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Name of Topic: Democratic Participation and Public Policy Effectiveness: Women in Manipur's Political Arena

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Women's participation in politics is one of the core focus areas for achieving true women empowerment. Political participation remains one of the most critical elements of democracy. A truly democratic government can only be achieved when there are equal opportunities of participation for all the people.

The presence of women in the decision-making levels enhances their social, political and economic status and strengthens democratic institutions by making them more inclusive and meaningful. Only an inclusive political system can provide sufficient freedom to women in decision making roles to exercise their rights effectively and work for the betterment of other women and the society in general. This is also true vice-versa because the transformation of the current political system towards a more inclusive system depends on how effectively the women within this system perform their leadership roles.

The study also explores the participation of women in the political arena of the state of Manipur. It also studies the impact of women leaders on the effectiveness of public policies. To understand women's position at different levels, the current research deals with women's participation in decision-making bodies in the national politics, i.e., the Lok Sabha, at the state level as members of the legislative assembly and grassroots level in the panchayat. Political participation, per se, refers to the actions of both decision-makers and those not formally empowered to make decisions but intended to influence the behaviour of those who have decision-making power. As women share a nearly equal proportion of the population, they must get an equal share in decision making so that governing bodies' decisions consider equal welfare of both men and women.