

The Dynamics of Women's Roles in Politics in Boalemo Regency: A Case Study in Wonosari District

Srihandayani Suprpto¹, Muh Firyal Akbar¹, Yuyun Kurniawati¹, Tahir Sunu¹

¹Public Administration, Muhammadiyah University of Gorontalo

Email: yuyunkurniawati270102@gmail.com

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Abstract

Using qualitative research techniques and a case study design, this study attempts to ascertain the extent of women's participation in political party management, the participation of female legislative candidates in elections, and the function of women in legislative bodies. The findings of this study demonstrate that women are underrepresented in politics in Boalemo Regency, Wonosari District. This is due to the fact that political parties have not strategically positioned women, and the low electability and makeup of the female legislative candidates that political parties support have an effect on the number of women in politics. Women's abilities as legislators, budgeters, and supervisors have not been fully utilized in the process of carrying out DPRD duties. The physical presence of women in political, economic, and social institutions is the descriptive aspect of Anne Philips: theory that is quantified by indicator (1). The fact that women are present in this instance indicates that they are part of the organization in compliance with" the quota rules. (2) substantive nature, which refers to the presence of female representatives making every effort to fulfill the needs and desires of the people they represent and (3) personal transforming nature, which refers to the nluenge of such presence on one's own identity.

Keywords: Politics, Women's Representation, Women's Roles

Introduction

The current profile of Indonesian women can be described as living in a dilemma. While Indonesian women are required to play an active role in all sectors, they must also remember their inherent nature as women. This dilemma is particularly true for career women (Erick & Masyitah, 2020). Those women who feel they possess talent and expertise feel called to dedicate themselves to the development of the nation and state (Judge, 2001). Furthermore, women are often haunted by societal perceptions that women should be devoted to their families.

Women's representation in political parties is inseparable from the democratic process. Even women's participation in political parties is an effort to reconstruct previous political formations. In this regard, political parties actually have a significant opportunity to determine women's participation and representation (Childs, 2013). Article 27, paragraphs 1-3 of the 1945 Constitution states that (1) All citizens are equal before the law and government and are obliged to uphold the law and government without exception; (2) Every citizen has the right to work and a decent living for humanity; (3) Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in national defense efforts.

From the contents of Article 27, paragraphs 1-3 of the 1945 Constitution, it can be concluded that there is no difference in status between women and men, both in terms of law and government. Because in its implementation, all citizens are obliged to uphold the law and

government without exception (Marlena, 2019). Women can also have the right to participate in the broader political world so that they can accommodate all existing aspirations and interests.

With the involvement of women in political representation, supporting the electability of female candidates, and pushing for a policy agenda promoting women's political representation, the space for political office is increasingly open, no longer exclusively for men and no longer taboo for women. Wilberforce (2023) said that, the presence of women is crucial in realizing gender mainstreaming because a gender-sensitive and perspective-based understanding among policymakers, executive, and legislative bodies is still essential for the creation of legal instruments based on women's interests.

Therefore, women's presence is essential in the planning process of every policy (Ortiz & Gutiérrez, 2015). Issues between women and politics always experience ups and downs, ultimately leading to improvements. Women's representation in politics is a voluntary activity carried out by women in various activities that position women to actively participate in politics, both directly as members of parliament and indirectly as political party cadres and academics in the process of formulating and discussing public policy (Schmidt, 1996; Kaarbo, 1997).

Broadly speaking, the role of women in politics is essential because it impacts the constructive expression of aspirations from a female perspective, responding to women's issues in the public sphere and voicing them in the formulation of public policy, as noted by Goetz (2003). Article 173, paragraph 2, letter e of Election Law Number 7 of 2017 requires at least 30% female representation in political party leadership at the central level, and Article 245 also requires at least 30% female representation in nominations for candidates for the House of Representatives (DPR), Regional Representative Council (DPD), and provincial/district/city DPRD.

At the very least, with the enactment of these regulations, political parties can maximize the development of women within their own party. Political recruitment must adhere to the principles of gender equality and justice. This is emphasized in Law Number 2 of 2011 concerning Political Parties, where one of its functions is as a means of political education for members and the wider community so that they can become citizens who are well aware of their rights and obligations.

In Boalemo Regency, Wonosari District, according to General Elections Commission (KPU) data, women's participation in political party membership has exceeded the required level. Of the 15 existing parties, 13 have achieved 30% female representation, while two parties have yet to achieve the required level. However, several issues and gaps in leadership remain, with women still being placed in non-strategic or subordinate positions, often perceived as mere complements (Chelimo, 2022).

The above data will encourage increased participation and representation of women in politics, particularly in legislative elections. Several women have proven themselves capable of competing and participating in several political seats, particularly in the Boalemo Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD). Data from the General Elections Commission (KPU) shows that the number of legislative candidates in Boalemo Regency for the 2024 election reached 297, with 91 female candidates and 206 male candidates.

Twenty-seven female candidates represent the Wonosari-Dulupi electoral district, and 70 male candidates represent the Wonosari-Dulupi electoral district. The number of seats contested was 25, and only three female candidates were elected. This gap means that female legislators have not been able to fully utilize their role as women's representatives who champion gender issues.

Several previous studies obtained by the researcher regarding Women's Representation in Politics have different characteristics.

All three previous studies focused on the role of women in politics. This served as a reference for the author in selecting the related title, which aims to measure the extent of women's role in politics, encourage women to enter the political arena, and encourage them to control a situation that can positively impact public policy in implementing public services (Batley et al., 2012). The researcher's analysis also has a significant influence and significance on the implementation of women's representation in politics.

Based on this, the researcher conducted a more in-depth study focusing on three key points regarding women in politics: (1) There is still a gap within political parties; (2) Most female legislative candidates were defeated in the 2024 elections; (3) Female legislators are still underutilizing their role as women's representatives in the political sphere. Based on this phenomenon, the researcher chose the title "Women's Representation in Politics in Boalemo Regency (Case Study of Wonosari District)." The objective of this research is to obtain an overview of women's representation in politics in Boalemo Regency, Wonosari District.

Methods

The type of research used by the author is a qualitative approach with a case study approach. Thus, the author describes more of the findings in the form of information related to data obtained from informants and other supporting data. While the case study approach is carried out to obtain more in-depth investigation results into a particular phenomenon, be it an individual, group, organization, or event. To obtain relevant and complete data, this study uses several forms of techniques to collect data. The forms of techniques used in this study are primary data and secondary data. The informants who are the subjects of this study are 11 people, including; 2 legislative members for the 2019-2024 period, 3 elected legislative members for the 2024-2029 period, 3 party administrators, 3 members of the community. In this study, the data analysis technique uses a qualitative analysis method. The qualitative data analysis process is divided into three stages, namely: (1) Data Reduction; (2) Data Presentation; (3) Conclusion Drawing (Verification).

Results and Discussion

Wonosari District consists of 16 villages and is a division of Paguyaman District. Based on its geographical position, Wonosari District has the following boundaries: North - Asparaga District, Gorontalo Regency; South - Dulupi District; West - Botumoito District; East - Paguyaman District. Women's representation in politics is a state of being represented, and is a provision of equal opportunities and positions for women to carry out their roles in the executive, judicial, legislative, party and general elections towards justice and gender equality. For the legislative body of the DPRD in Boalemo Regency, the number of women's representation increased in 2020 to 24% (6 out of 25 people) compared to 2016 at 20% (5 out of 25 people) and in the 2024 election increased by 28% (7 out of 25 people). This research focuses on women's involvement in political party management, involvement as female legislative candidates in elections, and the role of women in legislative bodies. By using the theory of Anne Philips 1995 in her book entitled "Political Representation Systems in the Modern Era" first introduced the theory in her book entitled The Politics of Presence. Politics of Presence (Politics of Presence) This places political representation randomly according to composition and is able to channel group interests so that all interests are channeled well. Anne Philips 1995 has divided this form of presence into three characteristics, namely, descriptive nature, substantive nature, and personal transformative nature.

Women's Involvement in Political Party Management

Political parties are a crucial component in the dynamics of a nation's politics. They are viewed and associated as a means for individuals or groups to gain power. In Indonesia, women's political participation is based on the principle of quotas, making the role of political parties crucial. To realize women's achievements in politics, the first step is for women to actively participate in political parties. The role of political parties reflects the functions they perform, such as articulating interests, providing political education, providing political communication, providing political socialization, and providing political recruitment. According to statistics, women's membership in political parties in Wonosari District is quite high. Of the 15 political parties, 13 have over 30% female representation, one has under 30% female representation, and one party has no female representation at all. However, this sufficient representation is not reflected proportionally in various key political areas. Gender biases also subordinate women. The assumption that women are unsuitable for leadership marginalizes women in insignificant positions (Thelma & Ngulube, 2024; Buzzanell, 1995). The results of the research obtained through observations and interviews conducted with informants were obtained regarding the involvement of women in the management of political parties. The researchers obtained research findings that women in political parties have not been fully given strategic positions, although some political parties have submitted mechanisms in the management which in reality more often give extra roles to simply fulfill the formalities determined by law. From the description above, it can be concluded that the low number of female administrators in the party will affect the policy results produced by political parties, and influence the low representation of women in legislative candidates and women's representation in the legislature. This is in line with previous research conducted by Budiarti, 2012 that, based on Anne Philips' theory, changes in political parties need to be made. Political parties need to include women as political players in them.

Involvement as a Female Legislative Candidate in the Election

The participation of legislative candidates in these election activities is a political process, a form of political participation. Political participation can be defined as an individual's active participation in public life, including by choosing a path as a representative, which is expected to influence government policy. The regulation mandating a 30% quota for female legislative candidates is a significant achievement. Law No. 7/2017 concerning Elections, which serves as the legal basis for the 2019 and 2024 elections, stipulates that this provision is contained in Article 245, which stipulates that the list of prospective candidates must contain at least 30% female representation. Furthermore, Article 246 stipulates that for every three prospective candidates, there must be at least one female candidate on the list. Political parties must meet this requirement to participate in the election. Based on the results of interviews, observations and documentation obtained research findings that the defeat of female legislative candidates was due to first, competition between legislative candidates with male legislative candidates, second, limited space for women to move, third, material aspects, fourth, some political parties did not comply with the nomination requirements, fifth, the lack of political parties recruiting talented women, and sixth, the difficulty of female legislative candidates building bias against female voters who prefer male legislative candidates. This was explained in previous research by (Damayanti, 2021) namely, the continued development of patriarchal culture and negative stigma against women in the political sphere has an impact on women's minimal vote acquisition. In addition, many other factors that become obstacles both in terms of religion, tradition/culture and government policy.

The Role of Women in the Legislative Body

Women actually have the opportunity and chance to participate in formulating policies, political positions have higher power because they are directly elected by the people. Women

have taken on many roles in carrying out their functions in the public sphere, so that along with the development of the times, women's mindsets have progressed and are no longer left behind because currently women are actively participating in socio-cultural, religious, economic, and political movements. In general, the role of women in this legislative body is manifested in three functions, namely: (1) Legislation, regulating all regional interests, including regional household affairs (autonomous) and central government affairs that are delegated to the regions (assistance tasks), meaning they function as law-making institutions; (2) Budget, formulating development policies and planning development programs in their regions, meaning they function as institutions that have the authority to set budgets; and (3) Supervision, meaning they act as institutions that carry out supervision. However (Diamond & Hartsock, 1981) explains that in various interests and genders, women always have an interesting place in the study of political representation. Due to the male dominance, women's roles in legislative bodies have not been strategically positioned; they are often merely policy beneficiaries and participants. Based on interviews, researchers found that women's roles in legislative bodies include those of legislators, supervisors, and budgeters. While these roles are not differentiated, their roles are not maximized due to their small numbers. The roles of female legislative members tend to be more private, compared to those of men, who are more public. For example, two elected legislative members from Wonosari District hold positions as members of Commission II and III. Therefore, as female representatives in the Boalemo Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), they are not yet able to represent the women they represent.

Conclusion

The level of women's involvement in political party management, political parties open great opportunities for women who want to join political parties, the level of women's participation is sufficient, but they have not been placed in strategic positions. The level of involvement as female legislative candidates, the low composition of female legislative candidates supported by political parties, some political parties do not comply with the requirements for nomination, the low number of female legislative candidates and female voters is caused by several internal and external factors. Such as financial, negative stigma embedded in society, lack of strategies played by women and lack of political education. The role of women in the legislative body, female representatives have carried out the process of implementing the functions of the DPRD, namely as legislators, budgeting and supervision. The division of roles of female legislative members tends to be in the private area compared to men who tend to be in the public area. For example, two elected legislative members from Wonosari District are in positions with positions as members of commission II and members of commission III.

Suggestion

The level of women's involvement in political party management requires political parties to maximize their role by providing strategic positions to women. The level of involvement as female legislative candidates requires political parties to nominate capable female candidates, and relevant parties, such as the General Elections Commission (KPU), must be more assertive towards political parties that do not meet the nomination requirements. The role of women in legislative bodies requires an increase in the number of women in legislative bodies. This is expected to allow women to maximize their roles, contribute ideas, and elevate their presence so that they will be more recognized and recognized.

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