

Study of Representation of Women in Lok Sabha

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ABSTRACT:

Representation of women members in Lok Sabha and their participation in general elections as contestants are increasing. General Election, 2009 sent the highest number of women in Lok Sabha (59), while in previous House the number was 45. 15th Lok Sabha had 10.86% of women membership with 13th Lok Sabha too was close to it, having 9.02% of women members. From 1996, Lower House always had at least 40 women elects. The lowest number of women elected to the Lok Sabha was in 1977 when only 19 women reached the Lower House, which was only 3.50% of the total Lok Sabha seats (542 at that time). Representation of women members in Lok Sabha and their participation in general elections as contestants are increasing gradually. General Election that was held in the year 2009, sent the highest number of women (59) in Lok Sabha. 15th Lok Sabha had 10.86% of women membership and in 13th Lok Sabha it was close to it (9.02%).

Keywords: Lok Sabha, Women, Gender, Inequality, Political, Election

WOMEN REPRESENTATION OVER THE PAST YEARS

To combat gender inequality in politics, the Government has instituted reservations for seats in local governments. Women turnout during India's parliamentary general elections was 65.63%, comparing to 67.09% turnout for men.

Political participation, not only related to 'Right to Vote', but indicates to participation in: decision-making process, political activism, political consciousness, etc. Political activism

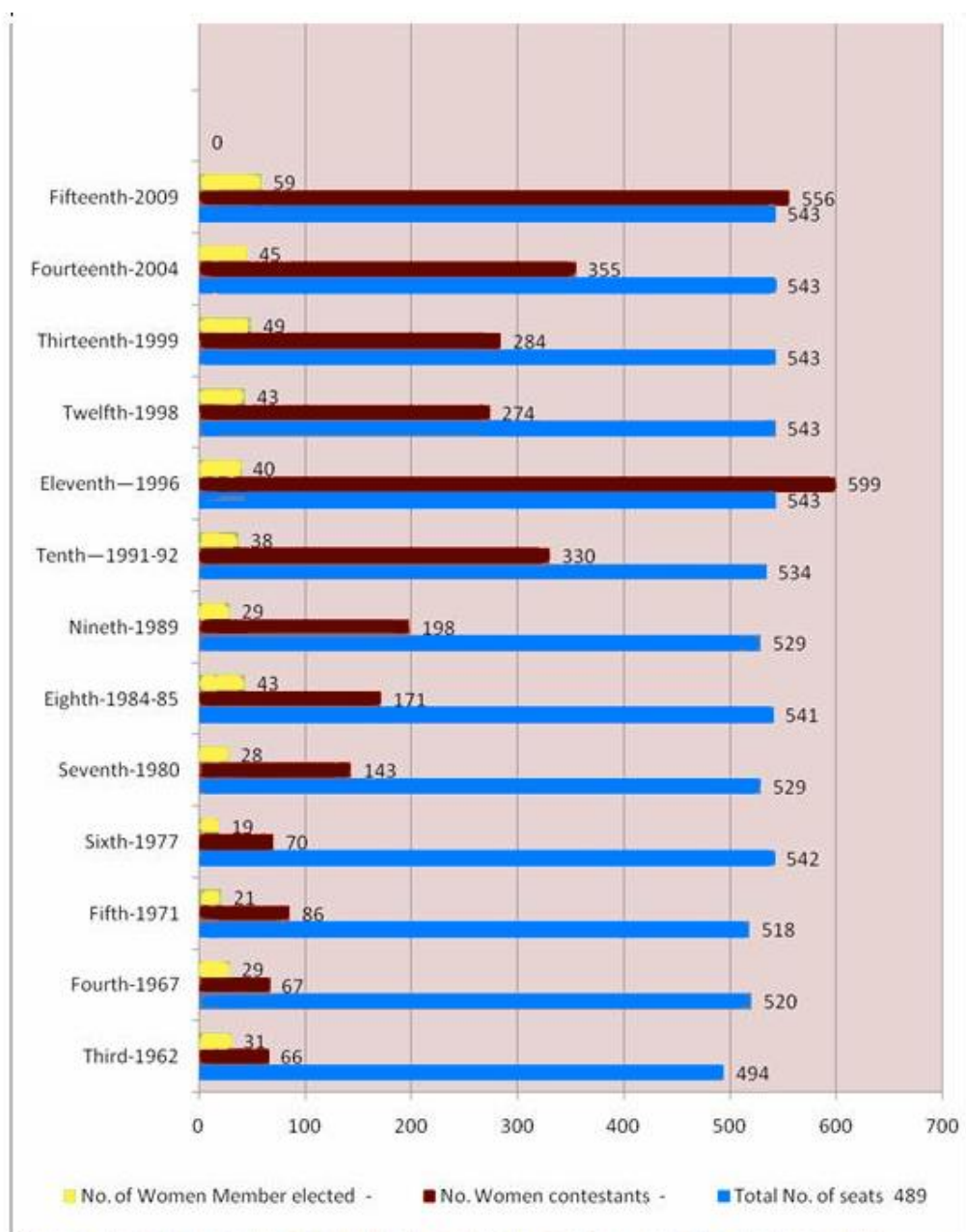
and voting are the main areas of women's political participation. Combating gender inequality in politics, the Indian Government has instituted reservations for seats in local governments.

Women turnout during India's parliamentary general elections was 65.63%, comparing to 67.09% turnout for men. India ranks 20th from the bottom in terms of representing women in Parliament. The Constitution of India has attempted to remove gender inequalities by banning discrimination on the basis of sex and class.

Direction already given by state and local governments for promoting equality by class and gender including equal pay and free legal aid, humane working conditions and maternity relief, rights to work and education, and raising the standard of living. Women were actively involved in the Indian independence movement in the early 20th century and actively participated for independence from Britain.

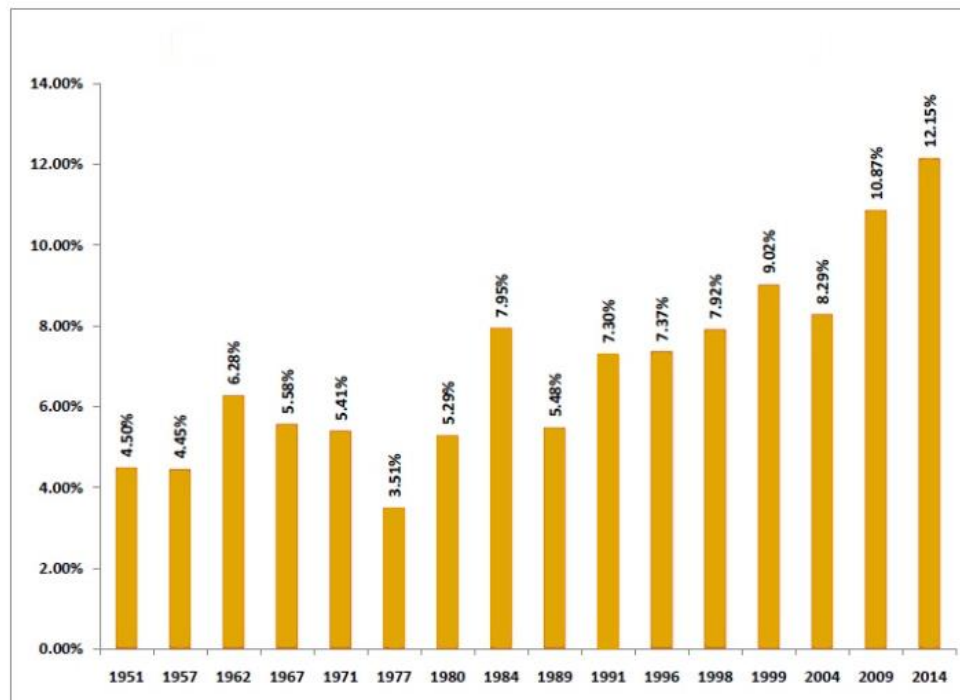
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The lowest number of women was elected to the Lok Sabha was in 1977 when only 19 women reached the Lower House, was 3.5% of the total Lok Sabha seats (542 at that time).



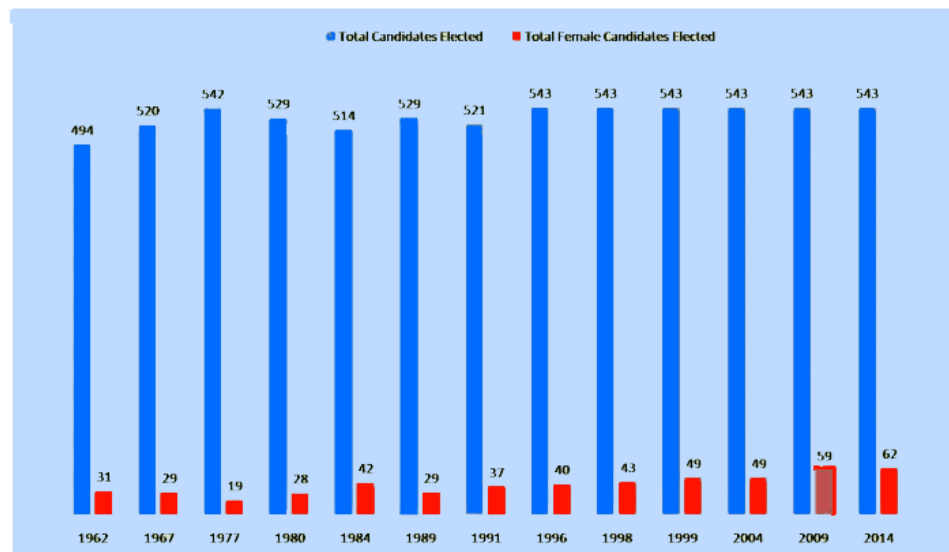
GRAPH I : REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN FROM FIRST TO FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

Out of a total of 8040 contesting candidates, 717 were women. This means that women representation was 9% of the total candidates. Out of the 542 elected candidates, 78 are women. That is only 14.36% of parliament.



GRAPH II : PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN MPs IN LOK SABHAS

This is very little in terms of the total percentage, it is better than all the previous years. If comparison is made, the representation of women from the first Lok Sabha elections in 1952 to the year, 2014, a clear rise is reflected. Also true that proportion of women MPs, minimal comparing with men, the trends shows an upward rise in the number of women contesting and winning every year starting from 1962 .



GRAPH III : TOTAL FEMALE CANDIDATES SELECTED IN LOK SABHA

CONCLUSION

Women's participation and access to formal political power structures vary across states. There is a steady upward trend in women's political participation and representation in India. The structural and functional constraints faced by women are shaped by social and political relations in a society. Women's participation in politics is still not very impressive. The number of women politicians is still small as compared to men. The majority of women are indifferent to politics, this is clear in their low participation in voting and in public demonstrations.

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