

Women Political Participation

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Abstract: *Women's leadership and effective participation is increasingly on the development agenda of governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and non-governmental organizations, including women's rights groups. Evidence from programmes and research demonstrates the important role women play as key actors and decision-makers in the development process across a wide range of sectors. In the political area in particular, there is growing momentum among governments to foster and ensure women's participation and leadership in governance structures. Establishing quotas for women's representation at different levels of governance has been a strategic tactic in achieving this goal in many countries.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Promoting gender equality and empowering women is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs explicitly recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment are not only human rights, but also play a powerful role in promoting development and reducing poverty. When women have the same opportunities, access to resources, and life choices as men, the benefits extend far beyond women themselves. As women work to strengthen their families and communities, they foster the education and health of the next generation, hasten economic growth, and strengthen public and private institutions. The Greek philosopher Plato put it into the mouth of his mentor, Socrates, in *The Republic* as "part of the natural relation of the sexes". The notion did not strike Socrates' young listeners in ancient Athens as altogether radical. They saw women though largely a privileged few openly active in the political system. Aspasia, the mistress of the 5th century leader Pericles, had wielded considerable political power visibly. In the rival city-state of Sparta, the mothers of potential warriors had significant political rights. Plato was no democrat, but his experience had led him to conclude that intelligence and ethics were not limited to any one class, ethnicity or gender. He believed passionately that education could cultivate these qualities in individuals and that those who benefited most from education could and should govern others. His ideal polity was a benevolent meritocracy [1]. If we hurtle into modern times, we find that two years before the French Revolution of 1789, Condorcet, author of the *Progress of the Human Mind*, proposed that women be declared eligible for election to governing bodies[2] Again, the idea was not a terribly radical departure from a number of practices throughout Western Europe. Women of property had often voted in local councils; many women over many centuries had wielded power behind whole nations, whether as regents or in their own right. France now stood—albeit very briefly on the edge of democracy. the first of all countries to recognize this inalienable right, the question of women's political participation has become permanently inscribed on the international agenda and permeates many regional and national plans of action.

1.1. Misperceptions of Women's Political Participation

Because most efforts to increase women's participation in politics have concentrated on enabling gender equality throughout society as a whole, this issue still tends to be perceived as a women's question rather than as an essential human concern moreover, a matter vital to the survival of democracy. Consequently, one must look at a great number of factors that contribute to building women's agency in politics, whether or not they initially appear to constitute governance issues. The approaches listed below are by no means exhaustive, but provide a framework for concomitant strategies to achieve gender balance early in the 21st century.

1.2. Political Party and Electoral System Reform

The party system, so long a beneficiary of women's work from the ward level upwards, has long been an impediment to women's political leadership. In addition to affirmative action at the legislative

level, political parties should honor commitments to equality and ensure that women constitute fifty per cent of party membership, leadership, committee officers and candidates.

1.3. Training in Information Technology

Countless studies, including several of the papers in this compilation, have underscored the importance of increasing women's agency by overcoming gender gaps in access to information technology. A number of international organizations, such as the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU), have highlighted the point, devoting particular attention to improving the access of women parliamentarians to information on IPU web sites and their linkages in cyber space. Women's organizations play a particularly important role in taking advantage of the new technologies. They seem to flourish in the borderless environment where civil society groups once previously ignored have attained a greater voice in governance.

In almost all countries there is also a need to create more positive relations between politicians and civil society and an exchange between women in different substantive spheres to shape complementary strategies. In addition, engagement with religious groups is required to address gender inequities debates with religious hierarchies, particularly where sacred texts are interpreted to inhibit women's potential participation.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE

1. advocacy in gender awareness in politics
2. capacity-building through networking
3. negotiation skills
4. management
5. constituency-building
6. budget analysis
7. gender mainstreaming skills
8. use of mass media
9. political and voter education
10. mass mobilization
11. Long-term strategies for engaging Younger generations.

2.1. Challenges Facing Women's in political participation

Research demonstrates that the type of electoral system plays an important role in determining whether or not women get properly involved on party lists or get elected notably Proportional Representation However, since most of the information available on this issue is specific to the Western world and because each electoral system is affected by other cultural and economical considerations no one particular system can be universally advocated. In addition, because most powerful political parties reflecting the more general conditions in the rest of society, they do not easily accept or promote many women in their internal structures. Hence the current concerns being voiced about the viability and popularity of parties as vehicles for women's political advancement in the face of emerging alternative political entities, such as NGOs. Moreover, lack of sufficient training and communication skills or media know-how remains a tremendous problem for women in developed and developing need, even in areas that appear to have little relevance to politics. adjusting the discourse so as to emphasize the sharing of responsibilities rather than power take overs Comparing, comparing and comparing yet again experiences strategies and mechanisms from around the world.

2.2. Developing criteria for impacting as making a qualitative difference

- Change in perception of women and men politicians, as well as in the expected division of labour between men and women in any society. How politicians are perceived often makes or breaks political careers.

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- Change in coverage, notably in the writing of textbooks and history (the seed of many of the female stereotypes that discourage women from entering public life), as well as media content.
- Change in discourse, such as shifts in emphasis in women's participation in areas traditionally seen as "men's affairs" or "hard politics" (defense, finance, foreign policy), in addition to redefining and prioritizing "soft" issues such as welfare, maternity leave and education.
- Change in day-to-day workings of political institutions, including family-friendly timing and location of meetings, as well as the de fact exclusion of women from traditional male caucus spaces, such as bars and all-male clubs.

3. CONCLUSION

The idea that a world governed equally by women and men will not necessarily be one of greater justice or less violence. The association of women with the "safe" "peaceful" or "equitable" haven of the home is fundamentally a cultural assumption. However persistent and pervasive world-wide, it is like all cultural assumptions subject to change. Further, no previous era has been marked by change as rapid as ours in virtually every domain. This pace is unlikely to slow. Finally, the myth of women as guardians of the home has been exploded by research on household inequities and domestic violence world-wide, as well as used to deter women from entering public space. What we do know at the moment is that men and women have much to learn from one another in politics. However rapid that learning process may become and however much we need to take action for its acceleration, the lessons require a great deal of internalization in addition to conscious mastery. The process is therefore likely to take longer than the acquisition of factual knowledge.

REFERENCES

- [1] Plato, *The Republic*, translated by Benjamin Jowett. Our thanks to Shawna Tropp for this reminder, as well as for other from Western intellectual history.
- [2] For a bird's-eye view of these developments, see Mim Kelber, editor, *Women and Government: New Ways to Political Power*, Westport and London, Praeger, 1994, pp. 1- 61. Condorcet was also a passionate believer in universal education and strongly opposed slavery.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY



I am **Dr. Pralhad V Chengte**, working as an assistant professor in Political science in Government First Grade College Humnabad. I worked as a Principal in Rajiv Gandhi arts and commerce college basavakalyan (private college) 2004-2007. I am doing research since from 2005 to till today. I have been published 9 papers in reputed journals and 3 is in under review and also I was published one chapter in Himalaya publications in the year 2010. I am sincere and dedicated teacher. I got Sarvapali Radhakrishna award as a best teacher in the year 2014. I always inspire and motivate the students and solve their problems in subject and

tell us about current affairs. Thanking you