Journal No: 47663 **GC Approved**

IMPACT FACTOR (2017) - 7.9183

ISSN No.: 2348 - 4969



CH. S.D. ST. THERESA'S COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Affiliated to Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry) West Godavari District, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, India. Department of Management Studies, & Women Studies Social Science



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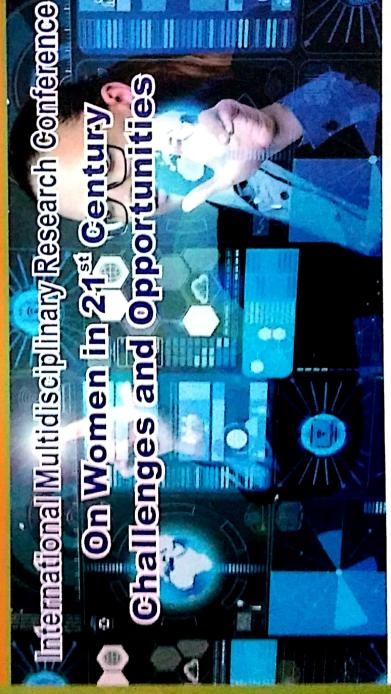
PRIMAX FOUNDATION

Reg. No. JNR-S211-2015-16, Bangalore, Karnataka, India. Registered Under the Karnataka Society Reg. Act 1960)



Special Issue - 2

10



Publishing Partner:

KAAV PUBLICATIO

KAAV International Journal of Economics, Commerce & Business Management "A Referred Blind Peer Review Quarterly Journal"



Managing Editor:

Prof. T. Rajeswari., M.Sc., M.A(Eng)., M.B.A., M.A.(Soc).,

Co-ordinator:

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Head & Associate Professor,

Nehru Memorial College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli.

Dr. S. Saiganesh

Professor of Marketing,

Dayananda Sagar Business School, Bangalore.

Dr. K. V. Ramanathan

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Primax Foundation, Bangalore

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(Registered Under the Karnataka Society Reg. Act 1960)

Reg. No. JNR-S211-2015-16, Bangalore, Karnataka, India.

Issue:

Vol.V, Special Issue No. 2, February 2018

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Contact:

Prof. T. Rajeswari., M.Sc., M.A(Eng.)., M.B.A., M.A(Soc).,

Founder and Managing Editor,

Primax Foundation

No.B 10, First Main Road, Devarajurs Layout, Viswa Vidyalaya (PO,) Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru - 56, Karnataka. India. Ph: +91-8971725451

Email: kvr08@rediffmail.com, primaxecf@gmail.com

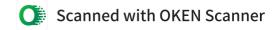
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VARICANCITY

SOUDHIARABIA

RELATION AND USE

Women Role Constituent Assembly

The Gentre for Women's Development Studies' 2018 calandar revolves around two women members of the constituent assembly - Dakshayani Valayudhan and Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

The 15 women in the 299 member constituent assembly 18 calendar, the photographs were contributed by Meera Velayudhan – the daughter of Dakshayani – and Manjari Mehta, whose grandmother Vijaya Lakshmi was an eminent part of the assembly

Meera's mother was the first Dalit woman from Kerala to graduate from Madras University. In 1945, she was nominated to the Cochin Legislative Council that elected her to the constituent assembly, "That's the most important part about the members of the constituent assembly - the nch and diverse trajectories that existed," said Meera, whose mother played an active role in the assembly and spoke for making untouchability illegal.

Dakshayani, who features in the first six months of the CWDS catendar, strongly opposed reservation or separate electorates and worked towards a vision of India free of caste or community barriers. She held that the assembly should offer the people a *new framework of

Constitutional and international law obligations

The obligation to provide a level playing field in terms of opportunities finds its place both in the constitution as

in addition to the aspirations expressed in the preamble of our constitution. Article 39A says the state must ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any causen by reasons of economic or other disabilities. In addition to this, Article 46 imposes a duly on the state to protect weaker sections from social injustice and all terms of exploitation. Article 14,

which established the right to equality as a to inevitably mandates for equal opportunity which established the new county as a tage right, inevitably mandates for equal opportunity as a tage of the county as a tage of tage

National Parties field the women in 16 lais

Party wise sum.

This dismal state of affairs is replicated even and state levels, where there is no recommendations and state levels. This dismal state ...

national and state levels, where there is no repaired even among the 16th is no repaired. for women candidates. During the 16th Lot 5 no reserved the largest party, the BJP 9ave for women candidates, while the C elections, the range.
428 tickets to women candidates, while the Companies of the Companies gave 60 tickets. Similarly, other national parties of Samai Party fielded 21 women. Bahujan Samaj Party fielded 21 women, Communist Dan

Political parties led by woman leaders too have guilty of continuing with the underrepresentation women. That is because the women representations the last legislation low in Legislatures. In the last legislative asset elections in West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee's Trian Congress gave only 43 tickets to women out of alto 293 seats; in UP, Mayawati's BSP gave 21 lide women out of 403; in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMKthen by J. Jayalalithaa gave 29 out of 234 seats to work Given the centrality of political parties in Indian political it becomes immensely difficult for candidates to com independently. None of the 206 women candidates contested the 16th Lok Sabha elections independent were able to win their seats.

India is a signatory to the Convention for Eliminator Discrimination Against Women, which oblig states, under Article 7, to take appropriate measure eliminate discrimination against women in political public life and, in particular, to ensure that women! as eligible as men to contest elections to all pull bodies, that they have the 'right to participally contributing to government policy and its implement

Article 25 of the International Covenant on CN 1 Political Rights, which is binding on signatory still include a signat including India, says that "every citizen shall have right and the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinction mentioned in article 2 and without unreasons restrictions to vote and to be elected at genuine per elections. elections which shall be by universal and equal shall be and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the expression of the expression of the will of the electors.

Equal participation of men and women is not only prerequisite for the presentation of men and women is not only an inequality. prerequisite for justice and democracy, it is an inequality condition for justice and democracy, it is an incondition for harmonious human existence as incondition for harmonious human existence as incondition. Effective representation of women in decision of with the structures will be structured with the structures will be structured by the structure of the structur structures will have a bearing on the policies, vision



structure of institutions. And that's something everyone should be fighting for

Some prominent women Leaders in the Indian political arena

British Raj

- Leader of a Major Party Annie Besant 1917
- Member of Provincial Legislative Assembly -Dr. Muthulaksmi Reddy - 1921
- Provincial Minister Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit 1938
- Member of Central Legislature Radhabai Subbarayan - 1937
- Member of National Defence Council Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz - 1942
- Minister of Health Rajkumari Amrit Kaur 1946

Dominion and Republic of India

- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi 1966
- President Pratibha Patil 2007
- Minister of Finance Indira Gandhi 1970
- Minister of Home Affairs Indira Gandhi 1970
- Minister of External Affairs Indira Gandhi 1967
- Minister of Defence Indira Gandhi 1975
- Minister of Information and Broadcasting Indira Gandhi - 1964
- Minister of Railways Mamata Banerjee 2009
- Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament) – Meira Kumar – 2009
- Leader of the Lok Sabha (Upper House of the Parliament) – Indira Gandhi – 1967
- Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament) – Sonia Gandhi – 1999
- Ministry of Minority Affairs Najma Heptullah 2014
- Ministry of Women and Child Development Mamata Banerjee - 2006
- Andhra Pradesh
- Governor Sharada Mukherjee 1977
- Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh Sabita Indra Reddy
- Assam
- Chief Minister Anwara Taimur 1980

Bihar

Chief Minister - Rabri Devi - 1997

Delhi

- Mayor of Delhi -- Aruna Asaf Ali -- 1958
- Chief Minister Sushma Swaraj 1998

Gujarat

Governor – Sharada Mukherjee – 1978

Himachal Pradesh

Governors -- Shetia Kaul -- 1999

Karnataka

Governor – V.S. Ramadevi – 1999

Keral

Governor – Jothi Venkatachalam – 1977

Madhya Pradesh

Chief Minister – Uma Bharati – 2003

Maharashtra

Governor – Vijayalakshmi Pandit – 1963

Orissa

Chief Minister – Nandini Satpathy – 1972

Punjab

Chief Minister – Raijinder Kaur Bhattal 1996

Rajasthan

- Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje 2003
- Governor Pratibha Patil 2004
- Sonia Gandhi:

She needs no introduction and she is a able and dynamic decision maker. The all-in-all of All India Congress, Sonia Gandhi's tenure as the Congress president has been the longest in its century-old history. She is also the chairperson of the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

Sushma Swaraj:

Seven times Member of Parliament and three times Member of the Legislative Assemby, Sushma Swaraj, the BJP leader, is now the Union Minister of External Affairs of India in 16" Lok Sabha. She is the second woman to hold this position after Indira Gandhi.

Vasundhara Raje Scindia:

Rajasthari's first woman Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia is one of the most powerful female politicians in India. Vasundhara Raje was introduced to active politics by her mother Vijayraje Scindia, who was a prominent BJP leader. Vasundhara was elected to the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in 1935

Ambika Soni:

Ambika Soni has served as the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Currently a Member of Parliament, Soni represents the state of Punjab in the Ratya Sabha. She was introduced to the Congress party by Indira Gandhi in 1989. She is also an old family acquaintance of the Gandhi family.

Uma Bharti

The sanyasin has come a long way. She played a prominent role in Ayodhya movement. From being the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to Hubli riot case, Uma Bharti has been evwerywhere.

Rabri Devi

Rabri Devi was the first woman CM of Bihar. She is Lalu Prasad Yadav's wife. She lasted three terms as the Chief Minister.

Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed

Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed is the president of the Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party. She is the daughter of former Home minister of India and Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. Mehbooba is one of the few female politicians from Kashmir who is recognized across all India. Presently she is the chief minister of J&K.

Dr. Daggubati Purandhareswari

Dr. Daggubati Purandhareswari is an Indian politician from the state of Andhra Pradesh. She is currently the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry ad Minister for Human Resource.

Brinda Karat

The wife of CPI-M General Secretary Prakash Karat and the woman's voice of the stodgy Communist Party of India-Marxist, Brinda Karat, resigned from the party's central committee once because she felt that women were not given due representation, thus proving her commitment to the cause of the weaker sex.

Mamata Banerjee

The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee has proved that patience pays ultimately. As the first woman Chief Minister of West Bengal, one of her first decisions was to return 400 acres of land to Singur farmers. She has also been credited to solving the longstanding "Gorkhaland Problem" by setting up the Gorkhaland Autonomous.

Sheila Dixit

The fact that Sheila Dixit has served as Delhi's Chief Minister since 1998 speaks volumes about her clout in Indian politics. She has been handling the barbs of the opposition and discord within her party with amazing dexterity. Although under scanner for being unable to control crime in the capital, Dixit's contribution in making Delhi metro a reality and controlling pollution by making CNG the norm for heavy vehicles, cannot be forgotten.

J Jayalalithaa f 15

Called Puratchi Thalaivi or Amma by her supporters, J Jayalalithaa, is the cult figure who has ruined the

hopes of the scam-nit unit and by winning the Tamil Nadu polls by a sweeping majority.

Dr Kiran Bedi is the first woman in India to have joined the officer ranks of Indian Police Service. She served in it for 35 years and moved up to the highest rank. as Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Government of India. Dr Bedi served as Police Advisor to the Secretary General in United Nations, in the Department of Peace Keeping Operations in New York. Assumed the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Pondicherry on 29th May, 2016

Women parliament in Vijayawada

The three-day National Women's Parliament, which is the first of its kind is being organised by Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly with the theme of 'Empowering Women — Strengthening Democracy', began on Friday i.e., 10/02/2017 in the state capital region Amaravati.

*One of the objectives of NWP is to make young girls realise their potential and make them aware of the canvas where they can leave their footprints. Our endeavour is to enhance the network between eminent women and girl students to enable them to take leadership roles," the Speaker added.

The vision of NWP is to enable and encourage social, political and economic empowerment of women in all strata of the society.

Buddhist spiritual leader Dalai Lama, Union Ministers M Venkaiah Naidu and P Ashok Gajapati Raju, AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi, Bangladesh Parliament Speaker Shirin Chaudhury, Gandhian Ela Bhatt, actress Manisha Koirala and many other dignitaries attended the inaugural event at Pavitra Sangamam here.

"The conclave will be a common platform for women from diverse backgrounds like politics, arts and culture, sports, education, industry, media, cinema, judiciary and social sector to share their knowledge and research in the area of women's social, economic and political empowerment."

Women Reservation in Local Bodies

In order to ensure adequate representation of women in local bodies, parliament passed the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments in 1993, reserving onethird of the seats in all local bodies for women. In addition, some legislative bodies, like Bihar and Delhi, Punjab have reserved more than one-third of the total seats for

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Ch.S.D,St.Theresa's College for Women, Eluru and Primax Foundation, Bangalore.

women. Notwithstanding the object and purpose of the above-mentioned amendments, there has hardly been any improvement on the ground. This was reflected in the recently-held local body elections in Mumbai and Delhi.

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar are some of the states that brought in 50 percent reservation for women in local bodies much before constitutional amendment demanded it to be implemented in the whole country.

"Reservation for women in panchayats will facilitate more women to enter public sphere and it will empower them and strengthen country's parliamentary democracy at the grass-roots level,"

The 73rd and 74th Amendments passed in 1993, which introduced panchayats and municipalities in the Constitution, reserve one-third of seats for women in these bodies. The Constitution also provides for reservation of seats in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in proportion to their number in the population. However, the Constitution makes no provision for reserving seats for women in Parliament and the state legislatures.

Women's Reservation Bill

Women's Reservation Bill was first introduced in Parliament in 1996 by the H D Deve Gowda government but no government has passed it yet. The current version of the bill, the 108th Amendment, seeks to reserve 33 per cent of all seats in governing bodies at the Centre, State and Local level. For reservation in the Lok Sabha, one-third of all constituencies will be reserved for women on a rotation basis, such that a constituency will be reserved for one general election and not reserved for the following two elections.

According to prsindia.org, a similar bill was introduced in 1996, and examined by a Joint Committee on the Constitution (Eighty First Amendment) Bill, 1996 (Chairperson: Smt Geeta Mukherjee). Whereas many of its recommendations have been included in the current Bill, recommendations on reservations for OBCs and in the upper Houses have not been included.

Highlights of the Women's Reservation Bill

The Constitution (108 Amendment) Bill, 2008 seeks to reserve one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies

The allocation of reserved seats shall be determined by such authority as prescribed by Parliament.

One-third of the total number of seats reserved for SC/ ST shall be reserved for women of those groups in the Lok Sabha and the legislative assemblies

Reserved seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in the state or union territory.

Reservation of seats for women shall cease to exist 15 years after the commencement of this Amendment Act

Progress in Parliament so far

The Rajya Sabha passed the bill on March 9, 2010. However, the Lok Sabha never voted on the bill. The bill lapsed after the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha in 2014. The bill has polarised the political class whenever attempts were made to introduce it later. Not only has it faced resistance from the national parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and the Left; but also from regional outfits.

Many leaders across the political spectrum believe that such a law will give an advantage to women who are better educated and come from upper castes. Leaders like RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and former Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav have opposed the bill bitterly and have also demanded that the quantum of reservation must be less than 33.33 per cent and also that the quota must include reservation for women from minorities and OBCs.

However, in September this year, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to introduce the bill passed in the Lok Sabha by taking advantage of the BJP's majority in the House. In the present Lok Sabha, out of 545 members, only 60 are women, i.e just 11 per cent.

Out of these, 69.7 per cent have relatives who are already in politics, reports lokniti.org. However, many in the ruling BJP believe that passage of Women's Reservation Bill can boost its prospects ahead of the upcoming 2019 General Elections.

Indian women political Empowerment position in the world

The figures on the representation of women in parliament reveal an appalling state of affairs. According to a study conducted by Inter-Parliamentary Union, India ranks 149th in a list of 193 countries in terms of women's representation in the lower or single house of parliament (Lok Sabha, in the case of India) as of July 1, 2017.

The average percentage of women's representation globally stands at about 22%, whereas in case of India it is a mere 11.8%. Countries like Rwanda, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Iraq, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Fiji and Ghana rank higher than India. In South Asia, Nepal (48), Afghanistan (54), Pakistan (90) and Bangladesh (92) rank much higher than India. Even in the Rajya Sabha, the representation of women stands at a meagre 11.1%.

Onchein

The level and forms of women's participation in points is largely shored by dufficial and secretal barnes in the form of violence is cash random and illipsiacy. In order to increase these importances. The women's pall should be passed in the Legislabure. India is not accepting women's resonation bill so far is an axeto the Indian Democracy.

- All Repord and National parties should serviced with women candidates to Legislatures without any women reservation bill.
 - Increasing the number of women members in the Legislatures, there is a possibility of deep debute on women's bills.
- The increase in the number of women members is likely to be decoy discussed I variety of Acts on different issues.
 - There is a possibility of political debisions regording on various issues.
 - Approval of the women's bill is likely to be involved in Legislative decisions.

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