

**POLITICAL AWARENESS AND POLITICAL  
PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CHENNAI-  
A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY**

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**By**

**A.UMA MAHESWARI  
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**UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF  
Dr. S. SAKTHI, M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor**



**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)  
CHENNAI – 600 004  
TAMIL NADU, INDIA**

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## **CHAPTER - V**

### **FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **5.1 FINDINGS**

The purpose of this study was to find out the political awareness level, interest, opinion, the kind of political participation women mostly demonstrate, and the constraints that prevent them from involving in politics. This is assessed as social, economic, and political factors that contribute to enhancing women's involvement in politics. The study also focused on identifying the nature of social support and other kinds of support systems required for women to participate in political activities. In this chapter, the findings which are based on the objectives and the claims on the hypothesis have been summarized. The suggestions and recommendations are also included along with the conclusion.

The political empowerment of women is vital and crucial for the country's development as well as for the well being and uplift of women. Both the population of men and women in this country as well as the electoral population of men and women is almost equal. To invite and incorporate more women into politics a multidimensional approach and a sustainable holistic plan of action are required. To a certain extent, the economic empowerment of women was achieved through various government programs and the measures taken. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the government to make provision and insist on the political parties to increase the number of women to participate in politics. And only by doing so, the country can move one step forward at attaining gender equality in the political field also. Thus, the findings of the study are interpreted as follows:

#### **5.2 THE BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS**

The socio-economic profile of the respondents was analyzed. A total of 968 women respondents, of 18 years of age and who are eligible to vote and interested in politics, was chosen as the sample for a sociological study on political awareness and political participation of women in Chennai.

The profile of the respondents was studied based on age, education qualification, marital status, occupation, economic status, and religion. The study comprised of first-time voters in the age group of 18 to 21 years as a special group. Of the 968 respondents, 30% were first-time voters. The youth sample comprised 17% of the respondents in the age group 21 to 30 years. The rest of the 53% are above 30 years, who are the probable category of women who can enter politics, subject to other socio-economic factors.

The patriarchal system denies women's participation in politics by stating that women don't understand politics because they are illiterate and ignorant and their first duty is to take care of the responsibilities at home. From the sample chosen for the study, 98% of the respondents happened to be literate and out of which nearly 61.88% are graduates. The credit for the higher literacy rate in Tamil Nadu can be associated with the efforts taken by the state government on compulsory policies and welfare schemes related to education and more specifically to girl's education. Identifying the core reasons for school dropouts as poverty and then implementing schemes such as noon meal schemes and many such programs for children by visionary politicians have seen an increase in the literacy level in the state.

In a patriarchal society, almost all decisions are made by the head of the family who is a male member and, more important if women need to participate in political activities his approval is essential. Many Studies on the rural and urban political participation of women at local level governance have shown that men operate and function as proxies (R.P.Verma, 2002; Jhansi Rani J, 2001; Sharmistha Chakraborty, 2017). We read in the newspapers and hear about success stories on women's dual role, saying it is because of the social support extended by the family members that women were able to perform well in their jobs. There can be no fixed working hours for political engagements and hence, apart from family support, the husband or any male member's support is essential for women to perform their duties at odd times. In this study 59.1% of the respondents are married and 6.7% of the respondents are "Single" women who are spinsters, widows, or divorcees and 34.2% are unmarried.

The majority of the respondents belong to the middle class and upper-middle class. The wards chosen for the study did not comprise of slum dwellers. 78% of the respondents claimed themselves to belong to the middle class and 51% of the respondents have their own house. Out of the 968 respondents, 18% earn less than Rs.50,000 per month, 78% earn between Rs.50,000 and one lakh per month and 4% of families earn between 1 and 2 lakhs per month. From the sample studied 72% lived in nuclear families and 36% in joint families. For the majority of the population, Chennai is not their native place but they have come many years back and settled down here.

Access to economic resources is a pre-requisite for entering politics. Political participation and access to wealth have an inseparable relationship. Out of the 968 respondents, college students comprised 33%, working women 27%, homemakers 39%, and 1% of the respondents are entrepreneurs.

Hence, based on the criteria of the study, the sample chosen fitted well for the research. The study intended to find out if women who had access to resources like education, employment, economic affordability, family support, and family members involved in politics were interested to participate in political activities.

### **5.3 POLITICAL PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS**

The political profile of women leaders in Tamil Nadu was examined and it was observed that most of the women in a leadership position had family members involved in politics. Many studies have proved that if a woman belonged to a politically inclined family her awareness and chances for her to get into politics were more likely. Sociologically it can be said that political socialization could be the reason for this. This trend holds good in this study also; out of 968 respondents 174 (18%) have male members involved in politics. When the question was asked on membership of women in political parties, 20% of the respondents replied that they hold a post in a political party. From this it can be inferred that there is a link between male family member's involvement in politics and a woman's leadership position and chances for her to get enrolled in politics.

The study also proposed to find out the factors which influence political interest among women, and the result highlighted that 34 % of the women were self-motivated, 42 % of the women respondents were influenced by various sources like family members, friends, mass media, and 1% of the respondents were influenced by members in the self-help groups. Studies on women's participation in rural local governance have shown that, self-help groups have been a great source of social networking forums, for women to share their views and ideas and have facilitated women's empowerment. They operated as a strong social networking platform for women. Thus, external agents of socialization like friends, schools, colleges, mass media, and women's forums need to be focused on, for sharing political information.

#### **5.4 MASS MEDIA EXPOSURE OF THE RESPONDENTS**

The usage of various forms of media for gaining political information was analyzed. The exposure of the respondents towards mass media revealed that 29% of the women read newspapers regularly, 23.7% watch television news for politics regularly, 33% use social media like WhatsApp, Twitter, YouTube, blog, etc to share political information, and 21.9% look out for political debates, and listening to political news. Of the 968 women respondents who studied in the city of Chennai 31% (303) have high exposure to both print and broadcast media in listening to political news.

The study also analyzed the correlation between women respondents' exposure to mass media in seeking political information and that of her political awareness level. From the statistical analysis carried out the finding was, the higher the level of mass media exposure (31%), the higher was the level of political awareness (54%).

#### **5.5 POLITICAL AWARENESS LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS**

The political awareness level of the respondents was identified based on the responses given. The awareness level has been classified as high, medium, and low. Out of the total respondents studied, 520 (54%) ranked high on the awareness level. These respondents have answered a minimum of 10 questions out of 14 questions

asked. Thirty-eight percent of the respondents have medium awareness; only 8% of the respondents have very less exposure to political information.

The study also intended to find out the relationship between the socio-economic factors and political awareness level. The four independent variables taken for analysis are age, educational qualification, occupation, and income. The first factor, regarding age, 55% of first time voters have shown interest in seeking political information. Access to social media by the youth may be a factor for this exposure and also in the recent year 2019 elections political parties used the social media to a large extent. The next set of the age group which had more political awareness is that between 31 and 40 years followed by 21 to 30 years. The reason could be the involvement of youth in higher education and seeking jobs and in the case of most women, this is the probable age of marriage and other family commitments that may not give them free time to seek political information.

The second influencing factor which was analyzed was the impact of educational qualification on the political awareness level. Among the 599 graduates 316 respondents have high political awareness, 243 respondents have medium political awareness, and only 40 of them are not aware of the basic political information. Apart from this from the 968 respondents who were the sample for the study, only 18 (1.85%) persons are illiterates, and only 82 women respondents (8.47%) on the whole were ignorant about political information. Thus, it can be interpreted that literacy does have an impact on political awareness.

Irrespective of the kind of occupation the respondents were involved in, be it students, working women, housewives, or entrepreneurs, on an average 53.71% of them had a high political awareness level. On an average more than 90% of the respondents, irrespective of the kind of occupation, had political knowledge. Thus, the political awareness level has nothing to do with occupational status.

Finally, concerning the economic status of the respondents and political awareness level, the study revealed that irrespective of the family income or ownership of properties or identifying themselves under an economic class, there is no correlation between economic status and political awareness level.

## **5.6 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

The study aimed to find out the factors which facilitated and the factors that were detrimental to women's participation in political activities. Socio-economic variables like age, educational qualification, religion, and type of family were considered for the study. The findings concerning the level of political participation revealed that 21% of the women respondents are active participants in political activities, while the majority of the population under study is selective in their participation (73%) and 6% are not interested in any kind of political participation.

Out of 968 respondents, 69% voted in all the elections, 90% of the women claim that they exercised their vote on their discretion, 31% of the respondents say that male members try to influence their decision, 40% of the respondents claim that they have adequate time to participate in politics, 60% of the respondents said they have family members' approval to show interest in politics. The above responses are the positive side of the participation of women in political activities.

When it comes to other forms of participation like campaigning, demonstrating, contesting, only 20% of the women attended political meetings, 11% are members of political parties, 12% have participated in political campaigning, 18% of the respondents participated in party related demonstrations, and 7.5% was interested in contesting elections. Thus, it can be concluded that it is 20% of women respondents who had a political background participated in the above political activities.

The study analyzed the association between the socio-economic factors and the level of political participation. The study results showed that for the age factor and participation level, the age group 31 to 40 years has the highest participation level followed by the 18 to 21years category. For medium awareness levels also, the 31 to 40 years group is leading, followed by the 18 to 21 age category. 61% of the respondents are degree holders out of which 75 % are partial participants, and 59% of the married women participated in political activities. Concerning the family type, women in the nuclear family participated in larger numbers.

## **5.7 RESPONDENT'S OPINION ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

The study also focused on finding out the opinion of the respondents on political participation and see if there is a similarity or difference from that of actual participation in political activities. In the process of the study, the researcher observed that the opinion on participation and actual participation were two different things; it was observed that the women respondents were highly expressive and at times emotional in sharing their opinion.

Respondents' opinion on political participation was analyzed using the Likert five-point scale. Twelve statements were framed to find out their actual stand or opinion about the relevance of women's involvement in politics and also their opinion on a few generic statements about political life. The responses to a few of the statements are as follows:

- Political participation means, knowing about politics, becoming a member, campaigning, and contesting, to which 53% of the respondents agreed.
- Women do not have access to wealth and economic freedom, so they cannot participate in politics. More than 50% of women seem to disagree with the statement. The reason for disagreement may be that men in politics do not consider wealth as a criterion.
- The responses to the statement, because of household responsibilities women don't involve in any political activities, seem to be neutral from the respondents.
- "Politics is male-dominated and corrupt so I don't involve in political activities" was a powerful statement and 47% of the women, respondents agreed with the statement.
- Women need to participate in politics, to bring about social change in women's position; 56% of the women strongly agree and 34% agree. This response clearly shows that to have a better social status and to bring about a change in their present position, women need to enter politics and make the decision for their well being.

- 54% of the respondents agree to the statement that gender bias within the political parties is the major hurdle for women to participate in politics.
- Irrespective of the age groups, young or old women want to enter politics-- nearly 73% of the respondents agree to the statement that women are almost equal in number to men, so they need to take up important positions in politics.
- Exercising the voting right is an important political activity for women so I always vote, was the confirmation given by almost 92% of the women folk.
- For the statement -- at every level politics is dominated by men and so women are sidelined, 53% of the respondents agreed while only 19% disagreed. This can be interpreted as not every man discourages women to enter politics.
- Seventy-eight percent of the respondents agreed to the statement that the political awareness level is more because of T.V, Face book, WhatsApp, etc.
- “Rural women are more active than urban women in politics”, has been agreed to by 80% of the sample studied and only 20% disagree.
- The decision to vote for the candidate of their choice is taken by 60% of the women respondents.

To sum up, the opinion of the women respondents is that political participation is inclusive of all political activities and not just voting. The economic empowerment of women is not an essential criterion. Household responsibilities are only an excuse by women. The political field is male-dominated and corruption is a factor that hinders women to enter politics along with the prevailing gender bias. The need for women to enter politics is strongly felt by the respondents both as a symbol of social status and the cause of women's development. Rural women are more empowered than urban women and this shows the political apathy of urban women.

Thus, there is a correlation between actual participation and the opinion of the respondents towards participation. The findings concerning the level of political participation show that 21% of the women respondents are active participants and 73% of the respondents are selective in their participation. The study on opinion shows that women are willing to participate and have realized the importance of participation.

## **5.8 POLITICAL INTEREST OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Political interest is the first and foremost factor for people's involvement in governance and the countries development. It is the interest that motivates an individual to follow political events and information. Information on politics would be at the disposal of every individual but it is the interest that keeps people moving forward. In India, women have been socialized saying that "politics is not for them" and that it is a male prerogative. Hence, it would take a few generations to re-socialize. Recent studies (Biraj Hazarika, 2015; Praveen Rai,2011), concerning women's interest in politics show that women have proved their interest in politics by casting their votes in elections.

The study intended to find out whether women are interested in politics. Ten close-ended questions were asked to ascertain their interest in politics. The responses are as follows:

- Fifty percent of the women respondents are interested only in listening to political news and in debating about politics.
- Ninety-two percent of women respondents feel that voting is their right and they will not like to miss voting.
- Sixty-three percent of the respondents got their family members to support their political interests.
- Eighty-two percent have voted only if the leaders are honest and good.
- Fifty-one percent voted for party ideology.

- Sixty percent of the women respondents said that they voted for the leader and not the party.
- Sixty-five percent agreed that women leaders will be as good as men leaders.
- Thirty-three percent of the respondents are interested to contest in elections, at least once in their lifetime.
- If women contested in an election, 43.7% of the respondents will vote only for women.
- For 31.8% of the respondents, if many women join politics, they will also join.

Thus, it can be summarized that women are interested in politics and 50% of them are already prepared to enter politics. Thus claiming women's reservation should be the need of the hour.

## **5.9 CONSTRAINTS THAT PREVENT WOMEN FROM PARTICIPATION**

To find out the reasons for women not entering politics willingly and in large numbers, the study aimed at identifying the known constraints and asked for the responses. Fifteen statements were framed to which the respondents replied. The findings of the study were as follows:

1. 60% of the respondents agreed to the statement that family duties prevent women from entering politics.
2. Only 36 % agreed to the statement that women themselves are not interested in politics.
3. 55% of the women felt 'no exclusive women's political party in Tamil Nadu' is a constraint.
4. 62% of the respondents felt, that non-involvement of children in political discussion was a constraint.

5. 60.8 % of the respondents are of the view that schools not sensitizing children on the functioning of political parties are a major constraint.
6. 53% agree to the statement that higher education does not give a platform for students to express their political opinion in colleges.
7. Success stories of women leaders are not telecast in the mass media and this has been agreed to by 48.9% of the respondents.
8. Lack the courage to enter politics was the constraint for 50 % of the respondents.
9. Lack of club activities, forums, and public spaces, political interest groups for women to discuss and debate on politics prevented 33% of women to enter politics.
10. Schools and Colleges do not offer a course on politics that trains citizens for politics is a major constraint, for 40% of the respondents.
11. 39% of the respondents are of the view that lack of training in leadership and public speaking skills among women are a constraint while another 40% does not feel it as a constraint.
12. Today, political parties lack, honesty, trust, and commitment which prevents 74.9% of women to show interest in political affairs.
13. No Fixed working hours and salary for people who enroll in political activities was regarded as a constraint by 58.8% of women respondents.
14. 32% of the women being in politics does not raise their status.
15. Lack of safety for common women in politics is the major constraint for 54.5% of women.

Family duties, no exclusive women political party, lack of courage, no fixed working hours, and salary, and finally no safety for common women in politics are the major constraints for women to enter politics. Thus unanimously fifty percent of

the women folk think that women need a safe political environment which provides a level playing field for their participation (Shreedhar Barki, 2013).

### **5.10 HYPOTHESIS TESTING:**

Seven hypotheses are framed to explore the association between the different variables

**5.10.1** There is no association between male family members involved in politics and posts held by women in politics.

The presence of a family member in politics is an important variable that will influence a woman to enter politics. The study reveals that there is an association between male family members in politics and the involvement of women in political activities. 18% (174 respondents out of 968) of the respondents disclosed that they had their male family members in politics. From those respondents' families, 20% (194 respondents) of the respondents were holding a post in political parties. A chi-square test used indicated that there was an association between women holding a post in the party and their male member's enrolment in political parties. The *p*-value is < .00001. The result is significant at *p* < .05. Thus the study infers that there is an association between the male family members in politics and the women holding a post.

**5.10.2** There is no association between mass media exposure of the respondents and political awareness level.

The study analyzed the correlation between women respondents' exposure to mass media in seeking political information and her political awareness level. The analysis revealed that the higher the level of mass media exposure (31%), the higher was the level of political awareness (54%). The result indicated that there is an association between mass media exposure and political awareness level. The *p*-value is < 0.00001. The result is significant at *p* < .05. The study inferred that there is an association between mass media exposure and awareness level of women.

**5.10.3** There is no association between age and political awareness.

The first time voters between the age of 18 and 21 years have shown more interest in seeking political information. Access to social media by the youth may be a factor and also a social media platform used by political parties. The reason for the young adults for not involving in political activities could be the involvement of youth in higher education, job commitments, and marriageable age for women. The result indicated that there is an association between the age of the respondents and the political awareness level. The result is significant at  $p < .05$ .

**5.10.4** There is no association between educational qualification and political awareness level.

To find out the association between educational qualification and political awareness, the Chi-square test was carried out and it was identified that among the sample studied 599(62%) respondents are graduates out of which 316 (53%) respondents have high political awareness, and 243 respondents have medium political awareness level. This can be interpreted as literacy does have an impact on political awareness. The results indicate that there is an association between education and political awareness level. The  $p$ -value is  $< 0.00001$ . The result is significant at  $p < .05$ . It can be interpreted that education does play the role of catalyst for creating political awareness.

**5.10.5** There is no association between age and level of political participation.

The results showed that the age group 31 to 40 years had the highest participation level followed by the 18 to 21 years category. A medium awareness level was found among 31 to 40 years. The test result revealed that there is an association between age and political participation. As age increases the participation of women will also increase. The chi-square value is 16.0523. The  $p$ -value is. 041638. The result is significant at  $p < .05$ . It can be inferred that the older the age the more the participation.

**5.10.6** There is no association between marital status and political participation.

Many studies have proved that women depend on men for political support. Therefore, we attempted to know whether there is any relationship between marital status and political participation. The total number of respondents who are married was 572 (59%) out of which 138 (24.5%) women have a high level of political participation. 404 women have a (70.5%) medium level of participation and only 30 (5%) women have a low level of participation. The chi-square test result revealed that there is no association between marital status and political participation of women. The chi-square value is 7.0975. The *p*-value is 0.130827. The result is *not* significant at  $p < .05$ .

**5.10.7** There is no association between constraints due to family responsibilities and political participation. Out of 968 respondents, 60% felt that family duties prevent women from entering politics. Only 10% of the respondents have denied family duties as constraints. The chi-square value is 129.3009. The *p*-value is  $< 0.00001$ . The result is significant at  $p < .05$ . Thus it can be inferred that there is an association between family responsibilities and political participation.

## **5.11 CONCLUSION**

One of the major objectives of this study was to find out the political awareness and participation level of women in political activities and what major constraints prevent them from involving in politics. More than ninety percent of women have at least basic political awareness. The political participation of women is more than seventy percent. The study on opinion shows that women are willing to participate and have realized the importance of participation in political activities. Concerning constraints, family responsibilities to a certain extent is a factor followed by the prevailing political culture, and safety for common women in politics are felt as reasons for non-involvement in politics. Thus it is the responsibility of the society at large to take forward the interest shown by women in voting to the next stage of entering politics and thereby creating a new political world.

## **5.12 SUGGESTIONS**

Women's representation in politics should not be viewed only in terms of numbers but also in terms of quality performance. To achieve numbers the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill alone will suffice. On the other hand, to achieve a meaningful contribution of women to politics, a multidimensional approach is required. This may sound like a utopian philosophy but it is possible. The number of non-performing men in politics is also very high; they are neither criticized nor made accountable for. The male-dominated political structure denies women political entry on the grounds of ignorance, illiteracy, and lack of public skills. Thus, gender sensitization needs to be given. The criteria for political participation need to be framed; no longer can muscle power and money power be set as a requirement for political entry. The recommendations given are more about urban life. Thus, the following suggestions may be considered for ensuring meaningful political representation of women:

### **1. Suggestions to be practiced at the family level**

The credit for the success of this country goes to the importance given by every individual to the institution of the family. If the family members perform their functions and duties effectively and if they follow the following social norms, the chances for deviant behavior will be nullified.

- Inculcating gender equality among family members.
- Gender equality to be practiced while bringing up the children and also in the areas of food, clothing, shelter, health, education, recreation, and safety.
- Parents should be made aware of their parental duties and taking care of the emotional well being of the children.
- Children to be a part of all the family discussions: social, economic, and political.
- Role of children in nation-building to be sensitized, right from their childhood.

- Women should be free from family and household pressures.
- Family members should be sensitized to take steps to move away from deep-rooted patriarchal values.

**2. Suggestion to be implemented by women's organizations:**

- Women's organizations should work for the creation of a separate ministry for women, which can take care of all the developmental measures and not combining it with women and child development which focuses mainly on welfare perspectives.
- While implementing all developmental schemes the training programs should focus on developing the social and personal skills of women.
- Training institutions should be initiated by the women's organizations, where women can cater to those women who are interested in entering political life. The institute can introduce certificate and diploma programs, in political participation and public life.
- Women's organizations should document positive initiatives and case-studies of successful women representatives, to motivate the women to get awareness about their role in politics.
- The network of NGOs should work towards creating political awareness and to give training to women in leadership skills.
- More number of local staff training institutes should be started. This forum can facilitate the sharing of thoughts, ideas, experiences, challenges faced, and solutions identified to tackle the issues.
- Legal awareness, computer operation, financial budgeting, and other functional literacy can be given by competent authorities to women through the women's organizations.

**3. To be imbibed by women who are aspiring to participate in politics**

- Women should develop self-confidence, self-motivation, and emotional balance to participate in public life.
- Women should gain knowledge on women's rights and duties and should equip themselves with public speaking skills and exposure to meet people in public.
- Women should be exposed to the external environment and become socially independent.
- They should develop support systems to maintain a work-life balance.
- Women should come forward for the formation of women's associations, cooperatives, clubs, and social media networking to learn and share their interests related to politics.

**4. To be implemented by society**

- Society should give pressure to strengthen democracy and sensitize people on their constitutional rights and duties.
- It should take steps to enhance the social status of women.
- It should evolve strategies to empower women socially, economically, and politically.
- It is the responsibility of the society to resist policies and programs which are detrimental to human survival.
- It should mobilize people to fight against corruption and criminalization of politics.
- Every institution in society should protect women from all kinds of injustice. Every individual should be sensitized to recognize women's contributions at home as well as outside.

- Awarding women representatives who show exemplary and outstanding performance is a must to encourage women to take part in politics.

## **5. Role of media**

- The media should adopt the policy of responsible journalism and start an exclusive women's channel.
- The media should set up an effective censor board that can function gender-neutrally.
- It can create awareness programs on the electoral process, very frequently.
- It should portrait women in a dignified way and should project all successful women politicians as the right role models.
- It should avoid frequent projection of the traditional gender roles of women.
- It can document programs on women political leaders and their success stories.
- Media should telecast programs which is sensitive to women-related issues.
- Telecasting positive initiatives and case-studies of successful women may attract women towards politics.
- It should avoid indecent and offensive remarks about the capacity and character of women.

## **6. To be implemented by educational institutions**

- Higher education institutions should evolve a strategy to create political awareness in a gender-neutral way.
- The entire school curriculum should be gender-neutral and compulsory subjects on humanities should be introduced.
- Topics on the contribution of women in nation-building should be introduced in colleges and all universities.

- Professional Courses on political science should be introduced in all Arts, Science, and technical institutions.
- Subjects on social sciences to be introduced in schools and colleges, which will expose the youth to demography, rural and urban society, gender studies, political behavior, disaster management, citizen's social responsibilities, etc.

#### **7. To be implemented by the government**

- Enforcing 33% reservation for women at all levels of governance.
- The government should organize gender-specific training and capacity-building programs.
- The government should incorporate gender issues while implementing gender budgeting and gender audit.
- To take severe action and punishments for crimes committed against women.
- Women to be involved in developmental projects and all policy-decision making.
- The government should ensure the safety of elected women representatives and it should fix working hours, for all women involved in politics.

#### **8. To be implemented by the election commission**

- The election commission should give pressure to central and state governments to implement a fifty percent reservation of seats for women as elected representatives and policymakers.
- It should implement Article 343(d) and 343(t) that is, one-third reservation in local body elections and to conduct elections at regular intervals, in all states of India.

- Election Commission should bring in electoral reforms on the decriminalization of politics.
- Gender statistics to be included for a holistic measure of women's participation.
- Election Commission should adopt attractive strategies to create more political awareness in women.
- Training can be made compulsory for all the elected representatives for longer periods and at regular intervals.

**9. To be implemented by political parties**

- All political parties should enroll fifty percent of women in politics.
- They should have a women's wing in the political parties.
- The political parties should ensure the protection of women members as well as fix salaries for women who actively participate in politics.
- Political parties should curb proxy attendance by relatives of women and also seats to the families to retain the constituency.