

RIISING ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

BY: ANANYA KAUSHIK

From a time when society frowned upon even the idea of women going to work, we have come to an age where women are the ones responsible for shaping the important laws, fighting for people's rights and are the rising leaders of this new era.

While this may sound simple to say but this journey has been extremely arduous for women, mainly because of the patriarchal mindset that almost everyone in this world has, treating men as superior and believing that they are the ones meant to guide society while women were only there to be a caring wife and a mother, they were not given a choice because of the patriarchal structure our society is built upon where men perceive themselves to be superior to women because of certain misguided notions formed in the past.

Iceland was the first nation to break such patriarchal notions when Vigdís Finnbogadóttir was elected as the first woman president in the year 1980 and from then women have begun more active participation in this key area where women make the laws that govern us and thus affect the entire country's politics.



Though women have become such a key figure, it is still a fact that they are still underrepresented in almost all areas of politics. They serve as the Heads of State or Government only in 22 countries, and 119 countries have never even had a women leader and even in the countries that have women leaders, only 14 have managed to get more than 50 per cent or more women in cabinets. At this rate gender equality in politics won't be achieved in the near future and looks more like a faint dream for this generation.

Even studies show that women's leadership in political decisions improves these decisions and they demonstrate political leadership through parliamentary women's caucuses, even in those politically hostile environments and by raising issues of gender equality, such as the elimination of gender-based violence, parental leave and childcare, pensions, gender-equality laws and electoral reforms. They tremendously increase both the decision making and the issues covered by the government and by tackling them in new ways thus slowly yet steadily the role of women is increasing in politics.

