

GLOBAL ISSUES IN GENDER EQUALITY IN WORLD POLITICS

Kholboeva Zarifa Odil kizi

*Tashkent city Mirzo Ulugbek district student
of the university of world economy and diplomacy*

Abstract

There are several issues related with gender equality such as under representation of women in world politics, gender-based violence, economic inequality and discriminatory laws and policies. Different political theories see these issues differently, liberealistic feminism emphasizes individual rights while realistic feminism emphasizes security , power over social issues. Additionally, marxsim links gender oppression to capitalist exploitation while post colonialism shows how imperialism have shaped gender roles. Importantly, radical feminism highlights patriarchy as a biggest opposition towards gender equality.

Key words: *equality, issues,women, violence, policies, society, political institutions, laws, intersectionality, femenist movements,gender oppression, economic inequality.*

Introduction

Gender equality has been being discussed for a long time , especially in modern politics. In spite of achiveing progress in recent years or decades, women and other marginalized genders still remain underrepresented in political leadership and decision making. In many countries, they still face discrimination , gender based violence, economic inequality , and limited access to opportunities and resources. Actually, achieving gender equality is not only a moral problem but also a political necessity because it affects governance, peace building , development and human rights.

Main body

There are some feminist scholars like Ann Tickner, Joan Scott , Judith Butler and Cynthia Enloe who have made major contributions to understanding and explaining gender in international politics. Ann Tickner critisizes classical international relations theories because they are mostly male centered and they have concepts like power and security which are linked with masculine norms but instead of this they ought to emphasize human well-being and cooperation. While Joan Scott sees gender as one of the key categories of analysis, by explaining and highlighting that it forms social and political power structures throughout the whole history, Judith Butler gives further information by discussing gender is not a fixed identity , it is , according to her, a performative act, it is just created with repeated behaviors. Additionally,

Cynthia Enloe, focuses on women's role, which is often overlooked in international politics even militarism and globalization.

One of the most visible issues of gender inequality in world politics is probably the low number of women in political leadership positions. Even though women make up almost half of the world's population, their representation remains limited in parliaments, cabinets, and international organizations. This under representation affects both women's role and the quality of democracy. Political organizations which are dominated by men often look over or just neglect issues that primarily concerns about women, such as reproductive rights, gender based violence, work place equality and childcare. Moreover, women come across a lot of barriers such as gender stereotypes, unequal access to education and, of course, limited political rights.

Gender based violence (GBV) is both a trigger and at the same time a consequence of gender inequality because women who are involved in politics usually face opposition, threats, and violence which are mostly aimed at discouraging them from public life. There are a lot of common tools such as online harassment, hate speech, and sexual intimidation used to silence female politicians, journalists and activists. There are a lot of countries which are experiencing conflict, there women are even more vulnerable to violence, for example, sexual violence has been used as a tool of war in places such as Sudan, the Democratic republic of Congo, and Ukraine. Such acts not only destroy lives of women but also prevent them from participating in peace processes and post war reconstruction.

Another issue which is related with gender inequality is economic inequality which actually is another focal factor that limits women's participation in politics. Women usually, on average, earn less than men and more likely to work in informal or unpaid sectors. This economic dependency decreases their political influence and capability to finance campaigns or advocacy work.

Marxist feminism links gender oppression with capitalist system that has been exploiting women's labor. In accordance with this perspective, capitalism takes advantage of unpaid domestic work which are mostly performed by women, while limiting their economic independence. In this case without economic equality, political equality remains difficult to achieve.

Discriminatory laws and political institutions are continuing to reinforce gender inequality. In some countries, women still do not have rights in marriage, inheritance and property ownership. Laws which are concerning reproductive rights are mostly restrictive, limiting women's autonomy over their own bodies.

Although gender equality laws exist, weak enforcement and social resistance prevent actual progress. For example, some countries have adopted gender equality movements or national actions plans, yet these actions mostly remain as a symbol.

Different political theories have different explanations for gender inequality and propose various solutions.

Liberalism focuses on individual rights, equality before law, and equal opportunities. It says gender inequality stems from social and legal barriers but not inherent differences. Problems which may appear according to liberalism, lack of legal equality, discriminatory laws, and limited political participation of women. For these problems, there are certain solutions, firstly, we need to implement gender-neutral laws which guarantees equal rights and access. Secondly, promoting education and empowerment programs to develop female leadership and enforcing quotas or affirmative action policies in parliaments and political parties are also one of the ways of solving gender related issues. Lastly, supporting international treaties like CEDAW (Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women). For example, Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway) have already implemented quotas and family-friendly policies which are leading to high female political participation.

But, realism emphasizes state security, power, and national interest over social issues. Gender equality is often considered as a secondary to survival and power politics. Realism does not that much concentrate on gender equality since gender issues may probably be sidelined because they do not directly contribute to state security and power projection. In order to solve these gender equality related problems, we need to focus on increasing women's role in security sectors (military, intelligence) in order to strengthen state power. Additionally, recognition of women's inclusion can contribute to internal stability and peace in some situations such as women can act as negotiators in peace processes to reduce conflicts, which can benefit national interests of the country. For example, the inclusion of women in peace negotiations in Liberia helped to end civil war.

Marxism attaches gender oppression to capitalist exploitation and class structures, which shows women's oppression is directly linked with economic inequality and patriarchy which are upheld by capitalism. There is also some problems such as capitalism exploits women's labor (both paid and unpaid) it shows gender inequalities. When it comes to solutions, we need to focus on abolishing capitalist structures that exploit workers and women. In addition, promoting collective ownership and socialized production to remove economic barriers for females. Furthermore, recognizing reproductive labor and unpaid domestic work as a crucial contributions and empowering working class women through uniting and political mobilization. For example, there are some socialist feminist movements in Latin America which emphasizes redistribution and women's labour rights.

Post-colonialism prioritizes how colonialism and imperialism have formed gender roles and inequalities internationally. Western feminism often neglects cultural

and historical specificities of females in formerly colonized countries. Problems that global feminism sometimes imposes Western values, neglecting indigenous and local gender relations and according to post colonialistic views gender oppression is linked with racial, cultural and national domination. But the solutions are obvious; support of decolonizing feminist approaches that center voices of women in the Global South, promotion of cultural sensitivity and recognition of diverse forms of gender expression and activism. Additionally, addressing of neo-colonial economic and political structures that perpetuates inequalities. For example, the critique of international NGO which imposes Western feminist agendas in several African and South Asian countries without any local consultations.

When it comes to radical feminism, we can say that radical feminism accepts patriarchy as a system where men are dominant in social, political, and economic life which is the root cause of gender inequality. Due to patriarchal structures, there are a lot of problems related with gender issues because of patriarchal political institutions. But, at the same time we can propose solutions such as dismantling patriarchal institutions and power structures, promoting separatist spaces for women to organize politically and socially, addressing issues such as violence against women, reproductive rights, and aggression. Additionally, challenging male dominated political system's fundament rather than reforming superficially. For example, there are a lot of radical feminist activism against violence in politics such as Me too movement, Women's march.

Conclusion

In conclusion, different theories have different approaches as feminism is a broad topic with endless issues almost in all societies. Although recent years a lot of people have been discussing this topic and to some extent the role of women is being more respected but not all societies, in order to form this gender equality, we first need to know what is exactly gender equality is, there are different aspects of it and in accordance with them there are different problems are arising. Yet, there are a lot of activists who are trying to come up with solutions in order to create women's role not only in society but also in politics. In world politics, gender equality is not just a issue, it is actually a global challenge. A real gender equality requires not only legal changes but also transforming social attitudes and political structure of the whole society. Achieving this kind of equality means building a world where every individual, no matter what their gender is, has an equal voice in shaping the future of humanity.

References:

1. Emily Mann; Handbook on Gender in World Politics. Reference Reviews 21 August 2017; 31 (6): 15. <https://doi.org/10.1108/RR-04-2017-0102>
2. Krook, Mona Lena. 2017. "Violence against Women in Politics." Journal of Democracy 28 (1): 74–88.

3. Piscopo, Jennifer. 2016. "State Capacity, Criminal Justice, and Political Rights: Rethinking Violence against Women in Politics." *Política y Gobierno* 23 (2): 437–58.
4. Čičkarić, L. (2024). A Contribution to the study of violence against women in politics. *Etnoantropološki Problemi Issues in Ethnology and Anthropology* , 19(1), 199–216. <https://doi.org/10.21301/eap.v19i1.8>
5. Krook, Mona. Lena (2018). Violence against women in politics: A rising global trend. *politics & gender*, 14(4), 673–675. doi:10.1017/S1743923X18000582 (accessed October 05,2023).
6. Entringer García Blanes, I., Gillooly, S. N., Jackson, E. B., Merriman-Goldring, R., & Peterson, S. (2025). Gender and Political Expression among International Relations Scholars and the Public. *Perspectives on Politics*, 1–28. doi:10.1017/S1537592725000507