Nari Darpan, a news letter presents the unjust condition of women in social, political, & economic spheres through organizing CWCS (Centre for Women's Studies and Development from Banaras Hindu University.)

Puran Chandra on **'Political Dynamics of Women'** highlights on women leadership. It tries to bring informative theme on various developments on women.

R.K.Upadhy's book on **'Women in 21st Century: Problems and Challenges'** is a collection of thoughts which provoke the views of senior academics and activists on challenging the problems faced

by women and their status at the socio-economic level. It includes its work from social, psychological, educational & management science.

Sanghamitra Sen Chaudhari on **'Women and Politics: West Bengal'** presents a brief study of women's emancipation through political rights and an incomparable brief window on the internal dynamics of social history of women.

Reghna Ghadially on **'Women in Indian Society'** divides her book into five sections which gives contextual, analytical, theoretical, empirical views of women in different parts of the Indian society.

Andrea M. Singh & Neera Burra on **'Women and Wasteland Development in India'** gives overall views on policy, law and administration and tries to give women a sustainable livelihood.

Sakuntala Narshima on **'Empowering Women'** tries to empower women through various organizations, NGOs, mostly in rural areas.

Sonia Bathla on **'Women, Democracy and the Media'** highlights the importance and significance of media in a democratic society and reviews media's role on women's issues and problems.

S.Murthy & K.D.Gaur on **'Women, Work Participation and Empowerment'** is a joint collaboration of twenty-seven papers on

different aspects of women. It relates and covers almost 50 percent of women population of our country.

A.K.Singh on **'Empowerment of Women in India'** attempts to analyze various organizations which are helping to create favorable environment to help women to achieve a better status since independence of India.

Taisha Abraham on **'Women and the Politics of Violence'** undertakes and gives interdisciplinary perspective to the politics of women's struggle against religious fundamentalism and the terrain of law.

H.C.Upreti & Nandini Upreti on **'Women and Problems of Gender Discrimination'** tries to highlight struggle of women regarding unequal status in life, family and polity.

A.K.Gupta on **'Empowering Women'** tries to empower women through legal rights, facilities and opportunities given by the Constitution of India.