



Review Article

Women's Political Participation in India: A Sociological Study

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Abstract

Many Indian organisations and many Indian women organizations were demanding the British for voting rights for women. Some elite or in special cases some other but very select few women were allowed to vote during the British rule..

Key words: Sociological Study, organizations, constituent assembly.

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INTRODUCTION

The stories of the women participation were redeemed from the era of Members of Tamil Madar Sangam (Tamil Ladies Organisation) when it joined en masse. Ms. Jinarajadasa's hard work was paid well as in the next five years WIA grew to 43 branches, 20 centres and 2,300 members across India. Women's leaders like Kanubehn C Mehta of Surat joined WIA on their own initiative She had formidable support from Indian National Congress (INC) leaders like Sarojini Naidu, who led a women's delegation to advocate women's franchise with Montagu in 1917, and Saraladevi Chaudhurani, who presented the resolution for women's franchise in Delhi Congress in 1918. Dame Millicent Fawcett, a leader of the English suffragette movement also pitched in from her end.. It took three days of debate to pass the resolution in the Bombay Council, while in the Madras Council it flew through with ease. Out of 90 council members, 40 voted positive, 10 negative and 40 remained neutral. In June 1921,

women of Madras won their right vote. It came two years after England approved women's franchise and three years after the US. All women were allowed to vote starting from the first general elections in 1951-52. The British opposed allowing women to vote in various ways, for years until India was independent. On the contrary Indian constituent assembly adopted universal suffrage and voting rights for women without much debate. Many Indian organisations and many Indian women organizations were demanding the British for voting rights for women. Some elite or in special cases some other but very select few women were allowed to vote during the British rule. When India got independence in 1947, the idea that women should be allowed to vote in general was not resisted. The Indian constituent assembly in 1949 adopted this idea without much debate. Under the new Indian constitution that came to effect in 1950 all Indians were declared equal. There were 15 women in

the constituent assembly itself! Women voted in the first 1951–52 general elections. Indira Gandhi became the first woman Prime Minister of India and served from 1966 to 1977.

Need To Do Research On This Topic

To know women's participation in the development of India it is needed to do research on this above mentioned topic and to accelerate the role of women to make them more empowered.

Research Methodology

The study is based on observation technique under the primary source of data collection it is also based on secondary source of data collection such as books, journals, articles web sites etc.

Research Design

The study is based on Descriptive and Diagnostic research design to know the real as well as new reasons.

Aims And Focus

The main objectives of this research paper are to explore the role of women, their political status and their participation in politics

Panchayati Raj translates literally to 'Governance by five individuals'. The idea is to ensure at the village or grass root level a functioning and vibrant democracy. While the idea of grassroots democracy is not an alien import to our country, in a society where there are sharp inequalities democratic participation is hindered on grounds of gender, caste and class. It was, however, only in 1992 that grassroots democracy or decentralised governance was ushered in by the 73rd Constitutional

Amendment. This act provided constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). It is compulsory now for local self-government bodies in rural and municipal areas to be elected every five years. More importantly, control of local resources is given to the elected local bodies.

The 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution ensured the reservation of one third of the total seats for women in all elected offices of local bodies in both the rural and urban areas. Out of this, 17 per cent seats are reserved for women belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes. This amendment is significant as for the first time it brought women into elected bodies which also bestowed on them their decision making powers. One third of the seats in local bodies, gram panchayats, village panchayats, municipalities, city corporations and district boards are reserved for women. The 1993-94 elections, soon after the 73rd amendment brought in 800,000 women into the political processes in a single election. That was a big step indeed in enfranchising women. A constitutional amendment prescribed a three-tier system of local self-governance for the entire country, effective since 1992-93.

Indira Gandhi was named as the 'Woman of the Millennium' in a poll which was organised by BBC in 1999. In 1971, she became the first woman to receive the Bharat Ratna award. Indian women's history is full of pioneers who have broken gender barriers and worked hard for their rights and made progress in the field of politics, arts, science, law etc. Kiran Bedi. Kiran Bedi (born 9 June 1949) is a retired Indian Police Service officer, social activist, former tennis player and politician who is

the current Lieutenant Governor of Pondicherry. She is the first woman to join the Indian Police Service (IPS). Mrs. Sushma Swaraj is an Indian politician and a former Supreme Court lawyer. A senior leader of Bharatiya Janta Party, she is serving as the Minister of External Affairs of India since 26 May 2014, she is the second woman to hold the office, after Indira Gandhi. She has been elected seven times as a member of the Legislative Assembly. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi needs no introduction. The all in all of all India congress, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's tenure as the congress president has been the largest in its century- old history. She is also the chairperson of the ruling united progressive alliance (UPA) Mrs. Sheila Dixit was the chief Minister of Delhi from 1998 to 2013 she is senior member of the congress party. She has led the National party to three consecutive electoral triumphs in the capital. She became the governor of Kerala on 11 March 2014; however, she resigned from the post on 25 August 2014. Mrs. Mamata Banerjee is the first women chief minister of West Bengal. She is properly known as Mamata didi, dethroned the 34- year old left front government in the state. She was also the first women railway minister of the country. At present Mayawati is the most powerful dalit leader in India. She was the four times chief minister of Uttar Pradesh; she belongs to the Jatav caste, which is the upper end of the scheduled castes and communities. Her powerful influence over up's political spectrum has been revered by all the political leaders of the country and the general public.

Rajasthan's first women chief minister Mrs. Vasundhara Raje Scindia is one of the most powerful female politicians in

India. She was introduced to active politics by her mother Vijayraje Scindia, who was a prominent BJP leader. Mrs. Vasundhara was elected to the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in 1985. Mrs. Ambika Soni has served as the union minister of information and broadcasting. Currently she is a Member of Parliament; Mrs. Soni represents the state of Punjab in the Rajya Sabha. She was introduced to the congress party by Indira Gandhi in 1969. Daughter of Mr. P.A. Sangma, Agatha Sangma is a former Lok Sabha member. She became the youngest minister of state when she took charge of the rural development ministry.

Salome Zourabichvili was elected as the first female president of Georgia. She has taken charge on December 16, 2018 in recently concluded president election; Salome Zourabichvili defeated her rival candidate Grigol Washadze. She received 59.5 % of the votes, while Grigol received 40.5% of the votes. She was also member of Iran's Prohibition committee of UN Security Council (UNSC) between November 11, 2010 and October 10, 2013.

Above mentioned all are the examples of women, are the examples of women empowerment and women's political participation in India. One side we are saying that women are independent and empowered but the fact is these crimes against women are still going on in the society. That's why India is still developing country. Louis Dumont stated in one of his famous book 'Purity and Pollution', "India's citizen mentality is mixed with purity and pollution" because one side we respect women as symbol of Shakti, worship them as Devi in Durga puja and in Navratri another side crime against women such as rape, kidnapping and abduction of women, dowry, dowry

death, domestic Violence, cruelty by husband or his relatives etc. are increasing day by day. According to N.C.R.B in 2003 1, 40,601 cases were registered related to crime against women and these registered cases were increased rapidly in 2015 with 3, 27,394. A total of 3,27,394 cases of crime against women (both under various sections of IPC and SLL) were reported in the country during the year 2015 as compared to 3,37,922 in the year 2014, thus showing a decline of 3.1% during the year 2015. These crimes have continuously increased during 2011 - 2014 with 2,28,650 cases in 2011, which further increased to 2,44,270 cases 2012 and 3,09,546 cases in 2013, to 3,37,922 cases in 2014. It declined to 3, 27,394 in 2015.

Uttar Pradesh with 16.8% share of country's female population has reported nearly 10.9% of total crimes committed against women at all India level, by registering 35,527 cases and West Bengal accounting for nearly 7.4% of the country's female population, has accounted for 10.1% of total cases of crimes against women in the country by registering 33,218 cases during the year 2015. The crime rate under crimes against women was reported as 53.9 in 2015. Delhi UT has reported the highest crime rate (184.3) compared to 56.3 at all India level during the year 2015, followed by Assam (148.2), Telangana (83.1), Odisha (81.9), Rajasthan (81.5), Haryana (75.7) and West Bengal (73.4). Crime against women is increasing rapidly day by day . The above mentioned registered cases crime against women are proving that women are still not safe .Dowry Deaths (Incidence 7, 634 Rate- 1.3) the cases of dowry deaths have declined by 9.7% during the year 2015(7,634 cases) over the

previous year (8,455 cases). A total of 7,646 victims were reported under 7,634 dowry deaths cases in the country during the year 2015.30.6% of the total cases of dowry deaths were reported in Uttar Pradesh (2,335 cases) alone followed by Bihar (1,154 cases). The highest crime rate in respect of dowry deaths was reported in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh (2.3 each) as compared to the national average of 1.3

The cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act have decreased by 1.6% during the year 2015 as compared to the previous year (10,050 cases). Maximum such cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh (2,766 cases) followed by Bihar (1,552 cases) Kolkata (1,541 cases). The highest crime rate (2.7) was reported from Uttar Pradesh as compare to 1.6 at the National level.

Conclusion

A lot of women from different states of India are still participating in politics and always are on duty during elections but still they are discriminated in the male dominant society in the various grounds. They are doing their best effort to make them establish in every field. Today no field is untouched by them but Indian citizen mentality is mixed with purity and pollution. because one side we respect women as symbol of Shakti, worship them as Devi in durga puja and in navratri another side crime against women such as rape, kidnapping and abduction of women, dowry, dowry death, domestic Violence, cruelty by husband or his relatives etc. are increasing day by day. There are many acts which are already taken by the government for the defence and development of women such as Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, kidnapping Act 366

IPC, Domestic violence Act 2005, Medical Termination pregnancy Act 1971, Equal Salary distribution act 1976 etc. crime against women must be stop and we should joint our hands with government and should take action against this collectively. Still India is developing country due to various reasons but first of all we must remove pollution from our mind and must respect women in every field of life then only we can change our nation from developing to develop. We must believe that "Educating girls in present will give sweet fruit in future." and "Educated women means educated family" we must also believe on the following lines-

"Daughters are not a Tension

Daughters are equal to Ten Sons"

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