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RESEARCH ARTICLE

**“PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE HEAD OF VILLAGE ELECTION IN TIMOR-LESTE
 2016”. THESIS, UNIVERSITY OF NUSA CENDANA, KUPANG.**

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Abstract

The pattern of views of the people of Timor-Leste begins a new phase with the participation of women in all matters. This is supported by the country's Constitution which provides women with opportunities to participate in a variety of things including politics. The purpose of this study is to determine 1). The participation of women both as candidates and as voters. 2), to know and explain the low level of participation of women as head of village. 3), to describe the public perception towards Woman candidate for Head of Village. Women's participation in politics is a Political and Civil right guaranteed by law, international conventions and other regulations. Political participation as a voluntary activity undertaken by citizens with the intention to influence political choice in different political systems is equally present either directly or indirectly. Gender equality is a situation where men and women gain recognition of rights, respect for dignity, and equal participation in all aspects of life, both in the public and the domestic sectors.

In this study used a qualitative approach to the type of primary and secondary data. This is the technique of data collection through interviews, observation and document review.

Women's participation in village head elections in 2016 can be seen from the participation of women as candidates for heads of village by running for contestants and women's participation as voters in the election.

The low participation of women as head of the village can be seen from the number of villages located throughout the national territory of Timor-Leste consisted of 442 villages, but only 319 women candidates are ahead in the election, means that not all villages in Timor-Leste have elected women as head of village. It is said to be low because of the total number of registered candidates for head village only 21 candidates were elected as head of village. The election of women as head of village is still low due to some perceptions that may affect the participation and election rate of women for head of village candidates which is the result of a lack of women's information, lack of awareness, discrimination and culture that still prevails in Timor-Leste society in general, high competition of men candidates for head of village from same Sub-village (*Aldeia*), patriarchal cultural issues are extremely high.

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Background:-

Timor-Leste is one of the countries in Southeast Asia that stood at the millennium or 21st century after separating itself from the Republic of Indonesia. The dynamics and opportunities of women are all clear when the policy of gender development continues to be pursued by all parties based on the Constitution of *República Democrática de Timor Leste* (RDTL) article 16 and 17 based on Equality of Rights between Men and Women (RDTL Constitution, 2002: 12), as well as international instruments ratified by the government in April 2003, one of which is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Last year the government has taken a serious policy in empowering women through the nomination of head village of for the next seven (7) years 2016-2023 based on Law No. 9/2016 where every village of 442 villages that has attended the head of Village election must be women candidates enrolled in the election committee of village heads. However, in the absence of women candidates enrolling, the campaign and village election stage cannot be implemented, except for official statements from women's organizations.

In some of the reports released by the joint commission of women's organizations from NGO / NGO and STAE (*SecretariaduTecnikaAdministrasaunEleitoral*) there were 319 female head of village ready and registered to compete with male candidates at the end of October 2016 from all 12 districts including Oecusse Special Region (STAE Report, 2016).

Of all the candidates enrolled in the committee amounted to 2,071 out of 442 villages, women enrolled in the 2016 election only 21 women candidates were elected as village heads of 319 women candidates advanced in the village head elections.

Where this total is 72.1% of women as candidates registering for head of village, only 6.5% of women are elected to be head of village of 319 candidates. Then the elected women as a whole are only reaching 4.7% (National Report STAE, 2016).

Formulation of the problem:-

Some of the problems identified are: How is the participation of women voters in village head elections? Why is the participation of women as head of village still low? How is the perception of the community towards women's candidate in head of village election in Timor-Leste?

Research purposes:-

To find out the participation of women either as candidates for head of village or as voters in the head of village election, to know and explain the low level of women's participation as head of village and to describe the perception of society on women candidate in head of village election.

Benefits of research:-

For academic - as a research contribution to the development of public administration science, as a reference for further researchers, as a reference for readers and writers and observers of the problem of gender equality, political and cultural influence in the empowerment of village communities, especially women. Practical - research contributions to address practical issues in the field, as a study material in designing a participatory village planning and development.

Literature Review:-

In this study the researcher took three studies as a reference to analyze the participation of women in Politics and Social as a leader in a public or non public organizations, such as; postgraduate work of GadjahMada University, Luisa AlbertinaFraga (2012) on Women's Participation in Budget Decision Making at Annual Development in the National Parliament of Timor-Leste. Who finds that on the issue of women's participation in discussing and maintaining the State Budget Revenue in National Parliament of Timor-Leste. The research results of NunikHetnoHerawati (2010), Women's Leadership in Bureaucracy, looked at the role of women in politics. Results of research reports of Umrah Kamahi and AjisSalimAdangDjaha (2008), Public Perceptions of Women's Participation in Village Legislative Institutions in North Alor, District of Alor-NTT, by reviewing women's representation in Village Legislative Institutions in Sub-District of North West Alor.

Theoretical framework:-

In this research the researcher uses several theories that could support this writing, among others: The Participation Theory of Theodorson (2017) argued that participation is the engagement or involvement of a person (individual or community) in a particular activity. Adisasmita (2006) describes the participation is intended as a development approach which is done in rural development, urban and known as integrated village development approach and village-based development approach based on local independence. Participation can also be applied as a policy strategy to achieve the goals and objectives of development that have been set to improve people's welfare.

The Theory of Women's Participation In Politics, political participation by Herbert McClosky is "the voluntary activities of the citizens through which they take part in the selection process of the entrepreneur, directly or indirectly, in the process of general policy formation".

Gender and Administration, Gender according to Mansour Faqih, Gender is a characteristic attached to men and women who are constructed socially and culturally. While according to Herbert A. Simmon administration can be formulated as cooperative group activities to achieve certain goals. According to Sondang P. Siagian Administration is the whole process of implementation of the decisions that have been taken and the implementation is generally done by a group of two or more people to achieve the pre-determined objectives. According to Luther Gulick, the administration deals with what matters to be accomplished with the accomplishment of established goals.

Gender Theory and Public Administration, Gender in Public Administration in a political paradigm; see traditional political science related to participation in political systems critiqued by political scientists on women's political participation in history, women's movement and women's participation in physical roles in decision-making at the elite level. Gender in Public Administration in the Sociology Paradigm, states women's problems in Public Administration rest on "individual characteristics" that are analyzed by social factors. Gender in Public Administration on the Sociology paradigm; the issue of women in the organization or the Public Administration does not lie in the aspect of individual traits but the problem lies in the characteristics of the organizational situation.

Leadership Theory According to Gardner (Usman, 2014: 307) states, leaders are exemplary people, significantly influencing the behavior of their followers through significant feelings of followers. Bernard M. Bass (2014: 309) defines leadership as the interaction of two or more persons in a structured group or a reconstruction of the situation of perceptions and expectations of members. According to Gary Yukl (2014) there are several leadership definitions which according to him is the behavior of an individual who leads the activities of a group to a goal to be achieved together.

The Leadership Theory of Women can be said to be a force for building an effective leadership model based on ShoyaZichy's research. In this millennium, a person who is a leader of both women and men must have a broad perspective on assuring his leadership, where a person becomes a leader or a position not because hereditary factors as well as historical factors but because of the quality of his ability and credibility. According to Beinsten (Pandie, 2012) suggests six types of credibility for future leaders of conviction, character, care, courage, composure and competence. So women also have the credibility and character as proposed as leaders for the future in all fields and associated with leadership.

In the results of research ShoyaZichy (2012) about leadership quotient on women's leadership ability to find eight criteria or type of women leadership that is: (1) type trustees (trust) or equal to credibility, (2) type conservator / maintenance type or same with care, (3) tactician / tactical type, (4) the realistic / prioritizing realities in the field, (5) the strategic type / which prioritizes rational rationale for mastering the situation, (6) Type of innovator / which prioritizes innovations in solving problems; (7) the type of mentoring / who provides strong motivation to the subordinates and (8) is the type of advocator / who defends or aspires to his followers.

Research methods:-

This research used qualitative approach with primary and secondary types of data. The approach in this research the researcher use the approach proposed by Creswell in conducting qualitative research that is with Case Study is a research strategy in which researcher investigate carefully a program, event, activity, process or a group of individuals.

Source Data of Samples / Informants:-

In qualitative research, the sample of data source or informant is determined purposively and snowball sampling. The informants were the women both elected and unelected head of villages, men and women voters and women's organizations / NGOs.

Technique of Data collection

The stages used in the design of this study, among others, by using techniques of data collection through: Observation, deep interview and document review. In qualitative research method the data is obtained from various sources, using various data collection techniques (triangulation), and conducted continuously. Thus, the activity in data analysis consists of data Reduction Data, data presentation (data display), and Conclusion Withdrawal / verification (Conclusion Drawing / verification).

Discussion:-

From the results of field research, the researcher found that: Women's participation in head of village elections 2016 through participation by running for candidates for head of village and participating as head of village electors. The low number of elected women as head of village due to several problems, among others;

1. Lack of community and families' support towards women as candidate of head of village
2. Less self-preparation of women
3. Women advance in candidacy only because of the conditions of Law Number 9/2016
4. The problem of patriarchal culture is still very strong in the life of the people of Timor-Leste in general.
5. The existence of information barriers and village administration.

Public perceptions towards women candidate for heads of village are generally inseparable from several assumptions such as:

1. Patriarchal culture
2. Tribalism
3. Family
4. Different political parties
5. Less well known by the public
6. Women cannot reach areas far from the village center.

The low level of participation of women as head of village in the election 2016 resulted in several factors found by researchers such as 1). The readiness of women who are not ready yet for leading the village, however because of the opportunity of the constitution that gives women an opportunity to candidate themselves. 2). The participation of women as head of village was low due to the fact that villages lack of women candidate based on a total of 442 villages across East Timor but only 319 candidates for head of village participated in elections. 3). The patriarchal culture that is still strongly attached to rural communities who see women as village leaders is new or unusual and the level of public understanding of the importance of equality between men and women is inadequate until the villages are disposed. 4) The lack of women's preparation in the election, especially as candidate for head of village. 5). There are many candidates for head of village who are in nomination and even one village has more than one candidate for head of village.

The perception of the community towards the women candidate for head of village election generally refers to some things found by researchers in research on the object of this study, among others; voting societies assessed the women who were candidates for the head of village with their individual choice, the voters chose women because of their relationships through local cultural activities, women's activism in political party organizations, educational level, family ties and tribalism became paramount in choosing a female candidate.

On the other hand, the electorate community does not vote for women candidates in general due to patriarchal cultural issues, women as village level leaders are something new for the community, lack of voters understanding of equal rights issues and men, inadequate information on opportunities for women in the election of heads especially the village election law, the international conventions on equal rights (gender and equality) ratified by the government (RDTL).

The election of the head of village is one of the forms of public participation in politics through the selection of village leaders. Participation of citizens in the election is voluntary activity so one is free to choose who the choice of both female and male candidates is, so that the female voters are free to make choices. The theory that can explain this view is the theory of political participation of Herbert McClosky (Buadiardjo, 2008: 367). In addition, the patriarchal cultural barrier to gender becomes challenges for women candidates to become village leaders in democratic and gender equitable head of village election. Culture becomes the main influence of the community environment which is believed to be a hereditary practice prevailing in the pattern of views and community life.

From the results of the research through the district planning documents can be found obstacles in the local government or district where district development planning (Municipality), the program of women's devotion, especially at the village level is still very general even far from the expectations that have been included in development planning long East Timor 2011-2030 (PEDN 2011-2030).

Thus in the head of village election 2016 women still get hurdles in political competition at the village level which is a manifestation of democracy for all societies both women and men as citizens whose political rights have been guaranteed by the nation constitution.

Conclusion:-

The participation rate of women as citizens in the head of village election in Timor-Leste is a democratic hope for a country of 1 million people. However, based on the results of an analysis of research conducted by the researcher indicates that the participation rate of women in the head of village election in Timor- 2016 is still far from expectations, as summarized as follows: The participation of women voters in village head elections in 2016 can be seen from the participation of women as candidates for head of village by running for contestants and women's participation as voters in the election.

Timor-Leste is comprised of 442 villages, but only 319 women candidates are advancing in elections, mean not all villages in Timor-Leste are electing women as head of village, out of all female candidates only 21 are successfully elected.

Public perceptions of women village head candidates are seen from several perceptions such as family bonds, tribalism, political parties, a level of community understanding of the importance of equality of rights between men and women who are still low. The perception of the community towards women for head of village candidates is seen from several perceptions such as family bonds, tribalism, political parties, a level of community understanding of the importance of equal rights between men and women.

Suggestion:-

In order to increase the participation of women in the election for head of village in Timor-Leste, regarding the findings of the field, the researcher recommends some suggestions, among others:

1. To the government to continue providing training and development for potential women in all villages in Timor-Leste.
2. Improving cooperation with NGOs and women's organizations in the socialization of international law and conventions on equal rights of women and men ratified by the government
3. Local governments continue to providing awareness to the community in supporting women as leaders, reducing cultural presuppositions that only highlight men through the implementation of legislation, regional development planning.