



Chief Editor

Dr. A. Singaraj, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Editor

Mrs.M.Josephin Immaculate Ruba

Editorial Advisors

1. **Dr.Yi-Lin Yu**, Ph. D
Associate Professor,
Department of Advertising & Public Relations,
Fu Jen Catholic University,
Taipei, Taiwan.
2. **Dr.G. Badri Narayanan**, PhD,
Research Economist,
Center for Global Trade Analysis,
Purdue University,
West Lafayette,
Indiana, USA.
3. **Dr. Gajendra Naidu.J.**, M.Com, LL.M., M.B.A., PhD. MHRM
Professor & Head,
Faculty of Finance, Botho University,
Gaborone Campus, Botho Education Park,
Kgale, Gaborone, Botswana.
4. **Dr. Ahmed Sebihi**
Associate Professor
Islamic Culture and Social Sciences (ICSS),
Department of General Education (DGE),
Gulf Medical University (GMU), UAE.
5. **Dr. Pradeep Kumar Choudhury**,
Assistant Professor,
Institute for Studies in Industrial Development,
An ICSSR Research Institute,
New Delhi- 110070.India.
6. **Dr. Sumita Bharat Goyal**
Assistant Professor,
Department of Commerce,
Central University of Rajasthan,
Bandar Sindri, Dist-Ajmer,
Rajasthan, India
7. **Dr. C. Muniyandi**, M.Sc., M. Phil., Ph. D,
Assistant Professor,
Department of Econometrics,
School of Economics,
Madurai Kamaraj University,
Madurai-625021, Tamil Nadu, India.
8. **Dr. B. Ravi Kumar**,
Assistant Professor
Department of GBEH,
Sree Vidyanikethan Engineering College,
A.Rangampet, Tirupati,
Andhra Pradesh, India
9. **Dr. Gyanendra Awasthi**, M.Sc., Ph.D., NET
Associate Professor & HOD
Department of Biochemistry,
Dolphin (PG) Institute of Biomedical & Natural Sciences,
Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India.
10. **Dr. D.K. Awasthi**, M.SC., Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry, Sri J.N.P.G. College,
Charbagh, Lucknow,
Uttar Pradesh. India

ISSN (Online) : 2455 - 3662
SJIF Impact Factor :4.924

EPRA International Journal of **Multidisciplinary Research**

Monthly Peer Reviewed & Indexed
International Online Journal

Volume: 4 Issue:9 September 2018



Published By :
EPRA Journals

CC License



**EPRA International Journal of
Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR)**

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Lavanya Chintham
Research Scholar,
Department of Public Administration
& HRM,
Kakatiya University,
Warangal District,
Telangana State.

ABSTRACT

Women empowerment is not a myth. It is a process which includes the realization of women themselves for giving power to creating power within ,and enabling. So it is now a reality and need of the hour. The below article deals with the issue of women empowerment through political participation in India in particular with perspective on role of political parties, impact of 73rd constitutional amendment and constitutional protection for political empowerment.

KEYWORDS: *Women empowerment, international organization, cooperation, tokenism*

INTRODUCTION

“You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women”

Ever since India got independence, politics in the country has been male dominated. Indian women are barely present in political process well as the international organization of political parties. Even if they get some rank in any party, their role generally remains confined to women or to the issues surrounding women. Thus it can be said that political participation of women in India is inadequate.

Twentieth century has gotten an awesome change the life of ladies everywhere throughout the world, impacting their dispositions, values, motivations, methods for feeling, benchmarks of conduct and representing successful cooperation in varying backgrounds. Ladies' journey for fairness with men has turned out to be worldwide marvel. It is especially important in the, social orders which have profound foundations of man controlled society and enslavement of ladies. Sex division is found in varying backgrounds. This division impacts family, division of work, class structure and country states. Presently, ladies are associated with legislative

issues, formative projects, developments and so on... are tossing test to man controlled society. They are presently leaving their protected walled in areas and social spaces communicating their fairness with men, flexibility and respect. Ladies' rights in land and property in genuine life strengthening. The 73rd sacred change has started a procedure of strengthening of ladies in India when all is said in done and the ladies of wide open specifically, which is the need of great importance.

As of late, uncommon endeavors are being made to guarantee ladies' portrayal in the PRIs in the wake of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act which hold 33% of the seats for ladies in PRIs. The investment of ladies in PRIs is viewed as fundamental not just to ensure their political interest in the fair procedure yet in addition for understanding the advancement objectives for ladies.

In this paper an attempt has been made to discuss the steps taken for the political empowerment of women for attaining the end of women empowerment.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

For whatever length of time that ladies of India pronounced Mahatma Gandhi in 1925, —do not

participate out in the open life, there can be no salvation for the nation. He additionally pronounced, "As long as ... ladies don't come to "open life" and clean... we are not liable to achieve swaraj ...

Ever on the off chance that we did, he included, it would have no utilization for that sort of swaraj to which ladies have not made their full commitment .

Individuals' support is an essential pre-condition for the fruitful usage of any arrangement or program. This depends on the supposition that the procedure of individuals' advancement isn't probably going to endeavor profound roots except if the objective gatherings themselves are a piece of it. Investment is a methods for lessening power distinction and is, hence, contributory to evening out and social equity. Investment out in the open life has numerous features. It incorporates exercises which have solid bearing on gathering and the network, and the ability to successfully impact chose agents, basic leadership process and additionally approaches and really adjust existing circumstances wherever they are observed to be plainly disadvantageous. While ladies ought to be situated in expansive number at urgent levels for critical and viable exercise of intensity, they should be furnished with appropriate intends to bear these obligations. Generally their portrayal would wind up as unimportant tokenism.

Political investment shows itself in genuine support in those deliberate exercises by which individuals from the general public offer in the determination of rulers and, straightforwardly or in a roundabout way, in the plan of open strategy. It additionally incorporates such exercises as voting, looking for data, contributing monetarily, talking about and converting, going to gatherings, speaking with delegates, enrolment in a gathering, soliciting and enrolling voters, discourse composing and discourse making, battling and vieing for open and gathering office.

Cooperation of ladies in legislative issues includes (I) ladies as voter;(ii) ladies as individual from political gatherings, exchange associations/weight groups;(iii) ladies as chose individuals from parliament, State Assemblies and different collections of neighborhood self-government and partaking in basic leadership, arranging, execution and evaluation;(iv)women as individuals from ladies' association and their relationship with deliberate associations and NGOs. Nonetheless, political interest can be considered to incorporate an association in any type of sorted out movement that impact, these power relationship.

Minimization of ladies and deceitful endeavors of mainstreaming them into the political procedure assume an adverse part in their present level of political interest. It stays troublesome for any ladies originating from a normal family unit to ascend the political stepping stool. There is almost certainly that there are a few ladies holding key positions at different political levels, yet given the

measure of their offer in the electorate and populace, their political support isn't empowering. Ladies can't practice their rights and appreciate freedoms till they are given their due offer. This is the motivation behind why their quality is not really felt when vital choices for the nations or for ladies welfare are made.

There is no denying that India figures among the initial couple of states on the planet to have a lady as leader of the legislature and leader of the state.

In the provincial political situation there are couple of ladies who have turned out to be unmistakable focuses of intensity in their particular states, for example, Mayavathi in Uttar Pradesh, Jayalalitha in Tamil Nadu or Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal. They additionally have noteworthy effect on the national governmental issues. In any case, it ought to likewise be remembered that these ladies entered governmental issues and rose to grandness as a result of their vicinity to male pioneers. But a couple of ladies, legislative issues in India is as yet a male bastion.

One of the key discoveries is that except if ladies get sufficient political portrayal, their issues will stay unheard. Financial and social components are likewise in charge of the absence of portrayal and ought to be tended to. Regardless of the way that India has an extensive rundown of laws to ensure the privileges of ladies, including the Prevention of Immoral Traffic, the sati (dowager consuming) Act, and the Dowry Prevention Act, and furthermore that ladies have figured unmistakably in the administration's plan of social changes and activities, the state of ladies in India isn't generally reassuring.

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE PLAN (1998)

The National perspective plan for women dwelt on the question of political participation of women at the grass-root democratic institutions. The core groups set up by the Government of India pointed out that political power and access of position of decision-making and authority are critical pre-requisites for women's equality in the process of national building. The recommendation of the committee includes:

- There should be reservation of 30% seats for women in all rural local self governing bodies at all levels from the village panchayats to zilla parishads.
- There should also be reservation of 30% of the executive heads of all bodies from gram pachayats to zilla paarishads for women;
- A more effective step would be to declare a certain percentage of constituencies in the lower tire of Panchayati Raj as exclusively women's constituencies and all executive positions in a certain number of territorial jurisdictions reserved for women candidates.

The committee on the Status of Women in India in 1971. The reference of the committee was:

To evaluate the changes that had taken place in the status of women as a result of the constitutional, legal and administrative measures adopted since independence; -to examine the impact of the complex process of social change on various section of Indian women;

To suggest measures which would enable women to play their full and proper role in building up the nation.

The committee has set up six task forces and two study groups to examine the changes in the field of social life, low economic participation, educational development, political status and women's welfare and development. On the whole, as the United Nations document observed that women are poorly represented in the ranks of power, policy and decision making. Women make up less than 5 per cent of world heads of state, heads of major corporations and top positions in international organizations. Women are not just behind in political and managerial equity but they are a long behind. This is in spite of the fact that they are found in large numbers in lower level positions of public administrations, political parties, trade unions and grass-roots community organizations. We have miles to go before we can claim that there is a gender equality or gender justice in India. In spite of all the efforts to promote the welfare of women, it has to be admitted that even now Indian women are not treated with dignity and they are not treated with dignity and they are neither allowed nor encouraged to enjoy the basic rights.

WOMEN IN POLITICAL PROCESS

In almost all society in almost all periods of history women have been treated as men's inferiors. Typically women have been barred from owning property, from employment in any but menial service jobs, from holding public offices and even from voting. This discrimination has often been embodied in laws and even more often enforced by rigid social customs. It has been rooted in most men's and many women's views about the proper consequences of women's unique biological function of bearing and rearing children and of men's generally greater physical strength. The former trait has inclined societies to impose and women to accept the prime obligation of caring for children from birth to adulthood. The latter trait has helped men to keep in their inferior roles.

Sex discrimination has been particularly evident in politics and public affairs. History tells of few powerful queens-Elizabeth I, Anne and Victoria of England Catherine the great of Russia, Christiana of Sweden. But in most nations of the ancient regime the laws excluded women from succeeding to the throne and so women could play political roles only as wives and mothers or mistresses of kings.

The twentieth century has thus far seen more improvement in the status of women, at least in the developed nations, than in all previous history. Most western nations including the United States of America gave women the right to vote around the time of World War I. In the 1920s the new soviet regime placed women in many jobs eg : bus drivers , air line pilots etc. they had never held before or through of before , and in the 1950s the new communist regime followed suit. In both communist systems, however, women are still very far from achieving political parity.

Here is an attempt to analyse the participation of women in Indian political process. Here participation can be considered to include an involvement in any form of organized activity that affects or seeks to affect the power relationships. In fact, protests and demonstrations against those in power also form part of political participation. Women's participation has covered a range of activities including movements, protests and support meetings on all issues connected with division of labour, dowry, rape, domestic violence, prize rise, food adulteration and deforestation.

Representation of Women in Lower House of Indian Parliament from 1st to 16th Lok Sabha

LOK SABHA	Total Number of Seats (Elections held)	Number of Women Members Who Won	% Of the Total
First (1952)	489	22	4.4
Second (1957)	494	27	5.4
Third (1962)	494	34	6.7
Fourth (1967)	523	31	5.9
Fifth (1971)	521	22	4.2
Sixth (1977)	544	19	3.4
Seventh (1980)	544	28	5.1
Eighth (1984)	544	44	8.1
Ninth (1989)	529	28	5.3
Tenth (1991)	509	36	7.0
Eleventh (1996)	541	40	7.4
Twelfth (1998)	545	44	8.0
Thirteenth (1999)	543	48	8.8
Fourteenth (2004)	543	45	8.1
Fifteenth (2009)	543	59	10.9
Sixteenth (2014)	543	67	12.21

Source: Election Commission of India

The table shows that the representation of women in Indian parliament shows an increasing trend. In 1952 there are only 22 women members but now there is 67 women members. As of January 2015, 10 women served as head of the state and served as head of government. Rwanda had the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide. Women there have won 63.8 per cent of seats in the lower house. Globally, there are 38 states in which women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower house. Studies available on women in the political process in the country are critically limited to studies on women in the electoral processes as voters, candidates and members of the legislature. Apart from this there have been some superficial examinations of the role of women in public life and studies on women's organizations that were set up in the early years of twentieth century.

ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Women's participation in elections over the past four decades has confirmed the initial hopes placed by the fathers of Indian constitution. Some of the aspects of this participation are as follows:

1. Ever since our first election, the physical participation of women has been more than proportionate to their level of literacy and to their urban population figures.
2. The percentage of female participation has been more or less steadily increasing.
3. The gap in turn out between men and women is getting more narrowed. According to all accounts, the women had turned out in great numbers and the probability is that the gap would have reduced further.
4. The percentage of female turn out has been the maximum, when the nation has been really bogged down by issue of corruption, one party rule, Women participation in elections over the past four decades has confirmed the initial hopes placed by the father of Indian constitution. These show women are getting more and more politised.

Seats Won by Women Candidates in General Election 2014 (Party wise)

POLITICAL PARTY	No. of Women Members
Bharatiya Janatha Party	32
AITC	12
AIADMK	4
INC	4
BJD	3
YSR Congress	2
Apnadal	1
CPI(M)	1
NCP	1
SAD	1
SP	1
SS	2
LJSP	1
TRS	1
J&K PDP	1
Total	67

Source: Election Commission of India

When we analyse the success rates of women in general election 2014, it reveals that the success rates of women shows an increasing trend. In the 2014 General Election the women candidates won 67 seats. In 2009 there were only 57 candidates but now the rate was increasing. Now the political parties have shown great election interest in women’s problems primarily due to the pressure from new women’s groups. Violence against women became the issue for them to score points in electoral battles as well as in the local power struggles.

Rightist groups like Bharathiya Janatha Party (BJP) Rashtriya Swayam Seva Sangh (RSS) Akali Dhal have strong women’s wings.

Congress (I) started showing greater interest in furthering the cause of women. Mrs. Indira Gandhi conferred the status of a university to Vanashali Vidyapeeth and pressed for the need of a new building streesakti (Women Power). The changing attitude of parliamentary parties towards women is reflected in their election manifestos.

After coming to power Mr. Rajive Gandhi made education free of charge for girls up to high schools. He also nominated a separate Ministry for Women and Social Welfare. Mahila Congress, a women’s wings of congress (I) demanded one assembly seat in every parliamentary constituency.

The women’s wing of Communist Party of India called National Federation of Indian Women and women’s wing of Communist Party of India (Marxist) called All India Democratic Women’s Association (AIDWA) and All India Coordination Committee of Working Women(AICCWW) are big organizations spread in various parts of India. The socialists have their active women’s wing in Maharashtra and Delhi.

IMPACT OF 73RD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The role women in panchayathi raj Institutions (PRIs) are attracting a lot of serious attention in the present context. The constitution 73rd Amendment has been welcomed as the step focusing the nation’s attention on the political structures and processes of democratizing rural India and their significance for the vulnerable sections of the rural society.

Attitudes have changed a lot today. Women now are not going to remain contended just looking after women’s affairs as elected members of panchayats, whether it is village, bloc or the district level. If given the chance, they will play a constructive role in all the development activities and step into what was hitherto considered man’s domain. The very idea that

women in such large numbers will have a say in local self-government is a new concept and will not be easily accepted. Difficulties are bound to be there initially statutory empowerment will become a reality and relevant only when they are given adequate, planned and systematic training about their responsibilities, duties and rights which devolve on them as elected representatives.

Panchayati raj institutions serve as training grounds for the grounds for the growth of leadership, democratic decentralization of administration and involvement of people particularly women in accelerating the socio-economic development.

WOMEN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Ever after the advent of country's independence things did not improve much in regard to the women's representation in the local government institutions. Most of the local self-government acts both rural as well as urban to provide for reservation of seats for women. By 1970s in almost all state seats were reserved for women. In case none was elected they were co-opted. A study conducted by Nagendra Ambedkar on Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad reveals some interesting insights. Out of 100 seats of the municipal corporation of Hyderabad, 15 seats have been reserved for women. The age particulars of the members reveal that 12 women members were below 40 years of age.

Total Women Members in Panchayats of Kerala(District wise)

District	Number of Women Panchayat Members
Trivandrum	170
Kollam	155
Pathanamthitta	112
Allapuzha	140
Kottayam	135
Idukki	103
Ernakulam	174
Thrissur	199
Palakkad	186
Malappuram	178
Kozhikode	156
Wayanadu	50
Kannur	169
Kasargode	74
Grand Total	2001

Sources: Panchayats in Kerala. Government of Kerala

In Kerala we have 2001 women panchayat members and in that Thrissur have more women members when we compared with other districts. Asoka Mehta committee noted that the involvement of rural women in the development process has always been regarded as an integral part of the total development of the village community. The committee on the status of women in India has even suggested establishment of statutory women's Panchayats at the village level. The proposal

emanates from the postulate that their contribution to the rural economy has not been adequately appreciated and if appreciated has not been institutionalized; that their representation in Panchayat Raj Institutions mainly token and not effective in articulating women needs or for mobilizing their adequate participation.

With regard to participation in elections, part of the idea in the Punjab Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads act 1961 would be relevant. The act

provides that two women securing the highest number of votes amongst the women candidates in the election take the seats reserved for them. This is the method of co-option by election. The committee would support such a procedure. It is further suggested that these seats be in addition to the general seats, which they may win by a majority in normal course. Thus, women can possibly get more seats than reserved. This appears to be a convenient mode of securing adequate participation of women in Panchayat Raj election.

The committee suggested that further and institutional arrangement through a committee with all women members of the mandal panchayat represented on it would also ensure that decisions are made by women themselves on priorities and choices in welfare and development programmes especially for women and children.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. *Women in Politics 2008, as on January 2009. Data based on the report of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)* <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>
2. Karl, Marilee, *Women and Empowerment, participation and decision making*, London and New Jersey, Zed Books Ltd.,1955,p.59.
3. *Country Report, Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1955, New Delhi, Government of India,1955,p.66.*
4. Usha Narayanan, *Women's Political Empowerment: Imperative and Challenges* *Mainstream*, April 10,1999,p.7.
5. Altekar,A.S.,*The Position of Women in Hindu Civilisation, Varanasi, Motilal Banarsidass,1962,p.9.*
6. Vir, Dharam and Mahajan Kamlesh , *Contemporary Indian Women, Collected Works, Vol.4,politics, Awareness and Women's Movements, Delhi, New Academic Publishers,1969,p.121.*
8. *Women in Politics 2008, as on January 2009. Data based on the report of Inter-parliamentary Union(IPU)* <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>
9. Madhavi Lashmi Kondreddy, *Construction of Gender: Deprivation of Women from Politics in India in Kiran Saksena,(ed.),Women in Politics , New Delhi : Gyan publishing House,2000,p.33.*
10. Nirmala, Deshpande, *Participation of Women in the Political System, Kurukshetra, February, 1989*
11. *United Nations, The World Women: Trends And Statistics 1970-1990,New Delhi: United Nations,1991,p.6.*
12. Rajlakshmi, *Indian Women Today in Sebesti L Raj(Ed) Quest for Gender Justice*, Chennai, T.R. publications, 1991,p.59.
13. Veena Mazumdar,*Women in the Political Process* in Mathreyi Krishna Raj(Ed), *Women's Studies in India: Some Perspectives*, Mumbai: Popular Parakashan. 1986.p.95.
14. Jayashree,Tripathy, *Women in Indian Politics* in Sharda Rath and Navaneeta Rath,(Eds), *Women in India,op,cit.,p.183.*
15. Rathod, P.B., *"Women and Development"*, ABD Publishers, Jaipur,2009,pp.131-132.