

Political Participation Accelerating the Development of Tribal Women in Tripura

Dr. Ranjan Acharjee, Post Graduate Teacher, Kirit Bikram Institution, Udaipur, Gomati Tripura & India, E-mail: acharjeeranjan@gmail.com

Dr. Surajit Debnath, Guest Lecturer, Dept. of Sociology, Tripura University (A Central University), Agartala & India, padmaraga@outlook.com

Abstract - Development always inquires about the participation of all section of the society. Out of different dimensions of participation-political participation is one of the means through which people can fulfill their desires and aspirations. The level of political participation always reflects the strength and health of a democratic political system. Political participation encompasses with the freedom to speak out, assemble, associate and the ability to take part in the public affairs at all stages of governmental level. The utmost development of any society depends on the status of the women in different spheres like socio- political, cultural and economic sector. After 73rd Amendment Act, tribal women in Tripura are able to influence the decision of the government at any level because of their participation and effort to do so. There has been a significant change in the political life of tribal women in Tripura because they are actively participating in political activities at the grassroots level to Legislative Assembly. This article highlights the status of the tribal women participation in the Tripura Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 2018 and different level of Panchayati Raj Institutions from 1994 to 2014 in Tripura which accelerate the development of tribal women in Tripura.

(Key Words: Development, Political Participation, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Tribal Women, Tripura Legislative Assembly, 73rd Amendment,)

I. INTRODUCTION

Political participation is one of the important indicators of democratic functioning of a Social System. It is a process of selection of all the sections of societies and is much more than just voting. Political participation encompasses the many activities used by citizens to influence the selection of political leaders or the policies they pursue. The core theme of the political participation is that the freedom to speak out, assemble and associate; the ability to take part in the conduct of public affairs; and the opportunity to register as a candidate, to campaign, to be elected and to hold office at all levels of government. Individuals can also become involved in certain aspects of the electoral process through independent action particularly at the local level and by joining civil society organizations. Various forms of political participation including voting in referendums, membership in political parties an pressure groups, government's advisory committees, involvement in the implementation of social policies etc. The most obvious way of participation is casting one's vote. The vote is standardized instrument for participation in authority. Vote is a symbol of participations in decisions of all groups, political and otherwise. Political participation simply means that a person is participating in the political process by making his or her opinions and beliefs known. In the social sciences, the term 'political participation' is often used to describe an action taken by a citizen to influence the outcome of a political issue.

Political participation of women can be measured in three different dimensions: their participation as a voter, their participation as an elected representative and their participation in the actual decision making process. Women's participation in decision-making is essential for women's interests to be incorporated into governance. Not only are these, through political participation a women being empowered. Rural tribal women perceived to be the downtrodden section of any society. Indian society consisted with diversified tribal culture, where women of these tribal societies show marginal aspects of uprising modern economy of the country. The empowerment of tribal women in Tripura generated various scopes in the process of modernization and development of tribal societies of Tripura. This paper highlights the status of the tribal women participation in the Tripura Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 2018 and also highlights the status of participation at different level of Panchayati Raj Institutions (Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samity and Zilla Parishad) from 1994 to 2014 in Tripura which accelerate the development of tribal women in Tripura.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER: The main objectives of this paper are-

- To know the status of the tribal women participation in the Tripura Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 2018.

- To highlights the tribal women participation at different level of Panchayati Raj Institutions from 1994 to 2014 in Tripura.

III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this present study is based on secondary data. Secondary data has been collected to the offices of the Department of Census, Department of Panchayat and the Election Department, Government of Tripura. Apart from that related books, journals, articles, newspapers and websites have been used for this study.

IV. TRIPURA: A STATE PROFILE

Tripura is a land that comprises one of the eight northeastern states of India. It is surrounded by the Bangladesh on the north, south and west side and is linked east side with Assam and Mizoram in the northeast. It has an area of 10,491.69 square kilometer. Tripura is homeland of 19 tribal communities and generic tribes. They are designated as Scheduled Tribes (STs) according to the Indian constitution. They numbered 11,66,813 in the census of 2011. These nineteen tribal communities are Tripuri, Reang, Jamatia, Chakma, Halam, Noatia, Mog, Kuki, Munda, Garo, Lushai, Orang, Santal, Uchai, Khasia, Bhil, Lepcha, Bhutia and Chaimal. Of these tribal communities male and female tribal population is 5,88,327 and 5,78,486 respectively as per 2011 census. According to the 2011 census the STs of Tripura constitute 1.12 percent of India’s tribal population and 31.78 percent of the state’s population. Tripuri community is the largest tribal community in Tripura its percentage is 50.75 followed by Reang with 16.13 percent of the Tribal Population.

The erstwhile princely state of Tripura merged with the Indian Union on 15th October 1949 and became a Union Territory. The then government of India took a positive stand and the Parliament of India passed the Territorial Council Act.1956 (Act. 104). Tripura Territorial Council (TTC) formed in 1st November 1956 and it functioned up to 24th June 1963. Tripura became a full- fledged State on the 21st January, 1972 and practically from this year the people of Tripura started the journey of democracy with full- fledged Legislative Assembly. The success of democracy depends of mass participation which was possible the provisions of panchayats by the Constitution of India through the 73rd Amendment Act in 1993 having three tier systems i.e. Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samity and Zilla Parishad. As per the provisions of Article 243 D of the Indian Constitution, one-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in Panchayats (local self-Government) at all levels.

V. TRIBAL WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN THE TLA SINCE 1972 TO 2018: A BRIEF ANALYSIS

Tripura Legislative Assembly (TLA) is the highest political institution in the state where the people choose their leader through adult franchise. The total assembly constituency in Tripura is sixty (60). As per the policy of proportional reservation, twenty (20) constituencies are reserved for tribal populace. The twenty reserved constituencies are 1- Simna, 11- Mandai Bazar, 12- Takarjala, 17- Golaghati, 19- Charilam, 24- Ramchandraghat, 26- Asharambari, 29- Krishnapur, 30-

Bagma, 36- Shantirbazar, 38- Jolaibari, 39- Manu, 41- Ampinagar, 43- Karbook, 44- Raima Valley, 47- Ambassa, 48- Karamchara, 49- Chawmanu, 59- Pecharthal, 60- Kanchanpur.

First objective of this paper is to know the status of the tribal women participation in the Tripura Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 2018 in Tripura. For that it is needed to analyze the tribal women participation in the TLA since 1972 and which is discussed in the following tables.

Table- 1: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Simna-1 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Simna-1	1972	03	03	00	
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	03	02	01	Kripa Rani Debbarma, TUJS (Not Won)
	1988	03	03	00	
	1993	06	06	00	
	1998	04	04	00	
	2003	03	03	00	
	2008	04	03	01	Rita Rani Debbarma, AITC (Not Won)
	2013	04	04	00	
	2018	06	06	00	
Total		41	39	02	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

The above table-1 showed that in Simna-1 constituency only forty one (41) tribal candidates have been contested where, thirty nine (39) belongs to tribal male category and only two (02) belongs to tribal female category. Smt. Kripa Rani Debbarma contested as a candidate of Tripura Upajati Juba Samity (TUJS) in 1983 assembly election but the result was not favour with her. Smt. Rita Rani Debbarma contested as a candidate of All India Trinomool Congress (AITC) in 2008 assembly election but she did not win. Thus, the above data revealed the negligible (4.88 percent) participation of tribal female candidates of this constituency.

Table- 2: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Mandai Bazar-11 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Mandai-Bazar-11	1972	03	03	00	
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	03	03	00	
	1988	03	03	00	
	1993	08	07	01	Dipti Debbarma, IND, Not Won
	1998	04	04	00	
	2003	02	02	00	
	2008	05	05	00	
	2013	04	04	00	
	2018	05	05	00	
Total		42	41	01	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table- 2 showed that the tribal male and tribal female candidates contested in the Tripura Legislative Assembly elections since 1972 to 2018 from Mandai Bazar-11 constituency where, out of forty two (42) total tribal candidates, forty one (41) belong to tribal male category and only one (01) belong to tribal female category. Smt. Dipti Debbarma contested as an Independent candidate, but, unfortunately she did not win. Thus, the above data revealed that the very negligible (2.38 percent)

participation of tribal female candidates in the assembly elections of this constituency.

Table- 3: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Takarjala-12 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Takarjala-12	1972	04	04	00	
	1977	06	06	00	
	1983	03	03	00	
	1988	04	04	00	
	1993	07	06	01	Kartik Kanya Debbarma, CPI (M), Won
	1998	04	03	01	Baijayanti Kalai, CPI (M), Won
	2003	03	01	02	Kartik Kanya Debbarma, NCP, Not Won Baijayanti Kalai, CPI (M), Not Won
	2008	06	06	00	
	2013	04	04	00	
	2018	05	05	00	
	Total	46	42	04	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table 3 showed that the Takarjala Constituency gives a better glimpse of the tribal women representation. From 1972 to 2018 four (04) candidates contested from the parties like CPI (M) and NCP. For two cases in 1993 and 1998 two candidates contested and won the election, where both belonged to the same political party (CPI (M)). Smt. Kartik Kanya Debbarma and Smt. Baijayanti Kalai were the successful candidates to entered Legislative Assembly as women candidates. Again Smt. Kartik Kanya Debbarma from NCP party and Smt. Baijayanti Kalai from CIP (M) party contested the assembly election in 2003 but they lost in the election. Thus, the above data revealed that the negligible (8.70 percent) participation of tribal female candidates in the assembly elections.

Table- 4: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Golaghati-17 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Golaghati-17	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	07	07	00	
	1983	03	03	00	
	1988	04	04	00	
	1993	09	09	00	
	1998	04	04	00	
	2003	03	03	00	
	2008	05	03	02	Suchitra Debbarma, AITC, Not Won Kartik Kanya Debbarma, IND, Not Won
	2013	03	03	00	
	2018	04	04	00	
	Total	42	40	02	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 4 stated that Golaghati Constituency became an unreserved constituency in 1972. Legislative assembly elections in 1977, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2018 total candidates were contested seven (07), three (03), four (04), nine (09), four (04), three (03) and four (04) respectively, but all candidates were tribal male dominant. Only in 2008 election two tribal female candidates contested the election. They were Smt. Suchitra Debbarma from All India Trinomool Congress (AITC) and Smt. Kartik Kanya Debbarma from Independent party, but both candidates lost the election. In this regard total forty two (42) candidates contested from the Golaghati constituency and out of this tribal male and female member were forty (40) and two (02) respectively. Thus,

the above data reveals the very negligible (4.76 percent) participation of tribal female candidates in the Assembly elections.

Table- 5: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Charilam-19 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Charilam-19	1972	04	04	00	
	1977	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1983	-			
	1988	-			
	1993	08	08	00	
	1998	06	06	00	
	2003	06	05	01	Ranita Sanghma, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	2008	04	04	00	
	2013	05	05	00	
	2018	05	05	00	
	Total	38	37	01	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table 5 showed that the Charilam Constituency was reserved Constituency in the year 1972 then for twelve (12) years from 1977 to 1988 it remained unreserved. Then again it was made a reserved constituency in 1993. In 1972 four (04) male candidates contested the election. Between 1993 and 2018 Assembly election only once in 2003 election a female candidate contested in the election under the banner of Amara Bangalee Party but she (Ranita Sanghma) did not win. Legislative Assembly Elections in 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018 total candidates were contested eight (08), six (06), six (06), four (04), five (05), and five (05) respectively, but all candidates were tribal male dominant. Thus, the above data reveals that out of thirty eight (38) candidates' thirty seven (37) candidates were male dominance and the negligible (2.63 percent) participation of tribal female candidates in this constituency.

Table- 6: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Ramchandraghat-24 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Ramchandraghat-24	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	05	05	00	-
	1983	02	02	00	-
	1988	03	03	00	-
	1993	05	04	01	Ranita Sanghma, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	1998	03	03	00	-
	2003	03	03	00	-
	2008	07	07	00	-
	2013	04	04	00	-
	Total	32	31	01	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table 6 showed that Ramchandraghat Constituency was unreserved Constituency in 1972. In 1977, five (05) candidates contested the Tripura Legislative Assembly election and all were tribal male candidates. In 1983 and 1988 total candidates were two (02) and three (03) respectively, but all candidates were tribal male dominant. Only in 1993 one female candidate contested but unfortunately she lost the election. In 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018 Assembly election total tribal male candidates were three (03), three (03), seven (07), four

(04) and four (04) respectively. Political parties have given less priority to the tribal female candidates in respect of the Tripura Legislative Assembly election. Thus, the above data revealed that out of thirty six (36) candidates' thirty five (35) candidates were male dominance and showed the negligible (2.78 percent) participation of tribal female candidates of this constituency.

Table-7: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Ashrambari- 26 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Ashrambari-26	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	03	03	00	
	1988	05	05	00	
	1993	04	03	01	Ranita Sanghma, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	1998	04	03	01	Sandhya Rani Debbarma, CPI(M), Won
	2003	02	02	00	
	2008	05	04	01	Dhanbhakti Jamatia, BJP, Not Won
	2013	04	04	00	
	2018	06	05	01	Suchitra Debbarma Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	Total		38	34	04

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table 7 showed that the Ashrambari Constituency in 1993 for the first time a woman candidate Ranita Sanghma, Amara Bangalee Party contested the election, but she lost it, again in the year 1998 another female candidate Sandhya Rani Debbarma from CPI (M) contested the election and won. Unfortunately, Dhanbhakti Jamatia from BJP lost the election in the 2008 election. In this constituency CPI (M) has a strong hold is pretty visible as except CPI (M) candidate Sandhya Rani Debbarma. Other candidates belonging to different political parties could not win election. Thus, the above data reveals the negligible (10.53 percent) participation of tribal female candidates in the Assembly elections.

Table-8: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Krishnapur-29 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Krishnapur-29	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	03	03	00	
	1988	03	03	00	
	1993	05	05	00	
	1998	06	05	01	Rabani Debbarma, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	2003	04	04	00	
	2008	03	03	00	
	2013	04	04	00	
	2018	04	04	00	
Total		37	36	01	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table 8 showed that from 1972 this Constituency was Unreserved. Only one female candidate contested elections in the year 1998 but Smt. Rabani Debbarma from Amara Bangalee lost the election. Total candidates of the Krishnapur Constituency were thirty seven (37), out of this thirty six (36) candidates were male, whereas tribal female candidate were one (01) member. Thus, the above data revealed the very negligible (2.70 percent) participation of tribal female candidates in the Assembly elections.

Table-9: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Bagma-30 Constituency from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Bagma-30	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	03	03	00	
	1988	04	04	00	
	1993	03	03	00	
	1998	04	04	00	
	2003	02	02	00	
	2008	03	03	00	
	2018	04	04	00	
Total		31	31	00	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table 9 showed that no female candidate contested the election from Bagma Constituency since 1972 to 2018. Total candidates of the Bagma Constituency were thirty one (31), out of this thirty one (31) candidates were male members, whereas tribal female candidates did not get any chance to participate the Tripura Legislative Assembly election. **Table-10: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Shantirbazar- 36 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018**

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Shantir Bazar- 36	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	-			
	1983	-			
	1988	-			
	1993	04	04	00	
	1998	03	03	00	
	1999 (Bi-Election)	04	04	00	
	2003	03	03	00	
	2008	03	03	00	
	2013	04	04	00	
	2018	04	04	00	
	Total		25	25	00

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 10 stated that 36-Santirbazar Constituency was not reserved from 1972 to 1988 and has no one single tribal women candidate contested of that constituency from 1993 to 2018 Assembly election in Tripura. Since 1993 to 2018 Assembly election total twenty five (25) candidates contested and all are twenty five (25) male candidates contested the different political parties and they won of that constituency. In 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018 Assembly election total tribal male candidates were four (04), three (03), four (04), three (03), three (03), four (04) and four (04) respectively. Another important factor is that the political parties have given less priority to the tribal female candidates for contesting in the Tripura Legislative Assembly from this constituency.

Table-11: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Jolaibari-38 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Jolaibari-38	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	06	06	00	-
	1983	02	02	00	-
	1988	04	04	00	-
	1993	04	04	00	-
	1998	03	03	00	-
	2003	04	04	00	-
	2008	05	05	00	-
2013	02	02	00	-	
Total		30	30	00	-

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 11 stated that Jolaibari constituency became an unreserved constituency in 1972. From 1977 to 2018 no one single tribal women candidate contested of that constituency.

Table-12: Tribal Male and Tribal Female Contested Candidates in the Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Manu-39 Constituencies since 1972-2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Manu-39	1972	04	04	00	
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	02	02	00	
	1988	03	03	00	
	1993	02	02	00	
	1998	03	03	00	
	2003	03	03	00	
	2008	04	04	00	
	2013	03	03	00	
	2018	04	04	00	
	Total		33	33	00

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 12 stated that Manu constituency became a reserved constituency since 1972. From 1972 to 2018 Assembly election total twenty nine (29) male candidates contested and won from the different political parties but no one single tribal women candidate contested of this constituency.

Table-13: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Ampinagar-41 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Ampinagar-41	1972	03	03	00	
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	03	03	00	
	1988	03	03	00	
	1993	06	05	01	Minati Ray, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	1998	03	03	00	
	2003	02	02	00	
	2008	06	06	00	
	2013	05	04	01	Patalkana Jamatia, IPFT, Not Won
	2018	04	04	00	
Total		40	38	02	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table 13 showed that one (01) female candidate contested from the Amara Bangalee party but unfortunately she did not win. Total candidates of this constituency were six (06) and out of this five (05) were tribal male members. The last Assembly election which was held in 2013, there is also a tribal women candidate Smt. Patalkana Jamatia, who contested from the political party of Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), but unfortunately she did not win. Thus, the above data revealed that the negligible

(5 percent) participation of tribal female candidates in the Assembly elections.

Table-14: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Karbook-43 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party	
Karbook-43	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved			
	1977	-				
	1983	-				
	1988	-				
	1993	-				
	1998	-				
	2003	-				
	2008	-				
	2013	06	06	00		
	2018	06	06	00		
	Total		12	12	00	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 14 stated that Karbook-43 constituency became a unreserved constituency in 1972 to 2008. This Constituency was started in 2013 election. Only two Assembly elections were held in Karbook Constituency. Total Twelve (12) candidates have contested of that Constituency and all Twelve (12) candidates are male category. This situation implies that women are not given enough opportunity to participate in political activities and it is the obstacle of the political empowerment of tribal women in Tripura as well as this Constituency.

Table-15: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Raimavelley-44 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Raimavelley-44	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	04	04	00	
	1983	02	02	00	
	1988	02	02	00	
	1993	04	04	00	
	1998	04	04	00	
	2003	04	04	00	
	2008	07	07	00	
	2013	04	04	00	
	2018	06	06	00	
	Total		37	37	00

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 15 stated that no one female candidates contested the Tripura Legislative Assembly election from Raimavelley constituency since 1977. From 1977 to 2018 no one single tribal women candidate contested of that constituency.

Table-16: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Ambassa-47 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Ambassa-47	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	06	06	00	
	1983	03	02	01	Ratnaprava Das, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	1988	04	04	00	
	1993	05	04	01	Ranita Sangma, IND, Not Won
	1998	04	02	02	Haimayantee Debbama, BJP, Not Won Ranita Sangma, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	2003	03	03	00	
	2008	06	06	00	
	2013	03	03	00	
	2018	05	05	00	
	Total		39	35	04

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 16 stated that 47-Ambassa constituency became a unreserved constituency in 1972. In 1977, six (06) candidates contested the Tripura Legislative

Assembly election and all were tribal male candidates. In 2013, there is also a tribal women candidate Smt. Ratnaprava Das, who contested from the Amara Bangalee party, but unfortunately she did not win. Smt. Ranita Sangma contested from Independent party in 1993, but she did not win. In 1998, Smt. Haimayantee Debbarma from BJP and Smt. Ratnaprava Das from the Amara Bangalee party contested but they did not win. Out of thirty nine (39) total candidates male and female were thirty five (35) and four (04) respectively. Thus, the above data revealed that the negligible (10.26 percent) participation of tribal female candidates in the Assembly elections.

Table-17: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Karamcherra-48 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Karamcherra - 48	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	03	02	01	Ratnaprava Das, IND. Not Won
	1988	04	04	00	
	1993	06	06	00	
	1998	04	04	00	
	2003	03	03	00	
	2008	05	05	00	
	2013	03	03	00	
	2018	06	05	01	Smt. Ranjanbati Debbarma, INC, Not Won
	Total	39	37	02	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

Table 17 showed that in 1983 and 2018 Karamcherra Constituency only two female candidates contested but unfortunately both of them lost the elections who were Smt. Ratnaprava Das from Independent party and Smt. Ranjanbati Debbarma from Indian National Congress (INC). Out of total thirty nine (39) candidates, male candidates were thirty seven (37) and female candidates were only two (02), which represents only 5.13 percent.

Table-18: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Chamanu-49 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Chamanu-49	1972	03	03	00	
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	02	02	00	
	1988	02	02	00	
	1993	05	05	00	
	1998	03	03	00	
	2003	04	04	00	
	2008	05	05	00	
	2013	03	03	00	
	2018	06	06	00	
	Total	38	38	00	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 18 stated that Chamanu constituency became a reserved constituency since 1972. From 1972 to 2018 Assembly election total thirty eight (38) male candidates contested and won from the different political parties. But, no one single tribal women candidate contested of that constituency since 1972.

Table-19: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Pacharthal-59 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Pacharthal-59	1972	-	At that time this Constituency was Unreserved		
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	03	02	01	Ratnaprava Das, IND. Not Won
	1988	04	03	01	Minati Ray, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	1993	09	09	00	
	1998	04	03	01	Nirupama Chakma, Cong(I), Not Won
	2003	04	03	01	Nirupama Chakma, Cong(I), Not Won
	2008	07	06	01	Basirun Reang, CPI(ML)(L), Not Won
	2013	03	02	01	Pumita Chakma, INC, Not Won
	2018	06	04	02	Smt. Nandini Chakma, INC, Not Won Smt. Santana Chakma, BJP, Won
	Total	45	37	08	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 19 stated that Pecharthal constituency became a reserved constituency since 1972. From 1972 to 2018 Assembly election total forty five (45) candidates, male and female candidates were thirty seven (37) and eight (08) respectively. Smt. Ratnaprava Das in 1983, Smt. Minati Ray in 1988, Smt. Nirupama Chakma in 1998 and 2003, Smt. Basirun Reang in 2008 and contested from the different political parties like Congress (I), CPI (ML) (L), INC, Amara Bangalee and Independent, but they did not win those Assembly elections. In 2018 Election two female candidates were contested from this constituency. Out of this two female candidate one candidate won from BJP ticket and holds the position of Cabinet Minister. She is Smt. Santana Chakma, got 17743 votes. Another candidate Smt. Nandini Chakma contested from the INC party but she did not win. Pecharthal Constituency got the first women MLA and as well as Minister of Social Welfare & Social Education Department and Animal Resource Development. Comparatively participation of women from this constituency is high (17.78 percent).

Table-20: Tripura Legislative Assembly Elections in Kanchanpur-60 Constituencies from 1972 to 2018

Constituency	Year	Total Candidate	Total Contested Male Members	Total Contested Female Members	Name of the Female Candidates & Party
Kanchanpur-60	1972	04	02	00	
	1977	05	05	00	
	1983	04	03	01	Ratnaprava Das, IND. Not Won
	1988	03	03	00	
	1993	07	05	02	Ambika Reang, BJP, Not Won Minati Reang, Amara Bangalee, Not Won
	1998	05	04	01	Najira Reang, BJP, Not Won
	2003	04	04	00	
	2008	05	05	00	
	2013	03	03	00	
	2018	06	06	00	
	Total	46	42	04	

Source: The Election Commission of India, Tripura.

From the table 20 stated that Kanchanpur constituency became a reserved constituency since 1972. From 1972 to 2018 Assembly election totals forty six (46) candidates; male and female candidates were forty two (42) and four (04) respectively. In 1983, Smt. Ratnaprava Das from Independent party contested but she lost the election. Smt. Ambika Reang from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Smt. Minati Reang from Amara Bangalee party contested the 1993 election, but they did not win. Same thing was

happen in the 1998 election, where Smt. Najira Reang from BJP contested, but she lost the election. Tribal male dominance was also reflects from 1972, 1977, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018 Assembly election, where tribal male contested candidates were four (04), five (05), four (04), three (03), seven (07), five (05), four (04), five (05), three (03) and six (06) respectively.

From the above tables it is to be clear that the tribal women are still in wretched conditions in terms of political participation at legislative assembly. The first sight at the table gives the idea of political parties' apathetic attitude towards tribal women while it comes to give party ticket to contest in the assembly elections. Most of the cases tribal male candidates contested the legislative elections from 1972 to 2018 and they won form their reserved constituency. Smt. Kartik Kanya Debbarma was only the first tribal women candidate represented to the CPI (M) party who won the Assembly election in 1993.

Table- 21 Participation of Male and Female Members from Different Assembly Constituencies Since 1972 to 2018

Sl. No	Name of the Constituency	Total Male Participation	Total Female Participation
1	1-Simna	39	02
2	11-Mandaibazar	41	01
3	12-Takarjala	42	04
4	17-Golaghati	40	02
5	19-Charilam	37	01
6	24-Ramchardraghat	35	01
7	26-Asharambari	34	04
8	29-Krishnapur	36	01
9	30-Bagma	31	00
10	36-Santirbazar	25	00
11	38-Jolaibari	35	00
12	39-Manu	33	00
13	41-Ampinagar	38	02
14	43-Karbook	12	00
15	44-Raima Valley	27	00
16	47-Ambassa	25	04
17	48-Karamcherra	37	02
18	49-Chawmanu	38	00
19	59-Pecharthal	37	08
20	60-Kanchanpur	42	04
	Total	704	36

Source: Election Commission of India, New Delhi.

Table 21 showed that out of total 740 members 704 male candidates contested the legislative elections from different constituencies since 1972 where a minimum thirty six (36) female candidates contested the elections and success rate is also low. Out of thirty six (36) tribal female candidates only four (04) candidates were success in the assembly elections.

Table-22: Contributions of political parties to nominate tribal women candidates to contest TLA from 1972 to 2018

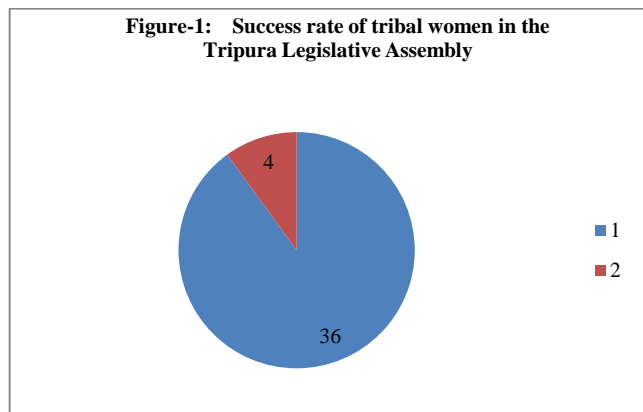


Table 22 stated that the contribution of political parties in respect of nominating tribal women candidate in different assembly elections is very trifling. Smt. Kartik Kanya Debbarma was only the first tribal women candidate represented to the C.P.I. (M) party who won the Assembly election in 1993. However, Queen Bibhu Kumari Devi contested as Congress candidate from Agartala constituency and won in 1988. She was not elected to form the reserved tribal seats in Tripura. Kartik Kanya Debbarma contested again in 2003 from her earlier constituency, as a NCP candidate but she could not a success. Congress and TUJS nominated tribal women candidate 03 and 01 time respectively in tribal reserved constituencies without any success. Amara Bangalee nominates women candidate for ten times and BJP for five times. However, these parties did not show any smear in the electoral politics of tribal areas.

VI. Tribal Women Participation in the Panchayati Raj Institutions from 1994 to 2014

Year	Total Seats	ST		ST Total	Percentage	Percentage	
		Male	Female			Male	Female
1994	5427	415	289	704	13%	7.64%	5.32%
1999	5685	157	129	286	5%	2.76%	2.27%
2004	5352	168	123	291	6%	3.14%	2.30%
2009	5259	187	103	290	6%	3.56%	1.96%
2014	6111	181	190	371	6.07%	2.96%	3.11%

Source: Dept of Panchayat, Govt. of Tripura

73rd Amendment Act implemented in Tripura under Tripura Panchayat Act (1993). The first election was held in 1994 at all the three levels of the Panchayat Raj system (i.e. Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samity and Zilla Parishad). These elections accelerate the development of tribal women under the three tier system in Tripura. Thus, it revealed that the participation of tribal women leaders in three tier system is satisfactory and it shows the emerging trends of political participation.

Table-23: Elected Member in Gram Panchayat from 1994 to 2014

Name of the Political Party	Total Women Nominated	Candidate	Number of Success
CPI(M)	04		03
CONGRESS (I)	02		00
TUJS	01		00
NCP	01		00
Amara Bangalee	10		00
BJP	05		01
INC	03		00
IPFT	01		00
AITC	02		00
CPI(ML)(L)	01		00
Independent	06		00
Total	36		04

Source: Election Commission of India, New Delhi.

Above table 23 represents that the participation of tribal people at gram panchayat level in Tripura where out of 5427 seats 704 seats reserved for tribal members. Tribal women elected 5.32 percent seats out of 13 percent reserved seats in 1994, 2.27 percent seats out of 5 percent reserved seats in 1992, 2.30 percent seats out of 6 percent in 2004 and

1.96 percent seats out of 6 percent in 2009 and 3.11 percent seats out of 6.07 percent in 2014.

Table-24: Elected Members in Panchayat Samity from 1994 to 2014

Year	Total Seats	ST		ST Total	Percentage	Percentage	
		Male	Female			Male	Female
1994	196	13	13	26	13%	6.63%	6.63%
1999	299	15	11	26	5%	5.02%	3.68%
2004	299	10	5	15	6%	3.34%	1.67%
2009	299	5	10	15	6%	1.67%	3.34%
2014	419	9	18	27	6.44%	2.15%	4.30%

Source: Dept. of Panchayat, Govt. of Tripura.

Table 24 depicts that the result of 1994 panchayat samity election where, out of 26 ST seats, tribal women shared the half portion of the seats. Tribal women got 13 seats and shared the fifty (50) percentages. In 1999, tribal women got 11 seats and shared 42.30 percentages. The result of 2004 showing the decreasing trends, where tribal women shared 33.33 percentage seats. However, in 1999 and 2014 elections revealed that the increasing trends and both this time tribal women shared 66.66 percentage seats.

Table-25: Elected Members in Zilla Parishad from 1994 to 2014

Year	Total Seats	ST		ST Total	Percentage	Percentage	
		Male	Female			Male	Female
1994	70	3	4	7	10	4.26	5.71
1999	82	4	2	6	7	4.88	2.44
2004	82	1	3	4	5	1.22	3.66
2009	82	3	1	4	5	3.66	1.22
2014	116	2	5	7	6.03	1.72	4.13

Source: Dept. of Panchayat, Govt. of Tripura

Above table 25 represents that the tribal women's participation in Zilla Parishad in Tripura. In case of the election of the highest tier of the Panchayati Raj System i.e. Zilla Parishad the tribal women are not far behind in participating than the non-tribals.

VII. CONCLUSION

Political participation of the tribal women in Tripura is gradually and consistently increasing with their participation in the Panchayati Raj (Three Tier System) System which accelerates to fulfill their developmental goals. Whereas, the scenario was not satisfactory in relevance to the State Legislative Assembly elections since 1972 to 2018 for which the participation of the tribal women is still trying to improve by accumulating the structure and criterion of tribal women representation.

VIII. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION:

Political participation of tribal women in Tripura is gradually emerging because of 73rd Amendment Act 1993 which encompasses political empowerment. First of all tribal women members should come forward with positive attitude for their socio-political upliftment in their respective society. Secondly, tribal women should manage to come and act independently with positive role towards promotion of good governance in Tripura. Thirdly, massive awareness campaign to mobilize people with

more focus on tribal women, for their maximum presence and active participation in all political institutions. Fourthly, there is need for mandatory presence of at least 50 percent of the tribal women members in all meetings of Panchayat Raj Institutions. Finally, Political parties should allow and nominate tribal women candidate to contest elections from grassroots level to legislature and act independently so that they can overcome the burdens of male dependency.

REFERENCES

- [1] Alam, J. (2009), Religion vs. Women's Empowerment in A. Bagchi and S. K. Roy (ed.) *Changing Faces of Indian Women*, Kolkata: Levant Books.
- [2] Aslam, M. (2007), *Panchayati Raj in India*, New Delhi: National Book Trust India.
- [3] Banik, P. (2012). *Legislative Assembly of Tripura: A Survey*. Kolkata: Levant Books.
- [4] Borain, M. P. (2008), *Empowerment of Rural Women: The Deterrents and Determinants*, New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.
- [5] Chakraborty, T. (1998), *Economic Participation of Rural Tribal Women of Tripura: A Case Study*, Agartala: Tripura State Tribal Cultural Research Institute and Museum.
- [6] Das, N. (2012), *Grassroot Democracy and Panchayati Raj in Tripura*, Kolkata: Progressive Publishers.
- [7] Dalvi, M. C. K. (2010), *Women and Social Changes: Changes Perspective*, Delhi: Educational Publishers and Distributors.
- [8] Desai, T. (1998), *Women India*, Delhi: Munshiram Monoharlal Publishers Pvt. Limited.
- [9] Debnath, J.(2013), *Tripura Info Nirbachani Tathyapanji*, Agartala: Tripura Info Dot Com.
- [10] Dua, S. P. (2011), *Panchayati Raj and Urban Planning*, New Delhi: Alfa Publications.
- [11] Ghosh, A. (2010), *Women in India: Problems, Potentialities and Power (ed.)*, Kolkata: Mitram Publication.
- [12] Kumar, U. (2009), *Peoples Participation in Panchayati Raj Institution*, New Delhi: National Book Organization.
- [13] Mohan, S. (et.al) (2005), *Women and Political Participation in India*, Malaysia: International Women Rights Action Watch Asia Specific.
- [14] Pillai, M. N. V. and et. al. (2011), *Tribal Leadership*, New Delhi: Jnanada Prakashan.
- [15] Rao, C. N. Shankar (2007), *Sociology of Indian Society*, New Delhi: S. Chand & Company Ltd.
- [16] Saxena, A. (2011), *Women and Political Leadership*, New Delhi: Alter Publishing House.
- [17] Sen, B. (2007), *Women Power: The Changing Scenario*, Panchkula: Better Book.
- [18] Trivedi, T. (2009), *Women and Rural Development*, New Delhi: Jnanada Publications.
- [19] <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation>, Accessed on: 23/05/2016, 17:05.
- [20] <file:///C:/Users/USER/Desktop/Icfai%20University/International%20seminar/Political%20Participation.html>, Accessed on: 23/05/2016.
- [21] Article: C. B. Majumder, "Political Empowerment of Women in Tripura: An Overview".
- [22] Article: R. Chakraborty and M. S. Bandyopadhyay, "Status of Women in Tripura".
- [23] www.electioncomissionofindia.com
- [24] www.tripurainfo.com
- [25] www.syandanpartrika.com
- [26] www.tripuraobserver.com