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# THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL ARENA IN THE CITY OF SINGKAWANG

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**Abstract.** Political often a frightening specter especially for women. Election laws require women involved in politic by 30%, meaning that the state has given the opportunity for women to participate in politics. But in fact the involvement of women in politics, especially in Singkawang less than 30%. Least of the women involved in the political scene due to the patriarchal culture conditions that are not offset the ease of access of women in politics, especially in the legislature and the lack of education about the world of politics for women. This study will examine about constraints and strategies in achieving women's political participation with various literary journals. This study is expected to realize gender equality so remove discrimination between men and women.

Keywords: Women, Gender, Politics

## I. INTRODUCTION

The reform era became the foundation to break the women's involvement in the legislature. The involvement of women in the legislature is interesting attention. Recorded in the 1999 general election the involvement of women

has improved, although there are ups and downs number involvement of women in the legislature 1999-2004 as many as 57 people so 11.40% over the previous year and continued to increase until the 2009-2014 women's involvement amounted to 97 people 17 32% of the total members of the House of Representatives which numbered 560 (Launa and Azman Fajar, 2009: 6). The more open political access, then it would be more women will be able to compete with men in the public arena.

The average percentage of women in the legislature's involvement in the city in West Kalimantan is still below 10%, whereas according to the statutory provisions at least 30%. However, seeing the number of women voters in the democratic party in 2008 and 2012, women's participation in voting balanced with men. In 2008

the number of voters as much as 2,143,614 votes, while the year 2012 of 2.38023 million voters consisted of 1,186,127 voters, male and 1,194,103 female voters. Especially for Singkawang involvement of women in parliament only by 8% (Source:

http://bappenas.go.id/files/rpjmd\_dan\_rkpd\_provi nsi/Kalimantan%20Barat/RPJMD%20Provinsi%2 0Kalimantan%20Barat%202013-2018.pdf).

Obstacles for women to occupy political power of women gait sometimes underestimated. Especially women seem only able to become a housekeeper. Opportunities for women to become politicians are limited because of the public perception regarding the distribution of the roles of men and women, who tend to be biased towards restricting the role of women in the household. In the political world, indeed male domination is still visible. For example, if we quantitatively calculate, how many women are entering the area leaders in Indonesian politics.

These questions are indeed still a wedge within the framework for gender equality. However, entering the reform era, the drive to increase the



participation of women alongside men in the political area increases. This is corroborated by Law No. 10 of 2008 on general elections set a minimum quota of 30 percent of legislators are women. With a quota of 30 percent is expected to think women are over-represented in the Indonesian parliament.

Furthermore, in 2012, issued UU.No 8 on the General Election of DPR, DPD, and DPRD, replacing UU.No 10 of 2008 regarding the same. Under the Act it is important to note is the requirement that every political party has filed a one (1) women candidates for every three (3) names of candidates. The policy also stated in the regulations General Elections Commission (KPU) No. 7 of 2013 which states that the parties are unable to comply with a 30 percent representation of the list of candidates in the electoral district concerned.

Now some women are already participating in the legislative world, the bureaucracy, as well as other political positions. There are several regents women who are in Indonesia, as well as the governor. There was even a woman could regents served two periods, as well as the governor. Not counting that linger on political parties and then continued in the legislature.

Notes related to the involvement of women's political representation of women in the political arena of practical, especially in the legislature over the years that the elections in 1992-1997, she gets a small 62 seats (12.5%), 1997-1999 got 54 seats (10, 8%), and in 1999-2004 got 46 seats (9%) of each of the 500 seats were successfully achieved the House. 2004 elections again raise the number of female legislators to 63 people (11.45%) of the 550 elected members of Parliament, and elections in 2009 managed to put 99 women legislators (17.68%) of the 560 candidates elected members of Parliament Election results in 2009 (Launa and Fajar, 2009: 6).

Awarding quota to women in the political world is certainly important. Even so, at this time of political rights for women has been widely recognized, but the existence of these rights does not guarantee democratic politics. During this time in Indonesia, we found that most women have not even played a lot in the field of politics. Women are still heavily influenced by her husband, boss, friend, or family in politics. Participation between men and women in political life is one of the principles of struggle by women activists, to the convention mandated the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women which was later adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 set in 1981. The Government of Indonesia has also ratified through the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 7, 1984 on the 24th of July 1984 through the state sheet No. 29, 1984. It indeed is fought how that woman has a greater chance again to enter the world of politics. Nevertheless, women have the freedom to be a leader in the world of politics. And very apprehensive once when the population more women than men but women who entered politics only slightly.

## II. DISCUSSION

## A. Women's Political Participation in Singkawang

Basically, a quota of 30% is given to the involvement of women in politics and women's representation in parliament mandated by Law No. 10 of 2008 on the Legislative and Law No. 2 of 2008 on Political Parties (political party), is still very far from reality. Although the figure is actually 30% review by the statistical count based on the number still unfair. But most of the other women who welcome this as a step forward to give motion to the recruitment of women in political step.

The representation of women is important because the number of women in the political world is still very low, so that the position and role of women in the legislature, especially executive positions as decision and policy makers still minimal. This suggests that the presence of women is still not taken into account. A mandate of Law No. 10 in 2008 to as much as 30% of women representation in Parliament when the 2009 elections are a precondition easier for female candidates than male candidates.

Access of women in politics in Singkawang more open with the mandate of Law No. 10 of 2008. This is evidenced by the Chairman of the Parliament in the period 2009-2014 held a woman, namely Tjhai Chui May for the 2009-2014 legislature of 25 members of parliament only three



women namely Reni Dewi Asmara, Sumian, Cui Thjai Mie. Women Representation in the legislature in Singkawang still far from the target of 30% corresponding mandated in Law No.10 of 2008. For the year 2014-2019 legislators their increased representation of women in the legislature. Of the 30 legislators, Singkawang appointed in 2014 to 2019, a total of six members of a group of women from the Sun Tony, Sesanti Patari, Sumian, Cui Thjai Mie, Theresia pones. Women also participated in the election in Singkawang period 2017-2022, even candidates for mayor of Singkawang also come from the women that are Tjhai Mie and Tjhai Nyit Chui Khim (http://infopublik.id).

The involvement of women in politics in Singkawang is less than 30%, but the participation of women in the legislature showed progress and remove the negative pastures against women. It's changed the outlook on women that women are only fit to work in the domestic sector, women now also able to show that women can participate in politics. It is also a step forward to give motion to the recruitment of women in political step. The representation of women is the involvement and participation of women directly in the political process and policies that will promote the welfare of women's groups to represent, oversee and influence the policy fairer.

#### B. Obstacles to Realize Women's Political Participation

Speaking of women, every woman has the right to be located on par with men. It is important for women to know the extent to which they can be compared with men. Speaking about gender equality means giving equal access for women and men to access the same resources, or the same level of participation to take part in the public sector, providing equal opportunities in decision-making, and equally enjoy the fruits of development. So equality a matter that must be realized, but do not get too far in the name of equality just because it ignores the nature of which has been set with a busy career and ignore family affection.

Gender equality can remove the discrimination between men and women. Gender equality important for the study to see how far gender has positioned women are fair. Human equality means that human beings as creatures of God have the same level or position. Gender equality in relation to the political world that is the extent of women's involvement in politics.

The fact is that there are few women who participated in group decision-making. Participation of women in the public sphere is still very minimal. There are some people still doubt the ability of women be leaders or active in the political arena. Obstacles still faced by women achieve selfactualization among others is prejudice against women fills decision-making positions. The stereotypes that women are emotional or labile negative impact as it limits women's access to available opportunities and inhibits the development of women's potential.

There are three (3) factors that lead to low participation of women in the public sphere, including in the government, according to Setyaningrum in (Fatmariza, 2001: 39), namely

### 1. Internal factors

Internal factors relating to the assumption that women have a mental attitude that is weak, it is easy to give up, so it does not can do the maximum. Lack of willingness to improve the quality with a variety of positive activities as a condition of answering the demands of the times. This process is very important to establish a leader who insightful and nurturing.

2. External factors

External factors derived from the culture or cultures that reinforce the division of roles of women and men are different. Women in the domestic sphere, while men in the public domain. This has led to the dominance of men in decision-making in the public world more inclusive government. Not infrequently the decision or ignore the existence of women's public policy. Restrictions region domestic role of women in the world is likely to cause women to limit or restricted in improving the quality itself.

3. Understanding of religion is wrong.

Some people there who reject their efforts to gender equality by presenting religious arguments. Misconceptions, and bits and pieces of the verses of the Quran and the hadith (in Islam), tend to judge women is lower than men. Yet to Allah, men and women are equal, which distinguishes them is devotion.

The lack of women's involvement in politics can be influenced by the patriarchal culture that does not offset the ease of access in the form of affirmative action for women. patriarchal conditions women face several obstacles to align themselves with men in the political field. Communities that embrace the culture of patriarchy that culture where men have a higher ladder women. This has caused inequity in gender.

Some barriers to further women in terms of gender equality over the decision of the Constitutional Court at the end of 2008 on the electoral roll, that the first three candidates on the party lists of at least one woman (there are 10 candidates of one party in an electoral district). The order of the list determines the way to parliament. The Constitutional Court decision is considered as a measure of democracy, the general public precisely assesses limit opportunities for women to sit in parliament. Weak political participation of women among other women was in a sociocultural environment that is less supportive of women's development potential. Moreover, it can also come from a less political development policies facilitating women. In



this instance, it is inseparable from the existence of men who dominate the political arena.

#### C. Strategy to Realize Women's Political Participation in Singkawang

Singkawang population amounted to 179 155 people, consisting of 87 690 inhabitants 91 465 male and female residents. Details of the number of residents Singkawang can be seen in the table below:

TABLE I DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SINGKAWANG

	Name of the District	Population			Number - of
No.		Male	Female	Total	househo lds
1.	Central Singkawang	26 619	25 999	52 618	14 007
2.	East Singkawang	10 418	8333	18 751	4070
3.	West Singkawang	29 399	28 483	57 882	12 065
4.	North singkawang	10 472	10 222	20 694	5711
5.	South singkawang	10 782	18 428	29 210	8,041
	Total	91,465			
		179,155 43,894			87,690

Source: District Office respectively through questionnaires 2007

Seen from the above table that the number of females is not comparable with the participation of women in politics. Of the 91 465 women, with only about 8% of the number of women participating in politics in Singkawang (Source: bappenas.go.id). Participation of women who have not reached 30% due to the position women tended to take second place. It becomes in gender equality, especially in the political field.

The role of women has been seen late in involvement in the political world. Since women should participate take an important role in development, especially in public affairs. The Woman is known to take a role limited to domestic affairs that only about the household. The notion that women are better in the domestic position, regarded as one of the things that lead to women too late to take part in the political world. One consequence is the number of women holding public office is still very little. It is not a coincidence but it has become a cultural construction that has become a tradition and detrimental to women because it will impact the injustice in getting a chance to appear in political life.

Achieving gender equality and justice characterized by a lack of discrimination between women and men, and thus they have access, the opportunity to participate, and control over the development and the benefits equal and fair share of development. Have access to and participation means having the opportunity or the opportunity to use the resources and have the authority to take decisions on how to use and the results of these resources. The existence of women's equality in politics can be done by increasing the representation of women in the organization of political parties to seek ways of women to occupy strategic positions in the party in Singkawang to be occupied in the legislature at both local and central level. The importance of accommodating women into MPs in Singkawang can create awareness, especially given the fact that the majority of voters in Indonesia are women. Media access is also very important to realize women's participation in politics in Singkawang. The presence of the media can facilitate access to information for women in Singkawang. This media also influence the opinion of the party's policy-makers and the general public.

Improving the quality of women is indispensable, however, because of the participation of women in legislative bodies qualitative demanding women. Improving the quality of women can be done through political education that can create awareness of women's abilities and their rights and obligations in the field of politics. Increased awareness of women through education is needed to increase women's confidence in their own ability to compete with men in an effort to become a member of the legislature.

And the latter gives quotas to increase the number of women in parliament by strengthening women's political participation. Need to strengthen the role and equal opportunities for both men and women to get involved in politics starting from direct involvement by introducing the larger share of women in political party structures. This is governed by the laws of political parties and every political party is obliged to follow it as part of an effort alignments to women and to provide maximum opportunities to women to participate in politics.

Gait opportunity in politics and leadership roles for women, it is important to continue to be improved not only to influence the political decision-making process but also so that women can build a better political climate. This is linked to the capacity of women as voters, political party leaders, legislators or government officials so that more and more public policy reflects women.

#### **III.** CONCLUSION

The issue of women's participation in politics, especially in the legislature still faces some obstacles, both internal and external, as well as their understanding of false religion. We can see, not a lot of female political leaders, especially at the regional level. Only a few women who appear at the local level, such as in Singkawang, for example, the chairman of parliament 2014-2019 period was a woman. Mancelona elections for 2017-2019 years, two candidates for mayor also come from women. For the legislative representation of women is still far from the 30%, does not meet mandated by Law No. 10 of 2008.

The low number of women in parliament could be because there are not too many women who go into politics because political science is still minimal. It required effort to improve the quality of women. Improving the quality of women can be done through political education that can



create awareness of women's abilities and their rights and obligations in the field of politics. Increased awareness of women through education is needed to increase women's confidence in their own ability to compete with men in an effort to become a member of parliament. The existence of women's equality in politics can be done by increasing the representation of women in the organization of political parties. Women are given access to information for women through media.

Therefore, women have the right and are able to occupy a power in the government. However, the limiting factor in achieving a political power of women is caused by the lack of political experience. So, here requires experience in learning and in politics. Actually, women's chances in politics have the same opportunities as men. However, sometimes the progress of women in politics underestimated.

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