



## WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN WOMEN'S NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Noorfadhleen binti Mahmud\***

Faculty of Administrative Science & Policy Studies  
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak  
Malaysia

**Nadrawina Isnin**

Faculty of Administrative Science & Policy Studies  
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak  
Malaysia

**Asmahani Binti Mahdi**

Faculty of Office Management  
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak  
Malaysia

**Angie Edward Daung**

Faculty of Office Management  
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak  
Malaysia

\*Corresponding author's Email: [noorfadhleen23@gmail.com](mailto:noorfadhleen23@gmail.com)

*Peer-review under responsibility of 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia International Multidisciplinary Conference 2019 editorial board  
(<http://www.utm.my/asia/our-team/>)*

*© 2019 Published by Readers Insight Publisher,  
lat 306 Savoy Residencia, Block 3 F11/1,44000 Islamabad. Pakistan,  
[info@readersinsight.net](mailto:info@readersinsight.net)*

*This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).*





## Research Highlights

Women's NGOs in Sarawak plays a substantial role to provide a unique opportunity for leaders in gender equality and women's empowerment to influence the United Nation's agenda. This includes advocating the human rights of women and girls and supports the United Nations' consensus documents such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and other UN agreements such as the Declaration on Population and Development and the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights. This study revealed that the factors that motivate women's participation in women's NGOs are to contribute and serve the society, to gain knowledge and skills, to develop networking, to enhance career path and to develop self-esteem. Meanwhile factors that hinders women for being actively involved in women's NGOs are lack of time due to their focus on family and house matters, men still think that women can't do what men can do, lack of awareness on benefits in joining the women's NGOs, limited access to knowledge on NGOs and women feel intimidate and not confident to be socialize in NGOs

## Research Objectives

This study attempts to give insight view on the factors that motivates and discover challenges factors that inhibit them to participate in women's NGOs.

## Methodology

This study is based on qualitative method. The data collected through intensive interview with the women who actively involve in women's NGOs in Sarawak. The interview sessions covered the aspect of factors that motivates and hinders women to participate in women's NGOs. We managed to interview five prominents women from various nature of women's NGOs in Sarawak. There are five aspects being asked during the interview: (i) factors that motivate women to participate in Women' NGOs, (ii) length of participation, (iii) position in Women's NGOs, (iv) aspiration and hope to the Women's NGOs, (v) constraint factors of women participation in Women's NGOs.

## Results

Our first informant (Pseudo 1 = P1) stated the factor that motivates her to participate in this NGO is because she wants to serve the society from the Islamic perspectives. Our second informant (P2) stated that the motivation factor that leads her to get actively involved in women's NGO is to contribute and serve the society. What motivates our third informant (P3) to get involved in women's NGOs is she is very passionate to give ideas on how to strengthen the family institutions. The fourth informant (P4) stated that the reason she was involved in women's NGO is because she think that by helping others, it will change the world. With the involvement she can give information and ideas to facilitate the activities or programs organized by women's NGOs. The fifth informant (P5) stated that the reasons she joined the Women's NGO which focus on empowering women through business are to develop the networking with fellow women's entrepreneurs, meeting establish women in the same and others field and getting connected with relevant agencies that can foster the business empire.

As for factors that hinders women participation in the women's NGOs, all six informants agreed that women are not actively involved in women's NGOs due to lack of time. This is





because they focus more on family matters. This is exactly of the thoughts of Huma Z. (2016). As Huma Z. (2016) pointed out, women are bound to their home, due to their responsibilities of child care, household chores. What is more, P1 and P2 also agreed that before marriage, women were actively involved in NGOs, but after marriage, they quit. This is because the spouses refused to understand the reason behind actively involved in NGOs. The other factor which as an obstacle to the women participation in women's NGOs is women have limited knowledge which leads to lack of awareness towards the benefits of joining women' NGO. These factors were seconded by P2, P3 and P5. Similar as noted by Huma Z, (2016), once women lack of access to resources will force them to unaware of knowledge and lack of mobility can create isolation and away from development process.

## Findings

All five responses from the informants are align them with opinions by Waweru R., (2015). Here, Waweru R., agreed that people's participation can be based on the fact that people have the ability to carry out activities suited to their needs by becoming empowered to develop themselves in a collective effort. The involvement of women in women's NGOs could also give opportunity to financial, material and non-material benefits. Non-material benefits will give experience to the individual who provides them with insights, confidence and skills to solve existing problems (Waweru R., 2015).

P1, P2, P3, P4, and P5 also share similar statement which are, men still think that women are not capable to handle activities. Some men think that women cannot be so loud in order to give opinions. Some men refused to give cooperation to women's group activities. As Huma Z., (2016) justified that Patriarchy or Male Dominance is a normative system that constrains women's empowerment especially in socio-economic. For men, independence is seen as a challenge to male authority perhaps power structure privileges men and men feel insecure if power is extended to women.

## References

- Asnarulkhadi Abu Samah and Muhammad Ndas Ndaaji (2012). *Women Participation In Self-Help Development Projects As An Instrument For Rural Women Empowerment In Nigeria*. Journal of American Science. 8(4):763-771. (ISSN: 1545-1003). <http://www.americanscience.org>. 101
- Hoque, M., & Itohara, Y. (2009). *Women empowerment through participation in micro-credit programme: A case study from Bangladesh*. Journal of Social Sciences, 5(3), 244-250.
- Kartina Abu Talib (2010) Masyarakat Sivil di Malaysia: Isu dan Strategi. Eubios Jurnal of Asian and International Biotechics Vol (6), November
- Waweru, R. (2015). Factors which promote community participation in the community driven development approach. *International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies*, 6959(13), 2349-6959.
- Huma Zafar, (2016). *Empowering Women: NGOs Project Impacts in Baluchistan-Pakistan*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Western Sydney University, Australia

