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## 129.8% increase in women contesting election

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The final list of candidates, as made available by the Election Commission Pakistan (ECP), depicts 129.8 per cent increase in the number of women contesting election 2013 on general seats as compared to elections 2008.

According to statistics collected by The Researchers (TR) and shared by TR Executive Director Aazar Ayaz, there will be 147 women contesting elections 2013 on general seats from 105 National Assembly constituencies whereas at provincial level, 301 women for 203 constituencies will contest on general seats.

In 2008, 195 women contested elections as against 448 for 2013. There is an increase of 153.2 per cent if compared with women who stood on general seats in 2002 elections.

Similarly, in 2008, 25 (15 in National Assembly and 10 in Provincial Assembly) women were elected on general seats and out of them 18 (11 in NA and 7 in PA) are re-contesting in 2013.

When the same is compared with 2002 general elections 14 women (9 NA, 5 PA) are con-

testing again on general seats. Interestingly, in National Assembly 5 women are contesting from more than one constituency, for provincial assembly seats 6 women are contesting from more than one constituency while 16 women are contesting from both national and provincial constituencies.

The Researchers is a research based national NGO that has been documenting women political empowerment especially their electoral participation since 2002 in Pakistan through election observation of women contested constituencies.

The TR, with its regional partners, undertook similar initiative in Nepal Bangladesh in the year 2008. For 2013 it joins hand with Pakistan Governance Forum (PGF) and Women and Politics in Asia Forum (WPAF) to bring out an analytical gender observation report focusing women in 2013. The report will contain primary data, historic co-relation and performance of women contestants in Election

As per the data analysis for the National Assembly the situation is as follows:

Provinces/Areas	Contesting Women	Constituencies
Punjab	90	66
Sindh	37	24
Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	14	10
Balochistan	3	3
Islamabad	2	1
FATA (As first ever- female candidate)	1	1
Total	147	105
21 Political Parties giving	g 60 Tickets while Candidates	87 are Independen
2008 General Elections	73	64
7 Political Parties gave 4	41 Tickets while 32 Candidates	were independent
A SHELL ROOM AND A SHEL	Candidates	

For the Provincial Assemblies the situation is as follows:

Provinces	Contesting Women	Constituencies
Punjab	169	116
Sindh	94	59
Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	27	20
Balochistan	11	8
Total	301	203
Inde	s giving 111 Tickets w pendent Candidates	
2008 General Elections	122	115
6 Political Parties gave	37 Tickets while 85 w Candidates	ere Independent
Total	119	101
20 Political Parties gave	e 52 Tickets while 67 v Candidates	vere Independent