

Potential Implementations to increase the number of Female Parliamentarians in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Parliament is a centre for any form of democracy and citizens of a country select their representatives to parliament by their rates in the general election with the intention to represent them in law making process. Sri Lanka, a country that respect women's rights and has a majority of females in the total population, should have considerable amount of female parliamentarians to raise their voice when talking decisions relating to women and in all other spheres. Even though Sri Lanka produced the world's first female prime minister there is no systematic mechanism to encourage women to involve in politics and also numerous other obstacles can be perceived when females actively participate in politics. When Comparing with South Asian countries, Sri Lanka holds the minimum number of female parliamentarians and still there is no proper agenda to increase the number. The 20th amendment for the constitution 1978 of Sri Lanka also fails to make provisions to solve the issue. Therefore, in this paper research objectives are to identify how females can maximize their impact on the political process through parliament and to identify methods that are most effective in increasing the number of female parliamentarians. Descriptive statistical analysis was performed based on the collected primary data. Increasing the nomination quota in order to maximize the number of female parliamentarians, reserving more electorate seats for female parliamentarians, increasing the number of female representatives of the national list and the district proportional list are the methods, which seem viable for practice to increase the number of female parliamentarians.

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