

## ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Muslim Women's Political Participation: A Case Study  
of Muang Municipality Pattani Province

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The objectives of this research are to study Muslim women's participation in politics, factors promoting such behavior and political roles including problems and obstacles impeding Muslim women's participating in political process. The method of study is a qualitative one by using observation and in-depth interviews of 15 key – informants; the collected data were later analyzed by logical context description , with descriptive statistics of frequency , mean , and percentage.

Results of the study can be summarized as follows:

1. Muslim women's participation in politics derived from their family forces, both in concept and political activities, including their social environment, personal readiness and political interest.

2. The majority of Muslim women (80 %) participate in politics moderately with political roles such as regular following political news, participating in the movements against the government or proposing conditions for action, political seminars, and being members in social groups.

3. Factors related to Muslim women's participation in politics are the family, i.e., supporting the behavior from the family members and kins, socializing political concepts; social factors, i.e., realization of role appropriateness between male and female according to Islamic teachings emphasizing women as teachers, trainers to offsprings more than being politicians. Economic factor in the sense that the rich are

TE 130624

more politically ready than the poor, and personal factor, i.e., individual interest in politics, high education women have more opportunity than the ones with low education, including the need for prestige, esteem and social acceptance.

4. Problems and obstacles, impeding Muslim women's participation in politics are unclear interpretation of Islam teachings about women's role confining them to only household affairs. This affects their political activities, which mostly are done in public places. The problems of safety, fidelity, and proper dress of Muslim women also retard their political participation to some degree.

Important recommendations emerged from the study are:

1. There should be a wider public relation in political promotion with multiple method to increase political consciousness among the people at large.
2. Increase promotion of role models in women political participation.
3. Muslim women organizations should aim for stronger and clearer political stand including the new interpretation of Muslim women's role according to Islam teachings.