Research Article

Do Voters Vote For Female Leaders in the General Election in 2024?

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Abstract.
The study aimed to obtain empirical data regarding public perceptions related to female leadership and public acceptance of female presidential candidates in 2024, considering that the previous female leadership were not accepted. The research approach used was quantitative, using surveys. The survey was conducted in 34 provinces in Indonesia. The results of the research showed that women tend to support female candidates as leaders, while some men were still doubtful of women's abilities as leaders. The younger generation was more open to women as leaders, while the older generation was more conservative. Support for female candidates was also associated with higher earnings. The potential to overcome gender stereotypes and old norms emerges through shifting the views of the younger generation, increasing gender awareness and better education. In conclusion, society's view of women in leadership is influenced by gender, age, and economy. Efforts to change this view are important for achieving gender equality and assessing leaders based on quality and potential, independent of gender.

Keywords: Perception; Leaders; Women; 2024 General Election

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1. Introduction

Democracy is the best form of government. But we have the right to ask: Why is democracy the preferred form of government? The answer that is usually given is that the democracy is considered the most preferred form of government because in a democracy, people rule through their elected representatives. (1)

The 2024 General Election is faced with an interesting phenomenon that has become a hot topic of discussion among the public, namely the increasing presence and role of women as leaders in the political context. The public's perception of women leaders prior to the election is the main focus in facing the current era that is increasingly inclusive and egalitarian. Along with social change and the spirit of women's empowerment, there has been a transformation in society's view of women's competency and capability in leading. (2)

Society's perception of women leaders in this regard has undergone a significant shift from time to time. In the beginning, stereotypes and dominant patriarchal views attached to culture made some people lack confidence and doubt about women's ability to become leaders. However, thanks to the active role of women in various sectors, especially in the educational, economic and social fields, this perception has begun to erode and has been replaced by appreciation for their contribution to nation building. (3)

It cannot be denied, the role of several female leaders who have been successful in political leadership and government has provided great inspiration for the community. Their success stories and dedication prove that women are able to act as significant agents of change in creating justice, stability and progress for society. This has increasingly changed people's views and increased acceptance of female candidates in the upcoming election. (4)

However, on the other hand, the public's perception of female leaders is still marked by challenges and prejudice. Some people still question the capability of women in dealing with complex political situations, with the view that women may tend to be weaker in making decisions or managing crises. In addition, negative stereotypes related to stronger or dominant leadership qualities, which a leader should have, also become an obstacle for female leaders in gaining full support from the community. (5)

The reality of leadership representation in Indonesia is often dominated by male. Starting from heads of state, many public and private organizations are led by male leaders, even though female have equal representation rights and women's experience is also needed in political life. (6)

History records that the only female leader who has ever been the head of the Indonesian state is Megawati Sukarno Putri, the 5th president of the Republic of Indonesia. During the 12 times elections in Indonesia since the 1955-2019 election, female representation in the legislature in the DPR-RI has never reached the 30% quota given by the state, but there has been an increase in female representation in each election, most recently in the 2019 elections female representation in the DPR-RI reached the figure is 20.87% or 120 of the 575 members of the DPR. (7)

The domination of male is not only in legislative elections, in regional elections, for example, out of 34 provinces that conducted regional elections, only 1 woman became governor, then out of 514 districts/cities only 13 people became female mayors/regents in the last election. (8)

Then the question is what are the factors that cause the underrepresentation of women? Several studies have shown that this is due to stereotypes, a patriarchal

culture that is still rooted in society, the political system, and women themselves which hinder women from advancing as political leaders. Meanwhile, the developing stereotype considers men to be stronger, firmer, tougher, more responsive and rational than women. Meanwhile, society expects leaders with their criteria to be pinned on the male gender, so that men are considered more appropriate.(9)

Ahead of the 2024 elections, a number of female figures have emerged as presidential and vice presidential candidates. The emergence of female figures ahead of the 2024 elections is an interesting issue and is quite a hot topic of conversation in society. For a democratic country, state leaders do not recognize gender differences, both women and men have the opportunity to become heads of the state depending on their potential to influence many people and prosper their country. (10)

This research departs from the issue of female leaders prior to the 2024 elections. A lot of research has been conducted on women's leadership, but this research will look at how society's perceptions of female leaders ahead of the 2024 elections and this research aims to obtain empirical data regarding people's perceptions related to women's leadership and public acceptance of female presidential candidates in 2024. Research on public perception is important to conduct considering that female leadership previously received many cons from society.

2. Research Method

This study uses a quantitative research approach. The sampling technique uses multistage random sampling. With this sampling method, the multistage used as a benchmark for determining the sample is the district, sub-district, and so on. This multistage sampling method is used in two stages, namely the initial stage by determining the number of sample areas, and the next stage by determining the people in the area by sampling. (11) With a total sample of 1,240 people.

This research involves Indonesian people who already have the right to vote or are 17 years old. This was done because with these criteria the community was considered to already have reason and a good way of speaking, in accordance with the attitude of maturity and the level of knowledge that was considered to have developed towards good reasoning. Partisan gender composition is 50% male and 50% female. Researchers used simple random sampling to determine the respondents who were given the questionnaire. Researchers used simple random sampling to determine which respondents would be given a questionnaire.
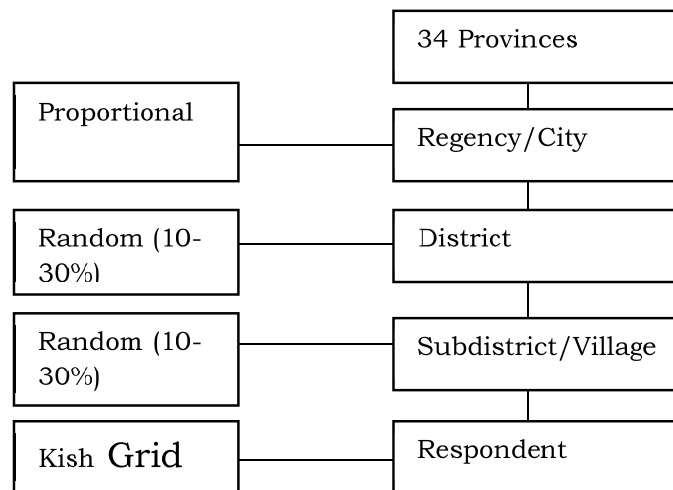
Figure 1: Sampling Collection Technique.

According to Tan, perception is a process of sensory cues and relevant past experiences organized to give us a structured and meaningful picture of a particular situation. (12) Perception comes from individual experience obtained from the process of capturing phenomena around the environment where the individual is resided, which is then interpreted so as to give rise to a certain response to something.

According to Elena Shestopal, political perception is a person's view that is influenced by cognitive, emotional and behavioral factors. Studies on political perceptions focus on analyzing the images and responses from society about various aspects of politics such as responses to influence, power, leadership, electability of political candidates. (13)

3. Result

3.1. Characteristics of Respondents

Community's perceptions of leadership in the public sector need to be analyzed, especially women's leadership. The field survey succeeded in obtaining the information from respondents with a total of 1,240 respondents with various characteristics. The first characteristic is gender. Gender is a consideration in obtaining good data, the more proportional the gender of the respondents interviewed, the better the data obtained. In this survey, 50% of respondents were male and 50% female. This shows that the data obtained to see public perceptions of female leadership ahead of the 2024 election is proportional and can reach perceptions between men and women. As can be seen in table 1 below:

TABLE 1: Characteristics of Respondents by Gender.

Gender	Percentage (%)
Male	50
Female	50
Total	100

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

The age of the respondent will also affect the data obtained because the perspective between older respondents will certainly be different from younger respondents. From the results of the survey conducted, it was found that the respondents consisted of various ages ranging from 17 to over 62 years old (Table 1) so that the data obtained included all ages. The frequency distribution is as follows:

TABLE 2: Characteristics of Respondents by Age.

Age	Percentage (%)
17-22 year	5,6
23-28 year	12,3
29-34 year	11,2
35-40 year	15,0
40-45 year	14,9
46-50 year	12,9
51-56 year	13,6
57-61 year	6,0
>62 year	8,5
Total	100

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

The education level of the respondents will also affect the variation in the data of the research because the responses given by the respondents will vary depending on their level of education, for example, junior high school graduates will of course give different responses to respondents who have graduated from high school or bachelor's degree. In this study, the respondents had different educational compositions which ultimately had implications for the results of this survey as can be seen in the following table:

Furthermore, the characteristics of respondents are based on Average Gross Spending/Month. The characteristics of the respondents appear to vary based on the level of gross expenditure/month. Most of the respondents have an average gross expenditure

TABLE 3: Characteristics of Respondents by Education Level.

Education	Percentage (%)
Never School	2,4
Did not finish elementary school or equivalent	8,1
Graduated from Elementary School or equivalent	18,7
Junior high school or equivalent	21,6
High school graduate or equivalent	38,9
Graduated D1/D2/D3	2,6
Graduated S1	7,3
Graduated S2/S3	,3
Total	**100**

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

of between Rp. 2000,000 to 3,999,999 as many as 30.3% and the lowest is less than Rp. 500,000 with a percentage of 4.8%.

TABLE 4: Characteristics of Respondents According to Average Gross Spending/Month.

Average Gross Spending	Percentage (%)
kurang dari Rp. 500.000	4,8
Rp. 500.000 – Rp. 999.999	15,2
Rp. 1.000.000 – Rp. 1.999.999	29,2
Rp. 2.000.000 – Rp. 3.999.999	30,3
Rp. 4.000.000 or more	9,4
No answer	11,1
Total	**100**

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

The characteristics of respondents based on religion consist of all religions in Indonesia, namely Islam, Protestant Christianity, Catholic Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism (Table 5). The largest number of respondents are Muslims, namely 93%, because the majority of Indonesian people are Muslims.

3.2. Proximity of Respondents with Political Parties

At this time, the closeness of society to political parties has become a major concern in the journey of a country's democracy. In political life, political parties become a key element that connects society with the political decision-making process and government.

TABLE 5: Characteristics of Respondents by Religion.

Religion	Percentage (%)
Islam	93,0
Christian Protestant	3,3
Catholic Christian	2,3
Hindu	1,1
Buddha	,1
Konghutchu	,1
Total	**100**

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

This closeness is reflected in the support, trust, and active involvement of citizens in political activities.

A political party that has a strong affinity with the people usually succeeds in building an emotional and rational relationship with the people. This includes an in-depth understanding of the societal aspirations, needs and problems that the party prioritizes in its political agenda. Political parties that have good affinity with the community also try to get closer by communicating openly and transparently, as well as providing a platform that allows citizens to actively participate in discussions and decision-making.

The closeness of the community to political parties is also influenced by the views and values shared by the party. Political parties that are able to fight for issues that are relevant and important to society, such as the economy, education, health, environment and social justice, tend to be more accepted and supported by citizens.

Thus, the closeness of the society to the political parties is a reflection of how political parties are able to respond and represent the aspirations and interests of the people. This is the key to building a more inclusive and representative political system, as well as strengthening the foundations of a healthy and sustainable democracy.

Based on the results of research that has been conducted regarding the closeness of respondents to political parties in Indonesia, it was found that the majority of respondents, namely as many as 59.4%, did not feel close to any of the political parties. Meanwhile, 33.2% of the respondents stated that they felt close to a political party. (Table 1.6).

From these results, it can be concluded that most respondents have a much lower perception of closeness to political parties compared to those who feel close. This shows the potential to increase involvement and engagement between political parties and society in order to strengthen political participation in Indonesia.

Category	Percentage (%)
No	59,4
Yes	33,2
No Answer	7,4
Total	**100**

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

3.3. Public perception of female presidential candidates in the 2024 election

Perception is a series of processes that starts from sensing which is then processed where the individual responds to something that happens, then determines the attitudes towards social reality that occurs in social life. With perception, individuals will be aware of the circumstances around them and also their own condition.

Based on the results of research on Indonesian people's perceptions of female leadership prior to the 2024 elections, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents still tend to be sceptical of the idea of women becoming presidential candidates. The number of respondents who disagreed (51.9%) was higher than those who agreed (47.7%). as can be seen in the following table:
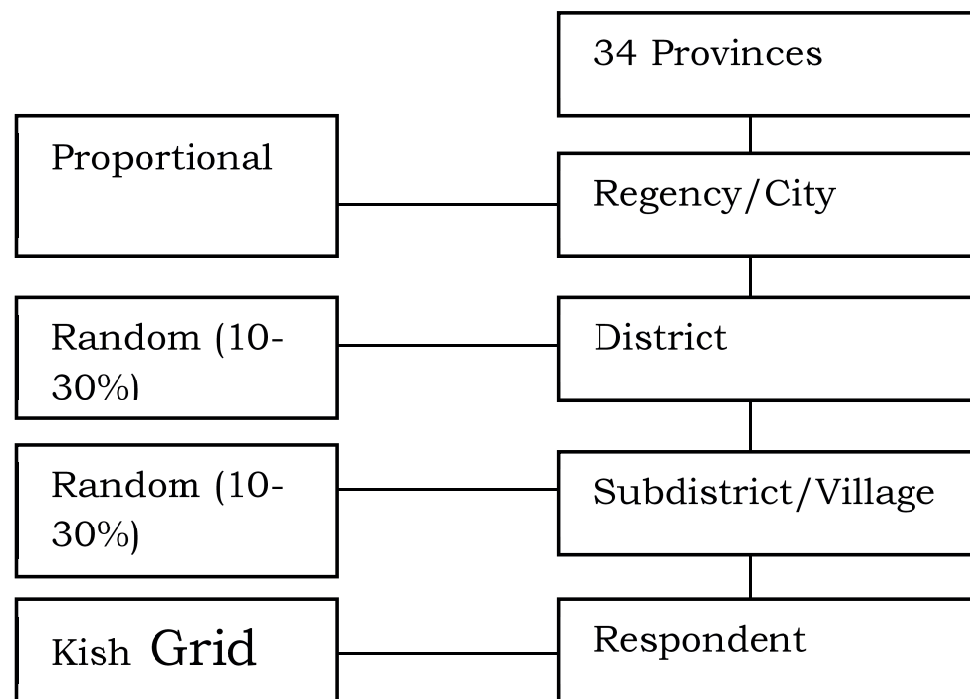

Figure 2: Diagram of the Frequency of Public Perceptions of the 2024 Female President. Source: Primary data processed, 2022.

The results of this study indicate that first, people's perceptions are still influenced by gender stereotypes, where there is an assumption that men are more suitable and capable in leadership roles than women. These stereotypes can hinder women's advancement in politics and leadership.

Second, tough challenges for female candidates. The higher number of respondents who disagree indicates that female presidential candidates may face tough challenges in gaining public support. They have to overcome prejudice and scepticism much more than male candidates.

Third, women's political representation, the results of this study also indicate that although there has been progress in women's representation in various fields, women's political representation is still a relevant issue in Indonesia. Further efforts are needed to increase community participation and support for women in politics.

Fourth, education and educational campaigns. One way to overcome negative perceptions is through stronger education and campaigns. Public education about the importance of gender equality and the role of women in leadership can help change the perceptions and expand the support for female candidates.

Fifth, support for political parties. The role of political parties is also crucial in encouraging women's representation in politics. Political parties can take concrete steps to advance women's political careers, such as providing equal opportunities and financial support.

In order to achieve gender equality and create an inclusive society, it is important for all levels of society to change negative perceptions of women in political leadership. The 2024 election is an important moment to intensify these efforts, so that female candidates have a fair chance and receive broad support from the public.

The large number of public perceptions that disagree with female presidential candidates correlates with the people's electability of female presidential candidates with a percentage of 62.4% not voting, while 37.47% chose female presidential candidates.

The percentage of 62.4% of people who do not vote for a female presidential candidate shows that most people still have a negative view of the possibility of a woman becoming president. The reasons why people do not vote can range from traditional gender views inherent in society, stereotypes that women are incompetent in government affairs, to limited perceptions of women's roles and abilities as state leaders. From the data that the researchers obtained, the public perceptions that were taken into consideration in selecting female leaders prior to the 2024 elections can be seen in the following table:
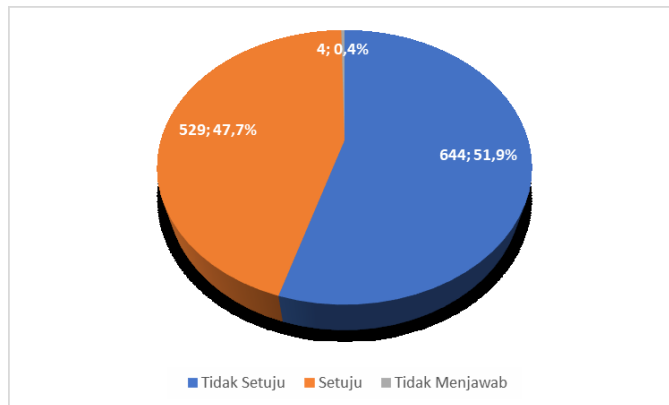
Figure 3: Public perception frequency diagram electing a female president in 2024. Source: Primary data processed, 2022

TABLE 7: Public Perceptions of women leaders prior to the 2024 elections.

1.	Women are less calm, less assertive and motherly
2.	Women are not suitable to be leaders, because it is their nature to be in the household so the leader must be a man
3.	Depending on the vision and mission, capacity, performance and competence
4.	Emancipation of women
5.	Religion does not encourage women to be leaders, leaders are men
6.	Want a change
7.	Women and men have the same rights

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

From the table above, it can be seen that the respondents' perceptions of female leaders prior to the 2024 elections differ. Respondents who did not vote for women to become presidents thought that women should be placed in their nature as mothers, stereotypes that consider women to be less assertive, less calm and emotional that make women unsuitable as leaders. Respondents' perceptions are also associated with religious values which are believed to reject women from becoming leaders, moreover as state leaders. Contrary to the perception above, respondents who chose female leaders argued that selecting leaders was not based on genre but based on the vision and mission, performance and competencies of the candidates. So it is only natural that there is a female presidential candidate and will vote for her if the candidate is competent to become a president. Respondents also believed that female leaders were a change from the general election climate which had always been dominated by men. According to Elena Shestopal, this perception is formed by the cognitive component where the respondent's judgment comes from a person's rationality and personal analysis of the object of perception.

The above perceptions when compared with gender, age and average gross income, the results are as follows:

TABLE 8: Comparison of Community Perceptions Based on Gender.

Comparison		Agree that women will become presidential candidates		Choose a female candidate to become president in 2014	
		No	Yes	No	Yes
Gender	Male	374	243	431	186
	Female	270	349	340	278

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

The following are some points of analysis that can be taken from the information of comparing public perceptions based on gender:

Preference patterns based on gender, data show that more men express disapproval of female presidential candidates, while more women support female candidates. This can be explained by many factors, including cultural norms, traditionally assigned roles in society, and perceptions of leadership and ability based on gender.

Women's support for female leaders. The finding that women are more likely to support the female candidates can be interpreted as an effort to fight for women's representation in higher leadership positions. This reflects the aspiration to address the gender gap and provide women's voice in political decision-making processes.

The importance of women's representation and image, a sense of pride and efforts to increase the degree and image of women in society are positive signs. The selection of women as presidential candidates can be considered as an important step to overcome gender stereotypes and prove that women are also capable and deserve to lead.

Disbelief in women leaders, the fact that many men do not support women candidates can illustrate a lack of confidence in women's abilities as leaders. This could be caused by gender stereotypes that are still inherent in society, where the traditional role of men as leaders is more recognized than the role of women.

Emotional components in assessment, judgments based on gender tend to be influenced by emotional components, such as individual perceptions, expectations, and beliefs about the role of each gender in society. This factor can play an important role in shaping preferences and support for presidential candidates.

Overall, preferences based on gender in political contexts are often complex and influenced by a variety of cultural, social, and emotional factors. This analysis underscores the importance of understanding these dynamics in order to promote gender equality and better representation in political leadership.

TABLE 9: Comparison of Community Perceptions Based on Age.

Comparison		Agree that women will become presidential candidates		Choose a female candidate to become president in 2014	
		Tidak	Ya	Tidak	Ya
Age	17-22 year	33	36	45	25
	23-28 year	70	82	96	56
	29-34 year	66	73	72	66
	35-40 year	103	81	120	65
	40-45 year	101	84	120	64
	46-50 year	89	71	99	60
	51-56 year	93	76	110	58
	57-61 year	38	36	47	27
	>62 year	51	53	62	43

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

The following are some points of analysis that can be drawn from the information of comparing the people's perceptions by age:

Differences in support for female presidential candidates, data shows that younger age groups, especially respondents aged 17-22 years and 23-28 years, have a higher level of approval of female presidential candidates and are more likely to vote for female candidates as president. This reflects a shift in the views of the younger generation towards gender and leadership, where they are more open to the opportunities and potential of women as leaders.

The influence of education and cultural awareness, the younger generation, especially those aged 23-34 years, seem to be more aware of cultural developments and thoughts about the role of women in leadership. This factor could have been influenced by a more inclusive education and wider access to information, which allows them to have a more advanced and open view of social change.

Emphasis on quality and performance, the observation that the 23-34 year age group is more likely to view leaders in terms of quality, performance, and education, rather than gender, reflects a shift in more rational, merit-based assessments of leadership. This shows that there are efforts to overcome gender stereotypes in the evaluation of prospective leaders.

Conservatism and openness, the data also illustrates that the older age group, especially over 57 years, has a lower level of approval for female presidential candidates. This may reflect a conservative attitude in their views on gender roles and leadership.

However, it is important to note that there are also a number of respondents from this age group who support female candidates.

TABLE 10: Comparison of Community Perceptions Based on Income.

Comparison		Agree that women will become presidential candidates		Choose a female candidate to become president in 2014	
		No	Yes	No	Yes
Gross Income	Less than 500.000	31	28	39	20
	500.000-999.999	100	87	130	57
	1.000.000-1.999.999	175	185	218	144
	2.000.000-3.999.999	204	172	235	140
	4.000.000 or more	65	51	71	45
	No Answer	69	69	78	58

Source: Primary data processed, 2022

Overall, this analysis indicates significant differences in perceptions of female presidential candidates based on age. The younger generation tends to be more open to changes in leadership culture and more accepting of women in leadership positions based on quality and performance. On the other hand, the older generation may still have more traditional views on gender and leadership.

The following are some points of analysis that can be taken from the comparative information of people's perceptions of income:

Economic influence on political views, there are interesting patterns that emerge in the data. In general, respondents with higher gross incomes tended to be more in agreement with the presence of a female presidential candidate and to vote for a female presidential candidate more, especially in the 2014 election. This could imply that as income increases, there is a tendency to be more open to women in positions of leadership.

Disapproval of low income, it can be seen that respondents with a gross income of less than 500,000 have a higher level of disapproval of female presidential candidates. This could reflect different concerns or priorities in the lower economic context, where some respondents may perceive economic issues as more important than gender in political leadership.

Quality and performance considerations, although there are patterns showing a relationship between income and support for female presidential candidates, there

are variations in each income group. some respondents with lower incomes still agreed and voted for female candidates, while some respondents with higher incomes still disagreed. this could indicate that factors other than economics, such as candidate quality and performance, also play an important role in political judgments.

Linkage does not answer with uncertainty, there are a number of respondents who do not provide answers to this question. this could reflect uncertainty or perhaps a lack of clarity in their views of women in leadership positions. they may need more information or understanding before making a decision.

Overall, this analysis indicates a link between economic factors, political views, and perceptions of female presidential candidates. Although income appears to influence views, it is important to remember that other factors such as the quality of candidates and political values also play a role in shaping voter preferences.

4. Conclusion

The conclusion that can be drawn illustrates the complexity of society's view of women in the context of political leadership. First, the differences in preferences by gender reveal that women tend to be more supportive of female candidates for president, while feeling proud of these aspirations, while some men still show disapproval, perhaps due to a lack of confidence in women's abilities as leaders. Second, through an analysis of age, it appears that the younger generation has a more inclusive and open attitude towards women as leaders, with an emphasis on quality and performance, while the older generation still reflects more traditional gender norms. Third, the analysis related to income indicates a positive relationship between higher income and support for female presidential candidates, possibly due to broader views, quality judgments, and different priorities in the economic context.

However, all these analysis show that shifting views of the younger generation, increased gender awareness, and better education have the potential to overcome gender stereotypes and old norms in society. In conclusion, societal views of women in positions of political leadership are the result of complex dynamics and are influenced by a number of factors such as gender, age and economy. Efforts to change this perception will be important in encouraging the realization of gender equality and creating leaders based on quality and potential, regardless of gender.

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Second Author biography appears here. Degrees achieved followed by current employment are listed, plus any major academic achievements. Do not specify email address here.

Third Author biography appears here. Do not specify email address here.

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