

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN POLITICAL SPHERE

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ABSTRACT

Women's political participation is essential for the success of democracy, it leads to greater responsiveness to citizen needs, and a more sustainable future. The meaningful participation of women in national, local, and community leadership roles has become an important focus on global development policy.

In 19th century women fought for the right to vote and achieved success in attaining it, but today in 21st century the need is to accomplish equal representation for women in law making bodies. Over the last two decades the representation of women in national parliaments has increased globally, but according to the gender equity index gender gap in representation is still a concern. There are only 36 women for 100 men in political representation at the global level.

While democracies around the globe are making rapid strides regarding women's representation in their elected bodies, the same cannot be said of India, where the progress has been at a snail's pace. The success stories and the lessons learnt from the implementation of reservation for women in our local bodies in the last few decades makes a strong case for reviving the Women's Reservation Bill, 2008. Given half a chance, they may bring a new energy into our politics by the Delivery of basic needs- health, nutrition, education and livelihoods.