

WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN ERSTWHILE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

1. Nishat Khan, Research Scholar ,Department of political Science ,Singhania University, Pacheri Bari ,Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
2. Dr.Mukesh kumar Yadav ,Associate professor , Singhania University , School of Humanities , Singhania University, Pacheri Bari , Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.

ABSTACT

Women constitute half of the world's population; no country can afford to overlook the skills, abilities, and experiences of half of its citizens. The position of women in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has been monitored due to ups and downs that have damaged the status of women. Women's participation in policy-making choices in parliaments and state assemblies is essential since it allows women to be heard. However, women's political engagement in the state of Jammu and Kashmir remains low. In comparison to men, the number of female politicians is quite less. In this background, the current study examines women's political engagement and representation in the former state of Jammu and Kashmir.

INTRODUCTION

The 1931 uprising leads to the formation of a legislative assembly (Prajya Sabha) in 1934 by a committee led by B.J.Galancy, who was appointed by the Maharaja in 1932. The committee granted some political rights to the people, but the ability to vote for women was only granted to the middle pass out. It was a national conference led by S.M. Abdullah in 1944 that provided women with an active forum. The "Naya Kashmir" platform, which was adopted by the National Conference, includes a women's constitution known as the "ladies Charter." This became the Manifesto, which granted the ladies of the kingdom complete political rights, including the right to vote, elect, and be elected in all establishments on an equal footing with men. This manifesto included a provision for the reservation of seats for women.

After independence, Begum Akbar Jahan Abdullah, wife of S.M.Abdullah, the first Prime Minister of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, was a leading political figure and the first female to join political parties. Despite the government's various measures for women's

political empowerment, women's engagement in Jammu and Kashmir politics has remained exceedingly low to this day.

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ERSTHWILE STATE OF J&K ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS (1962-2014)

The participation of women in the legislative assembly of J&K is very low and sometimes zero. Since 1962, The no. women representative is zero in the legislative assembly of J and K in 1962 & 1967, 4 women member in 1972 out of 75 seats. The four members were Zainab Begum (INC, Amira Kadal), Hajra Begum (INC, Banihal), Nirmala Devi (INC, Tikri) and Shanta Bharti (INC, JandrahGarota). One women in 1977 (Gurbachan Kumari, JNP, Bari Brahmana), zero in 1983, one in 1987 (Swaran Lata, INC, Bari Brahmana), two women were member of legislative assembly of J&K in 1996 (Sakina Akhter, INC Noor Abad & Mehbooba Mufti, INC, Bijbehara), again two women in 2002 (Mehbooba Mufti ,PDP Pahalgam & Suman Lata Baghat, INC, RS Pura) out of 87 seats , 3 women in 2008 out of 87 seats (Shameema Firdous, NC, Habba Kadal, Mehbooba Mufti, PDP, Wachi & Sakina Ittoo, NC, Noor Abad) and again 3 women were member of legislative assembly in 2014 (Asiea, PDP, Hazratbal, Shameema Firdous NC, Habba Kadal and Mehbooba Mufti ,PDP, Anantnag).

In 2008 and 2014 the women participated in highest no. in the legislative assembly 67 and 28 respectively but three-three women elected as member of legislative assembly of 2008 and 2014.

CONCLUSION

Women's empowerment is an urgent issue. It will increase both the quality and quantity of human resources available for development. Thus, if a country is to flourish, women's empowerment is a requirement. Women's participation in J&K's political process is pitifully low. Each political party in the state discriminates against women; they are all hesitant to provide them political opportunities to demonstrate their qualities and competence.

REFERENCES

1. Akther, S., Kashmir women Empowerment and National Conference (2011), p.115
2. Singh, Ranbir, "Women's Role in the Political Process, Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election 1972", A Study of Women's Political Participation (1980).
3. Tara, Alig Baig, "Women in Ancient India", Anmol Publication, New Delhi, (1958).
4. Suri, K., Enhancing Women's Empowerment through Capacity Building Programs: Reflection from Jammu and Kashmir, "Journal of Business Management and Social Sciences, Research(JBM&SSR)", Vol.2, No.4,2013, p.82
5. Malik, S. S., "Panchayati Raj System in Jammu and Kashmir: An Evaluation", HIRD, Nilokheri (2005).
6. Singh, Mohinder, "*Role of Women in Gram Panchayats after 73rd Constitutional Amendment – A Study of Jammu and Kashmir*", Concepts & Currents, Directorate of Higher Education, Uttaranchal (2017).
7. Ruhee Rashid, & Santosh kumar Maharashi, "status of female education in Jammu and Kashmir since 1950; "Washington: America journal of educational research", vol3,No.6, 2015,pp.731