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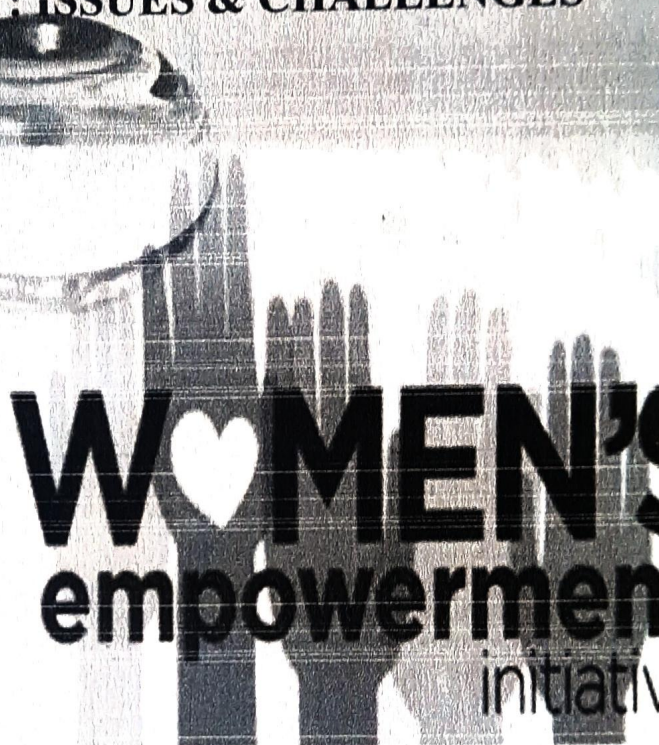
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WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: ISSUES & CHALLENGES



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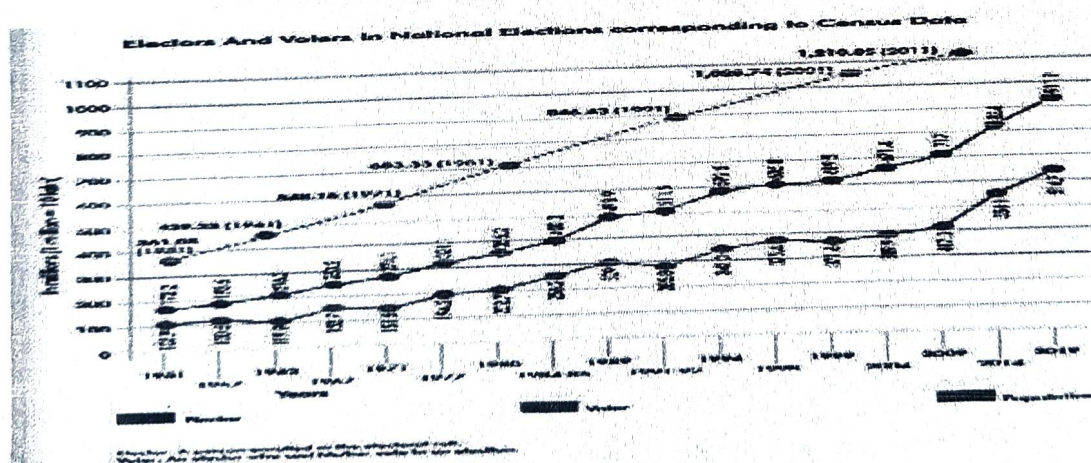


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**Women And Politics****Dr.Priya B.Boche**

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The term 'Political Participation' has very wide meaning. It is not only related to 'Right to Vote' but simultaneously relates to participation in decision –making process, political activism, political consciousness, etc. Political activism and voting are the strongest areas of women's political participation. The combat gender inequality in politics. The Indian government has instituted reservation for seats in local government. Women were 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 constitution right but historically women's political participation has remained low. After Indian independence from Britain the Indian constitution in 1950 officially granted to all adult are Indian citizens. This is enshrined in article 326 in our constitution. Women turnout during Indian's 2014 parliamentary general election was 65.63%. Compared to 67.09% turnout for men. For the first time in the history of Lok-Sabha elections, female turnout exceed the Male Turnout. Lok -Sabha election 2019 Also, 23 States/ Uts witnessed a record of higher women voter turnout than men in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odessa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. For the first time on the history of Indian election, female voter turnout percentage exceeded male voter turnout percentage in 23 States/UTs in Lok Sabha Elections 2019. The Lok Sabha Election of 2019 was a mammoth exercise in terms of election management and administration. With arecord breaking voter turnout and women voter turnout percentage exceeding the male voter turnout percentage, this election was a historic celebration of Indian Democracy as 'Desh ka Mahatyohar'.

**Position for women reservation bill in Indian Government-**

To remedy low participation of women election, Indian in 1994 established quotes (reservation) in constitutional amendments (73rd AND 74th) To reserve 33% of seats in local government for women. The discussion of women's reservation began in the 1920 and continued into the 1930 until a compromise was reached with Britain to allow women in urban areas to vote. Discussion of women's reservation was again introduced in 1974 by the United Nation commission on the statues of women in Indian , but Indian did not fully establish quotes in local government until 1994. Local governing bodies in India are called panchayat raj. Institution and 1/3



seats and leadership position must be reserved for women. States such as AP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttarakhand have increased reservation to 50%. The national government has also proposed to raise the level of reservation in PRI to 50%.

Women in government in the modern are under-represented in most countries worldwide. Women have inadequate opportunities in social participation especially in striving for political rights and power in the government and different institution. Social status of women's relatively poor compared to men in different countries around the world that contributes to generating the atmosphere of inferiority of women in the society. This historical tendency still persists although women are increasingly being politically elected to be heads of the state and government. As the January 2017 the global participation rate of women in national level parliaments is 23.3%. In 2013 women accounted for 8% of all national leaders and 2% of all presidential posts. A number of countries are exploring measures that may increase women's participation in government at all levels from the local to the national. The global average of women in national assemblies is 21.5%. At the same time large in parliament compared with Denmark, Sweden and Norway where female representation rates are among the highest four of the top ten countries in 2017 where the SOUTH America and the Americans have seen the greatest aggregate change over the past 20 years.

The Position of women in elected reserving seats.

The issue of training has become an increasing concern with preparing women for the role of leadership. Family also significant role in women's participation in government level. The effect of reservation for women has been increasing in the number of public goods, including water and roads. Drinking water and road improvement are issues that are most significant issues for men are roads, irrigation, education, and water, women are also likely to bring welfare issues such as violence against women, childcare and maternal health.

Challenges to women's participation-

Sexual violence-

Sexual violence in Indians exacerbated by issues of education and marriage. Women are sexually abused child marriage, domestic violence and low literacy rates, have lowered in Indians women's economic opportunities and contributed to sexual violence in India. A 2011 study found, 24% of Indian men have committed sexual violence at some point in their lives, 20% have forced their partners to have sex with them. ...38% of men admitting they had physically abused their partners widespread sexual violence is attributed to the fact that violence within marriage is not against the law, and sexual violence goes largely unpunished. In the large society violence and the threat of violence affects many women's ability to participate actively in many forms of social and political relationship, to speak in public, to be recognized as dignified beings whose worth is equal to that of others.

Discrimination-

Although the constitution of India removed gender inequality among caste and gender, discrimination continues to be a widespread barrier to women's political participation. Discriminatory attitudes manifest in the limitations presented to Indian women including low access to information and resources. Women receiving information from family or village member typically men. Women also lack leadership because burdened of household duties so many Indian women not participate. Discrimination is further perpetuated by class. Dalit women, are continually discriminated against in running of public office.

Illiteracy-

In Jan 2014 United Nations reported 25.6% of all adults in India illiterate. Women illiteracy 65.46% which is much lower than literacy among men reported that 82.2%. Illiteracy limits the ability of women to understand the political system and issues.

**Facts and Findings-**

Only 22.85 of all national parliamentarians were women's as of June 2016 a slow increase from 11.3% in 1995. As of July 2013 8 women are served as head of states and 13 are serving as head of government. Rwanda had the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide. Women there have won 63.8% of seats in the lower house. Globally there are 38 seats in which women account for less than 10% of parliamentarians in single or lower houses as June 2016 includes 40 hampers with no women at all.

Wide variations remain in the average percentage of women parliamentarians in each region. As of June 2017 these were (single lower and upper houses combined). Nordic countries 41.7% Americans 28% Europe including Nordic countries 26.5% Europe excluding Nordic countries 25.3% sob Saharan Africa 23.6% Asia 19.4% Arab states 17.4% and the Pacific 17.4% as of January 2017 only 18.3% of government ministers were women the most commonly held portfolio by women the most commonly held portfolio by women ministers is environment natural resources and affairs education and the family. The global proportion of women elected to local government is currently unknown constituting a major knowledge gap. Women representation in local government can make a difference. Research on panchayats in India discovered that the number of drinking water project in areas with women led council's way 62% higher than in those with men-led councils. In Norway a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage was found. As of November 2018 only 3 countries have 50% or more women in parliament in single or lower houses. Rwanda with 65.35 and Bolivia with 53.1% but a greater number of countries have reached 30% or women more women including 19 countries in Europe 13 in sub Saharan form of quotas – either legislative candidate quotas or reserved seats opening space for women's political participation and decision making is the international agreed target set in to Beijing, declaration and platform for action.

There is establishment and growing evidence that women's leadership in political decision making process improves them. Women demonstrate political leadership by working across party lines through parliamentary women's caused even in the most politically combative environments and by championing issues of girl are quality such as the elimination of gender based violence parental leave and childcare persons gender equality laws and electoral reform.

Conclusion-

Various policies bills and notes on women empowerment and reservations, after being reviewed, reveal that women do have an important role to play in politics but there are some socio-cultural challenges which need to be overcome. The government has provided various lenition and policies to implement and encourages women participation in politics and plays an important in rural as well as urban politics. As this study intends intends to study the role of women in panchyat raj institutions

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