
**POLITICAL REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE BANGKA TENGAH DISTRICT
LEGISLATURE REGENCY FOR THE 2019-2024 PERIOD**

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ABSTRACT

This study explores women's political representation in the Central Bangka Regency legislature, aiming to understand their presence and challenges in the Regional People's Representative Council from 2019 to 2024. Utilizing Hanna Fenichel Pitkin's theory of representation, qualitative research methods such as observation, interviews, and documentation were employed. The findings reveal that women's political representation in the Bangka Tengah Regional House of Representatives spans formal, descriptive, and symbolic dimensions, with 4 female councilors showcasing gender similarities and shared identities. Substantively, the legislative function proves effective with locally agreed regulations benefiting women and children, and budgetary aspects showing positive growth. Additionally, commendable oversight is noted, highlighted by Central Bangka Regency's receipt of the Parahita Ekapraya Award. Moreover, women councilors in the Central Bangka Regional House of Representatives face no significant obstacles, attributed to their experience in handling various situations.

1. INTRODUCTION

The presence of women in politics and government is considered important, not to compete with men but to realize a gender-sensitive government. Many important issues talk about women, including some of the women's issues that occur, such as slavery, women's trafficking, and violence against women and children in the household. The issue of women has been a peripheral issue that has not received special attention from the government. This may be due to the under-representation of women compared to men in government seats or indeed because issues concerning women are of less interest in the formal world by decision-makers in state affairs (Ekawati, 2014).

Women's representation in parliament has important substance. Not only to fill seats and be involved in management, but the presence of women will be influential in providing authority and access to them. This will have a direct impact on women's ability to take on their role in issuing policies for their own interests (Prastiwi, 2018). Women's representation in parliament at the national level of the Indonesian House of Representatives in the 2019–2024 period reached 20.5%, meaning that women councilors

in parliament are around 118 out of a total of 575 councilors (DPR RI, 2019). Meanwhile, at the regional level, in the Regional House of Representatives of the Bangka Belitung Islands Province for the 2019–2024 period, there was a decrease, namely only 2 people out of a total of 45 council members. If we look at the previous period, 2014–2019, this figure has decreased. In the 2014–2019 period, there were 5 female council members out of a total of 45 members of the Provincial House of Representatives (PUSKAPOL UI, 2020). The number of women's representation at the regency or city level in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province for the 2019–2024 period is shown in the following table:

Table 1. Comparison of Percentage by Gender of the Number of Members of the Regency / City Regional House of Representatives of the 2019-2024 Election Results

No	Regency/City	Number of Council Members	Gender		Percentage of Male	Percentage of Female
			Male	Female		
1	Bangka	35	29	6	83 %	17 %
2	Bangka Barat	25	21	4	84 %	16 %
3	Bangka Tengah	25	22	3	88 %	12 %
4	Pangkalpinang	30	27	3	90 %	10%
5	Bangka Selatan	25	23	2	92 %	8 %
6	Belitung Timur	25	23	2	92 %	8 %
7	Belitung	25	23	2	92 %	8 %

Data Source: Processed by Researchers, 2019 Election Results of Bangka Belitung Islands Province, PPID.KPU

Babel

When viewed from the percentage of women in the legislative body of the Regency/City Regional House of Representatives in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province in the 2019–2024 period, 3 districts are in a position above 10% of women's representation in their membership. Based on this data, three of the seven regencies and cities, namely Bangka Regency in the first position with 6 people, Bangka Barat Regency in the second position with 4 people, and Bangka Tengah Regency in the third position with 3 people, based on the 2019–2024 election results, are still far from achieving the target of a 30% women's quota in parliament.

Based on these 3 districts, Bangka Tengah Regency is an interesting locus for research because there are female politicians who have served for 3 periods. The female councilors are Me Hoa from PDIP and Maryam from Demokrat, while Wahidah from PKB served two



terms. In addition, of all the legislative institutions in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province, the Bangka Tengah Regional People's Representative Council is the only one that is directly led by a woman as its chairman. Me Hoa is a politician who has recorded herself as the first woman to become a leader in the Bangka Tengah Regional House of Representatives for the 2019–2024 period (Wowbabel.com, 2019).

Central Bangka Regency is still vulnerable to problems of violence against women and children. It was recorded that throughout 2022, the district had the highest number of cases of violence against women and children in the Bangka Belitung Islands Province, namely 41 cases (KEMENPPA, 2023). The presence of women in parliament is expected to be able to guarantee and maintain the interests of women so that they remain safe in social life. The presence of the women's council is expected to be able to voice aspirations regarding the needs of women themselves.

The number of women's representatives in parliament will be very influential in being able to dominate a forum or a trial. Because an interest, especially the interests of women to be achieved, makes it easier to be accommodated and agree together. However, the presence of women in parliament is still small, making women a minority group compared to men. This is a challenge for women in parliament to voice and discuss the results of the aspirations of their political interests (Anwar, 2018).

Based on the description above, it is very important to conduct a study on women and politics related to "Political Representation of Women in the Legislative Assembly of the Regional People's Representative Council of Central Bangka Regency for the 2019-2024 Period." Because the presence of women in parliament is no longer only focused on the issue of how many seats are occupied, but rather, how can women politicians work professionally and substantially to present women's political interests?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Political Representation

The concept of representation is a concept that has meaning as an effort "to present again," meaning that this concept refers to the actions taken by a representative to present interests,

ideas, and opinions in the policymaking process in government. In simple terms, representation is understood as a relationship between a representative and the represented, based on the interests of both the representative and the represented in a particular political context (Marijan, 2017). In the context of political representation, Pitkin explains that representation is understood as the representation of community interests by representatives in political institutions and processes (Pitkin, 1967). To understand representation theory, Pitkin identifies it into four views, as follows:

1. Formal representation: this representation is also called authorization representation. The concept of formal representation is centered on authorization, which means that they are in a formal structure that has a position, status, or position and has to represent the represented.
2. Descriptive representation shows that the representative describes the constituent (represented), usually characterized by visible characteristics such as skin color, gender, region, profession, community or social class, and interests. This model is interpreted as a descriptive similarity between the representative and the represented, so that the representative is a reflection of the constituent.
3. Symbolic representation, Symbolic representation is seen as a representation situation where the representative becomes a symbol of the group he represents because of the similarity of identity, culture, religion, and belief. In political representation, the representative becomes a symbol that represents the characteristics of the group he or she represents.
4. Substantive representation: the concept of substantive representation is examined as a model of representation in which it is not seen as a way of standing for others but as a way of acting for others. It is simply understood as a model of representation where a representative acts for those represented.

2.2 Women and Politics

There are two important aspects of women's representation in parliament, namely: (1) representation of ideas; and (2) representation of their existence, which has two types.

These two types are explained as follows, namely: *First*, women must be represented directly, so that the composition of their representation and those they represent is the same. *Secondly*, those who know more about women's needs are women themselves, so they cannot be represented by other women. Examples of cases that occur to women include rape as well as trafficking. In these conditions, women are considered to have more empathy because they have the same characteristics (Lestari, 2015).

Gender equality is understood as something similar between men and women in wanting their rights, such as in the social, political, economic, and educational fields. The presence of gender equality is due to gender injustice. Examples of gender injustice are subordination, stereotyping, violence, marginalization, and the workload received. The interests that women bring must certainly be realized in the parliament itself. The presence of women in the legislature is required to be able to realize gender equality and prevent gender injustice in Indonesia (Asnawiah, 2018).

2.3 District/City Council

Article 1 paragraph (4) of Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government states that DPRD is a people's representative body as a legislative element of government organizers in charge of the region. The Regional People's Representative Council is an institution that is tasked with making laws and regulations on the policies of these rules. In the second part of Chapter VI of Law No. 17/2014 on the MPR, DPR, DPD, and DPRD, there are functions along with the authority and duties of the district or city DPRD, which are contained in Articles 365 and 366. The district/city DPRD has functions, namely: legislative function, budget function, and supervisory function.

3. METHODOLOGY

The research method that is suitable for use in this research is the descriptive-qualitative research method. Qualitative research is a process that prioritizes the deepening of data to obtain the quality of the research. The qualitative approach is a descriptive research mechanism that collects data up to the interpretation of the research results (Sugiyono,

2013). Descriptive research discusses various cases that are general regarding the various social phenomena found. In addition, it must also describe things that are specific to the occurrence of a reality. This aims to describe the condition of society and the problems that exist. The descriptive qualitative approach is understood as research that understands the phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as perceptions, actions, motivations, and others, holistically (Tohirin, 2012).

Subjects are people who have been determined to be a source of information in research, also known as informants. To determine the research subject, researchers used purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a data-source sampling technique with certain considerations (Sugiyono, 2013). In this research, the informants are members of the Bangka Tengah Regency Regional House of Representatives for the 2019-2024 Period and the Bangka Tengah Regency Population Control Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Office (DP2KBP3A), as well as several communities, especially women in Bangka Tengah.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Political Representation of Women in the Legislative Council of the Bangka Tengah Regency for the 2019-2024 Period

Women's political representation in the legislature is important as a counterweight to political decisions in the policymaking process. This is intended to accommodate all interests fairly, without gender discrimination. The presence of women in parliament is not about quantity; quality is the most important thing to realize in a government that is sensitive to gender issues in the public. The quality presented in parliament creates effective productivity, so that representation will be maximized.

The framework for analysing the representation of women in parliament using Pitkin's theory is divided into four parts. First, formal representation or authority is when the representative is given the right and responsibility legally to act to represent the interests represented. Second, descriptive representation is a representative who is present to be a reflection of his constituents so that the

representative defends groups with the same characteristics, such as skin color, regional gender, profession, community, or social class. Third, symbolic representation is the identity carried in representing those they represent based on cultural identity, religion, or belief. Fourth, substantive representation is seen as a representative acting for the interests of those represented by producing outputs in the form of policies.

1. Formal Representation

To describe formal representation, or what is also known as authorization representation, Pitkin explains that this representation is the granting and ownership of authority by representatives to act in formal representative institutions. The concept of formal representation means that authorization is given to those in the formal structure who have a formal position, status, or position. The status given to representatives in the legislature is through two formal means, namely general elections and the PAW (Inter-Time Replacement) mechanism.

Judging from the quantity of the Bangka Tengah Regency Regional House of Representatives in the 2019–2024 period, out of a total of 25 council members, three female council members were elected in the 2019 general election. Plus, one new female board member was inaugurated on May 15, 2023, through an interim replacement in the Golkar party faction. The women councilors are Mehoa from the Indonesian Democratic Party-Progress (PDI-P), Maryam from the Democratic Party, Wahidah from the National Awakening Party (PKB), and Eva Kirana, who became a PAW (inter-time replacement) from the Golkar party, replacing Era Susanto, who resigned because she became Deputy Regent (Bangkapos, 2023).

Judging from the conceptual formal representation of Hanna Pitkin's theory of political representation, In the legislative body of the Bangka Tengah Regional House of Representatives, there are 4 female councilors; this also indicates that the percentage of female councilors is 16% of the entire council of 25 people. The

authorization given to those in formal structures at a certain status is obtained through the mechanisms of elections and PAW. Therefore, these four women councilors directly have the authority to act on behalf of those represented in the formal representative institution of the Bangka Tengah Regional People's Representative Council.

2. Descriptive Representation

The concept of descriptive representation shows where the representative describes the constituent (who is represented). This description is characterized by characteristics described based on skin color, gender, region, profession, community or social class, and interests. If examined with this representation model, it is understood as a similarity of description between the representative and the represented. Representatives in this case are councils in the legislature representing people with the same characteristics.

Based on the research findings, the presence of women who represent other women has reflected the description of representation itself. As representatives who reflect their constituents, they must have the same characteristics. The four women councils in the Central Bangka Regional People's Representative Council are an illustration of descriptive representation. The presence of women is not only seen in how large the proportion is with men but also in how their presence can actively participate in acting to represent their constituents.

3. Symbolic Representation

Symbolic representation is a situation where the representative becomes a symbol of the group he represents because there are similarities in identity, culture, and religious beliefs. In political representation, the representative becomes a symbol that represents the characteristics of the group he or she represents. If we look at symbolic representation based on the composition of council membership in the Central Bangka Regional People's Representative

Council, 4 female councilors represent women or representatives who become identity symbols in representing the characteristics of the group they represent. This representative represents standing as a symbol of identity, representing those represented.

4. Substantive Representation

The view of substantive representation focuses on the nature of the activity performed by the representative. In this context, the representative speaks and acts for the substantive opinions, needs, or interests of the represented. The concept of substantive representation sees representation not just as a way of standing up for others but as a way of acting for others. Substantive representation is a way of seeing the meaning of the content of a representation.

There are so many problems that occur for women and children. Therefore, substantively, the establishment of a women's council in the legislature must be a representation of women's interests. Based on data on cases of women and children that occurred in Central Bangka Regency during the 2019–2023 period, as follows:

Table 2. Women and Children Case Data 2019-2023

Year	Women's Cases	Child Cases	Number of Women and Children Cases
2019	2	22	24
2020	8	26	34
2021	9	16	25
2022	15	26	41
2023	12	11	23

Source: DP2KBP3A and SIMFONI-PPA, processed by researchers in 2023

Based on research findings from interviews with the Women's Division of DP2KBP3A, cases against women and children in Bangka Tengah have indeed increased and decreased every year. As for if there is media that says that Bangka Tengah is the highest district in cases throughout Bangka Belitung, it is because

the agency always updates the data every time. Therefore, at certain times it becomes the highest number 1, even though there are higher cases.

Substantive representation of female councilors in the Bangka Tengah Regional House of Representatives is seen by using indicators of the main legislative functions. These indicators are the legislative function, the budget function, and the supervisory function. These three functions are the main tasks that must be carried out by a council in the legislature. The work done by women's councils is seen based on their role in carrying out their functions in fighting for the interests of women.

1. Substantive Representation of the Women's Council in Carrying Out the Legislative Function

Based on regional regulations that have been passed by the Regional House of Representatives together with the executive government, namely the Regent of Central Bangka Regency from 2019–2024, there are 52 regional regulations. Meanwhile, there is only 1 initiative regional regulation of the Regional People's Representative Council that was proposed in the 2019–2024 period, namely the 2022 Regional Regulation No. 11 concerning the Implementation of Legal Aid. From the data above, it can be said that members of the Bangka Tengah Regency Regional House of Representatives in the 2019–2024 period were less productive in the field of legislation because they did not take advantage of their authority to make laws and regulations through their initiative rights.

In general, based on data from the list of regional regulations of Bangka Tengah Regency passed in the 2019–2024 period and the results of interviews with relevant resource persons, there are specifically several regional regulations related to the interests of women and children. These regional regulations include the following:

- 2020 Regional Regulation No. 1 on Gender Mainstreaming in Regional Development

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- 2021 Regional Regulation No. 4 on the Implementation of a Child-Friendly District
 - 2021 Regional Regulation No. 7 concerning Amendments to Regional Regulation No. 1 of 2014 concerning Child Protection
 - Regional Regulation 2022 on the Prevention of Child Marriage

From the regional regulations that have been made, institutionally, the Central Bangka Regional House of Representatives for the 2019–2024 period has succeeded in representing the substantive interests of women and children by making regional regulations related to women and children. Meanwhile, the membership of the women's council has not been able to substantively represent their interests. This is because the council does not fully utilize its right of initiative to propose legislation related to the interests of women and children.

2. Substantive Representation of Women's Councils in Carrying Out Budgetary Functions

From the findings of the researchers, it can be concluded that the substantive representation of the board in carrying out the budget function is very good. This is evidenced by the increase in the budget every year at the Office of Population Control Family Planning, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection (DP2KBP3A) of Central Bangka Regency, as conveyed directly by the Women's Empowerment sector. In addition, it can be said that female council members who are members of the budgetary body of the Regional Representative Council of Central Bangka Regency have an awareness of their duties as representatives of women who have utilized their authority in guarding the interests of women and children in the aspect of funding.

3. Substantive Representation of the Women's Council in Carrying Out the Supervisory Function

From the researcher's findings, it can be concluded that the substantive representation of the women's council in carrying out the supervisory function has gone well. This is shown by the recognition of the Women's Empowerment Division of DP2KBP3A of Bangka Tengah Regency, who said that the Regional Representative Council was very supportive, especially the women's council, which was directly involved in activities and assistance. Likewise, the budget has increased every year.

This is also evidenced by the award obtained by the Bangka Tengah Regency, namely the Parahita Ekapraya Award, which is an award by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to the region. The award is given for success and initiative in achieving gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment, and child protection development in the region. This award has been obtained by Bangka Tengah Regency since 2016 in the Madya category, 2018 and 2020 Utama, and in 2022 in the Nindya category, which in 2023 has a change in category and is heading towards Mentor (Babelpos, 2023).

B. Constraints on Women's Political Representation in the Legislative Council of the Bangka Tengah Regency for the 2019-2024 Period

Each council member in the Regional People's Representative Council has their own duties and responsibilities in each commission or field they occupy. To do their functional work in the legislature, of course, there is no difference between women and men in doing it. However, each council member has different abilities, both in terms of expertise and how they complete their responsibilities.

Based on the findings of the research through interviews conducted by researchers with resource persons from the women's council of the Regional People's Representative Council of Bangka Tengah Regency for the 2019–2024 period, it can

be concluded that the obstacles faced by the women's council are not so great. Although in quantity there are only 4 female councils and more male councils, there is no dominance by the male council in a meeting or trial forum. In addition, the women's council is also given the same space and opportunities, such as occupying certain position structures.

If examined further, there are no significant obstacles that must be faced in representing women's interests in the Regional House of Representatives. Because of the long experience possessed by women councils and the given space and positions in the fields that exist in the Regional Representatives Council, providing equal opportunities in these fields will certainly make it easier for women's councils to voice women's interests. For example, in Commission 1, which partners directly with DP2KBP3A, as well as in the budget body, where there are women councilors, Bapemperda, which is chaired by a female councilor, and the Central Bangka Regency Regional People's Representative Council for the 2019–2024 period, whose chairperson is also a woman.

5. CONCLUSION

Representation theory categorizes representation into four types: formal, descriptive, symbolic, and substantive. In the Regional People's Representative Council, there are 4 female councillors out of 25, with 3 elected in 2019 and 1 through PAW. Descriptively, these women reflect their constituents' gender, profession, and interests. Symbolically, they represent identity, culture, and beliefs. Substantively, their legislative performance is considered good, passing 4 local regulations related to women and children, despite limited initiative regulations. Budget-wise, there's growth, notably benefiting women and children. The women's council is active in mentoring, reflected in budget increases and annual awards. No significant obstacles are reported, attributed to experienced women councilors who hold strategic positions, allowing them to prioritize women's interests effectively.

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