



PROBLEMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL SOCIETY

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Abstract

Right from the ancient society the women have been treated as second rate citizens. Only during Vedic period the women are given certain respect to participate in the discussions held in Sabha and Samiti. They are at full liberty in case of marriage and settlement. Slowly this trend has been changed. Women have to observe seclusion. They are not allowed to receive education like boys. The teachers have to come to the houses and teach the girls from behind the curtain. In the field of politics the women have played limited role. Very few women are discharged the function as rulers. Utpala queen of Kashmir, Sultana Razia of Delhi, Rudramadevi of kakatiya's have functioned as the duties of rulers. She was one of the few women to rule as monarch in the Indian subcontinent and promoted a male image in order to do so. But after the enforcement of the constitution of India the position of women has not been changed on expected lines. Fortunately for women Mrs Indira Gandhi was the prime minister for 17 years excluding 3 years between 1977 -1980. Very few female members have acted as chief ministers. At present only one chief minister that is mamatha Banerjee of Bengal is performing her activities in the capacity of the chief minister. Only few ladies have performed their political duties and obligations. But women formed 50 percentage in the population. Problems of women have not been solved. At the local bodies 50 percent of seats in municipalities, panchayat raj institutions have been reserved. Similarly the women are provided reservations and they are elected to the local bodies. Still women are waiting for their opportunity to become member in the parliament. The reservation policy of 33 percentage was not passed. There is no sympathy for women for the political reservations among the political parties. As per various observations some of the political groups have pressurised the government not to pass the women reservation bill. The economic and religious groups are demanding for removal of the women from the political field. These issues will be high lightened in my full paper.

Key words: women reservation, Sabha and Samiti, Seclusion.

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Present research paper is presented by keeping the objectives in mind that the political problems being faced by women should be solved through the political reservations. To focus the constitutional provisions for the development of women is a major objective to present this topic.

The doctrinaire approach was adopted and consulted various books and held discussions with the experts to prepare the present topic

The women are treated as second rate citizens. They require the support of the government to fulfil their task providing 33 percent political reservations is only the solutions. On the basis of these tentative constitutions the present topic has been prepared. The political problems of women is not an age old topic. It is a burning topic as new measures have been adopted for the all-round development of women.

The women as being treated as goddess in India. The Hindu puranas treat women as Laxmi. Early history of India indicates that the people have observed matriarchal customs. The Indus people are called as yoni worshippers. The name of the family is traced from the name of women. Society is advanced the position of women has been changed the early Vedic period has accorded liberty and equality to the women. They are allowed to choose indulge in the discussions held at Sabha and Samiti. But no high-posts are given to women. Scenario has been totally changed from the post Vedic period. The patriarchical society treat women as a half body of men. The husbands treat their wives as their own property. The women are not allowed to talk freely with men. Main reason for this custom is to save the women folk from the onslaughts of foreign invaders. Observation of sati ill-treatment of widows became a regular custom from 3rd century AD. Women have no property of their own according to Manu Dharmasastras. Women are only for sexual pleasure according to male dominated society. The no of educated women can be counted on the fingers. No women ministers, no women rulers have found in the annuals of the history. But the women bodyguards were found from the inscriptions of Mouryans called ganikas.

In the Muslim society the position of women is further worsen. Only two rules that is Chand bi-bi of Mohammed Nagar Sultan Razia of Delhi, nurjahan of Moghuls were the formidable rulers. The women of lower sections faced innumerable problems. The Talak system has shaken the routes of women society. The political conditions of women are not so better. The executive counsellor is the member of legislative assembly has appointed from women society. Only the religious reform movement have tried their best for the development of women. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dayananda Saraswathi, Savitribhai phule are the pioneers who have served for the emancipation of women. Due to the efforts of the B R Ambedkar, the reservations have been provided to both women and dalits. Special schools and colleges have been set up with the best efforts of Kandukuri Veeresalingam and the Maharishi D k Carve. After the enforcement the constitution of India. The government has faced real challenge. The fundamental rights and directive principles provide equal

opportunity to both men and women. For 30 years there is no change in the position of women. During 70s and 80s feminists movement have been launched for the betterment of the position of women.

Women are the half of the population in the world. Even in India some of the states like Andhrapradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand etc., have witnessed more women population than men. But in some states like Haryana, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan women population is decreasing day by day due to the ultra-scan. Considering the deteriorating position of women the present government of India has started a programme “savegirls and educate the girls”. The ultra-sound system was totally banned. Women education has been given top priority. Reservation for women in the political institutions is taken up. But still the bill is not passed in the parliament. But 50percent reservation has been provided in the local bodies. 33 percent reservations are allotted to women. All most all states have adopted these policies for the development of women. Development generally be considered as synonym for the word empowerment. The term empowerment is a modern concept. The modern concept empowerment is nothing but development of women in the major fields like education, politics and economy.

Mahila samakya’s analysis of women’s situation stated, “The women are caught in a vicious circle, where not being able to educate themselves creates the feeling that education is irrelevant to them. Daily struggle for food, fuel, water, fodder, child birth and child rearing saps all the energy. Their social interactions are determined by cultural traditions, taboos and superstitions. Their social and family roles are well defined and they are socially and physically oppressed. They do not have access to information. They are alienated from the decision making process and, thus, relate to government programmes like balika Kishore samrakshan yojana[protection of young girls], free education for women, and 33 percent reservation for women make as passive recipients. Since they do not have information about their rights, they view their environment with suspicion and fear. All these factors reinforce a low self-image, so that women are ultimately trapped in their own perception of themselves and in the way society perceives them.

The objective of the above programme was to change the basic conditions of women’s lives. This, it was suggested, would come only when a change in women’s perspectives about themselves and their perception of society in regard to women’s traditional roles is brought about. The realization that ‘ development is a notion that demands

a qualitative shift in the attitudes of the people involved, meant that the programme has to emphasise on generating experiences which facilitate alternate perception of the self-image as well as social image of women. It was, therefore, emphasized that there is a need to shift in the attitudes of the people involved, meant that there is a need to shift the focus from hygiene, nutrition, child development', to training programmes that were expected to create a climate of questioning, reflecting, sharing, choosing, seeking, and discovering- through listening and talking. In pursuance of the women empowerment programmes, education is given top priority. New education policy of late Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao is regarded as a boon in the perspective of women education. Education is an internal and integral part of the process of the women empowerment. Hence all most all states have resolved to provide 33percent reservation for women in education institutions now the education of the girls is compulsory under article 21a of the constitution of India, and is made a part of the right to life. This has been recognised by new education policy of 1986. Hence the 33percent reservation provided in the education institutions make the women so strong to face the challenges posed by the society.

Constitutional provisions for the welfare of women

This ideology was bound to get reflected in the post-independent governmental efforts to ameliorate the conditions of women. It was natural that the ambivalence that was visible during social reform and national movement and was carried on in the Constituent Assembly would surface when efforts were made in the form of laws and policies by the Indian state to blunt the edge of male domination.

The constitution of India has granted equal rights to women along with men. The preamble, fundamental rights and the directive principles have confirmed the equal status of women as a part of women empowerment. The Indian constitution adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949 is a comprehensive document enshrining various principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. These objectives specified in the preamble and elsewhere form part of basic structure of the Indian constitution. The fundamental law of the land assures the dignity of the individuals irrespective of their sex, community or place of birth.

With regard to the women, the constitution contains many negative and positive provisions which go a long way in securing gender justice. While incorporating these provisions, the framers of the constitution were well conscious of the unequal treatment

meted out to the fairer sex, from the time immemorial. The history of suppression of women in India is very long and the same has been responsible for including certain general as well as specific provisions for upliftment of the status of women. The rights guaranteed to the women are no part with the rights of men and in some cases the women have been allowed to enjoy the benefit of certain special provision.

The general provisions relating to the equal rights available to the women are the right to vote and other political rights, the fundamental rights contained in part 111 of the constitution and the directive principles etc.,.

Clause [3] of article 15, which permits special provisions for women and children, has been widely resorted to, by the state and the courts have always upheld the validity of the special measures in legislation or executive orders favouring women. Article 15[3] embodies one of the two exceptions to the prohibition contained in clause [1] and [2] of article 15. It empowers the state to make special provisions for women and children. This particular advantage has been conferred on the women because the framers of the constitution were well aware of the unequal treatment meted out to women in India from the time immemorial. The other reason for making special provisions for them is their physical structure and the performance of material functions which place them at a disadvantage in the struggle for subsistence.

Apart from the household duties of women she should be given an opportunity to get good education. Article 15 [3] provide special reservations to women in all education institutions run by the government. Thus it would be no violation of article 15 if instructions are set up by the state exclusively for women or places reserved for them at public entertainment or in public conveyances. The reservations made for women in educational institutions and public employment are protected by article 15 [3].

Article 44 directs the state to secure for the citizen a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. This particular goal is towards the achievement of gender justice. Even though the state has not yet made any efforts to introduce uniform civil code in India, the judiciary has recognised the necessity of the uniformity in application of civil laws like law of marriage, succession, adoption and maintenance etc., in the case of *sarala mudgal vs. union of India* and other cases.

Apart from these specific provisions all the other provisions of the constitution are equally applicable to the men and women. This clearly establishes the intension of the

framers of the constitution to improve the social, economic educational and political status of the women so that they can be treated with men on equal terms.

Women reservation bill a political obstacle

For long time reservations for women became an unsolved questions. The women reservations would help them to develop in all fields. Mrs Indira Gandhi was the first prime minister of India for 17 years. But women development is only on the paper. Domestic violence, acid attacks, women burning are common scenes in the modern society. Only the political reservations for women would solve the problem. The bill seeks to provide 33 percent reservations in the parliament and state assemblies. The bill is passed in Rajya Sabha and pending before Lok Sabha. There is no common consensus among the political parties. Still all the parties roaring like lions outside of the parliament for passing the bill but no co-ordination is seen in the parliament. Fortunately the state assemblies have passed acts to provide 50 percent reservations for the women. The problems cannot be solved till the political reservations are provided to the women. We all hope for better future to the women folk.

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