

Women in Haryana Politics

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Abstract—Legislative Assembly elections were held in Haryana on 21 October 2019 to elect 90 members of Haryana Legislative Assembly. Out of 1186 contesting candidates, only 50 candidates were female which accounts for only 4.3% female candidate participation. What's even more appalling is that only 9 female candidates were actually elected as members of Legislative Assembly 2019 which is only 10% of the total candidates elected from Haryana.

According to latest available data, there are a total of 1,82,98,714 eligible voters in Haryana, of which 84,65,152 are females and 98,33,323 are males. Female votes account for 46% of total votes and yet only 10% of total elected candidates represent them in Haryana Legislative Assembly. Government Schemes like *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*, *Appki Beti Hamari Beti*, *Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandhana Yojna* has helped in increasing the sex ratio and literacy rate among females in Haryana but till date, there are no reservations for females in fields of government jobs and in politics. In this paper, I will decipher the role of women in Haryana election? Government's efforts to uplift women status and power in Haryana? Role of political parties that dominates women involvement in political activities? How family political background of women affect her political career?

1. INTRODUCTION

Haryana was established as a separate state in the federal galaxy of Indian Republic on 1 November 1966. It was excavated out of former state East Punjab with total geographical area of 1.37% and less than 2% of India's population. Haryana is an expanding state in the field of agricultural, industrial and infrastructural development, and is among highest per capita income states of India.

2. HISTORY

Haryana is land of saints and warriors. It was on this soil that Lord Krishna preached Arjun about his callings and Saint Ved Vyas wrote Mahabharata 5000 years ago. Ancient writings and vedic references portrayed Haryana as land of plentiful grains and immense riches but due to its geographical placement, Haryana faced many intruders in past such as the Turks, and the Tughlaqs invaded India and decisive battles

were fought on this land, Tamur led an army through this area, the battle of Panipat, Marathas sovereignty over Haryana these all incident shook the foundation believes of society and turn society into aggressive form

These wars and invasions changed the social and cultural phenomena. Need for power and strengthening workouts gave rise to games like kabaddi, kushti, boxing and shooting. Due to physical strength in demand for defense, men were considered superior to women and this mentality is still prevailing. Haryana has the lowest sex ratio of 832 girls for every 1000 boys in 2012. The tradition such as *parda* and *ghungat* is still not a choice but a duty for women in some fractions of society. Women are not allowed to work till today in many fractions of society, so working women in Haryana constituted 4.11 percent of directly employed workers in Haryana. This condition is also seen in the politics of Haryana.

3. POLITICAL DISTRIBUTION IN HARYANA

Haryana has 6 administrative divisions, 22 districts, 72 sub-divisions, 93 revenue tehsils, 50 sub-tehsils, 140 community development blocks, 154 cities and towns, 6,848 villages and 6222 village panchayats. Chandigarh as capital and Faridabad as the largest city of Haryana. Haryana covers Delhi from three sides. Gurugram is ranked No. 1 in IT growth sector and infrastructure growth in India. There is so much development in field economy and infrastructure. There are 90 members in Legislative Assembly and 10 member of parliaments elected from Haryana.

4. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2019

Legislative Assembly election was held in Haryana on 21 October 2019 to elect 90 members of the Haryana Legislative Assembly and the total number of candidates participated in elections are 1186 out of which 50 are women that is only 4.2 percent. According to latest available data, there are a total of 1,82,98,714 eligible voters in Haryana, of which 84,65,152 are females and 98,33,323 are males. Women cover 46 percent of

total voters in Haryana and they have only 9 seats in Legislative Assembly out of 90.

Political parties play an important role for the participation of candidates in Legislative Assembly

Indian National Congress nominated 10 female candidates whereas Bharatiya Janata Party nominated 12 female candidates and Jannayak Janata Party nominated 7 female candidates and out of these 9 won Legislative Assembly seats. Out of which, Indian National Congress have 5, Bharatiya Janata party have 3 and Jannayak Janata Party have 1 woman as member of Legislative Assembly.

Independent women candidate rarely wins in Haryana elections. Through the history of the election, only 3 independent women won election, and they were:

- 1 Shardha Rani from Ballabgarth in 1987
- 2 .Meritorious from Jhajjar in 1987
- 3 Shakuntala Bhagwadia from Bawal 2005

It is nearly impossible for woman candidate to compete against a party candidate. Hence, political parties play a major role in Haryana.

Distribution of seats in political parties is another part of conflict and corruption. Recently Ashok Tanwar alleged that some individuals were "selling tickets" and "subverting" the great political legacy of the Congress. "I have not been left with any other option but to resign from the responsibilities you have assigned me as member of various committees for Haryana assembly elections," a statement from the ex-state chief of Haryana Congress solely confirm the corruption in seats distribution in Haryana.

5. WOMEN ELECTED AS MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2019

List of women elected as members of Legislative Assembly and their corresponding party is given below:

1. Naina singh chautala from Badhra-- Jannayak Janata Party
2. Kiran choudhary from Tosham -- Indian National Congress
3. Geeta Bhukhal from Jhajjar-- Indian National Congress
4. Shelley from Naraingardh-- Indian National Congress
5. Renu Bala from Sadhaura -- Indian National Congress
6. Shakuntala Khatak from Kalanaur-- Indian National Congress
7. Nirmal Rani from Ganaur-- Bharatiya Janata Party
8. Seema Trikha from Badkhal-- Bharatiya Janata Party
9. Kamlesh Dhanda from Kalayat- Bharatiya Janata Party

Political family background of Women elected as member of legislative Assembly.

5.1 Naina Singh Chautala

She was born on 15 October, 1966. She is the third and last daughter of Ch. Bhim Singh Godara and Smt. Kantadevi Godara.

Ch. Bhim Singh Godara is an Indian politician, activist, lawyer and author. He is the leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party.

She is married to Ajay Singh Chautala, the eldest son of former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala. She is the mother of Dushyant Singh Chautala, deputy chief minister of Haryana.

5.2 Kiran Choudhary

She was born on 5 June 1955 in New Delhi. Her father Atma singh was a war veteran Brigadier in Indian army.

She was married to the son of Bansi Lal, former chief minister of Haryana.

Her husband, Ch. Surender Singh died in helicopter crash who himself represented Bhiwani constituency, in the parliament of India.

She is a mother of Shruti choudhary who served as a member of the Lok Sabha committees for agriculture and empowerment of women from 2009-2014. Shruti was Indian National Congress's Candidate in 2019 for Bhiwani-Mahendragarh constituency but was defeated by Dharambir Singh of BJP.

5.3 Shakuntala Khatak

She is also known as 'The biker MLA' due to her hobby of riding bikes. As a professional nurse, Khatak owns a bike which she rode to visit patients working for the post-graduate institute in Rohtak. She used her bike for the campaign when she got to contest assembly election from Kalanaur seat. Shakuntala Khatak defies the stereotypical image of a woman in Haryana, one who is mostly confined to household work. She was born on 10 April 1968, in family of Late Shri Dhayan chand and is married to Shri Attar Singh.

She reveals that she was inspired by his elder brother who was congress worker and was well know politician in his constituency.

5.4 Seema Trikha

Seema Trikha was born on 31 August, 1966 in family of businessman Kailash Chander Malhotra. She is married to Ashwani Trikha who is active Advocate. She was elected for the second time and believes that gender factor ends in politics. She is a qualified lawyer who is also known in her constituency as a social worker active on gender issues. She served as the president of the BJP's women wing in Faridabad and was counsellor from 2005 to 2009. Does she turn to men of the family for crucial decisions? She said, "At times, I do."

On women being proxy to males in the family, in the context of politics, she says. "Your own caliber dictates whether you will consult men in the family or party or not."

5.5 Geeta Bhukhal

She was born on 16 August, 1968 to Sh. Rattan Singh Punia at Matanhail village in Jhajjar district. She has a bachelor's degree from Punjab University, Chandigarh and a Law degree from University of Delhi.

Geeta Bhukhal was elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly for the first time from Kalayat Assembly constituency, in 2005. She won this seat for the Indian National Congress for the first time in 37 years. Then she contested from the Jhajjar Assembly constituency in 2009, winning the election and then again, making it a hat-trick of her winning in the Jhajjar Assembly constituency and also creating a streak of wins in the State Assembly elections by winning Fourth time in a row since 2005.

She is married to Dr Dalbir Singh Bhukkala, and is the mother of 3 children.

She was born to Sh. Charan Singh Punia in village Matanhail. She is also a member of Bar Association of the honorable high court of Punjab and Haryana.

5.6 Shelley Chaudhary

She is a member of the Legislative Assembly of Naraingarh constituency.

She contested for first time as member of Legislative Assembly. She is married to Ram Krishan who is also close to Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) president Kumari Selja, who managed to get a party ticket for his wife Shelley. She is mother of a son and 2 daughters. Her husband is ex-member of legislative assembly from Naraingarh(2005-2009).

5.7 Renu Bala

She is the first female MLA from the constituency in its 42 years of history. She had been elected as the chairperson of the Zila Parishad in 2016. She still has a few months left in that position. She is married to Rishi Pal who was District president of SC Morcha. Bala won with a margin of 17020 votes against the three-time BJP candidate which in itself is another historic feat from Bala. While she got 65,687 votes, incumbent candidate Singh could only garner 48,710 votes.

5.8 Nirmal Rani

She is a member of the Legislative Assembly from Ganaur Constituency. She is married to Surender kumar. She lives in House No.160, Vill and Post-Jhadsa, Teh. and Dist. Gurgaon, Haryana. She was born in 1973. She studied M.A. From Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Year-1992 and B.Ed. From Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Year-1990

Her total Assets are 73,44,83,584 rupees.

5.9 Kamlesh Dhanda

Smt. Kamlesh Dhanda (state executive member of BJP) is the wife of Ch. Nursing Dhanda (Ex. Cabinet minister, Haryana) and won from Kalayat constituency of Haryana. She is 52 years old. She has Rs 2,62,01,500 in assets. She has completed her higher secondary education (12th pass).

Most of these women Member of the Legislative Assembly are directly or indirectly connected with the political background families or either with the wealthy class of society that helped them carve there a path to Haryana politics. It seems like the politics in Haryana is turning towards nepotism, 4-5 families are ruling from the beginning of state.

This type of distribution of seats by political parties on the basis of their family connection and their political background should be avoided. The use of money for the distribution of seats in political parties should be checked as this not only affect the candidate but affects society too.

6. GOVERNMENT NATIONAL POLICIES

Government of Haryana had made many efforts to bring up women in society. They are achieving the goal and motives for the upliftment of women. Government is taking steps to empower, educate and upliftment of girl child some of their policies are-

6.1 Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

Aims at generating awareness importance of girl child and their education.

6.2 Sukanya Samridhi Yojna

This aims in investing for girls for future education and marriage. It has tax benefits and an interest rate of 9.1% and is meant for girls under the age of 10 years. They can start the account with just Rs 1,000 with the maximum deposit being Rs 1,50,000 per year.

6.3 Balika Samridhi Yojna

Aims to help parents to raise their daughter until the legal age of marriage, so she can study, learn and be able to generate steady income.

Gift deposit of Rs 500 at birth and second fixed amount deposited every year of school she progresses until class 10 and only one girl child per family can use this scheme.

6.4 CBSE Scholarship Scheme/Policy for Girl Education

This scheme is applicable in government CBSE School and only aims to the school tuition fees. There is relaxation of Rs 500 per month in school tuition fee. But the girl should have scored at least 60% or 6.2 CGPA in her 10th board exams. The girl child should be the single girl child of her parents and school fees should not be more than Rs 1500 a month.

7. GOVERNMENT STATE POLICIES

7.1 Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandhana Yojna

A cash incentive of Rs5000 in three installments are paid directly to Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers for first living child of the family subject to their fulfilling specific conditions relating to Maternal and Child Health.

It aims to improve health of Women.

7.2 Aapki Beti Hamari Beti

Aapki Beti Hamari Beti is a Haryana State Government Scheme in which a sum of Rs 21000 is invested with Life Insurance Corporation LIC in the name of 1st Girl child of SC/BPL families and 2nd child of family belonging to any caste. On attaining 18 years of age, the girl child will be paid a tentative. With effect from 24.08.2015 third girl child born in families belonging to any caste were also covered. It aims to socially change attitude toward birth of girl child.

7.3 Working Women Hostel

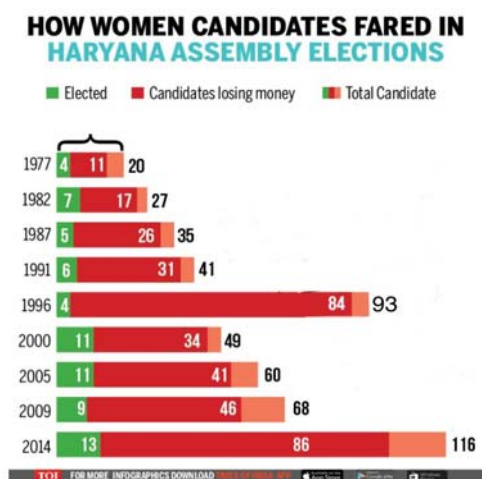
Safe accommodation is provided to working women having annual income less than 50,000.

7.4 Ladli scheme

It aims to raise status of girl child in family and in society. Every family will be paid Rs 5000 per year up to five years whose 2 girl child is born after 20 August 2015.

These schemes are boosting the growth of girl in Haryana and the sex ratio has also improved in Haryana. These schemes are creating awareness about the girl child and are successful in their aims, Women are rising in almost every sectors of life through government efforts and society development.

How many candidates fared in Haryana Assembly Elections? [15]



Out of total 4,865 MPs/MLAs analyzed from across the country, only 440 (9%) are women, says the report.

8. CONCLUSION

The less participation of women in politics is not only in Haryana but same is the condition in other states of country. Women should be given a chance in politics. Women of India have come a long way and have solidified themselves in almost every sector of society.

But politics is not one of them as clearly seen by statistics. 46% of women voters and yet only 10% of women are members of the Legislative Assembly.

We talk about the development of the nation but this will be only possible when women are given equal chance in politics and by empowering women in every field of society. This should be done by government policy and changing the psyche of society for the progress of our nation.

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