

# Political Empowerment of Elected Women Representatives in Local Self Institutions

## Abstract

Woman empowerment as a phenomenon is not something absolutely new. The Government of India declared 2001 as the year of women's empowerment (Swashakti). The national policy for the empowerment of women passed in 2001. Women make almost 50% of the total population of the world. Then why this Substantial section of the society needs empowerment ? W.E. in simple words can be understand as giving power to women to decide for their own lives or inculcating such abilities in them so that they could be able to find their rightful place in the society.

Gandhiji believed that women have to play a much meaningful role in politics, making it more accountable, transparent and corruption free. Writing in Harijon on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1946, he emphasized the need to enroll women as voters, impart or have imparted to them practical education.

**Keywords:** P.W.G/ women in Politics/Practical Education/Women Policy and year of W.E.

## Introduction

Women are very important in the system of good governance and are now being elected to local self governing institutions in an unprecedented number as a result of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitution amendments which mandate the reservation of seats and lead to political empowerment of women Government should provide more political power because with the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Indian constitution in 1992 and 1993 , provided for 33% reservation for women in Panchayats and urban local bodies , of the 28 lacs elected Panchayat representatives, around 10 lacs are estimated to be women. The average of women representation in Panchayats across the country is 36.394 percent.

The giving or delegation of power or authority ; authorization. The giving of an ability ; enablement or permission

“Empowering women is key to building a future we want.”

(Amartya sen)

The constitution's 110<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill 2009 provides reservation for women from 33% to 50% in PRIs. The bill seeks to amend the article 243 D to enhance the quantum of reservation for women from one third to one half of the total seats in the Panchayats. Recent reviews show, large numbers of women are getting elected to the counsels of local bodies but they do not have any political connection.

## The Meaning of Empowerment

In 1893 New Zealand was the first country to grant women the right to vote. \The first world's first female members of parliament were in Finland.

## Problems

### The tendency of Male Domination in Politics

In local self institutions there are so many women but still they are bounded with their male family members because male monopoly doesn't want to give them full independence. During the election we see so many women come in front of the people with “Parda”, because male dominating mentality doesn't allow this. And dowry, is also a symbol of male, domination. Proxy politics has become a part of women politics.

### The lack of Education

Education prepares women for assuming leadership roles as political reforms and nation builders. Education is considered as a creator of condition to transform the society from old to modern and advanced. but



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in local area the women percentage of education is below then men. And without perfect education women can't be able to understand the way of politics.

### **The Lack of Social Support and Communication Skills**

All the work place they are treated secondary. If women want to do something, the social support will not be there. And women are not able to communicate clearly without any social support. That's why we have been looking the unequal number of women as a political representative.

### **Deep Routed Gender Bias**

In Rural area gender bias is very common. They are not getting aware towards this monopoly. The status of women in India particularly in rural of empowering women About 66% of the female population in rural area is unutilized only 10% seats national cabinet are held by women.

### **Review of Literature**

A good deal of literature has been reviewed concerning the Political empowerment of women and challenges before them, this topic reviews the available literature relating to the present study. The main purpose of this chapter is to give a proper orientation and perspective to the present work.

Kapur (2001) Women's empowerment could be considered as a process in which women gain greater share of control over resource, material, human and intellectual, like knowledge, ideas and financial resources like money and control over decision-making at home, in society and in the nation and to gain power.

Kapur, (2001). The constitution of India provides a numbered rights to women and several laws exist to protect women from discrimination. But still Indian women cannot say with pride that they possess complete empowerment equal to men. The author says that, so far as empowerment is concerned, still a lot has to be done to make them fully self-dependent and empowered equally with men. Problems like female foeticide, torture for dowry, violence against women etc. still restrict the complete empowerment of women.

Dr. Shaily Bhashanjaly (2002), talks about the need to empower women. She adds that most of the world's poor are women. So it is necessary to empower them. Women's contributions in both organized and unorganized sectors of the economy go unnoticed by the family and the society as well.

Ranganathan and Rao (2011) highlighted the management perspective for women's empowerment in their article. According to them, empowerment is the process of enabling on individual to think, behave, take action and control work in an autonomous way, which includes both, control over resources and over ideology. Empowerment can create social transformation by providing a social environment in which one can take decisions and make choices either individually or collectively. For empowerment of women, Education and employment and employment are very important as they are essential elements for sustainable development.

Umesh Gadekar (2016) in his article women constituting around a half of population in a country

like India. Development of any country is not possible without contribution of whole population. In India still half of our population is engaged in house hold activities. For overall growth of the nation it is expected that women should contribute in social, economic, cultural and political wings. To improve their political participation 73rd Amendment in Constitution has given reservation of 1/3 of total seats in local self governance. The reason behind giving this constitutional rights to women is to increase their political participation in local government especially in decision making.

Mrs. Geeta, Sanjay Mishra (2017) have described, studies have been cited to show that some of the Southern and Western States are far more advanced than the Northern and some of the Eastern States. Bihar, otherwise not so impressive on other parameters, has provided for 50% reservation for women in PRIs and has given a huge impetus to their empowerment. The hurdles, as pointed above, need to be removed on and an urgent basis if women are to be really empowered.

### **Hypothesis**

The hypothesis is a statement of the thought or concept or a viewpoint to be tested in the process of research. It helps the researcher to proceed in the specific direction of research. It is a tentative statement to be tested in the process of research.

For the proposed study following hypothesis have been developed :

1. Political empowerment of women as it looks from outside is basically the result of proxy-politics.
2. Providing reservation to women in local self governing institutions has effectively curbed the tendency of male domination in politics.
3. Elected women representatives usually fail to actively participate in the proceedings of local bodies due to the lack of communication skills.
4. Despite political empowerment discrimination still prevails at their work place, where they are treated secondary to their male colleagues.

### **Suggestions**

To change the tendency of male domination first we have to decide, where is the basic root of this monopoly ? Male ego shouldn't hurt with the progress of women. Parents should teach their children and till them there is no difference between male and female. To empowering women there should not be any boundation. Dowry, Parda, these type of evil things should not be there. To improve political number of women, Government has been giving so many facilities like free education, free uniform and books, basic, food, and girl education centers. But the education centers are not capable without full teachers. So recruitment is very important to fill the lack of teachers and female teachers are must.

The skill programme can improve the communication level. And family support is also very important. in the polities for women the training of polities should be must. And the public awareness is the key factor. Because women can't be able to do something without any support and lack of communication.

The biased decision gives us a negative approach. And gender bias gives us negative way. Gender based politics can't be possible. Reservation is a solution for this problem.

**Conclusion**

We see and we think a lot about empowerment of women. We have been providing so many facilities for last 20 to 30 years and change is coming in this field.

"Learning without thought is labour lost."

- Confucius

Social change is a basic process and first we have to decide about women empowerment.

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