

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS WITH THE CONTEXT OF KALYANA KARNATAKA

Dr. Basavaraj Benakanahalli

Assistant Professor, DoS in Political Science, Davangere University, Davanagere, Karnataka 577002

ABSTRACT

Promoting socioeconomic growth and attaining inclusive government depend heavily on women's political engagement. Through the Panchayati Raj system, women have achieved significant progress in grassroots politics in the historically socioeconomically challenged Kalyana Karnataka region. The enactment of reserve laws has given women the opportunity to take on leadership positions locally. Their representation in higher political bodies, including the state legislature and parliament, is still restricted, though. In Karnataka, as in many other parts of India, women's political engagement has been steadily rising, although there are still numerous obstacles to overcome. The paper is following the objectives: To understand the Women's Participation in Politics and To know the Women's Participation in Politics with the context of Kallyana Karnataka. The paper is prepared based on the secondary sources with fulfillment of objectives of the paper on Women's Participation in Politics with the context of Kalyana Karnataka. Although gender representation has improved in Karnataka, a progressive state in southern India, especially in local governance, men still hold a huge majority of positions of political authority. An outline of Karnataka's female political participation is provided here.

KEYWORDS: Women's Participation, Politics, Kallyana Karnataka

INTRODUCTION

Women have been progressively entering the political sphere in Karnataka because of the state's rich cultural legacy and progressive advancements in a number of disciplines. Known for its historical significance and socioeconomic difficulties, the Kalyana Karnataka area (previously Hyderabad-Karnataka) represents the national and state-wide trends in women's political engagement. In addition to guaranteeing gender equality, women's participation in politics is essential for introducing a range of viewpoints to governance and policymaking. However, a complex interaction of historical, cultural, and socioeconomic variables shapes their path towards political empowerment. With the support of constitutional requirements for reservation, women have embraced grassroots politics through institutions like the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the Kalyana Karnataka region, which is renowned for being relatively underdeveloped in comparison to other parts of the state.

Significant inequalities in their representation at higher levels of political decision-making, including the state legislature and parliament, nevertheless exist despite these advancements. This introduction aims to examine the elements that affect women's political engagement in Kalyana Karnataka, draw attention to the difficulties they encounter, and stress the importance of their contribution to the sociopolitical development of the area. It is an exhortation to establish an inclusive political system in which women may make significant contributions to the governance and development of the area. In Kalyana Karnataka, which includes the districts of Bidar, Ballari, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur, and Yadgir, women's political participation is indicative of larger patterns seen throughout Karnataka. Despite initiatives to increase women's political participation, there are still many obstacles to overcome, especially when it comes to getting representation at higher governmental levels.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

The paper is following the objectives:

1. To understand the Women's Participation in Politics
2. To know the Women's Participation in Politics with the context of Kallyana Karnataka

METHODOLOGY

The paper is prepared based on the secondary sources with fulfillment of objectives of the paper on Women's Participation in Politics with the context of Kallyana Karnataka.

PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

According to the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution, women must be given 33% of the seats in local government. Karnataka has taken the lead in putting these provisions into effect. In India, women's political participation has increased thanks in large part to the Panchayati Raj System, particularly at the local level. This approach has been instrumental in empowering women in the Kalyana Karnataka region, both politically and socially. Women have gained substantial grassroots empowerment through their involvement in Gramme Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies. For women's political engagement in Kalyana, Karnataka, the Panchayati Raj System has

changed everything by giving them a forum for grassroots empowerment. Despite ongoing difficulties, resolving these problems can increase the system's capacity to develop women into capable leaders.

In addition to improving governance, women's active participation in PRIs sparks larger societal change and opens the door to a more inclusive and egalitarian society in the area. The 1993 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act required Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to have a minimum of 33% reserved for women. This was further raised to 50% in Karnataka, giving women the chance to assume leadership positions in village-level government. Women from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, especially under-represented groups, can now participate in politics because to this reservation policy. Traditional gender conventions have been challenged by the emergence to prominence of numerous woman leaders in rural areas.

REPRESENTATION IN STATE LEGISLATURE

There is historical and cultural value in the Kalyana Karnataka region, which was formerly known as the Hyderabad-Karnataka Region. The socio-political scene frequently reflects the region's developmental issues, despite its potential. These issues are reflected in the region's state legislature's representation of women, which shows both advancements and enduring disparities. One crucial problem is the representation of women in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, notably those from the Kalyana Karnataka region. Reservation regulations have led to a rise in participation in grassroots political platforms such as Panchayati Raj Institutions; yet, women's representation in the state legislature is still restricted. A lack of support from political parties, financial limitations, and sociocultural standards are some of the structural impediments that contribute to women's under-representation in higher political positions.

The legislative process frequently ignores the particular difficulties encountered by women in the area, such as access to economic, healthcare, and educational possibilities, as a result of this lack of representation, which also compromises gender equity. Examining the obstacles they encounter and the significance of their presence in higher echelons of administration, this conversation seeks to examine the status of women's representation in Kalyana Karnataka's state assembly. It emphasises the necessity of structural changes to give women in this area a greater say in determining the laws that affect their communities and way of life.

Women are still under-represented in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, despite the state being a politically engaged one. Only 12 female MLAs were elected out of 224 seats in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections, demonstrating the low representation of women in state legislatures.

CHALLENGES TO WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

An inclusive democracy is based on women's political engagement, but there are still many obstacles in the way of this, especially in areas like Kalyana, Karnataka. Due to its socioeconomic hardships and historical legacy, this region poses a special set of obstacles for women seeking political participation. Systemic problems including patriarchal norms, restricted access to resources, and socioeconomic inequality have hampered women's engagement in higher political platforms, even as systems like the Panchayati Raj system have given them opportunities for grassroots involvement. Women in politics are frequently seen as outliers by ingrained sociocultural frameworks, which reinforces gender biases and restricts their ability to make decisions. Furthermore, these issues are made worse by the region's relative underdevelopment, since poverty, illiteracy, and a lack of institutional support disproportionately affect women. The complex obstacles that women in Kalyana Karnataka face in political participation must be understood in order to develop strategies that can empower women and allow them to contribute equally to the governance and development of the region. Safety concerns and harassment further discourage women from entering or maintaining their roles in political spaces.

CURRENT REPRESENTATION

- **Legislative Assembly:** Despite major parties fielding more women than in previous years, women's representation in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly is still relatively low, mirroring national trends. In the 2023 Karnataka elections, only a small number of female candidates were elected.
- **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI):** Women's political engagement has been greatly aided by Karnataka's Panchayati Raj system. 33% of seats in PRIs were set aside for women after the 1993 constitutional revisions, and this number was eventually raised to 50%. This has made it possible for a lot of women to get involved in grassroots politics. Parliamentary Representation: Although Karnataka has 28 MPs appointed to the Lok Sabha, the state has historically had few female MPs.

DISCUSSION AND SOCIO-POLITICAL IMPLICATION

Women's political engagement has important socio-political ramifications, especially in the impoverished Kalyana Karnataka region. This traditionally underprivileged area provides a distinct perspective on the opportunities and

obstacles women encounter in political representation and decision-making because of its socioeconomic circumstances. Social and Political Consequences. Empowerment of Underprivileged Groups Women's political participation raises awareness of often-overlooked problems like women's rights, healthcare, education, and cleanliness. Women leaders from under-represented groups can serve as role models, encouraging more inclusive governance. Increasing the Power of Democracy. A more representative and participative democracy is fostered by the involvement of women. It guarantees that half of the people can participate in the formulation of policies that impact them. Development of the Economy Women's leadership in local government has demonstrated observable advantages, like better infrastructure and more effective welfare program execution, which can aid in the growth of the area. Social Change Women's active participation in politics upends patriarchal conventions, advancing gender equality and empowering upcoming generations of women.

Several actions are necessary in order for women in Kalyana, Karnataka, to reach their full socio-political potential The Women's Reservation Bill's implementation: Opportunities for greater representation will arise if women are granted 33% of the seats in legislative bodies. Building Capacity and Training: Programs that teach women political and leadership skills can boost their self-esteem and efficacy. Financial Support: Women candidates can overcome financial obstacles by receiving campaign money and financial support. Promoting Political Parties It is necessary to provide incentives for political parties to nominate more women and provide them leadership positions within the party hierarchy.

CONCLUSION

One important factor influencing the socio-political development of Kalyana Karnataka is the involvement of women in politics. Even while there are still obstacles to overcome, the increasing number of women in municipal government gives promise for a more just future. The region can capitalise on the transformative potential of women leaders by removing structural barriers and establishing favourable conditions, which will ultimately support the inclusive growth of Kalyana Karnataka and Karnataka overall. Although the Panchayati Raj system has made tremendous progress in increasing women's involvement in local governance, more work is required to increase female representation in higher political positions in Kalyana, Karnataka. Achieving gender parity in the political landscape of the region requires addressing sociocultural, economic, and political issues.

REFERENCES

1. Beckwith, K. (2016). Women in political parties and legislatures. *Women & Politics*, 36(1), 1-18
2. Dahlerup, D. (2018). *The participation of women in politics: A global perspective*. Palgrave Macmillan.
3. Fulton, S. A., Mughan, A., & Schoonvelde, M. (2018). Women in politics: The role of candidate gender in electoral success. *Political Science Quarterly*, 133(4), 779-804.
4. Government of Karnataka. (2019). *Report on women's political participation in Karnataka: Progress and challenges*. Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka.
5. Jetir. (2019). Women's participation in politics: A study of Karnataka's political landscape. *JETIR*, 6(6), 548-553.
6. Karam, A. (2017). Women's political participation in a changing world. *Gender and Development*, 25(3), 361-379.
7. Kumar, M., & Rao, P. N. (2020). Women in governance and politics in Karnataka: Challenges and prospects. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 18(4), 56-67.
8. National Commission for Women. (2021). *Women in politics: An overview of Karnataka's representation and participation*. National Commission for Women.
9. World Bank. (2017). *Gender equality and political empowerment: Women's participation in politics*. World Bank Group.