

# Women in politics: gaining ground for progressive outcomes

**COLLECTIVE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH**

# **ACTIVISM, CAUCUSES AND POLICY OUTCOMES**

- **Women's movement and campaign for reserved seats quota.**
- **Women Parliamentarians Survey**
- **Contextualizing Progressive Outcomes for Women**

# methodologies

- Key Informant Interviews: politicians, civil society leaders, activists, external actors
- Women Activists Group Interviews
- Media Tracking
- Online Survey with Parliamentarians
- Extensive Literature Review

# activism & quota

Musharraf's reform agenda

Provincial political endorsement

Grass-roots campaign during 1990s

International consensus & focus

WAF demand for restoration and increase in quota

# Government Type, Women's Representation, Activism and Policy Change for Women

Years	Govt Type	Political commitment	Intl Context	Key Individuals	Political Representation of Women*	Level of Activism from Civil Society**	Policy Change	Doctrinal vs. Non-doctrinal

\***1** = Influential individual women in government/politics;  
**2** = 1 (above)+ few elected legislators;  
**3** = 2 (above) + reserved seats for women in elected bodies/assemblies.

\*\* **1** = WAF mobilization;  
**2** = Vocal women's advocacy organizations;  
**3** = Grassroots mobilization.

Years	Type of Govt	Pol. commitment	Intl policy context	Women's political rep	Activism	Policy Change	Doc	Non-doc
1971-1977	Civilian democracy	High	High: WCW '75 UN Decade for Women	2	3	Constitutional equality Reserved seats provision (10 in NA, 5% PAs) First Women's Rights Committee est. Government services opened to women Dowry & Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act		X X X X X



Years	Type of Govt	Pol. Commit.	Intl policy context	Women's political rep	Activism	Policy Change	Doc	Non-doc
2008-2013	Trans democracy	High	Post-conflict donor support	3	1 + 2	First Women's Parliamentary Caucus Domestic violence laws begin Sexual harassment laws Anti-Women Practices Law Acid Crimes law	X	X
2013-2018	“ “	Low	Western aid reduces	3	1 + 2	Anti-rape law Anti-honour killings law Provincial Women's Caucuses set up Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women est Provinces review marriage laws Domestic violence laws Electoral law reforms	X    X  X	X  X  X   X



- **No single consistent confluence of factors has yielded the most progressive policy changes for women.**
- **Non-doctrinal progressive policies for women are far more common across all time periods than those that engage with doctrinal issues.**
- **A high level of political commitment accompanies all periods of positive policy change for women**
- **The successes of women's activism and advocacy campaigns need to be assessed over decades.**
- **The value of international momentum for achieving domestic progress on women is significant, especially during 'golden periods' of policy-making.**