

THE ANALYSIS OF KNOWLEDGE OF FEMALE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES IN DPRD MEDAN ABOUT WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ISSUES IN DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The lack of female legislators members directly affects the lack of roles of female legislators to raise the issue about women empowerments. Specifically, the women political movement in parliament for the women empowerment program is also constrained by the lack of knowledge and experience of women in relation to the program of gender and women empowerment. Based on the condition and the existing problems, this study was done to analyze the level of knowledge of the female legislative candidates of the DPRD in Medan concerning in the Issue of Women's Empowerment in Development. This study used a quantitative approach with descriptive analysis. The sample was limited only to female legislative candidates from two political parties, namely; Partai Amanat Nasional (PAN) and Partai Golkar in Medan. The sample was taken by using the approach of Simple Random Sampling from 16 people who divided into 8 female legislative candidates from PAN and 8 other from Golkar. The results of the study showed that the knowledge of female legislative candidates about the issue of women empowerment was very good. It can be seen from the ability of female legislative candidates from PAN and Golkar who can answer the statement appropriately. Most of them could recognize that the formation of their knowledge about the issue of women's empowerment was also derived from their activities of organizations outside of political parties. The formation of knowledge was generated from seminars or workshops and assistance with cases related to women issues.

Keywords: knowledge of female legislative candidates and empowerment

INTRODUCTION

After 1990s, the issue of gender equality has become an issue in the global development planning agenda. It can be seen from the emergence of an agenda to support gender equality and women's empowerment in the third point of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The main commitment of the MDGs from 2000 to 2015 was to achieve progress in alleviating poverty and human development globally; including removing gender disparities in education and in every aspect (Todaro, 2006). After the MDGs ended in 2015, the global development agenda changed its name to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs Agenda focuses on three pillars of development namely; social, economic and environmental environment that still places the gender equality agenda at the fifth point of its development goals.

Placement of gender equality agenda in accordance with the definition of sustainable development itself, namely; Sustainable development is social, economic and environmental development that guarantees human welfare, ecological unity, generation and social justice of the current and future generations (Munasinghe, 1992, Holdren et al, 1995, Campbell, 1996). Based on these definitions, gender equality and sustainable development are two concepts that cannot be separated from one another. This is because gender equality, upholding human rights, upholding the dignity and capability of women are the main requirements in a just and sustainable life (Kemenpppa, 2016).

Although the agenda of gender equality and women's empowerment has been included in the global development plan - both on the MDGs or SDGs - but the achievement of gender equality in Indonesia is still quite low. In 2016, Gender Based Human Development (Pembangunan Manusia Berbasis Gender) reported, it was explained that to measure gender inequality, the Gender Inequality Index (Indeks Ketimpangan Gender) was used in which three aspects were calculated, namely; aspects of health, empowerment and economic status. Among the three aspects, the most calculated aspect is the empowerment of women seen from the representation of women in parliament. Ironically, the percentage of women's representation in the Indonesian parliament is quite low compared to countries in ASEAN. It was noted, in 2014 Indonesian women parliamentarians amounted to only 17.12 percent of the total parliamentary members.

The same condition also occur in the Level II Parliament of Medan or DPRD of Medan. In the 2009-2014 legislative elections, the Female Legislative Candidates who managed to sit in the DPRD Medan nly amounted to 2.5% of the total number of legislative members or only five people (Ritonga et al, 2015). Whereas in the 2014-2019 periode, the number of female legislative members in the Medan DPRD did not experience many changes, namely there were five female legislative members out of the 50 legislative members.

Table 1
The list of female legislators in DPRD Kota Medan for 2014-2019

No.	Name	Party	Electoral District
1.	Ratna Sitepu	Hanura	Dapil III
2.	Dame Duma S Hutagalung	Gerinda	Dapil III
3.	Modesta Marpaung	Golkar	Dapil IV
4.	Hj. Hamidah	PPP	Dapil IV
5.	Hj. Umi Kalsum	PDI-P	Dapil V

Source: collected by some news' articles

The lack of female legislators directly affects the lack of roles of female legislators to raise the issue of women's empowerment. This condition then made male legislators play a greater role in raising issues related to women's empowerment. Ritonga et al. (2015) noted that most working visits by female legislators in the DPRD raised more general issues in development. This condition is inversely proportional to the male legislative members in the DPRD Medan who are more vocal and have control over women's issues in development.

This condition certainly makes women's political movements based on the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda difficult to materialize. Hadar (2009) in the main report of the Journal of Social Democracy revealed that there were four problems faced by the women's political movement, namely; first, women's political movements are quite fragmented. Second; the women's movement is not homogeneous but heterogeneous. Third, the lack of a constituent base. Fourth; lack of platform; which in this context is related to strengthening gender issues and empowering women among women voters.

Beside the four issues above, the lack of involvement of women in politics is also influenced by patriarchal culture that is so strong in society, religious doctrine that is still conservative about women's involvement in state politics and hegemony which is considered

as belonging to men (Nurland in Jati , 2014). This condition, according to Jati (2014), is the cause of the emergence of binary understanding among women and also among people who underestimate in women's political activities. Specifically the political movement of women in parliament for the agenda of women's empowerment is also constrained by the lack of knowledge and experience of women related to gender equality agenda and women's empowerment. That is why the input for gender responsive legislation and policy processes was minimal in the legislative region, especially the DPRD Medan. Ritonga et al. (2015) noted that this situation was influenced by female legislative candidates sent by political parties to only be used to fulfill the rules regarding a 30% quota of seats for female candidates. That mostly the existing female legislative candidates do not have adequate insight and knowledge regarding women's issues.

The female candidates who were made the respondents of this study were only limited to female candidates from the Partai Amanat Nasional (PAN) and Golkar Party. The choice of female candidates from PAN was because in the 2014-2019 Legislative Election in DPRD, PAN did not have any female legislators (see Table 1). This condition is certainly inseparable from the inability of female legislative candidates from PAN to obtain votes from the public, especially women. Whereas PAN as a political party has an autonomous organization for women's groups called the National Mandate Women (PUAN). But unfortunately this organization - at the local level - has not worked optimally in providing support and understanding to female candidates about issues related to women's empowerment.

Somehow, even they did not have representatives of women's legislators in the DPRD Medan in the 2014-2019 Periode but in the 2019-2024 Periode PAN still fulfilled the 30 percent quota of female Candidates for Medan. This can be seen from a total of 50 candidates for the DPRD in Medan, 17 of which were filled by female candidates. Even the distribution was seen evenly in each Electoral District (dapil) in Medan (See Table 2).

Table 2
Number of chairs for candidates from PAN per electoral district

Electoral District	Number of Chairs	The position that filled by female
I	8	3
II	12	4
III	8	3

IV	10	3
V	12	4
Total Kursi	50	17

Source : collected from some news articles

The same condition also occurs in Golkar Party of Medan. As a large party that has long experience in the Legislative Election; The Golkar Party is only able to place one female legislator from seven seats owned by the Golkar Party in DPRD Medan in the 2014-2019 Period. In this 2019 Legislative Election, the Golkar Party succeeded in meeting the quota of female candidates and placing female candidates evenly throughout the electoral district of Medan (See Table 3).

Table 3
Number of chairs for candidates from GOLKAR per electoral district

Electoral District	Number of Chairs	The position that filled by female
I	8	4
II	12	4
III	8	3
IV	10	3
V	12	3
Chairs	50	17

Source : collected from some news articles

Although it has been able to fulfill a 30% quota for women candidates, Golkar Party did not rely on legislative victory in the women candidates group or on issues related to women's empowerment. The Golkar Party prioritizes issues related to the millennial generation as a sound market to be taken. This can be seen from the names submitted by the Medan Golkar Party, which mostly filled by young people or millennial generations. Even the Chairman of DPD Golkar Party in Medan, HM Syaf Lubis, told the media that with the strength and enthusiasm of young people, he was optimistic that Golkar Party would be the winner in the 2019 Election in Medan. Whereas on another side, the number of female voters in the city of Medan is greater than the number of male voters. It can be seen from the data released by the KPU in Medan which stipulates the number of permanent voter lists (DPT) for the 2019 Election of 1,579,354 people consisting of 774,952 men and 804,402 women.

The data should be used as a basis for political parties, especially women candidates, to be able to campaign on issues related to the needs of women's groups.

Based on these conditions and problems, this study will analyze the level of knowledge of the female candidates of the DPRD Medan concerning the Issue of Women's empowerment in Development. The objective of this study was to determine the level of knowledge of the female legislative candidates of the DPRD Medan concerning the issue of women's empowerment in development.

PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

The formulation of the problems in this study are:

1. What is the level of knowledge of the female candidates for the DPRD in Medan regarding the issue of women's empowerment in development?
2. What factors influence the level of knowledge of the female candidates of the Medan City DPRD regarding the issue of women's empowerment

RESEARCH METHODS

This study used a quantitative approach with descriptive analysis. The research sample is limited only to female candidates from two political parties, namely; Partai Amanat Nasional (PAN) and Golkar Party in Medan. The samples were taken using the Simple Random Sampling approach, where the samples taken simply because members of the population are considered homogeneous (Sugiyono, 2010). The sample was only taken by 16 people divided into 8 female candidates from PAN and 8 female candidates from the Golkar Party. The data from each sample were collected through questionnaires and then analyzed descriptively using a single table.

THEORETICAL STUDY

1. Women and the Socio-Politics Dynamic

The relations between women and politics in Indonesia still experience a wide gap. Whereas quantitatively the number of female voters in Indonesia is more than male voters, but there are still many women in Indonesia who are not independent in determining their political choices. Their husbands and parents become the most influential people for them in making their choices. Juwito (2009) in the research report in Jombang and Magetan, East Java showed the fact that most female respondents when carrying out interpersonal

communication with their husbands in seeking political information found that most women (83%) claimed that their husbands often intervened in their political choices .

The influence of husbands, parents and close relatives on women's political choices is because women have more trust in the people they agree with. The family in this position is assumed to be a group that interacts intensely with women so that the reception of information and ideas related to politics is more often found in dialogue spaces in the family and in the process of dialogue the construction of political choice is highly dependent on the values understood by members family (Lumiu, 2015). This condition certainly implies that women as voters in the Legislative Election do not necessarily choose women as people who will be their representatives in parliament. The strong influence of men (fathers, husbands and boys) in women's political choices has made the constituent base for female candidates diminish.

Not only hindered by the culture of patriarchy which stick strongly to the social system of the community, the female Legislative Candidates must also oppose religious doctrines that reject the presence of women as public leaders. Religious legitimacy has become the early history of the emergence of partisan cultures (Pambudi, 2012). The interpretation of the text of the scriptures that blend patriarchy further strengthens the dominance of men over women in all areas of life. With the argument of religious law, women are given the role of guardians of the house or may only be in domestic territory.

Whereas, - in the Islamic repertoire, for example - women at the time of the Prophet Muhammad, there has been space to be active in public activities. One of the spaces given for active women in public activities is the mosque. At that time, the mosque became the center of educational, political and religious activities. The voices and aspirations of women are accommodated here and even become public opinion (Hidayatullah, 2010). In essence Islam never prohibits women from being active in the political field, at that time, women were also involved in public and political activities. One of the political rights of women granted by Islam is the right to speak and express opinions. So it is not wrong if Nabawi history records a large number of prominent women who are intelligent and able to engage in social and political discussions; such as Nusaiba Bin Ka'ab, Umm Athiyah Al-Ansyariah and Rabi 'Binti Al-Mu'adz. Even Umar Ibn Khotob once warmed Al-Syifa - a smart and trusted woman - as a market manager in Medina (Syahid, 2014).

But stories of religious history like this have never been used as lecture material for religious leaders who were dominated by this group of men. It is as if there is a desire to

cover up the facts about the involvement of women in the public space so that men can continue to strengthen their legitimacy towards women. Fakihi (2012) gave an example of how the prophet's wife, Aisyah became the leader of command in the Camel War being the fact that interpretations, interpretations of religious teachings were strongly influenced by the point of view of the interpreter, which also relates to the extent of spiritual benefits and material obtained. Fakihi (2012) assumed that it is time for religious study institutions and educational institutions to have a section on women's studies; as a forum to provide space to examine women's issues in religion. So that later it can produce interpretations or jurisprudence for women who are more gender responsive.

Generally, the above conditions are the challenges and dynamics faced by every female candidate who wants to become a legislator at both the central and regional levels. Sometimes, the strong pressure of patriarchy culture and religious doctrine indirectly weakens the marginal and mental attitude of the female candidates. So that the role of the party as a political institution is needed to provide support and input in the form of strategies and steps that must be faced together in order to gain the most votes and seats in the legislature. To overcome this, Hardjaloka (2012) offers ten strategies to increase women's political participation, of which seven are:

First, organizing women to become candidates. In any electoral system women must be prepared to become candidates, and for that women must close ranks and organize themselves both inside and outside the party. Increase the awareness movement through leadership training or seminars. Second, organizing women's groups and strengthening networks. Strengthen the female network, and do a variety of strict pressure. The women's movement that can firmly translate their membership is the voice of voters. Third, the movement to change the party's organizational structure. The number of men who hold strategic positions in the party far exceeds what women achieve. This means that men are always in the list of party candidates. Fourth, network. Parliamentary women certainly cannot work effectively without the support of a networking system that will support their various activities. This experience can clearly be seen when Thai women build a strong network to fight for the substance of various articles that are more gender sensitive.

Fifth, data / information about the status of women. Having concrete and disaggregated data and information is a necessity for women's political participation. This is not only to give direction in introducing new rules or laws or amending old rules and laws, but also to strengthen their bargaining position on a proposal. If women have complete data, it will be easier to convince other parties to accept proposals or ideas offered. Sixth,

awareness of the needs of constituents. A force that women must have is to gain the trust of their constituents. Therefore, they must strengthen relations with their constituents by doing various ways such as frequently visiting constituents, trying to understand the needs of constituents. Seventh, ensuring that government policies have a gender perspective. This can be done through working meetings with the government. Women must pay close attention to policies, especially in the context of implementing rules or laws that are already gender sensitive.

2. Gender Equity Policy in Indonesian Politics

The involvement of women in practical politics has started since the first general election was held in 1955. This year, women have obtained voting rights to elect members of the DPR and the Konsituante. Not only getting voting rights in elections, women at that time were also given the right to participate in the political area of practice by becoming members of the DPR-RI and the Constituent Assembly. It was noted that in the 1955-1956 period there were 17 people (6.3%) of the DPR-RI members who had a female background. This condition indicates that Indonesian democracy from the beginning has provided space for women's participation.

In its development, the number of women who succeeded in sitting in the DPR-RI did not experience significant development. Significant increase in the number of female legislators began to occur in the period 1987-1992 with a total of 65 people or 13% of the total seats in the DPR-RI at that time. After that the number of women's seats in the DPR-RI continued to decline in quantity. At the beginning of the reform, it remained in the Legislative Election Period of 1999-2004; the number of DPR-RI seats that were successfully occupied by women's groups was only 46 seats or 9% of the total seats. Even when Law No. 2 of 2008 and Law No. 10 of 2008 was stipulated, in the Legislative Election in 2009 the increase in female legislators was also not maximal, only 61 seats or 11.09%. Only in the 2009-2014 Period the number of seats in the DPR-RI occupied by women experienced a sharp increase of 101 seats or 18.03%. This number passed the highest achievement of female legislator seats in the 1987-1992 period.

This increase certainly does not just happen. There are many policy actions taken to encourage the involvement of women in the area of practical politics, one of them is affirmative action. Affirmative action is a way to do to overcome the problem of women's disadvantage. Affirmation policies for women, according to Hardjaloka (2012) are used to increase women's representation by providing provisions so that political parties participating

in the General Election pay attention to the representation of women at least 30 percent in nominating candidates.

But according to Jati (2014), if viewed from the dimensions of post-colonialism, the euphoria of women's political movements through affirmative action with the granting of 30% of seats for women must be interpreted in two aspects; first, is the policy a state recognition of women's political freedom or is it a limitation on the political representation of Indonesian women? In addition, in the electoral agenda in Indonesia, the 30% quota is actually not obeyed in real and true terms by Political Parties. The open proportional system adopted in Indonesia which prioritizes an open list system tends to be discriminatory towards women who sometimes place women in the last place. Though the order of 1,2 and 3 are psychological numbers which tend to be political references of voters when voting.

The same thing was expressed by Fatimah (2016) who saw that women's involvement in practical politics tended to only be a slogan. Women are sometimes only used as voting bases during campaigns, but when they are elected, the interests of women who are their constituents tend to be ignored. Whereas for women who advance to become members of the legislature, their positions tend to be propped up by placing their names in the lowest order, the failed numbers do other terms are referred to as shoe numbers. This condition is called Pambudi (2012) as a lip service model, where political parties only use women as symbols to attract party constituents.

RESULT OF THE STUDY

The results of the study are presented based on the formulation of the problem that would be answered in this study. The following are each presentation of study based on the problem formulation.

1) The Knowledge Level of Female Legislative Candidates of DPRD Medan Regarding Empowerment Issues in Development

The knowledge of female candidates about the issue of women's empowerment in development in this study will be measured by five indicators, namely; (1) women's access to education, economics and politics. (2) Achievement of the gender equality agenda at the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). (3) The condition of women's education in the political field. (4) Women's participation in education and formal employment. (5) Implementation of protection programs for women. The five indicators are presented in the

form of a questionnaire in which contains a statement by asking the respondent to give a response in the form of agree, disagree and disagree.

In the first indicator, 10 respondents or about 62.5% answered correctly by giving a statement agreeing that the issue of women's empowerment in Medan was related to the low ability of women in the fields of education, economy and politics (especially the lack of representation of women in the legislature). Whereas there are still 6 people who give incorrect answers with less than seven statements of 4 people or 25% and statements that do not agree with 2 people or 12.5% (see table 4). This condition illustrates that only 10 female candidates from 16 people were able to answer precisely what was the main issue in the field of women's empowerment.

Table 4

The issue of women's empowerment in Medan relates to the low ability of women in the fields of education, economics, politics (lack of women's representation in the legislature)

Statement	F	%
Disagree	2	12.5
Less agree	4	25.0
Agree	10	62.5
Total	16	100.0

Source : the result of the study

In the second indicator, which is related to the knowledge of female candidates regarding the achievement of the gender equality target on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda, 13 respondents or 81.3% answered correctly by giving statements agreeing that the gender equality agenda had not been achieved due to the commitment of local governments still not serious. Whereas there are still 3 people who give incorrect answers with statements of less than 1 person or 6.3% and statements that do not agree with 2 people or 12.5% (see table 5). This condition illustrates that 13 female candidates have learned that the gender equality agenda has not been achieved due to the commitment of regional governments that have not been serious.

Table 5

In 2015, there was a Millennium Development Goals target that must be achieved by UN member countries. Among these targets is Gender Equality. Indonesia has not been able to achieve these targets, due to the

commitment of local governments that have not been serious about achieving them. What is your opinion?

Statement	F	%
Disagree	2	12.5
Less agree	1	6.3
Agree	13	81.3
Total	16	100.0

Source : the result of the study

Table 6

The law requires 30% of the number of legislative candidates and party management are women. But in reality, political education to the people carried out by the party is still very limited so that only few women are interested in being active in political parties. As a result, it is difficult for parties to fulfill the quota to meet the requirements for the number of women who enter politics. Many of the women who are active in the party and in the legislature have no capacity and are unable to do anything. Do you agree with this statement?

Statement	F	%
Disagree	1	6.3
Less agree	6	37.5
Agree	9	56.3
Total	16	100.0

Source: the result of study

In the third indicator, related to the knowledge of female candidates about the education of women in the political field, it was seen that only 9 respondents or 56.3% answered correctly by agreeing that political education carried out by political parties to the community was limited and resulted in fewer interested women to be active in political parties, political parties find it difficult to meet the requirements of women's quota and many of the women active in the party do not have the capacity. Whereas there are still 7 people who give incorrect answers with statements of less than 6 people or 37.5% and statements that do not agree with 1 person or 6.3% (see table 6). The description of the answers above shows that there are still female candidates for 7 people who cannot accept if political education for women is very limited so there are still women who do not have capacity in their political activities. Though most women politicians - both in political parties or in parliament - are under the control of patriarchy where politicians are again very masterful in policy choices that must be done both in political parties and / or in parliament.

Table 7

Women's access has been opened to improve their education in both formal and non-formal education, but women's participation in formal employment is still smaller than men. Many women who graduated from higher education finally had to succumb to not implementing and presenting their knowledge to the nation, because they had to care for their children. Is this what we call cultural barriers, where the culture of patriarchy still dominates women's lives?

Statement	F	%
Disagree	1	6.3
Less agree	3	18.8
Agree	12	75.0
Total	16	100.0

Source: the result of study

In the fourth indicator, related to women's participation in formal education and employment, there were 12 respondents or 75% who answered correctly by giving statements agreeing that women's access was opened to improve formal and non-formal education, but women's participation in formal employment was still smaller than men caused by cultural or cultural barriers. Whereas there are still 4 people who give incorrect answers with statements of less than 3 people or 18.8% and statements that do not agree with 1 person or 6.3% (see table 7). This condition illustrates that 12 female legislative candidates know the main obstacle of women's helplessness is the strong cultural barriers of patriarchal culture that require women to only take care of their homes or in domestic areas despite having higher education.

In the fifth indicator, related to the understanding of female candidates about the three end and three ends plus one programs, it can be seen that 14 respondents or 87.5% who answered correctly by agreeing that Three Ends and Three Ends plus One program were among the Empowerment Programs which has been implemented in the area. Whereas there are 2 people who give incorrect answers with statements of less than 1 person or 6.3% and statements that do not agree with 1 person or 6.3% (see table 8). The large number of female candidates who are able to answer precisely this statement proves that the knowledge of female candidates for issues of women's empowerment in development has been very good.

Table 8

Three Ends and Three Ends plus One are among the Women's Empowerment Programs, which have been implemented in the regions.

Statement	F	%
Disagree	1	6.3
Less agree	1	6.3
Agree	14	87.5
Total	16	100.0

Source: the result of the study

1) Factors Affecting the Knowledge Level of Female Candidates of DPRD Medan Regarding the Issue of Women's Empowerment

The presentation of the data above shows that the knowledge of women candidates regarding the issue of women's empowerment is very good. It can be seen from the average accuracy of female candidates in answering the statements contained in the questionnaire. The ability to answer correctly is certainly influenced by various factors. In this study, can be found at least two dominant factors that influence the knowledge level of female candidates related to the issue of women's empowerment; (1) the activeness factor in organizing and (2) the experience factor in community assistance. In table 9, there are 12 female candidates who admit that they are always active in every activity of their organization. And there were 3 respondents who stated that they are rarely active in organizational activities and 1 respondent said that he never active in organizational activities.

Table 9

Do you active in your organization's activities?

Statement	F	%
Never	1	6.3
Seldom	3	18.8
Always	12	75.0
Total	16	100.0

Source: the result of the study

There are various forms of organizations that are actively followed by every female candidate. The results of the tabulation of data in table 10 show that 9 people or 56% percent of female candidates revealed that they were active in youth organizations. In addition there were also 3 people or 19% of female candidates who admitted that they were active in non-governmental organizations. The remaining 2 or 13% of female candidates admitted that they

were always active in religious organizations, and 1 respondent or 6% admitted that they were always active in cultural / ethnic-based organizations and 1 or 6% of respondents. Other female candidates admitted that they were always active in informal organizations. in this context it is the manager of sanitation.

Table 10

Beside politic party, in which organization you taking part actively?

Statement	F	%
Religious organization	2	13
Youth organization	9	56
Ethnic based organization	1	6
Informal organization	1	6
Non-governmental organization	3	19
Total	16	100

Source: the result of the study

Table 11

Do your activities in your organization will give positive impact in increasing your knowledge about Women's Empowerment?

Statement	F	%
Absolutely No	1	6.3
Not sure	1	6.3
Absolutely yes	14	87.5
Total	16	100.0

Source: the result of the study

The activeness of each respondent in an organization beside political party has an influence on their knowledge of issues of women's empowerment. It can be seen in table 11, which shows that 14 people or 87.5% of respondents stated that their organizational activities had an influence on their knowledge about the issue of women's empowerment. While other respondents 1 person or 6.3% expressed doubt and 1 person or 6.3% said they did not give influence.

The form of knowledge provided by the organization to female candidates is known at the most by involving female candidates in workshops or seminars and mentoring cases

related to women's issues. This is in accordance with what was expressed by female candidates, there were 6 people or 38% of respondents acknowledged the knowledge provided by the organization in understanding the issue of women's empowerment obtained from workshops or seminars. Whereas there were 6 people or 38% of respondents who said they had gained knowledge about the issue and empowerment of women from mentoring activities related to women's issues. The remaining 2 people or 12% of respondents admitted getting knowledge related to the issue and empowerment of women from the organization after obtaining positions in the field related to handling problems (see table 12).

Table 12

In your opinion, what kinds of knowledge that given by the organization to you then you know the issue about Women's Empowerment?

Statement	F	%
Taking part in workshop or seminar about women's issues	6	38
Taking part in case assistance about women's issues	6	38
Entrusted to handle programs related to women's issues	2	12
Taking part in study tour to some areas	1	6
Not at all	1	6
Total	16	100

Source: the result of the study

DISCUSSION

The discussion of the results of the study will be aimed to answer the research problem formulation, namely: What is the knowledge level of the female legislative candidates of Medan on the Issue of Women's Empowerment in Development? And what factors influence the knowledge level of female candidates for DPRD Medan regarding the issue of women's empowerment? Here is the following discussion:

The knowledge level of the female candidates for DPRD in Medan, especially from PAN and the Golkar Party about the issue of empowerment in development, has been very good. It can be seen from the ability to answer the research questionnaire appropriately. Statements containing issues related to women's empowerment in development were successfully answered. For example, there were 10 female candidates or 62.5% already knew that the main issue of women's empowerment was the low ability of women in the fields of education, economics and politics. This fact refers to the report issued by the Ministry of Religion (2016). On average, men aged 25 years and over in 2015 have enjoyed at least the

second grade of education in junior high school. Meanwhile, women of the same age, on average, have only received education up to grade 1 in junior high school. This difference occurs because in the past there were still differences in school opportunities between women and men.

Whereas in the economic field, the average income of women in 2015 was lower than men. If the average income of men has reached 14 million, then women are only around 8.5 million. This is because gender-based occupational segregation in the Indonesian labor market still occurs today. Women cannot enter all existing jobs. There are still several business fields dominated by men (Kemenppa, 2016). This condition is of course exacerbated by the lack of representation of women in the political sector both at the executive and / or legislative branches. Andriana et al (2012) even said that women's political representation in Indonesia at both the national and local levels was still very low. Historically the journey of women in parliament has never exceeded 18 percent in the DPR RI. That number can only be obtained at the 2009 General Election.

Even though women's involvement in politics will have an impact on development planning that is more gender responsive. Women must be given the opportunity to take on a political role because only in this way will the policy guarantee more social, economic and cultural change that is in favor of women's interests (Czudnowski in Soetomo, 2007). Therefore, the form of women's involvement in politics is not only fulfilled in terms of quantity or the amount of representation of women but also must be followed by the knowledge of female candidates in the issue of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. The presence of women as legislators with excellent knowledge will contribute to the process of gender responsive legislation and policies. Adelina (2016) for example, revealed that a woman member of the North Sumatra Provincial DPRD of Commission B (Economic Affairs) succeeded in carrying out her role to fight for gender responsive rights, one of which was to place funds in the BPP (Badan Pemberdayaan Perempuan / Women's Empowerment Agency) for activities such as maternal and child health , Domestic violence, counseling and other activities for women's empowerment. The same situation was also expressed by Setiawan (2016) that women sitting in the Central Java DPRD had demonstrated their performance in terms of fighting for budget items in the

services for women's interests, specifically in terms of strengthening capital, groups and empowering women.

According to Hanum (2018), it is the reason why women's representation in politics is a necessity. For him women's representation in politics is needed to fight for women's issues such as high maternal and child mortality during childbirth, trafficking of women, sexual harassment and rape, cases of domestic violence, prostitution and uneven education that cause systemic poverty for women. Ironically, political parties as institutions that are obliged to provide political education do not carry out their roles optimally, especially in providing political education for women's groups. This situation was later recognized by 56.3% of respondents or 9 female candidates from PAN and the Golkar Party. They acknowledge that the political education provided by political parties to the community is still very limited so that only a few women are interested in being active in political parties. As a result, political parties find it difficult to find female cadres to meet the quota requirements for women.

In the end the legislative candidate quota arrangement which requires 30 percent to be filled by women only becomes something meaningless, because political parties do not carry out maximum political education to women's groups. Hardjaloka (2012) described this condition as a *de jure* and *de facto* in the portrait of women's representation in Indonesian politics. In *de jure*, Indonesia has made various efforts to protect women's political rights by equalizing women's political rights through ratified laws and conventions. However, in *de facto*, in terms of political parties or the public they still do not understand and still adhere to negative stereotypes towards women, making it a big obstacle. So in other words the protection of women's political rights is limited to *de jure*. One of the suggestions proposed by Hardjaloka to overcome this problem was to organize women to become candidates in political elections and to be followed by organizing women's groups to strengthen networks both inside and outside parliament.

These efforts are more aimed to reduce the dominance of patriarchal culture in political parties so that women get the same space and rights in political processes and dynamics. Giving space and equal rights to women must begun with providing political education. Soetomo (2007) said that political education for women is a non-negotiable need, considering quantitatively more female population than men. Of course this is a potential that deserves attention and priority in the development of a healthy democracy. Political education will also foster a feeling of being always affiliated, responsible and proud of national identity. This demand is so urgent and urgently needed by the community (in which there are also so many female human resources) Indonesia, given that the growth of such

feelings makes women seriously aware of their rights and obligations, and try to understand their various problems.

In this context, political education obtained by female candidates especially those related to issues, and the issues of women's empowerment was also obtained from the activities of organizations outside of political parties. There were 14 people or 87.5% of female candidates who admitted that the activities of the organizations they participated in had an influence on their knowledge about the issue of women's empowerment. The knowledge about the issue of women's empowerment is obtained from many seminars or workshops held by their organizations. In addition, women candidates also said that they also gained knowledge about the issue of women's empowerment from assistance activities carried out by their organizations regarding cases or women's problems.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the knowledge level of female candidates about the issue of women's empowerment is very good. It can be seen from the ability of female candidates from PAN and Golkar Party in Medan who succeeded in correctly answering five indicators on empowerment issues which were made as statements in the questionnaire. While the factors that influence the knowledge level of female candidates in relation to the issue of women's empowerment are the activities of organizations outside of the political parties they participate in. From the activities of the organization, most women candidates admitted to gain knowledge about the issue of women's empowerment through seminars, workshops carried out or followed by their organizations. In addition, their knowledge of the issue of women's empowerment was also obtained from the experience of mentoring cases related to women's issues.

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