

Women leadership and Nonkilling perception of Politics

By Rashida Khanam

State is more to politics than power. The purpose of the state is to ensure maximum happiness for the maximum number of people. This signifies that political office is of highest importance that needs individuals of highest Nonkilling excellence to run the statecraft which is science and more difficult than all other sciences. Women with nonkilling leadership traits must be in equal number of men in the highest echelon of decision-making power as they are morally and ethically stronger than men and have overriding concern for making and maintaining relationship- the qualities of good political leaders(A Different Voice, Carol Gilligan).

Society and the world had and have been deprived from the inherent Nonkilling potentialities of women due to the polarised philosophy of the time immemorial past. To Aristotle, women lack wisdom, they cannot organize their lives. Therefore, they are subordinate to men. As a result, women were deprived from education, citizenship- the basic human rights. But to Plato, women with leadership qualities must be placed in the highest echelon of decision-making power. Rousseau said, women are inferior to men. Mary Wollstonecraft dissuaded him saying, "you give me the equal opportunities, I will show you the differences". But society followed the discriminating views of Aristotle and the women- half of the populations, were deprived from education, the fundamental right of human being, for more than centuries. And today's killing politics throughout the world is the result of the deprivation of women of nonkilling excellence. Gro Harlem Brundtland rightly pointed out, "Humanity would be denied the talents of women if women weren't in leadership position."

With natural endowment of nonkilling traits, women in leadership roles are different from their male counterparts, "women operate in a public context different from that of men, and their perception of politics is also different from the male view"(Brundtland). The present glaring example is the noble leader Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand. Her Nonkilling traits of leadership expressed in her compassion to the grief-ridden people with Nonkilling voice, "We are one, they are us."

In most of the cases where women in power they followed a participatory approach, a Nonkilling perception of politics. For a Nonkilling world society through measurable changes, we must work for equal representation of men and women in the highest echelon of policy making process with nonkilling leadership traits-"truthful, gentle and fearless inspired by spiritual and humanist respect for life(Gandhi), with nonkilling knowledge of statecraft, "are capable of creating killing free, just societies that respect the needs of all" (Glenn D. Paige).

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