

ARTICLE

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, OBSTACLE AND FACILITIES

Maryam Shamsaei

Assistant Professor of Islamic Education Department, Faculty of Medicine, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, IRAN

ABSTRACT

One of the most important question is about the women's political participation and producing the required field for them. It is possible to investigate this issue and to found a suitable reply for it. Actually, it is vital to recognize the women's position and their roles to do recognize the women's position and their roles to do this, women should try consciously with their powers to demand their appeal in different levels, since, they can't meet their real identity and social in addition to individual development unless they a basic changes in their evolutionary process. Nowadays, the world has become as a communicational small village at the second millennium. Further, the human's problems such as women's issues cannot be solved by national and group policy. It is obvious that the women include half population of the world. Thus, the global planers and politicians should determine the special position of the women in creating the strategy in order to attain a unique and complete development. The aim of this study was to investigate the systematic and exact women's position in their political participations and their roles to improve completely. moreover, the purpose was to specify the theoretical and practical points of this view in order to show it's obstacles and facilities, and also suitable strategies in addition to create some fields for women's more participations.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the concept of political participation has undergone the terminologically profound changes. Previously, participation just meant the interference for one's participating or taking part in an affair. However, it isn't defined as a behavior based on one's willing to interfere in an affair at present time. Political participation which is one of the most prominent ones means appearance in election field whether to elect or to be elected, in order to interfere in decision making area to decide about major and minor political issues relating to the social ends. Political participation has different levels, from the lowest that is to vote and to the highest one that is to have the political or official rank. On the other hand, political participation beings from voting then it contains having little interest toward politic, participation in informal political sections, dismissal membership in a quasi-political organization, and looking for the political and official status. As the women are half of the human societies, they must participate effectively in such issues as political processes. In recent years, all planners consider to the importance of the women's roles in the political and economic activities to develop the country and to revitalize the government's unit and their countries' ability toward achievement.

The concepts of existing research are: political participation, common political participation, particular political participation, the lack of political participation, and socio-political participation. The following statements are the explanation of them.

The major question of the research are:

- 1- Is women's political participation a social necessity?
- 2- What are the obstacles on the way of women's political participation?
- 3- What are the appropriate strategies for women's political participation?

The main research hypothesis was based on:

- 1- It is essential to strengthen the women's political participation because it is considered as a determinant factor for the social development of Iran. In addition, the less attention toward this issue, the more delay will be put on the development history of this country. As a result, the golden opportunity may not gain at all.
- 2- (A)- The women's obedience from their husbands in their political behavior.
(B)- Women's conservatism as a political point of view.
(C)- Women's conventionality as a political point of view.
(D)- The politic elusion feeling of the women as a political point of view.
- 3- (A)- The creation of the required opportunities to establish feminine societies, institutions, and organizations to become aware of existing qualities and potentials.
(B)- To hold the educational courses for women and to make them familiar with their rights. To prepare the backgrounds to cause women's self-belief and awareness of their individual abilities and potentials.
(C)- To hold the seminars and to form educational workshops in order to make managers, politicians, and planners familiar with the sex category and also the benefits of women's more effective presence in high ranks of decision making.
(D)- To encourage of the managers who uses the women in high levels of the organization and makes required opportunities for them to show their own potentials.
(E)- introducing the superior women in addition to compare their performance with the same level men.
(F)- To do all of the mottoes which governing body promised to do about women before the election.
(G)- To investigate the scientific researches about women especially such issue as their occupation, management, and role in the development of the country.

KEY WORDS

Political participation, common political participation, particular political participation, lack of political participation, social political participation

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*Corresponding Author

Email:
Shamsaei2008@yahoo.com

Political participation

According to social sciences encyclopedia, the political participation includes the voluntary the political participation includes the voluntary and conscious activities conducted by the members of a society to elect the governors either directly or indirectly toward the formation of the general policies. The authors of sociology dictionary defined it as the participation of the individual in political affairs leading to the election of the political leaders and designating the general one or affecting it [1]. Guglielmo Ferrero also writes that democracy is just the principle of conducted in the society in order to solve the government's problems. The sovereignties agree with each other to select a few informed individuals to govern the public gains [2].

Common political participation

Common political participation, called partial or selective participation, presenting mainly in the societies in which political and democratic civil organizations participation are dominant .In existing society in Iran also because of the shortage as well as the lack age of the varieties in the different political dimensions and forms, it is obvious that participation in the election is the chief index of political participation in this country.

Particular political participation

The forms and dimensions of the particular political participation range includes membership of the political groups and parties, collecting the vote for candidates, registering for being in charge at a political post, giving financial aid to the election centers, encouraging others to vote a given individual, presenting speech, writing articles, taking part in the political demonstrations, taking refuge in a sanctuary, going on strike, and so on.

The absence of the political participation

The absence of the political participation means the complete refusal from the participation in political relationship of an individual in addition to his (or her) actually and fields. The individual completely negates political issues. While rejecting the dominant political structure, the person clearly is unwilling to take part in political activities.

Sociopolitical participation

The political participation will be the best social activity and also the base of the life if the participation in the political affairs means the consciously participate and interface in the political affairs of the society. The political participation belongs to the people. Moreover, it is all of the people's right. Actually the women's political participation is very important in a community because it results to decrease the durable development indices for the United Nations cited "we know that it's important can't be achieved unless the women have their shares in it. That is, the barriers on the women's participation in decision making must be removed and their political and human rights should be thoroughly warranted." [3]

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study's method is descriptive – explaining, along with critical view has.

RESULTS

Generalities about the women's political participation:

Historic background

The precedent of the women's political movement and its ideas dated back the France Revolution Olympe de Gouges, the French author of declarations about the citizen and women's rights to go on the oration platform as the rights to be executed In 1791[4]". Over the France Revolution, women engaged to shape the revolutionary clubs. The fans of the feminism protested to the National Assembly and wrote "you destroyed all previous biases; however, you allow to remain the most common and the society to be deprived of the position, respect, and particularly the attendance in the Assembly." [5].

Over the first half of the nineteenth century, the adherents of the nineteenth century, the adherents of San Simon & Fevrie, two early socialists, supported the women's right. At the second half of equality in the social and political affairs was clearly proposed. Generally, the first women's movements were triggered by

the small groups of educated women from middle class of the society. As a result, their movements were not popular.

In Iran, this movement dated back to the late of the nineteenth century especially during Iran constitutional movement. Due to the paternalism culture of the traditional society, the dominant perspective toward women was contemptuous. So, the women could have no opportunity to participate in political activities in Iran at that time. [6].

Women's role in politic world

In recent years, women have made considerable strides in most countries, yet their movement was along with many vacillations. In a probe with hundreds of women who were managers in more than thirty countries, it was suggested that they tended to work at the private companies than the political and official ones. The most competent and effective women prefer to be away of the politic and to hold a nongovernmental company. This is regrettable since they must be useful in the global issues and must utilize their merits and thoughts in the political affairs.

According to a recent report of world economic assembly about 115 countries, the sex gap between men and women were filled about 90 percent in educational and hygiene fields, nevertheless this rate reduced at 15 percent in political affairs of the countries throughout the world. Further, the recent reports have suggested that only 17 percent of the parliamentary positions of the world and 14 present departmental ones were women. Moreover, most of them have been resulted from their relatives. The U.S also follows these patterns, from 100 senate members just there are 16 women and 71 women from 435 congress members. However, the grade of the U.S.A about this matter is 68 from 189 in the world. This country is even after a few Latin American countries.

This is different about nongovernmental organizations in which women are at the high levels of leadership and there are fewer barriers on their ways. In the U.S. there are ten million women in 230 nongovernmental organizations. Women also lead many philanthropic organizations such as Bill, Melinda Gits, and Ford Foundations. The chancellor of Harward, M.I.T, and Prinston universities are also women.

Most of the countries follow the same pattern. After the former Soviet Union had collapsed, the number of the nongovernmental organization was highly increased. The main pivot of them has been lately the women. In the East European parliaments. In these countries, this amount was approximately 33 percent over the communism territory. In 1997, this rate decreased to 17.5 percent of nongovernmental organizations in Kyrgyzstan are managed by the women, but even ones of them doesn't participate I the parliament at the end of former U.S.R in south Korea, the rate about nongovernmental organizations is 80 percent and about the women's participation in parliament is less than 14 percent. This is also true in Africa. Although women have advanced mostly in managing nongovernmental organizations, their experiences also must be used in political affairs[7]. One of the previous president candidates in Sierra Leone was a woman called Zeinab Bangoor. She said " women's real power is not in their social activities but is in their political decision making."[8]

The women's participation achievements in politics

There are many considerable achievements in participating of the women within the politic filed.

According to a research of world Banks, there are less economic and political corruption. Another research suggested that women receive a bribe less than men. Uri Genzi conducted a research on a college in San Di Ego University; he claimed that women are more reliable than men. Electing of the women for leading situation will be along with a good politico-economic situation. There is a significant relationship between the women's strengths and the economic competition increase [8]. Augusto Lopez-Claros, Previously he was Chief Economist and Director of the Global Competitiveness Program at the World Economic Forum in Geneva, presented the findings of a 2016 World Bank report on "Women, Business, and the Law," said "the North European countries found out that the presence of the women I found out that the presence of the women In political positions has many valuable ad economic achievements. In addition, the countries which don't pay attention to their human resources will previously destroy their competitive potentials."[9]

While women were conducting the civil societies, the moral standards were considered more than men. Mrs. Hannah Riley Bowles, the profession of Harvard university in general politics, stated that American women negotiate 15 percent less than the men when they discuss about their professional interests; however, the naturally spend much more time when they talk as a representative of the others. And advocate their client in a positive way.

Further, the women who negotiate about political issues try to resolve the conflict completely rather than to settle it partially. They follow a brood definition of the security including social security, economic safety, and food as well as water security. In addition they protect the feminine sex in the war. They also negotiate with the old enemies more powerfully than the men.

The barriers and the strategies of the women's political participation

Cultural barrier for women's political participation

Sociologists believe that there are mostly some patterns about the cognition of the women's political behavior as following:

- 1- Women follow their husbands in the political behavior.

- 2- Women are conservative about political issues
- 3- Women are traditional in political issues
- 4- Women evade politics

It is implied that above statements were man-centered because there were a paternal system at previous historical conditions. Susan Berk & Jane Gross Holter (1974) stated that most man-centered investigators mostly interpreted the data in terms of their previous ideas about women's political behavior. It must be cited another point that there is an inevitable principle considering the experienced political behavior is unique to the men. Accordingly, it is thought that women's political interests are embedded in their maternal frame. As a result, their political potential will be limited. It seems that over the history paternalism culture not only has been a barrier to the presence of the women in political field but also has interpreted the politics in a way that reworded the man's intentions and interests. The men have always believed that family and morality interests are related to the women [10]. This has actually been a barrier on the way of the women's growth in the political affairs.

Thus, the human culture has yielded many barriers for women's participation in politics by two ways as following:

- 1- The dominate paternalism culture doesn't provide opportunity and potential activities of the women in socio-political areas through its images such as women's inability, lack of management, weakness, etc. even if it prepares such a situation, it will be hard with value.
- 2- The arena of political participation was made so that it is formed just in terms of masculine interests, and engaging to the women's problems is considered as a feminine issue!! In other words, the political discussion of the women is considered insignificant as all of the previous time. In Iran, the women's political problems are allowed to be considered in a limitation determined by the men for them. For example: How they are allowed to talk about human rights and particularly about women's rights just as a person and a human being and not as a mother or as a wife, and so on. Do the women have the right of life, freedom, and speech just as a human being? If politics means the technique of the affairs management, where is the place of the women's issues in these affairs?

The idea concept of the politics organizing the human life based on the pleasant and logical principles so that the imagination of power assertion is completely removed. But this isn't really true about what actually known as politics. Nowadays, politics is the method of governing a country and also includes all authority structures and plans which a group exerts another ones.

In the paternalism societies, the men have control on all organizations, industries, technologies, sciences, as well as political and military positions specially the police. The relationship between men and women are similar to that is among races and are base on excreting the force against the others through the governing ones. Therefore, the paternalism culture is a power impose system that makes and exerts for the individuals some roles considering are divine and natural [11]. Accordingly, the women's political participation has been discussed for years. Therefore all rules about this issue are superficial and temporal until the existing culture and mental structures in the society be undergone basically the positive alteration about the women. In addition, the women also must believe their capabilities, merits, and potentials. They should believe that their tendencies, needs, and appeals as another half of the society must be considered and they should have the same rights as the men. Since they are the complementary parts for the men. Consequently, there is no complete development in a society unless paying real attention to the women's tendencies, needs, and capabilities.

Appropriate strategies for women's political participation

In order to solve above problems and to prepare more suitable conditions to activate the half of the society, the following strategies can be offered:

- 1- Actually, the main key of success is the group Endeavour of the women themselves.
- 2- The women's organizations, private or public, must be work in a concentrate way to have considerable power to change the cultural conditions and also to make the organizations so as to enhance the women's political abilities. These networks must be established and reinforced based on group profits.
- 3- The United Nations plays on important role for offering a widespread strategy to strengthen the women's ability.
- 4- The real political movement of the women must be spontaneous, competitive, organized, group, and based on a suitable ideology and women's movement itself. If the women are political participation performs in terms of other social groups and actually women's political participation. Further, this participation isn't necessarily occurred and enhanced by omitting the legal barriers and gradually social reconstructing.
- 5- It is important for the governments to consider a share and position for the women in governmental posts in its all levels. Although these shares at first may be the high political post such as the member of the general assembly, it is necessary to consider having positions in the middle and low level of the society in order that creating the necessary opportunities for women's organizations and informing its existing potential.
- 6- The educational courses must be held to prepare a background for women so that they can familiar with their rights and self-confidences, in addition can be aware about their individual capabilities and potentials.

- 7- Holding seminars and forming the educational workshops is important to familiarize managers and politicians with sex category and the profits of women's effective presence in the high rank of decision making.
- 8- The managers using women at the high level of the company must be encouraged and promoted to prepare a situation for confirming women's merits.
- 9- The best women should be introduced. Further, their performance must be compared with their similar-rank men.
- 10- The authorities including the president and senate representatives must carry out their election mottos about women.
- 11- The scientific researches about women's problem specially their occupation, management, and their role in the developing of the country.

CONCLUSION

The author of this investigation tried to enquire the principal questions as following:

- 1- Is the women's political participation a social necessity?
- 2- What is the barriers on the way of women's social participation?
- 3- What is the suitable strategies to the women's political participation?

It seems that women is the half parts of the society as an accurate point of view, they exist in all stages of the society such as birth, growth, maturation, and prosperity. In addition, they must do their citizenship duties in the historical areas. Women's the political participation is a social duty in which both women and society involved. The core of the women's political acquaintance requires for the development of the society. Hence, the necessity for reinforcing the women's political participation is not a accidental phenomenon making the social disturbance, but is endogenous that gain the ability of appearance through positive interaction with other effective powers in a society. This revitalized the new historical era. Therefore, women are half of the society, and the social planers must pay attention to utilize their powers to improve the society. The women's political participation is an inevitable necessity without which no development can be made in a society. Social participation is a part of citizenship duties. The authorities are responsible to create a good condition to encourage women to do that. It is essential for a society to employ all human potentials to develop. Thus, the society must pay much attention to the women demand and look for some levels of political participation for them. One of the barriers for women's political participation is that they always obey their husband especially in politics. In their political decision making, the women are not independent and follow their husbands. The other barrier is the conservative political patterns of behavior of the women. According to the many studies about this matter, in all countries, the women support the conservative parties more than men. Further, they are not interested in politics and mostly avoid participating in politics equals to the average interest of the men. In addition, the women's participation in election totally is less than men. They are more ethical toward politics than logical. The politics is considered the following of the personal interests through masculine competition and occupational one. While, the vote of the women is based on moral motivations rather than their interests and ambitions. However, their role in political life cannot be ignored especially present era, the women appeal their demands and follow it. They participate more in the social and politico-economic movement than before.

There are some appropriate strategies to participate of the women in political affairs:

- 1- The basic work of the women's success in current world actually will be occurred by themselves. They must engage in the group forms rather than individually.
- 2- The women's organizations, nongovernment, and popular ones can considerably change the cultural condition and also create the organizational condition to improve the women's political abilities if they work in a concentrate way.
- 3- The United Nation, U.N, plays an important role to do this in a broad range.
- 4- In fact, the real women's political movement must be spontaneous, competitive, group, organized, and also based on the proper ideology of the women's movement. If their political participation is based on the other social group stimulation particularly the men, it won't be real political participation of the women. Further, the resolution of the legal barrier and the gradually social restoration don't necessary cause the improving of women's political participation in political life.
- 5- It is important for the government to consider a share in the all governmental posts for the women at all levels. Although this will be at first about the women's membership in assembly, it must be at the middle or low level of the political posts. The required opportunity to establish the women's institution, body, or organization for being aware of the existing potential is necessary.
- 6- It is essential to hold the educational courses for women to make them familiar with their rights. In addition to prepare the background for women to believe themselves and make them familiar with their individual capabilities.
- 7- Holding the seminars and educational workshops is necessary to make managers and politicians familiar with the sex category the profits of the women's presence I high rank of decision making.
- 8- The managers who utilize the women at the high level of their organization must be encouraged I order to require the required opportunity for confirming their abilities.

- 9- Introducing the best women and comparing their performance with their same. Ranke men are good.
- 10- The authorities including president and assembly member must carry out their election mottos about women.
- 11- The scientific investigations about women's occupation, management, and their role in developing the country must be done.

The point of view of Islam about above issues is as following:

Islam not only agrees with the women's political participation but also is one of the founders of that view. Motahari, told "the Islamic society and republic won't be durable without the women's participation".[15]

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest.

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