

THE ROLE OF WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN TELANGANA

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ABSTRACT

The paper empirically examined the relationship between education level and political participation of women. The indices of political participation include the following: membership of political party, voting in elections, occupation of political post, means of occupation of political post and level of occupation of political post. The results revealed that women of the South West region of Cameroon are fairly well exposed to formal education as only 4.1% of the sampled population had no formal education. The study revealed that the higher the level of women's formal education, the more their tendency to participate in politics in areas of voting in elections and occupation of political post either through elections or appointments at all levels of government. The study was guided by the following objectives; the first was to assess women's political participation and decision making. Secondly, what the opportunities of women political participation the third objectives was to determine the level of opportunities women's political participation and decision making. The researcher recommends that the government, civil society and women activists need to work towards sensitization and awareness creation among the community to realize the need of the Women to participate in politics and governance

Keywords: Women Leadership, Social Security, Grama Sabha, Constitutional Provisions, Woman Participation, Women Leadership, Women Traditional.

INTRODUCTION

The empowerment strategy which is today emerging as a unique India response to the challenges of equality, development and peace. If women are to be empowered, it is necessary to provide an expanding networking of support services so that they are freed from some of their gender related shackles. If women are to be economically and politically empowered they are to be provided with additional channels of credit, training, employment, greater visibility, management skills and social security. During the first 50 years after independence, the question of bringing women in the forefront in politics has been considered from time to time. After in depths study of various social and economic movements it was realized that women participation in political decision-making was important. During 1980 the concept of women participation evolved in a big way. Towards the end of the century, our planning strategies started talking about women leadership and their empowerment. We find this in terms of government politicise that we have moved from the concept of women development to women participation in the political in the political affairs and this in turn leads to women empowerment. Since independence, various initiatives have been undertaken for improving the socioeconomic conditions and empowering women India. In this context, the constitution guarantees socio-economics, cultural and political equality and the provision of providing equal rights for availing different opportunities to all social groups of population, especially men and women. Increasing emphasis has also been provided for initiating variety of development schemes and welfare programmes with maximizing the participation of women in different activities during the past plans

Political Participation

Political participation matters a great deal for women as a group and as individuals. Whether women work together to protest gender-based injustices or whether they participate in non-gender-specific associations and struggles, the most important group benefit from political participation is influence on decision-making to make public policies sensitive to the needs of the group in question. For groups, participation also builds social trust and capital, and provides a form of democratic apprenticeship; it offers socialization in the norms of reciprocity and cooperation, the capacity to gain broader perspectives on particular problems in order to develop a sense of the common good. For individuals, political participation builds civic skills, while successful lobbying can result in improvements in personal welfare and status. Explanations for the very slow progress women have made in gaining political office around the world have been multi-causal, including: their lack of time for politics due to their domestic obligations, their lack of socialization for politics, their lower social capital and weaker asset base than men owing to discrimination in schools and in the market, their under representation in the jobs that favour political careers, their marginalization within male-dominated parties, their inability to overcome male and incumbent bias in certain types of electoral systems

WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN INDIAN POLITICS:

The status of women in India has seen many ups and downs since ancient times - from at par status in ancient history to be in veils (Parda System) during the Medieval period. 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 chores, voting for a better governance and also in active politics. India has elected a woman prime minister, Indira Gandhi, and a woman 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.

Indian Freedom Movement Women participated

In the freedom movement with true spirit and undaunted courage and faced various tortures, exploitations and hardships to earn us freedom. Many great Indian women like Rani Lakshmi Bai, Sarojini Naidu, Kasturba Gandhi, Vijayalakmi Pundit, and Annie Besant need no introduction for their dedication and undying devotion to the service of India. Indian women who joined the national movement were initially from educated and liberal families. All changed with the advent of Gandhi who converted the freedom struggle into a mass movement involving all sections of society. He understood that true freedom cannot be achieved if all the sections of the society are not truly represented. His most successful campaign against the imperial rule was fought on the issue of salt tax which brought Indian women to the forefront. Local issues started getting debated and women took center stage in this regard.

Brief History of Women Empowerment:

Equal rights for men and women are enshrined under Articles 14 to 16 in the Indian constitution, which came into effect on 26 January 1950. Discrimination based on gender is strictly prohibited. Indian women received universal suffrage during India's independence in

1947, long before several Western countries granted women the right to vote. India was the second country in modern history to have a female leader, Indira Gandhi, in 1966 after another South Asian state, Sri Lanka, elected Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1960.

New Delhi has also taken a concerted effort to ratify key international conventions to end discrimination against women. It is a founding member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and has ratified 47 conventions and one protocol. It signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980 and ratified it in 1993 with some reservations. It has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol of the CEDAW and National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Within the country, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 have been enacted to criminalise instances of dowry and domestic violence. The government also increased maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks under the Maternity Benefit Act in 2017 for the private sector

Development of Women Political Participation Score

The collection of data on women participation in politics is essential for policymakers. With lot of related and unrelated data, it becomes imperative to convert that information into an indicator which can be utilized for policy intervention. Data required for this task may include all the three aspects of political participation which are: women as electorate, women as elected representatives and women as policy makers. Other aspects of gender statistics can also be included as an input to give a holistic measure of women participation in that area. A single score which can be weighted average of normalized version of different dimensions can be used for both budgeting and policy intervention purposes

Political parties as transformative agencies for women's participation and representation

Given the growing recognition that the equal access of women and men within political and electoral processes is greatly influenced by intra-party democracy processes, strategies on women's political empowerment must be institutionalized and put into practice within political parties. While some political parties in different countries have developed targeted measures to level the internal playing field for women, many parties are still reluctant to undertake the internal reform needed to promote substantive gender equality between women and men.

CHALLENGES IN MEASURING WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The measurement of women participation in politics based on voting percentage and election to legislature is relatively easy. The challenge is to estimate the actual participation of women in the decision making process.

Participation as a Proxy Candidate

There have been evidences that due to reservation policy, certain women got elected into the setup, but they acted merely as the mouth-piece of the male family members. This indicates that there is a possibility of on-roll women participation to be higher than what it actually exists on ground. Awareness programs and increase in female education is now taking care of such happenings and women active participation is on an increase. Still there is a need to record data at a more micro level so that women who only act as a proxy can be identified.

Increase Political Party Support for Women

Meetings at convenient and friendly places and at times when women can attend
Financial support for caring responsibilities or the provision of child care
Separate women's wings or organizations within parties
Tackle sexist language and practices that reinforce the dominance of particular groups
Gender-sensitive training program
Internal party quotas
Candidate preparation (training, mentoring, and support of women identified with potential and desire to run)
Gender audits to generate gender action plans for political parties
Adopt a statement on gender equality in the party's founding documents
Set targets for female participation in party conventions
Ensure women are allocated safe seats
Work with civil society organizations to oversee the implementation of quotas
Share experiences with other parties across countries and regions
Provide training to women candidates in such skills as fundraising, message development, media relations and communicating with voters

Barriers to women's equality within political parties

Political parties are required to use 15% of their permanent subsidies for the promotion of training and research and the effective inclusion of women, ethnic minorities and young people. However, an absence of legal controls over the use of these funds to promote female leadership has weakened the impact of this measure. The funds have been allocated, for example, for the administration of party offices. As in many other countries, female candidates in Colombia often face challenges in receiving equitable financial backing from their political parties. Accurate information is limited about the real level of election expenses and the sources of campaign funding. An information gap on the implementation of regulations limits opportunities for oversight and accountability, and can complicate efforts to level the playing field among candidates.

Problem to women participation in politics

The world's population means that women have to face many obstacles and challenges in representing the administration, so participation in women's parliament has limited. If some women come out fighting their land and family situations, they are not seen with respect. Women have to face obstacles in political participation. They are hurt by unnecessary scrutiny of the private lives of women working in public or political work, for example, in media politics, women actively telecast any fashion of any fashion with the earliest, due to which women are hurt.

CONCLUSION

This paper set out to review evidence about the relationship between women's education and political participation, with a view to assessing whether more education for women can be seen to shift their levels of engagement in politics. Ideally, higher levels of political participation by greater numbers of women should result in more attention to gender-equity in social and economic policy, and thus promote better lives for women generally. Given the evidence above, it is difficult to assert conclusively that more and better education makes women more active in politics. Women who have entered in politics should be thankful to the

quota system, as they are not elected directly by the people, but rather are allocated their seats by the party apparatus. Although, not having to stand for direct election might expedite their inclusion in the political system, not being directly elected by voters also means they are not true representatives of the socio-cultural class of the majority women of Pakistan. This is all the more so since most of the women who have served in legislative bodies have come from already influential political families etc.

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