

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Since 1971, United Arab Emirates had been a federation state in the Arab region that has the fastest growing in terms of population. The rapid growth has been affecting the federation in many aspects; politics, economy, socio-culture, as well as education. The United Arab Emirates which applies both sharia and civil law has grown very unique in its implementation, including the status of women.

Women and girls in the United Arab Emirates are preserving both tradition and modern values. It has become a common value in the respective state that women take role as a mother. However, with the growing of population in which more than 80% are expatriates, the United Arab Emirates, particularly the Arab women, are much affected by the acculturation and the traditional culture is somewhat shifted naturally.

Emirati women have been enormously adapting with the situation, in which proven by the increasing numbers of women in the university graduates that turns out exceed that of men. Also, in the workforce, Emirati women cover up to more than 60 per cents. Women in politics nowadays reach up to 30 per cents from previously 22.5 per cents. Numerous businesswoman and women students with well achievements are also growing in the United Arab Emirates.

Although women in another fields have been very successful, women in politics needs more. Emirati women should be well-preserved and familiar with political

sphere, especially in their representation in the parliament. UAE women are entitled to the higher level of political participation and should they are involved in the decision making process. The UAE needs to flourish its gender mainstreaming activities in order to introduce the real contribution of women to the society. The involvement of women in the government sector can rejoice the equality and narrow the gender gap between female and their male counterpart.

In mainstreaming the gender equality for the future of women, the advocacy by international, state and civil society actors is highly needed. In this undergraduate thesis, the author had chosen UN Women, UAE Government, and UAE's General Women's Union. Numbers of action for supports towards encouraging the UAE in increasing women's representation in political realm, particularly in the parliaments, has been exercised by the three main actors. Partnerships, provisions and recommendations, as well as publications have been among the process.

The UAE has been working on elevating its achievements in gender mainstreaming. The respective state ranked second in the Arab region as the most improved states in empowering women as the form of implementing the gender equality promotion. The UAE has also been the very pioneer of the country which has the only Gender Balance Council within the region.

Advocacy is all about the process, in which the results are often beyond the expectation. The fact that UAE remains exercising the sheikhdom and hereditary

rules, it has never been easy to address the recommendations in terms of criticism, or it has never been easy to influence the government. The UAE nurtures the political stability with the responsibility is taken care by the relatives. As the advocacy process is still ongoing, the UAE goals to achieve gender equality in the possible near future.

The United Arab Emirates' achievement in empowering women for the last few decades has been giving an actual lesson that political system in a monarch state with the famous traditional patriarchal and hereditary rules affects not to the fundamental rights of Emirati women to flourish and pursue their dreams in political engagement. The idealism and reality in the United Arab Emirates that often being opposite to each other has never been hampered the Emirati citizens to view the importance of gender equality and women's role.