

## ABSTRACT

### Women in the P.N.M.

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In 1986, women were taking their rightful place not only in the world, but more particularly in Trinidad and Tobago. At the scholarly and the professional levels, they appeared to be matching their male counterparts. But politics in 1986, still was male-dominated and it continues to be so up to today.

This paper attempted to assess the contribution of women in the People's National Movement (P.N.M.), through their activities in the Women League, to the electoral success of the first significant political party the country produced and to evaluate their general significance to the development of women in this society.

The results obtained showed that while new ground was broken in that women were brought into the front-line of politics for the first time, the League failed to create the conditions for a greater level of direct participation by women at the higher echelons of the party.

While the perception of the Women's League as the

most powerful women's organisation this country has known, still persists, this pioneering institution which began as a vibrant and dynamic body, does not now occupy the high ground which could have been charted for it.

Oral evidence was heavily relied on. Party documents and publications which dealt with women in politics, and the P.N.M. as a party in general, were also used. These were backed up with some secondary works.