



GENDER AND GOVERNANCE

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Definition of **Governance**

- Process of making and enforcing decisions within an organization or society.
- It is the process of interactions through the laws, social norms, power, (social and political) or language as structured in communication of an organized society over a social system (family, social group, formal or informal organization, a territory under a jurisdiction or across territories).
- It is the process of choosing the right course among the actors involved in a collective problem that leads to the creation, reinforcement, or reproduction of acceptable conduct and social order". In lay terms, it could be described as the political processes that exist in and between formal institutions.

Voting rights of women

Date	Location	Event
1950	India	Equal voting rights given to women.
1957	Malaysia, Zimbabwe	Equal voting rights given to women.
1962	Iran, Morocco	Equal voting rights given to women.
1971	Switzerland	Equal voting rights given to women.
1989	Namibia	Equal voting rights given to women.
1993	Kazakhstan, Moldova	Equal voting rights given to women.
2005	Kuwait	Equal voting rights given to women.
2011	Saudi Arabia	Equal voting rights given to women.

Reservation for Women in Local Self -Government

73rd Constitutional Amendment Act 1992

- To remedy low participation of women electors, India in 1994 established quotas (reservations) in constitutional amendments (73rd and 74th) to reserve 33% of seats in local governments for women.
- States such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura, and Uttarakhand have increased reservations to 50%. The national government has also proposed to raise the level of reservations in PRIs to 50%.

Women's Reservation Bill (108th amendment) Bill, 2008

- In 2012, India had a minimal percentage of 10.9% women elected representatives in the national parliament.
- The Women's Reservation Bill (108th amendment) Bill, 2008 has been introduced in the national parliament to reserve 33% of Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats for women.
- Yet to be passed.

Benefits

- Political participation went from 4-5% to 25-40% among women,
- Gave millions of women the opportunity to serve as leaders in local government.
- The effect of reservation for women has seen increase in the number of public goods delivery, along with infrastructure including water and roads etc.
- The most significant issues for men generally are roads, irrigation, education, and water. Women are also likely to bring welfare issues such as violence against women, childcare, and maternal health, education, water and sanitation to consideration..

Challenges

- Concerns remain in reserving seats for women in elected positions.
- The issue of training has become an increasing concern with preparing women for the role of leadership.
- Family also plays a significant role in women's participation in government. Familial influence can be a barrier or a support system for female elected officials in terms of connections.
- There has been concern over the role of women as proxies for male family members, but women may still have important effects on policy decisions.
- Work hours
- Safety and security concerns