

# The Challenges Hindering Jordanian Women From Political Participation From The Perspective Of The Female Graduate Students At The University Of Jordan

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## ABSTRACT:

The researchers of the present study aimed to explore the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation from the perspective of the female graduate students at the University of Jordan. They drafted six questions to conduct interviews. Such interviews aim at collecting data about the meaning of political participation and the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation. The aim at offering suggestion for addressing such challenges. The researchers of the present study adopted a descriptive approach. The study's population consists from 863 female graduate students who were chosen from the departments of (educational leadership, educational foundations, curriculum & instruction, and special education. The researchers of the present study conducted interviews with 14 female graduate students. They found that the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation include: economic challenges, the perceptions of the society, and the customs and traditions. They recommend holding lectures for promoting awareness about the significance of women's political role. They recommend making a university course that promote awareness about the significance of women's political role. They recommend holding lectures and symposiums for increasing the extent of support provided for women by women.

## Keywords:

challenges, political participation, the University of Jordan

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## INTRODUCTION

The political participation of Jordanian women is considered significant due to several reasons. For instance, women represent about half of the society. They are also responsible for raising up the future generation. They are responsible for managing the house affairs, including economic affairs. They enjoy the same rights that men enjoy. They have the same responsibilities that men have. For instance, article 6 / 1 of the Jordanian constitution states the following: (Jordanians shall be equal before the law with no discrimination between them in rights and duties even if they differ in race, language or religion). Article 22 / 1 of the Jordanian constitution states the following: (Every Jordanian shall be entitled to hold public offices under the conditions prescribed in law or regulations). Women didn't have political participation till the year 1974. In the latter year, a royal decree was issued. It grants women the right to vote, and elect in parliamentary and municipal elections. Thus, women and men became equal in terms of rights. However, the first actual participation for women occurred in 1978. The Council of Ministers in 1979 includes a women. This women is En'am Al-Mufti. She was the Minister of Social Development. The Prime Minister was Abed Al-Hameed Sharaf (Makhadmeh et al., 2004). In 1980, four women were assigned in the second round. In 1982, four women were assigned in the third round. Thus, 11

women are assigned out of 195 members (Al-Amarat, 2018).

In 1984, Laylah Sharaf was assigned as the Minister of Media. The Prime Minister at the latter year is Ahmad E'baidat. In 1989, 12 women ran for the membership of the House of Representatives. However, none of them succeeded in their attempts. However, one woman called (Layla Sharaf) was assigned as a member in the Senate of Jordan. In 1993, a decline occurred. To illustrate more, three women ran for the membership of the House of Representatives. One of them called (Tojan Faysal) won the membership. In the latter year, a woman called (Rima Al-Khalaf) was assigned as the Minister of Industry and Trade and a women called (Na'elah Al-Rushdan) was assigned as a member in the Senate of Jordan (Makhadmeh et al., 2004).

In 1994, En'am Al-Mufti was assigned as the Minister of Social Development. In the latter year, Rima Khalaf was assigned as the Minister of Planning and the Vice Prime Minister. In the council of ministers led by the Prime Minister Faysal Al-Fayzed, three women were recruited as ministers. In 1995, nine women won in the municipal elections. In the latter year, it was the first time in which women get members in the municipal councils. In the elections of 1997, 17 women ran for office. However, none of those women was lucky. This result was a disappointment for women in the political field. Therefore, the political leaders took interventional measures and motivated women to participate in the political Field. They developed the quota system

for women's representation in politics. Thus, women were granted six seats. Seven women were assigned in the Senate of Jordan. The Jordanian government created a committee for the quota system of women's representation. At the end of 2002, the latter committee recommended dedicating seats for women in the House of Representatives out of 110 seats. In the light of that, the Jordanian government carried out the election process in pursuant to the amended law of election No. 11 of 2003 (Makhadmeh et al., 2004).

After declaring the results of the election process, women passed a document for the Parliament of Jordan. This document is called (the Jordanian woman document). It includes a plan for the period (2003 – 2007). It suggests that the men and women representation percentages mustn't be less than 30%. That represents a compliance with international agreements. The ones who drafted the latter document recommend abolishing the law titled (the one vote law). They recommend making amendment to legislations in order to allow voting through a list (Makhadmeh et al., 2004).

In 2010, the temporary parliament election law No. 9 was enacted. It granted women 12 seats minimum instead of six seats through the quota system. Thus, there were 13 women in the House of Representatives. One of the latter women won through free competition. Having women winning the election through ballot box indicates that there is much support provided for women. It indicates that women have become free from the restrictions enforced on them by men (Al-Amarat, 2021).

The decentralization law granted women the right to vote and run for elections. Thus, women participated in the decentralization elections in 2017. In addition, the decentralization law No. 49 of 2015 granted women additional seats (the quota system for women's representation). Such seats represent 10% of the seats in the province councils. The members of the latter councils are assigned by the council of ministers. Thus, 15% of the membership of the province councils are enjoyed by women. The results of the election of the province council indicated that 3 women obtained offices in the council offices. They indicate that 33.8% of the offices in province councils are held by women. They indicate that two women are vice head of province council out of 12 ones. Those two women are the vice head of Zarqa province council and vice head of Jarash province council. 53 women succeeded in getting positions in the province councils. That indicates that the future shall be full of stories of women of success in political fields. Such fields include: the House of Representatives, the province council and the municipal councils (Al-Amarat, 2021).

Women are still facing many challenges hindering them from political participation. Due to such challenges, women aren't capable of participating in the political

field as they ought to. Such challenges include proportion-related challenges. To illustrate more, the percentage of women in society. 48% of the Jordanian society are females and 52% of the Jordanian society are males. In addition, there are social challenges hindering women from political participation in Jordan. To illustrate more, women in Jordan are perceived as being inferior and men are perceived as superior. They are perceived so in cities, Badia and countryside. Such perceptions may be attributed to having patriarchal ideologies that are instilled within people during childhood. For instance, girls are raised up to obey the male members of the family, including father, brothers and husband in the future. They are told that they shouldn't compete with men, even at workplace. A field study (Khoury, 1996) was issued by the Strategies Studies Centre at the University of Jordan in 1996. Dr. Amal Al-Daghestani participated in the latter studies. It suggests that 52.25% of the women made their election-related decisions without being influenced by men. 35.46% of the women suggest that their decisions to vote and participate were influenced by men (brother, husband or father). 6.35% of women suggest that their decisions to vote and participate were influenced by men who aren't family members.

It should be noted that the sample of the latter study was chosen from the University of Jordan. Thus, the sample consists from educated women who are capable of making their own decisions independently. Thus, what about the women who are not educated? Would they make their own decisions independently?

Since the end of 1990s, women obtained many political rights. Such rights include women's right to participate in political field. Enjoying the latter right is considered essential. However, one may wonder to what extent women enjoy the latter right in terms of working in political parties and running for the parliamentary, municipal elections quota system for women's representation.

Awareness must be promoted among women about the significance of their role in achieving development and participating in politics. Awareness must be promoted among women about the significance of their role in making social changes through organized group work and engaging in voluntarily bodies that are concerned in women issues. Awareness must be promoted among women about the significance of their role in changing the perception of the society for the role of women and providing support for women. Awareness must be promoted among women about the significance of their role in claiming for support for women by the UN organizations. Awareness must be promoted among women about their right to make political decision independently (Hadad, 1996).

Based on the aforementioned information, it is very important to promote political awareness among women. Such awareness must shed a light on the

significance of women's political participation. It must shed a light on the significance of make political decision independently by women without being influenced by men.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

One of the researchers of the present study noticed that women's political participation in Salt, Jordan isn't as it ought to be during the last couple of years. To be specific, during the last couple of years, none of the women in Salt was assigned as a minister nor as the head of the municipal council. The first time in which a woman was assigned as a minister was in 1979. Till today, the council of ministers include three women maximum out of 29 ministers. That represents 10 % of the whole council of ministers. There are 20 seats for women in the House of Representatives out of 150 members. That represents 13 % of the whole members. There are 9 seats for women in the Senate out of 65 seats. That represents 13%. Based on such percentages, one of the researchers of the present study noticed that women's political participation in Jordan is low. However, there are numerous women who have excellent competences and skills. Thus, the researchers of the present study believe that it is necessary to shed a light on the challenges hindering women from political participation. Therefore, they aimed to explore the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation from the perspective of the female graduate students at the University of Jordan.

### THE STUDY'S QUESTIONS

#### MAIN QUESTION

What are the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation from the perspective of the female graduate students at the University of Jordan?

#### THE QUESTIONS OF THE INTERVIEW

Q.1. what is the meaning of political participation in Jordan from your own perspective?

Q.2. Did you ever participate in the (parliamentary or municipal election)?

Q.3. Do you have the desire to hold a political office?

Q.4. what are the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation?

Q.5. what suggestions could you make for increasing the political participation of Jordanian women?

Q.6. Do you have any comment that you would like to make?

### THE STUDY'S OBJECTIVES:

#### THE PRESENT STUDY AIMED TO

- Explore the meaning of the term (political participation).
- Explore the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation.
- Provide suggestions for increasing the political participation of women.

### THE STUDY'S SIGNIFICANCE

The present study is significant due to the reasons that are mentioned below:

- 1)- The present study provides results that are beneficial for officials who are concerned in political participation.
- 2)- The present study serves as a significant reference for researchers and students

### THE STUDY'S TERMS

- **Challenges:** (theoretical definition): They refer to the obstacle hindering one from competing and proving himself/herself (Ka'ki, 2012).

**Challenges:** (Procedural definition): They refer to the obstacle hindering women from engaging in political activities in Jordan.

**Political participation:** It refers to any act that is directly or indirectly connected to political life and its manifestations. Such an act aims to influence the political decision to meet certain goals. Political participation may involve: having membership in a political party, voting, having an election card, watching political news and discussing political issues (Sulaiman, 2016).

**The University of Jordan:** It is the largest higher education institution in Jordan. It was established in 1963 in Amman. It is a public university that grants students higher diploma, BA, MA, and PhD degrees. It grants degrees in all majors.

### LIMITS AND LIMITATIONS

**Thematic limits:** The present study aimed to explore the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation.

**Spatial limits:** The present study was conducted in the University of Jordan.

**Temporal limits:** The present study was conducted during the first semester of the academic year 2020 / 2021.

**Human limits:** The present study targets the female graduate students at the University of Jordan.

### PREVIOUS STUDIES

The researchers of the present study reviewed studies that are published in English language and studies that are published in Arabic language:

#### STUDIES THAT ARE PUBLISHED IN ARABIC LANGUAGE

Al-Abed (2010) aimed to explore the extent of Jordanian women's participation in the parliamentary and municipal elections. He selected a sample that consists from students and teachers in Petra, Jordan. He aimed to explore the bodies responsible for promoting awareness about the significance of women's representation in the House of Representatives. He aimed to explore the impact of age, income, profession and academic qualification on the political participation of Jordanian women. He found that there isn't any statistically significant difference between the respondents' views towards the political participation of Jordanian women which can be attributed to age. He found that the political participation of women in the last parliamentary and municipal elections in 2007 is

lower than the previous elections. Thus, women's attitudes towards political participation are negative. The researcher found that the extent of promoting awareness among women about the significance of having women in the House of Representatives affects women's political participation.

Al-Shami (2011) aimed to explore the impact of some factors on women's political participation in Oman. The targeted factors are: political, social, cultural and legal factors. The targeted period is 1995 – 2010. The researcher adopted a social approach. The sample consists from 150 women who hold leadership positions in Oman. Questionnaire forms were distributed to them. 120 forms were retrieved. It was found that there is a correlative relationship between political, social, cultural and legal factors from one hand and women's political participation in Oman from another hand.

Al-Khawaldeh (2013) aimed to explore the impact of Jordanian women political participation during the Arab Spring. He conducted an analysis for the Jordanian women political participation in the election of the House of Representatives in 2013. During the Arab Spring, the legislator enacted the House of Representatives election Law No. 25 of 2012 and its amendments. The latter law grants Jordanian women more seats in the House of Representatives. Thus, women became having 15 seats in the House of Representatives. The researcher found that the Jordanian women played an effective role in the House of Representatives election in 2013. For instance, 191 women ran for office and 18 women succeeded.

#### **STUDIES THAT ARE PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

There are various studies that are published in English language in this regard. A study conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2010) aimed to explore the extent of equality between men and women and the extent of women empowerment in Jordan. It suggests that the Jordanian government made reforms to the public sector and exerts effort to achieve equality between men and women. It suggests that the Jordanian government achieved much progress in achieving the development goals of the third millennium. It suggests that Jordan is a leading country in the MENA Region in terms of fighting against corruption and setting strategies in the public sectors. It suggests that women have been playing an effective role in making decisions and practicing leadership in the political field during the last ten years. In the amended election law of 2010, the number of seats of women in the Jordanian Parliament became 12 instead of 6 out of 20 seats. In addition, women have been assigned in various leadership positions. A governmental report suggests that the development of women's role in politics is slow. That is attributed to the absence of a law and a strategy that aim to achieve equality between men and women. 50

% of the ones working in the institutions that are affiliated with the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) in Jordan are women. The degree to which women are holding offices of lower levels in public institutions has been increasing. However, the degree to which women are holding offices of high management levels in public institutions is still low due to the challenges that are mentioned in the report issued by the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW). Such challenges include: clan-related challenges and class-related challenges. Till today, women aren't treated equally to men in various field. There is a major need for providing women with facilities to facilitate the way they carry out their duties and enable them to handle positions in the top management levels. There is a need to amend legislations in order to fight against discrimination against women. There is a need to have equality between women and men in terms of the responsibilities towards sons/daughters. There is a need for exerting more effort by the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW) to protect women's rights. There is a need for making more decisions that are for the favour of women.

Dababneh (2012) aimed to explore the reality of women's role in cultural areas and achieving social, economic and political development. He adds that women achieved much success in various areas. He adds that major challenges occurred to women's roles in various areas in general and the decision making area in particular. Such challenges occurred during the last couple of decades. The researcher adds that women became capable to draft their own path in society through their contributions and success. He adds that there is a need for increasing women empowerment in the Arab societies. He adds that there is a greater need for utilizing women's potentials and capabilities, granting them more rights and increasing their political participation. That shall contribute to achieving development in society in all areas.

The present study contributes to shedding a light on the opportunities available for women in the leadership and decision making fields. It sheds a light on the challenges hindering women in Jordan from getting leadership and decision making powers.

Moghadam (2011) adds that since the spring of 2011, people in Maghreb and the Middle East countries started claiming the governments for democracy. He adds that such government started making reforms. Such reforms include: achieving equality between men and women in terms of rights and promoting democracy.

#### **COMMENTS ON THE AFOREMENTIONED STUDIES**

The aforementioned studies shed a light on the political participation of women. They differ from each other in terms of objectives. For instance, Al-Abed (2010) aimed to explore the extent of Jordanian women's



participation in the parliamentary and municipal elections. As for Al-Shami (2011), he aimed to explore the impact of some factors on women's political participation in Oman. He targeted political, social, cultural and legal factors. Al-Khawaldeh (2013) aimed to explore the impact of Jordanian women political participation during the Arab Spring. He conducted an analysis for the Jordanian women political participation in the election of the House of Representatives in 2013.

. A study conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2010) aimed to explore the extent of equality between men and women and the extent of women empowerment in Jordan. Moghadam (2011) aimed to explore the role of women in the Arab Spring and the impact of the Arab Spring on women participation. After reviewing the aforementioned studies, it can be noticed that none of those studies shed a light on the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation from the perspective of female students. Thus, the present study differs from the aforementioned studies in terms of goals, and sample.

### THE STUDY'S APPROACH

**Table (1): The distribution of the members of the sample in accordance with (program level, age category, marital status and the city they are residing at)**

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Academic qualification	MA	1	7%
	PhD	31	93%
Age category	26- 50 years	14	100%
Marital status	Married	10	71%
	Single	4	29%
The city they are residing at	Salt	3	21%
	Amman	11	79%

### THE STUDY'S INSTRUMENT

After reviewing the aforementioned literature, the researchers of the present study drafted 7 questions to be asked through the interviews. Those questions aim at collecting data about the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation from the perspective of the female graduate students at the University of Jordan. Those questions were passed to Dr. Mohammad Al-Zboon at the educational foundations department at the University of Jordan in order for him to assess them. Dr. Mohammad Al-Zboon recommended deleting a question. Thus, the final version of the instrument consists from 6 questions. The first part of the instrument aims at collecting demographic data about the sample. As for the second part, it aims at collecting data about the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation from the perspective of the female graduate students at the University of Jordan. The researchers of the present study examined and analyzed the latter data, and compared them with the results reached by other

The researchers of the present study adopted a descriptive analytical approach. They collected data from the female graduate students at the University of Jordan through conducting interviews. Through such interviews, the researchers of the present study aimed to explore the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation. They aimed to offer suggestions for addressing such challenges.

### THE STUDY'S POPULATION

The study's population consists from all the female graduate students who were enrolled at the faculty of educational sciences at University of Jordan during the first semester of the academic year 2020 / 2021. It consists from 862 female graduate students.

### THE STUDY'S SAMPLE

The study's sample consists from 14 female graduate students who were enrolled at the faculty of educational sciences at University of Jordan. They were chosen through the purposive sampling method. Some of those students are MA students and the rest of them are PhD students. The researchers of the present study obtained consent from the members of the same to participate in the present study. Table (1) presents information about those sampled students.

researchers. They calculated percentages and frequencies and used codes.

### THROUGH THE INTERVIEW, THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WERE ASKED

Q.1. What is the meaning of political participation in Jordan from your own perspective?

Q.2. Did you ever participate in the (parliamentary or municipal election)?

Q.3. Do you have the desire to hold a political office?

Q.4. What are the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation?

Q.5. What suggestions could you make for increasing the political participation of Jordanian women?

Q.6. Do you have any comment that you would like to make?

### THE VALIDITY OF THE INSTRUMENT

There are various methods used for measuring the validity of instrument. However, the ones used in

quantitative research differ from the ones used in qualitative research. It should be noted that validity refers to the degree to which the instrument provides accurate results. In this content, validity refers to the degree to which the interview questions shed a light on all types of the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation.

### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The researchers of the present study calculated frequencies and percentages to process the data collected through the interviews. The percentages are classified into high, moderate and low percentages.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE FIRST QUESTION

**Q.1. What is the meaning of political participation in Jordan from your own perspective?**

The first question	What is the meaning of political participation in Jordan from your own perspective?	
	Frequency	Percentage
Political participation involves defending the ones who claim the truth and fighting against the false claims	1	7%
Political participation involves participating in activities related to the state affairs	1	7%
Political participation involves participating in the election process (e.g. voting or running for office)	2	16%
Political participation involves holding an office in the parliament or other offices in public institutions	1	7%
Political participation involves participating in the parliamentary and municipal elections in accordance with the provisions of the constitutions. It involves voting for the ones who deserves voting for.	6	42%
Political participation involves participating in making political reforms	1	7%
Political participation involves expressing political views making political constructive criticism. It also involves following up the political news and promoting political awareness	2	16%

Table (2) presents several frequencies and percentages. It presents data about the political participation in Jordan from the perspective of the female graduate students at the University of Jordan. The percentages are within the range of 42 % - 7 %. For instance, 42 % of the respondents believe that political participation involves defending the ones who claim the truth and fighting against the false claims. 7 % of the respondents believe that political participation involves expressing political views and making political constructive criticism. It also involves following up the political news and promoting political awareness.

It is necessary to promote awareness about the meaning of the term (political participation). Such awareness

should be promoted through families, schools, universities, places of worship and media channels. In addition, citizens must collaborate with each other to promote awareness about the meaning of the term (political participation) and the way of participating in political activities. It is necessary to promote such awareness, because the good loyal citizen seeks participating in political activities.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE SECOND QUESTION

**Q.2. Did you ever participate in the (parliamentary or municipal election)?**

**Table (3): Percentages and frequencies representing the respondents' participation in the (parliamentary or municipal election).**

The second question	Q.2. Did you ever participate in the (parliamentary or municipal election)?	
	Frequency	Percentage
No, I have never participated	6	43%
Yes, I have participated	8	57%

Total	14	100%
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Table (3) presents the percentages and frequencies representing the respondents' participation in the (parliamentary or municipal election). It was found that 43 % of the respondents have never participated in the (parliamentary or municipal election). It was also found that 57 % of the respondents have participated in the (parliamentary or municipal election). The latter result may be attributed to the lack of women's awareness

**Table (4): Percentages and frequencies representing the respondents' desire to hold a political office**

The third question	Q.3. Do you have the desire to hold a political office?	
	Frequency	Percentage
No, I have never had such a desire	10	71%
Yes, I have such a desire	4	29%
Overall	14	100%

Table (4) presents the percentages and frequencies representing the respondents' desire to hold a political office. It was found that 71 % of the respondents have never had such the desire to hold a political office. It was found that 29 % of the respondents have the desire to hold a political office. Based on such results, the female graduate students at the University of Jordan don't have the desire to hold a political office. That may be attributed to having fears from the responsibilities associated with holding a political office. It may be attributed to the fear from the lack of support provided for women who hold political offices. It may be attributed to the fear from the perceptions of the patriarchal society. For instance, the ones adopting patriarchal ideologies may consider the act of having a woman running for a political office that a man is running for as a crime. However, in some cases, the women running for a political office have more academic qualification or experience than the other men who are running for the same office.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE FOURTH QUESTION**

Q.4. What are the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation?

Respondents' provided various answers to this questions. Based on the answers of most of the respondents, the challenges hindering Jordanian women from political participation include: the perception of the society for women and underestimating the significance of giving a voice to women. They include: the patriarchal culture and women's poor confidence in themselves and other women. They include: the customs and traditions. They include: legal and economic challenges. They include challenges related to the way of raising up individuals and discrimination against women. Due to having such challenges, efforts must be exerted to address them.

about the significance of participating in the election process. It may be attributed to the lack of trust in the integrity of the election process. It can be noticed that the participation levels of women and men are low in the last election process.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE THIRD QUESTION**

Q.3. Do you have the desire to hold a political office?

Results and discussion related to the fifth question

Q.5. What suggestions could you make for increasing the political participation of Jordanian women?

Respondents' provided various answers to this questions. Based on the answers of most of the respondents, such suggestions include: providing more attention to educating women and promoting more awareness among women about the significance of their political participation in the Jordanian society. Efforts must be exerted to increase women's self-confidence. More support must be provided for women. More equality must be achieved between men and women in terms of the decision making powers. School curricula must shed a light on the significance of women's political participation in the Jordanian society. More awareness raising campaigns must be launched for promoting awareness about the significance of women's political participation in the Jordanian. Such campaigns should be launched through TV channels and social media. Educational institutions, and families must provide women with more support. Women must be provided with more facilities to facilitate the process of her political participation. However, there was a surprising answer provided by a female PhD student. The latter student suggests that women shouldn't participate in the political field in the Jordanian society.

Results and discussion related to the sixth question

Q.6. Do you have any comment that you would like to make?

One of the respondents suggests that there must be courses that shed a light on women's rights and responsibilities. Such courses must contribute to changing the way people think about women's role. Another respondent suggests that women represent about half of the population in Jordan. Thus, women must be having an effective role in society without having decimation against them. The latter respondents

adds that there must be more respect for women. Another respondents adds that women shouldn't participate in the political field in the Jordanian society. Another respondents adds that women must seek getting high academic qualification and obtaining more knowledge.

### CONCLUSION

The respondents' answers were analysed in order to reach a conclusion. 93 % of the respondents are PhD students. 100 % of the respondents' age categories are within the range of (26 - 50 years). 71% of the respondents are married and 29% of the respondents are single. 79 % of the respondents are living in Amman which is located in the central province of Jordan. Regarding the meaning of political participation in Jordan from the perspective of the respondents, most respondents suggest that political participation involves working with political parties and launching campaigns for empowering women in the political field and promoting political awareness among women. ). It was found that 43 % of the respondents have never participated in the (parliamentary or municipal election). It was also found that 57 % of the respondents have participated in the (parliamentary or municipal election). It was found that 71 % of the respondents have never had such the desire to hold a political office. It was found that 29 % of the respondents have the desire to hold a political office. Many respondents suggest that it is necessary to promote awareness among women about the significance of their political participation. Such awareness should be promoted through curricula, lectures and media channels. For instance, there must be school curricula that shed a light on the significance of the role of women, especially in the political field.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the aforementioned results, the researchers of the present study suggest several recommendations that contribute to empowering Jordanian women, promoting political awareness among them and raising their political participation in society. To be specific, they recommend

- a- Activating the role of educational institutions, families and media channels in promoting political awareness among women, including awareness about the significance of their political participation
- b- Providing Jordanian women with more political knowledge through lectures, curricula and workshops in various political fields.
- c- Activating the role of media channels in activating the political role of women
- d- Promoting more knowledge about successful women who succeeded in the political field.
- e- Broadcasting programs through media channels to address political issues and problems
- f- Providing the qualified Jordanian women with more opportunities to hold political offices.

- g- Providing Jordanian women with more support in order to improve their socio-economic status.

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