



## Research Paper Media For Democracy.

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### ABSTRACT

The representation of Indian and South Korean women in socio-political roles has evolved over the years, reflecting changing societal attitudes and government policies in both countries. In India, women have made significant strides in politics, with figures like Indira Gandhi and Pratibha Patil holding the highest office of the President. However, despite constitutional quotas for women in local governance (Panchayats), their representation in the Parliament remains relatively low. Socio-cultural norms, gender-based violence, and limited access to education still pose challenges.

In South Korea, the situation is similar but distinct. Women have played crucial roles in the country's development, contributing to the economy and education system. Nevertheless, traditional gender roles and a deeply ingrained patriarchal culture have led to a significant gender gap in political representation. The country ranks lower in global gender parity indices, with women underrepresented in high-level political positions and boardrooms. With an increasing number of women entering professional jobs, the government passed the "Equal Employment Act" in 1987 to prevent discriminatory practices against female workers in regard to hiring and promotion opportunities.

Both India and South Korea have implemented policies to enhance women's participation in politics and leadership positions. India's reservation of seats for women in local governance has had positive effects at the grassroots level, but the same progress hasn't translated to higher legislative bodies. South Korea's Gender Quota Act seeks to address gender imbalance, but it faces challenges in implementation.

Efforts to improve representation include women's empowerment initiatives, awareness campaigns, and encouraging female political leadership. Despite progress, systemic barriers and societal biases persist,

hindering the full inclusion of women in socio-political spheres in both countries. On going advocacy, policy reforms, and shifts in cultural attitudes are crucial to achieving greater gender equality and representation for Indian and South Korean women in these roles.



**CONSTITUTION OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH KOREA**

**THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**  
**PREAMBLE**

**WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA**, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **'[SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC]** and to secure to all its citizens:

**JUSTICE**, social, economic and political;

**LIBERTY** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

**EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

**FRATERNITY** assuring the dignity of the individual and the <sup>2</sup>[unity and integrity of the Nation];

**IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY** this twenty –sixth day of November, 1949 do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

1. Subs. by the Constitution ( Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f.3.1.1977)  
2. Subs. by the Constitution ( Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f.3.1.1977)

**CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

This research is based on both Historical and current data of both the countries India and South Korea.

1. **Women in India and South Korea have made significant strides towards achieving equality in the socio-political realm in recent years.** However, there is still a large gender gap between the roles of men and women in both countries, particularly in terms of their representation in decision-making processes. This paper will discuss the representation of Indian and South Korean women in socio and political roles, exploring how the two countries compare in terms of gender representation in these areas. It will also consider the challenges they face in their efforts to increase their representation and the ways in which these challenges can be addressed.

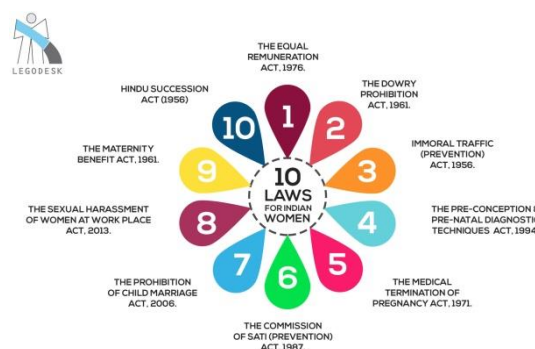
### The Representation of Women in India and South Korea

In India, the percentage of women representatives in parliament remains low, as of 2020, with only 12.6% of representatives being women. This is in contrast to the representation of men, which stands at 87.4%. In South Korea, the representation of women in parliament is slightly higher, with 17.6% of representatives being women. However, this figure is still well below the global average of 24.3%. In terms of the highest levels of government, Indian women are even more under-represented than their South Korean counterparts. While South Korea's President is a woman, the same cannot be said for India, where there has never been a female Prime Minister or President.

### Challenges Facing Women in India and South Korea

Despite the progress towards gender equality seen in both countries, there are still many challenges facing women in terms of socio and political representation. In India, the biggest challenge faced by women is the patriarchal cultural norms that persist in the country. These norms are reinforced by the male-dominated nature of many institutions and decision-making processes, making it difficult for women to gain entry and have a meaningful impact. In addition, the issue of pervasive gender-based violence in India is a major obstacle to women's political participation.

In South Korea, the main obstacle to women's representation is the traditional Confucian values that dominate the country. These values prioritize male authority and emphasize the importance of maintaining patriarchy, making it difficult for women to gain access to decision-making roles. In addition, many women in South Korea are subject to high levels of discrimination, with employers often overlooking qualified female applicants in favour of male applicants. The representation of women in India and South Korea in both socio and political roles remains far below the global average, posing major challenges to the progress of gender equality in both countries. However, both countries have taken steps towards improving the representation of women, such as introducing affirmative action policies and quotas for women in government positions. It is hoped that with further progress, the representation of women in Indian and South Korean society and politics will continue to improve in the future.



2. **Despite being two of the most populous nations in the world, India and South Korea are vastly different in their economic and social positions in the global sphere.** This difference is reflective of the socio-political context in which women of these two countries find themselves. This paper serves to examine the various socio-political contexts in which Indian and South Korean women currently find themselves, and how this has affected their categories of economic development and human rights.

### Socio-political Context in India

In India, women are struggling for gender equality within a diverse culture and social identity framework. In the economic sphere, the unequal access to resources, labour rights, and political power has led to a gender wage gap. Despite the fact that the gender wage gap has been decreasing, the lack of opportunity to be given equal access to training and career opportunities has been a major roadblock to equal pay. To this end, a number of initiatives have been undertaken to further equalize the access of women to the labour force. These initiatives include initiatives such as Make in India and the One Shakti Initiative, which aim to reduce gender gaps in employment.

Moreover, the socio-political context of India is shaped by its religious and cultural dynamics. Religiously, India is a highly diverse nation. This means that women of different castes, religions, and social classes experience unequal forms of gender inequality. For instance, lower caste women experience inequalities in terms of the denial of education, healthcare, and basic human rights. Moreover, cultural norms also play an important role in the perpetuation of gender stereotypes. Women are often seen as the primary homemaker, and their roles are further limited due to lack of visibility in the public sphere. This creates a situation in which it is difficult for women to access public spaces and participate in decision making processes and policies.

### Socio-political Context in South Korea

The socio-political context of South Korea is largely shaped by its rapid economic development. South Korea has successfully transitioned from a largely-agricultural, pre-industrial society to become the fourth largest economy in Asia. As a result, it has experienced a dramatic shift in the gender dynamics of its labor force. In the past, women faced both economic and legal discrimination. This has significantly changed in the past few decades as more and more women have gained access to employment opportunities and resources. Recently, South Korean women have actively participated in the labor force, and the majority of them are now employed in the private sector. However, despite the economic development, South Korean women continue to experience discrimination in the workplace. Women still face a gender wage gap, and the lack of access to better employment opportunities also limits their economic autonomy. In addition, the cultural perception of women as the primary homemakers still persists and is often reinforced by powerful public discourses. This lack of public visibility and participation in decision making processes limits the potential for South Korean women to influence policy making.

The socio-political contexts of India and South Korea are vastly different, and this is reflected in the different levels of economic development and human rights that women of these countries experience. While South Korea has experienced rapid economic growth and a shift of gender dynamics in the labor force, women still face discrimination in both economic and cultural spheres. In India, women continue to experience unequal access to resources, labor rights, and political power due to religious and cultural dynamics. This unequal access is compounded by weak legal support and the lack of necessary social reforms that can help to empower the women of these countries.

- 3. The traditional role of women in India and South Korea have varied considerably over time, with a shift from a more patriarchal society to one that is more gender equal.** Though the two regions differ greatly in terms of culture and language, the traditional roles of women in both places have been determined by the pressures of societal norms and customs, as well as religious and political influences. This paper will analyze the traditional role of women in India and South Korea, including the differences between the two, in order to gain a better understanding of the expectations of women in both countries.

### **Traditional Role of Women in India**

In traditional India, the role of women was framed by the cultural ideals of patriarchy, wherein men held the most power and authority in society. Women were expected to be subservient to their male relatives, including their fathers, husbands, and brothers. For example, women were expected to abstain from any kind of labor or economic activity outside of the home, and were not allowed to participate in public life. In terms of marriage, most arranged marriages were made between the families of the bride and groom, and women were expected to leave their birth family and live with their husband and his family. Additionally, women were also expected to take care of their husband, in-laws, and children, and were responsible for all domestic work.

### **Traditional Role of Women in South Korea**

In contrast to India, the traditional role of women in South Korea was one of gender equality. Women were considered equal to men, and were not expected to be subordinate or deferential. While women were expected to do domestic work in the home, they were also allowed to take part in the public sphere and participate in economic activities, such as farming and trading. In marriage, couples were allowed to choose their own partners, and women were allowed to retain their family name post-marriage. Additionally, women were allowed to divorce their husbands and even remarry if they desired.

### **Differences between India and South Korea**

There are several major differences between the traditional roles of women in India and South Korea. Most notably, India has a long history of patriarchy, while South Korea does not. Women in India were expected to be subordinate to men, while women in South Korea were seen as equal to them. Additionally, women in India were restricted from participating in economic activities outside of the home, while they were allowed to do so in South Korea. Marriage also differed greatly between the two countries, with India having a mostly arranged marriage system, while South Korea had a more consensual system.

the traditional role of women in India and South Korea varies greatly. While women in India were mostly confined to domestic work and marriage was based on arranged unions, women in South Korea were allowed to participate in public life and choose their own partners. These differences reflect not only the differing cultural norms between the two countries, but also the changing attitudes towards gender roles, with South Korea having a more gender equal society than India. This paper has highlighted the differences between the two countries while also providing an understanding of the traditional roles of women in both.

- 4. The perception of women's roles in Indian society is rapidly evolving, thanks to the contributions of the country's female population.** For centuries, gender roles in India have been largely patriarchal, with women traditionally taking on a subservient role to men. Women's restricted economic opportunities, lack of education, and lack of political representation have all hindered significant social progress in the country. However, in recent years, Indian women are making their mark in various industries and achieving greater autonomy. This paper will explore India's shifting perspectives on women's roles in society as well as discuss some of the factors driving the change.

### **Origin of the Patriarchal System (social organization) (India)**

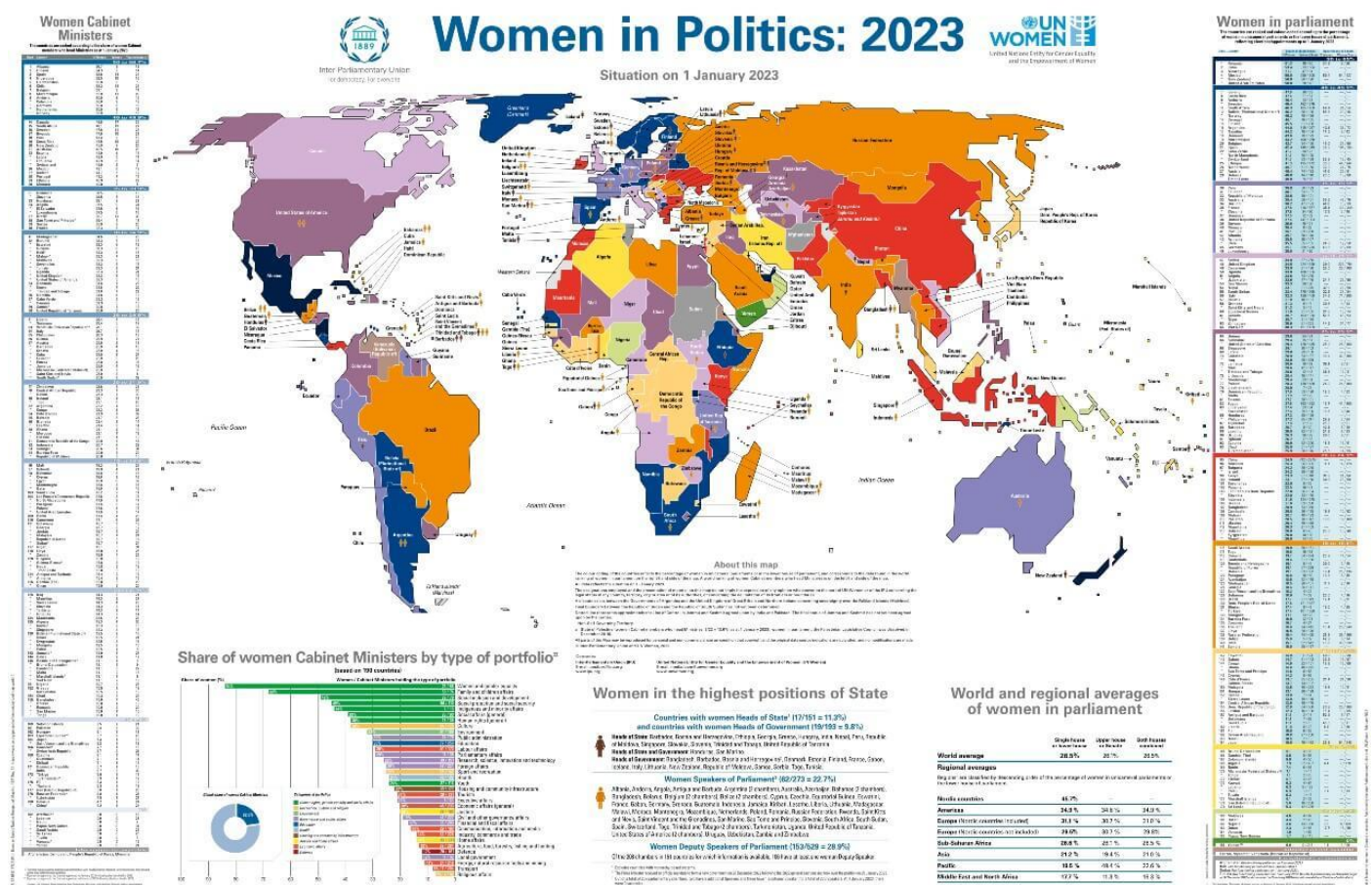
The origins of the patriarchal system in India can be traced back to ancient Hindu texts such as the Manusmriti that prescribed women's roles and responsibilities. According to these ancient texts, women were seen as subordinate to men and were expected to remain in the domestic sphere. Women were generally not allowed to inherit property, participate in decision making processes, or have any real political power. This oppressive system of male domination has been the norm for centuries in India.

## Changes in Attitudes and Perceptions

In recent years, however, there has been a shift in attitudes and perceptions towards women in India. This shift can be attributed to several factors, including changing socio-economic and political norms, increased access to education, and the emergence of influential female role models.

The economy has taken important steps to ensure greater economic participation of women, including the implementation of protective policies such as the Women’s Reservation Bill. This bill seeks to ensure that at least 33% of all elected positions in India are held by women. This has had the effect of increasing the number of women in decision-making roles.

The education system has also played a key role in transforming attitudes towards women, providing greater opportunities for women to access higher education and professional training. As a result, more women are now entering traditionally male-dominated fields such as engineering, medicine, law, and technology. This is creating a new generation of female role models in India who are transforming the perception of women’s abilities and challenging the traditional norms of gender roles. India’s changing perspectives regarding women’s roles in society reflect a shift in attitudes towards women’s abilities and potential. The implementation of protective policies, increased access to education, and the emergence of influential female role models are all factors driving this change. It remains to be seen how far this shift in attitudes will go, but progress has certainly been made, and it is encouraging to see that Indian society is slowly beginning to recognize the importance of equal rights and opportunities for women.



5. South Korea has long been known as a patriarchal society, with a strong emphasis on traditional gender roles. However, in recent years a new era has emerged, with a growing number of women entering the political arena. This paper will examine the emergence of women in South Korean politics, exploring the progress they have made and some of the challenges they still face.

## History of Women in Politics (South Korea)

The first female politician in South Korea was Eun-sun Koo in 1961. However, it was not until the late 1990s that the number of women in politics began to significantly increase. A watershed moment came in 1999 when Kang Soo-hyeon became Korea's first female Minister of Labor. This marked a new era of female participation in Korean politics, and since then the number of women in elected offices has steadily grown.

## Women in Politics Today

Today, women are increasingly active in both national and local politics in South Korea. In the 2017 election, a record number of female candidates were elected to the National Assembly. Currently, 29.4 % of the National Assembly is comprised of women, making South Korea the country with the third highest female representation in the world.

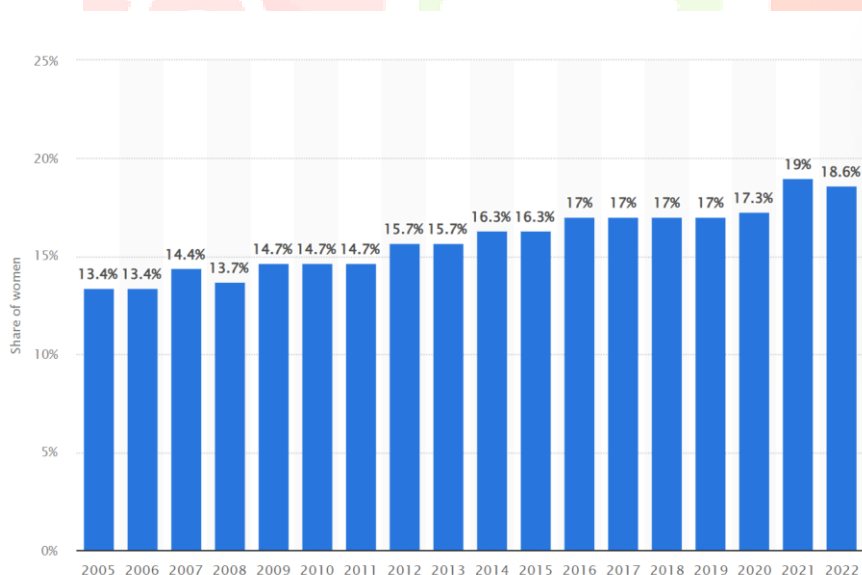
At the local level, the number of female politicians is even higher. In the 2018 local elections, female candidates won 43.4 % of the seats. This is an increase from the 2015 local elections, in which women won 37.7 % of the seats.

## Barriers to Female Political Participation

Despite this progress, there are still some significant challenges facing women who wish to enter politics in South Korea. One of the main barrier is the country's traditional emphasis on gender roles. These traditional norms mean that South Korean society is often less accepting of female politicians than it is of male politicians. This can be seen in the way female candidates are often viewed as being less competent than male candidates, even when they have the same qualifications.

Furthermore, there is also an issue of unequal access to resources in South Korean politics. Women often have less access to financial resources, which can pose a significant challenge when running for office.

there has been significant progress in the number of women in South Korean politics in recent years. However, there are still many challenges that female politicians must overcome in order to be successful. It is important for both the government and the public to continue to address these issues in order to ensure that women have equal access to political power and resources.



## Share of women in the National Assembly in South Korea from 2005 to 2022

- South Korea has come a long way in gender equality, but it still lags behind many other countries.** In particular, the lack of women in politics has long been a problem, even though there have been some advances in recent years. This paper will examine the challenge and triumphs that South Korean women have faced in politics leading up to the year 2023, in order to gain insight into the situation for future generations of South Korean women in politics.

### **Challenges Faced by South Korean Women in Politics (South Korea)**

Despite the progress that South Korea has made in terms of gender equality on many fronts, there remain significant challenges for women seeking to enter politics in the country. Currently, there are very few female leaders in South Korea, and they have traditionally faced difficulty advancing their political careers. Women's representation in politics has remained depressingly low for decades, and although some progress has been made in recent years, the situation remains far from satisfactory. The lack of female politicians is largely due to structural and institutional barriers in place that make it difficult for women to succeed in South Korean politics, such as the reliance on male political networks and inadequate support and resources for female political candidates. In addition, there is also a general lack of political will from both the government and political actors to promote gender equality in the political sphere.

### **Triumphs in South Korea (a great victory or achievement.)**

Despite the myriad of challenges facing South Korean women in politics, there have been some positive developments in recent years. Most notably, the regional elections held in June 2018 represented a significant breakthrough in terms of female representation in politics, with three female candidates winning gubernatorial elections, including the first-ever female governor of Seoul, Park Won-soon. This was an historic moment in South Korean politics and it was seen as a huge victory for women and their advocates, who had long campaigned for more female representation in politics.

In addition to this, there has also been a growing awareness among citizens and political actors about the importance of gender equality in politics. The growing recognition of the need for more gender-equal representation has been demonstrated by public opinion surveys which have found that most South Korean citizens support increased female representation. This growing awareness has also been reflected in recent changes to government policy, such as the introduction of gender quotas for certain government positions and specific measures to support the campaigns of female candidates.

Looking ahead to 2023, South Korean women in politics face both challenge and triumphs. On the one hand, they continue to struggle with structural and institutional barriers that make it difficult to succeed in the political sphere. On the other hand, the progress that has been made in recent years gives reason for hope, as there is growing recognition of the need for more gender-equal representation, and specific measures to support female politicians have been introduced. With the right support and resources, South Korean women in politics should be able to continue to make strides towards increasing their political representation and participation.

- 7. Women in politics have had an eventful journey throughout the world. The contemporary era of women in politics in India and South Korea can be traced in the 20th century.** Women in India and South Korea faced many turns out of adversities and struggles before making their claim in the political arena. Women in India and South Korea were made to break the shackles of the male-dominated society, and today, they are on par with their male counterparts in their respective countries. Even though Indian and South Korean women had very similar paths in terms of attaining political rights and recognition, there are some significant differences between Indian and South Korean women in their pursuit of political empowerment. This paper is an exploration and comparative examination of the roles of Indian and South Korean women in politics today.

### **Historical Overview (India and South Korea)**

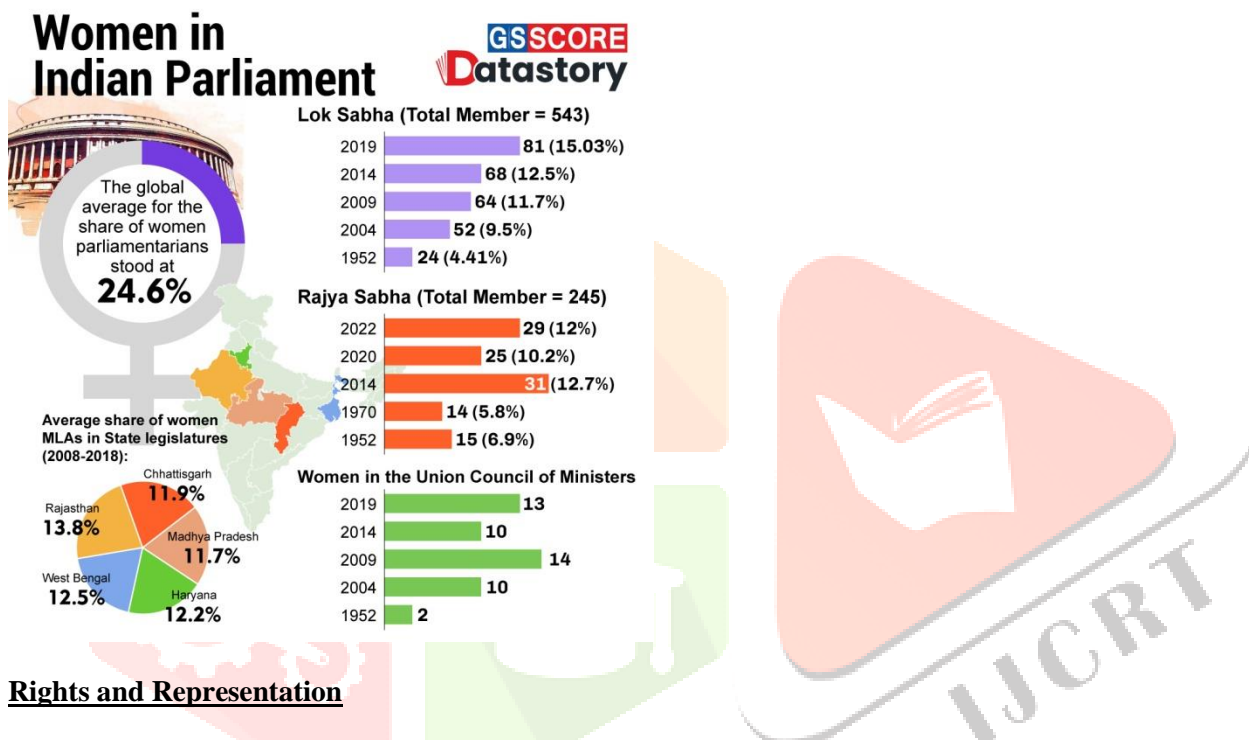
In India, the journey of women in politics began with the Indian National Congress, the political party founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1885. The All India Women's Conference (AIWC), the women's wing of the Indian National Congress was formed in 1927 and was instrumental in the formation of the Women's Departments and cells in other parties. Despite the progressive steps taken by the AIWC, women's participation in politics was constrained by the Indian Constitution and the patriarchal mindset of India's political leadership. Women were only granted the right to vote in 1947 and the first female Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi was elected in 1966. Women in South Korea had an even tougher fight for political recognition. Women in South Korea were denied basic human rights and were excluded from participating in public life until nearby Japan's colonization of the country in 1910. Under the Japanese rule, women were granted suffrage, but the right to vote was later withdrawn after the Japanese surrender in 1945. In



the early 50s, the military government reinstated women's suffrage and the first female representative was elected to the National Assembly in 1956.

### Women's Role in Contemporary Politics

In India, women have made significant achievements and strides in politics in recent decades. There has been an increase in the number of women winning general elections and representing the people in various legislative bodies. The feminist movements in India have been instrumental in bringing about a shift in the public discourse about gender roles and responsibilities in the public sphere. The **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** is counted among the major parties in India which have started to give more representation to women at various levels. In South Korea, the presence of women in the political arena is more visible. The number of women elected to the National Assembly has been increasing in the last few decades. There are several policies that have been put in place to sustain a platform for women in politics. Some of these policies are aimed at increasing the number of women in certain positions and providing greater representation to women in certain areas.



### Rights and Representation

In India, despite the increased recognition of and more representation for women in politics, women still suffer from countless oppressive social practices and face discrimination in many areas of public life. Women are substantially underrepresented in elected and appointed positions of leadership and decision-making. The lack of female representation is highly visible in the legal and judicial systems. The election process is also highly inequitable with women candidates facing numerous barriers in campaigning and access to funds. In South Korea, the introduction of gender quotas has led to a substantial increase in the number of female representatives in the National Assembly with the current numbers standing at 35%. There have also been several initiatives and programmes aimed at helping more women to gain access to the political process. Moreover, the presence of female politicians has led to significant changes in the government agenda and the emphasis on issues affecting women.

This paper explored the role of women in politics in India and South Korea. Both countries have taken different paths to empower women political participation. India has been largely successful in terms of increasing the number of women in politics, however, the lack of representation in many areas needs to be addressed. South Korea is taking proactive steps to ensure greater representation and participation of women in politics, and these efforts have started to show results. However, there is still some way before women's political representation is on par with male representation in South Korea. It is essential to recognize the struggles and achievements of women in both countries and to ensure that the efforts towards greater gender equality in politics are sustained.

## 8. The Future of Women in Indian and South Korean Socio politics

Women are a vital and integral part of society, and understanding their role and potential in a variety of socio-political contexts in two different countries—India and South Korea—is paramount in order to prevent gender inequality and marginalization of women in inevitable political and social issues. India and South Korea represent a variety of dynamic socio-political systems which allow room to discuss potential proposals and strategies in order to allow for the full integration of women into the socio-political sphere. This paper will focus on the comparison of the current status of women in both countries, their potential roles in socio-politics, and suggestions for future action.

Currently, India remains a country less tolerant of women in socio-political roles than South Korea which has gone through decades of progressive policies allowing women more autonomy. India currently has issues with gender discrimination that can be seen in limited resources for education, health services and other socio-economic programs. This discrimination is heavily embedded in caste and religion systems which makes the status of women even graver. The majority of women in India are predicted to remain in paternalistic and non-autonomous relationships with their husbands, relatives, and communities. This form of subordination and cultural roles for women remains an issue which hinders the potential for India's women to become fully integrated into the socio-political scene.

On the other hand, South Korea is considered an advanced country in terms of its acceptance of and attitudes to women. It is a society which has seen many legislative changes such as the Gender Equality and Women's Family Law, a revised Act on Equal Employment Opportunity & Treatment for Women, and so on. In efforts to allow women to claim more autonomy in their lives and the formal decision-making process of society. Consequently, South Korea has seen an increasing presence of women in social-political roles such as the government, academic and private sectors.

Although both countries have different political structures, there are many factors which can be taken into account when discussing the potential future of women in socio-political roles. Both countries should consider the need for more equal access to education and healthcare which will open doors for more women to be self-sufficient and become eligible for government jobs. Additionally, sexual harassment should be addressed with more severe punishment and offenders should be held accountable. There should be greater access to funded sources for community development and research which allows more women to engage with campaigning and awareness-raising opportunities which promote female empowerment and equity.

Overall, the potential future for women in Indian and South Korean socio-politics is an intriguing and highly positive one. By recognizing the power of women in effectively contributing to society and making sure that they are empowered through various initiatives, both countries have the potential to become spaces in which females can flourish and thrive. Moreover, equality and gender equity should be at the forefront of these efforts, and initiatives for women need to be interconnected so that it can be a unified approach which works mutually in different contexts and societies. Ultimately, the future of women in Indian and South Korean socio-politics lies in strong institutions, diverse representation and inclusion of women in the decision-making process, building coalitions for change, and creating more spaces for women to take part in active political debates and dialogues.

## 9. Policies in both the Nations India and South Korea

Women's empowerment is an important element of global equality and progress. Women's empowerment in India and South Korea has made significant strides in recent decades. This paper will examine the progress and potential for women in India and South Korea. This paper will analyze the current status of women in both countries and discuss the challenges that remain for women to achieve true empowerment. It will also highlight the potential for progress and how it can be achieved through policy initiatives and changing social norms.

### Current Status of Women in India and South Korea

India and South Korea have both had recent progress in the advancement of women's rights. In India, the government has implemented multiple initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana that provides financial services to women-owners, the Mahila E-Haat that provides access to a marketplace for women entrepreneurs, and the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao program that promotes gender equality and the education of women and girls. These initiatives

are intended to provide gender-friendly access to economic opportunities for women, recognizing the importance of economic empowerment for achieving greater women's rights.

South Korea is also making strides in improving women's rights. The government has passed legislation to legalize mandatory paternity leave for eligible fathers, with the hopes that it will decrease workplace discrimination against female employees and encourage fathers to be more involved in parenting. Additionally, the government has also established a gender-sensitive approach to tackling gender-based violence, as well as measures to increase the representation of women in leadership and decision-making positions. These initiatives are intended to create a more equal society by recognizing the experience and expertise of women and ensuring that their voices are heard in all aspects of life.

### **Challenges Facing Women in India and South Korea**

Despite this progress, there are still challenges and obstacles that prevent women from attaining full empowerment in India and South Korea. In India, there are still issues with gender-based violence and discrimination, especially in rural areas. Additionally, there is a persistent lack of access to education and job opportunities for women, and the disparity in wages between men and women further limits financial security for women. Additionally, despite the recent legislative initiatives, there is a lack of implementation of the policies in practice, which has hindered the progress of women.

In South Korea, the issue of gender equality is even more pronounced. Despite the recent legislative initiatives, discrimination and gender-based violence remain a problem. Additionally, the patriarchal social structures that limit the power of women in society remain largely intact, and there is an unequal distribution of resources between men and women. Furthermore, there is an increasing concern about the decreasing number of female-headed households, suggesting that women may not be able to achieve the same level of economic security as their male counterparts.

### **The Potential for Progress**

Despite the challenges that remain, there is potential for progress in both India and South Korea. In India, greater awareness of the issues of discrimination and gender-based violence is slowly growing, as evidenced by the increasing number of organizations that are working to combat these issues. Additionally, the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** has enabled greater access to financial services for women, which has had a positive impact on their economic empowerment. Moreover, policy initiatives such as the **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** campaign are intended to provide girls with greater opportunities for education and employment. This has the potential to create a larger number of educated, productive citizens and ultimately improve the status of women in India.

In South Korea, there is also potential for progress. The recent initiatives by the government to provide paternity leave and increase the representation of women in leadership positions are essential steps towards creating a more equal and secure society for women. Additionally, the growing awareness of the issue of gender-based violence is slowly leading to positive changes in social norms. Moreover, organizations such as the Korea Women's Hotline are offering support and services to women experiencing discrimination and violence and working to create a gender-equal society.

The progress and potential for women in India and South Korea appears to be on the rise. Both countries have recently implemented policy initiatives that are intended to create a more equal and secure society for women. Additionally, there is a growing awareness of the issues of discrimination and violence against women, and organizations are working to combat these issues. However, there is still a long way to go to achieve true equality and empowerment for women. Policy initiatives must be followed by action in order to truly realize the potential for progress.

## 10. Impact of socio-political changes

India is a dynamic society with significant socio-political changes that have had a significant impact on the lives of women in the country. In recent years, India has seen a number of changes in terms of economic, social, and political systems, which have had a direct impact on the lives of women in the country. This paper will investigate the nature and extent of these changes, and their overall effect on the lives of women in India.

### Trends in Socio-Political Changes

There have been a number of socio-political changes in India over the past few decades. These changes can be classified into two broad categories: changes in law and policy, and changes in attitudes. The most significant of the legal and policy changes have been the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1950, which guaranteed equal rights to women; the enactment of the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, designed to eliminate gender discrimination in wages; and the passing of laws the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013, which strengthened legal protections for women against crime and harassment.

At the same time, there have also been changes in society's attitude towards women. These changes can be seen in the increasing levels of female education, the greater involvement of women in the workplace and public life, and the changing roles of women in the household and society.

### Impact of Changes on Women's Lives

The changes in law and policy and attitudes have had a profound impact on the lives of women in India. The most significant impact has been the improvement in access to education and the increasing levels of female literacy. This has enabled more and more women to participate in the workforce and take on more meaningful roles in society. Furthermore, these changes have also had a positive impact on the perception of women in society, as they are increasingly being seen as powerful figures in business and politics, rather than solely as housewives and mothers.

The socio-political changes that have occurred over the past few decades in India have had a transformative effect on the lives of women in the country. The most significant changes have been in the areas of law and policy, particularly with respect to equal rights, and in terms of changing attitudes towards women in society. These changes have enabled women to become more educated, participate in the workforce, and take on more meaningful roles and positions in society. The changes have had a positive impact on the lives of women in India, and it is likely that these positive benefits will continue into the future.

## 11. Democratic role in Gender equality

Gender equality and democratic governance are two of the most important and discussed topics in the international arena today. As countries around the world are trying to eliminate gender discrimination and create a level playing field for all genders, it is also important to observe the different ways in which different countries are approaching this task. In this paper, I will focus on two countries, India and South Korea, and compare their approaches in addressing gender equality and democratic governance. Specifically, I will focus on the degree of women's political representation in both countries as a measure of how successful their attempts have been so far.

### History of Gender Equality and Democratic Governance in India

India has a complex history when it comes to gender equality and democratic governance. Historically, Indian society has been highly patriarchal, with men traditionally wielding power and control over the majority of the population. The nation has also had a long history of discrimination against women, both in terms of access to education and in terms of employment opportunities. While the Indian constitution does guarantee equal rights for all citizens, the reality of this is often not as clear cut.

In recent years, however, more progress has been made in terms of gender representation in the political sphere. India has had a system of female political representation in the form of the panchayat system, which allows for women to be directly elected to local councils. Furthermore, the current government in India has taken steps to encourage more

women to participate in politics, by implementing policies such as the 33% quota for female representation in the national parliament.

### **History of Gender Equality and Democratic Governance in South Korea**

South Korea, on the other hand, has a much shorter history of democratic governance, having experienced a transition to democracy only in the late 1980s. Historically, women's rights in South Korea had been largely overshadowed by Confucianist values. This has resulted in an overall lack of gender equality in the country, with women having fewer educational opportunities and less access to high-paying jobs compared to men.

However, since the transition to democracy, South Korea has taken several steps to increase gender equality. This includes the introduction of laws which aim to increase the number of women in leadership positions by ensuring a certain percentage of women are appointed to boards and other leadership roles in companies. Furthermore, the current government has also implemented a 30% quota for female representation in the national parliament.

### **Comparative Analysis of Women's Political Representation**

When it comes to women's political representation in India and South Korea, both countries have made strides towards gender equality. India has the advantage of having had a system of female representation at a local level for many years, which has enabled women to have a greater role in decision-making. Meanwhile, South Korea has adopted a quota system to ensure that women have access to leadership positions.

As of 2020, women make up approximately 14.3% of the Indian parliament, while in South Korea they make up 27.9%. While there is still a discrepancy between the two countries in terms of female representation in politics, it is clear that both countries have made progress towards gender equality. In addition, both India and South Korea have adopted active policies to promote gender equality, with the Indian government implementing the 33% quota for female representation in the national parliament, and the South Korean government introducing a 30% quota.

While it is clear that there is still a long way to go in terms of gender equality and democratic governance in India and South Korea, both countries have taken steps to move towards this goal. At present, there is a discrepancy between the two countries in terms of women's political representation, with South Korea making more progress towards gender equality than India. However, it is encouraging to note that both countries have adopted policies to promote female political representation, such as quotas. This suggests that both countries are beginning to embrace gender equality and democratic governance, and it is hoped that these positive steps can be continued in the future.

## **12. Result of the Research**

In recent years, the level of women's political representation has been a hot topic around the world. As of 2021, women comprise only approximately 20-25% of legislators and political decision-makers in most countries. In order to promote gender equality in politics, greater attention has been given to the study of women's political representation in different countries. This paper focuses on a comparative analysis of women's political representation in India and South Korea in 2022-2023.

### **India**

In India, women's political representation has grown rapidly in recent years, although it remains far behind the number of men in positions of power. India has taken several measures to promote women's political representation. In 2020, the Women's Reservation Bill was passed to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women candidates. This quota for reserved women's seats has resulted in an increase in the number of women MLAs in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Karnataka. The Indian government has also supported several initiatives to promote gender equality in politics. These initiatives include the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme, skill development programs for women, and the establishment of the Indian Council for Women in Politics.

## South Korea

South Korea recently passed its own Gender Equality in Politics Act, which aims to increase female representation in the National Assembly by setting a minimum quota of 30% female lawmakers by 2020. This quota has been largely successful, with the number of female lawmakers increasing from 8.8% in 2009 to 19.4% in 2020. This increase was partly due to the South Korean government's efforts to recruit and train more female candidates for political office. South Korea also implemented several other measures to promote gender equality in politics, including providing mentorship and capacity-building programs for women politicians, and the establishment of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. With the launch of the new Administration in 1998, the Presidential Commission on Women's Affairs was established to handle issues specifically involving women. The commission was elevated and expanded to become the Ministry of Gender Equality in January 2001. The new ministry set up 20 specific tasks to be achieved in six basic areas. These areas are: to revise and establish laws and rules that involve discrimination in any sector and to increase the representation of women, to facilitate women's employment and provide support for female workers, to increase educational opportunities for women to be competitive in the labor market, to provide social welfare policies for women, to promote women's involvement in various social activities including volunteer work and women's organization activities, and to strengthen the cooperation of Korean women's organizations with international women's organizations

## Analysis

The comparison of women's political representation in India and South Korea in 2022-2023 reveals that both countries are taking several measures to increase the number of female representatives in politics. The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in India has already started to make a positive impact, as has the Gender Equality in Politics Act in South Korea. Women in both countries are making strides in their respective fields, but there is still more that can be done to promote gender equality in politics in the region.

## Over all Conclusion

This paper has provided a comparative analysis of women's political representation in India and South Korea in 2022-2023 and a few analysis according to history of both the countries.. Both countries have taken steps to increase the number of female representatives in politics, and while this has been largely successful, there is still more that can be done to promote gender equality in the region. It is important that both countries continue to invest in initiatives that can increase the level of women's political representation in order to create a more equitable political landscape. The representation of Indian and South Korean women in socio-political roles has evolved over time, reflecting changing societal norms, legal frameworks, and efforts towards gender equality. Both countries have taken significant steps to promote women's participation in various spheres of public life. In India, the Constitution guarantees equality and non-discrimination through provisions such as Article 15 and Article 16. The Women's Reservation Bill, though not yet passed, aims to reserve a certain percentage of seats for women in legislative bodies. Additionally, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Dowry Prohibition Act, and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act contribute to safeguarding women's rights and dignity. South Korea has also witnessed substantial progress in women's representation, driven by legal mechanisms like the Act on Gender Equality in Employment and the Equal Employment Opportunity and Work-Family Balance Support Act. The country has worked towards rectifying gender imbalances through the introduction of quotas for female representation on boards of public enterprises and political parties. Both nations have witnessed the rise of influential women leaders who have broken barriers and paved the way for increased female participation in politics and other fields. However, challenges persist, including deeply entrenched cultural norms, gender-based violence, and the subtle biases that continue to hinder women's progress. Continued efforts are essential to transform these social narratives and ensure meaningful gender representation.

In the realm of socio-political representation, it's evident that while legal frameworks provide a foundation, sustained change requires a multifaceted approach involving education, awareness campaigns, economic empowerment, and the creation of safe spaces for women's participation. By strengthening these areas, India and South Korea can not only enhance women's roles but also foster more inclusive and equitable societies overall.

**REFERENCE : I HAVE COLLECTED ALL THESE DATA WITH THE HELP OF MY TEACHERS FROM INDIA AND SOUTH KOREA.**

### **QUESTION / ANSWER**

**1. How would you describe the current state of women's political representation in India and South Korea? What are the key similarities and differences between the two countries in terms of gender equality in governance?**

Ans. As of my knowledge I have seen that a general overview of the current state of women's political representation in India and South Korea.

#### **India:**

- Women's political representation in India has been increasing over the years, but it remains relatively low compared to many other countries.
- Women hold a small percentage of seats in the national parliament and state legislatures.
- There have been significant efforts to promote gender equality in governance through various legislative measures and reservation of seats for women in local government bodies (Panchayats).
- However, cultural and social barriers, as well as limited access to resources and opportunities, still hinder women's active participation in politics.

#### **South Korea:**

- South Korea has made notable progress in women's political representation compared to India, but challenges persist.
- Women's participation in politics has been increasing, particularly in local government positions.
- The country had its first female president, Park Geun-hye, who served from 2013 to 2017.
- Despite progress, there are still gender disparities in political leadership roles, and cultural norms can influence women's political engagement.

#### **Key Similarities:**

- Both India and South Korea face challenges in achieving gender equality in governance.
- Women's political representation is relatively low in both countries.
- Sociocultural factors and traditional gender roles can hinder women's political participation in both nations.

#### **Key Differences:**

- South Korea generally has a higher level of women's political representation compared to India.
- India has made significant efforts to reserve seats for women in local government bodies to promote gender equality in governance, while South Korea may not have the same level of quota-based representation.
- The historical and cultural contexts surrounding women's roles in politics are different in both countries.

**DR. NEETU SHARAM (HOD HINDI ISABELLA THOBURN COLLEGE)**

**2. What factors do you believe have contributed to the progress or lack thereof in women's political representation in both India and South Korea? Are there any specific cultural, social, or political barriers that hinder women's participation in politics in these countries?**

Ans. According to my perspective as I live in Korea the data which I know is that in India and South Korea, several factors have influenced the progress or lack of progress in women's political representation:

1. Cultural norms: Both countries have traditional patriarchal norms that have historically limited women's roles to the domestic sphere, affecting their access to political opportunities.
2. Gender stereotypes: Deep-rooted stereotypes regarding women's leadership capabilities and decision-making skills have hindered their acceptance and advancement in political spheres.
3. Political party dynamics: Male-dominated political parties may be reluctant to promote women candidates, leading to a lack of opportunities for women to enter the political arena.
4. Electoral systems: Certain electoral systems in both countries may disadvantage women candidates, making it challenging for them to win seats and secure leadership positions.
5. Socioeconomic factors: Unequal access to education, economic resources, and networking opportunities can impede women's political engagement and career advancement.
6. Work-life balance challenges: Traditional gender roles often place the burden of household and childcare responsibilities on women, making it difficult for them to balance political careers with family obligations.
7. Lack of women-friendly policies: Inadequate measures to support women's participation in politics, such as quotas or affirmative action, may hamper progress in women's political representation.

Addressing these cultural, social, and political barriers is essential for promoting gender equality and enhancing women's political participation in India and South Korea.

**Park Jun Soo (History teacher HACD) Korea.**

**3. Can you identify any successful strategies or initiatives that have been implemented in either India or South Korea to promote gender equality in democratic governance? How effective have these efforts been in increasing women's representation in political offices?**

Ans. Firstly Divyanshi thank you for including me in your research work, as I lived in India for 2 year due to my work so what I understood about the India is, the implementation of the "Reservation for Women" initiative has been a significant strategy to promote gender equality in democratic governance. This initiative reserves a certain percentage of seats for women in local government bodies (Panchayats and Municipalities). It has shown some effectiveness in increasing women's representation in political offices at the grassroots level.

In South Korea, efforts to promote gender equality in democratic governance have included the "Gender Quota" system, which requires political parties to allocate a certain percentage of their nominations to women candidates. This measure has had some success in increasing women's representation in the National Assembly and local legislatures.

While these strategies have made positive strides in increasing women's political representation, challenges remain in achieving full gender equality in both countries' democratic governance systems. Further efforts are needed to tackle cultural norms, biases, and systemic barriers to ensure sustained progress.



Minjung (Friends mother)

**4. How does the role of political parties and electoral systems impact women's political representation in India and South Korea? Are there any specific policies or mechanisms in place to encourage parties to field more women candidates or to increase women's chances of electoral success?**

Ans. The role of political parties and electoral systems significantly impacts women's political representation in India and South Korea. Both countries have taken various measures to promote women's participation in politics.

Political parties in India are extremely important in the candidate selection process, and their willingness to field female candidates has a direct impact on the representation of women. Women's involvement has been aimed to increase through the establishment of electoral quotas, such as the Women's Reservation Bill. However, passing the measure has been difficult. In local government elections, several parties do voluntarily reserve seats for women, which has improved representation at the municipal level.

The closed-list proportional representation system in South Korea may have an impact on the representation of women. Political parties' procedures for nominating candidates have historically favoured men, making it difficult for women to run. As a result, South Korea introduced electoral gender quotas that mandate parties nominate a specific proportion of female candidates. In addition, the government has pushed political parties to develop internal gender equality policy.

Overall, Even while both nations have made efforts to increase the presence of women in politics, impediments still exist. Women's political participation in India and South Korea is still heavily influenced by political parties' commitment to nominating more female candidates and electoral systems' success in fostering gender diversity.

**Dr. Heena (hod) Isabella Thoburn college, lucknow**

**5. In your opinion, what are the main challenges that women face when entering the political sphere in India and South Korea? Are there any notable differences in the challenges faced by women from different socio-economic backgrounds or marginalized communities?**

Ans. The main challenges that women face when entering the political sphere in India and South Korea include:

1. **Gender Bias:** Both countries have traditional patriarchal norms that can create obstacles for women seeking political positions. Prejudices and stereotypes about women's abilities in leadership roles can hinder their progress.
2. **Underrepresentation:** Women are often underrepresented in political positions, which makes it harder for them to break into the political arena and gain visibility.
3. **Political Culture:** Existing political cultures in both countries may not always be inclusive or supportive of women, making it difficult for them to navigate through established networks.
4. **Societal Expectations:** Societal expectations of women as primary caregivers and homemakers may conflict with their political aspirations, adding further challenges.

Regarding differences faced by women from different socio-economic backgrounds or marginalized communities:

1. **Economic Disparities:** Women from lower socio-economic backgrounds may have limited access to resources and financial support required for political campaigns.

2. Caste and Minority Discrimination: Marginalized communities in both countries, such as Dalits in India and certain minority groups in South Korea, may face additional discrimination and barriers to political participation.
3. Education and Empowerment: Women with limited education or empowerment might find it harder to assert themselves in male-dominated political spaces.
4. Visibility and Representation: Marginalized women may face higher hurdles in gaining visibility and representation due to multiple layers of discrimination.

It is essential to address these challenges to ensure greater gender parity and inclusivity in the political sphere in both India and South Korea. Efforts must be made to promote women's participation, regardless of their socio-economic background or marginalized status, in order to strengthen democratic representation and governance.

**Advocate, Trisha Prasar Delhi**

**6. What lessons can be learned from the experiences of India and South Korea in terms of promoting gender equality in democratic governance? Are there any best practices or innovative approaches that can be applied in other countries seeking to enhance women's political representation?**

Ans : The experiences of South Korea and India undoubtedly offer important insights into how to advance gender equality in democratic governance. Other nations wanting to increase women's political representation in my opinion we can adapt and use these lessons:

1. Legal Framework and Quotas: Reservation quotas for women in local government bodies have been adopted in both India and South Korea. Women have seats allotted for them in South Korea's Local Autonomy Act and India's Panchayati Raj system, assuring their involvement. This strategy can serve as a template for other countries, highlighting the significance of legal safeguards to ensure women's representation.
2. Education and awareness initiatives have played a significant role in influencing cultural perceptions about women's engagement in politics in both countries.
3. Capacity building: Training programmes for women leaders in India and South Korea have been successful in giving women the knowledge and abilities necessary for successful political engagement. Initiatives to improve capacity can give women the confidence they need to assume leadership positions.
4. The Function of Political Parties: Political parties are essential to the political representation of women. The selection of more female candidates may be encouraged by initiatives like South Korea's gender quotas within parties and India's Women's Reservation Bill.
5. Networking and Mentorship: Both nations have profited from mentorship programmes and networking platforms that pair up aspirant female leaders with seasoned politicians. Creating comparable networks can help budding women leaders by offering support and direction.
6. Inclusive Policies: Enacting laws that take into account the special requirements of women, such as parental leave, child care subsidies, and gender-sensitive legislation, can foster an environment that encourages women to enter politics.
7. Data Gathering and Monitoring: Regular data gathering on women's political engagement helps track advancement and pinpoint problem areas. Setting up a thorough monitoring system helps promote accountability and aid in the creation of evidence-based policies.

8. Cultural Sensitivity: It's critical to acknowledge and respect cultural traditions while promoting gender equality. Resistance can be overcome by employing tactics that highlight how women's participation is compatible with cultural norms.
9. Youth Engagement: Involving young women in politics at a young age can help to promote a political engagement and gender equality culture. Youth-oriented initiatives can motivate the subsequent generation of female leaders.
10. International Collaboration: Promoting gender equality in democratic governance can advance more quickly when international partnerships and collaboration are used to share experiences, best practises, and lessons gained.

In conclusion I would like to say, there are a tonne of lessons and best practises for advancing gender equality in democratic government from India and South Korea. Countries may increase women's political representation and promote a more inclusive and equitable democratic environment by embracing legal frameworks, awareness campaigns, capacity building, and inclusive policies.

**Advocate. Shubham Gaur, Delhi.**

7. **How do you assess the impact of increased women's political representation on policy-making and governance outcomes in India and South Korea? Have there been any noticeable shifts in policy priorities or decision-making processes as a result of greater gender diversity in political offices?**

Ans. The impact of increased women's political representation on policy-making and governance outcomes in India and South Korea has been a subject of interest and research. The presence of more women in political offices has brought about several noteworthy effects on policy priorities and decision-making processes in both countries.

There have been noticeable changes in policy priorities in India as the number of women in politics has increased. Women's rights, gender equality, healthcare, education, and social welfare are now more prominently discussed subjects. A more thorough and inclusive approach to policymaking that takes into account the different needs and viewpoints of the public has resulted from the participation of women in positions of decision-making. As a result, specific policies have been put into place to address gender-based violence, support women's economic empowerment, and improve maternal and child health services.

Similar effects on policy-making and governance outcomes have been seen in South Korea, where women's political presence has increased. Policies pertaining to work-family balance, childcare assistance, and gender-based discrimination have received more attention. The rise in the number of women running for office has caused conventional conventions and beliefs to be reexamined, which has resulted in a more progressive posture on gender issues in the policy environment.

In addition, having more women in political positions has made decision-making more cooperative and consensus-based. Studies show that female leaders frequently value collaboration and seek for common ground, which can result in more successful and long-lasting policy solutions. The importance of social justice and human rights issues has also been linked to greater gender diversity in political institutions.

It's crucial to remember that there are still obstacles and hurdles even though there have been good changes in policy priorities and decision-making procedures as a result of more political representation for women. Cultural traditions, unequal access to resources, and gender stereotypes can prevent women in politics from having the full impact they could otherwise have. The benefits of women's political engagement in both India and South Korea must be further enhanced, which calls for ongoing efforts to solve these issues and advance gender equality.

There have been noticeable changes in policy priorities and decision-making processes in India and South Korea as a result of the greater representation of women in governmental posts. These changes have led to policies that are more inclusive and gender-sensitive, a focus on social issues that is stronger, and a

collaborative approach to governance. Although there has been some progress, more needs to be done in order to fully realise the promise of women's political engagement and effect long-lasting transformative change.

**Joseph Park (student of International Relation, south korea)**

**8. Are there any potential areas of collaboration or knowledge-sharing between India and South Korea in terms of advancing gender equality and women's political representation? Are there any successful cross-country initiatives or partnerships that have been established in this regard?**

Ans. India and South Korea could cooperate in the following areas to advance gender equality and women's political representation:

1. Policy Exchange: Both nations can learn from one another about successful programmes and policies that support women in politics and leadership positions.
- 2 Capacity building: To equip women with the abilities and information required to participate in politics, collaborative seminars and training programmes could be organised.
- 3 Research and Data Sharing: Cooperative research initiatives might be launched to analyse obstacles to women's political representation and consider solutions.
- 4 India and South Korea might create leadership programmes to guide and assist women in pursuing successful political careers.
- 5 Public Awareness Campaigns: By working together on awareness campaigns, society's attitudes and misconceptions about women's participation in politics can be changed.
- 6 Networking Events: To promote the sharing of experiences and best practises, regular encounters and networking events might be planned.
- 7 International Platforms: Making use of international venues like conferences and forums to highlight noteworthy initiatives and encourage other nations.
- 8 Legislative Support: Efforts made in concert to push for changes in the law that will advance gender equality and increase the representation of women in political decision-making.
- 9 Youth participation: Emphasising civic participation and educational initiatives to involve young women in political processes.
- 10 Sister City Partnerships: Creating alliances between Indian and South Korean cities in order to exchange knowledge and advance women in leadership.

Both nations can take inspiration from effective international initiatives like the United Nations' "He For She" campaign and the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network to structure their cooperative efforts, even though specific cross-country initiatives or partnerships may not be explicitly outlined.

**Kim Young ( student of International Relation, South Korea)**

**9. What role can civil society organizations and women's movements play in promoting gender equality and women's political representation in India and South Korea? Are there any notable examples of such organizations driving positive change in either country?**

Ans. In both India and South Korea, civil society organisations and women's movements are essential for advancing gender parity and women's political representation. By promoting policy changes, creating awareness, and enabling women to take an active part in the political and social arenas, they operate as change agents.

The rights of women in the informal sector have been advanced in India by groups like the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA). The National Alliance of Women (NAWO) has also put in a lot of effort to raise the profile of women and lobby for legislative changes, which has helped increase political representation.

Through a variety of efforts, such as awareness campaigns and advocating for legal reforms, the Korean Women's Association United (KWAU) has been at the forefront of promoting women's rights and gender equality in South Korea. The "NoCut" campaign against online sexual assault from 2016 is another example of how group efforts may increase awareness and spur change.

Overall, as seen by their significant efforts and accomplishments, civil society organisations and women's movements in South Korea and India are crucial in advancing gender equality and the political representation of women.

**NikoSunMi (History student south korea)**

**10. Looking ahead, what do you see as the key priorities or strategies that should be pursued to further enhance women's political representation in India and South Korea? How can these countries continue to progress towards achieving gender equality in democratic governance?**

Ans. Improving women's political representation calls for a multifaceted strategy in both India and South Korea. First, encouraging gender equality education and awareness at an early age can aid in challenging long-standing norms and biases. A larger representation of women in political bodies can also be achieved by implementing quotas or affirmative action rules. Additionally, developing leadership and mentoring programmes can enable women to play more active roles in politics.

It is critical to encourage political parties to prioritise and support female candidates while also tackling obstacles such as a lack of money and family obligations. Women will be able to participate in politics in safer contexts thanks to strengthened legislative frameworks that prevent violence and discrimination based on gender.

It can also inspire others and alter perceptions to use media and technology to elevate the voices and accomplishments of women. Finally, it is crucial to promote an inclusive political culture that appreciates all viewpoints and promotes cooperation between men and women if both countries are to achieve gender equality in democratic administration.

**Paul Mathew, Education teacher Isabella Thoburn College, India**