

The Reality of Female University Students' Participation in Political Life and the Obstacles from Their Perceptions

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Abstract

This study aimed to reveal the reality of the participation of university students in political life, which is due to their academic qualifications, the type of college, the place of residence, and the obstacles to that from their perception. To achieve the objectives of the study, a questionnaire was prepared to measure the reality of female students' participation in political life, reveal the obstacles of political participation, and ensure their sincerity and stability, as it was applied to a sample of 288 Bachelor's and Master's level students at Isra University in Jordan. The study findings revealed that, first, the actual level of female university students' participation in political life was average. Second, there were statistically significant differences between the bachelor's and master's female students regarding their participation in political life, and the differences were in favor of bachelor's female students. Third, there were statistically significant differences between female students from scientific colleges and humanitarian colleges regarding their participation in political life, and the differences were in favor of humanitarian students. Finally, the place of residence did not indicate any statistically significant differences regarding the reality of female university students' participation in political life. The study also highlighted the barriers that prevent female university students from participating in political life, such as the media, society and culture, economy, politics, and law.

Keywords: political participation, political life, female university students, obstacles to political participation, Isra University

1. Introduction

Women's political participation is closely linked to society in terms of the extent to which it enjoys freedom, integrity, democracy, and the space it gives women to practice political work. Improving women's participation in political work still occupies a place in society's institutions because it reflects the progress of society and its enjoyment of democracy. Political participation is the basis of democracy, an essential manifestation of citizenship, and one of the most important components of the modern national state, which distinguishes between democratic political systems that are based on citizenship, equality in rights and duties, political and popular expression, and the management of public affairs by the parties of society, men and women, and between totalitarian and authoritarian regimes (Jamal & Al-Shazly 2021).

In light of the spread of the concepts of citizenship and equality in the rights and duties between men and women, it has become necessary to give great importance to improving women's political role through joining community institutions, running in elections, assuming leadership and legislative positions, and contributing to decision-making (Sabeha, 2016).

Meanwhile, the existence of democracy in societies describes the government's responsibilities to its citizens to achieve justice. This requires establishing equality between all political forces to reach power, influence decisions, and not monopolize them in the hands of one group or party (Joseph, 2000). Nonetheless, there are many factors that determine the level of women's political participation in society, such as economic, social, political, cultural, legal, and media factors (Mohamed, 2010).

1.1 Political Participation

Over the last three decades, international organizations have shown an interest in "gender equality" in every sector as an essential path for achieving fair and comprehensive development. This interest has resonated with national trends and the issuance of many national strategies and plans to work towards achieving gender equality, but the gap is still obvious between what these plans recommend and what is actually executed. Women's involvement in public policy and legislation implies an imbalance in obtaining equal participation between men and women, which is required for democracy (Adly, 2017).

Women's political participation has become the focal point at the local or international levels, as women play an integral part in society and, in turn, complete all societal roles. Thus, women's participation in political life is the responsibility of all members of society and not the woman herself (Jamal, Al-Shazly, 2021). According to the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, political participation refers to the administrative activities through which members of a society participate in choosing a ruler and in formulating public policy, directly or indirectly.

King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein pointed out in the fourth discussion paper, "Towards Democratic Empowerment and Active Citizenship," emphasized the importance of participation in democratic life was emphasized, stating:

Political participation, in its essence, constitutes a responsibility and a duty. Every citizen must bear part of this responsibility by choosing the shape of the future that we seek for future generations. Our duty as citizens does not end with simply voting in any national election but rather extends to include every citizen's commitment to actively participate in civil and political life daily, by, for example, carrying out a promotional campaign for an issue that concerns us, volunteering in a civic activity, or joining a party (Discussion Papers, 2022).

Political participation can be defined in two ways: one concerns its unilateral aspects in light of electoral practices such as voting, nomination, and election. The other way concerns its comprehensive aspects and views political participation as a system, the actions, activities, and practices carried out by citizens in society within the framework of comprehensive political considerations. For example, Macridis and Brown (1986) define it as “those legitimate voluntary activities carried out by citizens with the aim of directly or indirectly influencing the process of selecting rulers and influencing the political decisions they make” (p. 314).

The Palestinian Center for Research and Development Studies (2011) defined it as all individual voluntary acts in which citizens of society directly or indirectly engage in the selection of the ruling class. As a result, both men and women participate in the formulation of the state's general policies. Moreover, Al-Douri (2018) defines it as a goal and a means. It is a goal because a healthy democratic life is based on the citizens' participation in the responsibilities of thinking and working for their society. It is a means because, through the areas of participation, people taste its importance, practice its ways and methods, and its customs are ingrained in them and become part of their culture and behavior. Furthermore, Al-Baz (2016) defines it as “the right granted to the citizen to play a specific role in the process of making political decisions” (p. 13). As for political participation in the narrower sense, it refers to “what is granted to the citizen to monitor the process of making these decisions by evaluating and controlling them after they are issued by the government (p. 13).

Despite the different definitions of political participation, the researcher believes that political participation is a voluntary, organized, spontaneous act around a specific issue related to the interests of the individual and society, aiming to influence public policies and positive change.

1.2 Women's Political Participation and Empowerment

Empowerment and participation are two sides of the same coin, and the concept of women's empowerment expresses a personal and social process by which women achieve influence and authority over their own lives and decisions. As for political empowerment, “a complex process requires the adoption of policies, procedures, and institutional and legal structures to overcome forms of inequality and ensure equal opportunities for individuals in using community resources and in political participation in particular.” The purpose of empowerment is not to participate in the existing systems as they are, but rather to work diligently to change them and replace them with humane systems that allow the participation of the majority in the matter and the necessity of replacing negative concepts of the

distribution of roles with positive concepts based on equality, equal opportunities, and inclusion. Empowerment policies are formulated to prevent discrimination based on gender, to promote freedom of choice, and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for capacity building. This requires democratic renewal and the creation of electoral systems that accommodate all marginalized groups (Adly, 2017).

According to the text of the thirteenth article of Beijing's announcement, the empowerment and participation of women are the basis for equality in all fields. This includes their participation in decision-making as a basic requirement for achieving equality, development, and security. Empowering women politically means pushing them to participate actively in decision-making sites while expanding the opportunities, options, and alternatives available to them and setting the necessary legislation for active participation in political life (Youssef, 2023).

1.3 Jordanian Women's Participation in Political Life

Historically, women lived and still live by their physiological characteristics as captives of their traditional roles as mothers, wives, and housewives. The adoption of global movements on the issue of women appeared in the feminist movement called “the gender current,” carrying three cases: anti-violence against women, women's participation in political decision-making, and enhancing the work of women. It aimed to integrate women into society and achieve justice between them and men in building society at all levels (Dubbur & Al-Asali, 2016).

Women's participation in politics is determined by the conditions of their lives, the level of democracy and liberty they experience, and the freedoms granted by society to execute this role. Women's political participation means enhancing their role politically through their contribution to making public policies and political decisions and influencing them, whether directly or indirectly (Abu Zaida, 2020).

In the past decades, Jordanian society has witnessed political, social, and economic transformations, the most prominent of which was the increase in women's participation in political life. However, the participation of Jordanian women was small compared to the participation of men, and the weakness of women's representation in political life appears through their weak representation in parliamentary councils, political parties, and others. Although the constitution and the law encourage women to exercise their political rights, there are many challenges, some of which are political and others related to the social and cultural conditions prevailing in Jordanian society, in addition to the economic and psychological obstacles that hinder women's serious participation in political life (Rahim, 2017).

Jordanian women began to demand their right to vote and run for municipal and parliamentary councils in the early fifties, and the establishment of the Women's Union in 1954 contributed to this. However, the actual date of women's political participation and assuming ministerial portfolios was the year 1979, when Ms. Inaam Al-Mufti was appointed Minister of Social Development (Al-Khawaldeh, 2017). Then, women continued to assume

ministerial positions year after year until the present time (Al-Naimat, 2021).

As for the Senate, Jordanian women entered the Senate in 1993, when two women, Laila Sharaf and Naila Al-Rashdan, were appointed out of 49, at a rate of 15%. Jordanian women began to hold seats in the Senate at different rates, the highest of which was in the twenty-seventh Senate in 2016, at a rate of 15.4 (Al-Naimat, 2021).

As for the field of parliament, the Jordanian legislator played a fundamental role in enabling Jordanian women to compete in candidacy and not just in elections, in accordance with the amended election law of 1974. In the Eleventh Assembly in 1989, 12 women ran for office, but none of them succeeded. In 1993, one woman out of three candidates won, and to preserve the right of Jordanian women to participate politically, the women's quota law appeared under the election law in 2003, where six seats were allocated to women, and under this law, Jordanian women began to obtain several seats in Parliament (Al-Naimat, 2021).

Participation in university life is one of the most important activities, interests, and activities undertaken by university students. Therefore, universities have a pivotal role in promoting political participation through the design of curricula, such as national education that encourages students to participate in university activities with the aim of achieving positive change and reaching solutions. Universities contribute to qualifying students to engage in political participation processes outside the university framework in a peaceful and positive way and to employ their cognitive skills in political participation based on the rules of ethics and bearing responsibility, which often have positive effects. This is evident when one engages in political activities like protests and demonstrations, works to improve outcomes, and changes the status quo for what is long-term and in the public interest. Additionally, one should not discount the role university professors play in fostering political consciousness in students because of their close interaction with them, their expertise in teaching strategies, and their role as role models for the students (DeLone, Mongkuo, Lyon, & Hogan, 2014).

1.4 Forms of Political Participation

Researchers and specialists distinguish between two forms of political participation (Al-Anazi, 2006). First, organized activities such as voting, local community organizations and unions, membership in parties, attending political meetings, and organized participation in electoral campaigns. Mohamed (2010) considers voting and elections to be the most common forms of political activity practiced by citizens. Second, temporary activities, such as protests and sit-ins, and peaceful demonstrations. Such forms of activities are an expression of the citizen's dissatisfaction with a specific policy pursued by the government aimed at influencing government decisions (Al-Anzi, 2008).

1.5 Obstacles to Women's Political Participation

There are several obstacles that hinder women's political participation, and they are classified into the following factors (Al-Anazi, 2008; Al-Arab, 2016; Al-Takriti, 2018).

1) Social factors: As the prevailing culture in Jordanian society is patriarchal and tribal, women are raised with the primary goal of becoming wives and mothers, and their field of

work is in the home. Social influence on shaping society's view of women's position in political life and enhancing differences between the sexes in favor of males.

2) Economic factors: Many women lack full financial independence and depend financially on men. Additionally, a large segment of women experiences a low standard of living, which further contributes to their economic dependence on men.

3) Political factors: Such factors are represented by a disparity in the level of awareness between males and females in favor of males, so most women do not know their legal rights and opportunities for equality between the sexes.

4) Media factors: Most of the media content focuses on women's concerns, traditional roles and tasks, and ignores women's issues. This has led to the establishment of a negative stereotype about women, especially in the political field.

5) Legal factors: One of the legal factors that contribute to women's lack of knowledge of their legal rights is the absence of programs aimed at empowering them politically.

In view of the democratic progress, we observe, and given that Jordanian women enjoy civil and political rights, such as freedom of opinion and expression, as well as the women's quota system, these rights are basic requirements. Therefore, this topic gains importance in understanding the obstacles facing women at this time. Present conditions that limit their political participation in our Jordanian society.

2. The Study Problem

Political participation, particularly among young women, is a pressing issue that receives significant attention both locally and globally. This is because the youth stage is a transitional period towards adulthood, during which political consciousness grows. As youth participation in public affairs is essential for citizenship, it has become one of the most significant pillars of democracy in contemporary societies. Participation, particularly by young individuals, serves as a crucial means of harnessing the potential of upcoming generations. This helps in rejuvenating the nation's political and social systems and contributes to the continuous development of society. Whatever the case, the level of political participation of female students in any place depends on multiple factors related to the cultural, social, and political variables prevailing in society. The importance of political life at the university and the observed activities of students in student elections and various manifestations of political activity led to the research problem. The institutions of Jordanian society have worked to expand the participation of Jordanian women in political life in light of the presence of legislation that allows Jordanian women the right to political participation. However, the participation of Jordanian women in political life is at its lowest levels, despite the guarantees of the constitution, the national strategy for Jordanian women, the CEDA agreement, the quota system, and all the measures taken by the Jordanian state that encourage the involvement of Jordanian women in the political field, which confirms the existence of obstacles behind this. For all of this, this study came to identify the reality of the participation of female university students in political life and the obstacles to that from their point of view.

3. Objectives of the Study

This study aimed to:

- Identify the reality of female university students' participation in political life.
- Reveal the obstacles behind female university students' participation in political life
- Reveal the differences in the reality of female university students' political participation in political life. It is due to academic qualification, type of college, and place of residence.
- Identifying the most common forms of obstacles to female university students' participation in political life.

4. Study Questions

- 1) What is the reality of female university students' participation in political life?
- 2) Are there statistically significant differences at the level of 0.05 or less in the reality of female university students' participation in political life due to academic qualification?
- 3) Are there statistically significant differences at the level of 0.05 or less in the reality of female university students' participation in political life due to the type of college?
- 4) Are there statistically significant differences at the level of 0.05 or less in the reality of female university students' participation in political life due to place of residence?
- 5) What are the most common forms of obstacles to female university students' participation in political life?

5. Significance and Limitations of the Study

This study derives its importance from trying to explain the political phenomenon, as political participation is considered political behavior. Political participation enhances the self and Jordanian identity. Furthermore, targeting female university students in the youth stage, which is the most important segment of society, and highlighting the obstacles that limit the participation of female university students in political life. This study can benefit Arab libraries and researchers with topics that combine politics and psychology.

- Human limits: The present study was limited to female undergraduate and graduate students at Isra University in Amman.
- Spatial limits: The study's geographical scope was restricted to Isra University in Amman.
- Temporal limits: The study was conducted in one academic semester, the first semester of 2023–2024.
- The study's limitations included the sample and its characteristics, as well as the study instruments, whose reliability and validity were established.

6. Previous Studies

Youssef's study (2023) aimed to review the social and political heritage regarding women

exercising their political rights at both the Arab and international levels, with the aim of alerting people to the importance of women's participation and exercising their political rights. The results of the study concluded that women's failure to exercise their political rights is one of the obstacles. This threatens the targeted development. The results also indicated that there is a correlation between the economic factors represented by poverty and the lack of women's participation in political life. Moreover, they also indicated the importance of the social and economic dimensions as one of the aspects of comprehensive development.

Ben Yahia and Ziani (2022) conducted a study that aimed to examine the political empowerment of women in Algeria and Tunisia by studying the variables of decision-making and political participation. This study aims to analyze the obstacles to women's political participation in Tunisia and Algeria and identify the various obstacles that stand as barriers to empowering women's participation. The issue of Arabic women's political participation and decision-making is linked to various factors, such as cultural, social, political, economic, and legal factors. The study found that improving civil liberties, development index, electoral process, and pluralism could positively affect Arab women's political participation.

Al-Qarala et al. (2021) aimed to identify the reality of political participation in Jordan, the levels of participation, and the obstacles facing young people in the political process. The study sample consisted of 382 male and female students from the universities of Jordan and Al-Zaytoonah. The results of the study found that the reality of students' political participation was... medium and varied, and that there was a group of political, cultural, social, and economic obstacles facing youth participation in political work. Because of the low level of political participation of women in both countries, the study employed a qualitative approach based on interviews, and the findings revealed that there are barriers to women's political representation, the most significant of which are cultural and political.

Sharma (2020) aimed to study the extent of the political empowerment of Indian women and identify the factors that hinder women. The study used an interview tool with a sample of 68 female managers working in different sectors. The study's findings revealed that women's political empowerment is critical to societal advancement. The main factors that emerged from women's political empowerment are political mindfulness, the legal and political environment, family support, and intrinsic motivation, and I considered them important factors for predicting women's political empowerment.

Moreover, Al-Ghanameen et al. (2018) sought to pinpoint the reality of political participation of university students in Jordan. The study sample included 530 male and female students. The findings revealed that the students' response in assessing the reality of political participation among students at the University of Jordan was moderate, as were the areas of reality of participation. According to the students' responses, they were ranked in descending order as follows: political interest, political knowledge, and political activity. The factors of political participation also received a moderate rating. The findings also revealed statistically significant variations in political participation levels based on the variables: type of college, in favor of humanitarian colleges, and academic level, in favor of first-year students.

However, the findings revealed no statistically significant variations in political participation levels based on place of residence.

Sanakra (2016) explored the influence of civil society institutions on Palestinian women's political participation in light of certain criteria. The study's findings indicated that civil society institutions had a significant influence on Palestinian women's political participation. The findings revealed significant disparities in the influence of civil society institutions on Palestinian women's political participation. These dissimilarities were identified across various factors, including age, marital status, place of residency, educational attainment, and income level. Notably, women aged over forty showed a stronger inclination towards political participation. Married women also displayed greater political activism than unmarried women did. Furthermore, women residing in rural areas were more politically active than their urban counterparts. Those with a diploma-level education were also found to be more politically engaged than those with lower levels of education. Lastly, women with higher incomes exhibited greater political participation than women with lower incomes.

Ostrander, Sandler and Nieman (2015) examined the impact of political participation on master's program students, in addition to revealing the factors that support or determine participation in a wide range of political activities. The study took place in the United States of America and used a descriptive approach. The study sample consisted of 455 students at the master's level in American universities. The results concluded that students at advanced academic levels recorded the highest percentage of participation in political activities and various social works. It also showed that African American students recorded the lowest percentage of political participation compared to other races.

The previous studies provided the theoretical framework for this study. It can be noted that the studies varied in terms of objectives, some of which aimed to know the extent to which women exercise their political rights, while others concerned the impact of women's political empowerment on their political participation. Besides, some studies tackled the level of women's political participation, while others studied the impact of legislative authority on women's political participation, the impact of civil society institutions focused on women's political participation, and the obstacles to women's participation in political life, including some that aimed to know the degree of political awareness among women. Nonetheless, what distinguishes the current study from previous studies is that it addressed the topic of the reality of female university students' participation in political life and used tools designed by the researcher. To the best of his knowledge, the researcher did not find any study that addressed these two dimensions specifically for female students.

7. Methods

7.1 Study Design

The study utilized a descriptive survey approach to identify the reality of female university students' participation in politics and the obstacles to their participation from their perspectives in light of the variables: academic qualification, type of college, and place of residence.

7.2 Study Population

The study population consisted of all female students at Isra University. The number of students enrolled in the first semester of 2023–2024 at the bachelor’s and master’s levels is 4001, including 3694 female students at the bachelor’s level and 307 female students at the master’s level. Table 1 shows the distribution of community members by level of study and type of college.

Table 1. Distribution of the study population of female students at Isra University enrolled in the first semester 2023–2024, distributed according to academic level and type of college

Variable	Level	Number	percentage
Academic Level	Bachelor’s	3694	92%
	Master’s	307	8%
	Total	4001	100%
College Type	Scientific	1626	41%
	Humanitarian	2375	59%
	Total	4001	100%

7.3 Study Sample

The sample included 288 female students from Isra University pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees during the academic year 2023–2024. They were chosen at random, with a proportion of 7%.

Table 2. The distribution of the study sample according to the variables: qualification, Academic degree, type of college, and place of residence

Variable	Level	Number	Percentage
Academic Level	Bachelor’s	229	79.5
	Master’s	59	20.5
	Total	288	100.0
College Type	Scientific	165	57.3
	Humanitarian	123	42.7
	Total	288	100.0
Place of Residence	City	221	76.7
	Countryside	67	23.3
	Total	288	100.0

7.4 Study Tool

To achieve the study’s goals, the tools were prepared after reviewing the theoretical literature

and the available standards in this field.

7.5 The Scale of Political Participation

The scale used for this study was prepared by referring to the theoretical framework, and the previous studies (Abu Zaida, 2020; Al-Azzam et al, 2010; Al-Hadidi, 2022; Al-Naimat, 2021; Dweikat, 2016; Nasser, 2010; Sabiha, 2016), and the tool consisted of (28) items. The tool's items were responded to by bachelor's and master's students at Isra University according to a five-dimensional scale: (always, dearly, sometimes, rarely, never). The score (5) expresses the highest Levels of political participation. In contrast, the score (1) represents the lowest level. The average levels were divided into three levels: the low level of political participation, whose averages range between (1–2.33) and the medium level of political participation, whose averages range from (2.34–2.67), and the high level of political participation ranges between (2.68–5).

7.6 Reliability and Validity Indicators for the Political Participation Questionnaire

An exploratory sample was selected from outside the study sample and from the community itself. It consisted of 40 female students from scientific and humanities colleges and from bachelor's and master's degrees at Isra University. The political participation questionnaire was applied to them, and the application was repeated after two weeks, according to the reliability coefficient of the stability coefficient (test-retest), and the reliability coefficient of the total score was 0.90, which is a high and acceptable reliability coefficient. The internal consistency reliability coefficient (Cronbach's alpha) was also calculated on the data from the first application of the questionnaire, and the reliability coefficient of the total score was 0.89, which is a high and acceptable stability coefficient. On the other hand, the validity of the questionnaire was achieved by calculating the correlation coefficients between the items and the degree, ranging between 0.44 and 0.75, which are statistically significant coefficients at the significance level (0.01) (see Table 3).

Table 3. Correlation coefficients between the item and the total score of the political participation questionnaire among a survey sample of female students at Isra University in Jordan

Item No	Correlation with scale						
1	** .63	8	** .60	15	** .60	22	** .55
2	** .65	9	** .58	16	** .49	23	** .75
3	** .56	10	** .59	17	** .53	24	** .52
4	** .46	11	** .75	18	** .66	25	** .48
5	** .45	12	** .52	19	** .47	26	** .60
6	** .58	13	** .53	20	** .66	27	** .66
7	** .44	14	** .71	21	** .58	28	** .71

Note. ** Significant at the significance level (0.01).

8. The Methods of Political Participation

The scale used for this study was prepared by referring to the theoretical framework and the previous studies (Abu Al-Adas, 2018; Al-Arab, 2016; Al-Naimat, 2021; Al-Tikriti, 2018; Sabiha, 2016; Shaaban & Hijazi, 2013). The scale consists of 23 paragraphs (distributing social and cultural obstacles (7 paragraphs), political and legal obstacles (6 paragraphs), economic obstacles (5 paragraphs), and media obstacles (5 paragraphs). Mediterranean levels have been divided into three levels: the low level of political participation and average ranges between (1 and 2.33); the average level of political participation and its average ranges between (2.34 and 3.67); and the high level of political participation and its levels range between (3.68 and 5).

8.1 Indicators of the Validity of Construction for the Obstacles to Political Participation

To determine the validity of the questionnaire on obstacles to political participation, the researcher calculated the correlation transactions between the items and, after that, the variance and the total degree of the questionnaire. Where the items connection with the total degree ranged between 0.50 and 0.74, and the correlation transactions for the first dimension ranged from the 'social and cultural obstacles' between 0.47 and 0.73, for the second 'political and legal obstacles' between 0.48 and 0.67, for the third dimension 'obstacles economic' between 0.48 and 0.58), and for the fourth 'media obstacles' between 0.46 and 0.68, which are statistically significant transactions at the level of significance (0.01), see Table 4.

Table 4. Correlation coefficients between the item and the total score for the questionnaire of obstacles to political participation among a survey sample of female students at Isra University in Jordan

Media obstacles			Economic obstacles			Political and legal obstacles			Social and cultural obstacles		
With Questionnaire	With Dimension	Item No	With Questionnaire	With Dimension	Item No	With Questionnaire	With Dimension	Item No	With Questionnaire	With Dimension	Item No
.53	*.49*	19	** .60	** .57	14	** .65	** .48	8	** .74	** .52	1
** .70	** .68	20	** .49	** .51	15	** .69	** .65	9	** .55	** .64	2
** .63	** .59	22	** .53	** .48	16	** .70	** .65	10	** .71	** .54	3
** .50	** .46	22	** .66	** .51	17	** .70	** .67	11	** .56	** .73	4
** .60	** .51	23	** .59	** .56	19	.61**	.52**	12	.65**	.47**	5
						** .59	** .58	13	** .64	** .60	6
								7	** .54	** .52	7

Note. ** Significant at the significance level (0.01).

8.2 The Reliability of the Questionnaire on Obstacles to Political Participation

The reliability of the questionnaire on obstacles to political participation was determined by giving it to the sample (40 female students) more than once. After two weeks, the stability coefficient (test-retest) was calculated, and the reliability coefficient of the total score was 0.93. The reliability coefficients for the dimensions ranged between 0.84 and 0.90, which are high and acceptable reliability coefficients. The internal consistency reliability coefficient, Cronbach's Alpha, was also calculated on the data of the first application of the questionnaire, and the reliability coefficient of the total score reached 0.91, and the reliability coefficients for the dimensions ranged between 0.83 and 0.89, which are high and acceptable reliability coefficients. See Table 5.

Table 5. Reliability coefficients (Test–reTest) and Cronbach’s Alpha for the dimensions of the Obstacles to Political Participation Questionnaire and the total score

Dimension	Items	Stability of (Test–reTest)	Cronbach’s Alpha stability (Cronbach’s Alpha)
Social and cultural obstacles	1–7	.900	.890
Political and legal obstacles	8–13	.880	.840
Economic obstacles	14–18	.840	.830
Media obstacle	19–23	.890	.860
The total score of the questionnaire	1–23	.930	.910

8.3 Study Procedures

- The researcher carried out the following procedures:
- Defining the study population and sample.
- Reviewing the theoretical literature and previous studies related to the topic of women’s participation in general and Jordanian women in particular, and the obstacles that stand in the way of their participation in political life.
- Preparing study tools (the measure of political participation of Jordanian women and the measure of obstacles to Jordanian women’s participation in political life) and ensuring their validity and reliability.
- Applying the study tools to the study sample.
- Unpacking the data and extracting the results.
- Answering the study questions, analyzing and discussing the results, and presenting recommendations.

8.4 Study Variables

- The political participation of Jordanian women

- Obstacles to the political participation of Jordanian women.
- Academic level: It has two levels: bachelor's and master's.
- Type of college: It has two levels: scientific and humanitarian.
- Place of residence: It has two levels (city and village).

8.5 Statistical Analyses

- Arithmetic means and standard deviations to reveal the level of political participation of female students at Isra University, and the most common forms of obstacles to political participation.
- T-test to reveal differences in political participation of female students that are due to academic level, type of college, and place of residence.

9. The Conclusion

The researcher reached a set of results and recommendations that can be summarized as follows:

9.1 Study Results

In this part, the questions of the study were answered, the results were reached and discussed, and recommendations were proposed in light of them. They are arranged according to the questions as follows:

Q1- What is the reality of female university students' participation in political life?

To address this question, arithmetic means and standard deviations were calculated for the actual level of political involvement among female university students, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Arithmetic means and standard deviations for the dimensions of the actual level of female university students' participation in political life, arranged in descending order according to the arithmetic means

Rank	Dimension No	Dimension	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Level
1	27	I volunteer for an activity that benefits society	4.33	0.81	High
2	8	I believe that women and men are equal in political rights	4.16	0.95	High
3	24	I support the quota system in the Jordanian parliament	3.86	1.03	High
4	6	I participate in national events and am interested in attending them	3.83	1.08	High
5	1	I care about political matters	3.79	0.93	High
6	12	If men and women are equal in political competence, I choose women	3.70	1.10	High

7	5	I am satisfied with the democratic atmosphere in Jordan	3.52	1.18	Medium
8	7	I participate in voting in the parliamentary elections	3.47	1.24	Medium
9	3	I follow the electoral campaigns and take an interest in them	3.39	1.12	Medium
10	4	I participate in the electoral campaigns	3.36	1.23	Medium
11	23	I participate in exercising my role in the university elections	3.36	1.11	Medium
12	21	The masculinity of organizations affects women's political participation	3.32	1.15	Medium
13	13	I discuss political issues with others inside and outside the university	3.31	1.20	Medium
14	25	I see that the media does not give a positive image of women's political participation	3.31	1.11	Medium
15	26	I belong to a charitable organization	3.11	1.22	Medium
16	11	I might nominate myself for political work	3.06	1.26	Medium
17	22	The structure of Jordanian society is still not conducive to women's participation in political life	3.01	1.19	Medium
18	28	I donate money to political parties	2.93	1.21	Medium
19	19	I do not participate in peaceful demonstrations	2.91	1.31	Medium
20	20	I avoid participating in political seminars	2.90	1.22	Medium
21	10	I do not participate in local elections	2.85	1.19	Medium
22	14	I do not care about political matters	2.73	1.17	Medium
23	2	I am a member of a political organization	2.60	1.10	Medium
24	18	I participate in sit-ins	2.52	1.26	Medium
25	9	I am a member of a party	2.34	1.16	Medium
26	17	I do not care about listening to political news	2.30	1.04	Low
27	15	I do not support women holding political positions	2.24	1.18	Low
28	16	I believe that the role of women should be limited to their homes	1.84	1.15	Low
Total score of the questionnaire			3.14	0.49	Medium

The results of Table 6 show that the actual level of female university students' participation in political life was average, as the total score for the political participation questionnaire resulted in an arithmetic average of (3.14) with a standard deviation of (0.49) and an average level. The arithmetic averages for the items ranged between 1.84 and 4.33. Paragraph (27), which reads: "I volunteer for an activity that benefits society," ranked first with a mean of (4.33) a standard deviation of (0.81) and a high level. Paragraph (8), which reads, "I see that women and men are equal in political rights," ranked first. The second came with a mean of (4.16) with a standard

deviation of (0.95) and a high level, while paragraph (16) came in last place, which reads: “I see that a woman’s role should be limited to her home” with a mean of (1.84) with a standard deviation of (1.15) and a low level. The researcher attributes this result to the fact that female university students’ political awareness of their political roles is insufficient, and that there is a group of factors behind this; therefore, female students must be qualified cognitively and politically. This result agreed with the study of (Al-Ghanamayin et al., 2018; Al-Qarala et al., 2021; Watfa, 2015), where participation was at a moderate degree, and it differed from the study of (Sanakra, 2016; Shaaban & Hijazi, 2012), where participation was at a high degree, and the study of (Alyan, 2014), where participation was low.

Q2- Are there statistically significant differences at the level of (0.05) or less in the reality of female university students’ participation in political life due to academic level?

To answer this question, arithmetic means, standard deviations, and a t-test were calculated to reveal the significance of the differences. Statistics on the reality of female university students’ participation in political life according to the academic level variable, and Table 7 shows this:

Table 7. Arithmetic means, standard deviations, and T-values regarding the reality of female university students’ participation in political life due to academic level

Variable	Level	Number	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	T- value	Degrees of freedom	Statistical significance
Academic Level	Bachelors	229	3.27	.464	9.632	286	.000
	Masters	59	2.67	.201			

The findings revealed that there were statistically significant differences at the significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$) between the two samples of female bachelor’s and master’s students in the reality of female university students’ participation in political life. The differences were in favor of the female bachelor’s students because their arithmetic mean was higher than the arithmetic mean of the female master’s students. The value of (t) was the total score for the questionnaire, 9.632, and its statistical significance was 0.000. The arithmetic mean for female bachelor’s students was 3.27, while the arithmetic mean for female master’s students was lower, reaching 2.67, which indicates that female bachelor’s students participate in political life more than female students. Masters. The researcher attributes this result to the fact that the university environment for bachelor’s students allows for political participation and addressing such issues, whether it is through student elections, the student council, compulsory university courses such as national education, and the activities and celebrations held by the university related to political aspects such as Science and Independence Day and others that develop political awareness among female students. This result partly agrees with the study of Al-Ghanamayin et al. (2018), with the presence of significant differences in the level of political participation due to the academic level variable, in favor of first-year bachelor’s students. This result differed with the study of Alyan (2014), whose results showed that there were no significant differences in the level of political participation due to the academic level

variable, and it also differed with the study of Sanakra (2016), whose results showed that there were no significant differences in the level of political participation due to the academic level variable in favor of diploma students.

Q3- Are there statistically significant differences at the level of (0.05) or less in the reality of female university students' participation in political life due to the type of college?

To answer this question, arithmetic means, standard deviations, and a t-test were calculated to detect the significance of the statistical differences in the reality of female university students' participation in political life according to the college type variable, and Table 8 shows this:

Table 8. Arithmetic means, standard deviations, and T-values in the reality of female university students' participation in political life due to the type of college

Variable	Level	Number	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	T- value	Degrees of freedom	Statistical significance
College	Scientific	165	2.88	.257	-13.65	286	.000
Type	Humanitarian	123	3.50	.498			

The results showed significant differences ($\alpha = 0.05$) between the two samples of female students in scientific colleges and humanitarian colleges in the reality of female university students' participation in political life. The differences were in favor of female students in humanitarian colleges because their arithmetic average was higher than the arithmetic average of female students in scientific colleges. The value (t) of the total score of the questionnaire was -13.65, and its statistical significance was 0.000. The arithmetic mean for female students in scientific colleges was 2.88, while the arithmetic average for female students in humanities colleges was higher, reaching 3.50, which indicates that female students in humanities colleges Their participation in political life is greater than in academic colleges. The researcher attributes this result to the fact that female students in humanities colleges are exposed to courses that contain more political issues than female students in scientific colleges. Also, perhaps female students in humanities colleges have more free time, which allows them to engage in university participation and activities of this kind. This result agreed with the study of Al-Ghanamayin et al. (2018), which showed that there were significant differences in the level of political participation due to the variable type of college and in favor of humanities colleges. This result differed from the study of Watfa (2015), whose results revealed the presence of significant differences in the level of political participation due to the variable type of college and in favor of scientific colleges.

Q4- Are there statistically significant differences at the level of 0.05 or less in the reality of female university students' participation in political life due to place of residence?

To answer this question, arithmetical means, standard deviations, and a t-test were calculated to detect the significance of the statistical differences in the reality of female university students' participation in political life according to the variable of place of residence is shown

in Table 9, which shows this:

Table 9. Arithmetic means, standard deviations, and T-values in the reality of female university students' participation in political life due to the variable of place of residence

Variable	Level	Number	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	T- value	Degrees of freedom	Statistical significance
Place of Residence	City	221	3.13	.522	-.890	286	.374
	Countryside	67	3.19	.345			

The results revealed that there were no statistically significant differences at the significance level ($\alpha = 0.05$) in the reality of female university students' participation in political life according to the variable of place of residence, as the arithmetic averages between city and village residents were close, and the (t) value for the total score of the questionnaire reached (0.890). -, and its statistical significance is (0.374), and the arithmetic mean for female students residing in the city was (3.13), while the arithmetic mean for female students residing in the village was (3.19), which indicates the convergence of the arithmetic averages and the absence of significant differences in political participation according to place of residence. Whether a city or a village, the researcher attributes this result to the tremendous technological development and the various social media tools that have become available to everyone to gain knowledge and news, regardless of their place of residence. The whole world is at their fingertips. This result was consistent with the study of Al-Ghanamayin et al. (2018), whose results revealed that there were no significant differences in the level of political participation due to the variable of place of residence. This result differed from the study of Sanakra (2016), whose results revealed the presence of significant differences in the level of political participation due to the variable of place of residence in favor of the village, and the study of Alyan (2014), whose results revealed the presence of significant differences in the level of political participation due to the variable of place of residence in favor of the village. City dwellers.

Q5- What are the most common forms of obstacles to female university students' participation in political life?

To answer this question, arithmetic means and standard deviations were calculated for the levels of forms of obstacles to female university students' participation in political life, and Table 10 shows this.

Table 10. Arithmetic means and standard deviations for the forms of obstacles to female university students' participation in political life, arranged in descending order according to the arithmetic means

Rank	Dimension No	Types of obstacles	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Level
1	4	Media obstacle	3.52	.848	Medium
2	1	Social and cultural obstacles	3.46	.815	Medium
3	3	Economic obstacles	3.39	.969	Medium
4	2	Political and legal obstacles	3.12	.762	Medium
Total degree of obstacles to political participation			3.37	.721	Medium

The results of Table 10 show that the most common form of obstacles to female university students' participation in political life came in the "media obstacles" dimension, with a mean of (3.52) with a standard deviation of (0.848) and an average level, followed in second place by the "social and cultural obstacles" dimension, with an average My calculation reached (3.46) with a standard deviation of (0.815) and an average level, followed in third place by the "Economic Obstacles" dimension, with an arithmetic mean of (3.39) with a standard deviation of (0.969) and an average level, and finally came the "Political and Legal Obstacles" dimension, with an arithmetic mean of (3.12) with a standard deviation of (0.762) and an average level. The researcher explains that all factors combined (media, economic, social, political, and legal) are considered obstacles to female students' political participation. The highest media factors are because the media focuses on the traditional, stereotypical, and social roles of women and superficially addresses women's political roles. This result agrees with the study of (Al-Alayan, 2014; Al-Qarala et al., 2021; Yahya & Ziani, 2022), whose study results revealed the presence of economic, social, political, and legal obstacles that hinder women's political participation.

10. Recommendations

Given the study's findings, the researcher suggests the following: First, enhancing the participation of women and female university students in political life by integrating them into various political, partisan, and social programs. Second, raising social and political awareness of the necessity and importance of women's and female university students' participation in political life. Third, expanding the media discourse related to women's issues by spreading the culture of women's political and social participation, enhancing their political role, and introducing them to their legal rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution. Fourth, enhancing the contribution of civil society organizations in Jordan to promote women's political engagement and support their access to leadership and decision-making positions. Fifth, integrating educational strategies and curricula at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels to cultivate generations that recognize and value women's political role in societal development. Finally, emphasizing contemporary roles of women—particularly political roles—within university education through mandatory academic courses.

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