The Role of Women’s Civil Societal Organizations in the Local Participation of Women in Turkey

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Abstract- This paper will focus on the role of women’s civil societal organizations in the participation of women in social and political activities at the local level in Turkey. Based upon an empirical study that I have conducted on 66 women’s organizations in seven cities of Turkey, this paper tries to answer the questions of how far women’s civil societal organizations are active to dominate the decision making process in the local level. In order to understand their roles in that respect I will analyze the relationship between women’s organizations and various units of the local governments in Turkey as well as their relationships with local branches of political parties. My paper will also analyze how women’s organizations are mobilizing women in the area of social responsibility. In order to do that I will review the performance of women’s organizations in six areas of social responsibility mostly towards women, i.e., women’s education, health care services for women, protection of the environment, eradication of poverty, the struggle against domestic violence against women, and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

Keywords- Women civil society political participation democracy local governments local democracy.

Remark: The full paper may be found in www.inrit2011.com or www.ijcim.th.org.