

Women and Political Participation

Dr.Sunita kumari

Department of Political Science

Patna University, Patna

The term Political Participation has a very wide meaning. It is not only related to Right to Vote but simultaneously relates to participation in decision making process, Political activism, political consciousness etc. Political activism and voting are the strongest areas of women's Political Participation. Women have held the posts of President and Prime Minister in India as well as Chief Minister of various States. After Independence from Britain, the Indian Constitution in 1950 officially granted women and men suffrage. Madras was the first to grant women's suffrage in 1921, but only those men and women who owned land property according to British administration's records.

Women empowerment is not a new issue, from amongst so many issues it is attracting the attention of the people on a global scale. It is still relevant in today's world. Women's association, Women's organisation and many more have raised their voice for women equally in all spheres of life. Besides its multidimensional relevance it has been taken as Political means by all Political parties, irrespective of their political ideologies, to mobilize women voters by making all these questions as component parts of their election manifestos. This is the agenda of UN for discussion on various levels and to chalk out various programmes related to gender equality, women's empowerment, enhancement of women's participation in decision making bodies and their representation in elected legislative bodies.

Women comprise nearly half of the population, but are deprived of the privileges that a civil society is required to provide to Women. Even the Indian Lok Sabha has been elected 16 times but the representation of women in it, as its elected member has not surpassed even the limit of 10 percent. The numbers of women ministers in the central cabinet hardly go to 100 since the days of Lok Sabha election in 1952 to 2004, the days of 16th Lok Sabha election.

The total numerical strength of women as voters was 18.24 crores in 1984 which increased to 28.24 crores in 1996. This figure for women electorate that comprised 47 percent of the total number of electorate that was 59.16 crores in 1996. At present, the percentage of women voters in the total number of electorate is found to be a bit lesser than their percentage in India population, which symbolises a type of subordination of women in Indian society, a feudal type of restriction upon them which seldom full Liberty to section of women to have their initiative to get themselves enrolled as voters rather than male members of their families for this Political work. The trend of voting among women indicates that sentimental issues often evoke among the female voters to cast their votes enthusiastically for the attainment of temporary goal, but Political goal attainments scarcely leave their impacts on

the voting psyche of female voters in India, a trend that signifies Political unawareness among female electorates.

In Rajya Sabha The Upper house of Indian Parliament the women representation appears to be somewhat better than the Lok Sabha but it cannot be said to have been satisfactory for a country like India with huge population as far the position of women candidates contesting the election is concerned the average of 3.3 % of the total candidates are found to be female if 1996 elections is taken as an example out of 477 female candidates who contested election to top them war independent and only one third of them were put up by all political parties like Congress BJP CPI and CPI JD here there is an eminence possibility of drawing a mistaken inference that the increased number of women contesting the election as independent candidates was is increasing political outline among women in general the female candidates who participated in the electoral as independent candidate came mostly from the upper middle and middle-class families strong economic background in the political causes female Apollo Pharmacy found themselves unable to participate in election as independent candidate due to heavy monetary amount by the election commission to be deposited as security money as well as the maximum limit of election expenditure. The poor section of society do not find condition congenial for contesting election as independent candidate it is also that those political parties which are ardent adherents for women reservation elected bodies not slept from among them a sizable number of the nun 2 countries election on their parties tickets in spite that will enable chances for women in election is greater than male candidates an overview of election results show that according to a survey conducted by the women's political watch 11.30 percent of the female candidates from among the the all contesting election in 1991 entered Parliament while the same percentage for their male counterpart was only e 5.77 percent the average margin of both the female candidates won the election was 50 point 52% at again 45 points 26% of votes secured by the male counterparts.

The position of female legislature in state assemblies tells the same story the picture being and very much discouraging. The percentage of women who won the election in the period between 1970 and 1983 was in the range of 5 women winners out of hundred male winners in the same period the numericals with the premier legislative decrease from 161 to 44. What when we see the 17 Lok Sabha election , there are 78 women members of parliament the highest since Independence was time and 197 companies who have been re-elected for a second consecutive term out of 716 women candidates who contested election 78 habit elected which is 14% of the house this is the higher than 2014 where the there were 62 women employees in the house the Bhartiya Janata Party emerged as the single largest party after winning 303 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha election the Congress won 52 States emerge glass second largest party while DMK emerge as the third largest party with 23 seats.

Women's representation has steadily increased in the Lok Sabha in the first election only 5% of the house consisted of them and now that increased to 14% over 600 women have been largest later since 1962 of the 543 constituency about how have never voted a woman MP

since 1972 as many as 220 have quoted at least one woman MP. 2019 election also sees the increase in the number of employees who have completed their school education.

This found a mention in Prime Minister Narendra Modi speech NDA leaders at Parliament Central Hall . This is for the first time in independent India that such large number of women are sitting in Parliament make possible due to the women empowerment . Mr Modi said with what is the man I am busy PS in the largest number of elected women representatives to the Lok Sabha because of the size of its victory it is followed by Trinamool Congress 9 Congress 6 bjd v y s r cp4 as per data compiled by association for democratic reforms which analyse 539 out of the total 542 winning candidates TMT supremo Mamta banarji and bjd Naveen Patnaik place to keep ticket to 40% and 30% off party candidates before the election started women account for 18.18 % of the total winning candidates for y s r c p as the national parties are concerned women and account for maja 13.20 eight percent of the total winning candidates of BJP and 11 point 76 of that of Congress. Even in a state like Andhra Pradesh where participation of women candidates in the state assembly election has been considered to be fairly good not more than 11 % of the total candidates set up by different political party was provided to females.

While the Global average for the man in Parliament stand at 22.4 % India is at the 103 place out of 140 countries with a maja 12% representation within Asia India is under 13 position out of 18 countries countries like South Sudan South Arabia have better women representation in parliament in India. When we see the BRICS, emerging power pack a Brazil, Russia, India ,China and South Africa. India stand forth among these countries with only Brazil with a maja 9% women that fair was then us South Africa which is among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of the number of the amps code perhaps offer some valuable lessons to the race in the group as this surprising finding on women employees and food before us via lead to question as to why some of these countries have much higher than the others? Why are are they doing right? What

Reminder is a fantastic case study spaces are decorating and what special incentive are being of to create the level playing field for them and do not participate in politics but also to see themselves through the soul of political decision making bodies. one of the most important provision that almost all the countries with metals women's representation in sure is to create constitutionally mandated quotes or reservation for women under has 30% reservation for women as do most of the country in the top 20 closer home Nepal has 29% legislated quota for bhraman Afghanistan has 28% Pakistan and Bangladesh at 20% seats reserved for women in European countries have voluntary political parties court orders that encourage and ensure women's participation in the political process.

To remedy low participation of women's electors ,India in 1994 established reservation in constitutional amendment s to reserve 33percent of seats in local government for women.The women reservation bill has been introduced in the national Parliament to reserve 33% of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats for women .The bill has yet t o be passed by Lok Sabha and

signed in to law . The discussion of women's reservation began in the 1920s and continued in to the 1930s until a compromise was reached with Britain to allow women in urban areas to vote ..After the establishment of women reservation in PRI , women participation went from 5%to 40%. And gave millions of women the opportunity to serve as leaders in local government.The effect of reservation for women has been increased in the number of public goods , including water and roads , Drinking water and roads improvements are issues that are most frequently raised by female elected officials. In general assessment evidences clearly show that women throughout the world have greater the test for politics than male for various reasons this is obvious from the percentage of women's participation in in AP politics as well as the turnout of ml bottles at different election of president in India now there is a common Aqua JSON from some of the family's organisation that women have always been discovered by male counterpart to take active part in political action but such a criticism as always been level appears to be a from reality one vision which tiger and Fox have substantiated in women's physical composition on which account women cannot afford to be aggressive and dominant a single example of Laxmibai the Martyr of the first war of Indian Independence is suffice to explain that she fought a war for succession of state power by women.but not a single female came forward to assist her in her Political action of paramount importance .These historical facts can seldome denied when males are accused for their Anti female postures .In the non violence struggle , women have an advantage over men ,for women are always superior to men in their religious devotion. The encouraging spirit with which Gandhi called upon women to participate in the national movement was of such effect producing that women from all walks of life were driven to participate in national movement. However Gandhi's mission to mobilize women on large-scale to participate in the national movement was never suddenly arising among women in response to call the scatter and isolated moments that women in India had been fighting for their empowerment as well as the impact which were still now and even in a single hole was organised by Gandhi through new political mechanism of Satyagrah among both male and family there was a person who had realise the importance of women empowerment short of changes in colonial India as bad as in 1892 one lady editor of a family's newspaper Bharat bhagne Shrimati Devi Rosen law by speaking at the 6-methyl social conference had started to claim that the importance of national social conference was more than the Congress party wrapping on discussion with Gokhale 1 seller has mention social and political improvement a discussion on which should process first years of discussion he agreed that the two were like the hand and feet of a man one cannot get on without either in the early stages of the national movement.

In independent India Women's participation in election process has gradually increasing women activities in thousand participated in election campaign casting their boats for their desired candidate although in most of the countries that the gender grapples nice tractor particularly in those which after the system of parliamentary democracy as India has gender inequality eroding.A simple glance over elections from 1952 to 2020 show that there is a notable increase in women's participation in these election as candidate as we ll as in turn over of votes casted by women for national election in the parliamentary system of

Democratic polity that India has parliament the highest law making body but its all powers and decisions are executed by the Council of Ministers each one of them when the head of one department to the important role of the cabinet or central ministers place cannot be negated. Observation about women player in the central Council of Ministers the political decision making body reveals that the women's participation in it has highly when squares till today the highest number of the men included in Central council of minister was 9 in 1991 and among them only one was appointed as cabinet minister and minister of state and rest were the Prime Minister in 1996 the central minister was comprised of today the 54 minister and of them only four women were included and all of them were minister of state.

So that women's participation in politics there is representation top decision making bodies in democratic Li elected Institution and political parties to really the matter of concern the phenomena have been in existence event that the United Nations Commission on the status of women has recommended that at least 30% representation of women with regard it as minimum for decision-making position at National level the condition of poor participation of women divorce them to Mark their voices heard and to compromise them with male domination for final decision on matters related to them.

However, the participation of women in politics and political parties organisation should not be interpreted subjectively rather what must be kept in mind in the class composition of various political parties to make women free and to provide them complete equality to male required complete elimination of feudal remnant by implementation of anti feudal program in social and economic fields. The most surprising is the fact that even done that women in last several decades have amply demonstrated their abilities as independent voters as political active campaigner as political activists wise decision makers in selection of candidates at awarded preferences they have been to political representation in proportion to their voting in election either for state assemblies or parliament .Since a severe debate between the proponents and the opponents of the bill was and unfurled opinion among parties to occasion the bill passed.

Summing up:

It will be a mistaken view to infer that representation in democratically elected Political Institutions in India .In pros and Cons of the Oligarchic characters of political parties which neither promote women on leadership position inside the party organisation nor nominate women as candidate for contesting elections whenever they take place. Rather the answers to such question should be searched in the pattern of sociology economic composition of the Indian Society in the very pattern of our production relation which constitute an individual's place in social structure irrespective of sex, caste, communities etc. but the super structure assumes form corresponding to the very base of the society that in the mode of production.

Women's equal participation in decision making is not only a demand for simple justice for democracy but can also be seen as a necessary condition for womens interest to be taken into

account without the active participation of the men and the incorporation of women representatives at all levels of decision making the goal of equality development and peace cannot be achieved.

Note & References

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