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**A STUDY OF INITIATIVES AND POLICIES FOR WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT IN POLITICAL EQUALITY**

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ABSTRACT

Initiatives and policies for women's empowerment in political equality have been crucial in reducing gender disparities in governance. One of the most impactful strategies has been the introduction of gender quotas, ensuring a minimum representation of women in legislative bodies. Countries like Rwanda, which mandates that at least 30% of parliamentary seats be occupied by women, have seen a significant increase in female political participation. Similarly, India's policy of reserving seats for women in local governance has empowered countless women to take leadership roles. Beyond quotas, capacity-building programs play a vital role. Organizations like UN Women and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) provide training, mentorship, and resources to equip women with the skills and confidence needed for political engagement. Financial and legal support mechanisms have also been established to create a fair playing field, such as providing equal access to campaign funding and enacting laws to protect women from political violence or harassment. Global initiatives, like the "HeForShe" campaign, advocate for allyship and the involvement of all genders in supporting political equality. Despite these efforts, challenges remain, and continuous advocacy is necessary to ensure inclusive governance that represents diverse perspectives and empowers women across all levels of decision-making.