

The Existence of Women in Discussing Gender Policy in the Parliament of North Aceh Regency

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Abstract

Gender strengthening is not only done by women activists and NGOs but also needs to be implemented by women politicians who are in government. The position of women politicians as rulers should be able to become play makers or drivers in fighting for women's rights in the conception of gender. However, this becomes a serious problem if women in government do not fight for policy aspects related to gender equality. Of course, gender-related policies can be realized if there is a political will from women politicians in parliament. The presence of women in the North Aceh District People's Representative Council (DPRK) is very important in discussing gender-related issues in parliament. The implementation of this research will use a qualitative method with a descriptive method. The results of the study illustrate that the role of women in parliament is minimal. This is inseparable from the number of seats obtained by only one person. The obstacles that can be found are the influence of culture, religion and the lack of popularity of female politicians in the community in North Aceh. Furthermore, the dominance of the influence of male politicians is stronger and makes women as sub ordinate or second person in the political process that occurs in North Aceh district. Women are also not given opportunities and are limited in political actualization

Keywords: Women, Parliament, Policy, Gender

INTRODUCTION

Gender strengthening is not only done by women activists and NGOs but also needs to be implemented by women politicians who are in government. The position of women politicians as rulers should be able to become *play makers* or drivers in fighting for women's rights in the conception of gender. However, this becomes a serious problem if women in government do not fight for policy aspects related to gender equality. The existence of women politicians in parliament is needed in an effort to discuss draft gender-related policies. Of course, gender-related policies can be realized if there is a *political will* from women politicians in parliament.

The presence of women in the North Aceh District House of Representatives (DPRK) is very important in discussing gender-related issues in parliament. Women legislators in North Aceh District illustrate that strengthening gender-related policies can be carried out so that the realization of gender mainstreaming in the aspect of gender-responsive budgeting in North Aceh District government policies. factors that become obstacles to not fulfilling the minimum quota of 30% of women's political participation in almost every political party, namely: The assumption that the world of politics is a man's world, where the patriarchal social system and structure has placed women in a position that is not equal to men; women's low knowledge and understanding of politics, resulting in misperceptions and interpretations of politics. (Nuraeni, 2019).

The important aspects are twofold First, democracy is about popular sovereignty, and one cannot get an adequate purchase of the quality of democracy without knowing how the people of a country evaluate the level and performance of its democracy. Second, the stability of a democracy depends largely on strong public support for democracy (Rahman & Sriwahyuni, 2022). Women in Indonesia and Korea are both

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hampered by a patriarchal culture and a political party recruitment system whose spirit is to prioritize men over women for political affairs. On the other hand, the electoral systems in Indonesia and Korea differ in terms of campaign costs. In Indonesia, women and men who want to become councillors have to bear most of the costs of campaigning. In Korea, campaign costs are incurred by the party and are regulated with strict internal and external oversight. (Syafputri, 2017).

The picture of women in politics can be understood that there are obstacles due to strong patriarchal views so that space for movement is limited. However, North Aceh District is still not very clear about the involvement of women in politics. This provides a segmentation that women in parliament are not very vocal in discussing gender. However, the number of women in parliament in North Aceh District has not reached 30% as stipulated in the applicable statutory provisions, namely Law No. 7 of 2017 concerning Political Parties. Support for women in politics is still not optimal when it comes to *affirmative action*. So women in North Aceh are still seen as *sub ordinary* so that they have less influence in society.

The concept of women's politics is not very influential in the midst of society in North Aceh Regency. This is because political opportunities for women are very limited and tend to be stagnant so that women in North Aceh Regency are not too interested. However, when there are women who become legislative members in North Aceh Regency, their existence must be able to influence policies that have the principle of *gender equality* or gender equality that can be realized. The pattern of approach with the community must also be slow and gradual in providing an overview of gender. This is necessary so that North Aceh Regency has women politicians who sit as legislative members in the North Aceh DPRK. In addition, the political actualization of women in parliament is able to create an understanding that gender belongs to men and women who must be balanced (*gender equality*).

The duties and responsibilities of women in parliament are very heavy in fighting for gender policies in North Aceh District. Of course, the application of gender mainstreaming can be applied starting from gender responsive budgeting, balance between women and men and the realization of the concept of gender equality both in the government of North Aceh Regency and in the midst of society. In the discussion of just one policy in parliament, the dominance of interests for men is very large compared to the interests of women. The process of discussing the North Aceh APBD does not fully relate to gender so that decisions are often taken to be gender biased. So the political actualization of women in parliament must be able to fight for gender policies in the North Aceh Regency parliament. However, the struggle for gender equality in the North Aceh District Parliament does not appear and tends to be very patriarchal in decision-making in government.

The involvement of women in politics and the views of scholars view that the low involvement of women in the nomination process in legislative members is due to: first, formal education and political education that women lack access to. The lack of women's education certainly affects their quality in politics and their political insight. Second, women's low motivation in politics due to lack of education and knowledge about politics. This results in women lacking the motivation to fight for women's rights in formal institutions such as the legislature. Third, women's mentality is strongly influenced by patriarchal culture. From a young age, girls get gender socialization by the family or community that women are obedient and accepting, so the mentality to compete is very low. (Sulastris, 2020).

The biggest problem is that leadership positions are still rarely occupied by women, making it difficult to voice aspirations on women's issues because they are not only representatives of the people but also members of factions who must follow the words of the faction. Leaders of commissions leading organs are also still rarely led by women. (Umagapi, 2020). The prevailing political process in society shows a skeptical pattern if women are actively involved in the political process. This underlies that women are considered incapable of actualizing in politics by the general public. This is what makes women in the political sphere very limited and is influenced by the increasingly dominant patriarchal culture. (Rahayu, 2020). Gender is generally used to identify differences between men and women from a socio-cultural perspective. Meanwhile, *sexis* is generally used to identify differences between men and women in terms of biological anatomy. (Riskawati & Silalahi, 2020). In the development of the times, experts developed a

new concept as an instrument to analyze gender, namely balance theory or known as equilibrium theory as presented at the ministry of women's empowerment. (Rasyidin & Fidhia, 2018).

The history of gender differences between men and women occurs through a very long process. Therefore, gender differences are caused by many things, including: being formed, socialized, strengthened and constructed socially and culturally, through religious teachings and by the state (Tridewiyanti, 2012). So it can be understood that women who actualize in politics must be balanced and balanced so as not to forget their respective nature and nature of both men and women. (Amin et al., 2014). Dye illustrates that public policy is a decision chosen by the government and certainly has goals to be achieved and that state policy must include actions from the government, but not based on the wishes of the government or its officials. (Rahman et al., 2021). So public policy can be understood as the wishes of the general public. Then the policy process can change because it is influenced by the political process. This is what often arises in the implementation of public policies in Indonesia (Zulhilmi et al., 2021).

Agustino Agustino describes that a policy is a series of actions or activities proposed by a person, group, or government in a certain environment where there are obstacles (difficulties) and possibilities (opportunities) where the policy is proposed to be useful in overcoming them to achieve the intended goals. (Agustino, 2020). Policy can be said to be a series of activities, actions, attitudes, program plans, and decisions implemented by actors or related parties as an effort to solve the problems faced. (Herdiana, 2018). Policy is a response to events that occur, both to create harmony from conflicting parties, and to create incentives for joint action for parties who get irrational treatment for these joint efforts so that they run optimally (Sanur L, 2020).

This means that policy is something that is produced by policy makers (government) as a form of formulation based on events that occur in society. These events are born from the process of social life which is not foreign, isolated and independent of society (Desrinelti et al., 2021). In underdeveloped societies, government and political affairs are considered to be only the business of certain elites. Generally, farmers, laborers and small traders are the groups of people who do not realize that government policies can affect their lives. On the other hand, they can also influence government actions in their favor with political power." (Garis & Trisnia, 2021). Cohen as cited by Yalvema Miaz is as follows. a. participation in decision making, b. participation in the implementation of activities, c. participation in the utilization of results. d. participation in evaluation (Garis & Trisnia, 2021). However, women's political participation can be carried out as long as they do not forget their nature as women. So political participation also provides opportunities for women to be active in the public sphere.

METHODS

The type of research used in this research is qualitative, producing descriptive data analysis in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior, Moleong J lexy states that this type of qualitative research uses descriptive-qualitative analysis methods, as well as exploratory qualitative (Moleong, 2018). This approach is used to analyze the role of women in parliament in discussing draft policies on gender so as to get an overview of the legislation realized in North Aceh Regency, as well as in terms of inhibiting and supporting factors such as available resources, communication between *stakeholders*, implementer attitudes towards programs and environmental conditions related to social, economic and political conditions. based on facts by presenting social phenomena in the field in full according to the aspects studied.

Analysis is carried out by connecting theories that can serve to explain, a symptom so as to obtain conclusions and recommendations on how the role of women in parliament in discussing draft policies on gender in North Aceh District. The reason for using qualitative descriptive methods is because the data needed is qualitative, this research design is an implementation evaluation study, due to the role of women legislators in discussing draft policies on gender, so this study looks at the effect of the presence of women in parliament in fighting for policies on gender.

RESULT

The Role of Women in Parliament in Gender Policy Design

The political process that occurs is not necessarily spontaneous behavior but also has a strategy and maturity as well as the skills of a political actor. But the most important thing is that these political actors are not only the participation of men but also women also have the same rights in politics and even become political actors. So women politicians can also play an active role in the political process that occurs both in government and non-government. But if in developed countries women are very active in practical politics so that the conception of gender runs very optimally. This is a challenge that must be faced by women in the political process in developing and developing countries. However, the political process continues even though women are not very active in the political process that occurs.

The political role of women in developing and developing countries has not led to the interests of women and tends to stagnate and participate in political decisions dominated by men. The conception of gender has not found its direction in the political balance between men and women. The most interesting thing is that if women become leaders in the region and nationally, it will appear that they are also able to make the same decisions as men. But the most important thing is also to talk about the natural and non-natural aspects for women so that they play a dual role as a politician and a companion for a man.

The pattern of women's political behavior in Aceh has been formed historically so that it is not a new phenomenon. However, over time there has been a shift in values in practical politics in general in Aceh. This is also the case in North Aceh District where women's political involvement has not been optimized so that many politicians who sit in parliament in the district are dominated by men. Of course, this is very unusual because the role of women in the parliament of North Aceh Regency is very necessary in fighting for women's rights to be balanced with men in the public or non-civil sphere.

The strength of women in the political process lies in the mentality and enthusiasm that emerges because practical politics talks about strategy and planning in achieving power in government. The stigma that states women are active in politics is ineffective so they are considered less competent. This is what makes the role of women in the political process in North Aceh not maximized in gaining public support to become leaders in the executive and representatives of the people in the legislature. Of course, North Aceh is the largest support base in a competitive political process. So it is not surprising that the role of women in politics in North Aceh Regency is not yet fully intact so that it is still seen as not having the competence of a reliable and professional politician.

Women in North Aceh district in the political process tend to be considered very feministic and very contrary to conceptions of masculinity. In addition, women themselves do not necessarily support female political actors and there are also female politicians but do not accommodate the interests of women in parliament. So the political process that runs in the government is not too important the role of women and tends to be male dominant.

Barriers faced by women in Parliament

There are two fundamental problems in women's obstacles, namely in the cultural aspect which has become a common thing so that women are considered taboo if they actualize in practical politics. In addition, in the religious aspect as a spiritual concept that makes women like being shackled so that they tend not to have the freedom to be actively involved in politics. Subordination is something that is most often felt by women in their active involvement in the political process in North Aceh. Therefore, the most dominant obstacle is the strong patriarchal culture in North Aceh district so that the role of women in politics is not optimal. The political process of women is very stagnant and tends to be underestimated by the people in North Aceh District. Indeed, Law No. 12/2003 in article 65 clearly illustrates the representation of women in parliament, which reaches a 30% quota. In addition, many women lack sufficient mentality and are not confident in their political actualization.

A widespread obstacle for women in practical politics is the increasingly strong patriarchal culture using religious aspects. In Islam, the man is an imam and the woman is a follower. This is also stigmatized in the community environment in North Aceh district. This religious conception becomes a guideline for anyone as a belief that must be obeyed. This is what makes women's opportunities in North Aceh district to engage in practical politics restricted by religious normative. The most important thing is that the conception of gender is very contrary to religious normative. So it is not surprising that the political process in North Aceh District is changing and increasingly hampering women's political actualization.

DISCUSSION

The 30% quota for women's representation in parliament should also apply to female political talents in North Aceh district. Therefore, these opportunities should be given to both women and men so that there is no gender bias. The political transition will also determine the direction and mentality of women in seeking political support from the public. So in practical politics women also get the same position in the public sphere as men. It is interesting when women are very vocal in voicing the aspirations of the community so that it can be realized in parliament as a policy that binds and accommodates the interests of women. This is something that does not really appear in the political behavior of women in the North Aceh parliament.

Aspects of reform can actually provide great hope for women in the political process. The role of women in the political process did not receive comprehensive support from the public in North Aceh District. The public in North Aceh district thinks that women are very problematic if they are actively involved in the political process and tend to have a high level of sensitivity. The political system dominated by men in North Aceh makes women politicians seem like a formality in political competitions, both elections and regional head elections. Whereas the number of women is more than men and the support for women politicians should be very high. Whereas the discussion of the role of women in the political process because it is included in the public domain and women and men have the same opportunity. The results of political competition so far in North Aceh Regency tend to favor male politicians over female politicians.

Perempuan dalam proses politik masih belum terlalu maksimal. Hal ini terlepas dari semakin kuat aspek kebudayaan menjadi batasan yang harus dimaklumi oleh perempuan sehingga tidak aneh ketika banyak perempuan mengurungkan niatnya untuk berpolitik praktis. Padahal pemerintah telah memberikan peluang bagi perempuan untuk aktif dalam proses politik baik menjadi pemimpin atau anggota parlemen. Namun stigma dalam lingkungan masyarakat masih sangat tabu perempuan berpolitik sehingga di kabupaten Aceh Utara sangat sedikit perempuan yang mau terlibat aktif dalam politik. Karena menurut masyarakat dunia politik itu milik kaum laki-laki dan tidak cocok untuk kaum perempuan. Hal ini yang perlu diluruskan sehingga masyarakat sadar bahwa berpolitik itu bukan milik kaum laki-laki saja karena ada kuota 30% bagi kaum perempuan untuk aktif dalam politik dan bersama-sama membangun bangsa dan Negara. Perjuangan perempuan di level pusat dalam memperoleh kuota 30% dalam pembahasan peraturan tentang pemilu telah menjadi Undang-Undang No 12 Tahun 2023 tentang pemilu. Akan tetapi banyak partai politik ada terpenuhnya kuota 30% perempuan dalam kompetisi politik. Maka perlu adanya keinginan yang kuat dari perempuan supaya partisipasi politik semakin kuat. Persoalannya karena perempuan tidak diberikan peluang untuk beraktualisasi dalam proses politik.

Women in the political process are still not maximized. This is despite the stronger cultural aspects being a limitation that must be understood by women so it is not strange when many women undo their intentions to enter practical politics. Even though the government has provided opportunities for women to be active in the political process either as leaders or members of parliament. However, the stigma in the community is still very taboo for women in politics so that in North Aceh district there are very few women who want to be actively involved in politics. Because according to the community, politics belongs to men and is not suitable for women.

This needs to be straightened out so that people realize that politics does not belong to men alone because there is a 30% quota for women to be active in politics and together build the nation and state.

The struggle of women at the central level in obtaining a 30% quota in the discussion of regulations on elections has become Law No. 12 of 2023 concerning elections. However, many political parties have fulfilled the 30% quota for women in political competition. So there needs to be a strong desire from women so that political participation is getting stronger. The problem is that women are not given the opportunity to actualize in the political process.

CONCLUSION

Political communication patterns that have not been maximized make women politicians drown with men's political strategies. People in North Aceh still believe that the conception of gender has not been able to fully provide space for balance between men and women in the public sphere. The public still views that women are more suitable in the private sphere than in the public sphere. Whereas men and women have the same opportunities in the public domain. Apart from men, women also have the same opportunities and opportunities to actualize in practical politics. Law No. 2 of 2008 provides opportunities for women to become representatives of the people in parliament, including the political process in North Aceh District.

The purpose of the 30% quota is to avoid discrimination against women in the political process. In addition, it also avoids male dominance so that there is no term masculinity politics. It is hoped that women's representation in politics will be able to produce policies that are not gender biased and accommodate the interests of the community, especially women and children. This needs further study in the next stage of research. The factor that the role of women in politics is very minimal makes women need to create a political strategy that is able to bring aspirations in the aspect of gender policy formulation. This is important so that the political existence of women in North Aceh can be optimized.

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