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PhD. Thesis Title: Gender Politics and the Indian Women's Movement: A Historical Perspective

The present work is an attempt to present the issue of gender in context of politics and women's movement in India. The focus will be on the first half of the 20th century. How the issue of women in politics, their participation in the Indian national movement, especially the mass movement led by Gandhi and the emergence of women organization working for women empowerment through education and economic upliftment makes an interesting area of historical enquiry.

The present study adopts qualitative method in order to analyze women's movement and its historical trajectory. Both available Primary and secondary sources has consulted and analyzed, while examine the research hypotheses and objectives. Given the nature of purposed hypotheses, in this study mainly inductive (Particular to General) method is utilized. The research makes use of books and articles, contemporary women organizations documents, statements and treaties, news paper reports, web reports, debates as well as other relevant documents as resources. The role of women movements has also conceptualized in the light of contemporary theoretical understanding. This study utilizes and highlights the contextual approach in order to understand the research findings.

On the basis of above the present study traces the women in Indian national movement and its activities which gave early direction and an overview of women's movements in India as organized form.

The present study also explores the development of the agenda concerning women in the 19th and the 20th centuries. The setting of the agenda and the manner of its constitution has had an enduring impact both on the way the women's question has taken shape and is perceived. In this chapter mainly historical trajectory and agenda of women movements is discussed. The present study also attempts to explain the development and grievances about the social, economic and politico legal status of Indian women.

Along with above the present study explores documents and analyses the existence of a vital, empowering women participation in movements. At the same time, the present study also highlights the political and structural crises that inspired the movement and the resources which are the determining factors of women's movements. The present study also attempts to probe the strengths and the weaknesses of the women's movement as it exists.