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National Political Parties (NPP) and Political Participation of Women (PPW) in India: An Insight

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ABSTRACT

Women's political participation (WPP) is an essential and needful condition for gender-centric equality and real democracy. Representation of women in Indian Lok Sabha is not only very marginal, but also scattered across states and parties, making their peripheral presence within states and parties as well. Under-representation of women inside the legislature is obviously a worldwide issue. In India, under-representation of women inside the legislature is a national issue. The major objective of this paper is to review the motivational level of the national political parties (NPP) in promoting and encouraging women to become representative in legislature. In view of the above, the study examines the role of national political parties (NPP) as a platform of hope for selecting women as party candidates in general elections for increasing women representation at national level. Therefore, the study mainly focuses to find out exclusionary role of NPP regarding the matter of women under-representation and to suggest inclusionary measures to overcome the matter of under-representation of women in Parliament of India. The Women's Reservation Bill (WRB) ultimately passed in 2023 with the directive of one-third (33%) reservation for women in Lok Sabha (LS), the Lower House (LH) of Indian Parliament, legislative assemblies, and the Delhi legislative assembly. This bill, as per official record familiar as the Constitution One Hundred and Sixth Amendment (106th) Act, was passed with near-unanimous support. The implementation of the reservation is dependent on a new census and delimitation exercise, which are planned to be completed after the next elections.

KEYWORDS: National; Political participation; Political parties; Representation; Women

1. INTRODUCTION

Women's identical participation in political and public life is important to accomplishing the so-called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through 2030. However, data reveal that women are under-represented at every level of decision-making process globally and for that acquiring gender parity in political field is far from reality. Assessment of the pertinent data indicates the male female ratio globally mainly in the elected lower Houses as a very stark contrast statistically, nevertheless of political systems; the percentage of women in nation-wide parliaments around the globe is extremely low, averaging 26.9 % in 2024 (IPU, 2024). This is the picture of an exceptional under-representation of women with inside the

maximum systems of governance of their countries. The subject of the gender-wise under-representation in the elected institutions particularly in legislatures is old one (International IDEA, 2016). There has been consistent debate at the under-representation of women in political establishments and in governance all around the World (Milazzo & Goldstein, 2019). Questions and issues were raised at the democratization and legitimacy of the establishments while they fail to provide same possibilities to women as male in turning into part to the procedures of decision-making. It appears that the political ground isn't absolutely open to them (Lovenduski, 2005; Burns, Schlozman & Verba, 2001; Carroll, 1994).

Inter-parliamentary Union and UN Women (2023) data shows that only few nations have 50% or more women in parliament in single or lower houses. Even so, the global average of women's participation in national parliaments increased very narrowly from 22.6 % in 2015, 23.6 % in 2018, 26.2 % in 2022 to 26.9 % in 2024 (IPU, 2024). Research suggests many boundaries within side the direction of women to create their manner to the establishments in which they can increase their voice, speak the troubles associated with them and be decisive towards decision-making action. These boundaries can be divergent in nature such as socio-economic, religious or without a doubt the hesitant of institutions to unfold their doorways for women who can be historically male dominated (International Institute for Democracy Electoral Assistance, IDEA). Hence, the role of National Political parties as an important institution to resolve the matter of women's lower-representation of any country mainly the countries having low female representation in legislature by providing more and more opportunities to women contestants in elections which may enhance the existing male female ration of the representation of women in legislatures.

Under the present context, the main focuses of this study are to review the contribution of NPP in enhancing the idea of gender parity in elected legislature namely Parliament of India. Therefore, the first and foremost research question of the present study is that how major national parties in India playing their role to promote and ensure women representation in national parliament? The second research questions have been framed to find out the degree of existing mechanism taken by national parties to motivate women representation whether it is satisfactory or not? So, case study of last six general elections of LS, the popular house of the Parliament of India has been focused to find out answer of these questions.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objectives of the Paper are as follow:

- To find out the nature of under-representation of Women
- To highlight the need of Gender Parity
- To point out the contribution of National political parties for enhancing women representation in legislature
- To suggest effective measures for women representation in legislature

3. METHODOLOGY

Discourse research is the key methodology of research in social science and can be used to analyze issues of women low-representation in legislatures. To fulfil objectives of present study, adoption of exploratory research design is desirable as it is largely interpreting available information and lays importance on examination, explanation of the vital and available facts with the use of second-hand data.

The present study is depended on secondary data and data has been gathered from various reports like print and online journals, scholarly books and web portal which have been referred for this present study. The study is based on the statistics of women candidatures in the last six general elections, mainly 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2024 of the LS. In addition to that, the data were gathered regarding the selection of men and women candidates by the four major national parties namely BJP, INC, BSP and CPI(M). Election Commission of India (ECI) recognized four major national political parties were listed for this study. The statistics-based data containing the results of elections, achievement of these political parties and gender-centric candidates were collected from the official website of ECI. However, the primary focus of this paper is confined to women candidates those were selected by these national political parties to support for election and subsequently for their achievement in the election. The data excluded the independent candidates. Overall, this paper focuses towards the nature of participation of women candidates backed by four major national parties along with the percentage of women candidates elected to the lower house to rate the role of four major national political parties in enhancing women representation. Collected data for the present study is examined logically to arrive at consequential conclusions.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Status of Representation by the Women in Parliament

India is a country of Parliamentary democracy where representation to parliament is a pre-condition for participating in the governmental affairs such as minister, chairman of parliamentary committees. Factually women voters in election have been increased, but the election data of representation by the women in LS indicates that the percentage of women representatives has remained poor in compare to their male counterparts. Table 1 presents women representation in the LS.

Table 1 Women Representation in Lok Sabha from 1952 to 2024

Lok Sabha Elections	Total Seats	Women Candidates	Elected	Percentage
1952 (First)	499	51	22	4.4
1957 (Second)	500	45	27	5.4
1962 (Third)	503	66	34	6.7
1967 (Fourth)	523	67	31	5.9
1971 (Fifth)	521	86	22	4.2
1977 (Sixth)	544	70	19	3.4
1980 (Seventh)	544	143	28	5.1
1984 (Eighth)	544	171	44	8.1
1989 (Ninth)	517	198	27	5.2
1991 (Tenth)	544	330	39	7.8
1996 (Eleventh)	544	599	39	7.8
1998 (Twelfth)	544	274	43	8.8
1999 (Thirteenth)	542	284	57	8.86
2004 (Fourteenth)	543	355	44	8.1
2009 (Fifteenth)	543	556	59	11
2014 (Sixteenth)	543	668	66	12
2019 (Seventeenth)	543	716	78	14.3
2024 (Eighteenth)	542	800	74	13.6

Source: Election Commission of India. <https://eci.gov.in/statistical-report/statistical-reports/> access on 20.10.2025

Table 2 Gender based Electoral Percentage in Different Lok Sabha Elections in India

Year	Total Electorate	Men	Women	Difference
1962	127719470 (100%)	67388166 (52.7)	60331304(47.3)	5.4
1967	216102215 (100%)	113944234 (52.7)	102157981(47.2)	5.5
1971	274189132 (100%)	143564829(52.3)	130624303(47.7)	4.6
1977	321174327 (100%)	167019151(52.0)	154155176(48.0)	4.0
1980	656205329 (100%)	185539439(52.0)	170665890(48.0)	4.0
1984	379540608 (100%)	196730499(51.8)	182810109(48.2)	3.6
1989	498906129 (100%)	262045412(52.5)	236860987(47.5)	5.0
1991	468363801 (100%)	261832499 (52.7)	236860987(47.8)	5.0
1996	592572288 (100%)	309815776(52.2)	282756512(47.8)	4.4
1998	605880192 (100%)	316692789(52.2)	289187403(48.0)	4.4
1999	619536847 (100%)	323813667(52.2)	295723180(47.8)	4.4
2004	671487930 (100%)	349490864(52.0)	321997066(48.0)	4.0
2009	716985101 (100%)	374758801(52.2)	342226300(47.8)	4.4
2014	833062877 (100%)	436538842(52.4)	396524035(47.5)	4.9
2019	911950734 (100%)	473373748(51.9)	438537911(48.0)	3.9
2024	977965560 (100%)	502437689 (51.4)	475479677(48.6)	2.8

Source: Election Commission of India 1962-2024. GOVT. of India, <https://eci.gov.in/statistical-report/statistical-reports/> access on 20.10.2025

Women, as half out of the total population are vividly entitled to at least 50% of the total seats in parliament. Table 1 shows the fact of under-representation of Indian women as legislators in

Parliament. The poor representation of women in legislatures in the world as like India is a factual reality (Rai & Spray, 2019). In the last general election held in 2024, only 74 women candidates were elected from total 542 members which recorded as the second highest MPs in LS since independence that constitute 13.6% of the total power of the lower house. Ironically, which was below in compare to the global average 26.9% (IPU, 2024). It clearly indicates lower representation of women in the field of political life as members of parliament. The trends of continuation regarding gender gap representation from First LS to till now remains substantial. As Indian democracy have experienced high electorate, increased voting turns out and upgraded candidature over the past years, the degree of equality in the field of representation in legislatures has improved marginally and women's share in LS remains low in large. Election Commission reports indicates male domination in the total electorate in comparison to women from 1962 to 2024 general elections. Table 2 indicates that men electorates have grown from 6.7 crore in 1962 to more than 50 crores in 2024 and have been constantly in between 51% to 52.7% of total electorate over the country. On the other side as like men electorates women electorates also have grown from 6 crore in 1962 to 47.5 crore in 2024. As a result, electoral gap based on gender has been decreased from 5.4% in 1962 to 2.8% in 2024.

There is also a constant increase in the voting percentage of women from the Second General Elections in 1957. Table 3 shows that in Second general elections voting percentage of women was recorded 38.8 % in compare to 56 % by men. The gap in the turnout recorded 17.2 % at that point of time. But the average of women's voting percentage in general elections in compare to men's average shown constantly in reducing order, in 2014, it was just 1.5 % gender gap but in the last two general elections particularly seventeenth and eighteenth of 2019 and 2024 for the consecutive two terms in the history of general elections of India women voter turnout was more than men's voter turnout by a margin of 0.16 % in 2019 and 0.23 % in 2024.

But the increase of women's voting turnout did not have any correlations with the level of gender equality in terms of women representation in legislature and this participation is confined to voting turnout only, but the real issue of political participation of women is the transformation of representation of opinions to representation of persons. The fact has been highlighted in Table 4 with figures of women candidates contested in LS

elections over the last 73 years of Independence. The data vividly indicates that women candidates have been highly insufficient in terms of numbers and percentage.

It is clearly visible from Table 4 that women candidates have never crossed single digit percentage in terms of candidature in general elections in the last 73 years and confined women's candidature below 10 percent of total candidates, the situation of women's candidates up to the general elections 1996 was very astonishing, the percentage was below 5 percent and domination of male candidates prevailed across all general elections since first general elections with an average above 95 percent and for women's candidates it was on an average under 5 percent. Though the last two general elections have observed the excessive number of women candidates, but the gap of men and women candidature still continues to high, the difference was found above 81.9 percent in 2019 and 80.8 percent in 2024 general elections, the situation was very stark in the general elections till 1996, at that time the difference of men and women candidature was found more than 90 percent.

Reversely, the ratio of women elected representatives got over 10 percent for the first time in 15th general elections. Before 15th general elections the ratio of women elected representatives in Parliament was never exceed single digit percentage and confined up to 9 percent women share only. The 17th LS election undoubtedly has recorded as the highest women MPs in LS since independence that constitute 14.3% of the total seats of the lower house in compare to 18th LS election which has been recorded as the second highest women MPs in LS and though there was a remarkable increase of 3.1 percent women elected representation in 17th LS election as per data shown in Table 5 but the pattern of increase falling down to 0.7 percent of women elected representation in 18th LS election that constitute 13.6% of the total strength as shown in Table 5.

In the question of women representation in national legislature, India even lagging behind its neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan. The historic 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution introduced 33 % reservation for women in local self-government institutions to enhance women participation at grassroots level such as panchayat, block, district and municipality level with a speculation of career advancement and spontaneously move upwards to state and national level legislatures in future by these elected women. Later on, with a hope to

reduce gender gap in national level and state level legislatures, 81st Amendment Bill of the Constitution was initiated in 1996. The Bill suggested reserving one-third of total seats only for women in popular house that is LS as well state legislatures. Since 1996, 81st Amendment Bill for reservation of seats particularly for women was placed in every new session till 1999 but did not turn into Act. The Bill was reintroduced in the Upper House (Rajya Sabha) on 6th May, 2008 but the bill referred for further consideration to the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. Later on, the Rajya Sabha passed this bill on 9th March, 2010. But with the dissolution of the 15th LS, the Bill has lapsed. After that, the Women's Reservation Bill (WRB) at last passed in 2023 with the mandates of one-third reservation of seats for women in the LS, state legislative assemblies and the Delhi legislative assembly. Officially the bill known as the Constitution One Hundred and Sixth Amendment (106th) Act, which passed with near-unanimous support. The implementation of the reservation is dependent on a new census and delimitation exercise, which are planned to be completed after the next elections.

3.2. Role of Major National Political Parties in Promoting Gender Centric Participation

Major NPPs play pivotal role in parliamentary democracy like India as they are integral component for the composition and functioning of Parliament. Throughout the country national political parties pre-select or nominate male or female candidates for all the constituencies. These parties provide their full support to the pre-selected candidates to gain majority of seats in Parliament to form government. Major national parties are far better position in compare to other political parties and independent candidates for the well organizational support and financial base. In the time of election, major national parties utilize possible strategies to establish influence over the electors. Therefore, the fact is that when any national political party tries to build stronghold support upon electors' in favour of any candidate irrespective of gender with all kind of efforts, the probability for that male or female candidate is higher to win the election. So, if more women get chance in pre-selection or nomination phase by these national political parties, there must be probabilities for women to win the election in large numbers. It justified the argument that nomination from national parties for women candidate is vital for any election.

So, the contribution of national political parties in boosting women's political participation is very important as these political parties are the agency for political mobilization and recruitment. It is the political parties that constitute the real gatekeepers to elected offices (Drude, 2003). If we analyze the gatekeeper's role of national political parties of India since Independence in terms of offering tickets to women for contesting elections, the data clearly revealed the fact about the assumption of national political parties for offering tickets to women for contesting elections, political parties basically assume female candidates as vulnerable in terms of winning the election, hence they did not allot more tickets to female candidates. As per data of ECI women candidates have never crossed single digit percentage in terms of candidature in general elections in the past 72 years and confined women's candidature up to 9 percent of total candidates. In the past three General elections the percentage of women candidates was very insignificant, in 16th LS elections out of total 8234 candidates only 644 female candidates nominated to contest election and out of total 543 LS seats 61 were occupied by women only. Likewise in 17th and 18th General elections out of total 8054 and 8359 candidates only 726 and 800 female candidates nominated to contest LS elections and out of total 543 and 542 seats 78 and 74 were occupied by female candidates.

Data based on gender regarding contest and wining in election by the candidates during the last six general elections were collected respectively from four major national political parties for this study, those parties were BJP, INC, BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party) and CPIM (Communist Party of India, Marxist) highlighted from Table 6 to 9. The statistical data up to Table 9 revealed marginal participation of women candidates during the study period of last six general elections from 1999 to 2024. Female candidates were assigned only 10.5 per cent on average basis by the national political party BJP, 11.7 per cent by INC, 5.8 per cent by BSP and 10.9 per cent by CPI(M) from 1999 to 2024 General elections. Tables 6 to 9 stipulate that during a period of 25 years, trends of change clearly visible in the form of nomination or pre-selection of female candidates by these four major parties. Another important finding is that the winning ratio of contestants mainly women vary across the party line. The success rate of women candidates for last six general elections reveals that women's candidates from BJP in compare with the other three national political parties like INC, BSP and CPI(M) ranked in better position.

Table 3 Gender based voting Percentage in different Lok Sabha Elections

Year-wise	Total	Men	Women	Difference
1957	45.4	56	38.8	17.2
1962	55.4	63.3	46.6	16.7
1967	61	66.7	55.5	11.2
1971	55.2	60.9	49.1	11.8
1977	60.4	65.6	54.9	10.7
1980	56.9	62.1	51.2	10.9
1984	63.6	68.1	58.6	9.5
1989	61.9	66.1	57.3	8.8
1991	56.7	61.5	51.3	10.2
1996	57.9	62	53.4	8.6
1998	61.9	65.7	57.6	8.1
1999	59.9	63.9	55.6	8.3
2004	58	61.6	53.6	8.0
2009	58.1	61	55.8	5.2
2014	66.4	67.1	65.7	1.4
2019	67.4	67.02	67.18	-0.16
2024	66.1	65.55	65.78	-0.23
Avg.	59.54	63.77	54.17	8.6

Source: Election Commission of India (ECI) 1957-2024. GOVT. of India

Table 4 Gender based Candidates in Different Lok Sabha Elections in India

Year-wise	Total Candidates	Male Candidate	Female Candidate	Gap between Male and Female
1957	1519	1474 (97.1)	45 (2.9)	1429 (94.0)
1962	1985	1919 (96.7)	66 (3.3)	1853 (93.0)
1967	2369	2301 (97.2)	68 (2.8)	2234 (94.4)
1971	2784	2701 (97.1)	83 (2.9)	2618 (94.2)
1977	2439	2369 (97.2)	70 (2.8)	2299 (94.4)
1980	4629	4486 (97.0)	143 (3.0)	4343 (94.0)
1984	5312	5150 (97.0)	162 (3.0)	4988 (94.0)
1989	6160	5962 (96.8)	198 (3.2)	5764 (93.6)
1991	8668	8342 (96.3)	326 (3.7)	8016 (92.6)
1996	13952	13353 (95.8)	599 (4.2)	12754 (91.6)
1998	4750	4476 (94.3)	274 (5.7)	4202 (88.6)
1999	4648	4364 (93.9)	284 (6.1)	4080 (87.8)
2004	5435	5080 (93.5)	355 (6.5)	4725 (87.0)
2009	8070	7514 (93.2)	556(6.8)	6958 (86.4)
2014	8234	7590 (92.1)	644 (7.9)	6900 (83.7)
2019	8054	7322 (91.0)	726 (9.0)	6596 (81.9)
2024	8359	7553 (90.4)	800 (9.6)	6753 (80.8)

Source: Election Commission of India 1957-2024. GOVT. of India

Table 5 Elected Women Representatives from 1957 to 2024 Lok Sabha Elections

Year	Total Representatives	Men		Women		Gap
		Figure	Percentage	Figure	Percentage	
1957	403	381	94.5	22	4.5	359 (90.0)
1962	494	463	93.7	31	6.3	432 (87.4)
1967	520	491	94.4	29	5.6	462 (88.8)
1971	518	489	94.5	29	5.5	460 (89.0)
1977	542	523	96.5	19	3.5	504 (93.0)
1980	529	501	94.8	28	5.2	473 (89.6)
1984	514	472	91.8	42	8.2	430 (83.6)
1989	529	500	94.6	29	5.4	471 (89.2)
1991	521	484	92.9	37	7.1	447 (85.8)
1996	543	503	92.7	40	7.3	463 (85.4)
1998	543	500	92.1	43	7.9	457 (84.2)
1999	543	494	91	49	9	445 (82.0)
2004	543	498	91.8	45	8.2	453 (83.6)
2009	543	484	89.2	59	10.8	425 (78.4)
2014	543	482	88.7	61	11.2	421 (77.5)
2019	543	465	86.4	78	14.3	387 (72.1)
2024	542	468	86.3	74	13.6	394 (72.7)

Source: Election Commission of India (ECI) 1957-2024. GOVT. of India

Table 6 Participation of Women as candidate in last six General Elections

National Political Party		BJP		
General Elections	Total candidates contested	Women candidates contested	Total candidates won	Women candidates won
2024	440	70 (15.9%)	239	31 (44.3%)
2019	436	55 (12.6%)	303	41 (74.5%)
2014	428	38 (8.9%)	282	30 (78.9%)
2009	433	44 (10.2%)	116	13 (29.5%)
2004	364	30 (8.2%)	138	10 (33.3%)
1999	339	25 (7.4%)	182	15 (60%)

Source: Election Commission of India (ECI)

Table 7 Participation of Women as candidate in last six General Elections

National Political Party		INC		
General Elections	Total candidates contested	Women candidates contested	Total candidates won	Women candidates won
2024	328	41 (12.5%)	99	13 (31.7%)
2019	421	54 (12.8%)	52	6 (11.1%)
2014	464	60 (12.9%)	44	4 (6.7%)
2009	440	43(9.8%)	206	23 (53.4%)
2004	417	45 (10.8%)	145	12 (26.6%)
1999	453	51 (11.2%)	114	14 (27.4%)

Source: Election Commission of India

Table 8 Participation of Women as candidate in last six General Elections

National Political Party		BSP		
General Elections	Total candidates contested	Women candidates contested	Total candidates won	Women candidates won
2024	488	38 (7.8%)	0	0 (0%)
2019	383	24 (6.3%)	10	1 (4.2%)
2014	503	27 (5.4%)	0	0 (0%)
2009	500	28 (5.6%)	21	4 (14.3%)
2004	435	20 (4.6%)	19	1 (5%)
1999	225	11 (4.9%)	14	1 (9%)

Source: Election Commission of India

Table 9 Participation of Women as candidate in last six General Elections

National Political Party		CPI(M)		
General Elections	Total candidates contested	Women candidates contested	Total candidates won	Women candidates won
2024	52	7 (13.5%)	4	0 (0%)
2019	69	10 (14.5%)	3	0 (0%)
2014	93	11 (11.8%)	9	1 (9%)
2009	82	6 (7.3%)	16	1 (16.7%)
2004	69	8 (11.6%)	43	5 (62.5%)
1999	72	5 (6.9%)	33	3 (60%)

Source: Election Commission of India

4. CONCLUSION

Women under-representation inside the legislatures in any country is a matter of concern which needs to be solved. Data on the basis of gender related to contested candidates during the study period of last six general elections from 1999 to 2024 reveals that total numbers of women contestants from 1999 to 2024 have increased across all four major national political parties are concerned. Indicative figures of participation by the women in electoral process since 1999 to 2024 have marked just gradual increase which did not constitute a remarkable percentage of the total contestants. If we notice the case of BJP, there were only 25 women contestants in 13th General elections held in 1999 out of total 339 contestants, but the figure of women contestants reached at 70 out of total 440 contestants in 18th General elections held in 2024. In terms of percentage, it was a growth of 8.5% in women candidates since 1999 to 2024.

In the case of INC, there were 51 women contestants in 13th General elections held in 1999 out of total 453 contestants. This figure declined in next to general elections held in 2004 and 2009. In

16th general elections INC allotted 60 women candidates out of total 464 candidates, in terms of percentage; it was 12.9% which is recorded as highest allotment of women candidates by INC during the study period from 1999 to 2024. But the figure of women contestants declined to 54 out of total 421 contestants in 17th General elections held in 2019. In last General election the trends of decline remain unchanged with the figure of 41 women contestants out of total 328. In terms of percentage, it was recorded 12.5% women candidates in 18th General elections in 2024.

In the cases of BSP and CPI(M), CPI(M) has made a noticeable development for enhancing women contestants in last six general elections from 1999 to 2024. There were only 5 women contestants in 13th General elections held in 1999 out of total 72 contestants, but the figure of women contestants reached at 7 out of total 52 contestants in 18th General elections. In terms of percentage, the growth of 6.6% in women candidates since 1999 to 2024 recorded by this leftist party. In the case of BSP, there were only 11 women contestants in 13th General elections held in 1999 out of total

225 contestants, but the figure of women contestants reached at 38 out of total 488 contestants in 18th General elections. In terms of percentage, it was a growth of 2.9% in women candidates since 1999 to 2024.

This study reveals that four major national political parties have nominated or provide party tickets to marginal female candidates during this period. Such finding authenticates the reluctance of these parties for pre-selection of women candidates in large portion which is considered as great “barriers” for women to enter in the national parliament as law makers.

Several global measures are advised to boost women in elected legislatures (Krook & Norris, 2014). In this connection, IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) also published a framework of guidelines for improving gender centric policies for political parties which incorporates measures such as formal quota system for women in party organization and informal mechanism like full support to candidate by political parties, capacity building programs, funding women’s training and so on.

Many socialist countries, brought changes in nomination procedures and social democratic parties globally have revised statutes to set up gender quotas (Kittilson, 2006; Krook, 2009). NPP are crucial mechanism for representative democracy. If national political parties fail to adopt proper promotional measures for gender equity, participation of women in public and political field cannot be increased.

So, NPP of India should follow the suggested policies already developed at global level. Present study promotes for the fruitful support from major national political parties to acquire the desirable representation of women inside the legislative bodies. Selected political parties of India, national as well as regional parties have taken active measures for gender progress. Example can be sight for AITC (All India Trinamool Congress) which offered one third quotas on voluntary basis for women at pre-selection level in 17th general elections. AITC nominated total 62 candidates in 17th general elections, among 62 candidates 23 women candidates were pre-selected by this party. Ultimately, 22 candidates won in this election including 9 women. In 18th general elections, AITC nominated total 47 candidates; out of total candidates, 12 women were pre-selected. Finally, 30 candidates won in this election including 11 women candidates.

BJD (Biju Janata Dal) also provides pre-selected one third women candidates to contest 17th and 18th general elections. Out of total 21

candidates, 7 women candidates from BJD contested in 17th and 18th general elections in 2019 and 2024. BJD won total 12 seats and out of 12, five women won in this election in 2019. The hypothesis-based literature of left parties indicates for a greater support base to women candidate because of their egalitarian ideologies (Caul, 1999; Beckwith, 1992). But, leftist hypothesis failed to prove their demand as the study suggest Trinamool Congress as a non-leftist party with non-leftist ideology (Howladar, 2016). The case is also valid for centre-left Biju Janata Dal from Odisha which also encourages women for the process of candidate selection bearing ideas to establish social democracy and liberalism. Even with this peculiarity, both examples manifest the winning probability of women. Conclusion can be put forward that if more women are pre-selected by national as well regional based parties, the chances are more for them for entering in Parliament through which the issue of women under-representation in legislative bodies may be move towards gender parity in political and public life.

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