

Study of Women's Political Participation and Leadership

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ABSTRACT

The policy brief suggests measures to enhance the leadership of women in politics. Women's leadership in political spheres has been shown to be socially beneficial (World Economic Forum, 2017), and is a matter of women's right to equal opportunity and access. While women's political participation has increased in the Asia Pacific region since the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, the region lags behind global trends: parliamentary representation of women in the Lower or Single House in the region is 20%, compared with the global average is 25%.

Keyword: - Women, Region, Politics, WEF and Global etc.

Introduction

Though progress has been made in the last 25 years, there is still a lot of room for improvement to reach the 30 per cent mark. The sub-regions face various challenges with respect to the political participation of women. For example, while East and Northeast Asia currently has the highest representation of women in parliament, the rate of change has been slowest. If the current rate of annual change can be maintained, North and Central Asia will be the only sub-region to meet the 30% threshold by 2030. Encourage political leadership of women.

Importance of women's political leadership

In the Beijing Platform for Action, which began at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995, the priority of women's leadership was underlined in sections G.1 and G.2: "To ensure equal access and full participation of women in power take measures for "structures and decision-making" and "increasing the capacity of women to participate in decision-making and leadership" respectively.

Two decades later, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscored the need and urgency to achieve gender equality in leadership through SDG target 5.5, which calls for "the full and effective participation and participation of women at all levels of political, economic and decision-making". Leadership needs equal opportunities." public life."

The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women explicitly mentions the political equality of women (Articles 7–9) and discusses the equal participation of women at all levels (Article 7B): State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against in the life of the country and, in particular, to enable women to participate on an equal basis with men in the formulation of government policy and its implementation and to hold public office and government shall ensure the right to exercise all public functions at all levels" (Part II, Article 7b). These commitments collectively express that women's right to equality cannot be achieved without equality in political decision-making positions.

Women's political leadership has been shown to have many social benefits, such as reduced inequality (WEF, 2017), increased cooperation across party and ethnic lines (Markham, 2013), and increased access to health, education, parental leave such as increasing the priority of social issues, and pensions (Markham, 2013).

Additionally, women's political participation has been shown to be particularly influential for women in their communities. Factors such as female voter turnout, female political participation, and accountability of public service to women are positively correlated with the presence of women in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors (Burns, Schlossman, & Verba, 2001).

Women's parliamentary attendance can also have a role model effect. One study underscored the importance of female role models for individuals of all genders to "normalize the views and practices of women holding power" (O'Neill, Plank & Domingo, 2015). A 2012 study in India reported that an increased proportion of female rural leaders closed the "aspiration gap" between girls and boys by about 25 percentage points and eventually erased the gender gap in educational outcomes or reversed. With the increase in female leadership in the village, girls also started spending less time on household activities (Beeman et al., 2012).

These role models can largely influence the representation of women in the future. Following the 2018 general elections in Fiji, women's representation in parliament stands at 20 percent, a record high for the country. This is attributed to the role-model influence of the first woman Speaker of the House.

The challenges

1. Time use and care work

One barrier to women's political participation and leadership is the use of time. Women spend four times more time than men in this sector on unpaid care work, which excludes them from economic and political participation (ILO, 2018). Unpaid care work is one of the primary reasons women cannot enter politics (Tadros, 2014).

Furthermore, studies have also indicated that social norms often create preferences for female candidates with household profiles (eg, married and with children), which creates a double bind for women (Teele, Kalla & Rosenbluth, 2018). Thus, women face norms regarding care work, and also norms regarding desirable traits in female candidates.

2. Leadership is seen as a male domain

On average, more than 50 percent of the region's respondents "agree" and "strongly agree" that "men make better political leaders than women" (World Values Survey, 2014). These assumptions about leadership often translate into reality. Vanuatu's submission to the Beijing+25 review states that "the dynamics of the traditional patriarchal context, which dictate rigid gender roles by excluding women from formal decision-making spaces such as parliament" is one reason why no women are elected to parliament. Not selected for last two elections

3. Backlash, Harassment and Violence

An Inter-Parliamentary Union study on 55 women parliamentarians from 39 countries reveals that 82 percent of interviewees have experienced psychological violence, comments, gestures and images of a sexist or derogatory nature, or threats and mobbing (IPU, 2016), about 44 percent had received threats of death, rape, assault, or kidnapping. Nearly 20 per cent of women MP respondents were slapped, pushed or hit with a projectile that could have caused them harm.

A country report written for the Asia-Pacific regional Beijing +25 conference underscored this point: "Double standards, blackmailing and smear campaigns in the media are actively used against women politicians, resulting in their diminishing influence." As a result of violence against women during elections and political activities... two political parties... have no women members".

Policy recommendations

1. Fund Promotion Party Quota

The idea of encouraging party reform as a way of encouraging parties to nominate women and eventually elect them is gaining traction globally (Wright, 2019). With political parties being a major influencer (UNDP, 2014), the government may consider funding incentive party quotas. In Georgia, political parties receive 30 percent more funding if the first 10 names on their party list are at least 30 percent of each gender. Additionally, parties that successfully nominate and elect a female candidate receive additional funding (IDEA, 2018). The representation of women in parliament in Georgia is higher than the median for countries with no quota system.

2. Create an enabling environment for voluntary party quotas

Countries in the region with voluntary party quotas, such as Australia, the Philippines and New Zealand, rank well above the regional average for parliamentary representation of women, as shown in Figure 3. To create an enabling environment for voluntary party quotas, governments may make official statements that encourage parties to implement quotas internally.

In Kazakhstan, the Central Election Commission and the National Commission for Women's Affairs, Family and Demographic Policies under the President "endorsed specific recommendations for political parties to have gender quotas in their charters or to consider the gender perspective when drawing up party lists". Nominating candidates and candidates for elected office.

3. Enact legislative candidate quotas and reserved seats

Governments may consider quotas through direct means such as reserved seats or legislative candidate quotas. In India, the reservation of one-third of the seats for women in Panchayati Raj institutions helped elect one million women to government posts (Chaudhary, 2013). After introducing gender quotas, countries such as Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Kyrgyz Republic, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu saw increases in parliamentary and/or local government representation (Sachchi et al., 2014). It is important to note that the country that has the lowest proportion of women in parliament with a legislative candidate quota (i.e., Uzbekistan) still has a higher proportion of women at over 80 percent compared to countries that have no quotas. Is. That said, quotas are not necessarily sufficient and can often present a skewed picture. In Nepal, where women held an unprecedented 40.9 percent of seats following the 2017 local elections, many women indicated they had financial and management challenges and needed more training in political governance (Australian Government DFAT – in

Nepal TAF Partnership on Subnational Governance, 2018). While quotas are an important start, they must be complemented with other gender-responsive programming to make political institutions viable for women; This programming may include financial training, childcare, maternity and paternity leave, mentoring and networking opportunities.

Support women's leadership development programs

Of the 41 countries that submitted comprehensive reports to the Asia-Pacific regional Beijing +25 conference, 15 indicated that they encouraged the participation of minority and young women through sensitization and mentoring programs; 20 responded that they provided opportunities for mentoring, training in leadership, decision making, public speaking, self-confidence and/or political campaigning.

The report on Women's Transformational Leadership by ESCAP explains best practices of leadership training programs from Asia and the Pacific: Some of these best practices include local ownership of programs; group approach; associative engagement; and coordination with other international partners (ESCAP, 2019). The report describes specific "paths" in which women develop transformational leadership:

1) growing awareness and capabilities, 2) access to resources and opportunities, 3) shaping and leveraging formal policies, and 4) changing exclusionary norms.

Creating a Gender-Responsive Policy Environment

Even after implementing measures for women's equal participation, governments should consider long-term accountable evaluation processes. For example, the Kyrgyz Republic, after realizing that political parties would "exclude" women from political parties once they met the electoral gender, created a new amendment that would ensure that excluded female parliamentarians would be allowed to vote with other women. will be replaced by Thus, parties can no longer "bypass" gender quotas.

In another case, the Republic of Korea, after realizing a hostile media landscape for women, "enacted a plan to promote rapid monitoring of gender discrimination by opening on-line forums where citizens can participate and gender- Can report discriminatory media content." In both the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Korea, governments were able to respond to the ways that norms pervaded the environment and could respond with gender-responsive policies.

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