

Cultural obstacles to the participation of Iraqi women in the political process

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Introduction

Women constitute a segment of more than half of the population. In previous eras, they represented a limited role in all areas of life due to the culture surrounding them and the prevailing traditional view at the time.

There are many challenges that women faced, which prevented them from exploiting their energies in assuming positions and responsibilities, whether administrative or political. For centuries, women have suffered from the process of marginalization and considered an inactive element in life, especially at the political level, but the situation has changed after the occurrence of the revolution. The great French, which opened the doors wide to the issue of human rights, including the rights of women, as well as the emergence of feminist movements that called for justice for women and giving them a role in political life as they represent a weight that may approach the weight of men. In Iraq, women also had the largest share of marginalization due to the prevailing culture in Iraqi society, which is characterized as a patriarchal culture influenced by the customs and traditions of the society. However, Iraq was also affected by the views of international social movements, especially women's movements, and women became an active role in social, economic and political life.

of the theory of the inferiority of women. The participation of women in the political process appears as a national necessity as they represent half of society and the participation of men in all areas of life, so their participation in the political process is one of the most important manifestations of democracy, but the political participation of Arab women in general and Iraqi women in

The issue of women's political participation and the promotion of their effective participation is still noticeably lacking, and has not received much attention on the agendas of political parties and government institutions around the world, due to the social reality and the entrenchment

topic is education. The study included results and recommendations.

The general framework of the study

The first topic: the elements and components of the study

First: the problem of the study

Women's political work in general is one of the pillars of actual female citizenship and one of its conditions. Women's political participation varies according to the social environment and their suitability for that participation sometimes and according to the nature of historical stages at other times. For this reason, the role of Iraqi women in political life differed according to the cultural and social conditions that Iraq went through. For all this and others, our study came to identify the most important cultural obstacles that limit the political participation of Iraqi women in the position of making administrative and political decisions in the twenty-first century despite Iraq's enjoyment of a democratic climate.

Second: the importance of the study

This study is important within the studies of political sociology on the one hand and within the studies of evaluating the performance of women on the other hand, that the issue of women is a vital issue in the social and political reality, and everything related to women in terms of values, traditions, legislation and institutions has become an area of civilized conflict. The results of our study will

particular is still marginal and weak, and the degree of political participation is Women are the outcome of the interaction between the discourse patterns and the culture of the society in which they live and the amount of freedom and democracy they enjoy, especially the participatory one on the one hand, and the degree of its development and awareness on the other hand. Therefore, it is not possible to talk about women's participation in the political process in isolation from the cultural conditions in society.

The low level of women's participation in the political process is the result of many interacting and overlapping factors in society, including the political, economic, legal or cultural factors that are the subject of our study, and most third world countries share these and other factors that lead to wasting women's energies and blocking their efforts in political participation processes.

Our study consists of a number of chapters, and each chapter consists of a number of investigations. The first chapter represents the general framework of the study and consists of the first topic: the elements and components of the study, the second topic: defining scientific concepts and terms, and the second chapter represents the cultural factors for women's participation in the political process. It consists of the first topic: social values and standards, the second topic: family upbringing, and the third

roles expected of individuals." (3) The handicap was defined as "a physical barrier that prevents the achievement of the goal, but this does not mean that the material obstacles are the basis, but the social and cultural obstacles are in most cases important as they appear next to the material obstacles stemming from the values, standards and norms that determine the individual's behavior in exploiting and investing the available material means (4).

Hornby goes, "Obstacles are anything in the way that stops progress and makes it difficult (5).

Procedural definition of obstacles: a set of cultural restrictions and obstacles that Iraqi women faced and are still facing in their participation in the political process, their access to decision-making positions, and their participation in public and political life.

Second: Culture: Culture

Defining culture idiomatically: The concept of culture is one of the most widely used and common concepts, and one of the most ambiguous and complex. Taylor's definition of culture in writing primitive culture in 1871 is one of the most common definitions of culture "everything that includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, traditions, attitudes and preparations that an individual acquires as a member of the group." (6).

benefit decision-makers in identifying the most important obstacles that prevent and limit women's participation in social life in general and in political life in particular, which helps in creating strategies and building appropriate plans to activate women's participation in public life in general and in political life in particular.

Third: Objectives of the study

- 1- Knowing the most important cultural obstacles to women's participation in the political process.
- 2- Develop a set of recommendations and proposals that help decision-makers in enacting laws that enable women to participate in the political process on a large scale.

Basic concepts and terms in the study

First: Obstacles:

Obstacles are defined idiomatically: "They mean problems that impede work or progress in all fields, especially in developing countries. These problems have negative effects on political participation (10).

Obstacles are defined as: "preventing the achievement of goals or preventing that, that is, obstructing everything that would stand in the way of accomplishing the matter or achieving success." (2) "They are also known as difficulties that negatively affect the

certain social group subordinate to the other.” (11)

The procedural definition of a woman: She is a human being distinguished from his other half by a set of biological differences represented in the difference in the body, and social differences resulting from the different roles defined by society between her and the man.

Fourth: Political participation: The political participation

The meaning of participation generally denotes a contribution or an aspect of human activity. (12)

As for political participation, “it is the process through which the individual plays a role in the political life of his society, and he has the opportunity to contribute to setting the general goals of that society and to determine the best means to achieve them.” (13)

Political participation is also defined as “a legitimate way of expressing one’s ideas and respecting human rights within the framework of institutions or community groups through participation and practice in the decision-making process or community policies, whether direct or indirect.” (17) It is defined as “the finest expression of democracy that does not it is based on the participation of male and female citizens in the issues of the city, neighborhood or institution (14).

It defines political participation as “public work in all its forms, including

Culture is defined as “everything that society inherits from its previous generations, with the exception of the natural life of social, intellectual and religious systems, values, beliefs, behavioral patterns and technical skills that control its environment and adapt itself to it and with which it is able to satisfy its social and other needs from generation to generation.” (7) Roth sees Benedict “that culture is that complex whole which includes the habits acquired by man as a member of society.”(8)

As for the sociologist Parsons, he says, “Culture consists of patterns related to behavior and the products of human action that can be inherited in the sense that it is transmitted from one generation to another, regardless of biological genes.” (9)

Procedural definition of culture: it is the whole that includes beliefs, ideas, laws and tools that a person discovers during his life.

Third: Women: woman

Women are defined idiomatically: Lewis Wirth defines them as "as distinct from men with physiological and cultural characteristics and subject to inequality, and the social upbringing of women develops their strength in a marginal group and makes them accept a role of their own and distinct from men in society." (10)

Women are defined as the being who acts in a certain way out of emotions, and therefore women are described as a

opposes or stands in front of it of new behavior, and here is the interpretation of what these values are important in directing the actions of individuals towards general interests and goals, and how to help members of society in Preserving the special characteristics of their society, which are represented by cultural elements.(16) In our society, there is a special coexistence between the original values and the modern values as a result of modernization processes. What distinguishes this cultural coexistence is the emphasis on the original values more than others as a control of behavior so that the talk does not have the strength of traditional structures. (17) Therefore, the beliefs related to power and the society's sensitivity to the concept when it is associated with women prevent any behavior related to obtaining and exercising power because it is outside of it. Cultural frameworks for females (18).

The importance of these prevailing beliefs emerges in their ability to determine the amount of power that women are allowed to acquire and exercise in private life, i.e. within the family and public life, i.e. in other institutions of society.

The consequence of embracing values derived from the interaction of culture and personality. The prevailing cultural and social frameworks in our societies represent the base from which values, traditions and trends emerge, and these cultural elements are determined by the standards of society and the roles of

elections, nomination for parliament and municipal councils, access to decision-making positions, affiliation with political parties, electoral campaigns, and work to integrate women's national agenda into political programs, candidates and parties.” (15)

And the procedural definition of political participation:

It is the process through which women play a role in participating in the political process and have an opportunity to create goals for political and societal development by influencing decision-making and community policies and participating in achieving these goals.Cultural factors hindering the participation of Iraqi women in the political process

The first topic: social values and standards

There are special values and standards for every society that depend on its circumstances and conditions. In our eastern societies, the civilized and normative social values that are related to the isolation of women and the determination of their movement, in addition to the control of men, serve as the characteristics that characterize the culture of members of the community, as the members of society find themselves in front of a normative structure related to a kind of evaluation. Which depends on the values imposed on them and derived from moral authorities from religion or collective assets, and that the normative structure resists what it

function, as the individual in the cultural community is aware that when he negotiates about them, he is also negotiating his cultural identity, social status and self-esteem (22).

Values have an important and vital role in recognizing work patterns and charging them with meanings and symbols that individuals can comprehend or the practice of a certain profession and limit the choices and alternatives available to some groups of society (23).

Therefore, the positive societal image towards the working woman is almost confined only to the work style in which she ensures that she does not mix with men, so it is clearly compatible with these main societal values.(24) On the other hand, the policies of recruitment, employment, promotion and division of labor are governed by beliefs.(25) Especially the distribution of roles on the basis of gender and the consequent bias based on the variation and division of qualitative work and the monopoly of men with values distinct from girls. Emotional and tenderness are feminine traits (26).

As a result of this, the home is the natural place for a woman, and if she goes out to work, men do not compete for decision-making positions within the various official organizations in society. There is a type of social values that are directly related to the principles that seek to achieve the desired pattern upon which the

community members, including roles according to gender (that is, the roles of women and men).(19).

The constraints of cultural values, traditions, and norms that have been inherited by members of society through many successive generations, the society in all its ways of living is still governed by them, and it still has the power to define relations between the two sexes and to divide work or roles between them, in addition to forming the cultural identity of the society (20). It is important for females, and it is “honour” as a high basic value in society, and the fact that women are a symbol of honor, in this she raises her position and value in terms of being the guardian of the great value of society, and on the other hand, there are many ways to protect her to preserve her honor, such as isolating her from the male community and not leaving her (21).

Until this behavioral pattern of customs and traditions became in the form of social norms inherited by members of society as cultural constants formed by culture and the changes it went through, which was reflected in the opportunities for women's education and their exit to work.

Such values are well-established and authentic, and their normative construction allows only a narrow room for the possibility of individuals challenging their benefit or doubt about the extent of their societal

of a behavioral pattern or a different purpose (29).

Values have a central place within the personal formation and cognitive system of individuals, and therefore they are determinants of behavior and trends at the same time. They are simulations on which choice, judgment and preference are based. Rather, they are the foundations on which decisions are based on patterns of behavior in various areas of life (30).

The power of the male over the female, the promise of the female as subservient to him on the one hand, and his occupation of decision-making positions in the family and work, and not allowing her to occupy such leadership positions is the preferred image that men seek in order to reach a positive view by members of society. The same situation is for women, who always remain submissive For men in different areas of life.

And the behavior component of individuals shows itself through the fact that "values are intermediate variables that motivate a certain behavior when they are provoked." (31)

So in any society, cultural values determine the role and status of women, and in the eastern society, the role of men differs from the role of women in political, economic and social terms, and this results in a distinction in the rights and duties of both men and women. (32) and says (Fatima Mernissi) "that The continuity

members of society depend in regulating their social, moral and ideological behavior. With penal forces and elements of a moral, religious or legislative nature, and these values are sacred, culture obligates its members, and the society takes care of its implementation with force and firmness, whether through custom or public opinion. Among these values is what is related to the regulation of relations between male and female and the determination of their rights in society.(27) So, these values Values are obligatory to direct the behavior of individuals in some situations and constitute a frame of reference for social sanctions, and we conclude from this that the participation of women in the political process is a departure from custom and customs, because according to cultural values this is within the competence of men and women far from the nature of work defined by the values of society for women.

The values and standards of the group are represented by the preferred behavior, which restricts and determines the desires and impulsive personal tendencies (28).

So the term values, as Stephen Bieber says, "refer to needs, interests, desires, preferences, duties, moral obligations, interests, and various other modes of direction of a voluntary nature," as Milton Rocchi explains, "as a perpetual belief that expresses social preference for the purpose of existence rather than

son of his habits and familiar, not the son of his nature and temperament.” (38).

So the family makes efforts to transform the individual from an organic being into a social one, acquiring the values and customs of his society, and preparing him educationally, by the action and effect of family upbringing. And that one of the most important things that an individual learns in the process of upbringing is to play certain specific roles, the first and most important of which is the role that is determined by his gender ((i.e. whether he is male or female) (39).

Because of the social conditions, men have a culture other than that of women, and their life experiences differ, as the parents’ beliefs and culture of gender in terms of masculine or feminine play their role by suggesting and guiding what is appropriate or not appropriate for both sexes with regard to morals, behavior, interests, status and value, not a moment passes. It is the methods of cultural and civilized upbringing that produce the personality of a woman in which differences between the sexes, social roles, division of labor, and the permissible margin of freedom are determined. (41)

Simone de Beauvoir says in her writings on femininity, “There is no biological or psychological economic imperative that dictates the form that women represent in society. Rather, it

of the effectiveness of values and traditions has led to the isolation of most women from the development process that governs and dominates the family and men.” (33) This is done through the process of socialization, education and cultural awareness, with the aim of feeling gender and femininity, which creates differences between the sexes, and the female, becomes less ambitious than the man, especially in the intellectual and political fields.

The second topic: family upbringing

With the expansion of what culture allows of individual variations, its forms expanded, flexibility or rigidity in terms of the degree of stability of its values, role standards, and methods of upbringing affected by the final result of socialization in one way or another (34).

As the literature of social and political upbringing confirms that the home (the family) is the first nucleus in which the patterns of behavior of individuals, their values and their role in society are formed through education and cultural upbringing. (35)

And the family has an advantage that distinguishes it by being the most important cultural institution that tries to bring up individuals in a stage in which they are a blank page and are easily moldable, and its important influence appears in building their personal traits. (37) The scholar (IbnKhaldun) was influenced by him in this opinion: “He said that man is the

things that are peculiar to our eastern society. They represent the pattern of social and political behavior that adults use as methods of raising children (47). The first of these is the authority of the father, as the manifestations of the father's authority prevail over the structure of family relations, which leads to the emergence of double domination represented by the father's authority over his family members and the man's supremacy over Women in terms of the division of roles within the family. (48)

The father, or the eldest member of the family, is the economic breadwinner, his professional experience and the number of his male dependents dominate all family affairs, and because he is one of the bearers of traditional cultural values that emphasize the subordination of women to men and his authority over them, he determines for his family members the behavioral patterns that will be in their future lives and the division of roles according to gender and age in a way that does not deviate from the prevailing pattern in society. (49) What makes the family upbringing a factor in strengthening the subordination of women to men and making them in a lower position than men and their inability to express an opinion or participate in decision-making until that became part of her personality.

The patriarchal society continued to maintain its pattern, rejecting change and accepting it only when it is imposed on it from the outside, such as

is the whole civilization that produced that creature away from the existential concept, which is that man is what he is, and thus he is. Education and upbringing have the decisive basis in shaping women and determining their social functions and roles." (42) From this it becomes clear to us that there is a structural contradiction in any society, and this is what Fortes confirmed. (43)

He attributed it to the contradiction existing in the formation of the family, which is based on the contradiction in terms of gender and age, especially fathers and children, females and males. (44) Fortes' observation approaches from the point of view of (talcott Parsons) about the nuclear family, "he says that the two axes The two main factors for differentiation in the nuclear family as a small group are sex first and the power granted to males without females second." (45) We cannot separate the issue of differentiation and conflict on which family building is based from the issue of family upbringing, especially in childhood, as (Zelditch) assumes that "the family If the nuclear nuclear is stable, its roles evolve towards differentiation, so that the adult male plays the leading role and the female performs the basal roles." (46) Since the behavior of adults reflects the prevailing cultural patterns in the society through the methods of family upbringing of the child, the father and the mother represent the two halves of the society, the father for males and the mother for females. There are some

Women always believe that cultural and political success and creativity are private matters that are unique to men, and that their share is a simple and appropriate work outside the home, and their main task is to raise children and do household affairs. Her family upbringing determines her roles from the beginning, as she is deprived of decision-making positions, so that her scientific qualification and practical specialization do not intercede for her in equalizing her with men in the performance of leadership work, because in the eyes of society it is limited to men. (55)

This constituted an obstacle to giving those opportunities to develop themselves and participate in political matters. Psychological theories and field research have proven that there are signs of difference between women and men in the political process that begins early, like other forms of expression. Females by the behavior of their mothers. (56).

The third topic: education

Education is an essential element that forms the cultural environment of society, as it plays a key role in changing the pattern of social construction. It is also considered one of the basics of the modern era and a necessity of social change. (57)

It is also one of the urgent requirements to push the process of modernization in developing countries that seek to develop. (58) Therefore, education is one of the basic standards

an external invasion, or when change is a necessity for self-preservation, and that change in both cases is partial. (50) Despite what concerns the family today of issues of equality, freedom, democracy and participation In responsibility, and there is a clash between the new generation and their fathers, the authority of the father and the distinguished role of the older brother still exists, offset by the subordination of the mother with her hidden influence within the family and the status of the daughter who is less important to the father.(51) Despite the fact that women are empowered to participate in making part of the decisions The task in her life is like education. The values related to women, represented by the contents of honor and reputation, still play an important role in strengthening the authority of the father, brother and husband over women in order to preserve the honor and reputation of the family.(52)

This leads to the marginalization of her role in the family and the determination of the field of her education and the place and type of work outside the home, and thus determine the relations of women inside and outside the family with the system of authority in it. Accordingly, modernization turns into a mechanism that preserves the situation instead of changing it. The change does not affect either the external appearance of the social environment, and it changes the image of the patriarchal family, but the origin or essence does not change. (53)

harmonize in its functions with the functions and needs of the structure of society and its relations, which are highly sensitive towards women." In certain social functions and roles and not others. (65) The belief that men dominate over women still exists despite the fact that women's high educational level reduces men's dominance over them, and then women are forced to leave education at a certain stage of study or before completing studies High.(66)

The family is always concerned with educating the male more than it is concerned with educating the female, so that the family does not hesitate to take the female out of school when the first man proposes to her. Experience and skill that qualifies her to occupy a traditional role in society. (67) "The wife, mother, and housewife".

The methods of family upbringing, including the differentiation between men and women in education with the low standard of living of the family, reinforce these beliefs that determine the aspirations of women in life, which leads to depriving them of continuing their education in various stages, so the increase in the percentage of girls dropping out of education at various stages Different from it, they are natural results of the cultural and economic factors that dominate women, which reduce their aspirations for development. In addition to the fact that girls' going to school is still governed by traditional patterns specific to girls, and this reduces the

that measure the scientific and cultural levels of individuals within society. (59) Therefore, the role of education can be considered one of the most important roles in the development of society. Its advancement is without a doubt one of the greatest factors for the advancement of women. (60) The issue of women's education is primarily a cultural issue. Women are considered one of the important human resources, and measuring the progress and backwardness of societies appears in the extent to which they benefit from their human resources, both male and female. Women's education and entry into the world of work and public life have become threatening traditional symbols such as their traditional role within the family. (61)

Where education plays a large and clear role in the issue of modernization, development and integration of women in its various activities, and that girls' education was limited to preparing them for certain functional roles such as teaching, and here the problem lies in the choices that are available for girls compared to the choices available to boys and equal opportunities between them on the basis of the preparations and tendencies of each Both genders. (62) The process of women's education is affected by the culture of society, the position of women in it, and the society's attitudes towards it. (63)

Here, education is considered a social system, "using the expression (Parsons) came to adapt, if not to

In addition, the family does not encourage its children to become preoccupied with political matters because it threatens the chances of improving their economic and social conditions. (73).

This is reflected in the level of preoccupation of the rest of the family with the political process in their society. And Dr. Atef Ahmed Fouad asserts, "The reality of the dynamic relationship between science and politics means that science in its growth and development does not depend on the mere free use of mental resources, but on the extent to which it is compatible with political action and its ability to transform its own scientific sources into effective means. within the scope of the political process."(74)

This is what is missing from women because their education is directed, which puts them in an area that does not make them occupy advanced positions within society, and it appears through this that half of society has not been exploited in the political process, because it is considered a delicate emotional creature that was not created for public work, and the focus here is on political activity and be She is convinced of the idea that political action is a man's job that is commensurate with his rough nature and is consistent with his leadership responsibilities and direction in life. (75) And that women's participation in

unconventional scientific development in scientific and political fields. It was agreed to count them as men's, which leads to a kind of job accumulation. ". Despite the expansion of education among women at all levels of study and a clear change in the role and social status of women and in ending restrictions to highlight their capabilities and the integration of their personality, and then in the practice and implementation of decision-making.(69) Despite this, women's contributions to public and political life are still It faces educational obstacles represented by the low percentage of female learners in society and the spread of illiteracy, which makes the occupation of women job positions with a weak impact. (70) Illiteracy is the most important indicator of the educational situation and women are considered the largest source in the illiteracy rate. (71) This phenomenon has a negative impact on the development of individuals and society. On this subject, Dr. (Mohammed Abed Al-Jabri) believes that "the direct and inevitable result of the decline in the percentage of educated people is the narrowing of the base of the hierarchy of the educated elite, and then the narrowing of the circle of cultural activity and its floating on the surface of society, which hinders the weak relationship between society and thought and reduces the opportunities for the emergence of energies Creative thinking."(72).

children and managing home and family affairs.

- 3- The prevailing customs and traditions in Iraqi society made women inferior to men, and they continued to dominate the majority of members of Iraqi society in general and the city of Kut in particular, forcing women to leave political work because of those customs and traditions, despite industrialization, urbanization and education, those customs and traditions remained. It always stands as an obstacle to women's participation in the political process.
- 4- All monotheistic religions emphasized the preservation of human dignity, but the discrepancy between the principles of those religions and the mechanisms for their application led to a deviation from those teachings and human rights were violated in the name of those religions. Its responsibility is to highlight the rights and status of women and their fairness in all fields.
- 5- The Iraqi family still depends primarily on male sons in making decisions, for several reasons, the most important of which is that the family believes that male sons are more effective and influential in society, and that women's participation in the political process is affected by the

the political field, as (Dr. Abdul-Hadi El-Gohary) says, "is the only possible participation to overcome their traditional status in society." (76) The educational level of women and the spread of illiteracy among women will lead to the strengthening of their traditional roles and prevent their participation in the political process.

Findings and Recommendations

First, the results:

- 1- The profession has an impact on the role and position of women in society, as women's exit to work increases women's acquisition of new skills through their openness to others, which opens ways for them to understand the circumstances surrounding them and thus have a deeper understanding of social and political conditions, and the profession affects lifestyles and the standard of living. For women and the family, unlike women who do not have a profession, and women who have a profession are more independent.
- 2- The society's view of women and their participation in the political process is still based on the fact that this participation is a departure from the customs and traditions of society, which views women as an element found for raising

women's participation in the political process.

- 10- The reason for women to go out to work is to prove their existence and liberate them if they prove their existence through their work and become economically independent, which reduces their sense of dependence on men, thus increasing their cultural and political awareness, which expands their participation in the political process.
- 11- When women are under the control of some restrictions represented in customs and traditions, and adhere to and submit to them, all of this leads to negative effects that are reflected on women's ideas and aspirations, and then affects women's ambition to occupy leadership positions in society and is considered one of the important reasons for their weak participation in political process.

Second: Recommendations:

- 1- Women's participation in the political process needs a framework of values and sound standards for a rational balance in dividing social roles, not being biased towards men against women, and generalizing some values, such as deliberating decision-making positions in state institutions and respecting the enjoyment of

methods of family upbringing to create differences between boys and girls than this Upbringing is one of the reasons why women are less ambitious than men in all fields, including the political field.

- 6- Through our study, we found that there is a distinction between the position of men and women in the tribal societies, as the power in the tribal society is exclusively for the man.
- 7- The low level of education for women causes a decrease in her role and position in society, and that the educational level of women is one of the most important reasons that open the way for women to enter into various areas of life, so how can women advance in their social role when they are little in knowledge and culture, all of which is reflected in the participation of women in political process.
- 8- The content of the media directed to women revolves mostly around the traditional roles of women and the weakness of the advertising media in showing the creative woman and the media works to show the relationship of men and women on a social basis only.
- 9- The narrow family environment has a significant impact on

- 3- The necessity of the participation of men and women in bearing responsibility within the family environment and the adoption of modern methods of upbringing between males and females, such as the principle of equality among them and their rights to express their opinion.
- 4- The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs should continue its support to families through its various departments, such as providing nurseries and kindergartens at costs commensurate with the family budget, in order to reduce the burdens placed on women so that they can continue their role outside the family, especially the political role.
- 5- Working on developing educational guidance services in the Ministries of Education and Higher Education to enable women to choose the educational and professional path that suits their ambitions and abilities, and working to urge and encourage women to enroll in higher studies in order to increase their contributions in the fields of scientific research and occupy leadership positions.
- 6- Educational institutions should emphasize strengthening the positive image of women and their role and status in the political rights granted to women, which can be relevant Effect in establishing a cultural awareness suitable for democracy between males and females, and here the responsibility lies with civil society organizations in general, women's organizations in particular, and parties in cooperation with the media through broadcasting and presenting programs aimed at crystallizing positive attitudes and values among members of society.
- 2- Enhancing the traditional values of women into means for more active participation of women in the political process, so that the traditional qualities of women such as sincerity, honesty and passion are a source of persuading members of society to assume public positions, and here the responsibility lies with the educational and media institution, the responsibility of upgrading the society's heritage of customs and traditions that highlight the role of women in Its society with its traditional and non-traditional dimensions, which avoids the society the problem of the existence of a civilizational gap between material cultural progress and moral cultural backwardness that includes values.

society, especially women who suffer from domestic violence.

- 11- Working to modify negative cultural patterns that lead to a continued decline in women's participation in the political process, and striving to develop cultural concepts to enhance the role and status of women in society. Therefore, cooperation between researchers in social, psychological and educational studies is required in defining patterns and concepts and finding appropriate solutions to them.

Conclusion

The studies and research that dealt with the cultural obstacles to the participation of Iraqi women in the political process are very few, especially in the Arab world. Therefore, this study is one of the few studies that dealt with the cultural obstacles to the participation of women in the political process.

With regard to cultural obstacles to the participation of Iraqi women in the political process, the study dealt with the most important cultural obstacles, including social values and standards, family upbringing and women's education. So that women in Arab society in general and Iraqi society in particular have the ability to participate in the political process.

We have dealt with in the first chapter: the general framework of the study, that the general framework of the study

family and society by showing a balanced image of the family in general and of women in particular in school curricula, by clarifying the image of the working woman participating in all fields, including the political sphere, in addition to her image as a mother and housewife. .

- 7- The necessity of developing women's awareness of themselves and their awareness in their daily practices that they are a positive and effective element in their society through their contributions to cultural and social development. Women practice it and this can be done through religious institutions.
- 8- The state, with all its institutions, must support women's organizations financially and morally, in a way that contributes to activating their role as an influential force to defend women's rights and gains and increase their participation in the political process.
- 9- Reviewing the criteria for employment and appointment through the Federal Service Council and ensuring impartiality between men and women.
- 10- The Ministry of Interior should support the Community Police Directorate in order to protect women within the family and

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or the theoretical aspect is one of the most important scientific requirements, to give a clear and accurate scientific picture of any study, and in all cases it represents the entrance on which the researcher relies and through which researchers build the method of the axes of their studies, and here In the first section we dealt with the elements of the study (the problem of the study, its importance and objectives) through which the researcher can determine the course and directions of his study and its methodological steps. The readers who follow the research should realize the meanings and ideas that the researcher wants to express without differing in understanding what he says, and the focus was on the basic concepts of the study, which are (obstacles - culture - women - political participation). In the political process, these obstacles were divided into a number of topics: The first topic: social values and standards, and the second topic: upbringing. The family, and the third topic: education. Through the study and research in the research chapters, the results and recommendations that were mentioned in the previous pages of the research were reached.

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