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**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: A STUDY  
OF DARJEELING**

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**ABSTRACT**

The term "empowerment" refers to procedures in which individuals are given the freedom to make decisions for themselves in order for them to select what is most helpful to them. This allows individuals to determine what is most appropriate for them. Therefore, it was decided that one of the methods that could be utilized to advance the position of women would be to encourage more female empowerment. Under the existing framework, which is based on the federalist model, the government is accountable for making the majority of decisions that have an impact on the citizens. These decisions might be on a more personal scale, such as deciding how many children to have, or they can be on a more societal, economic, cultural, or political one. Because of the structure of the political system, men almost invariably hold positions of power inside the government. Because of this, the capacity to make choices rests with whoever controls the government. Therefore, the ability for women to obtain political power allows them the opportunity to make decisions for themselves and the ability to exercise control over decisions that effect their life. This gives women the ability to exercise more agency in their own lives. And being politically active is a prerequisite for holding positions of political power, thus this is a step that must always be taken. There are two ways to get involved in politics: directly, by becoming a member of the government, or indirectly, by attempting to influence the government through social movements, rallies, and demonstrations. Either way, becoming a member of the government is the most direct way to participate in politics. As a consequence of this, the purpose of the ongoing research is to investigate women's empowerment and political participation through the mediums of DGHC and GTA.

***Keywords: Women Empowerment, Political Participation, Darjeeling***