



CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN LEADERSHIP ON POLITICS

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ABSTRACT

A decent society, growth, and both national and international security require gender equality and equitable opportunity. Through women's successful participation in politics, a structural interventional strategy in social work aims to enhance gender empowerment. India is one of the first countries in the world to have a woman as the head of the government and as the head of the state. Women in India got the right to equal political participation, much earlier than most of the Western countries, this includes the right to vote. The development of electoral reforms that promote equitable participation of females, the improvement of competency for women candidates in politics, elevated government assistance for women's representation in politics, and the use of social media and education to change society's attitudes. Politics involves representation, policy, power and position with Government as its area. Political participation refers to the participation of individuals in the political process. It ensures that individuals are able to take part in deciding the common goals of the society and the best ways of achieving it. Political participation means not merely exercising the right to vote, but also power sharing, decision making, policy making at all levels of governance of the State. Political participation refers to actual participation in these voluntary activities by which the members of the society share in selection of rules and formulation of public policy directly or indirectly.



KEYWORDS: *Gender equality, structural interventional strategy, gender empowerment, electoral reforms.*

INTRODUCTION

Women are constantly expressing their leadership influence felt in commerce, management, academia, architecture, healthcare, and other sectors on a local, national, and worldwide scale. Women are becoming increasingly motivated to break through the traditional glass ceiling that has kept them from ascending to positions of leadership, while possessing the required skills and ability. Gender has no bearing on leadership. It's a set of leadership qualities that come naturally or are nurtured in people growing into powerful leaders with a wide following. Both males and females may be leaders. Females pursue to be under-represented in political office all over the world, and they continue to know less about and participate in politics than males. Women's engagement in politics and the democratic process changes around the world, but it has become an important aspect of modern discussions about development and governance. Women's political engagement in any nation provides a snapshot of how women are regarded in society. Any country's progress is also dependent on equitable involvement of men and women. Women continue to battle for equality in society. Their difficulties and problems are often ignored and unacknowledged because to their minimal participation in Indian politics.

As India gears up for the world's largest election process, one cannot help but think of some of the unfulfilled promises made when a young India emerged amongst the preeminent democracies of the world. Nearly 70 years since the enactment of our Constitution, the solemn vow in its Preamble to secure political justice and equality of opportunity remains only partially fulfilled. Women's position in electoral politics and governance stays far below representative levels, and policymaking and governance has long been the fiefdom of men, with few women managing to get past a rigid glass ceiling to enter Parliament.

The entry of women into politics has historically been met with dogged opposition across the world – right from the earliest suffragettes in England who faced police brutality and sexual assault for daring to demand the right to vote, to modern elections where female candidates are attacked overtly and covertly on gender issues. While there have been many significant victories for women's participation in politics in the intervening years, they are still met with scepticism, ridicule and objectification when stepping into the political fray. These are manifestations of an insecure patriarchy, jolted by the notion of women taking their place as leaders and decision-makers, representing their issues and interests instead of depending on men in power to do so.

Indeed, women have shown themselves to be natural community builders, with an intrinsic sense of perception, intuition and empathy that allows them to best identify people's problems, provide adequate support and act as nurturing leaders. Despite some enabling legal provisions, however, social and economic forces continue to deter women from politics. The phenomenon of Panchayat Patis – husbands (or other male relatives) using women as proxies in PRIs and wielding the real power – is prevalent. In ULBs, despite women often holding powerful posts, such as that of mayor, corporators and municipal officials, they are often reluctant to provide the adequate support to such leader – simultaneously intimidated and antagonised by women in positions of power and responsibility.

The program was implemented in order to improve female political involvement at the municipal level. As a result of the legislation requiring women to be represented in politics, the number of females elected members at the municipal level has increased. India has been attempting to keep track of the number of female representatives at the panchayat level, with figures indicating that women make up 30 to 50 percent of elected officials at the local scale. Nagaland, Sikkim, and Manipur are among the Indian states with no women ministers. No state has even a third of women ministers - Tamil Nadu has the greatest proportion of female ministers at 13%, while 68 percent of states have less than 10% female presence in state leadership positions.

CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN LEADERS

Women leaders have higher and more difficult problems than males since they must also contend with perceptions. With more women who take up leadership roles, previously unrecognized concerns and obstacles associated with such a position are now becoming apparent. Life is becoming increasingly tough for them due to rising stress levels and multiple responsibilities at work and at home, as well as the continual need to prove herself. Women's political engagement is hampered or facilitated by a variety of circumstances, including socioeconomic status, geographical, cultural, and political system form.

POLITICAL OBSTACLE

Women's political representation and advancement are hampered by four primary political obstacles. Absence of party support, such as restricted financial assistance for female candidates, restricted access to political connections, and more stringent standards and credentials applied to women; absence of availability to well-developed education systems for women's leadership in general, and for guiding young women towards political life; and the essence of the electoral system, which favors men. Women are prevented from participating in politics for a variety of reasons. There are many factors like; the present cultural value system, the private-public gap in terms of domain identity, and male predominance in political institutions, which are responsible for less participation of women in politics. They have been unable to amass help and services for cultivating their political constituency

due to their low share in India's inner political party structure. Women do not receive appropriate financial backing from political parties to run for office.

SOCIAL OBSTACLE

One of the most significant barriers to women being politically engaged is illiteracy. They are unaware of their basic and political rights due to a lack of awareness. Parties prejudice not just in terms of seat allocation in polls, but also inside their ranks. Poverty is also a significant barrier to women's political engagement. An impoverished family's daughter kid is the primary victim, and she faces several challenges. Women are also shown to have a greater rate of dropping out of school than men. Women's thinking is trained in a sense to accept that they are of a lesser class than males since this has been the viewpoint of many in society due to social and cultural standards. The caste system, or social class structure, is also a significant barrier. Because of their families' poor money, women from lower castes were unable to attend school. To provide for their family, many women were involved in low-paying jobs. In India, the majority of women do not own land or property.

DEVELOPING COMPETENCY FOR WOMEN CANDIDATES IN POLITICS

Mentoring in politics: Guidance and training programs help women prepare for political positions, improve their political abilities.

Positions in the community: Women who work at the local level get the skills they need to advance to higher levels of government and careers in regional and national politics. As a result, measures aimed at encouraging women to join municipal politics can be especially beneficial in increasing women's political engagement.

Sustained Training: Providing female candidates with continuous and systematic training delivers greater outcomes than providing stand-alone training during a single period of the electoral cycle. The applicability and effectiveness of training is increased by including local female leaders or trainees who pass on their expertise to others.

Leadership skills: Offering orientations for newly appointed women, leadership skills training, networking opportunities, and offering chances to stimulate policy discourse are all examples of ways to improve elected women's impact and leadership.

SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS

There should be State support for efforts to encourage women to join political parties. These organizations host seminars and training events, push for more female to get nominated, as well as provide networking opportunities for female politicians. Increased political party support for women participation in politics.

Meetings will be held in convenient and welcoming locations, and at times when women will be able to attend.

- Financial assistance for caring obligations or child care provision.
- Within parties, distinct women's wings or groups.
- Training programmes that are tailored to the needs of women and men Quotas inside the party.
- Political parties should conduct gender audits in order to develop gender action strategies.
- Set goals for female attendance at party conventions and ensure that women are given safe seats.
- Share your experiences with people from other nations and places.
- Women in campaign leadership positions should be trained and promoted.

CONCLUSION

Women's engagement in politics is critical for successful governance, and this paper suggests that an enabling environment be created to increase women's political participation. It also suggests that the constitutional legal framework be improved to better accommodate the requirements of women in politics. Women should also be financially empowered by having access to education, job, and

finance. It is also suggested that political party members get gender awareness training, as well as leadership training for future female leaders. Political parties' agendas and operations should include gender-sensitive and egalitarian policies, and their execution should be evaluated. It is critical to pay attention to essential issues in order to increase women's empowerment chances. These include education and training programs, the prevention of numerous types of criminal and violent acts, the requirement of equal rights for them, the elimination of discriminatory treatment against them based on factors like race, caste, class, religious doctrine, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic class, and encouraging them to participate in politics.

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