Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2021	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Gender representation, judicial diversity, equality before law, women's access to justice, lived experiences, public confidence, judicial appointments, collegium system, institutional barriers, transparency, inclusive judiciary.

Model Answer

Introduction

Women's representation in the higher judiciary remains limited in India. Greater representation is desirable to strengthen institutional diversity, equality and public confidence in the justice system.

Why Greater Representation Is Desirable

- **Diversity of perspectives:** Varied professional and life experiences can enrich judicial deliberations.
- **Access to justice:** Women judges may improve public confidence, particularly among survivors of gender-based violence.
- **Equality and representation:** Judicial institutions should reflect the diversity of the population they serve.
- **Institutional credibility:** Inclusive appointments reinforce the judiciary's commitment to constitutional equality.
- **Role-model effect:** Greater representation can encourage women to pursue legal careers and judicial leadership.

Challenges

Barriers include unequal access to senior advocacy opportunities, gender stereotypes, inadequate workplace support and limited transparency in appointments. Women's representation at subordinate judicial levels has improved in many states, but this has not translated proportionately into higher judicial appointments.

Way Forward

Transparent and merit-based appointment processes, broader consideration of qualified candidates, mentoring, gender-sensitive workplace policies and improved representation in senior legal positions are necessary. Diversity should complement, not replace, competence and judicial independence.

Conclusion

Greater women's representation is both an equality imperative and an institutional strength. A diverse higher judiciary can enhance legitimacy, inclusiveness and public trust while upholding constitutional standards.

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