

Gender and Politics

Chapter 15: Gender, Religion and Caste · Topic 1

Key Concept

Historically, women faced significant barriers to political participation, including restricted voting rights and limited representation in government positions.

Women's political representation has improved over time, though women remain underrepresented in many parliaments and leadership positions worldwide, including in India.

Measures like reserved seats for women in local governance (Panchayati Raj institutions) aim to increase women's political participation and representation.

Gender-sensitive policies address issues specifically affecting women, like maternity benefits, workplace safety, and protection against gender-based violence, showing the importance of diverse representation.

Quick Revision Notes

- Gender affects political participation and representation.
- Women historically faced barriers to political participation.
- Women's representation has improved but remains limited.
- Women remain underrepresented in many parliaments.
- Reserved seats for women exist in Panchayati Raj institutions.
- These reservations aim to increase women's participation.
- Gender-sensitive policies address issues like maternity benefits.
- They also address workplace safety and violence protection.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research women's representation in India's Parliament today.
- 2 Discuss the significance of reserved seats for women in Panchayati Raj.
- 3 Research a gender-sensitive policy in India.
- 4 Explain why diverse representation matters in politics.
- 5 Discuss a barrier women might still face in politics.
- 6 Debate whether reservation systems effectively increase representation.