

Analysis Of Low Electoral Turnout Of Women In District Kohat

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ABSTRACT

Voting rights are fundamental human rights, but for women, getting them has been a difficult and protracted process. Even though women have recently made tremendous progress towards gender equality, they still encounter several challenges when trying to exercise their right to vote. In Pakistan, women got their right to vote since county's inception but their electoral participation remains quite meagre in all the general elections held in past. In the general elections of 2018 the total women turnout in Pakistan was 46.89% and the turnout of women in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was 32.96%. A country richly endowed with human capital along with a low women electoral participation is a phenomenon that raises many social-cultural, economic, educational, and political related questions. Based on such facts the dependent variable chosen in the present study is Women's Electoral Participation in the general elections of 2018. Its value is taken as one if the women has used her right to cast vote, zero otherwise. District Kohat is the universe of this study where women's turnout was 37.22%. A study is conducted to dig out the socio-cultural, economic, educational and Political barriers in the way of women voting rights.

Key Words: Electoral Participation, Socio-cultural Factors, Economic Factors, Educational Factors, Political Factors, General Elections of 2018.

INTRODUCTION

No society can progress economically, socially, and politically unless it gives an equal opportunity to its citizens to take part in every walk of life. The percentage of women constituting the world's population is equal to that of men however; they constitute a minor percentage in political decision-making and leadership. They not only take care of their families but also provide support and services to society. (James A. Doyle, 1991). Gender division is viewed differently from culture to culture and from society to society, women are still viewed to be weak and subordinate, and it is quite rare to find an example from the whole world whereby women have exclusive decision-making powers over men (Naz Arab,

and Hafeez-ur-Rehamn Chaudhry., 2011). The equal status of man and woman has been globally accepted by the United Nations (UN) and its special agencies. In 1945, the UN Charter, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted in 1995, have emphatically supported gender parity and discouraged each form of prejudice against women in every walk of life including the domain of electoral politics. (Charter of the United Nations, 1945; United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 2014).

Political participation is a sine qua non of women's empowerment. Political participation has various dimensions, such as

electoral participation; participation in an election as a voter, and electoral representation; to participate in elections as a candidate. The proposed study is limited to the electoral participation of women as voters. Electoral participation is the vital sign of democracy through which citizens elect their representatives who then take part in legislation and its implementation. (Abdul Rauf, 2015). For the first time in human history, women got the right to vote in 1893 in New Zealand. (Grimshaw, 1972). Right to vote has been regulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1966. Women in Pakistan have got the right to vote since country's inception and it was reaffirmed in the first constitution of Pakistan in 1956.¹ Nevertheless, women in Pakistan were granted the suffrage since 1947 with quota of reserved seats in Parliament throughout the constitutional history but their electoral participation and representation is still very meager (saiful Islam, 2019). The 1973 constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal status to men and women and assures women, their full political participation (Article, 25). In the same way, Article 32 of the 1973 constitution of Pakistan encourages the participation of women in local government institutions (Article, 32). Article 51(2) of the constitution of Pakistan guaranteed thorough political activities in the form of voting of women as the said article assures the right to vote to the citizens of Pakistan irrespective of their gender.²

However, Pakistan did not show development in women's electoral participation in elections. In the elections 2013, the turnout of women was less than 1% in five constituencies of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In NA-33 Upper Dir, out of the total of 138910 registered women voters, only one woman cast her vote. Likewise, in NA-34

Lower Dir, only 231 women voters out of 206566 women registered voters had used their voting right and the turnout was 0.11%. In NA-37 Kurram Agency out of the total of 156,811 registered women voters, only 459 women had cast their vote and the turnout was 0.29 percent. In NA-31 Shangla, 4.59% of the registered female voters have cast their votes. In NA-34 Bajaur Agency, the turnout of women was less than 1% (Khan I. A., 2017).

The government of Pakistan passed the Elections Act of 2017 to increase the turnout as well as the registration of voters. It introduced three main measures such as constituency where the electoral role of females (turnout) is less than 10%, that result will be considered no result and will be annulled. Those people, tribes, or any society who create problems for females to cast votes in the elections are declared criminals by the act. Moreover, the act directed all political parties of the country to reserve at least 5% of their non-reserved seats of national and provincial assemblies to women. In Pakistan, most females are not allowed to be active in the electoral process especially in rural areas because it is considered taboo to cast vote in the presence of males. Therefore, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) appointed female staff for the polling station. (Report of The General Elections of 2018, 2017)

In the Elections of 2018, votes cast by both genders were separately counted. The situation of the contribution of females regarding electoral activism in the general elections of 2018 in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was not satisfactory as for the National Assembly, the women's electoral turnout was only 32.96% against 51.77% male turnout. For Provincial Assembly, women's turnout was 34.51% and men's turnout remained at 53.86%. There were two

¹ India incorporated women's right to use their opinion in the form of a vote in the constitution of 1950 (Rai, 2011).

² Women's political participation has been enhanced by the political party's order of 2002 and the

allocation of a 33% quota of reserved seats in local government for women, with 17% of seats reserved for them at the provincial and National level.

constituencies for National Assembly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), where the women voters' turnout was less than 10%. These constituencies were NA-10 Shangla, where women's turnout was 9.87 percent, and NA-48 North Waziristan, where women's turnout was recorded as 9.9 percent (FAFEN, 2018).

Despite the constitutional right guaranteed by the constitution of Pakistan, millions of females in Pakistan in general and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in particular, have been barred from voting through agreements of powerful political figures, local elders and religious clerics, and male relatives, citing customs and traditions as an excuse. (Ullah H. K., 2013).

Holding periodic elections is an important exercise for true democracy but exercising citizens' right to vote irrespective of caste, creed, religion, social status, and gender is the real essence of genuine democracy. In Pakistan, people do enjoy equal political rights with no gender discrimination but since the inception of Pakistan number of elections were held and women's electoral turnout in almost all the elections remained quite low. The present research is done with its universe as District Kohat and all the registered voters are the population of this study.

Dependent Variable

Electoral Participation of women in the General Elections of 2018

Table .1. Electoral Participation of the Respondents

Variable	Response options	n	%
Electoral Participation	Yes	153	38.25
	No	247	61.75
	Total	400	100

153 (38.25%) out of the total respondents had taken part in voting in the general elections of 2018, whereas the rest, 247 (61.75%), had not taken part in the voting process. Table 1 shows that a maximum number of respondents had not cast their vote.

Independent Variable

Socio-Cultural variable

Table. 2. Responses about the Socio-cultural Variable of the Respondents (n=400)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Women's right to vote is accepted by our society.	32 8.0%	51 12.8%	41 10.3%	213 53.3%	63 15.8%
2. Women are free to cast their vote.	35 8.8%	63 15.8%	30 7.5%	192 48.0%	80 20.0%
3. Women can easily go to polling stations even if it is far away.	138 34.5%	104 26.0%	42 10.5%	85 21.3%	31 7.8%

4. Women are allowed to cast vote for the candidate of their choice.	46 11.5%	75 18.8%	42 10.5%	181 45.3%	56 14.0%
5. Women can easily get their national identity cards.	14 3.5%	36 9.0%	34 8.5%	253 63.2%	63 15.8%
6. Cultural purdah is a hurdle for women to go to the polling station	27 6.8%	90 22.5%	47 11.8%	111 27.8%	125 31.3%
7. Women have family support in casting votes.	70 17.5%	67 16.8%	46 11.5%	158 39.5%	59 14.8%
8. Lack of time and domestic responsibilities are the main hurdles for women in the way of casting a vote.	9 2.3%	54 13.5%	45 11.3%	129 32.3%	163 40.8%
9. Male security guards in polling stations is the main hurdle in the way of casting vote due to our purdah system.	15 3.8%	121 30.3%	48 12.0%	72 18.0%	144 36.0%
10. Less polling stations in their localities is the main hurdle in way of casting votes for women.	7 1.8%	47 11.8%	60 15.0%	125 31.3%	161 40.3%

Table 2 shows the percentage of responses to each of the ten questions related to the socio-cultural variable. Of the total respondents 69.1% agreed with the opinion that our society accepts women's right to vote. Out of the total participants, 68% agreed with the statement that women are free to cast their vote. In response to statement 3, women can easily go to polling stations even if it is far away, 29.1% agreed. In response to question 4, women are allowed to cast a vote for the candidate of their choice, 59.3% agreed with mentioned statement. In response to question 5 women can easily get their national identity card, 79% agreed with mentioned statement. In response to question 6, cultural purdah is a hurdle for women to go to the polling station, 59.1% agreed. In response to question 7, women have the family support in casting a vote, 54.3% agreed with mentioned

statement. In response to question 8, lack of time and domestic responsibilities are the main hurdles for women in the way of casting a vote, 73.1% agreed. In response to statement 9, male security guards in polling stations are the main hurdle in the way of casting a vote due to our purdah system, 54% agreed. In response to question 10, less polling stations in their localities is the main hurdle in casting a vote for women, 71.6% agreed with the mentioned statement.

Relationship between Socio-cultural variable and the vote cast

A point-biserial correlation is run to find the link between the socio-cultural variable and the decision to vote cast. The results are given below:

Table. 3. Correlations between Socio-cultural Variable and Electoral Participation

Correlations			
		Electoral Participation	Socio-Cultural
EP	Pearson Correlation	1	.077
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.124
	n	400	400

Socio-Cultural	Pearson Correlation	.077	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.124	
	n	400	400

There is a weak positive correlation between socio-cultural variables and electoral participation which is statistically insignificant at $p=0.124$. Therefore, it is concluded that there

is no remarkable correlation between a socio-cultural variable and electoral participation.

Economic variable

Table 4. Responses about the economic variable of the total respondents (n=400)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Economically independent women are free to cast their vote.	21 5.3%	28 7.0%	26 6.5%	220 55.0%	105 26.3%
2. Economically independent women can easily go to polling stations even if it is far away	81 20.3%	58 14.5%	30 7.5%	156 39.0%	75 18.8%
3. Economically independent women freely and independently cast their vote for the candidate of their choice.	26 6.5%	39 9.8%	29 7.2%	216 54.0%	90 22.5%
4. Economically independent women can easily come out of the home for casting their vote.	33 8.3%	66 16.5%	38 9.5%	182 45.5%	81 20.3%
5. Purdah is not a hurdle for economically independent women's decision of casting a vote.	97 24.3%	59 14.8%	49 12.3%	127 31.8%	68 17.0%
6. Domestic responsibilities of an economically independent woman are not a hurdle in casting her vote.	103 25.8%	70 17.5%	46 11.5%	121 30.3%	60 15.0%
7. Economically independent woman can easily get her NADRA card without any hurdle.	7 1.8%	25 6.3%	40 10.0%	256 64.0%	72 18.0%
8. Economically independent women have the support of their families for casting their votes.	61 15.3%	46 11.5%	48 12.0%	173 43.3%	72 18.0%

Concerning literature, various economic factors influenced the electoral participation of women. Various responses have been received from respondents, such as in response to question no 1, economically independent women are free to cast their vote, 81.3% agreed with the statement. In response to question no 2, economically independent women can easily go to polling stations even if it is far away, 57.8% agreed. In response to a question, no 3 economically independent women freely and independently cast their vote for the candidate of their choice, 76.5% agreed. In response to

question no 4 economically independent women can easily come out of the home to cast their vote, 65.8% agreed. In response to question no 5, purdah is not a hurdle for economically independent women's decision of casting a vote, 48.8% agreed. In response to question no 6 domestic responsibilities of an economically independent woman is not a hurdle in casting her vote, 45.3% agreed. In response to question no 7, an economically independent woman can easily get her NADRA card without any hurdle, 82% agreed. In response to question no 8, economically

independent women have the support in their family to cast their vote, 61.3% agreed.

Relationship between Economic Variable and Electoral Participation

A point-biserial correlation is run to determine the relationship between the economic variable and electoral participation. The results are given below:

Table 5. Correlation between Economic Variable and Electoral Participation

Correlations			
		Electoral Participation	Economic
EP	Pearson Correlation	1	.275**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	n	400	400
Economic	Pearson Correlation	.275**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	n	400	400

The correlation between economic variables and the decision to vote cast is positive which is statistically significant ($p=0.00$). Therefore, it is found that there is a remarkable correlation

between an economic variable and the decision to vote cast.

Educational Variable

Table 6. Responses about the education variable of the total respondents (n=400)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Educated women can easily cast their vote.	16 4.0%	43 10.8%	23 5.8%	203 50.7%	115 28.7%
2. Educated woman is free to cast their vote for the candidate of their own choice.	21 5.3%	55 13.8%	23 5.8%	208 52.0%	93 23.3%
3. Educated woman can easily raise their voice for their right to vote.	29 7.2%	39 9.8%	33 8.3%	202 50.5%	97 24.3%
4. Educated women can easily get their identity cards without any hurdles.	17 4.3%	35 8.8%	36 9.0%	230 57.5%	82 20.5%
5. Educated women can easily move out of the house to go to the polling station even if it is far away.	88 22.0%	116 29.0%	63 15.8%	74 18.5%	59 14.8%
6. Educated woman has the support of their family for casting their vote.	47 11.8%	55 13.8%	42 10.5%	193 48.3%	63 15.8%
7. Cultural purdah is not a hurdle for an educated woman to go to a polling station to cast her vote even if the polling station is far away.	105 26.3%	76 19.0%	54 13.5%	111 27.8%	54 13.5%

8. Domestic responsibilities and lack of time is not a hurdle for an educated woman to go to a polling station for casting her vote.	113 28.2%	82 20.5%	52 13.0%	105 26.3%	48 12.0%
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As discussed earlier, education plays a significant role in creating awareness of voting rights among individuals. In responses to education and its association with the voting decision by women of Kohat, various responses can be observed, such as in response to question no 1, educated women can easily cast her vote. 79.4% agreed. While in response to question 2, educated woman is free to cast her vote for the candidate of her own choice, 75.3% agreed. For question 3, educated woman can easily raise her voice for her right to vote, 74.8% agreed. Answering question 4, educated women can easily get their identity card without any hurdles, 78% agreed. In response to question 5, educated women can easily move out of the house to go to the polling station even if it is far away, 33.3% agreed. For question 6 educated

woman has the support of her family for casting her vote, 64.1% agreed. While for question 7, cultural purdah is not a hurdle for an educated woman to go to the polling station to cast her vote even if the polling station is far away, 41.3% agreed. In response to question 8, domestic responsibilities and lack of time are not a hurdle for an educated woman to go to a polling station to cast her vote, 38.3% agreed. Results can be clearly seen in the figure given below.

Relationship between Educational Variable and Electoral Participation

A point-biserial correlation is run to find the link between the educational variable and electoral participation. The results are given below:

Table. 7. Correlations between Educational Variable and Electoral Participation

Correlations			
		Education	Electoral participation
Education	Pearson Correlation	1	.276**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	n	400	400
EP	Pearson Correlation	.285**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	n	400	400

The correlation between education variables and electoral participation is positive which is statistically significant ($p=0.000$). Therefore, it

is found that there is a remarkable correlation between education and the decision to vote cast.

Political Variable

Table. 8. Responses about the Political Variable of the Respondents (n=400)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
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1. Women should have the right to vote in general elections.	14 3.5%	9 2.3%	14 3.5%	185 46.3%	178 44.5%
2. It is the civic duty of every woman to cast her vote.	14 3.5%	11 2.8%	15 3.8%	185 46.3%	175 43.8%
3. Women should be supported on the day of the election to cast their vote freely and independently.	11 2.8%	12 3.0%	20 5.0%	172 43.0%	185 46.3%
4. Women should take part in political activities.	17 4.3%	41 10.3%	48 12.0%	169 42.3%	125 31.3%
5. There should be a law to make it mandatory for every woman to cast her vote.	13 3.3%	20 5.0%	33 8.3%	185 46.3%	149 37.3%
6. Get young women interested at an early age in voting.	13 3.3%	19 4.8%	40 10.0%	187 46.8%	141 35.3%
7. Women should motivate other women to take part in the electoral process.	12 3.0%	19 4.8%	33 8.3%	184 46.0%	152 38.0%
8. Rivalry between two parties resulted in fights in polling booths greatly affected the voting process for women on polling day.	9 2.3%	17 4.3%	33 8.3%	126 31.5%	215 53.8%
9. Fear of slander and verbal abuse or physical violence against women during or after the election by the opposition political party is the main reason for women not casting their vote	10 2.5%	38 9.5%	56 14.0%	105 26.3%	189 47.3%
10. Political parties and government need to emphasize women to come out and vote.	14 3.5%	17 4.3%	35 8.8%	152 38.0%	199 49.8%

Political factors are one of the significant factors that influence the voting decisions of every individual, including women. The factor of political influence was determined by 10 questions for which the respondents provided various responses. Such as, in response to question no 1 females should have voting right in general elections, 90.8% agreed. However, in response to question 2, it is the civic duty of every woman to cast her vote, 90.1% agreed. In response to question 3, women should be supported on the day of the election to cast their vote freely and independently, 89.3% agreed. For question 4, women should take part in political activities, 73.6% agreed. Likely, for question 5, there should be a law to make it mandatory for every woman to cast her vote, 83.6% agreed. Whereas, in response to question 6, get the young women interested at an early

age for voting, 82.1 % agreed. In response to question 7, women should motivate other women to take part in the electoral process, 84% agreed. Moreover, in response to question 8, rivalry between two parties resulted in fights in polling stations greatly affected the voting process for women on the polling day, 85.3% agreed. Also, in response to question 9, fear of slander and verbal abuse or physical violence against women during or after the election by the opposition political party is the main reason for women not casting their vote, 73.6% agreed. Lastly, in response to question 10, political parties and government need to emphasize women to come out and vote, 87.8% agreed.

Relationship between Political Variable and Electoral Participation

Table. 9. Correlations between Political Factor and Electoral Participation

Correlations			
		Political	Electoral participation
Political	Pearson Correlation	1	.109*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.030
	n	400	400
EP	Pearson Correlation	.109*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.030	
	n	400	400

There is a down-and-out positive correlation between political variables and the electoral role that is statistically remarkable (p=0.030). Therefore, it is summed up that there is no remarkable correlation between a political variable and electoral participation.

Logistic Regression

It is the best analysis to conduct when there is a dichotomy in the dependent/ outcome variable; Logistic regression is a predictive analysis used for describing data and explaining the relationship between one dependent binary variable and one or more independent variables.

It is done to catch on the effects of sociocultural, economic, educational, and political factors on the likelihood of a vote being cast.

$$\log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + \beta_4X_4$$

- X₁** **socio-cultural**
- X₂** **economic**
- X₃** **education**
- X₄** **political**

Omnibus Test of Model Coefficients

It is used to test the model fit. If the Model is important, this showcases that there is a remarkable improvement in fit as compared to the null model, henceforth, the model is showing a good fit. The overall model is statistically significant, $\chi^2(4) = 43.740, p < .05$.

Table. 10. Omnibus Test of Model Coefficients

Omnibus Tests of Model Coefficients				
		Chi-square	df	Sig.
Step 1	Step	43.740	4	.000
	Block	43.740	4	.000
	Model	43.740	4	.000

Hosmer and Lemeshow Test

Table. 11. Hosmer and Lemeshow Test

Hosmer and Lemeshow Test			
Step	Chi-square	Df	Sig.
1	10.765	8	.215

Table.12. Variables in the Equation

Variables in the Equation							
		B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1 ^a	Socio Cultural	-.014	.020	.463	1	.496	.987
	economic	.058	.022	7.096	1	.008	1.060
	political	.036	.015	5.564	1	.018	1.037
	education	.046	.022	4.603	1	.032	1.048
	Constant	-4.418	.955	21.391	1	.000	.012

From these results economic ($p = .008$), education ($p = .032$), and political factors ($p = .018$) added significantly to the model/prediction, but socio-cultural factors ($p = .496$) did not add to the model. Increasing economic variable is linked with an increased likelihood of electoral participation. Similarly, increasing education and political variable is also linked with an increased likelihood of electoral participation.

Conclusion

A vital component of any democracy is the right to vote, which is also an essential tool for ensuring that people may participate in politics. No community can advance economically, socially, or politically without the fair participation of every member in practically every aspect of daily life. Election turnout is regarded as a key indicator of democratic development. An election with a low turnout may not be an accurate reflection of its citizens' will. Voter engagement is crucial since women in particular have battled long and hard for the right to vote. Women's distinct objectives and views on voting can help to form judgments on public policy that considers the needs and concerns of a wide variety of citizens. Females make up about half of the population, so their votes could have a big impact on the results of elections. Women may contribute to ensuring that their interests are reflected in government and that the policies implemented reflect the ideals of a truly democratic society by utilizing their right to vote. Overall, we must keep working towards a society where all citizens can exercise their right to vote and fully engage

in the democratic process. The significance of women participating in elections cannot be overstated.

Although making up half of the world's population, women have very little representation in leadership and political decision-making. Pakistan, like other developing countries, typically has low women electoral turnout. Many factors, including socio-cultural, economic, educational, and political ones, influence election turnout. The present study is an attempt to dig out the factors that result in the low turnout of women in Pakistan. Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as the population of the study, the study was conducted as quantitative taking District Kohat as its universe. Socio-cultural, economic, education, and political factors are taken as independent variables while electoral participation of women has taken as the dependent variable. How each of the variables is related to turnout is analyzed and then explained, wherever needed. The findings of the current study are based on data analysis (quantitative). Through the close-ended questionnaire, respondents presented their views about the electoral participation of women in the General Elections of 2018 in District Kohat.

In many regions of the world, women's voting rights have advanced significantly, yet socio-cultural barriers still prohibit them from exercising that privilege. Gender stereotypes and patriarchal views are still prevalent in many nations, which may deter women from engaging in politics. For women, who are

supposed to put their household commitments before their civic obligations, this can be especially difficult. When women participate in public life, it can put established gender roles in jeopardy. In these situations, women may experience explicit discrimination or violence if they try to vote. In addition, women might not have access to the knowledge or tools required to engage in politics, such as voter education initiatives or means of transportation to polling places. Following are the results of Socio-cultural factors.

Result found weak positive correlation between socio-cultural variables and the decision to vote cast which is insignificant at $p=0.124$. Therefore, it is found that there is a meaningless correlation between socio-cultural variables and the decision to vote cast.

Economic factors have been identified as significant hurdles in the way of voting for women. Women are disproportionately affected by poverty and economic disadvantage, which can limit their ability to participate in the electoral process. Women often have limited access to economic resources, which can make it difficult for them to afford transportation to polling stations, take time off from work to vote, or even obtain the proper identification documents required to cast a ballot. Economic factors such as low wages, lack of job security, and limited access to education and training can also limit females' capability to get engaged in political discourse and to feel empowered to participate in the democratic process. As a result, women may feel discouraged from voting or may prioritize economic concerns over electoral participation. The following are the results of economic factors. Results shows weak positive correlation between economic variables and the decision to vote cast which is significant ($p=0.00$).

Educational factors are also a hurdle in the way of voting for women. Education is often a critical determinant of women's electoral participation, as it can provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills to

engage in the electoral process. Females with a higher level of education are more likely to be politically informed, have higher levels of political efficacy, and participate in political activities. However, women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, like many parts of the world, still face significant barriers to education, including limited access to schools, cultural norms, and traditions that prioritize boys' education over girls. Women who lack access to education may have limited knowledge of the electoral process or may be less likely to have the confidence and skills necessary to engage in political discourse. Improving access to education for women is critical to ensuring that they can take part fully in the democratic process and have their voices heard. Taking education as an independent variable study found that there is a positive correlation between education variables and electoral participation which is statistically significant ($p=0.000$).

The rivalry between political parties can result in fights and security problems, making it a significant hurdle for women to go to polling stations to cast their votes. In many parts of the world, political campaigns can be highly charged and emotionally charged, and tensions can easily spill over into violence. Women may be particularly vulnerable to such violence; given that they are often targeted for gender-based violence in political contexts. Additionally, political parties may seek to intimidate or harass women voters or limit their access to polling stations to gain an advantage in the electoral process. Such actions can create a sense of fear and insecurity among women, discouraging them from participating in the democratic process. Addressing the security concerns of women voters requires strong measures to prevent political violence, to ensure that women's safety is protected in and around polling stations, and to hold accountable those who engage in violence or intimidation against women. Only by addressing these issues, we can ensure that women can fully exercise their voting right and take part in democratic processes. Taking political factors

as an independent variable the result shows there is a very weak positive correlation between political variables and electoral participation which is statistically insignificant ($p=0.030$).

The goal of a social democratic government is to support a fair and just division of duties. Due to the fact that it guarantees that all citizens are treated fairly and are given equal opportunities, this equitable distribution can help to increase the legitimacy of the state. Voting is one democratic tool that, when used properly, can help produce this desirable result. However, the legitimacy of the political system is jeopardised if citizens are denied enough political freedoms. This can happen via tampering with election results or by instilling a culture of apathy and disinterest in the democratic process.

It is crucial to remember that a government's legitimacy does not just depend on how fairly rights and obligations are distributed. The importance of other elements like honesty, accountability, and the defence of individual rights cannot be overstated. When these components are lacking, people could become disenchanted with their elected representatives and the democratic system, which could eventually cause the political system to collapse. Therefore, in addition to fostering a fair division of rights and obligations, social democratic administrations must promote the values of honesty, accountability, and the defence of individual liberties. By doing thus, they can support a stable and successful society and strengthen the legitimacy of the state.

People develop ideas about themselves and their surroundings as a result of their participation. Therefore, the function of a really universal idea of citizenship can be to provide the populace with not just psychological solace but also actual political benefits, such as the ability to express a wide range of political opinions in public political conversations.

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