

WOMEN IN LOCAL LEGISLATION

Reginald R. Lampitoc¹, and

Louie Benedict R. Ignacio²

¹Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

²Social Science Area, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

ABSTRACT:

Political participation is higher among men than women in most parts of the world. As time goes by, more technologies are being developed; women are accepted in the society especially in the politics where the potentials of women can be compared to male politicians. This article studies the perspectives of constituents on how a female politician can handle a given position better than male politicians. With the use of a complete triangulation of techniques via survey, interviews and secondary analysis of data; this study shows that women hold more radical opinions on issues regarding gender equality and being a political entity. These factors have positive impact on women's participation, and as a result, women often confront a "glass cliff" in which their position in the office is precarious. Results indicated that women now are truly accepted in politics especially here in the Philippines; women are also very cooperative in political exercises in which it increases the support of women politicians here in the Philippines. Also, there was a strong preference for a female politician on the appointment when the seat was described as hard to win.

Keywords: *Women Representation, Elected Women in Politics, Gender Gap, Gender Equality*

INTRODUCTION

A woman in politics is where a lady a politician entered politics and voted by the people who think she has the capability to handle a higher office. Women representation on the other hand is where the elected lady politician fully represents herself and the people who are under-represented such as her fellow women who are unheard or the ones who didn't give the opportunity to voice out despite the fact that there are issues of gender inequality, women politicians insist that they have the right to be heard. Gender equality is where there are no issues in gender tolerance; also, there is freedom for those women politicians to voice out for the under-represented. The latter implication for gender equality is given particular struggle for equality can be compromised where it is used as a pretext for majoritarian ethnic or religious supremacy. Lastly, Gender gaps are complex phenomena that deserve careful systematic attention because the impact of any gender gap in affect and information in voting for female candidates also appears to be limited. It is also a gap for the supremacy of male and women in certain ways, creating issues that started even in ancient times; it is now a norm for the public if there is an issue between genders knowing who the best gender is.

The involvement of women in the political arena changed the course of gender issue. Women are known for being intuitive, creative, and understanding; so in times of crisis, women can bear those hindrances. They also tend to employ more 'feminine' leadership practices such as collaborative, distributive or shared leadership based on the values of caring and service to the

community (Paxton and Kunovic 2003; Rai 2007; Stolkes 2005). Women often bring alternative visions and issues to politics grounded in their reproductive roles and experiences, raising questions that need to be addressed if social policy is to improve. Women in politics have historically been under-represented compared to men. When Vigdis Finnbogadóttir of Iceland, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Indira Gandhi of India seated in the executive branch, it strengthened the gender gap in which it is closing. They showed the value of leadership, strength with regards to criticisms, and represented the voice of women who are neglected by men. Our generation today is accommodating more and more women on politics across the world - significantly in the developed world. Because the developed world has a system that encourages and educates women to value civic engagement to see themselves as empowered leaders in politics. In the Philippines, there are already two women who seated as the President; Corazon Aquino, who replaced her husband after the assassination run for the sake of democracy in which she was called the “Mother of Democracy” in which she represented not only women but the whole nation against dictatorship. She showed a caring mother image in which she treated Filipinos as her own children. But the idealized nurturing and caring ‘mother image’ can mire women in the particularities of family – the private – rather than the generalities of the public sphere, thereby weakening their positions (Dhanda, 2008; Stolkes, 2005; Young, 2000). Men see this as an advantage to overthrow women in politics, but what they do not understand is that these kinds of traits are the essential values of women in which they are representing. After Aquino’s legacy, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo represented the Filipinos not as a caring mother, but as a serious leader in which she focuses more on the economic concept of the development of the Philippines. She proved that dealing on issues that were put up against her cannot hinder to finish her duty for nine years in service. On the local government level such as Pasay City, there were women councilors in which they not only focused on the environment development of the city but they also focused on the benefits of women like giving health services or benefits. Also, they are elected because their fathers paved way in the development of the city. People saw their abilities in public service especially in representing women.

There are greater proponents of female representation, in which principles of justice between the sexes demand it; that successful female politicians act as important role models to other women; that women have distinct interests from men that can only be addressed by women within political institutions; and that women’s increased presence in political institutions will improve qualitatively the ethos and character of those institutions (Allen and Dean 2008). These proponents paved other women to enter politics and it gave them interest to represent women.

In terms of women in politics, women emerged as the preferred candidate for a seat that was unwinnable, but when the seat was winnable, a male candidate was preferred (Ryan et. al. 2010). It establishes a causal relationship between seat unwinnability and the preferential selection of women. Women in unwinnable seats can be explained solely by the fact that women themselves prefer, and actively choose, to run in seats that are less winnable-an explanation that female leaders sometimes endorse in other organizational contexts because “they relish the challenge” (Ryan et. al. 2007). Sometimes, women were not fully supported due to their weakness to run in office. Women

continue to be underrepresented in the most powerful positions of society. This observation is particularly true in the political world. Women are clearly a minority among those in power (Ryan et. al. 2010). Women are more likely than men to occupy leadership positions that have an increased risk of failure in office. But in the Philippine politics, women's participation is done through the broader context within the policy process. However, despite these broader involvements, the number of women running for political positions has not increased dramatically (Tapales 2005). But as time goes by, women are entering politics as where the voice of women should still be heard and to be represented.

Women in politics today are more focused on the economic aspect due to the fact that it will increase the stability of the stock market and foreign investors. Women who were previously economically inactive are now being expected and encouraged to take paid employment (Annesley 2010). Men tend to be less economically vulnerable than women, and they are less pessimistic than women about the economy. Because men and women experience and perceive the economy differently, economic fluctuations may create gender gap dynamics in policy mood.

However, the study finds evidence that men running against women often adapt their campaigns to consciously reach out to women voters. This desire to be seen as attentive to women can take many forms increasing the number and visibility of women active in a campaign, setting up a special campaign group for women supporters, targeting women voters for outreach efforts, increasing campaign attention to issues of concern to women (Dolan, 2008).

Overall, the purpose of the study was to investigate and to answer questions on why a female politician serves as a great competitor and gain more votes to a male politician. Specifically, the objective of this study include (1) characterizing the effects of women in politics to gender gap, (2) to investigate the risk of gender gap upon women representation, (3) to investigate the risk of gender gap upon gender equality, and lastly, (4) to characterize the effects of women representation to gender equality.

In general, the current study can contribute to the understanding of gender equality to resolve its issue for male and females, especially for the politicians. This study can also contribute on the manner by which institutions resolve issues on gender equality.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Theoretical Framework

This study utilized the Feminist Political Theory by Stetson and Mazur (1995) and Bacchi (1999). This theory was previously viewed as fundamentally patriarchal, now the state is analyzed in its relations of power, class, social and economic groups in feminist perspective, also state's instruments for subordination of women, structuration and influence of gender roles and relations,

and in more positive vision – positive economic policies for lessening of the financial dependency of women on men (Stetson and Mazur 1995). It also focuses on politics constructing gendered subjects, and the ways in which gender constructs politics, and the ways in which gender issues such as ‘women’s inequality’ are constructed in policy debates and decision-making” (Bacchi 1999).

This study utilized the Social-Role Theory by Eagly (1987). This theory defines that men and women behave differently in social situations and take different roles, due to the expectations that society puts upon them (including gender stereotyping). This includes women taking positions of lower power, meeting “glass ceilings”, having home-making roles, etc.

The study took into consideration the empowerment of women in politics and to the culture and behavior of women in the office. The promotion of women’s interest based on their experiences they acquired within the state working from within the state system to empower women, or the state itself acts in a way to further in the status of women.

Literature Review

Women in Politics

Politics and gender scholarship is increasingly trying to show whether, when and how women in politics make a difference to policy outcomes (Annesley 2010). Meaning women can shape policy outcomes, and they can give a big contribution to politics. Women in politics are in those spheres that provide care for people – particularly in the social sphere, education and health care (Wolchik 1994 stated in Butorova 2009). Women are generally accepted today, rather in the past where there were discriminations among them.

Women are considered to be a special group; they have undertaken strategic reforms in areas of gender and justice. Feminist scholars have always hoped that more women in positions of real power would result in better policies for women. Women’s increased presence in German government as of 1998 testifies to generational change, as well as to the completion of a “gender-specific” long march through the institutions (Jacquot 2010; Mushaben 2005). Meaning, women were considered special and without their expertise, the issue about gender gap will not be resolved, thus women are still treated unfairly.

The issue of women in politics has been at the heart of the fight for equality since the beginning of female egalitarian consciousness. In the early part of the 20th century, the suffragettes were focusing their efforts on women’s getting the vote. Now, the fight for fair representation still continues at the heart of politics in order that United Kingdom are represented by a true cross section of society rather than the middle-class men that still dominate the House of Commons’ benches (May 2010). Women in the United Kingdom still fights for fair representation and a fair

treatment in the society. When women fought for something, they will not give up so easily for they will attain their goal no matter what it cost.

In women's personal views on power, governance and politics are largely associated with male characteristics, and given that, they do not enjoy the same level of confidence compared with men. Women would rather avoid conflict rather than engage in it, thus leaving the field freely open to the opposite sex (Gumba 2001).

Gender Gap

Gender gaps in effect hold for female candidates when we consider the relevant controls due to party compatibility between women in the public and female Democratic candidates. The impact of any gender gap in affect and information in voting for female candidates also appears to be somewhat limited because there is an indirect influence in effect on voter support (Dolan 2008). Not only it is limited but it is monitored in any gender gap evaluations of female candidates should take into account partisan differences as well as sex-based identity. Alternately, the so-called stereotypical "female" issues that drive the gender gap, such as education healthcare, the environment, and social welfare spending (Carroll 2006; Thomas 1994; Swers and Larson 2005 stated in Dolan 2008).

The pervasiveness of political gender gaps is ample evidence that gender-differentiated voting behaviors and attitudes have emerged internationally. It is also critical to understand gender gaps because these gaps have important consequences. A focus on the gender gap itself can change the nature of political campaigns and it can be a determining factor in close elections (Diekmann and Schneider 2010).

The relationship between Women in Politics and Gender Gap is that it can increase risk of failure in the office. Also, if women entered politics, the issues of gender gap will increase due to issues on women acquiring political positions higher than men and if a female representative gets more support than a male representative there will be scandals or issues regarding a female politician to ruin her reputation and lose all her supporters.

H1: Women who are in Politics affect the Gender Gap.

Women Representation

Women representation is where women tend to be elected in higher numbers in proportional representation as opposed to majoritarian systems and the focus of much of the recent literature has gender quotas (Krook 2010). But despite of higher numbers a woman politician can gather, she is still underrepresented due to the fact that some of the people still believe that a female politician is capable in handling a higher office but a male politician is still the best suited for the job. The main reason behind women's under-representation stems from gender differences in political

ambition which cause fewer women than men to consider running for political office, biases in the recruitment practices of political elites which lead them to select fewer female candidates than male candidates, or prejudices on the part of voters who prefer to elect men than women (Krook 2010).

The representation of women was not a simple quantitative change, but an increase in the number of women candidates in the group of key claimants to seats, at present, women's representation in institutional politics still requires special measures such as quotas. Electoral systems can play a key role where women compete directly with men, shows very slow increases in women's representation (Vardanian and Kochkina 2007, Gouws 2008). It is really hard for a woman to represent in politics, with a place where men dominated the political arena, it is a challenge for a female politician to be unique and give them the reason why they should vote for her.

Women Representation and Gender Gap are related because women who represents in politics can sometimes get an advantage where they can see her as a provider or a motherly figure which male politicians can be difficult to compare with. Also, women receive greater representation in which at the same time the issue on gender is increasing where men destroy the reputation of a female politician.

H2a: Women Representation increases the risk in affecting Gender Gap.

Gender Equality

Gender equality is where women adhere more strongly to norms on the importance of being politically active, which in turn has a positive impact on political representation. The female migrations also suggest that the project toward gender equality in national membership must include an appreciation for the issue of immigrants. But the relationship between women and the nation is highly contested (Adaman 2009; Chen 2009). Meaning women give importance to norms because it leads them the determination to become active in politics.

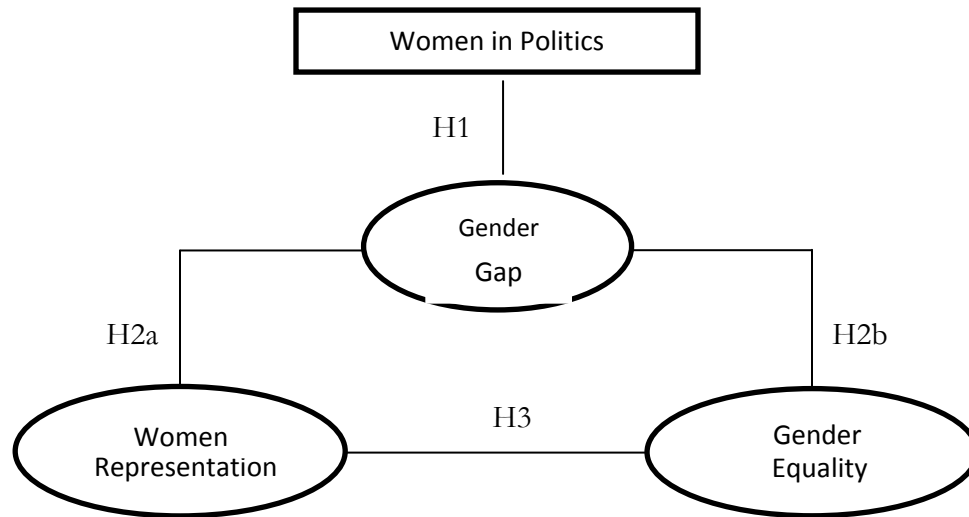
The latter implication for gender equality is given particular attention to the ways in which the struggle for gender equality can be compromised where it is used as a pretext for religious supremacy. This observation is particularly true in the political world, where women are clearly a minority among those in power (Razavi and Jenichen 2010; Ryan et. al. 2010).

Gender Equality and Gender Gap are related because of the increased risk where the resolving factor of equality is still questioned by some people that politics should be governed by women. The two variables were always used in the continuous issue on gender. On the other hand, Women Representation and Gender Equality are related because women are the political empowerment for good governance. To enhance women's participation in politics, a deep-rooted cultural change is to be made so as to break down the segregation in stereotyped roles, both for men and for women.

H2b: Gender Equality increases the risk in affecting Gender Gap.

H3: The Representation of Women affects the Gender Equality and Vice Versa.

Conceptual Framework



In this Conceptual Framework, women entering the political sphere tend to create issues in the general public because of their perception on the limited capabilities of electing women in a higher political office thus affects and widens the gender gap between male and female politicians (H1). Women representation can increase the risk of gender gap because women tend to be elected in higher numbers in proportional representation meaning, most of the voters still sees men as the strong one and has the capability in running the political sphere (H2a). On the other hand, gender equality may increase the risk in gender gap because some will still say and believe that women are only good in household chores even though today's women are strong and capable in handling political issues and manage them with ease even if it creates an equality among male and female politicians, it can be a stereotypical way for looking women differently (H2b). Lastly, representing women affects gender equality or vice versa, because some will try to give their own opinion about women and power and how they can change the political mainstream but some may also look to it in a negative way (H3).

METHOD

The current study's approach was to describe the involvement of women in the political arena. Using a descriptive method and through the use of interview, survey and analysis of secondary data, this study completed the triangulation of techniques to validate the data gathered.

The researcher used an elite interview in which he interviewed male and female councilors of Pasay City, because it was be a challenge for the researcher to conduct the interview in a place where there is a higher trust in electing women politicians. It will answer the effects of women in politics to gender gap because, reflecting on what are the effects that happened after they are seated in the office.

The survey on the other hand, was conducted to the voters of Stanford St. Pasay City because they are active during election and they think that women are capable in handling a higher office. The researcher also used a survey. It answered the investigation regarding the risk of gender gap upon women representation and the risk of gender gap upon gender equality. Lastly, the researcher used a secondary analysis data on the number of female councilors elected during elections, data on the number of votes gathered for women politicians, the data on the number of supporters of a female politician as time goes by, and lastly the number of female politicians who failed to do their duty in the office. These data's were gathered in order to support the current study. With the secondary analysis of data, it will answer the effects of women representation to gender equality.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

In order to study the impact of women in political exercises and the gender issues in politics, the researcher conducted an interview from 3 City Councilors of Pasay City. They are Councilors Grace Santos and of District 1, Eduardo Advincula and Ilena Ibay of District 2. The researcher chose them because of their leadership capabilities, and they are known for the issues of gender mainstreaming in politics. With their permission, the researcher interviewed the latter using open-ended questions.

The narratives were analyzed using thematic network analysis. The interview were transcribed and coded. The analysis begins with open coding where texts are read. Through reading, re-reading, coding and re-coding, categories were established.

The researcher also surveyed voters aged 19-60 years old of Barangay Stanford St. Pasay City. With the use of Slovin's Formula the researcher surveyed 295 respondents out of 1,111 from the said barangay.

Women Politicians as a Motherly Figure

When the researcher asked the participants how they perceive women politicians as a motherly figure, the three respondents, had different answers. As discussed in the literature, the idealized nurturing and caring ‘mother image’ can mire women in the particularities of the family – the private – rather than the generalities of the public sphere, thereby weakening their positions (Dhanda, 2008; Stolkes, 2005; Young, 2000). Two of the respondents said that women tend to be soft sometimes or may weaken their positions but they assume that a woman knows the needs of their constituents and they can feel the needs of the people. Councilor Grace Santos said that, “Women politicians know the needs of his constituents, they can feel the needs of their constituents in a situation like me, and I can feel the status on what is happening on my constituents”.

We can see that their perspectives are based from the historical differences and the recent happenings what we are experiencing right now. Women leaders often try to deflect the mistrust and criticism with which the public regard them because of their gender with reassurances that their interest in politics is as mothers, as guardians, as carers of the nation (Goetz, 2007).

In the survey, 177 (60%) of the respondents disagrees on their perception on women as a mother figure because they know that in politics, you need to be strong and they should not show any signs of weakness.

The reason why their perspectives are different is that the political actor were able to answer the questions based on what they experienced inside the political sphere. On the other hand the answer of the voters from the survey is based from what they see and their knowledge of what is happening inside the political sphere. According to Jacquot (2010), and Mushaben (2005), women are considered to be in a special group, more women in positions of real power would result in better policies for the community, meaning women can be identified as trustworthy or not.

Women inside the Political Sphere

Views on Women Politician

The researcher asked the participants how they view women politicians today, what are their advantages in entering the political arena and what their opinions are on the developing trend of women representation. Two of them said that women have their advantages because they are compassionate and they have charisma. They mentioned they can get the support of their constituents. The other said that because of law, women and men are equal that is why women tend to enter politics as of today. Councilor Santos said that, “the advantage of women in politics is that, they are ‘compassionate’, we are more approachable. I think that is what I see as an advantage for us against male politicians”. And Councilor Advincula said that, “women have their advantages on politics because of charisma, they have these traits where they can gather supporters easily.”

People tend to look more on women politicians because they have these traits that they use as an advantage which empowers them or gets their courage in entering the political sphere. Nevertheless, based from their answers, both male and female agree that women have these qualities that make them powerful and generally accepted today. But for the voters in the survey, most of them disagrees that women gains advantage against their male counterparts probably because they too believe that the male politicians are still superior even though women are accepted in politics. According to Ryan, Haslam, Hersby, Kultch& Atkins (2007), women came to occupy leadership roles can increase the risk of failure in the office and could thus be seen as more precarious than male counterparts. Moreover these positions are likely to attract more attention than those of men to expose women to greater stress than men. The voters believed that women will fail in handling political positions because they gather more stress.

In terms of the developing trend of women entering in politics, Councilor Santos said that “women and men are in equal footing because as years go by, more women are interested to enter in politics.” That is why women today are empowered and also elected and re-elected in elections.

In support to this analysis is the data gathered by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the percentage of women in the lower or single house and the upper house or the senate as of June 30, 2012. The Philippines ranked 53 out of 139 countries. On the lower house, out of 284 seats, 65 (22.9%) seats were occupied by women while on the upper house or the senate, out of 23 seats, only 3 (13.0%) seats is occupied by women. This data shows that the Philippines has a low average on women in national parliaments, somehow it proves that the male politicians are still elected more often because of the “patriarchal” system of culture we adopted from our ancestors.

But take note that sometimes you just have to go with flow of the world and let changes happen. This doesn’t mean that this will hinder women in entering the political sphere, as what have been discussed by Councilor Santos, “women are empowered and they became an equal footing with men as years go by”. For the voters, 141 (47.80%) said that they are neutral in terms of the developing factor of women representation as far as today’s politics is concern. Although some of them are satisfied on the developing factor, we cannot conclude that they trust women as the center or has the higher seat than male politicians.

Female Qualities in Politics

When the participants were asked what is their view on the qualities of a female politician, Councilor. Santos said that, “women are in the center, housewives are the most supporters for women and because of women’s power it helps who they favor most which is a woman”. Women seeking office are likely to be these quality challengers, for they often run as strategic politicians. The most competitive of congressional elections, open-seat elections, there are more women candidates than men had prior electoral office experience.

In terms of their natural and professional qualities, women are prepared to perform the technocratic and bureaucratic functions of civil servants in the upper hierarchy of state positions. From the standpoint of gender analysis, up to a certain level we observe an equal balance among men and women in the register of state civil positions. According to Kanap'ianova (2009), prerequisites are being created to ensure that the gender asymmetry in the structures of the ruling elite will be transformed in the direction of increasing the numbers of female executives on whom the making of state decisions, on the basis of competition, taking account of professional qualities, organizing skills, political will power in forming the gender approach, and confidence on the part of the women themselves with respect to career growth.

However, when asked about their political ambition, women report that they do not believe they are as qualified as their potential male opponents and decide not to run for elective office. Because they often underestimate their ability to win elections, when women do enter a political race, they may actually be stronger candidates than their male opponents. Most women run as strategic and politically experienced candidates (Gertzog, 2002; Jacobson, 1980; Gaddie and Bullock, 2000; Lawless and Fox, 2005 stated in Crespín and Deitz, 2010).

Gender Issues in Politics

Gender Mainstreaming

There are latter implications for women and men because they are in equal footing. In gender equality, it is given a particular attention to the ways in which the struggle can be compromised where it is used as a pretext for supremacy (Razavi&Jenichen, 2010; Ryan et. al. 2010). When the researcher asked the participants on how they see gender issues, their answers again are based on their own experiences and how they see it as a function in the political sphere. For Councilor Santos, she said that, “a woman intuition would boost them further in helping other people, sure, men can also do that but it is a changing world, women are now sometimes driven already so they would already know the needs of their people, male or female we have our ways in touching their lives and give the needs they want.” This answer is implied on being a public servant as well as the methods they are doing in the course of public service.

For Councilor Advincula on the other hand, his answers are based from the perception of patriarchal system and the superiority of man in politics. He said that, “women should be in their houses and let the male politicians do the work; because we have much experience and we can also give the needs of the people, because if something happen, it will be just like a ‘domino effect’ where everything collapses if one mistake would pass by.” He therefore concluded that male politicians are the only ones who should handle politics.

174 (58.98%) of the respondents surveyed, voters said that they approve of gender equality, women adhere more strongly to the norms of being politically active. Meaning they knew that women are active in terms of politics is concern resulting that gender equality would boost up for their participation.

Gender Gap

The researcher asked the respondents on their opinions regarding gender gap where it is a complex phenomenon that deserves careful and systematic attention especially in terms of women entering the political arena and thus being involved in political exercises. Councilor Santos said that, “gender gap is no longer a question, because of the republic democracy here in the Philippines, the laws enacted made us equal both male and female”. According to Diekman and Schneider (2010), gender gap is ample evidence that gender differentiated behaviors and attitudes and has emerged internationally. It is also critical to understand gender gaps because these gaps have important consequences. Nevertheless, it is clear that gender gap no longer questions the stand between male and female in politics especially here in the Philippines. It means that more women were elected; the more ordinances for women will be created. It also serves as a positive aspect in which male and female politicians give attention to common women who wanted to be heard.

The researcher asked the participants regarding their perception about women as competitor. Councilor Santos said, “No. Because male will fight against themselves and women will go for men, women in nature are simply egotistic.”

But when the respondents answered the survey regarding this question, 187 (65.39%) of them felt that sometimes women can be a threat against male politicians; Probably because they knew that women has these kinds of appeal in which she can gather many supporters much like Senator Santiago, she has this charisma of being intelligent that’s why she can gain enough supporters behind her back.

With the use of Feminist Political Theory’s dimension where it focuses in the state system to empower women, or the state itself acts in a way to further down women’s status in politics. It answered the objective in characterizing the effects of women in politics and in characterizing the effects of women representation in gender equality. Also, with the use of the Social Role Theory where women are taking lower power positions and women often have lower status. It answers the objective of the risk of gender gap upon women representation and the investigation of the risk of gender gap upon gender equality.

DISCUSSION

Elected women in politics are generally accepted now in society. Based on the results, constituents tend to agree to the fact that women can handle leadership roles because historically, the Philippines already had two female presidents, Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo. Both changed the course of politics especially to the society in which the Philippines are accustomed on a patriarchal form of government. Women will not lose their focus just because they are criticized by people. Women will continue to do their job as elected politicians until their term is done. Gender gap upon elective women politicians, based from the results, people believed that there is an impact of gender gap as far as voting female candidates appears to be somewhat limited. The reason why it is limited is because there are still people who believe in patriarchal politics in which men is the superior in politics and has to capacity to control the conflicts inside the political sphere. The risk of gender gap upon gender equality does not endanger the political sphere, thus it is the developing factor for gender equality in which there is equality. But in the positive side, the more women elected in politics, the more ordinances or bills for women will be created. One such is Senator Pia Cayetano and Loren Legarda's RA 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women in which it gave the principles of human rights for women. Another from Senator Legarda is the RA 9501 or the Anti-Violence against Women and Children Act that gave women their induced justice who treated them violently.

On the local government level such as in Pasay City, women councilors were voted because they know the needs of the people. The constituents give women councilors a great trust like Councilor Edith Vergel De Dios of District 2, she was elected in 1988 and up to the present, she still serves as the Councilor for Pasay City in district 2 meaning, men and women, knows her great service and as a great provider. She also made a resolution to provide nursing stations in the workplace for breastfeeding mothers (Res No. 2278).

The development of women representation to gender equality continues to grow as women are now participating in politics, the results shows that women adhere more strongly to the norms on the importance of being politically active. With this quality, people tend to vote or re-elect women politicians.

There were three different hypotheses developed during the early stages of making this paper. Before the data gathering, there are biases as regards conducting interviews with female councilors because of the topic and its focus on elected women, but it was minimized when the experts suggested that male councilors should be included as participants in the study.

In the study of Adman (2009), her study found that women adhere more strongly to norms on the importance of being politically active which in turn has a positive impact on political participation. In the researcher's results, the respondents on the survey also agreed to the said study; meaning, in the Philippines people knows the importance of women in being politically active.

Women on politics really changed the way people think and how politics should be. Because of laws that were enacted, male and female are equal to one another and even though there are still people who believe that women should only be in their houses and let the men do the work, changes still occur and the way people think are being developed from a close-minded opinions to being an open-minded person.

But if we look on the other side of the issue of women representation, even if there are a few women who were elected in politics, they still represent the common women, in the legislative branch of the government such as the Senate, there are Senate Bills in which is focused on women. Male Senators such as Manny Villar, Ramon Revilla Jr. and Jinggoy Estrada created Senate bills like the Address Confidentiality Program Act of 2008 or the SB 2443 in which it addresses the confidentiality of women who are victims of violence against women. Another is the SB 529 or the Anti-Discrimination against Women in which it prohibited the acts of discrimination against women on account of sex. On the local level such as in Pasay City, male councilors also created ordinances such as the Ord. No. 3331 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance in Pasay City in which they gave full support in the campaign against trafficking in persons, especially to women and children. So even though there are few women politicians that were elected, there are male politicians who care for the needs of women because it's a developing world and everyone accepts each other, male or female.

RECOMMENDATION

The researcher recommends that people should support women politicians as they go further in the political sphere. Even though it is already a fact that women can compete against male in politics, there are still hindrances such as criticisms and discrimination for women to enter and participate in politics. If we continue to give way in equal politics there will come a time that majority of the seats in the government will be women and they can handle conflicts inside the political sphere.

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