CONCLUSION
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The participation of women in the Indian politics from the ancient period to the modern age can not be less estimated. The Madras Presidency and in particular Tamil Nadu has ample examples to show the place of womenfolk in the modern age.

In the four elections held between 1946 and 1967 for the Madras Legislative Assembly, the women contested in all the four elections and entered the Legislative Assembly. In the first Legislative Assembly (1946-51) there were eleven women legislators. Among the 11 members 10 belonged to the Indian National Congress and one belonged to the Muslim League. In the second Legislative Assembly (1952-57) there were only two women members. Both of them belonged to the Congress Party. In the third Legislative Assembly (1957-62) there were 13 women members. Out of 13 members 11 belonged to the Congress Party, one belonged to the DMK and another was the nominated member of Anglo-Indians. In the fourth Madras Legislative Assembly (1962-67) there were 14 women members. Among the 14 members 11 belonged to the Congress Party, the DMK and the Swatanthara Party had one member each and another was the nominated member of Anglo-Indians. Thus, altogether there were 40 women members in the four Legislative Assemblies from 1946 to 67. Among the 40 women members, some members were elected to the Assembly for the second time. In the first Assembly among the 11 members 7 were elected for the second time. In the third Legislative Assembly among the 13 members, one was elected for the second time. In the fourth Assembly
among the 14 members, 6 were elected for the second time and one member was nominated for the second time. In total 14 were elected for the second time and one was nominated for the second time. Thus, practically there were 33 women in the Madras Legislative Assemblies from 1946 to 1967. Though, there were only 33 women members, they played a significant role in the Madras Legislative Assembly.

In the first Assembly, Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathi was appointed as the Minister incharge of Public Health and Medical Department and Mrs. C. Ammannan Raja was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. In the third Legislative Assembly Mrs. Lourdhammal Simon was appointed as the Minister for Local Administration. In the fourth Legislative Assembly Mrs. Jothi Venkatachalam was appointed as the Minister incharge of Public Health, Medicine, Women’s Welfare.

In the first Legislative Assembly, Mrs. Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin noted for her eloquent orator, inspired the members of the House. In her maiden speech, while congratulating the Speaker on the eve of his election, she suggested that the term speaker was a "Misnomer" and he should be called as President or Chairman of the House by quoting a quotation from Shakespeare, which testifies her literary talents. She took part almost in all the discussions of the Assembly. When the bill on the Minister’s Salary was discussed, she vehemently criticised that it was mockery on the part of the Congress Ministers since, they went against the principles of Gandhiji who advocated simplicity in
Besides Mrs. Begum, Mrs. V. Lakshmi Ammal and Mrs. C. Ammanna Raja also took an active role during the discussion on social reform and women's upliftment in the first Assembly. Among the 2 members of the second Assembly, Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran's role was notable. During the discussion on Harijan Uplift, she requested the Government to take severe steps to punish the offenders of untouchability. Regarding education, she suggested to introduce shift system in the elementary schools to give education to more children. Because of the efforts made by Mrs. T. Kodamma Reddi, the Madras Government granted the nursing allowance to nursing mothers and enacted special laws for the pregnant women.

The third Legislative Assembly was made a healthy home by Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki of Congress and Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu of DMK, through their, enthusiastic, inspiring and eloquent speeches. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu openly criticised many of the measures of the Congress Government. She often led the Assembly to serious deliberations. Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam often exposed the basic principle of her party. When, she was taking part in the discussion on the Governor's address, she stated that the formation of the Independent Dravidian State was the only solution to the economic and other problems in the State. When, she requested to start more schools for harijans, Mr. P. Kakkan, the Minister for Harijan Welfare accepted the suggestion of Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu. Though, she belonged to the opposition party (DMK), she never failed to appreciate some of
the measures like free education, more schools for Harijans and allowing the Harijan into the Hindu temples legally. Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki took equal share with Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu in the discussion. Once Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki suggested to link the rivers Ganga and Godavari to improve, not only agriculture but also trade navigation and transport in India. Though, she belonged to the ruling Congress, she criticised some of the policies of the Congress Government in the State. She expressed her concern about the price rise of the essential commodities like rice, dhal etc. beyond the reach of the poor people and the unemployment problems in the State. In the third Assembly other members like Mrs. C. Kolandaiammal, Mrs. A. S. Ponnammal, Mrs. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran also expressed their opinions on many occasions in the Assembly. Their active participation was in no very lesser than male counter part. The fourth Assembly became a political battle field by the heated discussions of the members. The main Opposition Party, the DMK had 50 members in the Assembly. They were the sincere critics of the Congress rule from 1946. The language policy of the Central and the State Government became often a fuel for the heated discussions among the members of the Assembly. Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki of Congress was the vital foe of the DMK members, who often plunged into alterations with DMK members of the Assembly.

The study on the role of Women Legislators in the Madras Legislative Assemblies from 1946 to 1967 show that women members played an equal role with men in the Assembly discussions. They
expressed valuable suggestions which were appreciated and acknowledged by the Government. Most of their opinions were incorporated in the Acts which proved to be beneficial to the people of Tamil Nadu. But, one can't deny the fact that the women members were not given equal opportunity with men. Though, the gender equality was accepted by all, in the political field women were not given equal share with men. There were many reasons for their unequal contribution in the Madras Legislative Assembly with men members.

Firstly, the number of seats allotted to women by the all political parties were, not only unequal but also insufficient. In the First Assembly 1946-51 for 215 seats, only 13 women candidates were given chance to contest in the election. In the Second Assembly 1952-57 for 375 seats, only 24 women were given the chance, in the Third Assembly 1957-62, for 205 seats, only 24 women were given the chance and in the Fourth Assembly 1963-67 for 206 seats, 23 women were given the chance to contest. The contesting women candidates were very small when compared to the total seats of the Assembly. It was only 8.4%. But, when compared the elected women candidates with contested women candidates, it was encouraging as it was 45.2%.

Secondly, the women members were not given their lions share in the administration. In each Assembly one women member was made as Minister. The Women Ministers were given portfolios, of less important like Public Health, Medical, Women's Welfare, Local Administration. They were not given portfolios like
Finance, Home, Education. If, they had been given such portfolios, definitely, they could have done their best service to the society and the nation.

Thirdly, majority of the elected members belonged to the ruling Congress Party. In the First Assembly out of 11 elected women members, 10 belonged to the Congress and one belonged to the Muslim League. In the Second Assembly, the two elected women members belonged to the Congress. In the Third Assembly out of 12 elected women members, 11 belonged to the Congress and one belonged to the DMK. In the Fourth Assembly out of 13 elected women members, 11 belonged to the Congress, one belonged to the DMK and one to the Swatanthara Party. Mrs. A. Suaries was nominated twice to the Legislative Assembly. Altogether, among the 40 women members 34 belonged to the ruling Congress Party. They reflected the policy of their party in the Assembly. They suggested many novel ideas in the Assembly which were accepted by the Ministers and hence, there was no heated arguments among the women members as in modern days.

Fourthly, majority of the women members of the four Assemblies from 1946 to 67 were the daughters of freedom fighters. They were given chance to contest in the elections not on the basis of their own interest and ability but, because of their parental name and fame. Naturally, the daughters of freedom fighters had faith in the Congress Party. So, there was no much discussions among the women members on the ruling Congress Party’s Policies in the Assembly.
Lastly, the main reason for the limited role of women in the Madras Legislative Assemblies was the lack of women's education in those days. In those days there was no much political awareness among the people of Tamil Nadu. Only the freedom fighters and their family showed much interest in politics. The freedom fighters and some rich people allowed their daughters to take education and only few of them were allowed their educated daughters to enter into politics.

But, now a days the situation has been changed too much. The women's education is given importance and there is much of political awareness, among the women folk of Tamil Nadu. This is mainly because of the Government policy of free education and the development of communication media like news papers, radio and television. The women political leaders of modern world like Indira Gandhi of India, Margaret Thatcher of England, Chandrika Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Madam Acquino of Philippines, Begum Khaledazia of Bangladesh, by showing their ability proved that women are capable of doing political and administrative work equal with men, This shows how women could perform wonders if they were given equal opportunity with men in politics with any discrimination on the basis of sex.

At the end, the study on the role of Women Legislators in the Madras Legislative Assembly 1946-67 showed that though, they were small in number, one can not forget their role in the Legislative Assembly in shaping the modern Tamil Nadu.