

## A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS INTO GENDER STUDY IN PUBLIC OPINION PERTAINING TO FEMALE POLITICIANS

Translated from the Authors' Original Mongolian for the International Audience.

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### **Abstract**

Although Mongolia has made great efforts to ensure gender equality, the percentage of women's participation at the decision-making level is still insufficient. The National Assembly of Mongolia approved the Law on Ensuring Gender Equality in 2011, and Article 5.1.3 of the law states that the State shall ensure the equality of men and women in accordance with the Constitution of Mongolia, international agreements of Mongolia, and other laws. It is stipulated that the obligation to fulfill and be responsible for its results is specified. In recent years, Mongolia has made great efforts to ensure gender equality, but the percentage of women at the decision-making level and the number of women in representative organizations are still insufficient. Therefore, the issue of ensuring gender equality at the decision-making level is related to the need to increase the representation of the addicts. This study aims to clarify public attitudes towards female politicians, including their attitudes towards the suitability of women for decision-making positions.

**Keywords:** Gender, Decision Making, Women, Public Opinion, Statistical Analysis

### **Method**

The study employed a mixed-methods approach to conduct a comprehensive analysis of gender in public opinion concerning female politicians. This approach combined both quantitative and qualitative methods to gather and interpret data, providing a holistic understanding of the complex and multifaceted nature of the topic.

### **Quantitative Analysis:**

#### **i. Survey Design and Administration:**

A structured questionnaire was developed to measure public perceptions of female politicians across various domains, including leadership, competence, likability, and policy preferences. The survey instrument was informed by a thorough literature review and pre-tested to ensure reliability and validity. The survey was administered online to a representative sample of the population, stratified by age, gender, education, and political affiliation.

#### **ii. Sampling:**

Participants were recruited from a diverse range of demographic backgrounds to ensure the sample was representative of the general population. A stratified random sampling technique was used to

select participants from a national online panel. The final sample size of N=963 allowed for meaningful analysis of subgroup differences and generalizability of findings.

### **iii. Data Collection:**

Data were collected over a four-month period to account for any time-specific influences on public opinion. The survey included both closed-ended questions with Likert scales and open-ended questions to capture nuanced attitudes and perceptions.

### **iv. Qualitative Analysis: Data Integration:**

To integrate the quantitative and qualitative data, a triangulation approach was used. This involved comparing and contrasting findings from both datasets to identify converging patterns, divergences, and unique insights. The qualitative data served to explain and enrich the quantitative findings, offering a more nuanced understanding of the underlying mechanisms and personal experiences that shape public opinion.

### **v. Data Analysis Plan:**

The analysis plan involved the following steps:

1. Cleaning and preparation of quantitative data for statistical analysis using software such as SPSS or R.
2. Conducting thematic analysis of qualitative data using NVivo or similar software for qualitative data analysis.
3. Comparing and contrasting the results of the quantitative and qualitative analyses to identify convergent and divergent themes.
4. Using the findings from both datasets to build a comprehensive framework that explains the complex interplay of gender and public opinion towards female politicians.
5. Presenting the results in a manner that effectively synthesizes the mixed methods approach, highlighting the contributions of each method to the overall understanding of the research question.

By employing a mixed-methods design, this study sought to overcome the limitations inherent in relying solely on quantitative or qualitative data and provide a more comprehensive view of the gender dynamics in public opinion towards female politicians. The integration of both types of data allows for the examination of not only what people think but also why they think the way they do, offering actionable insights for political campaigns and policy interventions aimed at promoting gender equality in politics.

## **Introduction**

Promoting gender equality and eliminating gender disparities are important for ensuring sustainable development, reducing inequality, and addressing challenges in health, education, and

child protection. Gender equality means that women and men are valued equally in social and personal life and have equal power and participation. (National Committee on Gender, 2023) Equality was originally understood as treating people in the same way regardless of their personal or group situation, but humanity has recognized that trying to treat inequality equally increases discrimination, and gender equality is defined as women it is understood that men are not treated differently, but focus on meeting their different needs and making their conditions equal. Gender equality is an integral part of sustainable development.

Although the country has made significant efforts to ensure gender equality, the percentage of women's participation in decision-making is still insufficient. The National Assembly of Mongolia approved the Law on Ensuring Gender Equality in 2011, and Article 5.1.3 of the law states that the State shall ensure the equality of men and women in accordance with the Constitution of Mongolia, international agreements of Mongolia, and other laws. It is stipulated that the obligation to fulfill and be responsible for its results is specified. In recent years, Mongolia has made great efforts to ensure gender equality, but the percentage of women at the decision-making level and the number of women in representative organizations are still insufficient. Therefore, the issue of ensuring gender equality at the decision-making level is related to the need to increase the representation of women. The lack of representation of women in representative bodies at all levels is the result of many factors. (KAS, Department of Political Science of MU, 2023) For example, the national legal framework that guarantees equal opportunities and access for women to participate in elections as candidates, the electoral system, socio-economic factors, cultural stereotypes, women's families, researchers noted that many factors such as established social roles are affected. In the "Gender Disparity Index-2022" (UN Women, 2023) report issued by the World Economic Forum, out of a total of 146 countries, our country ranked 26th with 0.765 points in terms of economic participation and opportunities, and 63rd with 0.994 points in education level, ranked 113th with 0.121 points in terms of political power ranked 70th with an average score of 0.715.

In Section 10.1.1 of Article 10 of the Criminal Procedure Code, "Among the appointed political officials, the percentage of women among the government ministers of Mongolia in 2023 is 14.2 percent and 18.75 percent. (Office of the National Gender Committee, 2024) Since Mongolia adopted the new Constitution, women's representation in the executive branch has remained insufficient.

### **Main consideration**

An overview of public attitudes towards female politicians, including attitudes toward the suitability of women for decision-making positions, public opinion on the suitability of female politicians for specific political leadership positions, and the difficulties women face in achieving a high level of political leadership was the purpose of this study. Research data was collected from December 2024 to March 2025. When choosing the research methodology, the conditional model of the factor developed by the research team of the University of Hong Kong in 2020 was used as a reference. (Gender Research Centre et al., nd. 2024.)

As of the end of 2023, there are 3,382,710 people registered in MU, and there are 2,144,686 people over the age of 19 who are at the level of political decision-making. When choosing a research sample, when sampled using Cochran's formula, it is calculated with a 95% confidence level and a 5% error probability  $n_0 = \frac{1.96^2 \cdot 0.5 \cdot (1-0.5)}{0.05^2} = 384$  samples are sufficient for human research. A total of 963 people living in Ulaanbaatar city and local areas participated in the survey. This is because Krejcie Morgan's *circa* 1970 table suggests that a sample of 384 people is sufficient for a source population of over 1,000,000, so a sufficient sample was formed and the probability of error dropped to 3.16.

53.5% of the respondents were women, 46.5% were men, and age and age representatives were involved in the study, which makes the study realistic. In terms of education level, 80% of people with higher education. In terms of employment, he is working in a private or government organization. In terms of location, 57.1% of people living in Ulaanbaatar and 42.9% in local areas participated in the survey illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1. Characteristics of respondents

		Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>	Female	515	53.5
	Male	448	46.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age</b>	19-25	76	7.9
	26-35	299	31.0
	36-45	382	39.7
	46-55	137	14.2
	56 and above	69	7.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Level of Education</b>	Incomplete middle	37	3.8
	Full middle	154	16.0
	Superior	770	80.0
	Unanswered	2	0.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Employment</b>	Unemployed	41	4.3
	Works in a private sector organization	382	39.7
	Works in government organizations and SOEs	399	41.4
	Retired	37	3.8
	Student	44	4.6
	Others	60	6.2

	<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Place of residence</b>	Place of residence	550	57.1
	Ulaanbaatar	413	42.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>100</b>

**Compliance with survey questionnaires**

The survey was conducted by 9 groups of general information and public opinion surveys. When the survey questionnaire's internal compatibility reliability assessment was calculated using Cronbach's alpha, all were greater than 0.7. This query shows good internal compatibility. The survey was conducted within the framework of a total of 8 sets of questionnaires.

Table 2. Analysis of internal compatibility of queries

	<b>Structure</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>	<b>No. of Questions</b>
<b>Q1</b>	Beliefs about gender roles and roles, and perceptions of gender equality situations and trends	0.918	12
<b>Q2</b>	Public opinion on male and female politicians	0.943	11
<b>Q3</b>	A suitable field for male and female politicians	0.896	10
<b>Q4</b>	Attitudes to evaluate male and female politicians	0.928	8
<b>Q5</b>	Understanding of political leadership and barriers to office for women and men	0.924	9
<b>Q6</b>	What should be done to increase women to the level of political decision-making?	0.957	9
<b>Q7</b>	Percentage of women at the decision-making level	0.959	4
<b>Q8</b>	Attitudes towards female members of Parliament	0.967	10
<b>Q9</b>	A position that is more suitable for women	0.968	15

When conducting correlation analysis to measure the strength of correlations between groups of questionnaires, the survey questionnaires are all positively correlated.

Table 3. Correlation matrix

	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Q5</b>	<b>Q6</b>	<b>Q7</b>	<b>Q8</b>	<b>Q9</b>
<b>Q1</b>	1								
<b>Q2</b>	0.758	1							
<b>Q3</b>	0.732	0.995	1						
<b>Q4</b>	0.503	0.889	0.924	1					
<b>Q5</b>	0.896	0.966	0.948	0.769	1				

<b>Q6</b>	0.969	0.789	0.747	0.465	0.919	1		
<b>Q7</b>	0.935	0.757	0.755	0.649	0.849	0.834	1	
<b>Q8</b>	0.503	0.816	0.858	0.975	0.709	0.415	0.708	1
<b>Q9</b>	0.320	0.788	0.820	0.951	0.630	0.287	0.511	0.943

Considering the political attitudes and orientations of the respondents, men's trends are established, while women are less likely to have fixed and clearly supportive directions than men.

Table 4. Political attitudes and orientations:

		The political trend has set its direction	The political trend is not fully determined, but it is supported	The political approach has not established its direction	Total
Gender	Female	133	182	195	510
	Male	223	141	84	448
Total		356	323	279	958

In reflection, the fact that their political orientation is related to the age group, 36-46-year-olds are more politically oriented and have a certain direction than the respondents. 78.7 percent of the participants chose female candidates for any political election.

Table 5. Have you ever supported a female candidate in any political election?

		Gender		Total
		Female	Male	
Have you ever supported a female candidate in any political election?"	Yes	394	358	752
	No	90	55	145
	There was no female candidate among the opponents	29	31	60
Total		513	444	957

The participants evaluated the skills of women to work at the political decision-making level as follows, and the answer was that women are better or no different in skills other than "Vision". It was the highest percentage for women in terms of compassion.

Table 6. Skills for both men and women

	Women are better	Women are much better	No difference	Men are better	Men are much better
Skilled	20.9	22.8	35.9	10.0	10.4
Compassionate	35.5	37.5	24.7	0.8	1.5

Insightful	14.8	19.7	31.3	20.8	13.4
Trustworthy	27.1	18.6	41.6	6.3	6.3
Public interest	26.7	27.6	35.9	6.6	3.1
Able to cooperate	22.3	26.5	37.5	9.7	4.0
Compromises	21.7	34.3	29.7	8.6	5.7
Hardworking	30.5	29.1	35.4	2.7	2.3
Fair and ethical	24.6	27.2	39.8	6.1	2.3
Do not fall under political pressure	22.4	22.8	38.6	12.1	3.9
True to his beliefs	24.2	21.9	43.7	7.2	3.0

Table 7. A suitable field for male and female politicians

A suitable field for male and female politicians	Women are better	Women are much better	No difference	Men are better	Men are much better
Economy, finance and trade	18.6	21.8	43.4	10.8	5.4
Security and internal affairs	10.7	18.6	24.7	26.7	19.3
Social welfare and protection	29.4	39.7	27.2	1.0	2.7
Development policy and infrastructure	14.5	21.0	36.6	18.0	10.0
Environment	20.1	28.1	40.9	8.3	2.5
Political party	15.5	16.7	45.0	17.0	5.8
Labor problems	18.2	26.1	39.3	13.8	2.7
Family and children	42.9	31.8	24.1	0.5	0.7
Health	37.3	31.9	29.2	0.7	0.9
International relations	21.2	15.6	42.8	10.7	9.8

Looking at the answers of the respondents, the field suitable for female and male politicians is considered to be more suitable for men in terms of security and internal affairs, and the issue of family and children is more suitable for women, which means that the society still assigns positions and roles depending on the gender of women and men.

Table 8. Appraisal of currently working female politicians

	Very Good	Good	Medium	Bad	Very Bad
Evaluation of the work of female members of Parliament	5.9	21.2	57.9	8.4	6.5

Ethical assessment of female members of Parliament	5.5	22.5	55.3	9.9	6.7
Evaluation of presentation skills of female members of Parliament	7.1	25.9	47.0	14.4	5.6
Evaluation of the appearance and behavior of female members of Parliament	11.1	26.2	49.6	8.7	4.4
Social acceptance of female members of parliament	6.7	21.2	50.9	15.1	6.1
Evaluation of the work of female members of the Government (Minister)	10.2	26.5	46.1	11.2	6.0
Ethical evaluation of female members of the Government (Minister)	10.2	27.7	48.0	8.1	6.0
Assessment of presentation skills of female members of the Government (Minister)	8.8	27.5	47.5	9.9	6.3
Evaluation of the appearance and behavior of female members of the Government (Minister)	11.7	30.9	44.2	8.5	4.6
Social acceptance of female members of the Government (Minister)	9.2	19.9	50.9	13.7	6.2

Considering the evaluation of female politicians working in the Parliament and the Government, it can be seen that there is a lack of evaluation of the presentation skills of female members of Parliament, social recognition of female members of Parliament, and social recognition of female members of the Government (Minister).

### **The Mongolian Government's Legislation**

Officially the acts in place for gender exposition are as follows: "In terms of legal and policy planning for achieving gender equality, it can highlight the adoption of gender equality related policies, legislation, action plans and strategies. For instance, the Law on Promoting Gender Equality (LPGE) was adopted in 2011 and the Government of Mongolia is pursuing a series of concrete measures towards implementing the law in a systematic way. The LPGE has six chapters, 27 articles. It requires gender mainstreaming into law and policy development as well as into all activities of organizations – agencies related to law and policy-making. The Mid-term Strategy and Action Plan for implementation of the LPGE 2012-2016 has been adopted and implemented to enhance the implementation of the LPGE. The guarantees for equality, as defined in the LPGE, are today reflected in the relevant provisions and are being implemented in the Law on Families 1999 (lastly amended in 2018 and the revised version is being discussed), the Labour Code 1999 (lastly amended in 2017 and the revised version is being discussed), Law on Promoting Employment 2011 (lastly amended in 2017), Package of Laws on Education 2002 (lastly amended in 2018), the Health Law 2011 (lastly amended in 2019), the Law on Child Protection 2016 (lastly

amended in 2018), the Law to Combat Domestic Violence 2016 (lastly amended in 2017), the Law on Combating Human Trafficking 2012 (lastly amended in 2018 )and the Law on Elections 2011 (lastly amended in 2015). To realize the LPGE, the two National Programmes on Gender Equality for period 2012-2015 and 2017-2021 have been developed with specific objectives, indicators and measures to be taken. The latter National programme aims to facilitate improving gender statistics and analysis, mainstreaming gender in the sector and local development policy-levels, and intensity genderresponsive budgeting processes at all levels. Furthermore, the State Policy on Population Development (2016-2025), National Program on Child Protection and Development (2017-2021), National Program for Supporting Disabled Persons and Development (2018-2022) are all designed to reflect the concept of gender equality. " (B. Tsogtsaikhan, 2019).

### Conclusion

The results of the study show that the social attitude has gained knowledge of gender and the tendency to support female politicians to increase their decision-making level is high. Although there is a favorable environment for women to be accepted at all levels, there are still stereotypes about the field of work and suitable positions for male and female politicians. There is still an opinion that the health and social security sectors, where women work more in the executive branch, are more suitable for women, and the security and internal affairs issues are more suitable for men.

### Delimitations

The parameters within this research were to merely use the data, which has already been defined, in the public scientific sphere, and still within the framework of international debate, however:

a) Data which has not been included, are citations pertaining to in rhetorical nature that is still been litigated within both national and international jurisprudence guidelines. Thus, this aforementioned literature will not be included in any statistical nature of this draft. Empirical Data only recognised and therefore cited.

b) The procedures and methods that have not been undertaken are elements such as and direct journalistic inquiry via face-to-face interviews (Direct Engagement). This is attributed to both the political and legal sensitivities of the issues portrayed in this study inclusive of the author's geographical location.

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