



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.

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Wide Spread Media Coverage of the event: -

**जागरण**  
 11 मई 2011  
 दैनिक जागरण | 11

**सशक्त हुई महिलाएं**

पटना: बिहार में महिलाओं को मिले 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण का लाभ दिखने लगा है। विद्यमान पंचायतों में लगभग 28 में से 32 प्रतिशत में पंचायत विकास योजना पर महिलाएं कार्यरत हैं।

पंचायतों को सशक्त बनाने में स्थानीय विकास अधिकारी महान भूमिका का भूमिका निभाए पर आरक्षण योजना में महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाने का काम है। उन्होंने कहा कि सशक्त पंचायतों का विकास ही है। महिलाएं कार्यरत आरक्षण योजना के तहत ही सशक्त पंचायतों का विकास है।

पंचायत विकास योजना के तहत ही सशक्त पंचायतों का विकास है। उन्होंने कहा कि सशक्त पंचायतों का विकास ही है। महिलाएं कार्यरत आरक्षण योजना के तहत ही सशक्त पंचायतों का विकास है।

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 THE TELEGRAPH WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2011

**Aiyar hails Nitish regime**

SHUCHISMITA CHAKRABORTY

Patna, May 16: Chief minister Nitish Kumar's effort for rural development and push for 50 per cent reservation in the panchayat system has earned him yet another accolade with former Union minister of panchayati raj Mani Shankar Aiyar praising him. In the city for a round table discussion on 'Impact of political reservation for women and local governance and rural service provision' organised by National Council of Applied Economic Research, International Development Research Centre and Centre for Federal Studies, Jamia Huseinabad, New Delhi, Aiyar said, "Even though chief minister Nitish Kumar is not present here, I still want this message to reach him. We are all very proud of him."

He added: "He has shown the country and the world what can be done with the fundamental institution of the country, the panchayat system."

Aiyar was addressing a meet of dignitaries that included Eknath Ashwar, Director, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi, economist D.B. Gupta, Amita Singh, a teacher at the Centre for Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Vijay Prakash, principal secretary, state department of planning and development.

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The former Union minister said: "While Rajiv Gandhi used to say that politicians should have faith in the citizens of the country, Nitish is way ahead of him. He has shown his belief in Indian women by empowering them with 50 per cent reservation at the panchayat level."

He added that as a result of Nitish's efforts, eight other states have also enforced the reservation and the Union government is also planning to introduce similar reservation all over the country within the next five years.

"Women's empowerment will be a distant dream unless women come out from remote villages and take part in administration and governance," said Aiyar.

He added: "At present, there are 2.5 lakh local bodies in the country that have a total of 12 lakh representatives. Of that, 12 lakh are women. Around 80,000 hold high posts at the panchayat level. This is a really good figure and tells us how the panchayat system is in success."

"There may be some hiccups at the beginning but we should not let the negative developments hamper our hopes," added the former minister.

Governor Devanand Kumar inaugurated the meet. He said: "Until and unless we make the villages shine, India won't shine."

Rajya Sabha member N.K. Singh, who chaired the inaugural session of the meet, said: "For strengthening the system, we need to look after what more can be done with the panchayati raj system. For that, there is a need for decentralisation of local bodies."

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**हिन्दुस्तान**

संगोष्ठी में राज्यपाल ने कहा गांवों से ही होगा देश का विकास

पटना: हिन्दुस्तान न्यूज

राज्यपाल देववन्द कुमार ने कहा कि पंचायतों का विकास ही है देश का विकास। उन्होंने कहा कि गांवों से ही होगा देश का विकास। उन्होंने कहा कि गांवों से ही होगा देश का विकास।

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पटना • बुधवार • 11 मई • 2011

**दूर तक पहुंच रही महिलाओं की आवाज**

पटना

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**प्रभात**

बिहार बना...

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**बिहार बना फिर मॉडल**

विदेशियों को भ्राम्य एएसएमएस सिस्टम मणियांकर ने की नीतीया की प्रशंसा

पटना: पूर्व केन्द्रीय मंत्री मणियांकर ने कहा कि बिहार को फिर मॉडल बनाने का काम है। उन्होंने कहा कि बिहार को फिर मॉडल बनाने का काम है। उन्होंने कहा कि बिहार को फिर मॉडल बनाने का काम है।

**बिहार बना...**

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HINDUSTAN TIMES, PATNA WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011

**Konwar stresses growth of villages**

NT Correspondent

PATNA: The development of villages is the key to the country's growth, and Governor Devanand Kumar, at the inauguration of a seminar on 'Women's political reservation and its impact on local administrative system' held at Hotel Manara here on Tuesday, said that the villages of India are fully developed, but we think of total development of the country. He was adding that the impact of giving 50% reservation in women under three-tier Panchayat Raj system was now clearly visible in the rural areas.

Konwar said Mahila, Shiksha and Magal cultures had their own distinctiveness and with every village in Bihar could be a garden of flowers. "I want that of road, electricity, education and health-care facilities. Speaking on the occasion, former Union minister Manishankar Aiyar re-emphasized that 85 per cent of a report issued by the Centre on women's work did not even reach the people. The situation is changing now with more and more women participating in the local bodies. All government departments of women have come forward."

Rajya Sabha member N.K. Singh also highlighted the need for empowering women for the all-round development of the society and the country. The condition of any country could be easily measured by the condition of its women, he added. Principal secretary, planning, Vijay Prakash, and a host of other officials and academicians and social activists were present on the occasion.