

## **Woman Participation in Politics and its Impact upon Indian Democracy**

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*The present study has been carried to know the role of women in Indian politics and its impact on democracy. In this research paper, women's participation in politics, present situation, problems and political future of women have been studied. Politics has been active with men's physical strength and the ego that emanates from it. Therefore, the participation of relatively soft-spoken women in politics has been low all over the world. The participation of women in politics has been an exception not only in India but throughout the history of the world. The percentage of women's participation in politics has progressively improved since independence. Firstly, the principle of gender equality has been proposed in the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution has not only given equal status to women, but has also empowered the state to take positive discrimination measures in favour of women. Through the survey conducted under the research, it was found that the dominance of men is one of the main obstacles in the political participation of women. Two-thirds of women over the age of 50 believe that political dominance by men does not give women opportunities in politics, while*

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*half of women in their 20s and 25s hold the opposite view. The survey also found that their social and economic status has a significant impact on women's electoral participation. Political participation was found to be high among women of higher social class and economic classes, whereas this participation was very less among women of lower socio-economic strata.*

**[Keywords :** Politics, Democracy, Legislature, Constitution, Universal adult franchise]

## **1 Introduction to the Concept**

The percentage of women's participation in politics has progressively improved after independence. Firstly, the principle of gender equality has been proposed in the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution. The Constitution has not only given equal status to women, but has also empowered the state to take positive discrimination measures in favour of women. Which is needed today. In other areas, women are facing challenges in an energetic and concrete way while establishing their dominance. New dimensions of politics are being created in which women are being encouraged equally, even if it is at the Panchayat level. The village Sarpanch won women candidates in many panchayat level elections and opened new doors of advancement.

From home to education, banking, corporate sector, they have proved their worth as men and have carved a respectable position for themselves. There should be a system of equal participation in elections, but it requires social thinking, systemic change, social development and most of all, an educated and healthy environment. Also it is very important to incorporate higher principles. Even at the grassroots level, some initiatives have to be taken in which educated women, even if they are from rural areas, get a chance to come forward. Such efforts in which participation of women at a healthy level will be possible. The government has given shape to many such schemes. In which the welfare of women and their development have also been included in the major issues.

Under the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments, women have been provided reservation in seats in panchayats and in local bodies of municipalities. In order to provide a strong basis for their participation in politics. Equality has been given prominence by reforming many acts and eliminating all discrimination. One of the main impediments to the political participation of women is the

dominance of men. Two-thirds of women over the age of 50 believe that political dominance by men does not give women opportunities in politics, while half of women in their 20s and 25s hold the opposite view. Moreover, majority of women believe that Indian voters vote more in favour of male candidates than women.

Most of the women believed that it is easy for upper caste women to participate in politics, while it is comparatively difficult for lower caste women. The political parties and governments of the country have shown apathy towards the participation of women in national level politics. All political parties seem to be discouraged in passing the proposed Women's Reservation Bill, which provides for reservation for women in Parliament and state legislatures. The main reason for this is that male politicians fear that women's elections may reduce or eliminate their chances of being re-elected, which they are not prepared for.

## **2. Global Review on Women's Participation in Politics**

Politics has been a formidable task in the history of the world. Politics has exploited the people, shed blood in the name of protecting religion and protecting the life and property of the people. Hence politics has been the arena not only of common men but also of men who behave harshly and cruelly. Politics has been active with men's physical strength and the ego that emanates from it. Therefore, the participation of relatively soft-spoken women in politics has been low all over the world. The participation of women in politics has been an exception not only in India but throughout the history of the world. But in the modern era, with the decline of monarchy and the development of democracy, when politics based on army and police force began to decline and public opinion gained special importance, the general public also dominated at one place. Some powerful people of the society. Started growing Gradually, the participation of women in the participation of the general public also started increasing. With the increasing participation of women, the nature of politics is changing and which is a unique experience not only for India but for the whole world. But it is worth considering whether this group of men sitting on political rights will adopt discretion to increase the participation of women in politics to make the political environment of the world stress-free.

### 3. Woman Participation in Politics in India

The modern period in the history of India is more important than the participation of women in politics. Rani Lakshmibai, Madam Bikaji Cama, Kasturba, Aruna Asaf Ali, Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Indira Gandhi etc. contributed significantly in our freedom struggle. Nandini Satpathy, Mohsina Kidwai, Girija Vyas, Sushma Swaraj, Mayawati, Vasundhara Raje, Sheila Dikshit, Mamta Banerjee, Renuka Chaudhary, Sonia Gandhi etc. showed activity in the politics of independence. Indira Gandhi led the country as the Prime Minister for 16 years. In the country's constitution, formed soon after independence, women are not only given equal rights to vote as men, but also contest elections to represent the public from panchayat to parliament.

Thus, the numerical representation of women's participation in politics has increased with at least one-third membership in all public representative forums in the Panchayati Raj system. The idea of equality of men and women in society is rapidly changing due to the representation of one-third of the membership by the Public Representation Act for women. A new confidence has arisen in women. His image of himself has improved, he has grown in his eyes. Special emphasis has been laid on issues related to women in the society, awareness has been raised against atrocities against women, use of force etc., girl child education has been promoted. The respect of women voters has increased, but the irony is that a bill to increase the participation of women in parliament and assemblies to one-third is pending since 1998, a bitter case of unjust decisions by a male-dominated society.

### 4. Constitutional Provisions for Women Participation in Politics

- **Reservation for women in Parliament :** Although the 73rd and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution of India have made a provision for reservation of one-third seats in local bodies for women, but other efforts are also needed to ensure equal participation of women in politics. The Women's Reservation Bill, providing 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of all states, needs to be introduced and passed immediately.

- **Reservation for women in political parties :** Although this step does not provide any concrete assurance regarding the increase in the number of women MPs, but it can be a concrete step to ensure adequate number of women in politics. This provision has been made in many countries of the world such as Sweden, Norway, Canada, Great Britain and France etc.
- **Political leadership development of women :** To increase the participation of women in politics and other diverse fields, it is necessary that efforts should be made for women empowerment and their community participation at every level in the society so that they develop self-confidence, leadership ability etc.

## **5. Impact of Women's Participation on Indian Democracy**

In the result of this general election, women voters of the country have not only registered their presence, but this time it has happened for the first time in Indian democracy that 78 women have got elected as MPs. At the same time, the number of male MPs was 462 in 2014, which has come down to 446 in 2019, due to which their number has come down by about 3%. This time, out of 8,000 candidates who stood for the general election, the number of women candidates was less than 10%, but the number of women who reached Parliament by winning is 14 percent. This is a sign of positive change in the electoral politics of India that - this election can prove to be helpful in removing many political prejudices associated with women candidates. Along with this, political empowerment of women will also prove to be effective.

As a voter, if we discuss the electoral participation of women, then we come to know that the participation of women through voting in the general elections of 2009 and again in 2014 has increased in 2019. For the first time, women voted more than men in this election. It is also worth noting the fact that this is the first time in the democratic history of India that 67.11% of the voters have exercised their voting rights. If we do not study the last Indian elections, it is found that in this election the number of female voters was more than male voters in 13 seats of the country.

While the percentage of female voters in the 1962 general elections was 45, it increased to 66 in 2014 and the difference between the male and female voters in the 1962 general elections was 17%, it decreased to 1.4% in 2014 and this time in the 2019 elections. It has remained only 0.4%. In this election, there were 8.35 crore women voters as compared to the previous elections. If we study these figures in the context of the states, it would have been known that in this about 54 lakh voters were included in Uttar Pradesh, 48 lakh in Maharashtra, 42.8 lakh in Bihar, West Bengal 42.8 lakh Tamil Nadu 39 lakh voters.

## 6. Conclusion

Woman participation in politics is a collective responsibility in which all the stake holders have to participate equally. But, the most important role is to be played by the women themselves. If Priyanka Gandhi comes into politics, then her dress and her Nain Naksh are commented on. There has been a lot of talk about Priyanka as to what the beautiful lady will be able to do in politics.

Similarly, all those women politicians of Mamata Banerjee, Mayawati, Sushma Swaraj have to face such comments. Any failure of hers is exposed from the angle of her being a woman, whereas a failure has to be faced by a male politician as well. Arguments about women being weak in politics - Women candidates have little chance of winning. Women in politics are not able to give time to any man in their domestic work. Women have less political understanding, so they remain confined to areas like women's department, children's department even if they win.

At the end it may be said that the 21<sup>st</sup> century has belonged to women since the beginning. In these years, women's contribution to India's economic system has increased, as a result of this, today women of India are creating new dimensions by reaching politics, business, art and jobs. The women of India have established a very respectable place in the globalized world. Statistics show that every year 50 percent of the total candidates pass the medical examination, after independence, about 12 women have become chief ministers of different states. 21 percent of professionals in India's leading software industry are women. In military, politics, sports, pilots and entrepreneurs, in all the fields where women could not be imagined till years ago, women have not only established themselves but are also succeeding there.

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