

A Study on Participation of Women's in Indian Electoral Politics

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Abstract – In India, women's political involvement is not remarkable compared to men. In most countries around the world, this is the case. Political participation by women today, however, is quite motivating compared to older times. It's better than ever today. In India, however, women with decision-making powers always come from urban and elite groups. Also today, the Indian Parliament's representation of women is far from adequate. Women in legislative bodies have been seeking more space. Within a brief historical context defining the origins of women's electoral participation in India, the paper provides a time series study of women's voting patterns, showing that there has never been a concerted effort by political parties to mobilize women voters on any topic related to women in either national or state elections. Political parties' pledges in their gender-related manifestos remain cliché and after the hustings are conveniently forgotten. India's failure to pass the Women's Reservation Bill is described as the most telling testimony to the lack of seriousness among political parties to better take into account the increasing participation of women in elections participations.

Keywords: Women, Political Participation, Empowerment, Challenges, India, Elections, Feminization of Politics, Gender, Politics, Voting Patterns, Women's Reservation Bill.

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I. INTRODUCTION

For many parties of human life, politics is very relevant. The existence of statehood and how people interact how they make decisions and settle disputes is mostly imperative. When people live in communities, there is a need to make decisions on, for example, how to share power and resources available to the group or how to resolve conflicts that occur within the community. Politics analysis is the study of how to make these decisions. It can also be the study of how to make these decisions. Therefore, politics can be described in two ways; first, politics can be considered as the study of power, and second, as the study of conflict resolution. In other words, Michael Oakeshott, a modern philosopher who was drawn by the original Greek origins of the word politiki, meaning the state's affairs, described politics as a mere organization of the state's running. Politics reflects the state's power struggle. It is therefore concerned with power and the distribution of power between society (or groups). Political participation, in reality, affects for men and women in the life of every single human being. Recognizing the nature of political participation by the United Nations (UN) for each individual human being, it exercised its core human rights instruments and accepted it as a fundamental political right. The report should focus on women and political participation in this study It is clear that women are one of the social groups that have been historically oppressed. We do not have an

active role in the bureaucracy's key positions. We have few legislative or cabinet government positions. Even though men and women are equally active in the country's political affairs and decision-making process at all levels. [1]

II. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION – DEFINITION

Political participation has been characterized in different ways. Political participation involves not only the exercise of the right to vote, but also the exercise of power, co-decision, co-policy making at all levels of state governance. Political participation is broadly defined as a mechanism through which individuals play a role in their society's political life, have the opportunity to participate in determining what the common goals of that society are and the best way to achieve those goals. Political participation refers to the active engagement of members of the society in the choice of leaders and directly or indirectly in the development of public policy in these voluntary activities.

Political involvement refers to an event designed to influence the government's decision-making process. Citizens are active participants in the system of political debate, the process of making political decisions. As such, Almond-Powel denotes involvement, "the demand from social groups to engage in political system decision-making." This

participation subsequently has to do with a rapid increase in the volume and intensity of demands for a position of society by different groups and strata¹⁰. This practice is based on public authorities, which are generally recognized as having the final legal quality allocation judgment. Participation can be individual or collective, coordinated or spontaneous, continuous or intermittent, peaceful or violent, legal or illegal or ineffective. In reality, the processes such as marches, disturbances, gatherings, rallies, processions, fasting, and even in an abstract sense, the modes of revolutionary violence designed and intended to influence public authorities are the one aspect or other of participation. [2]

Political involvement is a mechanism through which people participate in political activities. Participation in politics is not just voting. This covers a wide variety of other tasks such as political party membership, election campaigning, attending party meetings, marches, engaging with representatives, holding party positions, contesting elections, participation of legislative bodies, affecting decision-making and other related activities.

With this understanding of political participation, the evidence shows that women's participation is not remarkable in most countries as the number of women participating in active politics is lower than men. Women who are mostly from urban or affluent classes who are able to acquire decision-making power. Despite various reasons, significant numbers of women were kept out of the political arena. There has been no serious attempt in politics to accommodate women. Women had to wage long battles in many countries in order to obtain their rights. Despite that, in the arena of politics, they were unable to get a rightful position. Voting in elections is the most common and accepted political action. Females equal to men are practicing this, and the number of women voters is actually increasing day by day. But women were not entitled to vote until the 20th century. American women have been the first to campaign for their voting rights. Women gained voting rights in most Western liberal democracies despite their prolonged battle with the system.

Indian women raised the question of universal adult franchise as early as 1917. The British government granted wifehood, land and education the right to vote. The Government of India Act of 1935 reserved the right to vote for all women over the age of 21 who met the property and education requirements. The Constitution of India, which came into being in 1950, granted all its men equal adult franchise. In addition to practicing voting rights, women's participation as policy formulators or decision-makers in legislative bodies is very small. Women in legislative bodies have been requesting more space. Many countries in the world have struggled to provide women with adequate space and representation in their political systems, only in a handful of countries do women travel together with men, such as Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. Women make

significant inroads into decision-making systems in these countries. Women's participation in the parliament in advanced countries such as Western Europe and North America remains small and relatively insignificant. Estimates show that the legislature's global average of women's delegates is 21.90%, all houses combined. In the lower house it is 22.30% and in the upper house it is 19.80%. However, the regional variations are important. [3]

III. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

There was a bill on 2008 as the women's quota bill or the constitutional amendment 104th which specifically states that women have a reservation of 33 percent for political participation. India's Constitution granted all people cultural, economic and political justice, freedom of thought, and equality. The Constitution provided for women's equality and called on the State to take steps to neutralize the women's socio-economic, educational and political disadvantage.

- Article 14: guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the law with that of India.
- Article 15: forbids discrimination on the grounds of religion, ethnicity, caste, age, birthplace.
- State can make special arrangements for the benefit of women and children pursuant to Article 15(3).
- Article 16: equal opportunities for all people in job matters. Every person may be denied employment for reasons of religion, race, position, gender, decent place of birth or any of them.
- Article 39: Article 39(a) provides for all people with sufficient means of living. Article 39(b) provides for equal pay for both men and women for equal work. Article 39(c) calls for the safeguarding of the health and strength of staff, men and women, and not the exploitation of children's tender age.
- Article 42: it provides employment and pregnancy relief in a just and humane way. Article 42 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is in line with Articles 23 and 25.
- Articles 325 and 326: guarantee, respectively, political equality, equal right to participate in political activity and voting rights.

- Article 243(D): provides for women's electoral reservations in all panchayat elections.

This reservation has also been extended to the elected office. Despite the above guidelines, there has been no significant improvement in women's participation in politics. Constitutional Law: Constitutional and Charter provisions: women's right to vote') Increasing the number of women in the parliament would certainly not change the status of women overnight. It's naive to think it's going to fix all the women's problems and bring equality right away. It is also true that in our politics, powerful women leaders have failed to do much for India's women. The 73rd and 74th Amendment to India's Constitution, with a reservation of 33.33 percent for women, has given the opportunity for large numbers of socially marginalized groups such as girls to join the local institution's domain, and their success is very encouraging. In 2006, the local institutions elected 10,41,430 women. Such reservations or quotas introduced structural improvements, promoted women's participation in local governments, and needed to be celebrated as a major achievement in women's empowerment. Local government success stories of women illustrate the positive changes that are happening. Incrementalist approach would allow for incremental improvement in women's political and governance performance. It would be a way to bring a sense of gender equality. [4]

IV. WOMEN'S ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION IN INDIA

A historical overview of women's rights in general and participation in electoral competition both chronologically and thematically traces its origin to the Swadeshi movement in Bengal (1905–1908), which marked the beginning of Indian women's participation in nationalist activities and also brought to the forefront the issue of women's suffrage and voting rights. Tracing the origins of India's women's suffrage movement, Forbes (1979) observes that organized women's insistence on being treated as men's equals arose not from perceptions of women's needs in India, but from the influence of certain British women. Therefore, in the early twentieth century, the roots of the women's suffrage movement in India were modeled on the British model and through the efforts of British women reformers living in India. The first demands for franchise emerged in 1917 when Madras founded the Women's Indian Association with the primary focus on 'finding an expanded role for women in public life.' Significant literature covers how these movements have been connected to the nationalist movement and have influenced different parts of India. The women's suffrage movement gradually came to terms with nationalist interests, and suffrage values in Indian terms had to be explained and connected to the

nationalist questions of political rights and colonial status that dominated public discourse in India in the 1920s and 1930s. [5]

From 1920 to 1929, restricted voting rights were expanded to some women in various provinces of India, beginning in Madras, as a part of the women's suffrage movement. Nevertheless, only a very small segment of Indian women based on property qualifications was given these rights. The 1935 Government of India Act later granted a broader section of women suffrage rights, although still burdened by requirements such as education, property ownership or marriage with land persons. The Act created a conflict between one woman and five people. Despite the opposition of the women's movement to reserve seats on a gender basis, the 1935 Act created 41 women's reserved seats in the provincial legislatures as well as restricted quotas in the federal legislature, resulting in gender and religious cleavages in the women's movement. Nevertheless, when 80 women won the elections to become senators, women took advantage of the seats reserved for them in the elections held in 1937. At that time, after the United States and the Soviet Union, India had the third highest number of female legislators in the world. Although reserving women's seats in the colonial era's waning days was quite short-lived and subdivided along religious lines, it gave women a foothold in Indian legislative life and set a precedent for women to draw on decades later.

There was not much concerted or unified effort in the post-independence era to establish inclusive women's electoral spaces. In the legislature, the 1950 Constitution did not reserve seats for women. After independence, women's political participation was largely restricted by social norms that influenced incentives and expectations of women's involvement in politics. Sometimes these beliefs are exclusive to people, often shared by women. Ultimately, women's mass participation in the political field in the struggle for freedom, after independence, seemed to decline. The participation of women in politics and political competition was limited to family ties instead of being focused on desire and social motivation to participate actively in politics. Political parties failed to address this issue, reflecting the prevailing societal ethos, and systematically excluded women from electoral participation. Nevertheless, as prizes for their contribution to the fight for the independence of India, in the general elections, political parties granted women a few seats. This becomes apparent from the first elections to Lok Sabha in 1952, where women were able to win and hold 4.4 percent of the Lower House's total seats. Despite constitutional provisions ensuring gender equality, the demand for greater women's representation in India's political institutions was only taken seriously after the Indian Status Committee's report. This indicated that

women's participation in political institutions needs to be increased, particularly at the grassroots level, through a women's seat reservation policy. The National Perspective Strategy for Women subsequently called for the implementation at all levels of elective bodies of a 30 percent quota for women. Nevertheless, women's groups and gender politics demanded that quotas be restricted to the panchayat level to promote women's involvement in electoral politics at the grassroots level. The national consensus around this request resulted in the adoption in 1993 of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Indian Constitution, which established quotas of 33 percent for women in local government institutions. [6]

V. CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN POLITICS

The challenge is to estimate the actual participation of women in the decision making process.

Participation as a Proxy Candidate: There was evidence that some women were elected into the system due to reservation law, but they served merely as the mouthpiece of the members of their male kin. This indicates that on-roll female participation is likely to be higher than what it actually exists on the surface. These activities are now being taken care of by awareness campaigns and growing female education, and active participation by women is on the increase. There is still a need to track information at a more micro-level so that it is possible to identify women who only serve as a proxy.

Measurement of Decision Making Initiatives: While there are empirical data on women's political participation at local level, qualitative data on the dimensions of their active participation, including the use of the decision-making tools given to them, are not adequately quantified. Although the legislature has enabled their enormous presence in the state of affairs, in most places their valuable essence in the system has yet to be established. There is still no information on their knowledge of their rights and their use. Efforts can be made to capture women's participation in elections, bringing legislation program, and engagement in other facets of the democratic process.

Socio-cultural factor: There is a common assumption that girls are created to involve youth care and conduct room work as opposed to working outside of the home. Therefore, there is a separation of works between men and women, indicating that home activities ar belongs to girls and that outdoor home activities belong to men. Girls are weighed down with entirely different home tasks, such as planning, taking care of kids, laundry and so on. These all practices produce domestic girls busy and hinder their participation in the country's politics. Culturally, girls are assumed to be diodes but not to lead. After all, stereotypical notions about girls are

major barriers; social perception about women's leadership ability, women's lack of self-assurance are a few barriers that hamper women's participation. Old views towards gender equality in this respect affect the development of women in political participation. Most importantly, in the country girls are considered to be subordinate to men and second-class members / voters, both within the family and in society, particularly in most rural areas.

Religious factor: Religion in most countries is another important source of cultural beliefs. There are concerns regarding women's inferiority to men across all dominant cultures, and religion has long been used to exclude women from facets of worldwide cultural, economic, and religious life. In India, Hinduism is the major religion, while Islam and Christianity are the other minority religions. For the most part, Hindu people do not allow women to lead as a face. They see women being subjected to men. This is very popular among people in a country like India, but now the time has changed for a few days, women have started to lead political parties, many states now have female chief ministers and senators, president for more years, etc.

Economic factor: The Lack of Economic Capital is one of the most significant barriers forestalling greater numbers of women from engaging in politics. Growing women's access to economic resources may therefore be a key factor in growing women's involvement in the political arena, of course women's participation in political life depends largely on their access to employment, which does not only provide them with material freedom, but also bound up skills and confidence in kitchen utensils. so access to suggests that of production and finances contains a direct relationship and influence on the participation of girls in political establishments thanks to this facts girls continually has to get permission of the daddy to shop for some consumption materials and different resources of the unit although girls ar salaried, most of the time their financial gain is controlled by men and typically if father and mother have their own financial gain severally, girls cowl unit expenses whereas men get pleasure from outside home like hotels and bars. While girls are economically constantly fascinated with boys, which is the main cause of their low participation in the country's politics. [7]

VI. SUCCESS STORIES OF INDIAN WOMEN

In the ancient, medieval and modern times, there are countless success stories associated with Indian women. These have paved the way for the present generation as a source of inspiration to look up to them. Politics and administration are fields that have historically been related to people. However, by holding the prime minister's post, many women folks like Late Indira Gandhi proved their mettle. Her daughter-in-law Sonia Gandhi serves as the current

president of the United Progressive Alliance, whose main party is the National Congress of Indians. Currently, Sushma Swaraj, who serves as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has received praise for her style of working and the work she has done in the field of foreign affairs which her critics have praised. Similarly, the country's most famous woman, IPS Kiran Bedi, has proved worth her time and time again as a competent administrator and is currently serving Puducherry as an Indian government member. Nirupama Rao is the former Indian ambassador to the United States, the world's most powerful nation.

Banking and finance are historically known as male bastions. It's no more. Arundati Bhattacharya is in charge of the country's largest banking company, State Bank of India (SBI). Naina Lal Kidwai is head of the India operations of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), one of the world's largest banks. Chanda Kochhar is at the helm of India Bank (ICICIA) Bank, India's largest private bank, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation. Shiksha Sharma is the country's third largest private bank, Axis Lender. Aruna Jayanthi is Capgemini's head of India's operations. Then there is Chitra Ramakrishna who is the National Stock Exchange (NSE) joint president, one of the world's largest security exchange boards. [8]

Then there are business women like Pia Singh, who are in charge of the Delhi Land and Finance (DLF) operations, which have built a niche in the real estate sector, in the capacity of director. Roshani Nadar is a board member of HCL, India's leading provider of IT and ITeS. The founder of Biocon Ltd., one of India's first bio-pharmaceutical companies, is Kiran Mazumdar Shaw. Indu Jain is the Times Group's former president, one of the country's largest media conglomerates. Neelam Dhawan is currently serving as HP-India's MD. Kinetic Motors ' JMD is Sulajja Firodia Motwani. Savitri Jindal, O P Jindal Group's emeritus chairperson, is India's richest women, their total assets at \$4.9 billion. Ekta Kapoor is Indian TV's mogul and is both a successful producer and director. Actors such as Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone have made a mark by playing major roles on American TV and Hollywood, giving international acclaim to Indian talent. One organization that has largely identified and harnessed women's power is the organization behind the brand Lijjat Papad, and the credit for the same goes to its president Jyoti Nayak. For the women, this cooperative has done wonders. The same is true of the cooperative Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF), known for its product Amul. This company encouraged village people, especially women, to pool in their milk production, which ultimately led to great success.

By entering space, Kalpana Chawla created history. In addition, there have been women like Indian descendant Sunita Williams who, despite being in a

foreign nation, have made a mark for themselves. Similarly, Pepsico's global CEO, Indra Nooyi, is one of the luminaries that has created a global mark. Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)'s Shakti project has been able to provide rural women with a forum to motivate them to self-employment. The Indian government's Ujwala scheme was a step in the right direction of nation-building. Government initiative Beti bachao-beti padhao (save girl child-educate girl baby) has helped to raise awareness of the importance of girl child in the family. The Bharatiya Mahila Bank deals primarily with women's financial issues. Even, in many parts of the country, women's performance as Sarpanch of village panchayats has been quite good.

India is known as the world's software-powered nation as it meets the IT and ITeS requirements of companies around the globe. In this sector, women make up as much as 30% of the workforce. On the other side is the sector of farming and related activities in the rural region, which accounts for nearly 90% of the population. [9]

VII. LITERATURE SURVEY

M.AMEEN NISHA [2018] Women's political empowerment is a critical social mechanism for development and progress. Internationally, women's status is calculated by women's participation in politics and empowerment. Females in decision-making positions are significantly underrepresented. The goal of this paper is to research obstacles, statistical data, comparison with other countries, and empowering women in India to participate in politics. The research paper uses the analysis form of explanation. The study finding indicates that multiple causal factors such as political, religious, social and cultural factors contributed to the poor participation of women in the country. According to statistics on female participation in politics, female participation in politics is growing slowly, but not dramatically, as we see female participation in politics in India from 1952 to 2014.

Yet awareness among women still needs to be created to engage in politics with courage. Findings on women's participation in politics are growing. The study on women's political empowerment and participation in politics is important. Women's participation in politics is essential in order to secure the rightful place of women in society and allow them to determine their own destiny and for the growth of genuine and sustainable democracy. Not only will this boost their character, it will also open the way for their social and economic empowerment. Their involvement in public life will solve many of society's problems. [10]

Praveen Rai [2017] The recent rates of female participation in formal politics in India show two positive outcomes that augur well. First, in the 2014

Lok Sabha elections, the upsurge among women voters that started in the 1990s has reached the highest female turnout ever. Second, there was also a substantial increase in women's participation in high-voltage election campaigns during the 2014 general election. The continued under-representation of women in legislative bodies and in the rank and file of political parties, however, balances the significant gains made in India's nationalist feminization of electoral politics. Within a brief historical context defining the origins of women's electoral participation in India, the paper provides a time series study of women's voting patterns, showing that there has never been a concerted effort by political parties to mobilize women voters on any topic related to women in either national or state elections. Political parties' pledges in their gender-related manifestos remain cliché and after the hustings are conveniently forgotten. India's failure to pass the Women's Reservation Bill is presented as the most telling testimony to the lack of seriousness among political parties in better taking into account the increasing participation of women in elections [11]

Amit Kumar et.al. [2016] Women's involvement in politics has always been a topic for modern political experts. Traditionally, for no fault of theirs, they played second-fiddle to their male counterparts. Even the most advanced nation, the world's oldest democracy, namely the United States of America (USA), accepted their right to vote after much struggle. She has yet to have her first lady president (although she may switch what with Hillary Clinton winning the Dems' nomination in the upcoming 2016 presidential election). Given the advances made in almost every sector, the explanation for the same is not very hard to understand. Each nation in the world has a similar scenario. India isn't the same thing. Political activities and their relationship with the participation of women is something that, like other societies, has not been debated to a large extent in the Indian context. The 2014 general election has challenged this to some extent and has been a breakthrough for women's participation. In line with the male voters, they reported their presence. The authors of this research paper, properly assisted by secondary data, will present their results in this regard. [12]

David E. Broockman [2014] Persistent gender gaps in the holding of political offices and mass political engagement challenge the fair representation of women in government. This paper brings new evidence to the long-standing hypotheses that by empowering other women to vote or run for office themselves, the presence of additional female candidates and office holders helps address these gaps. With an approach to regression discontinuity and information on 3813 U.S. state legislative elections where a female opposed a man, I find that the election of additional women in competitive U.S. state legislative elections has no discernible causal effects on other women's mass or elite political

participation. Such measurements are precise enough to rule out even small effects. Such results contrast strongly with a number of findings from India, indicating that while electing the first woman in a society may have such empowering effects, the remaining obstacles to women's participation in American democracy go beyond what further increases in female office holding can erode themselves. [13]

Praveen Rai [2011] Participation of women in organized politics in India shows a marked increase in their turnout for voting and campaigning for elections. Although significant gains have been made in these two regions, women continue to be under-represented in both national and state-level legislative bodies and in political parties. An analysis of the factors influencing participation shows that these differ for women as voters in elections and as campaigners in their involvement. All said and done, constructive affirmative action in the form of reservation in legislative bodies, increased women's accommodation in political party and government decision-making roles would go a long way in resolving a significant political divide in the state. [14]

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, one can conclude that Indian women's role in India's nation-building process was as significant as the men. In every way they have played a crucial role, be it economics, social work, the welfare of the downtrodden, supporting a cause, running business, handling administration, literature, you name it. This research paper illustrated how they have influenced this country's future and their presence and participation in various political exercises. In many ways, the result of the 2014 Lok Sabha election was unprecedented. One part of this was the female's rise, as a voter and as a representative. Through turning out in droves to vote, the female electorate made its presence count, reporting the highest female turnout, both in terms of absolute number and percentage. Not only that, the first female voters showed a great deal of interest in exercising their franchise and took it upon themselves to send the message that the country's half-population needs the other half to listen to it. Creating some new trends, the female electorate broke old ones.

Participation and representation are good enough, although they might have been better, but as they claim, 'Well begun is half done.' In addition, by allocating main portfolios to as many as seven female MPs, the newly elected central government showed its commitment to female gender. It showed the growing status of women as both a member as well as an elected representative in Indian democracy. Essentially, this research paper examined the various interesting trends and

patterns that occurred during this campaign and how they differed from the predecessors.

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