Active Political Participation of Citizens and Its Impact on Building Democratic Government System: The Case of Wolaita Zone

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Abstract: The main objective of this study is to assess the importance of active political participation of citizens and its impact on building democratic Government system: the case of Wolaita zone. Active political participation is currently becoming an important issue in the development endeavor of the To conduct this study mixed approaches of both qualitative quantitative data were employed. The questionnaire and interview were used to obtain the data. Whereas, the findings indicate that active political participation is important to build democratic, it creates an accountable and transparent administrative system, good governance as well as peace and stability in the Zone. Political participation establishes good governance like democratic and fair governance system. If there is democratic and fair governance, there is fair distribution of public services and equality between citizens. But the absence of political participation brings the absence of good governance. Political participation is one of the criteria or the guideline for a good governance system. So that the researcher concludes that all of the respondents have participated in political life and they have the experience of participation in the study area. This shows that they established a strong and good governance system by political participation in the area. The challenges of citizen's non participation or peoples not participating in politics or in solving community problems mainly due to lower socio-economic status; individuals are not initiated to participate in the politics, limited time and money, lack of information and knowledge about the issue, lack of confidence and ability. The possible measures are recommended to promote active political participation of the citizens in the study area.

Keywords: Active, Political Participation, Democratic Government System

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Political participation is an aspect of political behavior and it focuses on the way in which individuals take part in politics. It is a voluntary activity and one can participate directly or indirectly. The various ways by which the people can be involved in the political system includes selection or election of political leaders, formulation of policies, community activities and other civic engagements, [1]. Political participion is a means of contributing one's quota to the political system and overall development of the nation.

Political participation is one of the fundamental requirements of democratic governance. The essence of political participation in any society, either civilized or primitive is to seek control power acquisition of power and to influence decision making, [2-5]

Therefore political participants are the inactive and complete activists. The inactive participants are the people that take no part in any political activity. Complete activists they are highly involved in all political activities they are actively participate in voting, political campaign, community activities and make contact with public officials [7-9]

Although political participation describe as the process through which the individuals plays a role in political life of

his society and has the opportunities to take part in deciding what common goals of the society are and the best way achieving this goals [11].

Democracy means individuals participation in decisions that involve one's life. In democratic system there is the necessity for citizenry to be fully involved in democratic procedures of the choice of rules and effective communication of the public policies and attitudes [3].

Any claim to democratic regime or state must essentially embrace a high degree of competitive choice, openness and enjoyment of civic and political liberty and political participation that involves all groups of the societies [5].

Also democracy is a system of government under which the people exercise the governing power either directly or through representatives periodically elected by them. Political participation is the involvement of the citizens in the political system [4].

In the sense that citizens take part in the government they give their consent to its decision; such acts therefore legitimize the regime in terms of instrumental terms. Political participation is a necessary means of obtaining political power and is a means for enhancing the position of one's sector in its other manifestation of politics as a solvent of political conflict, [18].

Community participation has advocates in Ethiopia. The training policy of Ethiopia will be designed in the context of a decentralized system and has the goal of being democratized and run with participation of the community, [15]. Therefore, the researcher is going to study the practice of active political participation of its citizens and its impact on building democratic government system.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

During the end of the twenty century the idea of democracy was expanded to all continents within Latin America, Asia, Africans and Europe. Any non-democratic regime failed and the world experienced the end of dualism between western democracy and communism. Behind each authoritarian rule there will be political participation in one or other way. Strikes oppositions, demonstrations, illegal parts or alternative press, [7]

However, political participation has been destroyed due to many reasons, especially lack of political participation. Political participation is a citizen's right but many social factors hinder political participation. Factors like lack of interest, voting behavior, lack of trust, corruption and illiteracy are the factors that hinder political participation. Therefore these studies seek to investigate what is the value of active political participation in building democratic Government systems in the Wolaita Zone.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to assess the active political participation of citizens and its impact in building democratic government system In The case of *The Case of Wolaita Zone.*

1.3.2. Specific Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of the study are
1) To examine the awareness of the citizens towards the relevance of active political participation.
2) To examine the extent of the citizens' participation in building democratic government systems.
3) To investigate factors that determine the political participation and non-participation of citizens.

1.4. Research Questions

This study is going to address the following research questions of the citizens towards the relevance of active political participation.
1) What is the awareness level of Wolaita Zone dwellers towards the relevance of active participation?
2) To what extent do those citizens participate in building of democratic government system?
3) What are the factors that determine political participation and non-participation of the citizens?

1.5. Significance of the Study

This research is much more significant that one country follows participatory politics. However, some people did not participate in political activity due to various factors. But they still like the system that means participatory political system. So this research would have a great role in the community and the norm of participation concerning the body and also there would be reference for further study.

1.6. Scope or Delimitation of the Study

This study has been covering the area in the Wolaita Zone. To consider time and finance the study has regarding the role of citizens involved in politics and its significance or building in democratic system and its impact.

2. Review of Related Literature

2.1. Definition of Political Participation

Political participation encompasses the many activities used by citizens to influence the selection of political leaders as the policies them pursue. Political participation derives from the freedom to speak out, assemble and associate the ability to take part in conduct of public affairs and the opportunity to register as candidate to complain to be elected and to hold office at all level of government. Political participation extends beyond practices; however individuals can also become involved in certain aspects of the electoral process through independent action particularly at the local level and by joining civil society organizations. Citizens' political participation in the political process means they are free to exercise their dissatisfaction by not participating. Politics the exercise of power process by which group of people may collect decisions. The term is generally applied to or science of running governmental affairs, including behavior with in civil government, but also applies to institutions. Fields and special interests groups such as the

corporate academic and religious segments of society. The term also has many meanings. It is applied to the activity of ordinary citizens and to the activities of political leaders. It is used to refer to many different kinds of activities, voting campaign contribution, etc. and also it refers to these local activities by private citizens that are more or less directly aimed at influencing the selection government, personal or the actions they take [11-20].

Policies also seen as a particular means of resolving conflict: that is by compromise, conciliation and rather than through force and power [17].

Voting is the election of public officials is the most visible and common form of participation in modern democracies and also the most fundamental. The ability to conduct free and fair elections [20].

The participation is usually applied to the subordinates' greater influence over matters within superior responsibilities. Participation is any or all of the processes by which employees other than managers contribute toward the reaching of managerial decisions which affect their work [21].

Political participation refers to the official authorization of citizens to take part in activities related to the state and government of the country. In a democratic form of government individuals are officially permitted to participate in politics. Opportunities for political participation must be ensured if the government is system is committed to will have the value and principles of democracy (Text book grade 10th) political participation includes:

1) Involving in voting and election.
2) Running office of election.
3) Taking part in a peaceful demonstration.
4) Funding political candidates' political parties.
5) Becoming a member of a political party.

Social participation: refers to taking part in the public life of a community or society. It can be exhibited by participation to deal with and in pride the living addition, heath and other aspects of lives of human beings. Social participation is the action of individuals or organizations of citizen's seas to deal with and improve the living conditions, health education and other aspects of the lives of human beings. Social participation is also an action of individuals of organized groups to improve social conditions.

2.2. Political Socialization

Political socialization in still in each person the prevailing values of the political system it enable him or her to relate to the system to expect certain treatment from being owed in local affairs and outing at election time, it help to maintain and legitimate political system and the government in offices, it maintains the system by conditioning and educating its members to obey its rules and to fulfill its rules [11-15] according to him there are four agencies of socialization of the family: people's attitude is shaped by their parents at obvious example of this influence is the fact that most people vote as their parents did more basically the family forms the psychological makeup of individuals which in turn determines many of his or her political attitudes.

1) School: schools are among the most important agent of socialization in turning scattered group of people in to a nation, since they able to reach a large number of individuals simultaneously and teach them that they belong to community the educates of bread public shoaling will have usually stressed its value or teaching the meaning of citizenship and including icon ideation about angles allegations to the nation community.
2) Peer groups: school lessons may not be enough to socialize and some other freedoms might be needed so the attitude of the peers may shape ideas.
3) The mass media: communication and institutes a renovation of the way the people get information about the world by their own daily experience and the way they perceive it.
4) Government: all action of governing affects the people and consequently their attitude and the information; education and propaganda supplied by the government are neutral to weaken public support and locality.

2.3. Political Culture

Political culture is the system of empirical beliefs, expressive symbols and values which defines the situation in which political action takes place. The people's perception of the role of government and the proper relationship between rules and rules has a great deal of influence on the political system.

2.4. Political Systems

The form of work of political system though not truly model provides the theoretical equipment both for looking political phenomenon an a microscopic level and the setting in which micro analysis can be carried out by providing an opportunity for political scientists to relate the more specific work which he is doing larger political world, the political system idea serves to keep us attuned to the broad implication of political acts and institution and to the inter relatedness of the events rather than to their ideas critical or particularistic aspect [13].

In order to understand the truth of this statement we should look at the functional aspects political system that leads towards Almond calls, a probabilistic theory of politics it means that political system of each country should be described interference to a particular configuration of structures and function in which each element would be in voiced by performing in part a number of function [1-7]

The environment in which a political system operates may be put into two parts intra-societal that means one consisting of system in a given society other sets of behavior, attitudes and ideas like the economy culture and social structures and personalities, the extra-society is a super system of which any single society is a part it is this two classes of the systems. The extra- societal and intra- societal that comprises the total environment of a political system and it is from this source that these fences arise that are consequences for possible stress and the political system [12-15].

Analysis of mite hell, what is fast termed the black nodal

of the political system will be taken over and presented in any form by other eminent writers. On this subject mite hell diodes inputs and outputs in a way so what different form that of Easton indicating that demand and supports do not account offal the system inputs expectation (what individual members of the society desire but sort of demands and perhaps not even conscious) and resources on which the system pirates are also necessary. He also defines the output of the system into three categories: goal values, costs and controls values. In a sense there are positive outputs and negative acne. What is a value for one person usually evaluates costs for himself and others controls are uneasy in which the goals values and costs are implemented.

2.5. Historical Perspectives of Political Parties Impaction

Political philosophers over the country fan modern years with the title sense of novelty, the opportunity to take part such as the fundamental tenet of the democratic system of government. That its very existence is rarely questioned people must be able to will have their say to vote to engage in political debate and to led those in power known their views which comer them [1-5]

The system of government in the ancient Greek city state of Athens is visually considered the purest model of direct democracy because the citizens of that community debated and voted directly on all laws even that fut. Forwarded by the ruling council of the city the most feature of Athenian democracy will be that the legislature will be composed of the citizens women, foreigners and slaves however were excluded because they were not citizens. This form of government required a high level of participation from every citizen that participation will see as benefiting the individual and the city states [1-10].

Aristotle concern that if there is low participation then the management of political position suppers will come to Athens by the people having control over the who were the examined than before they took office and had to give an account of their term office, when it will over widespread political participation by the citizens will ensured at Athens by playing the citizens for political duties [5-10]

Despite much philosophical concern about the described scope of popular involvement, political participation and interests of individuals showed a drop off from middle age, originally such disgorgement was believed to be an inherent dimension for many individuals to withdraw from a broad variety of social contracts and political activity [3-7].

Recent developments in public policy will have emphasized the need for great public participation. More and better public participation is viewed as capable of improving the quality and legitimacy of decisions in government, health service, local government and other public bodies as well as having potential to realize democracy, to build strong and active communities and promote social integrity.

2.6. Educational and Participation

Elites refer to these people with better educations, higher income and more influence. They will have rather different attitudes than the masses. Elites are much more participatory, they are more inclined to vote, protest injustice to form a group and even to run office. The more educated a person is, the more likely he/she is to participate in politics.

Better educated people know how to participate in political activity and they will have a greater sense of self confidence when writing, speaking at meetings and organized groups. They feel that what they do may have at least a small result politically. The uneducated and the poor lack the knowledge and confidence to do this kind of thing. The better educated and better off people are in a much stronger position to look out for their interests.

2.7. Political Parties

Political parties are organizations that seek power under a common banner to promote their ideas, policies by gaining control of the government through the nomination and election of candidates for effect. Political participatory is any group, loosely organized, seeking to elect government office holders under its given label. Political parties are crucial to the main tenancy of democracy for three reasons [11-15]

a) They provide linkage between voters and elected officials, they are a bridge between government and people; they help to tell voters to hold their officials accountable where the two enface both individually and collectively.

b) They overcome some of the fragmentation in government that comes from separation of power and federalism.

c) They provide an articulated opposition to the ideas and policies of those elected to serve in government. The substance of the writ treaty, opposition of the UN, human right committee (HRC) and regional tribunals, as instruments to organization for security and occupation (OSCE) and other regional bodies. The universal principles political participation is dispersed across a vast body of norms, parties, principles, comments and recommendation [22].

During the end of 20th century the idea of democracy was expanded to all continents, within Latin America, Asia, Africans and Europe and non-democratic regime failed and the world experienced the dualism between western democracy and communism. Behind each authoritarian rule there will be political participation in one or another way. Strikes civil opposition, demonstration, illegal parties or alternative press [7].

3. Research Methodology

3.1. Description of the Study Area

Wolaita Zone is an administrative center of Wolaita nation which is found in SNNPs region of Ethiopia. It is found at a distance of 383 km away from Addis Ababa (via Shashemene), 328 km (via- Hosana), and 156 km far from Hawassa regional state of Ethiopia. It is located at 6°49′44.6″N 37°45′03.5″E.

3.2. Research Design

In order to collect accurate data from respondents the researcher would use both qualitative and quantitative research design. In regards to qualitative one it is more appropriate to explore the nature of the problem, issue or phenomena without quantifying and describing. In regards to quantitative one it is more appropriate to determine the extent of the problem, the issue or phenomena by quantifying the variation and numeral and tables included.

3.3. Source of Data

Both primary and secondary data are used in this study. The primary data is gathered from key respondents through questionnaires and interviews. While the secondary data would be gathered from books, journals published and unpublished documents, internet and related Newspaper.

3.4. Data Collection Instruments

During data collection the researcher would use the data gathering instruments such as questionnaire and interview.

a) Questionnaires: for this study self-administered questionnaires would be used to collect relevant information from respondents. The questionnaire would have both closed and open ended questions to collect data from concerned respondents.

b) Interview: The researcher would be used interview method of data gathering, because it's helps the interviewers to experience the affective as well as cognitive aspects of response, provide opportunity to explore topic in depth and permit face to face there are different types of interview; face to face, telephone interview the importance is collection of primary information, less costly, time saving, increasing knowledge.

3.5. Sampling Technique and Sampling Size

In the collection of data the researcher would use probability and non-probability sampling techniques. Under this non probability sampling the researcher would use a purposive sampling method to get deep information from the key person and those deemed to have sufficient knowledge in the study area. Another reason is that it's better to understand and describe the issue of under-studies by word and meaning in a wide concept. On the other hand from probability sampling techniques the researcher used simple random numbers. Because to give equal chances for respondents and lottery forms of asking.

The researcher would select 45 individuals from the whole Jeldu Woreda and then out of total selecting 3 respondents for interview and 42 respondents for questionnaire who would be well informed on the issue.

3.6. Method of Data Analysis

The researcher would use both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis. The data that is collected from respondents through questionnaires is analyzed by using quantitative methods in table, percentage and frequency form. The data that gathered from the respondents through the interview is analyzed qualitatively by using an explanatory method.

4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter is concerned with the finding of the study and it is mainly concerned with the analysis and interpretation of data obtained through all questionnaires and interviews in the Wolaita Zone. The chapter includes demographic characteristics of the respondents who fill closed-ended as well as open-ended questionnaires.

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1. The age of questionnaire respondents.

Age	No of respondents	Percentage composition
18-25	14	33.3%
26-35	13	30.9%
36 and above	15	35.7%
Total	42	100%

Source: Questionnaire survey 2021

As the above table shows 14 (33.3%) of the respondents are found in the range between 18-25 ages and 13 (30.9%) of the respondents are under the age of 26-35, while the remaining 15 (35.7%) of the respondents are from the age group 36 and above. This is aimed merely to accommodate different age groups within this study. This shows that the age group 18-36 and above are the key respondents of this study. Therefore the researcher concluded that, the age group 18 and above are enough to participate in the politics in Ethiopian context, but the groups less than 18 are not participating in the politics. The majority of the respondents of this study are under the age of 18-25. This shows that they have a higher awareness level about political participation.

Table 2. Sex Composition of Respondents.

Options	No of the respondents	Percentage composition
Male	24	57.1%
Female	18	42.9%
Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey in 2021

According to the above table 24 (57.1%) of the respondents are males and the 18 (42.9%) of them are females, this shows the majority of the respondents are males, why this is because the culture of the society influences the women participation in the politics.

Table 3. Educational Background of the Respondents.

Education background	No of the respondents	Percentage composition
Read and write	8	19%
Secondary and preparatory	10	23.8%
College and above	24	57.1%
Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey in 2021

As shown in the above table, 8 (19%) of the respondents have college and above educational background and 10 (23.8%) of the respondents can read and write, while the remaining 24 (57.1%) of the respondents in the secondary and preparatory level. Therefore, the researcher concludes from the above information that, the majority of the respondents of this study have college and above college educational background. If someone is educated and has good educational quality he /she can participate in politics in a better way compared to an uneducated person.

***Table 4.** Marital Status of the Respondents.*

Marital status	No of the respondents	Percentage composition
Married	10	23.8%
Single	26	61.9%
Divorced	4	9.8%
Windowed	2	4.8%
Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey 2021

According to the above table, 10 (23.8%) of the respondents are unmarried (single) and 26 (61.9%) of the respondents are married and the remaining 4 (9.8%) and 2 (4.8%) of the respondents are divorced and widowed respectively.

***Table 5.** Occupational Status.*

Occupational status	No of the respondents	Percentage composition
Personal	29	57.1%
Governmental	16	38.1%
Non-governmental organization	2	4.8%
Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey in 2021

According to the above table, 29 (57.1%) of the respondents have personal occupational status, 16 (38.1%) of the respondents work in the government sectors and the rest of the 2 (4.8%) of the respondents work in the non-governmental organization.

4.2. Analysis and Interpretation of Data Obtains from the Questionnaire and Interview

***Table 6.** Knowledge of Political Participation.*

Question	Responses	No of respondents	Percentage composition
Do you know about political participation?	Yes	38	90.5%
	No	4	9.5%
	Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey in 2021

The above table shows that 38 (90.5%) of the respondents about political participation and only 4 (9.5%) of the respondents are not knowledgeable about political participation. Those respondents who know about political participation define political participation in the following ways: political participation is that the citizens participate in the political activity or affairs like in voting or election to elect and to be elected, in decision making. On the other hand political participation is participating in day to day community activities like public meetings and peaceful demonstrations. The political participation drives freedom to speak out, assemble and associate the ability to take part in conduct of public affairs.

Therefore, the researcher concludes that, almost all respondents are known about political participation and they can define political participation.

***Table 7.** Source of Acquired Knowledge About Political Participation.*

Question	Responses	No of respondents	Percentage composition
Where do you get knowledge about political participation?	From school	12	28.6%
	From media	8	19%
	From different meeting	22	52.4%
	From others	0	0
	Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey in 2021

Concerning with the above table, 12 (28.6%%) of the respondents acquire knowledge about political participation from different meetings or different public meetings, the 8 (19%) of the respondents acquire knowledge about the study issue from the school through by learning and the remaining 22 (52.4%) of the respondents acquire knowledge from media about politics.

Therefore, the researcher concluded from the above data, the large number of the respondents get knowledge about political participation from different meetings and the other respondents get knowledge about political participation from different sources like media, newspaper, from school and other sources.

4.3. The Role of Participation on Function of Government

***Table 8.** Level of Political Participation.*

Question	Responses	No of respondents	Percentages composition
The level of your political participation is?	Very high	10	23.9%
	High	11	26.2%
	Medium	13	30.9%
	Low	8	19%
	Total	42	100%

Source; questionnaire survey in 2021

According to the data obtained from an open-ended questionnaire, the role of political participation of mass

participation creates a transparent and accountable government system to the citizens. Therefore nothing is hidden from people; every political activity of the government decision becomes open. The people and public officials decide on the behalf of the public. The peoples and public officials became more and highly aware of public decision and before it is going to be effected.

Regarding to the above table, 13 (30.9%) of the respondents are replied that, their political participation is medium, 11 (26.2%) of them have high level of political participation and the rest 10 (23.9%) and 8 (19%) of the respondents have very high and low level of political participation respectively.

Therefore, from the above table, the researcher concludes that the large number of respondents have a medium level of political participation.

4.4. The Relationship Between Political Participation and Good Governance

According to data obtained from open- questionnaire that the respondents explained the relationship between political participation and good governance as they explained that if there are active political participants that they establish strong and good governance systems like accountable and transparent governance for the citizens and also political participation and good governance are interdependent. Political participation establishes good governance like democratic and fair governance system. If there is democratic and fair governance, there is fair distribution of public services and equality between citizens. But the absence of political participation brings the absence of good governance. Political participation is one of the criteria or the guideline for a good governance system. So that the researcher concludes that all of the respondents have participated in political life and they have the experience of participation in the study area. This shows that they established a strong and good governance system by political participation in the area.

Table 9. Attitude Towards Political Participation.

Question	Responses	No of the respondents	Percentage composition
Participating in politics is?	Advantageous	25	59.5%
	Disadvantageous	0	0
	Both advantageous and dis advantageous	17	40.5%
	Total	42	100%

Source: Questionnaire survey in 2021

As shown the above table, 25 (59.5%) of the respondents responded that, participating in politics is advantageous and the remaining 17 (40.5%) of the respondents are replied that participating in the politics is both advantageous and disadvantageous and no respondents are said that participating in the politics is disadvantageous. Therefore, the researcher concluded that, majority of the respondents agreed that participating in politics is advantageous.

Table 10. Ways of Political Participation.

Question	Responses	No of respondents	Percentage composition
In which ways are you participating in politics?	In voting	30	71.4%
	In political discussion	4	9.5%
	In member of political party	5	11.9%
	In community meeting and demonstration	3	7.2%
	In administering and by taking political authority	0	0
	Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey in 2021

The above table show that 30 (71.4%) of the respondents are participating in voting, 4 (9.5%) of the respondents are participating in political discussion and 5 (11.9%) also again participating in member of political party and the remaining of 3 (7.2%) of the respondents are participating in community meeting and demonstration. Therefore, the researcher concluded that as the above table shows more or a large number of respondents participated in voting but the others participated in political discussion, in members of political parties and in community meetings and demonstrations within the same number and percentage composition.

4.5. The Role of Political Participation on Administrative System

According to data obtained from an open-ended questionnaire, there is the role of political participation in the administrative system. That there is active political participation creates a strong and democratic administrative system by avoiding an undemocratic governance system. If there is active political participation the administrative officials will do strongly to fulfill the interest of the citizens and they pay attention and give priority to the people or public. Active political participation facilitates the work of the administrative system to be just and fair distribution of social services. And also the role of active political participation in the administrative system is to reduce corruption. Therefore, generally the existence of active political participation has the capacity to establish an accountable and transparent administrative system to the citizens.

***Table 11.** The Role of Administration to Providing a Conducive Environment to Political Participation.*

Question	Responses	No of respondents	Percentage composition
The role of city administration to provide a conducive environment for political participation is?	High	18	42.8%
	Medium	14	33.3%
	Low	10	23.8%
	Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey in 2021

According to the above table 11 (42.8%) of the respondents are replied that, the role of Zonal administration to provide conducive environment for political participation is high, the 14 (33.3%) of them said that the above issue have medium role in political participation and the rest 10 (23.8%) of the respondent said the issue have low role in providing conducive environment for political participation.

Therefore, the researcher concludes that, the large numbers of respondents agree that the Zonal administration has a high role to provide a conducive environment for political participation.

***Table 12.** The Essence of Participation for Democracy.*

Question	Responses	No of respondents	Percentage composition
Do you think citizen's active political participation is essential to build democratic system?	Yes	42	100%
	No	0	0
	Total	42	100%

Source: questionnaire survey in 2021

According to the above table, 42 (100%) of the respondents agreed to say yes on the above raised issue. This shows that all respondents' response that to build democracy in the country the citizen's participation is very important. That active political participation contributes to the democratic government system by fighting against undemocratic governance and it promotes democratic governance system and country. Therefore the researcher concludes that citizen participation is important to build democratic government system and if there is democracy there is peace and stability prevailing in the country.

4.6. Active Political Participation in Building Democracy in Wolaita Zone

Active political participation builds democracy in different ways. Those citizens effectively participate in the issue of the country that they bring the change. Citizens build democracy by participating in voting, by taking part and in peaceful demonstration, by fighting against undemocratic form of government and replacing democratic form of government

4.7. Advantages of Active Political Participation

The advantages of active political participation are linked to the electoral procedures which comprise other techniques of voting. The advantage of political participation is also a process that leads to freedom of speech. It gives the opportunity to assemble and become acquainted. Further it is the ability to take part in the bearing of public affairs. The advantages of active political participation to provide equal rights for citizens to participate in all spheres of the political activities without gender discrimination of females and males. The people have to be involved in certain aspects of electoral procedures at local and federal level. The concept of good governance is highly interrelated with active political participation or public participation. The socio-economic issue also supported by political participation or socio-economic development comes with that socio-political participation. The masses participation in politics ensures priority about security, equality, and social and economic issues will be developing.

4.8. Manifestations of Active Political Participation

Manifestation of active political participation is the idea that actual political participation is quite simply all actions directly towards influencing governmental decisions and political outcomes. It has to do with the wishes of ordinary citizens to influence politics and political outcomes in the society or the decisions that affect public affairs. The manifestation of active political participation is the citizen's vote in the general election in order to support some parties or candidates. Formal collective forms of political participation is a typical example would be a membership in human write advocacy group, peace organization or environmental groups and participating in peaceful demonstration.

4.9. The Challenges of Citizen's Non Participation

The challenges of citizen's non participation or peoples not participating in politics or in solving community problems mainly due to lower socio-economic status; individuals are not initiated to participate in the politics, limited time and money, lack of information and knowledge about the issue, lack of confidence and ability. Participatory practices can be costly in terms of money and time may be perceived as inefficient. And also there is a knowledge gap to be bridged between the citizens and government officials in complex decision making processes or especially when using specific technical applications.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Conclusion

This study tries to generate and document information about active political participation in building democratic government systems in the study area. The knowledge of respondents was generally encouraging as almost all of them claimed to know about political participation. The major source of knowledge about political participation including social, political, economic and cultural aspects of political participation is from education, media and public meetings. Media have an enormous potential to provide knowledge on political participation for the Wolaita Zone. The majority of respondents have a good attitude towards political, economic, social and cultural interests. The people have previous experience of political discussion, demonstration, public meeting, seeking administrative office like voting, membership, political discussion and other activities which are easy for an individual to take part in. The role of city administration to improve a conducive environment cannot stand alone. It needs collective effective individual city and zonal administration NGOs, media, regional and federal government. The role of political participation in the function of government is that active political participation creates a transparent and accountable governance system to the citizens. The active political participation and good governance system are parallel going each other, and creates the road for political participation.

5.2. Recommendation

Taking the facts from the finding, the following important points are recommended as follows:

Since there is to see good practice being in Wolaita Zone administrative design should be possible effective and strategies that can enhance political participation. Also, government should promote active political participation to ensure availability of inclusive participation without any discrimination based on sex, race, religion, culture, language and etc.

In order to enhance the knowledge of communities of the Wolaita Zone, political participation has to be put in place. Effective mechanisms of good governance and democracy, there have to be integrated approaches to political participation among government institutions, the community, religious institutions and others.

Nevertheless, the government should encourage the participation of women by promoting different participation means, such as affirmative action policy and likes.

Acronym

UN- United Nation
HRC-Human Right Committee
FDRE-Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Acknowledgements

Appendix

The purpose of this questionnaire is to assess' active political participation of citizens and its impact on building a democratic government system, the Case of Wolaita Zone. Dear respondents you are requested to respond the question from your life experience on community. Your experience, attitude and suggestions are the essential for the study. I appreciate your genuine explanation and efforts to fill questionnaire.

Part one:

Direction

Please put a mark for the answer that fits your responses in the space provided for the question.

General information of the respondents.

Age: 18-25 ☐   26-35 ☐   36 and above ☐

Sex: Male ☐   Female ☐

Educational background: read and write ☐   secondary and preparatory ☐   college and above ☐

Marital status: married ☐   single ☐   divorced ☐   windowed ☐

Occupational status: personal governmental ☐   NGOs ☐

Part two:

Please answer the following question properly.

1. Do you know about political participation?

Yes ☐   No ☐

2. For question number 1, if your answer is yes, what is political participation?

_____

_____

3. Where do you get knowledge about political participation?

From school ☐   from media ☐   from different meeting ☐   From other ☐

How does political participation play a role in the function of government?

_____

The level of your political participation?

Very high ☐   High ☐   Medium ☐   Low ☐

Explain the relationship between political participation and good governance.

_____
_____

Participating in politics is?

Advantageous ☐   Disadvantageous ☐   Advantageous and disadvantageous ☐

In which way do you participate in politics?

In voting ☐   in political discussion ☐   in member of political party ☐

in community meeting and demonstration ☐   in administering and by taking political authority ☐

Discuss the role of political participation in the administrative system.

_____

The role of city administration to provide a conducive environment for political participation is?

High ☐   Medium ☐   Low ☐

Do you think citizen's active political participation is essential to build democratic government system? Yes ☐   No ☐

If you say question number 11, yes, how does it contribute to a democratic government system?

_____
_____

   Explain the area that you are participating in politics and if you are not participating, what are the factors that hinders your participation?

_____
_____

Part three:

Interview guide line

How active political participation can exist in building democratic government systems?

Explain the advantages of active political participation of citizens to democratic government systems?

Is there active political participation of citizens in the Wolaita Zone?

What do you think are the challenges of citizen's non-participation?

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