

‘Gender Representations’ Among the Three Major Political Parties in the Elections of Karnataka State Legislative Assembly (2004 To 2013) - A Study

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ABSTRACT: ‘All men are created equal’ said by Thomas Jefferson. However, each citizen has rights to do their activities without any fear and restrictions. Therefore article XIV of the constitution of India stated that ‘all are equal before the law’. Each state provides the opportunity to participate in all social fields without any discrimination on the grounds of gender and other aspects. Political parties are one of tools in the political system to make the Democracy successful. The representatives of political parties have equal opportunity in order to the process of political participation in its internal and external aspects. The political parties have different wings such as women wing, youth wing, and labour wing respectively to increase the level of their political participation. The achievement of the welfare state is based on egalitarian society which enforces the individual become civic.

In Karnataka each political parties has to provide the opportunity to all civil society groups respectively with the establishment of its wings at different levels. Each levels represented by the members of both male and female. Especially at the Panchayath levels the political representation of the both gender is more than the other levels of political parties. However, to uphold the equal representation of both genders across Karnataka is the prior responsibility of the political parties of the state.

KEYWORDS: Egalitarian society, Welfare state, Civic, Patriarchal society, Political abuse, Political empowerment

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I. INTRODUCTION

India is a union of 29 states. The political power has decentralized between the center and states. The each state has its own government coordinating with the functions of government at center. Karnataka is the eight biggest states among the 29 states. The population of Karnataka is more than 6 Crore. It has the people of multi cultural, linguistic, and religion spreaded across the state. It has the 30 districts aim to provide good administration to the people. For the administrative purpose it has four administrative divisions in the state. It has a government which represented by the representatives of people of Karnataka as members of Karnataka State Legislative Assembly elected from 224 electoral constituencies across the state.

Political empowerment is one the tool to empowerment of all sections of the society irrespective of caste, religion, gender and region. Women have also equally served at government and its administrative levels such as governor, chief minister, minister in cabinet both in union and state. Despite the fact that women have play an significant role both national and international level. But sometime women’s participation in the political field and in the decision making bodies is not in the proportion to the population of the state.

Regarding my research article I have selected the results of the three Karnataka Legislative Assembly Elections conducted in 2004, 2008 and 2013. Out of 224 electoral constituency of Karnataka Legislative assembly the political parties of Bharatiya Janata Party, Indian National Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) got majority of votes polled in general elections. Based on the performance of those political parties in the assembly elections they are recognised as major political parties, played an important role in the politics of Karnataka.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Herman Finer, (1961) in his book titled ‘The Theory and Practices of Modern Government’. He explains the relationship between the representatives and electorates of the state and the reliability of the political party in political communication between the governed and governing. Both the representatives and the electorate have to be qualified. Only then, the electorate can have representatives who are truly responsible. He analysed the political system using principles of “political values” such as responsibility, accountability and legitimacy and the influences of political ideology on citizens active in politics. The comparative study of

political systems is divergent by its nature, constitution and even the performance of citizens in social activities, which lends stability and political order to the state. The political party acts as the medium between the state and the citizens. However, the above study is useful to explain and understanding about the responsibility and duties of both electorates and elected candidates in the general elections to achieve the political aspirations of the people.

III. OBJECTIVES

1. To study the gender equality of among the three political parties
2. To understand the difference between the male and female representation in Karnataka politics
3. To evaluate the political opportunity provide by the political parties without Discrimination on the grounds of Gender
4. To study the political empowerment in gender equality

IV. METHODOLOGY

In this study used the “Explanatory and Analytical method” for the collection of data along with interpretations. The study of research needs to collect some information regarding the total representation of the candidates in the electoral constituency. Elected candidates among the total representation, based on their gender representation and the total number of the electoral constituencies contested by the three major political parties in the elections of Karnataka state legislative assembly in 2004, 2008 and 2013.

Naturally in human beings, difference between the genders based on biological and anatomic factors. There is also a natural difference in physical strength but rationally they are same. However, the idea and situations that makes women and men are not equal. It treated as gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals wholly or partly due to their gender. (Gender inequality – Wikipedia). As in the convention of UNO stated that the phrase “The elimination of all forms of discrimination against women” and it guaranteed by our constitution in India.

The political participation of all the sections of society is inevitable without any discrimination on the grounds of gender. Increasing the participation of the both gender especially the women’s in politics is critical and to promote popular representation of Democracy as practical. The role of women’s is essential to participate in politics such as voting and contesting in the elections. For the moment reservation seems to be strengthen the women’s politics in to increasing the more number of women contested in the elections. Popular representation of Women’s in politics is not only a demand of them but it is the equal opportunity to all as provide by the political parties in their organisation. However the causes affecting on women’s political participation in Karnataka as well as affecting on gender inequality in the politics as follows:

- Political culture
- Patriarchal society
- Political interest
- Gender inequality
- Political abuse
- Illiteracy

In Karnataka the two national political parties such as BJP and INC and a state party of JD(S) had a great history of the role of women members in the party organisation and politics at both union and state levels. The constitutional amendments of 73rd and 74th brought significant development in the women’s political participation. It was the result for more women are entering in to politics across the state irrespective of their education, religion, region and socio-economical conditions. Especially the Panchayath raj institutions have played a significant role in empowerment of women in politics.

The major political parties of Karnataka have the wings for the strengthen of the party in the political process. Among the wings of political parties women’s wing play a important role and made it as frontal organisation of the party to focus on women issues and women empowerment in order to all social sectors. Mean while the political parties utilise properly the strength of women and their political aspirations in to the progress and development of the party organisation. The political parties ensure the women’s representation through reservation in Karnataka. Already the parties of BJP and INC implemented one third reservation for women’s in the party organisation and make it as more specific and clear in the society. The structure of governance itself does not give an equal opportunity or to enjoying their benefits provided by the state.

The political abuse is very unsatisfactory to the representation of women in political institutions such as political party, assembly and government. The initiatives and policies of government can reach the women’s welfare and development. The political parties also give 33% reservation to the women in the election despite of their vocal support. Therefore women have made initiative in political participation beyond the force of patriarchal society in the state.

Political participation was primarily based on the gender representation. It was believed that though very a few women were contest and elected in the assembly elections of Karnataka. During the general elections of 2004 and followed the next two general elections in Karnataka shows that the women's representation in politics as given in below the table:

Table: 1 Gender representations of the elected candidates in the Elections of the State Legislative Assembly of Karnataka

Sl. No	Year of Elections	Name of the political parties	Contested Electoral Constituencies	Male	Female	Total
01	2004	BJP	198	77	02	79
		INC	224	64	01	65
		JD (S)	220	56	02	58
02	2008	BJP	224	107	03	110
		INC	222	80	00	80
		JD (S)	219	28	00	28
03	2013	BJP	223	38	02	40
		INC	224	119	03	122
		JD (S)	222	39	01	40
Total Number of Gender Representation				608	14	622
Percentage				97.74	2.25	100

Note: BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party, INC: Indian National Congress, JD(S): Janata Dal (Secular)

The above table 1 shows that the general elections of Karnataka State Legislative Assembly conducted in 2004, 2008 and 2013. Among these general elections the three major political parties such as BJP, INC and JD(S) got majority of seats out of 224 electoral constituencies across Karnataka. Generally the members of each political party contested for all 224 electoral constituencies. The two national parties such as BJP and INC formed the government based on the method of majority. JD(S) is a state party which is also active than the other two national parties.

Each political parties of Karnataka the representation of female candidates is very less comparatively with the male candidates. More than ninety five percent of the male candidates elected in those elections compare with the elected of the two percent of female candidates and not more than three women candidates represented in the government. In 2008 general elections of Karnataka there was no women candidate elected from the parties of INC out of eighty male candidates and in JD(S) out of 28 representatives. However the role of female candidates in the political process in Karnataka is very limited in the form of contesting in the elections as well as to get political representation in state politics. Therefore the political parties provided women's reservation up to 33% at all the levels of the party but unfortunately there are barriers between the theory and practical for the implementation of women's reservation. It is nearly applicable to one-third seats of the present total strength of the legislative assembly of each state in India. When women are rationally participated in the politics, to ensure their franchise in political process they will get equal opportunity in all social fields. However the political parties and governments are concentrated to more on the safe guards of women rights then the egalitarian society will emerge.

V. FINDINGS

- Women have less opportunity in politics of Karnataka
- Women participation in politics is very less
- Women candidates need more priority from Political parties
- Politically educate the women through formal and informal educational system
- Women's must represented by women candidates
- To eradicate the gender inequality among the members of party

VI. CONCLUSION

The above three major political parties play an important role in politics of Karnataka. Each political party has to provide the political opportunity to the each sections of society such as women, youth, and other class. Politics is not only represented by a particular class, gender, and community therefore each one should get the opportunity to participate actively in the Karnataka politics and it is essential in contemporary period to uphold the Democratic principles as well as to do good governance in the state. The active participation of women in politics is only the solution to uphold and utilise properly the policy of women reservation in all social sectors across the India. However, as a political party have responsibility to bring gender equality in politics. Which is helps to achieve the principle of 'EQUALITY'.

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