Patriarchy and Indian Politics

 In most of the countries in this world the women believe that“ Politics is a man’s business”. This fact is established after undertaking various socio-political research in this regard.In a traditional, conservative society like India the participation of women in politics is still far from expectation. Gender injustice and inequality is responsible for less participation of women in politics .However exception is visible in Indian society when a large number of women participated in India’s Freedom struggle.

Women in third world country like India are facing various obstructions in their life.There are number of reasons for less participation of women in politics.S.P Varma and I.Narain mentioned that ”the relatively weak electoral participation of women may be attributed to more than one reason-the traditional hearth and home concept of her place in society,her social dependence ,near absence of direct political involvement lack of special efforts at women’s political mobilization and so on”.

However,it is worthwhile to mention that the Indian women both educated and uneducated are not so much interested to participate in direct politics.Because of the influence of patriarchy the women feel more comfortable with their house .hold activities rather than to come out and join politics.

But the Constitution of India as well as Indian Parliament took various measures to remove the gender in-equality from the society . Apart from Right to Equality and Right to Freedom the reservation policy of the Govt. also open the way for women’s participation in politics. The 73rd and 74th amendment of the constitution reserved33%seats for women in various local-self govt. institutions. However, the bill introduced in the Parliament regarding 33% reservation of seats for women in Parliament is still pending. This is an e.g. of patriarchy and its influence on political system. Till today the women’s representation in state legislatures and Parliament are very negligible ,Most of the political parties[male dominated]are not interested to give ticket to a deserving woman candidate.But powerful women politicians are also not in a mood to pave the way for their fellow friends.

If we are serious enough to remove the impact and influence of patriarchy and to pave the way for women to take active part in politics then lots have to be done by women themselves. They must have to change their mindsets and come forward and participate in active politics. Women are not backward enough to need the help of reservation to move forward. The women members who are actively participated in Panchayat should not be the puppet in the hands of their husbands.They get opportunity and must have to avail the that and be a decision maker.

While casting their votes the women should have to take their decision on their own merits. The patriarch should not guide them in this regard.

Game of politics will become more successful if the women develop their interest in politics and participate in this power game depending on their knowledge,capacity,awareness and dedication.Politics is not a business of man alone and India had already proved it through our Primeminister Mrs. Gandhi.

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