

Introduction

This master thesis focus and argues that political parties are key actors in the democratic regime process that link the represented and the representatives. Sartori defined political parties as “any group that presents at elections, and is capable of placing through elections, candidates for public office” Reilly argues that political parties have long been recognized as essential components of representative democracy. In most countries, they are the key gatekeepers to political power. They control which candidates are nominated and selected for political office and are, therefore, the main vehicles for delivering women’s numerical presence in parliaments and governments. They are also the central actors involved in adopting candidate selection reforms, such as gender quotas, and provide the main route through which these measures are implemented. Thus, in order to explain women’s numerical under-representation in this master thesis, we need to better understand how parties encourage or inhibit women’s access to decision making bodies and the MPs selection procedure. Reilly argues that three leading scholars of democracy, Juan Linz, Larry Diamond and Seymour Martin Lipset, have bluntly stated that, “without effective parties that command at least somewhat stable bases of support, democracies cannot have effective governance”. Thus, this process will be seen in the light of democratic processes that these two countries had from early 90’.

The aim of this master thesis is to analyse and to give answer the research question *how much the criteria selection of PMs and party strategies contribute to women under-representation in Albania and BiHs' decision making bodies?*. The general assumption is that mostly the process in centralized and the party leader have a greater influence in candidate selection process in both countries. Bille argues “it is hard to imagine how a regime can be classified as democratic if the political parties are organized such as way that leaves no room for citizens to participate and have influence“. The analyses will indicate that increase of the number of women depend on the will of political leaders and in the strategies the party adopt and implement. Thus, the hypothesis is *whether the ideology affect in the strategies political parties use in increasing the number of women in decision making bodies?* When it comes to the ideology of political parties, it can be argued that it do not play a major role at least for political parties in the Countries of Albania and BiH.

Political parties function by external regulation and internal rules. External regulation includes the constitution and laws. Internal processes depend on the party’s ideological foundations, historical influences, levels of regulation and internal bureaucracy, level of patronage, degree of

influence of party leaders, and level of decentralization. Kasapovic argues that candidacy procedure is the method of selecting the “candidates who compete in the elections for general representative bodies and other public offices“. The candidacy procedures’ rules are mainly regulated by statutes, charters and other documents of political parties, only in rare cases the PMs selection is done by state laws. The above mentioned documents for Albania and BiH case will be analyzed. Party bodies who decide for selection, it will be argued that are mainly high rank official who can take part in the decision-making processes, directly or indirectly.

In this master thesis I will argue on the parties’ attitudes towards the women’ parliament representation, the actual representation of women in the parliaments of Albania and BiH, the selection procedures the parties follow to recruit female candidate and the strategies they use in order to increase of number of women. Although, the internal party politics are major factors in the success women have in the parliamentary seats, there are many other factors who determine and play an important role in this process and cannot be left out of focus. Such factors are considered; the electoral system, party ideology and organization of government which will be discussed in this thesis as well. It has been thought by many scholars that that these factors influence also on the centralization and inclusiveness in the process of MPs selection, although not necessary in all cases.

The period of the study is 1990 to 2013(as last election for Albania). Beginning in 1990 allows us to start at a point at which all parties in our sample had established formal rules of PMs selection. The first theoretical chapter will be based mostly on the work of the Sefakor Ashiagbor.

RELEVANCY

What explains this continuing under-representation of women in parliaments? As Meryl Kenny argues, much of the early work in this area focused “on the political, socio-economic and cultural influences that explain cross-national variations in women’s numerical representation”. Sefakor Ashiagbor emphasized that various aspects of candidate selection have been the subject of extensive study and debate among political scientists however the focused has been more on the important role of electoral systems, arguing that the proportion of women elected tends to be higher in countries with proportional representation rather than majoritarian electoral systems. Cross-national studies of women’s representation often miss variations between political parties, which differ in the proportion of women they nominate and send to parliament. Thus, while the important role of political parties in shaping representative outcomes is widely recognized, there have been

surprisingly few systematic studies especially on specific countries such as Albania and more in Bosnia and Herzegovina to explain this under-representation seen from political parties prospective.

RESEARCH GOAL

Being a member of the Council in Municipality of the city of Pogradec has made aware of the procedure the political parties follow at local level during the candidate selection. However, the selection for PMs in the national level is of high importance and to procure in given more intention. Thus, it is important to study the political parties because they do have the monopoly and are free to select candidate in legislature and play an important role for the final number of women in representative bodies .The aim of this paper is to scrutinize and to see the stand point of the political parties towards' women representation in the parliaments of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) ,and willingness of political parties to implement gender equalities strategies.