





Pathology of Tehran women's political participation based on grounded theory

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

The issue of women's political participation in developing countries is a complex phenomenon and is related to the dynamics and development of political systems. The level of political participation of citizens shows a political system developed by a country or government. The development of political systems in a nation depends on the political participation of its citizens regardless of gender. Women are half of the human power of societies, which are one of the most important sources of development. Despite the social and cultural limitations, Iranian women have distanced themselves from their traditional roles and have shown more desire for social and political participation. The purpose of this research is to understand and analyze the situation of women's political participation, which was done with qualitative methodology and Grounded theory method. In the section of sensitive theoretical concepts in this research, concepts such as political socialization, civil society and civil solidarity, modernization, and participatory social foundations have been investigated. Also, the review of the research history indicates that the studies related to women's political participation, especially its pathology, are relatively few and there is still a need to accumulate studies in this field. Therefore, an attempt has been made to refer to the most relevant research history with the subject in question. Also, most of the research carried out in the field of political participation in various fields of social sciences, political sciences, and law are focused on why (and as a result based on quantitative methodology) and few types of research can be found that seek to understand women's understanding of political participation with qualitative methods. and the damages of this partnership.

Methodology

The participants of this research were women aged 21 to 56 living in Tehran. To collect data, semi-structured interviews were conducted with seventeen women living in Tehran, and the research reached theoretical saturation in terms of data. A purposive sampling method was used to select the participants. Among the different targeted sampling strategies, two snowballs (chain) sampling was done and maximum changes were used. Based on the approach of maximum diversity and maintaining balance in the targeted selection of interviewees, it was tried to interview working and non-working women, with diverse educations, different age classes, and different political approaches. The interviews took an average of thirty minutes to four hours and in some cases continued in several sessions. The process of data collection through interviews lasted about six months. Data analysis was done with a theoretical coding system. In this type of coding, which is specific to the grounded theory method, three stages were passed: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. In the open coding stage, the text of the interviews was read line by line and conceptualized. In the axial coding, these concepts were placed next to each other, and based on the semantic overlap, they became the axial categories. Finally, the core category was

obtained at a more abstract level than the previous two stages. It is necessary to mention that the data coding process started from the second interview onwards and until the end of the analysis, the interview and the analysis proceeded simultaneously. In terms of observing ethical considerations, the satisfaction of the participants was obtained before the start of the interview.

Results

The data were analyzed using the theoretical coding method. In the open coding phase, 85 initial codes and seven core categories were extracted. After analyzing the data, 85 primary codes, seven central categories, and one core category were extracted through the data coding system: causal conditions (economic issues and challenges, egalitarian governance), background conditions (unequal political structure and patriarchal challenges), intervening conditions (personality-spiritual factors), strategies (meritism and creating a platform for prosperity) and consequences (active political activism of women and rejection of political passivity). Also, "women's political participation; Meaningful and multifaceted action" was counted as the core category and finally the paradigm model extracted from the data was established. The paradigm model of the research shows the causal, background, and intervening conditions, strategies, and consequences of women's political participation in Tehran. According to this model, economic conditions and its challenges and political and governance factors are among the important obstacles to women's political participation. Economic conditions such as unemployment, and financial dependence on family and spouse are factors that limit women's political participation. Political and governance factors are another obstacle by which women are prevented from political participation. In this field, some women believe that men have monopolized the field of politics and prevent women from having an active presence, and if any progress is made in this field, it will be met with a negative reaction from political men; Because men cannot bear women's leadership. In the next section, we will discuss the background factors and conditions. Among the important background conditions in the field of women's political participation in Tehran is the unequal and patriarchal structure in the field of political activism. Here, the intervening conditions clearly show the reason for the aggravation of this phenomenon. Some of these women and girls have found themselves trapped in a circle of inefficiency due to their personality and psychological characteristics. Characteristics such as lack of self-confidence, lack of self-belief, self-deprecation, and lack of belief in one's abilities make women believe that they cannot hold important political positions. The findings indicate that women are active actors and activists in political participation and take actions based on political issues; An action of the type of participation that identifies the obstacles and facilitating factors can open the way for their active political participation as effective citizens in the field of politics. In terms of strategies, women have chosen different strategies to increase their political participation. Eliminating patriarchy in the political arena is one of these strategies.

Conclusion

Participating women believe that if patriarchal rules change, women's wishes will be taken into consideration. The society should be managed with meritocracy so that men and women in different fields are treated equally. Also, women, like men, should be allowed to be present in different fields and acquire and develop their abilities and talents. Finally, women believe that until this belief and trust is not institutionalized in society that women can work in politics like men, their political participation will be impossible.

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