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## POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

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### ABSTRACT: -

**E**very individual is actuated by the feeling of self interest. In the history of political theory; in the study of political opportunism, its nature and its doctrine were not paid adequate attention. Political opportunism recognizes the individuals personal interest as he center of all political



life and activities. The principles of gender equality and protection of women's rights have been the prime concerns in Indian thinking right for the days of independence.

**KEYWORDS:** self interest , Political opportunism , women in political, economical and social spheres.

### INTRODUCTION :

Article 14 confers equal rights and opportunities for men and women in political, economical and social spheres. Article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the ground of sex, religion, race and caste ,etc but in reality it is not possible as women constitute half of the worlds population, they should get adequate representation in decision making. This is possible only when women empowered in politics. Therefore this paper aims at throwing light on various attempts made by government to empower women in politics. It is also responsibility of the entire society and not of few.

### WHAT IS POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN?

Let us first understand the term empowerment then political empowerment of women. The word empowerment denotes the words like power, authority, capacity, self reliance, entitlement and participation, etc. According to the Webster Dictionary empowerment means "to give official authority or to delegate legal power or to give facilities or abilities". Srilatha Battiwala defines empowerment as "the process of challenging existing poer relations and gaining greater control over the sources and poer may be termed as empowerment". Women empowerment is a process which enables women to realize their identity and power in different spheres of life. Political empower of women means through involvement in groups women are able to organize themselves to take action and bring about changes in the society. Representation and participation women in politics are the major devices or means of empowerment. Women can develop awareness, self respect, self reliance, self dignity, manage the responsibility and can act as able representative of people.

### WHY NEED POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN?

Since women empowerment in politics is a global issue and as they are deprived of their status and position by birth to death, it is essential for them to get facilities and opportunities. This is possible through means

of empowerment which are stated below.

1. To develop their knowledge, sense of dignity and self respect
2. To fight against fear and inferiority complex.
3. To develop self motivation, creative and innovative ideas
4. To become mentally, socially physically and economically independent and self reliant
5. To be more confident and courageous
6. To become competent to manage the resource like finance and prosperity
7. To make them good decision makers in their respective fields and profession
8. To develop the spirits of hard work self help
9. To create awareness on the need of better health, education their rights status position, etc.

## MAJOR CHALLENGES AND ISSUES IN POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Major challenges and issues are listed below.

**1. Low representation of women in politics:** It is an international issue out of 189 countries only 18 countries have depicted more than 30 percent of women representation in their parliaments. Thirty countries provided representation for women between 20 to 30 percent. 64 countries between 10 to 20 percent and remaining less than 10 percent among them India is one of the country ranking 104 (worlds ranking) with 8.3 percent representation of women in Lok Sabha.

**2. Biologically Determined social roles:** Given the socio biological development the biological differences which are real are mis-appropriated made the determining factor in the social placements of male and females. Women are domesticated merely to bearing and rearing children and performing household chores.

**3. Caste, creed and religion are lacking empowerment women in politics:** Every country has different caste, creeds and religious system. Every women member of the family has to follow this system. Though women are very interested in politics due to this system restrict women not enter into politics, sexual harassment to be questioned.

**4. Low rate education :** Education place very important role of women in empowerment in politics with in a family girls and boys are to be discriminated in quality of education. Most of girls not be sent local, regional, out of responsibilities at the cost of not learning productive skills. Adult women education not be promoted. Women are not to be educated to acquire political and productive skills.

**5. Economic injustice:** Women's work within the household to be socially valued. Their contribution to subsistence work not be recognized. Women are treated to be not productive earners. Women are not individually and collectively encouraged to take loans from bank and set up incoming generating ventures. Women exploitation at the work place the husband become more assertive in controlling even their wives ancestral property since development and control of land done by them. Many families are not allowed to work and hold jobs out of stations.

**6. Ill-health:** Women may be given inferior intake Differential maternal care for men and women. Medical attention may be delayed in case of females Early marriage one of the cause for ill health. Differential access to food and medical care for women. Emotional and physical abuse of females. Sometimes women are women's worst enemies.

**7. Shift in the approach needed:** Globalization has presented new challenges for the realization of the goal of the women's equality, the gender impact for the reframing policies for access to employment, quality of employment and participation in politics.

## FINDINGS

Today every country trying to formulated a number of specific policies and programs for the welfare and participation of women in politics. These plans and programs represent the aspiration of women and use of plans and programs will significant impact on the attitude of women towards public affairs. In India also a number of policies and programs formulated for the development of women.

**1. Awareness to constitution rights:** These rights are already granted to every citizen of India. In women context

these become important since women largely unaware of these rights and are unable to exercise or demand them. The state aims is to ensure, equality and justice to all citizens. The constitution informs the citizens about their rights and duties. These rights are protected by law

- a .Right to equality
- b .Right to exploitation
- c .Right to freedom
- d .Right to religion
- e .Cultural and educational rights

The 73rd and 74th amendments to constitution provides that women from 1/3 of all representation in local bodies. This is mandatory for women to exercise their rights as paunches and municipal member's women by organizing themselves and forming groups can these provisions of the constitution a reality.

**2. Organizing Women:** It is the group which can identify group needs, preferences, identity their concerns to evolve a strategy to raise their conditions initiating intervention through nodal groups such as Panchayats, Mahila Mandal teachers, etc.

**3. Dove Tailing:** Women participation and representation in political appears may be difficult to achieve in an outright manner. It may be easier to encourage this by dove tailing issues of women concerns.

**4. Human Rights Information Act:** This act advocates certain issues about women which are listed below.

- a. It gives information about awareness and knowledge about property rights of women.
- b. To raise the information level of participants about various laws governing marriage and Dowry prohibition Act, etc.
- c. To appraise them of the need for the social acceptability of women's rights to property.

**5. Gender Sensitization of the Community:** Government has provided medical facilities, education facilities, employment and tax benefits for the development of the women.

## SUGGESTIONS

Representation and political participation constitute a major component of political empowerment of women to understand this we have examined the state of representation in the legislators of various countries and legislative body in India and national plans, policies and programs. In order to make women in participation in politics more meaningful, we suggest the following measures.

1. Implementation of free and compulsory education for girls.
2. They should be come out of tradition religious and cultural ideas.
3. Media should reflect respectful image of women.
4. Women should have self-awareness about their status, rights and position.
5. Effective legislation should be provided for women at their workplace.
6. Reservation of seats for women in legislation through legal constitutional provisions till the purpose is served
7. Clean and clear politics will help interested and capable of women to make it profession.
8. Effective implementation of national policies and programs for the welfare of the women
9. To setup committees for theoretical evaluation of national policies, programs, workshops and seminars, etc to create awareness and upgrade knowledge of women through voluntary organizations.

## CONCLUSIONS

We are sure that the above suggestions will definitely help for upliftment of women in particular and country in general. Women empowerment in politics is a continuous process, here beginning ends in a change and change ends in a new beginning. We hope that the coming generation lives in society which is free from gender bias.