BGS -013: GENDER AND GOVERNANCE

Course Code: BGS-013
Assignment Code: ASST /TMA / 2026-26
Total Marks: 100

Section A

Answer the following in about 500 words each.

1. Evaluate the role of women in legislatures by giving suitable examples. (20 marks)
2. Discuss the legal literacy education in India by providing suitable examples. (20 marks)

Section B

Answer the following questions in about 250 words each.

3. Write about post-globalization with suitable examples. (10 marks)
4. Write a critique on caste and class debates in India. (10 marks)
5. Discuss the contribution of Balwantrai Mehta Committee with reference to Panchayati Raj institutions. (10 marks)

Section C

Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.

6. Write a note on 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts (6marks)
7. Write a note on women lawyers. (6 marks)
8. Write a note on grassroot governance. (6 marks)
9. Write a note on organized sector (6 marks)
10. Write a note on social security. (6 marks)

1. Evaluate the role of women in legislatures by giving suitable examples. (20 marks)

Answer

Women in legislatures are important because elected assemblies make laws, approve budgets, examine the government and represent the concerns of citizens. In a democracy, women should not be merely voters or beneficiaries of welfare schemes; they should also participate in deciding public priorities. Their participation is especially significant in India, where social inequalities, unequal care responsibilities and limited access to political resources have historically restricted women's opportunities. The role of women legislators can be evaluated through their contribution to representation, law-making, accountability, leadership and the continuing barriers to effective participation.

Political representation and democratic legitimacy

Women constitute roughly half the population. When legislative bodies are dominated by men, many experiences of everyday life remain poorly represented. Women members can raise questions about unsafe public transport, maternal health, drinking water, childcare, sexual harassment, girls' schooling and unequal wages. These matters concern society as a whole, but they may receive greater attention when women speak from direct experience and from conversations with women constituents. Representation is not simply a question of numbers: differences of caste, class, religion, region, disability and age also matter. A privileged woman legislator does not automatically speak for every woman, just as a male representative does not represent every man's situation.

There has been progress, but the national picture shows why further change is necessary. In the 2024 general election, 74 women were elected to the eighteenth Lok Sabha, about 14 per cent of the House. This was well below women's share of the population. Several state legislative assemblies have similarly remained male-dominated. By contrast, the experience of local government shows the impact of guaranteed opportunities: constitutional reservation and subsequent state measures have enabled large numbers of women to serve as elected representatives in panchayats and municipalities.

Contribution to legislation and policy

Women legislators take part in drafting, debating, amending and reviewing laws. Their role is not confined to laws labelled as women's issues. They participate in debates concerning education, the economy, national security, agriculture, health, taxation and the environment. The discussions surrounding the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, and legislation addressing sexual harassment at the workplace illustrate the importance of sustained advocacy,