



WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN INDIA – AN ANALYSIS

S. Spandana,

Ph.D, Scholar,

Dept.of.Public Administration &HRM

Kakatiya University, Warangal-506009(T.S.)

ABSTRACT

In current generation of the participation and administrative state, many writers have voiced their difficulty over the hassle of responsiveness of the executive state to the norms of democratic methods. To guard man or woman rights and liberties towards bureaucratic or arbitrary abuse and growth in women's vigilance and participation in politics is important. Country ought to show "situation for individual people in the standards utilized in making decisions; as an attempt to assign each Women need equal weight in coverage deliberations and as an effort to make as broad as viable the possibilities for women to take part in the decisions that affect them." The term 'political participation' refers to the one's voluntary sports by way of which individual's percentage inside the choice of rulers and, immediately or circuitously, within the formation of public coverage. Those sports are like the casting vote, in search of information, holding discussions, attending meetings, making economic contributions to political parties, staging strikes and demonstrations, communicating with the legislators and other leading figures and so forth. It follows that political participation "is the involvement of the man or woman at various stages inside the political system. Political pastime may additionally variety from non-involvement to be office-keeping. It is also essential to pressure that participation "can also result in the inducement for improved participation, including the highest level – that of preserving diverse kinds of offices - which entails the system of political recruitment.

Key Words: Women leaders, Decentralization, Political Participation, establishments etc.

Introduction

The time period 'political participation' has a totally extensive that means. It isn't always handiest associated with 'right to Vote', but concurrently pertains to participation in: decision making manner, political activism, political recognition, and many others. Women in India participate in balloting, run for public workplaces and political parties at lower levels extra than men. Political activism and voting are the strongest areas of Women's political participation. To combat gender inequality in politics, the Indian government has instituted reservations for seats in neighborhood governments.

Women turn out all through India's 2014 parliamentary general elections changed into 65.63%, compared to 67.09% turnout for men. India ranks 20th from the bottom in phrases of representation of Women in Parliament. Women have held the posts of president and high minister in India, in addition to leader ministers of numerous states. Indian electorate had elected women to numerous nations' legislative assemblies and national parliament for many years. The charter of India establishes a parliamentary machine of presidency, and ensures its citizens the right to be elected, freedom of speech, freedom to bring together and from institutions, and vote. The constitution of India attempts to do away with gender inequalities by banning discrimination based on sex and sophistication, prohibiting human trafficking and pressured labor, and reserving elected positions for women.

The authorities of India directed kingdom and local governments to sell equality through elegance and gender inclusive of equal pay and loose legal aid, humane working situations and maternity comfort, rights to work and schooling, and raising the standard of residing. Women had been considerably worried within the Indian independence movement in the early 20th century and advocated for independence from Britain. Independence delivered gender equality inside the form of constitutional rights, but historically Women's political participation has remained low.

Women participate in Voting:

The movement for Women's suffrage commenced within the early 1900s in response to a national movement for suffrage, even though sizeable majority of neither men nor women had a right to vote all through the British colonial rule earlier than 1947. After Indian independence

from Britain, the Indian charter in 1950 officially granted Women's and men suffrage. Previous to commonplace suffrage, provincial legislatures granted women the proper to vote. Madras became the first to supply Women's suffrage in 1921; however, simplest to the one's women and men who owned land property in step with British management's information. Other legislatures observed quickly after, however, like Madras, the political rights have been granted by British Raj to pick few, and the London appointed Governor of every province had the right to overrule and nullify any law enacted by way of the elected Women's and men. The rights granted in response to the movement toward suffrage were restrained to qualifications of literacy and belongings ownership, consisting of asset's possession of husbands. This excluded good-sized majority of Indian women and men from voting, because they were bad. This changed in 1950 while normal suffrage became granted to all adult Indian citizens. In 1950, time-honored suffrage granted balloting rights to all women. This is enshrined in Article 326 in our constitution. India is a parliamentary device with houses: Lok Sabha (lower house) and Rajya Sabha (upper house). Rates of participation among Women in 1962 have been 46.63% for Lok Sabha elections and rose to an excessive in 1984 of 58.60%. Male turnout all through that identical duration was 63.31% in 1962 and 68.18% in 1984. The distance between women and men electorate has narrowed through the years with a distinction of 16.7% in 1962 to 4.4% in 2009.

Voter turnout for national elections inside the beyond 50 years has remained stagnant with turnout ranging between 50 to 60%. State elections have seen a growing fashion in women's participation and in some instances Women turn out is exceeding male turnout. Increased turnout of women turned into pronounced for the 2012 Vidhan Sabha elections (legislative/state assemblies) with states consisting of Uttar Pradesh reporting 58.82% to 60.29% turnout. Inside the 2013 meeting elections, women's usual turnout turned into mentioned to be 47.4% and male turnout were 52.5%. Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, and Puducherry all suggested higher turnouts among women than men in 2013.

Elevated participation is going on in both rich and terrible states in India. The intercourse ratio of the electorate has stepped forward from 715 female voters for each 1,000 male electorate inside the 1960 to 883 women electorate in the 2000s. The Election fee of India (ECI) has sought to growth voter turnout through cleansing up electoral rolls and disposing of lacking or deceased

contributors. Voter outreach has covered door-to-door voter registration, and in 2014 elections, citizens might be issued photograph identification with polling station information to boom voter turnout. Improved voter turnout in India is, likewise, partially due to the women voters. ECI has sought to inspire voter registration among women and participation through schooling and outreach on college and college campuses. Developing participation has also been attributed to elevated protection at polling stations.

Political Activism:

Women's groups in India first started to emerge inside the early 1900s, and later in the 1970s after duration of limited activity from the Fifties to Nineteen Seventies. One of the earliest women's groups, Bharat Stree Mahamandal, fashioned in 1910 and targeted on supporting women break out oppression from men. Women's institutions historically started with the help of fellows giving few Women get entry to work and schooling, at the same time as proscribing the expansion of conventional gender roles. In 1927, the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) changed into fashioned to suggest for women's education and changed into beneficial in the passage of the Hindu Code of bills among 1952 and 1960. Women had been additionally active in the freedom motion in protesting the British colonial rule over Indian retaining protests and public conferences in aid of independence.

The new wave of feminism in the Seventies becomes in response to gender inequality problems and stagnant development in India. The Committee on the reputation of Women in India launched a report in 1974, and had a huge impact within the reemergence of activism closer to gender equality. The file highlighted the massive differences between males and females in India, inclusive of the disparity in the sex ratio, mortality rates, employment, literacy, and salary discrimination. The document fueled the women's motion by means of signifying the ongoing discrimination towards Women in India. Gender inequality has remained the focus of the women's motion with particular emphasis on troubles together with the Uniform Civil Code, women's Reservation invoice, and sexual violence towards women; they're corporations each informal and formal has evolved at the agricultural, urban, national, and country degrees in India. Women's businesses in India cope with a consequence of problems from the surroundings, poverty, empowerment, and violence towards women. One of the most distinguished women's businesses in India is the AIWC, which became installed in 1927, specializing in empowering and teaching Indian Women. The AIWC has over 100,000 individuals and 500 branches in India,

and has helped with the passage of the Sarada Act, Maternity advantage Act, and Hindu Code bills.

Indian Women are extensively concerned with the grass roots stage of activism. The Chipko movement that arose within the 1970s is one example of achievement a number of the women's motion in India, as Women protested the deforestation in Uttarakhand main to the safety of the place, because the Indian independence, women's groups have targeted on troubles of violence toward women. Women's movements have focused on rape, woman mortality quotes, female feticide, dowry deaths, sati, and domestic abuse. Tragedies such as the Mathura rape case in 1972, the dowry death of Tarvinder Kaur in 1979, the death of Roop Kanwar by using exercise of sati in 1987, the crowd rape of Bhanwari Devi in 1992, and the new Delhi gang rape case in 2012, have saved the movement focused on rape and given upward thrust to many Women's corporations on the nearby and national degree.

Challenge's women participate:

The extent and type of Women's participation in politics is largely fashioned via cultural and societal obstacles within the shape of violence, discrimination and illiteracy.

Sexual violence:

Martha Nussbaum highlighted a significant barrier to Women's functionality of collaborating in politics to be the hazard of violence. Sexual violence in India is exacerbated by way of troubles of education and marriage. Women are sexually abused. Child's marriage, domestic violence and occasional literacy charges have decreased Indian women's economic opportunities and contributed to sexual violence in India. A 2011 study found, "24% of Indian men have devoted sexual violence sooner or later of their lives. 20% have forced their companions to have sex with them. 38% of men admitting they'd bodily abused their companions." Full-size sexual violence is attributed to the fact that violence within marriage isn't always a criminal offense, and sexual violence goes in large part unpunished. Martha C. Nussbaum states that "inside the larger society, violence and the risk of violence affect many Women's potential to participate actively in lots of forms of social and political relationship, to speak in public, to be identified as dignified beings whose really worth is identical to that of others." Self-confidence is probably to increase participation among Indian Women, particularly in running for election.

Discrimination:

the constitution of India removed gender inequalities among caste and gender, discrimination remains a massive barrier to Women's political participation. A 2012 examine of 3,000 Indian women found the boundaries in participation, particularly in jogging for political office, in the shape of illiteracy, painting's burdens within the household and discriminatory attitudes closer to Women as leaders. Discriminatory attitudes occur within the boundaries offered to Indian Women who include low access to data and sources. Women rely on receiving records from the circle of relatives or village members, commonly men. Women also lack leadership revels in due to the truth, they're harassed with family responsibilities. The load of household responsibilities is an extensive motive why many Indian women do no longer take part. Not like men, there are fewer opportunities for women to get involved in organizations to advantage management competencies. There is little public area for them as men have ruled the political arena for decades in India.

Discrimination is further perpetuated with the aid of magnificence. Dalit Women, of the bottom caste in India, are usually discriminated towards in jogging for public workplace. The government of India requires reservation of seats for Dalits and Scheduled Castes. However, Women be afflicted by abuse and discrimination while serving as elected officers. Dalit Women enjoy harassment by being denied data, overlooked or silenced in conferences, and in some instances petitioned to be removed from their elected position.

Illiteracy:

India has one among the biggest illiterate populations. In January 2014, the united countries stated 287 million adults in India are illiterate. Literacy among Indian Women is 53.7% that is a great deal lower than literacy amongst men mentioned at 75.3%. Illiteracy limits the potential of women to apprehend the political system and troubles. Troubles with exploitation, which include Women being left off of electorate lists, were said as illiteracy limits the ability of Women to ensure their political rights are exercised. Martha C. Nussbaum concerning political participation stated, "Because literacy is hooked up in fashionable with the capability, to move outside the house and to stand on owner's very own outdoor of it, it is also linked to the ability of Women to fulfill and collaborate with other Women." Studies carried out by way of Niraja Jayal and Nirmala Buch observed women are "constantly mocked and devalued within the panchayats if they're illiterate." Nussbaum also determined literacy can play a key role inside the signification

and independence of Women in politics by using; giving them gets entry to communications. Such as memos and newspapers, they could grow to be better informed on political issues.

Overcoming barriers to participation:

To conquer troubles of discrimination and violence, Women's agencies have centered at the empowerment of Indian Women. Empowerment is tied to the help of family and advanced repute in the household, which is undermined by the danger of home and sexual violence. Socio-economic situations, inclusive of poverty and illiteracy, save you the doorway of women into jogging for public office, or even balloting. Inability to recognize the guidelines of Panchayat Raj undermines the self-self belief to participation in public office. Empowerment of Indian Women can also arise via "bridging gaps in schooling, renegotiating gender roles, the gender division of labour and addressing biased attitudes." Women also can be empowered to take part by a circle of relatives, and while familial aid is present, they may be much more likely to run for office.

The government of India has addressed the problem of empowerment via consolidating all programmes for Women beneath the National Mission of Empowerment of Women (NMEW). The project of NMEW is to "enhance financial empowerment of Women and women through talent development, micro credit, vocational schooling and entrepreneurship." In 2001, the government of India passed the national policy for the Empowerment of Women. The policy specializes in "the advancement, improvement, and empowerment of women." in particular; the policy focuses on ending gender inequality and violence in opposition to Women. The United international locations have also recommended empowerment among India Women with the aid of campaigning to quit violence against Women in India. Non-governmental businesses (NGOs) have additionally tried to empower women who specialize in issues of education, violence, and leadership. NGOs running closer to women empowerment in India consist of Sammaan foundation, Deepalaya, and CARE India.

REFERNCES:

1. Ballington, Julie; et al. (February 2012). "Empowering Women for Stronger Political Parties: A Guidebook to Promote Women's Political Participation". United National Development Programme. National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Retrieved 24 March 2014.
2. Chattopadhyay, Raghendra; Esther Duflo (December 2001). "Women as Policymakers: Evidence from a India-Wide Randomized Policy Experiment". National Bureau of Economic Research. NBER Working Paper Series. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
3. Chief Electoral Officer. "Voting Percentage in Various Lok Sabha Elections". Government of Uttarakhand, India. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
4. Constitution of India. "Directive Principles of State Policy". Government of India. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
5. Deininger, Klaus; Hari K. Nagarajan (2011). "Can Political Reservations Empower Women and Affect Economic Outcomes? Evidence from Rural India" . National Council of Applied Economic Research .
6. Election Commission of India. "Electoral Roll Data - 2013" (PDF). Retrieved 22 March 2014.
7. Gill, Amneet. "Indian Women's Struggle for Suffrage" (PDF). Department of History, Punjab University. Retrieved 20 March 2014.
8. Gochhayat, Artatrana (February 2013). "Political Participation of Women in gram Panchayat Elections in Odisha: A Case Study of Hindol Block in Dhenkanal District". International journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention **2** (2): 38–46.
9. Goetz, Anne Marie (2009). *Governing Women: Women's Political Effectiveness in Contexts of Democratization and Governance Reform*. New York: Routledge. pp. Chapter 5.
10. Government of India. "The Constitution of India". Ministry of Law and Justice. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
11. Kaul, Shashi; Shradha Sahni (2009). "Study on the Participation of Women in Panchayati Raj Institution". *Studies on Home and Community Science* **3** (1): 29–38.
12. Ministry of Panchayati Raj. "Women Reservation in Panchayats". Press Information Bureau, Government of India. Retrieved 22 March 2014.

13. Mithra, H.N. (2009). *The Govt of India ACT 1919 Rules Thereunder and Govt Reports 1920*, ISBN 978-1-113-74177-6
14. Praveen, Rai (14 January 2011). "Electoral Participation of Women in India: Key Determinants and Barriers". *Economic and Political Weekly* **XVLI** (3): 47–55.
15. PRS Legislative Research. "Women's Reservation Bill [The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, 2008]". PRSIndia.org. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
16. Rai, M. Shirin. "Reserved Seats in South Asia: A Regional Perspective". *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers*.
17. Raman, Nachammai. "In India, a party for women only". *The Christian Science Monitor*. Retrieved 24 March 2014.
18. Raman, Vasanthi. "The Implementation of Quotas for Women: The Indian Experience". Centre for Women's Development Studies. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.
19. Rout, Akshay. "Women's Participation in the Electoral Process". Election Commission of India. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
20. Rukmini, S. "Rising female voter turnout, the big story of 50 years". *The Hindu*. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
21. Rukmini, S. "Who is behind the rise in voter turnouts?". *The Hindu*. Retrieved 22 March 2014.
22. Sadan, Nirvachan. "List of political parties and election symbols-regarding". Election Commission of India. Retrieved 24 March 2014.
23. Tembhekar, Chittaranjan (March 8, 2014). "EC to give photo voter slips". *The Times of India*. Retrieved 28 March 2014.
24. United Nations Development Programme. "Gender Inequality Index". *Human Development Indices: A statistical update 2012*. Retrieved 22 March 2014.