

# 4<sup>th</sup> Gender Forum

## Political Empowerment and Autonomy of Women in India

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Afghanistan

# Some Facts



Indicator	Value
Population	1.21 billion
Sex ratio	941
Literacy rate (7+)	65.5 % (Female) 82.1% (Male)
Women's mean age at marriage	20.7 years
Female headed households	11.1% (Rural) 10.9 % (Urban)
Life expectancy at birth	63.4 years
IMR	50
MMR	212

# Constitutional Privileges for Women

- Equality before law
- The State not to discriminate on the ground of sex
- The State may make special provisions in favour of women and children
- Not less than one-third of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat/Municipality to be reserved for women

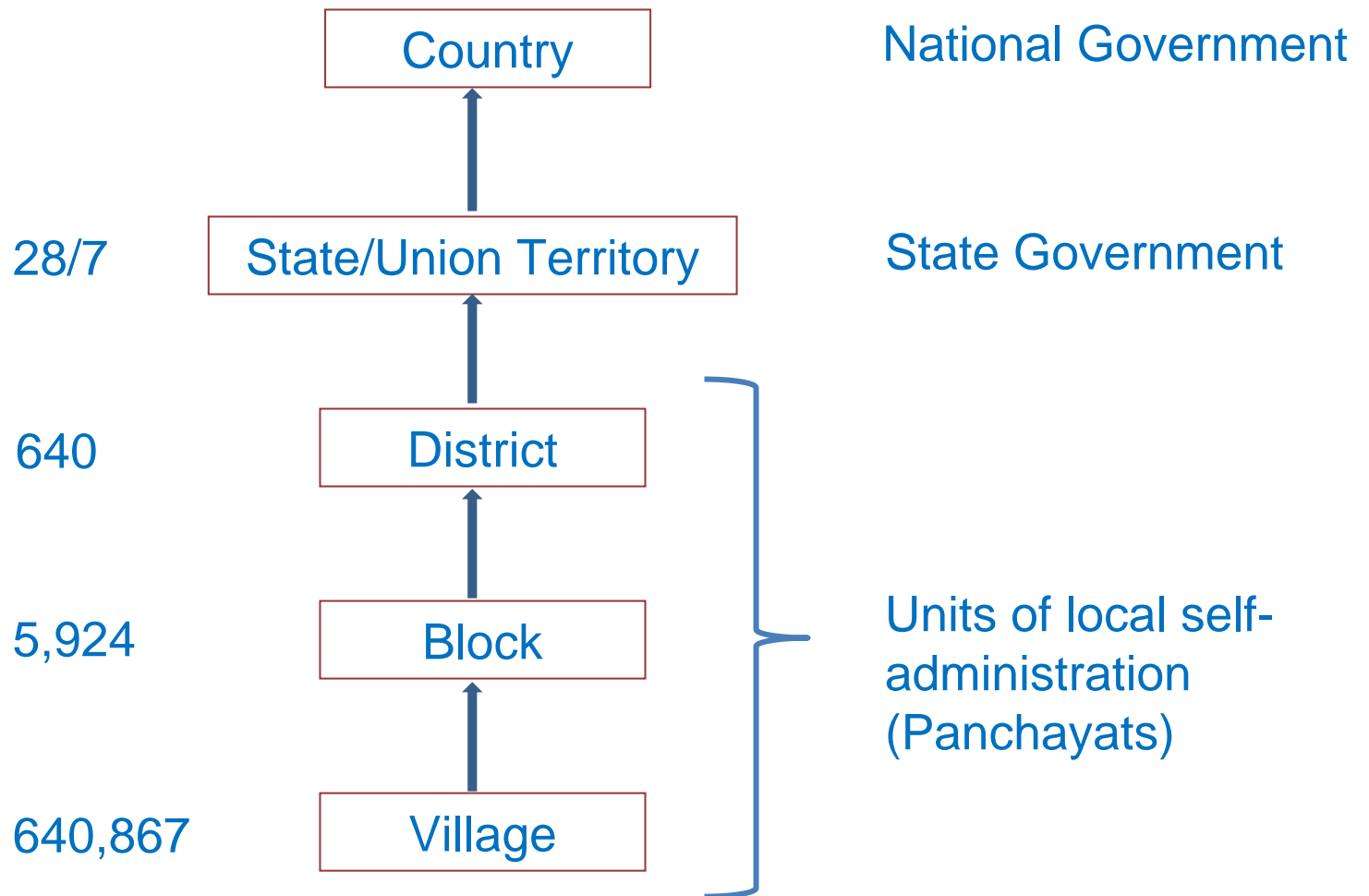
# Special Initiatives for Women

- National Commission for Women
  - A statutory body set up in 1992
  - Specific mandate to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women
- Reservations for women in local self-government
  - Participation in decision-making at local level

## Special Initiatives for Women (2)

- National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001
  - Creating conducive environment through positive economic and social policies
  - Providing equal access to participation and decision-making
  - Changing societal attitudes and community practices

# The Administrative Structure

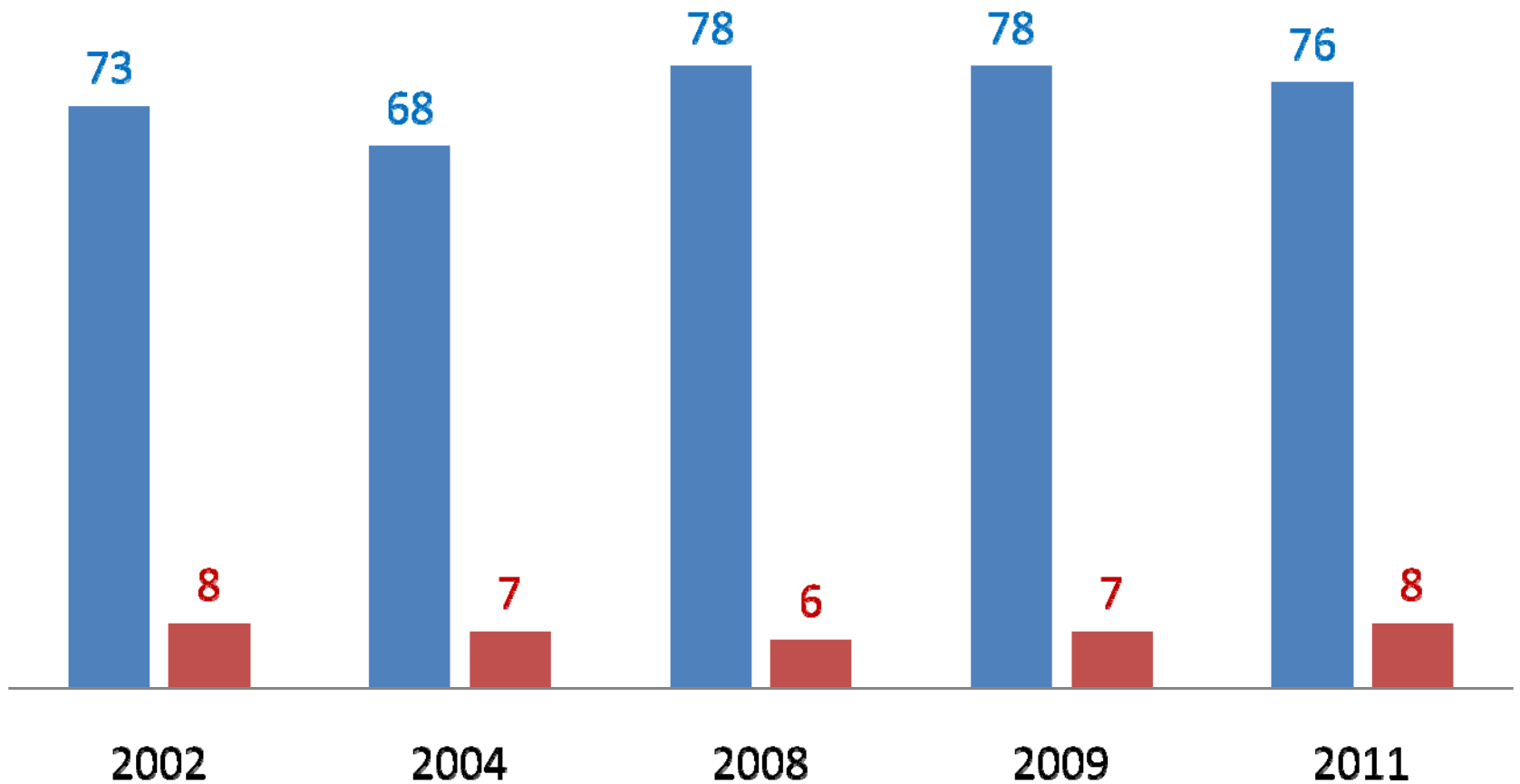


# Position of Women in National Parliament

	Lower House		Upper House		Total		
	Total Seats	Seats held by women	Total Seats	Seats held by women	Total Seats	Seats held by women	Share (%)
2004	544	45	250	28	794	73	9.2
2007	544	47	250	25	794	72	9.1
2009	545	59	234	21	779	80	10.3
2011	544	60	241	26	785	86	11.0

# Position of Women in National Council of Ministers

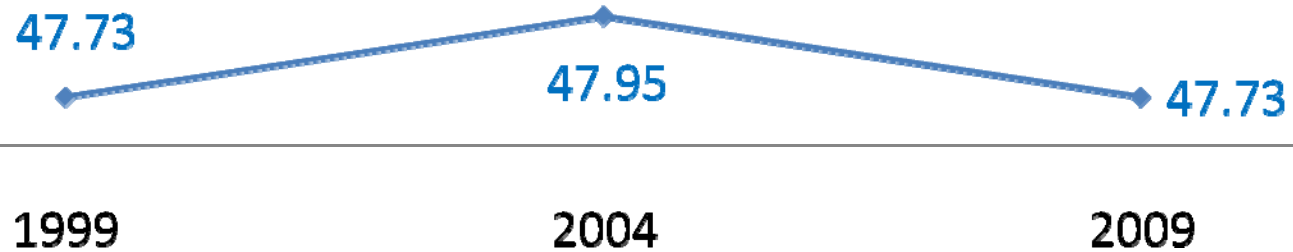
■ Number of Ministers   ■ Number of Women Ministers



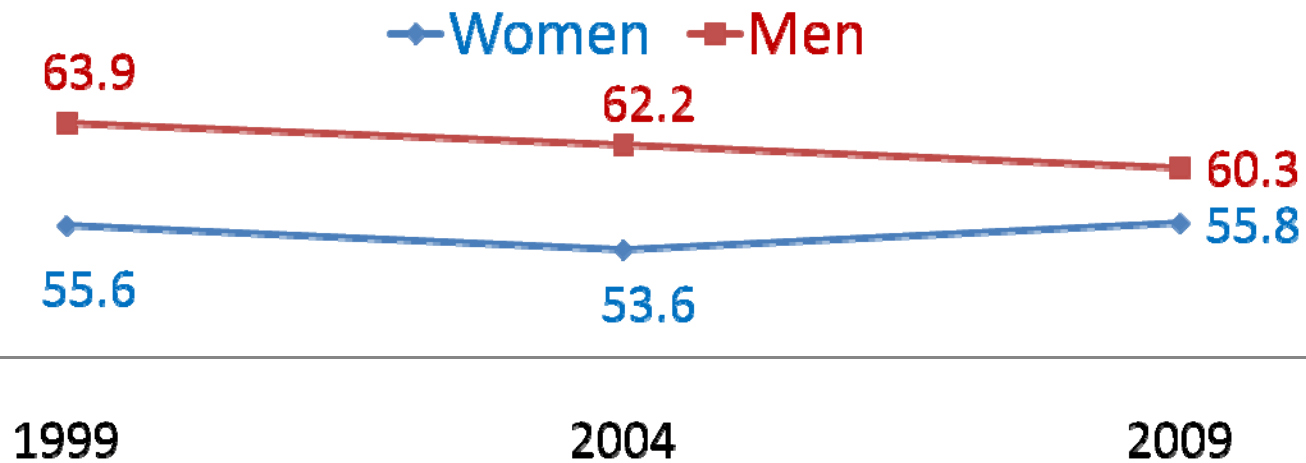


# Participation in National Elections

## Women Electors (%)



## Voters (%)



# Participation in National Elections (2)

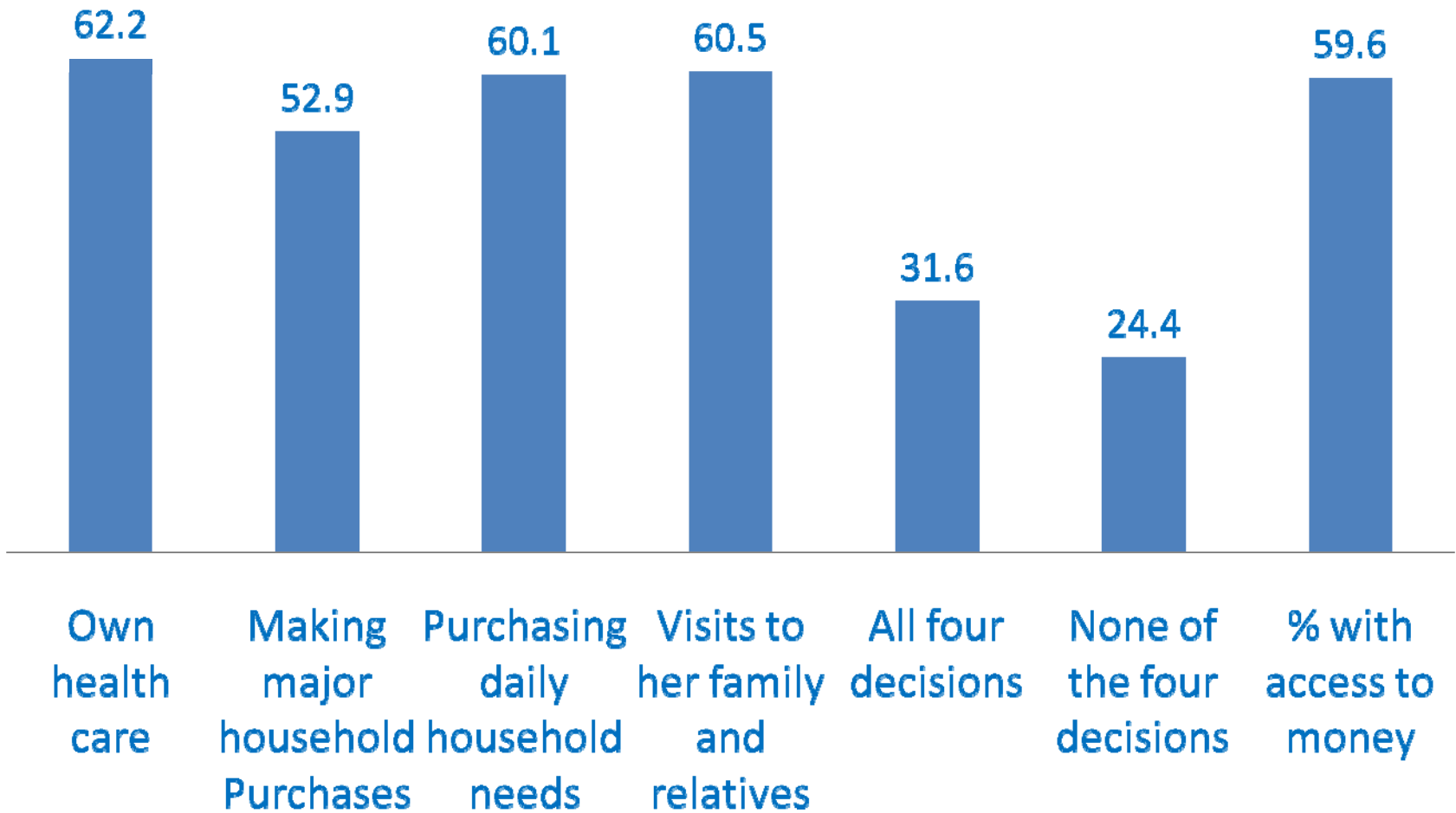
	Women			Men		
	Contested	Elected	Winning Percentage	Contested	Elected	Winning Percentage
1999	296	52	17.6	4859	494	10.2
2004	355	45	12.7	5080	498	9.8
2009	556	59	10.6	7514	484	6.4

# Participation in Local Self-Administration

- Number of elected representatives (2008-09):
  - Gram Panchayats: 2,645,883
  - Intermediate Panchayats: 156,794
  - District Panchayats: 15,613
- About 37% of these are women
- Mandatory 50% reservation in many States

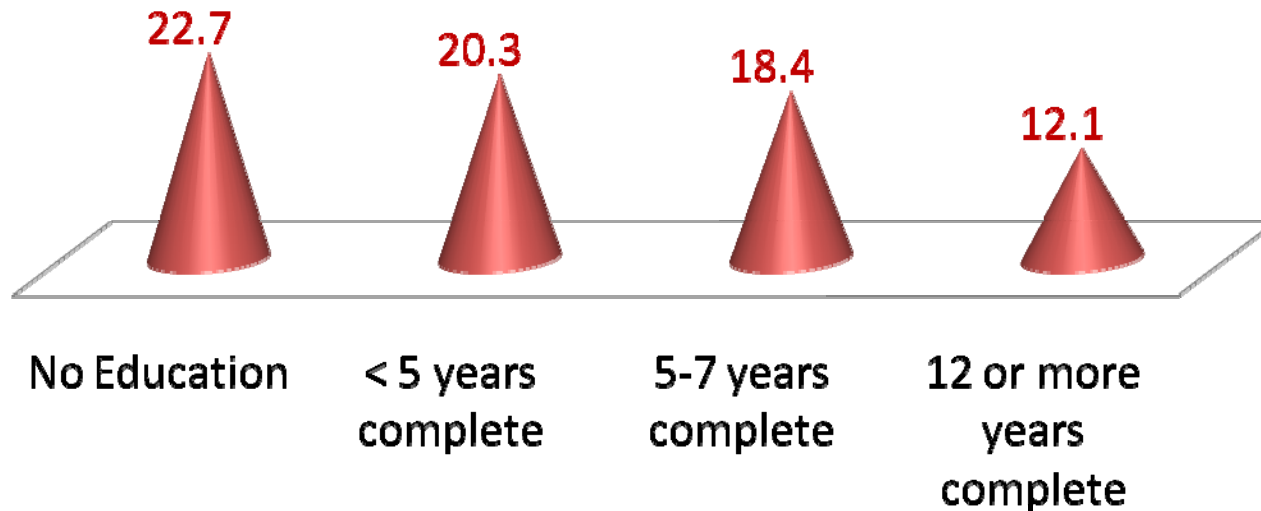
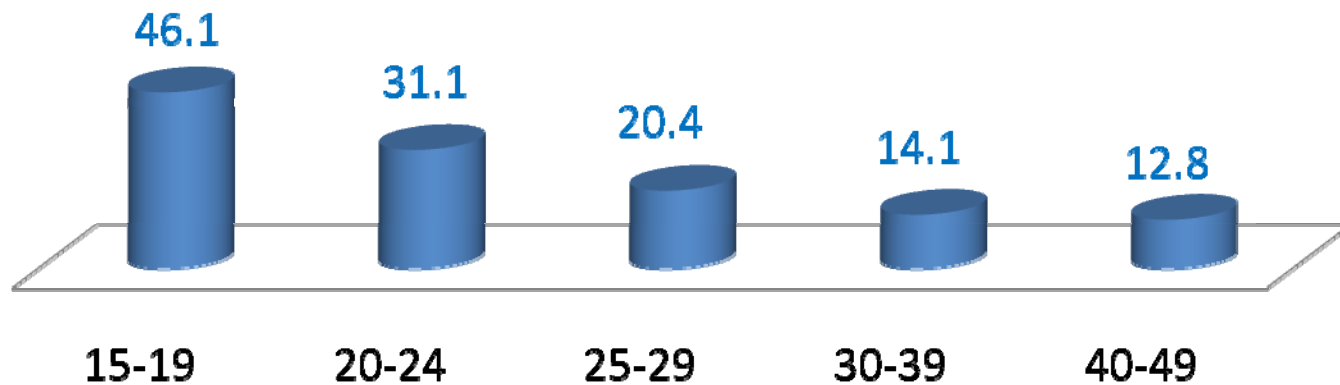
# Women's Autonomy

## Participation in decision-making (%)



# Women's Autonomy (2)

## Not involved in the four decisions-making (%)



# Summary

- Insignificant presence in the National Parliament and the Council of Ministers
- Significant participation in General Elections
- The same position is reflected at the States' level
- Very good participation in local self-administration
- Women's autonomy – a lot remains to be seen at the macro level. Situation is better with certain background characteristics like age-

# Issues in Measurement

- Election statistics – one of the finest examples of administrative-records-based statistics. However, gender sensitive sub-national data are difficult to obtain.

## Women's autonomy

- No dark areas in survey-based statistics.
- Respondent's 'autonomy' at the time of interview.
- More cross sectional analysis – effect of education, asset holding, age-distribution, rural/urban background – will be helpful for targeted policy inventions.

Thanks

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