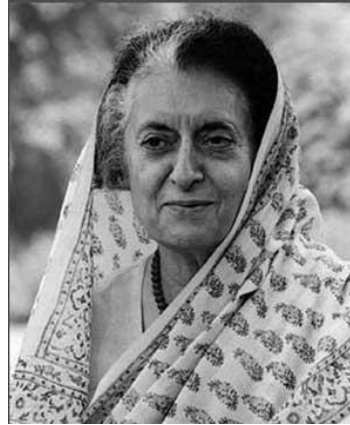




The Role of Women in Political Parties

Presented by:
Tina Mufford, IRI
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Women in Politics in Asia





Why are women important in parties?

The active participation of women makes democracies stronger

- A democracy should ensure the equality and participation of all of its citizens, which strengthens the democracy
- Participating in a political party can help women to know their rights and to improve things for themselves and for their families
- But, women often have difficulty attaining leadership and other influential positions



Why should women be included?

Competitive Advantage for Parties

- Party that makes best use of its members, including women, will be the most successful
- Women are easy to mobilize

Benefits for Women

- Opportunity to utilize unique talents and perspective
- Can serve as catalysts for change on behalf of other women



Why should women be included?

Women are often viewed as:

- Less corrupt
- Having an advantage in social relations within communities and having greater awareness of the public voice
- Being effective money managers



How can women contribute to parties?

In general, women can assist by:

- Identifying issues and developing policy
- Targeting a party's message
- Nominating and recruiting electoral candidates
- Establishing support groups for political parties



How can women contribute to parties?

More specifically, women can:

- Manage a campaign
- Organize a women's coalition to support the party
- Coach men party members on effective ways to speak to women in the community
- Women can also: act as strategists and planners, serve as public speakers, organize local meetings, recruit and organize volunteers and new party members, and research opposition, demographics, and issues



How can women organize within your party?

A women's wing can be used as a means to mobilize women in your party. It should:

- Be a forum for discussing women's challenges to participation
- Organize grassroots activities to educate women about their political rights
- Inform women about the electoral process and their role in it
- Train women to become candidates for public office
- Establish networks to support women elected to office



Purpose of a Women's Wing

Just like the party (or any organization), the women's wing must have:

- A Mission or Vision
- A Goal
- Targets
- Projects (Fundraiser, speech, community project, etc.)



What is the function of a women's wing?

What kind of women's wing do you want?

- **Membership**
- **Advisory Council**
- **Secretariat**
- **Volunteers**



Recruiting for a Women's Wing

- Make it easy for women to join
- Women will join because they are excited by what you're *doing* and *saying*, and want to be a part of it
- Have a recruitment captain
- At every women's wing event, have recruiting tables
- Set up a *system* to recruit, for example, maintain lists of volunteers



What to do with a Women's Wing

- **Three primary areas of activities:**
 - Growing the party
 - Advancing the party's position & influence
 - Adding to the branch's & party's capacity
- **Two major operating environments:**
 - Campaign season
 - In-between campaigns



Group Exercise

- Develop a project that your women's wing can execute.
- Outline 3-5 main steps for completing the project.
- Select one representative to report on behalf of your group.



Challenges to women in parties

- Patriarchal societies and male chauvinism
- Difficulties in traveling
- Time constraints



Group Exercise

- Identify three barriers to women's involvement in political parties.
- Create three strategies to break down these barriers.
- Select one representative to report on behalf of your group.



Creating Leaders

- Leaders are created, not born
- Leadership **knowledge** comes from training, reading, and observation
- Leadership **abilities** are strengthened through activity and experience



Four Types of Leadership

- Bottom-up leadership
- Self-leadership
- Lateral leadership
- Top-down leadership



How to be an Effective Leader

- Give direction and set an example
- Give time to listen and listen with understanding
- Communicate open and honestly
- Bring out the best in those around you

Priority Matrix for Managing Time

	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important	<p><u>Do Now</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covers any tasks that cannot wait <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mandatory ➤ Emergency ➤ Deadlines 	<p><u>Plan to Do</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All required job tasks and duties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research ➤ Party or Women's wing Mtg. ➤ Networking
Not Important	<p><u>Reject and Explain</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasks that others impose upon you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Non-Emergency ➤ Distractions ➤ Inefficiency 	<p><u>Avoid and Cease</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time wasters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lazy Pursuits ➤ Pleasure Reading ➤ Wasted Social Events



Summary – Why should women participate in politics?

- Strengthens democracy
- Supports international law
- Helps women to use their talents, help other women
- Help parties to compete



Summary – How can women contribute to your party?

- Identify issues and developing policy
- Target your party's message
- Nominate and recruit electoral candidates
- Manage a campaign