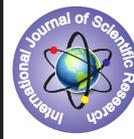


## Reorganization of Districts and Policy Prescription for Women Empowerment in Karnataka.



### Political Science

**KEYWORDS:** District Administration, Creation of New District, Women Empowerment, Gender auditing, Equality.

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### ABSTRACT

Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making, including decision making in political process at all levels is ensured with the creation of new districts in Karnataka for the achievement of the goals of empowerment. All measures are taken to guarantee women equal access to and full participation in decision making bodies at every level. Gender friendly personnel policies will also be drawn up to encourage women to participate effectively in the developmental process. Policies, programmes and systems are properly established to ensure mainstreaming of women's perspectives in all developmental processes, as catalysts, participants and recipients as soon as the new districts were formed.

On November 1, 1956, the different Kannada-speaking regions of southern India were brought under a single state through the linguistic re-organization of states. It included four districts from the former Bombay state, three districts of Hyderabad state, a district and a taluk of the Old Madras state, the state of Coorg and the princely state of Mysore. It was only in 1973, under the chief ministership of Devaraj Urs that the state was renamed as Karnataka. 1997 was a notable year for Karnataka as new districts were formed. Karnataka is in the forefront in ensuring women empowerment through several policy directives.

The empowerment of women is crucial for the development of rural India. Bringing women into the mainstream of development is a major concern for the government of India. To ensure focussed capacity building of the women, the Government is setting up of women specific programmes immediately after the creation of new districts in Karnataka. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also authorizes the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Gender equality is recognized as a key human development issue.

Development for women means the provision of equal opportunity & capabilities that enable them to assert their social, political & economic rights. It is hoped that through empowerment & measures for gender justice, the overall economic, political and social status of women will improve. Engaging women as successful and rightful participants in development is therefore important for not only for the advancement of the status of women and girls, but also for the overall social economic growth of the society.

Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making, including decision making in political process at all levels is ensured with the creation of new districts in Karnataka for the achievement of the goals of empowerment. All measures are taken to guarantee women equal access to and full participation in decision making bodies at every level. Gender friendly personnel policies will also be drawn up to encourage women to participate effectively in the developmental process. Policies, programmes and systems are properly established to ensure mainstreaming of women's perspectives in all developmental processes, as catalysts, participants and recipients as soon as the new districts were formed. In development process gender perspective was introduced in the department level initially through the process of Gender Budgeting which was further taken up to the Gram Panchayat level.

The concept of Gender Planning is being introduced and Gender Budgeting is followed strictly by all the departments of the Government. Further, all schemes of the Government are subject to Gender Auditing mandatorily at regular intervals. Special attention is given to the needs of women in the provision of safe drinking water,

sewage disposal, toilet facilities and sanitation within accessible reach of households, especially in rural areas, tribal hamlets and urban slums. Thus in the process of reducing gender discrimination governments have been implementing various schemes and programmes providing ways and means towards women development and empowerment. The constitution of India has given special attention to the needs of women to enable them to exercise their rights on equal footing with men and participate in national development. Increasing self confidence, Changes in living condition, Increasing ability to solve problems. Decrease in the feeling of inferiority complex as women were found among women in the newly created districts in Karnataka and this speaks of women empowerment at large.

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