

Political Education for Women in Realizing Equality and Democratic Participation



Agnesia Karlina¹, Fifiana Wisnaeni²

¹Master of Law Student, Diponegoro University. Semarang.

²Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Diponegoro University. Semarang.

ABSTRACT: Women's participation in politics is an important indicator in realizing an inclusive and equitable democracy. However, to date, women's involvement in politics in Indonesia is still relatively low, one of the causes of which is patriarchal culture, gender bias, and minimal access to political education. This study aims to analyze the role of political education for women in increasing their participation in politics and evaluate the main challenges faced. Using a legal approach, this study also discusses the regulations that have been implemented in Indonesia to support increasing women's involvement in politics, such as Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections and General Election Commission Regulation No. 10 of 2023. The results of the study show that although regulations are available, their implementation still faces various obstacles, including weak support from political parties and low effectiveness of affirmative policies. Therefore, a concrete strategy is needed in the implementation of community-based political education and cooperation between the government, political parties, and civil society organizations to encourage women's active involvement in politics.

KEYWORDS: political education, women's participation, democracy, political regulation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country known as a democratic country, namely a country whose highest sovereignty is in the hands of the people, the people have fundamental rights in choosing their leaders and representatives through general elections that take place freely, honestly, and fairly without any pressure or intimidation from any party. The fundamental rights in democracy are not only about general elections but also the protection of basic rights or human rights in general because fundamental rights are natural rights inherent in humans that must be protected. Including the right to participate in a healthy democratic political world that ensures that every individual has a voice that is valued and recognized in the decision-making process that has an impact on the life of the nation and state.

Women's participation in the development of democracy and in politics is one of the important indicators in realizing an inclusive and just democracy in Indonesia in accordance with the objectives stated in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution, but until now the community is still fighting for the meaning of democracy because in reality women's participation in politics in Indonesia is still quite low. Darmayanti Lubis as an Indonesian politician explained that the number of women in the Indonesian House of Representatives has indeed increased from 61 people (11.09%) in 2004-2009 to 101 people (18.04%) in 2009-2014, however, in 2014-2019 the number decreased to 97 people (17.32%) out of a total of 560 seats and until the last election year, namely 2024, women's participation has not been able to reach 30%.

One of the main factors causing low participation of women in politics is the strong patriarchal culture and gender bias inherent in Indonesian society. In addition, minimal support from political parties and limited access to political education are the main obstacles for women to play an active role in politics. Political education plays a crucial role in building awareness and readiness of women to be able to compete equally with men in accessing political opportunities. Without adequate education, women will continue to face limitations in obtaining strategic positions in government and legislative institutions. Therefore, women's political participation will not achieve optimal results without maximum efforts from various parties, especially political parties, in empowering women. Concrete steps that can be taken include increasing political awareness, strengthening performance capacity, and developing women's leadership through socialization programs, political education, and ongoing training. With strong commitment and support, it is hoped that women can be more actively involved in the political process and participate in decision-making that has an impact on the wider community.

Based on the legal provisions of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Article 28 H paragraph (2) states that "Everyone has the right to receive facilities and special treatment to obtain the same opportunities and benefits in order to achieve

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equality and justice." This provision is the basis for efforts to increase women's participation in politics because this provision does not mention any discrimination in which women and men have the right to take part in all opportunities.

The principle of justice and equality stated in the article emphasizes that women must have equal opportunities in the world of politics, including access to political education, party support, and affirmative policies such as quotas for women's representation in parliament. With the special treatment referred to in this article, the state and political parties have a responsibility to eliminate structural and cultural barriers that hinder women's involvement in political decision-making.

In addition to the basis of the 1945 Constitution, the government is also trying to make more focused regulations regarding women's participation, namely in Election Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections and Article 8 paragraph (2) of the General Election Commission Regulation No. 10 of 2023 concerning the Nomination of Members of the People's Representative Council, Provincial People's Representative Council, and Regency/City People's Representative Council. This effort is a good step to support women's participation in politics because based on this regulation, women are given the opportunity to be involved in politics.

The regulation already exists and has good objectives, but it still requires more concrete implementation in order to provide a real impact in increasing women's participation in politics. This effort is not enough if it is not accompanied by increasing political education specifically for women. Political education has a crucial role in building awareness, understanding, and readiness of women to actively participate in politics. Through a more inclusive legal approach, the state is obliged to ensure that women are not only guaranteed the right to participate in politics, but are also given wider access to political education. This can be done through leadership training programs, socialization of affirmative policies, and cooperation between the government, political parties, and civil society organizations. Thus, political education for women from a legal perspective is not only an effort to increase participation, but also a strategic step to realize equality and a more inclusive democracy in Indonesia.

Based on this background, this study aims to analyze political education for women from a legal perspective and how political education can be an instrument in realizing equality and democratic participation. Several research questions that will be discussed in this article include: (1) What is the role of political education in increasing women's participation in politics? (2) What are the main challenges in implementing political education for women? (3) How does the national legal perspective support efforts to increase women's political education?

Several previous studies have discussed the importance of political education in increasing women's participation. However, this study contributes by highlighting the legal aspects that regulate political education and evaluating the effectiveness of policies that have been implemented in supporting women's involvement in politics. With this approach, this study aims to provide new insights into affirmative policies and strategies that can be used to strengthen women's political education in Indonesia.

The structure of this article is as follows: The first section will discuss the theoretical basis of political education and women's involvement in politics. The second section will review regulations and legal policies related to political education for women in Indonesia. The third section will evaluate the challenges faced in implementing women's political education. Finally, the fourth section will present an analysis and recommendations on strategic steps to improve women's political education in order to achieve greater equality and democratic participation in Indonesia.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used by the author is normative legal research. Research using normative legal research is based on the approach and analysis of legislation and case approaches. This approach is used by the author to find out and analyze a problem more broadly and more holistically. Data collection used by the author in this study is by means of library research. The data collected comes from scientific works such as scientific journals, books, dictionaries and so on. The writing that has been analyzed will be described to see the relationship between variables. In this case, it is the relationship *Political Education for Women in Realizing Equality and Democratic Participation*

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Urgency of Political Education for Women

Philosophically based on Article 28 H paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia states that in Indonesia we adhere to the principle of social justice which requires every individual to have the same opportunity to achieve prosperity, however, because each person's condition is different, special facilities and treatment are needed for certain groups so that they can obtain equal benefits, for example vulnerable groups such as women who want to join and participate in politics, this principle shows that justice is not only about providing equal treatment, but also ensuring that every individual has equal access to the opportunities and benefits available.

After Article 28 H paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the government provides a special path for women to be able to participate freely and fairly in politics through Government Regulation concerning elections Number 7 of 2017 and then the implementing regulations appeared in Article 8 paragraph (2) of the General Election Commission Regulation No. 10 of 2023 concerning the Nomination of Members of the People's Representative Council, Provincial People's Representative

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Council, and Regency/City People's Representative Council. Literally, this special path is something special for women or a privilege, but on the other hand, this is a concern that interprets that women cannot compete anywhere because of their position, therefore a special path must be created.

The regulation is already in place and its purpose is good, but in its implementation, it is not merely a matter of implementing it but also paying attention to the existing patriarchal culture that is deeply ingrained in Indonesia. Therefore, institutions that have dealings with general elections, such as political parties, can oversee women from the beginning of recruitment to the end, for example, empowering them, protecting them, and providing education related to politics for them so that they can be confident and have the provisions to compete in the world of politics.

Education literally, is a learning process that is a fundamental factor in shaping a person's personality and becomes the main capital for individuals to achieve success in life. Education not only functions as a means to gain knowledge, but also as a tool to develop skills and instill social and moral values that support community life. In a broader context, education has an important role in building individual awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens. One form of education that is essential in national life is political education.

Political education can be defined as a learning process that aims to increase understanding, awareness, and participation of individuals in the political system, including their rights and obligations as citizens, government mechanisms, and the decisionmaking process in democracy. With adequate political education, society is expected to be more active and critical in participating in the political system, both as intelligent voters and as responsible leaders. Political education is the main key in forming a democratic, inclusive society with high political awareness. Political education plays a very important role in forming a democratic society and being aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens, in addition to the implementation of political education aims to form and create quality and qualified human resources. Without adequate political education, individuals will have difficulty understanding the political process, constitutional rights, and effective ways to participate in government. Political education is education that should be accessible to all parties, not just women.

One of the main aspects of political education is the role of political parties in providing education to their cadres who will become future leaders, as well as to the wider community. Political parties have a great responsibility in ensuring that the cadres they produce have a deep understanding of the political system, public policy, and democratic values. A prospective leader must have broad insight into governance, policy-making mechanisms, and strategies for realizing public welfare fairly and effectively. Thus, political education carried out by political parties not only impacts individuals who participate in practical politics, but also on the quality of government as a whole.

For women, political education has an increasing urgency considering the ongoing inequality in political representation in various countries, including Indonesia, women still face various obstacles in actively participating in politics, both in terms of nominating as leaders and in obtaining strategic positions in government. Political education for women is not only aimed at providing a deep understanding of the political system, but also to increase their confidence in being involved in the decisionmaking process because the higher the level of political education of women, the greater the possibility that they will nominate themselves as political leaders, contribute to socio-political organizations, and fight for more inclusive and just policies.

Effective political education must be carried out through various methods, such as leadership training, seminars, public discussions, and the integration of political education curriculum into the formal education system. In addition, the role of the government, political parties, and civil society organizations is very important in creating a conducive environment for improving women's political education. Collaborative efforts between these various parties will ensure that political education is not only a discourse, but also implemented in everyday life through various programs and policies that support women's political participation.

In addition to women, political education about women is also very important to be known and studied by several levels of society, especially men, so that not only women are educated but men and all levels of society understand the conditions of women, women's economy, women's dual roles and so on so that society knows the needs and challenges faced by women in all fields.

Ultimately, political education for women is not only a form of individual empowerment, but also an investment for a healthier and more inclusive future of democracy. With the increasing political awareness of women and support from various parties, it is hoped that more female leaders will be born who are able to bring positive changes to society and the country, therefore, it is important for all elements of society to support and encourage sustainable political education in order to create a more representative and democratic political system.

Women's Involvement in Politics

Women in Indonesia are one of the people who fall into the category of marginalized groups in the world of politics because women's representation is still low, both in political parties, parliament, and positions. This is due to patriarchal leadership factors, namely a culture that considers men's positions to be higher, gender discrimination, stereotypes of women's roles, and structural barriers such as limited access to political and economic resources also strengthen this marginalization. In addition, the culture in Indonesia still tends to consider politics as a male domain, so that women face greater challenges in gaining public support and trust. Although various affirmative efforts such as gender quotas have been implemented in several countries, this gap is still a global issue that requires social change and more progressive policies.

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The involvement of women in politics is very important because politics cannot only be filled by men, this causes the policies and regulations that are formed to tend to be biased towards men and do not pay attention to the interests and needs of women, if there are women who are involved in policy making or there are women who have the authority to lead, women's rights will certainly be given more attention because the ones who understand women's needs are women themselves.

Although women's involvement in politics is considered very important, in practice women tend to experience difficulties in their efforts to enter or become involved in politics, this has been the case since ancient times during the New Order, the rise of women's politics where women could not freely access all facilities provided by the government such as education and politics, women were strictly prohibited from going to school, let alone participating in politics, this was considered not their nature because women's nature was considered to be limited to domestic affairs only.

History has changed over time in 1928, the Women's Congress in Yogyakarta marked the political awareness of Indonesian women. After that, many women's organizations emerged, such as Perwari and Kowani. Women's political rights were increasingly recognized, and in the 1955 Election, they got the right to vote and be elected. Until now, women's participation in politics continues to be needed to ensure more inclusive policies and in accordance with gender needs. This struggle began in the early 20th century as an important step in gaining women's rights in Indonesia.

Along with the development of the era, women's participation in politics in Indonesia has begun to be noticed. Indonesia has begun to side with women, many female activists have begun to voice women's rights, many women have become highly educated, even higher than men. Women's access to politics has also begun to be noticed by the government, one example is that there are several provisions of laws that discuss the requirement for women to participate in politics as written in Article 8 paragraph (2) of the General Election Commission Regulation No. 10 of 2023 which provides women with the opportunity to be involved in politics by 30%.

The regulations set by the government have been quite helpful in voicing women's rights and freedoms, however, implementation in the field is still not in accordance with what is desired, the targets set by the government have not yet met the quota. In 2024 women's participation will only reach 21%.

The main challenges in implementing political education for women

Regulations or rules that are formed as an effort by the government to voice women's rights or for women's freedom in politics have indeed existed, such as the General Election Commission Regulation No. 10 of 2023, women's opportunities in politics have begun to open up and find a way, but in its implementation there are many challenges because the targets set by the government are not appropriate.

Regulation alone will not be enough to equalize women's rights in politics, the purpose of establishing the regulation is indeed quite good but there are still pros and cons with the quota set by the government of 30% which will make women in political parties as quota fulfillers or only seen as fulfilling requirements which will cause women to not be able to move freely and not be able to get the opportunity to lead, they will assume that their presence is only as a complement then they do not need to work hard in politics.

There are still many other inhibiting factors, it is very difficult for women to get involved in politics even though there are regulations. The factors faced by women are factors that come from many things such as:

1. Patriarchal Social and Cultural Norms

Indonesia is one of the countries with a very strong patriarchal culture and this is a major obstacle for women to get involved in politics. Women are often considered more suitable for taking care of the household and family than being involved in political decision-making. This view makes women less given the opportunity to learn and participate in the world of politics, so that they find it difficult to develop and contribute in this field, when they have joined a political party, women also tend to still be burdened with dual roles that must still be argued with household roles or it is difficult to get permission from the family.

2. Lack of Access to Political Education

Political education for women is still limited due to various factors. Not all regions have adequate political education programs, and even if they do, the level of women's participation in political discussions is still low, this could be due to a lack of information, time constraints due to domestic responsibilities, or the assumption that politics is not a relevant or suitable field for women.

3. Lack of Support from Family and Community

Many women who want to get involved in politics actually face obstacles from their families or their surroundings and not a few feel doubtful or insecure because they do not get support from those closest to them. In some cases, women who try to participate in politics even get pressure or criticism because they are considered to be outside the prevailing social norms.

4. Economic Barriers

Economic conditions are also a factor that limits women in accessing political education. Many women have to work to meet the needs of their families, so they do not have enough time or resources to participate in political activities. In addition, the

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cost of entering politics and also getting political education, seminars, or training is often unaffordable for women with economic limitations.

5. Low Representation of Women in Politics

The lack of women who have succeeded in occupying political positions has created fewer examples or role models for other women who want to get involved in politics. When women are rarely seen in leadership positions, those who want to enter the world of politics feel they have no support and lack the confidence to compete with men.

6. Gender Discrimination and Stereotypes

In the world of politics, women are often considered less competent than men. Many people assume that women do not have sufficient leadership skills or are unable to make important decisions. This stereotype makes it more difficult for women to get opportunities, even if they have the same abilities and experience as men.

7. Lack of Access to Political Networks

The world of politics is often dominated by groups of men who have strong networks. As a result, women have difficulty getting information, support, or opportunities to develop in this field. Without access to good political networks, it is difficult for women to advance and get a bigger role in government or political organizations.

8. Imbalance in Media and Public Representation

The media plays a big role in shaping society's view of women in politics. Unfortunately, women are often portrayed more based on their personal lives or appearance than on their abilities and achievements. This imbalanced representation makes it even more difficult for women to get the place they deserve in politics.

To overcome these challenges, support is needed from various parties, including the government, community organizations, educational institutions, and the wider community by providing greater access to women in political education, as well as creating a more inclusive and supportive environment, so that women can participate more freely in the world of politics and contribute to fairer and more balanced decision-making.

National legal perspective in supporting efforts to improve women's political education

Several regulations regarding women's participation in politics have been widely established and enforced, although there are provisions of laws governing women's rights, their realization has not been fully fulfilled by the state, whereas as a democratic country, there should be no discrimination against women in all aspects of life. The following are several regulations that can be used as legal references for women in demanding and protecting their rights.

1. 1945 Constitution

This law is the basis for the fulfillment of women's rights in politics, Article 27 paragraph (1) emphasizes that every citizen has the same position before the law, including in the political aspect. The 1945 Constitution does not include any discrimination considering that the 1945 Constitution is the highest regulation in Indonesia, so its implementing regulations will also follow.

2. Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties

This law mandates the involvement of women in the management of political parties with a minimum quota of 30%. This law aims to increase women's representation in the political decision-making process and strengthen their position in the party's organizational structure. With this regulation, political parties are required to provide equal opportunities for women to play an active role in politics, including in strategic leadership positions and policy making.

3. Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections

Stating the obligation of political parties to nominate at least 30% of women in the list of legislative candidates. This provision aims to ensure the representation of women in legislative institutions, so that they can contribute to the process of formulating policies that are more inclusive and in favor of gender equality. With this regulation, it is hoped that women will have greater opportunities to be actively involved in the democratic process and decision-making at the national and regional levels.

4. Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence, this law contributes to the protection of women

Contributes to the protection of women from violence that can be an obstacle to actively participating in politics. This law not only provides legal protection for women who experience domestic violence, but also aims to create a safe and supportive environment for women so that they can be freer to participate in public spaces, including in politics. With this legal protection, women are expected to be more confident in voicing their opinions and being involved in political decision-making without any threats or pressure from other parties.

The legal perspective has a very important role in supporting the improvement of women's political education. With clear regulations, international support, and effective implementation, it is hoped that women can be more active and empowered in political life, thus creating a more inclusive and just democratic system.

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IV. CONCLUSION

Political education plays a very important role in increasing women's participation in politics and encouraging the creation of a more inclusive and just democracy. Although affirmative regulations and policies have been implemented, women's involvement in politics still faces various challenges, including social norms, patriarchal culture, minimal access to political education, and lack of support from political parties and the community. Therefore, more concrete efforts are needed in the implementation of political education that is not only formal, but also community-based and carried out sustainably.

From a legal perspective, Indonesia has regulated various policies that support increasing women's participation in politics, such as Law Number 7 of 2017 concerning General Elections and Regulation of the General Election Commission No. 10 of 2023, which mandates a minimum quota of 30% for women's representation in politics. However, the implementation of this policy still requires supervision and evaluation so that it is not just a formality, but is able to produce a real impact in increasing women's representation. As a strategic step, cooperation is needed between the government, political parties, civil society organizations, and educational institutions in providing inclusive political education programs for women. This program must include leadership training, socialization of affirmative policies, and empowerment of women in politics. With the commitment of various parties, it is hoped that women can participate more actively in the political process and take part in decision-making that has a broad impact on society.

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