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(IJPPA) **The Role of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) in Enhancing Women's
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in Tanzania: A Case of Dodoma City**



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The Role of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) in Enhancing Women's Political Participation in Leadership Positions in Local Government Elections in Tanzania: A Case of Dodoma City

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: To explore the role of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) in enhancing women's political participation in leadership positions in local government elections in Tanzania.

Methodology: The study used realism philosophy through which qualitative approach was engaged. It employed phenomenology design and in-depth interview, semi-structured interview, focus group discussion and documentary review to collect data. It engaged the sample size of 30 participants who were selected by using purposive sampling techniques. In-depth interview data were analyzed with the help of content analysis and presented by means of words, phrases and quotations; the structured interview data were classified, tallied, counted and computed into percentages and presented in the form of figures, tables and percentages; and focus group discussion were analysed by establishing the criteria to be used in identifying the data.

Findings: The study revealed that CCM party enhanced women's political participation for leadership positions in local government elections by recruiting, nominating and electing women candidates; and developing competency of women candidates.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Policy and Practice: The study recommended that CCM party should enhance women's political participation for leadership positions in local government elections by creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that can lead women to aspire for political office. This study contributed to Liberal Feminism Theory by highlighting how official and non-official institutions within political parties promulgated inequalities in gender. In terms of policy, policymakers could use the results of the study to design training programmes for women candidates that incentivize gender-balanced accounts. In practice, the study equipped civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, political parties, and activists with actionable approaches to enhance women's political participation.

Keywords: *CCM Party, Women, Political, Participation*

JEL Codes: *D72, J16, P48*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Political parties remain as the major entities through which people can choose their representatives and are conceivably indispensable institutions for democratic politics and representation (International IDEA, 2020). Globally, the under-representation of women in political party's representation has been recognized as a key issue in achieving sustainable and inclusive governance. Specifically, political parties tend to create barriers for women and are generally underperforming on their representative functions pertaining to the equal participation and representation of women in positions of power (Kandawasvika-Nhundu, 2021). In other words, political parties are consistently identified as responsible for women's under-representation, given their role as the main 'gatekeepers' to elective positions of power at all levels in most countries (International IDEA, 2021). This applies to positions within parties, as well as all elected political positions at the national or local government levels. However, the participation of women in political position was changing over long period time and it varied from one country to another. For instance, in United Kingdom (UK), it was just after 1918 when women became eligible to be Members of Parliament (MPs). Between 1918 and 2023, there were 564 individual women elected to the House of Commons; 55% were first elected as Labour MPs and 31% as Conservative MPs (UK Parliament, 2024). However, the situation in USA is quite different considering the first woman to be elected to Congress was Jeannette Rankin in 1917 and by 2019 Nevada became the first state with majority- women (62%) state legislature (Brechenmacher & Treadwell, 2024).

In Africa, however, political parties constitute the bedrock of constitutional democracies through which they ensure participation of women in all spheres of governance, including the national assemblies and local government by setting up constitutional and legislated quotas. For instance, in South Africa, African National Congress (ANC) in 2006 adopted a 50% gender quota in local elections; in Kenya, Jubilee Party (DP) in article 28(2) provides that in constituting party organs, no one gender shall comprise more than two thirds (2/3) of membership; and in Cameroon, Social Democratic Front (SDF) has adopted 25% quota for women (Morna & Tolmay, 2024). Other parties exercising quota system in Africa include Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) in Kenya which provides a quota of not less than one third women in all organs, appointments, committees and nomination lists to ensure effective participation; National Resistance Movement (NRM) in Uganda whose constitution stipulates that, 40% of the positions shall be reserved for women except in cases where it is impractical to do so; and the UDF aims to have 25% of its parliamentary seats held by women (Morna & Tolmay, 2024).

Tanzania's political system has experienced significant reforms since the introduction of multi-party democracy in 1992. Local government elections are held every five years, and these elections provide an opportunity for citizens to engage in grassroots-level governance. However, women's political participation in the elections for the leadership position has often been low due to a range

of factors, including patriarchal attitudes, limited access to resources, limited continuity of tenure in the political office, and weak political party support (Josephine & George, 2023). Nevertheless, there have been concerted efforts by the government and political parties to improve the situation. Some of the most significant efforts include adopting gender quotas, reserved seats, and other affirmative action policies to increase the number of women in political positions. For instance, Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) manifesto set out to attain 50% women representation in all elective bodies by 2015 (Lihiru, 2023).

In Tanzania, the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) has been the dominant political party since its establishment in 1977. The party has played a significant role in shaping the country's political landscape, including efforts to increase women's political participation in leadership position. However, despite these initiatives, there is a persistent gap in the number of women elected for local government leadership positions as well as their participation. Several factors contribute to this gap in most regions in Tanzania including Dodoma city. This was attributed to limited political education, financial constraints, cultural barriers, and the internal dynamics of political parties. Dodoma, as the capital city of Tanzania, holds a strategic position in the country's political system. The city has experienced rapid growth and urbanization, leading to increased political activities and participation and being the headquarters of CCM. As the administrative centre, Dodoma also serves as a focal point for examining the broader national trends in political participation, including women's involvement in local government election. Despite Dodoma's growing political prominence, women's political participation in local government elections in leadership positions remains limited. Understanding the role of CCM in enhancing women's political involvement in Dodoma can provide insights into broader national challenges and opportunities. The study therefore, sought to assess the role of CCM in enhancing women's political participation in local government elections in leadership positions by focusing on how CCM party recruit, nominate, and elect women candidates; develop competency of women candidates; and create and promote conditions and opportunities for women candidates in Dodoma City.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Women in Tanzania do not generally participate in or influence party's election nomination and their role is often limited to symbolic functions and adhering to the party line as required by the predominately male leadership (Kandawasvika-Nhundu, 2021). However, failure to enhance women's political participation in party's representation deprives women of their right to participate effectively in the governance of their societies (International IDEA, 2020). Some of the concerted efforts by the government and political parties to improve the women's political participation in leadership positions include adopting gender quotas, reserved seats, being signatory to international conventions and committed to promoting gender parity in politics. Most studies whose attention was drawn towards women's political participation focused on factors

restricting women to contest for leadership position (Amina, 2020; Kenyatta, 2023; Makalanga et al., 2022); and others determined the strategies for enhancing women's political participation in election (Laburisti & Laburista, 2024; Lihiru, 2023). While celebrating the efforts made by the government and political parties, little was known about the role of CCM party in enhancing women's political participation. It was against such background that this study assessed the role of CCM in enhancing women's political participation in local government elections in Tanzania.

2.0 LITERTAURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

This study was guided by the Political Party Theory that was founded by Michels (1915). Political party theory examines how parties' function, their internal dynamics, and their influence on political processes, including elections. According to this theory, political parties are gatekeepers of political participation. They control candidate selection, set agendas, and mobilize voters (Isa *et al.*, 2020). In the context of women's political participation, political parties can either facilitate or hinder women's access to political power. By adopting inclusive policies, promoting women candidates, and fostering gender-sensitive leadership, parties like CCM could play a vital role in promoting women's political participation in local government elections.

Political Party Theory was relevant to this study because it provided a roadmap on how political parties recruited and promoted candidates, including women. It explained better the role established by party structures and traditions in supporting or undermining women's political participation. The theory was suitable in explaining how political parties use gender-inclusive strategies to appeal to voters, including promoting women candidates. However, this theory focuses on the stabilizing role of political parties in democratic systems. This can overlook the fact that parties often contribute to instability, especially when they encourage polarization or prioritize party interests over national or public interests. Furthermore, the theory often assumes that stronger institutionalization of political parties leads to more effective governance and representation but highly institutionalized parties can also become rigid and disconnected from their grassroots supporters, leading to diminished responsiveness to the public.

The study was further guided by Liberal Feminism Theory. The Liberal Feminism Theory was first developed by Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1799) in the 18th Century (Waheeda & Nishan, 2020). Although Political Party Theory was used as the main theory to guide the study, Liberal Feminism Theory served as a supplement. For instance, the Political Party Theory did not explain about the perseverance, the gender separation of occupations and stratification of administrative ladders whereby males were always placed at the top; areas that were well covered in the Liberal Feminism Theory. The theory states that women and men should not be differentiated on the basis of a biological factor. If women and men are not so different, they should not be treated differently in society under the law. Women and men should have equal rights regarding legal matters,

education and work opportunities (Nanni, 2023). Furthermore, the liberal feminist theory believes in the same mental capability between men and women, thus equal rights should be given to, both in terms of political, economic and social sphere (McClain & Hacker, 2022). However, the leadership challenges in political parties do not exert pressure based on gender differences particularly on matters requiring the issuance of directives.

However, liberal feminism theory fails to address the unseen harmful factors originating from societal values, beliefs, norms, attitudes and stereotypes and those within women themselves that hinders their struggles to reach senior leadership positions in organized while men leading to top positions (Gupta *et al.*, 2023). Besides, Liberal feminist theories also do not take into account how majority women (including Tanzanian women) postulate patriarchy, work and reproduction, as these theories treat women as the same group regardless their unique roles practiced by women. Regardless of those faults, built on Liberal Feminist Theory, its strengths discussed in this study added value for gaining knowledge on the status of gender in senior leadership positions in political parties in Tanzania and how the gender leadership gap could be closed and bring parity into top leadership positions (Nanni, 2023). The theory was also useful because it brought an understanding of women's participation in local government structure as a tool for achieving gender equality in local politics (Meena *et al.*, 2020).

2.2 Conceptual Framework

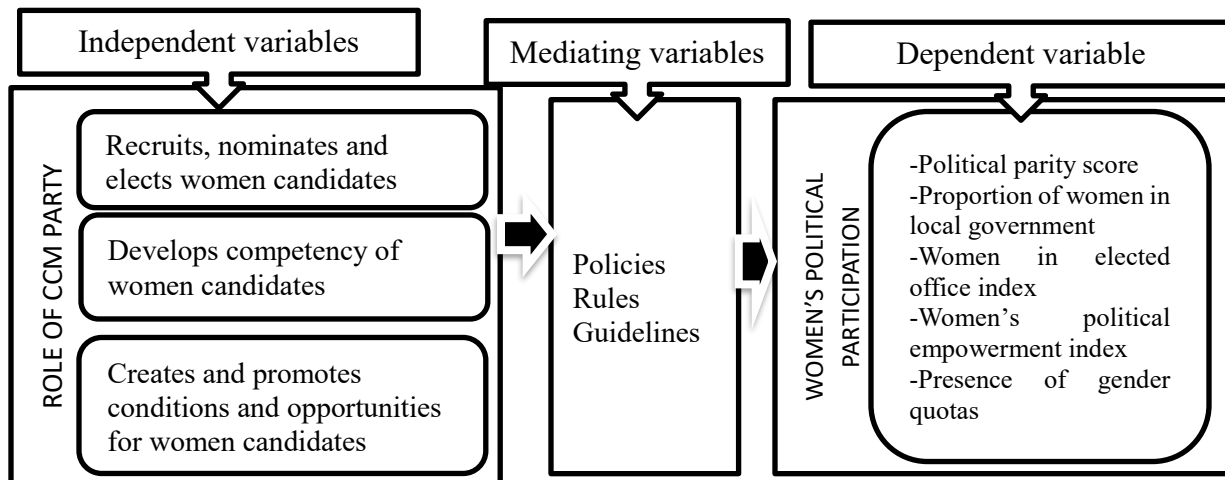


Figure 1 Conceptual framework

Source: Researcher's own construction, 2025

Figure 1 shows that the independent variable, Role of CCM party, influences the dependent variable, women's political participation through its three components which include 'recruitment, nomination, and electing women candidates'; 'developing competency of women candidates'; and

‘creating and promoting conditions and opportunities for women candidates’. However, the influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable depends on the mediating variables whose components include policies, rules and guidelines. For instance, guidelines for equitable funding, childcare reimbursement, and reduced fees lower barriers for women candidates; and rules mandating clear criteria and accountability in nominations reduce biases and encourage women’s candidates.

2.3 Research Gaps

While there are studies on women’s political participation globally and in Africa, there is a lack of empirical research specifically examining the role of political parties, particularly the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), in promoting women’s political participation in local government elections in Tanzania. Most existing literatures focused on national elections or general gender issues without delving into local government contexts. Existing research often overlooked the unique socio-political context of Dodoma City. Understanding how local dynamics, culture, and the political landscape influenced women's participation in local elections were crucial but underexplored. This gap called for focused research within the city to capture specific challenges and opportunities faced by women.

3.0 MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study was conducted in Dodoma city. It used realism philosophy through which qualitative approach was engaged. It employed phenomenology design and in-depth interview, semi-structured interview, focus group discussion and documentary review to collect data. The target population of this study included women voters, women candidates for local government positions, CCM party members and leaders of the CCM party and local government officials in Dodoma city. The study engaged the sample size of 30 participants who were selected by using purposive sampling techniques. In-depth interview data were analyzed with the help of content analysis and presented by means of words, phrases and quotations; the structured interview data were classified, tallied, counted and computed into percentages and presented in the form of figures, tables and percentages; and focus group discussion were analysed by establishing the criteria to be used in identifying the data.

4.0 FINDINGS

This section presents data analysis, presentation, interpretation, and discussion tasks. The study sought to assess the role of CCM in enhancing women’s political participation in local government elections in leadership positions by focusing on how CCM party recruit, nominate, and elect women candidates; develop competency of women candidates; and create and promote conditions and opportunities for women candidates in Dodoma City.

4.1 The role of CCM in enhancing women's political participation for leadership positions

Table 1: The role of CCM in enhancing WPP in leadership positions

Questions	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Undecided (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly agree (%)	Mean
Does CCM Party recruit, nominate and elect women candidates as a way of enhancing women's political participation for leadership positions at local government level?	10	13.3	6.7	23.3	46.7	3.8
Does CCM Party develop competency of women candidates as a way of enhancing women's political participation in leadership positions?	16.7	16.7	10	26.6	30	3.4
Does CCM Party play the role of creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that lead women to aspire for political office?	30	23.3	6.7	20	20	2.8

Source: Field Data, 2025

4.1.1 Recruitment, nomination and election of women candidates

When the respondents were asked if CCM party recruited, nominated and elected women candidates as a way of enhancing women's political participation for leadership positions at local government election level, 70% of the total respondents agreed, while 23.3% disagreed (Table 1). The mean score was 3.8 out of the possible 5 which demonstrated that the opinions of respondents were that CCM party was involved in recruiting, nominating and electing women candidates as a way of enhancing WPP for leadership positions. This implies that CCM party played great role in enhancing WPP by recruiting, nominating and electing them for leadership positions in local government elections.

While answering the question which sought to establish the criteria used by CCM Party to recruit, nominate and elect women candidate at local government election level, the majority of respondents (33.3%) indicated 'support from a strong network', whereas the minority (6.7%) showed 'allegiance to certain societal norms' (Table 2). The findings therefore, implied that 'support from a strong network' was a significant determining criteria for selecting women candidates for local government election that was used by CCM Party.

Table 2: Criteria used by CCM Party to recruit, nominate and elect women candidate

Criteria	Frequency	Percent
Support from a strong network	10	33.3
A certain level of maturity	8	26.7
Natural born citizen	4	13.3
Personal competence	6	20
Allegiance to certain societal norms	2	6.7
Total	30	100

Source: Field Data, 2025

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) held in Dodoma city constituted women voters. The total number of participants was 7 including the facilitator. One hour was spent on discussing the role of CCM in enhancing WPP with special focus on the criteria that they employed to recruit, nominate, and elect women candidates during local government election. The participants mentioned several criteria that CCM party used to recruit, nominate, and elect women candidates, among them included support from a strong network, a certain level of maturity, natural born citizen, personal competence, and allegiance to certain societal norms of a candidate. It was generally not easy to arrive at the criteria that were used by CCM in recruiting, nominating and electing women candidates until benchmarks for selecting the criteria were established. Among the criteria used in selecting the strategies was 'it conforms to CCM party's manifesto' which was ranked first and the 'it must be politically friendly' was ranked last (Table 3).

Table 3: Benchmarks for Selecting the Criteria for Recruiting, Nominating, and Electing CCM party's women candidates

S/N	Criteria	Ranking
1.	It must be unanimous accepted by the majority participants	1 st
2.	The criteria is not very expensive	3 rd
3.	It must be environmental adhesive	4 th
4.	It conforms to CCM party's manifesto	2 nd

Source: Field Survey, 2025

When the respondents were asked if CCM party recruited, nominated and elected women candidates as a way of enhancing women's political participation for leadership positions at local government election level, one of the women voters labeled WV 'A' said:

We generally fear the perception of the public. Women like me fear what people will say if I decides to run for a political position. You know in political leadership there are a lot of men, and a woman who shows that she is interested in working with men all day long may be seen as she is warming up for men (Interview with MV "A", 2nd June, 2025)

Another CCM member respondent labeled CCMM ‘A’ said:

Women in our society are expected to be reserved and assist men in their households and communities rather than holding leadership roles. Women contesting for political office result in community sanctions such as spreading gossip about their character and intentions, and negatively labeling. Families also fear this, which can discourage young women and girls from participating in politics (Interview with CCMM “A”, 9th June, 2025)

Another CCM leader labeled CCML ‘A’ said:

When I was preparing to run for this position most people did not show faith in me at first except my close friends. This encouraged me, and I think they also voted for me, that is why you see me here today. So a woman contesting for political position should strive to go beyond societal gossips (Interview with CCML “A”, 16th June, 2025)

Another Local government leader labeled LGL ‘B’ said:

We provide women and men equal opportunity when it comes to recruitment, nominating and voting for the candidate. In some cases, we accord women the privilege of being nominated. But I need to agree that women’s turn up for contesting for political position is very slim (Interview with LGL “B”, 23rd June, 2025)

The participants’ views, therefore, was inclined towards suggesting that CCM party recruited, nominated and elected women candidates a way of enhancing women’s political participation at local government election level. This implied that, the role of CCM Party in promoting women’s political participation for leadership position was encouragement of recruiting, nominating and electing women candidates.

The participants’ views were therefore, consistent with Political Party Theory (PPT) which stated that political parties were gatekeepers of political participation by controlling candidate selection, set agendas, and mobilize voters (Isa *et al.*, 2020). In words, the Political party theory examined how parties’ function, their internal dynamics, and their influence on political processes, including elections. The participants’ views were also consistent with the report by International IDEA (2021) which reiterated that in most countries political parties are identified as instrumental in the recruitment, nomination and election of candidates for public office, socialization of prospective political representatives and leaders, dissemination of political information and the exposing of citizens to democratic politics. The central function of political parties, therefore, is to develop consistent policies and government programmes (the interest articulation function); to transmit demands from society and aggregate them (the interest aggregation function); and to recruit, select and position people for positions in government and the legislature and to oversee and control government (Caton 2007). This implied that, the role of CCM Party in promoting women’s

political participation for leadership position was encouragement of recruiting, nominating and electing women candidates.

4.1.2 Developing competency of women candidates

When the respondents were asked if CCM Party developed competency of women candidates as a way of enhancing women's political participation in leadership positions at local government election level, 56.6% of the total respondents agreed, while 33.4% disagreed (Table 1). The mean score was 3.4 out of the possible 5 which demonstrated that the opinions of respondents were that CCM party was involved in developing competency of women candidates as a way of enhancing WPP for leadership positions. This implies that CCM party played great role in enhancing WPP by developing competency of women candidates for leadership positions in local government elections.

While answering the question which sought to establish how CCM Party developed competency of women candidates, the majority of respondents (40%) indicated 'building women's platforms and networks of potential candidates', whereas the minority (13.3%) showed 'political mentoring' (Table 4). The findings therefore, implied that "building women's platforms and networks of potential candidates" was a significant determining strategy for developing competency of women candidates for local government election that was used by CCM Party.

Table 4: How CCM Party Developed Competency of Women Candidates

	Frequency	Percent
Political mentoring	4	13.3
Building women's platforms and networks of potential candidates	12	40.0
Giving sustained training to female candidates on media relations	6	20.0
Providing women opportunities to strengthen leadership skills	8	26.7
Total	30	100

Source: Field Data, 2025

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) held in Dodoma city constituted CCM leaders. The total number of participants was 7 including the facilitator. One hour was spent on discussing the role of CCM in enhancing WPP with special focus on how CCM Party developed competency of women candidates during local government election. The participants mentioned several strategies that CCM party used to developed competency of women candidates, among them included political mentoring; building women's platforms and networks of potential candidates; giving sustained training to female candidates on media relations; and providing women opportunities to strengthen

leadership skills. It was generally not easy to arrive at the strategies that were used by CCM in developing competency of women candidates until benchmarks for selecting the criteria were established. Among the benchmarks used in selecting the criteria, 'it must be unanimous accepted by the majority participants' was ranked first and the 'it must be environmental adhesive' was ranked last (Table 5).

Table 5: Criteria for Selecting the Strategies for Developing Competency of Women Candidates

S/N	Criteria	Ranking
1.	It must be unanimous accepted by the majority participants	2 nd
2.	The criteria is less costly	3 rd
3.	It must be politically friendly	4 th
4.	It conforms to CCM party's manifesto	1 st

Source: Field Survey, 2025

When the respondents were asked if CCM Party developed competency of women candidates as a way of enhancing women's political participation in leadership positions at local government election level, one of the women voters labeled WV 'B' said:

We generally fear the perception of the public. Women like me fear what people will say if I decide to run for a political position. You know in political leadership there are a lot of men, and a woman who shows that she is interested in working with men all day long may be seen as she is warming up for men. Nonetheless, women are really encouraging to participate in election (Interview with MV "B", 2nd June, 2025)

Another CCM member respondent labeled CCMM 'B' said:

Our party emphasizes on highlighting the importance of convincing women to vote for other women, and to believe that women can deal with political issues. In turn, this would influence political parties' willingness to have more female candidates. What I am saying is that our party indeed gets involved in developing the candidates' competency through training or mentoring and providing women opportunities to strengthen leadership skills (Interview with CCMM "B", 9th June, 2025)

Another CCM leader labeled CCML 'B' said:

When my political party wants to choose someone to represent them in an election, especially at the street or district level, they usually involve me in identifying someone likely to get support from the majority. I am usually right with my selection because those that I suggest, including women, usually do well (Interview with CCML "B", 16th June, 2025)

The participants' views, therefore, was inclined towards suggesting that CCM party developed competency of women candidates a way of enhancing women's political participation at local government election level. This implied that, the role of CCM Party in promoting women's political participation for leadership position was developing competency of women candidates.

The participants' views were therefore, consistent with the UN Resolution on Women and Political Participation (United Nations General Assembly 2011) which urges states to strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties. The participants' views were also consistent with Political Party Theory (PPT) which stated that political parties were gatekeepers of political participation by controlling candidate selection, set agendas, and mobilize voters (Isa *et al.*, 2020). In words, the Political party theory examined how parties' function, their internal dynamics, and their influence on political processes, including elections. This implies that CCM party played great role in enhancing WPP by developing competency of women candidates for leadership positions in local government elections.

4.1.3 Creating and Promoting Conditions and Opportunities that Lead Women to Aspire For Political Office

When the respondents were asked if CCM Party play the role of creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that lead women to aspire for political office as a way of enhancing women's political participation in leadership positions at local government election level, 53.3% of the total respondents disagreed, while 40% agreed (Table 1). The mean score was 2.8 out of the possible 5 which demonstrated that the opinions of respondents were that CCM party was not involved in of creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that could lead women to aspire for political office as a way of enhancing WPP for leadership positions. This implies that CCM party enhanced WPP by not necessarily creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that could lead women to aspire for political office for leadership positions in local government elections.

While answering the question which sought to establish how CCM Party played the role of creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that lead women to aspire for political office as a way of enhancing women's political participation in leadership positions at local government election level, the majority of respondents (43.3%) indicated 'providing financial incentives and aid to women candidates', whereas the minority (3.3%) showed 'providing free-of-charge media time to women candidates' (Table 6). The findings therefore, implied that "providing financial incentives and aid to women candidates" was a significant determining strategy for creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that led women to aspire for political office for local government election that was used by CCM Party.

Table 6: How CCM Party Created and Promoted Conditions and Opportunities that Led Women to Aspire for Political Office

	Frequency	Percent
Providing Financial Incentives and Aid to Women Candidates	13	43.3
Allocating funds for training women candidates	9	30.1
Providing Women a Forum for Policy Lobbying and Discussions	7	23.3
Providing free-of-charge media time to women candidates	1	3.3
Total	30	100

Source: Field Data, 2025

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) held in Dodoma city constituted CCM leaders. The total number of participants was 7 including the facilitator. One hour was spent on discussing the role of CCM in enhancing WPP with special focus on how CCM Party played the role of creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that led women to aspire for political office during local government election. The participants mentioned several approaches that CCM party used to create and promote conditions and opportunities that led women to aspire for political office, among them included providing financial incentives and aid to women candidates; allocating funds for training women candidates; providing women a forum for policy lobbying and discussions; and providing free-of-charge media time to women candidates. It was generally not easy to arrive at the approaches that were used by CCM in creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that led women to aspire for political office until criteria for selecting the approaches were established. Among the criteria used in selecting the strategies were ‘it conforms to CCM party’s manifesto’ was ranked first and the ‘the conditions and opportunity created should not necessarily be permanent’ was ranked last (Table 7).

Table 7: Criteria for Selecting the Approach for Creating and Promoting Conditions and Opportunities that Led Women to Aspire for Political Office

S/N	Criteria	Ranking
1.	It must not be commonly used by other parties	4 th
2.	It must be more effective	3 rd
3.	The conditions and opportunity created should not necessarily be permanent	5 th
4.	It should not be easy to manipulate	2 nd
5.	It conforms to CCM party’s manifesto	1 st

Source: Field Survey, 2025

When the respondents were asked if CCM Party played the role of creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that lead women to aspire for political office as a way of enhancing

women's political participation in leadership positions at local government election level, one of the women voters labeled WV 'C' said:

I don't think if CCM party create and promote conditions and opportunities for women contestants. What actually matters here is the candidates' connectivity with influential people such as elders, former teachers or politicians, respected people who have lived in their community for a long time, charismatic people or religious leaders. These are people who will always propose the name of the candidate in our community (Interview with MV "C", 3rd June, 2025)

Another CCM member respondent labeled CCMM 'C' said:

What actually matters here is the own attitude and the societal attitude. Negative attitudes inhibit women's participation in political leadership in the country. These attitudes include perceptions that women are incapable of political leadership, a lack of trust towards female candidates during elections, and women themselves feeling unable to become leaders for various reasons (Interview with CCMM "C", 10th June, 2025)

Another CCM leader labeled CCML 'C' said:

Women's political participation in Tanzania, especially in leadership roles, remains low. This is despite efforts from the government, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations and activists to increase the presence of women leaders in the political sphere. The political parties including CCM have also been in forefront advocating for women participation but much has not yet been achieved (Interview with CCML "C", 17th June, 2025)

The participants' views, therefore, was inclined towards suggesting that CCM party did not create and promote conditions and opportunities that would lead women to aspire for political office a way of enhancing women's political participation at local government election level. This implied that, the role of CCM Party in promoting women's political participation for leadership position was not necessarily creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that led women to aspire for political office.

In that respect, 'providing financial incentives and aid to women candidates' would be a significant determining strategy for creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that led women to aspire for political office for local government election that was used by CCM Party. The participants' views were therefore, inconsistent with Liberal Feminism Theory which stated that women and men should have equal rights regarding legal matters, education and work opportunities (Nanni, 2023). Likewise, the UN Resolution on Women and Political Participation (United Nations General Assembly 2011) urges states to take all appropriate measures to eliminate prejudices that are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on

stereotyped roles for men and women and that constitute a barrier to women's access to and participation in the political sphere, and to adopt inclusive approaches to their political participation. In other words, if women and men are not so different, they should not be treated differently in society under the law. This implied that, the role of CCM Party in promoting women's political participation for leadership position was not necessarily creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that led women to aspire for political office.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

It was concluded that in Dodoma City, CCM party enhanced women's political participation for leadership positions in local government elections by recruiting, nominating and electing women candidates; and developing competency of women candidates. This was in contrast to the initial assumption that CCM party enhanced women's political participation for leadership positions in local government elections by creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that could lead women to aspire for political office.

5.2 Recommendations

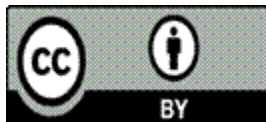
The study recommends that CCM party should enhance women's political participation for leadership positions in local government elections by creating and promoting conditions and opportunities that can lead women to aspire for political office. It was also recommended that further study should engage descriptive cross-sectional survey design in a different city to establish how more than one political party enhances women's political participation.

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