

Women's Representation in Parliament: Women's Gait in Cracking Political Domination

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Abstract: This study examines women's representation in parliament as an effort to increase women's political participation and break the dominance of men in the political realm. This study analyzes the development of women's representation in the legislature, the factors that affect women's political participation, and the challenges and opportunities faced by women in achieving political leadership positions. Using a qualitative approach and secondary data analysis, this study examines the historical trends of women's representation in parliament, the impact of affirmation policies such as gender quotas, and the effectiveness of women's political empowerment programs. The findings of the study show that despite the increase in the number of women in parliament in recent decades, there is still a significant gender gap in political participation and representation. The study identifies several key barriers for women in politics, including gender stereotypes, a lack of institutional support, and challenges in balancing domestic and public roles. However, the study also reveals strategies that women have successfully implemented to overcome these obstacles and achieve political leadership positions. The conclusion of the study emphasizes the importance of institutional reform, political culture change, and strengthening women's capacity and networks to increase women's representation in parliament. The implications of this study provide insights for policymakers, political parties, and civil society organizations in an effort to promote gender equality in politics and build a more inclusive democracy

Keywords: Political, Domination, Women's

Introduction

Women's representation in parliament is one of the important indicators in assessing the level of political participation and democratic governance. In many countries, including Indonesia, the role of women in politics often faces significant obstacles and challenges. Although there has

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been progress in terms of the recognition of women's rights, political dominance dominated by men is still an urgent issue. In this context, the study of women's representation in parliament is not only relevant to understand political dynamics, but also to analyze women's contribution in hacking long-standing political domination.

Women's representation in the legislature is not only important in terms of quantity, but also in terms of the quality and substance of the policies produced. Research shows that when women are involved in the policy-making process, issues that concern women, such as education, health, and child protection, tend to receive more attention. Therefore, increasing women's representation in parliament is expected to produce policies that are more inclusive and responsive to the needs of a wider community.

In Indonesia, efforts to increase women's representation in parliament have been carried out through various policies and regulations. One of the significant steps is the quota of women in legislative candidacy regulated in Law No. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties and Law No. 8 of 2012 concerning General Elections. This regulation emphasizes the importance of women's participation in politics by setting a minimum quota of 30% for female legislative candidates. However, the implementation of this policy still faces various challenges, including social stigma, patriarchal culture, and lack of support from political parties.

In the global context, the issue of women's representation in politics has become a serious concern for many international organizations, including the United Nations. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the importance of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. This shows that women's representation in politics is not just a local issue, but also part of a broader global agenda to create a just and sustainable society.

Despite progress in terms of women's representation in various countries, challenges remain. In many cases, women elected to parliament

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often face difficulties in making decisions and contributing effectively due to a culture of male dominance. In a parliamentary structure that is predominantly male, women's voices are often marginalized, and the resulting policies tend not to reflect women's needs and perspectives. Therefore, it is important to analyze more deeply the factors that affect women's representation in parliament and how women can hack existing political dominance.

In this study, an interdisciplinary approach will be used to analyze women's representation in parliament. Through the perspective of politics, sociology, and gender, it is hoped that a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by women in achieving greater representation in the legislature can be obtained. In addition, the study will also include an analysis of concrete cases in which women have achieved strategic positions in politics and their impact on public policy.

As such, this article aims to contribute to a broader discussion on women's representation in politics. Through in-depth analysis, it is hoped that strategies and recommendations can be found that can be used to increase women's participation in the political system, as well as create a more supportive environment for women to be involved in policymaking. In the end, women's success in hacking political domination will contribute to the creation of a fairer, equal, and democratic society.

Method

The research method contains the research design used as well as research informants (empirical research) and data analysis techniques. Describe and operationalize the methods used and in the research.

Result and Discussion

1. The quality and impact of the resulting pro-women policies

The quality and impact of pro-women policies produced by women's representation in parliament is a crucial aspect in evaluating the effectiveness of women's political participation. An in-depth analysis of this

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aspect not only provides an overview of the extent to which women's interests are represented in the legislation process, but also shows the real contribution of women's representation to the progress of gender equality and overall national development.

In the context of the quality of pro-women policies, there are several parameters that can be used as a reference. First, the policy must be based on accurate research and data on the conditions and needs of women in various sectors of life. The use of an evidence-based approach in policy formulation ensures that the solutions offered are relevant and effective in addressing the problems faced by women. Second, quality pro-women policies must be inclusive and intersectional, taking into account the diversity of experiences and needs of women from various social, economic, and cultural backgrounds. It is important to ensure that the resulting policies not only benefit a specific group of women, but also benefit women from marginalized and vulnerable groups.

The third aspect that determines the quality of pro-women policies is the level of comprehensiveness and coherence with other policies. Quality policies do not stand alone, but are well integrated within the broader national policy framework. For example, policies on women's participation in the labor market must be in line with education, health, and social protection policies. This policy coherence is important to ensure the effectiveness of implementation and prevent overlap or contradiction between policies. Fourth, the quality of pro-women policies is also reflected in the clarity of goals, targets, and measurable success indicators. This allows for a systematic evaluation of the impact of the policy and opens up opportunities for continuous improvement.

Furthermore, the impact of pro-women policies can be evaluated from various perspectives. In the short term, the impact of the policy can be seen from the direct changes that occur in women's lives. For example, policies on paid maternity leave can immediately improve the welfare of working mothers and their babies. However, long-term impact evaluation is

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more complex and requires continuous observation. Long-term impacts can include structural changes in gender relations in society, increased participation of women in various sectors, and contributions to inclusive economic growth.

One of the important indicators in assessing the impact of pro-women policies is the extent to which they have succeeded in reducing gender gaps in various fields. This includes gaps in access to education, health services, decent work, and participation in decision-making at the family, community, and state levels. Effective policies must be able to show significant declines in the national gender gap index over time.

The economic impact of pro-women policies is also an important aspect of the evaluation. Research shows that increased women's participation in the workforce and gender equality in education and economic opportunities are positively correlated with national economic growth. Therefore, policies that successfully empower women economically, such as women's entrepreneurship programs or wage equality policies, can make a significant contribution to national economic development.

In the social context, the impact of pro-women policies can be seen from changes in norms and public perceptions of women's roles and capacities. Effective policies not only change the formal structure, but are also able to encourage broader social transformation. For example, policies that promote women's leadership in the public sector can change gender stereotypes and increase public acceptance of women's roles in decision-making positions.

The impact of pro-women policies can also be assessed from a human rights perspective. Quality policies must be able to strengthen the protection and fulfillment of women's rights in accordance with international standards that have been ratified by the state. This includes protection from gender-based violence, guarantees of reproductive rights, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Impact evaluation in this context can involve an analysis of the implementation reports of international

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conventions such as CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women).

It should be emphasized that the evaluation of the impact of pro-women policies often faces methodological challenges. The social change produced by policies is sometimes gradual and difficult to measure in the short term. In addition, isolating the specific impacts of a single policy can be complicated by external factors that also affect women's conditions. Therefore, a comprehensive and long-term evaluation approach is needed to fully understand the impact of pro-women policies.

In the Indonesian context, several pro-women policies have shown positive impacts. For example, the policy of a quota of 30% female representation in the list of legislative candidates has increased the number of women in parliament, although it has not reached the expected target. This policy has opened up a wider space for women's voices and perspectives in the legislative process. However, further evaluation is needed to assess the extent to which this increase in quantity correlates with the resulting improvement in the quality of the policy.

Other policies such as gender mainstreaming in national planning and budgeting have also had a positive impact in increasing gender sensitivity in government programs. However, the implementation of this policy still faces challenges, especially in terms of the capacity of government apparatus and cultural resistance in some regions.

The quality and impact of pro-women policies are important indicators in assessing the effectiveness of women's representation in parliament. Quality policies must be based on an evidence-based approach, inclusive, comprehensive, and have clear goals and indicators. Policy impacts must be evaluated holistically, covering economic, social, and human rights aspects. While progress has been made, sustained efforts are still needed to improve the quality and expand the positive impact of pro-women policies. This requires strong political commitment, adequate institutional capacity,

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and active participation from a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society and academia.

2. The level of gender discrimination and stereotypes faced by women in parliament

The level of gender discrimination and stereotypes faced by women in parliament is a crucial issue that continues to be a challenge in efforts to achieve gender equality in the political realm. This phenomenon does not only occur in developing countries, but is also still a reality in developed countries with a long tradition of democracy. An analysis of this problem is important to understand the structural and cultural obstacles that women still face in carrying out their role as representatives of the people.

Gender discrimination in parliament can manifest in many forms, ranging from the obvious to the more subtle and veiled. According to a report from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2016, as many as 81.8% of female parliamentarians from 39 countries reported that they had experienced some form of psychological violence in carrying out their duties. This psychological violence includes sexist comments, threats, and verbal abuse. Furthermore, 44.4% reported having received death threats, rape, beating, or kidnapping against themselves or their family members.

Gender stereotypes that are still strong in society are often at the root of the discrimination faced by women in parliament. The traditional perception of politics as a "men's world" still persists in many countries. A study conducted by UN Women in Asia Pacific in 2014 showed that 48% of respondents in India, 50% in Pakistan, and 51% in Bangladesh agreed with the statement that "men are better political leaders than women". This kind of stereotype not only affects public perception, but can also be internalized by women themselves, creating psychological barriers in pursuing a political career.

In Indonesia, although there has been a quota policy of 30% female representation in the list of legislative candidates, the realization on the ground is still far from the target. In the 2019 election, women's

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representation in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia only reached 20.5%, a slight increase from 17.32% in the previous period. This figure shows that despite progress, there are still significant obstacles for women to enter and survive in the political arena. Research conducted by Puskapol UI in 2014 revealed that one of the main factors of low female representation is the strong view that politics is a man's domain, which makes many women reluctant or feel unconfident to enter the world of politics.

Discrimination is also seen in the division of roles and positions in parliament. Women are often placed on commissions that are deemed "appropriate" to traditional gender roles, such as commissions that deal with social, educational, or family welfare issues. Meanwhile, commissions that are considered more strategic such as budget, defense, or foreign affairs tend to be dominated by men. Data from the IPU shows that globally, only 21.3% of parliamentary commission chairs were women in 2021. This unequal division of roles not only limits women's contribution to strategic issues, but also reinforces stereotypes about women's capacity and competence in politics.

In addition, women in parliament often face challenges in balancing their political roles with family responsibilities. The still strong social expectation that women should prioritize domestic roles can create a double burden for women who are active in politics. A survey conducted by the IPU in 2008 of female parliamentarians in 110 countries revealed that 40% of respondents found it difficult to balance family responsibilities with their political duties. This condition is exacerbated by a lack of supporting infrastructure in parliament, such as childcare facilities or flexible leave policies.

Gender discrimination and stereotypes are also reflected in the media's treatment of female politicians. A study conducted by UN Women and International IDEA in 2017 in three Southeast Asian countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines) found that the media tends to focus more on

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the physical appearance and personal lives of female politicians compared to men. This kind of news not only distracts attention from women's political competence and achievements, but also reinforces existing gender stereotypes.

In the Indonesian context, research conducted by Komnas Perempuan in 2020 revealed that 46% of women who became legislative candidates experienced gender-based violence in the political process, including intimidation, verbal harassment, and attacks on their moral integrity. These findings show that despite progress in legal and formal aspects, gender-based discrimination and violence are still a reality that women face in the political arena.

The impact of gender discrimination and stereotypes is not only felt by individual women involved in politics, but also has far-reaching implications for the quality of democracy and representation. When women face obstacles to participate fully and equally in the political process, the voices and interests of half of the population are not well articulated in public policy. This can result in gender-biased policies that are not responsive to the needs of various groups in society.

Efforts to address gender discrimination and stereotypes in parliament require a multidimensional approach. First, strengthening the legal and policy framework that supports women's political participation needs to be carried out. This includes the effective implementation of gender quota policies and the implementation of strict sanctions against discriminatory practices. Second, capacity building and empowerment of women in politics must be a priority. Leadership training programs, mentoring, and support networks can help women build the confidence and skills needed to compete in the political arena.

Third, a more inclusive and gender-sensitive political culture transformation is urgently needed. It involves extensive public education about the importance of gender equality in politics and systematic efforts to change discriminatory social norms. Fourth, the role of the media in shaping

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public perception of women in politics needs special attention. Training journalists on gender-sensitive reporting and promoting a more balanced image of women politicians can help reduce bias in reporting.

Fifth, political parties as the main gatekeepers in political recruitment must be encouraged to adopt internal policies that support gender equality. This includes the implementation of gender quotas in party leadership structures and greater support for female candidates in elections. Finally, the involvement of men as partners in promoting gender equality in politics is crucial. Programs that involve male politicians in supporting and mentoring their female colleagues can help create a more inclusive political environment.

3. Public perception of the performance and capabilities of women parliamentarians

Public perception of the performance and capabilities of women parliamentarians is an important aspect in political dynamics and gender equality in the legislative realm. An analysis of this topic not only reflects the reality of women's representation in politics, but also provides an overview of the cultural and structural barriers that women politicians still face. A deep understanding of these perceptions is important for identifying effective strategies in increasing women's participation and effectiveness in parliament.

Historically, public perceptions of women's capabilities in politics have evolved significantly, but gender stereotypes still influence people's judgments. A study conducted by Lawless and Fox (2010) in the United States shows that although many people explicitly express support for gender equality in politics, implicit bias still influences their assessment of the competence of female politicians. This phenomenon is not limited to one country, but is a global trend that can be seen in various cultural and political contexts.

In Indonesia, research conducted by the UI Puskapol in 2014 revealed that public perception of female parliamentarians tends to be ambivalent.

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On the one hand, there is a recognition of the importance of women's representation in the political decision-making process. But on the other hand, there are still doubts about women's ability to handle issues that are considered "masculine" such as the economy, defense, and international relations. This kind of perception not only limits the movement space of female politicians, but can also affect voter choices and the internal dynamics of political parties.

One of the factors that affects public perception is the media's representation of female politicians. Research conducted by Kahn (1996) shows that the media tends to give a smaller portion of news to female politicians compared to their male counterparts. In addition, the focus of news coverage is often more on personal aspects such as appearance and family life, rather than their achievements and political agenda. In Indonesia, an analysis of media content conducted by the Institute for Press and Development Studies (LSPP) in 2016 found a similar pattern, where news about female politicians more often raised non-substantial issues than male politicians.

Public perception is also influenced by gender stereotypes that are still strong in society. Eagly and Karau (2002) in the theory of gender role conformity theory explain that there is a perceived mismatch between the characteristics associated with political leadership (which is often considered masculine) and stereotypes about women's gender roles. As a result, women who show strong leadership qualities are often perceived negatively because they are considered to violate expected gender norms. This phenomenon creates a dilemma for female politicians: if they behave according to feminine stereotypes, they are considered less competent in politics; However, if they display strong leadership qualities, they risk being perceived as too aggressive or unpleasant.

However, some studies have shown a positive shift in public perception of female politicians. A study conducted by Dolan (2014) in the United States found that when voters were asked to evaluate candidates

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based on specific competencies, the candidate's gender became less significant in their assessment. This suggests that when substantial information about a candidate's qualifications and achievements is available, gender stereotypes tend to have less influence.

In Indonesia, a survey conducted by the Indonesian Political Indicator in 2018 showed that 72% of respondents agreed that women have the same abilities as men in leading and making political decisions. However, when asked about their preference for political leaders, there is still a tendency to choose male candidates. These findings illustrate the gap between explicit attitudes and implicit preferences that are still influenced by traditional gender norms.

The perception of the performance of female parliamentarians is also influenced by the higher expectations that are often imposed on them. Research by Anzia and Berry (2011) shows that female parliamentarians tend to bring more resources to their constituencies and sponsor more legislation than their male counterparts. However, this achievement is not always reflected in public perception. There is a tendency that women have to work harder to get equal recognition.

Another factor affecting public perception is the lack of visibility of women parliamentarians on key policy issues. A study conducted by the Center for Political Studies of the University of Indonesia (Puskapol UI) in 2019 found that although women parliamentarians are active in various commissions, they often receive less media attention in strategic policy discussions. This can reinforce the perception that their contribution is less significant in the legislative process.

Public perception is also influenced by intersectionality factors, where gender interacts with other social identities such as age, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background. Research conducted by Celis and Erzeel (2017) in several European countries shows that female politicians from minority groups or low socioeconomic backgrounds often face double challenges in building their political credibility. A similar phenomenon is also seen in

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Indonesia, where female parliamentarians from certain regions or ethnic groups often have to work harder to get equal recognition.

To change gender-biased public perceptions, several strategies have been identified by researchers and practitioners. First, increasing the visibility and substantive representation of women parliamentarians on key policy issues is essential. This can be achieved through more effective communication strategies and collaboration with the media to increase balanced and substantive coverage of the contributions of women politicians.

Second, gender-sensitive political education needs to be improved, both at the formal level through the school curriculum and through public awareness campaigns. This can help challenge deep-rooted gender stereotypes and build a more nuanced understanding of political leadership.

Third, increasing the quantitative representation of women in parliament remains important. Critical mass theory states that when the number of women in political institutions reaches a certain level, they will be better able to influence political norms and culture. This, in turn, can help change public perceptions of women's capabilities in politics.

Fourth, the empowerment and capacity building of women parliamentarians needs to continue to be carried out. This includes leadership training, public communication skills development, and support in navigating a political environment that is still dominated by men.

Fifth, further research on the factors that affect public perception of women politicians in various cultural and political contexts is urgently needed. A deeper understanding of these dynamics can help in designing more effective interventions to address gender bias in politics.

Conclusion

This study examines women's representation in parliament and their efforts to break the political dominance that has been dominated by men. The results show that despite progress in women's political participation,

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there are still various challenges that must be faced. Women's representation in parliament has increased gradually, but it still has not reached the same level as men. The study identified several factors that affect women's representation in parliament, including patriarchal culture, gender stereotypes, lack of support from political parties, and structural and institutional barriers. Nonetheless, the study also found that women have developed various strategies to address these barriers, such as building networks, increasing leadership capacity, and advocating for more inclusive policy reforms. The conclusion of this study emphasizes the importance of continuous efforts to increase women's participation and representation in politics. This includes reforming the electoral system, strengthening affirmation policies, improving political education for women, as well as changing the culture and public perception of women's leadership. As such, this study provides important insights into the steps needed to achieve gender equality in the political sphere and encourage the active participation of women in decision-making at the parliamentary level.

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