

Women and Politics: Representation of Women in Political Parties

Muhammad Budiana

Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik, Universitas Pasundan, Bandung, Indonesia

Email: m_budiana70@unpas.ac.id

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Women, Politics,
Representation, Political
Parties.

Email :
makbul.mansyur@unpas.ac.id

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the status of women inside Indonesia's political parties and organizations. This study will analyze the profile of women's representation at the management level and candidate positions in elections using a qualitative approach and a descriptive method. Specifically, the study will focus on the United States. According to the findings of the survey, the percentage of women holding candidate roles remains dismally low, despite the fact that a number of political parties have taken steps to boost the number of women working in management positions. This research also demonstrates that there are institutional and cultural barriers that limit women's presence in politics. Some examples of these constraints include gender stereotypes, conventional female duties in the home, and restricted access to political resources. The implication of this finding is that political parties need to increase their efforts to increase the representation of women at all levels of leadership and promote gender equality in politics. This research contributes to the political representation literature and provides insights for policy makers and political practitioners on how to increase the representation of women in political parties in Indonesia..

Copyright © 2023 Jurnal Ju- SoSAK. All rights reserved is Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution- NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) (CC BY-NC 4.0)

INTRODUCTION

Women and politics are a series of two words used as slogans by political parties to boost the electability of these parties. The order of human life which is dominated by men over women has become a long historical root (Kania, 2015; Achmad, 2023). In this order, women are placed as the second human being which is under the priority of men which has broad implications for social life in society (Erick & Masyitah, 2020).

The international convention stipulates everyone's right to freedom of thought, opinion, belief, religion and the protection of these rights (Article 18), the right of everyone to hold opinions without interference from any party and the right to freedom of expression (Article 19) , as well as the right of every citizen to participate in the administration of public affairs (Article 25) (Yulianis, 2018).

In recent years, women in Indonesia's regional politics have found more access and support. There is no denying the role women have played in bringing vibrancy and color to Indonesia's political dynamics (Widyaningrum, 2020). There has been a recent uptick in the prevalence of this phenomena. The importance of women's political engagement and the push for gender equality as a result of these movements and demands has never been higher.

Everyone now has equal access to space and political power. Neither men nor women are barred from doing it now (Imam & Purwaningsih, 2022).

Since the passing of Law Number 8 of 2012, which requires there to be at least one female candidate for every three male candidates, the status of women in politics has improved. Finally, KPU Regulation Number 7 of 2013 issued before the 2014 election, reiterating the points made in the earlier regulations. These rules are being implemented as part of an affirmative action plan to increase the number of female politicians. Temporary, non-standard actions designed to ensure that women and men receive the same opportunities and treatment are known as "affirmative policies" (Jovani, 2015).

Women have great potential in the world of politics. As voters and decision makers, women have a strong voice in determining public policies and the political direction of a country (Nurcahyo, 2016). Nevertheless, the participation of women in political life is not quite as widespread as one might want. There are still many places in the world, including Indonesia, where people believe that women are less capable of participating in political life and holding leadership positions. According to Kurnia (2018), this is reflected in the low percentage of women who are members of political parties.

It is crucial for political parties, as major institutions in the political system, to play a role in supporting the participation of women in politics. Political parties have the ability to advance the cause of gender equality and open doors of participation in politics and leadership to women. In spite of this, the number of women holding leadership positions in Indonesia's political parties remains dismally low. Although there are a number of political parties that are dedicated to raising the number of women in elected positions, there are still a great deal of institutional and cultural barriers that prevent women from actively participating in politics.

Ayu Putu Nantri (2004: 8) argues that political parties can also shape how many women hold office. In order to determine the percentage of women in parliament, four criteria in the existence of political parties must be taken into account. (a) the framework of political institutions; (b) the structure of political parties; (c) the philosophy of political parties (the progressive ideology); and (d) the members of political parties. If political parties don't pledge to encourage women to vote, they will never reach their full potential as a political force. Ufi Ulfiah argues in Fitriyah (2012) that women will win political support in the long run. Political parties hurry to recruit women as cadres when mainstreaming equality in relationships becomes widespread, using them mostly as shields or lipstick to win over the masses.

It is necessary to do research on the representation of women in political parties in order to have a better understanding of the opportunities and problems that women encounter in politics as well as the ways in which political parties may work to change this situation. On the basis of this, the purpose of this study is to investigate the level of representation of women in Indonesian political parties, particularly at the management level and candidate positions in elections.

This study has the potential to make a significant contribution to the body of literature on political representation and to advance gender equality in political settings. This research can help political practitioners and policy makers build more effective ways to enhance women's representation in politics and leadership by analyzing the profile of women's representation in political parties. The goal of this research is to increase the number of

women who participate in politics and leadership roles. In addition, the findings of this research have the potential to educate the general public about the obstacles and restrictions that women encounter when working in politics. As a result, popular support for women's representation in political parties and politics in general may increase as a result.

METHOD

Judging from the results, this research is a qualitative research, because this research produces descriptive data in the form of writing about people or people's words and their visible and visible behavior. The use of this method is seen as a "research procedure" which is expected to produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from a number of people and the observed behavior (Yulianah, 2022). Qualitative research methods are often called naturalistic research methods because the research is carried out in natural conditions (natural setting); Also known as the ethnographic method, because initially this method was more widely used for research in the field of cultural anthropology; referred to as a qualitative method because the data collected and the analysis is more qualitative in nature (Sugiyono, 2011).

While this research is a descriptive type where this research is a type of research that describes or describes an object of research based on its characteristics. Qualitative descriptive research aims to explain the phenomenon in depth through data collection. If the data collected is in-depth and can explain the phenomenon being studied, then there is no need to look for other sampling. Descriptive research seeks to convey responses regarding existing communication strategies based on data and observation results, then through data presentation, analysis and interpretation of data. Researchers only make categories of actors, observe symptoms, and record them in their observation book (Narbuko & Achmadi, 2007).

The political climate of today is dynamic, with new political movements emerging all the time. Efforts to fortify political rights have taken a number of different strategic forms. When it comes to achieving genuine political representation, accountability is a crucial issue in the democracy process. Women's efforts to be included in political decision-making is a central theme in the field of political representation. As a result, including women in government is an attempt to bolster civil liberties (Rahmatunnisa, 2016; Budiana & Achmad, 2022).

To keep our political understanding from becoming unbalanced, we need to keep both an equality and difference perspective in mind as we continue to learn about the process of women's representation. Women's representatives operate in a society that places a premium on them being sensitive to issues beyond simple sex and gender differences, such as cultural norms and political processes, or the actual results that have resulted from feminist intervention in the political sphere. Political contacts, with an emphasis on the rising number of women lawmakers (Darmansyah & Sartika, 2021).

Female political actors have changed political discourse. However, to delineate the institutional and cultural settings in which debates about women's political representation are localized and to trace their progress through successive political cycles. It also departs from the idea that humans have inherent rights since they were born, because they are human beings, and therefore these rights cannot be removed or declared invalid by anyone, including the State. This right also takes the form of political rights, that everyone has the right to

freedom of thought; owning and expressing opinions, association and assembly; participate in government, including the right to take part in government (Jatmiko, 2018).

For those interested in the role of women in mainstream politics it is deemed necessary not only to use the popular meaning of the term "politics" but also to draw on what for feminists is the nature of politics. Although these meanings require extensive attention in their function. As Lovenduski said about politics that "Politics consists of persons, processes, relationships, institutions and procedures that make authoritative public decisions (Kodiyat, 2019). Not everything that many people call political is included in the description of politics, but the description in this case has the advantage that almost everyone agrees that what it includes is political.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The low representation of women in parliament is not only a problem in the DPR RI, but also at the DPRD level. This indicates that the general political situation at the central and regional levels is not yet in favor of women. The results of the last election in 2019 only put women's representation in the National Legislative Body (DPR-RI) at 20.8 percent or 120 female legislature members out of 575 members of the DPR RI (KPU, 2019). This low figure is of course inseparable from the role of political parties as the only "political vehicle" to become members of parliament. The following is data that describes the representation of women in the DPR and DPRD based on political parties in the 2019 election.

Political parties should be able to become effective "political instruments" to increase women's representation in parliament, if only they want to optimize their efforts and affirmative action. Affirmative action which is a temporary action to increase women's representation in parliament has proven to be successfully implemented by political parties in many countries. Until now, there are 24 countries in the world that have met the representation of women in parliament above 30%. The first position is occupied by Rwanda with 56.3% representation of women, then Andorra (53.6%) in second position, Sweden (45%) in third position, South Africa (44.5%) in fourth position and Cuba (43, 2%) in fifth position.

Affirmative action policies against women in politics after the enactment of amendments to the 1945 Constitution began with the passing of Law Number 08 of 2012 concerning Elections for the DPR, DPD and DPRD. Increasing women's representation is trying to be done by providing provisions so that political parties participating in elections pay attention to women's representation of at least 30% in nominating candidates for members of the DPR, DPD and DPRD. Law Number 08 of 2012 concerning Elections for the DPR, DPD and DPRD also states that each Election Contesting Political Party may nominate candidates for members of the DPR, Provincial DPRD and Regency/City DPRD for each Electoral District with regard to the representation of women at least 30%.

Even in political party institutions, affirmatic action is carried out by requiring political parties to include a minimum of 30% women's representation in establishment and management at the central level. UU no. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties which regulates the conditions for the establishment of political parties, in Article 2 it states: "The establishment and formation of political parties as referred to in paragraph (1) include 30% (thirty percent) of women's representation". In the previous paragraph it is stated that:

"Political parties are established and formed by at least 50 (fifty) Indonesian citizens who are 21 (twenty one) years old with a notarial deed"

It was not enough to establish political parties, affirmative action was also carried out at all levels of management from the center to the districts/cities. Regarding the implementation and the technicalities, it is up to the rules of each political party. These provisions as stated in Article 20 of Law no. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties: "The management of political parties at the provincial and regency/city levels as referred to in Article 19 paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) is prepared by taking into account the representation of women at least 30% (thirty percent) stipulated in the AD and ART of each political party".

Affirmative action against women in political parties does not stop at establishment and management. Political parties can only take part in elections if they have implemented at least 30% representation of women in their management at the central level. This affirmation is regulated in Law no. 08 of 2012 concerning the Election of Members of the DPR, DPD and DPRD. Article 8 paragraph (1) letter d states that: "Political parties can become election participants after fulfilling the requirements to include at least 30% (thirty percent) of women's representation in the management of political parties at the central level"

There is no doubt that the role of political parties in increasing the representation of women as policy makers in the legislature is very important. However, the role of these large political parties is not matched by a strong commitment to guaranteeing women's political rights. A country that is not assertive in encouraging efforts to increase women's representation is one of the causes. This is illustrated by state policies related to political parties which have not fully guaranteed women's political rights.

Another weakness is the imposition of a quota of 30% for women's representation which is limited only to the management of political parties at the central and district/city levels. The 30% quota for party management at the district/city level is only a suggestion so it does not bind parties to comply with this rule. In fact, to form political parties that are gender sensitive, especially related to women's issues, women's representation is needed from the lowest level of management of a political party. A research report by the Women Research Institute states that major parties including PPP, Partai Demokrat, PKS, Golkar, PKB, and PDIP at the regional level have an average representation of female officials below 30%. 4 The low number of party management in the regions (kab. /city) has an impact on the low number of female candidates in the region. This is evidenced by the previous explanation where the number of female candidates in the regions is lower than the central level.

The structural and cultural constraints that limit women's representation in politics are indeed very complex and not easy to overcome. Gender stereotypes that are still strong in society make many people judge that politics is a more suitable arena for men. Apart from gender stereotypes, traditional domestic roles are also an obstacle for women to be actively involved in politics. Women are often seen as having a more important role in terms of carrying out domestic roles, such as caring for children and family, compared to being involved in politics. This makes it difficult for many women to find the time and opportunity to be actively involved in politics.

Limited access to political resources, such as access to networks, information, and financial support are also obstacles that women often face in politics. Many women do not have strong political networks, so they find it difficult to enter and strengthen political networks. Information resources are also often difficult for women to access, because they are related to specific knowledge and skills that are often not possessed by women. In addition, financial support is also an obstacle that women often face, because they often lack access to the financial resources needed to enter politics.

However, political parties can play an important role in overcoming these obstacles. Political parties can strengthen women's representation in politics by providing sufficient access for women to be involved in political parties, especially in the nomination and election processes. Political parties can also make policies that strengthen women's representation in the management of political parties and open space for women to participate in politics and leadership.

In addition, political parties can also promote the elimination of gender discrimination in politics by increasing awareness and understanding of the importance of gender equality in politics. Political parties can also socialize the role and contribution of women in politics and strengthen women's capacity in politics through training and education.

In the long term, increasing the representation of women in political parties will have a positive impact on democracy and the welfare of society as a whole. The representation of women in politics will bring different perspectives and enrich political discourse, as well as strengthen public representation and inclusive political participation. Therefore, political parties must take concrete steps to strengthen women's representation in politics and promote gender equality in politics.

A. CONCLUSION

Women's representation in the DPR during the 65 years of Indonesia's independence has never exceeded 30%. The low representation of women in parliament is inseparable from the role of political parties as the only formal "political vehicle" in Indonesia. Political parties in Indonesia currently have a low commitment to realizing efforts to increase women's representation in parliament. The existence of structural and cultural obstacles that limit women's representation in political parties is indeed a very complex matter and is not easy to overcome. The existence of gender stereotypes, traditional domestic roles, limited access to political resources and financial access are the main causes of women's limitations. Political parties need to include women as political players in them, because their number in society is so large. Efforts to change this can be done, among other things, by implementing affirmative action in state law regulations related to political parties as well as internal rules of political parties.

REFERENCES

- Achmad, W. (2023). Socially and Economically Vulnerable Women: Building Strategies to Move Out of Poverty. *Prisma Sains: Jurnal Pengkajian Ilmu dan Pembelajaran Matematika dan IPA IKIP Mataram*, 11(2).
- Budiana, M., & Achmad, W. (2022). Political Parties In The Indonesian Political System After The Rolling Of Reforms. *Fox Justi: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, 13(1), 75-81.

- Darmansyah, R., & Sartika, A. (2021). Representasi Perempuan dalam Politik (Studi Pemilihan Legislatif Kota Dumai Periode 2019-2024). *Journal Civics and Social Studies*, 5(1), 1-15.
- Erick, B., & Masyitah, M. (2020). KETERWAKILAN PEREMPUAN DALAM PARTAI POLITIK PERSPEKTIF SIYASAH SYAR'IIYAH. *Jurnal Sosial Humaniora Sigli*, 3(2), 200-212.
- Fitriyah, N. (2012). Quo Vadis Pengarusutamaan Gender: Representasi Kebijakan Pemerintah dan Realitas Sosial Masyarakat Banten. *Kontribusi Ilmu Komunikasi Bagi Pembangunan Daerah*, 71.
- Imam, S., & Purwaningsih, T. (2022). Analisis Modalitas Keluarga Politik Indah Dhamayanti Putri dalam Pemilihan Bupati Bima NTB Periode 2015-2020. *Journal of Governance and Local Politics (JGLP)*, 4(2), 136-149.
- Jatmiko, B. J. (2018). Menelisik pengakuan dan perlindungan hak-hak asasi politik pasca perubahan UUD 1945. *Jurnal Panorama Hukum*, 3(2), 217-246.
- Jovani, A. (2015). Pentingnya Partisipasi Politik Perempuan Di Indonesia Di Era Digital. *Jurnal Transformasi Sosial Menuju Masyarakat Informasi yang Beretika dan Demokratis*.
- Kania, D. (2015). Hak asasi perempuan dalam Peraturan Perundang-Undangan di Indonesia: The rights of women in Indonesian laws and regulations. *Jurnal Konstitusi*, 12(4), 716-734.
- Kodiyat, B. A. (2019). Fungsi Partai Politik Dalam Meningkatkan Partisipasi Pemilih Pada Pemilihan Umum Kepala Daerah Di Kota Medan. *EduTech: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan dan Ilmu Sosial*, 5(1).
- Kurnia, D. A. (2018). Politik Adil Gender: Sebuah Paradoks. *Humaniora*, 15(2), 81-87.
- Nantri, A. P. (2004). Perempuan dan politik. *Jurnal Perempuan (online)*.
- Narbuko, C., & Achmadi, A. (2018). Metodologi Penelitian: Jakarta: Bumi Aksara.
- Nurchahyo, A. (2016). Relevansi Budaya Patriarki Dengan Partisipasi Politik Dan Keterwakilan Perempuan Di Parlemen. *Agastya: Jurnal Sejarah Dan Pembelajarannya*, 6(01), 25-34.
- Rahmatunnisa, M. (2016). Affirmative Action dan Penguatan Partisipasi Politik Kaum Perempuan di Indonesia. *Jurnal Wacana Politik*, 1(2), 90-95.
- Sugiyono, P. (2011). Metodologi penelitian kuantitatif kualitatif dan R&D. *Alfabeta, Bandung*, 62-70.
- Widiyaningrum, W. Y. (2020). Partisipasi Politik Kader Perempuan dalam Bidang Politik: Sebuah Kajian Teoritis. *JISIPOL| Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik*, 4(2), 126-142.
- Yulianah, S. E. (2022). Metodologi Penelitian Sosial. CV Rey Media Grafika.
- Yulianis, E. (2018). *Tinjauan siyasah dusturiyah terhadap hak politik perempuan dalam musyawarah perencanaan pembangunan berdasarkan perda Kota Bogor No. 2 tahun 2008 tentang tata cara penyusunan rencana pembangunan daerah: studi kasus terhadap implementasi pasal 29 ayat (4) huruf B angka (6) di enam Kecamatan Kota Bogor* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung).