









Implementation of the policies and programmes laid down by the Govt. were regarded as the two core functions of Panchayat. 79 per cent of the respondents affirmed positively on the question regarding their awareness about the issues undertaken in their Panchayat. Most of these hover around the housing under Indira Awas Yojana, or construction work, pension schemes, maternity benefits etc.

Decision making is more and more coming within domain of Dalit women leadership. A larger chunk of women leaders are taking decisions instead of their husbands and other relatives. The demonstrated ability of women in Panchayat has brought about a change in Dalit women's image and the respect they receive from other as expressed by more than half the respondents. Around 76 per cent respondents expressed that people have started believing in the ability of Dalit women as Panchayat representatives.

Earlier Dalit women didn't show great interest in politics but by the time last Panchayat Election was held, their participation in the political process had raised the level of political understanding and empowerment. This indicates that the elected women members of the Panchayat are proud about their qualification and their emerging liberty with the political status, as representatives of the people, which has substantially elevated their social status both at home and outside.

## 5.2. Limitations of the Study

The study is restricted both by its geographical and intellectual scope. It's limited to only 42 Mouza, an area with some unique features of seclusion that cannot be further replicated in scattered or close knit areas. Similarly the communication on socio-economic aspects obtained from the respondents through questionnaire also may not be universal in nature, considering the geographic dichotomies and variance in political culture of the district. Also the Dalit coherence cannot be attributed to similar factors prevailing elsewhere in the district or Sadar block itself. This limits the study to a sizeable extent

## 6. Conclusion

In the conclusion, we can verify the veracity of the hypotheses and find it correct that membership of Dalit women in Panchayat Raj Institutions has positive impact in their access and control over information and because of SHGs and government's capacity building initiatives, the self confidence levels of Dalit women have been enhanced. So far as decision making is concerned, majority of them have been empowered to take decisions and understand the programmes and policies, which may be factored as a harbinger of democratic consciousness in such politically active coastal districts through PRIs.

## 7. References

- [1] Palkhivala, Nani, <https://www.google.co.in/search?q=nani+palkhivala,we+the+people&rlz>
- [2] Sen, A , <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/29778/social-exclusion.pdf>
- [3] Sen, A , <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/29778/social-exclusion.pdf>
- [4] Ashok Kumar H., and H. M. Mohan Kumari, "Panchayat Raj Institutions and Rural Women in Mysore District, Karnataka", web source: [shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in](http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in)
- [5] Pandit, Latha A., "Political Leadership of Women: Constraints and Challenges", *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, Vol.LXXI, No.4, October-December, 2010, pp.1139-1147. *ibid*
- [6] Khanna, Manuka (2009) "Political Participation of Women in India", *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, Vol.LXX, No.1, January-March 2009, pp.55-64.*ibid*
- [7] Ram Babu and Panda, AN, "Women empowerment in Panchayati Raj System: Uttar Pradesh", *International Journal of Applied Research*, June 2015, Vol.1, No.8, pp.146-153. *ibid*
- [8] Sarangi, Aparajita and Mishra, Gitanjali; "73rd Constitutional Amendment and Women's Empowerment an Empirical Study in Tribal and Non-Tribal Districts, Odisha", *Journal of Rural Development*, October- December 2013, Vol. 32, No. (4) pp. 383-394. *ibid*
- [9] Cuttack district portal, web source [http://ordistricts.nic.in/district\\_profile/aboutus.php](http://ordistricts.nic.in/district_profile/aboutus.php)
- [10] Profile 42 Mouza, web source :<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki> downloaded 9 Nov'17