

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

The author does this research to understand the advocacy process conducted by the local women's movements in Myanmar for increasing the number of women representatives in Myanmar's Parliament. It is presented in the chapter one that this research has three objectives; describing the urgency of women's representation in Myanmar's Parliament, describing the advocacy process to increase the women's representation in Myanmar's Parliament, and describing the typology of each local women's movements in addressing this issue.

It is evident that women's representation in parliament is important nowadays because women's voices need to be heard so that the policy will ensure the equality of gender. The high violation against women can be caused by the absence of pro-women's rights legislation and policy. The more women underrepresented in the parliament, the more women vulnerable to the violations against them. Furthermore, democracy guarantees the equal participation of men and women in politics, because everyone is equal. The low representation of women in Myanmar's Parliament prior to 2015 election when women only accounted for 3.7% of the parliaments in the union and state/region level leads to the effort for increasing the number of women's representation in parliament.

There are many factors which hamper women to participate in the decision-making process. The author argues that there are at least four main causes which are the barrier from socio-cultural, education, finance, and legal and institution. The patriarchal culture preserved in the country has defined the gender role that women are only responsible to the housework and men are responsible to work in public sectors, including in the decision-making body. This leads to the situation where women are less-educated than men because the family in Myanmar prefer to spend their money on

bringing their son to the school instead of their daughters. The low education level of women results in the lack of confidence for women to run and compete for the election with the men candidates. Additionally, the women candidates face the short of finance for campaign purposes and to support them to win the election. The most significant obstacles come from the government and also political party in Myanmar which hard to include women. This situation raises the women's rights activists to advocate this issue for increasing the number of women MPs.

According to those facts, the author decides to use the Boomerang Pattern's model of advocacy from Keck & Sikkink (1998) and also the logic of appropriateness from March & Olsen (2010) as the theoretical frameworks in analyzing the issue. The local women's movements, namely the Women's League of Burma (WLB), Gender Equality Network (GEN) and Women's Organization Network (WON) initiated to establish the transnational network with the foreign NGOs as they were restricted by the government of Myanmar. The foreign NGOs such as the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), Trócaire, and the Asia Foundation are among many foreign NGOs which work with the local women's movements to advocate this issue. Those foreign NGOs collaboratively conducted many programs and projects which aimed to address those aforementioned obstacles for women to be the representatives in parliament of Myanmar, such as the Myanmar's Women Forum, Emerging Leadership Political Empowerment School, Women Leadership Training Needs and Training Initiatives, and Political Awareness of Communities and Civic Education of their Representatives (PACER) programs.

The network will only be effective if there is a pressure from the international actors. In this case, the network was supported by the foreign states such as Australia, the European Union and the United States as well as the United Nations in pressuring the Myanmar's Government and political parties. For instance, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted the draft resolution in 2008

condemning the government to take particular action in implementing CEDAW. Not only that, various of sanctions and suspension upon the development aid from some foreign states such as Australia, the European Union, and the United States of America make Myanmar's Government being pressured and forced them to take action, and in this case is to increase the women's representation in its parliament.

As a result of the transnational advocacy initiated by the local women's movements, the number of women's representation in parliament of Myanmar is increasing ever since. It was from 3.7% to 10.08% in which women in Myanmar was getting more represented in the parliament despite the fact that it is still far under the global average. There are some major political parties in Myanmar which started to pilot the women's quota in its recruitment process as well as in giving more women the opportunity to run the election in 2015. The significant result also can be seen by the adoption of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022 in Myanmar which enables the 30% women's quota in the legislative, executive and judicial political branches. The changes of behavior of the government and political party of Myanmar due to the international pressure to obey the rule of law explain the state is acting by using the logic of appropriateness

From the research above, the author also can classify those three women's organization according to its works in advocating this issue. Women's League of Burma (WLB) as the first women's umbrella organization which based in the border of Myanmar and Thailand is a women-focused organization with all women members and its resistance to the government's policy. In doing its advocacy, WLB was supported by the opposition coalition and also decided to work internationally rather than to work with the government directly. Unlike WLB, Gender Equality Network and Women's Organizations are the network organizations which comprising many member organizations, domestic or international. These two organizations focus on gender equality whereby we can see from its organizational structure

that is not only women who run the organization, but also men. In doing its work, these two organizations are more collaborative with the Government of Myanmar proven by its active role in drafting the government-draft of NSPAW. Despite the different characteristics, those three women's movements in Myanmar have proved their pivotal role in advocating the issue for increasing the women's representation in Myanmar's Parliament.