

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW  
MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES**  
**[ISSN 2581-5369]**

---

**Volume 3 | Issue 6**

**2020**

---

© 2020 *International Journal of Law Management & Humanities*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://www.ijlmh.com/>

Under the aegis of VidhiAagaz – Inking Your Brain (<https://www.vidhiaagaz.com>)

---

This Article is brought to you for “free” and “open access” by the International Journal of Law Management & Humanities at VidhiAagaz. It has been accepted for inclusion in International Journal of Law Management & Humanities after due review.

In case of **any suggestion or complaint**, please contact [Gyan@vidhiaagaz.com](mailto:Gyan@vidhiaagaz.com).

---

**To submit your Manuscript** for Publication at **International Journal of Law Management & Humanities**, kindly email your Manuscript at [editor.ijlmh@gmail.com](mailto:editor.ijlmh@gmail.com).

---

# Women Empowerment Influences Democratic Politics

---

N. SUBHASHINI<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*Girls and women have a right to participate in civil society, vote in elections, be elected to government office, serve on boards, and make their voices heard in any process that will ultimately affect them, their families, and their communities. Asserting in girls' and women's right to political participation is a necessary step to achieving global gender equality and democratic governance. Increasing the share of women in India's state legislative assemblies is not only likely to lead to better representation of women's and children's concerns in policy-making, it is also likely to lead to higher economic growth. A woman's place is in politics. Importance and development of democracy through women participation in politics must be planted by equal participation of men and women in the field of politics so that the decision making will be refined. It would really be appreciating if the government allows women in all form of politics and thus women push their scales to speak out for everything.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Women influence in politics is a part of human rights and sustainable development of the world. For attaining sustainable development, peace and democracy, participation of both women and men at all decision-making levels is important, in that way we can attain democracy. Democracy applies to all individuals on all groundwork. All citizens of India are privileged to possess certain rights, disregarding their background which gives access to function an effective beneficitation towards development of the nation. It is an irreplaceable problem for women in all levels of life to be a victim of being excluded and discriminated in the society. economically weaker section women become prey to discriminatory treatment and so women are excluded from political participation as well and the inclusion of their perspectives and experiences into the decision-making processes.

The United Nations, observes that for the attainment of true democratic spirit, political participation of women is regarded to be of utmost significance. Making provision of equal

---

<sup>1</sup> Author is a student at Bharath Institute of Law, Bharath Institute Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), India.

treatment to women in political participation is considered to be meaningful and effective and should begin from the grassroots level (Chapter III, n.d.)<sup>2</sup>.

## II. DEMOCRACY INFLUENCED GOVERNMENT

To just define democracy is, the desire, approval and participation of people. It's the decision of people that creates a democratic government. Being an Indian constitution and its classifieds, which are heavily weighed through democratic ideals, it is necessary to follow it on any cause. Unfortunately, it's not the case here. This issue is still a debate, before sixty years, only 4% of MPs were women and today it is just above 11%. This is very small comparing to the population of women in India. Which automatically shakes the democratic system of the government. It breaks the faith that people have in the democratic form of government.

Human development is defined not only in terms of freedom from hunger and poverty but also respect for individual dignity. A key feature of our Indian constitution is that the parliament enables citizens to participate in decision making and control the government. Furthermore, it functions as a crucial check on people in positions of power because if they act in an unpopular or unethical way, they will likely be voted out of office. Democracy certainly becomes a fundamental right of a citizen. Fundamental rights are therefore called 'conscience' of Indian constitution.

## III. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS: HISTORICAL FRAMEWORK

Welfare policies had been constructed as women's traditional position as wives and mothers. Women have struggled over issues affecting them, specifically their rights to property and vote in the 19th century and to abortion, equal pay and nursery provision in the 20th century. In India, reform movements before and after independence have helped women to gain some power in politics also. After independence they have achieved an unprecedented political breakthrough with the reservation of seats for them in panchayats and other public bodies.

It is not comfortable to note that Indian women were among the earliest to get their political rights (right to vote) without any political movement like in the United States and many Western countries. They were among the foremost to take active part in politics even in pre-independence times, yet things aren't good in the way now. Indian women have a distinction to become UNO Secretary (Vijay Laxmi Pandit), Prime Minister (Indira Gandhi), Chief Minister (Sucheta Kriplani, Jayalalitha, Uma Bharati, Mayawati and Vasundhara Raje) and

---

<sup>2</sup> Radhika kapur, *The Role of Women in Political Sphere*, RESEARCH GATE, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330984828\\_The\\_Role\\_of\\_Women\\_in\\_the\\_Political\\_Sphere](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330984828_The_Role_of_Women_in_the_Political_Sphere)

even President (Pratibha Patil). By becoming Pradhan or a ward member in a Gram Panchayat or any other civic body, or a member of State Assembly or Parliament, it augments respect within the family as well as in the community at large besides increasing their self-esteem, confidence and decision-making ability. If we take the women's participation in politics as one of the measurements of their emancipation, we find at present their number is very low in comparison to men in State Assemblies and Parliament. It is about 11 per cent only (26 women in upper house—Rajya Sabha consisting of 245 members and 59 women in lower house—Lok Sabha consisting of 543 members. There are only 8 women ministers out of total 75 in the government of Dr Manmohan Singh). In Sweden 45 per cent seats are occupied by women in parliament. So far as the administration is concerned, there are only 592 women IAS officers out of 4,671 officers. The demand for special concessions and privileges along with the reservation of posts in assemblies and parliament (the bill is pending for the last more than ten years) and other civic institutions are a few steps towards women empowerment in India<sup>3</sup>.

In spite of many gains, much remains to be done to improve the status of women in India. The female work participation rate in India is only 26 per cent whereas it is 46 per cent in China. Some 34 (2011) out of every 100 women are illiterate as compared to only 13 in China.

Female foeticide accounts for an estimated half-a-million missing female births in India every year, lowering the female sex ratio to a dismal 914:1000 (2011). It is worst since independence. According to the report of UNICEF, India ranks at 115 out of 162 countries in matters of gender development.

Though the above changes signify positive gains from the point of view of equality for women, but the reality is beset with many problems and tensions. The observation about the gains in equality applies only on a meager number of Indian educated women living in urban areas.

The status of women in a society cannot be secured by her economic power alone as is generally supposed. It depends on culture also. As a micro study reports that 'women's participation in the job market is more intensive when they come from poor and very poor households.

---

<sup>3</sup> Puja Mondal, *The Role of Women in Politics*, YOURS ARTICLE LIBRARY, <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/essay-on-the-role-of-women-in-politics/31315>

#### IV. WHY WOMEN ARE IMPORTANT IN POLITICS

Women's participation in politics helps advance gender equality and affects both the range of policy issues that get considered and the types of solutions that are proposed. Research indicates that whether a legislator is male or female has a distinct impact on their policy priorities. There is also strong evidence that as more women are elected to office, there is a corollary increase in policy making that emphasizes quality of life and reflects the priorities of families, women, and ethnic and racial minorities.

Further, in NDI's 35 years of work in over 100 countries around the world, we have found that, more than men, women tend to:<sup>4</sup>

- work across party lines
- be highly responsive to constituent concerns
- help secure lasting peace
- encourage citizen confidence in democracy through their own participation, and
- prioritize health, education, and other key development indicators.

The positive collision of women in politics is in dutiable. Kofi Annan noted, "study after study has taught us, there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity or to reduce child and maternal mortality. No other policy is as sure to improve nutrition and promote health, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation."<sup>5</sup>

#### V. WOMEN NEEDS IN ORDER TO CREATE SPACE IN POLITICS

Women and men have different levels and types in terms of political support networks. Female politicians receive fewer private donations than their male equivalent and rely more heavily on party sponsorship. Media portrayal and voter perceptions of 'a woman's place' cast a longer shadow over women's decision to run for office and to pursue higher positions. Though men and women express concern about the many pitfalls of political campaigning, females often experience extra worry around stereotypical biasness, the difficulty of fundraising, negative advertising, the loss of privacy and not being taken as a appropriate candidate. This can only change when women are represented in politics and are

---

<sup>4</sup> Sandra Pepera, *Director for Gender, Women, and Democracy*, WOMEN DELIVER (February 28 2018) <https://womendeliver.org/2018/why-women-in-politics/>

<sup>5</sup> Anna, *Empowering women the most effective development tool*, (28 February 2005) <https://news.un.org/en/story/2005/02/130132-empowering-women-most-effective-development-tool-annan-says>

seen as equal representatives to their male counterparts.

In politics, networks are key. To accelerate their political careers, women need communication, connection and community. WPL aims to increase both the number and the influence of women in political leadership positions, optimizing the power of communication and connection to build new communities of knowledge for women political leaders everywhere. Progress happens by convening women political leaders who have the drive and the influence to create positive change<sup>6</sup>.

women's representation is necessary to confirm that democracy functions as effectively. Women are half of the world's population and cannot be considered as minority group. For political institutions to be democratically lawful and responsive to all citizens, first they must be all-in plurality of groups that exist within the population. This requires greater representation of women in national parliaments and broader diversity.

women are belittled on committees concerned with foreign affairs, employment, finance, business and economics. The sources and importance of this severance interlace with the social scale of gender difference and gender status. conventional, access to power and the construction of gender overlap such that legislative committees associated with men are more prestigious and powerful than those associated with women. Hence it is deliberately conveyed 'high politics' issues generally convey power, while women committees handle so-called 'low or not -so-important politics' areas such as health, education, tourism, and family.

## **VI. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION**

Both male and female legislators must work together in order to solve the myriad of problems in their countries. Women must be encouraged, empowered and supported in becoming strong political and community leaders, in order to meet worldwide development goals and build strong democratic government. Seats must be allocated equally in gender based ways so that it's easy to classify and negotiate the equality is qualified inside the parliament and also in all political levels, So much has been accomplished in the last 99 years and so much more can be accomplished in the years ahead. we must make a more concerted effort to strengthen women's political participation at all levels, only then we can achieve our ambitious goals and see truly transformative change. A woman's place is in politics. importance and development of democracy through women participation in politics. Together we can build a democratic influenced politics to lead, only then the decision making wouldn't be challenging

---

<sup>6</sup> Silvana Koch-Mehrin, President of the Women Political Leaders Global Forum, WOMEN DELIVER, (February 28, 2018), <https://womendeliver.org/2018/womans-place-politics/>

as it is seen. It would really be appreciating if the government allows women in all form of politics and thus women push their scales to speak out for everything.

\*\*\*\*\*