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A PUBLIC OPINION ON IMPACT OF WOMEN RESERVATION IN TAMILNADU

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Abstract

It is becoming increasingly clear that the questions thrown up by the timing of the Women's Reservation Bill and the responses to it cannot be understood solely within the framework of women's rights. This paper argues that two very different (even opposed) sets of concerns – feminist and upper caste – have tied in at this particular conjuncture to produce the sudden general acceptability of women's reservations. Further, the debates around the Bill reveal a more fundamental set of questions about the issues of citizenship, representation, and the subject of feminist politics. In 1992, India's Parliament enacted two constitutional amendments that sought to democratise local governance and engender it through quota-based reservations for women. This article asks whether participation in these institutions has enabled women to articulate and advance their interests. To evaluate this, the article deploys the distinction in feminist literature between strategic and practical gender interests. Through a survey of a wide range of studies conducted in different parts of India it points to the constraints, both of institutional design as well as of social inequalities of gender and caste, that inhibit a fuller and more effective participation by women. There is nevertheless evidence to suggest that the quotas have enabled women to address their practical gender needs and interests, even if the articulation and realisation of strategic interests is moving at a somewhat slower pace. The Women Reservation Bill, which proposes to reserve 33% seats in the national and state legislatures for women, has been tabled recently in the Indian Parliament. There has been national debate on the merits and demerits of the reservation of seats for women in the central state legislative assemblies in India. In the present paper, merits of quota system v/ non-quota system and critical mass theory with reference to representation of women in legislature are discussed. Furthermore, it summarises the influence of increase in the number of women legislators, on the character of parliament and subsequent changes in government policies in other countries. It is argued on the basis of experiences from other countries and local bodies in India that even if the public face of politics becomes feminised, without changing the political culture and the substantive policy agenda.

KEYWORDS – Women Reservation Policy, Political Representation, Electoral Quotas, Public Perception, Gender Equality, Women Empowerment

INTRODUCTION

Women often face barriers to their effective participation in the electoral process as voters, candidates, journalists, electoral administrators or civil society representatives, among other capacities. Their participation rights are frequently undermined by cultural expectations and social norms, exclusion from male-

dominated decision-making platforms, lack of financial resources, restricted access to information and knowledge, discrimination and widespread violence. Throughout the electoral cycle, a wide range of stakeholders can commit to promote gender equality and women's participation in their respective action fields, including political parties, electoral management bodies (EMBs), civil society,

election observers, the media, international electoral assistance providers and many others. This topic area analyses obstacles to women's political participation, as well as strategies implemented by relevant stakeholders to promote gender equality throughout the electoral process. Despite lack of data in many areas, evidence shows that women are under-represented at all levels in politics and decision-making. Women's participation in national parliaments has increased across the globe in the last years, going from 13.8 percent in 2000 to 24.3 percent in 2019. In spite of this progress, there is still a long way to go to achieve gender equality in political representation and effective participation of all men and women in the electoral process. While the second half of the 20th century has witnessed an increased presence of women in leadership positions, the raw numbers present a disturbing picture, with women continuing to be severely underrepresented. When given the opportunity, women leaders often make different policy decisions. Women's reservation in various aspects of society, such as politics and corporate boards, has had a significant impact. It aims to address historical gender imbalances and promote gender equality. Some key impacts include: Political Empowerment: Women's reservation in politics, through mechanisms like reserved seats in legislatures, has led to increased representation of women in decision-making roles. This has empowered women to actively participate in shaping policies and laws that affect their lives. Social Change: Reservation policies have helped challenge traditional gender roles and stereotypes. They've encouraged more women to pursue leadership roles, inspiring others and gradually shifting societal attitudes toward gender equality. Economic Growth: In corporate settings, having more women on boards and in executive positions has been linked to improved corporate performance and innovation. Diverse leadership teams often bring a broader range of perspectives, leading to better decision-making. Legal Protections: Women's reservation

often comes with legal safeguards against gender-based discrimination. This can create a safer environment for women to work and participate in politics without fear of bias or harassment. Role Models: Increased visibility of women in leadership positions serves as role models for younger generations, encouraging them to aim higher and break through barriers. Challenges and Controversies: However, women's reservation policies can also face challenges and controversies, including concerns about tokenism, backlash, and debates about the most effective methods for achieving gender parity. Factors affecting women reservations Gender discrimination, violence against women, and unequal pay continue to be major issues. Female foeticide and infanticide, particularly in rural areas, remain a significant concern. Women's safety and security are also a significant issue, with many incidents of sexual harassment and assault reported each year. **Government initiatives** The Women's Reservation Bill proposes to reserve 33% of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women. Reserved seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in the state or union territory. **Factors affecting** Gender discrimination in all spheres of activity should be checked. Women should be given due respect and status which they rightfully deserve in society to achieve their destiny. They should be provided an opportunity to take an active part in decision making at all levels and management processes for the achievement of the goal of empowerment. Steps for implementation of Women Development Programme and various Acts: Action based training programmes at village in vocational and entrepreneurship development programmes should be organised to make women self employed by increasing their efficiency and capabilities in decision making. Female foeticide and infanticide should be checked by banning the sex determination of unborn child through the Regulation and prevention of Misuse Act 1994 and PNT ACT (Pre-

natal Diagnostic Techniques Act) other enactments relating to marriage, divorce, adoption, succession, dowry and moral protection or protection against sexual harassment should be implemented for the emancipation of women. current trend These recommendations paved the way for the historic enactment of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution which mandate all State governments to reserve one-third of the seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions and one-third of the offices of the chairperson at all levels of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, and in urban local bodies, respectively. Within these seats, one-third are reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe women

Objective

- To analysis the public opinion on women's reservation has impacted the overall quality of governance and policy outcomes
- To examine the impacts of women reservation in Tamil Nadu
- To find correlation between educational qualification and has women's positively reservation impact women's representation in politics

LITERATURE REVIEW:

ARCHANA GOSH (2010), focused on those who are marginalised and denied access to social, economic and political resources and in the last few decades there has been a major policy change in developing countries to allow a greater role for women in public office. To put in "when the democratic process prevails, women in public office give meaning to the representative nature of democracy and institutionalise and legitimise women's voice in the seats of power. **JALPA MAHERIYA(2020)**, studied about how the womens have created various developments, on how womens are treated as subordinate to men. One of the foremost necessary steps during this is the 50% reservation of girls in all areas. The study aims

to grasp women's actual participation in native autonomy and the way reservation has helped them in it. **TOPU CHOUDARY(2020)**, discussed about the political rights of women and their place in decision making processes are at the forefront of most of the countries of the world. Undeniably women possess the capacity and quality of leading the society in the right and developmental path, if given a chance. The concept of women empowerment has become a centre point in the larger political scenario. **NEEMA KUDVA(2003)**, studies about the elections through the quotas is a crucial component of strategies that seek to empower women through increased participation in the political system. Also studied about the capacity to change, to the cultivation of power and solidarity within the community of women to confront their obstacles. **NIBEDITA PHUKAN (2018)**, studied the 73rd Amendment, one of the landmark judgments which brought many women into Indian rural governance processes. It heralded a new era in decentralised governance processes in India by bringing women into

positions of decision-making and power in local grassroots level governance. **JENNY GLEISNER(2007)**, studied about The purpose of the thesis is to present how twelve women from different segments of society define democracy and how they experience democracy in their daily life. Through meetings and interviews I wanted to learn what these women consider democracy in India to be, how they recognise democracy and rights associated with democracy in their daily lives and how they reflect upon gender equality in relation to democracy. **DR.K.BARATHIRAJA(2022)**, studied the Perspective Plan for Women' and it outlined policy directions and new administrative structures for the development of women. Indian history as well as world history signify and document the gradual development of women empowerment, especially, their political empowerment during various periods. Even though various social security legislations have been enacted to protect the socio-economic

and political rights of women, in reality, they fail to give safeguard mechanisms for the marginal people. Moreover, the participation of women in Indian electoral politics and power politics in India, for the last 65 years is very negligible due to many factors. **DHRUV BHATT(2015)**, studied that In any society women population is close to half of the total population. For ages, no matter to which nation they belong, women in general have been suffering from agony, distress, discrimination & apathy. Women tend to be confined with domestic chores and restrict women participation and decision making in the private sphere of life. They turn out to no one but their own family, friends and fellow humans. **S.IRUDAYA RAJAN(2005)**, studies about the UPA government have suggested a new bill to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures and reserve 33 percent of them for women. **SUMAN OJHA(2009)**, studied about the policy of reservation of seats for a particular section of the society in legislative bodies is well known and much disputed in Indian politics. The Women Reservation Bill, which proposes to reserve 33% seats in the national and state legislative bodies for women, is still under consideration of the Indian Parliament. **KLAUS DEININGER(2014)**, studied the impacts of political quotas for females at household level, differential effects on males and females and their evolution through time have received little attention. Using nationwide data from India spanning a 15-year period, we find that, while leader quality declines, gender quotas increase the level and quality of women's political participation, their ability to hold leaders to account, and their willingness to contribute to public goods. **JAN PRIEBE (2017)**, studied about the impact of political reservation for women on political participation and empowerment of women living in areas where gender quotas are mandated. Following the 1992 passage of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in India, one-third of village government head positions are reserved for women. **SINTAYEHU HAILU ALEMU(2018)**, studied the impact of self-help groups (SHGs) in apple

production on empowering women in the Chenchu district of Southern Ethiopia. Impact is traced on the basis of a cross-sectional survey among SHG members and nonmembers, using propensity score matching. **ACHARYA(2007)**, studies about the community development strategy to empower rural women through educational and small scale household economic activities. Also about how the women participated in the local body elections with their skills. **FITSUM W. BAYISSA(2017)**, studied promoting women's empowerment and focused on the economic dimension. Economic improvement is supposed to lead automatically to improvements in other dimensions. **BAYU.T.Y(2015)**, studied that Women are the most marginalised and disadvantaged group of society in relation to accessing and controlling participation in rural areas. **BHATTACHARYYA(2011)**, studied the development policy approaches that recommend women's employment on the grounds that it facilitates their well-being. However, empirical work on the relationship between women's employment status and well-being as measured by freedom from marital violence yields ambiguous results. Motivated by the ambiguity, this paper uses data from Uttar Pradesh, to examine the effect of women's employment and asset status as measured by their participation in paid work and house ownership, respectively, on spousal violence. **BRODY.C(2016)** studied about the impact of women's self-help groups (SHGs) on women's economic, social, psychological, and political empowerment. Both governmental and non-governmental institutions spend formidable resources facilitating SHGs in low-and middle-income countries in South Asia and other developing countries, under the premise that access to microfinance, training, and group support can enhance women's empowerment. **GANLE(2015)**, studied women's empowerment and disempowerment and what are its disadvantages and advantages of working women in the local body elections. **HASHEMI(1996)**, studied the rural credit

programs and the women's participation in local body elections.

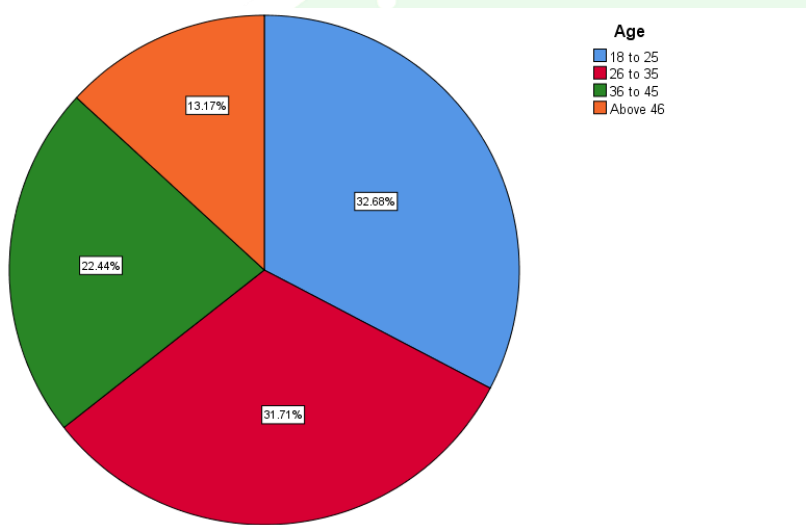
METHODOLOGY:

The research method followed here is empirical research. At total of 204 sample have been collected out of which all sample have been collected through convenient sampling

method. the sample frame taken here is aravind eye hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The independent variables are gender, age, educational qualification, income and occupation. The dependent variables are To analysis the there is enough research and public discussion about violence against men compared to violence against women

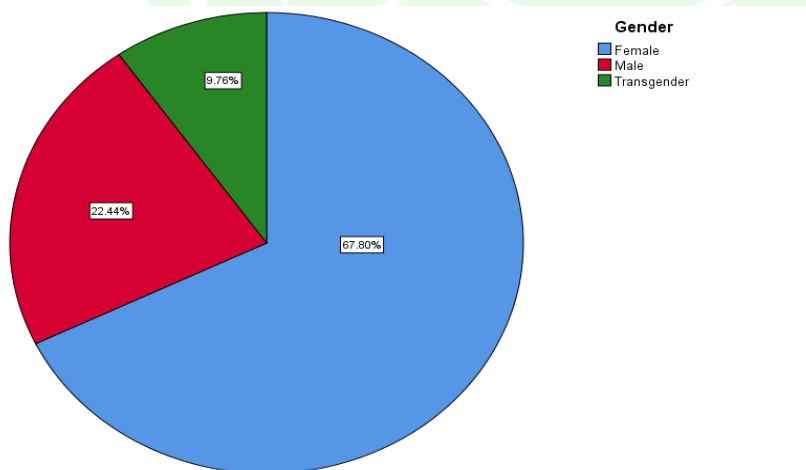
Analysis

Figure 1



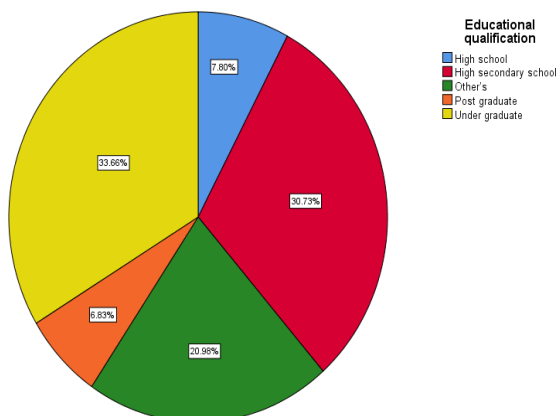
Legend : Figure 1. Shows the age distribution of the respondents.

Figure 2



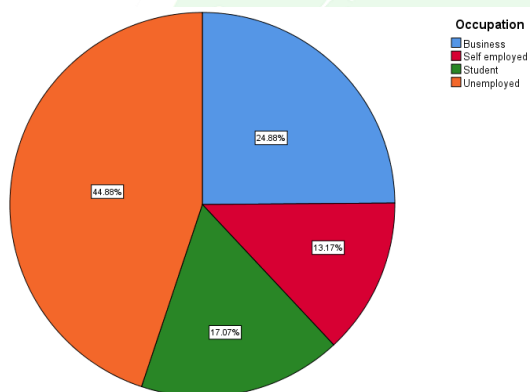
Legend : Figure 2. Shows the genders distribution of the respondents.

Figure 3



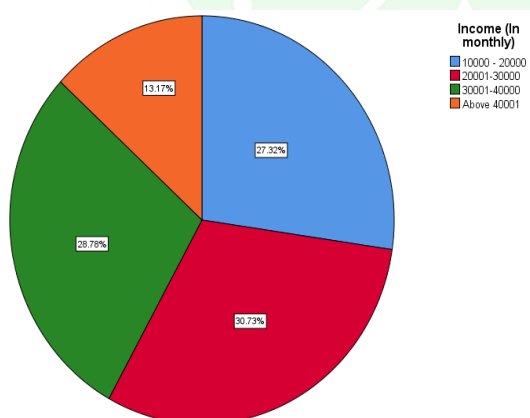
Legend : Figure 3. Shows the educational qualification distribution of the respondents.

Figure 4



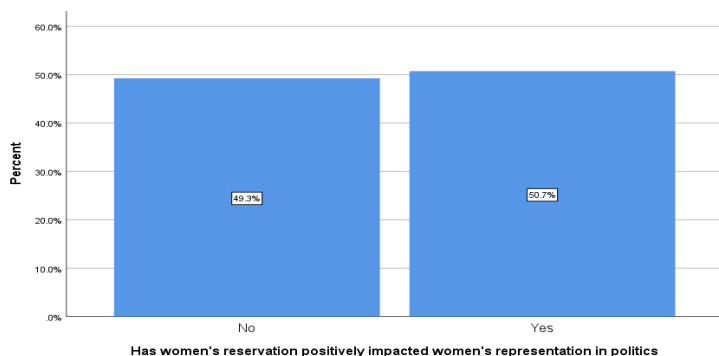
Legend : Figure 4. Shows the occupation distribution of the respondents.

Figure 5



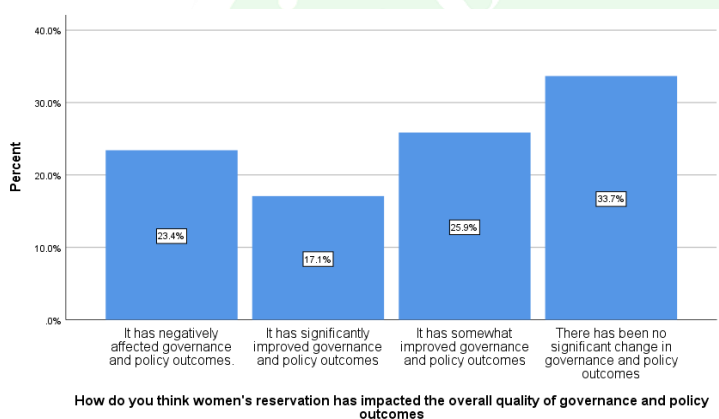
Legend : Figure 5. Shows the income distribution of the respondents.

Figure 6



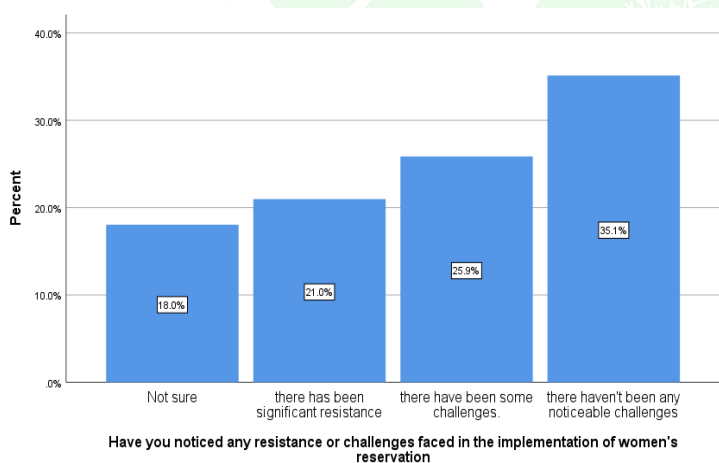
Legend : Figure 6.shows the has women’s positively reservation impact women’s representation in politics

Figure 7



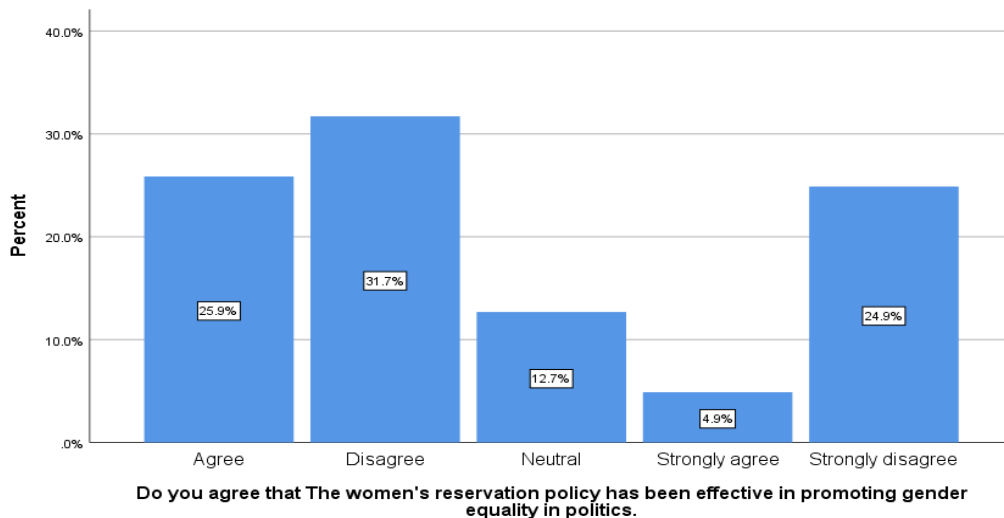
Legend : Figure shows that the do you think women’s reservation has impacted the overall quality of governance and policy outcomes

Figure 8



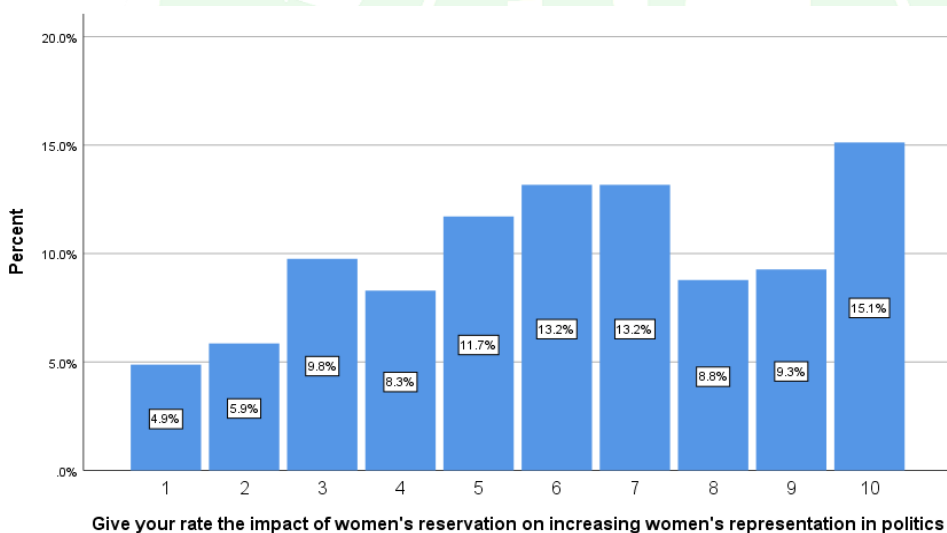
Legend : Figure shows that the have you noticed any resistance or challenges faced in the implementation of women’s reservation

Figure 9



Legend : Figure shows that the agreeability based on the women’s reservation policy has been effective in promoting gender equality in politics

Figure 10



Legend : Figure shows that the rate the impact of women’s reservation on increasing women’s representation in politics

TABLE

Case Processing Summary

	Valid		Cases Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Age * Has women's reservation positively impacted women's representation in politics	205	100.0%	0	0.0%	205	100.0%

**Age * Has women's reservation positively impacted women's representation in politics
Crosstabulation**

Count

		Has women's reservation positively impacted women's representation in politics		Total
		No	Yes	
Age	18 to 25	9	58	67
	26 to 35	44	21	65
	36 to 45	40	6	46
	Above 46	8	19	27
Total		101	104	205

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	73.558 ^a	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	81.048	3	.000
N of Valid Cases	205		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 13.30.

Case Processing Summary

	Valid		Cases Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Educational qualification * Has women's reservation positively impacted women's representation in politics	205	100.0%	0	0.0%	205	100.0%



Educational qualification * Has women's reservation positively impacted women's representation in politics Crosstabulation

Count

		Has women's reservation positively impacted women's representation in politics		Total
		No	Yes	
Educational qualification	High school	6	10	16
	High secondary school	53	10	63
	Other's	8	35	43
	Post graduate	3	11	14
	Under graduate	31	38	69
Total		101	104	205

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	52.552 ^a	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	57.035	4	.000
N of Valid Cases	205		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 6.90.

Result:

Figure 1 : It is revealed that 36.43% of the respondents are between the age group 18-25 ; 31.71% are between the age group 26-35;22.44% are between the age group 36-45 and 9.78% are between the age group above 45. From **Figure 2.** It shows that 67.80% of the respondents are female and 22.44% of the respondents are male. From **Figure 3.** It shows that 7.80% of respondents are higher secondary ;30.73% of high schools;20.98% of others;6.83% of post graduates; 33.66% of undergraduates . From **Figure 4** It clearly shows that 24.88% of respondents are in business;13.17% of respondents in occupation are professional;17.70% of respondents are professional from **Figure 5.** It clearly shows that 27.32% of respondents monthly income is 10000-20000;30.73% of respondents monthly income is 20001-30000 ;28.78% of respondents monthly income is 30001-40000; 22.77% of respondents monthly income is above

40001;From **Figure 6.** It clearly shows that women's reservation impacts women's representation in politics.49.3% of respondents say no ; 50.7% of respondents say yes . From **Figure 7** It clearly shows that do you think women's reservation has impacted the overall quality of governance and policy outcomes 18.0 % of respondents says not sure; 21.0% of respondents says there has been significant residence; 25.9% of respondents says there have been some challenges ; 35.1% of respondents says there haven't been any noticeable challenge;From **Figure 8** shows that have you noticed any resistance or challenges faced in the implementation of women's reservation;18.0 % of respondents says not sure; 21.0% of respondents says there has been significant residence; 25.9% of respondents says there have been some challenges ; 35.1% of respondents says there haven't been any noticeable challenge **Figure 9** shows that the agreeability based on the women's reservation policy has been effective in promoting gender

equality in politics; 25.9% of respondents agree; 4.9% of respondents strongly agree; 12.7% of respondents are neutral; 31.7% of respondents disagree; 24.9% of respondents strongly disagree; **Figure 10** It clearly shows that from rating scale 1 to 10 for the; rating based on the impact of women's reservation on increasing women's representation in politics. 15.1% of respondents are given 10 rating

DISCUSSION

Figure 6. It clearly shows that women's reservation impacts women's representation in politics. 50.7% most of respondents say yes. From **Figure 7** It clearly shows that do you think women's reservation has impacted the overall quality of governance and policy outcomes 18.0% of respondents says not sure; 21.0% of respondents says there has been significant residence; 25.9% of respondents says there have been some challenges; 35.1% of respondents says there haven't been any noticeable challenge; From **Figure 8** shows that have you noticed any resistance or challenges faced in the implementation of women's reservation; 35.1% most of respondents says there haven't been any noticeable challenge **Figure 9** shows that the agreeability based on the women's reservation policy has been effective in promoting gender equality in politics; 31.7% most of respondents are disagree; **Figure 10** It clearly shows that from rating scale 1 to 10 for the; rating based on the impact of women's reservation on increasing women's representation in politics. 15.1% of respondents are given 10 rating

CONCLUSION

Gender inequality is a pervasive social issue that manifests in various forms across the world. It refers to the unequal treatment, opportunities, and outcomes based on one's gender, typically favouring women over men. This inequality can be observed in areas such as education, employment, politics, and social roles. It limits the full potential of individuals, perpetuates stereotypes, and hinders social

progress. Addressing gender inequality is crucial for achieving a more equitable and just society, where all individuals have equal rights and opportunities regardless of their gender. Efforts to combat gender inequality involve policy changes, cultural shifts, and education to promote gender equality and empower women and marginalised genders.

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