

**WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND  
REPRESENTATION: A STUDY OF THE ASSAM  
STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(1985-2016)**

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## **CHAPTER-VI**

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **6.1-Summary**

Everywhere in the world women are subjected to inequalities and exploitation, both in law and in practice. The condition of women throughout the world is mostly same. In case of India prior to her independence the condition of women was much worse. Gender deprivation was dominant in the Indian society. So after independence gender equality became the main thrust area. It has become the cornerstone of Indian democracy, and justice to women became the goal of the society. The Constitution of India has many provisions of safeguard and security through various Articles to prohibit all forms of inequalities and discrimination against women. Many legal steps were enacted to stop discrimination. India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and has also ratified the two UN Covenants i.e. International Covenant on Economic Cultural and Social Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In addition, India has also ratified the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women on July 9th, 1993 for the realization of women's rights<sup>1</sup>. In spite of all these steps still there is clear disparity between men and women regarding political participation and representation in India. Thus the findings of the study "Women Political Participation and Representation: A Study of the Assam State Legislative Assembly (1985-2016) is very significant. From the

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<sup>1</sup>source: <https://treaties.un.org/>(True copy)

analysis of the responses of the respondents covering 33 women representatives it was evident that political behaviour of women was affected by gender consideration. It is a fact that women voters' play a significant role in electoral politics, but the existence of deep rooted patriarchy in the political institutions had deterred women aspirants from gaining the position of power. The hold of patriarchy is so strong that even those women who are elected as people's representatives have to perform their duties according to the will of other male members of their party. It is because they can't ignore their party and their presence in the party is meagre. Most of the respondents pointed out that political party are major obstacle in the path of more representation of women in the political institutions.

The study also asserted that reluctance of political party deprives women to achieve the position of power. Though most of the political parties often highlight the issue of women's reservation, in practice, they even do not want to include women members in their executive body. They also hesitate to offer party tickets to women. In a democratic set up, it is difficult either to contest or to win the election without institutional support. Thus, the absence of inner party democracy prohibits women aspirants even to contest the election. There are some components of a good polity and society. The most important among them are-equality of access to political rights, i.e. the right to vote, to hold public office, to speak up, to challenge the leadership for their deeds and to associate freely with the fellow citizens in political activity. The availability of political rights however is justified in terms of their consequences. In a society there may be equal rights for everyone but there may not be equal access to these rights. Even in a democratic setup also some people enjoy preferential position than others.

In case of India though women are conferred equal political rights by the constitution but they do not enjoy them on an equal footing with men. Legally or constitutionally there is no bar on women's participation in politics of the nation, but very few women are actively involved in political affairs. There is disparity between women's formal political equality and their meaningful exercise of political power. Regarding franchise they exercise it in large numbers but they are lagging behind when it comes to enjoying power position or occupying prestigious political offices. The strength of their voting number is nowhere reflected in their direct role in govt. This situation is not peculiar to India only, the number of women in public offices and active politics remains low in most countries.

Political roles of the people are shaped by the social milieu in which they live. It has been discussed above that in Rig Vedic India women enjoyed a position of equality in the family and society; hence they also participated in political activities with men. But there was a gradual decline in their position in the later Vedic and post Vedic periods due to certain internal changes in the society. Though there are examples of some great Rajput, Mughal and Maratha women in the history of medieval and early modern India who had at the hour of need led the armies, directed the government and ruled the kingdom, but common women folks who once enjoyed considerable freedom and privileges in the sphere of family and public life continued to be deprived of these rights.

Gradually the social renaissance and women's education in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century gave rise to a new consciousness among educated women. They began to demand equal political and social rights for women. During the time of our freedom movement a large number of women from all sections of the society took active part.

But this spontaneous participation was the tactical necessity of the liberation struggle. There was not any strategy by the women for their own interest and own future. With the independence of the country, Indian women were guaranteed political equality with men. By including Universal Adult Franchise all political rights were conferred on them equally by the constitution. Though they have been entrusted with equality in all aspects of life including politics, but the overall situation is not very satisfactory. With exception to some examples women have always remained outside the domain of power and political authority. The voting participation of women is not too low in comparison to men but their participation and representation in law making and law implementing bodies is very disappointing. Reservation of seats for women is just an electoral plank of the political parties. No party met the target of 30% reservation for women in accordance with the national perspective plan (NPP1988-2000). However the 73rd and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment of the constitution has opened up new perspective for women participation in the politics of the country by making reservation of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> seats for women at grass root level.

Most women in India are still apolitical; they are reluctant to join politics because of lack of political interest and political education, long socialisation process, unfavourable family condition, social attitude and atmosphere and domestic responsibilities. To retain their monopoly of power men also are not encouraging women to join politics. But it is also true that women's decision of not joining politics is not the decision of one day but it is the result of long socialisation process. It is the result of power politics played by male dominated society in the name of socialisation process. Since her childhood women are implanted that they are fit for

only some domestic duties and are unfit for decision making activities. As a result in the long run they automatically develop an attitude that politics is not their game, it is a masculine activity.

Assam is also not an exception to the disappointing state of affairs in regard to women's participation in politics. A very small percentage of women is put up by different political parties to occupy important positions in the party hierarchy or as candidates in election. Though with course of time a change has taken place in society and in the status of women, their participation in political affairs remains marginal. Political participation is a quite wide term which covers a variety of activities besides voting. Its magnitude depends upon a variety of psychological, socio economic and political variables. Some variables are very effective in determining the extent of political participation of women. Most important among them are family and educational background. These two variables produce both positive as well as negative effects upon the political participation of women. In a family the socialization of women, family responsibilities, role differentiation between male and female child, lack of time and some other situational factors have negative effects and are obstacles, on the other hand education, better socio economic condition, political family background, involvement in social activities by the family are the encouraging and positive or booster factors in the political participation of women.

## **6.2 Analysis and Interpretation of Data:**

The gathered data can be analysed and interpreted as follows:

1. After analysing the data it has become evident that education has been considered by all the representatives as the most essential factor required for enhancing women participation and representation in the politics of the country. Because with education only, an individual can realise his or her self-existence and can better understand his duties and responsibilities. Education is considered by most of the scholars of the subject also as a positive factor in increasing the level of an individual's political participation and political efficacy. Education is positively related to active political participation. Better educated women take more part in contesting elections and more of them have party membership. Educated women possess higher political knowledge and awareness, and discuss politics more frequently than the uneducated. Highly educated women feel politically more efficacious as compared to the less educated or the uneducated. With the spread of education, a change has taken place in women's perception of their role. Now they feel that their role in society is not confined to only bearing and rearing the children or to family responsibilities, they have many other duties to perform in the broader context of the society. At present women are not ready to accept politics as the exclusive sphere of men. They feel that both men and women should participate in the political affairs of the state.

In case of Assam legislative Assembly also the 33 women representatives under study all are educated and some are highly educated also. We have seen that since 1985 to 2016 there was not a single women legislator whose education is below HSLC. Family backgrounds also reflect that their parents were also educated and

they were either government servant or former politicians. Data on the educational profile of the woman legislators suggests that there is absence of any under matric representative in Assam State Legislative Assembly, thus 0 % women are under matric, 33.33% are undergraduate, 27.275% women are graduate and 30.30 % are post graduate and 9.09% has done above PG level. It reveals that most of the woman legislators of Assam have monopolized higher education. Since 0 % women are under matric and the data on the educational background of the woman representatives indicates that more and more highly educated women are entering in the politics of Assam which is a positive symptom for the state. Education plays the most important role in cultivating positive image among women. Education also prepares women to challenge the obstacles they encounter in all the spheres of life and it was supported by most of the respondents.

2. In Assam Legislative Assembly majority of the women representatives are married and they joined politics after their marriage. They joined politics in their middle age. According to majority of them family members of their in laws always encouraged them and thus marriage no way is a constraint for them. The marital status of the woman respondents reveals that marriage does not hinder women's political participation. The number of the unmarried women is very few at the time of their entrance into politics. There is only one Divorcee in the whole population. In the sample of 33 woman representatives, it has been found that only 4 women i.e. 12.12% were unmarried and the 19 women i.e. 57.57% were married at the time of entry into politics, 09 women i.e. 27.27 % were widow. Thus marriage is not creating any hindrance in women in Assam regarding their entry in to politics.



Instead it is helping to a great extent. So, marriage is not a barrier to women's political participation rather it is the base of their politics.

3. In Assam, a number of the woman representatives entered in the State Assembly through widow succession. Those respondents replied that they joined politics after the death of their husbands who were either member/Minister in the Assembly or candidate for election. The data about the woman members' factors for entry into politics reveal that 9 women i.e. 27.27% entered in to politics through widow succession. They got their entry after the death of their husbands to fill in the deceased husbands' vacant constituency. When a women is elected on the basis of widow succession, then the question of other criteria's like caste, religion, educational qualifications, and candidate's fitness are not taken in to account, the main criteria is sympathy in such situation. The widows after their husband's death easily become successful in capturing the power. But originally all of them were highly educated and after achieving power they themselves become very successful legislators and they ornamented many important positions in the field of politics. Thus now they are known by their own name, position and work.

4. The study also revealed the fact that political family background is positively related to women's political participation in Assam. Women's from political family background participate more in various campaign activities, contesting election and unconventional political activities than the women from non-political family background. Further they are members of political parties at higher levels, i.e. state and national levels and occupy a higher status in the party hierarchy. In case of Assam Legislative Assembly more than 87% women has a political family background. They are either daughter or daughter in law of former or present

politicians. Some of them accepted that from their childhood they got an environment which was very much congenial for developing qualities of leadership and which helped them and encouraged them to participate in some voluntary organisations and student's organisation during their student lives. Thus according to them they developed an interest about joining politics since their childhood.

5. Women from families having better economic condition participate more in politics than the women from lower economic condition. Because in activities related to politics of the state like campaigning in election, membership of voluntary organisation and contesting election require more resources and time, which is not always available for the poor people. Thus better economic condition is an important factor which provides a ground for better participation of women. In case of Assam legislative Assembly all the women legislators have a strong economic background in their parental home as well as in their husband's home also.

6. In representative Democracy without party support it is very difficult to win any election. The data relating to this issue revealed that the respondents were well aware of that fact. Out of 33 respondents all of them supported this view and they forwarded interesting arguments in favour of their opinion. To them, party provide the platform, publicity and the fund to women who wanted to contest election, thus their party's support is utmost essential. All of them contested as member of one or other political parties. Though at the initial stage two of them contested as independent candidates but later on they became the members of some political parties. Out of the total 33 respondents 25 that mean 75.76% contested election through National political parties and 24.24% contested through Regional political parties. The study reveals the fact that very few number of women were put-up by

political parties during that period. From 1985 to 2016 all political parties including major political parties like INC and BJP only 162 women managed to get ticket for contesting election .From regional political parties including AGP which was the first popular and mass political party for the Assamese people and which was the result of long six years Asom Agitation where men and women participated equally, only 106 women have been put up by the party. Regarding representation in Assembly also there were 25 representatives from National political parties and 8 from Regional political parties in that whole period of 30 years (1985-2016).

7. According to all the respondents as because of the negligence of the political parties women are not interested to contest in the elections either to the Assembly or the Parliament and parties are also not interested to give tickets to women. During that 30 years period covered by the study all total 268 women got tickets for contesting election from political parties including both national and regional as against 7509 male candidates. Interestingly 132 women contested as independent candidates and 11 from registered unrecognised parties. If we make an overall analysis out of the total 162 candidates put up by National political parties ,only 41 won the election and from Regional Political Parties out of 106 candidates only 13 won the election. From among the 11 candidates put up by registered unrecognised parties during that period none entered the Assembly. 132 candidates who contested as independent candidates ,only 6 became victorious. Thus it is clear that women in Assam are not getting better opportunities from Political Parties whether it is National or Regional.

8. Though it has been a mass believe that most the of women MLAs in Assam joined politics as successor of their expired husbands, but during the period covered

by this study there were only 9 female representatives which constitute only 27% of the total population, entered politics against widow succession. Majority of women (73%) joined because of their desire to serve the community though there may be some earlier family linkage with politics of the state. Since their student lives they were the active members of student organisation or students wing of some political parties. There are some examples of women in Assam Assembly who joined politics by leaving their noble professions like medical and teaching.

9. According to all the respondents political parties are greatly responsible for low participation of women at higher level of the administration. Political parties are not ready to give tickets to women to contest election. They must ensure a minimum number of seats to be reserved for women. Parties should not discriminate against women in providing important offices in party hierarchies, in government and in various other decision making bodies. Such apolitical motivation would provide an impetus to women's initiation in to politics. The findings asserted that reluctance of political party is mainly responsible for depriving women in achieving the position of power. Though most of the political parties often highlight the issue of women's reservation, in practice, they even do not want to include women members in their party executive body also. They hesitate to offer party tickets to women, even sometime the male members do not hesitate to do character assassination of female members of the same party. But in a democratic set up, it is difficult either to contest or win the election without institutional support. Thus, the absence of democracy in the internal composition of a political party prohibits women aspirants to contest the election.

10. While discussing Assembly activity of the women representatives, it was revealed by the respondents that there is a unity among the women representatives across parties when there is any discussion on woman issues. It is true that the issues raised by them may not be materialised in form of 'real legislation' yet from the point of a collective voice, it is very essential. This understanding is required more for women issue in the background of the fact that the legislature which is still considered a bastion of male, women's unity can go a long way in bargaining women's issues. It will also help in promoting a consensus among them on issues concerning women, going beyond party lines. As a result it will be possible for them to challenge the dominant role of the party in 'compelling' its women members more than often to follow the party lines even on issues concerned with women problem. Thus the Assembly house is a 'unifying' platform for the women members. Though it has been found that the issues of women have been very few, yet the inter relation between the women members across parties is found while the business of the House is being conducted. This inter relationship is characterised by an attitude of co-operation between the women members. It can be said that the increase in the number of women members in the House will facilitate a 'comfortable' environment for women members to carry on their business.

11. Another most important finding was that majority of the respondents revealed that though it is not very potent but gender discrimination is present in our state politics also. In that case party identity is immaterial. After entering the house party identity of a female representative is less important, the main consideration is that they have a very meagre representation. So the opinions forwarded by them on any issue never receive due importance and ultimately cancelled. All issues even those

which are related to women also are taken by the overwhelming majority of men. In spite of being elected they are nowhere in taking decisions in the house as because of their low representation.

12. Regional political parties in Assam are not in a position to take any introductory step for ensuring better representation of women in the representative institutions of the State. In most legislative systems, political parties are the main vehicle through which candidates are elected. In some states in India also local or regional political parties are very strong in providing opportunities to women regarding political participation i.e. in the Lok Sabha election of 2019 BJD (Biju Janata Dal) in Orissa declared 33% reservation for women and at the same time TMC (Trinamul Congress, a National level political party) in West Bengal ensured 41% reservation<sup>2</sup>. But in case of Assam AGP was the result of long expectation of the Assamese people. The Assam movement which formed the basis of the formation of the party and thus it had the massive support of women across different sections in the state. But AGP did not make any attempt to increase proper participation of women in the politics of the state. Generally the aspect of representation of women is considered by the women's wing of the party, the Assam Mahila Parishad. It must have taken proper steps for facilitating women's representation. But it is also true that it must have the autonomy to take decisions on selecting a candidate for the election. On the question of autonomy of the women's wings, it was found that the organisation has limited power to make 'final' decisions on 'certain issues'. It was also found that the party has shown a static trend at facilitating women's representation. The rigidity of

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<sup>2</sup>Khanna Pretika and Neetu Chandra Sharma, "Elections 2019: Women's reservation in politics back on the agenda", 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, (<https://www.livemint.com/elections/lok-sabha-election>)

the party is found to exist when it comes to promoting women for representation. Besides, the women representatives also played an extremely circumscribed role while supporting and facilitating women's discussion on women's issues. It was also evident that the male members are not even ready to accept a woman as the leader of the party.

**6.3 On the basis of the interpretation of responses following conclusions can be drawn.**

- (i) Though it is not very apparent patriarchy is prevalent in our society. Due to the existence of patriarchal system women are not in a position to freely decide a political career for them. The patriarchs influence the women not only in deciding their voting choices but also in their party membership as well as contesting the elections. The high magnitude of dependency on the male members is creating barriers in establishing their own identity in political arena.
- (ii) Negligence on the part of the political parties is one of the main reasons behind women's lower political representation. Political parties are not interested enough to provide party tickets to women candidates. Even they hesitate to confer leadership position to women in the party hierarchy. Not a single woman has been conferred the position of party leadership by any political party at state level.
- (iii) Women from middle class families can't expect to enter active politics due to the lack of fund. Financial weakness deterred many women aspirants to enter into state politics. It has been one of the important causes for the less participation of women in the elections. Since most women have no independent income of their

own, they had to depend on either some political parties or their male relatives. This lack of fund acted as the toughest deterrent for women in entering politics.

(iv) The existence of anti-social elements and activities in the present day politics also discouraged the aspiring women. Sometime people speak against character of women representatives. Sometime own party members indulge in spreading bad comments against some women members. But it is derogatory for dignities of women. In such a situation women can't do their work in a free atmosphere. These attitudes of their fellow members create problems. A continuous process of social, economic and political reconstruction is required to overcome such obstacles and to create a more congenial socio-political environment conducive to women's meaningful presence and participation in politics.

(v). One very important aspect is that in case of Assam though various factors are quite influential in determining the level of participation of women. But neither a single factor could be regarded as the principal factor. Except education no other factor is as influential as the factor of service to the people. The principal responsibility of a representative is to represent the grievances of the people of her constituency and to solve it properly. Thus all the other socio-politico-economic factors are influential to an extent only. If a representative will truly work for the people than no hindrance can deter her from coming to power. In Assam Legislative Assembly, one representative was sent by the people of her constituency for six consecutive terms .But none of the factor is relevant for her entry and survival in politics. She was from a middle class family with no political linkage. The only criterion was her dedication to work and truly representing the problems of the people of her constituency.



After discussing the findings of the study a few remedial measures to raise the political participation and representation of women have been underlined as follows.

#### **6.4 Recommendations for Raising Political participation and representation of Women:**

As low participation of women has become a global issue, it is the duty of every alert citizen of a modern democracy to think about it and must try to find out some measures to tackle with the problem. As it is not very easy task there must be a collective effort from individual person, the social organisation, the media, the political parties, the judiciary and the state machinery. It requires some short term measures and some long term measures for the final solution of the problem.

##### **Short Term Measures:**

1. One very important method by which the participation of women in politics could be enhanced is the reservation of seats .It is the most important institutional mechanism to raise the political participation of women. Reservation is a method in which a certain percentage of seats in the legislature are reserved for a particular section of the society who have been left behind in the process of socio-economic development and social and political modernization. Though the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution (1992) made provisions for 33% reservation of seats for women in the local level government, but in the central and state legislatures women's representation is quite insignificant. The 81st Amendment Bill (1996) which is also called Reservation Bill proposed to reserve 33% of seats for women in the Parliament and in the state legislatures has been yet to get the majority support. Although democracy requires adequate representation of all the sections of the

society, in reality, women continued to be largely underrepresented and their needs were very rarely taken into consideration. That is why it is the most important need of the day to ensure women's representation in the legislatures through reservation of certain seats for them. A law need to be enacted providing for women's reservation of one third of the seats, elected or nominated to the legislative houses including the State legislative Assemblies. The responsibility lies with the civil society and the media; they must raise their voices in this regard so that the policy-making and the implementing machinery must rethink the issue and reanimate the issue of reservation more seriously.

(ii) As emphasized in the "Platform of Action" at the World Conference on Women at Beijing in 1995, a law should be enacted to make it mandatory for every recognized political party to nominate women candidates for election in one third of the contesting seats. In this context, the Election Commission of India needs to take serious action in devising measures to ensure that the political parties compulsorily put up a good percentage of women candidates. If a constituency is dominated by a particular community than it should be reserved for women of that particular community depending upon the prevailing local socio-political factors. Women candidates could be nurtured if it is required when viable women candidates were not found .Through party reservation, a woman candidate could contest both against other female and/or male candidates of rival parties. Therefore, the democratic choice of voters would not be restricted to elect only the women candidates. Women members thus elected in competition with other candidates without reservation of seats would be considered by the public as legitimate representatives and not just beneficiaries of humanitarian measures.

(iii) Money plays the most important role in the present day politics. Without money no one can take a single step in the modern political arena. Due to lack of fund a large number of aspiring women become unable to enter in the electoral politics. That is why; some sort of measures need to be developed for providing funds to the willing women. In this context state can take some steps for providing funds to women candidates. State funding systems may bring about a tremendous change. If the state takes initiative to provide some sort of “revolving fund” to the aspiring women candidates, it would be easier for them to contest election. At the party level also, all political parties may establish trust funds for women. As women face a lot of obstacles than men in raising funds for political campaigning, a specified percentage of the party resources need to be allocated for this fund. There are many advantages of creating such funds as it will compel the political parties to put up female candidates and encourage them to do so because a certain portion of their resources would remain earmarked for women. Even if no female candidate comes forward to contest, that fund should be utilized for media campaigning to encourage the female aspirants to come forward and participate in the political process.

(iv) Judiciary can play quite influential role in this regard. It should take some steps. There are many types of anti-social elements and the activities relating to electoral politics which also retard a large number of aspiring women from entering the politics. In such situation a dynamic role is to be played by the judiciary in preventing those elements and to ensure a violence free atmosphere during elections. It may also undertake strict measures against those political workers and contestant who want to ensure their victory with the help of money and muscle power. The judiciary may also debar the aspirants from contesting elections who have records of

committing violence against women. The Election Commission may also cancel the candidature of those contestants who have the record of indulgence in any anti-social activities. The state administration needs to take appropriate measures to counter the illegal activities during elections so that the whole election process could be made easy and peaceful. A free and secured atmosphere would certainly inspire women to play meaningful role in the political arena.

#### Long Term Measures:

Some long term measures are-

(i) Socialization process, on the basis of which the social rules are transmitted from one generation to another, needs reform. To reform the socialization process is the most urgent need of the day to raise the political participation of women. From their childhood the girls should be treated equally by their parents, girls should be taught about their true worth. It will certainly help in developing a positive image in them.

It is the duty of the families and the community to inspire them to acquire those characteristics which are politically relevant and which are essential to develop a strong personality relevant for politics. Families should start the process by cultivating the values of gender equality from the early childhood. In later stages the educational institutions should undertake needful initiatives to prepare children for future membership in the socio-political systems and to develop qualities essential for that purpose through extracurricular activities.

(ii) It is true that the educated women are more aware of their democratic rights. Thus another important step to raise the political participation of women is to literate womenfolk in meaningful manner. Education plays the most vital role in securing job opportunity which in turn helps them to maintain economic freedom. Economic

freedom helps to develop freedom of choice and ultimately to develop a strong personality. That is why women should be educated. The state Government should take necessary measures to reserve more and more seats for girls in general education as well as in professional courses so that they might be able to qualify themselves for different jobs. Economic self-sufficiency will help them to develop self-confidence.

(iii) As a part of the affirmative action programmes, the Government should ensure women's reservation in the government jobs. Special schemes for employment generation among the women should be implemented. The Government may also adopt the policy of "positive discrimination" in favour of women so that they can be placed in various jobs as per their conveniences. Economic independence will enable them to overcome the traditional bondage and will pave the way for assimilation in the mainstream of the society.

(iv) The role of the civil society and the voluntary organizations bear a very important responsibility in this regard. Their role in creating political aptitude and awareness among women can never be ignored. These organizations may extend their helping hand in the implementation of the Government's policies and programmes like arrangement of training on political activities, publicity of political information so that it is easily accessible for women. Through continuous and long term efforts media may create political awareness among the women and may contribute to change the rigid doctrine that politics is only a male bastion.

v) Another long term measure is the establishment of political training college. There are two types of executives in a state i.e. permanent and political, and there are Administrative training colleges for training of the administrators where they get

pre entry and post entry training, thus there must be some political training institute to impart pre entry training to build up leadership quality among different interested candidates including women and post entry training to handle different problems as representatives. It will help to create efficient political leaders for the state.

vi) Institutions of Higher Education can also take some steps by introducing new courses for leadership quality development and political training. Courses may be introduced specially for girls also. Again some compulsory courses must be incorporated in the syllabus at school level also on political participation of women. It will help to develop consciousness among girls that women participation is how important and their skill is also essential for the progress of a country.

(vii) The above study reveals it clearly that the present day politics has been criminalized to a great extent and this is one important reason behind lack of political aptitude among women. To create proper aptitude in them and to revive their faith there is the need to change the socio political system and to restore honesty and morality in the society. To re-establish morality in the present disordered society, children should be imparted moral education and spiritual training from their very formative stage. It is not very easy task and all need to join hands in this regard like the family, the society, the voluntary organizations and the spiritual organizations etc.

viii) Another step should be taken by the educated women of the society. They can play quite effective role by establishing an Educated Women's Forum as a platform for taking various decisions on women political participation. This forum will take various steps for sending more women to politics. It should be made compulsory for

all educated women to be a member of that forum .It should be established at different levels like block, district and state.

At last women they should also develop a favourable attitude towards politics. They should spare time and should come out of their homes to take part in political activities .It is also up to women to prepare themselves for participating in all the processes that they have been demanding. Family members should also cooperate with women by sharing their family responsibilities and encouraging them to take part in political activities. But above all, what is actually required is a need to replace the traditional value system, which is based upon inequality of sexes in which women play a subordinate role.

Thus for the proper advancement of the nation there must be equality of status for both men and women in the society, otherwise it will be a great hindrance in the way of development. A country could seldom progress by wasting the talent of half of its population. Only when women will be provided with their due space within the household, they should be allowed to be a part of various decisions of the house and then only the political status and political rights enjoyed by them will be meaningful in the true sense of the term. It will help in establishing a gender-balanced representation in the political arena. Thus equality should start from the house itself. It is a global truth that increasing number of women in politics would indicate that human society is truly making progress. Any society that categorically excludes half of its members from the political process of the country without any relevant reason can't claim itself as a country in the process of true progress.

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1. <https://treaties.un.org/>(True copy)
2. Khanna Pretika and Neetu Chandra Sharma, "Elections 2019: Women's reservation in politics back on the agenda"13th March2019([https://www. livemint.com/ elections/ lok-sabha-election](https://www.livemint.com/elections/lok-sabha-election))