

The Quota and related issues

Representative competence of parliament and its true reflection

Inequality at the starting line

How to improve governance? and How to solve inequality?

1. Sustainable Development Goals

The humanity in the 21st century, have unanimously acknowledged and accepted their responsibility that the sustainable development can only be achieved by promoting human development. Promoting human development requires to focus on multifaceted social issues. It means to keep people healthy, make them educated and gratified with own life and to raise virtuous citizens. All these burdens are carried out by women during their entire lives. In such circumstance, it is impossible to make the right development decisions in public policy and in the distribution of the country's wealth without the participation of women, who carry the greatest responsibility in the society. But of course, the ensuring gender equality is the basis for the implementation of human development policies. This has been confirmed by the science of gender studies.

Also, we shall not forget that numerous queens have played a huge role in the history of nomads. Let me ask, who gave birth to and brought up the Great Genghis Khan? Who has nurtured him to be a king? With who's guidance, all of Tului's four sons became kings? Every Mongolian knows how much wisdom Queen Sorkhugtani Bekhi devoted to her sons to be kings. I would, therefore, like to say that applying the queens' wisdom of women in today's state affairs is crucial for both the development of Mongolian people and the development of Mongolia¹.

2. How to improve governance?

Although it has been more than 30 years since we embarked upon transition to democratic system, the gender quota issue has remained as one of the main indicators of the fact that the basic principles and concepts of democracy are still not well comprehended and thus implemented inadequately. The quota is regarded as a measure favoring a minority of particular gender while deterring gender discrimination and exclusion from political competition. As long as this phenomenon exists in a country, it has become common to see the introduction of the quota is considered as development policy. Simply put, the quota is a basic principle of representative democracy and a concept that hints the core of justice².

Countries with parliamentary governance and which have chosen representative democracy as their development path continue to recognize and make efforts to ensure the participation of social groups and balanced representation at the decision-making level to improve governance and make it accessible. These countries use various legal

¹ <https://ikon.mn/n/qe2>

² Ya. Tuguldur: Conducting elections with proportionality is an opportunity to change the distortions of the political system DNN.mn

arrangements to ensure balanced representation and the most common one being used is the Quota system, which is applied in 137 countries around the world.

For example, in France, the Constitution includes the principle of equal participation of women, men and social groups in running for election, and the obligations of political parties to uphold and promote this principle is specified in the Constitution too. It has been established that the margins between male and female candidates from the party or coalitions in the election should not exceed 2 percent, and in case of violation, it follows a policy of imposing financial penalties and reducing party funding. As a result, within 13 years, the percentage of women in the parliament increased by 27 percent³.

3. Why the quota for women?

- In Mongolia, 51% of all voters are women and they actively participate in elections. However, the gender ratio of members at the Parliament is 83:17, or 7.6% less than the world average.
- Women constitute 66 percent of the world's working hours as they are working, but receive only 10 percent of the wealth created. From this exact point of view, we are trying to increase the participation and engagement of women in the whole society.
- Women lack the time, money, and resources needed for candidacy. Globally, women still do most of the household chores, such as caring children, cooking and cleaning, so they rarely have the opportunity to actively participate in politics. On the contrary, many studies have shown that men are more interested in politics than women and have more knowledge about politics. For example, on a survey of factual political knowledge, men in the United States **score higher than the women** with point margin equivalent of two years of schooling. Also, in the 2020 post-election survey in Mongolia, 24% of women who casted vote⁴ answered that they were interested or very interested in politics, while 42% of men gave the same answer.

³ Women's political participation in Mongolia and foreign experience research report 2022

⁴ <https://ikon.mn/n/qe2>