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Familal Ties and Women Electability in the Legislative Election in 2019: Insight from South Sumatera

Alva Beriansyah

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Negeri Jambi

Email: alvaberiansyah@unja.ac.id

Mariatul Qibtiyah

Faculty of Sharia, Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi

Email: mariatulqibtiyah@uinjambi.ac.id

Abstract

The involvement of women in the political sphere will improve the quality of democracy in Indonesia. Women have the same political rights as men to actively participate in democracy by becoming political contestants, especially in the 2019 elections. The advancement of women legislative candidates to become state officials is something that needs to be appreciated amidst the patriarchal culture that is still inherent in Indonesia. The presence of women in politics cannot be separated from the role of men. This then becomes the focus and purpose of this article, which is to describe the familial ties that are attached to the electability of women in politics. The research method used in this article is a qualitative research method that is descriptive to explain the familial ties factor for women in political power, both as members of the DPR RI and DPD RI from South Sumatra in the 2019 elections. According to Richter, familial ties are the influence of male relatives (whether fathers, fathers-in-law, brothers, uncles, or husbands) who are influential and powerful politicians, who facilitate a woman politician to build and achieve certain political leadership roles and this can be seen in the campaign periods for legislative candidates, starting from placing billboards or posters for legislative candidates that include family names behind their real names, then using political party attributes such as political party colors for women whose relatives hold positions in political parties, up to involving relatives of political officials in campaigns carried out to the public. The existence of these familial ties is inseparable from the political capital owned by the elected candidates which should also be followed by their quality and capability in the political field so that it will avoid the impression of KKN (corruption, collusion, nepotism) where the families of officials who are considered to perpetuate their hegemony in the local political sphere.

Keywords: Familial Ties, Female Candidates, Legislative Election, South Sumatera

Abstrak

Keterlibatan perempuan dalam ranah politik akan meningkatkan kualitas demokrasi di Indonesia. Perempuan memiliki hak politik yang sama dengan laki-laki untuk berpartisipasi aktif dalam demokrasi dengan menjadi kontestan politik, khususnya dalam Pemilu 2019. Majunya calon anggota legislatif perempuan menjadi pejabat negara merupakan sesuatu yang perlu diapresiasi di tengah budaya patriarki yang masih melekat di Indonesia. Kehadiran perempuan di dunia politik memang tidak terlepas dari adanya peran laki-laki. Hal ini kemudian menjadi fokus dan tujuan dalam artikel ini, yaitu mendeskripsikan faktor *familial ties* yang melekat pada keterpilihan perempuan di dunia politik. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam artikel ini adalah metode penelitian kualitatif yang bersifat deskriptif untuk menjelaskan faktor *familial ties* perempuan dalam kekuasaan politik, baik sebagai anggota DPR RI maupun DPD RI dari DAPIL Sumatera Selatan dalam Pemilu 2019. Menurut Richter, *familial ties* merupakan pengaruh dari kerabat laki-laki (baik ayah, ayah mertua, kakak, paman ataupun suami) yang merupakan seorang politisi berpengaruh dan kuat, yang memfasilitasi seorang politisi perempuan membangun dan mencapai peran kepemimpinan politik tertentu dan hal ini tampak pada masa-masa kampanye calon anggota legislatif, mulai dari pemasangan baliho ataupun poster caleg yang turut mencantumkan nama keluarga di belakang nama asli, kemudian penggunaan atribut parpol seperti warna parpol bagi perempuan yang kerabatnya menduduki jabatan di partai politik, sampai dengan mengikutsertakan kerabat pejabat politik dalam kampanye yang dilakukan ke masyarakat. Adanya *familial ties* ini tidak terlepas dari modal politik yang dimiliki oleh para caleg terpilih yang seharusnya juga diikuti dengan kualitas dan kapabilitas mereka di bidang politik sehingga akan terhindar dari kesan KKN dimana keluarga para pejabat yang dianggap melanggar hegemoni mereka di ranah politik lokal.

Kata Kunci: Ikatan Keluarga, Caleg Perempuan, Pemilihan Legislatif, Sumatera Selatan

INTRODUCTION

The world of politics becomes an interesting stage for many individuals, especially with the collapse of the new order and the subsequent reformation period, which created numerous opportunities for people to engage in politics. In this democratic era, people are granted the freedom to enter the political realm through various means, including the formation of political parties (Ufen, 2009), which often serve as tools for those aspiring to become members of parliament or legislature (Mujani, 2015; Sherlock, 2010). However, not everyone enjoys equal access to these opportunities, particularly women, as their participation is still hindered by the prevailing patriarchal culture in society (Saputra et al., 2021). This culture undermines the status of women and prevents them from entering the political arena. Women's rights to participate in politics are often viewed differently from men's, and societal stigma further diminishes their confidence and abilities, leading to restrictions on their political engagement. Nonetheless, there have been efforts to address these challenges through specific policies. Laws such as Law No. 12 of 2003 and Law Number 2 of 2008 have been enacted, emphasizing that every political party must have a 30% representation of women as part of affirmative action. Additionally, Law Number 10 of 2008 guarantees opportunities for women's representation in the political sphere, thereby encouraging their active participation in the Indonesian political system. These regulations aim to break the stigma and stereotypes surrounding women's limited access to politics and foster a more courageous and assertive attitude among women in pursuing political careers.

Regarding the electoral process, the involvement of women in politics has been an ongoing endeavour to advocate for and promote women-friendly politics within the current democratic system (Subono, 2003). This is driven by the recognition that women constitute a real minority and their equality should be actively pursued (Urbinati & Warren, 2008; Wängnerud, 2009). Similarly, in the contemporary Indonesian political participation, the issue on women is frequently depicted from affirmative action-measures are crucial in promoting women's continued representation in politics (Saputra et al., 2021). Laws, including Law (UU) Number 10 of 2008 concerning Elections and Law Number 2 of 2008 concerning Political Parties, establish a clear requirement for political parties to meet a 30% quota for women in politics, particularly in the House of Representatives. These laws also oblige electoral commissions to announce the percentage of women's representation in political parties through various media channels. The establishment and formation of political parties must include a 30% representation of women, as stipulated in Article 2 paragraph 3 of the Political Party Law. Moreover, Article 20 of the same law emphasizes the importance of considering women's representation, with a minimum requirement of 30%, in the management of political parties. Therefore, it is important to note that women's representation through affirmative action or special policies is not intended as discrimination against others. Rather, it acknowledges the specific circumstances and contexts that warrant equal benefits and outcomes for all. The quota movement in affirmative action represents a political struggle that women have continued since the early 1920s, following the realization of women's suffrage. This movement aims to challenge the domestication of women and the dominance of men within the patriarchal culture. Therefore, this quota movement serves to encourage women's representation in political parties and parliament, enabling them to become effective representatives in the realm of political power.

Several studies have provided valuable insights into various aspects of women's representation in politics. For instance, (Zaetun & Mar'iyah, 2020) conducted research on the politics of kinship in the representation of women within the Nasdem Party during the 2019 elections. Using Pippa Norris' political recruitment theory and qualitative analysis methods, their study revealed several key findings. Firstly, the general election rules and political party dynamics significantly influenced the increase in women's representation. However, the representation and interests of women were not prioritized in the Nasdem Party's political selection process. The survey culture, which considered familial ties in women's candidacy, contributed to both opportunities and the perpetuation of kinship politics. Furthermore, the commitment of the Nasdem Party towards women's representation and interests remained untested, but the increase in female representatives with political kinship backgrounds notably contributed to the party's votes in the 2019 election.

In another study by the Gender and Politics Team at the Center for Political Research, LIPI, Dewi (2012) explored the election of women regional heads through direct regional elections during the reform era. The book highlighted the pseudo-inclusive-centralized pattern of candidacy, where the selection process appeared inclusive, involving various teams, but decision-making power remained centralized at the national level. The study also identified important elements for gender-responsive policies, including individual capacity, social capital, and political capital that women regional heads should possess. This research shed light on the significance of familial ties based on the empirical experiences of female regional heads, deviating from previous theories on familial ties. However, it differed from the upcoming research, which would focus on women's electability in the legislative sphere during the 2019 elections in South Sumatra. Furthermore, Khoirunnisa (2015) conducted a study on power relations among candidates for legislative members in the Surabaya City DPRD during the 2014-2019 period. Drawing on Michel Foucault's theory of power relations, this research

examined gender dynamics that influenced the political relations of female and male candidates. The study utilized qualitative approaches and in-depth interviews, with female candidates, their families, female voters, and success teams as informants. The findings revealed varied power relations for female candidates, highlighting the influence of political parties, party administrators, male candidates, successful teams, and constituents. This research differed from the upcoming study, which would explore familial ties of women in political power and their electability in the 2019 legislative elections in South Sumatra. Moreover, (Kusumaningtyas et al., 2017) delved into the emergence of female regional heads in South Tangerang and Indramayu, focusing on the role of kinship. This qualitative study demonstrated that strong kinship factors played a significant role in the selection of female regional heads. However, it revealed challenges faced by these regional heads in maintaining independence from local oligarchs, which affected their performance in promoting local democratization and gender-related interests. Lastly, Purwaningsih (2015) research explored the politics of kinship and candidate quality in South Sulawesi. Through qualitative research methods, the study examined how political families passed down their interest in politics, using networks and family names to garner public support. The study also discussed the impact of direct and proportional electoral systems on political families' power. However, it noted a decrease in candidate quality due to younger candidates seeking power through new political parties. This research added to the understanding of kinship politics and complemented previous studies on the topic from Hess (2015), Casey, (2009), Asako et al., (2015), Dal Bó et al., (2009), and Querubin (2013)

Most studies mentioned above predominantly analyzed the issues women's representation by examining from cultural and institutional barriers aspects. The women's representation has extensively explored various factors that influence women's engagement and representation in politics. These factors include electoral rules and party system dynamics (Lindberg, 2004), cultural and belief systems (Tripp & Kang, 2007), education (Inglehart & Norris, 2003), and economic considerations (Kenworthy & Malami, 1999). Additionally, the role of women's quotas in politics has also been examined (Baltrunaite et al., 2014; Ford & Pande, 2011; Tripp & Kang, 2007). All these studies collectively contribute to the understanding of women's representation in politics, shedding light on various factors such as party dynamics, familial ties, power relations, and candidate quality. On the contrary, this research represents a distinctive approach by focusing on familial factors and their impact on women's electability in local political spheres.

This study took place in South Sumatra which emphasizes a distinct factor from previous studies which mentioned above, in which familial ties, which significantly influence women's electability in the political arena in South Sumatra, as one of the provinces with women representatives in the legislature, serves as a focal point for this investigation. Presently, South Sumatra boasts five women out of seventeen members in the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR-RI), as well as four members in the Regional Representatives Council (DPD), all of whom are women. Therefore, the involvement of women in the 2019 legislative elections still reflects a degree of dependence. Women's electability in the political sphere continues to be overshadowed by familial ties or kinship connections with political elites. Family relations remain a crucial factor in securing political office. Even though candidates rely on their kinship with political elites, state officials, or regional heads, they still present work programs to attract voters. However, these work programs are believed to play a secondary role in winning the sympathy of constituents. Candidates with close familial ties are perceived to possess inherent political capital due to their familiarity within the community, thereby generating interest among voters.

RESEARCH METHOD

The chosen research methodology for this study is qualitative, which aims to comprehensively understand the phenomena experienced by the subject in terms of their behaviour, perception, motivation, and actions (Creswell et al., 2007). This approach relies on descriptive language and words to provide a contextual understanding. Qualitative research is utilized to explore the political phenomenon, specifically focusing on the familial ties of women involved in the 2019 legislative election. The subject of this study is a female politician who directly experienced the election process. The subject's holistic patterns of perception and behaviour are examined and analysed. The research itself falls under the category of descriptive qualitative research, which aims to gather comprehensive information about a specific theme, symptom, or situation to achieve a broad knowledge of the research subject (Qibtiyah, 2019). To describe the family ties of women elected in the 2019 legislative election, the researchers employed various data collection techniques, including observation, interviews, and documentation. The study's location was in South Sumatra Province, with a particular focus on female politicians elected in the 2019 legislative election from South Sumatra, both in the DPR RI (People's Representative Council) and DPD RI (Regional Representative Council). The significance lies in the substantial number of women elected as DPR RI members from South Sumatra, totalling 5 out of 17, as well as 4 women elected to the DPD RI. The collected data was then analysed using analytical techniques developed by Huberman & Miles (2002) which involve data reduction, presentation, and verification. This analytical process aims to provide insights into the familial ties of women in positions of political power.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Women Representation in the Legislative Election

Indonesia, as a democratic country, conducts General Elections (*Pemilihan Umum*) as a fundamental part of the democratic process to elect leaders and representatives who can channel the aspirations of the people (Britzman & Mehić-Parker, 2023). According to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia and Law Number 8 of 2012 concerning General Elections for Members of the People's Representative Council (DPR), Regional Representatives Council (DPD), and Regional People's Representative Council (DPRD), elections serve to exercise people's sovereignty through direct, public, free, confidential, honest, and fair processes (Ropik & Qibtiyah, 2021). In this context, elections provide an opportunity for every citizen, including women, to actively participate in the political arena, which ultimately enhances the quality of democracy in the country.

Recognizing the urgency of women's representation in politics, it is crucial for women to be actively involved in the formulation of policies that prioritize their interests and address issues related to social protection (OECD, 2021). In this sense that, women's direct involvement is essential to propose and pass women-friendly policies. This perspective aligns with the affirmative action policy stated in Law Number 10 of 2008, which requires a minimum of 30% representation of women in the political sphere (Mufti & Jalalzai, 2021). In the results of the 2019 general election, women's representation in the national legislature (DPR RI) stands at 20.8%, with 120 female legislators out of 575 members in the DPR RI (KPU, 2019). While this percentage has not yet reached the target of 30% representation through affirmative action, it shows a significant increase compared to the previous election, where the representation was only 5.88% (BPS, 2019). Therefore, there is a great expectation that in the upcoming 2024 election, women's representation will surpass the 30% mark.

Analysing the plenary session results of the South Sumatra KPU regarding the votes obtained for the South Sumatra I Electoral District (consisting of Musi Rawas, Musi Banyuasin, Banyuasi, Palembang, Lubuk Linggau, Musi Rawas Utara) and the South Sumatra II Electoral District (consisting of Ogan Komering Ulu, Ogan Komering Ilir, Muara Enim, Lahat, Ogan

Komering Ulu Timur, Ogan Komering Ulu Selatan, Ogan Ilir, Empat Lawang, City of Pagar Alam, City of Prabumulih, Penukal Abab Lematang Ilir) for the 2019-2024 period, a total of 17 members were elected to the House of Representatives from the South Sumatra electoral districts. Among them, 8 members of the DPR RI were elected from the South Sumatra I Regency, and 9 members of the DPR RI were elected from the South Sumatra II Regency. Out of the 17 elected members, 5 of them are female representatives in the DPR RI.

Table 1. Female People's Representative Council (DPR) Republic of Indonesia Members Elected in South Sumatra Regency

No	Elected Female Member	Serial number	Legitimate Voice	Legitimate Vote Rating	Electoral district	Party
1	Riezky Aprilia, SH, MH	3	44,402	1	South Sumatra I	PDIP
2	Ir. Sri Meliyana	2	97,419	1	South Sumatra II	Gerindra
3	Hj. Percha Leanpuri, B.Bus, MBA	5	124.047	1	South Sumatra II	Nasdem
4	Ir. Hj. Sri Kustina	6	93,389	2	South Sumatra II	Nasdem
5	Hanna Gayatri, SH	1	67.119	1	South Sumatra II	PAN

Sources: Kpu.go.id, 2020

For the Regional Representative Council (DPD) Republic of Indonesia for the 2019-2024 period for the constituency of South Sumatra Province, there are 4 elected DPD RI members, all of whom are women.

Table 2. Regional Representative Council (DPD RI) Member Elected DAPIL Sumsel

No	Elected DPD Member	Serial number	Legitimate Voice
1	Hj. Eva Susanti	31	344.143
2	Amaliah, S.KG	26	342,098
3	Jialyka Maharani	36	337,954
4	Arniza Nilawati, SE, MM	27	298.189

Sources: Kpu.go.id (2020)

Based on these data, it appears that women's political representation, especially from the South Sumatra DAPIL has shown its existence in the legislative body because there are 5 female DPR RI members out of 17 elected DPR RI members. This means that the representation of women reaches 29.41% and is close to the 30% *affirmative action quota*. Even the elected DPD RI members from the South Sumatra Regency are all women. This shows that South Sumatran women have shown their existence in the political realm.

Familial Ties as Political Capital for Women's Choice

The concept of familial ties was proposed by Richter (1990) through her research on the political emergence of women leaders in South and Southeast Asia. Richter states his research findings that one of the most important factors behind the political emergence of women leaders in South and Southeast Asia (such as Benazir Bhutto, Indira Gandhi, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Corazon Aquino, Aung San Suu Kyi, and Sheik Hasina Wajed) is "*familial ties*", namely the influence of male relatives (whether fathers, fathers-in-law, brothers, uncles, or husbands) who is an influential and powerful politician, which facilitates a female politician to build and achieve certain political leadership roles (Richter, 1990). *Familial ties* which are then in many gender studies are equated with the term kinship. These *familial ties*, if they continue from generation to generation of the leaders concerned, will result in a political dynasty due to the historical kinship of the perpetrators.

In line with Richter, (Thompson, 2002) analyzes the political history of senior women politicians in Asia. She uses the term "*political dynasties*" to describe the element of strong kinship with influential male politicians, such as husbands or fathers, as a key factor for female political leaders in Southeast Asia to gain power. Kinship politics is often also called dynastic politics, although until now there is no uniform definition. According to Dal Bó et al., (2009), dynastic politics occurs when a politician has a family relationship with a previous politician. This is in line with the understanding of Querubin (2013) which states that dynastic politics is a special form of elite efforts to maintain power in which one or several family groups monopolize political power. According to Asako et al., (2015), dynastic politics occurs when one family member occupies a political position previously held by his relative. According to Hess, (2015), "*political dynasty is any family that has had at least four members, in the same name, elected to federal office*".

Dynasty politics is a group of people or the ruling elite who still have close family relationships that support each other and take turns taking power through elections in their respective periods. Political dynasties in the modern world of politics are known as political elites based on blood or marriage ties so some political observers call them political oligarchs. The system of political dynasties is a political strategy that is made or built to gain power. The hope is that by using a system of political dynasties, power can be passed on to descendants or families.

According to Casey (Kimberly Lynn Casey, n.d.), "*political kinship or political family membership is defined as either a tie of affinity or a consanguineous connection within two generations from the candidate*". Kinship politics occurs when political recruitment is based on kinship considerations and not based on candidate qualifications. From these various understandings, there are several political dimensions of dynasty or kinship politics, namely the time dimension (family of previous political officials, at least 2 periods of power), the number dimension (2 or more people according to Pablo, Asako, and Dal Bo; 4 people according to Hess and 2 generations according to Casey), the dimension of political office (same or different political positions), and the dimension of power (maintaining or enlarging power). This study uses the term *familial ties*, not kinship politics or dynastic politics where in kinship politics it seems as if the elected candidate does not have qualifications, while the

reason for not choosing the concept of dynastic politics is to minimize dynastic distortions which are often interpreted by the royal system. The electability of the concept of *familial ties for women* in political power shows that in fact, the elected women have adequate qualifications, they just rely on their family ties to promote themselves so that they can be elected in legislative elections.

The representation of women in the political sphere, especially the legislature, cannot be separated from their background. Based on data from the Center for Political Studies (PUSKAPOL) at the University of Indonesia, based on personal background, 53% of women candidates were elected as party activists (party administrators; DPRD members; former regional heads), 41% had a political kinship with political elites, and the remaining 6 % were from professional backgrounds.

Image 1. Background of the Women Candidates Elected in the 2019 Election



Source: PUSKAPOL (2019)



The term *familial ties* is a term proposed by Richter that can be translated as a pattern of kinship which is one of the important factors in the presence of female politicians. The kinship that exists in this context refers to the fact that elected female politicians it turns out that the majority have relatives of male politicians (whether fathers, fathers-in-law, brothers, uncles, or husbands) who have a very strong influence over the power they have. They also become promoters to facilitate the emergence and victory of these female candidates in direct legislative elections. There is continuity of the baton of leadership from male patrons to the next generation, be it, wives, or daughters, through a procedural mechanism direct general election can be said as an effort to build a political dynasty and perpetuate political power at the local level. This is because these male politicians have become in the political elite and have had access to political power before. Article 7 (n) of Law Number 8/2015 explains that a regional head who has served twice in a row in an area is not allowed to run for regional head again. To get around this rule, incumbents usually nominate their wives or daughters or relatives who are very close to them. Even before the nomination as regional head, the legislative election became a step for those who have a kinship with this political elite to be elected before competing at the executive and legislative levels.




The relationships with kinship among political actors are considered unavoidable. Political parties, for example, although they have opened wide the candidacy of legislative members to the public, still some of the sons and daughters of the political elite have been

recruited as members because they are considered to have competence. Of course, their presence as part of a political party cannot be separated from the existence of *familial ties* or closeness with relatives who have been in politics before, so that when the relative has retired and can no longer run for political office, it will be very easy for immigrants. Recently, it has received sympathy from people who already know the previous political officials. So, it is hoped that legislative candidates who have a kinship with political officials have at least the same competence, even more so with their political colleagues. It is also unavoidable that most of the female legislative candidates who participate in political contestations get motivation and facilities from those closest to them. This is because the stereotype of women in politics is still considered low for a society that is dominated by a patriarchal culture so these female candidates must have more political capital (one of which is to carry the names of relatives who have previously been in politics) to be elected by the community. This can be seen during the campaigns for legislative candidates, starting from the installation of billboards or posters of candidates who also include the family name behind the real name, then the use of political party attributes such as the color of the political party for women whose relatives occupy positions in political parties, to including relatives of political officials in public campaigns.

The results of the 2019 general election, South Sumatra Province won 17 seats for members of the DPR RI consisting of 2 Electoral Districts. Electoral District 1 with 8 seats and Electoral District 2 with 9 seats. Of the 17 seats, 5 women members of the DPR RI were elected. The five elected members of the DPR RI can be seen in the table below:

Table 3. Women People's Representative Council (DPR) of Republic Indonesia Member SUMSEL 2019-2024

No	Name	Electoral District	Party	Kinship in Politics	Description
1	Riezky Aprilia, SH, MH	South Sumatra 1	PDI-P	Daughter of Ridian Effendi (Mayor of Lubuk Linggau 2003-2008 and 2008-2013)	
2	Ir. Sri Meliyana	South Sumatra 2	Gerindra	Wife of Bursah Zarnubi (General Chairperson Partai Bintang Reformasi DPP)	
3	Hj. Percha Leanpuri	South Sumatra 2	National Democratic Party (Nasdem)	Daughter of Herman Deru (Governor of South Sumatra)	

	, B. Bus., MBA			for the 2018- 2023)	
4	Ir. Hj. Sri Kustina	South Sumatra 2	National Democratic Party (Nasdem)	Wife of Heri Amalindo (Acting as Regent of Panukal Regent Abab Lematang Ilir (PALI) from 2013-2015 and Regent of PALI 2016-2021, 2021-2024)	
5	Hanna Gayatri, SH	South Sumatra 2	National Mandate Party (PAN)	Younger Sister of Hatta Rajasa (Senior figure of PAN)	




Sources: Compiled by the Authors (2022)

The five women members of the Republic of Indonesia DPR were elected from the electoral district of South Sumatra, namely Riezky Aprilia, Sri Meliyana, Percha Leanpuri, Sri Kustina, and Hanna Gayatri. The five members of the DPR RI. Based on the table above, the five elected women DPR RI members have family relations with political elites at the local and national levels who have direct family relations as children or wives and also siblings. The family relationship as children can be seen from the election of Percha Leanpuri and Riezky Aprilia. Percha Leanpuri is a member of the Indonesian Parliament. An elected woman from the National Democratic Party for the Electoral District II has a family relationship as a child from the Governor of South Sumatra. Riezky Aprilia is an elected woman member of the DPR RI from the National Democratic Party for the Electoral District I who has family ties and is the daughter of Ridian Effendi Mayor of Lubuk Linggau 2 for the 2003-2008 and 2008-2013 periods. The family relationship as a wife can be seen from the election of Sri Kustina and Sri Meliyana. Sri Kustina is a female legislative member who was elected from the National Democratic Party for Electoral District II who has a family relationship as the wife of Heri Amalindo who has the position of Regent of Panukal Abab Lematang Ilir (Pali) for two periods 2016-2021 and 2021-2024. Sri Meliyana is an elected member of the Indonesian Parliament for Women from the Great Indonesia Movement Party Dapil II who has a family relationship

as the wife of Bursah Zarnubi, former General Chairperson of the Reform Star Party DPP. The family relationship as siblings can be seen from the election of Hanna Gayatri. Hanna Gayatri is the younger sister of the former chairman of the National Mandate Party, Hatta Rajasa.

What makes the DPD institution even more proud is that of the 4 seats available for DPD members representing South Sumatra Province, all of them are filled by female DPD members. The four elected DPD members can be seen in the table below:

**Table 4. Female Regional Representative Council (DPD) of Republic Indonesia
Legislative Member Elected SUMSEL 2019-2024**

No	Name	Voting	Kinship in Politics	Information
1	Hj. Eva Susanti	344.143	Wife of Wahyu Sanjaya (Member of DPR RI Sumsel) Son-in-law of Kahar Muzakir (Member of DPR RI Sumsel 1 & Leader of the Party Democrat)	
2	Amaliah, S.KG	342,098	Daughter of the former District Secretary. Ogan Ilir Sobli Rozali Wife of Handry Pratama (Chairman of KNPI Palembang City) Nephew of Mawardi Yahya (Deputy Governor)	
3	Jialyka Maharani	337,954	Daughter of Ilyas Panji Alam (Regent of Ogan Ilir Regency)	

4	Arniza Nilawati, SE, MM	298.189	Not having a close kinship in the world of politics. UMP Academics South Sumatra PKH Regional Coordinator 2011-2018 (stopped because he was running)
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Sources: Compiled by the Authors (2022)

The relationship as a child, wife, and niece can be seen from the election of Amaliah. Amaliah is the daughter of Sobli Rozali who serves as Regional Secretary of Ogan Ilir Regency, niece of Mawardi Yahya who holds the position of Deputy Governor of South Sumatra, and is the wife of Handry Pratama as Chair of the Palembang KNPI. Family relations as wife and daughter-in-law can be seen from the election of Eva Susanti. Eva Susanti is the wife of Wahyu Sanjaya who is also a member of the DPR RI representing South Sumatra from the electoral district II. Eva Susanti is also the daughter-in-law of Kahar Muzakir who is also a member of the Republic of Indonesia DPR representing South Sumatra and from the electoral district I and also a high-ranking member of the Golkar Party. Therefore, the familial relationship between elected female legislators and actors as well as political elites at the local and national levels is taken advantage of by elected female legislators. This can be seen from the efforts made by women legislators in boosting their popularity and electability.

Efforts were made by involving the family name of the father, and husband in each of the campaign props used. Participate in every activity carried out by the father or husband who is currently holding a position as a local political elite. The utilization of family relations owned by elected female legislators became the main political capital for the election of female legislators from the electoral district of South Sumatra. This is because fathers, husbands, brothers, in-laws, and uncles as political actors as well as local and national elites who hold important positions both at the regional and central levels have political capital, social capital, and also economic capital to win political contestations. It is this political capital, social capital, and also economic capital that is then used to win over family members, namely female legislative candidates in the 2019 political contest.

CONCLUSION

The participation of women in politics shows the characteristics of a democratic system. Women also have the same political rights to actively participate in politics, one of which is by becoming contestants in the 2019 General Election. However, the existence of women in politics is still limited and *familial ties* are one of the factors that support women's political participation in the 2019 Legislative General Election. Several members of the DPR RI and DPD RI women in the South Sumatra DAPIL also took advantage of *familial ties* as a factor in their victory. According to Richter, *familial ties* are the influence of male relatives (whether fathers, fathers-in-law, brothers, uncles, or husbands) who is an influential and powerful politician, which facilitates a female politician to build and achieve certain political leadership roles, and this can be seen in these times. the campaign period for legislative candidates, starting from the installation of billboards or candidate posters that also include the family

name behind the real name, then the use of political party attributes such as the color of the political party for women whose relatives hold positions in political parties, to include the relatives of political officials in the campaign carried out to society. The existence of these *familial ties* cannot be separated from the political capital possessed by the elected female candidates for the South Sumatra Regency which should also be followed by their quality and capability in the political field. With political competence, the elected women candidates can avoid the impression of nepotism with the families of officials who can perpetuate local authority.

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