



BOOK: GOVERNING WOMEN: WOMEN'S POLITICAL EFFECTIVENESS IN CONTEXTS OF DEMOCRATIZATION AND GOVERNANCE REFORM

ANNE MARIE GOETZ (EDITOR)

Despite many obstacles women face in prevailing social and economic systems as well as existing political structures throughout the world, women are running for public office in growing numbers. As of 2008, they have reached an average of 18.4 per cent of seats in national assemblies, exceeding 30 per cent in 22 countries. Certainly, there is an upward trend in women's representation from which we may expect big changes in the quality of governance including the striking outliers – Rwanda with 49% of its assembly female, Argentina with 35%, and Liberia and Chile with new women presidents in 2006. In terms of shaping public policy-making and democratizing power relations, the growing women's participation in public office is encouraging. But getting into public office is just the first step in the challenge of creating governance and accountability systems that respond to women's needs and protect their rights.

Using a wide variety of regional and country case studies from around the world (South Asia, East-Central Europe, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa; Algeria, China, Egypt, Jordan, South Africa and Uganda), the essays in this volume, edited by Anne Marie Goetz, consider the conditions for effective connections between women in civil society and women in politics, for the evolution of political party platforms responsive to women's interests, for local government arrangements that enable women to engage effectively, and for accountability mechanisms that answer to women. The book's argument is that good governance from a gender perspective requires more than women in politics. It requires fundamental incentive changes to orient public action and policy to support gender equality.

Notes to editors

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- As a political scientist and Senior Fellow of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, **Anne Marie Goetz** has focused her work on the politics of pro-poor, gender equitable development. Her theoretical work relates to debates on accountability and good governance, and her empirical research has involved studies of poor people's anti-corruption initiatives, and the challenges of long-term institutional change and capacity-building in developing country service bureaucracies. She has conducted research in India, Bangladesh, Uganda, and South Africa.
- Contents:
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