



Cover Page



WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE IN ACTIVE POLITICS IN ASSAM: A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Dip Jyoti Gogoi

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Silapathar Town College, Silapathar, Dhemaji, Assam, India

Abstract

Women participation in politics is very essential for women empowerment and effective democracy. When, we compare the women participation in direct politics compared to male representatives, the number of women representative in direct politics is very less. In the context of Assam, it is also seen in very beginning of independence of India. Behind less number of women active participation in direct politics, there are many reasons. We need scholarly investigation to find out these hidden reasons. Here, an attempt has been made to find out the reasons of women less participation in direct politics of Assam. This paper examines the role and participation of women representatives in active politics in Assam. Despite constitutional provisions and reservation policies, women remain under-represented in legislative and executive political institutions. Hence, through this research work, an attempt has been made to study all the reasons for the low participation of women and the remedies to improve their participation in politics.

Keywords: Women Empowerment, Effective Democracy, Active Participation, Constitutional Provisions, Hidden Reasons.

INTRODUCTION

Women active participation in politics is utmost essential for effective democracy. Equal participation in decision making process and other bodies is very essential to enhance women empowerment. A country is marked, if the country is able to provide equal status to its citizen regardless of their caste sex etc. as progressive and successful. But when we look back to human history it is found that women have been suffering from many disabilities like, child marriage, practice of polygamy, severe restrictions on widows, non access to education and restricting oneself to domestic functions. Hence the women in the world are controlled or dominated by men since the very beginning of human civilization. As a result of this, the women would not have any kind of individual liberty.

In the context of Assam, the representative of women in legislative assembly elections of Assam have not increased or improved since independence. Women have been historically underrepresented in the state legislative assembly in Assam. Assam had witnessed a decline of percentage of women elected members of Legislative Assembly the proportion of women MLAs, has hovered anywhere between 1% and 5% for 50 years between 1952 and 2001. In some years such as 1957 and 1978, only one woman was elected to the State Assembly. 2011 saw the highest number of women MLA, when 14 women were elected that year. In 2021 lowest number of women MLA's are elected in comparison to other consecutive years. Here in this study, an attempt has been made to study about the women elected representatives in Assam legislative Assembly since 2001 and to ascertain real courses of less number of elected women representatives in the state legislative Assembly of Assam

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. The main objective of the study is to find out real courses of less number of elected women representatives in the state legislative Assembly of Assam.
2. To provide some remedies to improve women's active participation in direct politics.
3. To reach a meaningful conclusion based on the study's findings.



Cover Page



RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The methodology of preparation for this paper is based on a descriptive analysis on women's active participation in direct politics of Assam legislative Assembly. The paper is written with the help of books and website. Data has been collected from secondary sources.

The women active participation in direct politics in state legislative Assembly elections is not so satisfactory. The participation of women is not so impressive in election as a whole. The following table shows contested and won women MLA candidates of Assam from 2001 to onwards.

Year	Women contested	Women wins	Women winning percentage
2001	55	10	18.18
2006	70	13	18.57
2011	85	14	16.47
2021	76	6	13.53

From Table 1 it has been observed that the number of women elected representatives is very less and not satisfactory. In 2011, highest number of total seats had won by women candidates in comparison to other respective years.

CAUSES FOR LOW REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

1. Political parties give few tickets to women candidates to contest election.
2. Many political parties women leadership express the disappointment at not being recognised as leaders and refuse to accept women in key positions of power.
3. Narrow mindedness of the society and family member also another factor for low participation in direct politics. It is general view that women are only fit for house hold activities.
4. Patriarchal family structure also responsible for dismal position of women in political field. Male members are not allowed his wife to take part in active politics.
5. Lack of political consciousness is also responsible for their sorrowful participation in politics.

REMEDIES

To increase the women elected representatives in direct politics some measures should be taken

1. Political parties have to be flexible to provide ticket to women candidates.
2. Narrow mindedness against women should be changed by all state holders of the society to incase women participation.
3. Political education should be given to the women of the rural as well as urban areas of Assam
4. Motivation is also necessary to enhance the number of women in direct politics.
4. Women MLA s should be given cabinet leadership to motivate in politics.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it is clear that women's active participation in direct politics is a burning issue in the state like Assam. There are several constraints that check the women's participation in electoral politics. Social norms and family



Cover Page



structures, question of women freedom, education, poverty, domestic violence manifest and perpetuate the sub-ordinates status of women resulting less number of women participation in electoral politics. The study finds that the factors like patriarchy and gender discrimination which still exist in society. It is the high time to reverse these constraints. Participation of women in political process is required to facilitate women empowerment and to bring equality between advantaged and disadvantaged groups. The study finds that the representation of women in electoral politics of Assam especially Assam Bidhan sabha is not equal to their male counterparts. The urgent solution is to make the numbers of women members as because unless and until a good number of women enter into politics.

References

1. Bhatt Shanta, 1995, women parliamentarians of India, Shiva publishers Distributor, Udaipur, P, 185
2. Devi Annapurna and Pati N. M., 1981, "Women in State Politics", political science Review, Vol 20 PP. 143-144.
3. "Abhivyakti", "A Bi - annual Journey Vol. viii, No.1,2022 women's Cell, ACTA, Assam (Peer Reviewed Research Journal) pp.74-80.
4. Website www.ecigov.in website of Assam legislative assembly.
5. M. Borah," Participation of women in politics of Assam upto 2014: An analytical Overview. (International journal of novel Research and development (UNRD) PP 910.
6. Hazarika D.S "Political Participation of women and the Dilectics of 73rd Amendment, The Indian journal of political science, 2016. PP-67.