Lack of Women Participation Impact on Gender Equality & Governance System in Local Government Institutions in Sri Lanka

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The main purpose of this paper is to explore the nature of the women participation impact on gender equality in democratic governance in local politics in Sri Lanka. Gender equality is one of the most important concepts in term "Modern Democracy". Further, it is strengthening and sharpening the pluralistic democracy which is a significant theoretical and practical concept in a given pluralistic society. As a democratic country, Sri Lanka has been adopted women as a special social segment which have been giving significant contributions for the social, economic and political development in Sri Lankan society. Local government institutions is core stone of the country's democracy as well as governing process. It is largely responsible for the socio, economic and democratic development of the country as a whole. Since independence, there are many democratic protections and legal provisions as well as social and intellectual debates have been raised on enhancement of woman participation in local government sector in Sri Lanka in term enhancement of gender equality in political participation in local democracy. Yet, it has not realized so far due to loosing opportunities with regard faire participation in active representation in local government politics why? Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used for gathering data and information in this regard. It is a timely needed investigation of political participation of women in local democracy and governance in Sri Lanka. Further, it is significantly important that viewpoints of this research for the policy perspective as well as academic aspect. Final outcome of this research is extremely important for further research who desire to continue research activities on women and political participation in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: women representation; gender equality; weak governance; local government