

## A comparative study of under graduate girls on role of education on political empowerment of women

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### ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the role of education on political empowerment of women. Here, the data sheet of 585 girls students of various college was taken as a sample. From these there were 200 girls students of home science, 200 girls students of arts and 185 girls students of commerce. The information was collected by questionnaire method. Statistical analysis was done using mean, standard deviation, standard error and significant test, calculation was done using both level of F-test. Result for home science respondents, arts respondents and commerce respondents were almost same.

**KEY WORDS :** Political empowerment, Women, Role of education

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### INTRODUCTION

The political empowerment of women is one of the most important aspects in the overall empowerment of women for it gives women the capacity to influence the decision-making process (Antrobus, 1989; Araki, 1991). The political empowerment of women in India has made considerable strides with only 4.4 per cent women being represented in the first Parliament of 1952-57 to 7.4 per cent in the election of 1996. Women's representation in the Rajya-Sabha has however, shown greater improvement, having increased from 7.7 per cent in 1952 to 15.5 per cent in 1991. Besides the 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in the Panchayati Raj institutions is certainly a revolutionary step towards empowerment of rural women. The seventy-third and seventy-fourth Constitutional Amendments paved the way for the emergence of about one million women as leaders and decision-makers in the rural and urban elected bodies. Of these, 75000 will be chairpersons in rural areas. This will really empower women politically at the grass-roots level in a revolutionary fashion and it will enable them to take interest at the local level to energize and improve the situation of women in areas like health, education and

employment, which are essential to their basic existence, This will also train them for further political assertions in the form of Members of State Legislatures and Parliament. As a result of the system of periodical elections, woman even in remote rural areas of the country are now familiar with the elections though not with their mystique.

Despite their vast numerical strength, women occupy a marginalized position in society because of several socio-economic constraints. This has inhibited effective participation of women in political processes and the institutional structure of democracy. Even after five decades of the grant of political equality, statistics have over the years revealed that while there is an acceptable visible manifestation of gender quality at the voter level, gender visibility within the power structures show cause for woman concern. According to the document on Women's Development (1985), women's role in political structure had virtually remained unchanged, despite the rapid growth of informal political activity by them.

In general, the women candidates have to cross three hurdles before they could aspire to enter the formal political structures (a) they should be willing to stand for elections, (b) they should be judged suitable by the party

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