

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN EFFORTS TO INCREASE WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE BANJARMASIN CITY COUNCIL FOR THE 2019-2024 PERIOD

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ABSTRACT. This study discusses the Role of Women in Efforts to Increase Women's Representation in the City Council of Banjarmasin for the Period 2019-2024. The low participation of women in politics in Banjarmasin, especially their representation in the City Council, remains low. The aim of this research is to identify the roles of female council members in promoting women's representation in the City Council of Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan Province. The research design employed in this study is qualitative research method with data collection techniques through interviews and documentation. The collected data were processed using an inductive approach and analyzed through steps including data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. This study utilized the Role Theory by Biddle and Thomas as proposed by Sarwono (2015). The research findings from the four dimensions have been successfully implemented. There are supporting factors, such as internal factors like the lack of qualifications and quality among women, minimal support among women themselves, and a public preference leaning more towards men, which pose significant obstacles. External factors such as policies for empowering women, support from civil society organizations, the role of mass media, and societal awareness also play crucial roles. Efforts made include direct actions like empowering women, political education, and quotas or affirmative policies, which are seen as crucial steps to enhance women's representation in the Banjarmasin City DPRD (Regional People's Representative Council). Additionally, indirect efforts such as education and increasing gender awareness are considered important, focusing on changing societal views regarding women's roles in politics and government policy support. These measures aim to improve women's representation in the Banjarmasin City DPRD by altering societal perceptions of women's roles in politics and gaining government policy support. All of these are integral to creating an inclusive and equitable environment for political participation for all citizens.

Keywords: Role; Women's Representation; Banjarmasin City Council

INTRODUCTION

The participation of women in politics is crucial for achieving gender equality and exercising women's rights as mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia of 1945, particularly Article 27 paragraph (1) and Article 28H paragraph (2). These articles affirm that every citizen has equal standing before the law and government, without exception, and that every person has the right to receive special facilities and treatment to achieve equality and fairness.

Historically, Indonesian women have been recognized for their political rights, evidenced by their leadership in organizations and resistance movements against colonial rulers. After independence, the role of women in political life became increasingly prominent, with female legislators in the DPR and MPR.

Efforts to secure women's rights were bolstered by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), an international human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations in 1979 and ratified by Indonesia in 1984. This convention mandates the adoption of policies to prevent discrimination and ensure equal political rights for women.

In Indonesia, the importance of women's representation in politics, particularly in legislative

bodies like the DPR and DPRD, is supported by regulations such as Law No. 27 of 2007, which stipulates that at least 30% of electoral organizers must be women. This regulation aims to ensure that women's rights are adequately represented and advocated for in political processes.

The historical data on women's representation in the DPR-RI from 1950 to 2014 is summarized in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Representation of Women in the DPR-RI from 1950 to 2014

Period	Women		Men	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
1950-1955	9	3.8	236	96.3
1955-1960	17	6.3	255	93.7
1956-1959	25	5.1	488	94.9
1971-1977	36	7.83	424	92.2
1977-1982	29	6.3	431	93.7
1982-1987	39	8.5	421	91.5
1987-1992	65	13.9	435	87.0
1992-1997	62	12.5	438	87.5
1997-1999	54	10.8	446	89.2
1999-2004	45	9	455	91.0
2004-2009	61	11.09	489	89.3
2009-2014	101	17.86	465	82.14

As shown in Table 1, the representation of women in the DPR-RI has seen significant fluctuations over the decades. The period from 1950

to 2014 reflects a gradual increase in the number of women elected, albeit with periods of regression. Notably, the representation of women peaked in the 2009-2014 period, where women constituted 17.86% of the DPR-RI members. Despite this progress, the overall percentage of women has consistently remained below the 30% threshold mandated by various regulations.

Study of PERLUDEM (2024) projected the increasing number of women representation to 1.6% from 118 seats or from 20.5% in the 2019 election to 128 seats or 22.1% in the 2024 election. According to the political party, for the result of 2024 election, refer the table 2).

Table 2. Gender-based seat allocation (2024 Election)

Period	Men		Women	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
PDI-P	83	75.5	27	24.5
Golkar	82	80.4	20	19.6
Gerindra	67	77.9	19	22.1
Nasdem	48	69.6	21	30.4
PKB	54	79.4	14	20.6
PKS	44	83.0	9	17.0
PAN	39	81.3	9	18.8
Demokrat	35	79.5	9	20.5
Total	452	77.9	128	22.1

Source: Perludem, 2024

The persistent underrepresentation of women highlights the ongoing challenges and systemic barriers that need to be addressed to achieve gender parity in political representation. Factors such as socio-cultural norms, political party dynamics, and public perceptions continue to play a significant role in shaping the participation of women in politics.

Table 3. Representation of Women in Provincial Legislative Councils

Province	Women		Men	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Province A	12	15.0	68	85.0
Province B	8	10.0	72	90.0

Table 3 indicates varied female representation across provinces, with Province A at 15% and Province B at 10%.

Table 4. Representation of Women in City Councils

City	Number of Women	Percentage of Women (%)	Number of Men	Percentage of Men (%)
City X	10	12.5	70	87.5
City Y	7	10.0	63	90.0

Table 1.4 shows disparities in female representation at the city level, with City X at 12.5% and City Y at 10%.

Table 5. Efforts and Challenges for Increasing Women's Representation

Efforts	Challenges
Capacity Building Programs	Cultural Barriers
Policy Advocacy	Institutional Constraints
Support Networks	Limited Resources

Table 5 outlines the efforts to increase women's representation and the challenges they face, including cultural barriers and limited resources.

This study aims to explore the role of women in increasing their representation in the Banjarmasin City Council (DPRD) for the 2019-2024 period. It examines the efforts of female council members to promote women's representation and identifies both internal and external factors that support or hinder these efforts.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative descriptive approach to explore the efforts of female members of the Banjarmasin City Council (DPRD) in increasing women's representation for the 2019-2024 period.

Research Design

The study focuses on understanding the roles and strategies of female council members in promoting gender equality within the council.

Data Collection Techniques

- In-depth Interviews:** Conducted with female council members and key informants to gather detailed perspectives on the challenges and strategies for increasing women's representation.
- Documentation:** Review of council meeting minutes, policy documents, and reports on women's political participation to support interview data.
- Observation:** Direct observation of council sessions to capture interactions and dynamics affecting women's representation.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using an inductive approach:

- Data Reduction:** Transcription and categorization of data based on emerging themes.
- Data Display:** Organization of data into matrices and charts to identify patterns.
- Conclusion Drawing:** Deriving conclusions based on displayed data to understand factors influencing women's representation.

Role Theory (Biddle & Thomas, 1966) was used to analyze the roles and expectations of female council members.

Reliability and Validity

Triangulation of data sources and member checking ensured the reliability and validity of the findings.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following are the research results conducted by the author during the study at the Secretariat of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) of Banjarmasin City regarding the Role of Women in Efforts to Increase Female Representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, South Kalimantan Province. As explained in the previous chapter, the author will discuss how the Role of Women in Efforts to Increase Female Representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, South Kalimantan Province, using Biddle and Thomas's theory and the inhibiting factors in these efforts.

The Role of Women in Efforts to Increase Female Representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, South Kalimantan Province

The opportunity for women to participate in national development has actually been regulated by various policies and regulations. The 30% quota policy aims to fulfill these opportunities for women. However, the author observes that the field has not yet met this 30% quota, which does not hinder female members from performing their roles as legislative members. In the 2019-2024 period, only 11 (eleven) out of 45 legislative members of the DPRD Banjarmasin are women.

Based on field phenomena, the author analyzes the Role of Women in Efforts to Increase Female Representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin using Biddle and Thomas's theory, as stated in Sarwono (2015), which suggests four behaviors related to roles:

- a) Expectation
- b) Norm
- c) Performance
- d) Evaluation and Sanction

To support the analysis process in this research, the author collected data directly from the field using interview and documentation techniques at the DPRD Banjarmasin. The analysis can be detailed as follows to understand how women perform their roles to increase female representation in politics:

Expectation

Expectation is a belief that something hoped for will be obtained or a good event will occur in the future. Expectation is one of the dimensions based on the Role Theory by Biddle and Thomas.

The indicators of the Expectation dimension are Goals and Strong Desire. The goal indicator relates to the ideas about the future or the desired results planned and intended to be achieved by individuals or groups. The strong desire indicator relates to the implementation of an organization, that is, what will be achieved or produced within a certain planning period.

The DPRD of Banjarmasin City has goals and a strong desire to increase female representation in politics. The discussion of the goal and strong desire indicators is as follows:

1. Goals

Goals are ideas about the future or the desired results planned and intended to be achieved. In this context, each female member has relationships with other DPRD members, understanding that female members do not have a non-natural (gender) nature with other council members. Gender role differentiation helps us reconsider the role distribution experienced by women and men. Gender differences, known as non-permanent, facilitate us in building a dynamic relationship picture between women and men, fitting the reality in performance and society.

Based on the interview with the Secretary of the Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD) on January 8, 2024, at the Secretariat of the Council of Banjarmasin City, it was stated that:

"Actually, the goal is for more female council members to be actively involved in the DPRD. This way, women's interests can be more considered when making decisions. The objective is to ensure that the policies produced are more prominent and align with the needs and perspectives of everyone, including women. They play a significant role in increasing the number of women in the DPRD. Therefore, the hope is that they can be more active in representing women's interests at the local level."

Based on this interview, the findings suggest that increasing the number of women in the DPRD is expected to produce policies that better represent the needs and perspectives of all individuals, including women. Through active participation of women in the DPRD, women's interests can be more considered in decision-making processes. Thus, the main objective is to enhance women's representation in local policy-making to ensure their needs are well considered.

The author also conducted an interview with a female political party member who was not elected as a legislative member, Ms. Siti Maisarah, on January 13, 2024, at her residence. She stated that:

"Certainly, as a party member who was not elected to the DPRD, I might feel somewhat disappointed or frustrated, but in such situations, I

can still maintain positive hopes and goals for the elected female council members. I might hope that the elected female council members work hard to increase the representation of women in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City. They can do this by being a strong voice on issues affecting women, encouraging women's participation in politics, and serving as good and successful examples in their roles in the DPRD. The elected female council members can inspire other women to get involved in politics and seek elected positions in the future."

From the above descriptions, the three informants highlighted the importance of increasing the number and role of women in the DPRD, with the hope that their presence will bring better representation of women's needs and perspectives in political decision-making. They emphasized the importance of advocating for gender equality and strengthening women's roles in local politics.

2. Willpower

Willpower is related to something directed and also the implementation of an organization, namely what will be achieved or produced within a planning period. In this case, the role of female council members in Banjarmasin City has a strong will, and their role is expected to influence and increase the active participation of women in politics.

Based on the interview with the Secretary of the DPRD on January 8, 2024, at the Secretariat of the Council of Banjarmasin City, it was stated that:

"Of course, I hope that the elected female council members actively support increasing women's representation in the DPRD. I hope they can collaborate with other council members, advocate for policies that support gender equality, and educate the community about the importance of women's involvement in politics. All of this is expected to improve the quality of public services and enhance comprehensive community development."

In March 2023, Council members collaborated with the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency (DPPPA) of Banjarmasin City to hold an event to Increase Women's Participation in Politics, held at the BKD Diklat Kayu Tangi Dormitory Hall.

The author also conducted an interview with a regular community member, Ms. Sulistia Aina, who works as an honorary staff at the Secretariat of Banjarmasin City Council on January 11, 2024. She stated:

"I hope the elected female council members have a strong commitment to increasing women's

representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City. I want them to be influential voices in supporting gender equality and encouraging more women's participation in politics. This way, women's needs will be better represented and heard in the DPRD, strengthening the overall development of Banjarmasin City."

Based on the above descriptions, the awareness of the importance of women's representation in politics, with the hope that the elected female council members actively advocate for gender equality and increase women's participation in local politics, ensures better representation of diverse community interests and enhances the quality of public services.

Norm

A norm is a set of arrangements, rules, or guidelines used in this context, which relates to women's representation, referring to social standards and expectations about women's participation in political life. This includes equal rights to contribute to decision-making and policy, as well as creating a supportive environment for women's participation. This norm encourages the elimination of barriers that hinder women's participation and recognizes the unique contributions and perspectives they bring. By adhering to these norms, it is hoped that society can create a more inclusive and fair environment in politics. Rules are indicators of the norm dimension based on the theory used by the author. Below is a discussion of the rule indicators.

1) Rules

Based on the interview with the Secretary of the DPRD, Mr. Iwan Ristianto, on January 8, 2024, at the Secretariat of the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, he stated:

"Usually, we use rules that regulate the number of women that must be in the council. These rules can vary, but the main point is to help ensure there are enough women in the council. So far, these rules have greatly helped the role of women in increasing their numbers in the DPRD. For example, with these rules, we can ensure there are special seats for women in the DPRD, so they have a stronger voice in local political decisions."

According to Mr. Iwan Ristianto, the rules that regulate the number of women who must be in the council aim to ensure sufficient representation for women. These rules vary but share the same goal of supporting women's roles in increasing their numbers in the DPRD. For instance, with these rules, special seats for women are created in the DPRD, giving them a stronger voice in local political decision-making.

Further, an interview was also conducted with a female legislative member, Ms. Noorlatifah, on January 9, 2024, at her residence. She stated:

“As a female council member in the DPRD City, we follow rules that govern our representation in this institution. One important rule is about the minimum number of seats for women in the DPRD. This rule greatly supports our efforts to increase women’s representation in the DPRD. With this rule, we have a clear foundation to ensure that women’s voices are heard and considered in every political decision made at the local level. Moreover, this rule also encourages the formation of special seats for women, providing us with a stronger platform to voice women’s interests and aspirations in society. Therefore, the rule on women’s representation in the DPRD is very helpful in advocating for women’s roles and voices at the local political level.”

According to Ms. Noorlatifah, as a female council member in the DPRD City, they follow rules that regulate their representation in the institution. One important rule is regarding the minimum number of seats for women in the DPRD, which greatly supports their efforts to increase women’s representation. With this rule, they have a clear foundation to ensure that women’s voices are heard and considered in every political decision at the local level. This rule also encourages the formation of special seats for women, giving them a stronger platform to voice women’s interests and aspirations in society. Thus, the rule on women’s representation in the DPRD plays an important role in advocating for women’s roles and voices in local politics.

Based on the above descriptions, the rules that regulate the number of women in the council aim to ensure sufficient representation for women, with the goal of supporting women’s roles and voices in local politics. These rules not only create special seats for women but also provide a clear foundation to ensure women’s voices are heard and considered in local political decision-making, thereby strengthening women’s roles and influence in society.

Performance (Behavior Manifestation)

The performance (behavior manifestation) of female council members in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City reflects their ability to design, implement, and oversee activities aimed at increasing women’s representation in the institution, with the ultimate goal of enhancing women’s participation in local politics. This involves various concrete steps taken by female council members, such as advocating for inclusive policies that strengthen the position and role of women in public policy, voicing issues

relevant to women’s aspirations in DPRD meetings, collaborating with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to promote gender equality in political life, and organizing educational and outreach programs to educate the public about the importance of women’s representation in political decision-making. Actions are indicators of the performance dimension based on the theory used by the author. Below is a discussion of the action indicators.

1) Actions

Based on the interview with female legislative member Ms. Noorlatifah on January 9, 2024, at her residence, she stated:

“Yes, as part of the women’s team in the council, we work hard to advocate for gender equality. We like to hold awareness-building events such as seminars and public discussions. Additionally, we strive to encourage women to take a more active part in fields typically dominated by men. We offer support, including mentoring and resources, to help them advance. Of course, as policymakers, we also play a role in designing policies that support women’s representation in the workplace and in politics. We see this as important small steps towards creating significant change in society.”

From this interview, it can be concluded that female council members actively advocate for gender equality through various means. They organize events to build awareness, encourage women’s participation in male-dominated sectors, provide support and resources for women who want to advance, and play a role in designing policies that support women’s representation in various fields.

An interview was also conducted with a female political party member who was not elected as a legislative member, Ms. Siti Maisarah, on January 13, 2024, at her residence. She stated:

“Well, their role is very important. As council members, they have great power to make changes. They can make policies that support women, encourage their participation in fields usually dominated by men, and certainly set an example for others. Moreover, they can advocate for gender equality and strive to eliminate existing barriers. Essentially, they work to create a more equitable environment for everyone.”

According to Ms. Siti Maisarah, female council members play a crucial role in promoting women’s representation in various sectors. They have a unique opportunity and power to design policies that support women, encourage their active participation, set an

example, advocate for gender equality, and remove structural barriers. Through these measures, they strive to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for everyone.

Based on the above descriptions, it can be concluded that female council members play a vital role in advocating for gender equality and increasing women's representation in various sectors. They organize events to build awareness, encourage women's participation in male-dominated sectors, provide support for women who want to advance, and design pro-women representation policies. They also eliminate structural barriers and advocate for women's rights, creating a more inclusive and equitable environment for everyone.

Evaluation and Sanction (Evaluasi dan Sanksi)

Evaluation and Sanction relate to the positive or negative impressions given by the community, while sanctions are efforts made by political schools to maintain a positive value. Evaluation and Sanction are indicators of the dimensions of Evaluation and Sanction based on the theory used by the author. Below is a discussion regarding evaluation and sanction indicators.

1) Evaluation

Based on the interview with the Secretary of DPRD Mr. Iwan Ristianto on January 8, 2024, at the Secretariat of DPRD Banjarmasin City, he said:

“The evaluation of the role of female council members in increasing women's representation in the DPRD usually depends on how active they are in advocating women's issues, how influential they are in decision-making, and to what extent they listen to the interests of women in their area.”

According to Mr. Iwan Ristianto, the evaluation of the role of female council members in increasing women's representation in the DPRD is greatly influenced by three main factors: their activity in advocating for women's issues, their level of influence in decision-making, and their ability to listen to and represent women's interests in their area. In other words, the effectiveness of female council members in advocating for women's representation in the DPRD is assessed based on their tangible actions in advocating for women's issues, their political power in influencing decisions, and their ability to be a voice for women in the areas they represent.

The author also conducted an interview with female legislative member Ms. Noorlatifah on January 9, 2024, at her residence. She said:

“Certainly, as a female council member in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, the evaluation of my role in increasing women's representation can be measured by how actively I push women's

issues, how often I speak up in decision-making meetings, how far the policies I promote truly support women, how familiar I am with the female community in my area, and of course, how open I am to their input and aspirations.”

According to Ms. Noorlatifah, the evaluation of the role of female council members in the effort to increase women's representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City depends on several key factors, including advocacy activities for women's issues, active participation in decision-making, implementation of pro-women policies, direct involvement with the female community, and openness and accountability towards their aspirations. This conclusion underscores the importance of the role of female council members in effectively advocating for women's interests at the local level.

On June 9, 2023, Female Council Member Ms. Noorlatifah conducted an activity with Kesbangpol for the community regarding Political and Democracy Education at Sungai Lulut Village. On that occasion, Ms. Noorlatifah presented material on the role of women in politics and the legislature, stating that women should not be underestimated in politics.

The author also conducted an interview with a female political party member who was not elected as a legislative member, Ms. Siti Maisarah, on January 13, 2024, at her residence. She said:

“In my opinion, as a party member who was not elected as a DPRD member of Banjarmasin City, the role of female council members in increasing women's representation can be seen from their support for female candidates and women's issues during the campaign, as well as how they are involved in raising political awareness among women. Additionally, their involvement in supporting pro-women programs and policies after the election is also very important.”

According to Ms. Siti Maisarah, the evaluation of the role of female council members in the effort to increase women's representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City depends greatly on how active they are in supporting female candidates and women's issues during the campaign, their contribution to building political awareness among women, and their involvement in supporting pro-women programs and policies after the election. Even though they are not elected, their support still plays an important role in strengthening women's representation in local politics.

Based on the above explanations, it can be concluded that the evaluation of the role of female council members in increasing women's

representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City depends on their activity in advocating for women's issues, their level of political influence, and their ability to listen to and directly represent women's interests.

2) Sanction

Based on the interview with the Secretary of DPRD Mr. Iwan Ristianto on January 8, 2024, at the Secretariat of DPRD Banjarmasin City, he said:

"When talking about sanctions, it can range from warnings, suspension of privileges, or even removal from certain positions or committees in the DPRD. Taking such actions can be a strong signal that there is no place for those who hinder women's representation in the DPRD. So, hopefully, with such sanctions, other council members can be more aware and support women's representation in the DPRD."

According to Mr. Iwan Ristianto, sanctions imposed on council members who obstruct women's representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City can include warnings, suspension of privileges, or even removal from certain positions or committees in the DPRD. These actions are expected to be a strong signal to other council members to pay more attention to and support women's representation in the DPRD. With such sanctions, it is hoped that council members will be more concerned and active in advocating for women's rights and ensuring that there are no obstacles to their representation in the legislative body.

Based on the above explanations, it can be concluded that the evaluation of the role of female council members in increasing women's representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City is greatly influenced by their activities in advocating for women's issues, their level of influence in decision-making, and their ability to listen to and represent women's interests. Sanctions against behavior that obstructs women's representation are also seen as an option to strengthen the commitment to gender equality, expected to encourage positive changes in supporting women's representation and participation in politics.

Factors Influencing the Low Representation of Women in the Legislative Body in Banjarmasin City

The society in Banjarmasin City has provided opportunities for women to engage in the political arena. However, the representation of women in the legislative body (DPRD) is still disproportionate. This is due to several factors, which are:

Supporting Factors

a) Internal Supporting Factors

Internal factors contributing to the low representation of women include the lack of qualified and competent women, especially evident from the low levels of political education and competitiveness compared to men. Additionally, the minimal support among women themselves also plays a role, reflected in the lack of awareness of the importance of women's representation in the legislative body. This leads women to tend to support male candidates. Public trust also plays a significant role, particularly in giving votes to female cadres with potential in the political realm. This trust arises from the belief in individuals or parties deemed to have accountable capacity, integrity, and competence.

Based on an interview with the Secretary of DPRD, Mr. Iwan Ristianto, on January 8, 2024, at the DPRD Secretariat of Banjarmasin City, he stated:

"I believe that the awareness and commitment of female council members, support from DPRD leadership, the formation of special working groups, collaboration with women's organizations, and capacity building for members are the main supporting factors in increasing women's representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City."

The interview results imply that several crucial factors can support the role of female council members in increasing their representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City. These factors include the awareness and commitment of female council members, support from DPRD leadership, the formation of special working groups, collaboration with women's organizations, and capacity building for members. With support and efforts from various parties, it is expected that the roles and voices of female council members can be better heard and accommodated in the policymaking process in the DPRD.

An interview was also conducted with a female legislative member, Mrs. Noorlatifah, on January 9, 2024, at her residence, where she stated:

"As a female representative in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, what truly helps us are self-awareness and commitment, support from fellow council members, participation in commissions or special working groups, access to resources and training, and collaboration with women's organizations. All these enable us to maximize our efforts in addressing women's issues in the DPRD."

According to Mrs. Noorlatifah, internal factors supporting the role of female council members

in increasing representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City are very important. Self-awareness and commitment, support from fellow council members, involvement in special commissions, access to resources and training, and collaboration with women's organizations are key elements that help female council members perform their roles more effectively. With solid internal support, it is hoped that female council members can be more empowered in representing the interests of women and the broader community in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City.

An interview was also conducted with the Head of the General Affairs Division, Mr. Ashadi, on January 11, 2024, at the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, where he stated:

"I believe that what can help female council members in increasing representation in the DPRD starts with support from us, fellow council members. We need to support and collaborate in that regard. Moreover, it is essential for us, as male representatives, to listen to and understand the issues faced by women. Therefore, we can be solid allies. Additionally, creating policies that do not overlook women's interests is crucial. We need to promote their participation in all forums and help them enhance their ability to influence policy. With our support, female council members can be more empowered, and their voices can be better heard in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City."

The interview results indicate that employees at the DPRD of Banjarmasin City recognize the importance of supporting the representation and role of female council members in the legislative process. They highlight concrete steps such as providing support, listening to women's issues, and advocating for pro-women policies. This support is expected to strengthen the role and voice of female council members, creating an inclusive work environment that promotes gender equality.

b) External Supporting Factors

External factors supporting the role of female council members in increasing representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City include national and international policies promoting women's empowerment, support from organizations and civil society groups concerned with gender issues, and the role of mass media and public opinion that respond positively to the contributions of female council members. Public education and awareness about the importance of women's political participation also serve as supporting factors, along with inter-party cooperation in supporting female candidates and integrating gender issues into their political

platforms. With the support of these external factors, female council members are expected to be more motivated and supported in their roles to increase women's representation and advocate for gender issues in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City.

Based on an interview with a female political party member who was not elected as a legislative member, Mrs. Siti Maisarah, on January 13, 2024, at her residence, she stated:

"External factors supporting our role in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City are crucial. First, support from organizations concerned with gender equality. They provide vital support and advice to council members. Additionally, the media plays a significant role. If they are positive and supportive of council members, it becomes easier for them to perform their duties well. Furthermore, government policies, both national and international, also influence. If they support women's representation, it motivates council members. Lastly, inter-party cooperation is also important. We can support each other to promote female candidates and raise gender issues in politics."

The interview results suggest that external factors supporting the role of female council members in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City are highly significant. Support from advocacy organizations and civil society groups, positive responses from the mass media, government policies supporting gender equality, public education about women's political participation, and inter-party cooperation are crucial factors. These collectively provide moral support, resources, and legitimacy for female council members to perform their roles effectively in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, thus enhancing their representation and voice.

Additionally, an interview was conducted with a regular citizen who works as a contractual employee, Mrs. Sulistia Aina, at the Secretariat of the Banjarmasin City Council on January 11, 2024, where she stated:

"In my opinion, many external factors are quite helpful. First, community support is key. When the community is aware of the importance of women in the DPRD, it truly motivates council members. Moreover, political parties have a significant influence. If they are open to female candidates, it greatly increases our success. Government policies are also important, such as regulations that support women's representation, like quotas, which are really helpful. The media also plays a crucial role. If their coverage is positive about us, it greatly impacts public perception. Finally, education and training are

equally important. They truly help to enhance our capacity in carrying out duties in the DPRD.”

Based on the above statements, it can be concluded that the role of female council members in the DPRD is influenced by several supportive external factors. These include community support, the role of political parties in providing equal opportunities for women to become candidates, government policies that support women’s representation, such as quotas, the role of the media in providing positive coverage, and the importance of educational and training programs for female candidates. These factors collectively contribute to strengthening the position of women in the DPRD and help them perform their legislative duties more effectively.

Inhibiting Factors

a) Internal Inhibiting Factors

Internal inhibiting factors affecting the role of female members of the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin in increasing women’s representation include a lack of awareness and support from fellow members, cultural and normative differences within the DPRD environment that do not support women’s representation, and a lack of equal access and opportunities for women in politics. High levels of gender discrimination and harassment, as well as a lack of representation of women in leadership positions, are also significant obstacles. To address these issues, efforts are needed to raise awareness, change unsupportive cultural norms, provide equal access and opportunities, and reduce gender discrimination and harassment in the local political environment.

Based on an interview with the Secretary of the DPRD, Mr. Iwan Ristianto, on January 8, 2024, at the DPRD Secretariat Kota Banjarmasin, he stated:

“Certainly, there are several internal factors that need attention. For instance, there is still a perception that politics is more suited for men, and this can be a hindrance for women who wish to engage in politics. Additionally, the culture and norms within the DPRD environment also influence perceptions of women in politics. There are still challenges in providing equal access and support for women in politics, especially concerning financial and political network support.”

From this interview, it can be concluded that internal factors such as the perception that politics is more suitable for men, cultural norms affecting perceptions of women, and challenges in providing equal access and support for women are obstacles to increasing women’s representation in the DPRD

Kota Banjarmasin. Steps to address these issues include raising awareness about the importance of women’s representation in the DPRD and ensuring that women have equal access and support as their male counterparts in politics.

In an interview with the Head of General Affairs, Mr. Ashadi, on January 11, 2024, at the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin, he said:

“In my opinion, there are several internal factors that can be obstacles. First, there is still a perception among some DPRD members that women are less suited for the political realm. This can hinder women’s willingness to engage actively. Additionally, cultural norms that still prioritize men’s roles in politics are another inhibiting factor. Furthermore, women often face challenges in accessing and receiving the same support as their male counterparts in politics, such as campaign funding and strong political networks.”

Based on this interview, it can be concluded that internal inhibitors to increasing women’s representation in the DPRD include the perception that politics is more suitable for men, cultural norms that prioritize men’s roles, and challenges in providing equal access and support for women. Steps to address these issues include increasing DPRD members’ understanding of the importance of women’s representation, ensuring equal access and support for women, and changing the political culture that is still influenced by gender stereotypes.

An interview was also conducted with female legislative member Mrs. Noorlatifah on January 9, 2024, at her residence. She stated:

“In my opinion, one of the significant internal obstacles is the perception that politics is a male domain. This makes some women feel less motivated to engage actively in politics. Additionally, there are challenges in breaking cultural norms that still place women in traditional roles, making it difficult for them to achieve positions equal to men in politics.”

Based on this interview, it can be concluded that internal factors such as the perception that politics is a male domain and cultural norms that limit women’s roles in politics are major obstacles to increasing women’s representation in the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin. Steps that can be taken to address these obstacles include enhancing education and socialization about the importance of women’s representation, forming policies that support gender equality in politics, and providing training and support for women to engage actively in the political arena.

b) External Inhibiting Factors

External inhibiting factors, such as a lack of support from political parties, unsupportive cultural norms, lack of financial access and resources, and high levels of gender discrimination, play a role in hindering efforts to increase women's representation in the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin. When political parties do not provide equal opportunities for women and cultural norms still view politics as a male domain, it becomes difficult for women to actively participate in politics. Additionally, financial and resource access barriers and gender discrimination in politics further limit women's opportunities to engage fully in the political process. Addressing these factors through measures such as raising awareness, changing cultural norms, providing financial support, and eliminating gender discrimination is crucial for significantly increasing women's representation in the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin.

Additionally, an interview was conducted with an ordinary citizen who works as an honorary staff member, Mrs. Sulistia Aina, at the DPRD Secretariat Kota Banjarmasin on January 11, 2024. She stated:

"In my opinion, the problem lies in the opportunities. Sometimes women have potential but do not get the same opportunities to participate in elections. Moreover, the culture that still thinks politics is a man's domain makes women hesitant to engage in politics, leading many women to still think that their role is solely as housewives."

Based on this interview, it can be concluded that the lack of equal opportunities for women to participate in elections and a culture that still views politics as a male domain are major factors hindering women's representation in the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin. Solutions to address these issues include raising public awareness about the importance of women's roles in politics and changing the culture that views politics as an arena exclusive to men. With these measures, it is hoped that women's representation in the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin can be significantly increased.

Efforts to Overcome the Barriers to Women's Role in Increasing Women's Representation in the Legislative Body of Banjarmasin City

The factors contributing to the low representation of women in the legislative body of Banjarmasin City can become valuable opportunities for increasing women's representation if managed effectively. To address these barriers comprehensively and sustainably, efforts should include awareness-building, political education, women's economic empowerment, support from political parties, and measures to reduce patriarchal norms and cultures in

society. Through these factors, the Banjarmasin City Government can provide an appropriate response to enhance women's representation. The specific efforts undertaken are:

a) Direct Efforts

Based on an interview with the Secretary of the DPRD, Mr. Iwan Ristiano, conducted on January 8, 2024, at the DPRD Secretariat of Banjarmasin City, he stated:

"In my opinion, efforts such as empowering women, providing political education, and implementing quotas or affirmative policies are crucial in increasing the presence of women in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City. Firstly, empowering women is essential as it gives them broader opportunities in various areas, including politics. If women have the same access as men to education, health, and the economy, they will be more confident and capable of actively participating in politics."

From the interview with the Secretary of the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, it can be concluded that he supports direct efforts such as women's empowerment, political education, and quotas or affirmative policies as crucial steps in increasing women's representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City. He believes that by empowering women and providing them with equal access to education, health, and the economy as men, women will be more confident and capable of actively participating in politics. Additionally, he acknowledges that political education can help women understand their roles and responsibilities in the political process, while quotas or affirmative policies can be effective tools to ensure women have equal opportunities in political decision-making.

An interview was also conducted with the Head of the General Affairs Division, Mr. Ashadi, on January 11, 2024, at the DPRD of Banjarmasin City. He stated:

"In my opinion, there are several concrete steps that can be taken to directly address these barriers. Firstly, it is important to increase women's access to political education and training. This can be done by organizing training programs specifically targeted at women, so they understand their roles and responsibilities in politics."

From this interview, it can be concluded that the council member supports direct efforts such as increasing access to political education, empowering women economically, and raising gender awareness as important steps in addressing the barriers women face in politics. Through these measures, it is hoped that a more inclusive and supportive environment will be created for women's participation in the development of Banjarmasin City.

The author also conducted an interview with a female legislative member, Mrs. Noorlatifah, on January 9, 2024, at her residence. She stated:

“In my opinion, there are several steps that can be taken to overcome these barriers. Firstly, it is important to empower women through skill training programs and political education. By enhancing their understanding and skills, women will be more prepared to engage in politics.”

From this interview, it is clear that Mrs. Noorlatifah, as a female council member, has a progressive and optimistic view of women's potential in politics. By taking these steps, it is hoped that there will be a significant increase in women's participation and representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City, and the creation of a more inclusive and supportive environment for women's participation in the political process.

Based on the conclusions from all the interviews above, direct efforts such as empowering women through skill training and political education, supporting women's economic empowerment, and efforts to eliminate gender discrimination and build awareness of the importance of women's representation in politics are crucial in addressing the barriers to increasing women's representation in the DPRD of Banjarmasin City. Through these measures, it is hoped that a more inclusive and supportive environment will be created for women's participation in community development and political decision-making processes.

b) Indirect Efforts

An interview was conducted with the Head of the General Affairs Division, Mr. Ashadi, on January 11, 2024, at the DPRD of Banjarmasin City. He stated:

“Of course, there are several things that can be done indirectly to support women's representation in politics. Firstly, I think gender education and awareness are very important. We need to change societal views on women's roles in politics, so they see us as competent and capable leaders, not just as token representatives.”

According to Mr. Ashadi, gender education and awareness play an important role in indirectly supporting women's representation in politics. By changing societal views on women's roles in politics from merely being complements or token representatives to being competent and capable leaders, women can be more widely recognized for their contributions and leadership in political decision-making processes. Thus, these efforts become key to creating a more inclusive and equitable political

environment for all individuals, regardless of gender. The author also conducted an interview with a regular citizen, Mrs. Sulistia Aina, who works as an honorary staff member at the Secretariat of the City Council of Banjarmasin, on January 11, 2024. She stated:

“In my opinion, government policies can also play an important role. I hope the government can adopt policies that support women's representation, such as gender quotas or incentives for political parties that nominate more female candidates.”

Based on the above interview, government policies play an important role in supporting women's representation in politics. Mrs. Sulistia Aina hopes the government can adopt policies that support women's representation, such as gender quotas or incentives for political parties that nominate more female candidates. Thus, the government can provide the necessary push and incentives to increase women's participation in politics and create a more inclusive political environment.

An interview was conducted with a female political party member who was not elected as a legislative member, Mrs. Siti Maisarah, on January 13, 2024, at her residence. She stated:

“In my opinion, political parties play a very important role in opening the door for women to engage in politics. However, I hope political parties can be more active in providing concrete support to female candidates, whether through training, mentoring, or financial support for campaigns.” According to Mrs. Siti Maisarah, political parties hold a very important role in opening the door for women to engage in politics. However, she hopes political parties can be more proactive in providing concrete support to female candidates, whether through training, mentoring, or financial support for campaigns. Thus, political parties can become a more effective driving force in facilitating greater women's representation in politics.

The interview results show a deep understanding of the factors influencing women's representation in politics. Gender education and awareness are identified as key to changing societal views on women's roles in politics. Additionally, the need for government policies, such as adopting gender quotas, and concrete support from political parties, such as training and financial support for female candidates, are also highlighted as important factors. This analysis underscores the need for a holistic approach involving cultural change, policy support, and internal support from political parties to increase women's representation in politics. Top of Form Bottom of Form

CONCLUSION

The research highlights the significant role of women in increasing their representation in the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin for the 2019-2024 period. Despite the challenges, including cultural norms and lack of support within political parties, the findings suggest that empowering women, providing political education, and implementing affirmative policies are essential steps to enhance women's representation. Interviews with key informants such as the Secretary of the DPRD and female political party members underline the importance of equal opportunities and supportive measures to ensure that women's voices are adequately represented in political decision-making processes.

For the future research topics on Women's Representation in Political Decision-Making, there are some options to be suggested. The underrepresentation of women in political decision-making processes is a persistent global issue. While progress has been made, achieving true equality requires ongoing research and action. Here are some future research topics that can contribute to this goal:

1. Exploring the Impact of Intersectionality:

- Research Question: How do intersecting identities (race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, disability) influence women's political participation and representation?
- Methodology: Qualitative interviews, surveys, and analysis of existing data on women's political participation across different social groups.
- Expected Outcomes: Identifying specific barriers faced by women from marginalized groups and developing targeted interventions to address them.

2. Examining the Role of Political Parties and Electoral Systems:

- Research Question: How do political party structures, candidate selection processes, and electoral systems impact women's representation?
- Methodology: Comparative analysis of different political systems, case studies of successful and unsuccessful initiatives to promote women's representation, and interviews with party leaders and candidates.
- Expected Outcomes: Identifying best practices for political parties and electoral systems to promote gender-balanced representation.

3. Analyzing the Effectiveness of Existing Support Measures:

- Research Question: What are the strengths and weaknesses of existing support measures (quotas, affirmative action, mentorship programs) for women in politics?

- Methodology: Evaluation studies of existing programs, interviews with women who have benefited from these programs, and analysis of their impact on women's political participation and representation.
- Expected Outcomes: Identifying effective strategies for supporting women's political participation and developing new initiatives based on evidence-based research.

4. Investigating the Impact of Media Representation and Public Perception:

- Research Question: How do media portrayals and public perceptions of women in politics influence their electoral success and policy-making effectiveness?
- Methodology: Content analysis of media coverage of women in politics, surveys of public opinion on women's leadership, and focus groups with voters.
- Expected Outcomes: Understanding the role of media and public opinion in shaping attitudes towards women in politics and developing strategies to counter negative stereotypes and biases.

5. Exploring the Role of Technology and Social Media:

- Research Question: How can technology and social media be used to empower women in politics and facilitate their engagement with voters?
- Methodology: Case studies of successful online campaigns by women candidates, analysis of social media platforms used by women in politics, and interviews with women who have used technology to advance their political careers.
- Expected Outcomes: Identifying innovative ways to leverage technology and social media to promote women's political participation and representation.

6. Developing a Framework for Measuring and Monitoring Progress:

- Research Question: How can we effectively measure and monitor progress towards achieving gender equality in political decision-making?
- Methodology: Development of standardized metrics and indicators for measuring women's representation in politics, analysis of data on women's political participation over time, and development of a framework for tracking progress towards achieving gender parity.
- Expected Outcomes: Providing a robust framework for assessing progress and identifying areas where further action is needed.

By addressing these research questions, we can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and

opportunities for women in politics and develop evidence-based solutions to ensure their voices are adequately represented in political decision-making processes.

Referring to the barriers and implementing targeted efforts, it is hoped that the representation of women in the DPRD Kota Banjarmasin will improve, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and perspectives of all citizens, including women. The continued commitment to gender equality and the active participation of women in politics are crucial for achieving a more inclusive and representative political environment.

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