

PATRIARCHY AND STEREOTYPES: THE CHALLENGES OF WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION IN INDONESIAN POLITICS

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ABSTRACT. Although there are several women in politics, there still needs to be more women who contribute to politics. The representation of women in Indonesian politics is still under 30% and ranked 7th in Southeast Asia. Mostly, it is because women are always portrayed as figures who are not qualified to take the lead. Taking the viewpoint based on their physics, women are totally different and not as strong as men and for that reason, there are perceptions that politics are only meant for males, not females. At the same time, women participants are essential and required to create women-friendly policies as the women are portrayed as individuals who are doubted to take the lead. They are considered unqualified to be in politics, and their presence is seen as a complement. The perceptions toward women that have been created have become a challenge for women in politics. In this study research, the readers will figure out the culture of the patriarchal system in Indonesia leads to stereotypes towards women that make it difficult for women to participate in politics actively. Also, this research aims to determine the treatment differences between women in the United Arab Emirates. The analysis indicated that mostly society is still stereotyping women as those who are not qualified to participate in politics is not due to the patriarchal system that puts women as subordinates. Still, it is also because of the women themselves. They already feel comfortable in a traditionalist system and tend to let men lead some projects because they think men must lead an event or activity. Mostly, women behave as someone who needs to be qualified to take the lead.

Keywords: Patriarchy, Stereotype, Women, Indonesian politics

PATRIARKI DAN STEREOTIPE: TANTANGAN KONTRIBUSI PEREMPUAN DALAM POLITIK INDONESIA

ABSTRAK. Meskipun jumlah perempuan di dunia politik cukup banyak, tetapi masih perlu lebih banyak lagi perempuan yang berkontribusi di dunia politik. Keterwakilan perempuan di dunia politik Indonesia masih di bawah 30% dan menduduki peringkat ke-7 di Asia Tenggara. Hal ini terutama disebabkan karena perempuan selalu digambarkan sebagai figur yang tidak memiliki kualifikasi untuk memimpin. Jika dilihat dari fisiknya, perempuan sama sekali berbeda dan tidak sekuat laki-laki. Oleh karena itu, muncul persepsi bahwa politik hanya diperuntukkan bagi laki-laki, bukan perempuan. Sementara itu, partisipasi perempuan sangat penting dan dituntut untuk menciptakan kebijakan yang berpihak kepada perempuan karena perempuan digambarkan sebagai individu yang diragukan untuk memimpin. Mereka dianggap tidak memiliki kualifikasi untuk berpolitik dan kehadiran mereka hanya sebagai pelengkap. Persepsi terhadap perempuan yang terbentuk menjadi tantangan tersendiri bagi perempuan dalam dunia politik. Dalam penelitian ini, pembaca akan mengetahui budaya sistem patriarki di Indonesia yang menyebabkan stereotip terhadap perempuan yang membuat perempuan sulit untuk berpartisipasi aktif dalam politik. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk mengetahui perbedaan perlakuan terhadap perempuan di Uni Emirat Arab. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar masyarakat masih melakukan stereotip terhadap perempuan karena mereka yang tidak memenuhi syarat untuk berpartisipasi dalam politik bukan karena sistem patriarki yang menempatkan perempuan sebagai bawahan. Namun, hal itu juga disebabkan oleh perempuan itu sendiri. Mereka sudah merasa nyaman dalam sistem tradisional dan cenderung membiarkan laki-laki memimpin beberapa proyek karena mereka menganggap laki-laki harus memimpin suatu acara atau kegiatan. Sebagian besar perempuan berperilaku sebagai seseorang yang harus memenuhi syarat untuk memimpin.

Kata-kata Kunci: Patriarki, Stereotip, Perempuan, Politik Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

In its national and state life, Indonesia implemented democratic principles where either men or women can participate in Indonesia's politics. Women's participation is still under 30%, meaning a few participants (Wayan & Nyoman, 2020). However, their involvement is essential in creating policies. Thus, the quality of democracy in Indonesia is considered a flawed democracy according to the Economic Intelligence Unit and is in 54th position out of 167 nations (Power & Warburton, n.d.). The participation of women in politics still matters due to the lack of female contribution in politics, which will affect the decision-making process and the quality of democracy itself (Hillman, 2018). One of many reasons that make their participation in politics seem challenging to participate in the parliament actively is because of the patriarchal system that still exists in society.

Indonesia, like many other countries, struggles with issues of patriarchy and stereotypes that affect women's participation in politics (Yeni, 2017). Patriarchy, deeply ingrained in Indonesian society, has created barriers for women seeking political leadership roles. Additionally, women in Indonesian politics often face stereotypes that limit their opportunities and influence. The world, indeed, has gone through various kinds of advances that indirectly affected how people think. Be that as it may be, some people believe that women should work in the house doing all the chores, and women are portrayed as incapable of taking on a big responsibility or work (Johnson_Patriarchy, n.d.). The patriarchal system also leaves stereotypes about women in political fields (Hillman, 2018). Even the law regulated that women's participation in politics should be at least 30% due to the lower number of their participation. It is meant to increase their contributions to politics therefore the law was created. This essay aims to explore the impact of patriarchy and stereotypes on women in Indonesian politics and the challenges they face in their pursuit of equal representation and empowerment.

The stereotypes towards women did not come simply from the system that had been created for a long time before Christ (Johnson_Patriarchy, n.d.). The system establishes the limitation of women's activity. Women are advocating for their rights and demanding increased awareness of gender equality. Yet, in our social life, primarily women tend to let the men take the lead, and they will only follow the men's agreement and still wonder why men are stereotyped them (Bashevkin, S. (2009), Tilly, L. A.,

& Gurin, P. (1990), Mervis, Z., Box, M., Pleasant, M., Eve, N., Florence, M., & Caroline, M. (2013), Kumar, D. P. (2017)). In terms of politics, this study revealed the patriarchal system that happens in Indonesian politics during their involvement. In contrast, their contributions are considered beneficial for women, such as improving their dignity and honour, becoming the leaders among men, inspiring the next generation, encouraging women's representation and removing the stereotypes they faced all this time. In addition, they have attained various achievements during their engagement in Indonesian politics, such as the Disabilities Act 2016 and the General Election Act 2017 regarding Female Quota.

METHOD

The study will zero in on the patriarchal system towards women in Indonesian politics (Yeni, 2017), including the benefit of individuals in terms of political engagement. Yeni says women's political engagement is crucial as the "soul" of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development. Thus, the patriarchal system towards women that has been going around in public must be decisively addressed and eliminated (Yeni, 2017). The implementation of qualitative textual observations in our social life is also used to assess women's behaviour, indirectly creating stereotypes towards women. It uses comparative approaches to recognise the differences in gender equality among Arabians that limited their female contribution to many activities. The result gathered in this study relies on the information provided on the internet and then is sorted to choose the relevant data, excluding which is not required within research making. The research displayed crucial points and supportive data to make the reader quickly understand what is being discussed in this study. Through comparative methods, the research will show the factors that seem to influence female representation in Uni Emirat Arab, a country with a male-dominated society yet has 50% female representation in politics (Shalaby, 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Patriarchy and Stereotype towards Women

Patriarchy, as a social system, not only places men in positions of power but also normalises the idea that men are inherently dominant, rational, and strong. At the same time, women are submissive, emotional, and weak (Kumar, 2017). This creates a power dynamic that permeates various aspects of life, from the workplace to interpersonal relationships.

These gender-based stereotypes, reinforced by patriarchal norms, can have detrimental effects on both men and women (1125-2302-1-PB_2, n.d.). Men may feel pressured to conform to traditional notions of masculinity, suppressing their emotions and limiting their expression. On the other hand, women may face discrimination, unequal pay, and a lack of representation in leadership roles, as well as the burden of unrealistic beauty standards and domestic expectations (Tilly & Gurin, 1990). Stereotypes further entrench these gender inequalities, perpetuating harmful assumptions about individuals based on their gender. For instance, the stereotype that women are less competent in technical fields or leadership roles limits their career opportunities and perpetuates a cycle of inequality. Similarly, the stereotype that men should not express vulnerability or seek help for mental health issues creates a barrier to emotional well-being and support. Patriarchy and gender stereotypes have long been ingrained in societies worldwide, shaping the experiences and opportunities of women in profound ways (Sultana, n.d.). The influence of patriarchy, a system that prioritises male dominance and authority, has perpetuated harmful gender stereotypes that limit women's potential and perpetuate inequality (Johnson_Patriarchy, n.d.). Patriarchy, as a social system, has historically granted men greater power, privilege, and control over various aspects of life, including politics, economics, and family dynamics. This unequal distribution of power has led to the perpetuation of gender stereotypes that reinforce traditional gender roles and expectations for women. From an early age, girls are often socialised to conform to these stereotypes, which dictate their behaviour, appearance, and aspirations (1125-2302-1-PB_2, n.d.). As a result, women are usually confined to limited roles and are expected to prioritise marriage, motherhood, and domestic responsibilities over personal and professional fulfilment.

The impact of patriarchy and gender stereotypes can be observed in various domains, including education, the workplace, and the media (Saguni, 2014). In education, girls may encounter biased teaching practices that steer them away from science and mathematics, reinforcing the stereotype that they are less capable in these fields. In the workplace, women continue to face discrimination in hiring, promotion, and pay, perpetuating the belief that they are less competent or committed than their male counterparts. Moreover, the media often portrays women in narrow, objectified roles, further

perpetuating harmful stereotypes and undermining their value beyond physical appearance. The prevalence of patriarchy and gender stereotypes also manifests in the form of systemic violence and oppression against women. The normalisation of gender-based violence, including domestic abuse, sexual assault, and harassment, reflects the deeply ingrained beliefs that women are inferior and deserving of mistreatment (Saguni, 2014). Furthermore, restrictive laws and social norms in many cultures continue to limit women's autonomy and perpetuate their subjugation to male authority. These systemic injustices not only harm individual women but also contribute to the broader marginalisation of women in society. It is crucial to recognise the detrimental effects of patriarchy and gender stereotypes on women and to work towards dismantling these entrenched systems of oppression. Empowering women to challenge traditional gender roles and expectations is essential in fostering greater equality and autonomy. By promoting education and awareness, individuals can challenge harmful stereotypes and advocate for equal opportunities for women in all spheres of life. Efforts to combat patriarchy and gender stereotypes must also extend to policy and legislation.

Enacting and enforcing laws that protect women's rights, address gender-based violence, and promote gender equality in the workplace are crucial steps toward dismantling patriarchal structures. Moreover, promoting diversity and inclusion in leadership roles and decision-making positions can help break down the barriers perpetuating male dominance and the exclusion of women from positions of power and influence. In conclusion, patriarchy and gender stereotypes have profound and lasting effects on women, shaping their experiences and opportunities in society (Sultana, n.d.). The perpetuation of traditional gender roles and expectations limits women's potential and perpetuates inequality, contributing to systemic injustices and discrimination. Challenging these harmful norms and working towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society for women is imperative. By empowering women, promoting awareness, and advocating for policy changes, we can strive towards a future where women are truly equal and free from the constraints of patriarchy and gender stereotypes.

In a world where many things have undergone various advances in fields such as politics, technologies, cultures, style, infrastructures, economics, etc. Those improvements are also the result of cultures from other countries that entered

Indonesia; therefore, they positively and negatively impact our social life. Although many innovations have been created to support our lives, it seems there are still points of view that women are incapable of doing heavy things, people judge the intelligence of someone based on their gender, and women cannot participate in some specific works (Saguni, 2014). The patriarchal system conducts a thought that puts women simply as a compliment and supportive element in our social lives and puts men as an absolute priority (Wayan & Nyoman, 2020). Women have to face more challenges than men regarding development and improvement. The world has experienced many improvements because women actively participate in developing a better understanding of building or creating something (Johnson_Patriarchy, n.d.). Indeed, we have seen a lot of women engage in the workforce; there are queens, incumbents, employees of private companies, waitpersons, police, etc., but that does not change the fact that people are still attached to patriarchal systems that are detrimental to women and benefit men materially.

Women often encounter people who underestimate them just by their gender. Many negative perspectives and judgments are attached to them. Patriarchy culture has existed in Indonesia for a long time and is a European cultural heritage (Manuk, 2023). Women are portrayed as doing all the chores or light work, such as doing laundry, dishes, cleaning the house, cooking, etc. Meanwhile, men do all the heavy things and work to live for their families (Saguni, 2014). Commonly, in a family, men are in charge of making or taking big decisions, and women depend on their voice as if women have no right to decide something on their own, and as a result, she has to agree to whatever their men say. In other words, men hold a more significant role than women and females only as a complementary or supporting role. Also, there is a perspective that women do not have to study in college or university because they eventually end up working in the house as housewives. This culture leaves stereotypes towards women in various fields, including politics, where most of the participants are dominated by men (Wahyudi, n.d.).

Some women advocate for their rights and demand that a particular perspective or stereotype towards women be changed and eliminated. They have the same rights as men and want to be involved in some activities. Women's subordination towards men has become a common thing in our society; even the women themselves willingly let the men take the

lead in their lives. The traditionalists will support this system, let alone believe that men are created to dominate and women to be subordinates (Sultana, n.d.). That way, women will struggle to have an opportunity to develop themselves, and if they feel comfortable being in a patriarchal system, they shall damage themselves. In political fields, some inspiring women contribute to parliament, such as Retno Marsudi (The Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Tri Rismaharini (Ministry of Social Affairs), Megawati (Former President of Indonesia), etc. Still, that number is insufficient if, according to the law, it requires the participation of women to be at least 30% (Power & Warburton, n.d.).

Throughout history, the political landscape has been predominantly male-dominated, with women often relegated to the sidelines. Patriarchal ideologies have perpetuated the belief that men are inherently more suited for leadership roles, while women are expected to conform to traditional gender roles (1125-2302-1-PB_2, n.d.). This entrenched mindset has led to the underrepresentation of women in political positions, perpetuating a cycle of inequality and marginalisation (Yeni, 2017). The underrepresentation of women in political positions has far-reaching implications for society. When women are excluded from decision-making processes, the diverse perspectives and experiences they bring to the table are lost (Nurcahaya & Akbarizan, 2023). This exclusion not only hinders the progress of gender equality but also limits the ability of governments to address issues that specifically affect women. It's crucial to recognise that the absence of women in politics is not just a women's issue; it's a societal issue that impacts everyone. However, despite the historical challenges, there have been significant strides towards gender equality in politics. Women worldwide have been breaking barriers and shattering glass ceilings, proving they are equally capable of leading and governing (Kumar, 2017). Countries such as New Zealand, Germany, and Iceland have had female heads of state, demonstrating that women can effectively lead nations and make impactful decisions (Tilly & Gurin, 1990). These trailblazing leaders have inspired a new generation of women to pursue political careers and advocate for their rights and representation. In recent years, there has been a growing global movement to address the underrepresentation of women in politics. Organisations and initiatives have emerged to support and empower women in their political aspirations. Training programs, mentorship opportunities, and

networking events are being established to equip women with the skills and resources needed to navigate the political landscape. Additionally, advocacy groups are working to change electoral systems and political structures to be more inclusive and representative of the population (Tilly & Gurin, 1990). It's important to acknowledge that the underrepresentation of women in politics is not solely a result of overt discrimination. Systemic and cultural barriers prevent women from fully participating in politics (Kumar, 2017). These barriers include gender bias, lack of access to resources, unequal campaign funding, and societal expectations that often place a heavier burden on women who seek political office. Overcoming these challenges requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society, including government, civil society, and the private sector.

Furthermore, women's underrepresentation in politics intersects with other forms of inequality, such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status (Yeni, 2017). Women from marginalised communities face compounded barriers that make it even more challenging for them to enter and succeed in politics. Addressing these intersecting forms of inequality is essential for creating a political landscape representing society's diversity.

Political Participation: The Issues Within Women's Involvement

In terms of politics, either females or males can have the opportunity to participate in conducting the government. There are no prohibitions for women to take part in politics. According to the 1945 Constitution, paragraph 27, section 1 reads, "All citizens have the same position under the law and government and are obliged to uphold the law and government without exception." From that point, our nation, Indonesia, guarantees women's right to engage in politics and have the same rights as men. Some regulations encourage women's participation in politics and require at least 30% representation of women (Hillman, 2018). This means that one of the nation's elements, such as political parties, must find female members to be part of them and actively support women's engagements to be included in politics through various methods. Women's participation is essential due to creating gender-equal public policies and increasing understanding of women's issues. Women could have different perspectives from men, let alone in making regulations related to women's empowerment. Their involvement is not simply about gender or equality

matters but also about establishing better policies and governance that benefit society (Pudji, T. M. (2008).

Be that as it may, women's participation has not yet reached the predetermined number for particular reasons (Nurchahaya, N., & Akbarizan, A. (2023)—stereotypes towards women hindering their will to be involved being one of the candidates for the election. Although someone has successfully become a member of the legislative with all her intelligence and is qualified for the position, there is still a stigma that a woman politician will never be able to compete with a man. This phenomenon results from the perspective that strong leadership and wise decisions should come from men, and typically, women are simply compatible with traditional roles. The traditional roles in the patriarchal system portrayed women as the one who does all the housework; once people see that a woman is confident enough to engage in politics, they will doubt that woman and might look down on her. The knowledge of justice and gender equality is poor in several nations, including Indonesia, and male political party leaders have a disproportionate impact on party politics. Women do not support political parties significantly since men dominate their leadership structures (Sultana, n.d.).

Women in Indonesian politics encounter stereotypes that significantly challenge their political aspirations. One common stereotype is the perception of women as emotionally driven and irrational, which undermines their capability to make informed and strategic political decisions (Iriansyah, 2017). Additionally, women are often stereotyped as needing more toughness and resilience for political leadership, diminishing their credibility as potential political leaders. These stereotypes contribute to the underrepresentation of women in Indonesian politics and inhibit their ability to advance in their political careers. Furthermore, the media often perpetuates negative stereotypes about women in politics, focusing on their appearance, personal lives, and family dynamics rather than their policies and capabilities (Yeni, 2017). This portrayal reinforces gender biases and undermines the potential for women to be seen as competent political leaders. The prevalence of these stereotypes has led to a lack of confidence in women's ability to lead, discouraging their participation in politics and perpetuating the male-dominated status quo (Yeni, 2017). The challenges and barriers women face in Indonesian politics are multifaceted (Sultana, n.d.). Structural barriers, such as limited access to resources, including funding and political networks, hinder

women from effectively competing in the political arena. The existing electoral system and party structures often favour male candidates, making it difficult for women to secure nominations and win elections (Wayan & Nyoman, 2020). Additionally, the need for more support for work-life balance policies and childcare facilities impedes women's political participation, as they continue to bear the primary responsibility for caregiving and household duties. Moreover, cultural and social norms perpetuate the belief that women's primary role is within the domestic sphere, leading to a lack of confidence and encouragement for women to pursue political careers. The prevalence of conservative attitudes and religious ideologies further restricts women's agency and participation in politics, reinforcing traditional gender roles and inhibiting their ability to challenge the status quo.

Recently, Indonesia conducted the general election, followed by all the dynamics within its implementation. One of the decrees that emerged was that the representation of women in politics became 20%; this kind of regulation will become another challenge for women and impact their representation number. Eventually, however, the regulation changed to its original state. The government has made various efforts by creating regulations supporting female representation in politics. Yet, based on empirical facts, women still find it challenging and have to struggle to become the incumbent. This event indicates that the government's efforts still have not been given undivided attention and have not brought prosperity related to female involvement (Hillman, 2018). Even though women's representation is still tiny, women have already made achievements while making policies. The Act of Disability 2016, The General Election Constitution 2017 about Women's Quota, The Act of Sexual Violence 2022, and advocate for The Bill for females. Once a woman contributes to politics, she will inspire and become a hope for other females because she is fighting for their rights. Their involvement in politics can eliminate the stereotypes they have received all this time. Taking a viewpoint of government as the leading role in empowering women to participate in politics, they have successfully implemented various ways and methods from the regulations they made, strengthening pro-women policies, politics education, seminars, and many more. However, all their efforts still have not provided maximum results, as seen from the number of women's representation in the 2019 general election, which was 20,8%.

In Uni Arab Emirates, the percentage of women involved in politics is 50%, and they managed to balance female participation to engage in politics. In contrast, overall, the number of men in UAE is 60% more than women (Shalaby, 2016). Gender equality in Uni Emirat Arab has been through several dynamics. Women used to be restricted from getting involved in politics because society did not completely understand the conception of gender equality (Dewi et al., 2020). After many years, under the new era of Salman's King, the regulation regarding gender equality has changed, and females are allowed to participate in politics, leading to the numerous percentages of women's representation within government (Nevy Rusmarina Dewi, 2020). Two factors seem to influence women's representation in the Uni Arab Emirates. First, in society, Arab is oriented towards the Islamic religion, which means that in state life, the government makes policies based on Islamic teachings (including gender equality) so that society is conservative (Nevy Rusmarina Dewi, 2020). Although the majority of society in Indonesia is Islam, this country does not make the policy or regulation based on Islam, but also other religions. As a result, Indonesia's female activities are not as limited as Uni Emirat Arab.

In terms of gender equality the Uni Arab Emirates has a long history of gender equality. Women have limited activities, such as not being allowed to drive, join the military, or even participate in politics (Dewi et al., 2020). The role of women was minimal until the new era of Salman's King; women could carry out previously prohibited activities. Indonesia has a different dynamic regarding gender equality than the UAE. Women have participated in politics since 1927, when the Istri Sedar Association was created (Yeni, 2017). This association existed due to the gender equality issues that were getting wider. From that point, Indonesia's females are not limited to political activities.

For decades, women in Arab societies experienced constraints on their mobility and engagement in various activities due to stringent regulations (Shalaby, 2016). However, with new rules permitting previously prohibited activities, a notable shift occurred, particularly in women's political participation. This change marked a pivotal moment as Arab women began to undertake diverse movements, including active involvement in the political arena (Dewi et al., 2020). The political sphere has assumed a crucial role for Arab women in their quest to assert their rights and advance gender

equality. The newfound opportunities in politics have empowered Arabian women to articulate their concerns and aspirations more effectively (Dewi et al., 2020). By actively engaging in political processes, they can contribute to shaping policies that address women's specific challenges, ranging from economic empowerment to legal protections and social inclusion. Moreover, Arab women's political participation catalyses broader societal transformations, challenging traditional norms and perceptions regarding gender roles and capabilities (Shalaby, M. (2016). Through their involvement in decision-making processes, they advocate for their rights and pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals can thrive irrespective of gender.

CONCLUSION

The analysis emphasises the importance of women's involvement in politics, especially in Indonesia, where their representation significantly impacts public policy. Even with this significance, obstacles still prevent women from participating in politics. The widespread patriarchal system reinforces preconceptions that limit women's political chances, and men are more likely than women to hold leadership roles in mixed-gender organisations.

Recent advances under Salman's leadership are worth noting compared to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where female participation in politics has permanently been banned. The enactment of new laws has allowed women to participate in formerly taboo pursuits like politics. This change has given women the confidence to participate in political processes and fight for their rights actively, underscoring the revolutionary effect of more female presence in politics.

Patriarchy and stereotypes continue to present significant barriers to women's participation in Indonesian politics. The deeply ingrained gender biases and discriminatory practices hinder women from realising their full potential as political leaders. However, through concerted efforts to challenge patriarchal norms, address stereotypes, and implement inclusive policies, progress is being made towards achieving gender equality in Indonesian politics. Empowering women to actively engage in political processes, breaking down stereotypes, and creating a more inclusive and diverse political environment will be essential in achieving meaningful and sustainable change. The journey towards gender equality in Indonesian politics requires collective action, policy reforms, and a

commitment to challenging entrenched power dynamics, ultimately creating a more equitable and representative political landscape for all. In Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates, the trajectory of women's political participation mirrors broader cultural developments towards more gender equality and inclusivity. Women can influence political agendas and bring constructive change by breaking barriers and challenging long-held assumptions. This ongoing trend emphasises how crucial it is to create an atmosphere that promotes and facilitates women's active participation in political decision-making.

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