

## Role of Women in Political Parties



### Political Science

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**Dr.Pralhad V Chengte**

Assistant professor of Political Science, Government First Grade College Humanabad, Karnataka

### ABSTRACT

*The role of women in modern politics is a subject that needs further insight, considering the growth in number of women that nowadays have relevant political positions on the international stage. There are studies today that emphasize the equality issue and all that is gender role related, but our interest is to analyze the women representation in power related positions. Due to the fast modernization of the political environment and the rapid spreading of the feminist way of thought, several authors took interest in the gender differences in politics.*

**Introduction:** The role of women in power related positions is a subject that drew scholars' attention in the last two decades. Theories like the gender affinity effect or gender mainstreaming try to reveal the way women that hold relevant positions are perceived by the public and by the media. Do others relate to women candidates, for example, same way they relate to male candidates? Drawing the history of equality concerning the gender issue, researchers and theorists have tried to explain the present gender gap. This review article tries to put together the key dimensions in analyzing the gender differences in politics – the history, the public and the media, as they are explained in the different works.

The issue of gender differentiation in politics has not been of interest to scholars until early 80's (Griffiths, 1992). The role of women in the areas associated with power and prestige were significant only to some historians who underlined that, on the scene of history, women were most likely playing second roles. It was the feminist movement that drew attention that scientist should look more into this matter. Therefore, feminist researchers (Jean Bethke Elshtain, Cynthia Enloe, Judith Lorber, to name a few) set about to build up a new type of paradigm, where critics pointed out the flaws of the state and politics, which undermined gender equality in the favor of men. Women needed a different type of support that authors like Hassim (2009) and Lombardo and Meier (2006) had unforeseen consequences.

**Women importance in parties:** The active participation of women makes democracies stronger. A democracy should ensure the equality and participation of all of its citizens, which strengthens the democracy. Participating in a political party can help women to know their rights and to improve things for themselves and for their families. But, women often have difficulty attaining leadership and other influential positions.

**Advantage of Women in Parties:** Party that makes best use of its members, including women, will be the most successful. Women are easy to mobilize. Opportunity to utilize unique talents and perspective can serve as catalysts for change on behalf of other women. Women's Less corrupt having an advantage in social relations within communities and having greater awareness of the public voice being effective money managers.

#### Women contribution to the parties:

1. Identifying issues and developing policy
2. Targeting a party's message and nominating and recruiting electoral candidates.
3. Establishing support groups for political parties and Manage a campaign
4. Organize a women's coalition to support the party
5. Coach men party members on effective ways to speak to women in the community
6. Women can also: act as strategists and planners, serve as public speakers, organize local meetings, recruit and organ-

ize volunteers and new party members, and research opposition, demographics, and issues.

**Women's wing:** Make it easy for women to join. Women will join because they are excited by what you're doing and saying, and want to be a part of it. Have a recruitment captain at every women's wing event, have recruiting tables. Set up a system to recruit, for example, maintain lists of volunteers.

It can be used as a means to mobilize women in your party. It should be a forum for discussing women's challenges to participation and Organize grassroots activities to educate women about their political rights. Inform women about the electoral process and their role in it. Train women to become candidates for public office and establish networks to support women elected to office.

#### i. Three primary areas of activities:

1. Growing the party
2. Advancing the party's position & influence
3. Adding to the branch's & party's capacity

#### ii. Two major operating environments:

1. Campaign season
2. In-between campaigns

#### Challenges to women in parties:

1. Patriarchal societies and male chauvinism
2. Difficulties in traveling
3. Time constraints

The gender issues did not neglect the political environment and the policy-making procedures, and activist movement assured, not without consequences, a formal representation of women:

1. The women's movement in democratic states has succeeded in increasing the descriptive (numerical) and substantive (content) representation of women.
2. The women's movement has been more successful in increasing women's representation in places where women's policy agencies have gendered the policy debates in line with the goals of the women's movement.
3. Women's policy agencies endowed with institutional capacity have been more effective in linking the women's movement with policy-makers than their counterparts with fewer resources and less capacity.
4. Variations within the women's movement or the policy environment, or both, explain the effectiveness or otherwise of women's policy agencies and the women's movement in increasing women's representation.
5. Women's policy agencies have tended to provide necessary and effective linkages between women's movement activism and substantive and procedural responses by democratic states' (Galligan, 2007, 568).The part of the public that positively evaluates a candidate could become that candidate's

electorate. “Could” and not “definitely” because there is still a gap between affect, information and action: the vote.

**Conclusions:** Although from the perspective of formal entitlements men and women have nowadays equal opportunities in obtaining any position. The gender affinity effect underlines that there is indeed a relation between the female public and the female candidate. However, sharing the same sex identity is not enough to explain the vote choice. Women feel the need to be represented, and feel that other women can do that better than men. But the political affiliation is not neglected. The critical mass concept states ‘that women representatives will act for women when there are enough of them present – although the point when this is supposed to happen is unclear’ (Childs, 2006, 14). We have presented several theories on why women benefit from the support of other women. We have also underlined that the need for formal and institutional support points out the gender inequality. Men do not need the policies and the support that women do. Success comes with the risk of not having the instruments to deal with it. Achieving representation and power related position does not mean the battle for equality is over, in the feminist point of view.

## REFERENCE

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