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Factors Affecting the Political Participation of women, the case of Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Council

This proposal has been prepared after due consultation with me of agree to supervise this dissertation project till its completion.

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Suggestions and Comments

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Politics is very important for many parties of human life. Mostly it is imperative for the existence of statehood and the way in which people interact-how they make decisions and settle disputes. The study of politics is the study of the how such decisions are made. It may also be the study of how such decisions should be made. Thus, we can define politics in two ways; first politics can be considered as the study of power and secondly as the study of the conflicts resolutions. Politics relates the power struggle of the state. It is thus, concerned with power and the way in which power is distributed among the society (or groups). While power is mostly obviously held by the government and its agents (Bentley *et al.*, 1995).

The increasing salience of women's issues and the resurgence of women's movements have raised popular consciousness and intense academic discourse on poor participation of women in politics (Peterson and Sisson, 1999; Akinboye, 2004). Women's low political participation is a universal phenomenon (Waylen, 1996; Rai, 2005); furthermore, the imperative of women participation in democratic governance and human development cannot be over emphasized (Bari, 2005).

However, the participation of the political power of the state has an important paramount for every citizen of the state. Political participation is "the active engagement by individuals and groups with the governmental processes that affect their lives". This encompasses both involvements in decision making and acts of opposition. Acts of active engagement include conventional political participation (such as voting, standing for office and companioning for political party) and unconventional acts, which may be legitimate (such as signing a petition and

attending a peaceful demonstration), or illegal (such as violent protest and refusing to pay tax) (Ahmed, 2013). Political participation is thus, those voluntary actions through which citizens seek to influence the making of public policy. Political participation in fact matters the life of every individual human being both men and women. Recognizing the essence of the political participation for every individual human being the UN exerted its human rights core instruments and recognized it as a fundamental political right.

According to Meaza (2009) cited on Alemu (2014) Ethiopia is a member and party of the international treaties including the most important human right treaties such as The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which calls for equal participation of women in public decision making, Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (BDPA), which requires governments to attain a 30% benchmark for women's representation in all public decision making positions. Moreover, various literatures argue that as compared to prior decades, the participations of women in Ethiopian politics throughout the country are somehow increasing. But, in spite of the incremental progress towards women's participation in political spheres, it is generally recognized that women have largely remained outside of formal Counsel Representation roles due to various factors (Alemu, 2014).

The importance of this research bases on the attitudes toward women in politics affect women's participation, and in turn, women in positions of political leadership engage in policies that positively affects women (Caiazza, 2004). This reciprocal effect furthers the process of gender equality in the work force, and promotes an environment where women are supported to move into autonomous and independent activities. This process gradually leads to further acceptance of women in political activities. In line with this, the purpose of this study will be analyzing women's political participation status in Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 Council.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The possibility for all citizens to participate in the management of public affairs is at the very heart of democracy. At the same time full and equal participation of both women and men in political decision making provides a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society, and may as such enhance the legitimacy of political processes by making them more democratic and responsive to the concerns and perspectives of all segments of society. Despite these facts in the majority of countries of the world, the political arena remains largely dominated by men, and is even an exclusively male bastion in some countries (Kassa, 2015).Women are underrepresented in politics and civil service, especially at the managerial positions. There are several laws and policies which guarantee equal pay and employment right, in practice; however, women do not stand an equal chance of promotion (Walters and Mason, 1994).

It was in 1975 the first world conference held regarding inequalities between men and women in Mexico. However, it was in 1979 women's rights were codified in a human rights international instrument called "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women for the first time" (CEDAW). Afterward in 1995 the Beijing Platform for Action was held during the Fourth World Conference on Women. In this meeting, a special section on women in power and decision-making positions was organized in order to establish the strategies to ensure equal access and full participation for women. Moreover, UNDP Human Development Report (1995) stated that "in no society do women enjoy the same opportunities as men; and removing gender inequalities is not dependent on having a high income or being a rich country. With the objective of making ultimate equality now a days the average representation of women on international parliament reaches 18.4 percent (Labani *et al.* 2009).

Even though the fact that the participation of women in international politics and leadership is increases, however, according to different scholars it is still constrained by different factors such as corruption, labor, competition and finances fundamental social and developmental; considerations like education, health, and the physical environment beliefs, norms, and expectations of the individuals; a particular culture economic factors and the level of development of a country (Fagerberg, 1994; Labani *et al.* 2009).

In recent years, the Ethiopia's government made significant effort in setting the corner stone's of a women's machinery in government. The government has given priority to the speeding up of equality between men and women. Practically, in 1993 the government formulated national policy on women with the objective of speeding up of equality between men and women, so that women can participate in the political, social, and economic life of their country on equal terms with men, ensuring that their right to own property as well as their other human rights are respected and that they are not excluded from the enjoyment of the fruits of their labor or from performing public functions and being decision makers (Kassa, 2015). The current women's political status is improvable. The solutions depend on perceptions and the ways we understand the current political problem. We should not confuse with the means or polish the structural gaps with delusive colors if in order to reacts short term political backlashes. The solutions pleads more than that, it needs to be the common end that we collectively seek regardless of our sex, race, color, or political afflictions. Hence, in line with this concept the purpose of this study will be to examine the factors that affect the political participation of women specifically at Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Council.

1.3.Research Questions

- What are the women's political participation statuses in Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 Council?

- What are the major barriers that hinder women to participation in different political activities?

- What policies and programs should be implemented to increase the involvement of women in Woreda 07 Council?

- How can women's participation in politics be encouraged in Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 Council?

1.4.Objectives of the Study

1.4.1. General objective

The overall objective of the study is to investigate the status of women's political participation in Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 Council

1.4.2. Specific objectives

➢ To examine the current status of women's political participation

➢ To identify the major barriers that affect women's' political participation

➢ To examine policies and programs that should be implemented to increase the involvement of women

➢ To make some suggestions that will enhance women's participation in party politics

1.5.Significance of the study

The significance of this study lies in its ability to show the actual representation of women in political position and the factors that affect women's participation in politics in Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 Council. The suggestions from the study will also lead to policy makers' new orientation in formulation and implementation of affirmative action policies that could enhance women's participation in politics. Moreover, the study will benefit women that helps to realize factors that affect their representation and by suggesting how to overcome it. Finally, the study will help other researchers as literature in the study area, for Universities in general and it is used for the council as a base for improving the human resource strategic planning in particular.

1.6.Scope of the Study

This thesis will mainly concentrate on the discussion relating to the factors affecting women's Political participation in Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 Council. Knowing that several factors cause for low number of women in the political positions, but on this research it will be chosen to focus only on certain identified factors. The study will dealt extensively on the factors responsible for poor political participation of women in Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 Council.

1.7.Organization of the Study

Generally the thesis will organize in five chapters. The first chapter will cover the introductory part including background of the study, problem statement, objective and significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Chapter two will contain review of related literatures; Chapter three will present a general background of methodology. Chapter four will explains how the data will be analyzed and interpreted. The fifth and last chapter will provides a conclusion and recommendations for the future.

2. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. Type of Research

The type of study that will be used is descriptive study. It will be used because it is a fact finding study with adequate and accurate interpretation of the finding. It will describe what the reality is. It will describe what actually exists within a situation, such as current practices, situations, etc. of different aspects of the research. Since the present study is concerned with assessing about factors that affect women's political participation in Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 Council, the researcher has assumed that the descriptive type of research was the most appropriate method to be used.

2.2. Data Sources

To attain the aim of this study, both primary and secondary data will be used. Primary data will be gathered from sample respondents which will be chosen through sampling from the total study population. Secondary data sources will be collected from woreda 07 women affair office report, journals, previous researches and different books in the area of political science, gender & leadership and other related documents.

2.3. Population and Sample Size

Population is an aggregation of elements from which the sample will be actually selected. Accordingly, the study population of this research will be all permanent members of Addis Ababa Arada Sub-City Woreda 07 council which currently exist and all female households' residents of woreda 07, totally, there are 44,117 populations; out of this 18,424 are females. Accordingly, 200 respondents who are believed to be close to the counsel, and both members and non-members will be selected.

2.4.Method of Data Collection

A survey method will be followed, and questionnaire and interview will be used for the purpose of data collection. The questionnaire will contained both closed and open ended formats. The questionnaire is selected because; it helps to gather data with minimum cost faster than any other tool. In addition to this, the questionnaires will be translated to Amharic language for simplicity and to get more facts related to the issue.

2.5.Method of Data Analysis

As it is stated under the sub topic of type of research, this research is of descriptive type. Accordingly, for realization and successful accomplishment of the study, data collected from different primary and secondary sources will be recorded, edited, organized, analyzed, interpreted and presented in relation to research questions. The analysis will be done using both quantitatively and qualitatively by using descriptive statistical tools such as tables, figures, percentages, graphs and charts.

3. Time and Budget breakdown

3.1. Time table

In order to accomplish the overall planned activities of the study the following tentative time schedule are listed

Activities	Months in which activities are implemented											Year
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	
Problem identification	XX	XX										2017
Review related literature in detail		XX	XX									2017
Writing research proposal			XX	XX								2016
Submission of first draft proposal					XX							2017
Final submission of proposal					XX							2017
Developing research Questionnaire & Collecting data						XX	XX					2017
Data organization and analysis & Thesis writing							XX	XX				2017
Submission of first draft thesis									XX	XX		2017
Submission of final draft thesis										XX		2017

3.2.Budget Breakdown

For purchasing necessary materials and implementation of different activities the following tentative budget can be break down

Materials /activities	Amount	Price in birr(single)	Total
Stationary(photo copy, printing, binding ,note book, secretary etc)			6000 birr
Compensation for key informants			3500 birr
Field assistants selected from study sites	5	150 per day for 5 days	3750 birr
For transportation during data collection			2500 birr
Contingency(10%) of the total cost			1575birr
Total			**17,325 birr**

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