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**REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS:
WORLDWIDE REVIEW**

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To understand the relationship between women and politics and the form of this relationship, it is necessary to first explain what politics, representation, and participation are, and then to reveal how it interacts with women. The concept of political representation is a process in which one individual or group (the representative) acts on behalf of other individuals or groups (the represented) in making or influencing authoritative decisions, policies, or laws for a polity [1, p.11696]. Herbert McClosky refers to political participation as "those voluntary activities by which members of a society share in the selection of rulers and, directly or indirectly, in the formation of public policy. These activities typically include voting, seeking information, discussing and proselytizing, attending meetings, contributing financially, and communicating with representatives. The more 'active' forms of participation include formal enrolment in a party, canvassing and registering voters, speech writing and making, working on campaigns, and competing for public and party office" (2018) [2].

Politics - a way of ruling divided societies by a process of free discussion and without undue violence (Bernard, 2000) [3,4]. Concepts and facts that evoke politics through these definitions are power, interest groups, rights, equality, citizenship, state, institutions, democracy, elections, parliament, etc. Of course, it is unthinkable for women, as members of a community, to remain outside the mentioned political sphere and the phenomena related to it and remain unaffected by it. Therefore, all actions, relationships, and decisions taken in the political process will affect women as well as men. It is argued that women's participation and representation in politics are necessary for them to have a say in the effects of these decisions on women.

However, why is it necessary to understand this relationship to politics by dividing society into two different categories like men and women? The answer to this is pretty straightforward. Throughout history and in every community, the positions and roles of women and men in social and economic relations have been shaped differently. This difference is the difference between the existence, relations, rights, and responsibilities of these groups in the political sphere caused it to be separated. This social ideology based on masculine domination is called the patriarchal structure. The reason for this difference is due to the biological fertility of the woman, the children are equipped with a responsibility that is shaped at the basis of the family and the house, and the movement area in this environment. On the other hand, men are positioned on a different ground than women, with the responsibility of working outside the home, making decisions, and fighting when necessary called the public sphere.

An important point that should be addressed in this article is the issue of women's position in political life, in particular women's political participation and representation. Until the Women's Rights Movement in 1848, it was not possible for women to have a position in politics, neither in terms of mentality nor physique. These changes did not just happen spontaneously. Women themselves made these changes happen, very deliberately. Women have not been the passive recipients of miraculous changes in laws and human nature [4]. However, the demands

in the voting struggle affected the form of political life for both women and men. Now, in an election process where women are also voters and then candidates, it would be one of the strategic moves to show female candidates from time to time and to turn to the vote of women voters. For example, in the November 2016 Presidential elections, Hillary Clinton targeted her campaign on women. But in focusing so heavily on women, Clinton all but ceded much of the male vote, especially the white male vote, to Trump. Clinton struggled particularly with white, non-college-educated women [5,19]. As this example shows, is expected to have distinct differences between women and men in terms of gender variables. Also, according to Lebetz, the presence of women in the political sphere of Russian society is difficult, insufficiently active, and less popular than the participation of men, which leads to an asymmetry in the distribution of power by gender. Probably, the reasons for this state are historically determined by the fact that the overwhelming majority of political and legal institutions were created by the male half of the population [6,45]. Today, the most visible and institutional places of execution of political structuring and functioning are parliaments and election processes. In the historical process, due to its capacity to influence political power, the main target of the demands of the political right of the women's movement has developed with a focus on parliament and national politics. Therefore, to see the relationship between women and their position in politics, many studies make a comparison and inference by looking at women's participation in general elections and numerical representation in parliaments. Such a framework can help us first to see the historical position of women in the political scene, and secondly to understand the role and effects of women in political decision-making. Of course, this is one aspect of the relationship between women and political life.

Besides, the status of women in political parties, non-governmental organizations, unions, associations, business organizations, various pressure groups, at different electoral and representation levels, the demands and content of the women's movement or gender equality policies are important for the relationship between women and politics.

The process that has passed since the 19th century, when women began to gain political rights, shows us that women's participation in politics and their representation in the parliament is increasing. However, this increase is still insufficient to say that quantitative and qualitative equality has been achieved in this field. For example, according to the Inter-parliamentary Union in 2021, the female representation rate in the parliament worldwide there are 9,908 women in the lower house, which is 25.2 percent. Similarly, in the upper house, women won 1,844 seats, which is 24.8 percent. In general, it is known that by combining the lower and upper chambers around the world, women occupy only 25.5 percent of the seats, which is a very low figure in terms of the number of women [7].

Moreover, it is obvious that this situation is not evenly distributed in the world geography and it follows a decreasing course towards higher positions such as ministries and presidencies. Women serve as Heads of State/Government in only 22 countries in nearly 200 countries around the world is only 27.4. Just 10 countries have a woman Head of State, and 13 countries have a woman head of Government [8]. While the distribution of women in national assemblies of the top 15 countries with the highest female representation rate according to 2021 data. Kazakhstan in this ranking 70 among 193 countries. The highest rates are in countries with legal women's quotas, such as Rwanda, Cuba, United Arab Emirates [9]. This proves that one of the important equality strategies in the political field is the quota practice.

A critical aspect of the demands for women's participation in political life lies in the explanation of why this is desired and necessary. Particularly, the desire for women to vote and to have seats in the parliament stems from the necessity of being included in the power to get a share in the sharing of political and social outcomes. As mentioned, depending on the gender positions formed by historical and social processes, women have different life experiences, needs, and different problems and interests arising from men. This situation may require men and women to take different political attitudes and positions. The political representation of these interests may cause them to be visible and therefore taken into account in the policy-making

process. However, as these interests and demands are not known by men who have not experienced this experience and cannot be defended effectively, it is believed that the presence of women in decision-making mechanisms is critical for the defense of collective and private women's interests.

Many demands of women such as inheritance, custody, education, working conditions, and voting rights were deemed unnecessary for a long time in political representation mechanisms where men believed they represented the interests of women, and these demands were ignored. It can be said that this situation has not changed completely today. Representation of women is necessary for the specific needs and desires of women, from daily life to international problems, to be heard, seen, and reflected in decisions. Moreover, even if the woman is not an elected act that specifically represents women's interests, her symbolic presence produces a positive effect in favor of women, like young girls who want to become doctors and become ministers when they grow up. The effect of women in legislative organs, as well as women's organizations, in the transformation of combating violence against women and gender inequality into state policies, cannot be denied.

Even if a narrow definition of politics is made within the framework of rights and responsibilities, it becomes clear that there is a different relationship between women and politics than men. Women's suffrage struggle, women's demands for equal rights in inheritance and children, working conditions and wages, divorce in marriage, and equitable property sharing reveal that women's relations with the political are different from men. Moreover, the fact that the rights in these areas are drawn in an equal framework on the legal grounds in many countries today does not mean that the unequal position based on this difference and the depth of the relationship between women and politics has decreased. For example, while the fundamental problems of women such as violence against women, polygamy, stealing the bride, and abortion discussions that exist in different parts of the world and our country reveal how many political problems seem to be private / family issues. Within the framework of these examples, the demand of feminists that “the personal is political” is to reveal that many issues regarding women, especially the issues of violence, oppression, and power, which are veiled under the guise of family and private life, are the subject of the political field. Violence against women is associated with high costs in the socio-economic sphere and health care both for each member of society and for the whole society as a whole and is one of the key social mechanisms by which women are forced to occupy a subordinate position in the hierarchy of social relations [10,47]. It provides the perspective we need to see that it is a political issue.

To summarise, the essence of the relationship between women and politics is, on the one hand, understanding the power relationship between men and women ideologically. On the other hand, the relationship between women and politics is to underline that the struggle against inequalities created by this form of power is an issue that requires action in the field of politics.

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