

## Women Empowerment in politics



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### Introduction:-

The subject of women politics has attracted scholarly attention since the latter half of the 19th century. Political status of women refers to the degree of equality & freedom enjoyed by them, their role in the value given by the society to their role. In the total development of society and polity, women all over the world were kept out of the social political realm as a marginalized section of the society. They are still isolated from the main stream & subjected to all types of discrimination there exploited from the government of the nation. The word "to empower" means "to enable" or "to give power to". The very term "empowerment" consists of a conspicuous word 'power' which means control over material assets, intellectual resources and ideology. Empowerment is not one-way process but it is a multi-dimensional process which enables one to realize his full identity and powers in all spheres of life. Power is not a commodity to be translocated nor can it be given as alms. Power has to be acquired and once acquired, it needs to be exercised, sustained and preserved.

### Concept of Women's Empowerment:-

Empowerment is a multi-faceted, multidimensional and multilayered concept. Women's empowerment is a process in which women gain greater share of control over resources, material, human and intellectual like knowledge, information, ideas and financial resources like money and access to money and control over decision making in the home, community, society and nation and to gain 'power'. According to the country report of Government of India, "Empowerment means moving from a position of enforced powerlessness to one of power."

### Women in local Bodies:-

In order to provide greater opportunities to women to actively participate in the decision making process it is imperative to recognize the true nature of the social inequalities and disabilities that hamper them. This can best be achieved by providing them with special opportunities for participation in the representative structure of local government. We therefore recommend the establishment of statutory women's Panchayats at the village level with autonomy and

resources of their own for the management and administration of welfare and development programmes for women and children as a transitional measure, to break through the attitudes that inhibit most women from articulating their problems and participating actively in the existing local bodies. At the level of municipalities the principle of reservation of seats of women is already prevalent in certain states. This should be adopted by all states as a transitional measure. In addition permanent committees should be constituted in municipalities to initiate and supervise programmes for women's welfare and development.

### Reservation of seats in Legislatures :-

Political parties should adopt a definite policy regarding the percentage of women candidates to be sponsored by them for election to parliament and state Assemblies while they may usually start with 15%, this should be gradually increased so that, over time the representation of women in legislative bodies has some relationship to their position in the total population of the country or the state we also received a demand for reservation of seats for women in state Assemblies and parliament, but rejected the suggestion after examination with two members dissenting.

### Women in Politics :

Women's representation and participation in various decision-making levels has been increasing in the services. Through the Panchayat Raj institutions, over a million of women have actively entered into political life in India. As per the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, all local elected bodies reserve one-third of their seats for women in parliament and State Assembly.

### Empowerment of women in India :-

In the fundamental rights of Indian Constitution there has been provision for equality, social justice and protection of women. These goals are yet to be realized. Still women are continued to be discriminated, exploited and exposed to inequalities at various levels. So the concept of empowerment as a goal of development projects & Programmes has been gaining wider acceptance. It is found in various surveys that 59 percent of total women believe that reservation of women in local bodies improve the condition of women,

**Women Participation in Various Sectors in India.**

Sr. No.	Sector	Women ration(in%)
1.	Indian Parliament	9.1
2.	Central Executive Council (1999)	10.9
3.	State Legislation in India (2000)	5.6
4.	Panchayat Raj Institution in India (1997)	31.3
5.	Indian Administration (1996)	13.9
6.	I.A.S. Officers (2000)	10.4
7.	I.P.S. Officers (2000)	3.3
8.	Public Sectors (1997)	13.8
9.	Organised Sectors (1997)	15.9
10.	Sahasra Sena Bal	2.04
11.	Indo Tibet Border Police	1.4
12.	Central Industrial Security Force	4.7
13.	Border Security Force	0.55
14.	Assam Rifles	0.80

(Source : Central Government Statistical Report)

Name of the Lok Sabha	Year	Total No. of Seats	No of Women Members	Percentage
1st Lok Sabha	1952	499	22	4.4
2nd Lok Sabha	1957	500	27	5.4
3rd Lok Sabha	1962	503	34	6.7
4th Lok Sabha	1967	523	31	5.9
5th Lok Sabha	1971	521	22	4.2
6th Lok Sabha	1977	544	20	3.4
7th Lok Sabha	1980	544	28	5.5
8th Lok Sabha	1984	545	45	8.9
9th Lok Sabha	1989	543	28	5.1
10th Lok Sabha	1991	544	39	7.2
11th Lok Sabha	1996	543	40	7.4
12th Lok Sabha	1998	543	43	7.8
13th Lok Sabha	1999	543	49	8.8
14th Lok Sabha	2004	543	45	8.2
15th Lok Sabha	2009	543	49	10.1

as they are increasing and become active in political activities as decision maker. Amore than 40 percent woman believes that reservation of women in local bodies did not change the scenario.

In present study we found that women in increasing numbers are becoming literate, getting skills and professional training and entering into all kinds of jobs, the political participation of women are gradually gaining visibility and acceptability.

Indian Women of Substance:

The steady change in their position can be highlighted by looking at what has been achieved by women in the country:

\* 1879: John Elliot Drinkwater Bethune established the Bethune School in 1849, which developed into the Bethune College in 1879, thus becoming the first women's college in India. \* 1883: Chandramukhi Basu and Kadambini Ganguly became the first female graduates of India and the British Empire. \* 1886: Kadambini

Ganguly and Anandi Gopal Joshi became the first women from India to be trained in Western medicine. \* 1905: Suzanne RD Tata becomes the first Indian woman to drive a car. \* 1916: The first women's university, SNDT Women's University, was founded on June 2, 1916 by the social reformer Dhondo Keshav Karve with just five students. \* 1917: Annie Besant became the first female president of the Indian National Congress. \* 1919: For her distinguished social service, Pandita Ramabai became the first Indian woman to be awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind by the British Raj. \* 1925: Sarojini Naidu became the first Indian born female president of the Indian National Congress. \* 1927: The All India Women's Conference was founded. \* 1944: Asima Chatterjee became the first Indian woman to be conferred the Doctorate of Science by an Indian university. \* 1947: On August 15, 1947, following independence, Sarojini Naidu became the governor of the United Provinces, and in the process became India's first woman

governor.

\* 1951: Prem Mathur of the Deccan Airways becomes the first Indian women commercial pilot.

\* 1953: VijayaLakshnii Pandit became the first woman (and first Indian) president of the United Nations General Assembly

\* 1959: Anna Chandy becomes the first Indian woman judge of a High Court (Kerala High Court)

\* 1963: Sucheta Kriplani became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, the first woman to hold that position in any Indian state.

\* 1966: Captain Durga Banerjee becomes the first Indian woman pilot of the state airline, Indian Airlines.

**Conclusion :-**

A successful Ajenda for the empowerment of women require to the dismantiri of value structures &

processes that mention women's subornation and that are used. To justify inequity in access to political, social & economical resource the Government of India from the 2002 has been emphatically insisting. Upon implementiry o various. Policies for women empowerment.

The Active participation of women in the freedom struggle simultaneously developed among them and increasing seams of qulurness to organize and lead the cause of there liberation from oppression and subordination after independence a large number of legal & social economic measures have been take to elevate the status of women, women too have become politically conscious as the have started participatory in national & state politics.

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