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SLOW PROGRESS: Women's representation in legislature remains low in many Asian countries



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The representation of women in parliaments is one of the major indicators of gender equality, as it reflects the progress of our society.

Their presence in politics and the proper representation in legislature is vital for women empowerment. It is for this reason that the share of women in the corridors of power, needs to be reviewed on a regular basis.

The percentage of women among lawmakers has been rising all over the world. In Scandinavia, North America, Caribbean nations, Oceania and South America, women have comparatively higher representation than the other regions.

The representation is better in East Africa, South Africa and to an extent, Central Asia, also. but it is still quite low in other parts of Asia.

Women constitute half of the entire world's population but in many countries, they are not even 25% when it comes to being the lawmakers.

In terms of population, India is the biggest democracy in the world. The last general election saw, 74 women elected to the house, and this forms less than 15% of the numerical strength of the Parliament.

United Nations report suggests that the proportion of women in the legislatures, started going up after 1990 but it is still far behind a level of parity.

It says that barely 21 countries have 40% women in national parliaments. Further, just one of these countries is in Asia. All the rest are in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

In fact, the number of countries in the world having 50% or more women in the parliaments, can be counted on fingers. In Asia, there is one nation, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Other countries include Nicaragua, Rwanda, Cuba. Bolivia, New Zealand, Mexico and Andorra, also fare highly on the gender equality and have the similar level.

But big countries and vast regions, still have poor participation of women in decision making and as lawmakers.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) report had suggested that the in three decades, percentage of seats held by women rose from 11.3% in 1995 to 27.2% in 2025. This report is titled 'Women In Parliament'. But, in many countries, the rate at which representation was going up, has slowed down, lately.

PERCENTAGE IN PARLIAMENTS

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New Zealand, Bolivia and Andorra, also fare highly on the gender equality and have the similar level.

The countries in Scandinavia, Caribbean region and Oceania also have a high representation of women, ranging from 45% to 50%.

Out of 195-odd countries, even ten can't make to the list. Data keeps changing due to elections. Figure includes elected & nominated. Some countries have special provisions or reservation for women.



Social activist turns into a savior again, helps Indian man stuck abroad, return

Syed Abid Hussain helps in rescuing people who are stuck in other countries. Once again, his efforts have succeeded and he has helped a stranded man come back to India, safely.

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Rana Samadder who hails from West Bengal, was trapped in Iraq since 2023.

The middle-aged man who had gone to Iraq for work, was unable to leave the place and he had been trying in vain, for long, to return to India.

It was in January 2023 that he had left for Iraq to work for an engineering company.

But when his passport was seized by an official at the airport, and he was instead given a token in return, but passport not handed back to him, he got trapped in the faraway land.

It took almost two years before he could reach his homeland, and it was Syed Abid Hussain, a Bhopal-based man who had played a key role in rescuing the stranded man from outside the country. Hussain who has been doing the job of a Good Samaritan for many

years, and has been able to use his connections, his social media prowess, his ability to start campaigns and contact officials in different countries, manages to contact authorities, in order to help such people.

Samadder said that his company did nothing for him & he had lost

all hope, was getting close to the breaking point when he got the link and contacted Hussain. After obtaining the number and telling him about his ordeal, Rana soon found that there was now a window opening and soon the much needed help came from the official channel.



Rana Samadder



Syed Abid Hussain



Syed Abid Hussain
@Aapka_abid

Jay

Rana Samadder, a resident of Durgapur in West Bengal, went to Iraq for a job, where his passport was confiscated. After my long efforts & Rana's 2 years of struggle, he was able to return home, for which I thank @DrSJaishankar Sir @meaMADAD @HelplinePBSK & Indian embassy Iraq

Samadder got passport and after two years, he was able to reach India. Once he arrived in Delhi, he made a call and thanked Syed Abid Hussain, who is also known as 'Bajrangi Bhaijan' due to the Salman Khan starrer movie about the hero saving a little girl. Interestingly, Abid Hussain has no political connections or ambitions, and has not been from any privileged background.

However, over the years, he has managed to reunite people stranded in different corners of the world, with their families and helped them return to India. From technocrats to students, job seekers in far away African countries to those youth stuck abroad during Ukraine-Russia war, he bats for them and manages to get them return. Due to his social work, he has got recognition and has got multiple awards. "I get satisfaction in helping others. These people and their families give me blessings and that's my reward", says Abid. editor@asiantribune.net

MUST READ

Myanmar: Deadly earthquake leaves nearly 3,000 dead

For smooth relief work, military announces truce

The Asian Tribune

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The death toll in the aftermath of the earthquake that hit Myanmar, has soared.

The deadly quake has figure has been rising. Earlier, it was suggested that there were 2,886 deaths.

However, the latest reports indicate that the toll could be much higher. The figure is said to be more than 3,000. Besides, thousands have been injured as a result of the calamity.

The country has been going through strife for a long period. Keeping in view, the need for relief works, the military has announced temporary truce. The earthquake hit the region on March 28.

The affect of the quake, which was measured 7.7 on the Richter scale, has been felt in the neighbouring country as well. Loss of lives, property and injuries was reported from Thailand too, albeit at a lesser scale. But the maximum impact has been in Myanmar.

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