

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**An autonomous research institute supported by the
Indian Council of Social Science Research**

Concept note/Call for papers

Women and Political Participation

The gap in women's political participation persists despite a rise in women's presence in representative institutions and a rising number of women voters. Women's representation and political participation is yet to be realized in an appreciable measure. The gender gap in politics is a deficit that in turn impacts the substance, practice and outcome of democracy. Studies on women and politics suggest that a greater numerical presence in national parliaments, and state legislative or local governance bodies is a necessary yet not a sufficient condition to ensure women's political participation.

While democracy and the principle of equality are assumed to secure the interests of all citizens, especially women, in practice democracy may not necessarily ensure the representation of women's needs or interest. The normative conflation between 'women's political equality' and women's numerical parity with men in representative bodies has tended to draw attention away from the inequalities among women - especially those related to caste, class, ethnicity, identity, region, etc. It mandates greater attention to the structures and discursive practices of discrimination and exclusion that continue to influence women's participation in politics, political representation and public life in modern India.

Finally, although there has been a rise in women's numerical representation in political institutions, women in general and women from disadvantaged/marginal social groups in particular, remain under represented in political institutions and denied access to equal citizenship rights. How can the needs and demands of women from marginal locations and/or those excluded from political representation be addressed? These are among the questions to be addressed by the panelists.

We invite abstracts of up to 300 words from a wide range of disciplines, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and locations on topics including but not limited to:

Subthemes

1. Women's Struggles for Political Participation
2. Women, Political Parties and Gender Politics
3. Socio-cultural impediments to Women's Political Participation
4. Women in Parliament and State Assemblies
5. Debate on Reserved Quotas for Women
6. Women's Reservation Bill
7. Understanding Women's Voting behavior across States
8. Ways Forward: Systemic or Strategic Change?

Submission Details:

Abstracts can be emailed to:

teconfsubtheme-politicalparticipation@cwds.ac.in

Important Dates:

- **Abstract Submission Deadline: 10.12.2024**
- **Notification of Acceptance: 20.12.2024**
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline: 31.01.2025**