

**An Exploratory Study on the Impact of EWR on
Delivery of Services and Democratic Processes in
Karnataka**

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EWR : Karnataka – Frontrunner

- Traditionally – Two tier system – 25 % reservations
- Comprehensive Panchayat Raj Act

SC/ST

- Proportionate Representation
- Minimum 18 %

Other Backward Class

- 33.3 %

Women

- 1/3 rd for each caste + non reserved seats
- seats reserved for Adhyaksha

CBPS Study: Research Questions

- What are the background profiles of the Adhyakshas?
- What are the priority areas of investment for the Adhyakshas?
- Do the Adhyakshas focus on 'pro women' service delivery in education and health?
- What is the impact of EWR on the participation of village residents in democratic processes?
- What is the Perception of village residents of women leaders/EWR?

Two BRGF Districts – Davanagere and Kalburgi

Study Design

EWR

- Background
- Priorities
- Perceptions/Reflections
- Empowerment

EMR

- Background
- Priorities
- Perceptions/Reflections

Village Residents
(Male & Female)

- Democratic Processes
- Empowerment
- Perception

Study Design

GP Members
(Male & Female)

- Perceptions
- Convergence

Frontline
Functionaries

- Delivery of Services in Education and Health
- Convergence
- Perceptions

Secondary Data

- GP plans
- finances
- expenditure

Sampling

S.no	Stakeholders	No. Interviewed in Kalburgi	No. Interviewed in Davanagere	Total Interviewed	No.
1	Elected Women Representatives	11	10		21
2	Elected Men Representatives	9	10		19
3	GP Members (Female)	20	19		39
4	GP Members (Male)	20	21		41
5	Village Residents (Female)	40	40		80
6	Village Residents (Male)	39	41		80
7	ASHA/ANM/Anganwadi Workers	42	38		80

Profile of Respondent men and women Adhyakshas

Age

- 70 percent of men Adhyakshas / EMRs -age group of 36-65 years
- 60 per cent of EWRs - age group of 24-35 years

Education

- 85 per cent of EWRs - below SSLC
- 60 per cent of EMRs - beyond SSLC

Occupation

- 50 per cent EWR – Household work
- Even if landed, Land registered – Male relative/spouse

Panchayat Activities

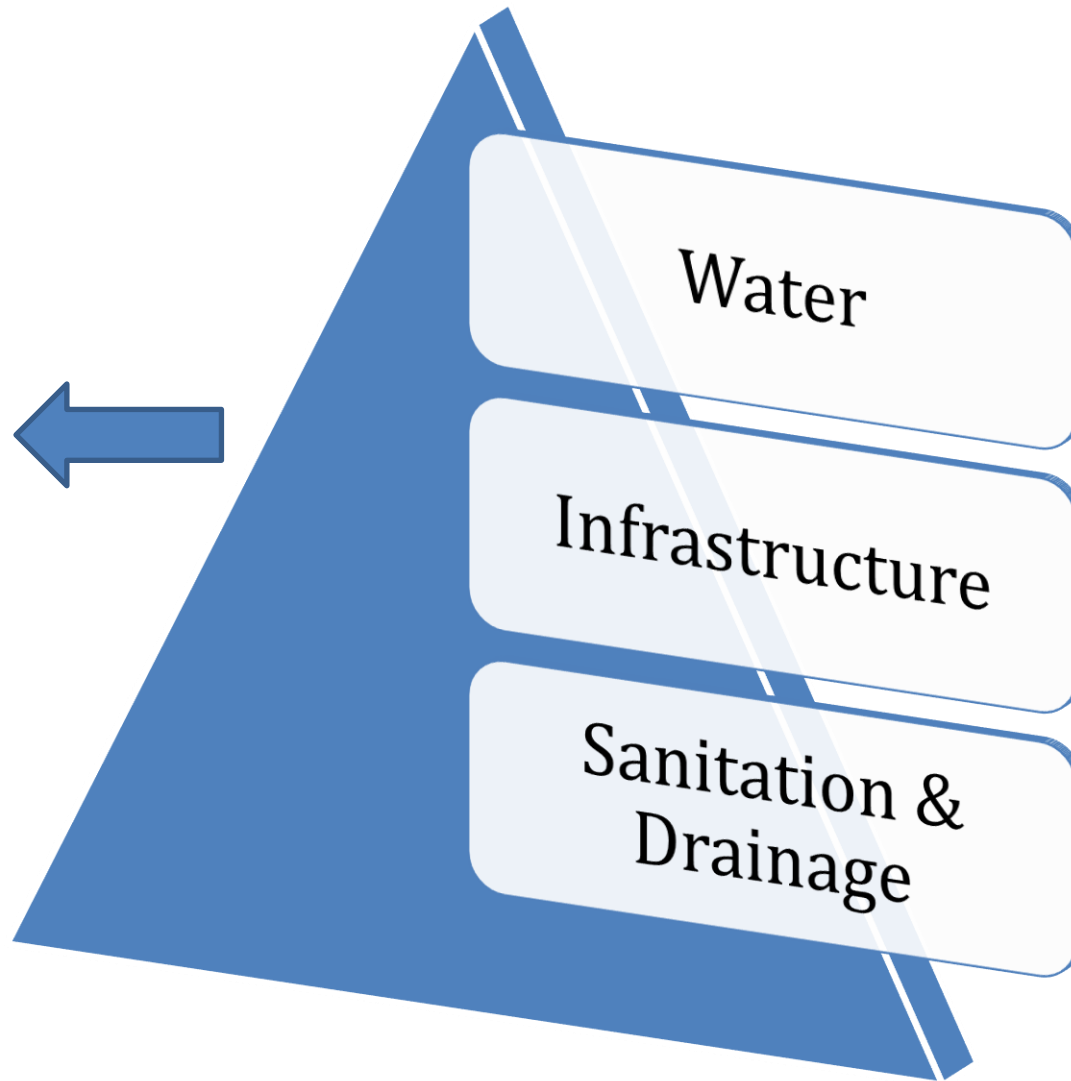
- 80 per cent of EWRs had never participated
- 80 per cent of the EMRs had actively participated

Idea about Role & Responsibilities

- 50 per cent of the EWR had no idea
- 80 per cent of EMR had the knowledge

Priority Areas of Investment for Adhyakshas

Women empowerment, dealing with social evils like alcoholism, dowry, rape domestic violence did not figure in the list



Planning of Investments

How were the Investments planned?

- EWR – Need of the village/gram sabha
- EMR- Tied funds

Parties Consulted?

- EWR – Colleagues & Gram Sabha
- EMR – Colleagues & Govt. Officials

Convergence with frontline functionaries

63%
Consulted
on planning
investments



More focus on
Women's Education &
Health



More Inclusive &
Approachable



Village Resident's Participation in Democratic Processes

Democratic Processes

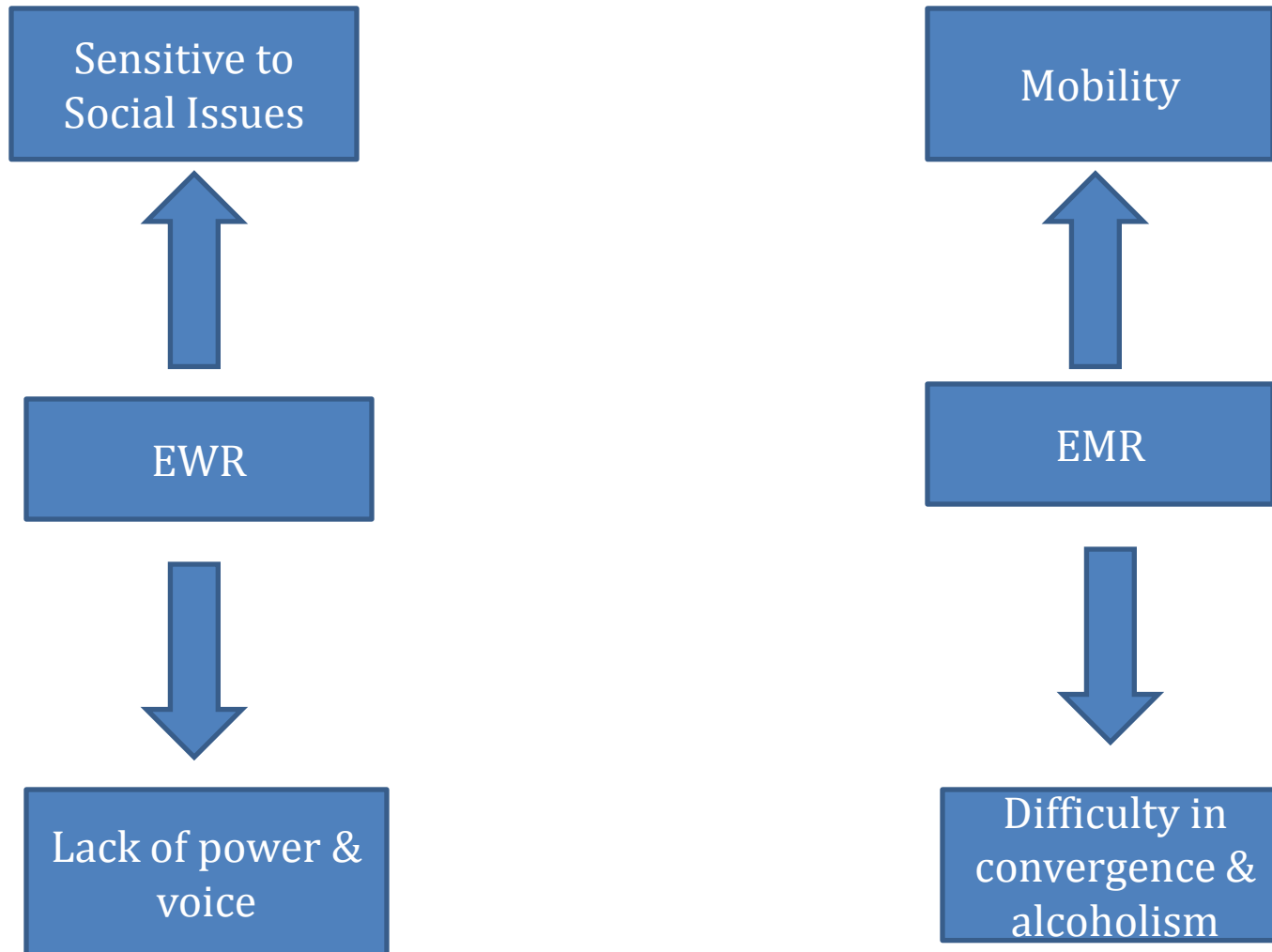
Reasons for electing Adhyaksha- Promises made before elections/expectation of good performance

Knowledge of investments made in the GP – Women much less than the men; Men know more when EWR.

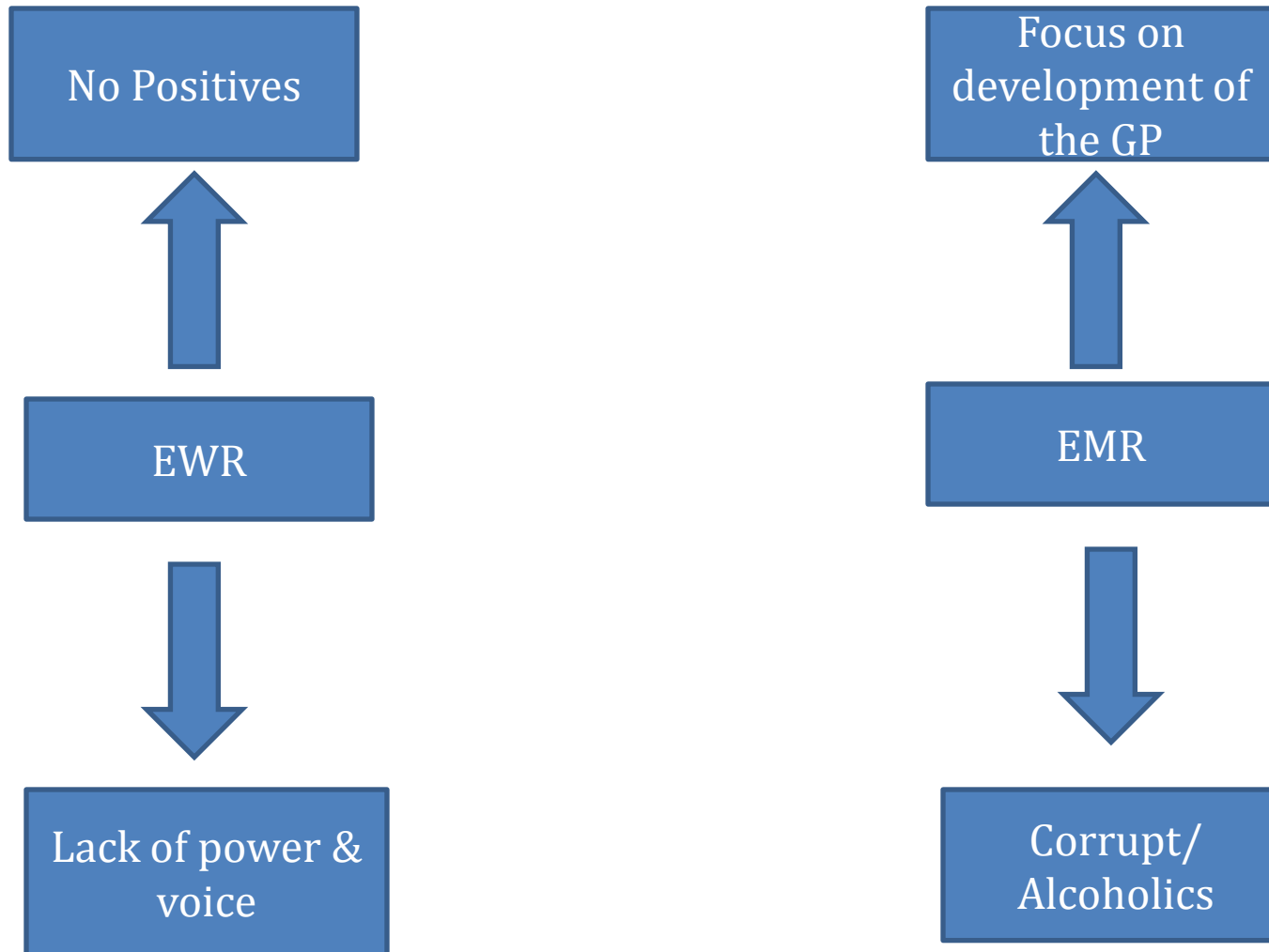
Awareness on Jamabandi – lesser women know than men; even when Adhyaksha is female

Empowerment of the EWR

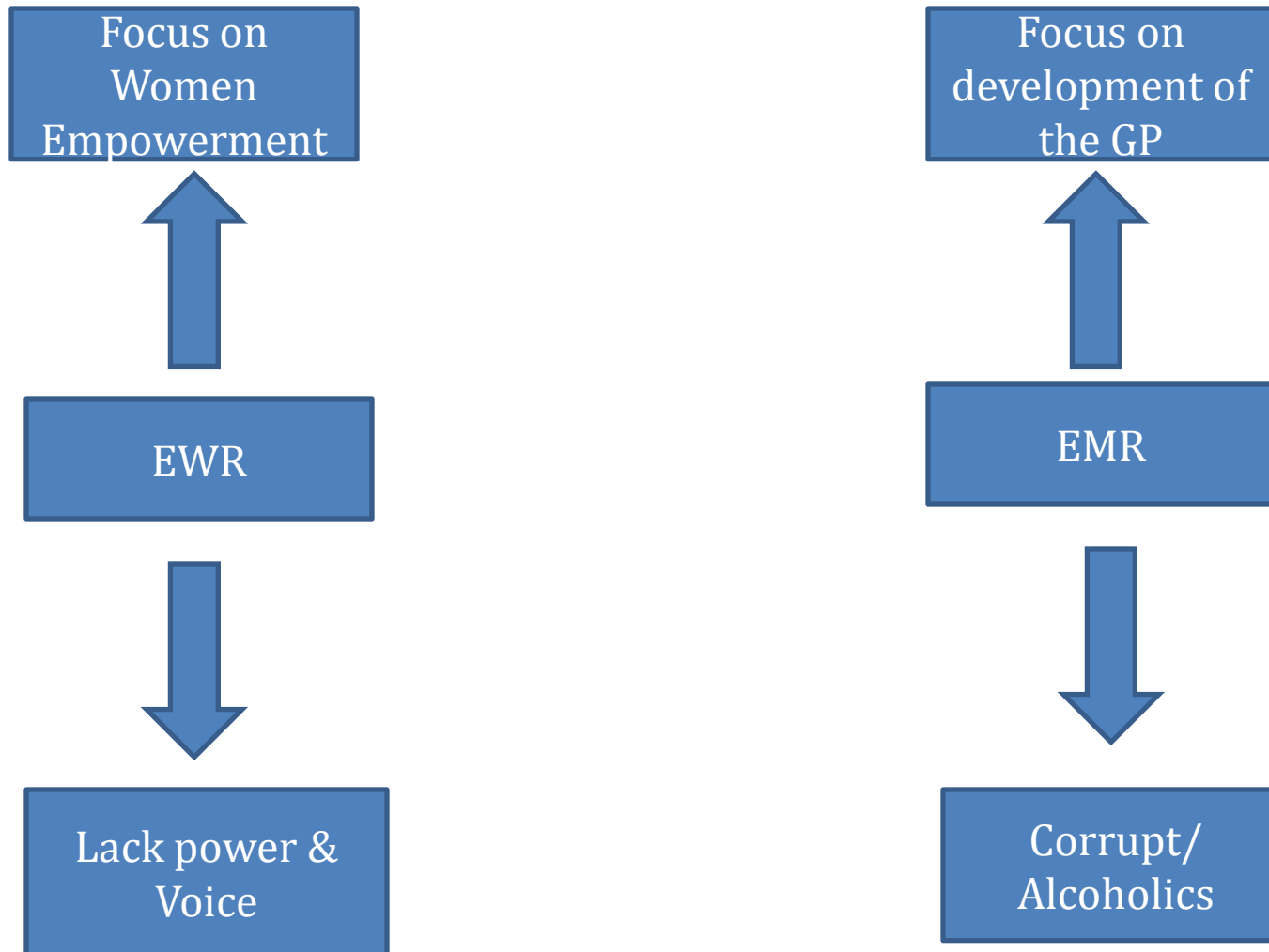
More than 90% EWRs sought help of male relatives



Village Resident's (Male) Perception of Women Leaders



Village Resident's (Female) Perception of Women Leaders



Conclusion

- Background – Relative Powerlessness
- Several Reasons for non ‘pro-woman’ delivery of services
- Performing fairly well – more people oriented; good convergence;
- No real empowerment – Strategic empowerment needs
- Opinion of Residents – Gendered/ cultural essentialism

Recommendations

- Need for stable/longer tenure
- Effective Training / Handholding – away from ‘one size fits all approach’
- Targeted interventions to break stereotypical notions about ‘woman’ and ‘man’s work’
- Sensitivity training for all stakeholders

Thank You .