

Women's Political Participation, Policymaking and Democracy in Indonesia

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Abstract

Issues related to women's political representation, especially in Indonesia, have become an important issue lately. However, what has happened so far is that the patriarchal system is still inherent in some areas. Men are considered as rulers in several parts of the history of human civilization, while women are as if only taking care of the household and belonging to men. This triggers the emergence of issues regarding the issue of gender roles and positions between men and women. In fact, many countries, especially Indonesia, adhere to a democratic political system that must involve all members of society, including women. As regulated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia article 28 where everyone has the right to express opinions, where women also have the right to participate in political activities and decision making. This paper will explain how women participate in world politics and explain women's representation in Indonesia.

Keywords: Political Participation, Policymaking, Democracy

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Introduction

The development of the government system in Indonesia continues to change. Indonesia has run a democratic system. Democracy was born from the demands of society for equal rights and equal standing before the law (Irawan, 2006). Democracy comes from the words *demos* and *kratos* which mean government of, for, by the people. The history of democracy in Indonesia has gone through a long process, until now Indonesia uses the Pancasila Democracy system.

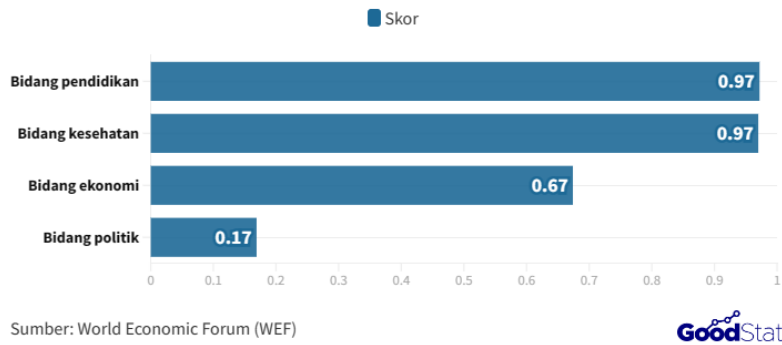
It was during the era of bureaucratic reform that Indonesian democracy was heading for perfection. This means that freedom of the press has been opened so that everyone has the right to express their own opinions and aspirations. As stated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in Article 28 and Article 28E paragraph (3) which states "everyone has the right to freedom of association, assembly and expression of opinion." Therefore, the existence of community participation, especially in political development is needed.

Political participation is closely related to political awareness. According to Burns et al, 2001 in Munawarah stated that political participation is an activity that aims to influence government action either directly by influencing the making and implementation of public policies or indirectly by influencing the selection of officials who will make these policies (Munawarah & Kristanto, 2022). Political participation is a voluntary activity of the community in participating either directly in the process of electing leaders or formulating policies.

Political participation is a parameter in assessing the level of democracy of a country. Democratic life in Indonesia has progressed as seen from the Indonesian Democracy Index in 2020, Indonesia is in 52nd position. This progress is shown by the increase in the Indonesian Democracy index from 6.30 in 2020 to 6.71 in 2021. This increase has brought Indonesia up 12 levels from 2020 (Indonesia.go.id, 2022). Democracy mandates equal access and full participation for both men and women, although in practice women's participation has not reached 30%. This is inseparable from the low level of regulation relating to the protection of women's rights and historical and cultural aspects, which place women on the side that is subordinated.

In the midst of feminist movements and women's activists who are aggressively voicing and upholding women's rights, there is still a patriarchal cultural patriarchy that continues to this day (Sakina & A., 2017). Since ancient times, the culture of society in the world has placed men at the top of the hierarchy, while women are usually secondary. This can be seen in the Human Development Index (IPM) for women in 2019 which is still below men, namely 69.18, while the HDI for men is 75.96 (Novie Fauziah, 2023).

Based on a report from the World Economic Forum (WEF) in the 2022 Global Gender Gap Report, Indonesia has a gender inequality index score of 0.697 and is ranked 92nd out of a total of 146 countries. The report looks at four areas, namely political empowerment, educational attainment, economic participation and opportunity as well as health and survival.



Graphic 1. Gender Inequality Index in Indonesia based on the Field of Assessment

The gender inequality index at the WEF has a scoring system with a scale range of 0 – 1. A score of 0 means that there is a wide gender gap, while a score of 1 indicates a condition of gender equality. If seen from the data above, the score of women's empowerment in the political field in Indonesia is the lowest when broken down by sub-index, the score is 0.169 or below the global average range (Naurah, 2023). Therefore, researchers want to see how women's participation in politics and decision-making in Indonesia today.

Method

This research is a research with literature study. Researchers conducted studies with various sources of literature, namely through journal sources, reports or surveys from the mass media and official documents from institutions. These data sources are then collected and analyzed and then developed into research findings or results (Kusuma, 2022).

Result and Discussion

The issue of women's representation in the political sphere in Indonesia has become a crucial issue recently. Representation of women and men in the political sphere is a form of democratization. So far, Indonesia still has a patriarchal system inherent in society. It is assumed that women still do not have the capacity to lead and make decisions. Krisnalita in (Sari, 2022) states that in an effort to minimize the gap in women's representation in the political sphere, the Government establishes policies to guarantee women's rights in democratic life.

1. Policy

The following are several policies that regulate women's rights:

- The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia stipulates that all citizens, which means "men and women," have the same position and equal opportunities in the political field. This is among others stated in Articles 27 and 28;
- Law Number 15 of 2011 concerning General Election Organizers replaces Law 22 of 2007 concerning General Election Organizing. This description regulates the number of women represented, among others in: Article 6 paragraph (5) The membership composition of KPU, Provincial KPU and Regency/Municipal KPU takes into account women's representation of at least 30% (thirty percent). Article 41 paragraph (3) The

composition of PPK membership takes into account women's representation of at least 30% (thirty percent). Article 72 paragraph (8) The composition of the membership of Bawaslu, Provincial Bawaslu, and Regency/City Panwaslu takes into account the representation of women at least 30% (thirty percent).

- Law Number 2 of 2011 concerning Political Parties replaces Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties. Temporary special measures in Law Number 2 of 2011 concerning Political Parties are contained in: Article 2 paragraph (2): The formation and establishment of political parties as referred to in paragraph (1) includes 30% (thirty percent) representation of women DPR members, DPD, and DPR DPR and efforts to amend the Election Law.

2. Women's Participation in Politics and Policy Making

Several policies have been made so that women, especially in Indonesia, can be actively involved in politics, but they have not been able to run optimally. The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection of the Republic of Indonesia (KPP-PA) considers that women's representation in the political field is very important because the balance of policy formulation must guarantee certainty of welfare with a gender perspective and is non-discriminatory (Lambertha Gundalibra Sari, 2022).

The involvement of women in formal political institutions in Indonesia is still low. This can be caused because from within the woman herself is not interested in getting involved in politics. In addition, women's participation in party activities is also heavily influenced by funds, for example, such as holding a campaign. However, the lack of support from husbands and families will reduce women's self-confidence to advance as leaders.

Table 1. DPR RI Members by Gender 1999-2019

Source: KPP-PA, 2020

Tahun	Laki-Laki		Perempuan	
	Jumlah	Persentase	Jumlah	Persentase
1999	456	91,20%	44	8,80%
2004	485	88,18%	65	11,82%
2009	460	82,14%	100	17,86%
2014	465	82,74%	97	17,26%
2019	575	82,73%	120	17,27%

Table 1 shows that there is still a gap between the involvement of women and men in politics. The significant difference clearly shows that although various efforts to equalize have been made, the significant difference indicates that it is true that there are some things that can be accessed by men but not by women. Women's political representation is quite important if we want to place a gender-friendly democracy (gender democracy).

3. Obstacles to Women in Politics

Although the Government of Indonesia has attempted to formulate policies related to women's representation in politics, there are several factors that cause low women's participation or representation (Muslimat, 2008), namely:

- *Socio-Cultural and Psychological Conditions*
There are socio-cultural and psychological conditions that still strongly perceive women as housewives with an ideology of dividing public and domestic roles. The practice of patriarchal culture is still very dominant in Indonesia, this patriarchal culture positions men as the most manly group and has the freedom to do anything to women.
- *Family Political Culture*
The political culture of familism is a very strong political phenomenon in Indonesia. This can influence the birth of dynastic politics, seen from direct blood relations and affection, solidarity and trust. Political institutions in general are fully committed to empowering women. For example, in the case of nominations for legislative and executive candidates by political parties, political parties are often only done for the sake of fulfilling the requirements in elections.
- *Internal Factors of Women Themselves*
This is related to the quality of human resources, knowledge, organizational skills, education, mental attitude and understanding of political rights which are still low. With regard to political education.
- *Government Policy*
Government policies are still lacking in paying attention to the aspirations and interests of women. Even if there is, it is still weak in socialization and implementation. As well as the lack of presentation and promotion of women activists in the world of politics.

Conclusion

The issue of women's representation is a crucial issue in Indonesia. There have been several efforts made by the Government of Indonesia to increase the number of women's representation. Starting from policies and programs. However, there are obstacles that occur in the implementation of women's representation such as socio-cultural and psychological conditions, family political culture, internal factors from women themselves and government policies.

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