

Role of Electoral Systems on Women's Parliamentary Participation (Comparative Study: I.R Iran & I.R Afghanistan)

*Yones Fathi**

*Nusratullah Nabeel Rahimi***

Received Date: 31/12/2019 - Accepted Date: 14/06/2020

DOI: 10.22096/LAW.2021.119435.1599

Abstract

The equal political participation of men and women is one of the fundamental goals of democracy and human rights principles. According to new researches one of the most significant and effective steps for political empowerment of women is to strengthen their parliamentary participation. However, the level of women's parliamentary participation is strongly linked to the electoral systems. The level of parliamentary participation of women in states which are using the proportional system is much better or higher than the states which are following the majoration system. So the main question in this article is what is the relationship between the electoral system and the parliamentary participation of women in Iran and Afghanistan? Based on the results of this study, it can be said that there is direct correlation between the electoral systems and the status of women's parliamentary participation. Due to the use of the two-round Plurality and Majoration system, the level of participation of women in the Iranian parliament is weak. In addition, the use of a Single Member non-transferable voting system (a system which has more overlap with the majoration family) in Afghanistan has also increased dependence on gender quotas. This article is applied research and data analyzed by using the Descriptive and deductive method.

Keywords: Electoral Systems; Parliamentary Participation; Gender Quota; Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

* Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Bu-Ali Sina University, Hamadan, Iran.

Email: u.fathi@basu.ac.ir

** M.A student of public law, Bu-Ali Sina University, Hamadan, Iran.

Email: nusratullahnabeel@gmail.com



Bibliography

A) Book & Articles

- Al-Ghafoor, Sayed Muhammad Taqi & Fatima Kasheef Khatah (2008). “The new chapter for the political participation of women in Iran (With an emphasis on the views of Imam Khomeini)”, *Journal of Shiite women*, Issue 5, Vol. 5, No. 18, pp. 148-180. [In Persian]
- Association for Protection of Refugee, Women and Children (2005). *Huquq Ensani Zanan dar Seyasat va Zendagi Umumi*, Mzar-i-Sharif: HAMI. [In Persian]
- Azad, Aqil (2015). *Zanan va Musharikat Seyasi: Chalishha, Destawardha va Forsathai Badi*, First Publication, Kabul: FEFA. [In Persian]
- Ballington, Julie & Azza Karam (2005). *Women in parliament: beyond numbers*, Stockholm: International IDEA.
- Ballington, Julli & Richard E. Matland (2004). *Political Parties and Special Measures: Women’s Participation in Electoral Process*, New York: Glen Cove.
- Beauregard, Katrine (2013). “Gender, Political Participation and Electoral System Cross-National Analysis”, *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 53, No. 3, pp. 617-634.
- C. Thames, Frank & Margare S. Williams (2010). “Incentives for Personal Votes and Women’s Representation in Legislatures”, *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 12, pp. 1575–1600.
- Caul, Miki (1999). “Women’s Representation in Parliament: The Role of Political Parties”, *SAGE Publications*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 79-98.
- Chaudhury, Nafay & Mohammad Erfani (2018). *Electoral reforms and the experience of parliamentary elections in Afghanistan*, First Publication, Kabul: AISS. [In Persian]
- Christensen, Skye & Gabrielle Bardall (2016). “Gender quota in Single Member District Electoral Systems”, *Western Political Science Association*, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 246-267.
- Eto, Mikiko (2010). “Women and Representation in Japan”, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 177-201.
- Flashengberg, Adera (2016). *The end of patriarchy*, Translated by: Sayed waheed Dadgar, First Publication, Afghanistan: Heinrich Boll Foundation. [In Persian]

- Gamboa, Ricardo & Mauricio Morales (July-2018). “Gender Quotas, Campaign Spending Electoral Success: Women’s Representation in Open-list Proportional Representation Systems”, *Paper Prepared for presentation at the 25 World Congress of Political Science*, Brisbane.
- Haidari, Ashraf (2008). “The Culture & Conflict Review”, *the Program for Culture & Conflict Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 1-3.
- Hussainpoor, Fatima (2017). “Comparative Analysis of Elections of the Parliament of Iran and the UK”, *Faslname Elmi Tarwiji Asnad Baharistan*, No. 10, pp. 46-25.
- I.Lindberg, Stffan (2004). “Women’s Empowerment and Democratization: The Effects of Electoral Systems, Participation, and Experience in Africa”, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Vol. 39, No. 1, pp. 28-53.
- Iwanaga, Kazuki (2008). *Women Political Participation and Representation in Asia: Abstacles and Challenges*, Malaysia: NIAS Press.
- Jones, Mark (2004). “Quota Legislation and the Election of Women: Learning from the Costa Rican Experience”, *the Journal of Politics*, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 1203–1223.
- Kandiyoti, Deniz (2007). “Between the hammer and the anvil: Post-conflict reconstruction, Islam and women’s rights”, *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 9, pp. 503-517.
- Khuramshad, Muhammad Baqir & Abo-Zar Rafee Qahsara (2013). “Electoral System of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis)”, *Jostarha-ye Seyasi-ye Moaser*, Issue 4, No. 3, pp. 41-66. [In Persian]
- Khusravi, Hassan (2015). “The Favorable Elective System of Islamic Consultative Assembly relying on the Elective systems”, *Ulum Seyasi*, Issue 18, No. 71, pp. 94-126. [In Persian]
- Kunovich, Sheri & Paxton Pamela (2005). “Pathways to Power: The Role of Political Parties in Women’s National Political Representation”, *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 111, No. 2, pp. 505-552.
- Lough, Oliver; Farokhloqa Amini; Farid Ahmad Bayat; Hussain Zia; Reyhaneh Gulsum Hussaini; Massouda Kohistani & Chona R. Echavez (2012). *Equal rights, un-equal opportunities: women’s participation in Afghanistan’s parliamentary and provincial council elections. First Publication*, Kabul: AREU. [In Persian]
- M.Hughes, Melanie; P. Pamela & M.Lena Krook (2017). “Gender Quotas for Legislatures and Corporate Boards”, *Annual Reviews*, Vol. 43, No. 1, pp. 331-52.

- Mirshekaraan, Yahyah; Zahra Peshgahifard & Elham Wahidi (2018). “Puyesh geghraphyae entikhabat majlis Islami Iran ba takid bar mushareekat zanan”, *Pazhuheshnama Geghraphyae Entizami*, Issue 6, No. 21, pp. 83-114. [In Persian]
- Moser, Robert G. (2001). “The effects of electoral systems on women’srepresentation in post-communist states”, *Electoral Studies*, Issue 3, Vol. 20, pp. 353–369.
- Neemati, Noordin & Samaana Esfandyari (2016). “Female representative of the Islamic Parliament and the social status of Women: the first and second parliaments”, *Journal of Women Culture and Arts*, Vol. 8, No. 3, pp. 429-442. [In Persian]
- Neemati, Noordin & Samaana Esfandyari (2019). “The Role of Female Representatives in Iranian Islamic Parliament (Third and Fourth Periods)”, *Journal of Women Culture and Arts*, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 143-149. [In Persian]
- Norris, Pippa (2006). “Fast Track Strategies for Women's Representation in Iraq and Afghanistan: Choices and Consequences”, *McGuire Lecturer in Comparative Politics*, Vol. 8, No. 27, pp. 1-26.
- Panahi, Muhammad Muhsin & Sumaia Al-Sadat Bani Fatima (2014). “Political Culture and Political Participation of Women”, *Social Sciences*, Vol. Spring 2015, No. 68, pp. 35-78. [In Persian]
- Pishgahi fard, Zahra & Wahid Keyani (2018). “Geographical Analysis of Women Delegation in the Elections of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran(First to Ninth Parliaments, 1358-1391)”, *Pazhoheshname- ye Zanan -Pazhoheshgah Ulum Ensani va Mutaleaat Farhangi*, Issue 6, No. 1, pp. 53-73. [In Persian]
- Reeve, Andrew & Ware, Alan (2006). *Electoral Systems: A comparative and theoretical Introduction*, New York: Routledge.
- Reynolds, Andrew; Ben Reilly & Eliss, Andrew (2005). *Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook*, Stockholm, Sweden: IDEA.
- Schwindt-Bayer, Leslie & William Mishler (2005). “An Integrated Model of Women's Representation”, *Juournal of Politics*, Vol. 67, No. 2, pp. 407-428.
- Shekva, Haidari (2018). *Mutalea tatbeqi musharikat zanan dar qoua muqanina ba takid bar sahmiiae entikhabati*, Unpublished Master’s thesis, Qom: University of Qom, Faculty of Law. [In Persian]

- Tawasooli Ruknabadi, Majid & Alireza Shaaban Shmirani (2013). "The Role of Islamic Consultative Assembly's Electoral System on the How of the Seventh Assembly MPs' Discharging Their Duties", *Jostarha-ye Seyasi-ye Moaser*, Issue 4, No. 10, pp. 75-104. [In Persian]
- Yazdanpanah, Keyumars; Majid Ghulami; Zohre Faridoniya & Mahtab Jafari (2017). "Geodetic survey of women in parliament in Iran (With emphasis on the tenth parliament)", *Journal of Women Culture and Arts*, Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 291-313. [In Persian]
- Young, Lisa (1997). "Gender Equal Legislatures: Evaluating the Proposed Nunavut Electoral System", *Canadian Public Policy*, Vol. Xxiii, No. 3, pp. 306-315.

B) Documents

- Legal Vice prudence of Islamic Republic of Iran (2007). *Majmuaa Qauanin va Muqararaat Entikhabat Majlis Shurai Islami*, Third series, Tehran: Entisharat edara kul tadwin va tanqih qwanin reyasat jamhuri.
- Ministry of Justice (2003). «Constitution of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan», Official Guzzetti, Series 818, Kabul: Ministry of Justice Press.
- Ministry of Justice (2016). «Election Law», Official Guzzetti, Series 1226, Kabul: Ministry of Justice Press.
- Ministry of Justice (2018). «Amendment on Election Law, Official Guzzetti», Series 1429, Kabul: Ministry of Justice Press.
- The United Nation (1966). *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, (Entered into force 23 March 1976), 999 UNTS 171 (ICCPR).
- The United Nation (1979). *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*. (Entered into force 3 September 1981), Res. 34/180(CEDAW).
- The United Nation General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, (adopted 10 December 1948 UNGA Res 217 A (III) (UDHR).
- United Nations (1996). General Assembly, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, (4-15 September 1995), United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13.

C) Website

- «Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women» (27 October 1995), United Nations (1995). Available at: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf.

- «Charter of the United Nations», United Nations (1945). Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3930.html>.
- «Impact of electoral systems on women's representation in politics, Council of Europe» (8 September 2009), Lydie Err Luxembourg (2009). Available at: <http://assembly.coe.int>.
- «Learning from women's success in the 2010 afghan election. By the United States Institute of Peace», Scott Worden & Nina Sudhakar (2012). Available at: www.usip.org.
- «Tazahai Entikhabat Afghanistan: Entikhabat Wolisi Jirga» (30/12/2019), NDI (2010). Available at: www.ndi.org.
- «Women and Political Participation» (15/08/2014), United Nations. Available at: www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/58/142&Lang=E.
- «Women and Political Participation» (15/08/2014), United Nations. Available at: www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/130.
- «Women and Politics in Afghanistan: How to use the chance of the 25 % quota for women?. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung», Friederike Böge (2004). Available at: beate.bartoldus@fes.de.
- «Women in Parliament 2017: The Year in Review», Inter-Parliamentary Union (2018). Available at: www.ipu.org.
- «Afghan Women on the Agenda for Peace. Afghan Women on the Agenda for Peace», Masuda Sultan (2005). Available at: www.huntalternativesfund.org.