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Role of Women Parliamentarians in the Regional Development of District Sialkot (2000 to 2008)

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Abstract	Keywords
<p>Despite enormous marches by the international women’s rights associations over several years, women in the world are still deprived one. They have less or no to right to education and political participation. In Pakistan, the society and political culture less welcome women participation in politics. The study aims to highlight the significant role of women parliamentarians in the politics and development of their constituency. It is found out that women in practical politics are not unproductive, but they are serving their people actively with some barriers in the service delivery. The existing research focused on the role of women parliamentarians in the regional development of district area Sialkot during the period of General Musharraf from 2002-2008, the budget recommendations and the development projects proposed by the women parliamentarian from Sialkot. It is also found out that women member of National Assembly (MNA) of Sialkot has played a vital role in the development of the city and major development projects launched and completed. On the basis of findings, it is recommended that women are active politicians and they must be given more chances to serve the nations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women, • Gender equality, • Women rights, • Political participation. Women and development, • Gender and sustainable development, • Democratic theory

Introduction

“Women are young at politics, but they are old at suffering; soon they will learn that through politics they can prevent some kinds of suffering”.

-- Nancy Astor

Despite enormous marches by the international women’s rights associations over several years, women in the world are still deprived one. They have less or no to right to education and

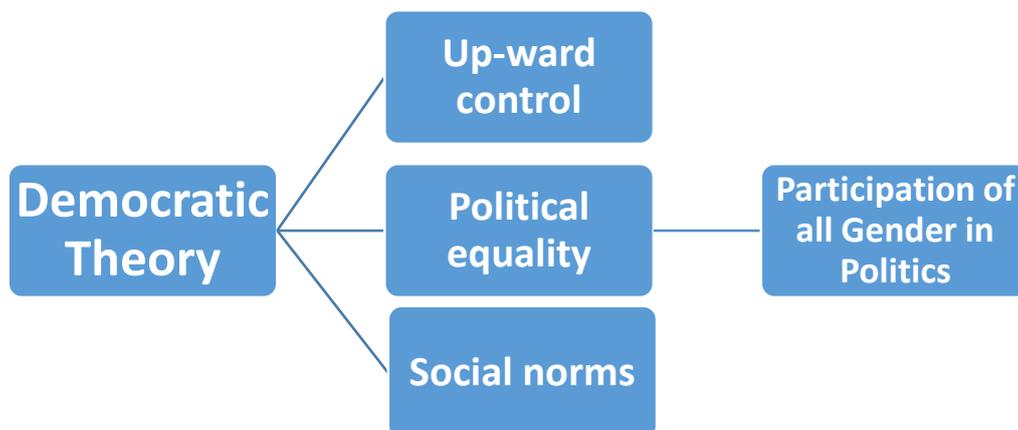
political participation. In Pakistan, the society and political culture less welcome women participation in politics. The study aims to highlight the significant role of women parliamentarians in the politics and development of their constituency. It is found out that women in practical politics are not unproductive, but they are serving their people actively with some barriers in the service delivery. The existing research focused on the role of women parliamentarians in the regional development of district area Sialkot during the period of General Musharraf from 2002-2008, the budget recommendations and the development projects proposed by the women parliamentarian from Sialkot. It is also found out that women member of National Assembly (MNA) of Sialkot has played a vital role in the development of the city and major development projects launched and completed. On the basis of findings, it is recommended that women are active politicians and they must be given more chances to serve the nations.

Theoretical Considerations:

Democratization is a shift from a non-democratic or authoritarian shape of government to democratic level, and is a basic concept in the political science study (Hamilton,2003).What shapes democracy?, the answer is, a person’s sovereignty, impartiality among citizens with no gender discrimination, and democratic norm and values. Democracy is basically the concept that political control exists at the individual level. In this logic, a political group of people get its ultimate power and right from the approval of the populace contained by that community. Individuals could cling to the sovereign right of political imperative in a democratic state, but it is a civic and collective right, no individual can argue unlimited sovereign and authority. A quantity of individuals can exercise a greater political authority. The second aspect of democracy is that there must be a political equality among all the state citizens. The theory embraces that democracy needs three key principles,

- Upward control and power (sovereignty dwell at the lowest stage of authority),
- Political equality
- Social norms

The theory support the present study that all citizen male ,female have democratic right to participate in politics and serve the nation .Women can play a fruitful part in the regional development .They are very active political leader and worker in their constituency .



Source :Authors Contribution
Women and Politics: An Overview

Women face obstacles to global political involvement in the 21st century. Socio-economic factors are an impediment to women's progress. For women's equal participation in policy making to encourage gender-fair government attempts are being made to increase women's involvement such as legislative initiatives.

Aristotle's has well said that,

"Men are considered better and more in nature in the differences between sexes whereas women are underestimated."

There is a remarkable worldwide implementation of the gender quota. The significant policy action has been taken in order to increase the role of women in decision-making bodies. The basic goal of the quota system is to encourage the inclusion of women in the government. When the obstacles to women's political participation are eliminated, the quota is automatically enforced in a political situation for women in politics. For several developing countries, national or sub-national quotas have been arranged to ensure that gender is guaranteed. In many developing countries, political parties have openly implemented a quota, and women can help in policy empowerment (Kumar, 2017). Women face numerous challenges which impact on their ability to participate and become leaders in politics. Many countries take steps to increase the inclusion of women in all levels of government from, local to domestic. Today, though, women are leading more and more.

Women in World Politics

Women as leaders all over the globe are also lacking in number. The heads of state of women also constitute a minority given the rise of the number of women (from 12 to 21) in the last 20 years. At present, only one out of four members of the smaller or single parliamentary chambers around the world is a woman. In total, the number of women in parliaments in the last two decades grew to 24.1% at the end of 2018, up 13% (Apap 2019).

The women parliamentarians have actively discussed gender-sensitive concerns and have continued to participate in debates on women's rights laws and regulations. They were also creditable for approval of several bills on women's advocacy, such as “Domestic Violence Bill, Criminal Law Act, Protection of Women from Harassment and Prevention of Anti-Women 's Practices”, etc., on women's harassment and anti-women practices, etc.(Bari, 2009). According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (2017), Pakistan is ranked 45th with 76 women representing 22.5 percent in the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan (2008-13). When the House has the highest women's representation in Pakistan's history, the position of women parliamentarians should be dismissed by examining the time (Kumar, 2017).

Table 2.2: Representation of women in parliaments- Regional Countries

Regional Average	Lower House (percentage)	Upper House (percentage)	Both Houses Combined(percentage)
Nordici Countries	41.7	...	41.7
Americas	28.3	27.6	28.1
Europe(Including Nordici Countries)	27.5	26.0	27.2
Europe(excludingNordiciC ountries)	26.1	26.0	26.1
Sub-SaharanAfrica	23.9	22.9	23.8
Asia	19.7	16.0	19.3
Pacific	14.6	37.1	17.2

Source: *Author's Contribution after literature review*

Women in the Parliament of Pakistan (1947-2008)

The Indian Act 1935 was adopted by newly established Pakistani government as a 1947 provisional constitution. The constitution was subsequently drawn up for a constituent assembly. In 1956 the Assembly adopted Pakistan's first constitution. The Pakistani legislature had a unicameral National Assembly, according to this Constitution. Because of martial law, the Constitution was repealed in 1958. The second constitution, which lasted just 7 years, was passed in 1962. In 1969, the constitution was again abolished and another martial law was imposed. The Pakistani Federation adopted the third constitution in 1973 after the 1971 division of Bengal. The legislature was made for the first time of two Houses- the National Assembly and Pakistan's Senate. Owing to the legislative structure of the system, the directly elected lower chamber of the National Assembly played a major role in the constitution. The Constitution provided the women in the parliament with reserved seats (Hamid, 2020).

A lower representation of women has occurred in Parliament since 1947. There was no legislature for almost 11 years and the legislative process operated under the umbrella of military rule for another 14 years. The proportion of women parliamentarians did not increase by more than 11.1 percent between 1955 to 1999, which was consist of the eleven constituent assemblies. General Musharraf reached the most decisive achievement in Pakistan by sustaining 17% of women's sitting and 33% in the local provinces and countries in 2000. Currently, the National Assembly (lower house) has a total of 342 members. In total, there are 272 (80 percent) general seats and women are reserved 60 (17 percent) and 3 percent (3 percent) for minority/non-Muslims (Hamid, 2020).

Table 2.3: Women's Presence at the National Assembly (1947-2008)

Years	General Seats	Reserved Seats	Overall Percentage
1947 to 1954	0	2	2.5%
1955 to 1958	0	0	0.0
1962 to 1965	6	0	3.8%
1965 to 1969	6	0	3.8%
1972 to 1977	6	0	4.2%
1985 to 1988	1	21	10.1%
1988 to 1990	4	20	11.1%
1993 to 1996	6	0	1.8%
1997 to 1999	6	0	2.8%
2002 to 2007	13	60	21.3%
2008 to 2013	16	60	22.5%

Source: *Author's Contribution*

Women Contest on General Seats

Development is a process that addresses public problems through systematic and defined processes of change known as governance. Regional development programs are also aimed at solving state problems and issues through regional-level planning initiatives that are best carried out. This focuses on good practice in maintaining and fostering wealth as part of a global integrated spatial strategy involving national actors. The first direct elections were held in Pakistan in 1970. During the 1970 elections, there was no allocation of women's seats reserved. The General seats of the 216-member National Assembly were contested and retained

by only one woman in 1977. Later, ten more have been elected to reserve seats for the National Assembly. They made up 5.1 percent of house women membership. In the non-party elections arranged by the army regime of General Zia ulHaq, women's seats reserved for NA were up to 20 in 1985. Fifteen more women contested and only one was able to win, making women 21 or 8.9 percent stronger in the 237-member Senate (Syed, 2017).

Sixteen women competed in general elections in 1988. The first elected women prime minister won three, including Benazir Bhutto. In the 237-member National Assembly, there was accumulation of women strength at 23, representing 9, 7 percent of total house strength. Since the sunset provision expired, women's quota of the reserved seats was scrapped after the three electoral cycles – 1979, 1985 and 1988. In 1990, a general election for the National Assembly was contested by twelve women. The polls could only be won by two of them. This reduced the number of women in the National Assembly to just 0.9 percent of the House of Representatives of 217 (Malik, 2018).

After the coup in 1999, General Pervez Musharraf retained 60 women in the National Assembly, as laid down in the Legal Framework Order, by amending the Constitution. There were 57 women in general seats and 13 won in the 2002 general election. The National Assembly had 60 reserved seats and 74 women, which is 21.6% of the present 342 members' houses of the National Assembly. In the 2008 general election, 64 women contested general seats, out of which 16 won a record.76 women, with 60 reserved seats, constituted 22.2% of the total House membership in the National Assembly (Malik, 2018).A lower representation of women has occurred in Parliament since 1947. There was no legislature for almost 11 years and the legislative process operated under the umbrella of military rule for another 14 years. The proportion of women parliamentarians did not increase by more than 11.1 percent between 1955-1999, which was consisted of the eleven constituent assemblies. General Musharraf reached the most decisive achievement in Pakistan by sustaining 17% of women's sitting and 33% in the local provinces and countries in 2000. Currently, the National Assembly (lower house) has a total of 342 members. In total, there are 272 (80 percent) general seats and women are reserved 60 (17 percent) and 3 percent (3 percent) for minority/non-Muslims (Hamid, 2020).

Women's Parliamentarians Roles in the Regional Development: A case study of Sialkot District

An increase in the ratio of female in legislative assembly and Senate is not only expected to lead to enhanced representation of female's concerns in policy-making, but it is also aims to lead to higher economic growth and development of her constituency. In many countries, the opportunities for social participation of women are inadequate, especially in search of government and institutional political rights and power. This demographic pattern continues even as female members are gradually elected (Israel, 2018).

Women as a Part of 2002 Parliament

The quota for female political participation at local government level in 2000 was increased for the first time under military rule to 33 percent. The union council, Tehsil and District quotas were successful at three levels of local administration. In the same way, before elections in 2002, in both national and regional parliamentary terms, the number of women increased to 17 percent (61 out of 342 women in the National Assemblies). The quota increase in 2002 significantly increased the participation of women in the political system as a whole (Awan, 2018).More women have challenged and secured the highest general seats ever. 188 women were named by political parties and, after the 2002 elections, 39 were elected to their respective general seats. Compared with the 1997 elections, this number is almost one-third, with only 56 women voting, of whom 39 were candidates, and only seven were successful in winning (Awan, 2018).

3.3 Women Contestants and their Performance: A Comparison

In the 2002 elections, 73 women were elected both from a coalition and an autonomous political party basis at the national level.

Table 3:4 Women Contestants on General seats in National Assembly

Political Parties	Women Contestants	Seats Won	Seats Lost
PPP	10	05	05
PML-Q	08	04	04
Independents	20	02	18
NA	01	01	-
PML-Jinnah	01	01	-
PML-Ni	05	-	05
PML-Z	01	-	01
PML-Fi	01	-	01
PTI	03	-	03
MQM	05	-	05
ANP	01	-	01
TI	01	-	01
NPP-WG	01	-	01
Total	58	13	45

Source: Author's contribution on the basis of literature review

Women Performance in the Parliament 2002-2007

Political analysts have critically assessed the tenure of Parliament from 2002 to 2007. Those focused on the political successes of women have suggested that in many situations, the women leaders have been 'like most guys' or that they have learned to resist taking on women problems. The reservation of women seats in the Senates and National Assemblies, but certainly not the only and comprehensive choice which can increase women's empowerment, was affirmative action.

In 2002, successes of women showed personally that, in spite of the difficulties in elected housing and political party politics, the majority of women in assemblies were loyal to General Pervez Musharraf for their participation. But, in women's participation, a great number of women put Pakistan at the front of parliament and contributed to the desired illuminated portrait. The women elected to Parliament, except Mrs Zobaida Jalal, all of whom belonged to the assembly, while Ms Jalal was a Minister in the cabinet of Parvez Musharraf before her election as an independent candidate. Before her election, she was a general member(Syed,2017).

The following factors prevent the effectiveness of the national and provincial assemblies pro-active members:

- Lack of capability and inexperience with regard to assembly rules and processes, particularly legislation and laws.

- The allocation of speaking time both House custodians and political parties in the House has been marginalized for women.
- The members directly elected by the political parties and the parliament are less important for women running for reserved seats.
- Working on specific women's problems and other policies was challenging across the party lines since the key women's powers in the reserved seat could not be in agreement with the parties' advice.
- Life was a different matter in which personal , family and political commitments could be balanced

Women will usually concentrate exclusively on topics relating to gender. The majority, especially discrimination laws and practice, relating to women's empowerment have been strengthened. It has been further strengthened. In nominating women for a reserved post, the patriarchal power systems became clear as the family ties took precedence over political leaders or employees. This impeded the formation of an autonomous voice by women lawmakers. The fixed quota for the selection system was generally met, but women saw this as an ad - hoc basis agreement which requires coordination by means of institutional structures and the participation of political parties. They recognized that their achievement and determination remain focused on empowering women are the secret to success (Ijaz, 2008).

In 2002, she was chosen for a reserved seat on PML (Q) tickets for the National Assembly. She served as Parliamentary Secretary from 2002 to 2005. She left PML (Q) in 2007 to join the People's Party of Pakistan (PPP) and defeated Chaudhry Ameer Sialkot II as a very strong candidate in 2008.

The 2008 elections were highly upset, as he served as a very strong candidate from 2002 to 2008 as the Speaker. She was elected from the NA-111-Sialkot-II national assembly in 2008 after entering the People's Party of Pakistan. During the PPP government, Miss Awan was first a public health minister and later an information minister. The PPP candidate was won by Dr.Firdos Ashiq Awan in 2008 and held multiple cabinet portfolios during the PPP administration.

Table:3.5 Pakistan General Election, 2008: NA-111 (Sialkot II)

	Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
1	PPP	FirdousAshiqAwan	78,925	48.0	+30.0
2	PML (Q)	Chaudhry Amir Hussain	46,372	28.0	-10.0
3	PML (N)	AdreesBajwa	38,193	23.0	-13.0
4	Independent		293	0.0	N/A
		Majority	32,553	20.0	"N/A"
		Turnout	163,783	55.7	+10.8
		PPP gain from PML (Q)	Swing	N/A	

On 18 Feb 2008, general elections took place. Ashiq PPP's FirdousAwan won by 78,925 votes. The Islamic League of Pakistan Ch. Amir Hussain won 46372, on the other side (Biltehqqeq, 2017).

3.6 Dr.Firdous Contributions for Sialkot District

She made several remarkable contributions in the 2002-2008 periods;

- Sui gas connections in Sialkot.
- Start Benazir Income Support Programme in Sialkot.
- Vocational training for unskilled labourers.
- It provides a hotline for pregnant mothers to call for antenatal and postnatal care free of charge.

- She worked with women empowerment.
- It offers important natural gas connections for the first time to an old people's home in most of the rural district.
- She contributes to the Education of poor and needy children.
- Because of the shortage of electricity, she installed power lines in the city.
- Another aspect of Awan's success reception is an endless emphasis on accommodating its constituents, helping them in navigating through the heartland of thana and katchery, and cannily courting the powerful Gujjar and Arainbiradiris.

Major Contributions:

The young educated female leader of city Sialkot has actively participated in the development of her city. The major contributions of the women parliamentarian satisfied the community. Her reforms program mostly consisted to empower women in her native city.

1- Sui-Gas connections

She committed to making every effort to provide the locals at their doorstep in her electoral district, NA-72, Sialkot with basic facilities. The business implements gas distribution ventures for hundreds of municipalities, including Karlop, KalluPiyaara, SaabuSandha, SaabuBhittey, BhitteyKalan, Sadrey, Wagraan and Garhi Boora, in its electoral district within the Kundanpur and Langeriyaali syndicates (Biltehqqeq, 2017).

2- Women empowerment

She said that in all aspects of life women are no less than men, and therefore women should be free to step by step in the steps of men. The development of girls' skills was now crucial, adding that advanced technology-based opportunities would be provided to students.

3- Thana and Kachehry system

Emphasis on making thana and Kachehry system as services delivery stations and with justice for all imperative (Media, 2013).

4- Works for Government college women University Sialkot

Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan was deeply concerned with the education of the women of Sialkot Village, which is why Sialkot provides liners and busses from their NGO to the college and has also given a special ceremony to appoint newly appointed professors at Degree College Marakiwal-Sialkot (Biltehqqeq, 2017).

5- Buses for Women's

She donated buses for female GCWUS students for their transport issue. It was a great contribution of her.

6. Transportaion: On Friday Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan opened the Bajwat and Sialkot transportation service for women. Awan said the bus service was introduced to assist women in the district as well as schools and colleges to and from work. She told a conference that Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani had donated those busses to her non-governmental organization.

8- Women's Rights

She was committed to protecting women's constitutional, legal, political, social, and economic rights. She conducts of Hazrat Fatima Tu Zahra (RA) as well as the great personalities of Umahaatul Momineen. She continued that Ummul Momineen Hazrat Khadija Tul Kubra (RA), the first Muslim woman as a trader.

She maintained that the other day she was talking about the line between her social activist and a writer on a private TV. She reiterated it was inappropriate to attack a woman from the media channel or some other site. She explained that measures reflecting the firm determination of the government and thought on women's rights are the formal inheritance right for the passage of the Zainab Alert Bill for Parliament.

Conclusion

Women participation in the politics is less in number all around the world when we talk about women participation in the politics of Pakistan it more terrible then the rest of world. The researcher found that women participation from 2002-2008 in Pakistan is much inferior then it should be. The study focuses on emphasizing the role of women in regional changes in the Sialkot district during Musharraf, the role of women in realistic political relations and the examination of Pakistan's involvement of women in politics and the position of the women in regional development. Between 2000 and 2008, the women parliamentarians From Sialkot play great role in the completion of different projects of the city. Sialkot regions get lots of developing projects particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry and education.

General Musharraf, President of Pakistan, played the central role in the development, and in the early 2000s Sialkot remained an incredibly underdeveloped region. The president promised adequate funds to the various industries, in particular the agriculture, electricity and sports industries where every effort was made to slowly and steadily improve the urban economy and the growth of the city increased greatly in the late 2000s. The woman parliamentarians in Sialkot did enormous Good for the city between the years 2000 to 2008.

In that period Sialkot was at its peak on development phase, especially in the field of agriculture, industries, and education .General Musharraf played a pivotal role in this period for the development of Sialkot as he was the president of Pakistan during this time and Sialkot was still a hugely underdeveloped city by the early 2000s. The president ensured proper funds were being allotted to the respective industries especially agriculture, electricity and sports industries there all efforts slowly and gradually led to a boost in the economy of the city and there was a huge surge in the development of the city by the late 2000s. As a result of all this, there was a marked reduction in the unemployment status of the city health and education departments ware also boosted during these years. It is unnecessary to say that the government of Pakistan and women Parliamentarians played a huge part in the development of Sialkot during these years as they all part tremendous efforts to field these results as per their respective authorities and capabilities.

Recommendations:

On the basis of the research findings, few suggestions are recommended for policy makers to enhance women role as their performance is not less than a male parliamentarians.

- **Social Awareness:** The factors behind women's restricted political participation are socio-cultural patterns and women's economic dependency on the males of their household. However, low costs for literacy and the separation of gender in social roles are also factors which prevent women's involvement. If there can be creative socio-cultural changes that can be implemented using a bot-tom-up strategy, female participation cannot be successful. First and foremost, girls need socially and economically to be empowered. And then can women be innovative and leading in the political system.
- **Acceptance:** There should be enough education and awareness among Pakistani political parties regarding a lack of participation in political parties to encourage their women politicians to be more active through civil society.
- **Political Environemnt:** No such active body currently offers systematic instruction in the management of everyday electoral relations for political parties, workers, men and women. Generally the concept of politics is masculine in Pakistan's society, which indicates that women are left behind or totally abandoned. Training future women workers would be beneficial for them and would improve the capacities of women party members to engage effectively in the country's political affairs. It is also recommended that both males and females undergo substantial daily training in the management of the electorate's routine problems.

- **Encouragement:** Women can also better perform they just need friendly environment and social encouragement.

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