WOMEN IN POLITICS

EXPLORING FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES

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TOPIC OVERVIEW

- Women historically underrepresented in legislative bodies

- In 2019:
    - Median share of women representation globally: 20.7%
    - US:19.4%

- Women less likely to run for office (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)

RELEVANCE

Why is this important?

- Critical mass theory
- Legislators should reflect constituents

Who is this important to?

- Policymakers and national governments
- Institutions championing gender equality
- Constituents (especially women)

RESEARCH QUESTION AND HYPOTHESIS

Research Question: What factors are associated with countries with greater female representation in politics?

Specifically, what is the relationship between representation of women in politics and:

- Representation of women in the commercial sector?
- Laws and societal attitudes that affect women?

Hypothesis: Countries with better performance across key gender parity indicators are more likely to have greater representation of women in politics.

METHODOLOGY

Datasets:

- OECD Employment dataset (2014)
- Gender, Institutions, and Development Database (2014 and 2019)

Techniques:

- Descriptive Analysis
- Predictive Modeling
  - OLS Regression
  - Ridge Regression

FINDINGS

- Most correlations in descriptive analysis were weak

- Both regression models predicted poorly

- Statistically significant features across both:

    - Female share of board seats (0.47 correlation and 0.004 p-value)

    - Reproductive autonomy (-0.3 correlation and 0.01 p-value)

BIASES AND LIMITATIONS

- Employment dataset only reflects OECD countries
- Missing values that needed to be imputed
- Comparisons over time are challenging
  - Inconsistent features across years

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

- Insufficient evidence to support original hypothesis

- Countries are unique; differing political systems

- Need to analyze more data over time

- Must continue to drive gender parity