

Break the Bias; Women's Political Participation to Achieve Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow (A Study under Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in Parliament of Sri Lanka)

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Abstract

Women's political participation is a political concept that occupies a unique place in the practical political curriculum. Women naturally engage in political participation as it integrates with their lifestyle and is one aspect of their life journey. But depending on each other's opinions and attitudes, their levels of participation in politics may vary. This research based on 'How has Sri Lanka achieved Women's Political Participation while achieving Gender Equality? This was done on behalf of the Women's Caucus of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. The purpose of this is to show that it is possible to achieve gender equality today and move towards a sustainable tomorrow through women's political participation. For this study, a sample of the 12 female MPs representing the women's caucus of the Parliament of Sri Lanka was selected, and information was obtained through the dual methods of primary and secondary data, i.e., questionnaires, books, reports, and the internet. According to the data analysis using Excel tables and graphs, the final conclusion was that there is no gender equality in Sri Lanka, and women's political participation is essential to achieve it. Through that, we can move towards a sustainable tomorrow. There are many proposals, such as empowering women at the local level to create gender equality through increasing women's political participation, asking women's opinions in decision-making, providing theoretical and practical knowledge, improving the representation system, and giving a percentage value to women on the national list and the list of political parties. Through this women's political participation, gender equality can be established and steps can be taken today for a sustainable tomorrow.

Keywords: *Gender Equality, Sustainable Development, Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, Women's Political Participation*

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