

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND WOMEN IN DEVELOPING
POLITICAL SYSTEMS: COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BENAZIR
BHUTTO AND YINGLUCK SHINAWATRA**

*Dr Mughees Ahmed
Iqra Bajwa*

ABSTRACT

Political participation is an activity and action of an individual towards political system. Women participation as the name suggests deals with the strength of women in all fields of life. These fields can range from education to politics and from social to defense. The participation and involvement of women in politics is creating an example of liberal democratic world. More than fifty states in the whole world also announced for women a special quota for the selection of politics and many other fields because these countries want to promote feminist theory. The research paper deals with the policies of Shinawatra hence to prove the empowerment of women in politics in Asia under the age of globalization. The particular research is related to the comparative analysis of Thailand prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and to prove the women empowerment in the light of their policies and their powers functioned by them in their respective countries.

Keywords: Empowerment, Political Scenario, Globalization, Benazir Bhutto, Yingluck Shinawatra, Policies.

INTRODUCTION

Today is the age of globalization and the changing political scenario has brought the issue of women empowerment in limelight. The globalization is one mean to lead the women into politics in Asia. Gender equality may lead the women into politics. Women are now taking part in every sphere of life. Politics is one of the prominent fields in this regard. Margaret Thatcher was considered the iron lady. The continent of Asia also accepts the wave of change.

Asia is one of those regions which have produced more female leaders than the rest of the world. But it did not help to raise the position of Asian women or their status. East and South Asia has emerged as an icon to give political freedom to the women. The Asian women leaders are no doubt have emerged as a charismatic leadership

yet the ordinary women of this region are lagging far behind in political and other fields of life. They are even not aware about their rights in a real sense. The globalization is one mean to lead the women into politics in Asia. Gender equality may lead the women into politics. The states of Asia pacific except Korea, Tonga and Palau passed the bill of rights for women and CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women). Bangladesh, Indonesia the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), India, Malaysia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Singapore, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam all have reserve disuses under CEDAW.

In the history of Asian politics, women are known as a major milestone that made their great efforts to flourish the politics to a higher level. However, there is a remarkable difference between the numbers of female participants as compared to male ones. In various Asian countries, women are playing a leading role in the advance politics. There are some well-known women's names in politics whose fame spread worldwide. Among them Corazon Aquino was first female Philippines President that took hold in 1986 A.D. and gained a lot of appreciation. Similarly, Yingluck Shinawatra's was acknowledged as a woman Prime Minister first time in Thailand and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan. "Asia is an actor for the world to watch" (Wang, 2003).

ANALYTICAL NOTE

There is a vast list of well-known female politicians all over the world having successful career. Mrs. Indra Gandhi also remained Prime Ministers of India respectively. Benazir Bhutto served here country twice and Yingluck Shinawatra served her country ones. To appreciate the Benazir Bhutto's rise as compared to other regions in the world, South Asia is the region in which it must be seen with the help of prism that has had more women rulers or leaders. In Indonesia, Megawati Sukarnoputri was elected as a President in 2001 A.D. Aung San SuuKyi was renowned opposition leader in Burma. But it is not easy to say that women are more inclined towards politics in Asia. In fact, most of the Asian women who participated in the politics are due to their family influence in politics. Benazir Bhutto is a prime example of this kind of Asian women who has entered in politics due to the family environment of politics. Yingluck

Shinawatra of Thailand is also a prime example as she also joined politics due to her family influence in politics.

In Lahore, Aisha Iqbal twenty-three year's old business student said: "Yes, of course there was some symbolism in having a woman as prime minister" (Dodds, 2008).

A woman political is a different story. Most of the women in parliament are family members of the male members of parliament or belong to a strong feudal background. They come into party to secure seats in the National Assembly. Benazir Bhutto is such a name; she was the daughter of ex-Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He was hanged for murder by a dictator. Later on his daughter joined the party, (PPP) Pakistan People's Party. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto with her Ivy League degree and unmatched intelligence was born to rule. She emanated an aura of power, even before she was elected the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

After her efforts and struggles she was elected as the first Prime Minister of Pakistan as well as the Muslim countries. Being a first is a challenge in itself. She occupied a powerful seat and it is a known fact that with a great power comes a great responsibility. During her term she faced a lot of accusations. There were many dark rumors surrounding her government. We don't know for sure whether these rumors were true or not, but she carried herself with a regal poise and dignity. Unfortunately, she was unable to complete her tenure in the office; therefore, Benazir Bhutto went into a self-imposed exile. Later, when she came back to her country she was murdered in cold blood. Whether she was a good or bad leader we cannot say for sure. But she was a leader nonetheless. She represented Pakistan all over the world. United Nations still remember her effective and dynamic speeches. Her intelligence cannot be overlooked.

Benazir Bhutto balanced her personal and professional life in a flawless manner. When she was elected as the Prime Minister the Islamic parties had reservations regarding her gender. But Benazir Bhutto bore it all with grace. She used headscarf and wore typical Pakistani dresses. Later on her headscarf became a trademark for Pakistani women.

Benazir Bhutto became a symbol of women participation in politics in Pakistan. She became a hope for ladies all over the country. She placed a milestone in the path of women empowerment. Now thousands if not millions of women are following her lead to fight for their betterment and that of their country. She lifted the press

restriction and it helped to alter the nature of media's depiction of women. She owed the fund of hundred million for the creation of women Bank which helped to identify the rank of Pakistani women as an autonomous economic object. Although, she was a powerful politician yet she was incapable to make innovatory changes in the political system and the position of women in Pakistan politics. She was severely criticized by Ulmas yet she left no stone unturned to raise the women status and position in politics. The comparative analysis of both the leaders shows that both leaders have strong personalities with a deep insight of the political phenomena of their respective countries. It was hard nut to crack for them to cope with all the problems of their countries but they stood determined and set an example for the rest of the women to take active part in every sphere of life and especially in politics. It is concluded that women can work if men dominated society accepts their equality in politics. It is recommended that women should participate in politics. Electoral system should be very open to be representative theory. Everyone can participate in elections without gender discrimination.

ECONOMIC POLICIES OF BENAZIR BHUTTO

Benazir Bhutto was the first Prime Minister in the Islamic world and as this responsibility she described for the charming power and governmental astuteness Bhutto drone attempt for Pakistan's economical system and nationwide protection and she applied public naturalist guidelines for commercial development and growth. First Women Bank was symbol of confidence in women. In additional her guidelines highlighted deregulation (particularly of economic sector) versatile labor marketplaces, the denationalization of condition possessed organization and with drawl of economic assistance to other. Bhutto's reputation decreased and economic downturn, crime and great lack of employment which later led to termination of her government by conservative president Ghulam Ishaq Khan (Naden, 2010).

WOMEN BANK

Benazir Bhutto initiated the golden step in the form of women bank, in favor and for the developments of women. It opened the many opportunities and developmental ways for women in many fields of life. And this policy is running successfully and increasing its capacity.

WOMEN AND POLITICS IN THAILAND

In Thailand state like other Asian countries policies has generally men career. Male are noticeable in state policies and state performance as evaluate to females. In Asia, as evaluate to females, male contributing political activities and state policies in large number. Although Thailand was the first state of Asia who allow the right to elect to females, after almost seven and a half centuries' of slowly, step-by-step benefits for females in state policies, the reflection of females continues to be no more than a blip on governmental scenery covered with men (Atal, 1993).

Women have very low interest in politics. Besides voting, very little number of women participates in politics. This all due to their historical factors as well as socio-cultural atmosphere and politics also supposed to be 'dirty' and 'complex' in Thailand among women. If a woman in Thailand wants to participate in politics, she must be financially strong and has strong security system because political affairs expose one to public appreciation and analysis, and causes failure of self-respect and one's good name (Iwanaga, 2005).

Thai females are a vital power in education and in professional organizations. They also have an important participation in upper ranks of bureaucracy (Raksasataya, 2014). Women politician claims that they have much more diversity and knowledge as well as stamina as compared to their male colleagues. In return, they have been established recognition, support, benefaction, assistance and auspices by male politicians, the common of who are more experienced in politics than women politicians.

It is also said that if women of any region or state belongs to upper class family or she has strong family background than she get highest seat in politics very easily (Iwanaga, 2008).

It can be said that "common women were not allowed to take part in politics due to unavailability of opportunities. Women were also responsible to the masses of their constituencies. The devotion must be full time as they have to satisfy the public. But it is a matter of concern that politics is not merely an activity for women in Thailand, it is a game of power, to gain power, to retain power and to seek out the problems of the common public" (Iwanaga, 2005).

Local Management Act of 1947 A.D. was enhanced for female appointment. These offices are limited for men only (Onozawa, 1999). Political parties and its leaders hire the regional

management to be their strategy providers and for supporters for elections. Due to regional management, whom estimated to be director of local areas, often become highly politicized and come to believe the part of governmental providers and governmental management at the regional stage as well (Padgaonkar, 1993). A women sub district leader also called Kmnan, whose features and responsibilities are mainly management but whose access into political offices was through a regional general election (Iwanaga, 2005). Actually who are not the part of government and state policies but their leadership and abilities were recognized by their children. In our example Dads who were fascinated or effective in state policies, even if only regional state policies, was another function distributed by some females (Padgaonkar, 1993).

YINGLUCK SHINAWATRA

Yingluck imagined of becoming an ambassador when she was young and beautiful like miss universe and the innovator of dram Band from her institution. She was popular and elected P.M. in the parliament of Thailand. The first lady in this nation to grip the highest governmental job, Madam Yingluck is experienced an unusual high-class in the often masculine world of Thailand state political activity, sailing above the governmental reptile pit and disregarding ticklish questions with her successful smile. However, Madam Yingluck, 44, who never experienced any governmental and political job before, was also one of the last reliable and knowledgeable women to appear in a major Asian nation in several years. A politician's fast increase to come in government is also known as meteoric. But space stones travel too gradually to explain Madam Yingluck's apparition in Thailand political activities.

Yingluck Shinawatra was the first female Prime Minister of Thailand from 2011 A.D. to 2014 A.D. She was the first woman holding the office as Prime Minister in Thailand (Lefevre, 2015). Her professional duties covered about eighty days. In May, the party of Yingluck, Pheu Thai, known as her as an applicant for PM for the general election which held in July, her party won by a landslide. Yingluck governmental began in the age of 44 obtained 296 ballots in the 500-seat Parliament, a representation of her party's maximum majority. Yingluck's selection must be accepted by King Bhumibol Adulyadej before she could formally take her political office. She was advised on by her brother, Thaksin Shinawatra, the P.M. ousted in a

2006 A.D. by army government and who, from exile overseas, looms as the kingmaker and impresario of the inbound management. Mr. Thaksin, who now spend his life in Dubai, evading a prison term here for misuse of authorities, looms large as the kingmaker and impresario of the inbound management and his sister's Pheu Thai Party (PTP) (Fuller, 2011).

Yingluck Shinawatra is also a business woman. She had born in San Kamphaeng town on 21st June, 1967 A.D. From 1960s to the mid-1970s Yingluck's father was a Member of Parliament. Thaksin Shinawatra before becoming Prime Minister in 2001 A.D., served in Parliament and also in ministerial posts. In September 2006 A.D., he was exiled from office when military took over.

Yingluck Shinawatra born into a rich Chinese family and she is the youngest of nine children. Her family had settled the early 20th century in northwestern the Chiang Mai area of Thailand. In 1995 A.D., Yingluck Shinawatra married with Thai businessman named Anusorn Amornchat and they had one son (Lefevre, 2015).

Yingluck has continuously desired to assuage the Thai army, which improved its governmental power in the years after the military government. Yingluck and her party has however pointed sections between non-urban and towns and began a conversation over the value of a lady lead the nation. When Pheu Thai known as her as an applicant for P.M., she was advised on by her sibling. Ms. Yingluck, despite her family's lot of money, was often represented in the strategy as an upcountry lady who was in touch with plebeian Thailand. But much of Ms. Yingluck's life has been in the darkness of her brothers (Fuller, 2011).

Prayuth mentioned former P.M. Yingluck Shinawatra's grain financial assistance, which led to loss of 600 billion dollars for government which is \$18 billion, it is said that it's a technique to buy vote. The new panel based on new structure is planned by government of army, it will help to raise spirit for large charges on crime and stop populist election guarantees.

"After the 2006 A.D. military government, a temporary establishment simply changed (the PM Thaksin Shinawatra's) management and organized elections", he said. "None of the current problems were fixed". And also election changes were tried by the army. Thaksin faction impact did not remove by government, which had a powerful following among non-urban farm owners and the inadequate. The common elections of 2007 A.D. and 2011 A.D. were

won by pro-Thaksin camping in landslides (Takahashi, 2015). The public was divided into two groups that are yellow and red tops. “Yellow tops” means rich, wealthy powerful and a class based around the government parties, Democratic Party and also around the monarch. On the other hand “red tops”, who usually belong to less rich, more from upcountry, as well as it is based around the governmental parties which were formed by Yingluck’s brother Thaksin, who was former Prime Minister and overthrown by the army. Releasing serenity talks with a team of southeast rebel, she got the idea of some level of southeast Thai independence into the popular conversation (Kurlantzick, 2013).

POPULAR BUT DISASTROUS SCHEME

Yingluck Shinawatra charged with corruption case on her scheme RPS (Rice Pledging Scheme) in which her party Pheu Thai purchased rice from the farmers of Thailand at higher price as compare to global market. In October, 2011 A.D. her government re-established the Rice Pledging Scheme. Number of store of rice built to safe the rice and sold at high rates and this thing hit badly the exports of Thailand’s rice. In 2011 A.D. election the main slogan of Yingluck’s party was “Pledging every grain of rice” so that’s why rural people voted to Ms. Shinawatra (Ineichen, 2014). The investigator of anti- corruption has blamed Ms. Yingluck and said she and her party planned this because they want to buy votes from workers or farmers. Yingluck had power in the north of Thailand and she allowed her government to connect with profit from it. In the National Legislative Assembly 190 policymakers out of 219 voted to call Ms. Yingluck in court for this scheme. Eighteen members were against this impeachment and some gave no response. And one member of policymaker was absent on voting day. The result of the voting was written on whiteboard and also shows the number of vote on national television channels.

When Pheu Thai Party tried to implement this scheme the government announced the rate of White rice more than THB 15,000 per metric ton and for Jasmine rice 20,000 per metric ton in the first year of the policy and crop season. That time these rates were five percent higher than market values. That time other exporter of the rice like India and Vietnam filled the rice gap in the market which was caused by Yingluck’s stockpiling rice policy. India became the greatest export country of rice. Tons of rice remained unsold due to

overprice in Thailand. In the first year of the policy government faced the loss of THB 136 Billion that was 4.4 Billion USD (Ineichen, 2014).

This rice storing scheme is considered as a corruption. The scheme also brought the attention of World Bank which highlighted the greatest loss of Thai Economy. After that IMF (International Monetary fund) also advised to the Thailand replace this expensive or pricy policy with effective and good policy, which provide benefit to state.

Yingluck Shinawatra has been banned from office for five years. The army charged her with corruption in an order she oversaw to subsidies rice farmers and this case that could see her jail. According to law the criminal case which relates to rice could punish for 10 years jail. Since May 2014 A.D. the army has been running the state of Thailand and taken over the Ms Yingluck's government.

Thai middle-class urban and elite class hated Yingluck Shinawatra and her brother former Prime Minister and tycoon due to abuse of power and corruption. Yingluck Shinawatra's and Thaskin Shinawatra party won all the election since 2001 A.D. and it is the most famous party of Thailand. After Yingluck's corruption case she tried to speak at a Bangkok with news conference but troops reached their and stopped her to speak. In Thailand unauthorized meetings related to politics are banned because the state is still under martial law.

Yingluck Shinawatra blaming the ruling class of trying to finish her, she said: "Democracy has died in Thailand today, along with the rule of law" (Jonathan, 2015).

Yingluck Shinawatra was banned to travel abroad so that she cannot move to other state her hearing started on negligence charges. The Thai court banned Ms. Yingluck from travelling overseas as well as decided for financial guarantee of (£575,000) 30 million baht. In January she was also banned from politics when army took over the government and found Yingluck guilty over her policy due to which country was facing too much loss of economy. The policy gave too much benefit to farmers because they were paid with high prices as compared to market price but due to this scheme state faced loss of billions of pounds (Reuters, 2015).

The highest court of Thailand ordered to remove P.M. Yingluck Shinawatra from her office because due to her policy country was facing the crisis very deeply. Groups of Pro and antigovernment are

already trying to find protests that will distribute the country and upset the Thai economy more.

The Constitutional Court gave decision that P.M. Yingluck and other ministers who are responsible for this corruption leave their seats because when Miss Yingluck had abused her power. An acting P.M., selected from Yingluck's assistances for holding the prime minister office. In Thailand it was 3rd time that prime minister who is head of government removed by judiciary due to unsure corruption case. In 2008 A.D., Thai court removed the head of government who also belong to Pheu Thai party, Ms. Yingluck's political movement; because that prime minister took money from Television cooking show to appear in shows (Peel, 2014).

CONCLUSION

The particular research was related to the comparative analysis of Thailand prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra and Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto and to prove the women empowerment in the light of their policies and their powers functioned by them in their respective countries. Yingluck Shinawatra was a very daring political leader and took many initiatives and plans regarding foreign policy, trade and political sphere of Thailand. She has faced constant rivalry and opposition of Thailand army, who was not ready to give her sole power to run the affairs of Thailand. Her continuous opposition with the army has led towards her dismissal from the office of the prime minister. She faced the charges of corruption and proved guilty.

Benazir Bhutto also belonged to a family with a political background. She was also daring and inspite of two brothers, her father Zulfikar Bhutto trusted more to Benazir Bhutto. She was companied with her father even his period of trial and keep in touch with the politics of Pakistan in her period of exile. Her stance on the issue of Taliban, her morale even after the allegation of the corruption charges and her continuous efforts to raise the Pakistan standard in international community are worthy of praise. Benazir Bhutto acted as a solitary saver of democracy at the time when military was trying to keep their regime and democratic tenets were under an intense threat. She tried to regularize the part of women in politics.

Benazir Bhutto served here country twice and Yingluck Shinawatra served her country ones. To appreciate the Benazir Bhutto's rise as compare to other regions in the world, Yingluck Shinawatra who was the 1st female prime minister of Thailand. She

got the landslide victory in 2011 A.D. elections. PTP (Peu Thai Party) of Yingluck Shinawatra had the sole and ultimate goal was to capture the political power of the country and their least interests were on to strengthen the democratic values in Thailand. Yingluck has unable to show better performance on various levels. The so called crackdown on red shirt protesters against military regime in 2010 A.D. has gone massive failure for the political power of Yingluck Shinawatra. Judiciary along with military was also the adverse opposite of Yingluck Shinawatra and her government failed badly to accommodate with the judiciary. She was also failed to manage the disaster accrued by flood in 2011 A.D. in Thailand. Her government was dismissed by the military over the issue of subsidies of prices of rice. She also faced corruption charges and now she is also banned to move from one country to another and to participate in politics for five years. The comparison between Shinawatra and Benazir Bhutto shows that both women had to face challenges in their tenure.

Both were selected as the 1st prime minister of their particular countries. Their family background was almost political as the father of Benazir Bhutto and the brother of Yingluck Shinawatra was in politics while they (Shinawatra, Benazir) entered in politics. Both were faced corruption charges during their tenure and severe opposition during their tenure. Both were dismissed by military and faced massive opposition by other political parties. Benazir was not capable of attempting various policies due to the opposition of Ulemas and military. As military is a guiding force in Pakistan, it contributed a lot to lessen the tenure of Benazir Bhutto and same is the case with Shinawatra. She was also unable to make cordial relations with military as military also was the opposite of Yingluck Shinawatra government. The comparative analysis shows that Benazir Bhutto was relatively a strong leader than Yingluck Shinawatra. She got chance to hold the office twice and she did a lot in the field of foreign policy as well as other departments. Both contributed lot to enhance the women role in politics in Asia. A new era was emerged and the participation of women was appreciated in the political sphere. Both of them are the role model for all the Asian women who are interested in politics. Political culture has changed now. Many women are now participating in politics actively.

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