



THE IMPACT OF LEGAL PROVISIONS ON POLITICAL REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Sufficient representation of women in politics is important for the smooth functioning of a democratic process. The introduction of a quota system for the representation of women has been recognized as a mechanism in the world. In Sri Lanka the Article 12(4) of the Constitution which permits affirmative actions for the advancement of women has not been utilized and no quota system was introduced. The Local Authorities (Elections) Amendment Act No.01 of 2016 has introduced 25% reservation for women at local authorities for the first time. The objective of the research is to explore the adequacy and efficacy of the legal framework to ensure political representation of women in Sri Lanka. The study attempts to analyze how the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has responded to the quota system as it matters in the process of implementation. The Constitution, statutory provisions, the research papers published in locally and internationally and reports of the organizations working on gender issues are analyzed to understand the existing legal framework. The election reports and party nomination lists are analyzed in order to obtain data with regard to women political representation at various levels.

Keywords: Women, Equality, Political representation, Quota, Effectiveness