



Women Reservation in India- A retrospective study

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India is the world's largest democracy. India has been 68 years of independence. In India, new dimensions of development and progress have been achieved in diverse areas. During the independence period, the nation made tremendous progress in economic, social, educational, legal and political areas. The nation has adopted a democratic system based on universal adult franchise. All citizens of India enjoy equality of rights, and its women citizens enjoy (fundamental) rights of education, property, legal political participation. These rights, no doubt, introduced reform in social, economic, legal and educational situations. However, they could not be influenced in the field of politics or in the case of political involvement. India, because it claims 50% of the female population, the percentage of political participation in the case of women is less. Obviously, certain questions have been raised regarding women's political awareness under these circumstances. The political awareness simply means that they represent all kinds of constitutional institutions. Besides, they should be capable of ensuring their participation and taking independent decisions of their own.

In 1953, the government adopted the Women's Welfare Policy and started a campaign to eradicate sexual discrimination. Later, this journey took the form of women's development and now, the slogan of women empowerment is supreme rule. In India, women's empowerment has embraced the dimensions of a vivid issue, especially in the field of politics. Democracy depends on each person's participation. In India, female voters have increased dramatically from 1952 to 2015. At the same time, the number of women representatives in the state legislative assembly as well as the number has been negligible. Indian democracy has come a long way in the field of political empowerment of women from December 28, 1885 to March 09, 2010. The Rajya Sabha took an all-important important step (since the establishment of the Indian National Congress) on



which he made provision of 33% reservation for women. Indian National Congress's first woman chairperson Annie Besant has an infinite facelift glow of female faces to progress in diverse areas such as politics, sports, education, medicine, judiciary, administration, etc.

However, if we take a look at the representation of women in Parliament and state assemblies, then it is found that it is limited to only 14%. Apart from this, the amount of women ministers is only 2%. This scenario kept a mirror with true reflection on the representation of women in India. Today, the first and foremost important reservation for women's empowerment in politics is reservation. If the so-called reservation bill is received through Parliament and State Assemblies, then women will get 33% of the total seats in related bodies. Then they can contribute positively to the field of politics and play an important role in making desired changes in the political scenario. Women's reservation bill is not a simple matter. Its effect can really be deep. It is an effort to bring changes in the shape of the guardian of the legislative bodies or institutions. Needless to say, this bill is the reason for the fundamental imposition of the Indian constitution. Government of India has tried several times to get Women Reservation Bill through Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to ensure representation of women in these respected institutions. If this bill was passed by the total reservation for women, then there would be 181 seats out of 543 in the Lok Sabha, 83 out of 250 seats in the Rajya Sabha and 1370 out of the total 4104 state assembly seats in the entire India, because this bill is women's privilege It helps to achieve 33% of the total seats in the above mentioned constitutional institutions. From the day of independence till the election of the 16th Lok Sabha, the rate of increase in the participation of women in the Lok Sabha is 7%. If this rate is allowed to continue, then the magical number of 181 can be achieved in 250 years. Until then, we will find ourselves continuously backward than any other country.

Women Reservation in India

In the politically representative institutes the question of reservation for women has been an issue of debate since the British times. In 1930, it was also discussed under constitutional reforms.



Women were given the right to vote by Bombay and Madras in 1921, by the United States in 1923, by Punjab and Bengal in 1926, Assam and Central states of Bihar, Orissa in 1930. Various social groups such as Muslim community and backward classes have made serious discussions about women's reservation. First, in 1926, a woman was given a berth in the state assembly through enrollment. In 1950, Sarojini Naidu, the head of the Indian women's organization, started an agitation for the universal adult franchise and the right to elect, this movement was started in collaboration with the Indian National Congress. The British Government provided reservation for women organizations in the Act of 1935. In this act seats were reserved for women. In this Act, 'Mahila Sadharan' was classified into three sections Muslim women, The Hindu women and Anglo-Indian women. The classification itself is a proof that women get reservation on the basis of religion rather than women as a separate social group.

Under the 1935 Act, The British Government reserved 41 seats for women in the state assemblies and some seats in the central assemblies. Diverse committees presented their reports on women's political participation between 1935 to 1974. In 1939, Pandit Nehru and Subhash Chander Bose Constituted National Planning Committee under Indian National Congress. This committee brushed aside the quota proposal for women. When the constitution came into force after independence the proposal was again given no thought. Our Indian constitution bestows equal rights on men and women without any distinction, and, besides, there is provision under the Fundamental rights that the state, if required, may make special provisions for the fair sex. Both men and women are equal in the eye of the constitution. Both enjoy similar fundamental rights and, hence, women need no reservation in politics at all.

National Backward Classes Commission was formed in 1953 by Kaka Kalelkar. In Kaka's report it has been read that women in India enjoy a strange situation. They live their life in a terrible absence and they should be given status of backward classes. Although this report could not convince the government and dismissed this proposal as saying that women of high and middle class enjoy better status and hence do not fit into this classification. These types of



both women are self-reliant. The condition of women of all the same, lower classes is undoubtedly miserable and it cannot be ignored. In 1971, after nearly 25 years of independence, the Indian government formed the Committee on Status of Women (CSW). The report of this committee, published with the heading "Towards the Heads (1974)", made many dazzling disclosures to the public. The report announced that despite the increase in the number of women in the election process, they have zero impact on the political process. Ideally, they belong to the largest backward class, and yet their number in political institutions is almost negligible. The Committee recommended that seats should be reserved for women in Panchayat and urban bodies.

A 30% reservation for women was recommended by Rajiv Gandhi government in 1988, under the National Perspective Plan for women (1988-2000). The recommendations were focused on reservation in the Panchayats, urban bodies and political parties. The reservation provision was even put into effect in the Panchayati Raj Institutions in such states as Karnataka and Gujarat.

In 1989, the Congress Party passed a resolution in the Bhopal Mandal in favor of 30% reservation for women in panchayati raj institutions and urban bodies. During the 1989 Lok Sabha elections, most political parties talked about promoting women's representation in their election manifesto. In 1993, the Government of India has taken an important step to provide one-third reservation in local body institutions through 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments. Bihar Government Madhya Pradesh, Government Himachal Pradesh Government. Jharkhand, Government, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have given 50% reservation to their women in local body institutions

Presently caste-based reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are in proportion to population in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. But there is no provision for reservations for women under this system. HD on September 12, 1996 The Deve Gowda Government proposes a proposal of such effect in Parliament as a constitutional amendment,



because it failed to provide necessary favorable reactions, it was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for discussion. The committee was headed by Geeta Mukherjee. The committee presented its report on December 9, 1996. Soon after, the Devgowda government came in a minority and the 11th Lok Sabha was dissolved. On June 26, 1998, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee presented the bill as the sixth constitutional amendment in the 12th Lok Sabha. History repeated itself and the minority government was again separated through the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. NDA government returned and Bill was reissued in Parliament on November 22, 1999. But the lack of political consensus blocked this path and the Bill 2002 (once) and 2003 (twice) met with the same fate, mainly in the account of

lack of political will. In May 2004, the United Progressive Alliance government (UPA) promised in its common minimum programme to get the women reservation bill through the Parliament. The government tabled this much awaited and controversial bill in the Rajya Sabha in May 2008 and it was forwarded to the standing committee of related to law and justice. The standing committee put up its report on Dec. 17, 2009. Despite the brazen opposition by such political parties as the Samajwadi Party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Janata Dal United and the bill was floored in both the houses. In her address to the Parliament, the president, Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, on Feb. 22, 2010, reiterated her promise of getting the reservation bill through the Parliament at the earliest. In Feb. 2010, the Union Cabinet gave approval to take the bill in the Rajya Sabha. On 08 March 2010 the bill was floored in the Rajya Sabha. Due to the bullying threat of withdrawal of support by the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Samajwadi Party, United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government could not proceed with voting on this issue. Finally, this 108th constitutional amendment was passed amid great din and noise in the Rajya Sabha on March 09, 2010. The Trinamool Congress absented from the voting while the Bahujan Samaj Party blatantly boycotted the bill.



The bill continued pending waiting up to May 2014, for a thumbs-up in the Lok Sabha, to acquire the form of the 108th constitutional Amendment. However, it automatically stood annulled with dissolution of the 14th Lok-Sabha afterwards.

April 2014, The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) declared in its manifesto that it is resolved on imparting 33% reservation to women in the legislature. In the light of this declaration the honorable Prime Minister and the President of India advocate for the women reservation.

For a powerful political participation of women, it is imperative that they are provided with reservation in the legislature keeping in view this ideal, the Government of India has put the bill in the Parliament time and again so that women may be given reservation at the highest levels of politics.

Conclusion:

In India, the representation of women in parliament and state legislatures is not more than fifteen percent. Political empowerment does not mean the right to vote. The cardinal goal of democracy is "by people, by people and by people". Therefore, almost half of the population is left with political empowerment, so it cannot be fulfilled better. The proposal of former Chief Election Commissioner Mr. MS Gill is mandatory for all political parties to nominate at least one-third of the women candidates for the seats. If they are not prepared to accept the principle of representation within their own parties, then what is the moral right to reserve parliamentary constituencies for women?

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