

2023



Annual Report

CENTRE FOR GENDER AND POLITICS



Women for Politics (WfP) is
an initiative of Centre for
Gender And Politics (CGAP)

contact@cgapsouthasia.org
www.cgapsouthasia.org
www.womenforpolitics.com

A Message From Us



We are delighted to present our Annual Report for the year 2023. Firstly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to 120+ volunteers for joining our commitment and efforts to promote gender-inclusive politics in South Asia. Volunteerism was at the heart of everything we did throughout the year, and this year, CGAP's work was showcased on various platforms.

Our Beyond Victims series continued in 2023 and featured 23 stories of women leaders who are making impressive and important contributions across education, healthcare, post-pandemic recovery, and other areas. While we took a break from producing new interviews this year, we compiled our previous interviews with Indian leaders into a book called Worth Asking.

We were overwhelmed by the support and love we received during our first-ever fundraising campaign. We also began working on the Worth Asking podcast and are excited to bring these interviews to you in 2024.

We also initiated work on another exciting project in collaboration with JP Morgan & Chase. This project aims to create an online repository of knowledge and resources for South Asian women to help them thrive in electoral politics. Our on-ground presence was a highlight of 2023. We organised offline events in Hyderabad, India, took part in events in Delhi, Reykjavík, Dublin, and London and our work was featured at events in Chatham House, London, and Iceland.

As of 2023, we have worked with over 120 passionate volunteers. We formed an Advisory Board and welcomed Srividya and Priti to guide our organisational development. We hope to expand our team and involve more volunteers to drive our initiatives further. We are grateful to every collaborator for another excellent year of learning, and we look forward to continuing our work towards gender equality in South Asian politics in 2024 with all of you. Last but not least, we would like to thank 3500+ subscribers and 10000+ social media followers for believing in us and encouraging us to stay committed to our goals.

*Best regards,
Akhil & Sugandha
Team - CGAP*

About CGAP



We are a think tank based in India that contributes to a high-quality scholarship on the intersection of gender, politics and South Asia. We are a platform for researchers, policymakers and the public to engage in a positive discourse on furthering gender diversity in politics with contextual nuances of South Asia as a focus. At CGAP, we strongly believe in promoting gender inclusion and diversity in politics as a means to achieve a more gender-inclusive society.

As of 2023, we have completed 3 years in operation, a significant milestone for us. During this time, we collaborated with more than 120 volunteers from around the world, including India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives, USA, Denmark, and Nepal. We strive to make our resources accessible by translating them into local South Asian languages, ensuring no paywall and uploading them on open platforms such as ResearchGate.



Our Research Interest Score is higher than 89% of ResearchGate members who first published in 2020.

*ResearchGate as on Jan 10, 2024



OUR JOURNEY



2020

Two policy professionals started a project 'Women for Politics' for greater political participation of women.

Registered as CGAP Foundation under Indian Companies Act.

We launched two series: Beyond Victims (BV) with 5 editions (in English, Hindi, Bengali and Marathi) and Worth Asking (WA) with 12 interviews. We also opened our blog space, published 10 articles, held research writing sessions, and hosted dialogues on women's leadership and gender-positive discourses in politics.

2022

Published our first peer-reviewed research study on women self-help groups in India and a report on Gender observation of elections in Nepal Local elections. Continued with the third edition of BV.

We were invited to present our report in the local language at an event in Kathmandu, Nepal. Hosted South Asia experts and researchers for our first ever roundtable whose proceedings achieved a milestone in readership worldwide.

2021

Launched research projects and expanded our volunteer base in South Asia. We published articles, studies, and second editions of BV and WA. Also, published a research guide to empower our volunteers.

Presented our first research on the role of Women in Nepal's Peace Building and continued our dialogues in collaboration with other organisations.

2023

Published our first book with WA Interviews and fourth edition of BV, published a series of articles and studies ahead of elections to *build awareness and catalyse further research on greater political participation of women*.

Hosted a series of panel discussions and a roundtable bringing local, national and global insights focused on South Asian context.

Raised over 700,000 INR through crowdfunding to launch Worth Asking Podcast.

Selected for *Force for Good* program by JP Morgan & Chase to build an online repository for women and gender minorities aspiring to join Politics.

Highlights of 2023



1. Worth Asking has reached places

Our teammate Akhil had the pleasure of presenting the latest *Worth Asking* book to the President and The First Lady of Iceland in Reykjavik in May 2023. The book has been well-received by readers in South Asia and beyond, who have appreciated the conversations with political leaders created by our volunteers. Additionally, it has been added to the libraries of educational institutions across India. Check out and grab your copy [here](#). It's currently shipping across India.



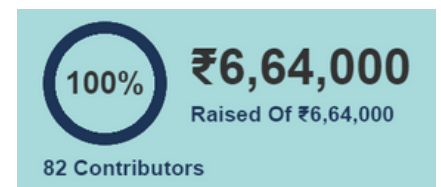
2. Got selected for JP Morgan & Chase's Force for Good program



Collaborating with JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s technologists, we created an online repository for aspiring women leaders in South Asia as part of their #ForceForGood initiative. In November 2023, we held an event in Hyderabad, India, to showcase the newly developed repository. Watch out for the launch soon. Get a glimpse [here](#).

3. Filled with gratitude after our first fundraising efforts

We were a part of DanaMojo's danaVrddhi program, supported by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies and ATE Chandra Foundation, learning and implementing our first-ever crowdfunding campaign. This fund empowers us to work on the *Worth Asking* podcast. Our volunteers became champion fundraisers, raising over 40% of the total donations we have received.



Highlights of 2023



4. Our team is strengthened by our advisors

Srividya and Priti joined us as advisors early this year. We are honoured to have them on board to guide us on our mission to build gender-inclusive politics in South Asia. Srividya is the Chairperson of CII-IWN (Indian Women Network) Telangana. She is Vice-Chair of various G. Pulla Reddy Educational Institutes in Hyderabad, India. Priti has over three decades of experience in policy, strategy and corporate affairs. She currently serves as Mentor, Advocacy at Reliance Industries Ltd.

5. Our work displayed at the renowned Chatham House



Our upcoming project, "GAP Repository", was featured at the #OTTconference held at the renowned Chatham House, London in May 2023, among a remarkable lineup of innovative ideas from around the globe.

6. Selected for UNDP Youth Co:Lab Springboard Program

We were part of 2023 Youth Co:Lab Springboard, a convening that empowers young social entrepreneurs to scale their innovative ventures and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) together.



7. UNICEF featured our efforts toward Gender Equality as part of International Youth Day

Voices of Youth' platform by UNICEF features the story of CGAP and its last 3 years' journey towards building gender-inclusive politics in South Asia.

Massive thanks to the **120+ volunteers** who have chosen to support our work.
Thank you, and welcome to our journey.

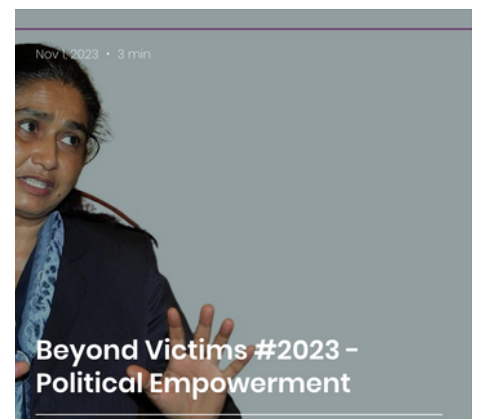
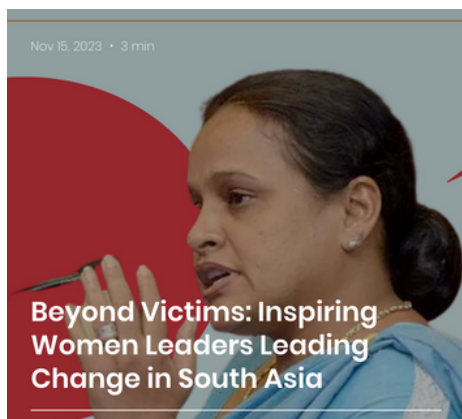
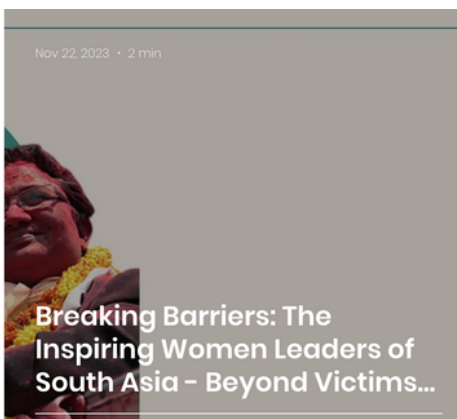
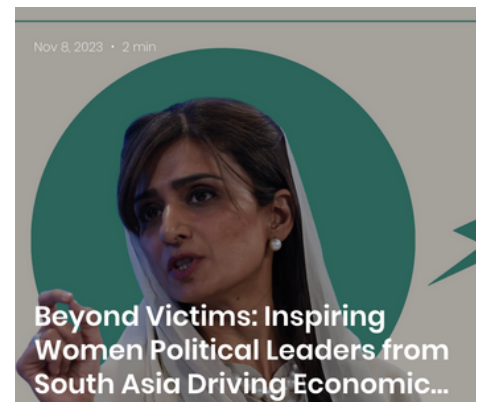
Beyond Victims Series



At CGAP, we began writing and researching about political participation and representation of women in South Asia to shift the spotlight from women as mere victims to the powerful agents of change and leadership they truly are.

Continuing our annual series that highlights the leadership of women political leaders across South Asia, our volunteers worked on publishing 5 editions under Beyond Victims 2023, covering the stories of 22 women leaders. A total of 16 volunteers from 4 countries contributed to this series with themes including leaders and change-makers bringing in Sustainability, Economic Empowerment, and Political Empowerment. Check them out [here](#).

We are also excited to bring to you our Beyond Victims Calendar 2024, which captures some of these inspirational stories for your exciting new year ahead. Grab a copy [here](#).



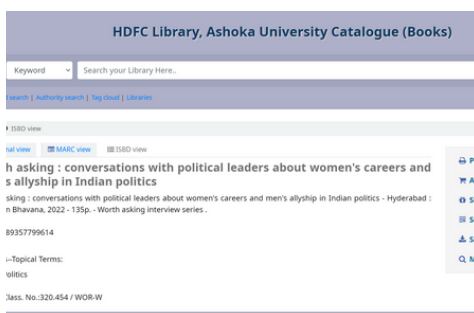
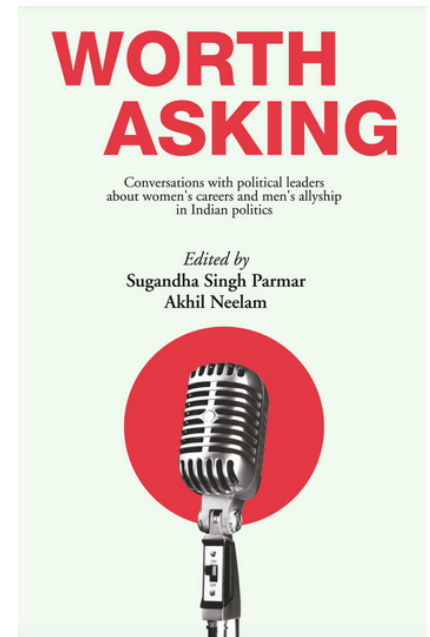
Research Publications



At CGAP, our approach to research is rooted in a strong commitment to research ethics, prioritizing integrity, originality, and confidentiality. To uphold these principles, we adhere to a rigorous research policy with the expertise of sensitivity readers and editors.

Worth Asking Book: Conversations with Political Leaders about Women's Careers and Men's Allyship in Indian Politics

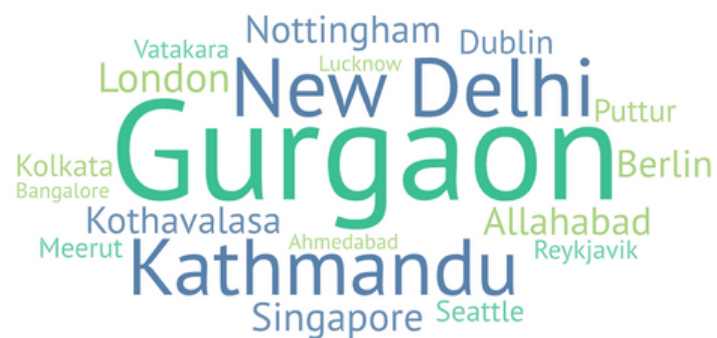
Our "Worth Asking" Interview Series is dedicated to raising awareness on women's political careers and the role of men's allyship. Our goal is to provide an alternative to the often sensationalised interviews that feature misogynistic portrayals of women in politics. This book is a compilation of interviews originally published between 2020 and 2021, released in March 2023. All interviewees in this book are electoral candidates, position holders across various governance levels, and members of political parties hailing from 10 states and 1 Union Territory, representing 9 different political parties in India.



At the HDFC Library, Ashoka University, India



Dublin, March 2023



Reaching global audience

Get a copy

Should Political Parties come under the POSH Act: Reflections on Kerala High Court Judgement

by Sugandha & Vamsi, published in The Leaflet

Our research article argues that political parties should be recognised as workplaces under the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act to protect women in Indian politics. We highlight the underrepresentation of women in Indian politics and the "continuum of violence" that affects them, including the lack of workplace protections.

Click on this [link](#) to read through the article.

Young Women At The Ballot: Insights on Young Women Voters' Experiences and Decisions

A study by Natasha, Sugandha & Madhubanti

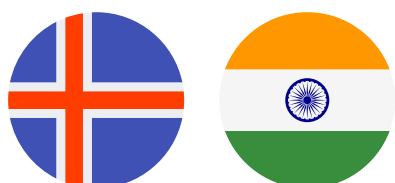
Our report offers insights into the experiences and choices of young women voters in India. The study examines factors that influence their political decision-making and provides key recommendations. Based on a nationwide survey of 928 young women across 30 states and UTs in May-June 2021, the report sheds light on their political awareness, voting experiences, and decisions, while highlighting potential obstacles.



Access the report [here](#).

Political Parties and Women's Representation in India and Iceland

A comparative study by Akhil



This study was part of Akhil's fellowship, GRO - GEST, supported by Government of Iceland and UNESCO

This study compares political parties in India and Iceland between 1975 and 2022 to improve women's political participation. It involves mixed-method data collection, including primary and secondary research, interviews, and survey responses. The study aims to generate a comparative understanding for adoption by politicians, parties, and advocacy groups in both countries. Read it [here](#).

Dialogues and Events



Our focus remained on developing a regional platform for researchers and academics specializing in gender and politics in South Asia. Additionally, we took part in numerous dialogues and events to advance our mission.



In October, we collaborated with the Confederation of Indian Industry's Indian Women Network (IWN) for the Telangana Leadership Conclave held in Hyderabad, India. We hosted a panel discussion to explore the intricate relationship between **technology, gender, and policy**. This witnessed participation from industry experts, non-profit professionals, corporate leaders, policymakers, and students.

Marking International Women's Day in March, we collaborated with **Women in Leadership Conclave**, GNITS (Hyderabad, India), to host 3 panel discussions. Our guests included experts from Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and India.



Panel: Navigating and Challenging Gender Norms in Politics

Please follow these links to read the [Proceedings](#) and access the [Video](#).



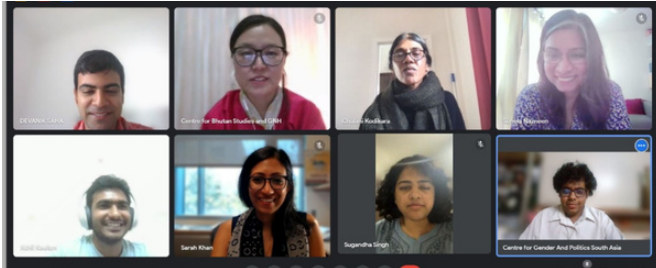
Panel: Unfolding Politics as a Career for Women and Men's Allyship



Panel: Data and Gender in Politics

Please follow these links to read the [Proceedings](#) and access the [Video](#)

Dialogues and Events



We organised our second roundtable on **Gendered Observation of South Asian Elections** with experts from Yale University, IDS, UK, University of Colombo and Gross National Happiness Institute of Bhutan.

Proceedings are published [here](#).

Sugandha was invited by the Embassy of India, Ireland, in Dublin to deliver a talk commemorating International Women's Day (8th March) 2023. She spoke about the leadership of a few women leaders we covered as part of the [#BeyondVictims](#) series.



Akhil gave a lecture titled "*Principles of Management: My Journey with a Nonprofit*" at Jindal Global Business School in India. During the lecture, he discussed CGAP's volunteer model, emphasised the importance of collaborations and explored the complexities of planning, decision-making, prioritisation, and deprioritisation. He also delivered a guest lecture at the University of Denison in the USA, where he spoke about forming global networks to bring about positive change.

Akhil represented CGAP at the Changemaker20 Summit (held under the banner of the **G20 Summit**) in August. During the event, he discussed CGAP's research and the role of youth in establishing gender-inclusive politics in India and around the world. Watch it [here](#).



Onwards and Upwards



In 2024, we are looking forward to bringing you some of our exciting new projects, including the *Worth Asking* podcast and Gender and Politics repository. We hope to expand our full-time team and mobilise more volunteers to contribute to making this world a better place.

At CGAP, we are actively exploring ways to raise monetary resources in the form of donations to sustain and scale our work. We acquired relevant income tax approvals to receive donations that are exempted from tax under Indian law. Indian citizens can now donate and support our work and claim tax exemption on their charity.

To donate online, click below

Registration and Tax Compliances:

Centre for Gender And Politics (CGAP) is registered as CGAP Foundation, a non-profit company registered under Indian Companies Act.

More details are [here](#).



Email: contact@cgapsouthasia.org for any queries

Join our mailing list



Report compiled by Ishani and Sarah

© CGAP