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WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND DECISION MAKING IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: EVIDENCE FROM INDONESIA & PAKISTAN

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Abstract

The main aim of this paper was to explore about the current status of women political participation in the local governance system of Indonesia and Pakistan. Apart from that, this paper also examines the problems and challenges women political leaders face at the local government level. In this research, the writer used normative research and the method of the research was qualitative research. FGDs and IIs were conducted from the stakeholders both in Pakistan and Indonesia. Thematic analysis was applied to find out the themes, patterns and nodes. The paper found out that Indonesian government and different associations have worked for the promotion of women political participation, however the actual participation of women at local level in both Pakistan and Indonesia is very weak. The findings argued that Indonesian and Pakistani laws and constitutions gave equal right to the women but their participation at the political sphere was compromised in both countries. The findings proved that particularly in Pakistan, the resource development and availability of the resources for women was at loggerheads. However, most of the women in Indonesia and Pakistan were positive regarding their involvement in the local politics. Women acknowledged that their role can bring positive development in the local governance system. The paper recommends to change the traditional political system of Pakistan and Indonesia.

INTRODUCTION

It is a global experience that women play a marginal role in politics (Paxton, Pamela, Kunovich & Hughes, 2007). Women who form almost 50 per cent of the total population are still struggling for an equal role in politics (Childs & Krook, 2006). This paper has investigated Women Political Participation in

Local Governance in Developing Countries. The paper examines women's political participation and decision making by taking evidence from Pakistan and Indonesia respectively. Besides, what the chances of women's political participation and was likewise decide the dimension of chances women's political interest and decision making under the lights of the Indonesian and Pakistani political scene, and this examination was likewise to figure out how to enable women's to partake in governmental issues and decision-making process went for discovering arrangements towards political irregularity in Pakistan and Indonesia.

In Asian nations, for example, Pakistan and Indonesia, women's have come up with enough space equally in the process of political commitment and decision-making (Rosilawati, Rafique, Nikku & Habib, 2018). Even though the entire Indonesian and Pakistani laws and constitutions and valued arrangement that perceive the privilege of women's to similarly take an interest in politics, Indonesian and Pakistani women are the most detrimental and minor clusters oriented in political field. This is the scholarly riddle of the paper and in this way necessities answers.

To comprehend the political status of women's, we should audit the societal position of women's in the domain of culture, religion and politics. The full and equivalent political interest of women's is an essential for popularity-based administration. Be that as it may, all inclusive, young women's and women's keep on being minimized from the political circle because of prohibitive laws and institutional boundaries, oppressive social practices, and excessively low access to quality instruction, medicinal services, and assets. In this paper, we have explored the women's political and decision-making chances of Pakistani and Indonesian political scene. The main objective of the paper is to explore the challenges of the women's political participation in the Indonesian and Pakistani political landscape. Further, it evaluates the role of women's decision-making to evaluate in political decision-making in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and Punjab, Pakistan.

LITERATURE REVIEW

a) Gender sensitivity and women participation into local governance in Indonesia and Pakistan

In the political history of Pakistan and Indonesia, women have been marginalized. In the recent ages, women's role and number is increased in politics, political parties and also in parliament (Nikku & Rafique, 2019). The newest trends of women political participation, both in Pakistan and Indonesia, has shown an encouraging improvement in women participation. As far as Indonesia's Development policy is concerned, the role of women has been recognized and incorporated in development (Robinson, 2004).

Peran-ganda (women double role), kodrat & martabat (natural talent & proclivities) and mitra-sejajar (equal gender corporation) are the main development features of Indonesia that claim that men and women in Indonesia are given equal opportunities. However it has been established that even though many changes in the development policies were done, women's role was mostly confined to their biological and traditional roles and mothers and wives. As far as the local government is concerned, Indonesia, through one of its laws no.22/1999 on the local Governments that aimed at devolution of power to the local level and also give women an equal opportunity for political participation (Jandevi, 2019)

It has been pointed by many feminist politicians, politics at local level will increase women political participation as they have better opportunities and power to conduct the transformations at the local levels. This was assumed that since there is a strong relevance of local governance's functions with the role of women, they will be engaged in the politics at better way. However, the role of devolution to empower women in Indonesia was found to be predisposed by political situation and interaction among various stakeholders. However, it is hoped that by allowing people to involve more in governance, decentralization will increase the trust of local communities toward government. Women of participation in legislative matters always have an exceptional job in politics since the inception Pakistan in 1947 (Rosilawati, Rafique, Soomro & Habib, 2020). The Constitution of Pakistan gives the rights of women in every aspect. Article 25 guarantees clear compliance to women under the eyes of the law and the equivalency in law in comparison with men. In addition, the section on political principles is - Articles 32 and 34 guarantee the full support of women in all spheres of national life.

Nevertheless, in all reality, undervaluing women policy and various types of separation of sexual orientation continues to be the norm. Pakistan has met with widespread malignancy in the political circle against women. Despite the strong representation in the national organization, the fundamentalist perspective on the implementation of the law of the nation takes the women of their fundamental right to receive correspondence from the Constitution of Pakistan. Pakistan with a view to promoting women's rights and safety is the use of commitments and agreements in the world, guarantee upgrade to identify different than installed in social legislation mindfulness and change decision-making and decision-making's rights. Implementation of the law of the nation takes the women of their fundamental right to receive correspondence from the Constitution of Pakistan. The primary endpoint of Pakistan with a view to promoting women's rights and safety is the use of commitments and agreements in the world to guarantee established other than identifying women and the rights of decision-making in the social legislation installed Update awareness and change. Implementation of the law of the nation takes the women of their fundamental right to receive correspondence from the Constitution of Pakistan. to the primary endpoint of Pakistan with a view to promoting women's rights and safety is the use of commitments and agreements in the world, guarantee upgrade to identify different than installed in social legislation mindfulness and change women and decision-making's rights. Basically, the development of women participating in the political circle, despite the severe deterrent, for example, the social opposition, society man of controlled segregation, religious radicalism and religious confusion and structures unequal social power, is a positive development (Faridi, Chaudhry & Anwar, 2009).

b) Problems and Challenges

Difference cultural, psychological, economic and religious factors were identified that affect the women political participation.

c) Cultural Factors

Norris and Inglehart (2000) perceived arrangement of social factors in developing nations, the conduct of women shape their jobs in the political women positions to play, including the customary frame of mind towards women character basic decision making, the division of work between men and women (women tend to at home and do the business of the house to stay, while the men how to gain politically and are part of the working areas of a country to work economically).

d) Psychological Factors

Once a person decides to do something that is not recommended, he / she is not suitable to take on the task to be ready. Pakistan is a country subject expected in the women's and strongly recommended on top positions. In addition, feelings of inferiority men usually work under the supervision of women. These factors all elements in decision-making do not give themselves to achieve and try to reach an even higher level in the political layers. Latif, Usman, Kataria & Abdullah (2020) aim to discover the perception of the people on the political participation of women. They noted that it is difficult to accept in a higher role or management women. One participant noted, that the women struggle more than men, but are less popular. narrow perception of the qualities of male and female capacity is a major obstacle to the progress and empowerment of women. A man, even if he is qualified and manifested the spirit of openness, does not allow a woman the same space. Grove and Montgomery (2000) argue that compared to men, women receives no encouragement to look at all political positions.

e) Economic Factors

Losindilo, Mussa and Akarro (2010) reasoned that the marital status and instructive dimension of women, influence their investment in the political initiative. Along these lines, women are financially burdened block their odds of a political office to climb. Social factors additionally impact the participation of women in political initiative. Culturally, male centric and popular conclusion stifled women and keeps them in the political administration from interest. Anigwe (2014) proposed that the monetary help of one of the components is making the motivation for women legislators go out and to make a simply political participation can contribute paying little attention to gender. Tundi (2015) found that the absence of assets, numerous women are off guard to work desires for governmental issues. For women in the political procedure to take an interest adequately, requires a lot of assets. These incorporate account, time, framework and individuals and assets, funds are most hard to reach. Meena, Rusimbi and Israel (2018) argued that women who don't fall into the work power need to take an interest not financially free and, in this way, makes it particularly hard for women in legislative issues.

Along these lines, the contention somewhat might be valid, however we have women who are financially steady, they are proprietors of enormous endeavors and others need to keep them from entering the political authority Rusimbi and Israel (2018) generously compensated occupations, women, don't fall into any money related autonomy of work and hence makes it particularly hard for women in legislative issues to take an interest. In this manner, the contention somewhat might be valid, yet we have women who are financially steady, they are proprietors of enormous endeavors and others have generously compensated occupations they from the contribution of women' political administration Rusimbi and Israel (2018), women who don't fall into the work power not financially free and along these lines makes it especially hard to avert, to take an interest in legislative issues. In this manner, the contention somewhat might be valid, however we have women who are financially steady, yet we have women who are financially steady, they are proprietors of enormous ventures and others have generously compensated employments they from the contribution of women' political administration Rusimbi and Israel (2018), women who don't fall into intensity of work no money related freedom and along these lines makes it especially hard to avoid, to take part in legislative issues. In this manner, the contention somewhat might be valid, yet we have women who are financially steady, however we have women who are financially steady, they are proprietors of huge undertakings and others have generously

compensated employments they from the contribution of women' political initiative Rusimbi and Israel (2018), women who don't fall into intensity of work no budgetary freedom and accordingly makes it especially hard to anticipate, to take an interest in governmental issues. Accordingly, the contention somewhat might be valid, however we have women who are financially steady.

f) Religious Factors

Religion is a significant wellspring of social convictions in many nations. Contentions about the inadequacy of men to decision making are utilized in every single prevailing religion and religion for quite a while, decision making from the parts of political or social, religious prohibit on the planet. Rizzo et al (2007) highlights that the extraordinary religious institutions of the world are distinctive moderate or male centric in their perspectives on the job of decision making both in the progression of the Church and in the public arena. Whereas, Wanglia (2010) investigates the interface between the estimations of religion and the social's choice influence decision making to take an interest in legislative issues. He contended that the job or religion is considered in onerous conduct and affirmation legitimation as the foundation of social change. to perceive the requirement for religious laborers and to utilize the power they need to change demeanors and social conduct, as Step worried to enable men and decision making who value the commitment of decision making in legislative issues.

METHODOLOGY

This study has used qualitative research, with documentation data collection techniques. Apart from that, interviews and focus group discussions with the relevant stakeholders were also conducted. Documentation was carried out to obtain data related to actor networks in the local government as well as political party support in the local election, which is obtained from books, journals and news in the mass media. The focus group discussion was carried out by inviting academics who were concerned with related issues, students and NGO activists to obtain data and interpretations of the collected data. Qualitative descriptive analysis is carried out by interpreting the collected data, verifying and generalizing the data to conclude this research. The qualitative research is run concurrently starting from data collection, data analysis, and data interpretation. This is because the data of qualitative research is subjective, interpretative, descriptive, comprehensive, and the number is massive. The findings are presented mainly in quotation forms, or preliminary description of the data, including statistical data obtained from official resource.

The current study is focused on challenges of decision making and political participation of women in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and Punjab, Pakistan. The first objective of the study is to find the loftiness of the problems and challenges that women face in the local governance system in Pakistan and Indonesia in political participation. Moreover, the study also examines the problems of women in political participation and influence on the decisions in the local governance system in Pakistan and Indonesian challenges. To answer these questions, the qualitative approach is chosen to get detailed understanding of these problems. A qualitative approach is best suited to the critical issues related to socio-cultural factors, traditional or address phenomenological stances (Yin, 2013), Thus, the context and the complexity of this central research questions are the most important concerns a qualitative methodology for selection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and discussions are presented below under different identified themes.

a) Availability of the resources for women in local level politics

It was found out that particularly in Pakistan, the resource development and availability of the resources for women was at loggerheads. To do the politics for women at local level was full of challenges. On the other hand, it was found out that there were many organizations who were offering different programs and activities to develop and explore the potential for women who wants to participate in the politics. Apart from that state government also carried different women empowerment programs to enhance women political participation which was not seen in case of Pakistan. Different organization were found to be carrying different activities such as women leadership training, women political workshops, women organizations interlinking, information provision regarding women's law, training, education and advocacy in women's politics. None of these activities were seen in case of Pakistan. But in case of Indonesia, one of the stakeholders in the politics pointed out that they have carried out many communication to implement women legislation candidates at all the level including the local government level. But stakeholders in Pakistan and Indonesia both agreed that there should be a balance between the genders at every level of politics.

b) Women local leaders

At local level, the women leadership in Pakistan was found to be very weak. Most of the women leaders were found to be from traditional political families. However, in case of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, many independent organizations and state government were found to be very active in constructing the role of female figures. But situation in both Pakistan and Indonesia were found to be very disturbing as there were found to be very few women were representing the communities at local level. Their representation was found to be less than 10%. On the part of that, women associations were found to be not functioning at local level specifically in villages. Most of the people in FGDs informed the researchers that women associations are dysfunctional.

c) Importance of women leadership in local governance

On the top of that, it was essential to find out about the stakeholders' perception regarding participation of women in the local politics. It was found out that most of the women in Indonesia and Pakistan were positive regarding their involvement in the local politics. Women acknowledged that their role can bring positive development in the local governance system. In addition to all, women pointed out they can bring a lot of change in the local politics as they have an equal understanding of the local issues. However, it was found out that both in Indonesia and Pakistan, the case is totally different. There were few elected women participating in the local governments of both Indonesia and Pakistan. The respondents were of the view that though there is awareness about the importance of women leadership in local government, there is no satisfactory involvement of the women in the local governance system which is quite alarming for both Pakistan and Indonesia where half of the population is Female.

Thus, this can be opined that realm of the politics in local government is the male dominant both in Pakistan and Indonesia. There is a general sense that women are incapable of facing political challenges at local level that confront

the women participation. However, specifically in Indonesia, there is an encouraging backing from different associations and citizens for women political participation but in Pakistan, it is vice-versa. Apart from that, it was found that social institution like religious organizations, CSOs, peer pressure group and institution of family play a significant role in Women political participation both in Pakistan and Indonesia reason being specific cultural and religious backdrop. During the FGDs from the stakeholders that in Indonesia around 40 percent of the women in Yogyakarta, Indonesia had supported from the social institutions such as friends, family and CSOs but in case of Pakistan, only 15 percent of the women in Pakistan had supported from the social institutions such as friends, family and CSOs.

During the FGDs and in-depth interviews, both the respondents from the Indonesia and Pakistan opined that the women participation in local government is not supported by the religious faction that have very strong hold in the localities. This theme emerged from the FGDs and in-depth interviews conducted both in Pakistan and Indonesia. One of the respondent opined that they may get the support from the all stakeholders such as friends, CSOs, neighbors and families, however, cooperation from religious organizations is not ensured. Because, they consider the participation of women in the politics a taboo and purely a male dominant phenomenon. The next section presents the findings regarding the factors that contribute to the lower level of participation of women both in Indonesia and Pakistan.

d) Reasons of truncated level of women political participation in Indonesia and Pakistan

Women's political participation is not only problem of Pakistan and Indonesia but also at world level. Women participation was found to be not much appreciated both in Indonesia and Pakistan as compared to the political participation of men. Even though, to some extent women are involved in the politics at local level, their support by the society is minimal and in many cases specifically in Pakistan, women were found to be ostracized by the groups, masses and the societies. On the other hand, participation of women is criticized. On the other hand, there are some countries, women participation is very prominent, and women are playing a key role in national and local politics in Sweden, Norway and Canada.

However, in case of Pakistan and Indonesia, the major reasons and factors that contributed to the low level of women participation were found to be economic, psychological, religious, biological and social factors. Social and biological factors seemed to be contributing more towards the low participation of women in politics at local level. Many women were found to had this perception that they are not fit biologically to participate in the politics. The whole system of politics in both Pakistan and Indonesia is very traditional and not updated which makes it very difficult for the women to participate in the politics. This finding was reflected in all in-depth interviews and FGDs.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that most of the developed countries have encouraged the participation of the women. However, the scenario in Indonesia and Pakistan were found to be otherwise. Though Indonesian government and different associations have worked for the promotion of women political participation. But the actual participation of women at local level in both Pakistan and

Indonesia is very weak. It was found out that even though the entire Indonesian and Pakistani laws and constitutions gave equal right to the women, their participation at the political sphere was compromised. The findings proved that particularly in Pakistan, the resource development and availability of the resources for women was at loggerheads. To do the politics for women at local level was full of challenges. Different organizations were found to be carrying different activities such as women leadership training, women political workshops, women organizations interlinking, information provision regarding women's law, training, education and advocacy in women's politics. None of these activities were seen in case of Pakistan. Nevertheless, stakeholders in Pakistan and Indonesia both agreed that there should be a balance between the genders at every level of politics.

As far as the local leadership of women is considered, the women leadership in Pakistan was found to be very weak. Most of the women leaders were found to be from traditional political families. However, in case of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, many independent organizations and state government were found to be very active in constructing the role of female figures. But situation in both Pakistan and Indonesia were found to be very disturbing as there were found to be very few women representing the communities at local level. On the top of that, it was found out that most of the women in Indonesia and Pakistan were positive regarding their involvement in the local politics. Women acknowledged that their role can bring positive development in the local governance system. In addition to all, women pointed out they can bring a lot of change in the local politics as they have an equal understanding of the local issues. There is a general sense that women are incapable of facing political challenges at local level that confront the women participation. However, specifically in Indonesia, there is an encouraging backing from different associations and citizens for women political participation but in Pakistan, it is vice-versa. Further, it was argued that the women participation in local government is not supported by the religious faction that have very strong hold in the localities. It was concluded that cooperation from religious organizations is not ensured. Because, they consider the participation of women in the politics a taboo and purely a male dominant phenomenon.

Further, women participation was found to be not much appreciated both in Indonesia and Pakistan as compared to the political participation of men. Even though, to some extent women are involved in the politics at local level, their support by the society is minimal and, in many cases, specifically in Pakistan, women were found to be ostracized by the groups, masses and the societies. On the other hand, participation of women is criticized. The whole system of politics in both Pakistan and Indonesia is very traditional and not updated which makes it very difficult for the women to participate in the politics.

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