

**“PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN THE HIGH COURTS: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT”**

Dr. Sandesh D. Shegaonkar

Abstract

Researcher has tried to find out female judges percentage working in High Courts in various states of India. In this research researcher has focused on what is the percentage of female Judges working at Bombay High Court . Comparison has be made in female percentage in Indian courts and Courts of US , UK, Canada.

1. Introduction

Progress of the society is measured by the progress made by women in that society. Women are considered as vulnerable section of society but we can say that women's who are working as judges of High Court has become so much strong that now they are protecting Rights of other groups . Justice Fathima Beevi, the first woman judge appointed to the Supreme Court of India in 1989 Her appointment paved the way for other women to enter the judiciary and inspired many to take up law as a profession. Justice Sujata Vasant Manohar was the first women chief justice of Bambay High Court.

2. Research Method

Researcher has conducted Doctrinal Research about women's percentage in various High Courts in Indian .

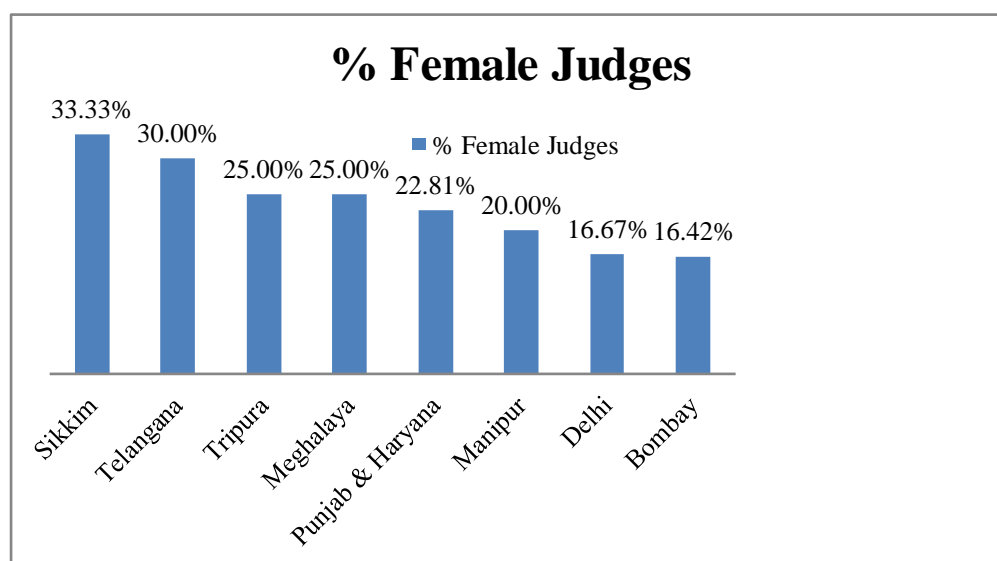
3. Following Chart provides information of present scenario of women judges and percentage of female judges working in different High Court's presently.

Sr No	High Court	Male Judges	Female Judges	Total Judges	% Female Judges
1	Sikkim	2	1	3	33.33%
2	Telangana	21	9	30	30.00%
3	Tripura	3	1	4	25.00%
4	Meghalaya	3	1	4	25.00%
5	Punjab & Haryana	44	13	57	22.81%
6	Manipur	4	1	5	20.00%
7	Delhi	50	10	60	16.67%
8	Bombay	56	11	67	16.42%
9	Orissa	19	3	22	13.64%

10	Gujarat	45	7	52	13.46%
11	Calcutta	63	9	72	12.50%
12	Madras	66	9	75	12.00%
13	Jharkhand	22	3	25	12.00%
14	Himachal Pradesh	15	2	17	11.76%
15	Kerala	42	5	47	10.64%
16	Allahabad	71	8	79	10.13%
17	Rajasthan	45	5	50	10.00%
18	Gauhati	27	3	30	10.00%
19	Madhya Pradesh	48	5	53	9.43%
20	Uttarakhand	10	1	11	9.09%
21	Chhattisgarh	20	2	22	9.09%
22	Andhra Pradesh	34	3	37	8.11%
23	Karnataka	57	5	62	8.06%
24	J & K, Ladakh	23	2	25	8.00%
25	Patna	26	2	28	7.14%

The percentage of women judges ranges from **7.14% (Patna)** to **33.33% (Sikkim)**.ⁱ

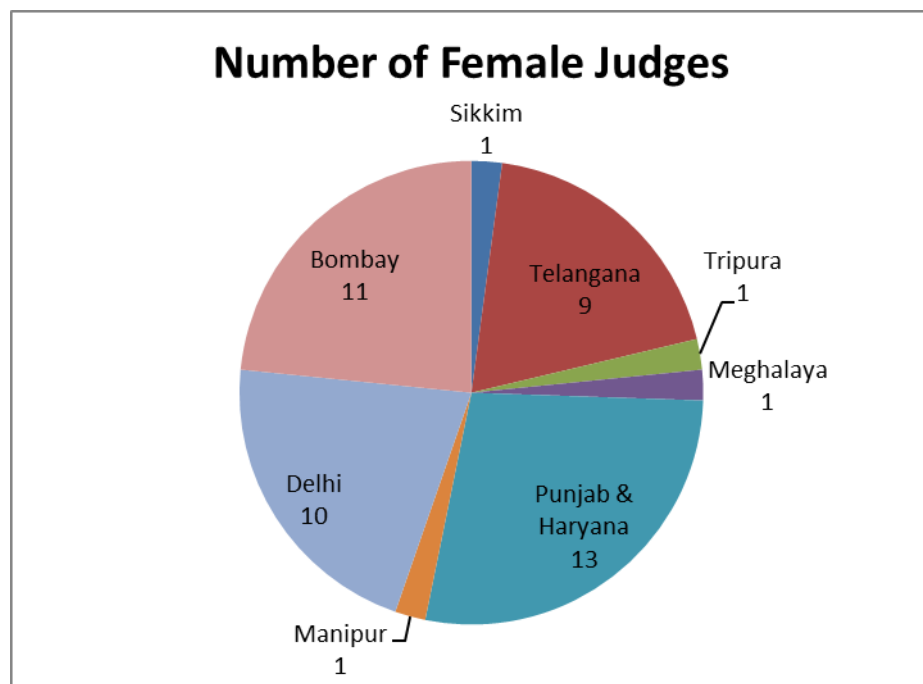
3.1 Chart providing Information regarding percentage of female Judges



If we go through above statistics then we find that in present era also high courts of India are still dominated by male Judges. We find that least percentage of women judges is

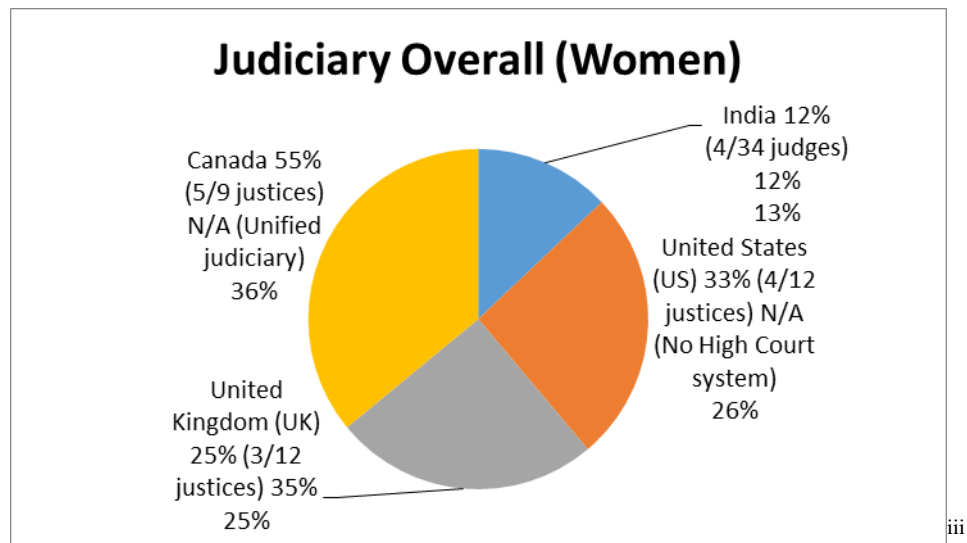
7.14 in the state of Patna where 26 male and only 2 female are presently working . If we focus on Bombay High Court out of 67 judges 56 are male and 11 are female so the percentage is 16.42% .Out of 25 High Courts functioning in India Bombay High court is at 8th level . Delhi is also having 16% of female judges so we can say women judges working at Bombay and Delhi is almost similar. Ahead of Bombay is Manipur, Punjab and Harayana, Meghalaya, Tripura, Telangana , Sikkim . State of Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura and sikkim .These are very small states and total number of judges are less than five and all these courts are having one female judge only so there percentage is shown high but in actual sense it not so. Maximum number is 33.33% in the state of Sikkim but actually in Sikkim there are only 2 male and 1 female judge. As number of judges are very less in this state so percentage of female judge is showing higher.so actually where there are more number of judges only Telengana and Punjab High courts are ahead of Bombay High court on present date. Representation of female judges in Bombay High court is satisfactory.

3.2 Chart showing numbers of female judges



3.3 Chart If we compare number of Indian female judges with other country then we come to know following things.ⁱⁱ

Aspect	India	United States (US)	United Kingdom (UK)	Canada
Supreme Court (Women)	12% (4/34 judges)	33% (4/12 justices)	25% (3/12 justices)	55% (5/9 justices)
High Courts (Women)	12%	N/A (No High Court system)	35%	N/A (Unified judiciary)
Judiciary Overall (Women)	18%	36%	35%	50%



4. Conclusion

From above charts we come to conclusion that Bombay High court has large number of female Judges as compared to other High courts in India. But when we compare percentage of female judges with other country representation of women in Indian Judiciary is still less as compared to US, UK and Canada.

5. References

1. https://ecourts.gov.in/ecourts_home/static/highcourts.php
2. <https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographies.aspx> (26January 2025.12.27 pm)
3. <https://www.scc-csc.ca/judges-juges/index-eng.aspx> (26January 2025.12.27 pm)