ABSTRACT
In recent times the empowerment of women has emerged as an important issue in our society. The ultimate aim of empowering women is to provide an increased awareness of their rights, duties and equal participation in all spheres of life. So far as political participation is concerned, it is a process by which women participate in the functioning of Government. It is not merely right to vote but also includes their representation in politics, their involvement in decision making process of governance. The Indian Constitution is firmly, grounded in the Principles of Liberty, Fraternity, Equality and Justice. But these provisions have not translated into the intended status for women in Country, be it in the economic or political front.

While the political playing field in each state of India has its own particular features, one thing remains common to all. It is uneven and not conducive to women’s participation. Present study makes an attempt to analyse political empowerment of women in 16th Lok Sabha elections from Punjab. Paper concludes that low participation of women should be discussed as main agenda for ensuring equitable and participatory democracy.

In Punjab women are more or less invisible in decision making bodies and many issues are left unattended. The study reveals that their participation in politics as voters, candidates, campaigners and office holders in political parties, on an equal footing with men still remains a dream. They have yet to realise the value of their political life. The requisite data for this study has been obtained from newspapers, journals, magazines, elections manifesto, various reports and websites.

KEYWORDS: Empowerment, Good Governance, Lok Sabha, Participation, Punjab, Women.

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