



Centre for Federal Studies
Jamia Hamdard



**Round table on Impact of Political Reservations for Women on Local
Governance and Rural Service Provision
Convened jointly by NCAER, IDRC and CFS**

Patna, May 10, 2011

Round table on "*Impact of Political Reservations for women on Local Governance and Rural Service Provision*" was held on 10 May, 2011 at Hotel Maurya, Patna.. It was attended by high level dignitaries from politics, bureaucracy, and economics, including Mr Devanand Kanwar, Hon'able Governor of Bihar, Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, Mr. N.K Singh, Shri Vijoy Prakash, Principal secretary, Dept. of Planning and Development., Govt. of Bihar, Dr. Abusaleh Shariff, Dr. Bina Agarwal, Dr. Samar Verma, chief programme officer, IDRC, Canada, Dr. Shasank Bhide, former Director General of NCAER, and many more. Participants from NGO sectors, women Pradhan from different villages of Bihar and Assam were also present there to share their experience.

Through the roundtable, a holistic attempt is made to address issue of political reservations for women. Various aspects of rural governance and studies of whether the political reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institution has improved participation of women in decentralization and the service delivery process were discussed here.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Devenand Kanwar, Governor of Bihar said, "India will not shine unless its villages shine". He also mentioned the impact of this type of conferences in Patna, Bihar, where the reservation law for woman in politics was made for first time in India. As a keynote speaker, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar praised Chief Minister of Bihar, for his policies for rural sector. He also thanked him for believing in Woman of Bihar for development of its rural sector.

While presenting his paper in the round table, Prof HK Nagarajan of NCAER presented evidences from REDS/NCAER 2007 data that woman are not only participate in Gramsabha meetings but also voice their concerns in locals issues like drinking water,

roads in a village where Pradhan is a woman. He also added that such empowered women are also given importance in intrahousehold matters like children's education, choice of investment etc which was unthinkable few years ago. He concluded by saying that rural women, once empowered, they remain empowered irrespective of gender bias of the village Panchayet.

This event represents one of the most focused meetings intended to study the role of Women in Local governance, especially in context to the state of Bihar through primary data and case studies collected from the state. During the course of the event, presentations and discussions covered topics on *Political Reservations and Quality of participation of EWR's: Experiences from Bihar'* by Dr. Nupur Tiwari of Centre for federal Studies, Jamia University.

The Background:

Centre for Federal Studies:

The research at CFS (lead by Dr. Nupur Tiwari) examines how political reservations affect the quality of participation by elected women representatives (EWRs). Using primary data from Bihar that combines household level information on satisfaction with public services along with assessments (using Focused group Discussions) of the quality of public facilities, the research compares objective measures of the quantity and quality of service deliver across male and female headed Panchayats.

For the report and other details Contact:

Dr Nupur Tiwari, Assistant Professor
Centre for Federal Studies
Jamia Hamdard
Telephone: (Mobile): 9958822607
E-mail: nupur.tiwary@gmail.com



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