Preface

This study seeks to examine the nature of political participation of women in West Bengal. For the purpose of comparison, the nature of participation by men in political life has also been examined. The study is based on primary data: data collected through a sample survey conducted just after the Assembly election in West Bengal in 1982, and on the official data relating to earlier and later elections. Though the focus of this study is, in the main, on political participation in the context of the 1982 Assembly election in West Bengal, the dimensions of this study are wider. The behavioural patterns revealed through official data related to earlier and later elections have also been considered. Such patterns are not wholly unique and isolated for any particular election. These patterns stretch, at least to some extent, to the past as well as to the future.

It is a very pleasant duty for the researcher to express how much she owes to Dr. Mira Ganguly, Professor and former head of the Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta. Her deep insight into contemporary Political Science, her scholarly dispassionate treatment of the subject and above all her very careful concern for the study provided guidance and continuous encouragement. The researcher owes much more
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Sanghamitra Sen