

Challenges Facing Women's Political Participation (Studying Jordan Case)

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Abstract—The phenomenon of the limited political participation of women is the outcome of and over lap ping factor at all levels whether economic, political or social. There fore the challenges are attributed to constitutional and legal reasons, since most of Arab constitutions don't provide on the principle of equality between males and females. With regard to political rights. Some Arab constitutions involved some political rights like the right of nomination and election ,however the research finds these texts remain inactive in a whole or in apart because of the lack of mechanisms to ensure the implementation of these texts. We even can say that these texts are discriminatory for their difference from democratic and modern states constitutions. There are many of obstacles that have been facing women in Arab world to achieve an effective and wider participation of western women: the cultural and social particularities, The religious dimension, Economic factors, Cultural factor, Manilas male dominance and tribal formation and the last one is the lack of seriousness off the political parties to give role to the women , therefore women should exercise an important role in the developing of the self awareness and capabilities to have faith the in work and realize the importance of their role in nation – building and preparation of future generations. In the end of research , the researcher presented a set of assumptions to promote and empower women to participate actively in political Arab life.

Keywords— Oppression. Women presentation, Women's Independence.

I. INTRODUCTION

THAT political participation is one of the most important aspects of democracy, where participation is the extent of the capacity and the development of society in terms of the use of peaceful ways of expression. That's where the concept of political participation includes activities designed to influence the decisions taken by the concerned authorities in the political decision-making as the legislative and executive authority and parties. The importance of this review of the individual being able to get his rights and interests and defend them which gives him the ability to control matters of life and directed society.

So is the participation in political life is a vital nerve in the exercise of the right of human rights in life, frank and practical expression of the sovereignty of the values of freedom, justice and equality in society as well as being a strong indicator of the extent to which underdevelopment of the society and its political system or their development, it means that the coupling and documentation between them and the

development efforts. Due to the importance of participating in the humanitarian community, concerned with political scientists referring to the phenomenon of non-participants or apathetic affairs of any community of little indulging in political life and indifferent any who are devoid of political practicality . Political scientists affirmed that these represent the most dangerous phenomena modern society.

In Jordan, there is growing acceptance and formally recognized the importance of women's political participation and that after decades of subjugation and marginalization, where women make up half the manpower in the Jordanian society.

So we can say that the political participation of Jordanian women can not be viewed in isolation from the issues of the Jordanian society as a whole. Jordan is the center 120 of the world in the list of female representation in the House of Representatives as the figure reached 106.4 and for this we have to identify the reasons that limit women's political participation and this came this study was to reveal the obstacles that prevent empower women politically, uh, challenges faced, including the most important violence against women and to pay for political participation during the women's quota, especially after the Queen Rania Al Abdullah reported this sentence, but to keep a lot of enrollment that undermine their existence on this issue in the Jordanian society.

A. Importance of the study and justification:

Lies the importance of this research is that women do not have a share and the impact in the political process or to participate in decision-making, but with the development of political life in Jordan emerged this review, albeit simple courtesy of women in the client's political, taking into account the principle of Imamate to the man knowing that Islam did not distinguish between man and woman in the process of participation in all fields, despite the developments in the laws and regulations in order to gain whole rights of woman .Where the contemporary discourse of woman overall its outs of the four important issues in political participation are: election, selection of women in elected councils, pay women for public office and generally government. And because women are half of the society came to study focuses on this half, which stumbled and face obstacles in reaching their full rights.

B. Objectives of the study:

I. Identifying the role of elections in the Jordanian women's

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empowerment in political.

- II. 2- Identify the limitations and obstacles facing the Jordanian Women's political participation in order to achieve this objective research deals with the concept of political participation first and then the concept of gender roles and then stand on the fact that Jordanian women's participation in all areas of life in general and politics in particular.

C. Research Methodology:

Search in the study adopted a descriptive approach - analytical based on the reference Jordanian and foreign available in bookstores as well as employ the historical method and comparative approach to reach a comprehensive picture of the most important challenges faced by women in Jordanian political action.

II. THE EVOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL ACTION OF WOMEN IN JORDANIAN SOCIETY

The concept of political participation:

The concept of political participation, like other ambiguous concepts so varied definitions of this concept to reflect the ideology and political backgrounds.

Where you see the political regimes that participation takes two forms the first acceptable a business legitimacy acceptable to these regimes such as voting and pretending to belong to political parties to demonstrate peacefully, either participating non-institutional They are active, which does not recognize the system, such as civil disobedience and violent confrontations with the Sultan, such as social movements in the street (opposition parties unrecognized). The number of Jordan's population is about six and a half million people, the proportion of females about 49% of the population, the Jordanian state heading towards the empowerment of women Jordan from exercising its duties in line with the Jordanian Constitution so I started efforts to address the gap between the constitutional provisions theoretical implication rights for women. (Pierce, 2006)

The participation rate of women in Jordan on an official level relatively low in spite of the adoption of the right to vote and run for parliamentary councils in 1974, but that the practice of women's policy, decision-making at the site, but did not start in 1978, When appointed three women in the course of the Advisory Board and they ladies: Anam Mufti and Dad Ms. Paul and Ms. Naila Rashid then took the appointment of women in this Council became nine ladies are distributed to different courses out of 190 members. The parliamentary elections did not come for women active participation by, but in 1989, where she ran 12 women out of 647 candidates, males and females, but the bitter experience for these women because you can not any single one of them to win a seat parliament, leaving a negative impact on the following courses, in 1993 run only three women out of 534, of whom two competed on Circassian quota and one of them is succeeded Ms. Toujane Faisal. While nominated for the cycle 1997.17 candidate did

not win any one of them and the distribution of electoral districts in 2003 to ensure the existence of six women in parliament as part of women's quota encouraged women again, where proceeded 54 lady on the nomination of themselves, won them six scheduled their parliamentary seats (Shteivi 2004, p 54).

At the level of local councils encouraged women to contribute to the local councils set 99 Lady in 1995 in preparation for the participation of women in the running for these boards, and then successively presence of women in these councils and one of them won the post of head of the local council .

However, the decline in the prospects elections women's local councils, prompting the government to approve the appointment of lady in every municipal council and a villager, as part of civil society institutions and in spite of the participation of women's extensive trade unions and local that the proportion of high-affinity 21.2% by virtue of mandatory membership did not materialize to any lady access to leadership positions on the boards of these unions, except once was in the early fifties of the last century, as it won Ms. Emily Bisharat is the first Jordanian lawyer, the position of Member of the Board of the Jordanian Bar Association In 2003, the number of leaders in these councils only 2.

Nor is it so much different with cultural ties, where the proportion of women in leadership positions only 3% of the political parties, which is an ancient political activity, and in spite of intensive effort women any part of these parties that focused service programs related to internal and external policies, few women could not access to the number of leadership positions, after achieving detente policy in 1989, and with the approval of the law of parties and breadth of activity of political parties after a long period of secret work, and did not reach the proportion of women in the leadership of political parties for more than 7% in 2002, which raises the question about the role of local political parties to encourage women because Participation is the cornerstone of political life; social growth and evolution of the mortgage to expand voting rights and the rights of candidates, and expand the scope of contributing to the achievement of political goals, and make them rights enjoyed by every human being. Participation is the primary means to achieve unanimity or the growth of the opposition; also contribute to deepening the sense of responsibility of the ruler and the ruled; addition to it's like a defensive approach against injustice and tyranny. And the meaning of it all, that participation of paramount importance to the rulers and the ruled, and civil society, and the means of communication between different groups; unit leading to alleviate conflicts.

So is the right of political participation of women's and human rights, international treaties and domestic laws approved all of their rights in terms of equality with men, and the fight against exploitation and the right to representation in the government and private institutions, associations and governmental and other organizations (Fuad, 2007) .

That took a lot of international and regional conferences in the past decade that relate to women's rights in general and the participation of political and social life, in particular, notably the conference, which was held in Beijing (1998). So the women's movement has been active in the countries of the world and especially in the third world in order to revive and revitalize the decisions of international conferences and association put pressure on the governments in their home countries (Kourvetares and Dobratz, 2006).

These pressures resulted in raising the percentage of women's participation in political life and that participation was still shy in some countries and the percentage varies between one country and another.

Have addressed the conference sessions, various aspects of development research topic, from dimensional conceptual Academy naked, to the manifestation of this the dimensions in various fields, examined his papers in this concept from the perspective of the government through documents official reference and perspective of education, and partisan, cultural, media and social (Abu Shola, 2007)

*Despite what has been achieved for women Jordanian achievements distinct within insights consistent with the aspirations of the King in active participation, but that women seek further gains in the report of the Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs and pointed out where the proportion of citizens females in government agencies and the private sector amounted to 44.9 of the total number staff while unemployment in 2010 reached any ratio of 26%, despite the high literacy rate and the percentage of females in official institutions in leadership positions of 17% and 46% in non-leadership positions (The Press and Publications, 2010).

But that which points to the ineffectiveness of efforts to increase women's participation in economic life is that the percentage of women at the global level of 50% in 2012 and from here it came Jordan's role in the Global Competitiveness Report for the year 2010 was the last among the 139 countries.

The wage rates for women in Jordan are very low as indicators issued by the Department of Statistics gap in favor of males (63) JD (Phoenix, 2013).

As for the governments since 1978 began appointment of women ministers in the number of governments that came to power since that date arrived in their numbers in the Far alone four women ministers in the government of Faisal al-Fayez (Abu Shola, 2007).

From realizing the importance of women's political participation offered the government of Mr. Faisal Al Fayez's formation in 2003, the project of political development based on the letter of commissioning royal select tasks the government to achieve human development on various aspects, including political development and emphasize the importance of women's participation in this process across a range of mechanisms ensure activate their role and support their participation in various decision-making processes and activation of these trends the government held a series of dialogues with civil society organizations, including women's

institutions in order to effectuate the principle of participation of women and promote the concept of citizenship, in addition to a series of steps earlier encouraged the government, and carried out by Jordanian National Committee for Women's Affairs, in partnership with women's civil society organizations and the most important, women's empowerment activities aimed at enhancing the participation of women as voters and candidates in the 2003 elections, which centered on the activities of preparation, training and awareness. In the framework of the training was to hold a series of workshops for women candidates and campaign managers, to train them in communication skills and how to prepare campaigns and procedures, including how to prepare information materials and seminars and dialogues through various means of communication approved (Shtawii, 2004).

The fact that some believe that the political empowerment of women, especially through the corridor (quota) and took a number of ministerial portfolios and appointed in government jobs graduate believes that the necessities of this discourse in some political regimes Arab and Jordanian private dictated by the benefits of international conditional financial assistance provided to these countries under the pretext of democracy and human rights and the empowerment of women in various fields until the community gets used to the participation of women.

Since it received King Aballah II came to power in 1999, opening the door to Jordanian Women, has made every effort in order to deliver the Jordanian women to top levels and surrounded by all the support for that woman get the position in all the centers and institutions both outside Jordan or inside in order to contribute to the progress and construction processes and prosperity sought by Jordan, saying that participate consciously and professional excellence and performance to build a system of economic, social and cultural challenges facing Jordan.

We pay put development strategy and political dialogues conducted by the government with the institutions of various civil society, the International Institute for Women's Solidarity, which had been realized, and since its inception importance of empowerment aimed at enhancing women's political participation, Through this perceptive series of programs that are in their entirety, very premises and procedures at the mouth of the political empowerment of women. Depending on all initiated by the Institute to hold a conference on the political development in the period between 23-25 March 2004, And the participation of members of the Senate and House of Representatives and a group of academics and academies researchers and researchers, and representatives and representatives of civil society institutions different, as well as government ministries, in addition to the media and women in the media and are interested in issues of political development of various disciplines, came this conference in order to activate the debate about the concept of development for Quota women and recently used after the feminist movement failed to get into parliament, this decision came under the guidance of the political leadership, although no official will to empower

women from political participation, and in spite of all, there is no real popular draws for example, trade unions and political parties find there is no real representation of women.

Quota is a positive and negative discrimination of women; positive because it allowed for women as it allowed for a woman to occupy sites not operated before. And it - quota - a negative because it is discrimination in women's citizenship, and enhance the instant the man and control over women, and the clan rarely ml supports women in the campaign, and especially that the clan is in control of the election process, and must be that there are obstacles to cultural, social and legal challenge of the post women in decision-making and prevent the political empowerment of women, and the most important obstacles that stand in front of the participation of women, traditions and pressures society Batryarka which is where women weakest Link. Which requires the presence of women's quota to ensure the representation of women in decision-making positions..

And perhaps show the mentality of the Jordanian society and dominate the male through the study of Jordan's attitude on the issue of Jordanian women's participation in political life. That the position of the Jordanians on the issue of women's participation in political life that the majority of them believe that women stay at home, where considered that the ability of the man on the decision-making beyond the capacity of women and their political action is greater than its capacity, and that there are obstacles to women's participation in political work of the most important: lack of community acceptance of women's work in politics, and the difficulty women face in reconciling his responsibilities Family and politics and the weakness accepting the same women to participate in political life.

There are many studies that shed light on the reality of the Jordanian women's participation in public life by diagnosing active in organizations and associations based on the one hand, and experience in political participation in legislative councils on the other hand, and review by an analytical study in the light of the election results. Factors have shown all social, cultural and media are still rooted and rates of change in the granting of sound remains constant .Because the responsibility rests with the woman herself, she still does not elect her gender, so you should take advantage of the sites that granted by the government through the electoral system average "quota", and sites that reached them through recruitment, and the recommendation to keep the system average mentioned the electoral cycle the next, and to help change the perception of the society for women to contribute to them through their presence in different locations.

A. The challenges facing women in Jordanian political action.

The challenges facing the Jordanian Women are not isolated from any experience of other Arab an experience that lacks the maturity and stability and the weakness of the role of women in the performance of political parties and even join them and

the weakness of civil society organizations and their inability to compete with men in the elections at the national level (parliament) and local (municipalities) not being able to access their full rights and this relative absence is not due to legal obstacles either constructivism obstacles and cultural. Despite reforms and political transformations that have taken place in Jordan during the past period of time is that the chances of women in politics were specific failed in the elections despite the presence of many citizens of liberal trends . I have given women the right to vote and stand for election for the membership of the House of Representatives on 1 \ 4 \ 1974 issuance of Law No. (8) of the amended election law No. (4) of 1960, she was granted the right to run for municipal council elections 1982 . Can draw a number of observations in the forefront of the basic problems faced by women in Jordan, in Arab societies in general goes back to a large part to acts of discrimination between men and women, which shows clearly in the areas of work and in the direction and style of socializing and in spite of constitutional equality and legal achievements of women of Jordan and Jordan's commitment legally international agreements that organized women's rights to gain power gained women's virtually in a much lower position of the man which requires concerted forces capable of boiling pay this fact in the direction of equality guaranteed by the legislation.

B. Women in Islamic movements speech:

Although the concept of Islamic discourse carries many connotations cognitive and dimensional ideology associated with its source and context of community, it is one of the entrances essential to understand and study the traditions of reform and renewal in Islamic thought focused on the study of Amman in this important part has removed the restrictions on women's rights socio-political and aching nothing to do with status restrictions on the participation of women in the public sphere, but is just a false social traditions.

There are some movements carry intellectually enlightened calls for the integration of women and the renewal of Theology and led a researcher to the subject of the concepts worried that characterize the nature of problematic where the multiplicity of around interpretations and perspectives are different and sometimes contradictory and concepts that intensifies the anxiety currently in the Islamic discourse of modern and contemporary issue of women and controversial rolesocial in general in terms of social participation and dominated on the defensive this case emotional, redundancy, traditional and sometimes reaches the extent of surface.

Islamists suffer in most parts of the Islamic Arab world of massive poverty in Muslim women's participation in public activity and in carrying the tasks and responsibilities on the shoulders of the contemporary Islamic movement. The Islamic movements have failed in the practical form secretion of Muslim women because of superimposed the tutelage of belonging to and excluded from the decision-making circles The dynamic Islamic discourse, it is still in a state of confusion and apprehension renewal of the position of women's

issues. The talk on the general mandate is limited to men without women, based on the verse (men protectors and maintainers of women) and the Hadeeth: (will not succeed folk guardian woman) so agreed from the scholars of all movements to prevent women from Imamate Great Caliphate (Altwaijri, 2003)*

The observer formations leaders of Islamic movements peek since the ascent will notice the absence of women in decision-making positions on the pretext of Hadith weak (Bukhari) says: (will not succeed folk even ordered them women) Gunn found women in those leadership is total, subject to the ideology under its control and representative of the performance required of them on the other hand can be seen to the absence of women from the leaders of the Islamic Action that as a result the march generation of Islamic organizations came practices violent reached the limit of terrorism, armed at the level of the state and society, institutions, and as a result of dealing Arab regimes violent with such organizations atonement and displaced and Islamic Jihad in Egypt and the Islamist movement in Morocco and Algerian armed movement and the other, where violence has intensified and exacerbated ideological exclusion and fascism was the absence of women in full. (seminar of Islamic Thought, 1993, p 252) .*

In pursuit of the Islamic movement to develop speech civilian and democratic sought the Jerusalem Center for Studies in Amman, in cooperation with the Foundation for Konowad Alaadnaud as an indication spaces ambiguous or black holes in a speech Islamist movement, where the Conference affirmed the right of a woman performing the post of head of state, an issue was constantly the subject of rejection full of by the current majority in the new old Islamic discourse based on an interview the Prophet, peace be upon him, who said it (what returned folk guardian for women).

C. *The image of women in the Jordanian political parties*

1 - despite the expiration of many years on women's political participation is weak does not live up to the required level, which reflects the reality and the aspirations of the Jordanian Women's notes weakness evident in the representation of women and their participation in political life through the lack of representation in governments and parliaments, trade unions and political parties, since the unit of Jordan Palestinian and causing the remaining part of Palestine to Jordan saw women's movement starting to claim their rights from the Association of vigilance women and the Union of Arab women and through memos political government or opposition in general because of the social reality, despite the presence of Aqranin contemporary recognizes the fundamental rights of the legitimate for women is a global phenomenon, where the proportion of women in parliaments global reach to nearly 15.2%.

It was the first appearance of women in the 1951 Jordanian parties infestation is the Communist Party and then stream the Baath Party of the first parties that women are attracted to its ranks, and in the study of the Jerusalem Center for Political Studies, the number of total founding parties and the

percentage of women participating in the Constituent bodies include:

The total number of the founders of males and females parties 4116 and 372 female ratios of 9%, with the presence of the Jordanian parties law requires the presence of women in any party apply for a license. (The status of Jerusalem, 2007, p 14).*

III. THE REALITY OF WOMEN IN THE JORDANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

A. *Islamist parties*

Joins many Jordanian women to parties Jordanian result of the desire and the pressures of parents and couples often face women a lot of obstacles based on the handling of these parties with the issue of women, largely due to three factors where activities feminist distant from the center of the party, and the second factor and the presence of a class feminist militant pay to gender segregation and opposed to women's participation in leadership positions the third factor last respect to the positions of these parties of women's issues.

Has been involved large numbers of belonging to this trend, especially its Islamic Action Front Party and the Islamic Wasat Party in the parliamentary elections and the most recent parliamentary elections, which took place in 2013 and has won 15 women in the elections (successful in the women's quota).

B. *Left-wing parties*

All of these parties topping ideas special item falls to women's rights full equality with men, especially in the areas of political, economic, social and induces the development of legislation their own to ensure their rights and status has fought many women organizations in these parties, elections and parliamentary and municipal and union.

C. *Centrism parties*

These parties considered an important element of women and an obligation as well as the man responsible for building the family and society and the literature of these parties confirmed their right to equality in employment and promotion, and to choose a spouse and launch etc.

It can be said that the Jordanian Women, which entered the political parties are educated and the majority of the urban population infestation enjoy relationships more social areas of the countryside and the desert camps and due to the nature of the inherited social Jordanian, also notes that the interest of the parties on women's issues was superficially because most of the items parties for women vague and unclear.

IV. OBSTACLES TO WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF JORDAN

The perception of the Jordanian Women are no different from the reality of Arab women have begun the status of women is improving as a result of increased awareness and an increase in the proportion of education began the traditional view afraid and started the status of women is improving,

despite the presence of this improvement, but this improvement is apparent and has no after real. In a study on women's participation in elections, the study found that 42% confirmed a decision to participate and vote for the nomination is not under ordered them. But we must recognize that the reality of the legislation is still de ambitious and promising needs to formulate women still suffer violence against them both at home and work, let alone up some women sanctions to murder-related offenses in honor.

To be political discourse reformist Jordanian and he can not offer women a hub for repair and he can not talk about democratic transformation without the participation of half the society and the general political climate since 1957, which has led to the absence of basic democratic and the presence of martial law and emergency laws until 1990 the beginnings of democratic transformation (Moses Shtiw / community string and a parliamentary system, April 1997, Amman Centre for Information Leadership) .

1- the absence of social and cultural construction, despite the presence of the nuclear family, but that the Jordanian social construction is a traditional building features a father control of the family and social institution armchairs of other social institutions as religion and clan .There is still the tribe play an important role in the issue of resolving the many aspects of women's participation and the marginalization of their role as overwhelmed by political rivalries through the narrow loyalties to the tribe by the sense of citizenship..

2- Jordan's cultural pattern is a traditional culture of the province is characterized by the traditional division of roles between men and women, where women look beautiful always the greatest burden in raising children and caring for the family.

3- Women's lack of experience and maturity to participate in political work for long periods of time so this requires courses develop skills in public speaking or mass communication mechanism such programs rests with the parties and its political program.

4- Weak political awareness: The rule of male domination on the management of the state and its institutions and the labor market, the economy and even the developed European countries and find that the monopoly on senior posts are for men.

5-Women's economic dependence on men There is still women, despite going out to work suffer from social reality enhances the bitter inferiority in the community as a result of the social heritage of the dominant tribal women's economic dependency of man and the employee is tracking the man.

6- The slow change in the system of social values, customs and traditions, especially the Jordanian Although the Constitution guarantees the rights of women full equality between men and women, but that the laws regarding the roles of women in political action on the ground, despite showing the opposite. There is still women are not able to take decisions because they live in a state of lack of independence and social legacy which identified the role of women.

7- Mounting some of the movements of Islamic fundamentalism anti-women's rights, which form a kind of retreat for women and deprive them of any political role or social, where it is under a lot of feminists to the threat of murder or submitting to the courts and accused of women going out to work competition for men is a source of increasing unemployment among men and it is the basis social and economic crises, and moral.

8- The role of the press and various media, especially electronic distortion in the exercise of women's intellectual and keeping them prisoner of ideas contribute to the denigration of their ability to participate in public activities in the community.

9- Spread of poverty, illiteracy and popular culture.

Poverty and illiteracy hamper efforts to improve rates of political representation for women and two thousand popular culture segregation of public affairs and private sectors.

10- Lack of self-awareness among women themselves, where women are not given voice to women candidates and due to lack of awareness of what the ladies that represent them on their behalf and appears lighted by not voting.

11- The weakness and fragility of partisan support for the sight of Jordan.

Settled most of the Jordanian parties, the composition of the Women's Committees and the goal of which is to activate women's membership, where the percentage of women in political offices and senior leaders of the parties of more than 5% note that Jordan is one of the semi-democratic countries in the region.

12- Legal impediments. Although the Jordanian legislation does not distinguish between men and women on the basis of sex, but to laws formulated highlight that there is a distinguished between men and women and, through:

- The quota system, where you see some women activists that the quota system is unfair to them which is not understood by voters and even by the candidates.

- One audio system, this system restricts voter and lead to the reluctance of political parties and women to participate in the elections because this system promotes tribal foundation and thus to control masculine in case stand for election.

13- given the issue of rural women special attention to study privacy and placed her inhuman conditions of use of unpaid labor and reproductive tool for more manpower and deprivation in many of the Civil Status and the most.

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