

WOMEN IN POLITICS: ANALYSING THE INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN INDIAN POLITICS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MAKING

G.P Gnaneshwari, M COM, SET, DL In Commerce, TTWRDC (W) Devarakonda, Nalgonda

K. Chandrasekhar, MA IR & PS, TS SET, NET., Degree Lecturer, TTWRDC (W) Devarakonda, Nalgonda

Abstract:

The role of women is crucial in all aspects of society, including politics. Women bring diverse perspectives, experiences, and priorities, contributing to a more inclusive and representative decision-making and policy making process. Before India gained independence in 1947, women played a limited role in politics. Women faced significant barriers in participating in policy-making. However, there were notable individuals who actively participated in the freedom struggle, like Sarojini Naidu and Annie Besant. Women's involvement was often grassroots, contributing to social and political change within their communities. Post-independence, there have been efforts to enhance women's involvement, yet the gender gap in policy-making remains.

The paper explores measures such as reservations for women in local bodies and legislatures, aiming to address this gap and foster a more inclusive and diverse approach to policy formulation. Ongoing advocacy initiatives continue to underscore the crucial importance of women's voices in shaping policies that impact the entire society. The study offers insights into the evolving dynamics of women's participation in Indian political and policy arenas, highlighting the ongoing quest for a more equitable and representative governance system.

Introduction:

Women's participation in politics is essential for ensuring inclusive and representative decision-making processes. In recent years, India has witnessed a notable surge in women's participation in politics, marking a significant step towards gender equality and inclusive governance. Despite significant strides, the gender gap in policy-making persists in India.

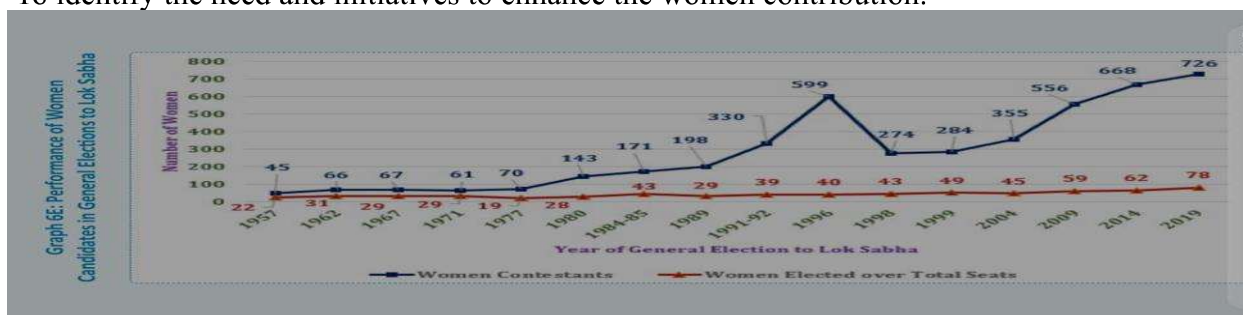
Before India gained independence in 1947, women faced significant barriers to their involvement in politics. Notable individuals like Sarojini Naidu and Annie Besant actively participated in the freedom struggle, contributing to social and political change within their communities. Post-independence, efforts have been made to enhance women's involvement in politics, including the implementation of reservations for women in local bodies and legislatures.

Recent years have witnessed a notable increase in women's participation in policy-making in India, with women taking on prominent roles in both government and non-governmental organizations. Notable examples include Nirmala Sitharaman, who serves as India's Finance Minister, and Smriti Irani, who has held key ministerial positions such as Minister of Women and Child Development. Additionally, women like Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Mamata Banerjee have been influential in shaping political discourse and policy agendas.

=

Objectives of the study:

1. To understand the present role of women current politics.
2. To understand the challenges for low participation.
3. To identify the need and initiatives to enhance the women contribution.



WOMEN IN POLITICS: ANALYSING THE INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN INDIAN POLITICS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MAKING

Table 6.8: Participation of Women in General Elections to Lok Sabha

Year of Election	Women Contestants		Women elected over total seats		Women registered electors over total registered electors (%)	votes polled by women over total votes polled (%)	votes polled by women over women Registered women electors (%)
	No.	%	No.	%			
1951	-	-	24		45.0	-	-
1957	45	3.0	22	4.5	47.2	38.3	38.8
1962	66	3.3	31	6.3	47.3	39.8	46.6
1967	67	2.8	29	5.6	48.0	43.4	55.5
1971	61	2.2	29	5.6	47.7	42.3	49.1
1977	70	2.9	19	3.5	48.0	43.6	54.9
1980	143	3.1	28	5.3	47.9	43.1	51.2
1984-85*	171	3.1	43	7.9	48.0	44.46	59.25
1989	198	3.2	29	5.5	47.5	43.9	57.3

Source: Report of Election commission of India as on 31-12-2022

The contesting rate of women in Indian politics has been witnessing a significant increase, reflecting a growing willingness among women to participate actively in the electoral process. Beyond government, women-led advocacy groups and civil society organizations are actively engaging in policy formulation and implementation, championing issues such as gender equality, healthcare, education, and economic empowerment. While challenges remain, the increasing visibility and influence of women in policy-making signal a positive trend towards greater gender inclusivity and representation in India's political landscape.

The reasons for slow progression rate are :

1. Gender bias ingrained in societal norms and cultural attitudes often disadvantages women in politics.
2. Women frequently encounter challenges accessing the financial, logistical, and social resources necessary for successful political campaigns.
3. Underrepresentation of women in leadership positions within political parties limits their opportunities for nomination and support.
4. Gender stereotypes and biases influence perceptions of women's leadership abilities, affecting voter attitudes and electoral outcomes.
5. Balancing political ambitions with family responsibilities, including childcare, poses challenges for women in politics.
6. Women candidates often face threats, harassment, and violence, deterring them from participating freely in politics.
7. Inadequate institutional mechanisms fail to address the specific needs and challenges faced by women in politics.
8. Patriarchal power structures within society and politics perpetuate inequalities, creating systemic barriers to women's success in political leadership roles.

Some initiatives could make women successful in politics with regard to policy making.

The following are few initiatives:

- a. Implement gender quotas for women in legislative bodies.
- b. Provide tailored political education and training programs.
- c. Offer financial support for campaign expenses.
- d. Establish supportive networks and mentorship programs.
- e. Conduct awareness campaigns to challenge stereotypes.

- f. Enact policies promoting work-life balance.
- g. Implement electoral reforms for a level playing field.
- h. Recognize and celebrate women's contributions in politics.

Methodology:

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, including literature review, data collection, and quantitative analysis. The literature review examines existing research on women's participation in Indian politics, historical trends, and policy interventions. Data is collected from various sources, including government reports, academic publications, and NGO documents, related to women's participation in Indian politics. Quantitative analysis involves analyzing secondary data, such as election results and demographic information, to assess trends in women's representation and the impact of policy measures on their political participation.

Analysis:

The analysis focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of policy interventions, such as reservations for women, in enhancing their involvement in policy-making. It also explores ongoing advocacy initiatives aimed at promoting women's voices in policy formulation. Challenges hindering women's political empowerment, including traditional power structures and societal attitudes, are identified. The analysis highlights the need for continued efforts to address these challenges and promote women's participation in Indian politics.

Conclusion:

Enhancing women's participation in Indian politics is crucial for achieving inclusive and representative governance. Policy interventions such as reservations for women have contributed to increased representation, but challenges remain. Ongoing advocacy initiatives are essential for promoting women's voices in policy formulation and addressing the gender gap in politics. Moving forward, efforts to empower women politically must be accompanied by broader social and cultural changes to create a more equitable and inclusive society.

Future Scope: Future research could focus on assessing the long-term impact of policy interventions, such as reservations for women, on women's political empowerment and policy outcomes. Comparative studies could also be conducted to examine the experiences of women in Indian politics with those in other countries. Additionally, research on innovative strategies for empowering women politically and addressing challenges to their participation would be valuable.

References:

1. Kumar, Sanjay. "Women's Political Representation in India: Understanding the Paradox." *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2018.
2. Joseph, Mallika. "Women's Political Participation and Representation in India: A State-Level Analysis." *Studies in Indian Politics*, 2013.
3. Chattopadhyay, Raghavendra, and Esther Duflo. "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India." *Econometrica*, 2004.
4. Garikipati, Supriya. "Women's Reservation Bill and Political Representation in India." *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2019.
5. Kamra, Lipika. "Gender Quotas and Women's Political Representation in India: A Review." *Indian Journal of Public Administration*, 2016.
6. Reports of Election commission of India- 2022.

International Journal of Cultural Studies and Social Sciences

ISSN : 2347 - 4777

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

This is to certify that the article entitled

**WOMEN IN POLITICS: ANALYSING THE INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN INDIAN POLITICS AND
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MAKING**

Authored By

G.P Gnaneshwari

M COM, SET, DL In Commerce, TTWRDC (W) Devarakonda, Nalgonda

Published in

International Journal of Cultural Studies and Social Sciences

ISSN 2347-4777 with IF=7.138

Vol-20, Issue-01, No.39, January - June: 2024

Double-Blind, Peer Reviewed, Refereed & Open Access, UGC CARE Listed Journal



International Journal of Cultural Studies and Social Sciences

ISSN : 2347 - 4777

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

This is to certify that the article entitled

**WOMEN IN POLITICS: ANALYSING THE INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN INDIAN POLITICS AND
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MAKING**

Authored By

K. Chandrasekhar

MA IR & PS, TS SET, NET., Degree Lecturer, TTWRDC (W) Devarakonda, Nalgonda

Published in

International Journal of Cultural Studies and Social Sciences

ISSN 2347-4777 with IF=7.138

Vol-20, Issue-01, No.39, January - June: 2024

Double-Blind, Peer Reviewed, Refereed & Open Access, UGC CARE Listed Journal



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

UGC

University Grants Commission

