



ISSN: 2454-55  
IMPACT FACTOR: 4.197(IJ)  
(UGC Approved Journal No. 6371)

# CHRONICLE OF HUMANITIES AND CULTURAL STUDIES

VOL. 4 NO. 1 JAN. 2018 BOOK VI  
A BIMONTHLY REFEREED INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

**SPECIAL ISSUE**  
On the Occasion of One Day National Conference On  
**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA**

27<sup>th</sup> January, 2018



*Editor*  
**Dr. Namanand G. Sathe**

*Principal*  
**Dr. A. D. Mohekar**

**ORGANIZED BY**  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
DNYAN PRASARAK MANDAL'S  
SHIKSHAN MAHARSHI DNYANDEO MOHEKAR MAHAVIDYALAYA,  
KALAMB. DIST. OSMANABAD

## CONTENTS

1.	महिलांचा राजकारणातील सहभाग	प्राचार्य व्ही.जी. गुंडरे(रेड्डी)	
2.	महिला सबलीकरण साठी भारत सरकारचे प्रयत्न	प्रा.संचिन राजाभाऊ डहाळे	07
3.	स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्थामधील महिलांचा सहभाग	प्रा.आर. एन. निगडे	09
4.	स्त्रीवाद : स्त्रीउधाराचा विचार व स्त्रीसबलीकरणाची चळवळ	प्रा. एन.ए.पाटील	11
5.	महिला सबलीकरण व भारत	डॉ. सय्यद आर.जे.	14
6.	पक्षीय राजकारणात महिलांचासहभाग	डॉ. आर. बी. शेजूळ	19
7.	स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्थामधील महिला नेतृत्व एक चिकित्सक अभ्यास	प्रा.डॉ. अघाव एन. बी.	22
8.	महिला सर्वालीकरण	डॉ.सुनिल चक्रवे	25
9.	महिला सबलीकरणाची साधने	प्रा.चावरे एम. व्ही.	27
10.	स्त्रियांसाठी भारतीय संविधानातील तरतूदी व स्त्रिवादाचे स्वरूप	डॉ. नामानंद गौतम साठे	29
11.	महिला सबलीकरण आणि भारतीय संविधान	बिराजदार अंबादास	31
12.	महिला सक्षमीकरण आणि राजकारण	प्रा.डॉ.बिडवे टी.एस	34
13.	स्त्रीवाद : अर्थ, स्वरूप, विकास व प्रकार	डॉ.भुजंग पाटील	36
14.	महिला सबलीकरण संकल्पना व स्वरूप	डॉ. जगदीश देशमुख	39
15.	Women Empowerment: Meaning, Concept ...	डॉ. अनिल दत्तू देशमुख	43
16.	महिला सबलीकरणासाठी भारतात व महाराष्ट्रात झालेले प्रयत्न	Archana K,Chavare	46
17.	स्त्रीवाद - अर्थ, स्वरूप, विकास प्रकार	डॉ. विलास नारायण ठाले,	
18.	Empowerment of Women Political Participation in India	डॉ. दिनकर कळंबे	48
19.	सार्वजनिक आरोग्य विभागामार्फत महिलांसाठी राबविल्या जाणाऱ्या ....	डॉ. दिनेश रा. हंगे	51
20.	स्थानिक स्वराज्य संस्था आणि महिला सक्षमीकरण	Dr. Vivek M. Diwan	53
21.	डॉ.शंकर शेष के नाटकों में चित्रित 'स्त्री' चरित्र	डॉ.आमले एस.एस.	57
22.	नेतृत्वाच्या माध्यमातून महिला सक्षमीकरण	प्रा.रासवे दिनकर सुदामराव	60
23.	Mass Media and Women	प्रा.संजय व्यंकटराव जोशी	62
24.	भारतीय महिला आणि आरक्षण	प्रा.सय्यद आर. आर.	65
25.	पंचायतराज व्यवस्था आणि महिला सबलीकरण	Rajesh K. Gaikwad	67
26.	महिला सबलीकरणासाठी भारतात झालेले प्रयत्न	डॉ.राम प्र.ताटे	
27.	स्त्रीवाद : अर्थ, विकास व प्रकार	प्रा.अर्चना शिवाजी वाघमारे	69
28.	तत्कालीन समाजजीवनाचे दाहक वास्तव :मुक्ता माळवे यांचा निबंध	डॉ. रमाकांत तिडके	71
29.	महिला सबलीकरण आणि सामाजिक बदल.	डॉ. आर.के. काळे	73
30.	Woman Empowerment in Rama Mehta's <i>Inside the Haveli</i>	क्षीरसागर दिलीपकुमार	76
31.	Political Participation And Representation Of Women ...	डॉ.सुशीलप्रकाश चिमोरे	79
32.	राजकीय नेतृत्व व महिला सक्षमीकरण	प्रा. आर. ई. भारूडकर	83
33.	Women's Empowerment And Political Participation	Dr. Milind Mane	86
34.	भारतीय राजकारणात महिलांचा सहभाग आणि भूमिका	Dr. Mohan Chougule	88
35.	स्त्रीवाद : अर्थ, स्वरूप व विकास	प्रा. मोरे चंद्रकांत	91
36.	Women Empowerment in India	Shaikh G. A.	94
37.	Women Empowerment — Challenges	प्रा.महादेव रावसाहेब मुंडे	98
38.	महाराष्ट्राच्या राजकारणातील महिलांचा सक्रीय सहभागाचा ...	डॉ. पंडित महादेव लावंड	102
39.	स्त्री-सक्षमीकरण की अवधारणा का सम्यक अध्ययन ...	Dr.P.W.Patil	106
40.	महिला सबलीकरणात शासनाची भूमिका - एक दृष्टिक्षेप	Pradeep Ingole	108
		डॉ.कदम एच.पी.	110
		डॉ. विनोदकुमार	112
		प्रा.किरण कि. येरावार	116



33.

## Women's Empowerment And Political Participation

Mr. Shaikh Gafoor Ahmed

(Dept of Political Science)

Milliya Arts, Science and Management science college, Beed. (MS)

**Introduction:-** The discussion of these issues challenges the often-made assumption that political participation is necessarily and of itself empowering for women as a group or as individuals. I argue that both empowerment and participation are overused and misused terms in development discourses. The thesis critically examines both the usage of the terms participation and empowerment and the practice of participation. When we explore the motivations of those encouraging and arguing for the participation of poor, rural women in politics, illustrating how these motivations are frequently contrary to those of the women who participate. The thesis makes the case that many of the arguments presented for encouraging women's participation in politics are based on false dichotomies and artificial constructions of women.

It is important, however, when looking at women's political activity not to lose sight of, or underestimate their role in formal politics. This is particularly so in the South Asian cases, where women head of state have been a relatively common occurrence. Women have also been governors and chief ministers of states, ambassadors and members of the cabinet and the two houses of parliament.

Women's participation in decision-making is essential for women's interests to be incorporated into governance. It has been widely experienced that governance structures which do not provide for adequate participation of women, often suffer from state interventions which are neither inclusive nor democratic. Including women, especially in local governments are an essential step towards creating gender equal opportunities and gender sensitive policies. Since women have different needs and perspectives on social and political issues, it is important to involve women in governments to incorporate all of the societal viewpoints in policy and decision-making processes. Women are actively involved in household and community work and hence well aware of real issues faced by common people. This gives them insight and perspective which can be instrumental in sustainable overall development.

The presence of women in local governments serves as an encouragement for other women to enter diverse professions and leads to breaking stereotypes of women's roles in society and public space. People had gained confidence in women as good public administrators and local government representatives after seeing women making a positive difference in other people's life. The society acknowledges the sincerity and commitment of women to their duties and their resistance to criminalization of politics.

### • **Aim and objectives:-**

The aim of the present study is to find out whether a quantitative rise in the representation of women in political decision-making can transform into qualitative changes in the participation of women, so that it can pave the way for political empowerment of women.

1. The study develops a theoretical view on the multiple effects of gender quotas on empowerment and attempts.
2. To find out the factors that facilitates and restrains the entry and participation of women in political field.
3. To achieve the aim of the study the following research questions are posed
4. To suggests that the quotas have motivated some women to take their own 19 decisions to contest the election.

### • **Meaning of women empowerment :-**

The concept of women empowerment is not a new one. Its literal meaning refers to giving women maximum participation in decision making process and power sharing in the representative bodies, employment, access to property, productive assets, common land and financial assets etc. ( Hatim 2001) Empowerment is often conceptualized as a process (Cueva Beteta 2006; Kabeer 2001; Malhotra and Schuler 2005) which not only visualize but helps to have control over their resources and ideology, greater self-confidence and an inner transformation of one's consciousness to overcome external affairs.

Thus it can be seen as women's attainment of resources and capacities and the ability to exercise power in a context of gender inequality. As it is said by the scholars that it is a process there is need for the



continuous effort to achieve the empowerment. Hence large number of countries has chosen to introduce different projects to empower women. However at the same time it is also significant to develop some indicators to judge the empowerment. The present study attempts to judge it by understanding the impact of gender quotas on women's attitudes and activities.

• **Women during Pre-Independence Period:-**

The pre Independence period was dominated by the Britishers who ruled India for nearly 200 years that is from middle of 18th century till 1947, the year India got the independence. There was around development during the British period. They gave more stress on the economic aspect with little interest on the Laws governing Hindus and Muslims. But the impact of their rule could be felt in almost all fields; economic, political, social as well as legal remarkable changes were also noticed in the lifestyle of the people. During this period the status of women changed to a great extent and remarkable development could be noticed in the lifestyle of the people.

During this period the status of women changed to a great extent and remarkable development could be noticed which affected both economic and social structure of the society. Almost all the evil social customs were abolished thereby improving the quality of life of women. They were treated equal with men and substantial progress in the field of education, employment, social rights etc., was achieved. Women were given a place of pride in both social and economic structures of the society almost all the evil social customs were abolished thereby improving the quality of life of women. They were treated equal with men and substantial progress in the field of education, employment, social rights etc., was achieved.

• **Women during the Post-Independence Period: -**

During the early part of the twentieth century the women were not enjoying a good status a status they were supposed to have. They continued to remain under depression and maintain a low status. Thereasons may be illiteracy, economic dependence, dominant nature of males, religious attitude and cast restriction. But after the end of the British rule in the year 1947 and particularly after 1950, the year, the Indian constitution came in to force, a sea change has been made when we the people adopted and enacted to give to ourselves a constitution<sup>1</sup>.

Today as we stand at the threshold of the 21st century, we are still unable to boast of a society where there is total gender equality or gender equity. Until recently, the question of gender equality or gender equity was merely a topic of theoretical discussion.

• **Education for Women's Empowerment:-**

Education of women is indeed the most important component and intervention for women's empowerment, provided both the contents and methodology of this education are pro-women. We have to strengthen and multiply those ongoing efforts to educate women, to acquire information and knowledge which help them challenge patriarchal knowledge, norms, values, behaviour patterns. We need education which will help women not only to read and understand the word but to read, understand and control our world; which will help women not only to master the three Rs., but to be masters of their own lives and makers of their destinies<sup>2</sup>.

We need education which will help women acquire the necessary analytical skills to understand the fast changing realities of life: which will give them the confidence and strength to refuse to submit to conditions of indignity and inhumanity. If we are involved with women's literacy then literacy classes for women should become nuclei for consciousness rising. They should help women form strong groups so that they can gain more and more control over their lives, help them break their silence, make them visible.

• **Education:-** Education is the most important measure of women's status and the benefits of education cannot be emphasized enough. To provide quality education and develop appropriate skills, many programmes are being implemented by the Government both in elementary and secondary education and higher and technical education. The Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009 was enacted in April 2010 to make free and compulsory elementary education a right for all children and a flagship programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was rolled to universalize access to education at primary and upper primary levels. As a result, enrolment of girls in schools, both in rural and urban areas across the country, has shown a steady increase over the years and dropout rates have come down. At the national level, the gender parity index is 1.0 at the primary level and 0.95 at the upper primary level as per DISE 2012-13. While the SSA has helped in universalization of primary education, a lot more needs to be done to provide quality education.<sup>3</sup>

A nationwide sub-programme to the SSA called Padhe Bharat; Badhe Bharat has been launched to ensure that learning levels of class I and II students in reading, writing language comprehension and mathematics is at par



with the world. The campaign aims to ensure that every school provides teaching-learning for 200 school working days, with 800 instructional hours.

**Political participation:-** The Political participation is a term which possesses very wide meaning. It is related to participation in decision-making process, political activism, political consciousness, etc. Political activism and voting are the strongest areas of women's political participation. To combat gender inequality in politics, the Indian Government has instituted reservations for seats in local governments. The 15th Lok Sabha in India (2009) comprised 61 women members, only 11.2% of the total Lok Sabha membership. While it has increased from 9.02% in 1999, it is almost half of the world average of 22.2%. The Rajya Sabha does not fare much better, with 27 women members comprising 11.5% of the total membership in 2013.2 Again, while this is an improvement from the 1999 figure of 7.76%, it is far below the world average of 19.6%. It comes as no surprise then that India is ranked 111th in the World Rankings of Women in national parliaments, compiled by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.3 India's rank is one of the lowest in the region, and falls below her neighbours. Nepal ranked at 36, Afghanistan at 41, China at 61, Pakistan at 72 and Bangladesh at 74.4 The Indian female marginalization from electoral participation stems mainly from political party competition. The Indian political parties and regional parties in the states discriminate not only in terms of seat allotments in the electoral fray, but also in the party rank and file and chain of command. This could be attributed to a large extent to the party competition structure in the Indian subcontinent that is encumbered by inherent male dominance and a patriarchal mindset that excludes women from the electoral process.

The electoral participation of women in India is a much discussed issue with a wide range of opinions and differing views. On the one hand, some theorists argue that the electoral process in India is fraught with male patriarchy and dominance that act as impediments to women participation. The lack of political voice and poor representation of women in Parliament is a result of exclusions on gender basis (Agarwal 2006).5

#### **Reservation Bill – 33.33% Reservation for Women:-**

Above discussion makes it clear that women remain invisible and marginalized in decision-making bodies. Data shows that there has been only a marginal increase in the last few decades in the number of women candidates contesting elections and getting elected. The Committee on the Status of Women in India, 1974 (CSWI) observed that 'the rights guaranteed by the Constitution have helped to build an illusion of equality and power which is frequently used as an argument to resist protective and accelerating measures to enable women to achieve their just and equal position in society'. Committee came out with the finding that women's participation as voters is increasing at a faster rate than men but representation as candidates has the opposite trend.

The National Perspective Plan for Women, 1988 recommended 30% reservation for women in local governments and other decision making bodies to encourage participation of women in grass root politics.6 this debate finally culminated in the passing of the 73rd and 74th Amendment Act, 1992. This paved way for the entry of more than one million women into the local governments as members, presidents and vice-presidents. The 73rd Amendment Act, provided a new constitutional platform which ensures the representation of 1/3 women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions. This legislation accelerated the participation of women in the policy making bodies.

The low representation of women in parliament and state assemblies has been the major concern of various women organizations. Women constituting nearly half of the population have to abide by the decisions taken by men in power. No serious efforts have been made by political parties to give more representation for women. Representation of women in legislatures, thereby entering into power position is inevitable for political empowerment and equality of women. Given our political situation, it has become clear that it is difficult for women to enter into legislature without reservation.

#### **Women and Health Care:-**

Human Development Report (HDR'96) states, "Women in Kerala have shared the benefits of education and health with men to a far greater extent than elsewhere in India". Historically Kerala has done better than the rest of India in respect of key demographic indicators. In the eighties, Kerala's position in respect of some major health transition indicators improved substantially, and Kerala began to achieve standards comparable with developed countries.7

One of the Key indicators of Kerala's health achievements is a high life expectancy at birth. Life expectancy at birth in Kerala is similar to the corresponding figures of developed countries classified as having achieved high human development. It is estimated that a man in Kerala can expect to live to be 69 years or 10 years longer than the average Indian man, and a woman in Kerala can expect to live 74 years, or 1.5 years longer



than the average Indian woman. The following table presents some valuable data regarding life expectancy of males and females in India.

Kerala's low birth rate is associated with comparatively high rates of birth control. The Couple Protection Rate (CPR), which is the proportion of eligible couples that use long term or temporary methods of birth control, increased sharply in Kerala over the decades.<sup>8)</sup>

#### 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act and Women:-

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act came into force in April 1993 and accordingly all the states have amended their laws relating to local self government. As a result, the role and importance of Panchayati Raj structure became highly critical as well as meaningful. The panchayat can emerge as model of an effective local organisation representing the interests of the people. State agencies can formulate and Support Policies, while panchayats serve as potential instruments for an effective deliver of programmes and services.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act shall be a landmark in the constitutional development of India. Since it is for the first time in the political history of India that one-third of the total seats in local self- government institutions have been statutorily reserved for women, the legislation has several important implications for the empowerment of women. It has made a silent revolution in the country.<sup>9)</sup> In ancient India women enjoyed equal status with men. Democratic decentralisation will be a success, only if all the sections of people participate in the activities of the local self-governing bodies. So women population must be properly represented in different governmental agencies, which should start with village panchayats.

It is generally accepted that the political participation of women is very much related to certain important aspects of women's life such as marriage, family and employment. Manu Bhaskar says that, " there is no country in the world today, where women have equal status with men in all the major areas of life family, health, reproduction, education, work, government, and cultural expression."<sup>10)</sup>

**Conclusion:-** Today as we stand at the threshold of the 21st century, we are still unable to boast of a society where there is total gender equality or gender equity. Until recently, the question of gender equality or gender equity is merely a topic of theoretical discussion. Things are changing but rather slowly. Women Empowerment is a constant battle and it is not a battle which can progress without co-operation from the society as a whole. What is required is not only a change in the mind-set. Women represent half the world's population, and gender inequality exists in every nation. Though alternative media can act as a platform or bridge to surpass the barrier of essential communication and information: I would like to suggest that education is the best weapon for fighting against injustice. Illiteracy is the root of all exploitation, violence and oppression our government make laws for women, try to implement it but also take the care that each and every woman in our society should be educated.

Education is a fundamental and pre- requisite of all human beings. Until women are given the same opportunities that men are, entire societies will be destined to perform way below their true potential. The Indian Government has a lot of emphasis on utilizing real time data for measuring different social indicators and using them for policy intervention. With more responsive data on women participation, better gender budget initiatives aim to move the country towards a gender equal society.

#### References:-

1. Sukanta Nanda, Law relating to women and children.
2. YOJANA September 2016 Kamla Bhasin - p/10.
3. YOJANA September 2016 Leena Nair - p/14.
4. International Journal of Humanities and Management Sciences (IJHMS) Volume 4, Issue 1 (2016) ISSN 2320-4044 (Online) Dr. Manorama Gupta. The Imbalanced Political Participation of Women in India, p-94.
5. Bina (1997): "Editorial: Re-sounding the Alert- Gender, Resources and Community Action", World Development, 25(9): 1373-80.
6. Baseline Report on Women and Political Participation in India", Prepared by NIAS, et.al and Co-ordinate by IWRAW, ASIA Pacific, Advanced unedited version, pp. 8, accessed at [www.IWRAW - ap.org/aboutus/pdf/FPwomen\\_and\\_pol\\_pax.pdf](http://www.IWRAW-ap.org/aboutus/pdf/FPwomen_and_pol_pax.pdf).
7. International Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences, Vol.1, New York, 1968, p.225.
8. V.K. Ramachandran, op.cit., p.227.
9. Bidyut Mohanty, "Panchayati Raj, 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment and women", *Economic and Political Weekly*, December 30, 1995, p.3346.

