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TITLE: CHANGING PATTERN OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMAN IN UP :
A CASE STUDY OF ALIGARH AND VARANASI SINCE 1991.

ABSTRACT

India being a segmented society is ridden with the bane of cast, religion and non inclusive development. The success of its democracy depends on increase of informed participation of all constituents of the society.

Women form an integral part of society and are a great equilibrating force in a divisive society. Women's political participation in India in spite of a rich lineage of activism during the National Freedom Struggle is still at the lowest ebb which is reflected in the latest outcome of parliamentary elections where elected women's percentage of seats have not got beyond 10 percent.

If we observe minutely a silver lining appears on the horizon. The 73rd and 74th amendments of Indian Constitution have opened the gate for women's political participation through 33% of reservation of panchayat (sought to increase to 50%). This is a starting foot print in the political development of women. The increase of women voters in National elections give a healthy sign of women's participation and similar reflection is given by increased turnout of women voters in respective elections. But this is just a beginning and women have miles to go to reach a stage where they can take their own decision and select their representatives who will channelize their potential and social needs.

U.P. as an important state, contributes almost 60% of parliamentarians. For my hypothesis I have selected Aligarh and Varanasi as area of research as they truly reflected all shades of caste, religion and socio-economic forces of the state.

Chapter One: We have tried to analyze as to what is the meaning of total participation of women and find ways to develop alternative strategies which are both gender sensitive and gender just. My study comprises both global and Indian perspectives, indicators promoting women's political participations are discussed besides looking at the various stumbling blocks in the development of women.

Chapter Two: The study comprise of factors which made the period of 1991 to represent a volatile period of politics.

Chapter Three: Detailed analysis of U.P. poll (2009) has been made in order to assess the gains and losses of the other party.

Chapter Four: In this chapter reflection has been made on policies of different parties of women's issues and expanded to women position in various parties by considering the various Lok Sabha Election since 1991 with special reference to 2004 and 2009 election where state-wise party position of women, turn out among women, proportional turnout among women compared with men and performance of women candidates in general election in U.P. has been taken in to consideration.

Chapter Five & Six: Contains my analysis of women participation in Aligarh and Varanasi, where are they merely registering their presence or are truly participating in Lok Sabha election. Various case studies based on personal interaction have highlighted their cause of success and failure.

Chapter Seven: Contains findings from my field study and recommendations that I have made for future policy formulation. The findings confirm certain remedial measures for real women upliftment are mirror representation, change of mind set, change in the process of socialization and emphasis on compensatory justice for women.