

Is political participation a human right? If so, what are the obstacles faced by women politicians of Pakistan to pursue a career in politics? What is the impact of political quota system on this.

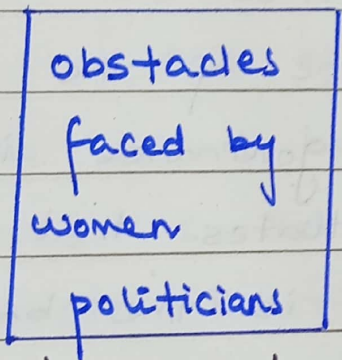
Introduction

One of the principle of good governance is "participatory". This accentuates that participation in politics is the basic human right. However, women in politics faces numerous challenges specially in Pakistan. These challenges includes social and cultural barriers, violence and harassment, lack of resources and reluctance by the political leaders. Also, the inclusion of political quota has substantial impact on the

System that include increase representation, introduction of numerous women related bill, international recognition and empowerment of women.

lack of awareness

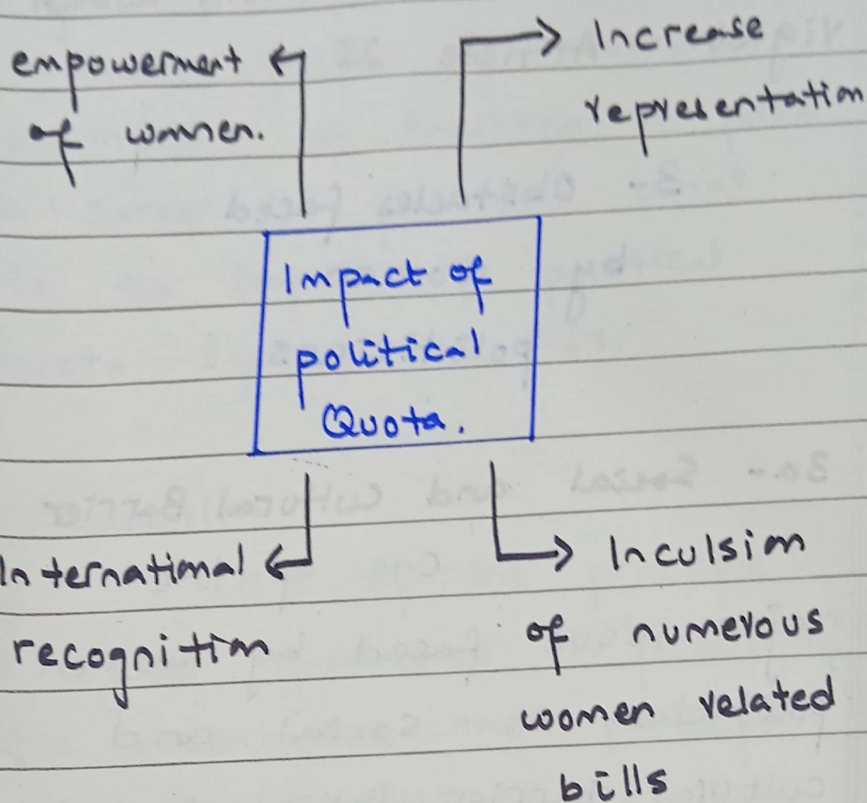
Social and cultural barrier.



lack of resources

violence and harassment

political parties reluctance



2. Political Participation a Human Right

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights in its Article 21 accentuates that political participation is a human rights, and its necessary for both genders to participate in this.

Also, the same has been accentuated by international Convent on civil and human right - Article 25.

3- Obstacles faced by women politicians

3a- Social and Cultural Barrier

One of the major issue faced by women politician is social and cultural barrier. Pakistani society is a patriarchal society, in which women are often passive victims not active participants.

"In the book, Islam is a misunderstood religion the author highlights how in the name of religion women are often exploited."

3b - Violence and Harassment

Secondly, women who participate in politics often face violence and harassment.

"21% of the women who participate in politics face online harassment."

- Digital Rights Foundation.

3c - Political parties

Reluctance

Thirdly, the leaders of political parties are often reluctant while selecting women as a candidate because of the Gender Norms.

"In 2018 General elections only 5% of the total candidates were women, indicating that political parties remain

hesitant to nominate women for general seats."

3d Lack of resources:

women are considered as "haves not" i.e they are dependent on men. Thus women doesn't have the necessary resources to run the campaign. Also, as a candidate she needs to perform lobbying but the head of industry prefer men over them.

"As per the survey conducted by women parliamentary caucus, women often lack ^{necessary} resources to participate in politics."

3e- lack of Awareness?

women doesn't have necessary knowledge

Regarding political campaign. Also the lowest rates of literacy for women, especially in rural areas is another obstacle faced by women in politics.

4. Impact of Political Quota.

4a - Increase representation

The political quota has increased representation of women in National and provincial assemblies. For instance, women have reserved 60 seats in the national Assembly out of the 326 seats.

4b - Introduction of various women related bills.

The women participation has introduced various bills which will resolve women related issues. It includes dowry & bridal gift restriction, Anti-sexual harassment bill and domestic violence act

4C- International Recognition:

The increased women participation in politics facilitate the fulfillment of sustainable development goals i.e. SDG 5 - Gender equality.

4d- Empowerment of women

The introduction of political quota has allowed more women to participate in politics and make laws that will help to combat women related issues i.e. Gender based violence.

5- Conclusion:

In a nutshell, political participation is a human right but women in Pakistan faces numerous obstacles that includes, social and cultural barriers, violence and harassment, political parties reluctance, and lack of resources. However, the introduction of political quota has many positive impacts like increase representation, international recognition, and empowerment of women.