



ROLE OF GENDER POLITICS IN INDIAN SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Political systems exist for the same basic reasons around the world, but exist in many different types and capacities. Through political systems, leaders and sometimes citizens work together to create sound laws and policies governing the allocation and distribution of goods and resources among the population. Politics influence various aspects of society, including economic opportunities and access to education, healthcare and other vital resources. They also set long-term procedures and policies by creating methods electing political leaders. In such a political system gender is also one of the important factor that is being influenced greatly. Generally, politics is just a medium to serve the society which does not require any of the factors like gender, wealth, background and so on. The gender politics of today allow for quite a bit more fluidity of gender roles, although not as much as in gender politics of our time due to social and cultural pressure to fit in. Even though equal opportunities are available for both men and women, there are some barriers or obstacles for women to get into politics which is of major concern and women should actively involve themselves in politics, by breaking all the obstacles and barriers. But gender is a source which greatly own its impact on politics. Though 50 per cent seats were allotted to women in a political party they were not given much importance except for few. And even participation of women is not much in politics. Gender politics influence how we see ourselves as men/women because it defines what each of those views are and what their roles are in society.

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology used in the study on gender politics is analytical. As it discusses and finds out a logic reasoning for the inactive participation of women in politics inspire of several allocations and benefits provided to them.

IMPORTANCE OF POLITICS:

Politics quell violence by fostering a sense of cooperation and encouraging communication and acceptance among citizens. It involves making common decisions to group of people. It is the way that people living in groups make decisions. Politics is about making agreements between people so that they can live together in groups such as tribes, cities or countries.. In large groups, such as countries, some people may spend a lot of their time making such agreements. These people are called Politicians, and sometimes other people, may get together to form a government. Politics is considered as a medium through which an organisation, know as government serves for the welfare of the public and the society.

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Politics plays a key role in establishing peace and collaboration within and between nations by establishing rules, regulations and setting standards for expected codes of conduct. Regardless of national origin, politics influence the daily lives of citizens from all socioeconomic backgrounds, races and ethnic origins. It is the activity by which differing interests within a given unit of rule are conciliated by giving them a share to n power in proportion to their importance to the welfare and survival of the whole community. Aristotle stated a statement that man is a political animal. If this is true then politics is not only prevailing in our lives, but inevitable. We must understand politics to meaningful participation in it. Government is the regulation of human activity, and politics consists of the processes by which a society decides the nature and extent of that regulation. There are many theories concerning the proper role of politics and what aspects of human life should be politicised. Informal Politics is understood as forming alliances, exercising power and protecting and advancing particular ideas or goals. Generally, this includes anything affecting one's daily life, such as the way an office or household is managed, or how one person or group exercises influence over another. Informal Politics is typically understood as everyday politics, hence the idea that "politics is everywhere". However, there are certain activities that are almost universally recognised as appropriately political. For instance, politics determines how people within a state defend themselves against hostile outside groups and the kind of system that is used to prevent and punish crime within the state. Political systems exist for the same basic reasons around the world, but exist in many different types and capacities. Through political systems, leaders and sometimes citizens work together to create sound laws and policies governing the allocation and distribution of goods and resources among the population. Politics influence various aspects of society, including economic opportunities and access to education, healthcare and other vital resources. They also set long-term procedures and policies by creating methods electing political leaders. Politics is often involved in prescribing the rules that govern inter human relationships. It determines laws regarding marriage, parenting, businesses and contracts. It creates laws regulating educational institutions and civil associations. Politics is exercised on a wide range of social levels, from clans and tribes of traditional societies, through modern local governments, companies and institutions up to sovereign states, to the international level. It is very often said that politics is about power. A political system is a framework which defines acceptable political methods within a given society. History of political thought can be traced back to early antiquity, with seminal works such as Plato's Republic, Aristotle's politics and the works of Confucius. Formal Politics refers to the operation of a constitutional system of government and publicly defined institutions and procedures. Political parties, public policy or discussions about war and foreign affairs would fall under the category of Formal Politics. Many people view formal politics as something outside of themselves, but that can still affect their daily lives.

GENDER POLITICS:

The result is that sex and gender are often treated as synonymous with women, while sexuality is considered only in relation to gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals, and transgendered individuals. Second, there are important disagreements on the ways in which sex, gender, and sexuality inform and are linked to one another. Although the binaries of sex and gender assume heterosexuality, for example, other sexual orientations raise questions about the necessary connections between male and masculine and female and feminine. These patterns intersect with debates about the causal relations between these terms: Although some argue that sex produces gender which leads to sexuality, others suggest that gender and compulsory heterosexuality give rise to distinctions on the basis of sex. Politics must be considered as a server of the society rather it should not be discriminated on the basis of gender. Gender differentiation may be considered by physical means instead it should not be considered based on talent and opportunities. So gender should not be a barrier in politics or any other profession. And moreover gender should not be considered as a discriminating factor of talent and strength. Therefore equal opportunities must be provided without considering gender as an obstacle. Gender politics influences that how we see ourselves as men/women because it defines what each of those titles are and what their roles are in

society. The gender politics of today allow for quite a bit more fluidity of gender roles, although not as much as many of us would like. The way we see ourselves and act often reflects the leading opinions in gender politics of our time due to social and cultural pressure to fit in. Gender politics is a multifaceted concept in the social sciences. As a term it is used to refer to a wide range of phenomena, stemming from multiple and even competing meanings of gender and politics. Its definition is further complicated by the emergence of similar and related phrases like women and politics, gender and politics, and the politics of gender. This complexity indicates ongoing conceptual debates within research on gender and politics. At the same time, it reflects theoretical and empirical developments as the study of gender politics has evolved and grown to encompass a broad and heterogeneous set of topics. Several definitions are necessary in order to grasp the scope and content of gender politics as a concept and a field of study. At the most basic level, it is crucial to distinguish between sex, gender, and sexuality. In their most common usages, sex denotes biological differences between men and women as male and female, gender describes the social meanings given to sexual differences through notions of masculine and feminine, and sexuality refers to sexual relations and questions of sexual orientation. However, definitions of all three of these terms, as well as the connections between them, are subject to a great deal of confusion and debate. There is a tendency to identify all three terms with only one side of the dichotomies they represent: sex is often equated with female, gender with feminine, and sexuality with homosexuality.

GENDER POLITICS IN INDIA:

Gender politics in Indian political system is one of major and must note able problem prevailing in the Indian society. Inspire of several special provisions and set allotments for women in the political system ,their participation is not much as the expected level. Even though the fact that women participated equally in the freedom struggle and, under the Constitution and law, have equal political rights as men, enabling them to take part effectively in the administration of the country has had little effect as they are negligibly represented in politics. There were only seven women members in the Constituent Assembly and the number later decreased further. Their representation in the Lok Sabha is far below the expected numbers. This has led to the demand for reservation of 33% seats for women in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas. Political empowerment of women has been brought by the 73rd and 74th Amendments which reserve seats for women in Gram Panchayats and Municipal bodies. Illiteracy, lack of political awareness, physical violence and economic dependence are a few reasons which restrain women from taking part in the political processes of the country. Something which has negligibly changed over a period of time is the number of women in the political sphere of India. Though persistent efforts are being made to push the number by providing one-third reservation for women in various legal bodies including Parliament but still the percentage of women is just 5-10% across all political parties in India. The reservation has been mandated by the Constitution of India (73rd Amendment Act), enacted in 1992. As per the Act, minimum one-third of seats for women, both as members and chairpersons, would be reserved within all of the locally elected governance bodies of India, generally known as Panchayati Raj Institutions. But simply making such Act does not guarantee the active participation of women in politics. So the problem is different and related to the role of women in society and attitude of male towards females. Every political party in India and across the world has more number of males than females as its members. In India, there is no change in this ratio since independence. Even after passing the Bill related to the reservation of women, it has changed insignificantly. As per the UN's 2008 survey of women in politics, South Africa (44.5%), Mozambique (34.8%) has more percentage of women in politics. In the 15th Lok Sabha elections, out of total just 59 candidates were women as the member of parliament. It rose the percentage to 10.7%. On the other hand at the rural level i.e. Panchayat raj system the number of women participants are increasing. Certain states like Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and uttarkhand have increased their reservation percentage to 50% from 33%. Even the state of Kerala with the highest female (1,079) is to male (1,000) ratio show astonishingly low number of females in politics. Kerala contributes 20 candidates in Lok Sabha. In 2014 Lok Sabha elections both the Congress and CPI-

Men are going to field two women candidates each making the number four. Not only the number but it has also been seen that women reaching at the top of any political party and taking part in decision making process is very less. Even if they are given chance to prove their worth they are given the responsibility of handling women's wing of the party to tackle the issues related to women in the society such as rape and dowry but never inflation and economy etc. Women leaders like Sonia Gandhi enjoy the dynastic advantage. Without a political background she is the President of the Congress, one of the biggest and oldest political parties in India.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION:

The Constitution of India attempts to remove gender inequalities by banning discrimination based on sex and class, prohibiting human trafficking and forced labor, and reserving elected positions for women. The Government of India directed state and local governments to promote equality by class and gender including equal pay and free legal aid, humane working conditions and maternity relief, rights to work and education, and raising the standard of living. Women were substantially involved in the Indian independence movement in the early 20th century and advocated for independence from Britain. Independence brought gender equality in the form of constitutional rights, but historically women's political participation has remained low. In 1950, universal suffrage granted voting rights to all women. This is enshrined in Article 326 in our constitution. India is a parliamentary system with two houses: Lok Sabha (lower house) and Rajya Sabha (upper house). Rates of participation among women in 1962 were 46.63% for Lok Sabha elections and rose to a high in 1984 of 58.60%. Male turnout during that same period was 63.31% in 1962 and 68.18% in 1984. The gap between men and women voters has narrowed over time with a difference of 16.7% in 1962 to 4.4% in 2009. Voter turnout for national elections in the past 50 years has remained stagnant with turnout ranging between 50 and 60%. State elections have seen a growing trend in women's participation, and in some cases women's turnout is exceeding male turnout. Increased turnout of women was reported for the 2012 Vidhan Sabha elections (legislative/state assemblies) with states such as Uttar Pradesh reporting 58.82% to 60.29% turnout. In the 2013 assembly elections, women's overall turnout was reported to be 47.4%, and male turnout was 52.5%. Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Daman and Diu, and Puducherry all reported higher turnouts among women than men in 2013. Women turnout during India's 2014 parliamentary general elections was 65.63%, compared to 67.09% turnout for men. In 16 out of 29 states of India, more women voted than men. A total of 260.6 million women exercised their right to vote in April–May 2014 elections for India's parliament. Women's involvement in political parties is tied to the increasing demand for equal rights. The INC held power until the 1990s. As the INC moved away from welfare politics, other parties arose to challenge the INC using poverty as the centre of their agenda. The INC regained power in 2004 with the help of women's participation. The INC has increased women's participation by instituting a 33% quota for women in all levels of the party. In June 2009, the INC nominated a woman to become first speaker of Lok Sabha, and also supported the election of Pratibha Patil, India's first female president. Women were involved in the early establishment of the BJP. The BJP has encouraged greater representation of women by developing women's leadership programs, financial assistance for women candidates, and implementing a 33% reservation for women in party leadership positions. BJP has received women's support by focusing on issues such as the Uniform Civil Code to extend equal rights to women and men regardless of religion. They have also spoken out against violence against Indian women. The CPI has also supported gender inequality issues including addressing issues of violence through the National Federation of Indian Women.

CONCLUSION:

Women on receiving information from family or village members, typically men. Women also lack leadership experience due to the fact they are burdened with household duties. The burden of household duties is a significant reason why many Indian women do not participate. Unlike men, there are fewer

opportunities for women to get involved in organisations to gain leadership skills. There is little public space for them as men have dominated the political arena for many years in India. Literacy among Indian women is 53.7%, which is much lower than literacy among men reported at 75.3%. Illiteracy limits the ability of women to understand the political system and issues. Discrimination is further perpetuated by class. Dalit women, of the lowest caste in India, are continually discriminated against in running for public office. Although the Constitution of India removed gender inequalities among caste and gender, discrimination continues to be a widespread barrier to women's political participation. A 2012 study of 3,000 Indian women found the barriers in participation, specifically in running for political office, in the form of illiteracy, work burdens within the household, and discriminatory attitudes towards women as leaders. Discriminatory attitudes manifest in the limitations presented to Indian women including low access to information and resources. The Government of India requires reservation of seats for Dalits and Scheduled Castes, but women suffer from abuse and discrimination when serving as elected officials. Dalit women experience harassment by being denied information, ignored or silenced in meetings, and in some cases petitioned to be removed from their elected position.

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