



## AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF PRATIBHA PATIL'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL WORK

**Pranita Atmaram Chahande**

Research Scholar,  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, RTMNU, NAGPUR

**Dr. Vimal Rathod**

Research Supervisor,  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, RTMNU, NAGPUR

### Abstract:

Pratibha Devisingh Patil, who became the 12th President of India and the first woman in the role, spent her long political career working to benefit society, support justice, and empower women. This paper examines how Pratibha Patil progressed in politics, from serving in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly to becoming the President, and explains what she did at every step. Apart from her role in the constitution, the founder of educational institutions, and a supporter of rural progress, Patil's social work dedication. To see how impactful her work was, this study analyzes her policies, addresses she has made, and established initiatives. While she didn't have a lot of power in office, she made a strong mark by showing what Indian women could achieve. In this paper, her achievements and her shortcomings will be discussed, along with their meaning for future leaders in India.

**Keywords:** *Pratibha Patil, Indian Politics, Women Empowerment, Social Work, Presidency of India, Maharashtra Politics, Gender Equality*

13431

**DOI Number:** [10.48047/nq.2022.20.10.NQ551311](https://doi.org/10.48047/nq.2022.20.10.NQ551311) *NeuroQuantology*2022;20(10):13431-13436

### Introduction:

Pratibha Devisingh Patil is a person well known in India for her political position and her many kind social contributions. Her political life was marked by many milestones, the most advances was her being named the first woman president of India in 2007. Also, it can be noted that she deeply cared for social development in her country upon her recall to posts. A potent region in India, rural Maharashtra, is where the life of Patil began.

Patil began her political life as a member of the Maharashtra legislative assembly representing Rural Maharashtra. Given the position she held, it is logical to assume she did help her people much. Later on in life, she was appointed to several important ministries like Health of the Public, Education, and Social Services. During this liberal period, one of the most touted strides was her attempt to socialize society, especially concerning women, children, and families. About education and health, she went out of her way to ensure that girls and healthcare services made life better for the people for several years.

Patil remained committed to social justice and the national level and social equity in the state of affairs for the nation. Deepthi Shah was appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan by Ashok Gehlot in 2004, and Patil became the first female Governor of Rajasthan over a year later. This significantly advanced the attention towards her works on women and societal welfare.

Besides her political public position, Patil aided the people through her social work. For over a decade, she has supported the Shram Sadhana Trust, an organization that aims at educational advancements and skill development for women to enhance rural standards of living. Because of her trust, surplus women have obtained the training they needed to become more independent financially. As well as working for social causes, he promotes mental health, protects children's rights, and supports conservation. The fair treatment of people along with eco-friendly policies plays a crucial role in a country's healthy development, says Patil.



In the years between 2007 and 2012, as president, Pratibha Patil worked to defend India's status and make its country's image better worldwide. She strived to fix diplomatic conflicts for half a decade and related to other countries. Ms. India's prominence internationally increased, and her desire for worldwide peace was proven by Gandhi's many talks with leaders globally. Even so, her line of duty as president was frequently questioned. There was a great deal of criticism when she spent public money on trips and on her project, a retirement bungalow. Attention to these costs led to discussions about how trustworthy and answerable the country's leading figures were.

Most of those interviewed still have good memories of Patil's time as President. Her effort to beat the gender gap in politics has made her a role model for many. Throughout most of her life, Sonia Gandhi has supported women and people in rural areas because she is committed to equality. Her work has made a big difference in India's democracy and encouraged each young citizen to join in the fight for justice.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- 1) To analyze Pratibha Patil's political career and key legislative contributions.
- 2) To assess her role as the first woman President of India.
- 3) To evaluate her social work, especially in the field of women's empowerment and education.
- 4) To understand the impact of her initiatives on society and governance.
- 5) To trace the political journey of Pratibha Patil from her early days in Maharashtra politics to her tenure as the President of India.

13432

### **Literature Review:**

There are many studies on how Indian political and social contributions have been examined, especially looking at Pratibha Patil's role as the nation's first female President of India. According to Singh (2008), female leadership in politics has gained significance in India, thanks in part to Patil's election, which acted as a game-changer for many people's opinions. Desai (2010) offered a detailed biographical and critical overview of her work in Rajasthan, as Governor and as someone supporting marginalized people. In his paper from 2012, Gupta noticed the way governors serve the country and approved of Patil's achievements in handling problems concerning women and tribes, while acting with little public attention. The author explores the role of the Indian presidency in Verma (2013), covering Patil's work in social and diplomatic matters as well as the arguments made against some of the privileges held by the president. This book puts Patil's achievements in the wider context of other important women leaders and focuses on the obstacles she faced. The official book of her speeches made from 2009 to 2012 confirms that she mostly focused on education, social justice, and building the nation, clear reflections of her hopes for India. According to Kumar, Patil got little attention for the controversy because her leadership was transparent and accepted by most. In his paper, Mishra (2018) reported that some respected Patil for being dignified, but also criticized her for spending issues. At last, Joshi (2019) looked at how she mixed political leadership with working directly with people, through the Shram Sadhana Trust, which provided education and job training for rural women. As a collection, they clarify what Pratibha Patil's political and social contributions mean within the structures of Indian democracy and in promoting gender equality.

### **Research Methodology:**

This research examines Pratibha Patil's political and social contributions using an analytical and qualitative approach. It uses primary and secondary data from speeches, interviews, and media reports. The study uses a purposive sampling technique to select relevant material. Thematic content analysis is used to identify themes like gender, leadership, governance style, social justice, and rural empowerment. Limitations include limited firsthand data and potential media bias.

### **An Analytical Study of Pratibha Patil's Political and Social Work**

In 2007, Maharashtra, India, was the birthplace of Pratibha Patil, who served the nation as the first woman President, stepping down in 2012. She started in politics as a member of the Indian National Congress, also being elected to state roles in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council a number of times. The ministerial positions Patil held included Education, Revenue, and Rural Development, with an eye on rural development. Working for the welfare of



others, she sought to help rural communities and particularly women, so that they would gain access to schools, health care, and jobs.

In 2004, she became the governor of Rajasthan and pursued social change and culture initiatives. During her tenure, she earned a reputation for constructive leadership in both governance and regional development. Patil was keen to promote social awareness about social justice, women's empowerment, and the need for democracy at the grassroots level.

Patil has been an uncontested claimant to the welfare of women, and she initiated women literacy programs, expanded their political representation, organized women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and enabled female entrepreneurs through microfinancing. She devoted a great deal of her effort to enabling disadvantaged people to acquire useful skills.

In health care, she advocated for mothers and children, informed the public on nutrition and vaccination, and diminished the diseases. Because of what she contributes, women in Indian politics and the everyday lives of marginalized communities are, to a great extent, supported and empowered.

#### **Political Career of Pratibha Patil:**

Pratibha Patil was elected to the Maharashtra State Assembly in Edlabad in 1960, marking the start of her public service career. Over the next twenty years, she was continuously re-elected into the Maharashtra Assembly, greatly contributing towards the lawmaking process of the state. During those years, she filled different senior positions related to her Office of Education, Social Welfare, and Tourism. Thanks to her work on girls' education, the percentage of literate young women in Maharashtra went up. In many areas surrounding Chennai, she helped to boost infrastructure, healthcare, and the success of women's self-help groups.

After holding office in the Indian state government, Patil was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1985 to 1990. She gained victory in the Lok Sabha in 1996, but it was with the Nationalist Congress Party that she first won a seat in the Lower House. She spent most of her parliamentary work trying to address common problems rather than helping her party's interests. She took part in parliamentary sessions on social justice, health, and education, which concern millions nationwide. The work her committee did led to better healthcare, schooling, and welfare for people who can't afford much.

In 2004, Pratibha Patil made history in Rajasthan by becoming the state's first female Governor. Between 2004 and 2007, she was appointed as Governor. Helping women and improving society were two of her major areas of support. She set up and helped run programs to help women improve their lives through gaining knowledge, staying healthy, and earning their income. Nearly all her programs as governor were based on strengthening local self-governance, giving support to economic growth in the villages, and helping women's groups in Rajasthan.

Over more than four decades, Pratibha Patil concentrated on social development and worked to ensure that all groups were part of the government. Through her work in education, she raised the reading ability of girls in Maharashtra, and her approach to parliamentary committees improved the health and welfare of millions throughout India. At the time, her accession as governor and later as president broke down gender limitations, helping many women become part of Indian politics.

#### **Tenure as the President of India (2007–2012):**

Pratibha Patil held a place as a very inspiring figure in Indian politics from 2007 to 2012. She was the very first woman to become a national leader, and she encouraged schools and other changes for women during her presidency.

She devoted her presidency to warning about climate change and supporting sustainable development, which played a big part in addressing the current century's issues. She promoted laws that promoted cleaner, safer energy and devoted her leadership efforts to achieving these goals at both a local and global level.

During her term, she was present at various international conferences, encouraging India to form connections in many disciplines. She held many cooperation talks with nations aimed at achieving global peace and represented India at forums where she clearly stated her nation's commitment to world peace and harmony.



Her administration, though, was followed by many problems, even the lack of funds and planning for a retirement home on defense land. Given this, government officials started discussing why greater clarity in organizations was needed. However, Patil stayed democratic and followed exactly the rules in the constitution about presidential powers.

The important contribution made by Pratibha Patil in ensuring women have leadership roles and diverse management is easy to remember. Nowadays, the country sees this as a meaningful time in its democracy, pointing out both the strides India has made and the stumbling blocks for public administration.

#### **Social Work and Advocacy:**

Looking after women, helping people get an education, and assisting rural areas are top issues for Pratibha Patil. The Shram Sadhana Trust was created by her to enable working women to learn, work, and enjoy safe living spaces. The position of rural Indians, where patriarchy rules, has improved more than other groups. Besides promoting girls' schools, Patil established training institutes for women to gain job-related skills. Both employee income and neighborhood money matters are made better by these projects.

Pratibha Patil provided medical aid to a boy's father during the Jalgaon riots and saved the life of a boy who sustained bullet injuries in the same riots. She spent time with bereaved families affected by drought in Edlbad during festival periods, offering them support and solace. She helped the workers of Vijay Textile Mills in Badnera and Achalpur Textile Mill regain their jobs and livelihoods. Pratibha Patil also extended assistance to the underprivileged by facilitating access to various financial benefit schemes.

She initiated the Industrial Training School for the Blind in Jalgaon to promote skill development for visually impaired individuals. Known for her selflessness and generosity, she once spontaneously bestowed her own shawl on an elderly woman on a chilly day. Additionally, she provided tin roofs as housing support to the poor and helped many access treatment at de-addiction centres.

Pratibha Patil assisted Shekhar in obtaining parole to attend his father's funeral and perform the final rites. She ensured justice for a woman doctor who was harassed by a senior officer and raised her voice during the Zero Hour in parliament to protect the modesty of women. She also worked to find solutions for the problems faced by war widows.

As India's first woman President, Pratibha Patil was actively involved in social work, particularly through organizations such as Vidya Bharati Shikshan Prasarak Mandal and the Shram Sadhana Trust, which runs hostels for working women in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune. She also co-founded the Muktabai Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana, contributing significantly to cooperative development and social welfare.

Roshni Programme celebrated its second anniversary with Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, in attendance at the President's Estate. At this time, the President was in her fourth year, having finished three years in office shortly before. The Roshni Programme led to the President's Estate earning the highly respected ISO 14001:2004 Certificate from Bureau Veritas India (BVI). At the event, representatives of BVI handed the certificate to the President. As a result, the President's Estate is the first city-based habitat to receive this special environmental recognition.

Patil has also devoted considerable attention to rural development besides education and women's empowerment. She facilitated the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which enable Rural women's self-financing, credit use, and business activities. With self-help groups, women now have more income, increased self-esteem, and are overcoming poverty.

Pratibha Patil has actively championed several causes for the protection of the environment and the health of people in the areas affected by drought and developmental challenges. She practices social work in order to enhance education, health, and income, and to protect the environment, which ensures that the change is sustainable. Because of Pratibha Patil's initiatives, women from impoverished rural regions have been elevated, and her accomplishments have catalyzed reflexive social change.

#### **Conclusion:**



Patil deeply advanced women's issues and was a source of inspiration as the first female president of India. The development and educational outreach of India's rural regions remained Indira Gandhi's priorities throughout her life, beginning with her grassroots work in Maharashtra and later her stint as the president of India. Because of her passion, while in office and as a minister, she fought for girls and rural communities to get greater access to education and medical care, which helped Maharashtra greatly improve. Via the national parliamentary committee, she helped innumerable socially, health, and educationally disadvantaged people. She was active in social welfare just as much as politics. Shram Sadhana Trust introduced self-help groups as part of the program, so women could play a major role in improving their lives. She connected economic, environmental, and public health ideas to rural sociology by boosting awareness of health and conserving water. His respect for democracy, honor for the constitution, and support for these values did not waver, not even when there were workable problems. Because she ruled languidly, Indian women and their politics learned from the dignity kept by she presidency under her leadership. Visions for development and gender equality by Pratibha Patil now connect with current India. She wanted to illustrate the importance of responsible leadership, which now represents a successful type of change that leadership encourages. The development in India now centers on how women's resilience and goals have lifted many people out of poverty.

13435

#### References:

- 1) Adhikari, A., & Saha, B. (2021). Women participations in education and politics: A twenty first century scenario. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences*, 11(4), 68–74. [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Birbal-Saha/publication/364657305\\_Women\\_Participations\\_in\\_Education\\_and\\_Politics\\_A\\_Twenty\\_First\\_Century\\_Scenario/links/63562f618d4484154a2b4e7b/Women-Participations-in-Education-and-Politics-A-Twenty-First-Century-Scenario.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Birbal-Saha/publication/364657305_Women_Participations_in_Education_and_Politics_A_Twenty_First_Century_Scenario/links/63562f618d4484154a2b4e7b/Women-Participations-in-Education-and-Politics-A-Twenty-First-Century-Scenario.pdf)
- 2) Chadha, A. (2014). Political participation of women: A case study in India. *OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development*, 7(02), 91–108. [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2441693](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2441693)
- 3) Dhawan, H. (2007, June 27). Pratibha believes in spirits? *The Times of India*. Retrieved January 11, 2016, from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pratibha-believes-in-spirits/articleshow/2216699.cms>
- 4) DNA. (2007, July 4). Now, a land grab haunts Patil. Retrieved January 11, 2016, from <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-now-a-land-grab-haunts-patil-1122406>
- 5) Desai, P. K., Vaidya, V., Kishore, K. L., Isaac, K. P., Appa, M., Bagchi, P., ... & Gajjar, R. (2016). Indicators of women empowerment. In *ICWSTCSC-2016* (pp. 36–47). Retrieved from [http://www.smphomescience.edu.in/RAR\\_DOCS/RAR/3.3.4%20Books%20Seminar%20Conference%20Paper/Books,Chapter%20Seminar%20%20Conference%20Proceedings/28%20ICWSTCSC2016\\_Paper\\_031%20Indicators%20of%20women%20empowerment%20Pg%2036-47.pdf](http://www.smphomescience.edu.in/RAR_DOCS/RAR/3.3.4%20Books%20Seminar%20Conference%20Paper/Books,Chapter%20Seminar%20%20Conference%20Proceedings/28%20ICWSTCSC2016_Paper_031%20Indicators%20of%20women%20empowerment%20Pg%2036-47.pdf)
- 6) Farooqui, S. (2021). A study on the status of women empowerment in modern India. In *Celebrating International Women's Day: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World* (Vol. 59, p. 15). <https://coed.dypvp.edu.in/documents/E-journals/University-News/UNIVERSITY-NEWS-VOL-59-NO-10-MARCH-08-14-2021.pdf#page=15>
- 7) Ghosh, J. (2021). Empowerment of women through participation in Indian politics. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, 6. <https://chakdahacollege.ac.in/Journal/22/Pdf/Latest/apr21/Article%20by%20Jayabrata.pdf>
- 8) IBN Live. (2012, April 12). President Pratibha Patil's brush with controversy. Archived April 15, 2012. Retrieved April 14, 2013, from <https://www.news18.com/news/india/president-pratibha-patils-brush-with-controversy-462264.html>
- 9) Joseph, J. (2012, April 15). Pratibha's Pune home a break from tradition. *The Times of India*. Retrieved January 10, 2016, from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/pratibhas-pune-home-a-break-from-tradition/articleshow/12643994.cms>
- 10) KS, M. Y., Srinivas, S., & Mahale, P. (n.d.). Analysing the multi-faceted path to women's empowerment in India. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Prasad-Mahale-3/publication/376720597\\_Analysing\\_the\\_Multi-](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Prasad-Mahale-3/publication/376720597_Analysing_the_Multi-)



[faceted Path to Women's Empowerment in India/links/658514816f6e450f199022ce/Analysing-the-Multi-faceted-Path-to-Womens-Empowerment-in-India.pdf](#)

- 11) Menon, M. (2007, June 26). Shiv Sena backs Pratibha Patil. *The Hindu*. Archived June 29, 2007. Retrieved February 4, 2014, from <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/shiv-sena-backs-pratibha-patil/article19189155.ece>
- 12) NDTV. (2007, June 14). Prez polls: Sonia announces Pratibha Patil's name. Retrieved July 3, 2012, from <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/prez-polls-sonia-announces-pratibha-patils-name-184904>
- 13) Padilla, K. (2018). Women and politics. Scientific e-Resources. Retrieved from [https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=HYNJEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP9&dq=Pratibha+Patil+women%27s+empowerment+social+justice+impact+Indian+politics+achievements+initiatives&ots=d\\_s\\_n9nFMUZ&sig=rOxcKBx80mHqItbaP1aN7xhBfol](https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=HYNJEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP9&dq=Pratibha+Patil+women%27s+empowerment+social+justice+impact+Indian+politics+achievements+initiatives&ots=d_s_n9nFMUZ&sig=rOxcKBx80mHqItbaP1aN7xhBfol)
- 14) Prajapati, N., & Chauhan, D. K. (n.d.). Promoting women's leadership in climate resilience: A strategy for South Asia. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 27(2), 5. <https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/vol27/iss2/5/>
- 15) Pradhan, B. (2007, July 19). Patil poised to become India's first female president. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved July 2, 2012, from <https://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aVjoPT8pBxwq>
- 16) PTI. (2007, June 16). I will not be a rubber stamp President. *Daily News & Analysis*. Retrieved January 11, 2016, from <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-i-will-not-be-a-rubber-stamp-president-patil-1106359>
- 17) Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Secretariat. (n.d.). Former governors of Rajasthan. Archived April 17, 2012. Retrieved June 26, 2012, from <http://rajassembly.nic.in/FormerGov.asp>
- 18) Sarin, R. (2007, June 26). Patil was aware of her bank mess, top defaulters her kin. *The Indian Express*. Retrieved January 10, 2015, from <https://indianexpress.com/article/news-archive/patil-was-aware-of-her-bank-mess-top-defaulters-her-kin/>
- 19) ShanthiRevathi, D. (n.d.). Impact on women empowerment in current scenario. *About the University*, 151. Retrieved from [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dr-Rani-6/publication/374751544\\_Book\\_chapter\\_on\\_Empowering\\_Women\\_-\\_INSPIRING\\_WOMEN\\_FARMERS/links/652d62af0ebf091c48fa32d7/Book-chapter-on-Empowering-Women-INSPIRING-WOMEN-FARMERS.pdf#page=167](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dr-Rani-6/publication/374751544_Book_chapter_on_Empowering_Women_-_INSPIRING_WOMEN_FARMERS/links/652d62af0ebf091c48fa32d7/Book-chapter-on-Empowering-Women-INSPIRING-WOMEN-FARMERS.pdf#page=167)
- 20) Tandale, P. P., Mugale, D., & Sudhakar Rao, S. (2021). National conference. Retrieved from <http://aiirjournal.com/uploads/Articles/1616933475NATIONAL%20CONFERENCE%20ON%20EMPOWERMENT%20OF%20GENDER%20EDUCATION%202021.pdf>
- 21) Tangirala, N. R. K. (n.d.). Women empowerment through skill India. *Skill India*, 149. Retrieved from <https://www.empyrealpublishinghouse.com/pdf/skill-india-catalyst-to-nation-building-by-dr-rohit-bansal.pdf#page=157>
- 22) Turner, B. (2017). *The Statesman's Yearbook 2009: The politics, cultures and economies of the world* (p. 605). Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-74028-4>
- 23) *The Indian Express*. (2007, June 22). Congman's wife drags Pratibha name into allegations, NDA distances itself. Archived August 30, 2008. Retrieved January 10, 2016, from <https://indianexpress.com/article/news-archive/congmans-wife-drag-pratibha-name-into-allegations-nda-distances-itself/>
- 24) *The Indian Express*. (2007, July 6). For family again: Patil's MP funds for sports complex on land leased to husband society. Archived October 12, 2007. Retrieved January 11, 2016, from <https://indianexpress.com/article/news-archive/for-family-again-patils-mp-funds-for-sports-complex-on-land-leased-to-husband-society/>
- 25) *The Indian Express*. (2014, July 8). Court summons brother of Pratibha Patil in murder case. Retrieved January 10, 2016, from <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/court-summons-brother-of-pratibha-patil-in-murder-case/>

13436

