Nepal has long been striving towards an inclusive democracy, with a population that is 51.04 percent female, but progress in women's leadership has taken a hit in recent years. While 2016 marked a historic year for women's representation in Nepal, with three of the top state positions occupied by women, the situation has since deteriorated.

Fast forward to the present day, and all three top state positions are now occupied by women, but progress in women's leadership has taken a hit in recent years. While 2016 marked a historic year for women's representation in Nepal, with three of the top state positions occupied by women, the situation has since deteriorated.

The entrenched discrimination against women in Nepal appears to be sanctioned by male-dominated and patriarchal politicians, hindering women's reach into leadership positions. The country must take urgent steps to address this issue and provide greater opportunities for women to take on leadership roles. Only then can Nepal become inclusive and democratic.

Digging deeper into the numbers, the situation is even more alarming. Directly elected representatives to the federal parliament consist of only nine women, while the provincial parliament has only 12 women. The existing participation of women has only been made possible thanks to mandatory provisions in the constitution. Even these provisions are, unfortunately, often challenged by parliaments during and after elections, reducing the potential for women to take on leadership roles.

It is not just about the numbers, however. The lack of women in decision-making roles also risks the loss of important agendas that women's movements and marginal voices have been advocating for. Outgoing president Bidhya Devi Bhandari was often criticized for her (lack of) objective leadership abilities. However, it can also be argued that she could only do so much because of the ceremonial nature of her office.

The_theme_of_the_article_is_based_on_recent_events_in_the_regions_of_2016. Moreover, recent local, provincial, and federal elections have failed to bring about significant progress in women's leadership, with representation limited to just 33.09 percent in the federal parliament and 36.36 percent of the provincial positions.

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