

Obstacles Facing Jordanian Women's Participation in the Political Life from the Perspective of Female Academic Staff in the Jordanian Universities

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Abstract: This study aimed at identifying obstacles facing Jordanian women's participation in political life from the perspective of female Jordanian academic staff in Jordanian universities. The sample of the study consisted of (40) females academic staff. The researcher developed a scale to measure the family and social obstacles that hinder the women's participation in the political life consisting of (24) items. The results showed family and social obstacles that hinder the women's participation in the political life in the Jordanian society were as the man's dominance of the woman which affects negatively her efficiency in the political life plus the common culture in the Jordanian society which affects negatively the woman's participation. Results showed statistical significant differences in woman's degree of participation in the political life according to the variable of woman's place of residence in favor of the woman who lives in the Jordanian cities and there are statistical significant differences in the woman's degree of participation in the political life according to the variable of education level of head of the family in favor of those who hold higher degrees. And the researcher recommended conducting further studies about other obstacles as economic or cultural ones.

Key words: Culture • Family • Members of academic staff • Economic obstacle

INTRODUCTION

The woman's political participation is considered a basic axis in the democratic process of any country and it is also considered a major condition to activate the woman's role in adopting her issues, strengthen her rights and role in the public and private life. The woman has suffered and struggled a lot to achieve these objectives and her contribution in the society's progress was the first indication of the woman's political participation which started to show up and spread into the Arab, regional and international countries. And because of the societies' political and social cultures, the woman's achievement of her rights was affected because of the differences in the values, beliefs, attitudes and the common political knowledge in the society which were attributed to the social, economic, cognitive and ethical situations that determine the society structure and its political system. In the Western societies, the woman is considered an important element in the development process as these societies witnessed great developments in different fields which activated the woman's participation in the public life with its different fields

whereas in the Arab societies which they also witnessed great social and economic developments, the Arab woman still suffers from her low degree of participation in the comprehensive development especially her participation in the political process because she has been surrounded by the society's constraints as the traditions, the customs, the values and the beliefs.

According to Jordan, the importance of women's political participation was realized and accepted after decades of ignorance and abundance. Although of the women's positive contribution in the process of development especially after democratic life resumed in Jordan in 1989 but the women's participation is still weak in the political institutions in Jordan as the political parties, civil society organization and the elected councils and as a result of this the government did many amendments on the laws of election in the elected councils to make sure of the women's representation in these councils. The Jordanian society as other Arab societies suffers from the differentiation in its political culture, values, habits and traditions which control it and consequently the woman's participation in the political life was affected.

Problem of the Study and its Questions: The problem of the woman's participation in the political life is not legal or constitutional as the legal legislations give the women and the man equal rights in different levels but the social status with its customs and habits is the major obstacle facing the woman's participation in the political life. And although of the democratic transformation in Jordan in 1989, the woman's participation in the political life remains weak which means there is a real a problem and there are obstacles that hinder the woman's participation in the Jordanian political life and so this study seeks to identify the most significant obstacles facing the Jordanian woman from a perspective of a group which is considered qualified politically that is the female academic staff's members in the Jordanian universities through answering the following questions:

- What are family obstacles facing the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life?
- What are social obstacles facing the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life?
- Is there any statistically significant effect to the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life attributed to the family's place of residence ?
- Is there any statistically significant effect to the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life attributed to the parent' level of education?

Significance of the Study: The significance of this study lies in its try to clarify the woman's political status and to analyze the family and social reasons that hinder the woman's participation in the political life as the Jordanian society witnessed great political transformations during the twentieth century which the democratic transformation in 1989 was the most significant one that activated the woman's political participation but the Jordanian social status and its habits and traditions could be considered one of the basic obstacles that hinder the woman's participation in the political life. And although there were many studies that addressed the woman's participation in different social, economic and political fields but his study tries to shed light on the most significant obstacles that hinder the woman's participation in the political life and this study is considered one of rare studies that addressed the obstacles facing the Jordanian woman's participation from the perspective of academic women who are responsible for and interested in the Jordanian political work.

Objectives of the Study: The study aimed at identifying the most significant family and social obstacles that hinder the woman's participation in the political life through developing a measure to identify these obstacles so as to provide the interested people and the decision-makers in Jordan the facts about women's participation in the Jordanian political life.

Idioms of the Study

- The woman's political participation: the woman's positive role and its real participation in the political life as it is considered the woman's right which guaranteed by the Constitution for its important role in the comprehensive development.
- Obstacles of the political participation: they are a set of family and social obstacles that hinder the Jordanian women participation in the political life which are represented by the total degree in the measure which the researchers will develop.
- Members of the academic staff: they are the female members who hold MA degree at least and work in the social sciences in the Jordanian universities.

Limitations of the Study: This study is limited to a purposeful sample if the academic women in the Jordanian universities and who are interested in teaching courses related to social sciences. and the results of this study are limited to the dimensions which are included in the study's instrument plus the duration of time of the application of the study in addition to Psychometric characteristics of the instrument of the study.

Theoretical Frame: The women's participation in the political life has attracted a great attention recently and this case becomes a part of the international speech about the women which started in 1975 and ended by Nairobi conference in 1985 for the sake of women's advancement [1]. And some programs were prepared and many governments and private organizations participated in the regional and international forums which discussed women 's issues and cases in the multiple societies. These efforts and others were enhanced in the Fourth International Conference Of Woman in Beijing in 1995 which came out with an semi-compulsory international agenda for developing the woman in all the fields taking into account [2] that women's participation in the political life is controlled by the society's circumstances where we live and the degree of participation depends on the extent of freedom and democracy which the society has plus the

women's social rights which were given to her by the society to enable her practice the political role efficiently [3].

The developed societies has witnessed great developments in the economic, industrial and technological fields during the past three centuries and these developments helped in changing the system of the social and political life [4]. Additionally, these developments increased the women's participation in different social, political and economic fields of the public life. And according to the Arab societies, it is clear that although the Arab woman has involved in the public life since the period of liberation from Colonialism but this did not affect the woman's status in the period of national liberation and the modern Arab countries' construction. The Arab woman in general and the Jordanian one in particular witnessed all the social and political transformations which took place in the Arabic region during the last decades and although of the political changes that some Arab countries passed by which was known as "Arab Spring "Rabei"" but there are many difficulties and obstacles that hinder activating the woman's real participation in the Arab World as the society's attitudes towards the woman and her role in it in addition to the values, [5] common social traditions and the nature of the political culture in the society as the study of Zo'bi [6] asserted the women's rejection to participate in the political life is due to values and traditions according to a sample selected from the Emirati society while the study of Akandle [7] assured that the woman's participation in the Middle East countries is still below level required as the woman is not involved efficiently in politics. And the study of Thabit [8] confirmed that the woman's low degree of participation in the political parties attributed basically to the dominance of the negative perception of the woman in general so the woman was mainly controlled by the masculine culture in the Egyptian society. So, it is possible to say that there are many difficulties and obstacles that hinder activating the woman's role in the Arab World and activating the woman's political participation to achieve rights as the Western model is no longer considered a matter of talk but it becomes a necessity as the Arab woman's political participation is still under the required level. The Arab women do not have real and effective participation in the process of making decisions and despite of the differences between Arab societies but the Arab women shared the same obstacles that hinder their political participation and the Jordanian woman is in the same situation concerning the limitations of her political participation as many Arabic previous studies confirmed.

The woman's participation in the political life is considered weak despite of her economic and social role's development which resulted from the democratic transformations in the last two decades; the woman was not represented fairly in the government, parliament, association and the political parties [9] as she was not allowed to practice her political and legal rights in voting and electing in the multi-councils till the 1974 when the law of election was first adjusted allowing the woman to participate in the election process and to practice her right as a voter for the first time in the supplementary elections in 1984 and as a voter and candidate in the elections of 1989 [9]. Then the woman kept participating in the parliamentary elections that that happened during the years (1993-2013).

Despite of political obstacles' elimination facing the woman's participation and her enjoyment of the political rights but she failed greatly in competing the men to reach the parliament and the proportion of women's representation was very low during the years (1989-2003); 2% of the representative council and 5.7% of the senates' [10] council were women and therefore, many amendments of electoral law were done as a quota was allocated to woman in 2003 where six seats were allocated to woman but in 2010 the allocated seats to women became 12 and later 15 and so the proportion of women representation in the parliament for the years 2007-2009 was 6.4% [11] while in 2010 it was 10.8% and these proportions increase taking into quota system. It is noted that unless the law of election was amended in addition to the seats of quota, the woman would be unable to compete the man in obtaining seats in the representative council whereas the woman's proportion of representation in the Senate council was much less than as it was (12.7%) in 2007, (10.9%) in 2009, (15%) in 2010 and (13%) in 2012 [11].

Regarding the woman's participation in the executive authority which was before her participation in the parliament, the woman became a minister in 1979, 1984, 1994 with two female ministers respectively. In 1999, the woman for the first time in Jordan became a vice to the prime minister and in 2003, there were three female ministers and five ministers in 2005 but between 2010-2013 there were just three women [5]. And according to the woman's participation in the municipality councils, the proportion of the winners in the election of 2003 was less than 1% and to compensate this failure, the government appointed 99 women to make sure of the feminine attendance in these councils [4]. when the law of the municipality councils' elections was amended in 2007, the woman was given 20 % of the total seats of the

municipality councils and the proportion of women for 2008 was 27.8% while it was 24.8% in 2010 and in 2012 [11]. We conclude if there was not an amendment of the municipality law, the woman could not compete the man in obtaining seats in the municipality councils in the Jordanian university.

And according to the woman's representation in the professional associations, it was 21.6% in 2002, 22.7% in 2008, 33.3% in 2010 but it was 31.2% 31.2% in 2012 [11]. whereas the jobs concerning the judicial field they were limited to men till 1996 when the first Jordanian woman was appointed as a judge with a proportion of representation (0.2%) which reached 7.1% in 2009 and 12.4% in 2010. And the women's representation in the political parties was not better as the proportion of the woman's representation in the political parties was 6.8% in 2005. And as a result of the law of parties which was issued in 2007, this proportion of representation increased to 27.8% [12] and because of the amendment of the political parties' law in 2012 which required the proportion of the women not to be less than (10%), it became 32% [11].

After addressing the Jordanian woman's status in the political life and despite of the amending many laws and legislations which were all in favor of the woman but the woman's participation in the political life is still weak and this may due to some obstacles that hinder increasing the woman's participation in the political life as the family and social obstacles [13].

The traditional structure of the Jordanian society supplies the male with a degree of absolute authority in many social, economic and even political issues. The male in the Jordanian society is the one who maintains ancestry and makes decisions in the family while the female's duties from the perspective of a big number of the males in the Jordanian society are limited to give birth, raise the children, meet the man's needs and take care of the house's affairs [13] and this situation was a result of the woman's social nurture in the Jordanian society where the family prepared the girls from the early beginning to do the traditional tasks in addition to the distinguish in treatment between the male and the female. There are also constraints on the female's behavior for religious and social reasons whereas the male is free of doing whatever he wants which accordingly enhances the woman's feeling of dependency. Therefore, the woman started to believe of the superiority of the male in leadership and so a generation of women who are unable to participate in the political life will be created and this result was asserted by the study of Al-Zaban [14] which concluded

the family is the first social institution that grows the social and political values, for example, the father's image gives the father in the family the absolute authority in controlling its affairs and taking decisions and so this type of nurture hinders the woman's ability in taking decisions because she feels irresponsible and dependable in this field [14]. Despite of her achieving degrees of education and opportunities of work plus the family's development as the woman's financial help to the family because of her work and therefore she has the right to discuss the family's affairs and to take some decisions in addition to the increase in the number of the educated women in the Jordanian society which reduces the father's absolute authority leading to a balance in the daily affairs but the importance of the woman's participation in the society has not been achieved yet [13] indicating the society's dissatisfaction of her political participation and this what the study of Nafa' [15] asserted that the society's view of the woman is still traditional which is considered an obstacle facing enhancing the woman's political participation [15]. This traditional view forces the woman to believe that the man has the skills of the political work as the ability of convincing, speech, and negotiation more that she does and the Jordanian society does allow the woman to more and transfer freely which the political work requires and hence the political work is considered unsuitable work to the woman's nature in the Jordanian society in general [16].

And so we find that the Jordanian woman has been affected by the nature of the Jordanian society and its habits, values, customs and principals which hinder the woman's political participation as the Jordanian society is dominated by the traditional attitudes and values which consider the woman unable to make political decisions and this was asserted by the study of Al-Othman [4] which stated that the common Jordanian culture is a traditional and conservative one that depends on a set of values, customs and traditional that have traditional view towards the woman through the social nurture identifying what is appropriate of not for the man and the woman; it is appropriate for the man to be in the higher ranks in the political and legislative positions while it is appropriate for the woman to take care of her family [4].

It is noticeable that the woman's role in the political life has been affected by the social, and the cultural frame of the Jordanian society; as this frame is based on the values, attitudes and the common traditions in the society which affect greatly the woman's political participation creating real obstacles in front of this participation where

the nature of these values, attitudes and the common traditions were considered a part of the individual's freedom which believed that the woman's freedom was controlled in comparison with the man. Additionally, these values and traditions believed that the man could do things that the woman could not do for his ability of negotiation and they also identified the nature of the work of the man and the woman. Hence, we find these types of work transferred as a social heritage from one generation to another through the social nurture which is too difficult to be changed and therefore the Jordanian society is described as "masculine society" indicating that this society admits the woman's in the acceptable social positions. And although of the changes and developments in the educational, economic and social fields and the woman's achievement of more rights in the field of public service but the traditional values, structure of the family and its role remained with no change giving the males more role than the woman in the field of the political participation and as a result the researcher was motivated to conduct this study to identify the most significant social and family obstacles that hinder the woman's participation in the political life in the Jordanian society.

Methodology of the Study: The researcher followed quantitative approach which suits the nature of the study where a questionnaire was developed and applied on the sample of the study.

Sample of the Study: A purposeful sample consisted of 40 female academic staff members in the Jordanian public universities and who taught courses related to the social sciences.

Instrument of the Study: To achieve the objectives of the study, the researcher developed a scale to measure the obstacles of the women's participation in the political life in the Jordanian society according to the following procedures:

- The researcher reviewed the theoretical frame and the previous studies related to the obstacles of the women's participation in the political life.
- The researcher interviewed three female academic staff asking them obstacles of the women's participation in the political life.
- Preparing the questionnaire's items consisting of two dimensions:
- Dimension of family obstacles which consists of 13 items (1-13).

- Dimension of social obstacles which consists of 11 items (14-24)
- The Psychometric properties of the validity and reliability's coefficients of questionnaire according to the following:

Content Validity: The content validity was checked in terms of the appropriateness of the items linguistically and meaning and its compatibility with the dimensions and the instrument of the study as the researcher presented the initial draft of the instrument of the study to experts in the following fields: Measurement and Evaluation, Political and Social Sciences and Arabic. In light of the experts' notes, the researcher made some changes and later he distributed the items of the questionnaire into two dimensions: family obstacles and social ones.

Construct Validity: The researcher calculated the corrected correlation coefficient between the item's degree and degree of the measurement as a whole. And the corrected correlation between the item's degree and the dimension's degree taking into account deleting the items which their corrected correlation coefficient with the measurement or after are less than (0.30) and no item was deleted,

The values of the corrected correlation coefficient with the measurement ranged between (0.32-0.56) of the family obstacles' dimension and (0.33-0.66) of the social obstacles' dimension. the values of the corrected correlation coefficient with its dimensions ranged (0.33-0.72) at the level of family obstacles dimensions and (0.36-0.66) at the level of social obstacles. And the linear correlation coefficients of the instrument of the study and its dimensions were calculated as it is illustrated in table (1).

It is noted from Table (1) that the linear correlations coefficients between the dimensions and between the study's instrument as a whole ranged from 0.53 to 0.90 and this indicates it is One-dimensional measurements.

Table 1: Linear Correlation Coefficients of the study's instrument and its dimensions

	Family obstacles	Social obstacles	Total measurement
Correlation			
Family obstacles	1		
Social obstacles	0,53	1	
Total measurement	0,68	0,90	1

Table 2: Coefficients of reliability and internal consistency of the instrument and its dimensions

Obstacles of practicing the political work and its dimension	Reliability /retest	Reliability /internal consistency	N of items
Family obstacles	0,88	0,86	13
Social obstacles	0,93	0,82	11
Total/measurement	0,90	0,84	24

C-The study's instrument's Reliability: the research selected a pilot study consisted of (20) female academic staff's members out of the sample of the study. The researcher used Test and Retest method to check the reliability of the instrument with two weeks between the first and the second application of the instrument so as to calculate the reliability using Pearson Correlation Coefficient and to calculate the internal consistency of the first application's items using Cronbach Alpha as it illustrated in Table (2).

It is noted from Table (2) that the values of Test-Retest reliability and the values of internal consistency reliability's coefficient are considered sufficient indications to adopt the study's instrument.

- The instrument of the study was applied on the original sample of the study which consisted of 40 female academic staff's members.

Method of Correcting the Instrument of the Study: Every item was given a number for example: (5) means strongly agree, (4) agree, (3) neutral, (2) disagree, (1) strongly disagree talking into account reversing the answers' scale of the negative items of the questionnaire and the total degree of the instrument ranged (24-120) and according to the period of the instrument's application, the answer was from 15 to 20 min.

The Study's Procedures:

- Obtaining an agreement from Ministry of Higher Education to facilitate the application of the study.
- The instrument of the study was prepared by the help of the theoretical literature and the previous studies.
- Identifying the universities which have female teachers teaching courses related to social studies so as to determine the sample of the study.
- The instrument of the study was distributed into the sample of the study and retrieved after three weeks.
- Collecting data and analyze them using SPSS.

Statistical Analysis:

- To answer the 1st and the 2nd question, the means and standard deviations of the instrument of the study and its dimensions were calculated.
- To answer the 3rd and 4th questions, One way-ANOVA test was used.

RESULTS

This study aimed at identifying the significant family and social obstacles facing the Jordanian woman's political participation from the perspective of female academic staff's members in the Jordanian public universities and the results of the study's questions are as follows:

First: the first question: What are the most significant family obstacles facing the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life ? To answer the question, the means and the standard deviations of the instruments' and its dimensions were calculated taking into account the order of the instrument's dimensions according to their means as it is illustrated in Table (3).

We notice from table (3) that the mean of the female academic staff members' answers ranged from 4.30 to 2.83 with relative significance ranged from 86% to 56.6%; item: "I think men's dominance over women affects negatively her efficiency in the political life" was in the first rank with a mean 4.30 followed by the item: "I think nurture inside the family is guided towards the male rather than the female," in the second rank with a mean 4.24 while item "I think the woman's heavy work at home has negative effect on her participation in the political life" was in the third rank with a mean (4.10). The least family obstacles concerning the woman's participation in the political life was item: "I think woman is unable to make decisions if she participated in the political work".

Second: 2nd Question: What are the most social obstacles facing the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life? To answer this question, the means and standard deviations of the study's instrument were calculated

Table 3: Family obstacles facing the women's participation in the Jordanian society from the perspective of the female academic staff in the Jordanian universities

N of item	Items	Mean	Std	Rank	Relative importance
1	I think the parents' influence dominates the woman's desire and dreams.	3,78	1,17	6	75,6%
2	I think your family opposes your participation in the political life.	3,42	1,17	10	68,4%
3	I think the man has the required characteristics which the political work needs.	3,94	1,53	4	78,8%
4	I think the woman does not have the required characteristics which the political work needs as the man.	3,26	1,20	12	65,2%
5	I think the woman's pregnancy and giving birth hinder her participation in the political life.	3,52	1,29	8	70,4%
6	I think the big number of children affect negatively the woman's participation in the political life.	3,92	1,20	5	78,4%
7	I think the woman's heavy duties at home affect negatively her participation in the political life.	4,10	0,97	3	82%
8	I think the woman's major role is to raise the children and take care of the house.	3,47	1,06	9	69,4%
9	I think family's nurture is guided towards the male.	4,24	1,31	2	85,8%
10	I think the woman is unable to make decisions if she decided to participate in the political work.	2,83	1,27	13	56,6%
11	I think the man's dominance over the woman affects her negatively her efficiency in the political life.	4,30	1,32	1	86%
12	I think the educated family is not more understandable than the non-educated one concerning the woman's participation in the political life.	3,35	1,25	11	67%
13	I think the woman cannot participate in the political life and take care of the family's affairs at the same time.	3,53	1,14	7	70,6%

Table 4: Social obstacles facing the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life from the perspective of female academic staff's members in the Jordanian universities

N of item	Items	Mean	Std	rank	Relative
1	I think the society accept the woman's work in the political field	2,18	1,11	7	43,6%
2	I think the legislations and the laws do not admit the political rights' equality between the man and the woman.	2,42	1,15	11	48,4%
3	I think the common culture in the society affects negatively the woman's participation in the political life.	4,44	1,22	1	88,8%
4	I think the democratic attitudes in Jordan do not help the woman to participate politically.	2,26	1,33	8	45,2%
5	I think the woman does not have the freedom of action in the political situations.	2,52	1,22	10	50,4%
6	I think the society's weak political culture does not affect negatively the woman's political work.	2,42	1,11	9	48,4%
7	I think the habits and the traditions affect negatively the woman's political participation.	4,10	0,99	2	82%
8	I think the political work requires the woman to move freely which the society totally rejected.	4,07	1,40	4	81,4%
9	I think the society has positive attitudes towards the woman's political participation.	2,10	1,55	5	42%
10	I think the society is interested in the woman's role in the political life.	2,15	1,23	6	43%
11	I think the society has more positive view towards the man than the woman.	4,10	1,25	3	82%

taking into account the instrument' items' order according to their mean as it illustrated in Table (4).

It is noted according Table (4) that the mean of the respondents' answers regarding the social obstacles facing the woman's participation in the political life ranged (2.42-4.44) with a relative significance ranged (48.4%-88.8%) where the item: " I think the society's common culture affects negatively the woman's participation in the political life" came in the first rank with a mean (4.44) followed by item " I think habits and traditions affect negatively woman's participation in the political life" with a mean (4.10) while in the third rank was item: " I think the society looks positively at the man more than at the woman," with a mean 4.10. the least social obstacles facing the woman's participation was, according to the respondents' answers, the item: " I think the legislations and the laws do not admit of the equal political rights for the man and woman,".

Third: 3rd Question: Is there any statistical significant effect to the woman's participation in the political life attributed to the family's place of residence ? To answer this question, ANOVA Test was used as it illustrated in Table (5).

According table (5), it is clear that the value of calculated "F" was (5.492) and it is statistically significant at the level of significance ($\alpha=0.05$) which indicates that there were statistical significant differences in the degree of the Jordanian women's participation in the political life attributed to the family's place of residence from the perspective of the female academic staff members. Therefore, it is possible to say that there basic differences in the degree of the Jordanian women's participation in the political life attributed to the family's place of residence (city, village, Badia, countryside) and to know to which these statistical differences were in favor of, Scheffe Test for Post Hoc Comparisons was used as it illustrated in Table (6):

Table 5: Results of ANOVA test of the differences in the degree of the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life attributed to the family's place of residence from the perspective of the female academic staff members

Source of variance	Sum of seq	Df	Mean of seq	Calculated F	Sig
Between the groups	9807,041	3	3269,0136	5,492	0.000
Within the groups	21427,207	36	595,200		
Total	31234,248	39			

Table 6: Results of Scheffe Test for Post Hoc Comparisons of the degree of the Jordanian women's participation in the political life according to the family's place of residence from the perspective of the female academic staff members

Group	Mean	City	Village	Badia	Countryside
City	3.343		0.00**	0.602	0.650
Village	2.617			0.00**	0.532
Badia	2.314				0.567
Country side	2.028				

Table 7: Results of ANOVA test of the differences in the degree of the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life attributed to the parent's level of education from the perspective of the female academic staff members

Source of variance	Sum of seq.	Df	Mean of seq.	Calculate F	Sig.
Between the groups	9255,474	5	1851,0948	3,559	0.044
Within the groups	17672,775	34	519,987		
Total	52928,249	39			

Table 8: Results of Scheffe Test for Post Hoc Comparisons of the degree of the Jordanian women's participation in the political life according to the family's head's level of education from the perspective of the female academic staff

Group	Mean	Less than general secondary level	General secondary	Diploma	Bachelor	Master	Phd
Less than general secondary level	2,256		0.867	0.602	0.715**	0.002	0.00**
General secondary degree	2,617			0.756	0.532	0.112	0.221**
Diploma	2,716				0.532	0.112	0.412**
Bachelor	3,333					0.112	0.066**
Master	4,033						0.0233**
Phd	4,231						

Table (6) showed that the mean of the degree of the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life according to the family's place of residence(city) from the perspective of the female academic staff's members was the highest one and it was statistically significant at the level of significance ($\alpha=0.05$) followed by (village) and (countryside) respectively.

Fourth:4th Question: Is there any statistical significant effect to the woman's participation in the political life attributed to parents' level of education? To answer this question, ANOVA Test was used as it illustrated in table (7).

It is clear from the previous table that the value of the calculated F is 3.559 and it is statistically significant at the level of significance ($\alpha=0.05$) which indicates that there were statistical significant differences in the degree of the

Jordanian women's participation in the political life attributed to the parents' level of education from the perspective of the female academic staff members. Therefore, it is possible to say that there basic differences in the degree of the Jordanian women's participation in the political life according to the parents' level of education and in order to find out to which group these differences were in favor of, Scheffe Test for Post Hoc Comparisons was used as it illustrated in Table (8):

The Table (8) showed clearly that the highest mean of the degree of the Jordanian woman's participation in the political life attributed to the family's head's level of education variable from the perspective of the female academic staff's members was in favor of the Ph degree holder and it was statistically significant at the level of significance ($\alpha=0.05$) followed by the MA degree and BA degree respectively.

DISCUSSION

The study aimed at identifying the most important family and social obstacles that hinder the woman's participation in the political life in the Jordanian society and the results of the first questions showed that one of the most important family obstacles facing the woman's participation in the political life was the man's dominance over the woman which in turn affects negatively her efficiency in the political life indicating that the traditional structure of the Jordanian society gives the male in the family the ultimate authority because the male in the society is the who is responsible for maintaining lineages and thus he is decision-maker and the woman is just a follower to his decisions including participation decision in the political life.

And the family nurture which paid much attention to the male more than the female is considered another reason that hinder the woman's participation in the political life. The family nurture asserted the woman's staying at home and not having direct interaction with the society. From early beginning, the family taught the female that she has specific tasks to do as giving birth, raising children and meeting the needs of the man and the house, in addition to the family discrimination between the male and the female in treatment plus there are many things that the woman cannot do which enhance the woman's feeling of fellowship and weakness and so the family nurture is in favor of the male. Additionally, the woman's heavy house work has negative effect on her political participation which asserts that the woman's role in the society is totally traditional that cares of the family's affairs firstly since this work is considered one of the woman's duties and this the woman does not have enough time to participate in the political life as the man.

The least family obstacles facing the woman's participation in the political life from the perspective of the sample of the study was that she was unable to make decisions if she participated in the political work and this assures that the woman can participate politically if she is given the appropriate opportunity but the Jordanian society mainly impose social habits and traditions that hinder the woman's participation in the political life.

And the results of the second question showed that the most significant social problems facing the woman's participation in the political life is the Jordanian society's common culture that affects negatively the woman's political participation indicating that this culture is traditional and conservative one and it relies on typical values, traditions and habits that control the woman's

behaviors as identifying the social beliefs in terms of their appropriateness or not to the roles of the man and the woman in the Jordanian society. Accordingly, the appropriate role of the woman is to take care of her husband and her family.

The habits and the traditions are also considered an important reason that hinder the woman's political participation and this assured that these habits and traditions intervened in the individual's freedom as they believe that the woman's freedom is controlled compared with the man and there are types of work done only by the male plus they identified the work and its nature of the woman and the man and thus these types of work transferred as social heritage from one generation to another through the social nurture which seems difficult to be changed. And the major reason that hinder the woman's political participation is the society which looks more positively towards the man than the woman indicating the society's traditional view towards the woman which believes the woman are unable to make decisions and participate in the political life and accordingly the majority of the society are certain that the man has the skills of the political work as the ability of convincing, speech and the freedom of movement more than the woman.

While the least social obstacles facing the woman's political participation was: 'the legislations and the laws do not admit the equal political rights between the man and the woman,' and this is an indications that the relevant absence of the woman's participation in the political life is not attributed to legal obstacles as the election laws were amended many times to guarantee the woman's representation in the elected councils but the woman's lack of political participation was attributed to social obstacles that hinder achieving equality between the man and woman. And despite of the political reforms and transformation which Jordan has witnessed recently but the role of the woman remained limited in the political life as the woman failed to compete the man in the parliamentary and municipal elections which is considered a clear indication to the society's lack of trust of the woman's ability of the political work compared with its trust with the man's ability.

The results of the third question indicated that there are major differences in the degree of the woman's political participation according to the woman's place of residence variable in favor of the woman who lives in the city and this showed clearly that the woman who lives in the city is usually closer to civil society institutions more than the others who live in other regions and so she is

more active and efficient than the others as a result of living openness in the city that provides her with the opportunity to practice the political work more than the others who live in other places.

While the results of the fourth question showed that there are intrinsic differences in the degree of the woman's participation in the political life according to the education level of the heads of the family in favor of the family's heads who hold higher degrees of education and this asserted that this category is more aware of the woman's efficiency and her positive role in the political participation as they do not look at her from traditional point of view but they considered her as a major partner in the comprehensive development's process of the Jordanian society.

Recommendations:

- Conducting further studies that include other obstacles as political, economic and cultural obstacles.
- Conducting studies with different variables related to the obstacle facing Jordanian woman's participation in the political life as the age of the woman, the woman's scientific qualification and number of the family's members.
- Organizing training-awareness programs to the housewives and the brothers to motivate the degree of the woman's practice of the political work.
- Increasing the man's and the woman's awareness of the importance of the woman's participation in the political life through training and education.
- Activating the role of the Jordanian mass media to encourage the woman to participate politically in the Jordanian society.
- Continuing to maintain the woman's Proportional Representation in the parliament and in the municipality councils to achieve justice at the level of the regions of the kingdom.

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