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Role of Women in Politics

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ABSTRACT

The Political and Decision-Making Systems of Tanzania Are Fraught With Grave Gender Inequalities That Disadvantage Women. While Women Have Not Been Formally Barred From Standing for Political Office or Even Partaking In Decision-Making in the History of the Nation. Systemic And Structural Factors and Forces Continue to Restrict Women's Access Resulting in Wide Gaps in the Participation of Women in Politics. This Study Examines the Role of Women in Politics on Social, Economic, Institutional and Cultural Factors Which Limit Women's Political Participation. The Analysis Is Informed By The Equality Strategy And Quota Movement, Which Have Been Posited In Gender Analysis As Fundamental To Democratic Development. The Analysis Shows That Although Women Have Historically Played Key Political Roles In National Development They Continue To Be Marginalized In Formal Politics And Decision-Making Processes. Drawing From Various Quota And Equality Strategies From Africa And Beyond, It Argues That Tanzania In Its Post-Conflict Reconstruction Should Be Guided By Such Positive Examples. It Notes That The Continued Marginalization Of Women Constitute An Infringement On Their Human Rights And Contravene. Hence, Recommendations Are made For the Elimination of Moribund Cultural Practices That Limit Women's Access and the Institution of Policies and Practices That Actively Promote Women's Right and Gender Equality.

Keywords: *Gender Equality, Women in Politics, Social, Economic,*

I. INTRODUCTION

The role of women in politics and decision-making is not a new phenomenon in the socio-political development of Tanzania. Constitutionally, women have the legal right to be involved in politics; vote in elections, be members of parliament, or even become ministers or cabinet in practice; however, the women of Tanzania have been restricted by many factors and forces, cultural, structural which circumscribe their access to and participation in politics and decision-making at various levels of society. Also, equitable access to politics and decision-making is critical for post-conflict reconstruction. In particular, the re-emerging

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democracy, which embraces good governance, requires that the men and women who form that society are not just represented in government but also equitably included in the systems and structures of governance.

Women's political representation has indeed come a long way since the turn of the century. In January 2019, women held 24.3% of parliamentary seats worldwide against 13.4% in 2000. The Nordic countries continue in the lead with 42.8% in 2019 (up from 38.8% in 2000), while 27 states still have a share below 10% (including three parliaments with no women at all). In the meantime, the percentage of female heads of government has increased slightly from 4.7% to 5.2% over the past nineteen years. Has this increase of women in politics affected policy choices? Is this the case only for specific policy areas? Does a larger share of women in political offices affect the quality of institutions? Can an increase of women in politics have broader effects on women's empowerment? Our paper addresses these questions and is the first to provide an extensive literature review on the substantive effects of female political representation on public policy.[3]

While it is clear that there are some women in political leadership positions today, it is not known how and why some women have been able to break through some of the barriers in the world political environment. There are also few empirical studies on why women choose to become political leaders, how women go about getting elected, how leadership affects women, and how to overcome the barriers women encounter on their journeys to become leaders. Existing empirical studies on women and politics in the world (especially in Tanzania and India) have focused on the challenges that women face in political spaces. This research fills this gap by exploring the factors that facilitate women leaders to access and influence the political process at different levels in India and Tanzania.

The overall objective of this study was to explore the factors that facilitate the success of women in attaining political leadership positions... The specific objectives of this research were

- to identify the specific factors that facilitate the success of women in attaining political leadership positions
- to solicit views on how women can be better prepared for political leadership
- to draw policy implications from the results of this study.

Research shows that women usually tend to see women's issues more broadly as social issues, possibly as a result of the role that women have traditionally played as mothers and

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[3] https://gsdrc.org/publications/women-in-politics-and-the-public-sector-in-tanzania/

caregivers in their communities, and that more women see government as a tool to help serve underrepresented or minority groups. Women lawmakers, therefore, have often been perceived as more sensitive to community concerns and more responsive to constituency needs.

Women are profoundly dedicated to harmony building and post-struggle remaking and have a special and strong point of view to bring to the arranging table. Ladies endure excessively during the outfitted struggle and regularly advocate most emphatically for adjustment, remaking, and the avoidance of additional contention. Additionally, research shows that ladies' commitment in the momentary cycles and post-struggle states can increment the authenticity of incipient foundations, decline government debasement, widen the political plan, advance consultative policymaking and support joint effort across philosophical lines and social area.

This study is directed by the applied system of women empowerment and gender equality or fairness, which begins by perceiving that gender is a socially and culturally developed trait in view of the jobs that people play in their day-to-day routines. Orientation alludes to the qualities, open doors, and connections related to being a female or male, the sociocultural connections among women and men, and young ladies and young men. These ascribe, open doors, and connections are taught through the course of socialization. As the ideas of class and nationality, the term orientation is a scientific apparatus used to catch a social interaction. The term sex alludes to the organic qualification among females and guys with which they are conceived, while the term orientation alludes to a socially and socially scholarly personality and relationship-what is frequently alluded to as lady or man, young lady or kid. Dissimilar to sex, orientation character is certifiably not an organic reality and not at all like sex; orientation relations can and do change after some time in various social and political environments. Since it is socially and socially developed, it can consequently be deconstructed over the long haul.

Regarding the political turn of events, we conceptualize the excursion to women's strengthening and authority as climbing a twisting flight of stairs. At the top, women will have accomplished equivalent control of the variables of creation and take part similarly being developed. To arrive at the top, women need to scale five levels:

- equal control in decision making
- equal participation in decision-making processes

- attain an understanding of fair and equal gender roles and the gender division of labour
- (conscientisation)
- attain equal access to the factors of production
- attain equal access to material welfare (food, income, and healthcare)

The lower part of the stepping stool gives an establishment after that essential abilities, mentalities, and standards are shaped with regard to this review. This comprises encounters in adolescence, the family, and encompassing networks. A feeble and impairing establishment can have an enduring adverse consequence on a youngster. It is at this level that a young lady begins understanding that she is a commendable human individual and avowing her own value.

What Freire (2005) called 'arousing basic awareness.' It is at this level that women can take a gander at the world in a dialogical experience with others. Here ladies structure the interpersonal organizations that express aggregate discontent with prejudicial cycles. It is at this stage that a few people choose to draw in with these unfair cycles by entering the designs that victimize them. At the most elevated level of the twisting flight of stairs, one is completely engaged as a person.

This is a subjective review that tried to investigate the variables that work with women's admittance to political positions. This study depended on a day-to-day existence history approach that gathered essential data from the ten women who recounted the account of their excursion to political support. It keeps up with that singular life narratives can be utilized to gather information on processes, direction, and discernment and to investigate complex connections. She contends that this approach can create strong contextual analyses that are helpful for turning out to be politically locked in.

This approach empowered the examination group to contextualize the members' genuinely lived encounters and translations in the more extensive social, financial, and political reality. Hence, the review has distinguished the social reality made by our members through the implications and settings that are together made in friendly establishments and reflected back in the subjectivity of members in substantial circumstances.

Sampling Criteria and Sample Size

Through youtube interviews and physically interview

The 7 women in our study were selected randomly from a list of all women MPs from the

parliament website. They were categorized into groups that reflected different features of interest. The first category was based on the manner in which they entered parliament, that is, whether they were elected, given special seats, or appointed. These were further categorized into the five geographical zones that they represent. The other category was their years of experience in parliament.

Three women respondents were purposefully selected. One was a selected member as the special seat (in Tanzania, we call them wabunge wa viti maalumu) and district commissioner, and another was an mp and regional commissioner. They were chosen to capture the double roles they play since each role has different responsibilities. The third respondent was Gertrude mongela, a retired politician who had filled various positions, including that of the un assistant secretary-general responsible for organizing the fourth un conference on women, who was also the first president of the pan-African parliament. Therefore, in total, we interviewed 10 women politicians. Specifically, we interviewed one regional commissioner, one district commissioner, and 8 MPs. The diversity represented by this selection enabled the team to access rich and varying perspectives of women in politics.

The data collection technique for the study was based on both secondary and primary sources. The primary source used a life history approach that was supplemented by documentation. We used an interview through a youtube guide, in which we see how political women are committed in their narration of their lived experiences. The role of the researchers was to listen, record, and probe further into areas that needed clarification or where more information was required. The life narratives were preceded by some closed-ended questions that probed into the pre-determined background factors that are historically assumed to be main enablers or barriers to leadership.

The analytical procedures we used were based on listening interpretations and descriptions of the real-life experiences of the respondents. During the data collection process, the interviews were conducted in Swahili and recorded with the permission of the respondents. Before the analysis, the recordings were transcribed by experienced transcribers under the guidance of the research team.

To monitor and control the quality of the text, the researchers cross-checked the transcripts while listening to the tape recordings. In addition, the transcripts were translated into English by the researchers themselves.

The data were sorted into themes and systematically analyzed to identify issues emerging from the discussion and to interpret meanings under thematic areas. Some detailed narratives

and quotations have been used in the findings chapter to provide evidence, explanations, and a deeper understanding of the issues raised by the research, as well as to give the respondents voice as a way to demonstrate the value of their narratives.

For ethical purposes, the respondents were being interviewed through other media like Millard ayo tv after sharing the objectives of the research. They agreed to use a media recorder so that to record the interviews. They also agreed to have their views shared in the report. The team has made extensive use of the respondents' views in the data findings.

The qualitative nature of this research and the life history approach used in this study have the weakness of limiting the level of generalization of the analysis. However, the combination of the approach of primary data with secondary data from the literature review enabled us to overcome this limitation.

The timing of the research was a challenge that made me not use primary physical data like interviewing the political women; instead, it limited me to use media interviews.

The research team had planned to conduct most of the interviews during parliament sessions. However, the team underestimated the election fever that was generated during the previous parliament session, so most MPs were divided between preparing the groundwork for their campaigns and attending parliament sessions. Thus, it was difficult to attain the targeted number of participants when parliament was in session. Therefore, the team decided to use 10 women who agreed to be interviewed at different times, a feature that forced the team to change its approach from a triangulation method to a purely qualitative method based on a life history approach.

II. WOMEN WHO ARE IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND WHO HAVE BEEN

The vast majority of the writing on women's cooperation in political leadership has spun around the hindrances or restricting variables that ruin numerous ladies from getting into political spaces. There is a scarcity of data on the elements that have empowered a few ladies to get through the large number of boundaries that ladies face all through their life cycle. By the all through the political history of the world, there have been influential ladies who have consumed different political spaces. For instance, as far back as the seventeenth century, the kahina-a sovereign of a strong berber clan of djeraous in what the future held accepted to have given both the profound and military administration that forestalled Arab venture into her nation.

The numerous ladies who have achieved political-administrative roles have affected their

nation; be that as it may, as contrasted and men, the number remaining parts little. In this manner, the overall focal point of the current review is to dedicate thoughtfulness regarding the highlights that have permitted ladies to ascend to administrative roles without making light of the boundaries that have held them up.

Tanzania has had various women who have been in leadership, and these, are named. The hon. Asha-rose migiro turned into the primary lady to stand firm on the foothold of deputy secretary-general of the un-the second most noteworthy common assistance position on the planet. Further, anna tibaijuka turned into the main African lady to head un habitat, while Amina Salum is Tanzania's long-lasting agent to the un and is additionally a delegate of the au in the un.

Also there, women right now are a good examples on their life history of leadership and those are currently president of Tanzania honorable Samia suluhu Hassan and speaker of parliamentary of Tanzania honorable Tulia ackson and there many women who hold leadership in different sectors like health, education,

III. BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Multiple factors contribute to the situation of today, where women are underrepresented in political leadership. Women's political involvement, participation, and access to formal political power structures are linked to many different structural and functional constraints, which differ across countries claim that women's absence in the political arena derives from the hindrances related to political, sand, socio-economic, ideological, and psychological barriers.

Structural

Structural barriers include socio-economic development in a society and the percentage of women in professional and managerial activities. Studies in established democracies showed that these two were related worldwide and stressed the importance of women in professional occupations that generally lead to political careers, such as journalism and law.

There is a direct link between the social and economic status of women in society and their participation in political institutions and elected bodies. Socio-economic obstacles include poverty and unemployment, lack of adequate financial resources, illiteracy and limited access to education, choice of professions, and the "dual burden" of family and a full-time job. Women take on a disproportionate share of household tasks which makes a political career almost impossible. Moreover, household tasks, taking care of the children and elderly, are not

always considered actual work.

Poverty is also one of the major hindrances for women to be involved in politics, namely, the disproportions effect of poverty on women. Because of women's care giving responsibilities, they often work part-time, which has a lifelong effect on women's income, and women who do work full-time still earn less than their male counterparts. In addition, many women are discouraged by a lack of resources to finance their electoral campaigns or undertake serious initiatives. Often poverty also prevents women from taking the time for political involvement

Institutional

The use of gender quotas or proportional representation electoral systems to institutional barriers that prevent fair competition. Institutional barriers are considered to be the first cause in explaining systematic differences in women's representation across relatively similar types of society. They are also an important factor in changing women's political activism through public policy reforms. Electoral systems are an important facilitator to elect women to public office.

Many studies showed that much more women are being elected under proportional party lists to majoritarian single-member constituencies.

The proportional representation system (pr) allows voters to cast their votes by party and, in some cases, by an individual as well. The seats in parliament are distributed based on the votes each party receives. Such a system provides an incentive for parties to broaden their appeal by adding women to their party lists. The majoritarian single-member system, in contrast, usually only allows for one candidate per district to be chosen.

Cultural

The current political culture often exists of traditional attitudes regarding women in decision-making roles. These attitudes toward gender equality are often seen as an important factor in analyzing women's

Entry into elected office. Traditions still emphasize women's primary roles as mothers and housewives. A strong, patriarchal value system keeps these sexually segregated roles in place. The responsibility of women as mothers and wives, as well as her domestic duties, complicate their involvement and participation in the public sphere.

Female leader featuring feminine behavior is considered to be unacceptable in politics, while on the other hand, the male authoritativeness inherent to the field of politics creates additional pressure for women.

Also, the population believes politics are more appropriate for men and that women should only have a limited role in politics. This adheres to the perception in politics where the political processes are mainly focused on confrontation and mutual blaming rather than constructive cooperation. It is true that women 'do politics' differently from men because of their different experiences. A shift towards this other form of politics could be enabled by women. "it doesn't matter which party we represent; it is important for all of us to work together in resolving local problems" female candidate local self-governing elections 2014 other barriers include a lack of confidence to run in elections, the perception of dirty and corrupted politics, and the influence of the media, which portrays women as sex objects while not paying enough attention to women's activities and issues and ignoring the problem of female political."

IV. ELECTORAL REGIMES AND THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLITICS

Mat land (1998, 2006) classes world discretionary frameworks into three primary gatherings: majority dominant parts, semi-corresponding delegate frameworks, and relative agent frameworks. The election act of Tanzania section 81 and the election act of Zanzibar section 80 give a 'first past the post' framework, otherwise called a majority larger part. This framework is directed by the rule that the champ brings home all the glory. In this framework, the challenge is held in a solitary part area, and the champ is the up-and-comer who has the most votes, who isn't really one with an outright larger part of votes. Conversely, the relative delegate framework depends on cognizant endeavors to diminish the uniqueness between the party's portion of public votes and parliamentary seats. This framework should make it feasible for tiny minorities to be addressed. Most examinations guarantee that relative frameworks are probably going to advance orientation balance than the first past the post framework. Notwithstanding, appointive systems don't work in a vacuum-they are impacted by the financial setting inside which they work.

Political parties and the role of women in politics

- **Tanzanian Women's Parliamentary Group (TWPG)**

In 1997, the Tanzanian women's parliamentary group (TWPG)was formed to encourage effective parliamentary participation among female MPs, to increase women's representation in parliament, and to increase women's capacity to mainstream and monitor gender equality in parliamentary affairs. The TWPG only receives a brief mention in the literature on women's political engagement in Tanzania. It is, however, discussed in slightly more detail in a summary of a meeting on women in politics in Tanzania held at Chatham House in 2012.

The TWPG is non-partisan, and according to Tanzanian mp and chairperson of the TWPG anna Margareth Abdalla, speaking at the aforementioned meeting, it was formed in a bid to combat the perception that women are more likely to lose elections (Chatham house, 2012, p. 2). Abdalla states that the TWPG is in favour of proportional representation, as it believes that the current first-past-the-post election system is biased against women

Political parties are the significant gatekeepers in determining which candidates will be put up for election. They play a critical role in enabling or blocking women's leadership in decision-making processes by using existing internal leadership structures that determine who leads the parties and who makes decisions about the nomination processes of electoral candidates. Various studies on internal party democracy in Tanzania have concluded that most political parties are male-dominated and decision-making processes are hierarchal, and women play a minimal role in these decisions, which affects the nomination of candidates.

Tanzania utilizes legislative save seats. In Tanzania, extraordinary parliamentary seats for women were first presented during the one-party time to increment female portrayal in the lawmaking body. The shared framework was not applied to ladies as it were. Different gatherings that got these seats included young people and individuals from the guard force. The possibility of extraordinary seats was to guarantee that the voices of exceptional classifications of residents were heard in parliament. The objective was not to make an equilibrium yet to join these voices, which in any case, would have been in a tough spot in the ordinary constituent cycle. Nonetheless, studies have communicated worry over the impact of the quantity framework on ladies' seriousness.

While the impact of standards has expanded the quantity of ladies in agent organs of the express, Tanzania's exceptional seats methodology brings up a few issues. For instance, there is an issue of portrayal whose interests are these ladies addressing? These MPs loath the full status of MPs-they are not qualified for specific positions, like that of the head of the state or as seats of parliamentary panels. They don't have voting demographics and hence don't fit the bill for body electorate reserves, and that implies they don't have the assets to draw in with the ladies they should address. In this way, standard frameworks ought to go along with processes that try to make a level field for ladies and men to contend and win decently.

Whether or not sociocultural variables, discretionary systems, and political foundations empower or oblige ladies, the choice to take part in constituent governmental issues eventually has a place with individual ladies. The components that rouse people to cause the best of the elements that to work with advancement and conquer the deterrents are associated

with their very own characteristics and values.[4]

Age range

Only one of these respondents was between 35and 45 years of age, two were between 35 and 45 years old, five were between 45 and 55 years old, and 3 respondents were aged 25 -30 this age range provided the researchers with a variety of issues on the intergenerational features that may facilitate the role of women in politics. It also included a variety of challenges specific to an age cohort. This age range also mirrors the composition of female MPs, which probably results from the challenges of balancing child-rearing tasks with political responsibilities and demands

- **Political Status of the Respondents**

Of the 10 respondents, 7 held special seats; three were in opposition parties, and 4 were in the regional and local seat. One respondent was a un leader presenting Tanzania, one was a former MP, and one MP was appointed by the president. This representation generally reflects the picture of women in parliament, most of whom hold special seats, while a very small minority enter parliament through constituency representation. According to research findings, women who go through constituency seats have to prepare themselves more as they attempt to break through a male-dominated space. Of the 10 respondents, 7 were from the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), and four were from opposition parties. Of the latter, two were from chadema, one from the civic united front, and one from the national convention for construction and reform (nccrmageuzi). Again, this mirrors the representation of ruling party women in parliament. Historically, the ruling party, ccm, has had most of the MP's and most women MP's. For example, in the 2010 election, only 21 women were elected in the 239 constituency seats. Of these, 19 were from the ruling party, one was from chadema, and one was from nccr-mageuzi. The ruling party has more resources and a well-established electoral base from the village to the national level and subsequently has a greater chance of opening doors to women through constituency competitions if its leadership has the will to do so. The level of experience of respondents had a mixture of experience of serving in parliamentary politics. Six had been in parliament for less than 10 years, 2 had between 10 and 20 years of experience, and 1 had more than 30 years of experience. One of the respondents had served in parliament for only one term.

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[4] https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/oped/women-leadership-political-participation-agenda-under-samia-3769120?view=htmlamp
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08965ed915d622c0001c7/1286-Women-in-politics-and-the-public-sector-in-Tanzania.pdf

V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

All the review respondents concurred that the way to political authority resembles climbing a slope through thistle hedges, where each stage includes slicing through a large number of thistles prior to advancing to the following stage, and every individual deal with circumstances in a special way. All respondents conceded that the setting stays a test and that social and social standards and convictions keep on making primary impediments that limit ladies' admittance to the political circle. While the way of talking of enabling ladies is broad, the setting has not been changed to work with their entrance to administrative roles, and the workplace stays troublesome. Further, the political commitments that ladies have made stay imperceptible. In any case, the equivalent cooperation of ladies and men in political authority is critical to understanding ladies' majority rule privileges and adding to the general monetary presentation of the country.

This study recognized a portion of the elements that work with ladies' achievement of political initiative. These variables should be perceived to illuminate intercessions to help ladies to get to political and administrative roles.

- individual factors: the choice to participate in political spaces is resolved to a great extent by the individual qualities ladies have that assist them with defeating fundamental, underlying, and institutional obstructions to their political desires. These attributes include: i) the individual objectives
- They set themselves and their assurance to have an effect; ii) the information, capabilities, and abilities they have for undertaking a political profession; and iii) the assets or limit they need to prepare assets for appointive missions.
- family and local area factors: the foundation for ladies' political administration lies in socialization processes that start in the family and local area. This investigation discovered that the jobs of fathers and life partners were significant. This highlights the requirement for intercessions that target men to support ladies who need to partake in legislative issues.
- basic underlying variables: these elements incorporate the schooling system, legitimate structures, ideological groups, parliament, and social and common society organizations.

The review saw that the ladies chiefs who took part in the study carried significant characteristics to the political circle. Specifically, their listening abilities, lowliness, sensible nature, and participatory ways of dealing with critical thinking were crucial characteristics for

the groundbreaking authority really should have understood Tanzania's feasible turn of events.

These capabilities and commitments have not been made apparent. Our witnesses' accounts, accordingly, and the narratives of different ladies pioneers could be utilized as a support device to change the outlook of ladies and men with negative mentalities about ladies in administrative roles. The proof showed that the course by which the ladies entered influential places would, in general, decide their level of political impact. For instance, the investigation discovered that ladies who entered parliament through the political decision of a body electorate had a more noteworthy chance to impact their networks than the people who entered through unique seats. Winning a body electorate seemed to present extra freedoms for arrangement to more elevated level political situations than ladies who entered through exceptional seats.

Enforce all relevant laws to ensure that women and men have the same rights to make decisions and control their lives and livelihoods, and abolish all forms of gender bias based on violence and discrimination. These include women's equal rights within marriage, and their rights to own, inherit, and administer land, sign contracts, register and manage businesses, and access credit and financial services. In addition, following the landmark decision of the high court of Tanzania in 2016, the marriage act (1971) will need to be revised to raise the minimum age of marriage for women to 18 years of age.

Build awareness of the benefits that women bring to leadership roles, advocate for the equal representation of women and men (50:50) in political involvement and leadership and establish leadership and mentoring policies that support aspiring young women leaders.

Raise gender awareness through successful projects of training and mass correspondence to change the outlook of young ladies, young men, and people that puts an unbalanced weight of family liability on young ladies and ladies restricts their instructive and monetary open doors and legitimates the legislative issues of prohibition. In this regard, it will be important to incorporate projects that target men and recognize male heroes of women's social and political freedoms.

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