



## Representation of Women in Politics – A Case Study of YSR Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh

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### **Abstract:**

*This paper explains the representation of Women in Politics – A Case Study of YSR Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh. Participation in electoral and institutional politics will expose them to the outside world and widen their horizon and also associate them with the decision making process both at home and outside. Our democracy will remain seriously flawed if it fails to give adequate room to women. Women's qualitative as well as quantitative participation at all levels of governance structures is absolutely essential for their empowerment. The number of women contesting election has always been low. It is viewed that Participation in electoral and institutional politics will expose them to the outside world and widen their horizon and also associate them with the decision making process both at home and outside.*

**Key words:** Politics, Representation, Women

### **Introduction:**

It is estimated by demographers and statisticians that women constitute about half of the population of the world. But, despite their numerical strength women occupy secondary position in society because of several socio-economic constraints. Empowering of women presupposes a drastic, dynamic and democratic change in the perception of and expectation from women in the society. It is also a process of acquiring, providing, bestowing the resources or enabling them access to resources. Empowerment of women means that women gain autonomy, are able to set their own agenda and are fully able to participate in the social, economic and political decision-making process.

Participation of women in political arena and in decision-making role is an important tool for empowerment. The extent of this

participation is monitoring standards of political performance at all levels. Women in India raised the issue of representation in politics first in 1917. At that time it was basically a demand for universal adult franchise and political participation. By 1930 women had gained the right to vote, which initially benefited women from elite families. Women's involvement in nationalist struggle changed their lives in that even though they were denied equal opportunities to shape the new state, they gained constitutional and legal rights. But even after the right to vote became a reality for all women, their representation in the parliament, political parties and other decision making remained low even after independence, and after the Indian Constitution came in force in 1950 (Mehta



et al)<sup>1</sup>. A few women no doubt attained positions as members of parliament and state legislatures and as leaders of opposition, etc., mostly through family dynasties or through male political patronage. However, the percentage of women in legislatures and decision making positions always remained low. Women do not share the power of decision-making and are not involved in policy making in India democracy in proportion to their numerical strength.

From Indira Gandhi to Gloria Macapegal – Arroyo from Aung San Soo Ki to Tanaka Makkio during the last forty years one can find Asia's roaring tigress as ministers, heads of political parties, opposition leaders, and heads of government of presidents. Among the Asian nations, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Phillippines, India and Bangladesh have has or are formally led by women especially in the third world countries were under pardha, they are not coming into the society, because of their ignorance, inequality and indignity(Vidyasagar Reddy).

India had women PM as early as in 1966. It tops the list of countries with the longest tenure of women at the helm. Until recently during the UPA government, the ruling coalition was headed by a woman, the Lok Sabha Speaker was a woman, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha was women, it has had over a dozen women CMs and CMS in there large states were women. Yet India ranks among the worst on

every other index on gender equity and inclusion. India ranks 136 on a list of 186 countries on the United Nations Gender Inequality Index trailing its BRICS peers and countries like Kiribati, Vanuatu, Namibia, Iraq, Timer Leste and Equatorial Guinea (B.V.Chalpathi et al).

### Women Presence in the Lok Sabha

Table 1 shows that the representation of women in Lok Sabha since 1952. Average number of women representation in Lok Sabha works out to only 36.87 and average percentage of women representation in Lok Sabha is not more than 6.91 per cent.

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<sup>1</sup> Mehta, Aasha Kapur, Arora, Dolly and Kabra, Kamal Nayan, (2001), Parliamentary Debate on the Golden Jubilee of Independence; Equity and Social Justice Mainstream, August 18, 2001

**Table 1: Women Presence in the Lok Sabha**

Sl.No	Year	Seats	Women MPs	% of women MPs
1	1952	409	22	4.41
2	1957	500	27	5.40
3	1962	503	34	6.76
4	1967	523	31	5.93
5	1971	521	22	4.22
6	1977	544	19	3.29
7	1980	544	28	5.15
8	1984	544	44	8.9
9	1989	517	27	5.22
10	1991	544	39	7.17
11	1996	543	39	7.18
12	1998	543	43	7.92
13	1999	543	49	9.02
14	2004	543	45	8.03
15	2009	543	59	10.86
16	2014	543	61	11.23
Average		531.06	36.87	6.91 <sup>^</sup>

SOURCE: Election Commission of India ([www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in)) and *Mamta Mokta* (2014),

Table 2 indicates that the presence of women in the Upper House has been slightly higher overall, probably due to indirect elections and nomination of some women members. It was highest in 1990 at 15.5 per cent and shows a declining trend thereafter. Nonetheless, this

representation does not even come close to the 33 per cent marks. It is significant note that the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha at least for more than 25 years has been a women, yet women fare increasing competition from male politicians for nomination.

**Table 2. Women representation in the Rajya Sabha**

SL.NO	Year	Total seats	No of women	% of women
1	1952	219	16	7.3
2	1957	237	18	7.6
3	1962	238	18	7.6
4	1967	240	20	8.3
5	1971	243	17	7.0
6	1977	244	25	10.2
7	1980	244	24	9.8
8	1985	244	28	11.4
9	1990	245	38	15.5
10	1996	223	20	9.0
11	1998	223	19	8.6
12	2004	245	27	11.1
13	2009	245	22	8.97
14	2014	245	29	11.83
Average		238.21	22.92	9.62

SOURCE: Election Commission of India ([www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in))



The number of women contesting election has always been low, as may be seen from table 3. The highest number of women contestants has been merely 636 in 2014, while the number of male contestants has always been thousand, the highest being 13,353 in 1996. Yet it is encouraging to note that the percentage of winners among women has consistently been more than that of the men, notwithstanding the fact that more

often than not, the losing sets are offered to women candidates by the respective political parties. For example, in 1996, only 3.8 per cent of male candidates won, in comparison to 6.7 per cent female candidates. Likewise, the percentage of winners was 11.2 per cent in 1999, 6.44 per cent and 10.61 per cent in 2009 and 6.39 per cent and 9.74 per cent, respectively in 2014 (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha).

**Table 3: Women Contestants**

Sl.No	Year	Males	Females	Total	@age of male winners	%age of Female winners
1	1952	1831	43	1874	26.05	51.16
2	1957	1473	45	1518	31.7	60.00
3	1962	1915	70	1985	24.0	50.00
4	1967	2302	67	2369	21.3	44.80
5	1971	2698	86	2784	18.5	24.40
6	1977	2369	70	2439	22.1	27.10
7	1980	4478	142	4620	11.5	19.7
8	1984	5406	164	5574	9.2	25.60
9	1989	5962	198	6160	8.5	13.60
10	1991	8374	325	8690	5.9	12.00
11	1996	13353	599	13952	3.8	6.70
12	1998	4476	274	4750	11.2	15.70
13	1999	3976	278	4254	12.3	17.30
14	2004	5080	355	5435	9.8	12.30
15	2009	2514	556	8070	6.44	10.61
16	2014	7527	636	8163	6.39	9.74

The representation of women in the Union Council of Ministers between 1985 and 2014 is shown in the above table. The data shows that indicate that women have remained portly represented in Council of Ministers.

Since Independence we had had so far 15 women chief ministers and 23

women governors. Only one woman so far served as President of India but so far we had no women as Vice-President and Chief Justice of India. Only one woman has got the opportunity to serve as Chief Election Commissioner and one as Chairperson UPSC but none as CAG.



**Table 4: Representations of Women in the Union Council of Minister (1985-2014)**

S .N	Year	Number of minister			Number of women minister		
		Cabinet Minister	Minister of state	Deputy Minister	Cabinet Minister	Minister of state	Deputy Minister
1	1985	15	25	00	01	03	00
2	1990	17	17	05	00	01	01
3	1995	12	37	03	01	04	01
4	1996	18	21	00	00	01	00
5	1997	20	24	00	00	05	00
6	1998	21	21	00	00	03	00
7	2001	30	07	35	03	02	04
8	2002	31	45	00	02	05	00
9	2004	28	38	00	01	06	00
10	2009	34	45	00	03	05	00
11	2014*	23	23	00	06	01	00

SOURCE: Election Commission of India ([www.eci.nic.in](http://www.eci.nic.in)), *Mamta Mokta* (2014) and *G.Vidyasagar Reddy* (2015),

\*First phase of Narendra Modi's Council of Ministers which took oath on May 26, 2014.

### **Political Empowerment of Women in YSR Kadapa District**

The great warrior of our Andhra, Nagamma is well note to all. She is good at the new war techniques and in martial arts of her days. The women of Kadapa are well known for their role in family management but also in different fields like administration and politics. They left a special impression in ruling various aspects even though the Kadapa is well noted for its faction. Women bravely came out to show their talents. It is not easy for them to have control over their ambitions of upliftment particularly in a place where there were frequent faction agitations are common. But they overcame from fears of faction and from social customs to prove their ability. Women of our place had a direct role in politics prior to the independence. They shared their work during in Non-cooperation movement led by our father of India, Gandhiji, against the black rule

of Britishers. Our women are starting material for the purchase and selling of the 'Swadeshi' goods. They are the beginners for 'Swarajya movement' by giving their wealth and ornaments. They even sent their husbands and sons wholeheartedly to serve the Nation and to free our Nation from the clutches of the British rule.

In 1938, Kotireddy Rama Subbamma, wife of Sri Kotireddy is the first from this place to have started political beginning to move forwarded in the field 'women in rule'. She led a number of social service campaigns in the district and worked as Mandal member on behalf of the District Women. She worked as State Legislative member and became the first women from Kadapa in Political ruling.

The leader of Telegu Desam Party our Chief Minister, Sri Nara Chandra Babu Naidu garu made an important decision by involving woman in his political party which is the



milestone for women to enter in political history of Kadapa district. From Railway Koduru Constitution, in reserved category, Smt. S.Saraswathyamma was selected for election in 1999. She was elected as MLA by getting a majority of votes. So at that time, our CM Sri.Nara Chandra Babu Naidu gave her greater responsibility of Minister Post for woman, child development. But due to various reasons her effect on political background has been declined.

In Rajampet Constitution Smt.Konduru Prabhavathamma still had her impact in political power. She is the only women in district to be elected a number of times State Legislative Assembly. She stood and worked in 1974, 1978, and 1983 and in 2004 from Rajampet Constituency. After his death or our ex-Chief Minister, Sri Y.S.Rajasekhar Reddy garu his life partner Smt.Vijayamma came in to the political picture and won two times due to family sympathy. In Badvel Constituency late B.Veera Reddy garu made a good impact of TDP in that area and not allowed the Congress to overrule. After the death, his daughter Smt.K.Vijayamma was elected during by-elections of 2001. And from this place again another woman from reserved category Smt.Kamamma has been

elected as MLA. Rayachoty, the hill area where the drought is predominant is well known for its political disturbances. From this place also two woman were tried their best to make their position static in elections. In 1983, from Congress side Smt.Shaik.Shavarunnisa and in 2004 Smt.Sreelatha competed to a great extent. They made a good attempt but have not succeeded.

As far as woman of Kadapa is concerned, a lot of changes have been taking place in the way of thinking of woman. They are stepping forward by overcoming the critical situations that they come across. They show involvement, activeness, self-confidence in their work. As per the Census, the total population of Kadapa is 28, 82,469. Out of which 14, 51,777 are men and 14, 30,692 are woman. The total woman found in villages are 9, 43,644 and 4, 87,048 are dwelling cities.

Casting vote is the right given to the citizen by our Constitution. The total voters of our district are 21, 71,133. Out of which 11, 02,401 are woman who are contributing more than 50% of population.

**Table 5. Constituency wise Enrolment of Voters in YSR Kadapa District**

Constituency	Males	Women
Badvel	106727	106662
Rajampet	105297	109315
Kadapa	134965	135697
Koduru	86414	91977
Rayachoti	112249	114325
Pulivendula	111840	114546
Kamalapuram	92268	94503
Jammalamadugu	110594	116189
Proddatur	114624	119551
Mydukur	96274	99726
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,68,552</b>	<b>11,02,401</b>



In the history of administration too an IAS officer, Mrs.Chandana Khan made a record. She was the only woman IAS officer of the Kadapa District. In 1800 during the reign of British, Kadapa became the district and since then nearly 115 Collectors worked here. After Independence 45 Collectors came to work here. Mrs. Chandana Khan is the only women Collector worked in YSR Kadapa District. She worked here during 1987 to 1989 and had her good impact in the administration of Kadapa.

There about 790 village panchayats in the YSR Kadapa District where 50% of the seats are allotted to woman. Nearly 430 woman Sarpanches are occupied their seats in villages. More ratio of woman are the members in wards. Among them nearly 30-35% woman electors are not independent in decision making. But in the back stage, the role of their husbands and family members are having their hands in making important decisions. The women are simply acting persons and they are not free in making important political decisions. The men are having upper hand and not allowing the woman to take part in the political scenario. If this kind of culture is removed from political background only then we can see woman power, administration and control in democratic system.

### **Conclusion and suggestions:**

Special measures are needed to accelerate the process of political participation of women. Various women's organizations should impart political education to women to make them aware of their political rights and civic duties, through an organized movement. It is also imperative that national political parties should adopt specific programmes for women and

mobilize them for electoral purposes and also provide them opportunities in public life.

Participation in electoral and institutional politics will expose them to the outside world and widen their horizon and also associate them with the decision making process both at home and outside. Our democracy will remain seriously flawed if it fails to give adequate room to women. Womens qualitative as well as quantitative participation at all levels of governance structures is absolutely essential for their empowerment.

Certain endeavours should be made in this direction to create proper environment to empower women and to enhance their capacity.

1. Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for all round development of women to enable them to realize their potential.
2. Strengthening legal system to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.
3. Elimination of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child.
4. Enjoyment of fundamental freedoms by women on equal basis with men in the field of socio-economic and political, civil and cultural field.
5. Equal access to participation and decision making of women in socio-economic and political field.
6. Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and full involvement of men and women.



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