

The Study Of Women Status In Politics In India

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Abstract

Women constitute about half of the citizenry and voting strength, but they are not getting what is due to them. It is thus half a democracy if women do not have a real share in decision-making at all levels. Therefore, the study of political participation of women and the factors which have relegated them to the secondary position have become not only pertinent but also useful. An attempt has therefore been made in the present study to examine The Study of Women status in Politics in India.

Keywords: Women, Politics, Participation

Introduction

India, one of the largest democracies in the world, is on the threshold of the twenty – first century. The Constitution of India guarantees equal rights and opportunities to all its citizens irrespective of caste, Creed or sex. Gender discrimination has completely been banned by the constitution suggesting that all men and women enjoy equal opportunities for their multidimensional growth. However, the actual working of the Constitution over the past 45 years reflects that women, who constitute nearly half of our total population, have not been able to participate effectively in various walks of lives including the political. Today, we can count only a handful of women like Sarojini Naidu, Vijay Lakshmi Pandit, Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, Suchta Kripalani, Indira Gandhi, Etc. Who have made significant contribution to the national Politics? The lack of women's participation in politics can be attributed to various socio-economic constraints under our traditional social set-up.

Objectives

The objectives of this paper are as follows

1. To undertake an analysis of the Political participation of women.
2. To analyse the study of women status in Politics in India

Research Methodology

Research methodology is a scientific process to collect the appropriate data, by keeping in view the objectives of the research work. The present work ventures into thematic study of the study of women status in Politics in India. For this purpose library method was adopted. The published books, Articles and reports of the government agencies were resorted to collect the secondary data.

Political Participation in India

In the post independent India, the status of women regained its strength and has been on a rise ever since. Women in post independent India have been participating in almost all types of economic activities, day to day household chore, voting for better governance and

also in active politics. India has elected a women prime minister, indira Gandhi, and a women president, Pratibha Patil. In the present central government, women comprise roughly quarter of the Indian cabinet with portfolios like external affairs, commerce and human resource development. At the ground level, India has a significant proportion of women in local level politics which has been achieved by reserving seat for women

Women in Panchaati Raj Institutions.

Women in India are much better represented in the Panchayati Raj Institutions as compared to the Parliament. As per the ministry of Panchyati Raj, In 2008 the Gram Panchayats had 37.8% women members, the Intermediate Panchayats 37 % women members and the District Panchayats 35.3% women members. The total representation of women in all three tiers of the panchayat amounted to 36.87%. This seems to the Indian constitution, mandating at least 1/3rd of the seats in all tiers of the panchayat. A further Amendment to the proposed in 2009. Increase the reservation to 50% .

List of states having 50 % Reservation for women in PRIs

Andhra Pradesh ,Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujrat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mahaashtra Odisha, Pnjab, Rajasthan Sikkim, Tamil NaduTelangana, Tripura, Uttarakahand , West Bengal

Women Politicians in lok Sabha

Lok Sabha	Year	No. of women politicians elected
17	2019	78
16	2014	64
15	2009	52

Source: <http://lokasabha.nic.in>

The electorate votes to elect a national parliament as well as state assemblies. In 2012, India had a minimal Percentage of 10.9% women elected representatives in the national parliament, which is, but relatively higher than Hungary (8.8%)Brazil (9.6%), China (9.1%),Malaysia (9.8%)

Women Politicians in Rajya Sabha

Sr.No.	Name of Women politicians	Party	State
1	Smt. Jaya Bachchan	SP	Uttar Pradesh
2	Smt. Jharna Das Baidya	CPI(M)	Tripura
3	Smt.Misha Bharti	RJD	Bihar
4	Smt.Vandana Chavan	NCP	Maharashtra

5	Smt.Shanta Chhetri	AITC	West Bengal
6	Smt.RoopaGanguly	BJP	Nominated
7	Smt.SarojiniHembram	BJP	Odisha
8	Smt.KantaKardam	BJP	Uttar Pradesh
9	Smt.M.C. Mary Kom	NOM	Nominated
10	Dr. SonalMansing	BJP	Nominated
11	Smt.RaneeNarah	INC	Assam
12	Smt.Nirmala Sitharaman	BJP	Karnataka
13	Ms.Saroj Pandey	BJP	Chhattisgarh
14	Smt.KahkashanPerween	JDU	Bihar
15	Dr.Sasikala Pushpa Ramaswamy	AIADMK	Tamil Nadu
16	Smt.ThotaSeetharama Lakshmi	TDP	Andhra Pradesh
17	Selja Kumari	INC	Haryana
18	Smt.AmbikaSoni	AIADMK	Tamil nadu
19	Smt.WansukSyiem	INC	Punjab
20	Smt.ViploveThkur	INC	Meghalaya
21	Smt.SampatiyaUikey	INC	Himachal Pradesh
22	Smt.Chhaya Verma	BJP	Madhypradesh
23	Smt.VijilaSathy anath	INC	Chhattisgarh
24	Ms. Dola Sen	AITC	West Bengal
25	Dr. AmeerYajnik	INC	Gujrat

Source: <http://rajyasabha.nic.in>

We had only 25 women in Rajya Sabha. This Trend indicates that various ruling political parties in the respective states of the country are biased against women in nominating them to the upper house.

Thus, in Comparison to their voting strength, the strength women are much less in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. They are at a great disadvantage in power politics, Their Numerical Strength is also marginal in decision-making bodies, and only a few women have succeeded in getting into the council of ministers

Conclusions

One of the components of the good polity and society is the equality of access to political rights, i.e. the right to vote, to hold public office, to speak up and challenge incumbent leadership and to associate freely with one's fellow citizens in political activity. The availability of political rights, however, is justified in terms of their consequences, in a society there may be equal rights for every citizen but there may not be an equal access to these rights. Even in an institutionalized democratic set-up some citizens appear to be more equal than others. Same is the case with women in India.

Women are conferred equal political rights by the constitution but they do not enjoy them on equal footing with men, legally or constitutionally there is no bar on women's participation in the politics of the nation. But very few women are actively involved in political affairs, an enormous disparity exists between women's formal political equality and their franchise in large numbers, but when it comes to enjoying power positions or occupying prestigious political offices, they lag behind. The strength of their voting numbers is nowhere reflected in their direct role in government. This situation is not peculiar to India only, as the literature shows, the number of women in public office and active politics remains appallingly low in most countries.

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