

An Analysis of Women Participation in Politics in India

Dr. Moushumi Datta

Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Nagindas Khandwala College,
Road. No. 1, Bhadran Nagar, Off S.V. Road, Malad (West), Mumbai 400064
E-mail: moushumi@nkc.ac.in

ABSTRACT

The marginalization of Indian women in politics is as old as the Indian society. Due of patriarchal set up and male dominance over political parties, women do not get chances of contesting elections. The objectives of this paper are to enumerate female representation in Indian political setting, to analyse the reasons of the low participation of women in politics by undertaking a perception study and to recommend changes and provide solutions for it. The present paper is based on secondary data. For perception study, a questionnaire was prepared and a survey of 100 samples was undertaken. It is observed that the number of women elected in the Lok Sabha has increased from 1951 to 2014. West Bengal has elected the maximum number of women parliamentarians in 2014. In Rajya Sabha as on December, 2015 there are only 31 women members as compared to total 242. In the current Union Government Council of Ministers, 6 out of 26 cabinet ministers are women. Most of the political parties have less than 50% women representatives than their male counterparts. Among State Assemblies, the highest percentage of women MLAs is from Bihar followed by Rajasthan and West Bengal. India lags behind many countries when it comes to women's participation in politics. The study findings portray that women participation in politics at all levels are very low in India. The main reasons being domestic responsibilities, attitudes regarding the role of women in society, lack of support from family, lack of confidence and lack of finance. Women face various gender specific constraints in this field. Without proper representation of women in legislative bodies and political parties many issue concerning women would remain neglected.

Keywords: Marginalization, Patriarchal, Legislative Bodies

INTRODUCTION

In India, as in many other countries in the world, women are underrepresented in all political positions, even if they form approximately one half of the population. While the proportion of women who went to vote increased