

# GREAT JOURNS



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## The Trends of Women Participation in Political Leadership in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya

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**ABSTRACT:** Women constitute substantially almost a half of the worldwide populace. Various researches have been undertaken on women but there is trivial effort that has been observed on women's involvement in political leadership in Uasin Gishu County hence a gap that this research sought to investigate, the trends of women participation in political leadership in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. The researcher employed the use of Historical research, Qualitative approach as well as adopted Descriptive survey research design, stratified sampling, purposive and simple random sampling were utilized as sampling techniques. The target population constituted of all men and women in political leadership and eligible voters in Uasin Gishu County. The researcher used questionnaires and interview schedules to gather information and Pilot study was conducted in Transzoia County. Information was analyzed qualitatively using theoretical reflection and documentary review. The Study is of great benefit to scholars and political activists in Uasin Gishu County in trying to understand women's position in society as far as political arena is concerned. The study pointed out that there are various factors responsible for gender disparity among them there was education, cultural factors; gender based electoral violence and economic factors. Despite these challenges' women stood for social justice, defended democracy powerfully, fought for women's rights and it was similarly observed that the aptitude of gender based electoral violence faced by women becomes the key obstacles to their participation in political affairs. The study recommended that women aspirant should actively participate in political affairs and position themselves in political party administration in order to be informed about the inner party dynamic forces. The Government should formulate policy that will ensure that election campaigns and voting period is safe from gender based electoral violence hence encourage women who fear the combative nature of the Kenyan politics.

**Key words: Women Participation, & Political Leadership**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Internationally women constitute to some extent more than half of the global populace. These women are aggressively involved in financial progression of their states as they are committed to many roles both in productive and reproductive sectors. As much as women holds a major share in commercial fabric of the community, their participation in policy making as pertains to social resources generated stands to be irrelevant. As per United Nations Development Programme (UNDP 2005) only a paltry 33% of women hold parliamentary positions in only twelve countries so far .This is even after a series of the international community pressure groups and non-state actors rallying different nations to adopt gender mainstreaming in all parts of the economy.

In Europe, despite the fact that women's participation in political affairs has improved over the decades, Gender equity has never been attained. Gender balance in electoral processes in developed democracies has risen progressively in the recent years and many women are vying for elective seats. Although women have made incredible developments in improving political associations, women are yet to engage fully in political processes across western States (Paxton et al. 2007). In USA, disparity in men and women political participation is overwhelming. Despite USA having long democratic history they still elect extremely few women (Verba, 1997).

In Africa, Liberia is the first state to be led by a woman as head of state and it has 9.6% women in the senate and 13.3% in parliament. Malawi is also another country in Africa that has a female head of state and has 22% women in parliament (IPU, 2012). In East Africa Rwanda is leading in terms of women involvement in political leadership followed closely by Ethiopia and Tanzania respectively (IPU, 2017). On 19 March 2021, deputy president Samia Suluhu Hassan was declared Tanzania's president after the demise of John Magufuli. She became the first female president in the Republic of Tanzania and East Africa at large (world Report, 2021). In Kenya, women constituted less than 3% of the parliament whose term ended in 1983, out of the 28 cabinet ministers, there was not a single woman and there has never been one since independence. Out of about 54 assistant ministers there was only one: Julia Ojiambo (Ministry of Housing and Social Services) which is regarded an inferior department. The same year, three women were voted and one woman appointed to parliament. In addition, out of 26 permanent secretaries, there has never been a woman. Indeed, none of the many government corporations in Kenya had ever been headed by a woman prior to 1986 presidential appointments. Nonetheless, there was low involvement of women in political progressions, most historic researches that have been commenced in Kenya has not been gendered (The Parliamentary Report 1963, The Kenyan Gazette, 1963).

Women in political leadership are not a new phenomenon in Kenya except that their contribution has always been overlooked. Many Kenyan women strongly participated in the struggle for freedom in Kenya, they included; Mekatilili, a freedom fighter from Agiriama in the coast who led her people in a rebellion against British Colonial Administration in 1913-1914; Mang'ana Ogonje Nyar Ugu, the earliest African female colonial ruler in Western Kenya and Moraa Moka Ngiti, a female liberty warrior from Nyanza (Kisii); Eiokalaine O-M'barugu, an Assistant Chief in pre-independent Kenya in Eastern. Others were field Marshal Muthoni and Virginia Wambui Otieno both from central Kenya who presided over outing and acquisition of arms. Ruth Chelagat among the Nandi and Taibagoi Bartiony among Talai were among the early women politicians. Grace Onyango was the first woman to be elected as mayor and also member of legislature in the country in 1969. Winfred Nyiva Mwendwa is the earliest female leader to be chosen as a Cabinet minister. She was elected Kitui West MP three times, in 1974, 1992 and 2002 in Ukambani. Sophia Abdi Noor in northeastern Kenya has also defied culture among the Somali of Kenya (Njoki, 2012)

In Uasin Gishu County, literature on women political leaders is scanty especially in pre-colonial Kenya. Their participation in the first three and half decades after independence is also wanting. Little can be said of these women except Chelagat Mutai; Taibagoi Bartiony; Margret Kamar; Eusila Ngenyi; Gladys Sholei and Sara Malel who are known because of their activism and positions they hold in society. In the first post-colonial General elections, Uasin Gishu County politics was dominated by men, no single female candidate made an attempt to vie and none was nominated in parliament, House of Representatives or even in regional assemblies (The Kenyan Gazette, 1963).

A prominent figure in Uasin Gishu County is Philomena Chelagat Mutai. When she was elected MP for Eldoret North at 24 years she was a visionary woman. She was enthusiastic to work for her people who sent her to parliament but little did she know that her dreams will be dashed by a political system opposed to democracy and emancipation of the poor. Her illustrious yet

controversial political career inspired many including her fellow Kalenjin women, who have since overcome gender inferiority to scale political ladders.

Another prominent figure in political landscape of Uasin Gishu County is Margaret Kamar. She joined politics in 2007 when she was elected Member of Parliament for the then Eldoret East constituency on an Orange Democratic Ticket. In 2013 she vied for gubernatorial seat again but lost to Jackson Mandago of URP. In 2017 she vied for a senatorial seat and won with a huge margin. In 2002 General Elections, women in Uasin Gishu County could not make it to parliament despite the strong wave of change agenda. The race was dominated by male candidates except at civic level where several women made an attempt without success.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

Women's participation in political leadership is a worldwide concern since in most societies governance is gendered masculine. Women's involvement in political leadership in Uasin Gishu County remains scarce in spite of the tenacities passed in the UN Decade conference of Nairobi in 1985 and the Abuja Declaration in the political domain. This condition has continued in spite of the fact that the country has sanctioned most of the human rights resolutions. In Kenya, the representation of women has been affected since independence up to date; disparity and inequality has continued most likely because of cultural factors, economic factors, gender based electoral violence and education level. Unlike men women are antagonistic to political leadership. Recently the government has sidelined women by not implementing the law of two third gender rule. Therefore, this has spanned a lot of research on gender equity. However, most studies have concentrated on the challenge's women face in leadership and women in cooperate institutions. The literature on trends of women in political leadership from a historical perception appears to be inadequate in spite of the various researches on women and leadership hence, the problem that this study intended to address.

### **1.3 Purpose of the study**

The intention of the research was to examine the trends of women participation in political leadership in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.

## **II: LITERATURE REVIEW**

Globally, in top ten lists of countries on women representation in Legislature which were subjugated by eight countries from Europe in 1995 now comprise three countries from Africa, four from America and three from Europe. In African countries, Rwanda has out done advanced states in terms of unbiased gender representation, the national assembly with 61.3 percent and 38.5% of the members in the Lower House and Upper House respectively being women (Ibid). Rwanda is a good case of the novel method of using gender quotas in the electoral process to promote gender stability in political arena (UN Women, 2017).

Kenya is still far behind in the region while Sudan at 30% is coming up rapidly in the region. Correspondently Uganda, Rwanda and South Africa have shown positive improvement in working towards eliminating gender disparity. On the other hand, there is substantial improvement in enforcing the gender receptive regulations in the continent; women are still under pressure for gender uniformity in all ranks (IRI, 2016). Before and after independence era, women were

prevented from dynamic participation in legislative matters though few instances were distinguished. In Kenyan state for instance, the foreign familiarities on women's

In the year 1990 the progress was observed with the records of women in legislature escalating to replicate 3.6% from a persistent 2.1% as per other years. On the other hand, the previous Head of state Mwai Kibaki's government pushed the endorsement of the novel constitution of which one-third of all civic spots to be set aside for women, however this was not applied. For instance in the 9th legislature 2002-2007 just 4.76% women were voted in and 8 were selected to executive spots. The 10th legislature 17.7% voted and just 5.7% were women (UNDP, 2010). Reasonably this was renowned as the leading demonstration of women in legislature as per 1963, nonetheless it was perceived as distant lower than the bordering states of Uganda. The Kenyan condition looks similar to that of Nigeria as the little ranks of political involvement is fetching troubling and distressing efforts (Arowolo, 2010). From the records available by the (SADC) legislative assemblies, it is obvious that the goal of 30% representation by women in partisan and administrative assemblies has not been seen (UNDP, 2010).

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### **III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN**

This section contains research methods, research design, target population, sampling size, research instruments, sampling techniques, data collection procedure, data analysis and ethical consideration.

#### **3.1. Research Method**

The researcher embraced Historical research which employed the use of Qualitative research approach. The qualitative method focuses on words rather than figures. The researcher employed this method because of its expansive approach of understanding and illuminating the meaning of social occurrence in naturalistic surroundings (Merriam 1988).

#### **3.2. Research design**

The researcher applied descriptive survey research design. This is because descriptive survey is planned as a technique of assembling information by interrogating or usage of form to a sample of persons to gather information on the attitudes, opinion and habits (Orotho 2009). The design was suitable for this work because it was flexible in the sense that a wider range of data was collected.

It was easy to assure respondents secrecy which led to honest answers. Finally, it was possible to respond to a wider series of research questions using a survey method.

### 3.3 Location of the study

The research took place in Uasin Gishu County which is a cosmopolitan county, located in the Midwest of Kenya's Rift Valley. Uasin Gishu County borders Trans Nzoia County to the North, Nandi County to South West and Kakamega to the North West. Other counties sharing boarders with Uasin Gishu are Elgeyo Marakwet to the East and Baringo to the South East.

### 3.4 Target Population

The target population is a whole set of persons, cases or items with some ordinary visible distinctiveness (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). The intended population in this work constituted of 127 respondents. The researcher targeted political leaders and eligible voters in Uasin Gishu County. Yamine's formula 1967 was applied to obtain the target population.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + (N \cdot r^2)} \quad n = \text{Sample size} \quad N = \text{Population} \quad r^2 = \text{level of precision}$$

### 3.5 Sampling techniques

The researcher employed purposive sampling to select female politicians since it was possible to prove the validity of the information immediately because no one was left out from the sampling procedure. The study also used snow ball sampling to select Key informants simply because its referrals made it easy and fast to get respondents as they came from reliable channels. It was also cost effective as the referrals were obtained from a primary data source. Simple random sampling was employed to gather information from eligible voters.

### 3.6 Sample size

Sampling method offers a variety of approaches which allows reduction of statistics to be unruffled, by concentrating on figures from a sub-group slightly than the entire condition of elements. A section of 113 respondents were chosen by stratified sampling from 127 respondents. This was essential since the procedure sprang all layers an opportunity of being nominated into the taster. The sample was attained by computing the sample size from the objective population by using Yamine's formula 1967.

Where:  $n$  = Sample size,  $N$  = Population size  $e$  = Level of Precision.

At 95% level of confidence and  $P=0.5$

$$n = \frac{127 - 1}{1 + 127(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = 113$$

### 3.7 Sampling strategies

Below are the strategies that were used for sampling the study population:

**Table 1.1: Sampling strategies**

| Study Population | Sample Method | Total | Sample Size |
|------------------|---------------|-------|-------------|
|------------------|---------------|-------|-------------|

|                             |                        |            |            |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Elderly Informants          | Purposive Sampling     | 9          | 4          |
| Voters (18 years and above) | Simple Random Sampling | 100        | 100        |
| Women Politicians           |                        | 118        | 9          |
| <b>Total</b>                |                        | <b>127</b> | <b>113</b> |

### 1.13.8 Research instruments

The researcher’s equipment included; Open ended Questionnaire to gather specific information from eligible voters. Detailed Interview Guides were used to gather information from women political leaders and Key informants. Tape recording and note taking where applicable were used during the interview. Primary information was gathered from IEBC election reports and Archival sources appropriate in enlightening the study concerning the political involvement of women in Uasin Gishu County. Oral interviews were administered to political leaders and key informant in Uasin Gishu County.

### 1.13.9 Pilot study

Pilot study is an initial study that is steered earlier than the actual research. Pilot study is a crucial feature of data gathering stage (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). Crooper and Schindler suggested that a sample representative of not less than 10 percent of the sample is typically perfect for the pilot study. Pilot study was conducted in Trans Zoia County a week earlier. Transzoia is a cosmopolitan County bordering Uasin Gishu County. The reason why the research chose this County is because it assumes similar status with Uasin Gishu County in terms of women involvement in political affairs. The county also hosts the Nandi community whom the researcher had interest in.

## 3.8 Reliability and Validity of the Research Instruments

### 3.8.1 Reliability

It is the degree to which a study tool produces persisted findings after a repeated trial. In the event a researcher conducts a trial twice on a subject and obtains the similar results on the subsequent testing like the initial trial, then the researcher can say there is reliability of the tool (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The researcher tested the reliability of the questionnaire to determine its persistency in testing what they were planned to measure by using test and retest method. The questionnaires and interview schedules were administered during the pilot study and they produced accurate results.

### 3.8.2 Validity

Validity is the extent to which prove and speculation sustain the explanation of the test scores necessitated by use of tests (Mugenda and Mugenda1999). The researcher’s tools were authenticated in terms of content and face validity. The content associated method evaluated the extent to which question items showed particular area covered. The instruments were then presented to the supervisors and experts to ensure that they were effective enough to carry out the

research work. The supervisors examined the instruments and concluded that the instruments were intended to measure what they were planned to measure.

### **3.9 Data Collection Procedure**

The investigator gathered mutually first- and second-hand data. The researcher sought approval from relevant authorities after which she self-administered the interviews and gave out questionnaires to the respondents to be filled. The respondents read, filled and returned the questionnaires the same day. This system ensured that every respondent supplied with the questionnaires returned for coding and analysis. The interviews involved formless and open-ended queries that were planned to obtain visions and opinion from respondent. In most cases the interviews were recorded and stored and at times note taking was done. Secondary data was obtained from Books, magazines journals, county government records and past student papers relevant in informing the study.

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### **3.11 Data analysis**

Three investigative frames were used to analyze data in this work. They comprised; theoretical reflection, documentary review and content analysis. Theoretical review involved marching of the facts against the model that was employed which was Gender and patriarchy theoretical framework. Content analysis involved itemizing collected data against the objectives set and chapters of the work while documentary review analysis involved the identification of relevant documents, then extracting the relevant information. Data Analysis went hand in hand with data collection in some cases.

### **3.12 Ethical considerations**

Permission from Mount Kenya University School of post graduate studies was sought. Upon arrival, the researcher requested for research license from National council of Science and Technology (NACOSTI). Thereafter permission from Uasin Gishu county Assembly was sought. Informed consent was sought from all respondents who were willing to participate. The researcher respected autonomy decision making and dignity of participants and also explained the reasons and benefits of the research. Further, the researcher granted the respondents privacy by assuring them that all data collected was for the purpose of research and was to be kept confidential. The researcher acknowledged all publications from other sources to avoid plagiarism and personally collected the relevant data.

## IV: RESULTS

### 4.1 Women participation in Jomo Kenyatta's regime (1963-1978)

The first stage of Kenya's independence during Jomo Kenyatta's Government experienced economic advancement and expansion. Energetic and youthful individuals who had gone through teaching and learning process in the course of colonial age occupied almost all the top positions left by the colonial master. Therefore it's not shocking that the first National assembly in Kenya was not represented by any elected or appointed woman. Conversely, even if the educational level could have occupied a big part, the male supremacy inbred from the colonial and almost all traditions of Kenyan communities destined that women cannot be the first choice as leaders. The overall tendencies throughout Jomo Kenyatta's rule that of women underrepresentation in political field both at civic and national assembly levels. Many women took part in politics as electorates, in the process of preparing and distributing of food in gatherings, dancers and mobilizers throughout campaigns and voting (Nzomo1995).

Women were not vying for political positions during Kenyatta's time, those who were lucky to serve in his government were nearly all nominees who served in very small positions in the government (Catherine Barneo, O.I, 18/2/2021).

Thus from 1963 to 1978 there was only one women Philomena Chelagat Mutai who was elected to the national assembly as the member of Eldoret North constituency in the larger Uasin Gishu County and Kenya at large. Chelagat Mutai contested an electoral seat in her rural home at the age of 24 years of age, beating 12 other contestants to become the first Nandi and Kalenjin woman MP. The outspoken, fearless and fiery Chelagat stood out as the only female voice of dissent that stood on what she believed to be right (Jacqueline and Janai 2002).

Apart from voting processes and party involvement it's pretty evident that there is joint accomplishment of the concerned against political power; For example, to set a long-lasting objective of social change to make sure there is freedom from exploitation, deprivation, suppression injustices are also a portion of political involvement. Women's conscription for mutual victimized workers planned different mutual initiatives from the colonial period, women's groups grew and developed as a major mechanism to encounter societal, financial and political disparities and sidelining (Mwangi, 2004).

After independence, the state failed to emphasis on the prospective growth of women's self-help group's amenities and also funds were reduced. The work of these groupings weakened and the MYWO frontrunners merged with the administration agency as communal development initiators. These women took part in various communal schemes for instance; building health centers, educational institutions, community halls, constructing rural roads and play group institutions for children. Activities like digging, planting, harvesting, constructing houses and many others, colonial administrator's spouses had created MYWO in the beginning of the year 1950 as a woman's association when they came to comprehend that there stood a necessity to talk about the predicament of women from Africa. Colonial bureaucrat's spouses started to organize programs for women in the communities (KNA-DC/KMG/1/1/181, 1951-1960).

Ndeda (1994) proposes a major stimulating cause of creating those women's groupings and clubs in the state seemed to be African troupers of the WW II who attended Jeanes School together with their spouses and joined leadership programs. They similarly committed themselves in

educating the best usage of recreation by using sports, African dances and songs, and training appropriate ideals of manners and divine control. Once these women came back to the countryside, they desired to continue interacting with one another and for this reason they formed clubs recommended by colonial master. These groups had begun under sponsorships of colonial administration, the sector of community growth and restoration to encourage the progression of women from Africa to advance their living standards (Mwangi, 2004).

Despite of the obstructions witnessed during that period, the establishment of MYWO fast-tracked the development of the women's organization in the nation. Even though the effect of the women's association looked insignificant, it was however apparent that those women had an incredible work in society advancement. Their determinations and dedication had assisted to motivate men to toil firmer. There were also others who were involved in creation of groups and home industries. Throughout this time, the spirit of harambee instigated by President Kenyatta gave emphasis to the spirit of working in harmony and bringing together assets for expansion and growth. It motivated a high notch of communal involvement more so in community founded social, political and economic projects (NA-MSS/57/9, 1980).

In different parts of Uasin Gishu County like Kesses, Moiben, Soy and Turbo women's groups prepared harambees for the children's education. Some organized harambees for acquisition of cross breed cows, home utensils and even doing community projects like building nursery schools and health centers as well. The organizations also helped to educate women on their roles, responsibilities and their rights too, this was done while men were engaged in local beer drinking in the villages (Belinda Chemtai, O.I,17/2/2021).

Since independence up to the affirmation of women's conference in 1975, the Kenyatta administration upheld the stand that women weren't marginalized and for that reason there was no need to fight for their rights as they were already enjoying it. Other than the women's independent organization (MaendeleoYaWanawake) established in 1952 and also National Council of Women in the Country established in 1964, there was no other national organization for women that was present. It was until the affirmation of the Women's conference when the regime started to show a dynamic consideration in the existing women organizations hence formed women Bureau.

The Ministry supported seminars to teach women leaders and gave recommendations for group registration procedure and monetary liability. The Sector of Community Growth similarly stimulated local leaders like those in the offices of Sub location and Locations to help women associations. Those supports most regularly comprised of incitement to form self-help groupings for expansion reasons. They also formed table banking which assisted them to save money and later gave the money with interest to members in turns to assist them meet their instant economic difficulties. Almost all of these groups started short of external assistance like state-owned capitals and proved that they could pledge and rewardingly instigate expansion projects. On the contrary, this observation never meant that they needed not to seek monetary support from both state and private groups for them to increase their investment (Amp/5/61).

Chiefs and village elders from the village level to the location level in Uasin Gishu County encouraged women through meetings to form groups. Sometimes, these leaders allocated particular assets such as land to be used by the group. For example, women from this area

were allocated some land in Ziwa among other places where they planted trees kernels and later vended seedlings to society (Selina Kosgei, O.I, 20/2/2021).

During the same period, world conference was held in Mexico. Amongst the most important matters expressed throughout this seminar included the idea of women's progress that stressed parity, harmony and growth of women. Women's progressive organizations stood firm and pressed for women's growth in terms of schooling, occupation and liberation. Schooling in this instance was anticipated as mandatory for upgrading women's standards of living. Access to formal education for both women and girls was strongly encouraged during this meeting. In the case of equivalence, the UN women's commission learned that lawful women's rights were not respected and that even though nearly all states had structures that permitted women equal opportunity, frequently these privileges were not applied in the surface of tradition and patriarchal system. This they appealed led to the discrimination of women in administrative and economic involvement. The seminar similarly stimulated the involvement of women in profits making undertakings to help disadvantaged women because they deliberated those commercial undertakings as basic to enhance the distinction of women in the world (Tinker, 1990).

Although this period showed broad enhancement in the position of women in Uasin Gishu County, achievements realized was very small till 1985 the minute the women's epoch was renowned in a seminar in Nairobi. The ventures which the seminar promoted was unsuccessful because the frontrunners were not experienced in forming observable income generating activities for the unfortunate and also leading those organization on a business foundation. Ever since they had no social programs, that inclined to preserve stereotypes concerning women domestic responsibilities and they established income generating projects grounded on improper expectations concerning women's wants, day-to-day activities or abilities. These ventures anticipated that women were mainly house wives with sufficient free time who only required cash for additional provisions or outfit. These novel income generating activities presumed that women had abilities in local women's artistry like pottery, basketry and embroidery actions rather alien to many underprivileged women from the countryside. For this reason, such projects ensued in economic profits with no endless subsidies (Mwangi, 2004)

Basic ageist women rooted in the authentic and other influential organizations had not changed prior and after the women's decade, with no demonstration by women organizations for example, the 1969 dismantle of the Affirmative action Act was still in practice. On top of that, the act of Marriage and Divorce Bill had been brought up for discussion in the assembly but was overwhelmed by the men-controlled legislature, with no significant objection from women. It has again been renowned that, there was nonstop protection of the law that deprived of house stipend to married women in public services and absences of endowment for remunerated maternity leave for mothers (KNA-DC/DC/UG/2/2/11, 1957-1960).

#### **4.2 Women participation in Moi's regime (1978-2002).**

As we have previously observed, that the women's seminar in 1975 acknowledged that women were increasingly disenabled by the practice of economic degeneration. Worldwide organizations together with discrete donor states were unwavering to evaluate the means in which their support agendas had changed women. The councils incorporated a triple approach for transformation.

Firstly, they stressed for the formation of nationwide women and extension machineries to observe the position of women and mobilize states to be extra accountable to women necessities. The Second

strategy is that they championed for modifications in family act that would warranty women the same prominence with men. It was in this phase, the bill on marriage and annulment was presented into legislative body but was inhibited one month after just to be introduced again in three years' time. The last strategy was, they petitioned for the formation of application of novel economic strategies aiming women. Each of those objectives was moderately achieved during Moi's regime (Wamalwa, 1989).

The UN decade for women motivated influential and lawful transformations across the universe. At the end of 1985, majority of states in Africa had generated complete departments for women matters. Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Zaire, Maurius, Burundi and Gabon were in that list (Fraser, 1987). Kenyan state had not yet generated a complete department. The departments that tackled the concerns of women encompassed lenient ministries like, education, sports and culture. These departments were regarded as female departments accompanied by the notion that their work is interrelated to outdated female work and issues. The departments similarly demanded less resource and had a lower rank than other dominant departments like trade, planning, Foreign affairs and finance (Bekele, 2000).

In 1980s, the world conference of the UN Decade for women acknowledged that the financial and collective institution of countryside women had no significant progress ever since the first half of the decade was held. An insignificant portion of the countryside residents had profited from advancement in technology, access to better education, property services and employment but many countryside individuals preserved the status of disadvantaged and were not able to access these opportunities. Indeed, Uasin Gishu region was among those rural regions whose residents were not able to enjoy these prospects. From the study it was noted that very few female politicians like Philomena Chelagat Mutai had profited, even though there a distinct rise was seen in the quantity of women groupings, it was evident that their accomplishments didn't show noticeable influence. Furthermore, a good number of women were hardly conscious of their survival and their importance (KNA/AMP/5/62, 19801891).

By the year 1990, mechanisms were formed in 40 states to observe the effect of development strategies on women. Women from Africa accompanied these state agencies with their very own groups to make an investigation on women. AAWORD, which they established, had offices in all African countries. Statistics on women's contribution in financial, social and civil arena was distributed from those establishments. Those establishments also observed voting in Kenya and gave support to women who were eager to contest for elective positions in political affairs. They also made consciousness of lawful rights to train women on how to demand these rights and campaign for change on laws and strategies that victimize against women. Disappointingly, influential and lawful reforms have not constantly upgraded the position of women in the country. The presence of those bodies does not principally point out that a regime is dedicated to a meliorating the place of women (AAWORD, 1998).

In Uasin Gishu County, many of those self-help groups sprang in the period around 1980s and native women came in freely and made contributions to the necessary registration fee of ten shillings at most. Even though most of those organizations formed by women in Uasin Gishu County and definitely other places in Kenya were seen as welfare's associations, they were also perceived as political collective policies in which specific women pulled resources together to handle varying constructions which increased women's necessity for money, whereas unreasonably eliminating them from obtaining it as equated to counterparts (Ruto,1990).

At the village level, village elders regulated and distributed development monies released from the state while nationally male administrators received political money from handling fruitful programs.

Subsequently, women from Kenyan were hardly in a place to express their desires and worries. They were not ready to push male legislators to put women's matters at the center of development planning; they were not available to claim reforms in land laws, to give contribution to the style of efficient governance in the state prior, in the course of and after the UN decade for women.

In the year 1985, Kenya was privileged to host the UN Decade for women meeting in Nairobi. Women from Uasin Gishu and Kenya in general had the chance to take part efficiently in all phases of preparation process for the conference. This was actually a fulfilling experience, on the other hand, prior to this seminar enrollment of women organizations had been increased. Conferences to evaluate the accomplishment of women were conducted from the civic level to the national level. Rift Valley in general and Uasin Gishu County to be specific had taken part in those meetings. From this study it was distinguished that a good number of the countryside women in Uasin Gishu County were not informed with the decade. Nzomo (1993) openly notes that most women were actually not aware of the fact that the whole decade was dedicated for them. After women attended the 1985 conference in Nairobi, the Nandi and Kalenjin women of Uasin Gishu County in general came back with a lot of hope and determination.

#### **4.3 Women and the reintroduction of malty party system (1991-1997)**

The birth of multi-party emanated at a stage where there was a profound dissatisfaction on the side of women in the unfair atmosphere they had functioned in (Oduol, 1995). Oduol discerns that, even if lawfully they deserved to partake in public functions equally with men, to be frank political mechanism and male-controlled setup of the society prohibited women from taking part in those meetings. In 1992, the time when the state was preparing for the multiparty elections, a lot of emphasis was put on political enablement as a tool of accomplishing the objectives related with the enhancement of women's position. This was in the faith that in case women aggressively took part and achieved main administrative positions in huge numbers or approximately 30% of the total number, they would for instance made sure to remove the laws that discriminated against women. Subsequently, they would have taken part in planning development strategies that would have mainstreamed rather than sidelined and disempowered women. Therefore, from early 1992, women lobby groups associations and groups got on a rallying and planning campaign that made sure that during 1992 national elections, female aspirants would have won the maximum number of parliamentary and local positions (Gordon, 1963).

In Uasin Gishu County, one major plan used by the women associations to attain women political endowment was the sensitization of women who made a good number of electorate on the authority and virtue of electing women and other gender profound men. A similar policy used was to inspire and give assurance in the women in leadership positions throughout the elections. For this objective to be realized, a National Women's Convention gathering women from the grass root to the state level was held to plan out women's agenda. Conversely, the teaching seminars were merely fruitful in town spaces since countryside women were not grasped. Sadly, there was no woman in Uasin Gishu County who attended those workshops. Establishments like AAWORD, YWCA, conducted civic education programs and gender consciousness operations employing means of training seminars, conferences, media, artworks and other published resources. The NCSW still observed the elections as a credited

witness body and provided moral and solid assistance to women contestants all through the campaign period and even after the conclusion of the election exercise (AAWORD, 1998).

Even though the multiparty elections in the year 1992 elections didn't produce a crucial figure of 30 percent women representation in political arena, it reflected huge determinations of the women's association to enable female electorate and contestants. For example, after the activism, petitioning, rallying and increasing gender responsiveness women vied for local and legislative positions in Uasin Gishu County. This was close to 100 percent improvement from the preceding one. In spite of the various hindrances that women encountered during the election period stretching from pestering, coercion and discernment inside the parties, economic crisis, massive irregularities and other electoral anomalies, six female parliamentarians won the positions and roughly 45 were voted in as councilors. At the national level, women have somehow demonstrated their political persistence and their willpower to enter the male controlled political ladder with or without affirmative action (AAWORD, 1998).

To be frank, if the electoral process had given an equal room and a just environment, there could be no reason as to why most women would not have successfully vied for the elective positions. The increased number of women voted for in 1992 general elections was a significant political accomplishment, but it failed to meet the novel objective of getting 30 percent. Additionally, outside the political sphere, most of the gender issues women acknowledged and petitioned for still continued to be unattended. Discernment against women in prevailing regulations and practice is still witnessed as the undesirable descriptions and the numerous practices of violence against women that are increasing in spite of demonstrations from a few female advocates. However, what must be highlighted is that the women's association in the country came up with an outstanding gravity for women's liberation and protection of women's rights (AAWORD, 1998).

The Beijing Conference in 1995 took place after the Nairobi Women's Conference. The seminar aims were equivalence, growth and harmony for everyone. The Beijing Conference was formed on the base positioned by the Nairobi conference which affirmed the liberation of women. The enhancement of women's collective financial and civil domain was of supreme prominence for the realization of apparent, responsible administration, management and justifiable expansion in all spheres of life. During the conference, it was decided that parity in political activities is essential for realization of democracy in any country. It was similarly decided that women's equivalent involvement with men in administrative arena plays a vibrant role in the overall process of development of women. The corresponding involvement in policymaking is not just a petition for fairness and equality rather perceived as essential state of affairs for women's welfares to be assimilated on to the social agenda. Subsequently, without the dynamic involvement of women and the integration of women's perceptions at all levels of policy-making, the aims of parity, growth and harmony will not be realized (Beijing, 1996).

A year later after the Beijing Meeting, a female lawmaker charity Ngilu brought a motion on the Podium for Action. In the motion, the state dedicated itself to interpret, translate, simplify, explain and propagate the tenacities of the Platforms for Action (PFA), organize conferences and seminars in all villages to expound on the PFA. The state was also to assign sufficient necessities for the improvement of the well-being of effecting women and persistently observe contact of the PFA (Mugo, 1990). This was the first in the seventh legislature that a female legislature had positively brought to the table

women responsive debate that was approved by the legislative body. For once after a long time women had a purpose to be positive that the administration was starting to be receptive to their wishes (Nyakwaka, 2012).

Regrettably, the expectations formed by the motion were shattered and the state did not form needed machineries pledged for the execution of the motion. The state had given just promises to the wishes of women without actions. Female legislatures also grasped how rapidly reserved motions can be dropped because the state did not normally feel indebted to implement the motion. Charity Ngilu still persisted with her fight for women's rights. Actually, in elections carried out in 1997, she emerged to be the first woman to vie for presidential seat in the country. She appeared in the top four in a race of 9 contestants; Wangari Maathai also joined the race (Kabira&Wasamba, 1998).

The role of women in the first two regimes was to sing for the political leadership who were mostly men. The few women who were nominated were either related to the leadership in one way or another (Sara Malel, O.I, 20/2/2021).

#### **4.4 Women participation during kibaki's regime (2002-2013).**

The 2002 general elections in the country were momentous since they were the first transition elections. President Moi had finished his terms as required by the constitution. As a result, all political advances concentrated on his succession. The election period was similarly faced with many political undertakings as parties and office-bearers readjusted themselves in regards to election planning. KANU had just fused with the National Development Party (NDP) and seemed ready to snatch success for the next fruitful term. Nonetheless, this wasn't the case, because major division at the last minute saw KANU promptly fragment. In the year 2002 at the time of party selections, the male controlled party (NARC) leader was discriminative when it came to women. Once the women lobby associations grasped this, instant determinations were made to assist improve the condition (Nzomo, 2003). Nzomo carries on to detect that in late 2002, a slack federation of women NGOs comprising most of the ones associated to the women's civil association, women civil alliance and distinct advocates and experts came along to create a platform that was originally named "Women of NARC", but was changed afterwards to the NARC Women Congress (NWC).

Away from the cameras women movements were bargaining with parties to enter into the campaign field. Their central objective was to occupy more civic and national assembly positions for women. Prior to the general elections women's associations established the country's women's political proposal, just the way they did in the preceding elections. In that proposal, they explained their administrative plan in matters they wished the administration to set standards on strategy, training and accomplishment. In the proposal, women concentrated on matters that were usually close to them this encompassed affirmative action, at least one-third representation in legislature and civic level. They needed the administration to emphasize involvement of voters, condemn violence, deceit, exploitation and coercion all through the election. Lastly, in this area, they required the administration to control campaign funding for political contestants to do away with commercializing politics. These aspects

hindered women’s involvement in policymaking and preserved their marginalization (Gumbozsvanda, 2003).

**Table 4.1: Women representation in Parliament (2002-2007)**

| Year | Number of Women Candidates | Elected | Nominated | Total Number of Women MPs |
|------|----------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 2002 | 44                         | 9       | 8         | 17                        |
| 2007 | 45                         | 10      | 8         | 18                        |

Conferring to this work, in spite of those accomplishments, Uasin Gishu County was not represented by a woman both at the civic level and national assembly. The only woman who was noticeable by then was Prof Margaret Kamar who was nominated to the East African Legislative Assembly from 2001 to 2006. She led a delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to South Africa in 2002 (ECK Report 2002).

**Women participation in the coalition government (2007-2013).**

After two and half years of gender politicking, gender sensitization, capacity building, petitioning and rallying, Kenya and Uasin Gishu County women vied for different political leadership spots. Civil, gender and human rights consciousness has extraordinarily enhanced together with policies and activism interventions. Law makers too have learned the gender semantic and can pretentiously express parity ideologies. Kenya on the other hand, stands really defied on matters of women’s preeminence in political governance spots. Presently, the national assembly has just 10 percent representation of women sprawling far behind the universally average of 18.8% illustration of women in the legislature (Murunga, 2010).

The supremacy of patriarchal systems in Kenyan political affairs and the public is clearly demonstrated by the low figures of women amongst the legislative members. In the year 2007, Kenya’s national assembly had 222 legislators, 210 of them were voted for and 12 chosen by the political parties. There were a total of 18 female legislators, 10 of them were voted for and 8 appointed. From a total of 35 cabinet ministers only 2 were women, from 3 in 2005 which had been the uppermost involvement of women in the assembly. During the elections in the late 2007, the commitment of various organizations exhibited some restricted realization, as it has been indicated above, 10 women were voted in as members of parliament. Out of 210 legislators, 8 were chosen by the political parties. As an outcome, the women representation of National assembly increased to 10 percent (Murunga, 2010).

The percentage of female leaders in the country went up once more in the multi-party age as additional women offered themselves for elective seats, improved petitioning for the addition of women in policy-making (comprising support for shares and affirmative action), plus the weakened inspiration of unfair traditional customs against women. Many women were well sophisticated and qualified for high-ranking positions that were formerly controlled by men. On top of that, several women who were pursuing governance positions earned their own cash and possessed possessions which have also

condensed their reliance on men (Choti, 2005). According to this study out of six constituencies in Uasin Gishu County only one was represented by a woman to the national Assembly. This is the second time Eldoret East has elected a woman since independence. At the civic level all the aspirants were men (ECK Report 2007).

In the new cabinet planned in 2008 April women secured seven positions as ministers and six assistant ministers. On the other hand, Martha Karua, Minister for Justice and Constitutional Matters and disputably the woman with uppermost profile in the country resigned from office in the year 2009, after skirmishes with President Kibaki. Martha was a presidential candidate in 2013 general election. There was also another woman cabinet minister Hellen Sambili the then Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology was removed from office by PM Raila Odinga after some encounters (Murunga 2010).

Conferring to this study Uasin Gishu County produced a woman minister in this period. Prof Margaret Kamar was chosen Minister for higher education, science and technology; she likewise worked as the Assistant minister Environment and Mineral Resources from 2010 to 2011. Prior to this she had also steered the designation to the World Summit on sustainable Development to South Africa in 2002.

#### **Women participation during Uhuru Kenyatta's region (2013-2017).**

The evaluation of the constitution slowed down and discussions over the implementation of a new constitution seemed not realistic. This situation was brought to an end by the intercession of the African Union over a conciliation team lead by Kofi Annan, after the eruption of severe postelection violence in the beginning of 2008. The constitution was the ultimate manuscript occasioned from the modification of the Synchronized waft constitution transcribed by the committee of experts originally given to the citizens in 2009 for the citizen to debate the document and thereafter the legislative body to decide whether or not to subject it to a referendum in June 2010 and a referendum was held in August 2010 (RVI, 2016).

The novel constitution guaranteed women privileges that were formerly lacking. These comprised formation of those elected and nominated in the National Assembly preserved for women. The novel constitution was passed by 67 percent of the voters (Wikipedia 20th April, 2013). Women are likewise shielded from violence and have the privilege of self-respect, land possession and equal opportunity in marriage. To crown it all there is presence of two third gender rule in every nomination or election, no gender would surpass two-thirds. Women are hence assured one third of position through voting and nominations. Most significantly to the women is the effort to increase them to governance. There are indistinct articles displaying how women should lodge positions of governance, in the national assembly and local governments' women should comprise a-third of the positions. Article 98 of the constitution recommends the following for the upper house membership; firstly 4 straight elected from the counties and then 16 women chosen by political parties in ratio of the number of contested senate seats they secure when voting (The Constitution of Kenya, 2010).

Parliament has many positions that women should rightfully vie for. The novel constitution offered women with additional political and self-governing space but it's the application and execution of the law that will determine its realization. Whereas on the document the constitution assures to have many women in the governance by adding the number of women representatives in decentralized houses to 33%, we want to witness more obligations by the state in choosing women to governance spots. The

matter is left to the current administration to look into its execution and putting it into practice (Sunday Nation, 29 July 2012).

The declaration of the Kenyan constitution 2010 steered in a new indulgence for women demonstration. Remarkable in this manner are the Affirmative Action constitutional provisions comprising the outlined 47 county representative positions set aside for women as defined in Article 97. Although the number of women in National Assembly improved from 9.9% in 10th Assembly to 20.7% in 11th Assembly, the constitution gender code, which notes that “not more than two thirds of the participants whether elected or nominated is to come from the same gender” Articles 27 (8) and 81 (b) were neither realized nor witnessed in the 2013 and 2017 general elections. The number of female legislatures increased from 22 in the 10th Parliament to 86 in the 11th Parliament due to Affirmative Action. On the other hand, a study displayed that despite of the continuing growth in number of women in National Assembly ever since independence, their fundamental influence when in governance had remained reserved by economic, political, and social factors (RVI, 2018).

The legislature is presently constituted of the National Assembly and the Senate. The National Assembly comprises of 290 openly elected members from the 290 constituencies, 47 women voted for to epitomize women from each single county and 12 members chosen by political parties. 16 women were openly voted for from each constituency, resulting to just 6% of the openly voted for Members of the National Assembly, which recounts to the previous 8 %. Out of the 12 members to be chosen by political parties, five women were chosen. Bearing in mind that the 10th Parliament had six nominated women, the present number has tumbled. Women’s representation at the county level was grasped by the direct voting of 47 women to the National Assembly. Generally, the existing National Assembly has 68 women, which interprets into 19.4 percent of the total participation of the National Assembly (RVI, 2018).

In the 2013 general elections nationally, out of the 47 Counties only 4 Counties had a woman aspirant for the gubernatorial seat the rest were contested by men only, however the race was won by men. These women included; Wavinya Ndeti from Machakos; Alice Betty Were from Busia; Alice C Njoki from Nairobi and finally Margaret Kamar from Uasin Gishu County. There were 6 women who were elected as the Deputy Governors in respective Counties, no woman was voted to the senate, 47 County Women representatives, 16 women elected from 290 constituencies as members of the parliament and finally 82 women out of the total 1450 county assembly ward representatives (IEBC Report 2013).

In the 2013 election in Uasin Gishu County, there were 2 candidates Jackson Mandago and Prof Margaret Kamar for the Governor’s seat however, Margaret Kamar lost the seat to Jackson Mandago. At the senatorial level there was no woman candidate for this position and the race was won by Isaiac Melly, at the National Assembly level there were 3 women aspirants who contested for the seat from various constituencies these women were Esther Mutai from Moiben; Komen lina and Janet Sitienei from Turbo but none of them made it to parliament. The race for County women representative was contested by the following aspirants Caroline Cheron; Ann Cheruto; Eusila Ngenyi; Leah Chemtai; Irine Sambili; Nora Jepkrui and Nuster Bitok. Eusilah Jepkosgei Ngenyi was declared the winner for this position. At the County Assemble level the list of 12 female aspirants is as follows; Selly Chepkoech; Lydia Kemboi; Rebeccah Sugut; Ekwang Betty; Grace Akinyi; Caustencia Jelimo; Ida Komen; Teresa Jeruto; Sara Malel; Dorcas Kemboi; Pauline Tuwei and Tarus Josphine contested for the seat however only three of them made it to the County Assembly. These three women who contested

successfully were; Rebecca Chepchirchir from Kuinet ward; Pauline Jelimo Tuwei from Kapsaret ward and Josphine Tarus from Cheptiret ward (IEBC Report 2013).

It's without doubt that the tendency of low representation of women in legislative body still remains to be felt in the novel Constitution age hence, women lawmakers in Kenya still continued with the skirmish to make their opinions heard in National Assembly, actual representation of their areas and the gender agenda in the country. Women's survival in political organisations need to be deliberated in relation to the inspiration of societal and women's engagements, their associations with each other, the style and principles of political parties and the customs and capability of state organization to attain the anticipated transformation. It also needs to be considered in relation to the values and work ethics that are associated with women leadership (UN Women Kenya, 2014).

Parliament adhered to the two-thirds gender principle during the tenure of the 11th Parliament. This was in the form of the Constitution of Kenya Amendment Bill No. 16 of 2015. It sought to amend Articles 97, 98, 90, and 81. A quorum hitch however hindered the sailing through of the bill. The IEBC published 1,862 individuals as duly voted for, which comprised 172 women. Amongst the women voted for were 3 governors, 3 senators, 23 MNAs, 47 MNAs and 96 MCAs. The achievement fraction of women in 2017 improved when compared to 2013, with about 13% of aspirants won (KEWAPA, 2017).

With the rise in the figure of women contesting, the 13% achievement rate still interpreted to more women securing positions. According to 2013 elections, the percentage of women elected to administrative positions improved by 18.6%. Possibly most stimulating, women achievement rate improved to some extent even when that of male aspirants weakened, signifying that women were capable of sustaining their effectiveness in spite of the higher numbers of aspirants in all levels. As distinguished in 2013, it was concluded that voters were eager to choose women given the chance and they did so at rates equal to that of men. However, a small number of women made it in the election process and had the chance to gain upper positions (KEWAPA, 2017).

The voting of 26 women to National assembly signified the rising number of women that has been persistent ever since the 2002 election and transformed in the 2010 Constitution. In the year 2002, 4 women were voted for in the National assembly, growing to 16 women in 2013 and 26 women in 2017. The 2017 general elections occasioned in 3 women voted in as governors, those women were Joyce Laboso from Bomet; Ann Waiguru from Kirinyaga and Charity Ngilu from Machakos County, 7 women came to be deputy governors since they were running mates of elected governors. On the other hand, in 2017 the numbers of deputy governors declined from 9 to 7 in 2017. Although deputy governors could be regarded as possibly a facilitator to complicated position, there is no vibrant law on the deputy governor's work and power. Office owners are not capable to shape out precise responsibilities and activities that can permit them to effectively campaign on their personal ticket. As an outcome, just two deputy governors from 2013 decided to run for challenging position but did not make it. There was a recommendation from deputy governors to introduce changes that generate a prescribed responsibility and accountability for the position, permitting them to have a supplementary discrete responsibility in administration (2017 Election Analysis Report).

The 2017 general elections had a national summative of 747 women elected and appointed to work as members of county assemblies (MCAs). The 2017 data consisted of 650 appointed and 96 elected women. The 96 elected female MCAs were an escalation of 17% from 2013. Even so, a section of

counties had not voted for a woman MCA, necessitating all their female MCAs to get access through nominated positions. There were 12 county assemblies that had not voted for a woman MCA, 3 counties likewise were not able to meet the 33% threshold as required under the law. Although the IEBC used party lists to increase nominated women to realize the two-thirds gender rule in many regions, the misguidedly few numbers in 3 counties are a signal of possible abuse of power of the top-up processes (2017 Election Analysis Report).

**Table 4.2 Women Representation in Parliament (1963-2017)**

| Parliament       | Year      | Elected   | Nomination Slots                     | Nominated | Total | % of Women (Elected and Nominated) |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 1963-1969 | 0         | 12                                   | 0         | 0     | 0                                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 1969-1974 | 1         | 12                                   | 1         | 2     | 1.2                                |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 1974-1979 | 4         | 12                                   | 2         | 6     | 4.1                                |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 1979-1983 | 5         | 12                                   | 1         | 6     | 2.4                                |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 1983-1988 | 2         | 12                                   | 1         | 3     | 1.8                                |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 1988-1992 | 2         | 12                                   | 0         | 2     | 1.5                                |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 1992-1997 | 6         | 12                                   | 1         | 7     | 3.5                                |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 1997-2002 | 4         | 12                                   | 5         | 9     | 3.6                                |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 2002-2007 | 9         | 12                                   | 8         | 17    | 8.1                                |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 2007-2013 | 16        | 12                                   | 2         | 22    | 9.9                                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 2013-2017 | 63(47+16) | 32( 12 national assembly +20 senate) | 23( 5+18) | 86    | 20.7                               |
| Total            | 160       | 112       |                                      | 48        | 160   |                                    |

Resulting from the elections, Kenyan organizations appointed leaders to govern legislative and local assembly committees and administrative spots. These slots have generally been controlled by men and the situation was the same in 2017. In mid-2018, the President publicized the cabinet secretaries in his administration. The new cabinet failed to increase women in cabinet positions from 2013, in spite of the additional of four new slots. The administrations elected 6 women to the 22 cabinet secretaries, less than one-third of the existing slots. The selections failed to come to the realization of the minimum requirement of the two-thirds gender principle. When it comes to female cabinet secretaries, they were dispersed to powerful ministries that supervise parts of the Jubilee administration’s “Big Four” economic pillars of food security, affordable housing, manufacturing, and healthcare (IRI, 2018).

Women are very good leaders already. Even in most families where men are assumed the leaders, the women are running the homes. Look around and see any institution ran by a woman and compare it with men in similar organization. It’s only that the society has not accepted women in political leadership (Zipporah Maiyo, O.I, 19/2/2021).

In the upper and lower house, women encompassed over 24% representations in the available committees. On the other hand, women hold limited leadership positions in these committees, such as

committee chair posts. They have not been able to advance into major committee tasks or other powerful spots. Women are chairs of just 3 of 27 committees in the National Assembly, and none in the Senate. General leadership too is restricted; women encompassed 3 leadership positions in the Senate (Majority whip – Senator Susan Kihika; minority deputy whip – Senator Petronila Were; deputy majority leader – Senator Fatuma Dallo) and one position in the National Assembly (deputy chief whip – Hon. Cecily Mbarire), (Kenya Gazette, Vol. CXIX No 118, Gazette Notice No: 7845)

Women are usually very transparent in their dealings that men feel threatened when the women leads them in an institution. More women should be given a chance to serve and let the people see the difference (Jenny Too O.I, 22/2/2021).

In the 2017 general elections in Uasin Gishu County there were two aspirants; Zedekiah Bundatich and Jackson Mandago contesting for the gubernatorial position however there was no woman aspirant contesting for this position. At the senatorial level there were four candidates namely Margaret Kamar; Philip Kiyeng; Thomas Kipkurui and Robert Kemei Emiliano Kipkprir. This time round a woman aspirant, Prof Margaret Kamar contested for this position successfully. At the National Assembly level, there were only two female aspirants out of the 28 candidates who contested for this position from different constituencies in Uasin Gishu County. Janet Sitienei contested successfully in Turbo constituency against 6 other male candidates (IEBC Report Uasin Gishu County). In Soy constituency Eusila Ngeny contested the seat with 16 other male candidates but lost the seat to Caleb Kostanyi. The position of county women representative was contested by 5 candidates and Gladys Sholei won the race. At the County Assembly level there were a total of 149 aspirants contesting for this position; 14 were female and 135 were male. These female aspirants included Elizabeth Nyambura; Fridah Mengich; Dorcas Chebet; Sara Malel; Caustencis Jelimo; Jesinta Khabestsas; Pamela; Milkah Nduta; Betty Adenyo; Rebeccah Magut; Selly Chepkoech; Lilian Peggy; Caudencia Nabwire and Nancy Chemtai. Sara Malel contested successfully therefore making her the only elected female MCA in the 2017 Uasin Gishu County Assembly (IEBC Report Uasin Gishu County).

In Uasin Gishu County Assembly's Leadership, all the top positions were taken by male MCAs. The following are the members of the County Assembly leadership: Speaker David Kiplagat; Deputy Speaker Hosea Kikorir; Majority Chief Whip David Singoei; Deputy Majority Leader Julius Sang Deputy Whip Gilbert Tenai and Leader of Minority Ramadhan Ali. There is totally no woman at this level however the first woman Sara Malel appears on the County Assembly Service Board and the speakers' panel. Sufficing to note all County Assemble Committees were chaired by male MCAs giving women to be vice chairs in soft committees like health, Agriculture, Land and Housing, Education Culture and Social Services, ICT and E Government among others. Strong committees like Finance and Economic Planning, Budget and Appropriation, House Business Committee, Security Justice and Legal Affairs, Public Investment Committee among others were fully occupied by male MCAs (Uasin Gishu County Assembly's records).

**Table 4.3: A List of Turbo constituency National Assembly aspirants 2017.**

| <b>NO</b> | <b>Gender</b> | <b>Names</b>      | <b>Party</b> |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1         | Male          | Ton Kiprotich     | IND          |
| 2         | Male          | David Songok      | ODM          |
| 3         | Male          | Peter Wambuthsi   | ANC          |
| 4         | Male          | Herlestone Muyera | MCCP         |
| 5         | Male          | Kevin Kenneth     | JP           |
| 6         | Female        | Janet Jepkemboi   | IND          |
| 7         | Male          | Ishmael Kipkemboi | IND          |

Source: IEBC 2017 Records

## **V: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

The finding of this study made the researcher to come into conclusion that women's participation in political leadership has enhanced though substantial improvement is seen at the civic level. Low women's participation as candidates for National Assembly, Senate and Gubernatorial has remained and will still be a manly stronghold. This research seems to be steady with other prevailing researches on women's political participation which recommends that artificial influences stand to obstruct women political participation at personal, national and international heights. As distinguished in this work, the fight for women realization and attention in political affairs are uncompleted agendas.

### **5.2 Recommendation**

From the finding it has been distinguished that women in Uasin Gishu County are progressively articulating the urge and readiness to take part in the political governance. From the mentioned findings and conclusion the subsequent recommendations are proposed

The Government ought to formulate policies that will ensure that election campaigns and voting period is safe from gender based electoral violence hence encourage women who fear the combative nature of the Kenyan politics. In addition, it's recommended that the government through the legislature create a special fund which will enable female aspirants to meet the campaign cost hence encourage them to participate in elective positions in the county.

Sensitization precautions should be taken into consideration for women and men on the reasons of the aim of gender parity so that all men and woman can comprehend and acknowledge gender parity, synthesize these privileges and claim them and all men too will recognize these rights. Similarly, exceptional education ought to be established for both the teachers and parents on how to employ and instill the importance of human rights, equivalence, particularly gender parity and

independent administration at home and at the schools. A lot of effort also should be emphasized to campaign and help relatively renowned organizations such as religious groups on the way values of equality comprising gender parity can be heightened in their systems, processes and platforms.

Female contestants should be vigorous in political activities and position themselves in political party governance in order to learn the dynamics of the party. They ought to be determined contenders, frequently appearing public rallies and intermingle with women and youth associations in their regions to boost their prominence as probable leaders. The media should furthermore, promote encouraging publicity of existing female leaders. In addition, female contestants are expected to keep in mind that they join electoral race from an underprivileged spot assuming that the electoral environment is skewed courtesy of male contestants.

Finally, this work commends for heightened interaction amongst female political leaders, women groups, electorates and probable contestants. These networking by women political players ought to increase the participation of women in political party affairs, voting and in supporting of their fellow women contestants and political leadership.

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