



WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN INDIA

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Abstract

According to Mayoux (1998), empowerment is a process of inner change or inner power, the development of skills or the collective mobilization of female and, if possible, male power, i.e. the ability to restore cause and transform gender or transference associated with power Efforts. Empowerment is therefore an empowerment process that leads to more participation and decision-making, awareness and change one life. Empowering women means creating awareness of being politically active, financially productive, and independent, which can lead to an intellectual debate on issues that affect them? The term "political participation" has a very broad meaning. This applies not only to the "right to vote", but also to participation in: decision-making processes, political activities, political awareness, etc... The male principle Political activism and elections are the strengths of women's political participation. To combat gender inequality in politics, the Indian government has introduced reservations with local authorities. In India's 2014 general election, the turnout for women was 65.63% compared to 67.09% for men. In terms of the proportion of women in parliament, India ranks 20th among the last seats. Women have served as president, prime minister and prime minister of several states in India. Indian voters have elected women too many state and national parliaments for decades. This article aims to describe and measure the political participation of women in India and to examine various initiatives by the Government of India to empower women through an analysis of India's position on the gender equality index.

1.Introduction

The leadership and effective participation of women is increasingly reflected in the development agendas of governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, and non-governmental organizations, including women's rights groups. Surveys and polls show the important role of women as key actors and decision-makers in development in a wide variety of sectors. In the political sphere in particular, governments are making increasing efforts to promote and ensure the participation and leadership of women in administrative structures. Introducing quotas for the representation of women at different levels of government is a strategic tactic in many countries to achieve this goal.

In India, positive action for women and disadvantaged groups is enshrined in the constitution. The 1992 constitution (73rd Amendment) states that India's locally elected governing bodies, commonly referred to as such, reserve at least a third of the seats for women (both members and presidents), known as the Panchayati Raja Institutions (PRI).) As recently as 2009, the Indian government approved a 50% reserve for women in the PRI; and many states, including Rajasthan and Odisha, have passed similar laws. The same amendment also calls on the PRI to "prepare and implement plans for economic development and social justice". Positive discrimination to protect women.

Political representation is an important step towards democratization and local autonomy. However, this was not enough to ensure women's leadership and their effective participation in local authorities as MPs and Sarpanches (EEE) continue to face various institutional and social barriers. At the institutional level, the capacity of local authorities to reform, institutionalize responsibilities, decentralize functions and promote active participation by women play an important role in determining the capacity of women to be political actors. Social barriers include a lack of education, a lack of respect for women in the PRI,



physical violence against women in public and secret spheres, and repressive patriarchal and caste-like structures that want to become part of the scene. While there are Sarpanches women who have taken the initiative and made significant changes on behalf of their electorate, it is widely believed that environmental agencies face many aspects of gender discrimination.

Nor does the presence and participation of women in local government structures guarantee that the concerns of women in society and the underlying social injustices will be considered and addressed by the PRI. Studies have shown that nature conservation authorities formulate and emphasize different priorities than those of men, which, however, largely remain in development-policy contexts (e.g. access to facilities and basic infrastructure). These priorities serve women's practical gender needs better than their strategic gender interests. Practical gender needs are those that are directly perceived by women, such as water and health care that are compatible with their socially defined roles. Meeting these needs does not necessarily mean questioning the place of women in society or emphasizing gender equality. However, approaches that take into account strategic gender interests of women aim to change, and not just improve, gender relations and the position of women in society.

Research shows that panchayats success in reaching strategic gender interests varies among women. There have been positive results for individual women, and there have also been cases of Presidents and Members blaming alcoholism and violence against women. But as examples of panchayats, forums that systematically address and combat violations of women's rights, gender inequalities and various forms of violence are rare. There is therefore a need to better understand how the PRI can become more engaged and proactive on strategic equality issues and create space to promote gender equality within an overall gender equality framework.

Constitutional rights of women

India's constitution establishes a parliamentary system of government and guarantees its citizens the right to vote, freedom of speech, assembly, association and freedom of choice. The Constitution of India aims to eradicate gender inequality by prohibiting discrimination based on gender and class, prohibiting human trafficking and forced labor, and maintaining elected mandates for women.

The Government of India has urged national and local authorities to promote gender and class equality, including equal pay and free legal assistance, decent work and maternity leave, the right to work and employment, education and improved living standards. Women were active in India's independence movement around the turn of the century, fighting for independence from Great Britain. Independence brought equality in the form of constitutional rights, but historically the political participation of women has been low.

2. Participation of women

1. Voting

The women's suffrage movement began in the early 20th century in response to the national suffrage movement, although the vast majority of men and women were not able to vote for British colonial rule until 1947. After India became independent from Great Britain, India became independent Constitution formal right to vote for women and men. Before universal suffrage, the provincial legislatures guaranteed women the right to vote.

Madras was the first to give women the right to vote in 1921, but only to men and women who, according to British administrative records, owned land. Rights granted in response to the suffrage



movement were limited to literacy and property ownership, including men. As a result, the vast majority of Indian women and men were excluded from the vote because they were poor. That changed in 1950 when all adult citizens of India were granted universal suffrage.

In 1950 universal suffrage gave all women the right to vote. This is enshrined in Article 326 of the Constitution of India. India has a parliamentary system with two chambers: Lok Sabha (lower house) and Rajya Sabha (upper house). The turnout of women in the Lok Sabha elections in 1962 was 46.63%, reaching a maximum of 58.60% in 1984. The labor force participation of men over the same period was 63.31% in 1962 and 68.18% in 1984.

The gap between male and female voters has narrowed over time, from 16.7% in 1962 to 4.4% in 2009. The turnout in national elections has not changed in the last 50 years and is between 50 and 60%. The participation of women in national elections is increasing and in some cases the participation of women exceeds that of men. The 2012 election of Vidhan Sabha (state legislative assemblies) showed an increase in women's participation, and states like Uttar Pradesh reported a participation rate of 58.82% in 60.29%. In the 2013 parliamentary elections, the total turnout for women was 47.4% and for men 52.5%. In the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Daman and Diu as well as in Pondicherry, the employment rate of women was higher than that of men in 2013.

Participation is increasing in both the rich and poor states of India. The male-to-female ratio of voters increased from 715 female voters per 1,000 voters in the 1960s to 883 female voters in the 2000s. Deceased or deceased members. Voting included door-to-door votes and in the 2014 election, voters will receive photo ID with location details to increase the number of participants. The increased turnout in India is also due to the female electorate. EBI is committed to promoting the recruitment and participation of women through education and public relations in colleges and universities. Greater participation also means greater security in the polling stations.

2. 2014 elections

In India's 2014 general election, the turnout for women was 65.63% compared to 67.09% for men. More women than men voted in 16 of India's 29 states. In the parliamentary elections in India from April to May 2014, a total of 260.6 million women exercised their right to vote.

3. Running for public office

Women politicians in Lok Sabha[14]	
Lok Sabha (Year elected)	No. of women politicians elected
17th (2019)	78
16th (2014)	64
15th (2009)	52

India has a federal government with delegated powers. The voters choose the national and national parliaments. In 2012, at least 10.9% of women were elected to the Indian national parliament, but this is relatively more than in Hungary (8.8%), Brazil (9.6%), China (9.1%) and Malaysia (9.8%).)

The broadest indicator of political participation includes the number of candidates for public office and women in the state parliaments. According to the annual surveys of the Global Gender Index of the World Economic Forum, which take this extent into account, India has been in the top 20 in the world



for many years and is in 9th place in the Indian political ranking. As Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, France and the United Kingdom.

To counteract the low participation of women, the 1994 constitutional amendments (73 and 74) introduced quotas (reserves) to reserve 33 percent of seats in local women's authorities. The Women's Reservation Act (108th Amendment) was introduced in the National Parliament to guarantee women 33% of the seats in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. Lok Sabha has not yet passed or promulgated the law. Discussions about women's reservations began in the 1920s and lasted until the 1930s when an agreement was reached with the United Kingdom to allow women to vote in urban areas. The debate on women's reservations was resumed in 1974 by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in India, but India did not introduce full quotas for local authorities until 1994; Third places and management positions should be reserved for women. States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttarakhand have increased their reserves by up to 50%. The national government has also proposed increasing the PRI's reserves to 50%.

The seats reserved for women will be changed to ensure the same reservation options for each seat. Since the creation of the Women's Reserves, women's participation in politics has increased from 4-5% to 25-40%, empowering millions of women to hold leadership positions in local government. Odisha, an Indian state, remained reserved until the 73rd Amendment, electing 28,069 women in 1992 and 28,595 women in 1997.

Concerns remain about reserving seats for women in certain positions. The issue of education is becoming more and more serious when it comes to preparing women for leadership positions. In Tamil Nadu it was found that women did not have the education and training necessary to understand the Panchayat procedures. The family also plays an important role in women's participation in government. Family influence can be an obstacle or a support system for some women in a relationship. Family ties can help women apply for jobs at the national and local levels. The role of women as men in the family is worrying, but women can play an important role in decision-making. The influence of women's reserves on the amount of public goods, including water and roads, has increased. Most of the time, the women who come to us ask questions about drinking water and improving the roads. The biggest challenges men face are roads, irrigation, education, and water. Women are also involved in social issues such as violence against women, child care and maternal health.

4. Challenges to Women's Participation

The extent and forms of women's participation in politics are largely determined by cultural and social barriers in the form of violence, discrimination and illiteracy.

1. Sexual assault

Martha Nussbaum emphasized that the threat of violence is a serious obstacle to women's participation in politics. Sexual violence in India has been exacerbated by educational and marital problems. Women are sexually abused. Child marriage, domestic violence and a low level of education have reduced economic opportunities for Indian women and contributed to sexual violence in India. A 2011 study found that "24% of Indian men have sexually abused them at some point in their life, 20% forced their partner to have sex with them ... 38% of men admit to having been physically assaulted by their partner to be". Violence is not illegal and sexual abuse is not punished Martha S. Nussbaum argues that "violence and threats of violence in society as a whole undermine



the participation of many women" and that political relationships are recognized in the public as worthy beings whose worth is equal to the value of others .

2. Discrimination

Although the Indian Constitution has eliminated gender inequality, discrimination remains a persistent barrier to women's political participation. A 2012 study of 3,000 Indian women identified barriers to participation, particularly when running for political office, in the form of illiteracy, housework and discriminatory attitudes towards women in politics. Discriminatory attitudes are reflected in the limitations Indian women face, including lack of access to information and resources. Information about women depends on family or village members, usually men. Women also lack administrative experience as they are responsible for domestic chores. The burden of housework is the main reason many Indian women fail to attend. In contrast to men, women have fewer opportunities to work in organizations in order to acquire leadership skills. There is little public space for them as the Indian political arena has been dominated by men for many years.

3. Illiteracy

India has only the largest illiterate population. In January 2014, the United Nations reported that 25.6% of India's adult population was illiterate. The literacy rate of Indian women is 65.46%, well below that of men (82.14%). Illiteracy limits women's ability to understand the political system and problems. Problems of exploitation such as the exclusion of women from electoral lists have been reported as illiteracy limits women's ability to exercise their political rights. Activist involvement in politics said, "Since literacy is generally linked to the ability to move around the house and take care of you, it is also linked to women's ability to meet and work with one another. Niraji Jayal and Nirmala Bukh discovered Nussbaum. She also pointed out that literacy can play a key role in ensuring the dignity and independence of women in politics by giving them access to communication tools such as memos and magazines that enable them to do so.

4. Overcoming barriers to participation

To overcome discrimination and violence, women's organizations have focused their efforts on empowering original women. Empowerment means supporting families and improving living conditions that are being undermined by the threat of domestic and sexual violence. Socio-economic conditions such as poverty and illiteracy prevent women from running or even voting for public office.

Conclusion

In terms of income, employment and education, the empowerment scenario for women appears relatively poor. At present it is necessary to identify the gaps or boundaries that determine the achievement of women's empowerment, and this initiative needs to be initiated by women themselves and, above all, by political initiatives of the state and society. We promise that we want an egalitarian society in which everyone, men and women, have equal opportunities to express and promote their well-being and the well-being of society as a whole.

Empowering women is not a Nordic concept. All over the world, including the South, women have challenged and transformed gender inequalities since the beginning of history. The struggle was also supported by many men, outraged by the injustice against women. Women make up half the world's population and there is gender inequality in every country in the world. If women do not have the same opportunities as men, entire societies will be doomed to operate below their true potential. Now the greatest need is to change attitudes towards women. "As women move forward, the family changes, the



village changes, and the nation changes." This is important because their systems of thought and values lead to the development of a good family, a good society, and ultimately a good nation. Perhaps the best way to build power is to involve women in the overall development. The empowerment of women becomes real and effective only when they receive incomes and assets that enable them to grow and strengthen their identity in society.

The empowerment of women has become one of the most important issues of the 21st century not only at the national level, but also internationally. State initiatives alone will not achieve this goal. The company must take the initiative to create a favorable climate in which there is no gender discrimination and in which women have every opportunity to make their own decisions and to participate in the social, political and economic life of the country.

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