

## WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY

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### Abstract

The success of Democracy is depend upon participation of people in political process. It is nominal in ancient times. But in modern Democracy, participation of people is must to make any programme successful. According to LORD BRYCE - "The people who are far away from politics are equally far away from the interests that will come through politics". Hence, we can say that political participation is necessary. It effects change, gives scope to take part in decision - making process, gives a chance to implement our ideology & It is the ultimate solution to liberate any section of people in the society.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To identify the causes for low political participation of women
- To identify the research gaps in women political participation
- To identify some practical suggestions to improve the political participation of women

### METHODOLOGY:

Normative study based on secondary data.

### MEANING OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION:

Political participation means not only casting vote in the elections. It has a wider meaning. The following all activities will come under political participation.

- 1] Casting vote
- 2] Attending & addressing public meetings
- 3] Membership in a political party
- 4] Mobilization of people
- 5] Mobilization of funds
- 6] Contesting in the elections
- 7] Taking leadership
- 8] Influencing public policies
- 9] Organizing movements
- 10] Criticizing the government etc.....

If we come to women political participation, we can find so many interesting things. They are:

- 1] France which gave a slogan -"LIBERTY , EQUALITY & FRATERNITY" in 1789 gave Right to vote to women only in 1945.
- 2] U.S.A. got Independence in 1776, but gave Right to vote to women in 1920.
- 3] Switzerland - the land of Direct Democracy gave Right to vote to women in 1971.
- 4] Except in Scandinavian countries, in all other countries women participation in Legislatures is below 10%.

If we come to India, though Right to vote was given to women equally on par with men in 1947, their participation in union parliament is always below 10% so far.

### CAUSES FOR LOW POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN INDIA:

- 1] Family burden & family violence on women.
- 2] Lack of education , awareness and interest in politics to women.
- 3] Lack of financial support to contest in the elections.
- 4] Violence in politics which is against to the nature of women.
- 5] Lack of public relations to women as they are confine to their families.
- 6] Fear of character assassination.
- 7] Women's brought up is not aimed at leadership.
- 8] Corruption in politics.
- 9] Patriarchal society.
- 10] Less women membership in political parties.
- 11] Lack of importance to women's agenda.
- 12] Lack of encouragement from family.
- 13] Lack of adequate health and energy to women.
- 14] Lack of security to women in the society.
- 15] Traditions, customs and religion are posing limitations on women's freedom etc.....

But, recently because of reservations, the political participation of women in local self governments is increased to the maximum extent. But, they are unable to perform their role independently. The following problems are identified in women political participation.

- \* Majority women played nominal role and their husbands and brothers played real role.
- \* women are not in a position to continue their leadership after 5 years term. So many women leaders are confined to home.
- \* Women could not work differently & show their speciality.
- \* Most of the women came into power through hereditary, but not on the basis of their own leadership & capabilities.
- \* Corruption & violence are not decreased because of political participation of women.

The Academicians and research scholars considered these issues as gaps in the research and focusing on those issues. At this juncture, the following suggestions are made to promote women political participation and its sustainability.

- 1] 33 ½ reservations should be given to women in Assemblies and parliament. Then only women participation and sustainability will be more. All women organisations and political parties should bring pressure on political parties to formulate this law at least by next general elections.
- 2] Government should allot more funds on women literacy and higher education.
- 3] Women laws should be implemented strictly.
- 4] All women organisations like AIDWA, POW, NWC etc.. should come to common platform to fight against injustice.
- 5] N.G.Os should concentrate on women leadership trainings.
- 6] Women SHGs should be strengthened throughout India to promote savings and self-employment.
- 7] A massive social movement should come to eradicate dowry, child marriages and family violence etc...
- 8] All political parties should allot 50% of party positions to women. They have to organize special training programmes to women leaders.
- 9] Electoral reforms should be implemented and role of money & caste should be reduced.
- 10] The issues related to women empowerment should be included in the curriculum from school level onwards.
- 11] Society should encourage women to participate in politics.
- 12] Media should play a key role in promoting women political participation.
- 13] The attitude of men towards women should be changed. They have to share domestic responsibilities.
- 14] The attitude of women also should be changed. They should not think that marriage is the ultimate goal and should concentrate on social life.
- 15] Women should take care about their physical and psychological health. They should give top priority to their personality development.

If all women will be educated, organized and come out from domestic domain and concentrate on public issues, the shape of the country will be changed. Women should realize that political participation is the key to unlock their freedom & development.

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