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Women Representatives and Empowerment

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Abstract:

This study explores the dynamic intersection of women empowerment and politics, delving into the multifaceted aspects that influence the participation, representation, and impact of women in political spheres. It examines the historical evolution of women's roles in politics, the challenges they face, and the strides made towards gender equality. Through a comprehensive analysis of global case studies, legislative initiatives, and societal attitudes, the abstract aims to highlight the ongoing efforts to empower women in political arenas. The study also addresses the significance of diverse perspectives and inclusive policies in fostering a more equitable and representative political landscape.

Keywords: Women empowerment, politics, gender equality, participation, representation, challenges, legislative initiatives, societal attitudes, global case studies, diversity, inclusivity, equitable political landscape.

The capacities of the states to deliver on policy promises are fundamentally shaped by politics as are the outcome of economic, social and governance reforms. It has been universally accepted that the participation of women on equal footing alone will ensure fullfledged achievement of the agenda for development. One of the resolutions of the Beijing platform for Action 2005 was the all for women's greter access to public office. The average proportion of women in national assemblies across globe had increased from 9 percent in 1995 to 60 percent in 2004. Although this is not the "critical mass" that could make a dent in the reforms and it does call for celebration. yet one should not get the impression that numbers alone matter. The number of women found in formal in politics is not the best indicator of either f the intensity of women's political participation, or of its effectiveness in orienting policy making particularly towards gender concerns. Infect a far better indicator would be the numbers of active women's organization in a country. Nevertheless, there is the outlook for a critical mass because it is indeed believe that this critical mass would and could change the culture, practices and outcome of politics. It implies an automatic and even irreversible, causal sequence between increased numbers of women in politics and better policy outcome for women. Social reconstruction generally takes place through polity.

Participate of the largest number of women in governance and their own development of all side, like social economical cultural and political. Women face barriers to their participation in political processes at two levels. At the level of entry i.e. decision to fight election, filling the nomination papers, campaigning and election procedures, as well as the level of functioning after winning the elections. Within each level barriers exist at individual, social psychological, community and systemic levels. Despite numerous institutional cultural and social constraints, the participation of women in local bodies has had an empowering effect. The developmental impact of such participation has been clearly seemed in the issues prioritized by women. In the Indian context women have worked towards getting drinking water, sanitation, housing, schools, primary health centres, and day care facilities for children etc.

Decision of upgrade the women's quota in local bodies from 33 percents to 50 percents during 2009 was unanimous in the Kerala legislature. This is a notable recognition to the women leadership of Kerala. There is growing recognition of the impact that women leadership has on political institution and political agenda. At least a minority section of women leaders who have excelled in local governance have been mainstreamed into local political leadership. There have been several attempts to mainstream gender as a core issue in development planning at the local level. Due to the enlightened women leadership. Gender issues are elaborately discussed in committee meetings and in every other planning forums of local governance.

The constitution 73rd and 74th amendments Act. 1992 sets out in details in Article 243D, the manner in which reservations are to be provided to women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Seats shall be reserved for –

- a) The Scheduled Castes; and
- b) Scheduled Tribes.

In every Panchayat and Municipalities the number of seats so reserved one third of the total number of seats shall be reserved for women belonging Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe.

Since the constitution prescribes only a minimum level of reservation of one third for women in Panchayats, seats have the leeway to mandates more than that level. About one million women entered Panchayat after 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. About 40 percents of the elected women represented the marginalized section. However, about 70 percents women representatives were illiterate and most of them had no previous political experience.

In spite of having entered the political arena, women not freed from the stereotyped roles assigned by the society. She is burdened by the traditional role expectation. Some of the problems faced by these women were. The moment the women filed their nomination their workload increased doubly and so did the constraints. Her family commitment and her public commitment her down. Illiteracy and poor education levels are some of the basic

problems of the women leaders. They are not able to function effectively as they are unable to read the government orders, their level of confidence weakens.

The elected women representatives do not have the freedom to act by their own family members as also from the other men leaders. But after attending training programmes organized by NGOs they expressed that they are much more confident.

In spite of the significant obstacles to women's local political effectiveness, there is evidence from decentralization experiments in all parts of the country that women do manage to articulate priorities in local planning and decision making and also their decisions happen to be different from the men's decisions. It has been observed that the levels of corruption had come down and the usage of common resources has been channelized, despite the handicaps they face in terms of education and prior experience, weak leadership etc. they have been able to make a significant impact in policy decisions. Issues like drinking water, health facilities, provision of essentials, education etc., has been given priority. There is ample evidence to show that women responsive politics and policy making require changes to the conduct of politics and system of governance that reach beyond. Simply putting more women in office. Strong and autonomous women's movements are needed to debate priorities to legitimate feminist policy demands, and press them upon political parties and government leaders at local, state and national levels. Women's participation in the political arena is something that has to be watched over in the next few decades as they will be the major players in governance.

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