

The Contribution of Batak Ethnic Women in the Province of North Sumatera Legislative

1st Rosramadhana
Department of Anthropology Education
Universitas Negeri Medan, Indonesia
rosramadhana@unimed.ac.id

2nd Erond L. Damanik
Department of Anthropology Education
Universitas Negeri Medan, Indonesia
eronddamanik@unimed.ac.id

3rd Muhammad Iqbal
Department of Anthropology Education
Universitas Negeri Medan, Indonesia.
iqbal81@unimed.ac.id

Abstract-This study aims to determine the utilization of women's political networks in gaining opportunities for strategic positions in parliament, the contribution of Batak women in parliament in determining policies, and traditional political construction experienced by women who experience changes in parliament. The research uses qualitative research with a descriptive approach. Meanwhile data is collected through observation, interviews, and documentation studies. The results of the study explained that the existence of women in the utilization of political networks has the opportunity for strategic positions in the regional legislature (North Sumatra DPRD) through synergy with the North Sumatra DPRD Commission, the Women's Empowerment Agency (BPP) and the establishment of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus (KPP). The contribution of women, especially the Batak ethnic groups in parliament, is not optimal because of the weak decision making. Traditional political construction experienced by women experienced changes in parliament, but the motives and commitments of Batak ethnic women's work in the North Sumatra Legislatives (DPRD) are still around the interests of parties and individuals who are hegemony in patriarchal culture.

Keywords-women, ethnicity, politics, legislature, contributions

I. INTRODUCTION

People in this era of rapid progress, especially towards a new era called the milenial era, are generally no longer politically blind, but to enter the world of politics and practice in politics are still relatively small, because according to the rules that apply to political habits usually tend to entering the political world one must enter into organizations and political parties [1].

This perspective is one of the causes of reluctance to carry out the political world especially for women in Indonesia who are still bound to patriarchal culture [2]. The involvement of women in political institutions is something that needs to be studied more deeply and specifically [3]; [4]. Opportunities for women in current political institutions are also regulated in constitutional provisions, but in the face of regional autonomy which according to researchers is followed by consortational autonomy a strategic position in political institutions is supported by competent human resources [5]. With the existence of women in parliament it is suspected that there are different political colors, which are likely to create a political culture that has a healthy climate. But women's contributions to parliament have not yet

been realized and can have an impact on women, especially in North Sumatra.

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

This study using qualitative research with descriptive approach. Meanwhile data is collected through observation, interviews, and documentation studies [6]. Data analysis through of reduction, display and conclusions [7].

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The existence of women in the legislature is an interesting phenomenon, this is because space for politics for women in eastern culture is still taboo. Women often become subordinates who still have to submit to the rules of customary norms even from the husband's power. But the role of women today is not only in the domestic sphere but has changed into the public sphere. Women's representation in the legislature, such as the existence of women, especially ethnic Batak in the North Sumatra DPRD, is an analysis to show the contribution of ethnic Batak women who contribute to current politics.

Women's representation in the legislature based on data obtained from various sources for Indonesia has fluctuated, meaning that representation of women is still not permanent and can even decline every election period. However, the representation of women in the North Sumatra DPRD in the 2014-2019 period has increased but it is not significant when viewed from the total number of North Sumatra DPRD members. The following data can be seen in table 1 based on the bearer party for the 2014-2019 period as follows:

TABLE I. WOMENS LEGISLATIVES AT NORTH SUMATERA PROVINCE, 2014-2019

No	Party	Electoral district	Total
1	Demokrat	Medan A, Tapsel-Madina-Palas- Paluta Padangsidempuan, Karo-Dairi- Pakpak Bharat, Nias, Nias Utara, Nias Selatan, Nias Barat dan Gunung Sitoli	4
2	Golkar	Asahan-Tj. Balai-Batu Bara, Langkat- Binjai, Labuhan Batu-Labura-Labusel	3
3	Nasdem	Tapteng-Tobasa-Samosir-Sibolga- Taput- Humbahas, Simalungun-Pematang Siantar	2
4	PDI-P	Tapteng-Tobasa-Samosir-Sibolga- Taput- Humbahas)	1
5	Gerindra	Asahan-Tj. Balai-Batu Bara	1
6	PKS	Simalungun – Pematang Siantar	1
7	Hanura	Simalungun – Pematang Siantar	1
8	PKB	Labuhan Batu-Labura-Labusel	1
Total amount			14

The representation of women in the North Sumatra DPRD above is also an effort of the women's movement to voice justice and gender equality that has triggered the enactment of Law Number 10 of 2008 concerning Elections including at least 30% (thirty percent) of women's representation in the management of political parties.

The role of women in the political world today seems to be increasingly giving color to women's involvement in various aspects. Stereotype towards women is weak and the dominance of feelings as a gentle mother cannot be generalized at this time for Indonesian women in general and ethnic Batak women especially in North Sumatra. The roles and responsibilities of women are actually the same both domestically and publicly with men today. Based on the results of the research obtained that in North Sumatra DPRD women's representation based on ethnicity can be seen in the following table 2 below:

TABEL II. MEMBERS OF NORTH SUMATERA LEGISLATIVE, 2014-2019

No	Name	Party	Ethnicity
1	Meilizar Latif	Demokrat	Minang
2	Helmiati	Golkar	Melayu
3	Sri Kumala	Gerindra	Melayu
4	Zeira Salim Ritonga	PKB	Mandailing
5	Novita Sari	Golkar	Mandailing
6	Tia Isah Ritonga	Demokrat	Mandailing
7	Lidiani Lase	Demokrat	Nias
8	Delmeria	Nasdem	Minang
9	Sarma Hutajulu	PDI-P	Batak Toba
10	Inge Amelia Nasution	Nasdem	Mandailing
11	Hidayah Herlina Gusti Nst	PKS	Mandailing
12	Rinawati Sianturi	Hanura	Batak Toba
13	Jenny Riany Lucia Berutu	Demokrat	Pak-Pak
14	Putri Susi Melani Daulay	Gokar	Mandailing

The representation of women with different ethnic backgrounds above shows that women today are no longer bound by the rules of norms that apply in certain ethnic groups. The treatment of women above in the public and political realm forms a new identity for women themselves. A woman is a motherly figure and has a role in the family which includes her duties as a mother, brother, and sister. But by participating in public space it should have an impact on the family. Likewise for women who are still bound into patriarchal culture. Based on the number of women in North Sumatra DPRD Batak ethnic women still dominate. As it is known that custom which is still attached to Batak women is still very thick. Following tables 3 below is the number of women by ethnicity in the legislature is as follow:

TABLE III. WOMEN BASED ON ETHNICITY AT NORTH SUMATERA LEGISLATIVE, 2014-2019

No	Ethnicity	Amount	Percentage
1	Mandailing	6	42.86 %
2	Batak Toba	2	14.28 %
3	Melayu	2	14.28 %
4	Minang	2	14.28 %
5	Pak-Pak	1	7.15 %
6	Nias	1	7.15 %
	Total amount	14	100

The utilization of Political Networks for Women Gaining Strategic Position Opportunities in Parliament. Women today are different from the period before independence, women are now more open to change. Women can exist by building networks to get opportunities. Based on the data obtained that in North Sumatra DPRD the opportunity for women to occupy important positions is not easy, therefore building networks is a parliamentary women's strategy to exist. Following is the pattern of utilization of women's political networks in the North Sumatra DPRD.

The strength of women who joined KPP became a forum to build women's solidarity. The North Sumatra DPRD KPP program as follows: (i) accelerates the improvement of community welfare, especially for women, in this case one of the factors is the existence of gender inequality and the low representation of women in public policy-making institutions in the parliament, (ii) holding scientific activities such as feminine seminars, conducting special study visits in dealing with women's issues in parliament such as to Kuala Lumpur, where the results of comparative studies can be implemented in the DPRD directly, (iii) placement of a number of funds in the BPP (Women's Empowerment Agency) for activities such as maternal and child health, domestic violence, conducting counseling and other activities of a female nature, and (iv) placement of funds at the Social Service, where an activity is specifically for women such as making healthy women from the bottom by means of the Healthy Baby Program up to Healthy Mothers.

Based on research conducted by Dewi in the DPRD Kulonprogo, it was explained that legislative members who lead a commission in making decisions can be hampered because of fear sometimes [8]. This condition results in a slow decision that will bring changes to the performance of women's legislatures in parliament. In addition, women parliamentarians who sit on the commission have difficulty making a proposal at the commission session. In general, the attitude taken by women who have strategic positions in parliament becomes static.

The cases that can be found for women in the North Sumatra DPRD also feel something similar to Kulonprogo. There are eight Batak women in the North Sumatra DPRD from the Batak ethnic group in North Sumatra. Based on the results of the research conducted by the eight activities, the informants did not

really bring change to women in North Sumatra. Just like what is done is only a follow-up program but it has not been able to reduce the problems faced by women in North Sumatra.

The contribution of Batak ethnic women in the North Sumatra DPRD can be described using a pattern that is analyzed based on the results of research in the form of observations, interviews and documentation studies. The collective and individual patterns. Based on the flow of the picture above, it can be explained that the activities of women DPRD members are also carried out individually by being involved with the activities of the parties that carry them. The activity was also carried out specifically in the electoral area where the votes came from the area. In addition to activities carried out with individual parties they are involved in activities that voice the people's aspirations with a joint program of the Non-government Institute.

The process of change that occurs along with cultural influences originating from within and from outside is a difficult situation unstoppable. Dare to make changes to be responsible for the mandate carried out should have an impact on positive change. Women are subordinate figures constructed in an era where women are inferior.

Women slowly rise and penetrate the boundaries of inequality and injustice. Patriarchal culture that is so binding on women is felt so slowly to change the way women think to progress. Women feel taboo to get to know politics and are even reluctant to get involved in the public sphere. The contribution of eight ethnic Batak women and having a firm character that is expected to be of good performance is also not running properly. Traditional political construction inherited from ancestors has not been able to be balanced with changes in the mindset of Batak ethnic women in parliament today.

IV. CONCLUSION

The existence of women in the utilization of women's political networks gained the opportunity for strategic positions in the parliament specifically in the North Sumatra DPRD through synergy with the North Sumatra DPRD Commission, the Women's Empowerment Agency (BPP) and the establishment of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus (KPP).

The contribution of women, especially the Batak ethnic groups in parliament, has not been maximized. This is because women are still not separated from the free space in voicing women's aspirations and weakness in making decisions. Traditional political construction has undergone changes in parliament, but the motives and work commitments of ethnic Batak women in the North Sumatra DPRD are still around party and individual interests. The disadvantage is that it is difficult to build

a clean culture from the practice of crimes committed by women themselves which is still ongoing.

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