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Two Days

**INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY E-CONFERENCE**

On

**EMERGING ISSUES & CHALLENGES ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS, COMMERCIAL LAW, WOMEN EMPOWERMENT  
IN CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL SOCIETY**

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

**Jointly Organized by**



**Shri Shivaji Education Society Amravati's**

**DR. PANJABRAO DESHMUKH COLLEGE OF LAW,  
AMRAVATI**

*(Affiliated to Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati)*

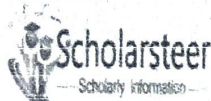
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**Special Issue on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

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Sentinel Solicitors, United Kingdom

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN POLITICS**

**ABSTRACT**

*Women have the right to participate in political processes that affect then their family and their societies. Women Empowerment has played an important role in international development. But its meaning has been taken differently in different situation, leaving its real and comprehensive meaning unestablished. Empowerment means rise of power in individual, social, spiritual, political, economical sphere. Empowerment involves increasing individual capabilities and self confidence. The subject of women politics has a Attracted. Scholarly attention since the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Political status of women refer to the equality and freedom enjoyed by them shaping and sharing of power and in the value given by the society. Empowerment is not one way process but it is multi dimensional process which enables one to realize his full identity and power in all spheres of life. In the fundamental rights of Indian Constitution there has been provision for equality, social justice and protection of women. Empowerment refers to enhancing their position in the power structure of the society the principal of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution there is still a great divergence between the constitutional position and stark reality of deprivation and degradation and slavery. There still exists a wide gulf between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislations, policies, plans, programme and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality on the status of women in Indian, on the other.*

**Keywords :** Women Empowerment, Indian Constitution

**Introduction :**

Women have the right to participate in political processes that affect them their families and their societies. Countries with increased women's participation and leadership in civil society and political parties tend to be more inclusive, responsibility equalitarian and democratic, when women meaningfully participate in peace processes they can help to expand the scope of agreements and improve the prospects for durable peace. Women around the world are still largely absent from national and local decision making bodies, struggle to have a voice in peace building transitions and are excluded from political processes. Despite representing half the global population, women comprise less than 20 per cent of the world's legislators. From discrimination and violence to a lack of support and resources, women face countless challenges to participation in the civic and political life of their countries.

Women's political participation is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy. It facilitates women's direct engagement in public decision making and is a means of ensuring better accountability to women political accountability to women begins with increasing the number of women. In decision making positions, but it cannot stop their what is required are gender sensitive governance reforms that will make all elected officials more effective at promoting gender equality in public policy and ensuring their implementation.

The meaningful participation of women in national, local and community leadership roles has become an important focus on global development policy still, some may ask why it matters if women become political leaders, elected policy makers or civil society activities, why does the world need more women involved in all aspects of the political process?



women's political participation results in tangible gains for democracy, including greater responsiveness to citizen needs increased cooperation across party and ethnic lines and a more sustainable future women participation in politics helps advance gender equality and affects both the range of policy issues that get considered and the types of solutions that are proposed that whether a legislator is male or female has a distinct impact on their policy priorities. There is also strong evidence that as more women are elected to office, there is a corollary increase in policy making that emphasizes quality of life and reflects the priorities of families, women and ethnic and racial minorities.

The positive impact of women in politics is undeniable. Kofi Annan noted, study after study has fought us, there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. No other policy is a likely to raise economic productivity or to reduce child and maternal mortality. Other policy is as sure to improve nutrition and promote health, including the prevention of HIV, AIDS. No other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation. Further, as medicine Albright has stated the world is wasting a precious resource in the dramatic under representation of women in leadership position, often resulting in the exclusion of women's talents and skills in political life.

The entry of women into politics has historically been met with dogged opposition across the world right from the earliest suffragettes in England who faced police brutality and sexual assault for daring to demand the right to vote, to modern elections where female candidates are attacked overtly and covertly on gender issues, while there have been many significant victories for women's participation in politics in the intervening years, they are still met with astaticism, ridicule and objectification when stepping into the political fray. These are manifestation of an insecure patriarchy jointed by the nation of women taking their place as leaders and decision makers, representing their issues and interests instead of depending on men in power to do so.

Certain laws and policies however have given a boost to the representation of women in Indian politics on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1993, the Constitutional (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act, 1992 was passed, adding part IX to the constitution, giving constitutional recognition to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). A new Article 243D reserved a third of all PRI seats and the same proportion of offices of chairperson for women, ushering in an era of female politics representation across India's villages. In subsequent years, a number

of states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tripura increased this reservation to 50% and also provided for a similar reservation in Urban local bodies.

Women have shown themselves to be natural community builders, with an intrinsic sense of perception, institution and empathy that allows them to best identify people problems, provide adequate support and act as nurturing leaders. Despite some enabling legal provisions, however, social and economic force continue to deter women from politics. The phenomenon of Panchayat Patish us bonds using women as proxies in PRIs and wielding the real power is prevalent. In ULBs despite women often holding powerful posts, such as that of mayor, corporation and municipal officials they are often reluctant to provide the adequate support to such leaders. Simultaneously intimidated and antagonized by women in positions of power and responsibility.

Women and men have fought long and hard for women's right to vote and hold office. Progress is clear as of 2015, women in every country in the world have the right to vote, the first nation to grant female suffrage was New Zealand in 1893 and the last country was Saudi Arabia in 2015. Today several countries are led by females and some countries such as Finland, also have a cabinet dominated by women. These achievements have been possible in large part thanks to gender equality measures. In the Arab region where progress has been slowest, the adoption of quotas by 12 countries helped increase the percentage of women in parliament 2017 from 10 to 18 per cent between 2012 to 2017.

But progress is slow and uneven women are still under represented in politics parliament and public life women make up more than 77 per cent leaving a more than 50 per cent gender gap. Attitudes towards women candidates are still largely characterized by deeply ingrained stereotypes and political opponents will often use these stereotypes to question women's capabilities.

#### **Importance of women political participation:**

There seems to be general agreement that electoral institutions are an important factor affecting the level of women's representation. Formal representative structures and processes exert powerful influence on the extent of women's descriptive representation, policy responsiveness and symbolic representation. One important thing to consider is to differentiate the levels of representatives for measuring the success or failure towards greater female representation. Institutional



representativeness does not automatically translate into greater substantive representation for women without institutional reforms when considering the impact of different electorate systems on women's representation, the reason of political parties and electorate institutions seem to blend together for proportional representation systems, have fewer mechanisms to ensure greater female participation.

The level and forms of women's participation in politics is largely by cultural and societal barriers in the form of violence, discrimination and illiteracy.

- Conduct a public seminar on women's political participation. Towards genders Responsive Democratic Government.
- Conduct voter education workshops at the village level.
- Trained women candidates in campaigning skills.

- Mobilize a media campaign encouraging women's political participation.
- Engender the Qanun on local political parties, which now requires that 50 per cent of every political party's candidates are women.

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