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GENDER AND POLITICS

INTRODUCTION

- ◉ Gender Inequality.
- ◉ Women's participation in parties, unions, local governments, parliaments is very limited.
- ◉ Why is it important to discuss the insufficiency of female participation in politics?
- ◉ Politics greatly effects the distribution of resources.
- ◉ How will the resources be acquired? Who will get what?
- ◉ These are political decisions.
- ◉ Women's exclusion from the decision making mechanisms means that they don't have much of a say in the distribution of resources.

PRIVATE VS PUBLIC SPHERE

- ⦿ Public sphere vs private sphere dichotomy
- ⦿ The feminist critique of the dichotomy between public and private “is central to almost two centuries of feminist writing and political struggle; it is, ultimately what the feminist movement is about”.

PRIVATE VS PUBLIC SPHERE

- ◉ Women were almost uniformly excluded from participating in the public sphere when it first emerged, and so the private sphere, the home, was considered the woman's realm.
- ◉ This is why, historically, women had to fight for the right to vote in order to participate in politics, and why gender stereotypes about women "belonging in the home" linger today.

FIRST AND SECOND WAVE FEMINISM

- The first wave of feminism took place in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, emerging out of an environment of urban industrialism and liberal, socialist politics. The goal of this wave was to open up opportunities for women, with a focus on suffrage.
- In this period women aimed for
- Rights for education for women
- Right to vote
- Property rights

GENDER INEQUALITY AND POLITICS

- ◉ Women underrepresented in politics. Why?
- ◉ Socioeconomic Factors:
- ◉ Educational credentials (needed for leadership)
- ◉ Higher education can also lead to higher voting participation
- ◉ Labour force activity
- ◉ Women who work outside the home tend to participate more actively in politics
- ◉ A career brings more confidence and independence

POLITICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS

- ◉ The impact of certain occupations
- ◉ Professional occupations such as lawyers, educators, journalists, business professionals tend to be heavily overrepresented in the parliaments
- ◉ They are likely to be well-educated, practiced in public speaking and familiar with the political system and the law.

POLITICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS

- Development leads to weakening of traditional values , decreased fertility rates , increased urbanization, greater educational and labor force participation of women and changes in perceptions of the appropriate roles for women.

POLITICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS

- ◉ Gender political equality will also be affected by a nation's economic development.
- ◉ More developed countries less concerned about concerns of economic growth and well-being and can create the space of discussing new things such as gender participation in politics

POLITICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS

- ◉ The size and strength of the women's movement is another societal factor that may influence a country's degree of gender inequality in political representation.
- ◉ Nations with organizations that are active in pressing for social, political and economic inequality should tend to make more progress in these areas.
- ◉ As a result, women are more likely to run for office and voters are more likely electing them.

POLITICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS

- ◉ Party lists in multimember districts: Central party organisations have significant influence over the nomination of candidates and they can give priority to women if they want to.
- ◉ Women's representation in politics changes according to the ideology of the political party
- ◉ Leftist parties are expected to be more committed to reducing gender inequality.
- ◉ The timing of suffrage rights also important. When did women gain the right to vote in a country plays a significant role in women's representation in politics.

POLITICAL, SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS

- ◉ Level of democracy also very important
- ◉ Democratic processes reduce the likelihood that artificial barriers can be imposed.