



Gender and Political Parties in India: Pathways to Women's Political Participation- Insights from West Bengal

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Introduction:

- ▶ The rise of India as a global player has entailed greater international focus on its socio-economic indicators.
- ▶ Scope of study- The institutional culture(s) of the significant political parties in the state of West Bengal by engaging with the discursive strategies through which these parties construct and represent women recruits.
- ▶ Bengal as a site for the play of oft-competing discourses representing women in politics.



Review of Literature:

The existing Western scholarship has been primarily concerned with:

- Women's representation in parliamentary politics.
- Recruitment of women by political parties.

In South Asia, the corpus of literature has broadly focused on:

- The autonomous women's movement.
- Impact of gender quotas in local self-governance.

The thesis seeks to address the gap in the existing literature by engaging with the internalised discourses and practices through which political parties represent women in India.

Research Questions:

- How do political parties in West Bengal function as gendered cultural institutions?
- How are the dominant discursive representations of women reproduced within each political party?
- What would be the nature of the subjects?
- Are these representations subverted and/or reframed?
- Policy Implications.

Research Method:

- ▶ The Althusserian frame of the ideological construction of subjects.
- ▶ Qualitative Interpretive method; combining narrative analysis through interviewing and document analysis.
- ▶ Semi-structured interviewing and Participant Observation.
- ▶ Document analysis.



THANK YOU