



Her Voice, Her Change: The Enduring Influence of Women In Society

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Abstract

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*“In Politics, if you want anything said, ask a man,
if you want anything done, ask a woman.”*

- Margaret Thatcher

Actions speak louder than words as, it is not what we say but what we do that tells the real character of a person. Like that, women in reality are practical examples of action-oriented people who function with determination, empowerment, confidence and strength. Their journey starts from their birth till their death. As a woman politically functions in her home and in society maintaining the balance between her passion and responsibility, she marches easily to reshape the country. Because of her competence and capability, the world is redeveloping to a fine future. Throughout history, female-led eras have left an indelible mark on society, politics, economy and literature. From the period of Queen Elizabeth I's cultural renaissance to Queen Victoria's industrial advancements, woman leaders have consistently brought stability, progress, and a flourish of artistic innovation. Today, female leaders continue to redefine the global landscape, prioritizing empathy, resilience, and ingenuity, and cementing their legacies as transformative forces for change for a better futuristic world. Today, women are leading more and more; they drive leadership and governance across the globe. Their influence stretches far beyond the corporate boardroom, as women now dominate the top echelons of national governments and are shaping the destiny of whole nations. The paper concentrates on the role of Women leadership in Politics and their participation against the Man based world of superiority of Power. In reference to the biographical film “The Iron Lady (2011)”, based on the life and legacy of Margaret Thatcher, (Britain's first female Prime Minister). The film insights into the interesting angles about great women from history. The film shows how remarkable power and resilience it is to become a woman success in the career field that has traditionally been dominated by men.

Keywords: women leadership, transformative forces, politics, power dynamics, career

Introduction

Politics includes the sophisticated dynamics of the exercise of government, power, and decision making in a setting of social units, groups, organizations, or societies. The simple definition of politics is strategic manipulation and application of power to get things done within a framework of laws, rules, and policies established. Conflicting

interest, values, and beliefs only add complexity to such a process. The introduction of women into politics is a groundbreaking step toward achieving gender equality and more inclusive governance.

Traditionally, men have held the majority position in the political landscape, pushing women out from decision-making and leadership positions. The involvement of women in politics, however, brings



diverse perspectives, increased representation, and a focus on issues that affect all walks of society.

Enhanced female participation in politics is extensively documented to produce transformational benefits, which have been empirically verified. Such research time and again indicates a very positive association between increased proportions of women in parliaments and an enhanced concern with women-specific issues in policies that, by consequence, tend to be more inclusive and representative. More broadly, including the experiences and views of women strengthens decision-making, hence producing more effective governance on a wide variety of topics. Studies indicate a positive correlation between increased female political representation and enhanced performance in critical areas such as health care delivery, economic growth, and citizen welfare. The inclusion of women's voices and views in the political sphere has undoubtedly been a step toward gender equality and the development of truly inclusive governance systems. Although much progress has been achieved, the quest for full parity in politics continues to be an ongoing process, requiring persistent effort and unwavering commitment toward dismantling what remains and toward ensuring that the voices of women are not just heard but take an active part in shaping the future.

Hattie Caraway and Margaret Chase Smith paved the way for early female U.S.

Senators. Geraldine Ferraro gained a landmark role in 1984 when she became the first woman to be nominated to a major party's presidential ticket. Hillary Rodham Clinton's First Lady,

The Lady of Voices

The path that defined her, shaped who she is now, gave her notoriety, and served as a voice for many women parenting women today. She set an example for many modern women in the political sphere. Her name will always be associated with women's leadership in politics. The paper will be centred into three insightful sections and examined using a feminist perspective on women's leadership and their efforts to transform society. The paper discusses on; First, Margaret Thatcher's life, challenges, and power relationships during her lifetime.

Second, women's conditions and power struggles in various political eras. Third, the role of women in politics now in relation to society in reference to the movie.

The movie centres on Margaret's political journey as a young child with big goals and her desire to serve as a lower middle-class British lady in the early 20th century in the House of Commons. As Margaret, who doesn't want to be like her mother because she is only a housewife, the movie highlights the complicated bond between mother and daughter. When she meets her future husband, Denis Thatcher, and is motivated by her father's political speeches, her life transforms. She spent much of her childhood focusing on herself to fulfill the expectations of being a lady member of high society, acting as the "Education Secretary" in Edward Heath's Cabinet, and overcoming the challenges she faced as a woman trying to make ends meet in the male-dominated Conservative Party. She frequently states that she would rather be a rule-maker than a housewife, saying things like, "I don't want to die cleaning a teacup."

Margaret Thatcher's life story was shown in the film in three stages: First as a young woman who wants to join the House of Commons, and as a woman from the lower middle class. Second as an assembly member and a distinguished member in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In the last scene, an elderly woman recalls her life as the prime minister of the United Kingdom and in a series of flashbacks throughout the movie.

The movie uses flashbacks of past and present occurrences to give the audience a sense of digression. Because the main character recalls her life's events, including her conversion to her deceased husband, who speaks to her in a form of a ghost. The society in the Thatcher's era were the status of women in society is not equal to the male as some of the positions were under the male dominance till the third wave of feminism (1920-present), the change started when women started to experiment their career and opportunities in different sectors as by questioning the man's perceptive and their rules of the society, as Mandell states that "Woman was oppressed by a special form of life called patriarchy through which man appropriates all superior social roles and keeps women in subordinated and exploited position".



Leadership comes with the sense of responsibility, governance and decision-making ability to the feminist who associates this with empowerment of their gender. As Eisenhower said in Bass "Leadership is the ability to decide what is to be done and then to get others to want to do it,". Thatcher's journey in politics started as the leader in a party to the leading figure to a well-developed nation. Her journey not just bring the pride and power to her but also the political pressure, hardships and struggles she must face to give the nation a better future. For the nation's budget, she was forced to restrict the country's economic budget while serving as prime minister, Thatcher also had to deal with internal problems inside the ruling party, which called into question her authority. She worked tirelessly to restore the nation to its most prosperous state, and her tenure was the most prosperous in British government history and thus making her as the UK's longest-serving prime minister.

Thatcher faced the political tactics over for four decades till her last breath. She faced the ups and downs in her career. Even the betrayal of her own party members in her last years of her governance, which left a teary and sorrowful mark in her life as a Politician. For a woman to be successful, powerful and determination, there must be reason or the cause of their transformative role from an ordinary person to a powerful leader.

Thatcher being one of the transformational leaders who meets the requirements of, four traits of female leadership listed by Northouse in infusive. First, making decisions by consensus. Second, proving the strength of reason. Third, addressing conflicts in a constructive manner. The final step is to create a collaborative environment for a better society. Her charm or romanticized influence piques the interest of her followers. She also frequently provides her supporters, particularly the public, with motivational and inspirational speeches. She encourages her followers to evolve and develop further.

When Margaret enters politics, she demonstrates that women can hold positions on par with men. Her appointment as prime minister further demonstrates that women can rise to positions one step beyond males and fulfill their roles in society. The role of Margaret

Thatcher is also depicted in the film. She is engaged in parliament and takes part in elections. She encourages women to pursue their dreams of happiness by pursuing education and a job without having to leave their families. Thatcher also has the intellectual stimulation to inspire her supporters or those in her immediate vicinity to come up with creative policy ideas. When Thatcher visits the society, she tries to make herself feel at ease. In a meeting, she gives her coworkers the opportunity to voice their opinions, discuss them, and occasionally engage in argument. Margaret Thatcher was a leader who prioritized one-on-one encounters, intellectual prowess, inspiration, motivation, and constructive influences on subordinates. Due to her efforts to dismantle the gender divide in politics, she assists and encourages the other females to follow suit. In the film, the characterization of Margaret Thatcher who is known for high confidence and stand grounded towards her thinking. She is always filled with high hopes and build of strong personality. She is courageous to defend her idea and very rigid. She wants to be an independent woman who can live free and liberated. She has a very high ambition.

Thatcher's journey is not only possible because of hope and determination but also the support she received from her husband. Denis Thatcher who has been a solid support to his wife from the start to end for his life. His personality was total contrast to the men in that period who rejects the women's growth because of their self-egoistic nature of man. He concentrated on the growth of his wife as by supporting her in politics. He doesn't stop her as to be less ambitious or put her dreams an end card but instead supported and helped her in her life as to fulfil her passions and dreams.

Women struggle to prove themselves equal to the male has always been a concern from the past to the present but today the change of the governance of various nations gave us the prime example how a nation can be, when it is ruled by a female and what are the changes, it has brought to the society. For example, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern, who served as the 40th Prime Minister to New Zealand was known for the imitate action during the covid pandemic which has ultimately saved 80,000 lives in the country.



Today around 35 - 45% of the world's nations are ruled and controlled by Women, who are strong, bold, confident and determined towards reaching their goal for a prosperity nation. As from the film to the reality, the world is fully filled with the essence of women's leadership in politics as how we can analyse from the Margaret Thatcher's life story in the movie and it demonstrates how feminist theory and female leadership emerge in this film through the characterization of the protagonist.

Conclusion

Women in politics and economics have emerged as agents of transformative change, usually producing stronger sustainable and inclusive results than their peers. The literature indicates that such women focus on matters like education, health care, and welfare generally, all factors that benefit society in the long term. Politically, women leaders such as Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Jacinda Ardern, and Sanna Marin have demonstrated incredible crisis management, empathy-driven governance, and a focus on consensus-building that has brought their respective nations closer to stability and progress. Women executives and policymakers in the economic arena often focus on growth and innovation equitably to ensure resources are more distributed to a broader section of society. Countries that have more representation of women in politics and economics are likely to show less corruption, high GDP growth, and better social indicators as benefits of their leadership. Women bring perspectives and approaches to working that often bring better societal and political outcomes and put nations on a stronger, more inclusive trajectory. Women in the history of England and literature have left an invaluable mark. Powerful and influential, their reigns may have marked and inspired generations. Queens Elizabeth I and Victoria stand tall as defining rulers whose reigns defined transformative periods within English history. Elizabeth's Golden Age

gave birth to a literary Renaissance, supporting the works of Shakespeare and Spenser, and leading to diplomacy as well as solidifying England as a world power. Queen Victoria, at the zenith of the British Empire, ruled over an era of unparalleled industrial, cultural, and scientific advancement that epitomized stability and moral authority. Mary, Queen of Scots, epitomized turbulent rule and tragic fate yet became the very icon of strength and mystery etched forever in literature and history. In them, besides the politics and culture they sculpted for themselves, there are legendary female icons as powerful in literary representation as the confluence of power, feminine charm, and ambition that made up their periods-a landmark period indicating how much these women leaders in history could also influence history the way men of the time had. For one, women heads of state throughout history have proven to be novel in their individual perspectives and attitudes about governance, sociocultural, or cultural development.

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