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The causes of the problems promotion of women in politics

Agata Kraińska

Faculty of Humanities, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland

E-mail address: agata.krainska@interia.pl

ABSTRACT

The first step, allowing women to actively participate in political life was to give them the right to vote. The first country, which was made New Zealand at the end of the nineteenth century. Thus, no matter sex. Anyone who has acquired the right to vote can take an active part in political life. The study cited examples of women in the political arena confirm that the role of head of state in Europe has only six women. This is clear evidence that women may have limited access to important political positions. One of the reasons for this situation is the fact that society continues to believe that the woman the position of head of state is not the right person. Another important reason for the lack of women in politics are stereotypes, which are unfortunately very firmly rooted in the thinking of society.

Keywords: promotion, social advancement, promotion of gender discrimination, the right to vote

1. INTRODUCTION

According to the law guarantees, active participation in politics be open to all persons who acquired the right to do so. It does not matter whether you are a man or a woman. The first step, allowing women to actively participate in political life was to give them the right to vote. The first country, which was made New Zealand at the end of the nineteenth century.

In this article we will present definitions and types of promotion, short story depicting the transmission of voting rights to women in the world, and what are the reasons for the lack

of women in the political arena. The aim of this paper is to study the literature concerning the causes of the small number of women in politics, including mainly the positions of head of state and head of government.

2. DEFINITIONS AND TYPES OF PROMOTION

Promotion involves moving people to higher valued positions both in professional life and in the social hierarchy. Polish language dictionary defines promotion as an order to someone or acquisition by someone more prestigious position or raise to a higher dignity¹. PWN Encyclopedia popular social promotion is defined as "the process of moving units, layers, classes from lower to higher social positions"². A very similar definition is given by Polish language dictionary³. In the hierarchy of the social cause of promotion is not limited to rich, to get an education or execution of work enjoying the confidence of the public. In history, for example, in the early Middle Ages, social advancement for women was the birth of the child. She gained the respect the environment⁴.

Professional advancement is instead of changing jobs more profitable or higher prestige. The reason for career advancement may be getting higher education, completing courses and obtaining permission to perform specific tasks. Professional promotion may also be obtained for good performance or because of shifts in positions. In People's Poland the concept of the advancement of women had a different meaning.

Promotion of gender equality means and the admission of women to all positions and professions, provided that there are no contraindications for doing so primarily from the point of view of physiology. Other important advancement is doing and creating personal career, the so-called course of their career⁵. In the Dictionary of labor pedagogy "promotion at work" is a "transition the employee to a higher position to achieve his senior in the hierarchy. Linked to this is the achievement of a higher grade card, increasing the responsibility for the work, to increase the share of power and social prestige." Employee career advancement depends on education, ability or expressed willingness to work. The impact on the increase in the hierarchy is also active socio-political and favoritism on the part of the superior and the ability to work with people⁶.

3. VOTING RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Decades ago, the problem of women was a struggle for equal civil rights and public. Today, women seek to increase their share of managerial positions. [3] It should be noted that in the past women had no voting rights. Only men have the right to participate in elections and therefore they decided about the situation in the country. However, this situation was

¹ *Słownik języka polskiego PWN* (2006), wyd. 3, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, p. 32.

² *Encyklopedia popularna PWN* (1982), PWN, Warszawa, p. 55.

³ *Słownik języka polskiego PWN* (2006), wyd. 3, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa, p. 32.

⁴ M. Bogucka (2006), *Gorsza pleć*, Wydawnictwo Trio, Warszawa, p. 35.

⁵ S. Dziecielska-Machnikowska, J. Kulpińska (1966), *Awans kobiety*, Wydawnictwo Łódzkie, Łódź, p. 77

⁶ K. Wrochno (1971), *Problemy pracy kobiet*, Wydawnictwo Związkowe CRZZ, Warszawa, p. 96.

changing. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, women in most countries gained the right to vote. The first place where women were given the right to vote was the state of Wyoming in the United States of America. The ladies could participate in social life already in 1869, but at the federal level right has been granted in this and other states until 1920. [4] Table 2 shows the year to obtain voting rights for women in selected countries.

Table 1. Year of obtaining voting rights for women in selected countries⁷

Country	Year	Signs
New Zealand	1893	* Not on an equal footing with men
Finland	1906	
Norway	1907	** Women were granted full suffrage in 1981
Denmark, Iceland	1915	
Netherlands, Russia	1917	
Ireland, Canada, United Kingdom, Poland	1918	
Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany	1919	
United States of America, Hungary	1920	
Sweden	1921	
Ecuador	1929	
Spain	1931	
Brazil, Uruguay	1932	
Cuba, Turkey	1934	
India, Burma	1935	
Algeria, France	1944	
Japan, Italy	1945	
Albania, Yugoslavia, Panama, Romania	1946	
Argentina, Bulgaria, China, Venezuela	1947	
Belgium, Israel, Korea	1948	

⁷ K. Hajder (2008), *Pozycja kobiet w wybranych obszarach społeczno-kulturowych a sytuacja na rynku pracy*, [in:] *Równowaga praca – życie – rodzina*, pod red. nauk. C. Sadowskiej-Snarskiej, Wydawnictwo Wyższej Szkoły Ekonomicznej w Białymstoku, Białystok, p. 202.

Chile, Indonesia, Syria *	1949	
Bolivia, Lebanon	1952	
Greece, Mexico	1953	
Ethiopia, Peru	1955	
Tunisia, Switzerland **	1959	
Morocco	1962	
Libya	1963	

With the acquisition of voting rights, women have gained greater access to work.

In Poland, the increase in practical benefits for women occurred only during the Polish People's Republic⁸. Since that time, they can advance in social life and create their career path. Despite the improvement in the situation and the possibility of large women continue to work in politics and at work to a much lesser degree than men. [13] Since a long time there is a perception that politics is the plane on which they operate mostly men. In the United States of America in the 80th century it was carried out a survey, which asked whether the public would choose a woman as president. The result of the survey was clear: no. Society takes the view that a woman does not have a sufficiently strong leadership skills to be able to serve as head of state. Besides its weakness is the lack of ability to make firm decisions related to military operations. The German sociologist Max Weber distinguished two political positions, "the ethics of emotions" and "ethic of responsibility". In his view, the followers of the first orientation of the reasons for the disaster, as guided by honesty and naivety. A similar opinion was Schmitt, who believed that women's actions are troublemaking. In his opinion, they are set to achieve only partial goals through the use of emotional and such a procedure only hinders and slows down the achievement of political goals⁹.

Table 2. Women serving as head of state and head of government in Europe in 2016 today

Head of state	
Elizabeth II ¹⁰	Queen of Great Britain since 6th February 1952
Margrethe II ¹¹	Queen of Denmark since 14th January 1972
Valeria Ciavatta ¹²	co-captain regent of San Marino since 1st April 2014

⁸ K. Wrochno (1971), *Problemy pracy kobiet*, Wydawnictwo Związkowe CRZZ, Warszawa, p. 96.

⁹ K. Offe, *Kobiety i polityka*, w: *Kobiety równouprawnione?*, [red. B. Machnicka], „Zeszyty Dokumentacyjne: Seria monograficzna”, z. 5/210, Polska Agencja Prasowa, Warszawa 1985, p. 34 – 35.

¹⁰ *Her Majesty The Queen*, The official website of The British Monarchy, (access: 23.06.2017).

¹¹ Margrethe II, <http://kongehuset.dk/english/the-royal-house/Regentparret/hm-the-queen/hm-the-queen>, (access: 15.05.2013).

¹² Valeria Ciavatta, <http://www.rulers.org/indexc3.html> (access: 22.06.2016).

Dalia Grybauskaitė ¹³	The President of Lithuania since 12th July 2009
Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović ¹⁴	President of Croatia Since 19th February 2015
Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca ¹⁵	The President of Malta since 4th April 2014
Prime Minister	
Angela Merkel ¹⁶	The head of government in Germany since 22nd November 2005
Erna Solberg ¹⁷	Prime Minister of Norway since 16th October 2013
Beata Szydło ¹⁸	Prime Minister of Poland since 16th November 2015
Theresa May	Prime Minister of Great Britain since 13th July 2016

Despite the advantage of participation of men in politics you can not forget about women who have gone down in history as the leaders of states. The table below shows women who have been successful in the European political arena.

The first woman to be elected by popular vote for president in Europe was in 1980 Vigdís Finnbogadóttir¹⁹, the president of Iceland. In contrast, the first lady prime minister in Europe was Margaret Thatcher, who took over this position in the UK in 1979²⁰.

Despite the above-mentioned examples of women in European politics, as noted by Maria Ciechomska, "although it would be difficult to deny the obvious differences between Sweden and Saudi Arabia, there is no country in the world where women would occupy an equal position to men. Nowhere was able to take power in such a degree, to give women a sense of power"²¹.

American sociologists give four reasons why women's participation in politics is less. The first is the traditional socialization, that is, that the boys from an early age said that as they grow up, they will be the president and the girls at the most, that will be the wife of the president. In this way children are taught now that politics is a male domain. The second reason is the fact that women are less interested in politics because they deal with the

¹³ Dalia Grybauskaitė, http://www.president.lt/en/institution/president_dalia_grybauskaite_399/biography.html, (access: 15.05.2013)

¹⁴ *Potpuni rezultati izbora za predsjednika Republike Hrvatske*, <http://www.izbori.hr/106pre/rezult/2/rezultati.html> (access: 22.06.2016).

¹⁵ Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, <http://archive.is/NREpj#selection-2191.0-2191.26> (access: 22.06.2016).

¹⁶ Angela Merkel, <http://www.angela-merkel.de/page/126.htm>, (access: 15.05.2013)

¹⁷ Norwegia, Oficjalna strona w Polsce, http://www.amb-orwegia.pl/news_and_events/komunikaty/Norweskie-wybory-parlamentarne-2013/#.V2rEwbiLTIU (access: 22.06.2016).

¹⁸ Beata Szydło w onet.wiadomości, <http://wiadomosci.onet.pl/beata-szydlo> (access: 22.06.2016).

¹⁹ *First female head of state, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, elected 35 years ago today*, <http://icelandmag.visir.is/article/first-female-head-state-vigdís-finnbogadottir-elected-35-years-ago-today> (access: 25.06.2017)

²⁰ *Who is Margaret Thatcher & what did she do?*, Margaret Thatcher Foundation (access: 15.05.2017).

²¹ M. Ciechomska, *Od matriarchatu do feminizmu*, Wydawnictwo Brama-Książnica Włoczęgów i Uczonych, Poznań 1996, p. 326.

obligations related to running the house. Another reason, which is already declining, is the lack of qualifications and skills available to women. The last reason explaining the smaller size of women in politics, stereotypes and discrimination. [6-10] "Discrimination against women in public life is often camouflaged, it is difficult to pinpoint its specific examples"²². This is because the source of such discrimination are rooted in the culture and mindset of society. Sometimes in young democracies you can observe the phenomenon, which involves ejecting the candidature of women called "lamb intended for sacrifice." This involves selecting those candidates who have no chance of victory, and thus proves that women are not suited to politics. [11-16]

4. CONCLUSIONS

From the above analysis of the literature, it is clear that women in political life is relatively short. Only in the twentieth century have been granted women the right to vote. This progress resulted in a further step easier access to perform the work. However, despite these changes, the situation of women in the political arena is still worse than men.

The examples of women in the political arena confirm that the role of head of state in Europe has only six women. This is clear evidence that women may have limited access to important political positions.

One of the reasons for this situation is the fact that society continues to believe that the woman the position of head of state is not the right person. In addition, the method of raising children does not motivate girls to perform in the future important political functions. Another important reason for the lack of women in politics are stereotypes, which are unfortunately very firmly rooted in the thinking of society.

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²² B. Budrowska, D. Duch-Krzyszczak, A. Titkow (2003), *Dyskryminacja i jej wieloznaczności. Realne szanse kobiet*, [in:] *Szklany sufit. Bariery i ograniczenia karier kobiet. Monografia zjawiska*, pod red. A. Titkow, Wydawnictwo Fundacji Instytutu Spraw Publicznych, Warszawa, p. 214.

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