

SUGRAMA
Grama Panchayat Chunayita Mahila Okkuta Karnataka
MANIFESTO

May 2009 – May 2010

The Grama Panchayat elected women representatives of Karnataka have come together to form a federation called SUGRAMA – Grama Panchayat Chunayita Mahila Okkuta Karnataka. In keeping with the byelaws of SUGRAMA, its members have nominated a Steering Committee representing each district in Karnataka. The Steering committee has elected seven office bearers and SUGRAMA will have 3 basic principles of governance – social justice, gender equity and inclusiveness.

SUGRAMA – Grama Panchayat Chunayita Mahila Okkuta makes a solemn pledge to promote the rights and interests of all Grama Panchayat Chunayita Mahila in Karnataka. SUGRAMA will be corruption free, transparent and accountable to all its members at all times. SUGRAMA will not be aligned to any political party, religion and caste and will provide a federation that is committed, responsible and responsive.

1. Promoting fair and clean electoral process in upcoming Grama Panchayat elections 2010

SUGRAMA will immediately work towards empowering women politically. It will ensure fair and violence free Grama Panchayat elections in February 2010. SUGRAMA will encourage all women in Karnataka to contest for all Grama Panchayat seats. It will disseminate relevant information with regard to election processes so as to empower its members.

2. To build, strengthen and sustain SUGRAMA

As a newly established federation SUGRAMA will take immediate steps to register the federation, open a bank account and set up a fully functional office. The SUGRAMA will publicize the vision and objectives of the federation in Karnataka in order to strengthen the membership base and establish itself in the state. The steering committee will ensure sustainability of SUGRAMA by motivating and mobilizing potential members to join SUGRAMA.

3. To advocate for 50% reservation of women in Grama Panchayats

SUGRAMA will advocate towards increasing reservation of women in Panchayats from 33.33 % to 50% so as to enhance the participation and visibility of women in local governance.

SUGRAMA will undertake a signature campaign across districts and taluks in Karnataka towards the above, and submit to State Government.

4. **To encourage SUGRAMA members to abide by the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act 1993.**

SUGRAMA is committed to making Gram Panchayats effective in Karnataka. SUGRAMA will encourage its members to hold Gram Panchayat meetings every month. The members will also take steps to publicly display resolutions passed in Gram Panchayat meetings and ensure that copies are given to all members. SUGRAMA will also promote regular Gram Sabha meetings.

5. **To advocate for direct election for the post of Grama Panchayat President**
6. **To advocate for removal of reservation of seats in Grama Panchayats by rotation.**