Women Legislative Elite: Study of North-West India

S. No.: 
Category: MLA/MP 
State: 

Identification
- Name of the Respondent: ____________________________
- Address of the Respondent: ____________________________
- Phone: ______________ Fax: ____________________________
- e-mail: ____________________________
- Constituency: ____________________________
- Reserved/Open: ____________________________
- District: ____________________________
- State: ____________________________

1. Background
1.1 Age of the Respondent
(i) Below 30 yrs.
(ii) 31 yrs. – 40 yrs.
(iii) 41 yrs. – 50 yrs.
(iv) 51 yrs. – 60 yrs.
(v) Above 60 yrs.

1.2 Place of birth
(i) Urban 
(ii) Semi-urban 
(iii) Rural 
(iv) Remote village 

1.3 Religion
(i) Hindu 
(ii) Muslim 
(iii) Sikh 
(iv) Christian 
(v) Any other 

1.4 Caste: (I) General (ii) SC (iii) ST (iv) OBC

1.5 Educational qualifications:
(i) No formal education 
(ii) Upto Middle School 
(iii) Upto Higher Secondary School 
(iv) Upto Senior Secondary School 
(v) Graduate 
(vi) Post-graduate 
(vii) Professional (specify) 
(viii) Vocational/Technical Education (specify) 
(ix) Any other
1.6(A) Marital Status
   (i) Never married
   (ii) Married
   (iii) Divorced
   (iv) Widowed
   (v) Separated
   (vi) Deserted
   (vii) Remarried

1.6(B) If married: whether married
   (i) Within caste
   (ii) Inter caste
   (iii) Inter religion

1.7(A) Were you ever paid employed?
   Yes, I was:
   Yes, I am still working:
   No, I never worked:

1.7(B) If yes, please mention the various employments in chronological order.

   NOTE: (1) Provide information concerning non-political career only.
   (2) If you have your own business, then write self-employed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Year (Monthly)</th>
<th>Name of company/ Institute/ Organization</th>
<th>Position held</th>
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1.8 (If she is/was working) when you worked, were you a member of the union or Staff Association or any similar body/organization.
   Yes/No
   If yes: (a) Name of the organization:
   (b) What was your position in it? (Please tick an appropriate one).
      (i) Ordinary member
      (ii) Member of the Executive body
      (iii) Any office bearer (specify)
1.9 Professional family background.
   1. Landlord.
   2. Agriculturalist.
   4. Service.
   5. Politics as a profession

Political Profile

2.2 Are you a member of any Organization/Association other than any political party?

If yes, please give details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name of the Org./Assoc.</th>
<th>Year of joining</th>
<th>Reason for joining</th>
<th>Any office held/holding</th>
<th>Year of leaving</th>
<th>Reason for leaving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2.3 Is any member of your family or relative, associated with any organization?

If yes, please give details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name of the Org./Assoc.</th>
<th>Year of joining</th>
<th>Reason for joining</th>
<th>Any office held/holding</th>
<th>Year of leaving</th>
<th>Reason for leaving</th>
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</table>

2.4 Are you a member of any political party?

Yes/No

(A) (i) if yes, please give details.
   • Name of the party:
   • Year of joining:
   • Reason for joining:
   • Year of leaving (if left):
   • Reasons for leaving:
   • Membership- Active/Passive:
   • Any office held/holding:
• Meeting attendance: Regular/Occasional:
• In which kind of activities are you generally involved:
• Contested election for (party position):

(ii) Have you ever changed your party? Yes/No
If so, why?

(iii) What is your position at present in your party?

(B) Did you face any hindrances in becoming a member of the political party? Yes/No.
If yes, what were they?

(C) What kind of support did you receive within the party for the active performance of your duties in the party?

(D) Do you notice any kind of gender discrimination within your party? Yes/No
If yes, (specify).

(E) How do you assess your party in terms of women related issues? Provide details.

(F) Have you been able to build on individual support base within the party? Yes/No
If yes:
• Where:
• Which section of society:
• Constituency:
• How is this base sustained?
• Any gender basis of support?

(G) Do you think that men in your party have a greater scope for advancement of their political career than women?
(H) If you have a difference of opinion on an issue from the party opinion, what do you do?

2.5 (A) If you are not a member of any political party, which party do you support ideologically and why?

(B) Why have you not associated yourself with any political party?

2.6 Is any member of your family in politics? Yes/No

If yes, please give details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Name of the Political Party</th>
<th>Year of joining</th>
<th>Any office held/holding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
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<td>Mother:</td>
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<td>Father-in-law:</td>
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<td>Mother-in-law:</td>
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<td>Any other:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2.7 Is any one of your family members a member of any local or Legislative body? Yes/No

If yes, please give details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Local Bodies Panch/Sarpanch/MC</th>
<th>MLA/MP Party/Constituency/Year</th>
<th>Ministerial Position/Year/Portfolio</th>
<th>Any other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father:</td>
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2.8 What is the attitude of the family members towards you being in politics?
3. Motivation and Recruitment

3.1 Who/what motivated you to enter into legislature (kindly give four choices in order of preference)
(a) Family background
(b) Your own interest
(c) Study of political literature
(d) Ideology of any party
(e) Inspiration of party leaders
(f) Desire to have popularity, power position
(g) Self-serving consideration
(h) Social serving consideration
(i) Development of Dalits/Minorities
(j) Women’s equality and Development
(k) Sudden without any aim
(l) Any other

3.2 (a) Who encouraged you to become a member of State Assembly/Parliament.
Self/husband/father/Mother/Women of the Area/political party/Any other.

(b) What is the nature of encouragement that you received?

3.3 Why did you decide to be legislator? Explain briefly.

3.4 (a) How old were you when you entered into legislature.
(b) What year was it?

3.5 (a) How many years have you been in the legislature?  
(b) For how many terms?

3.6 (A) How did you enter the legislature?  
Social worker or Volunteer route/mass organizational worker/party worker  
(B) If volunteer route then why you have shifted towards the legislature.

(C) [If she has adopted the party route]
   (i) Why have you been nominated as a candidate by your party.  
   (ii) Did you face any resistance for seeking a ticket. Yes/No  
   (iii) If yes, from whom and why (briefly specify)
   (iv) In your opinion to which category do you belong?  
      (a) Office-seeker (means you have taken initiative to get the ticket from the party.  
      (b) Ready recruit (waited to be asked by the party for the ticket)
   (v) What was the attitude of your male party members towards your candidature?  
      Very supportive/supportive/indifferent/hostile/any other.
   (vi) Did you receive full support of your party during the elections? Yes/No  
      If yes, what type of support did you receive?
      If no, why not and what kind of hindrances did you face?

3.7 Did you face any difficulty in becoming a member of Assembly/Parliament? Yes/No  
If yes, please specify
3.8 There is a general feeling that women who belong to affluent families or who are well connected politically manage to get into legislature. What is your opinion about this?

3.9 In general, what do you think are the reasons for a lesser number of women contesting election to the Assembly or Parliament:
   (1) Physical Constraints.
   (2) Socio-Cultural Constraints
   (3) Male Conspiracy
   (4) Any other (specify)

4. Campaign

4.1 How many times have you contested the elections?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MLA or MP</th>
<th>Total Contestants</th>
<th>Nearest Opponent (Male/Female)</th>
<th>Won/Lost</th>
<th>Reasons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

4.2 What factor/s do you account as responsible for your success in the election to the Legislature? (Please give four choices in order of preference)

   (a) Your own personality.
   (b) Your being a woman.
   (c) Your party.
   (d) Party ideology.
   (e) Party leadership.
   (f) Women support.
   (g) Your influence in the constituency
   (h) Caste factor.
   (i) Your economic status.
   (j) Your social status.
4.3 Have you nursed your constituency on your own or did any family member nurse it before you?

If nursed by any other, please give details.

By whom (relation)        When (year)        Why (reason/s)

4.4 (A) Which of the following methods did you adopt during the campaign. (Please give four choices in order of preference)

(i) Door to door campaign.
(ii) Mohalla meetings.
(iii) Village meetings.
(iv) Poster/Handbills.
(v) Rallies/Nukar Natak.
(vi) Use of Audio – visual methods.
(vii) Organizing langars/distribution of clothes etc.
(viii) Any other method.

(B) Which of the methods was the most effective and why?

4.5 Do you think being a woman you have a special advantage during a campaign. Yes/ No

If yes, what’s that?

4.6 What are the major problems faced by the people of your constituency? List five.

4.7 What are the major problems faced by the women of your constituency? List five.

4.8 Did you get upset during the Campaign due to any method adopted by the opposition.

If so, give details. (Ask specifically if any attempt at character assassination was made-Record details)
4.9(A) How much money have you spent during your elections?

(B) From where did you get this money? (Specify the various sources)

4.10 From whom did you receive the maximum support:

(a) Women       (b) Men       (c) Equal support of men and women.

4.11 Do you think that people in general react differently or respond differently to a women candidate’s campaign than a male candidate’s? Yes/No

If yes, in what ways.

4.12 Did you feel that you enjoyed the full support of your party?

4.13 Did you receive the cooperation and full support from the party workers of your constituency?

4.14 Some people think that any woman who campaigns energetically will be regarded as ‘unfeminine’. What is your opinion about this?

5  Role Perception and Performance

5.1 What do you think are the qualities, which are most needed for a woman to enter into Legislature? (Please give four choices in order of preference)

   (i) A high degree of integrity and dedication
   (ii) Many good friends and acquaintances
   (iii) Social status in community
   (iv) An ability to enjoy contest and competition
   (v) Plenty of money
   (vi) Lots of energy and stamina
   (vii) Broad knowledge of issues
(viii) Factual Knowledge about the present situation of your area
(ix) Knowing your way
(x) Graceful and respectable personality
(xi) Political relations or contacts
(xii) Any other (specify)

5.2 How would you describe the job of being a State Legislator/Parliamentarian; what are the most important duties a legislator should perform?

5.3 How would you rate yourself as a legislator?

5.4 What do you consider your chief accomplishment as a legislator?

5.5 (A) Do you attend the Session/ Committee Meetings
   Regularly/rarely/sometimes/frequently

   (B) If you do not regularly attend the meetings, please specify the reasons:
   - Lack of information regarding meetings/attitude of male counterparts/not much interested in community problems/lack of awareness regarding the issues/domestic responsibility/health problems/anyother

   (C) If any member does not regularly attend the meetings of the House, is there any rule to debar that person from the House?

      Yes/No/Do not know

      If yes after how many meetings, this rule is applicable

5.6 Do you participate in debates and discussions during the sessions?
   Yes/No
(a) If yes, do the male counterparts take it seriously.  
Yes/No

Give reasons for your answer

(b) If no, what are the reasons for not participating in the discussions/debates?

5.7(A) Have you ever raised any issue/question in the Assembly/Parliament.

Yes/No

(B) If yes, what type of issues:

1. Social issues.
2. Political issues.
3. Women’s issues.
5. Finance issues.
7. Any other (specify).

(C) Did you raise the issue/question on your own, or you sought the help of your male colleagues?

Yes/No

If yes, in what ways, please specify.

(D) Have you ever initiated any Bill/Private Members Bill?

Yes/No

If yes, on what issue/s.

(E) Did you get support on the Bill proposed by you?

Yes/No
If yes, what was the fate of the Bill?

If no, why not?

5.8 Is there a tendency to give women certain kind of Committee Assignments?

5.9 If you want to consult the Proceedings, Research material or any other material, are the Library services available to you?
Yes/No

If yes, how often do you avail these services?
If no, why not?

5.10 Have you ever been approached by the people of your constituency for any kind of help?
Yes/No

(A) If yes, how frequently?
Rarely/Sometimes/Frequently/Never.

(B) Do they approach you:
Directly/Through your husband/Through your brother/Any other

(C) Generally who approaches you?
Males/Females/Both males and females.

(D) (a) Generally what are the main grievances, which people bring before you for redressal?

(b) How do you try to redress these grievances?
(E) Are you able to help them or do you have to depend upon your male counterparts?

(F) Have you faced any problem while discharging these duties?

Yes/No.

If yes, what type of problem do you face while performing these duties?

5.11 Regardless of how well you do as a legislator which part of the job do you like the least?

5.12 Does a woman have more difficulty than a man in gaining acceptance in the Legislature.

Yes/No

If yes, in what ways?

5.13 Have the women in the Legislature played any special role in dealing with the question of ethics?

5.14 Do you agree with the proposal for 33% reservation for women in the State and Union Legislature?

Yes/No.

If yes, why?

If no, why not?

5.15 What is your opinion about the reservation within reservation for OBC women?
5.16 As the Bill is proposed it provides for rotation system. Do you agree with it?

Yes/No

If yes, Why?
If no, Why not?

5.17 Do you think it is the only means to increase women’s participation in the legislature?

Yes/No.

If yes, why?
If no, why not?

5.18 What according to you are the major hindrances in getting the 84th Amendment Bill passed by the Union Parliament (state briefly)?

5.19 What is your contribution towards the campaign for 33% reservation for women in the State and the Union Legislature?

a. Within your party.
b. Within the legislature.

5.20 Do you have differences of opinion with your party on the issue of reservation for women?

Yes/No.

If yes (i) what are they?
(ii) Have you taken any step for making your voice heard by party leadership?
5.21 Will you please give some information about the Parliamentary Committee on Women’s Empowerment?

- Total members of the Committee:
- Role of the Committee:
- (If you are a member) your contributions towards the Committee.
- Would you like to suggest some of the functions that Committee should perform?

5.22 Do you have a Women’s Caucus or any platform where women, cutting across the party lines on Women’s issues, can join their hands and raise their voice.

Yes/No

If no, do you think it should be there?

5.23 Did you think women legislators have a different approach towards the public policies than male legislators?

5.24 How do you feel yourself different from the male Legislators?

5.25 What is the attitude of other MLAs/MPs consider you as a Legislator/Parliamentarian?

Scornful/indifferent/neglecting/respectful

(Only for those who happen to be the member of the State Assemblies prior to being elected to the Parliament)

5.26(I) Why have you decided to move from the State Legislature to Union Parliament? (Please record details)

(II) Whether your previous experience counts for it?
(III) How do you feel about it?

(IV) Did you notice any difference regarding the attitude towards Women’s Issues in the House, both at the State and Union Level?

(V) Did you find any difference in the role performance and the level of participation of women at the State and Union Level?

6 Role Conflict

6.1 How much does serving in the legislature keep you away from the home?

6.2 Being a woman you have to perform your role as a daughter/mother/wife/Daughter-in-law/and have to do the household work. Do you think you have been able to combine this work?

   (a) Yes/Up to some extent/No.

   (b) If no, what type of problems do you face.

   (c) Did you feel stressed at any time? Yes/No

   (d) If yes, with this multidimensional role, what strategies did you adopt for the stress and time management?

6.3 Is your husband happy with your participation in public life?
Yes/No
If no, why not.

6.4 Does he encourage you to participate actively in the functioning of legislature?
Yes/No
If yes- in what way?
6.5 Dose he dislike your participation in the political field? Yes/No

If yes-for what reasons?

6.6 Do you think the children suffer when their mother holds public office?

6.7 How often do you get together with other Legislators outside the regular Sessions and Committee meetings?

6.8 When you get together with other legislators outside the House, generally what do you discuss?

(a) Legislative business  (b) Politics in general

(c) Current issues  (d) any other-specify

6.9 Generally speaking, do you think such informal activities are important to the working of the legislature?

6.10 (A) Are women fully included in the informal legislative contact?

(B) Are women likely to be frozen out of the informal legislative contact? If so, what are the reasons.

6.11 What do you think are the different hindrances in your way to perform a successful role as a Parliamentarian or Legislator?
6.12 It is presumed that a woman has a peripheral role in our society? What is your opinion about this?

6.13 What are the major problems faced by the women in India. List five.

6.14 Do you think that women can transform politics? Yes/No.
   If yes, how?
   If no, why not?

6.15 What should be done in your opinion to activate women’s participation in politics?