



Activist Women's Role on Political Participation in East Kalimantan Governor Election 2008-2018

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Abstract

This paper attempts to study political participation among women in Indonesia. PILKADA of Pemilihan Kepala Daerah (Local Government Election) specifically in East Kalimantan will be taken as a case study. Since women made up a significant majority of the voters, their participation in electoral process is inevitable. The study shows that there are some activist women's political participation form in the electoral process such as voting, campaign, political discussion and contacting. This study would try to identify activist women roles to increase participation of women in the PILKADA. Activists various political participation form not only give benefit to herself but to her member community organization and society. The study employed a qualitative approach as well as interviews with relevant key informants.

Keywords: pilkada, political participation, regional election, women in politic



1. Introduction

Functioning democracies provide meaningful opportunities for citizens to communicate their concerns to decision makers and thereby effectively track the will of the people. Democracy today faces many challenges: increasing political inequality, the decline of widespread political participation, voter incompetence, etc (Parvin & Saunders, 2018). Democracy denotes citizens' ability to negotiate with governing bodies through voting, candidacy, campaigning, occupying political office and/or lobbying individually or collectively (Vissandjee, et al., 2005). There is no democracy without people's political participation. Participation is an essential component of representative democracy. Political participation is an indicator of governmental legitimacy, citizens' acceptance of a democratic form of government, and the sense of collective responsibility and civic duty that are associated with consolidated and stable democracies (Desposato and Norrander, 2009).

According to Alesina & Giuliano, other than casting a vote in elections, political participation adds various other activities including; working as a political campaign worker, discoursing political issues, attending political meetings, boycotting certain activities, protests, and correspondence with political representatives and related pursuits (Zaheer, 2016). One of the most common differentiations between different kinds of political participation is conventional versus unconventional (Stockemer, 2014). Conventional forms of participation are far more structured and normally lawful, e.g. being a member of a political party, voting, lobbying, campaigning, attending political meetings, contacting officials, etc. According Verba and Almond, unconventional political participation form including submission of petitions, demonstrate or protest, confrontation, strike, acts of political violence against property (destruction, bombing, burning), actions of political violence against humans (kidnapping, murder), and guerrilla warfare.

Democracy embodies the desire that decisions that affect the whole society must be taken by all its members. Each member must have the same rights in the process of making/making these decisions. Nevertheless, the intensity of the development of the existence of humanity in women in general is not optimal. Despite formal guarantees of political equality, women across the globe are inequality in politics whether that be elected office, bureaucratic posts, or everyday political participation (Palaniswamy, Parthasarathy & Rao, 2019; Chowdhury, 2009; Hara, Trihartono & Viartasiwi, 2018).

Increased women's political participation, especially in general elections, this does not happen immediately, but because of the ongoing struggle to realize the right of everyone to achieve equality and justice. One of them is by realizing legislation that has alignments and affirmations towards increasing women's representation. According to Dreze & Sen, increased citizen participation can be especially challenging for women, who often face numerous constraints (e.g. social costs for speaking in public, limited access to information, and a weak sense of political efficacy) to voicing their preferences in such forums (Palaniswamy, Parthasarathy & Rao, 2019). Studies highlighted, that women are seen to have fewer resources of time, money, civic skills, and



they are considered to demonstrate lower psychological engagement in politics than men (Turcinskaite-Balciuniene & Balciunas, 2016).

Historically, women have been deliberately excluded from political power and participation in democracies, and differentials in participation have often persisted even with the removal of formal barriers to voting and holding office (Desposato and Norrander, 2009). Electoral gender quotas are being introduced in an increasing number of countries in all the major regions of the world. In recent years, parties and parliaments have responded to growing national and international pressure to increase women's political presence by introducing reform measures, such as gender quotas, aimed at increasing the selection and election of female candidates (Kenny, 2013). In more than fifty countries, quotas requiring that a certain minimum of the parties' candidates for election to national parliament must be women are now stipulated in major political parties' own statutes (Dahlerup and Freidenvall, 2006). Even though it has been regulated in the Law, women's political participation in Indonesia is still minimal. Basically, quota 30% per hundred given for women's involvement in politics and women's representation in parliament mandated by Law No. 10 of 2008 concerning Legislative Elections and Law No. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties, still very far from the reality. Even though the actual figure of 30% per hundred is reviewed with a statistical count based on the amount still considered unfair. Women's representation is important because the number of women on the political stage is still low, below the standard in the legislature obtaining seats for legislative members in 2014-2019. The number of men who are members of the DPR RI is 483 people (86.3%), and the number of women is 97 people, 17.3%. The number of men who became DPD RI was 98 people (74.2%) and the number of women was 34 people (25.8%), the number of men became members of the Provincial DPRD as many as 1,779 people (84.5%) and the number of women 335 (15.9) from 33 provinces and the number of men being members of the Regency / City DPRD as many as 12,360 people (85.8%) and the number of women 2,406 people (14.2%) from 403 Regency/ City. (Katriana 2014). From this percentage, the representation of women in legislative institutions at the district / city level up to the national level has not reached 30%. Law No. 10 of 2008 concerning Legislative Elections and Law No. 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties has not really been successfully implemented to increase women's participation in politics. Of course women's participation is not only focused on participation in legislative elections.

Decentralization may in principle bring about some positive changes for women and open up room for maneuver for women in Indonesia, but the gendered local government structures and the emergence of patriarchal conflict of interest within the communities may obstruct the achievement of gender equity programs and activities. Decentralization has increased popular participation, as in the emergence of civic forums, but it has been less encouraging to women's participation and representation at the local level. Women's organizations and civil society in Indonesia need to constructively engage in altering the gendered politics at the local level into a gender sensitive local governance by continuously monitoring the implementation of decentralization (Siahaan, 2003). If the objective of effective local governance is increased



participation and involvement of all people in matters affecting their lives, then, all sections of society including women must be meaningfully represented. Thus, political participation of women in local governance is a must. (Rameez, 2018). The involvement of women in policy making will be able to bring Indonesian people to a system of gender justice and make good governance (Sofiyah, 2012). Indonesian women asserted that it was essential that women participate in politics in order that woman's issues, people's welfare, and the nation's living standards, become matters of concern. "Women have special needs that can only be understood by women themselves, for instance, issues of reproductive health, family welfare, children's education, children's well-being, and household chores".

In addition to legislative elections, there are also regional head elections. It happened after the Legislative General Election and the President and Vice President were held in 2004. In 2008 the East Kalimantan General Election Commission held the first direct General Election of the Regional Head (Governor), at that time 3 (three) candidates were nominated as Regional Heads, including Awang Farouk Ishak and Fariz Wazdy, Achmad Amin and Hadi Mulyadi, Yusuf SK and Luther Kombong. In 2013 the second governor election was held with 3 (three) candidates were nominated as Regional Heads, including Awang Faroek Ishak and Mukmin Faisyal, Farid Wadjdy and Sofyan Alex getting number 2 and independent candidate were nominated, Imdaad Hamid and Ipong Muchlissoni. The Third, Governor election in 2018 has four of candidates were nominated as Regional Head Including Isran Noor and Hadi Mulyadi, Andi Sofyan Hasdam and Rizal Effendi, Rusmadi Wongso and Syafaruddin, Syaharie Jaang and Awang Ferdian Hidayat.

There is a gender gap in political activism, with men more active than women Women significantly less likely to participate in campaign oriented activities (contacting politicians, donating money to, working for, or being a member of, a political party) (Childs, 2004). The Chairperson of the East Kalimantan Women's Solidarity Forum (Forsop), Priskilla Evalianita Randabunga revealed that women's involvement in politics is minimal because openness of access for women is not yet qualified. Almost all political spaces tend to be male dominated. This also relates to the stigma that women tend to be weak. Even though women's participation can influence policies especially those related to gender. Women's participation in politics is expected to be able to influence policies regarding issues that have often been considered less attention by men, such as the issue of Domestic Violence (KDRT), violence against children. With the presence of women in the political realm, women can determine policies to cover these problems (kaltim.tribunnews.com).

Community organization activists can become agents of change to increase the participation of women who are members of their organizations. Public participation was also evident in the new arrangements established to 'join-up' local governance processes, with community representation on Local Strategic Partnerships (Newman, Barnes, Sullivan & Knops, 2004). This study analyzes how the role of women activists in women's political participation in the Regional Head Election of East Kalimantan 2008-2018. Women activists are involved in various forms of political participation such as voting, campaigning, political discussion and contacting. Various forms of



political participation are not only influential for themselves, but members of the community organization and the community.

2. Method

2.1 Research Design

The research approach used is a qualitative approach. This approach was chosen to explore information more deeply. This approach was obtained through the political participation of women activist in East Kalimantan Governor election 2008-2018. A qualitative approach is used in this study to obtain in-depth and accurate data that is adapted to conditions in the field (Neuman, 2013). Creswell (2009) explains that qualitative research is a method for exploring and understanding meaning that by a number of individuals or groups of people is ascribed to social or human problems. This qualitative research process involves important efforts such as asking questions to informants, analyzing data inductively starting from themes that are specific to common themes, and interpreting the meaning of the data.

2.2 Data Collection

The sampling technique is non-probability sampling. Informants selected based on purposive sampling are informants who pose the following criteria:

- 1) Women activist in East Kalimantan who know about the active in community organization
- 2) Women in government agency who know about women political participation in East Kalimantan

Data collection methods used in this study includes:

- 1) Literature Studies/documents, using various sources start from books, journals, research results and media with relevant research topics. To obtain secondary data also conducted document / archive study.
- 2) In-depth Interviews
In-depth interviews with selected informants through purposive sampling techniques. Interviews in this study were conducted with semi structured interview instruments.

2.3 Data Analysis

Qualitative data analysis is inductive, ie an analysis based on the data obtained, then developed into a hypothesis. In the analysis of qualitative data there are three lines of activities that occur simultaneously:

- 1) Data Condensation

Data condensation refers to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting and transforming data that approaches the entire section of written field notes, transcripts of interviews, documents, and other empirical material. When data collection is done, episodes that are further



away from condensation data are: finding written summaries, coding, theme development, general categorization, and writing analytical memos.

2) Data Display

The second important flow of analysis activity is the presentation of data. In general, presentation is an organization, a union of information that allows inference and action. The most frequent frequency patterns for qualitative data in the past have expanded the text.

3) Taking Conclusions and Verification (Drawing and Verifying Conclusions)

Final conclusions will not come until the data collection ends, depending on the size of the field notes, coding, storage, and livelihood methods used, the attractiveness of the researcher, and other limits that can be found. Verification can be a determinant as a second trajectory of the mind through writing, with short details of field notes or not searched for and combined with short arguments and reviews from colleagues to establish an "intersubjective consensus" or with good results to display other forms of discovery in the data. The significance of the data can be tested for reasons or beliefs, strengths, confirmability-validity.

3. Results

Community participation in the implementation of the Regional Head General Election in 2008 held simultaneously in 13 municipal districts in East Kalimantan, with voter data totalling 2,349,862 set by the General Election Commission of East Kalimantan Province consisting of 1,274,932 male voters and 1,074,932 female voters. (Central Statistics Agency, 2009). Governor elections in 2013 experienced an increase in the number of voters to 2,794,297 consisting of 1,478,885 male voters and 1,315,412 female voters. In the 2018 governor election there were 2,439,438 voters consisting of 1,263,257 male voters and 1,176,181 female voters (General Election Commission of East Kalimantan Province). The number of female voters did not differ greatly from the number of male voters in the Province of East Kalimantan.

Voting is the most accessible form of participation by the women activists. All the activists who became informants, they always voted in the East Kalimantan regional elections in 2008-2018. Activists are aware of the importance of voting in the elections. Voting is an important part of democracy. One vote from voters can determine who the leader of East Kalimantan is in the next five years. Elected leaders will influence the future of East Kalimantan. This study analyzes how the role of women activists in women's political participation in the Regional Head Election of East Kalimantan 2008-2018. Women activists are involved in various forms of political participation such as voting, campaigning, political discussion and contacting. Various forms of political participation are not only influential for themselves, but members of the community organization and the community.

The Aisyiah activist invites members to use their voting rights. They forbid not voting or abstentions because their choice will determine East Kalimantan in the next five years. Women's religious organizations invite their members to participate in politics, at least through voting. In



addition to Aisyiah activist, who invited their organization members to vote, the NU Muslimat also did that. Muslimat NU as a neutral organization, does not support one of the regional head candidates but supports its members to participate in politics, one of them through voting. NU Muslimat activist also conveys the risk of not participating in voting, that is, our voices can be misused. As expressed by Mrs. A, Muslimat NU East Kalimantan activist:

"For Muslims, God willing, because we are even though we are not a success team, it is not related to who the candidates are. We still say that democracy is very expensive to choose, it costs a lot. If we do not choose, we will just tyrannize. Until now we have said that. If HTI women don't want to take part in the election. I don't want him. If you choose that risk it means the risk if you choose a leader who is not good, we sin. I say not to add risk again. By not choosing it, I heard it was a voice, the voting card that was not chosen was divided"

One of the NU Muslimat activists said two reasons women need to be involved in choosing regional heads. First, women need to be involved in voting regional heads. First, women have the same voting rights as men. So there is no difference between the rights of men and women in voting. Political rights in voting should be used by women. Second, all the policies that will be issued by the elected regional head seem not only to men but also women.

Mrs. SF, East Kalimantan NU Muslimat activists expressed their consideration in choosing regional head candidates, one of them being partiality towards women. She said "we talk about how a figure who will become the regional leader who sided with women. We see in his vision and mission. Becoming the regional head candidates who have a vision and mission in favor of women and children. We always say that. So, our socialization to the community is to choose leaders whose programs, vision and mission are talking about women"

In addition to religious organizations, community organizations that actively fight for women's rights also provide knowledge about political participation. For example the Women's Caucus in addition to inviting voting, also provides knowledge of how the characteristics of prospective leaders should be chosen. The Women's Caucus as an organization that fights for women's political rights also sometimes gets questions from the public about how to elect a regional head candidate. As an organization that has members from various political backgrounds, the Women's Caucus does not direct who the candidates are chosen. However, they teach any consideration in making choices such as excess candidates and no money politics. As expressed by one of the East Kalimantan Women's Caucus administrators:

"Sometimes this community does not know who to vote, who should vote who to ask us. "Who is their choice?" We can't advise you to vote this one. We teach to the community besides that we also give examples. Suppose we deflect to choose "A" because it has the interests of the bearer party, but also don't fool the people. The people must also be given political education. We show the advantages of A, what is owned by other competitors, without having to cheat it. Sometimes get information from them, given money. Now that's what we have to give education. At first we



did not open the ugliness, taught them their strengths but it turned out that there were people who said "yesterday from this candidate asking for e-ID card, to get money like this" That we must educate that it is not true. From there we have to brake, not chosen like that. Previously, it also played money. The effect will be explained in the future. So our job can't be if we are apathetic, let go. We are indeed to provide education to people who are intellectually low”

The form of political participation is not only seen from voting. One form of political participation that is quite open for women to participate is campaign. From the informants interviewed, Mrs. H is an education activist who has been involved in three regional elections in 2008, 2013 and 2018. She followed an open campaign on the field held by regional head candidates and their supporting parties. She said "I is Pak Awang's time always. Always, because Pak Awang's first election time on the Kinibalu field was right. We came there, the last was that Pak Awang in the back, the Kinibalu field. And then, the last big campaign was there. After that, ride him. When Mr. Isran arrived, then listened to his vision and mission, the program continues in the long-term program”

Besides campaigns held by supporting parties, activists can also be involved in campaigns in their respective organizations or communities. For example, it's when filling in an event. This was revealed by one of the East Kalimantan Muslim NU administrators. In addition, if there is an activity, it can also provide an opportunity for the regional head to introduce self and convey the vision and mission. This campaign activity certainly can save campaign costs for the candidates for regional heads.

Mrs. LM, Caucus Women activist and a politician said that in terms of the campaign, it was actually more active women than men. Women are more easily invited to participate in campaigns. Only the role of women as a whole is not played. There is no opportunity to express aspirations in an open campaign. Mrs. M, family activists explained the reasons why women were more present than men in the campaign. The First, is that because you have more free time. In addition, friendship and door prize factors during the campaign. "In fact, there are more women than men because they have free time, that's one. Secondly there are also a number of things because of friendship. There are also many gifts, door prizes. But indeed women are the easiest we touch. We just go to the leader in a community or chairman of the majlis taklim. We just invite how to join this event. As long as she believes in us, she will come".

In addition to being a campaign participant, there were also activists who became campaign committees. Usually activists who are active as administrators of political parties will be open campaign committee. They are looking for the masses to join the campaign. One indicator is that usually used to judge whether a campaign is successful or not is the number of masses coming to the campaign of regional head candidates. Open campaigns have more opportunities in gathering more mass which results in the number of citizens or the community knowing the explanation of the vision and mission which results in the formation of people's perceptions of candidates. The



role of activists who can gather the masses is very important in the campaign. In addition, the women's campaign committee also usually takes care of consumption, especially for VIPs.

Organizational activists who are also party bearer cadres of regional head candidates usually participated in the campaign. As stated by one of the East Kalimantan Women's Caucus officials who was also a party cadre "We from the bearer party must jump in. It has become an obligation of who becomes the party cadre of the bearer". One of the disability activists who used to be active as a political party stated that she participated in the campaign in 2013 and 2018 regional elections. During her time in political parties, she was even a campaigner in the regional elections. She stated "because we are jurkam (campaigners), it means we are in a political party. As all of the campaigns were representatives of the supporting parties. At that time we were in a political party"

Political discussion is also something that is considered important by the community at the time before the regional head election, through political discussion the community can express their opinions on issues related to regional head elections. Formal political discussion participation is still considered to be limited to certain groups, for example people who are active in supporting parties for the regional head candidates. Political discussions about policies that will be brought by the regional head candidates are still limited to certain groups. This was also conveyed by Mrs. H as an education activist who was involved in campaign activities in three regional elections. "Usually if that is the case, the term is already from the party itself, huh? The chosen people are indeed, Mrs. If we only just campaign outside, listen to his vision and mission, work program. If they are realized, they can call from this, this, for example, from the education office, from purchasing faculties"

Formal political discussion to discuss policy has not involved the general public. Policy discussions are still limited to political parties. Initiatives from the general public are also difficult to access so there needs to be an initiative of regional head candidates or political parties. Mrs. B, a disability activist, stated that she encountered informal political discussions such as discussions with friends. This opinion is also in accordance with Mrs. F, tourism activist. She has never participated in a formal political discussion on policy. Political discussions discussing the policies that will be implemented when serving as regional head are still limited in the official success team also stated by one of the East Kalimantan NU Muslimat administrators. They were not involved in political discussions held by regional head candidates. According to Mrs. C, PAN Kalimantan East politician, the lack of involvement of women in political discussion was caused by a lack of opportunity. Fear of politics is also an obstacle to women's involvement. Politics still has a frightening stigma for women.

Women are more comfortable discussing politics in an informal environment. Even sometimes they are not aware of participating in political activities by discussing the elections with their friends. Political discussions can be started from discussions with friends in the community.



Mothers who actively discuss in their community have the courage to express their opinions in a wider forum. The opinions that have been discussed are felt to represent the community.

In addition to the friend environment, political discussions can also be done in the family environment. Either who are active in political participation, such as Mrs. H, an education activist who often has political discussions with her husband, women need to be able to express their opinions and give input. The importance of political discussion for women in the family environment was also expressed by Mrs. F, tourism activist. According to her, women's opinions can influence family members. If women have opinions and issue aspirations for family members, father and children can follow.

Contacting is participation carried out by citizens directly (for example, coming to where they are in charge, contacting by telephone) government officials or political figures, whether done individually or in groups of very small numbers. From the interviews, not many activists were able to express their aspirations directly to the candidates for the governor. Organizations activist that actively fight for women's rights in politics have greater opportunities for contacting prospective regional heads in East Kalimantan. Contacting organizations are for example the East Kalimantan Women's Caucus and NAPAS (Female Equivalent Instinct). Their organization's representatives met with the prospective regional head. Not only fighting for political rights, but they hope to be able to provide input on the right to side policies for women and children in various fields such as health, education, and others.

The Indonesian Political Women Caucus (KPPI) in East Kalimantan contacted all regional head candidates, especially in 2018 election. As an organization that fights for women's rights in politics, they ensure that the gubernatorial candidates are leaders who care about women. Besides, they also want to know first-hand the vision of the mission and the programs that will be carried out by regional head candidates if later elected. In addition to the Political Women Caucus, NAPAS, (Equivalent Women's Instincts) also contacted all candidates for regional heads. They offer programs that favour women and children. They divided the team to interpret the program to all candidates for the governor. Even before the fix advanced as a candidate for governor, they had taken an approach. They hope the governor includes programs that take sides with women and children into the vision and mission.

Mrs. C, PAN politicians said that not all people have the opportunities to express their aspirations directly to prospective regional heads. She got the opportunity to convey his idea because at the East Kalimantan Regional Head Election in 2018, she became one of the success team. Mrs. M, the family activist also became success team had the opportunity to express his opinion on social issues that have recently been in East Kalimantan regarding migrant sex workers from Doli. The activists who are active in political parties have more opportunities to contact prospective regional heads. Especially if the activist is incorporated in the success team of regional head candidates, the opportunity to convey ideas and policy suggestions will be even greater.



The women's activists in East Kalimantan are involved in various forms of political participation. But the number of activists active in political participation still needs to be increased. The participation of men in political activities in the East Kalimantan Pilkada (local head election) 2008-2019 still dominates, for example in formal political discussion, contacting and occupying an important role as a success team.

The role of women in politics that is still low in East Kalimantan affects the level of IDG. According to the East Kalimantan Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency, the IDG (Gender Empowerment Index) in East Kalimantan is still relatively low. One reason for IDG East Kalimantan is low because women's political participation is low. IDG has three indicators. The first, how is the contribution of women's income. Second, the role of women in politics and the last, women's position in decision making. Even IDG in East Kalimantan has occupied the bottom three in the national. Increasing IDG according to national standards is still a tough challenge according to the East Kalimantan Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency. Moreover, the three indicators of the IDG did not only become the full authority of the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Office of East Kalimantan, so it was necessary to collaborate with various parties.

Governments and related authorities may perceive an education for critical political participation which linked to critical historical awareness as politically undesirable. Women must be more equipped with sufficient political education and voter education so that they are more qualified and have a gender perspective. This is very important so that women will have the ability to fight for women's aspirations and interests to the fullest. A number of women's organizations are trying to increase women's political participation in East Kalimantan by holding voter education programs that review not only political and cultural factors, but also religious factors that influence women's political roles. These organizations train women to use their political rights in order to improve the quality of their participation in politics.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

Voting is a process whereby a member in a group participates in determining the consensus among group members regarding an official and the decisions taken. The involvement of every community member is very important in voting to determine the elected regional head. The number of female voters did not differ greatly from the number of male voters in the Province of East Kalimantan. All the activists who became informants, they always voted in the East Kalimantan regional elections in 2008-2018. Activists are aware of the importance of voting in the elections. The activists also have a role in getting members of the community organization to participate in voting. At the lowest level, to participate is to be able to vote. Since women made up a significant majority of the voters, their participation in electoral process is inevitable. Besides voting, there are various political participation form for women in PILKADA of Pemilihan Kepala Daerah (Local Government Election) such as campaign, political discussion and contacting.



In addition to being a campaign participant, there were also activists who became campaign committees. Usually activists who are active as administrators of political parties will be open campaign committee. They are looking for the masses to join the campaign. The activists who are also administrators of community organizations have an influence on the involvement of members of their organizations in campaigns. One indicator of the success of an open campaign is the number of people participating in the campaign. The campaign committee contacted influential activists in the community organization. If successful, the activist influences the members of their community organization to participate in the campaign for regional head candidates. Women will be interested in participating in the campaign if together with their friends.

Formal political discussions held by regional head candidates or political parties are still rare for female activists involved. The success team of regional head candidates is still dominated by men, it is still very lack of opportunity for women to be involved in political discussions to formulate the policies of prospective regional heads. Political discussions that are often carried out by the community are not formal and with the intensity that is not routinely carried out, they often hold political discussions with casual conversations conducted in crowded places. It plays a vital role in shaping one's attitude and political orientation (Afrilia, Surya & Dyastari, 2017). In the East Kalimantan Governor Election, women participated more in informal political discussions with friends and family. Political discussion with community members can influence a person's political views and increase women's confidence in expressing their opinions in public. Community organization activists can play an active role in political discussions with members of their organizations. In addition, activists can provide understanding to their members if there is an image of bad politics.

Contacting is a form of political participation carried out by individuals or groups of people in small numbers. Political activists have political connection that generally smooth the way to power holders and increase the probability of success. Political ties will have greater effect on the likelihood of contacting to help friends, neighbors, and other social groups than to assist the contactor himself or his family (Zuckerman & West, 1985). The activists who are active as members of political parties let alone become successful teams have greater contacting opportunities. They can convey ideas or suggestions regarding policies to prospective regional heads. In addition, activists who are active in the women's community organization who fight for women's political rights also have the opportunity to represent their organizations to contact prospective regional heads. They try to convey ideas that are expected to influence policies that favor women and children.

The women's activists have an important role in efforts to increase women's participation in the East Kalimantan Governor Election. Public participation was also evident in the new arrangements established to 'join-up' local governance processes, with community representation on Local Strategic Partnerships (Newman, Barnes, Sullivan & Knops, 2004). Programs to increase women's participation will be more effective if they cooperate with community organizations. Women tend to be more easily invited to participate if the program is part of their organization.



Community organization activists can become agents of change to increase the participation of women who are members of their organizations. The governments and political parties can also work together with the community organizations to provide political education to members of the organization and the wider community.

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