



Asian Journal of Management and Commerce

E-ISSN: 2708-4523

P-ISSN: 2708-4515

AJMC 2023; 4(1): 197-199

© 2023 AJMC

www.allcommercejournal.com

Received: 16-12-2022

Accepted: 13-01-2023

Dr. Neelam Kumari

Department of Commerce and
Business Administration, T.M.
Bhagalpur University,
Bhagalpur, Bihar, India

The challenges of women leadership and political status in India

Dr. Neelam Kumari

Abstract

Political participation defined as voluntary participation in political affairs through membership, voting and partaking in the activities of the political parties, legislative bodies and politically motivated movements.

Gender equality and equal chances are necessary components of a just society, progress, and national and international security. A structural interventional strategy in social work seeks to promote gender empowerment via women's effective engagement in politics. The challenges that females encounter in Indian politics were discussed in this paper. The prime aim of this paper is to study the challenges faced by women leadership in politics. To achieve the aim of this paper, secondary sources of information was used. For this purpose various articles, case studies on women leadership in politics are selected and studied. This paper discusses how to address these issues, like, the development of electoral reforms that promote equitable participation of females, the improvement of competency for women candidates in politics, elevated government assistance for women's representation in politics, and the use of social media and education to change society's attitudes. Indian women have a bright future in politics. The survival of Indian democracy requires a gender-balanced political leadership.

Keywords: Political participation, empowerment, freedom, reforms, membership, framework

Introduction

Political participation defined as voluntary participation in political affairs through membership, voting and partaking in the activities of the political parties, legislative bodies and politically motivated movements. The constitution of India guarantees adult franchise and provides the framework for women to participate actively in politics. The Article 15 of the constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, or place of birth. It is a pity that women have not substantially availed of the constitutional. Women are constantly expressing their leadership influence felt in commerce, management, academia, architecture, healthcare, and other sectors on a local, national, and worldwide scale. Women are becoming increasingly motivated to break through the traditional glass ceiling that has kept them from ascending to positions of leadership, while possessing the required skills and ability. Gender has no bearing on leadership. It's a set of leadership qualities that come naturally or are nurtured in people growing into powerful leaders with a wide following.

National Parties

Political Parties play a very important role in representative democracy. Political parties are the links between the people and the representative machinery of government. Political parties provide the necessary platform for the people with diverse cultural, religious, caste, community, socio- economic, political interests for promoting and protecting their interests. The important salient feature of the Indian party system is the existence of various types of parties. The main categories of political parties in India are national and state or regional.⁷⁰ In a multi-party democracy, such as India the role of political parties in elections in mobilizing people opinion and also in governance process cannot be over emphasized.⁷¹ Therefore, the backing of a political party for the success of a candidate in election is also imperative. The following table shows the seats allocated to women contestants in general election by the national political parties.

Reveals that the number of women candidates who contested the elections has increased and almost doubled from 355 in general elections held in 2004 to 668 in general elections of 2014. But the number of women candidates fielded by national parties, except for the Bharatiya Janata Party, has remained almost the same during this intervening period.

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Neelam Kumari

Department of Commerce and
Business Administration, T.M.
Bhagalpur University,
Bhagalpur, Bihar, India

Thus national parties have followed a discriminatory and gender exclusionist policy in allotment of seats to women in elections for Lok Sabha over the years and discouraged active participation in formal politics. The policy of exclusion of women in granting seats at the national and state level is not only being followed by national parties, but also by regional political parties that are in completion in various states of the country. The political decision to not allot seats to women by political parties at the national and state level electoral has been attributed to lack of "winnability" of women. However, an analysis of the success rates of women candidates in Indian general elections as compared to men reveals that it has been higher in the last three general elections.

Rajya Sabha

The women's participation in upper house of parliament i.e. Rajya Sabha is concerned; it is shown in the table that the percentage of women's participation in this house is not satisfactory.

Historical framework

Women's standing in post-independence India recovered strength and began to advance.

Women began to take part in many aspects of life, including politics, social, economics, culture, and religion. They are enrolling in educational institutions in order to obtain a higher education. They have become professionals, such as physicians, attorneys, scientists, teachers, educators, directors, executives, and so on, as a result of their realization of the importance of education. India is ranked 18th in terms of political empowerment in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2020. Indira Gandhi's two terms as Prime Minister, from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 till her death in 1984, had a tremendous impact on India's status. Gandhi's importance as a prominent female politician must not be overlooked. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment, passed in 1992, requires that one-third of village government head positions be designated for women.

Research objectives

To study the challenges faced by women in politics. To examine the factors which restrain women for participating in politics.

To study how to overcome the challenges faced by women in politics.

Challenges faced by women leaders

Women leaders have higher and more difficult problems than males since they must also contend with perceptions. With more women who take up leadership roles, previously unrecognized concerns and obstacles associated with such a position are now becoming apparent. Life is becoming increasingly tough for them due to rising stress levels and multiple responsibilities at work and at home, as well as the continual need to prove herself (Women and Leadership, n.d.). Women's political engagement is hampered or facilitated by a variety of circumstances, including socioeconomic status, geographical, cultural, and political system.

Political obstacle

Women's political representation and advancement are

hampered by four primary political obstacles. Absence of party support, such as restricted financial assistance for female candidates, restricted access to political connections, and more stringent standards and credentials applied to women; absence of availability to well-developed education systems for women's leadership in general, and for guiding young women towards political life; and the essence of the electoral system, which favors men.

Women are prevented from participating in politics for a variety of reasons. There are many factors like; the present cultural value system, the private-public gap in terms of domain identity, and male predominance in political institutions, which are responsible for less participation of women in politics. They have been unable to amass help and services for cultivating their political constituency due to their low share in India's inner political party structure. Women do not receive appropriate financial backing from political parties to run for office.

Social obstacle one of the most significant barriers to women being politically engaged is illiteracy. They are unaware of their basic and political rights due to a lack of awareness.

How to overcome the challenges

Women's groups have concentrated on the empowerment of Indian women to overcome challenges of discrimination and violence. Empowerment is linked to family support and better standing inside the home, both of which are threatened by domestic violence and sexual assault. Poverty and illiteracy are two socioeconomic factors that restrict women from running for public office or even voting. The inability to comprehend Panchayat Raj norms erodes one's confidence in running for public office.

Support from government for women in politics

There should be State support for efforts to encourage women to join political parties. These organizations host seminars and training events, push for more female to get nominated, as well as provide networking opportunities for female politicians. Increased political party support for women participation in politics (Compendium of Good Practices for Advancing Women's Political Participation in the OSCE Region, Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), n.d.) Meetings will be held in convenient and welcoming locations, and at times when women will be able to attend.

Financial assistance for caring obligations or child care provision. Within parties, distinct women's wings or groups. Training programmes that are tailored to the needs of women and men Quotas inside the party.

Political parties should conduct gender audits in order to develop gender action strategies. Set goals for female attendance at party conventions and ensure that women are given safe seats.

Share your experiences with people from other nations and places. Women in campaign leadership positions should be trained and promoted.

Conclusion

Women's engagement in politics is crucial for successful governance, and this paper suggests that an enabling environment be created to increase women's political participation. It also suggests that the constitutional legal

framework be improved to better accommodate the requirements of women in politics. Women should also be financially empowered by having access to education, job, and finance. It is also suggested that political party members get gender awareness training, as well as leadership training for future female leaders. Political parties' agendas and operations should include gender-sensitive and egalitarian policies, and their execution should be evaluated. It is critical to pay attention to essential issues in order to increase women's empowerment chances. These include education and training programs, the prevention of numerous types of criminal and violent acts, the requirement of equal rights for them, the elimination of discriminatory treatment against them based on factors like race, caste, class, religious doctrine, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic class, and encouraging them to participate in politics.

References

1. Alam S. Participation of women in Indian politics and the role of media; c2015, 4(1).
2. Goyal T. How Women Mobilize Women Into Politics: A Natural Experiment in India. Unpublished Manuscript; c2019.
3. Shames S. (n.d.). Barriers and Solutions to Increasing Women's Political Power. 13.
4. Shvedova N. Obstacles to women's participation in Parliament" In Women in parliament: Beyond numbers; c2007.
5. Singh S. Challenges faced by women for vertical mobility in politics: A comparative study of Sweden and India, A structural social work approach for gender empowerment; c2011.
6. Usha Kiran. Participation of Women in Indian Politics: Gender Justice and Political Challenge, Delhi: Globus Press; c2016. p.134.
7. Government of India, Women Members of Rajya Sabha, New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Secretariat; c2009. p. 9.
8. Yadagiri R. Growth of Regional Political Parties in India: Influence and Impact on Federal System", in D. Sunder Ram (ed.), Federal System and Coalition Government in India-Conflict and Consensus in Centre-State Relations, New Delhi: Kanishka Publishers; c2007. p. 142-143.
9. Mohini Giri V. Women and Politics" in Yashoda Bhat and C. N. Mangala (eds.), Beyond the Threshold: Indian Women on the Move, Delhi: B.R. Publishing Corporation; c1995. p. 24.
10. Kuldeep Fadia. "Women's Empowerment in India", Indian Journal of Public Administration. 2014 July-Sept;60(3):543.