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Do Female Members of Parliament Boost Women's Electoral Participation in Türkiye?

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ABSTRACT

We investigated whether presence of female parliament members raise women's electoral participation in Türkiye, using the probit procedure. This issue was not studied for Türkiye or for other Muslim-majority countries. Another novelty of our study is the use of both micro-level and macro-level variables simultaneously, unlike other turnout studies on Türkiye. Furthermore, we control a wider range of variables in each of these categories than them. Our results show that women's propensity to vote is related to residing in an electoral district with large number of female members of parliament, age (at least until 49), and being married positively, and to being an ethnic minority, having children under 6, living in an urban area, living in an electoral district with a large number of parliament members and large effective number of parties, negatively. Education and household wealth have inverted-U shaped relationships with women's probability to vote. Being a migrant reduces likelihood of voting unless it occurs in a province with heavy migrant concentration and large number of parliament members.

KEYWORDS Türkiye; election turnout; voter behavior; political participation by women; women's descriptive representation; internal migration

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