

Comparative Analysis of Women's Legislative Representation in India

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Abstract—This study focuses on the level of women's political participation and representation in different Indian states. The paper highlights how women are gradually entering the political field, but their overall presence still remains limited in comparison to men. By analyzing data from various state elections, it becomes clear that women are showing more interest and confidence in holding political roles, yet several social and structural barriers continue to affect their participation. The study suggests that creating awareness, ensuring party support, and promoting equal opportunities can help in improving women's representation in politics. Overall, the paper reflects the slow but positive change taking place in the political involvement of women in India.

Index Terms—Electoral trends, Women's political representation, Legislative assemblies, India, Gender equality, women candidates, Reservation, Socio-cultural barriers,

I. INTRODUCTION

“Gender equality in political representation is a fundamental human right” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; United Nations, 1967).

Women's participation in politics is an important measure of a country's commitment to equality and inclusive governance. In India, a country known for its diversity and democratic traditions, the level of women's political representation varies widely across different states. This raises an important question: “What explains the stark differences in women's political representation across various Indian states?” Women's involvement in political decision-making reflects social, economic, and cultural conditions in each region. Even though the Constitution guarantees equality and awareness about gender issues is

growing, women's representation still differs significantly from state to state.

This review paper, titled “Comparative Analysis of Women's Political Representation across Different States in India,” examines these variations through existing research and data. It aims to highlight which states have made notable progress in ensuring women's participation and which states are lagging, thereby providing a comprehensive comparative overview.

By analysing studies, reports, and statistical findings, this paper seeks to present patterns, trends, and disparities in women's political representation across India, offering insights into the factors that influence participation levels in different regions.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

2.1 Historical Context

In the past, Indian women faced many restrictions, such as limited access to education and social practices like child marriage. Early reform movements worked to change these restrictions and slowly opened opportunities for women to participate in public life. These efforts laid the foundation for women to gradually enter politics.

2.2 Entry of Women into Politics

After independence, women began entering formal politics, becoming the first MLAs and MPs in various states. Despite legal equality guaranteed by the Constitution, social and cultural barriers often limited their participation. Initiatives like the Women's Reservation Bill, which proposes reserving one-third of seats for women, aim to improve representation and ensure women's voices are included in policymaking.

2.3 Constitutional and Legal Framework

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992) strengthened local governance by reserving one-third of seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies. Articles 14, 15, and 19 of the Constitution guarantee equality and political participation rights. Together, these measures provide a framework that supports women’s inclusion in governance and decision-making.

III. IMPORTANCE OF STATE-WISE COMPARISON

Even though the Constitution guarantees equal political rights, women’s representation in Indian politics is still very uneven across states. These differences are influenced by factors like literacy levels, socio-economic conditions, political awareness, and cultural attitudes toward gender roles. Looking at women’s representation on a state-by-state basis helps us understand the specific social, economic, and political factors that affect participation. A comparative approach is important

because it shows how different regional and cultural environments can shape the opportunities and challenges women face in political governance.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a review-based comparative approach, using only secondary data to examine differences in women’s political representation across Indian states. Data were collected from credible sources such as the Election Commission of India, State Election Commissions, the Census of India, with relevant research papers and journal articles.

States were categorised into three groups high, moderate, and low representation based on the percentage of women in the legislature. For each selected state, election data from the last four to five years were analysed to trace progress and trends in women’s participation.

The analysis followed a comparative and thematic framework. This approach helped identify patterns, challenges, and disparities influencing women’s representation across India’s regions.

V. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN STATES

Category	State / UT	Total Assembly Seats	Women MLAs (Number)	Women MLAs (%)	Last Election Year
HIGH PERCENTAGE (10.0% and above)					
	Chhattisgarh	90	19 (2023)	21.11%	2023
	West Bengal	294	41	13.94%	2021
	Rajasthan	200	20	10.00%	2023
	Uttar Pradesh	403	47	11.66%	2022
MIDDLE PERCENTAGE (5.0% to 9.9%)					
	Mizoram	40	3	7.5%	2023
	Maharashtra	288	21	7.33%	2024
	Kerala	140	11	7.86%	2021
LOWER PERCENTAGE (5.0% to Below)					
	Assam	126	8	6.34%	2021
	Karnataka	224	10	4.46%	2021
	Tamil Nadu	234	13	5.5%	2023

Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

To understand the pattern of women’s political involvement across India, the selected states are

organised into groups based on the percentage of women elected to their legislative assemblies. This classification helps highlight how different states vary in terms of female representation, and it allows for a

clearer comparison between regions with high, moderate, and low participation. By examining these categories, it becomes easier to observe emerging trends, identify gaps, and understand how women’s legislative presence differs within Indian politics.

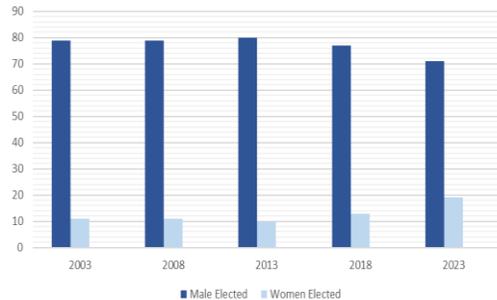
A. High Percentage States

1. Chhattisgarh

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2023	90	19	71
2018	90	13	77
2013	90	10	80
2008	90	11	79
2003	90	11	79

Figure A.1(i): Men and Women represented in the Chhattisgarh assembly over the years

(2003-2023)



Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

The table covers 5 years of Vidhan Sabha elections from 2003-2023, with a total of 90 seats, and shows that the number of women elected between 2003-2013 was between 10 and 11, while men held 79-80 seats. A significant shift occurred in 2023, with women representatives taking 19 seats, whereas males took 71 seats.

Chhattisgarh has one of the highest percentages of women's representation among Indian states; however, in terms of absolute numbers, women’s actual participation and representation remain quite low.

Figure A.1(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2008–2023)

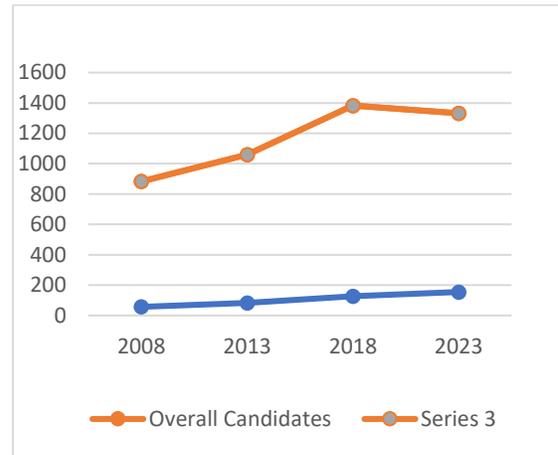
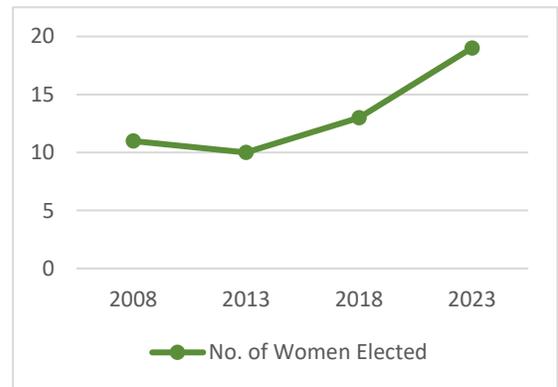


Figure A.1(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2008-2023)



Year	2008	2013	2018	2023
No. of women candidates	57	83	128	155
Total candidates	826	977	1255	1178

Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

Over the years, the total number of candidates contesting elections in Chhattisgarh has steadily increased, from 826 in 2008 to 1178 in 2023. However, the number of women candidates remains relatively low, rising from 57 in 2008 to 155 in 2023, indicating that women still represent a small proportion of all contestants.

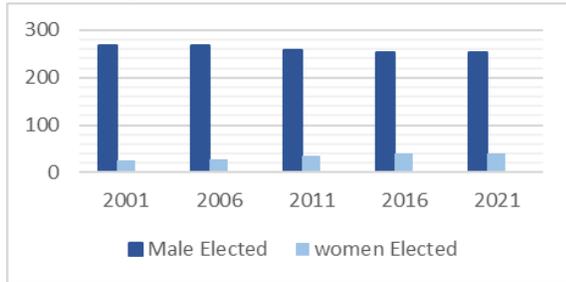
Regarding election outcomes, only a few women have been elected: 11 in 2008 and 2013, 13 in 2018, and 19

in 2023. When considered as a percentage of women candidates, the success rate ranges from approximately 10% to 19%, showing that although more women are contesting elections, their chances of winning remain considerably limited.

2. West Bengal

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2021	294	41	253
2016	294	40	254
2011	294	36	258
2006	294	27	267
2001	294	26	268

Figure A.2(i): Men and Women represented in the West Bengal assembly over the years (2001-2021)



Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

Over the five elections from 2001-2021, women representatives acquired 26-27 seats in 2001 and 2006, which was increased massively to 40-41 in 2016 and 2021, for a total of 294 seats in the Vidhan Sabha.

West Bengal shows a gradual increase in women elected, but despite a high number of women candidates, the actual representation remains low compared to men.

Figure A.2(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2006–2021)

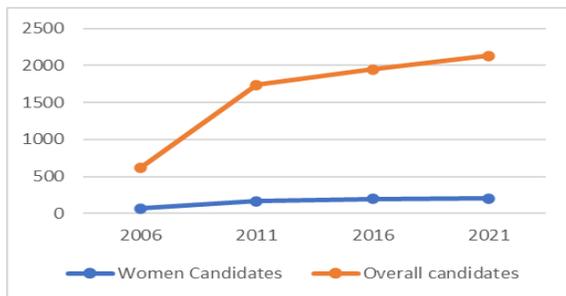
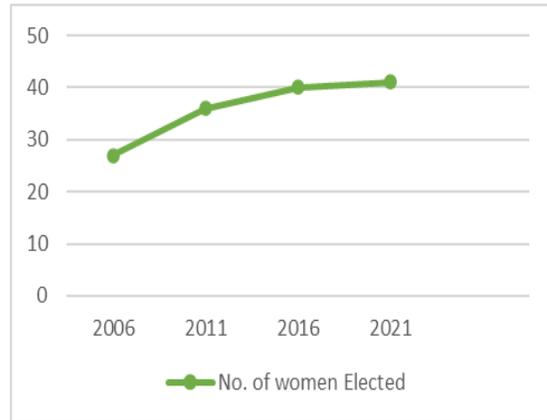


Figure A.2(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2006-2021)



Year	2006	2011	2016	2021
No. of women candidates	66	169	199	204
Total candidates	622	1740	1948	2132

Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

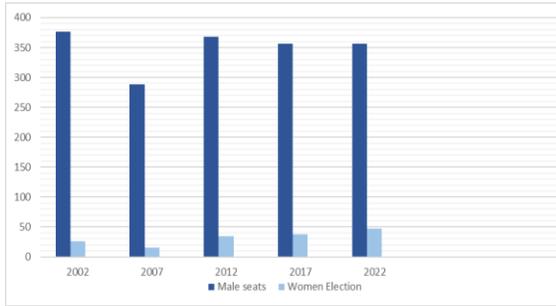
Over the years, the number of women candidates contesting elections in West Bengal has steadily increased, from 66 in 2006 to 204 in 2021, indicating a growing participation of women in the political process.

Regarding election outcomes, only a few women have been elected: 27 in 2006, 36 in 2011, 40 in 2016, and 41 in 2021. When considered as a percentage of women candidates, the success rate ranges from approximately 20% to 41%, showing that although more women are contesting elections, their chances of winning remain considerably limited.

3.Uttar Pradesh

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2022	403	47	356
2017	403	38	365
2012	403	35	368
2007	403	15	388
2002	403	26	377

Figure A.3(i): Men and Women represented in the Uttar Pradesh assembly over the years (2002-2022)



Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

This graph shows the data from 5 years of elections from 2002 to 2022. From this table, we can see a drop of 26 seats to 15 seats in 2002 and 2007 in female seats and male seats, being 377 and 388. The women's seats then increased in numbers from 2012 to 2022, from 35 to 47, with 403 total seats in the 2022 election.

Figure A.3(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2007–2022)

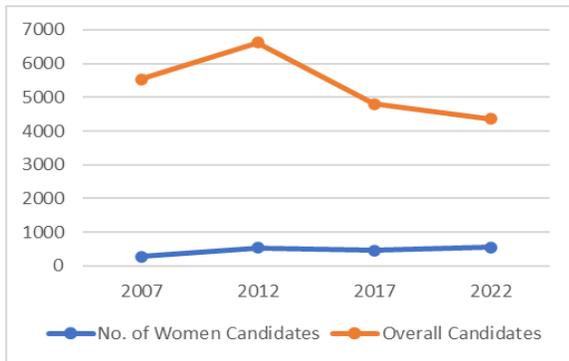
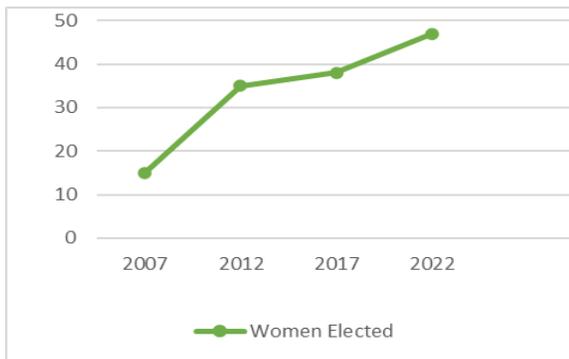


Figure A.3(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2007-2022)



Year	2007	2012	2017	2022
No. of women Candidates	278	530	454	554
Total candidates	5541	6620	4806	4364

Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

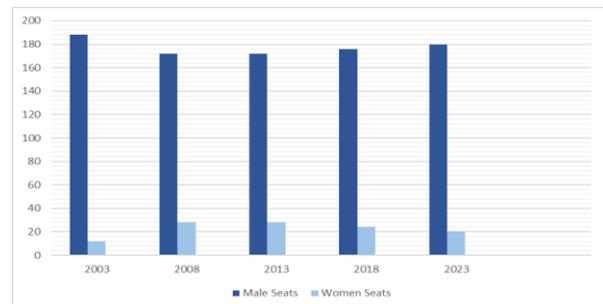
Over the years, the number of women contesting elections in Uttar Pradesh has increased. In 2007, around 278 women contested, and this rose to 530 in 2012, 454 in 2017, and 554 in 2022. Even though the total number of candidates in UP elections is very large (ranging from about 4364 to 6620 in different years), women still form only a small share of all contestants. This suggests that while participation is improving, women are still far fewer compared to men in the electoral field.

When we look at election outcomes, the number of women actually elected also shows improvement, but it remains limited. Women MLAs increased from 15 in 2007 to 35 in 2012, 38 in 2017, and 47 in 2022. Although these numbers indicate gradual progress, they still represent a small fraction of the total 403 seats in the UP Legislative Assembly. So, even with more women contesting, their presence in the assembly remains relatively low

4. Rajasthan

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2023	200	20	18
2018	200	24	176
2013	200	28	172
2008	200	28	172
2003	200	12	188

Figure A.4(i): Men and Women represented in the Rajasthan assembly over the years (2003-2023)



Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

The table represents data of 5 years of data from 2003 to 2023 with 200 total seats. In this graph, we can see an increase in the progress of women's seats from 12 to 28 in 2008, which starts to decline to 20 in 2023.

Figure A.4(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2008–2023)

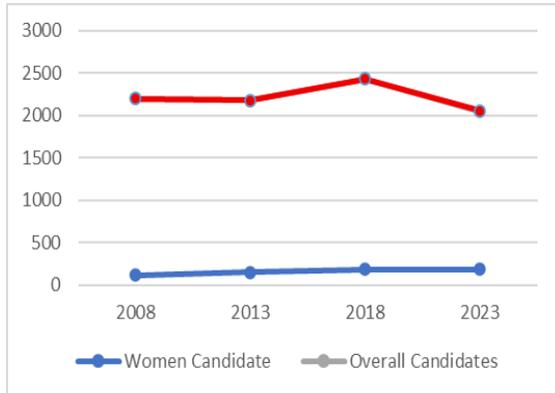
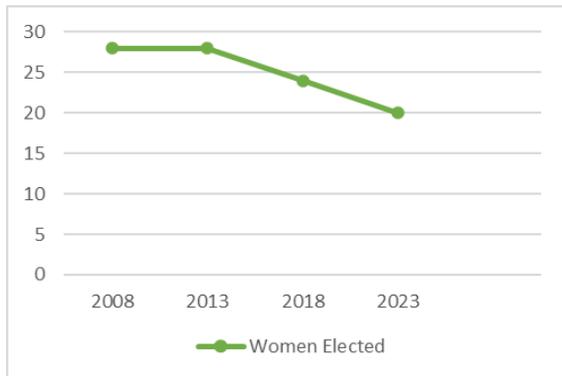


Figure A.4(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2008-2023)



Year	2008	2013	2018	2023
No. of women Candidates	111	151	184	182
Total candidates	2086	2028	2246	1868

Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

In Rajasthan, women’s participation in elections has grown, but the pace of increase is more gradual compared to some other states. The number of women candidates rose from 111 in 2008 to 184 in 2018, and remained relatively steady at 182 in 2023. This indicates that while women are increasingly taking

part in the political process, the rate of growth has not been sharply upward.

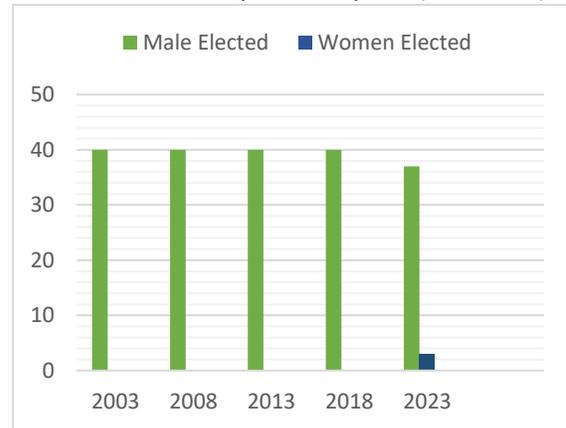
In terms of representation, the number of women elected to the Assembly has generally ranged between 20 to 28 members over recent elections. This shows that women are consistently present in the state’s legislative body, though the overall share remains modest. The data suggests steady participation, stable representation, and scope for further expansion as political support and opportunities for women continue to evolve.

B. Middle Percentage States

1. Mizoram

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2023	40	3	37
2018	40	0	40
2013	40	0	40
2008	40	0	40
2003	40	0	40

Figure B.1(i): Men and Women represented in the Mizoram assembly over the years (2003-2023)



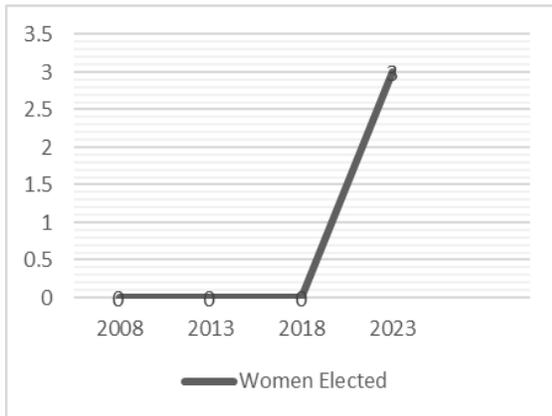
Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

In this graph, we can see the data of elections in Mizoram from 2003 to 2023 with a total of 40 seats. In this class, we can see that women were not elected as MLAs in constant years from 2003-2018, which was then increased to 3 seats, while males are still in the majority with 37 seats.

Figure B.1(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2008–2023)



Figure B.1(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2008-2023)



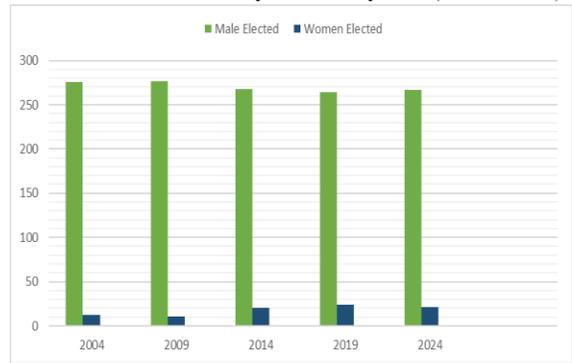
Year	2008	2013	2018	2023
No. of women Candidates	7	6	18	18
Total candidates	197	142	209	178

Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>
 In Mizoram, women’s participation and representation have remained extremely limited. Women contestants were only 7 in 2008 and 6 in 2013, before rising to 18 in both 2018 and 2023. Still, they formed a small part of the total contestant pool. Representation was even lower: from 2003 to 2018, no woman won a seat in the 40-member assembly. Only in 2023 did 3 women get elected, marking the first instance of representation in two decades. Despite this improvement, women still hold very little legislative power.

2. Maharashtra

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2024	288	21	267
2019	288	24	264
2014	288	20	268
2009	288	11	277
2004	288	12	276

Figure B.2(i): Men and Women represented in the Maharashtra assembly over the years (2004-2024)



Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

This table shows the data of the past 5 years of elections in Maharashtra from 2004 to 2024. We can see a large progress of women representatives from 2004 to 2014, which grows from 12 seats to 20 seats, with a total of 288. In the recent election of 2024, the women’s seats decreased by 21.

Figure B.2(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2009–2024)

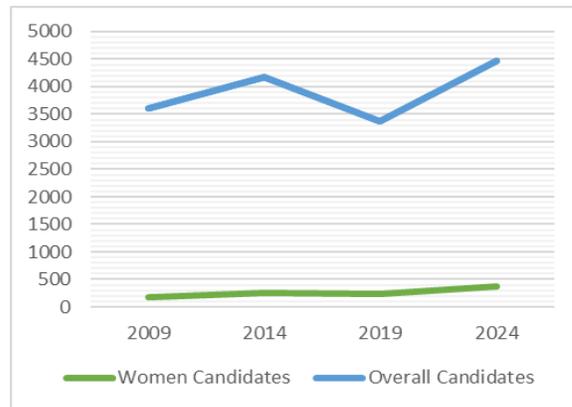
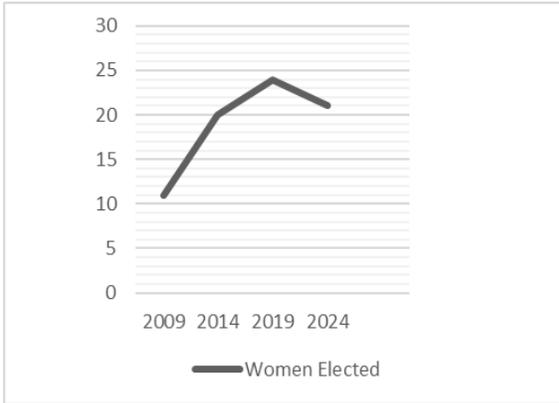


Figure B.2(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2009-2024)



Year	2009	2014	2019	2024
No. of women candidates	173	257	237	364
Total candidates	3433	3914	3139	4114

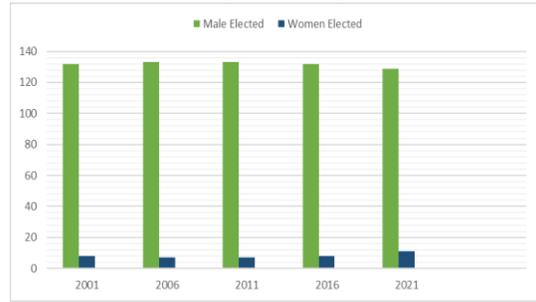
Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

In Maharashtra, women’s participation and representation have improved, though they still form a small segment of the political field. Women contestants increased from 173 in 2009 to 257 in 2014, dipped slightly to 237 in 2019, and rose significantly to 364 in 2024. Yet they remain a minority within a large candidate pool that crossed 4,000 in 2024. Representation has improved gradually: women won 12 seats in 2004, 11 in 2009, 20 in 2014, 24 in 2019, and 21 in 2024 out of 288 seats. Progress is visible but continues to be slow.

3.Kerala

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2021	140	11	129
2016	140	8	132
2011	140	7	133
2006	140	7	133
2001	140	8	132

Figure B.3(i): Men and Women represented in the Kerala assembly over the years (2001-2021)



Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

In this graph, we can see the data of Kerala elections from 2001 to 2021, with the number of seats ranging from 7 to 8 from 2001 to 2016, which increased to 11 women representatives in 2021, with 129 male representatives.

Figure B.3(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2001–2021)

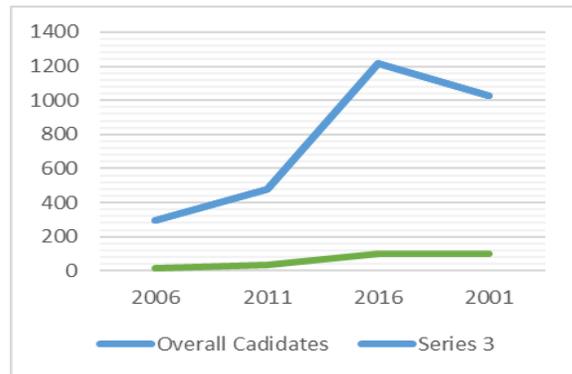
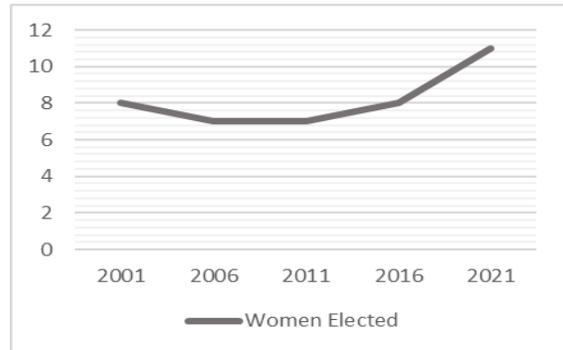


Figure B.3(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2001-2021)



Year	2006	2011	2016	2021
No. of women Candidates	17	37	102	103
Total candidates	277	439	1112	925

Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

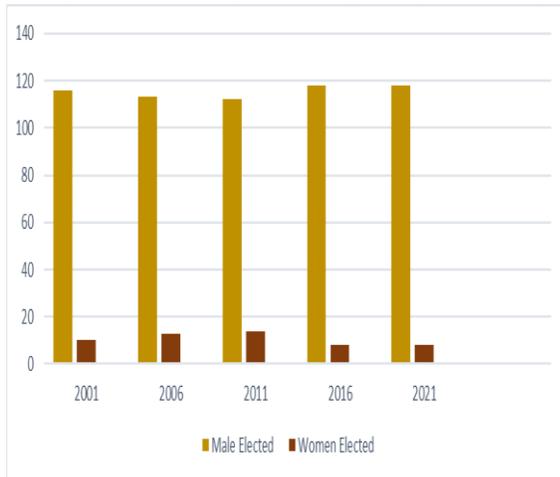
In Kerala, the total number of contesting candidates has risen, but women still make up a small share. Women contestants increased from 17 in 2006 to 37 in 2011, and then sharply to 102 in 2016 and 103 in 2021. Despite this rise, representation remains limited. Out of 140 seats, women won 8 seats in 2001 and 2016, and 7 seats in 2006 and 2011. The only noticeable improvement was in 2021, when 11 women were elected. Overall, increased participation has not translated into major gains in representation.

C. Lower Percentage States

1. Assam

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2021	126	8	118
2016	126	8	118
2011	126	14	112
2006	126	13	113
2001	126	10	116

Figure C.1(i): Men and Women represented in the Rajasthan assembly over the years (2001-2021)



Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

The table covers 5 years of Vidhan Sabha elections from 2001-2021, with a total of 126 seats. Women representatives started to increase in 2006, but in the 2016 and 2021 elections, there was decreased to 8 seats, while males were at 118 seats.

Figure C.1(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2001-2021)

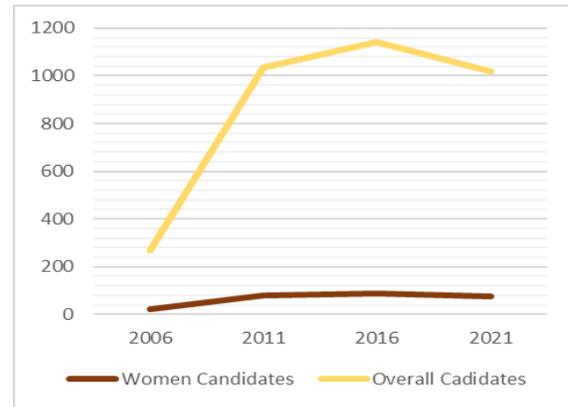
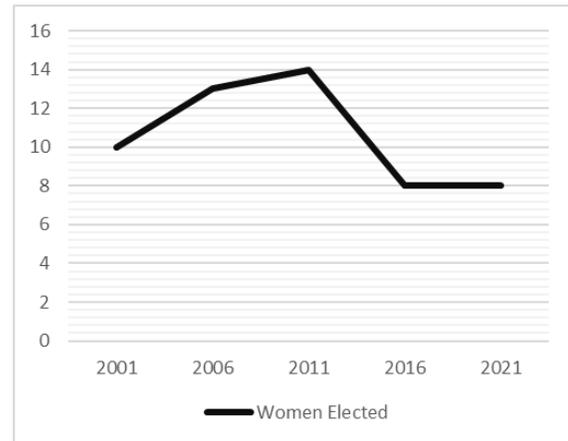


Figure C.1(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2001-2021)



Year	2006	2011	2016	2021
No. of women Candidates	23	81	89	76
Total candidates	247	954	1053	941

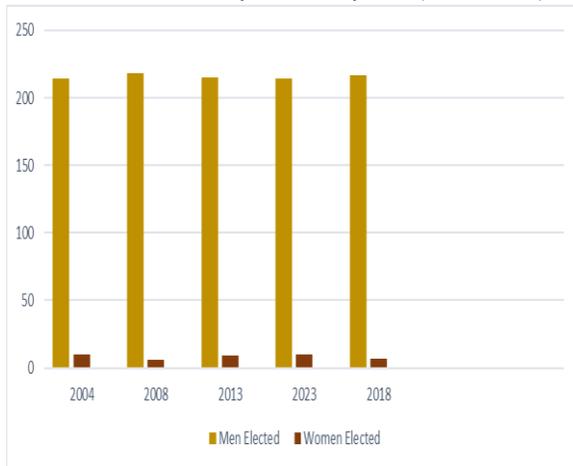
Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

In Assam, total contestants have increased over time, but women still form a small portion. Women candidates rose from 23 in 2006 to 81 in 2011 and 89 in 2016, then slightly fell to 76 in 2021. Electoral outcomes follow a similar trend. Women won 10 seats in 2001, increased to 13 in 2006, and peaked at 14 in 2011. However, representation fell to 8 seats in both 2016 and 2021. This shows that while women are contesting more, their actual presence in the 126-member assembly remains low.

2. Karnataka

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected (No.)	Male Elected (No.)
2023	224	10	214
2018	224	7	217
2013	224	9	215
2008	224	6	218
2004	224	10	214

Figure C.2(i): Men and Women represented in the Karnataka assembly over the years (2004-2023)



Note: Adapted from " Election Commission of India," accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

The table covers 5 years of Vidhan Sabha elections from 2003-2023, with a total of 224 seats. The women representatives first decreased from 10 to 6 seats in 2008. This was then increased in 2013 by 9 seats. The women's seats then again came to 10 in the 2023 election.

Figure C.2(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2008–2023)

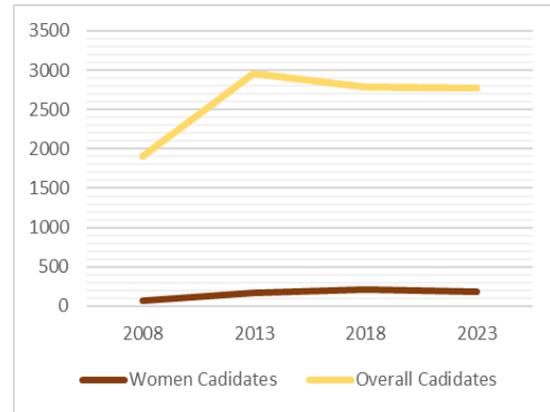
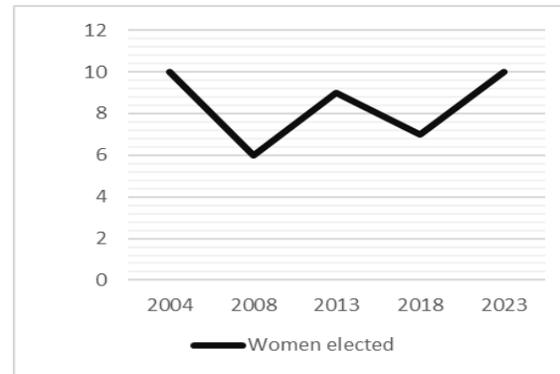


Figure C.2(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2008-2023)



Year	2008	2013	2018	2023
No. of women Candidates	72	167	212	186
Total candidates	1840	2788	2576	2589

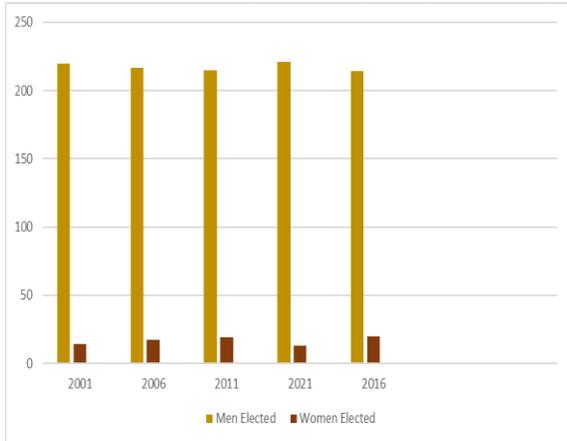
Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

Karnataka has seen a steady rise in total candidates, but women still make up a small share. In 2008, only 72 women contested out of 1,840 candidates. Their participation grew to 167 in 2013 and 212 in 2018, then slightly decreased to 186 in 2023. In terms of results, women’s representation has stayed low. Out of 224 seats, women won 10 in 2004, fell to 6 in 2008, rose to 9 in 2013, dropped to 7 in 2018, and again reached 10 in 2023. Although more women are contesting, their seat share remains limited.

3. Tamil Nadu

Election Year	Total Seats	Women Elected	Men Elected
2021	234	13	221
2016	234	20	214
2011	234	19	215
2006	234	17	217
2001	234	14	220

Figure C.3(i): Men and Women represented in the Tamil Nadu assembly over the years (2001-2021)



Note: Adapted from “Election Commission of India,” accessed from www.eci.gov.in/

In the table above, data of Vidhan Sabha election from 2001-2021 is given, in which small fluctuations of women representatives were seen from 2001-2016, but the seats decreased to 10.

Figure C.3(ii): No. of Women vs Overall MLA Candidates (2006–2021)

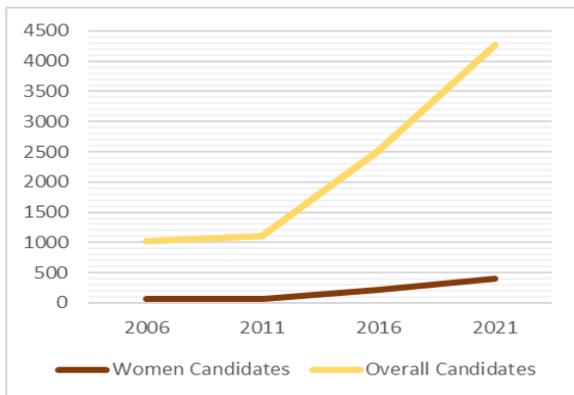
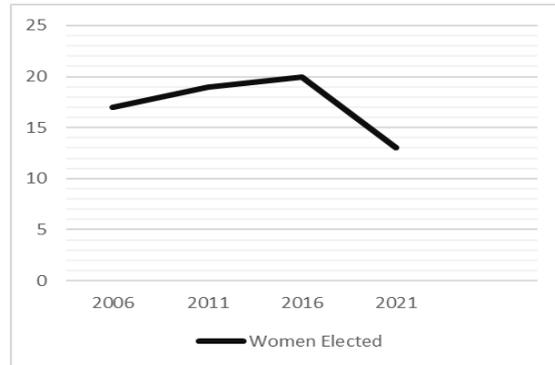


Figure C.3(iii): No. of Women MLAs (2006-2021)



Year	2006	2011	2016	2021
No. of women Candidates	70	62	214	407
Total candidates	959	1046	2295	3859

Note: MyNeta (ADR), <https://myneta.info>

In Tamil Nadu, women’s representation in the Legislative Assembly has stayed limited despite higher electoral participation. Between 2001 and 2021, women MLAs changed only slightly: 14 in 2001, rising to 20 in 2016, then dropping to 13 in 2021, out of 234 seats. During the same period, total candidates increased sharply from 959 in 2006 to 3,859 in 2021. Women candidates also increased from 70 to 407, showing growing political engagement. However, this rise in candidature has not resulted in proportional gains in seats, as seen in the decline in 2021. The data shows a continuing gender gap, where women participate more but still win fewer seats.

VI. DISCUSSION

The comparative data across the ten selected states shows that women’s political representation changes noticeably from state to state, not only in terms of how many women get elected, but also in how many women come forward to contest, and the rate at which they are able to win seats. These differences reflect the combined influence of social norms, political party support, and historical experiences of women’s participation in public life.

In the high-percentage states such as Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, women's representation appears relatively higher when compared to other states. However, the reasons behind this higher percentage vary within this group. In Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, the rise in women elected seats has been more steady, supported by factors like stronger local governance participation, active women's political wings in major parties, and comparatively more inclusive political mobilization. For example, Chhattisgarh shows clear improvement in the number of women elected over time, and West Bengal has consistently increased the number of women candidates.

In Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, although both states fall in the high-percentage category, the progress in women's political representation is not consistent. The number of women candidates has increased across elections, but their conversion to elected seats remains limited. This shows that even when women are contesting more, they are often not given winnable constituencies or strong organizational support. Social norms, caste-based politics, and party ticket distribution patterns still restrict women's success. So, while representation appears "high" in numbers, the political position of women remains less stable and less empowered in these states.

The middle-percentage states Maharashtra, Kerala, and Mizoram show a balanced but slower growth in women's representation. These states do not show extremely low participation, but the increase over time is gradual and often inconsistent. In Kerala, although literacy and awareness levels are high, women's entry into electoral politics has not expanded at the same pace, suggesting that educational progress alone does not guarantee political representation. Maharashtra shows moderate representation due to strong party structures, but women are still underrepresented in leadership positions. Mizoram, on the other hand, reflects cultural and community norms where political spaces have historically been male-driven, resulting in slow changes. In this group, the primary challenge is limited political encouragement rather than lack of capability.

The low-percentage states Assam, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu display consistently low participation and success rates among women. In these states, both the number of women contesting and the number of women elected remain limited across election cycles.

This pattern reflects several barriers: restricted political networks for women, fewer role models in political leadership, limited access to campaign funding, and stronger patriarchal social expectations around women's public roles. As a result, the growth of women's political representation in these states remains slow and uneven, even when there is interest among women to participate.

The comparison across high, middle, and low percentage states shows that women's political representation is shaped by multiple interconnected factors.

1. Literacy alone does not guarantee representation. States like Kerala have high female literacy, yet the proportion of women MLAs remains moderate. This means awareness does not automatically translate into political entry or success.
2. Social and cultural norms strongly influence outcomes. Patriarchal expectations and gender roles still limit women's mobility, campaigning, and leadership visibility, especially in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and rural Maharashtra.
3. Political party support is the most decisive factor. When parties nominate women in winnable seats, representation increases (e.g., West Bengal, Chhattisgarh). When parties field women symbolically or in weak seats, success remains low, even if many women contest (e.g., UP, Rajasthan).
4. Reservation at local levels helps build political experience. In states like Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka, and Rajasthan, Panchayati Raj participation has given women leadership exposure, which gradually supports their entry into state politics.
5. Economic and resource limitations reduce women's chances. Campaigning needs funding, networks, and visibility. In states like UP, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra, financial constraints make it harder for women to run competitive campaigns.
6. Family or political networks increase opportunities. Women who come from political families or have party mentors are more likely to receive tickets and support. This pattern is visible in UP, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan.

7. Media and public perception still carry stereotypes. Social expectations influence how female leaders are viewed, though activism and public welfare work improve acceptance in states like West Bengal, Kerala, and Mizoram.

Overall, the variation in women's political representation across the states is shaped not by a single factor, but by a combination of social environment, party support systems, resource accessibility, and women's prior political experience. States that provide institutional support and political opportunity show steady improvement, while states with restricted social norms and weak party encouragement continue to lag behind.

VII. SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

- 1) Increase Party Support: Political parties should actively nominate women in winnable constituencies and provide proper organizational support to enhance their chances of getting elected.
- 2) Strengthen Leadership Training: Establish simple training programs and mentorship opportunities to prepare women for leadership roles and political campaigning.
- 3) Expand Local-Level Reservations: Continue and strengthen Panchayati Raj and local governance reservations to give women early experience in leadership and public service.
- 4) Financial Assistance for Campaigns: Develop schemes that provide funding, resources, and logistical support specifically for women candidates to run competitive campaigns.
- 5) Promote Social Awareness: Conduct awareness campaigns to challenge patriarchal norms, highlight women leaders, and encourage community and family support for women in politics.
- 6) Highlight Role Models: Publicize successful women politicians to inspire more participation and counter stereotypes, especially in states with low representation.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The study shows that women are now becoming more active in politics, but their representation is still not

equal to men. In many states, the number of women candidates has increased over time, which is a positive sign. However, social expectations, lack of support, and limited opportunities still create challenges for them. To improve this situation, society and political parties need to provide more encouragement and equal space for women to participate. If women are given proper support and recognition, their role in politics can become stronger. Overall, the participation of women in Indian politics is growing, and with continuous effort, it can become more balanced and impactful in the future.

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