

STUDY ON THE FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN INDIAN POLITICS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: There are at least three instances of feminist intervention in the field of law.

Aim of the study: the main aim of the study is to

Material and method: The current research is of an analytical and empirical character, and it bases its findings on historical evidence.

Conclusion: The current research measures and evaluates empowerment along a number of crucial characteristics.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The seats for women in legislatures are already crowded. According to the research, women who are politically active are better able to address fundamental concerns and realise their goals at the local, regional, district, and indigenous levels of government. This, in turn, benefits the country as a whole. More than half a percent of the planet is made up of women; it's a fact. However, in contrast to their colleagues at lower levels of state, they have no say in political decision-making. Since equality before the law and in political life is essential for any kind of justice or democracy to function properly, it follows that women should have equal access to both.

1.2 Female Participation In Indian Politics

The lack of women's engagement in policy and decision-making bodies has led to a development viewpoint that is male-oriented and is highly burdened with conventional gender norms and expectations. This has pushed the lack of women's participation in policy and decision-making bodies. As we approach the midpoint of the year 2014, questions regarding voter participation and the ways in which it has emerged as a key element of the discourse surrounding recent state elections in Bihar, West Bengal, and other prominent states are slowly beginning to creep their way into the conversation. The sub-index for political empowerment calculates the gender gap at the most significant level of political dynamic. This is accomplished by analysing the proportion of women to men who hold ministerial positions, the ratio of women to men who hold parliamentary positions, and the proportion of women to men who have held the position of head of state over the past 50 years. The leadership that Indira Gandhi provided as Prime Minister of India from 1966 until 1977 and then again from 1980 till her murder in 1984 has had a significant impact on India's current situation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Promi, Tanjin Ahsan (2019) It is research of an exploratory kind. Interviews with the people who took part in the study provided the basis for the data. The difficulties that participants must overcome differ from person to person. The research is carried out via an approach known as semi-structured in-depth interviews. We conduct interviews with female students who are affiliated with a variety of different dormitories. Sampling and the Size of the Sample At the University of Dhaka, female students may choose from one of five different halls.

Mlambo, Courage & Kapingura, Forget (2019) In this study, the elements that influence women's engagement in politics in the SADC area are identified and discussed. The report derived its conclusions from the fact that the average participation percentage of women is only thirty percent, which is barely half of the goal of fifty percent female representation that is mandated by the Protocol on Gender and Development of 2008. The paper argues that the full and equal participation of both women and men in political decision-making provides a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society, and may as such enhance the legitimacy of political processes by making them more democratic and responsive to the concerns and perspectives of all segments of society.

Varghese, Titty (2019) Over the course of the last several decades, both women's access to political power and their ability to affect policy have seen significant growth. Despite the fact that study on women's involvement in political empowerment is still ongoing, females do not come close to matching the influence that males have on political legitimacy nor do they practise it to the same extent. An exceptional policy tool for promoting women's political involvement at the national level, the 'Panchayati Raj Institutions' legislation of 1992 was enacted by the Indian government as part of the national programme of 'Panchayati Raj Institutions.'

Haug, Marit & Aasland, Aadne & Aasen, Berit (2019) Despite the fact that males have historically had a dominant position in politics, poll results from various regions in India, Nepal, and Bhutan indicate that sentiments about women's engagement in local politics are largely favourable. A cluster of attitudes may be found along three primary dimensions: views of women's capacity to participate in politics; the repercussions of political involvement for the reputation of the family; and the ramifications of women's political participation for their home obligations.

Ahmad, Akhlaq & Mahmood, Qaisar & Saud (2019) In many western democracies, the level of political engagement of women has increased to a large degree; on the other hand, in terms of political participation, women are still disproportionately underrepresented in Asian nations. This article examines the political involvement of women in a gender-segregated society with a predominantly patriarchal culture and political system. Such a society is characterised by the unequal distribution of social status between men and women.

3. METHODOLOGY

The current research is of an analytical and empirical character, and it bases its findings on historical evidence. The current research will make use of both primary and secondary sources of information. Interviews with prominent women in political leadership roles as well as interviews with local women who have political representation roles make up the core data for this study. The utilisation of published material, such as books, papers, and online brochures, will constitute the secondary data that will be analysed in this study.

4. RESULTS

The result of empowering people should be a more equitable allocation of resources across demographic lines. Changes in the legislation, property rights, control over women's labour and bodies, and institutions that support and perpetuate male supremacy must occur for women to be empowered. Therefore, to be empowered is to be able to make decisions based on an increasing amount of data, insight, and analysis of accessible alternatives.

4.1 Decision Making:

One aspect of empowerment is the development of one's own critical thinking and decision-making skills. Numerous elements, including logical thought, access to knowledge and information, accessible options, active engagement in activities, etc., go into decision-making, whether at the person, group, society, or institution level. The individual's upbringing and the cultural norms of the culture they live in also play significant roles. Women's subjugation stems, in large part, from their being denied the freedom to make their own choices or from their own incapacity to make decisions, even in matters of the heart. Women's effective decision making might be facilitated by raising their level of knowledge and giving them chances to participate in the public arena, as well as by creating an enabling atmosphere.

Table 4.1 Respondents' Views on the Unique Expectations Placed on Women Who Hold Positions of Authority

Opinion on Extra Responsibilities	Number	Percentage
Yes	144	56
No	111	44
Total	255	100

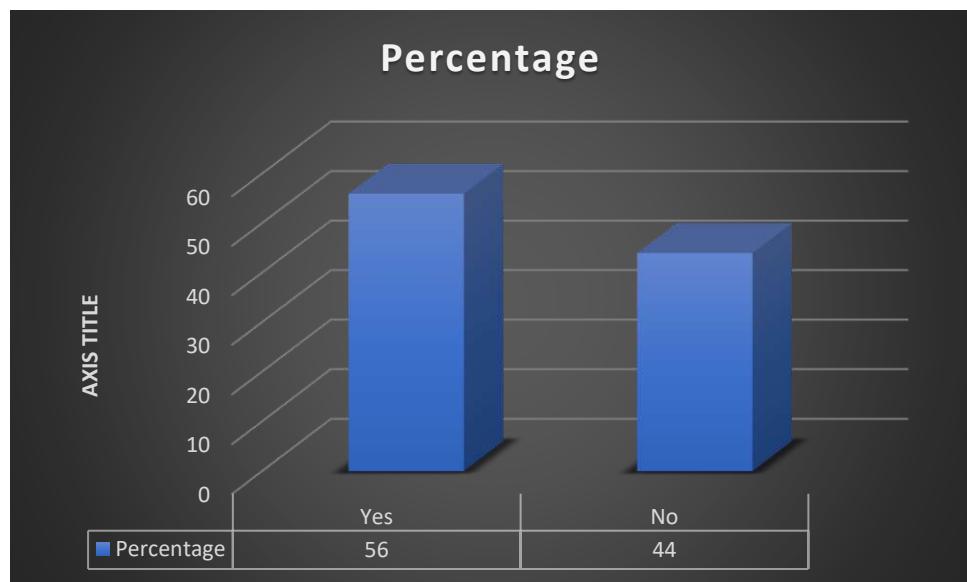


Figure 4.1 Opinion on Extra Responsibilities

Analyzing the responses to the question "Do women leaders have additional obligations for women?" is the focus of Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1. Over half (56%) of the group said they felt especially responsible for the well-being of women. However, 44% of the membership disagreed. This suggests that most women in the group consider themselves to have special obligations to other women.

Table 4.2 What kind of decision-making do the Respondents participate in?

Involvement in decision	Number	Percentage
Actively involved	69	27.1
Involved to a moderate level	93	36.5
Less involvement	60	23.5
No involvement	33	12.9
Total	255	100

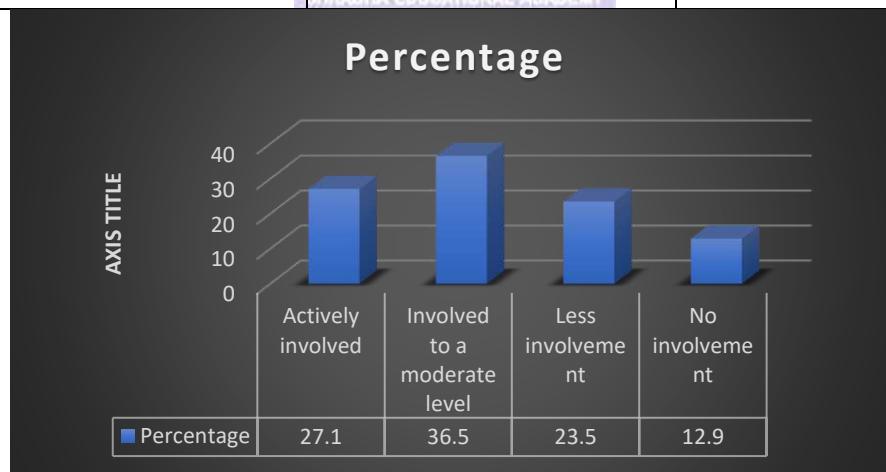


Figure 4.2 How people are often involved in deciding decisions Says the One Who Answered

Respondents' level of participation in decision-making is broken down in table and figure 4.2. Some 36.5% of respondents said they participate just somewhat in decision making. Seventeen percent of the population participated in the Panchayats' decision-making procedures. Only 23.5% of women members were directly engaged in making decisions, while 12.9% of respondents were not involved in any way in making decisions.

Table 4.3 A tabular depiction of how respondents dealt with problems on their own

Handling issues independently	Number	Percentage
Yes	156	61.2
No	99	38.8
Total	255	100

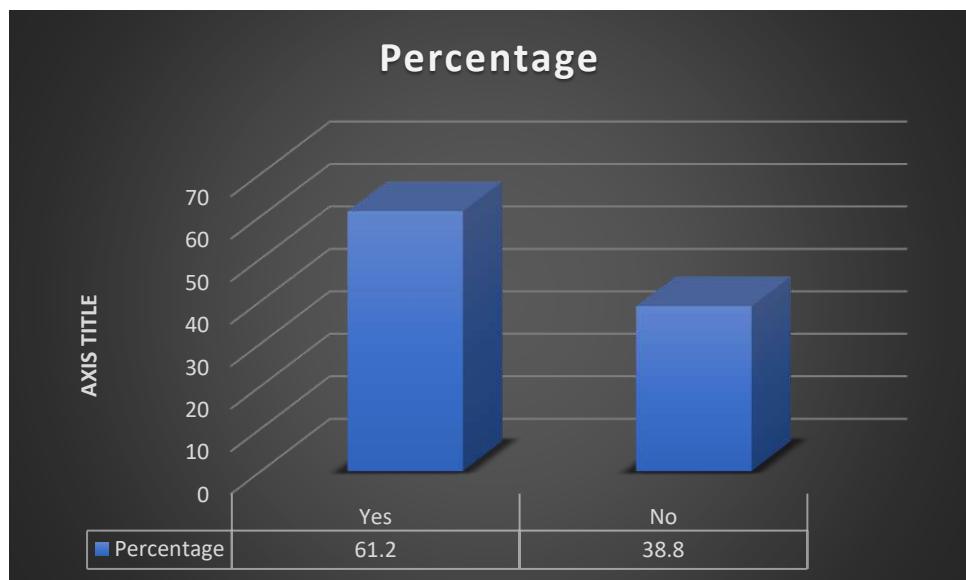


Figure 4.3 Handling issues independently

Respondents who dealt with challenges on their own are summarised in Table 4.3 and Figure 4.3. However, just 61.2% are able to manage matters independently in their wards and panchayats, while 38.8% are unable to do so in their respective constituencies. This research shows that the vast majority of respondents had a solid understanding of their place within the panchayat. They have the self-reliance to handle problems on their own.

Table 4.4 Respondents' Fulfillment of Responsibilities Table

Responsibilities	Number	Percentage
Identification of the present problems of the ward	66	25.9
Presenting the problems in the meeting and getting the approval	102	40
Presenting the problems identified by the people of the ward	63	24.7
Taking initiation to complete the half done projects	24	9.4
Taking initiation to see that govt. projects and schemes reach the people	33	12.9

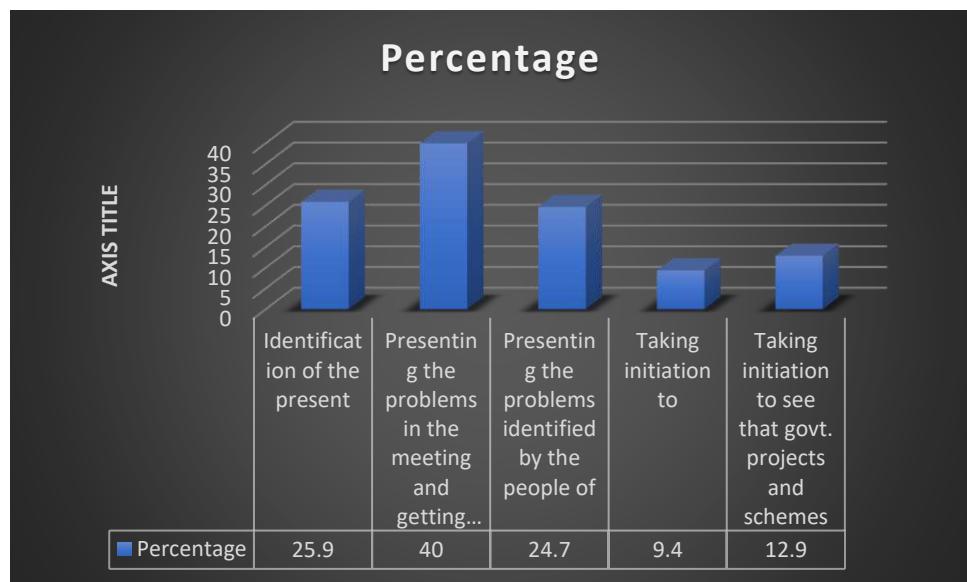


Figure 4.4 Responsibilities discharged by the Respondents

Twenty-five percent of women identify current ward concerns, and twenty-four percent of respondents address the problems recognised by the people of the ward in meetings; these data are broken down and analysed in Table 4.4.

4.2 Perception:

The 'heart' of the empowerment process is a growth in self-esteem, a feeling of dignity, and the recognition that one has a right to be treated with respect. If these fundamentals are supported and strengthened, women will have a more positive view of themselves and be better able to combat the effects of internalised oppression. A person's degree of self-assurance and assertiveness is directly related to how they see themselves. Those who have a healthy self-image believe in their own skills, are willing to take charge of their lives, and are content with the results of their efforts. Even if one's own opinion of themselves greatly affects their behaviour, the opinions of others around them also have an impact.

Table 4.5 To see how satisfied people in Gram Panchayats are with their authority and status, go to the table below

Level of satisfaction	Number	Percentage
Excellent	45	17.6
Very good	69	27
Good	81	37.8
Neither good nor bad	39	15.3
Bad	21	8.2
Total	255	100

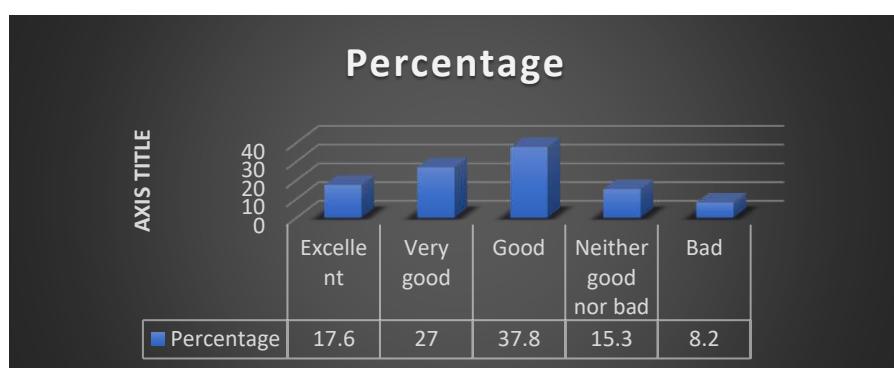


Figure 4.5 Level of satisfaction

Table 4.5 and Figure 4.5 make it quite clear that roughly 58.8 percent of respondents rate their level of power and status as very excellent or good. Only a small percentage of respondents had a negative outlook on authority and status.

Table 4.6 As stated by Respondents, the following table illustrates the extent to which male members predominated during meetings

Dominance by male	Number	Percentage
Dominance to a greater extent	36	14.1
Dominance to a moderate extent	63	24.7
Dominance to a minimum extent	54	21.2
No dominance	102	40
Total	255	100

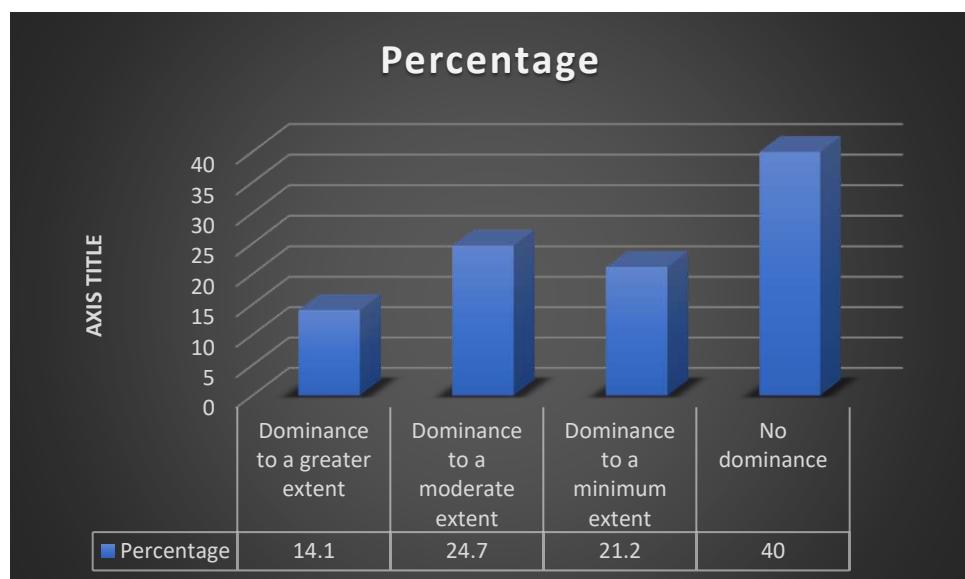


Figure 4.6 Dominance by male members in the meetings

Table 4.6 and Figure 4.6 show that 40% of respondents saw no evidence of male dominance over female participants. Twenty-four percent of respondents feel that their viewpoint is somewhat dominant.

5. CONCLUSION

In terms of the panchayat's role in promoting women's equality. Panchayat raj institutions must reserve 33.33 percent of their seats for women in accordance with a constitutional amendment passed in 1973. Because of this, the number of panchayats in Panchayat Raj organisations is growing. The decision-making process, however, is one in which women are disproportionately excluded. The current research measures and evaluates empowerment along a number of crucial characteristics.

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