



## *Role of women in indian politics*

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### **Abstract**

*Women's political participation is very important for woman empowerment. After independence in India, women's participation in politics has increased. Currently we have many politically active women. But in India it is not enough compare to men. Only 62 women elected in 16<sup>th</sup> lok sabha out of 543. Women's reservation bill has well for more contribution of women in politics. Women's Reservation Bill or The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, is a pending bill in India which proposes to amend the Constitution of India to reserve 33 per cent of all seats in the Lower house of Parliament of India, the Lok Sabha, and in all state legislative assemblies for women. The Upper House Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 9 Mar 2010. As of February 2014, the Lower House Lok Sabha has not yet voted on the bill. If the Lok Sabha were to approve the bill, it would then have to be passed by half of India's state legislatures and signed by the President. India has 59 elected women in loksabha in the year of 2009 whereas it has 62 in the year 2014.*

### **Introduction**

The Constitution of India establishes a parliamentary system of government, and guarantees its citizens the right to be elected, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble and form associations, and vote. The Constitution of India attempts to remove gender inequalities by banning discrimination based on sex and class, prohibiting human trafficking and forced labor, and reserving elected positions for women. The Government of India directed state and local governments to promote equality by class and gender including equal pay and free legal aid, humane working conditions and maternity relief, rights to work and education, and raising the standard of living. Women were substantially involved in the Indian independence movement in the early 20th century and advocated for independence from Britain. Independence brought gender equality in the form of constitutional rights, but historically women's political participation has remained low.

### **Women Participation**

Women turnout during India's 2014 parliamentary general elections was 65.63%, compared to 67.09% turnout for men. In 16 out of 29 states of India, more women voted than men. A total of 260.6 million women exercised their right to vote in April–May 2014 elections for India's parliament.

### **Women's Reservation Bill**

Women's Reservation Bill or The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, is a pending bill in India which proposes to amend the Constitution of India to reserve 33 per cent of all seats in the Lower house of Parliament of India, the Lok Sabha, and in all state legislative assemblies for women. The seats to be reserved in rotation will be determined by draw of lots in such a way that a seat shall be reserved only once in three consecutive general elections.

The Upper House Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 9 Mar 2010. As of February 2014, the Lower House Lok Sabha has not yet voted on the bill. If the Lok Sabha were to approve the bill, it would then have to be passed by half of India's state legislatures and signed by the President.

In 1993, a constitutional amendment was passed in India that called for a random one third of village council leader, or pradhan, positions in gram panchayat to be reserved for women. The village council is responsible for the provision of village infrastructure – such as public buildings, water, and roads – and for identifying government program beneficiaries. Although all decisions in the village council are

made by majority, the pradhan is the only full-time member and exercises significant control over the final council decisions.

### **Some powerful women in Indian politics**

- Indira Gandhi
- Mamata Banerjee
- Uma Bharti
- Jayalalithaa
- Mayawati
- Sucheta Kriplani
- Anandiben Patel
- Vasundhara Raje
- Sushma Swaraj
- Maneka Gandhi
- Sonia Gandhi
- Brinda Karat
- Mehbooba Mufti
- Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
- Kiran Bedi
- Sheila Dikshit

### **Objective**

- To Compare the Women voters over women electors in the loksabha elections in the year 2009 and 2014.
- To Compare the Women's votes over total votes polled in the loksabha elections in the year 2009 and 2014.
- To compare the numbers of Elected Women in the loksabha elections in the year of 2009 and 2014.
- For study about women participation in Panchayati Raj institutions.
- To study about women's participation in loksabha in some different elections.

### **Hypothesis**

To achieve the said objective the following hypothesis were framed

1. There is difference between Women voters over women electors in the loksabha elections in the years of 2009 and 2014.
2. There is difference between Women's votes over total votes polled in the loksabha elections in the years of 2009 and 2014.
3. There is difference between numbers of Elected Women in the loksabha elections in the years of 2009 and 2014.
4. There is women participation in Panchayati Raj institutions has increased.

### **Limitation**

The present study was conducted only on the women in politics based on the secondary data.

### **Method and Procedure**

Quantitative approach was adopted in the present study and survey method was used for that.

### **Tool**

Different websites are used for collecting the data for this study.

### **Sample**

Sample for this study is Different states of India.

### **Analysis of Data**

Obtained data was classified according to the Indian states and Union territory.

**TABLE-01**  
**Women Voters over women electors in LOK SABHA elections**

States	YEAR - 2009	YEAR – 2014
Andhra Pradesh	71.4	74.1
Arunachal Pradesh	67.2	78.8
Assam	66.7	79.4
Bihar	42.6	57.7
Chattisgarh	52.2	68.1
Goa	53.8	78.9
Gujarat	43.4	59.4
Haryana	65.8	69.7
Himachal Pradesh	59.1	65.4
Jammu & Kashmir	33.8	48.3
Jharkhand	47.7	63.5
Karnataka	56.6	65.8
Kerala	72.6	73.7
Madhya Pradesh	43.9	56.6
Maharashtra	47.4	58.0
Manipur	76.8	80.6
Meghalaya	64.2	70.0
Mizoram	48.4	60.0
Nagaland	89.2	87.7
Odisha	64.4	74.5
Punjab	69.4	70.9
Rajasthan	44.8	61.1
Sikkim	82.9	81.3
Tamil Nadu	71.9	73.8
Tripura	82.5	83.9
Uttar Pradesh	44.2	57.4
Uttarakhand	50.6	62.6
West Bengal	80.3	82.0
<b>Union Territory</b>		
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	63.2	70.4
Chandigarh	64.9	74.0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	75.6	85.7
Daman & Diu	75.5	81.9
Delhi	49.6	63.8
Lakshadweep	88.0	88.4
Puduchery	79.8	82.7

**Source : Election Commission of India.**

The Nagaland state has highest Women voters over women electors in India in the year 2009 with 89.2%. whereas Lakshadweep has highest women voters over women electors in India in the year of 2014 with 88.4% .

The Jammu & Kashmir state has lowest Women voters over women electors in India in the year 2009 as well as 2014 with 33.8% & 48.3%.

The Gujarat state has 43.4 percent Women voters over women electors in the year 2009 whereas 59.4 percent Women voters over women electors in the year 2011.

The Goa has highest progressive rate of Women voters over women electors with 25.1 percent during last five years. In the year 2009, Women voters over women electors of Goa was 53.8 percent which rises 78.9 percent in the year 2014.

**TABLE-02**  
**Women's votes over total votes polled in the LOK SABHA elections.**

<b>State</b>	<b>YEAR - 2009</b>	<b>YEAR - 2014</b>
Andhra Pradesh	49.6	49.3
Arunachal Pradesh	49.0	49.8
Assam	46.4	47.8
Bihar	44.5	47.7
Chattisgarh	46.6	48.4
Goa	48.5	51.4
Gujarat	43.6	44.5
Haryana	44.4	44.7
Himachal Pradesh	49.6	49.3
Jammu & Kashmir	40.9	45.9
Jharkhand	44.1	47.1
Karnataka	47.2	47.9
Kerala	51.3	51.6
Madhya Pradesh	40.3	43.5
Maharashtra	44.6	45.2
Manipur	51.6	51.4
Meghalaya	50.6	51.3
Mizoram	47.3	49.1
Nagaland	48.4	49.1
Odisha	47.6	48.4
Punjab	47.7	47.5
Rajasthan	43.7	45.8
Sikkim	47.1	47.1
Tamil Nadu	49.0	50.0
Tripura	47.7	48.4
Uttar Pradesh	42.0	44.5
Uttarakhand	45.9	48.1
West Bengal	46.8	47.8
<b>Union Territory</b>		
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	46.1	46.8
Chandigarh	44.0	46.0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	47.7	46.9
Daman & Diu	52.2	51.4
Delhi	42.3	43.6
Lakshadweep	50.1	50.1
Puduchery	51.8	52.5

**Source : Election Commission of India.**

The Puduchery state has highest Women's votes over total votes polled in the India in the year 2009 as well as 2014 with 51.8% & 52.5%.

The Madhya Pradesh state has lowest Women's votes over total votes polled in India in the year 2009 as well as 2014 with 40.3% & 43.5%.

The Gujarat state has 43.6 percent Women's votes over total votes polled in the year 2009 whereas 44.5 percent Women's votes over total votes polled in the year 2014.

The Bihar and Madhya Pradesh has highest progressive rate Women's votes over total votes polled with 3.2 percent during last five years.

**TABLE - 03**  
**Women participation in Panchayati Raj institutions in the year 2008**

States	Gram Panchayat(%)	Taluka Panchayat(%)	District Panchayat(%)
<b>INDIA</b>	<b>36.82</b>	<b>37.05</b>	<b>37.08</b>
Andhra Pradesh	33	33.6	33.24
Arunachal Pradesh	39.49	35.20	33.08
Assam	39.20	36.82	34.61
Bihar	54.64	49.15	49.87
Chhattisgarh	33.73	33.75	33.95
Goa (b)	34.06	-	40
Gujarat	33.33	33.50	33.53
Haryana	36.65	33.95	35.15
Himachal Pradesh	39.12	35.56	36.65
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-
Jharkhand (a)	-	-	-
Karnataka	43.01	41.24	37.11
Kerala	30.38	30.38	35.10
Madhya Pradesh	34.33	34.71	37.08
Maharashtra	33.33	33.32	33.35
Manipur (b)	43.58	-	45.90
Meghalaya (d)	-	-	-
Mizoram (d)	-	-	-
Nagaland (d)	-	-	-
Orissa	36.45	35.42	35.24
Punjab	35.03	33.02	32.53
Rajasthan	35.21	38.31	37.40
Sikkim (b)	39.95	-	40
Tamil Nadu	33.68	35.45	34.60
Tripura	34.60	35.45	34.14
Uttar Pradesh	38.84	37.57	41.58
Uttarakhand	37.63	34.23	33.05
West Bengal	36.63	34.48	34.44
<b>Union Territories</b>			
A & N Islands	34.38	37.31	33.33
Chandigarh	32.71	40	30

D & N Haveli (b)	39.47	-	36.36
Daman & Diu (b)	38.96	-	35
NCT Delhi	-	-	-
Lakshadweep (b)	37.64	-	36
Puducherry (c)	36.14	37.03	-

Source : Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- (a) Elections to the Local Bodies are yet to be conducted.
- (b) Intermediate Panchayat does not exist (2 Tier).
- (c) District Panchayat does not exist.
- (d) Meghalaya, Mizoram & Nagaland have Traditional Councils.
- (e) Panchati Raj System is yet to be revived.

It is clear from table No.04 that the India had 36.82% women's participation in Gram Panchayat in the year of 2008.

The Bihar state had highest women's participation in Gram Panchayat with 54.64% in the year of 2008.

The Kerala state had lowest women's participation in Gram Panchayat with 30.38% in the year of 2008.

The Gujarat state had 33.33% women's participation in Gram Panchayat in the year of 2008.

The India had 37.05% women's participation in Taluka Panchayat in the year of 2008.

The Bihar state had highest women's participation in Taluka Panchayat with 49.15% in the year of 2008.

The Kerala state had lowest women's participation in Taluka Panchayat with 30.38% in the year of 2008.

The Gujarat state had 33.5% women's participation in Taluka Panchayat in the year of 2008.

The India had 37.08% women's participation in District Panchayat in the year of 2008.

The Bihar state had highest women's participation in District Panchayat with 49.87% in the year of 2008.

The Chandigarh state had lowest women's participation in District Panchayat with 30% in the year of 2008.

The Gujarat state had 33.53% women's participation in District Panchayat in the year of 2008.

**TABLE – 04 Women's participation in LOK SABHA in some different elections**

YEAR	Total constituencies	Elected Women
1951	489	49
1957	494	22
1962	494	31
1967	520	29
1971	518	-
1977	542	19
1980	542	28
1984	514	42
1989	529	29
1991	524	37
1996	543	40
1998	543	43
1999	543	49
2004	543	45
2009	543	59
<b>2014</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>62</b>

Source: Election Commission of India.

It is clear from table no. 05 in election of 2014, highest women elected in lok sabha. In the year 2014, 62 women elected in lok sabha. Whereas it was 59 in the year 2009.

### Findings:

The findings of this study were listed below-

1. The Nagaland state has highest Women voters over women electors in India in the year 2009 with 89.2%. Whereas Lakshadweep has highest women voters over women electors in India in the year of 2014 with 88.4%.
2. The Jammu & Kashmir state has lowest Women voters over women electors in India in the year 2009 as well as 2014 with 33.8% & 48.3%.
3. The Gujarat state has 43.4 percent Women voters over women electors in the year 2009 whereas 59.4 percent Women voters over women electors in the year 2011.
4. The Goa has highest progressive rate of Women voters over women electors with 25.1 percent during last five years. In the year 2009, Women voters over women electors of Goa was 53.8 percent which rises 78.9 percent in the year 2014.
5. The Puduchery state has highest Women's votes over total votes polled in the India in the year 2009 as well as 2014 with 51.8% & 52.5%.
6. The Madhya Pradesh state has lowest Women's votes over total votes polled in India in the year 2009 as well as 2014 with 40.3% & 43.5%.
7. The Gujarat state has 43.6 percent Women's votes over total votes polled in the year 2009 whereas 44.5 percent Women's votes over total votes polled in the year 2014.
8. The Bihar and Madhya Pradesh has highest progressive rate Women's votes over total votes polled with 3.2 percent during last five years.
9. The India had 36.82% women's participation in Gram Panchayat in the year of 2008.
10. The Bihar state had highest women's participation in Gram Panchayat with 54.64% in the year of 2008.
11. The Kerala state had lowest women's participation in Gram Panchayat with 30.38% in the year of 2008.
12. The Gujarat state had 33.33% women's participation in Gram Panchayat in the year of 2008.
13. The India had 37.05% women's participation in Taluka Panchayat in the year of 2008.
14. The Bihar state had highest women's participation in Taluka Panchayat with 49.15% in the year of 2008.
15. The Kerala state had lowest women's participation in Taluka Panchayat with 30.38% in the year of 2008.
16. The Gujarat state had 33.5% women's participation in Taluka Panchayat in the year of 2008.
17. The India had 37.08% women's participation in District Panchayat in the year of 2008.
18. The Bihar state had highest women's participation in District Panchayat with 49.87% in the year of 2008.
19. The Chandigarh state had lowest women's participation in District Panchayat with 30% in the year of 2008.
20. The Gujarat state had 33.53% women's participation in District Panchayat in the year of 2008.
21. In election of 2014, highest women elected in lok sabha. In the year 2014, 62 women elected in lok sabha. Whereas it was 59 in the year 2009.

### Referances

1. Website of Election Commission of India
2. Website of Ministry of Panchayati Raj
3. Wwww.wikipedia.com