

# A Sociological Study of the Changing Socio-Cultural & Political Scenario in India through Women Empowerment (With Special Reference to the Women's Participation in Politics in Dholpur & Karauli Districts)

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### Abstract

With the new ongoing trends in the field of politics, the women have started seeking career in politics at various levels. The present socio-political scenario witnesses the women's active participation in politics from the grassroots level to the highest one. Though small and backward districts of Rajasthan, Dholpur and Karauli are rich in the women's interest in politics. The last few decades reveal the picture of the changed woman in Dholpur and Karauli districts. She is no more ready to be within the walls of her home sacrificing her whole life giving birth to children and looking after them; serving her husband and not doing anything without his permission. Career or say career in politics is the passion of many a woman in these districts. Probably, it is their idea that politics is not complete without women representatives. The reservation policy for women has added a lot to their enthusiasm. The result is that with their entry and active participation in politics, the entire socio-cultural and political scenario is changed.

**Keywords:** Socio-Cultural & Political Scenario, Women Empowerment  
**Introduction**

Society and politics have always been complementary to each other. Indeed, the existence of society without politics is unimaginable, and the same is true of the existence of the politics without society. Politics has played a dominant role in moulding the society in all the ages. The history of politics witnesses the dominance of man over woman in all the ages. However, the women's passion to be important political figure in all the ages cannot be ignored. 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment has brought about this long awaited moment. Women empowerment is probably the best social process which guarantees every woman of India the freedom from the shackles which prevented them from going ahead or from proving their potential in the various fields. It has opened several vistas for the Indian woman to avail herself of the various opportunities being provided to her through the government schemes and policies. The term empowerment has meanings in different socio-culture and political contexts, and does not translate easily into all language.

The term 'empowerment' includes selfstrength, control, self power, self reliance, own choice, life of dignity in accordance with one's values, capable of fighting for one's rights, independence, own decision making, being free, awaking and capability to mention only a few. Empowerment can be broadly categorized as: Economic Empowerment, social empowerment and political empowerment. In general sense Women Empowerment refers to empowering women to be self dependent by providing them access to all the freedom & opportunities, in specific sense-enhancing their position in the present structure of society. The ongoing socio-political process of women empowerment is going to change the destiny of the Indian woman whose past reveals that she was always under estimated and even unestimated just because of her gender.

The reflection of the rays of hope of the advocates of this process can be seen in the women's joining all the fields imaginable on the part of

man. Now she is not ready to be confined only to the home and family management, but enthusiastically ready to contribute to the development of the nation. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment provided opportunity to wider representation to women of different socio-economic background and is sensitive to the needs and concerns of the poor. Wider representation and participation of women from poorer sections and those who have hitherto remained marginalised in the public sphere bring a qualitative change in the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

#### **Aims of The Study**

1. To be familiar with the history of the political trends in the specified districts of Rajasthan
2. To study the impact of the ongoing social process of women empowerment in India, and particularly, in the study area
3. To find out the caste-wise representation of the women in politics in the study area
4. To attempt to understand and realize the impact of modern trends of politics on the women in the study area
5. To learn about the outlook of the society for the women in politics
6. To explore the conditions that are forcing the women in the study area to join politics
7. To study and observe the problems being faced by the women in politics in the study area
8. To learn about the marriage system of the women in politics in the study area
9. To explore the possibilities of the women's participation in politics in future in the study area
10. To observe and study the changing socio-political scenario from every imaginable angle.

#### **Hypothesis**

1. The present political scenario is all changed from what it was earlier because of the women's active participation in politics.
2. Government policies, reservation for women, education, self-awareness and campaigning help women to join the field of politics.
3. With the arrival of women in the field of politics, in the politics of Rajasthan, and particularly of Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan, a new chapter has begun.
4. The desire to lead, to rule, to be self-dependent and to prove the potential in politics motivate the women to join the world of politics.
5. Family liabilities, devotion to parents, husband and children, social barriers and the fundamentalists' negative approach prevent the women from working successfully in the field of politics.
6. Some of the women are represented by the male members of their families, such as, father, brothers, husbands, sons or other male members of the family.
7. Results of the women's joining politics are both positive and negative.
8. Being the carriers of humanity, women like to see transparency in the field of politics.
9. Women from all the castes and sections of the society are working at all the different levels of government.

10. With the arrival of the women in the field of politics at the different levels of government, politics has got a new meaning.

#### **Research Methodology**

The study was conducted on 300 units of information, 150 each from Dholpur and Karauli districts of Rajasthan selected randomly. The sample size was 50% of the active women in politics in both the districts. In order to keep up the scientific spirit, all the steps of scientific method were followed. For the study, both the primary and the secondary data were used. The sources of the primary data was the schedule which comprised of about 80 questions touching all the major aspects of the women in politics in various capacities at various levels. The secondary data were collected from the books, newspapers, survey research reports, magazines and internet sites. In order to arrive at a judicious generalization the research scholar made participant observation.

#### **Findings**

1. 81.33% units of information in Karauli and 74% in Dholpur (Aggregate 77%) approve the women's participation in politics.
2. According to 48.7% in aggregate units of information in both the districts, empowerment of the women is the main cause why the women's participation in politics in Rajasthan is approved.
3. Fair and transparent politics is the most appealing contemporary political practice according to aggregate 68.3% units of information.
4. In an aggregate 44% units of information like men's domination in politics while 35.3% units like women's domination in politics. It means that still the men's domination is given priority in politics in Rajasthan.
5. 75.3% units of information in aggregate in both Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan have an unshaken faith in the caste system for the sake of politics. It reveals that in Rajasthan, and particularly in the specified districts of Rajasthan, casteism decides the fate of the politicians.
6. The current political system in India is both good and bad. This view of 88% units of information in aggregate discards the idea that says that the current political system in India is not good at all.
7. Politics in Rajasthan is dissatisfactory according to 78.3% units of information selected randomly from both Karauli and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan. It means that the politics in Rajasthan needs to make improvement in order to win the favour of the people.
8. Harmony between the upper Hindu castes and the Lower ones as well as between the Hindus and the Muslims in the matters of politics in Rajasthan is appreciable according to 83% of the total units of information.
9. In an aggregate, 40.7% units find the women's participation in politics in Rajasthan satisfactory, while 38.3% are bold enough to say that it requires much improvement.

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10. Reservation policy for women has opened new vistas of politics for women. 76.7% units in aggregate believe it to have been helpful in bringing the women in Rajasthan in particular in the field of politics.

**Conclusion**

73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment has made the path of politics for women in India much easier than before. With the entry of the women in the politics at various levels the socio-cultural and political scenario is all changed. The active women in politics in Dholpur and Karauli districts of Rajasthan find more and more possibilities of women welfare through politics. The representation of the women in politics in both the districts can be seen at all the levels of politics. It is hoped that with the passage of time and with more and more participation of women in politics, the Indian Politics and the Politics in Rajasthan is going to have a better future.

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