

UNDERSTANDING WOMEN'S SOCIAL PARTICIPATION IN NGOS: A NEW FRAMEWORK DISCOVERED

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ABSTRACT

This is a new framework for women's social participation in NGOs, particularly for Malaysian women. This will contribute to a more concise framework on how to look and discuss the motivation, inhibiting factors, level of involvement and relates to women empowerment. This will indicate all the factors involved will contribute to women's empowerment perspectives. This new framework is part of the output gathered from the writer's PhD Thesis entitled Sarawak Women's Social Participation in Non-governmental Organization 2021, Universiti Teknologi MARA.

Keywords: Social Participation, Non-governmental Organizations, Women, Framework.

1. INTRODUCTION

This framework of women's social participation in NGOs is the result of one of the research findings in the author's thesis. The author has embarked on the idea of finding solutions related to issues arising from various understandings of the scope of women's involvement in civil society. There are various types of women's involvement in various fields namely political, economic, and social. However, the focus of the study is to highlight the understanding of women's involvement in the social sphere that has nothing to do with politics. This involvement is the "Social Participation of Women in NGOs". As a result of the author's observation and analysis, there have been many studies on women's involvement in politics but very few studies on women's involvement in other social associations or organizations. An understanding of women's social involvement is important to highlight the diversity of women's involvement in the development of the country and see the contribution of involvement in this field is also important in achieving women empowerment. The four main objectives in developing the framework, namely:

- i) What are the factors that cause women to get involved in NGOs
- ii) What are the obstacles faced by Women to be actively in NGOs
- iii) What is the level of women's involvement in NGO activities
- iv) Does this social participation contribute to women empowerment

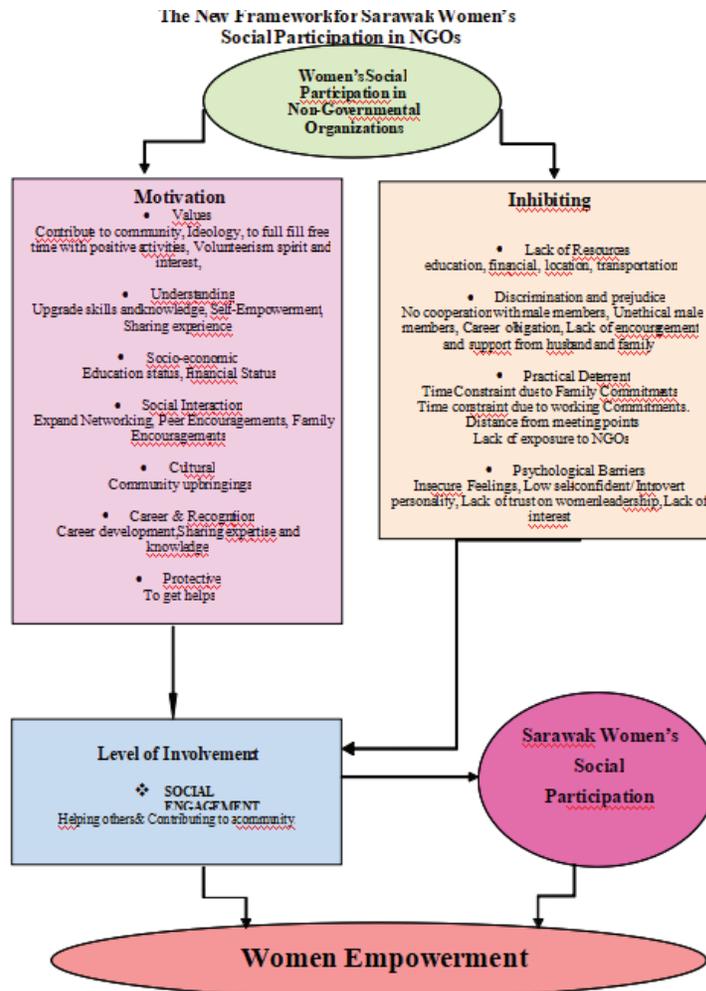
Thus, to gather the data, in-depth interviews were carried out with the 36 selected leaders and ordinary members of NGOs. For this, criterion purposive sampling technique and quota sampling were employed. Purposive sampling is a technique; whereby the 'researcher intentionally selects participants who have experienced the central phenomenon for the key concept being explored in the study' (Zafar H, 2016). In addition to the in-depth interviews allows the researcher to interact with the subjects and these will give the researcher more real perspectives and understanding about the purpose of the study.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This framework is a description of information translated from the findings of the study in the Ph.D. thesis entitled Sarawak Women's Social Participation in Non-governmental organizations. This framework can be translated in the form of posters and uploaded to selected websites, pamphlets, social media, etc, and is easy for women, government, and stakeholders to access and understand the issue of women's social participation in NGOs.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The framework showed how the various influencing women's social participation in NGOs interacts that is, starting with the Motivation Category with 7 main factors grouped. Next is Inhibiting Category with 4 main factors grouped. These two major Motivation and Inhibiting Categories lead to the Level of Involvement which indicates the level of women's involvement in Social Engagement. Those women who are actively involved in NGOs are inspired to help and contribute to the community in various fields of social participation. By adapting and adopting the figure above, these variables gave holistic views on women's social participation in NGOs or civil-based society which will also contribute to women empowerment.



4. CONTRIBUTION AND USEFULNESS/COMMERCIALISATION

It is important to analyse the significant roles of civil society as the issues of how they face the impact of globalization and development issues arise. It is important to highlight the dynamic relationship of civil society in the political system. Therefore, this framework would shed light on the questions on what motivates and restrain women from getting involved in NGOs. Moreover, it only focuses on social participation, not on political perse. The contribution of the framework will bring forth to assist the civil society in building appropriate support that is involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of development projects that will help them get more young women's participation. By doing so there is a better understanding, incorporating, and assessing empowerment-related issues at the grass-

roots level. Hence, it is significant to know the factors that contribute the women to participate in various types of NGOs. This framework is also important in highlighting the level of women's social participation so that they know their contributions are being put forward and contribute to women's empowerment. Finally, this framework contributes to the body of knowledge in civil society to genre theory as it develops, redefines, and contextualizes appropriate structure for other researchers, government, and other stakeholders to strengthen the women's development policy.

5. CONCLUSION

The framework of Women's Social Participation in NGOs is interesting and valuable in highlighting the types of women's involvement in civil society. This framework could help women especially those who are not involved in politics can see that although they are involved in different organizations they also contribute to women empowerment. Women's development is not only be measured in terms of their involvement in decision-making but also how small the contribution in civil society still helps in the development of the country. This framework highlights two important research findings on the issue of factors that motivates and hinder women in their social engagement. With this information, it could give awareness to not only the government but also to the women themselves on how to find a solution so that they continue to serve in civil society. The author also hopes that this framework could also be used as a model to identify issues in women's involvement in other fields. Detailed studies can also be done so that some other important elements such as the benefit factors derived from women's involvement in NGOs can be included in this framework. The authors also hope that information on strategies for overcoming problems in women's involvement in civil society can also be included in the future framework.

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