CHAPTER – 1
INTRODUCTION

Political participation is an essential part of democratic political structure. Better participation of the people in the political process and political Institutions replicates the good strength of the system. Utmost participation means additional legitimacy to the behavior of the government and political stabilities. The admiration for the political legitimacy by the people proves that the government enjoys the self-assurance of the people.

Political participation is very important for the political development of any country. The better involvement of the masses in a mounting political system, guided to a larger sympathy on the part of people to the principles of equality and a wider approval by them of universalistic law. A developed political system which did not have the original and participatory maintain of the masses, was not efficient political system or government.¹

In a society, where the structure either denies additional participation or has no respect for it and people do not participate in it, the probability of political insecurity or revolution become very bright. In the conventional and monarchical system, political participation is cruelly controlled. The democratic system on the extra hand has no limitations. Because the political participation in a self-governing system provides less possibility of revolution when compared with military and totalitarian rules and for that substance even in monarchy. The rejection of participation of the people in the political procedure led to aggressive activities on the part of the people for bringing about a modify in the societal and political life. In every time, today even armed dictators and totalitarian regimes, construct some agreement for the participation of the people

in the political system in a partial way. There is some appearance of support of their achievement by the people.

In any democratic country, political participation is significant gadget for understanding the character of the political system. In democratic political system, probability and opportunities for political participation are given to every resident in the state. Development of political participation was partially stimulated by the wish to give meaning and strength to the standard of permission answerability and political resistance. Participation is the principal means through which approval is decided or inhibited in a democracy and the rulers made responsible to the ruled.²

**Women Political Participation: Meaning, Definition**

Women’s political participation is the genuine and equal participation of women in the governance. The oversight of women from positions of power gravely affects the aptitude to confront the secondary of women in all its expression. Women have to be in politics and power to participate as women and to modify the very nature of that power which prohibited them. Women who comprise of almost half of the population need to be represented considerably in decision making bodies. Otherwise the goal of development cannot be attain. Gender fairness is very necessary for the development of any society.

Political participation is a method by which people acquire part in political activities. Implement voting rights during elections is one of the significant political activities of the people. Participation of women in this political movement is approximately equal to men, but political participation is not only casting the vote. It comprises extensive range of other activities like membership of political party, electoral campaigning, presence party meetings, demonstrations, announcement with leaders, holding party place, contesting elections, membership in

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representative bodies, pressure decision making and other related activities.

With this understand of political participation, the proof shows that in the majority of the countries participation of women is not extraordinary as the number of women participating in dynamic politics is smaller compared to men. Women who are gifted to obtain decision making power are classically from urban and elite groups. Large mass of women are reserved out of political field due to different reasons. There was no severe attempt to contain women in politics. In many countries women had to pay long encounter to get their rights. Despite that, they were not talented to get rightful position in the field of politics. The most ordinary and established political deed in elections is voting. This is exercised by women equivalent to men and in information the number of women voters is growing day by day. But women until the 20th century did not have the right to vote. American women were the first who begin fighting for their rights to vote. In most of the western broadminded democracies, women won voting rights after their regular fight with the system.

It has been stated that the character personality and the socio economic and cultural environment is to a huge amount accountable for women’s insignificant participation in politics. The culture which puts maximum best on the males, the political environment of volatility, criminalization and deficiency of political attitude are factors which strain the amount of political participation. Socio political environment determines the participation and association of women in politics. 3

The subject of women’s political empowerment came to the front position of the global discuss for women’s rights at the time of the fourth World Conference on Women held at Beijing in 1995. It confirmed “women’s equal participation in following in political life plays an essential role in the broad procedure of the improvement of women.

Women’s identical participation in judgment making is a command for simple impartiality and essential situation for women’s curiosity to be taken into description”. In this meeting global community harassed the significance of women arrogant position of power and pressure, not only because their point of view and talents are wanted, but also as a material of their human rights. Moreover, augmented participation of women in decision making process with admiration to social values, growth directions and allowance of resources enables women as well as men to control societal agendas and to assist to locate priorities.

The widespread Wealth similarly has also been attend to the issue and taken a number of initiatives for the reason of ornamental women’s representation. At their 1995 meeting, Common Wealth Heads of Government authorized the plan of action on gender and development, which was use by the member countries to obtain action to augment women’s participation in political decision making at all levels. At their 1996 meeting, Common Wealth Ministers of Women’s Affairs optional that the member countries realize a aim of no less than 30 percent for women in political, public sector by the year 2005. The require to augment women’s participation in political decision making and quiet practice in the Common Wealth was a part of the program of the Common Wealth ministers accountable for women’s affairs, in their sixth meeting detained in new Delhi from April 16-19, 2000.

Women’s political participation has been the agenda of different international conferences and symposiums. Different recommendations were made to get better the involvement of women in political decision making. Women’s political empowerment was at the middle stage of all discourses on women’s issues at the global level. It is outlook that, the

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participation of women is a vital quality in the modern political system. “The primary disparity among the ‘subject’ and ‘citizen’ depends upon the political participation of people in the political structure”.7 Political processes are possible due to this political participation.

The political procedure of return a public emissary based on general adult voting is now spread normally everywhere. Thus the chances of political participation are now obtainable to all citizens. The constancy or instability of any political system depends upon the political participation of people. “Approval responsibilities and political resistance are calculated as three primary principles of democracy.”8 The laws convincing the voting advance in reality to support the women for political participation and to allow the people to admit the blame of political participation. But it is seen that people do not engage in political process due to their political lethargy. In fact the participation of women in great amount is essential to reinforce the democratic system, but the majority of women concerned in it only for voting due to their political indifference. Every one shows one’s contribution as per his ability. Individual and the society are precious by many factors so the difference is seen in the political life of individual as well as society. Besides it, a person or society also shows the political participation at diverse levels, through dissimilar mediums. Thus, every individual or society involves in political processes by creation their direct or indirect participation.

J.L.Woodward and E. Rupes have quarrel five activities about political participation. “They are (i) By Voting (ii) Supporting through pressure groups, (iii) Personally and straight contacting with legislators, (iv) Participating by political parties, (v) Appealing in dimensions of political opinion with extra citizens.” 9

In this recent age, of Federal Democracy the political participation of women is seen increasing day by day. Because the supremacy struggle political leaders, encourages the women for political contribution. Voting at polls is measured as the best tool for political participation. Many processes are counting in the political participation, like receiving in succession about politics to argue about it, campaigning for the elections and genuine voting etc.

The political participation of women is precious by the factors like social, political, psychological, cultural and economic and customs etc. The procedure of political participation may be also positive or negative. The direct participation is measured as an optimistic participation. The participation which influences the political setup without any real participation is said as negative participation. It means that any political system cannot find steadiness without the permission of people. The maximum participation of people is the mainly essential for the political constancy. All the political procedure gets liveliness only unpaid to the political contribution of people. One can engage in the political practice through diverse levels right from voting up to achieving the maximum position in power. So it is seen that there are various definitions of political participation.

**DEFINITIONS OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

Political participation is a term that has many meaning. The word political participation has narrow as well as broader sense. For understand the meaning of political participation following definition can help:

According to Rush Michael and Althoff Phillip “The practice of sharing by an individual at different levels in a political setup is called as a political participation.”

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According to David Easten, “when the set of people living in exacting area get some group decisions, then the participation of people in that decision making is called as political participation.”11

According to Donald Mathues and James “Each political communication done by people to express straight the political thoughts is called as political participation.”12

According to Almond and Powell, “The participation of the members of the social order in the decision making process of the political system is called political participation.”13

According to H. Mclocy, “Political participation is the machine in democratic to get out the support or to provide the support as well as create the rulers towards the governed people.”14

Accordingly the International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, “political participation will submit for those voluntary activities by which members of society share in the choice of rulers and directly or ultimately in the structure of public policy.”15

Norman H. Nowie and Sidney Verba defines the political participation as “political participation is the lawful movement of universal people whose objective is to affects straight to the discussion taken by those political legislature which are chosen by them.”16

Robert Daul said that “the mentally participation in the governmental conclusion means political participation.”17

All these definitions of political participation it is observed that the political participation is not just the limited, secondary and short term participation in the voting, but it is a lengthy and

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12 Devendrapal Singh Tomar, Rajnitik Samaj Shastra, Discovery Publication House, New Delhi, 2007, p. 103.
15 David Sills (Edi.), Internation Encyclopedia of Social Science, Delhi, 1968, p.252.
16 Ibid 6., p.103.
continuous process. To choose the government and ruler to create the
government accountable towards subjects and to engage the people in
decision making process of government all these things are built in the
process of political participation. Political participation is a wide idea,
in which the public is choosing the ruler straightly or indirectly and
willingly with it leaving its collision by the proper decision making
process of rulers by participating through unusual medium.

**FACTORS AFFECTING ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

The amount of political participation is more or less at dissimilar
levels and amid different factors of society. Several people participate
only up to the conversation on politics; some participate by attractive
part in vote as a candidate, while some other participates only for the
voting at polls. Some people contribute right from the campaigning
of election up to the preparation at all stages, while some people
have a wonderful irritation about politics. The vary in proportion of
political participation to each person happens due to shock of social,
economic and other reasons on those persons. The political
participation of a person depends upon the social, economical, cultural,
educational and political status to which that being belongs, while
studying about political participation Millbrith said that, there are
four factors, which concern with the political participation.
According to him these factors are – “1) The awareness gained to the
person, 2) The personal traits of the individual, 3) The social backdrop
or the social characteristics of that person, 4) The political background
or the political impression in which people lives or works.”  

While livelihood in the society and while interacting in the
society, the person happens in this nature, thinking and the actions
as the time passes. Many people are self centered are living in their
particular cocoon. They do not come out of their chrysalis; some

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and Sons, Nairobi Kenya, 1972, p.104.
other cannot choose their own view. While some are those who are always struggling in the society.

The political scientist Rizman classified the people based on their nature as “(i) Convention centered, (ii) Self central or shy person, (iii) Outgoing person. He has also seen the difference between their political assumptions.”

Verba and Sydney have said “a) Faith in aptitude, b) Trust concerning the system, c) the attention about politics of person. These are three factors which make influence on the political participation of any person.”

Rabert E Lane says, about the factors touching on political participation – “Political participation is such an actions which get influenced due to age, sex, education, social position, higher or lower ethnic position, faith and nationality.”

While living in the people some social forces are effect in the social life of the being changes happened with those forces on the person. Person also gets motivated or gets alienated from political participation e.g. the position of the person in society. The response with the stimulus and its reply is also different from person to person due to the dissimilarity in their personal qualities and abilities, competencies. The person either takes division in politics or goes left because of psychological discrimination of the persons, so the difference is observed in the political activities.

**POLITICAL FACTOR**

The level of political participation is determined by the degree of rivalry in the political life of the country by the contributor, the approach of the Government, the happening of political parties in the election process time and other essential political variables. When there is moderate, then these do not decide

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participation e.g. universal adult franchise without caste, creed and religion. Then there is lively participation by the people. On the other side if the Rules are compound, the people are not in a spot to appreciate these rules and regulations. For example when restricted number of persons are permitted to cast their votes and limitations are put on the base of education, property, payment of tax, etc. the people do not appreciate simply the political electoral process in the state. It may also be revealed that some governments endorse chops which depress people from political participation. Such approach of the government alienates the people from dynamic participation in the political method of the state. The activities of the political parties in a democracy also play a major role in the participation of the people in political activities of the state. The political parties systematize meetings from time to time, a lot, act as connection between the leaders of the political parties and workers and emphasize problem of the people as well as propose their corrective measures. When political parties function at a point at which these are usually supposed to function, there is no complexity or problem. When however, either on possess or because of compulsions these measured down their activities, the point of political participation comes down. It is the election which differentiates democracy from other forms of government. One predictable and indissoluble of democracy is election when the election is frequently held with free and fair, without outside terror and pressures, then political participation on peak.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR

Similar to the others factors it has also effect the political participation of the people, authority factor, cluster environment loneliness, profession, freedom and state of mental clash play significant position to make the psychological environment of the political participation. The majority of the political leaders and workers at different levels claims that their aim to connect a particular party is
to provide it and propagate its philosophy and also that it has nothing to do with workplace or power, yet in real practice power factor plays a very large role in political participation process, when the possibility of possessing power is fairly wide open. Psychologically everybody is ready to participate in political activities. It is due to the wish for political power and its accessibility which increase or decreases the rate of participation. Psychologists have sharp out that loneliness is an essential factor which counts a lot in political participation. That person who live in solitude and want some good corporation join politics and starts to dynamically participate in political activities. The plan of the alone person is to combine with the people and enjoy their company. Profession also plays a significant job in political participation. Merchant and businessmen show more dynamic interest in politics than professionals because the previous are much effected by political disturbance and legislative measures than the latter. Teachers and Lawyers are more active political participants than others. There are several people who undergo from conflicts, these people have various problems at home which they find to resolution with the consequence that an unconscious disagreement is going on in their minds. They then choose to join politics to free from rational conflicts and their participation to politics gives release to them.

**SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENT FACTOR**

The social or environment factor can transform or influence the people to political participation. It is the social surroundings which led the people to receive part in political participation. The social environment includes different basic feature of the society e.g. religion, education, job, residence, age and social position etc. Men and women have their religious which donate to his or her political participation. Political participation is also connected with religion of the people. In India the Hindus have been establish to be more dynamic participant’s comparison to other religious communities. At the time of elections political parties move toward religious leaders for getting their hold for
their political parties. It is factual that those who have extra income have more chances of having higher education and relaxation which are positive factors for political participation. But in developing country like India people belonging to inferior and middle classes have produced very active political participants, who have grow to be very good leaders.

Habitation is also essential factor for political participation. Those who be alive in areas, which are the centre of political activities and where several political activists and leaders always acquire political interests, are simply prejudiced to participate in politics. On the other hand those, who are exist in in such areas where political action is dull, stay unaware of politics. In such conditions, the people are not aware about political participation, not to speak of fusion with political activities. The age of the people is also crucial factor for political participation. Generally the young man and women are enthusiastic to join in the political process comparison to the people who belonging to other age groups.

Political participation is also prejudiced by social position of the people. People belonging to lower caste show inferior rate of political participation when compared with those people who live in higher social status. It is because of this, that mature or male are more active contributor in political activities than.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN INDIA

A really democratic and representative government cannot be established lacking women’s contribution in the political processes. The dynamic participation of women on equal term with men, at all level of decision-making is necessary to the achievement of fairness, sustainable expansion, quiet and democracy.

The constitution of India is based on the standard of parity and assurances equality before law and identical defense to all its citizens. It not only guarantees fundamental rights and freedom, but also forbids

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favoritism on the basis of religion, caste, sex and place of birth. However, these rights have staid de jure and have not been interpreted into de facto rights. As such, women have been denied social, financial, civil, and political rights in many fields. An essential area where women have been insufficiently represented is in the political field. Under Article 325 and 326 of the Indian constitution, it gave the assurance of political equality, equal right to participation in political activities, and right to vote correspondingly.

India, being the major democratic country in the world, has very low representation of women in politics. Smaller women are seen in asset main status and decision-making positions in the political fields. The marginalization of Indian women in politics is old as well as the Indian society. Their small representation in the political field is one of the major reasons for the prohibiting of the interests of women in governance and expansion paradigms.

Women political participation of any country gives a muscular message globally not only in terms of parity and freedom of freedom but also in the space afford for women in the democratic structure of electoral politics. India has one of the strongest laws that give women a life with full respect and self-esteem, but the ethnicity, patriarchal set ups, and societal norms have always treated them as secondary to men. Because of uneven distribution of resources, women do not have sufficient recourses, be it financial, material, or human. Their monetary dependence over men also remains them away from burly political association. Their low representation in decision-making in institution signifies deep errors in the political arrangement of the country. Historical, social, and cultural factors have controlled women from enjoying their rights of participation in political procedure.

Indian constitution officially recognizes the political rights of women without any favoritism yet women are still slightly represented in the Indian political field. The reality that women are grossly underrepresented in representation bodies in central and state governments
is evidence to a very incomplete admission to political power as the
determination of socio-cultural difficulty in their way.

In the parliament and in the state Assemblies, women have not been given greatly significance as political actors. They could never engage more than 15 percent seats in the Parliament and state assemblies as well. It has been practical that democratic norms cannot be understand if marginalized sections, which comprises women are not in the normal of political process. It has been renowned that politics is conquered by males, mostly at the highest rank of political decision making.

Women’s political participation in Punjab legislative assembly is concerned, it can be believed that the place of women in Punjab is not improved than the rest of India. After independence, the Punjab state legislature became bicameral for the first time in April 1952 encompasses two houses - Vidhan Sabha and Vidhan Parishad. The entirety number of women members in the 1952 Punjab Vidhan Sabha with 154 seats was 5. It enhanced to 9 in 1957 Punjab assembly elections, but in 1962 state assembly elections, number of women legislators declined and only 7 women got elected.

In 1966, the new state of Punjab was reconstituted. After reorganization, the first Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections were held in 1967 and simply one woman was elected as MLA. The amount of women MLAs in the Vidhan Sabha contacted the lowest point in the year 1969 when no woman got chosen. Many Assembly Elections have been held but the number of women legislators could never handle twice digits in the Punjab legislature previous to 2012 elections. The last Assembly Elections in Punjab were held in 2012 when 16 women were elected as MLA’s. Even this representation of women was not balanced to the total population of women in Punjab. Even in Punjab from 1967 to 2012 only 10 women have in custody deferent situations in Council of Ministers. As far representation of woman in Rajya Sabha is concerned, Out of 13 seats only one women representative has been
to the Rajya Sabha from the state. In Punjab, sex ratio of women comes at 895 against 1000 men as per 2011 census report. The national ranking of Punjab in terms of sex ratio is 27th position.\textsuperscript{23} According to 2011 census report, Male literacy rate is 80.4 percent and Female literacy rate is 70.7 percent in Punjab, comparatively less than male counterpart. Thus, above facts show that, in Punjab, the Political participation level of women is not much satisfactory.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

In order to have a better understanding of the problem it is always helpful to review the existing literature to the problem of research project under study. A lot of work has been done on political participation of women in India and out of the country. The main among these works are:

Barbara J. Nelson in her *Women and Politics World Wide*\textsuperscript{24} analyses the complexities of women’s participation on the irritated national scale and from the feminist perspective surveys 43 countries chosen to represent a diversity of political system, level of economic growth and regions. The research absolutely demonstrates that no country do women have political status, assess or influence equal to that enjoyed by men.

Ranjana Kumari and Anju Dubey in *Women Parliamentarians*\textsuperscript{25} try to analyze the role and involvement of women parliamentarians in two different but related arenas of the political process: that is the parliament and the political party. It focuses on four levels: personal, electoral (party politics and not voting behavior), parliamentary and grassroots. A socio-economic outline of women parliamentarians is drawn up basically to explore who the women parliamentarians are and the impediments and support systems that either hinder or facilitate

\textsuperscript{23} Census of India, 2011.
their entry into politics. The study also analysis the role of women parliamentarians in their own party organizations and forums, responsibilities and leadership roles, their participation in election campaigns, in strategy formation etc. the work also deliberates on women political participation in parliament and their position.

Susheela Kushik’s *Women participation in politics* is anxiety itself the participation of women in the political formal political institutions. Such a participation is very much a state and indication of women’s own present powers and status; it is also a obligation for influencing Direct and visible participation helps to increase the freedom of the social group and the accelerate the pace of its advancement. The lack of enough participation of women in politics and the decision making levels are themselves the consequences of their poor social and domestic status and their exclusion from certain place and level of power.

Kiran Saksena in her *Women and Politics* highlights factors for the subordinate position of women in politics and some of the factors that imprison women to reach the top arc block. She declare lack of support by family and male counterparts, incomplete access to information, restricted access to training, fear of achievement, marriage, motherhood preordination of the family over vocation and stereotyped insight etc. as the main factors. The author reveals that women all over the world are not satisfied with this situation and exploring the ways to came out from this imposes.

Kapana Roy in her *Women in Indian Politics* thrown light on three major issues which insist concern women’s gross under representation in government, the in notice to women in the development process and violence against women. The author states that under representation of women in political arena in worldwide

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phenomena. It implies that they are being discriminated all over the world. She tries to find out the reasons for this sad situation and unfolds that the political parties are responsible for this sort of sad state of affair. She blames political parties for neglecting their duties to assemble to give political education to women and also for their crash of nominates more female candidates. She observes that the male leaders do not want women folk to join normal of the nation.

Ansari 2006 focused on Muslim representation in Lok Sabha and 12 sate familiar from 1952-2004 in his study political representation of Muslims in India 1952-2204. He tried to identify the outline of success and failure visible from the analysis of data in constant and variables. The study comes to wide conclusion that initially Muslim under representation was caused by be short of of political will of Indian National congress during three electrons of first decade (1952-1962) to construct strong conservation for the due nomination of Muslim candidates.

The Empowerment of Muslim in India: Perspective, Context and Prerequisites in a vital exercise on the empowerment of Muslims by Momin (2004). It also focuses for creating an surroundings which may definitely help the empowerment of marginalized communities.

Ghosh (9187) in his study Muslim Politics in India presents a depressing picture of ongoing activities of Muslims including population rise, decline to polygamy and birth control and sensitive issues particularly after independence.

Muslim politics in the Punjab is a pioneer study in the evolution of Muslim politics in the pre separated Punjab by Rakkar (1985). It

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29 Iqbal Ahmed Ansari, Political Representation of Muslim in India 1952-2004, Kanishka Publisher Distributors, New Delhi, 2002.
importance that the advent of the Punjab Muslims in the politics of the region was not due to British Policy of Divide and Rule but was the effect of new spirit of communal consciousness in the community.

Basant(2007) in this paper Social, economic and Educational Conditions of India Muslim's gives explanation of the social economic and educational condition of Muslims throughout the country.

Dalip Singh’s Dynamics of Punjab Politics (1981) is the study of the history and the various social- political and economic developments in Punjab since 1966 and also analyses the elections and electoral politics in Punjab covering the era between (1952-1980)

A.S.Narang in his work Punjab Accord and Election: Retrospect and Prospect (1986) examines the assembly elections of 1985 in the circumstance of Punjab accord and also it outcome. It also deals with some other variables in the politics of Punjab. Narang has also written on the 1992 Punjab Assembly Elections. His Article “Punjab Elections 1992 Meaning and Trends” deals with a few essential issues of the Punjab problem and the outcome of the 1992 elections. According to Narang (i) the thump of militants command was much more extensive than the authorities would have the world believe: (II) The intra – communal unity had grown considerably in Punjab and finally through the congress had a record presentation its social base had narrowed. It is helpful but not an elaborate study.

Iqbal Naraian and Pande’s Election studies in India: An Evaluation (1978) is a select exercise in evaluating the information on the election and voting behavior studies conducted in India since the first election.

Myoon Weiner and John O. fields (eds) Electoral Politics in the Indian States reveals a number of important characteristics of the

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34 Dalip Singh, Dynamic of Punjab Politics, Macmillian, New Delhi, 1981.
Indian party System and electoral behavior at the states of India.

R.L Gupta in *Electoral Politics in Punjab* (1985) has deals with the voting behavior with particular reference to parliamentary election of 1984 and the 1985 to Punjab State Legislature Assembly.

Paul R. Brass’s *Language, regional and politics in North India* (1975) is mainly the study of language politics and their connection with religious identity and analysis of these politicians on more than a few issues of political and economic developments in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Paul Wallace and Surinder Chopra (ed.) *Political Dynamics and Crisis in Punjab* is a study of current Punjab. The relationship between religion and politics in exacting is described and analyzed from a diversity of perspectives. The book contains research papers on the Akali Dal, Sikh religion and educational bodies such as Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak committee and the chief Khalsa Dewan as well as on electoral politics. Other papers deal with the politics of Punjabi Lower Castes Muslim elites Malerkotla and CPI Leadership and its view of the Trade Union Activity in Punjab.

Apart from the books some very useful studies are available in the form of research articles “Changing Support base of Congress Party” has tinted the changing support base of congress Party in Punjab during 1952-80 with special orientation to the emergence of religious consciousness and Punjab’s socioeconomic structure P.S Verma’s two very important articles appeared in Economics and Political Weekly regarding revival of political activity and electoral process in Punjab which examine the active of electoral politics in the two Assembly

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Constituency in May 1993 against the backdrop of economics which have take place there. Second article by P.S. Verma deals with Zila Parished and Panchayat Samiti Election in Punjab. This also highlights the start of the process of Akali Unity.

Noorani (2002) in a documentary The Muslim in India presents significant documents recording reaction of Muslim in the period following independence and the partition of India. Besides enter political developments, documents such as Hindu revivalism and Muslim responses, the Babri Masjid question, the Supreme Court’s ruling on the Shah Bano case, Rajiv Gandhi’s deliberations with Muslim leaders and the issue of personal law has also been highlighted in post independence policy and society.

Pamela Singh’s Women’s Participation in Panchayati Raj has a center which looks into the issue of women participation in PRIs in the north Indian state of Haryana which is characterized by an disturbing sex ratio in favor of men. The divider is studied not only from the angle of elected women members themselves but also the elected men members as far as attending the Gram Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parished meetings in worried.

Savita Thakur Joshi’s work women and development: The Changing Scenario takes into explanation the demographic, educational, economic, social and political indicators current in the rural economy under study. In this hiss the status of women in the rural economy has been empirically viewed under the prevailing demographic, health, educational, economical, social and political situations which provides on imminent to planners, policy makers, academicians and researchers about the grassroots realties prevailing in the rural economy of our country and intended development for growth with special justice.

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Vibhuti Patel in her *Women’s Challenges of new Millennium*\(^{45}\) tries to answer significant questions raised by the social movements of the 20\(^{th}\) century and challenges brought about by the huge changes due to globalization in the 21\(^{st}\) century. At the stage when the secular fabric of our country is threatened due to xenophobia, Patel argues women’s predicament will be terrible unless both, the state and the civil society take assenting action to safeguard women’s interest. The study makes efforts to provide instructions in this line. It tries to contextualization women’s endurance struggles in the political economy perspective and offers word view and analytical dream for engendering each and every area of human existence.

Sarojini Vats in her *Women’s Participation in rural development*\(^{46}\) observes that women’s participation and empowerment have become the keywords with development policies. After the 73\(^{rd}\) Constitutional Amendments Act 33 percent reservation for women has been ensured in the Panchayati Raj institutions where by enabling them to get elected to the PRIs has greater than before their participation on papers. But the author raises the essential question whether this kind of participation empowers them? Are they able to play an effectual role in decision making. On the basis of empirical study and other sources available he author has tried to answer this question.

Arvind Sharma’s *Religion and women*\(^{47}\) try to inform us participation of women in the Akali Movement the fate Sikh women cantered primarily around the Akali’s who believed trust without political power.

Gobinder Singh’s work *Religion and Politics in the Punjab*\(^{48}\) has a focus on the self-denial of the Sikh women from active participation in


the Gurudwara administration may be quality high level of literacy. Even in political bodies like Lok Sabha and Punjab Vidhan Sabha the proportion of women.

Bhawna Jharta in her book, “Women and Politics in India: Impact of family and Education on Women Political Activists”\(^49\) has discussed the altering role and position of women in society. It traces the status of women in the family and society, marriage system, education, status of operational women, women in labor force, etc. A good deal of notice has been devoted to the study of the social and economic position of women but very small attention has been paid to role of women in politics and the changing situation of their participation in politics.

Chitrasen (ed.) in his book, “Violence against Women and Human Right”\(^50\) has analyzed various types of crimes committed alongside women in the society. It also defines various legal events for improving the status of women.

Hajira Kumar and Jaimon Varghese's in their work, “Women’s Empowerment Issues, Challenges and Strategies”\(^51\) have analyzed that the actual empowerment of women can be probable only when they get equal status like their male counterparts in this world. There is a considerable difference in the opportunities obtainable to both men and women. They have viewed that gender issues are graver than the developmental issues. There are number of challenges in the social, political and economic situation that woman has to face in establishing their rights and equality. Strategies are formulated and are being implemented by the state governments, International agencies, and the civil society at great, to repair a gender sensitive world.


\(^{50}\) Chitrasen (Ed.), *Violence against Women and Human Right*, Alfa Publications, New Delhi, 2006.

H.C. Upadhayay in her book, “Status of Women in India”\textsuperscript{52} has seriously examined all the issues related to women and development. The author has tried to explain the major role of women towards the country’s socio-economic development.

In his book, “Women and Empowerment”\textsuperscript{53} Jaya Kothi Pillai said that empowerment is a lively multi dimensional process, which enables the women to understand their full identity and powers in all spheres of life. And this power has to be acquired and once acquired; it wants to be exercised, sustained and potted. Women have to empower themselves. It traces the fact that they have to know the causes of the existing inequality of women in all sectors — economic, social, political, education, and take the plan to change their status.

K. Uma Devi, in her book “Women’s Equality in India a Myth reality”\textsuperscript{54} has focused on the different problems of discrimination against female agricultural labourers in the light of their general status. The status of women implies women’s position in exacting sub system of society. This book covers most of the aspects connecting to women’s status.

Manju Verma in her book, “The Role of Women in the Freedom Movement in Punjab”\textsuperscript{55} has made an effort to review the role of women of Punjab in the freedom movement of India during the years 1919-47. This book is a logical study of the role of Punjabi women in all phases of Satyagraha launched by Gandhi to achieve India’s freedom. An effort has also been made to bring into attention even the most unknown women freedom fighters of Punjab.

Mira Seth’s book, “Women Development (The Indian Experience)”,\textsuperscript{56} provides information on women’s issues. She also discusses the labors made to go faster women’s development since independence.

Neelu Kang in her book, “Indian Women Activists”\(^{57}\), has provided a sociological analysis of activism concentrating mostly on social backgrounds, value orientations and activities of women activists, pertaining to women’s question. The author has given suggestions for the state policy to hoist women’s status and for further research in this field. This book includes materials concerning the First, Second and Third Worlds, as well as historical and modern case studies.

Niranjna in her book, “Status of Women and Family Welfare”\(^{58}\) revolves approximately two objectives. First, it seems to understand social status of women second since the status of women and fertility behavior have a social and cultural circumstance, it attempts at analyzing the connected social-cultural values affecting women’s life in and outside home along with other issues explored be relevant to women’s work participation and identity, women’s autonomy in decision-making with stare to their own lives, particularly in the selection of mate, solemnization of their marriage, manner of children and their access to family property and capital. In the context of fertility behavior, it examines the nature and kind of marriages, nature of child bearing practices, social and cultural norms governing the family size and sex preferences, general stage of knowledge and family setting up practices and the socio-economic correlates of fertility behavior.

Sushila Aggarwal in her book, “Status of Women”\(^{59}\) has tried to discover the changing status of women in India and Canada with reference to the social, legal and educational aspects. It seeks to quarrel constitutional and legal provisions in India in the situation of social reality, interpretation of religious texts from social viewpoint and role of educational counselors in raising consciousness and in providing girls and boys’ ability to effect alter in perception about the role of women and men in society.

Sushma Sahay in her book, “Women and Empowerment Approaches and Strategies”\(^{60}\) deals with the idea and framework for women’s empowerment. The author has discussed the different approaches and strategies for empowering women by exactness the mechanisms and gear which women are using for their empowerment.

Usha Sharma’s book, “Women’s Emancipation Rights and Population Control”\(^{61}\) deals with the notion of empowerment. It expressed that empowerment is held to be a cure-all for social evils; like high population growth rates, environmental squalor and the low status of women among others. Women empowerment is based on the basis that it is an enabling condition for reproductive rights. The nature and priorities of the women empowerment procedure are shaped by the historical, political, social and economic conditions.

Jane Arnold Lincove’s research article, “Efficiency, Equity and Girls’ Education”\(^{62}\) has analyses World Bank strategies for education in the circumstance of gender equity. Developing countries face the confront of expanding education with limited resources. At the same time, promoting gender equity is very important in achieving basic development goals. Appropriate governance strategies are needed to give education in a way that is cost-effective and inclusive. Privatization, decentralization and citizen participation are three strategies that are promoted by the World Bank to control expenses and improve transparency in education. Intended to promote efficiency, these strategies can damage equity. This study compares World Bank strategies to established affective programs in girls’ education. Empirical analysis reveals that while many World Bank projects include effective strategies for girl’s education, governance reforms usually do

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not promote awareness of gender insinuation for expansion of girl’s education are discussed.

M. Veinkates Warlu’ in her article, “Women Empowerment-A Perspective” explains the position of women in past and present and the crash of welfare programmers and reforms on women. A big number of Women continue to jump by traditional practices and conventions and fail to understand that these have become obsolete and are an obstruction to progress and the need of the hour is to carry out the nationwide program of education that will bring home the realization that freedom cannot be won by anybody section, or people as a whole as extended as women are kept in bondage.

Nilika Mehrotra’s paper, “Perceiving Feminism Some Local Responses” explores the responses of some women’s groups and women activists based in Delhi, during the late 1980s, to the notion of feminism. It attempts to know how middle-class women and grass root level women express their needs, aspirations and program in the context of women’s movement in India. The focus here is on their differential responses and how these can be beached in the contexts based on caste, class, age, and political contact and affiliations. These differences are reflected in the interpersonal behavior of women activists and get translated into the method they understand women’s issues and develop strategies to resolve them. Such an understanding is crucial for structure a theory of women’s movement in India.

Rupinder Kaur, in her present paper, “Gender and Social Analysis of Dairy Farming: A Case study of Punjab” makes an effort to count the extent of women’s contribution in dairy farming in Punjab. The study also investigates the women’s access to and control over capital along with the role of different organizations, associated with the milk

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producers, in distribution of information and technology and provision of inputs along with their impact on intra-household reimbursement. For the analysis, household data were composed from 200 households of four villages.

Rupinder Kaur’s article, “Female Work Participation: Caste, Class and Gender Analysis in Rural Indian Punjab”\textsuperscript{66} is an analyses to the amount of female labour involvement in productive as well as reproductive work in rural Punjab. Female work participation of women has been analyzed in a socio-economic and regional viewpoint. The present study suggests that official statistics underestimate women’s payment in Punjab’s agrarian structure. The process of agricultural development in Punjab more led to women becoming ‘invisible’ in the so-called ‘productive’ work in the agricultural sector. The total work load of women is, however, increasing because of increase in domestic work within the household.

Sandhya Rani Das in her article, “Empowerment of Women: A Holistic Approach”\textsuperscript{67} has discussed main reasons for the persistent low status of women in India. She has given parameters for their empowerment. She additional argued that a holistic approach is needed for ensuring the social, economic, political, cultural development of women in India.

Yashpal Kaur in her article, “What Rights Does A Sikh Women Have Today?”\textsuperscript{68} While delineation the rights of a Sikh woman, stresses that she is equal to man. She has religious rights. She has independence. But apologetic to say so, these basic rights are denied to many women today. In some cases, even before a girl is born she is killed by abortion because of a wish for a male child. Upon birth, many relatives are not even knowledgeable for days that a daughter has taken

\textsuperscript{66} Rupinder Kaur, “Female Work Participation: caste, Class and Gender Analysis in Rural Indian Punjab”, \textit{International Journal of Punjab Studies}, New Delhi, 1996.
birth. But, in the same family, if a son is born, everyone comes to know within seconds.

Evelin hust (2004)\(^6^9\) in the book Women’s Political Representation and Empowerment in India tries to imprison the female and male sentiment on women’s acquired presence in local politics in India after the introduction of 73\(^{rd}\) Amendment to the Indian Constitution in 1992. Traditionally, politics in Indian villages has been an select male affaire and women had barely any presence in public affairs, but this situation seems to has been frequently labeled as a ‘developing’ or ‘backward state in esteem of status of women, is at the forefront with look upon to the inclusion of women into the institutional political process. But practically, without hesitation, women in the rural areas in most Indian states face challenging obstacles in the of performing in politics owing to structural discrimination, and this culturally intended separation of the male and female world has efficiently debarred most women from becoming politically active.

After having reviewed the available literature on the themes connected with the research problem, it may be stated that a lot of literature is available on women issues. Some good studies are available on the violation of women rights. But as far as the State of Punjab is concerned, there is scarcity of systematic study on violation of women rights. This present study is a humble attempt to take away the aforesaid paucity and conduct a systematic and comprehensive study on the violation of women rights in Punjab since 1990.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Political Participation is a vital part of the democratic system. The issue of women’s political participation is the majority significant and contentious issues at national and international level. After independence, India becomes a Democratic, Republican, Secular,
Sovereign and Socialist state. It provided all types of parity and freedom to all sections of society. Women being the 2nd vast group of society need to stand for it. The representation of the women in the political scheme of the country has its foundation in the constitutional freedom settled to every citizen. All though, in the Indian constitutional women have been accorded equal place, yet there is broad gap between constitutional status decided to women and actual position of women in society.

Punjab is an economically rich and Sikhs conquered state. Guru Nanak Dev ji, the creator of Sikhism laid importance on the women equality. As per as socio-economic and political participation of women in Punjab is concerned, they are motionless accorded position which is significantly secondary and inferior to men. In Punjab there is very little number in who participate in politics.

The heart of the study is on the Sikh and Muslim women which belong to alternative religions in India. The Present study is restricted to Malerkotla constituency which is the only Muslim majority constituency in Punjab. Various studies have been conducted associated to political participation of women grass root level, national level and international level but no real study has been done in so distant analysis the level of Sikh and Muslim women in Malerkotla constituency. Therefore, this gap this study has been taken up to overpass the gap.

**SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

There are 117 assembly constituencies in the efficient Punjab which came into being on 1st November 1966. Each constituency has its own natural world and features. The Present study involves the study of Malerkotla Assembly constituency which consists of Malerkotla town and 56 villages. The study is focused on political participation of Sikh and Muslim women. However, it is the only constituency of Punjab where Muslims constitute the lone major group of population. Speaking religion-wise, the Muslims constitute 68.50 percent of the whole electorate in the constituency as the Sikhs and the Hindus constitute
9.50 percent and 20.71 percent of the entirety electorates, respectively. At the time of previous Lok Sabha elections, Malerkotla constituency had 135,424 electorates. Out of these 71,376 were men and 64,048 were women. The statistics of Males and Females indicate that like most of the other constituencies of Punjab, in Malerkotla too men voters outnumber the women voters. A sample of 300 women respondents has been taken. The respondent as of the both (Muslims and Sikhs community women) belongs to rural and urban areas. The present work aims to take out an in detail study of the political participation of Sikh and Muslim women. Study also focuses upon the challenges being faced by women through political participation in the present set up.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of the study are as under:

1. To study the theoretical perspective of the political participation.
2. To over-view the socio-political and economic profile of Malerkotla Constituency segment.
3. To examine the level of Political Participation of Sikh and Muslim women of Malerkotla Constituency.
4. To ascertain the pattern of participation of Sikh and Muslim women segments of Malerkotla Constituency.
5. To study the level of political awareness of Sikh and Muslim women segments of Malerkotla Constituency.
6. To make a comparison of the political participation of Sikh and Muslim women segments of Malerkotla constituency.
7. To explore the possibility of exclusive existence of organizations of Sikh and Muslim women in Malerkotla constituency.

**HYPOTHESIS**

The following hypotheses have been formulated to make the present study.

1. The level of Political participation of Muslim Women is lower than the Sikh Women in Malerkotla constituency.
2. Their (Muslim and Sikh Women of MalerKotla Constituency) political participation is simply confined to casting votes and are not involved in the other types of Political Participation.

3. As per as the level of political awareness is concerned. Muslim women have lower level of awareness as compared to the Sikh women.

4. There are very few organizations exclusively for women which are active in MalerKotla Constituency.

5. Cultural backwardness, conservative thinking, lack of education are the reasons for low Political Participation of Muslim and Sikh women.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Research is always carried out with assist of proper and well definite methodology. In order to whole the research work, many methods and techniques have been used such as study and examine of historical sources, questionnaire-cum-interview schedule technique, field survey and utilization of study methods. Historical method is used primarily for detailed study of the status of women in the past in Malerkotla constituency. Field survey and questionnaire methods have been used to assemble the data. Analytical way has been used for the analysis of data.

For the reason of the study, a total sample of 300 women respondents has been chosen on the basis of random sampling from Malerkotla constituency. Out of the whole sample of 300 respondents, 150 are from Sikh women and 150 are from Muslim women. Both the Sikh and Muslim women respondents are additional separated into two groups i.e., 75 are from rural areas and 75 are from urban areas. From the selected sample, the data has been together through questionnaire-cum-interview schedule method. A exhaustive questionnaire consisting of close and open ended questions has been ready keeping the main objectives in view. Observation method has also been engaged in order to land at the facts which sometimes, respondents may seek to hide.
The questionnaire was arranged bilingual in both English and Punjabi languages for the ease of the respondents.

The present study has been complete with the help of both the primary and the secondary sources. The primary data has been collected from the field with the assist of structured questionnaire. The primary sources also comprise the text of the census, whereas secondary data has been collected from pertinent books, journals, articles, encyclopedias, dictionaries and newspapers etc. After the collection of data from the beyond sources, it was systematically compiled, analyzed and tabulated.

**CHAPTERIZATION**

The present study has been portioned into 6 chapters.

**Chapter – I: Introduction**

The first chapter is entitled “Introduction” which deals with different theories of political participation, their significance, and statement of the problem. It also explains the objectives, hypothesis, methodology adopted for the study.

**Chapter – II: Status of women: A Historical Perspective**

This chapter contains an overview of the status of women in India. It explains the changing status of women in India. It analyzes the situation of women from early period to present period.

**Chapter – III: Women in Punjab**

This chapter gives an overview of women in Punjab. It describes the socio-economic and political profile of women in Punjab and examines the rank of Political Participation of women of Punjab.

**Chapter – IV: Profile of Malerkotla and Socio-economic Profile of Respondents.**

This chapter describes the profile of Malerkotla’s constituency and examines the socio-economic status of the women respondents.

**Chapter – V: Political Participation of Women in Malerkotla Constituency**
This chapter describes the perception and viewpoint of the women respondents towards political participation and what are hurdles in their way towards Political Participation.

**Chapter – VI: Conclusion and Suggestions**

This is the last chapter of the study which summarizes the findings of the study. It also comprises some suggestions to develop political participation of women and removing the obstacles in the way.