CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose, Aims, Objectives, and Scope of the Study:

"A Study of the Women Political elites from Bombay (1975-85)" is the subject of the present research work for the Ph.D. Degree in Political Science. The study is a micro analysis of the role of women elites from the Bombay city, during the period of women's decade, (1975-85). The first chapter of this research work deals with the factors as follows:

i) The Purpose of the study:

Political elite is one of the crucial concepts in the field of Political Science. While the number of studies of the role of various types of political elites in the political process in India have been made, not such attention has been paid to the role of women elites either in the decision making process within government or within a given party or within a monopoly organisation. The present study tries to highlight these points.

The 1975-85 was declared as International Decade of Women by United Nations of Organisation. The purpose is to study the role of women elites from Bombay during the decade. The decade has provided a proper ground to review the role of women elites in the political processes. Very few studies are made of the contribution of women
elites in the political processes. Hence an attempt is made to highlight the contribution of women elites during the decade.

Bombay is one of the prominent metropolitan centres in India. Besides being a financial capital of the country, it possesses the longest continuous record of active political & public life. Bombay is much more cosmopolitan in character. Given the situation one may expect that the city of Bombay will register a significantly high profile of women's political activity. But as noted above, no empirical study has yet been made either to validate this expectation or to understand the precise character & significance of women's political participation.

ii) The Methodology of the Research work:

The methodology adopted for the study is based upon:

a) The women political elites who were elected during the decade to the Indian Parliament, Maharashtra State Legislature and Bombay Municipal Corporation, were interviewed in person. From this, certain conclusions about the participation of women in political field are drawn. To know the contribution of women political elites in the affiliated party organisations, trade unions, a few actively working women were also interviewed. The work of the elite women in voluntary organisations was also highlighted through the interviews. The study also aims at finding out the factors for the growth of such voluntary Women's organisations.
b) A set questionnaire was prepared and it was filled in by women elites who were interviewed and it was analysed in a systematic manner. This helped to draw a few conclusions regarding the role played by these women elites.

c) This research work is based upon a conceptual framework of eliticism.

iii) The Aims and Objectives:

The research work is based upon two important factors, viz. (i) U.N. has declared the year 1975 as 'Women's Year' and further extended it as a decade. Many attempts were made to raise socio-economic-political status of women, all over the world. On this background the present study tries to find out what attempts were made in Bombay to increase the status of women in political field. (ii) The study is restricted to Bombay on the assumption that Bombay is a major, leading cosmopolitan city of India and it has been an initiator of many socio-political and economic activities. As Bombay has its unique cultural and political environment the study aims at finding out whether this decade has brought any change. Based on this, the aims and objectives are as follows:

a) To study the role of women political elites from Bombay in Parliament, Maharashtra State Legislature, and Bombay Municipal Corporation.

b) Socio-economic profile of women political elites.
c) The role of the major political parties in uplifting women.
d) The factors that are responsible for the lower participation of women in politics and methods by which this can be changed.
e) Conclusions and suggestions.

iv) The Scope:
a) U.N.O. declaration as International Women's Decade, the aims & objectives of the U.N.O.
b) Growth of Bombay - social, political, economic, educational, industrial, in short.
c) Party election manifestos and women party workers.
d) Trade Unions, Women Fronts.
e) Review of the decade and suggestions.

v) Framework of the thesis:
Chapter 1: Introduction -
It covers the purpose, aims and objectives and scope of the study.

Chapter 2: Research methodology and Research area.
2.1 Research methodology
2.2 UN declaration of decade - its aims and objectives.
2.3 Bombay - its background.

Chapter 3: The Status and Position of Women in India:
As the dissertation is related to women in particular, the
background briefly covers:

3.1 Introduction - the status & position of women in India since the Vedic Age to Modern Age.

3.2 Women in India in post - independence era. Since 1947 many new legislations favourable to women have been made and they are mentioned.

3.3 The Women's studies as a new discipline of Social Science is briefly described, as it was a new attempt in India during the decade. A reference of the first Centre of Women's Studies located in Bombay is mentioned.

3.4 The rise of elite women after independence in India. Theory of eliticism is briefly mentioned.

Chapter 4 : Political Parties and Women in Political Parties :

The political Parties play an important role in a democratic polity. In this chapter the factors included are :

4.1 Definition and importance of Political parties.

4.2 Major national parties and their election manifestos.

4.3 Political participation of women in India.

4.4 Participation of Women in elections in India.

4.5 Women Elites and their Views about their parties.

4.6 The views of elite women regarding women's participation in the political parties.

4.7 Conclusions and suggestions.
Chapter 5 : The Women Political Elites in Bombay Municipal Corporation

This chapter includes:

5.1 Introduction.
5.2 The Women Councillors to Bombay Municipal Corporation during the decade.
5.3 Social, Economic profile of women elites.
5.4 Women Councillors and their views to their party.
5.5 The Role of Women Elites as Corporators.
5.6 Conclusions and suggestions.

Chapter 6 : The Women Political Elites from Bombay to The Maharashtra State Legislature.

This chapter consists of

6.1 Introduction.
6.2 The elected women from Bombay to the Maharashtra State Legislature.
6.3 The social and economic profile of elite women from Vidhan Sabha & Vidhan Parishad.
6.4 The political profile of elite women.
6.5 The elected women elites from Bombay as Ministers during the decade.
6.6 The role of elected women in the uplift of common women.
6.7 Conclusions and suggestions.
Chapter 7: The Women Political Elites From Bombay To The Parliament

This chapter highlights on -

7.1 Introduction.
7.2 The elections to the Lok Sabha, the women elected to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from Bombay during the decade.
7.3 The social and economic profile of women elites.
7.4 The Political profile of elite women.
7.5 The women elites and their limitations as women.
7.6 The personality sketches of women Parliamentarians from Bombay.
7.7 Conclusions and suggestions.

Chapter 8: Trade Unions, Women's Labour Organisations, And The Role Of Elite Women.

In this chapter the factors included are -

8.1 Introduction.
8.2 Growth of the trade unions in India.
8.3 Women in the trade unions.
8.4 The Role Of Elite Women In The Trade Unions And In The Women's Labour Organisation.
8.5 Conclusions and suggestions.

Chapter 9: The Working Of Women's Organisations And The Role Of Socio-Political Women Elites.

In this chapter, a) the growth of women's organisations and b) the contribution of the women elites in their political party's Women Fronts, are mentioned. The chapter includes:
9.1 Introduction
9.2 Growth of Women's Organisations in pre-independence era.
9.3 Growth of Women Organisations after independence.
9.4 Growth and working of women organisations during the international decade.
9.5 Women Wing of the Political parties and its working.
9.6 Autonomous women's organisations and their working.
9.7 Mass Media and Women Organisations.
9.8 Conclusions and suggestions.

Chapter 10: Conclusions and Suggestions:

This chapter consists of
10.1 The social-economic profile of the elite women.
10.2 The political profile of the elite women.
10.3 The women's participation in Politics in general, as representatives, ministers and their contribution in the decade.
10.4 The contribution of the decade in the social and economic field to uplift the women.
10.5 The role of the women's organisations and trade unions during the decade.
10.6 The general conclusions and suggestions pertaining to the decade.