Cut From the Same Cloth: Indian Women and Their Political Re-Interpretation

Women in India have historically had the virtues of motherhood and their role as steward of the family extolled. However, with the increasing political involvement of women, they have had to redefine what it is to be Mother and Steward. By expanding the scope of these roles, women have emerged as a feminine presence in a masculine arena through leadership in local and national forums. Though there is push back by men and women who call for traditional and conservative implementation of women in politics, it can be seen that women are finding success and acknowledgement in their agency within the political arena. By examining the villages of Bohal, Odai, and Mandai in Himachal Pradesh, India, women’s traditional roles and the re-interpretation of said roles can be seen to create a space for reform in local and municipal politics, as well as increased agency for women.