

## Empowering Perspectives: Analyzing Gender Dynamics in International Politics

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### ARTICLE INFO

*Keywords:* Gender Dynamics, International Politics, Intersectionality, Inclusive Governance, Empowerment

*Received :* 06 September

*Revised :* 06 October

*Accepted:* 08 November

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### ABSTRACT

This study explores the complex world of gender dynamics in global politics with the goal of empowering different viewpoints and promoting inclusive government. The introduction outlines the growing importance of gender issues in international relations and emphasizes the necessity for a thorough understanding of how they intersect with other social identities. The study's dual goals are to first investigate how gender affects political involvement and representation while taking into account how race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation interact with gender experiences. Second, to examine how gender-sensitive policies affect international efforts at development, peacekeeping, and conflict resolution. A mixed-methods strategy is used, including research using qualitative data. Findings highlight the complex ways in which gender influences international politics' power structures, decision-making procedures, and access to opportunities. The report also highlights the significance of comprehensive gender-sensitive policy and points out shortcomings in addressing intersecting identities. In order to establish a more inclusive and equitable international political scene, more research and action are required, as this study emphasizes the significance of advancing gender equity in global governance.

## INTRODUCTION

In the field of international politics, gender dynamics play an important but frequently ignored role. International relations have been dominated by men's opinions and points of view, which has pushed gender-related problems to the side-lines of global governance and decision-making (True 2003). In recent years, however, people have become more aware of how important it is to study gender relations in order to understand power structures, inequality, and the bigger effects on international security and cooperation (Bolin et al. 1998). International politics, sometimes called international relations, examines worldwide exchanges and relationships. Diplomacy, conflict, collaboration, trade, security, and international policymaking are included (Okano 2011). Empowerment increases an individual's or group's ability to make decisions, govern their lives, and achieve goals. Providing resources, chances, and knowledge boosts self-confidence and autonomy (Staples 1990). Gender equality means equal rights, opportunity, and treatment. It fights gender-based discrimination and bias to give everyone equal access to resources, education, employment, and decision-making (Farrior 2009). Feminist theory is a group of ideas and points of view that look at the social, political, economic, and cultural systems that keep men and women from being treated equally and criticize them. It tries to understand women's lives, question standard gender roles, and fight for equal rights for men and women (Acker 1987; Khatun et al. 2023). The idea of intersectionality acknowledges how multiple social identities, including race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and others, intersect and interact to produce distinctive and intricate experiences of advantage and discrimination.

The term "intersectionality" stresses how different identities are intertwined and how they might affect a person's possibilities and way of life (Crenshaw 2021). The hierarchical arrangements and distribution of power, influence, and control within a society or an organization are referred to as power structures. These structures establish who has the authority to make decisions, who has access to resources, and who may guide policies and actions (Tran and Tian 2013). The methodical and unbiased evaluation of public policies to determine their objectives, efficacy, and prospective effects is known as policy analysis. It entails compiling and analysing data, assessing potential policy options, and presenting evidence-based recommendations to decision-makers (Head 2010).

Global governance is the process by which nations, international organizations, and other players collaborate and communicate to handle problems that cut across national boundaries and address global difficulties. It entails developing, putting into practice, and enforcing standards, laws, and regulations that have an effect on a variety of international relations issues, such as trade, security, human rights, and environmental protection (Krahmann 2003). Women's rights are the privileges and liberties that women ought to have in society. These rights include the ability to exercise autonomy over one's own body and life, the right to be free from harassment and assault, the ability to receive healthcare and education, and equality of opportunity (Hodgson 2002).

The study of gender dynamics in international politics is important because it clarifies how gender affects global power structures, decision-making procedures, and policy consequences. For the sake of advancing gender equality, elevating women's voices, and establishing more inclusive and effective global governance, it is crucial to comprehend these dynamics.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Over the past few decades, gender dynamics in international politics have grown, revealing the many ways gender and power intersect globally. Several research have examined this problem. Griffin (2010) examines gender, governance, and global political economy. It examines global economy governance frameworks and gender issues. "Beckman and D'Amico (1994)" explores women's participation and gender dynamics in world politics. It examines gender-related policies, women's participation in international politics, and global governance's future. True (2010) examines "mainstreaming gender" in international institutions. The study examines how global organizations might include gender and feminist ideas into their policies, procedures, and decision-making. The research promotes gender mainstreaming to foster more inclusive and equitable international relations by acknowledging and addressing gender inequities. Narain (2014) examines J. Ann Tickner's feminist international relations viewpoints. The paper examines Tickner's contributions to global gender politics. It critically analyses her theoretical frameworks and findings to show how feminist perspectives can enrich and transform international relations. Aggestam and Rosamond's (2019) study centres on "Feminist foreign policy 3.0." The paper investigates how feminist foreign policy might promote ethics and gender equality in global politics. It seeks novel methods to apply feminist concepts to international affairs, stressing gender equality and social justice. There is still a crucial study gap on the intersectionality of gender with other social identities, such as race, ethnicity, and sexuality, despite the growing awareness of gender issues in international politics. Numerous marginalized identities' effects on political representation and participation are frequently ignored in existing studies.

Analysis of the effects of gender-sensitive policies on efforts to resolve conflicts, promote peace, and advance development also receives little focus. To create comprehensive plans that address the complexities of gender dynamics and encourage significant change in global governance and decision-making processes, it is essential to close these gaps. The purpose of this study is to examine how gender dynamics play out in global politics and how gender empowerment affects the formulation of foreign policy. Women's involvement and engagement in diplomatic talks and decision-making processes are still limited, despite significant global advances toward gender equality. This study will investigate the impact of such gender differences on the development, execution, and general state of international relations. We look at case studies of nations with various degrees of gender inclusion in their foreign policy apparatus in an effort to pinpoint the obstacles standing in the way of women's meaningful participation in global politics and to highlight effective gender

empowerment methods. The ultimate goal of this research is to offer policymakers and other stakeholders practical insights that will help advance more just and efficient global governance. This study illuminates power dynamics, decision-making procedures, and representation by delving into the subtleties of gender dynamics in global politics. It seeks to empower different viewpoints and promote more inclusive and fair global governance by comparing the roles and experiences of men and women.

### **Research objectives**

To analyze gender dynamics in international politics, the objectives are:

1. To assess the representation of women in international political institutions and decision-making processes.
2. To examine the impact of gender dynamics on diplomatic relations and conflict resolution.
3. To investigate the intersectionality of gender with other identity factors in international politics.

### **METHODOLOGY**

A qualitative methodology is used in this study to examine gender dynamics in global politics. Data will be acquired from a variety of sources, such as scholarly writing, government papers, etc. The analysis will be guided by theoretical frameworks, including intersectionality and feminist theories. In order to investigate gender-related policies, representation, and decision-making procedures in various nations and international organizations, a comparative study approach will be used. To ensure validity and reliability, the qualitative data will be triangulated. The research findings are intended to advance knowledge of how gender affects and shapes power relationships in the field of international politics.

### **RESEARCH RESULT**

#### **The Role of Women in Diplomacy**

Throughout the years, women's roles in diplomacy have changed dramatically, and the importance of their contributions to the study of international relations has grown. In the past, men predominated in the field of diplomacy, while women had little access to formal diplomatic positions. There has been a discernible trend in recent decades toward gender inclusion and the recognition of women's potential to influence diplomatic endeavours. Women play critical roles in modern diplomacy as diplomats, negotiators, and policymakers, offering distinctive perspectives and methods for international collaboration (Islam 2023). One notable example is Angela Merkel, the former chancellor of Germany, who displayed outstanding leadership while serving in office and managing difficult global difficulties. Her diplomatic approach as a female leader was distinguished by pragmatism, empathy, and the capacity to generate compromise, which won her respect on the international stage. The

presence of women in diplomacy is on the rise, and this is due to a number of factors. More women are able to pursue jobs in international relations thanks to improvements in education and the rise of gender equality. As a result, women have overcome historical obstacles and advanced significantly in the world of diplomacy. Many nations and international organizations are actively working to achieve gender parity in their diplomatic ranks as a result of the realization of the value of diversity and inclusivity in decision-making processes.

According to research, diverse teams including those with a mix of men and women often have a greater propensity for creativity and problem-solving success. Greater representation of women in diplomacy and other leadership positions has been pushed forward by advocacy efforts from a variety of women's rights groups and individuals. These advocacy initiatives have brought attention to the necessity of eliminating systemic hurdles that prevent women from advancing their careers in diplomacy and gender bias. It is crucial to recognize that despite these encouraging advancements, problems still exist. Still, preconceptions, gender-based discrimination, and a lack of equitable opportunity exist for women in diplomacy. Women's opinions must be not only heard but also incorporated into diplomatic tactics and policy development, and efforts must continue in this direction.

### **Gender and Conflict Resolution**

Understanding how gender affects conflict resolution is essential for fostering long-lasting peace and stability in society. Finding peaceful and beneficial solutions to conflicts involves the process of settling disagreements, conflicts, or tensions (Ramsbotham et al. 2011). The dynamics of conflicts and the methods used to approach and resolve them are influenced by gender, even though gender does not directly affect a person's capacity for conflict resolution. In this context, we will examine how gender affects conflict resolution and the value of gender-inclusive strategies for promoting long-lasting peace. In the past, male dominance in conflict resolution processes frequently resulted in the exclusion or marginalization of women's voices and opinions. This omission may result in incomplete and biased approaches to dispute resolution as well as the perpetuation of gender inequality (Islam and Khatun 2023). Women and other gender minorities frequently experience conflicts in ways that males do not, and their distinctive perspectives and experiences are crucial for comprehending the underlying causes of disputes and potential remedies. Recognizing the various responsibilities and contributions that men and women make to peacebuilding efforts is a crucial part of gender and conflict resolution. Conflicts frequently have an outsized impact on women, who face unique difficulties such as sexual violence, displacement, and family member loss. They are, nonetheless, also effective change and resilience agents in their communities. Results that are more thorough and efficient can be achieved by recognizing and empowering women's participation in dispute resolution procedures. The accords that arise from peace negotiations and decision-making are more likely to be lasting and take into account the demands of the entire population when women are

included. Human rights, social welfare, and communal welfare are frequently given priority by women. Their presence at the negotiation table might cause the discussion to move from specific, short-term interests to more general, long-term goals that are advantageous to everyone in society. The re-examination of conventional ideas of masculinity and femininity that may support violent behaviour and obstruct peaceful settlements is another crucial part of gender and conflict resolution. The climate for negotiation can be made more inclusive and non-confrontational by addressing damaging stereotypes and encouraging conflict resolution models that value empathy, communication, and cooperation. Processes for resolving conflicts that are gender-inclusive can also aid in removing obstacles to participation and representation for all genders.

Conflict resolution programs become more representative, legitimate, and reflective of the interests and aspirations of the entire population by actively involving various perspectives, including women, people of colour, and non-binary people (Eckhardt et al. 2021). Governments, international organizations, civil society, and local communities must work together to implement gender-sensitive conflict resolution techniques. Gender perspectives must be incorporated into all phases of conflict resolution, from early preventive initiatives through post-war reconstruction, according to policymakers and practitioners.

### **Women in Peacebuilding Processes**

The importance and acknowledgement of women's contributions to peacebuilding initiatives have increased significantly in recent years on a global scale. According to research, involving women in decision-making and peacebuilding initiatives results in more long-lasting and fruitful effects. It examines the essential role played by women in promoting peace and how their inclusion might help to maintain stability and peace in areas that have experienced violence. The particular perspective and experiences that women have in times of war are an important component of their participation in peacebuilding. Women may often provide invaluable insights into the complex social, economic, and political forces at play and have a profound awareness of the causes of violence (Wachter and Mathis 2022). A more thorough and all-encompassing approach to conflict resolution can be attained by including their opinions in peace talks and decisions. Additionally, women's involvement in peace processes increases the possibility of reaching lasting agreements. When women are involved in the formation and implementation of peace agreements, the Council on Foreign Relations reports that those agreements have a 35% greater chance of lasting for at least 15 years (Nilsson 2012). Women frequently place a higher priority on social welfare, neighbourhood needs, and personal safety, resulting in peace agreements that are more inclusive and human-centred (Islam and Khatun 2023). Women's participation in peacebuilding also extends beyond official negotiations. Women are vital to local attempts at mediation and reconciliation in many conflict-affected areas. They facilitate communication between opposing parties and help communities heal their divisions. These neighbourhood-level efforts have proven to be crucial in

fostering social cohesion and trust-building at the local level, which ultimately enables more extensive peacebuilding procedures. Even though women's contributions to peacebuilding are increasingly acknowledged, there are still big obstacles to overcome. Women's ability to participate in decision-making and leadership roles might be hampered by gender stereotypes and strongly set cultural norms. Governments, international organizations, and civil society must make consistent efforts to advance gender equality and foster the participation of women in order to overcome these obstacles. Women's participation in peacebuilding isn't only about gender equality; it's essential for lasting peace and stability in conflict-affected countries. We can create more inclusive and resilient societies by using women's viewpoints, promoting human security, and recognizing their responsibilities in peace initiatives. Empowering women in peacebuilding is just and strategic.

### **Barriers to Gender Empowerment in International Politics**

International politics has long struggled to empower women. Despite advances, many hurdles prevent women from fully participating in global decision-making. This essay discusses cultural norms, institutional prejudice, and a lack of representation. International politics perpetuates gender inequality through cultural conventions and stereotypes. Social norms reinforce gender roles and obligations. The responsibilities of running the home limit women's political participation in many cultures. High-level diplomatic negotiations exclude women because gender stereotypes perceive them as emotional and incapable of handling complex political matters. International organizations perpetuate these assumptions, underrepresenting women in leadership. Institutional discrimination exacerbates international gender inequality. Male-dominated political structures and organizations continue to demonstrate gender bias (Khatun et al. 2022). These institutions' lack of rules and processes supporting women's participation and professional advancement shows this bias. Women are underrepresented in international government decision-making roles due to gender discrimination in hiring and promotion. Global female political empowerment is also hindered by representation.

Diplomatic negotiations, peacekeeping deployments, and international decision-making platforms lack women. Underrepresentation silences women and ignores their unique viewpoints on conflict resolution and global challenges. Women in peace discussions can make settlements more lasting and inclusive. Cultural norms, institutional prejudice, and a lack of representation hinder women's empowerment in international politics. Governments, international organizations, and civil society must work together to achieve gender equality and a more inclusive and representative global political scene.

### **Efforts to Promote Gender Equality in International Politics**

A fundamental human right known as gender equality calls for all people to receive the same chances and treatment, regardless of their gender. Promoting gender equality in international politics is essential for achieving social justice, peace, and sustainable development on a global scale.

International organizations, governments, and civil society have all made diverse attempts over time to improve gender equality on a worldwide scale. In order to promote gender equality in international politics, a number of initiatives, policies, and tactics have been put in place. This research will examine these efforts. Through a number of important programs, the United Nations (UN) has taken a leading position in advancing gender equality. The creation of UN Women, a specialized organization committed to promoting gender equality and the worldwide empowerment of women, is one noteworthy endeavour (Islam and Khatun 2023). The UN has been able to create extensive initiatives that address gender-based violence, discrimination, and economic inequities because of this organization. In order to ensure that women's needs and voices are taken into account, the UN has also adopted gender mainstreaming methods. These strategies aim to include a gender perspective in all policies and programs. International treaties and agreements have also significantly aided the advancement of gender equality.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a historic agreement that binds signatory countries to combat discrimination based on gender and advance the rights of women. It has spurred many policy changes around the world and been a potent tool for holding governments responsible for their attempts to eliminate gender inequities. Governments have played a crucial role in enacting laws and programs to promote gender equality in their individual nations. Norway, Sweden, and Iceland are among the nations in the Scandinavian region that have been at the forefront of efforts to advance gender equality. One example of a national-level program aimed at expanding women's involvement in decision-making roles is Norway's implementation of required gender quotas on company boards. Civil society organizations and grassroots movements have been pivotal in raising awareness and driving change on gender equality issues.

The #MeToo movement, for instance, gained worldwide momentum as a social media campaign that shed light on sexual harassment and assault, leading to increased accountability and policy changes in various industries (Colwell and Johnson 2020). Such movements have encouraged public discourse and pushed for gender-sensitive policies in politics and beyond. Women must take part in peacebuilding initiatives in order to advance gender equality in international politics. The significance of women's participation in conflict resolution and peace negotiations is emphasized in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (Kreft 2017). Governments, the UN, and civil society organizations have attempted to put this resolution into action in order to improve the representation and power of women in peacebuilding initiatives.

## CONCLUSION

International politics has illuminated gender inequities. The study found that gender-based disparities and biases continue to limit women's worldwide empowerment, notwithstanding recent gains. Our data showed that women are

underrepresented in diplomatic and decision-making roles, limiting their influence on foreign affairs. Media and public perception reinforce gender stereotypes and power dynamics, restricting female political leaders' chances. Governments, international organizations, civil society, and individuals must collaborate to address these discrepancies. Promoting gender equality and diversity in leadership, providing women with education and economic opportunities, and opposing negative gender norms are essential to inclusive and equitable international politics. Recognizing varied voices and experiences in international politics empowers perspectives. Women's distinct perspectives and methods can help solve global issues more comprehensively and sustainably when included in decision-making.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Assistant Professor, Suban Kumar Chowdhury, for his kind time, proper guidelines, support and consideration.

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Islam, Hassan, Ahmad, Hassan

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