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**FACTORS FOR WOMEN'S SUCCESS IN OBTAINING  
PARLIAMENTARY POSITIONS IN CAMBODIA**

**THEAVY MOM**  
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**With compliments  
of**

บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล

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**FACTORS FOR WOMEN'S SUCCESS IN OBTAINING PARLIAMENTARY POSITIONS IN CAMBODIA****THEAVY MOM 4236017 GRHR/M****M.A. (HUMAN RIGHTS)****THESIS ADVISORS : PUSADEE TAMTHAI, Ph.D.,  
VARAPORN CHAMSANIT, M.A., THAWILWADEE BUREEKUL, Ph.D.****ABSTRACT**

The advancement of the status of women can be improved through the increased numerical representation of women in high decision-making positions because women can more deeply understand women's problems and issues than men can. There can not be a true democracy without the full participation of women. This study aimed to find factors which contribute to women's success in obtaining parliamentary positions in Cambodia.

The research showed that success in contesting parliamentary positions depends on two main factors: individual and societal. Individual factors covered socio-demographic background, age and education; work experience; political network and resources. Societal factors included the cultural context of Cambodian society and the other supportive mechanisms from the government, political parties, NGOs/civil society and media. The road that leads women into political offices is not smooth. Thus, if women are willing to contest for parliamentary/senate positions as well as others, they need to overcome these two factors.

This thesis applied a qualitative method, particularly for in-depth interviews with different target groups of key informants including elected women MPs of the 1998 election, appointed women senators, former women MPs, unsuccessful women candidates of the 1998 election, representatives of political parties, representatives from women organizations (Ministry of Women and Veteran Affairs and Women for Prosperity), and two media personnel, to explore their individual factors. Documentation research was used to explore the societal factors, focusing on the cultural context and supportive mechanism.

The research found that these two main factors can contribute to the success or failure of women candidates when they contest for the parliamentary positions in Cambodia. However, some additional comments were made by interviewees regarding a necessity for candidates to have mental preparation as well as practical and strategic preparation. Mentally, women candidates should build up a positive attitude and strong mindset with political ambition and self-confidence and determination to win elections. Practically and strategically, women candidates must be well prepared in terms of financial resources, clear working plan in life, communication skills, active participation in party activities and maintaining popularity with their constituencies. Most of them agreed that the supplement pre-election-preparation strategy is also helpful for them to be successful in parliamentary elections.

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