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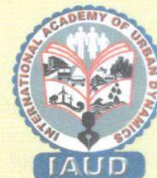


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## Men and Women in PRI: a comparative study of elected PRI members of upper two tiers of Rohtak district of Haryana in India

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*anupama kaushik*

### Introduction

The modern age is the age of democracy and successful functioning of democracy pre-supposes active participation of both men and women in the political process. In India, common men and women entered the political process in the early decades of the twentieth century. In 1905 when the British partitioned the province of Bengal, women joined men in protesting this decision by boycotting foreign goods and buying swadeshi goods. In 1907 under the Montague-Chelmsford reforms some women obtained voting rights. Radha Bai Subharya, Renuka Roy, Annu Swaminathan were the earliest women who got into the central legislature. Rasthriya Stri Sabha -Bombay 1920, Mahila Rashtriya Sangh -Bangal 1928 and Nari Satyagraha Samiti -Calcutta 1929 mobilized women for political work. The mass movement led by Mahatma Gandhi drew men and women into the vortex of the freedom

struggle. The participation of men and women in these movements was not limited to the urban, educated, elite men and women but included thousands of ordinary, poor, rural men and women. Some women political leaders like Sarojini Naidu, Durgabai Deshmukh, Renuka Roy and Hansa Mehta were very articulate and aware and became members of the Constituent Assembly.

The Constitution of free India gave women equal rights to participate in politics such as the right to vote and the right to get elected. This enabled some Indian women to reach up to the highest position of legislators, ministers, CM, party chiefs, governors, ambassadors, PM and President. However, in comparison to men, the participation and representation of women in law making and law implementing bodies has been very poor. Moreover, women's movement in India has been struggling with their demands for reservation in parliament