

Study On the Urgency of Women's Legislative Representations Local Parties, Langsa City, Aceh Province

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Abstract

This study examines the phenomenon of the lack of women's representation, the challenge of affirmation of 30 percent, the urgency of female legislators, framing the actual context and discourse on strengthening gender-sensitive female legislators. Through a qualitative approach, a number of phenomena were explored in descriptive analytical manner. The findings of the study explain the lack of representation because patriarchal culture still shackles internal political parties. Women are only used as a complement to the requirements to participate in elections. Weak access and freedom during the campaign season as well as the flexibility of the voter network are among the factors that make it difficult to fulfill the representation of women legislators. As for their choice, they are fully supported by social networks, kinship relations and family solidity. The role of legislators is limited to carrying out formal and responsive obligations according to constituent requests or needs. The articulation that is highlighted is a variety of religious social actions. The conclusion of this study confirms that female legislators have not substantively influenced gender-based policies. The commitment of political parties to fulfill women's representation by carrying out potential candidates elected based on a social network and family kinship approach deserves further investigation. This strategy is not impossible for the representation of 30 percent of women legislators to be fulfilled in the future.

Keywords

political party; women;
legislator; representation



I. Introduction

Political participation and political recruitment processes are necessary for the sustainability of the political system (Almond, 1966: 115). In the political party system, participation and recruitment are needed in order to place the best cadres to compete and gain parliamentary seats. In a democratic order, political parties are an extension of the means for citizens to participate in the process of state management. Political parties and their representatives in parliament seek to channel the aspirations of their constituents constitutionally.

Development of democracy in our country; In Indonesia, local political parties have also been allowed, namely in Aceh. Aceh province is the only area where local parties are allowed. Recognition of local parties as an effort to maintain the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) is a prerequisite for negotiations and peace as well as a solution to end the latent conflict that has been going on for a long time. Thus, local parties are expected to be more aspirational in fighting for development issues based on local Acehnese people.

This local, local party was ratified in Law No 11 of 2006 concerning the Government of Aceh. Article 80 paragraph (1) letters d and h explains that local political parties are only limited to gaining political power in the province of Aceh. Because they are not national in scope then local parties should be more obliged to strengthen the local development agenda and as needed on the basis of their elections.

Local parties are more flexible in maintaining relations because they know what their constituents need. However, in a multi-party competition, both national and local parties are required for responsiveness, namely the ability to listen and answer. In order for a survival political party, it must offer a dynamic political program regarding actual issues (Djusfi, 2019:88, Moradi, 2019:85).

The reality in the 2019 election shows that women's representation is still very minimal. The Aceh Independent Election Commission (KIP) released the percentage of women's representation. Of the 731 legislative seats, as many as 83 women were elected as legislators, at the provincial level as well as 23 districts and cities. Table: 1 show that 30 percent of women's representation is fulfilled in Aceh Tamiang District. While the Aceh People's Representative Council (DPRA) only fulfilled 11 percent with 9 seats out of 81 seats up for grabs.

Table 1. Percentage of Acehnese Women Legislators 2019-2024

No	County/City	Chair		Percentage
		Total	Woman	
1	AcehTamiang	30	11	36,6%
2	Pidie	40	7	17,5%
3	Sabang	20	5	25%
4	Simeulue	20	4	20%
5	Langsa	25	5	20%
6	Lhokseumawe	25	4	16%
7	NaganRaya	25	4	16%
8	Subulussalam	20	3	15%
9	AcehTengah	30	4	13%
10	BandaAceh	30	4	13%
11	AcehSingkil	25	3	12%
12	AcehTenggara	30	3	10%
13	AcehSelatan	30	3	10%
14	AcehBarat	25	2	8,0%
15	Bireuen	40	3	7,5%
16	AcehTimur	40	3	7,5%
17	GayoLues	20	1	5,0%
18	AcehJaya	20	1	5,0%
19	AcehBaratDaya	25	1	4,0%
20	PidieJaya	25	1	4,0%
21	BenerMeriah	25	1	4,0%
22	AcehBesar	35	1	2,85%
23	AcehUtara	45	1	2,2%
24	DPR Aceh	81	9	11%
Total		731	83	11,35%

Source: KIP Aceh, 2019

The tabulation above shows that women's representation has not been significant to be said to have a bargaining position in influencing policy. The Aceh Party as the most trusted local party so far has not been serious in fighting for 30 percent representation at the provincial level. The reality is that the Aceh Party (PA) is only represented by 2 people. Another local party, namely the Aceh National Party (PNA), was also represented by 1 person (KIP Aceh: 2019).

While the results of the 2019 elections in Langsa City, PA only succeeded in sending 1 female legislator. The rest were represented by 4 women from several national parties. Representatives of female legislators get 5 seats or 20% of the 25 seats available. Judging from the composition of party seat acquisitions, it is known that local parties got 7 seats, namely; 2 seats belonged to the PNA and 5 seats to PA. A total of 18 seats were filled by a number of national parties (KIP Langsa: 2019). The lack of representation of women as the facts are interesting to study. Choosing Langsa City as the research location hopes to dissect the difficult challenges of meeting the 30 percent representation and explore the significance of the representation of women legislators from the point of view of citizens towards political parties. So that this study seeks to answer three main questions, namely; First explore the causes, factors and challenges of the difficulty of fulfilling female legislators, Second explore the views on the urgency of the representation of women legislators, and third reveal the actual role of local party legislators in Langsa City.

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Women's Political Representation

According to Handayani (1997:15) various forms of manifestations of gender inequality, including questions about marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and double workloads are still felt by women in domestic and public spaces. representation, at least due to two things. First, the "reluctance" and "inability" of the party to maximize women's wing organizations and develop the capabilities of existing cadres. Second, female candidates are no longer used as campaign sweeteners.

2.2 About Affirmative Action

Quoting Styaningsih (2012:152-153) Domestic roles which are considered inherent in women are also considered fatalistic for the existence of women's politics. The term affirmative action means positive discrimination or special steps taken to accelerate the achievement of justice and equality. According to Syarifah (2013) affirmative action or policy aims to promote equal opportunities for all citizens, including women. Affirmative action policies have been set forth in legal policies.

Even Law / No. 7 of 2017 concerning Elections as the latest regulation increasingly strengthens political parties to include women's representation in their establishment, management and designate female legislator candidates at least 30 percent.

Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) data as quoted by Scholastica Gerintya (2017) at the ASEAN level places Indonesia in 6th place in terms of women's representation in parliament. Meanwhile, at the international level, Indonesia's position is 89th out of 168 countries, far below Afghanistan, Vietnam, Timor Leste, and Pakistan. Gender and political representation must be fought continuously. From the point of view of the

literature, this is the basis for observations about women's political representation in Langsa City. Also, this study is a form of support and towards affirmative action so that women's political superiority is increasingly dignified as citizens of the world.

III. Research Method

The ethnic plurality or diversity in the society of Langsa City is the driving force behind why this study was conducted in Langsa City. The characteristics of the residents consist of Javanese, Malay, Minang, and Batak tribes, as well as the Acehese people in general, mainly from Pidie.

The lives of the residents are adaptive, politically minded, dynamic, and orderly, and are located close to the province of North Sumatra, which is the most crowded city in the East Aceh region. The context studied is the existence of political parties, the reality of women's representation, the causality of the fulfillment of female legislators, the challenges and urgency of female legislators from local parties.

IV. Result and Discussion

For the first time the local parties took part in the contest in the 2009 elections. A total of six parties passed the verification as election participants, namely; The Aceh Party (PA), the Safe and Prosperous Party (PAS), the United Aceh Party (PBA), the Aceh Dualat Party (PDA), the Aceh People's Party (PRA), and the Aceh People's Independent Voice Party (SIRA).

The Aceh Party and the Aceh Sovereign Party can send their representatives to the Aceh parliament (Acehtrend, 22 December 2017). In Langsa City, two local parties have succeeded in obtaining parliamentary seats, namely; Aceh Party and SIRA Party. Langsa City is divided into four electoral districts (dapil), each of which is 1 Langsa City, 2 East Langsa and Old Langsa Districts, 3 West Langsa Districts, and New Langsa Districts. The Aceh Party won the most seats, namely 7 seats. While the local party SIRA as an activist-based party won 1 seat (See Table 2)

Table 2. The seat of the Langsa City DPRK Political Party
Period 2009-2014

No	Parties	DP1	DP2	DP3	Identity of Parties		Total
					National	Local	
1	Partai Hanura	-	1	1	2	-	25 chairs
2	Partai Aceh	2	1	3	-	6	
3	Partai Amanat Nasional	1	-	1	2	-	
4	PPP	1	-	-	1	-	
5	Gerindra	-	-	1	1	-	
6	Partai Demokrat	1	1	2	4	-	
7	Partai SIRA	-	1	-	-	1	
8	PKS	-	1	1	2	-	
9	Partai Golkar	1	1	1	3	-	
10	PBR	-	-	1	1	-	
11	PDIP	-	-	1	1	-	
12	PKN	-	1	-	1	-	
Total/Dapil					18	7	

Source: processed data Juli 2022

In the 2014 election in Serambi Indonesia records (10 January 2013) there were 3 local parties that passed as election participants, namely; Aceh Party (PA), Aceh National Party (PNA) and Aceh Peace Party (PDA). The Aceh Party still gets a majority seat, but when compared to the 25 seats up for grabs, it is still dominated by the national party rather than the local party (See Table 3)

Table 3. DPRK Langsa Political Party Chair for the 2014-2019 Period

No	Parties	DP1	DP2	DP3	Amount of chairs		Total
					National	Local	
1	Partai Nasdem	-	1	1	2		25 chairs
2	PKS	1	-	1	2		
3	PDI Perjuangan	-	1	1	2		
4	Partai Golongan Karya	1	1	2	4		
5	Partai Gerindra	1	-	1	2		
6	Partai Demokrat	1	1	1	3		
7	Partai Amanat Nasional	-	-	1	1		
8	Partai Nurani Rakyat	1	1	1	3		
9	Partai Aceh	1	2	3	-	6	
Total/Dapil					19	6	

Source: KIP Langsa, Juli 2022

In the 2019 election, 4 local parties passed as election participants, namely; the Aceh Party (PA), the Aceh Regional Party (PDA), the Nanggroe Aceh Party (PNA), and the SIRA Party (Kompas, 19 February 2022). The Aceh Party retained its 7 seat position (See Tabel 4)

Table 4. Chairs of Political Parties DPRK Langsa Period 2019-2024

No	Parties	DP1	DP2	DP3	Amount of chairs		Total
					National	Local	
1	PKS	1	-	1	2	-	25 chairs
2	Partai Demokrat	1	1	2	4	-	
3	Partai Gerindra	1	1	1	3	-	
4	Partai Golkar	1	1	2	4	-	
5	Partai Aceh	1	2	2	-	5	
6	Partai Hanura	1	1	1	3	-	
7	Partai Nasional Aceh	-	1	1	-	2	
8	Partai Nasdem	-	-	1	1	-	
9	PDI Perjuangan	-	-	1	1	-	
Total/Dapil					18	7	

Source: KIP Kota Langsa, Juli 2022

During the three election periods, the Aceh Party was able to maintain the parliamentary threshold so that it could continue to participate in elections. The support for this political party created by former GAM is a form of new hope for Aceh to change, progress and prosper. The former GAM is expected to maintain peace and strengthen a dignified and responsible political process in accelerating the acceleration of socio-political, economic, religious and cultural development in accordance with the authority in UUPA No. 11 of 2006 concerning Special Autonomy for Aceh: 2021 (Usman, 2021).

4.1 Causality Electoral College Women Legislators

The survival of the Aceh Party in Langsa City is not without reason. The leadership of Mayor Langsa contributed to efforts to maintain the parliamentary threshold. In reality, the Aceh Party was only able to win one female legislator seat. Observations of Zulfadli Anwar, interviewed, June (19/2022) that the representation of women did not change significantly despite the 30 percent mandate of the law. It still takes extra struggle to produce female legislators in Langsa City. Of the total 25 seats available with a seat composition of 20:5 with a percentage of 80%: 20%, it shows that the affirmation of the quota of 30 percent of women's representation has not been fulfilled.

Tables 5.

No	Woman Legislator	Dapil	Partai Pengusung		Total
			Parnas	Parlok	
1	Hj.Rosmawati	II	-	Partai Aceh	1.777 voters
2	MelvitaSari	II	Gerindra	-	1.403 voters
3	Rosmaliah	II	Golkar	-	1.141 voters
4	Tengku Ratna Laila Sari	III	Demokrat	-	1.499 voters
5	Hj Sri Keumala Nurli	III	Nasdem	-	966 voters

Source: KIP Langsa, Juni 2022

The causality of their election, almost all of the sources stated that they fully supported the family approach. Zulfadli Anwar said the elected legislators were well known in their respective constituencies. They have personal modalities, namely; Rooted in terms of character, familiar and active in various community social activities (Interview, June 24, 2022). According to Nasruddin Abubakar, their choice is not influenced or influenced by the supporting party, but is supported by their prominent position as the driving force of social activities and gets full support from the family chain or relatives (Interview, June 25, 2022).

Yenni Yuniati (2017: 81) assesses the personality aspect as a popular public figure in their community base. The proximity of female candidates to local officials or leaders is also a factor that determines the selection, although it is not an absolute factor. In fact, the commitment of the supporting party cannot be fully expected if it wants to pass to parliament if it does not have a real basis. Syukri (KIP Commissioner of Langsa City) is of the opinion; the short campaign period is difficult to reach voters effectively, unless they can optimally take advantage of the close family network. He said; Reaching a broad voter base in a short time is impossible to do maximally. However, it is possible that female candidates were chosen because of the strength of social capital and family networks (Interview, June 25, 2022).

4.2 The Challenge of Fulfillment of Female Legislators

The contextualization in Langsa City is certainly different from other places. Ray Iskandar said that the quota for women's representation was not achieved because the strategy of political parties in selecting and determining potential candidates in the electoral district tends to be ambiguous. Third, female legislator candidates who are populist based or in their electoral districts are used as a strategy to challenge male candidates outside of other parties (Interview, June 25, 2022).

According to media activists, these three steps can change male egotism. Another reason is the lack of representation of female legislators due to weak monitoring chains on election day. Mahlil Andika, Former Student Activist of UIN Ar-Raniry, assessed that female candidates were fully dependent on party supervision. This condition can be cheated especially by the internal party itself during vote recapitulation. Financially strong candidates will buy votes during the calculation or condition the situation so that the transfer of votes is effective (Interview, June 25, 2022).

4.3 Understanding the Gender Struggle

Citing the records of the National Human Rights Commission (KomnasHAM: 2017) there are 12 critical and strategic areas of the gender mainstreaming agenda, including; (1) Women and poverty, (2) Education and training for women, (3) Women and health, (4) Violence against women, (5) Women and armed conflict, (6) Women and the economy, (7) Women and decision-making, (8) Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, (9) Human rights (Women, (10) Women and the media, (11) Women and the environment, and (12) Girls.

Regarding the framing of the gender struggle above one must be explained in the work program of female legislators. Within the scope of Langsa City, according to Zulfadli Anwar, there is no need to be grandiose about how gender-based programs can be actualized in local parties, and the function of local voices can be actualized. Here, the urgency of local parties is desired to be more contextual and relevant in voicing aspirations or influencing local-based matters. Women legislators are advised to map local interests based on women and gender sensitive.

4.4 Funnel Aspirations Citizens

Perhaps, policies that are specific to all political parties are fighting for women's rights, but things that are localistic in nature should be more understandable by local parties regarding the hopes and urgent needs to be fought for. Mahlil Andika's observations, the agenda championed by local parties is not yet clear. Local parties represented by only one person from the Aceh Party were mostly involved in social activities. According to Kamaruddin, the legislative candidate for the Indonesian Solidarity Party (PSI) DPR-RI in the 2019 general election, for him it is not too urgent, whether the legislator is from a local party or a national party, the most important thing is how we view women's representation in the Langsa City parliament. it understands and addresses contextual needs—that's what we need to explore.

The needs and urgency of women legislators, both today and in the future, namely; First, there is an affirmative action strategy from political parties so that the purpose of women's representation can be realized. Second, substantively political parties are able to respond more realistically to something that has an impact on women's interests. Third, for local parties, currently, female legislators are able to negate their role and function as constituent bridges (Interview, 24 June 2022)

4.5 The Existence of the Legislator's Role

Outlining the existence of the role of female legislators ideally exceeding 30 percent so that rivalry occurs in fair play. According to Kamaruddin, this is not easy. The Assistant Special Staff for Legal Affairs at the Office of the Special Staff for the President emphasized that the policy is difficult to realize if the legal standing is not balanced. Women's representation must be more adequate in quantity and quality, because only then will it be easy to oversee policies, from the process of absorption of aspirations on the

basis of society, onwards to be fought for into policy decisions or decisions in the parliament (Interview, 24 June 2022).

Kamaruddin, who is currently returning home, assesses that the representation of 5 female legislators is not ideal, although it depends on their personal capacity. Meanwhile, Fadhil Rahmi, who is also a resident of Langsa, Member of the Council for the Regional Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPD-RI) for the 2019-2024 period, is of the opinion that the existence of women's politics cannot be seen in terms of quantity only as a regulatory requirement, but on quality. This means that even though they have not yet reached 30 percent, their driving force is able to bring about change—at least on basic issues rather than women's interests (Interview, June 25, 2022).

4.6 Touching Basic Needs

The urgency of women's representation is not entirely due to the fact that more women are represented by parliamentarians than women. It is what becomes urgent in the struggle to touch the interests and answer the public's needs or not, if it is substantive, I think male legislators will also be on the side of speaking out for the things that female legislators should fight for. According to Dayyan, the most important thing is to touch the public interest, that's for sure. The most basic things, such as the Posyandu Program for example, have an impact on mothers and toddlers. Dayyan emphasized; "if what the public hope is fighting for, for example the Posyandu Program for Toddlers and Mrs. Hamilagar continues to run in every village, I'm sure I will get the full support of male legislators. Moreover, regarding maternal and child health, it is sensitive and crucial. The role of women legislators is of course to closely oversee so that the budget and program realization run optimally (Interview, 24 June 2022).

4.7 Contextualization of Women Legislators

The elaboration of the role of local party-based women legislators as described above finds its context when receiving information directly from key informants.

Rosmawati, a local party legislator from the Aceh Party, explained some interesting things at her house. He was asked by the Aceh Party to nominate himself. The general chairman of the Aceh Party, Usman Abdullah and the Mayor of Langsa, asked him to be willing to be nominated. His consideration was carried out because he was considered to have an inner attachment to the community (constituents) in his constituency.

Regarding the thing that is most urgently fought for by the Aceh Party legislators, is the thing that their voter base hopes for the most. Knowledge Indonesia (LIPI), entitled 'Women, Political Parties, and Parliament: A Study of the Performance of Women Legislative Members at the Local Level', at least serves as a material for reflection on the reality that is developing in Langsa City.

According to Siregar, Sarah Nuraini in Luky Sandra (2012: 269-271) in Chapter VII reviews the theme; Women, Political Parties, and Parliament in Indonesia: An Analysis", concluded that women's political activities have not been able to offer a different political culture. It was explained that women have not been able to show themselves as agents of more constructive change.

Their role in parliament has been postponed to just carrying out formalistic tasks because their capabilities are not proven. Women in parliament have not shown significant policy contributions. The functions of legislation, oversight, and the correlated budget in terms of gender have not been maximized. The presence of female board members is said to have not become a political force because there is no ability or courage to articulate critical ideas and have a regulatory impact and affirmation of gender sensitive policies.

V. Conclusion

The various points of view that have been presented have come to the conclusion that women's representation as legislators is a must. Even though women's representation is still minimal, social, cultural and religious roles are attractive approaches.

The fact shows that women are pro-political citizens, but on the other hand, the internal conditions of political parties should be critical. In other aspects, the perspectives expressed by contextual sources, dialectics will be a necessity, the challenges of representation and strengthening of women's political capacity, it is realized that it still requires the struggle of all parties. It is clear that this research has not critically examined the internalization of political parties with their various causalities in an effort to fulfill women's political representation in parliament.

Even so, the residents of Langsa City consider political parties to be inconsistent in backing up the struggles of female candidates in gaining parliamentary seats. The internalization of political parties, both based on local parties and based on national parties, places female candidates as a requirement to fulfill party verification to participate in the elections.

The commitment to nominate female candidates is not directly proportional to the composition of representatives who pass parliament. There are still many unexplored issues related to crucial policies that have an impact on the interests of women in this study.

The red ink of this research is about the approach to kinship or family networks, which are the main factors in the selection of female candidates. This should be a consideration for political parties to commit to meeting 30 percent of women's representation in parliament. Ambiguous attitudes, contradictions with public expectations, ignoring the demands of regulation, selfishness and patriarchal culture of discrimination, as well as the political marginalization of women who are still being maintained may be buried.

Political parties are worthy of carrying potential female candidates to be elected from the aspect of social networks and family kinship, so that the representation of women in parliament is not impossible to fulfill.

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