

# Obstacles Limiting the Political Participation of The Palestinian University Female Student

(A study applied to female students of the Islamic University in Gaza Strip)

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## ABSTRACT

The study aimed to determine the level of political participation of university female students and identify the most important obstacles that limit their effective participation. The researchers used the social survey methodology by choosing a simple random sample of the third and fourth level female students of the Islamic University of Gaza estimated (339) female students. The researchers used the questionnaire tool to detect the results of the study. The study concluded that the level of political participation of university female students is low by (53.4%) The study also found that the highest obstacles that restrict the political participation of female students were represented in political obstacles by (79.6%), then social obstacles by (75.6%), then University obstacles by (75.4%), then personal obstacles by (74.7%) and finally family obstacles by (70.5%). In light of the discussion of the results, the researchers suggested a set of recommendations to develop the political participation of Palestinian university female students.

**Keywords:** (obstacles, political participation, university female students).

The number of university youth in universities and colleges of higher education in Palestine for the year (2021-2022) reached (214,765) male and female students, including (82,179) male and (132,586) female students. (Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, 2021, 18).

Academic work has never been separated from political work as the university has always represented a crucible of political maturity in which awareness grows and is steadily enriched by the practice that expresses the political aspirations of university male students (Wadhfah, 2015, 478).

Through political participation, it translates the youth's sense of social responsibility towards their society, the common problems they face and the desire to transform the goals they want to achieve into tangible reality provided that the youth's participation in these efforts is based on their desire to play this role without pressure or coercion. (Al-Rajhi, 2012, 1586).

## 1- Introduction

The youth sector is the real wealth of any society, if it is properly exploited. They represent the most important sectors of society as they are a social segment that occupies a distinguished position in the structure and construction of society. In Palestine, there are (1.16) million young men and women who constitute more than one-fifth of Palestinian society at a rate of (22%) of the total Population in 2021 (22.3% in the West Bank and 21.8% in the Gaza Strip). (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2021).

The university youth is one of the most important sectors of youth who represent the conscious, most educated segment of society and the most follow-up to the diverse movement of society. University youth are the most responsive to change and renewal, and the most capable of interacting, integrating, and participating effectively in society. (Abdul-Majid, 2009, 1211).

This was affirmed by a study of (Mar'i, 2013) that pointed out one of the most important family obstacles that limit the student's political participation is the family's lack of interest in political participation, the absence of family awareness, the students' preoccupation with studying about engaging in activities and the lack of free time for political activities. While the study of (Chowdhury 2004) concluded that the patriarchal system, which is characterized by the absolute authority of the father in the family, limits the political participation of the girl. The study of Kate & Taso (2008) also indicated that the weakness of political and civic participation for a large part of today's youth is due to the reliance on traditional methods in educating young people with political knowledge, stressing the importance of using non-traditional methods such as practical training. It is clear from the above that the political participation of the university female student receives great attention at the global and local levels. The political participation of the university female student is one of the issues that have developmental, human rights and political dimensions of a distinct quality that clearly affect the progress of sustainable community development. However, the level of political participation of female students faces many obstacles prevailing in the university and society, and hence the researchers have an interest in studying and determining the nature of manifestations of political participation for university female students. The study also aims to determine the nature of the obstacles (personal - family - social - university - political) that limit the political participation of Palestinian university female students. Thus, the final goal of the study is to reach scientific and practical recommendations and suggestions to reduce these obstacles and increase the political participation of Palestinian university female students in Gaza Strip.

## 2 - Methodology

The study used the social survey method based on random sampling method, where the study population consisted of third- and fourth-level students at the Islamic University in the Gaza Strip who were registered for the academic year (2021-2022) from all faculties and their number was (3148) students. Female student represents (10%) of the total of the third and fourth level female students at the Islamic

Despite the importance of the political participation for university youth, there is a decline and reluctance on the part of the university female student to participate in political work as some attributed this to absence of political upbringing or negative political upbringing (citizens who are indifferent or afraid) and a sense of the futility of political participation as a result of the existence of formal democracy, unfair elections, political indifference and the feeling that the individual is marginalized and has no role. (Amer, 2014, 3549).

The study of (Abu Hamed 2019) confirmed that the level of political knowledge among university students in Palestine is very low. This was ensured by the study of (Al-Shuwayhat and Al-Khawaldeh 2013) that showed the level of political participation for university students is low and the highest form of participation is voting in elections whereas the lowest is affiliation with political parties. A study of (khittabia, 2009) also showed that university youth do not participate in political parties as a result of reasons including fear of jeopardizing their future and because most parties in their content are personal and not public parties as well as their programs do not address youth issues. In addition, their content is devoid of content of interest for the youth sector and the weakness of their confidence in them. This was confirmed by (Al-Shami, 2011) study that demonstrated the interest of political parties in their narrow interests, not in the national interest.

The university girl also faces more and more multiple obstacles that limit political participation including customs and traditions that see women as weak creatures that do not have the ability to bear burdens and that women's work does not extend beyond the family and the home as well as the patriarchal society culture which sees that men are more capable of making public political decisions and the right to practice various fields without limitation. Also, there is absence of awareness programs on legal affairs for women through schools, universities and the media. And if any, it is in general and is limited to the simple part related to human rights in general and the negative role of the media which contributes to presenting the image of the traditional woman consuming adornment means and luxuries and which is dependent on the man. (Al-Rawashdah and Al-Arab, 2016, 1358).

is medium problems and arithmetic mean is from (2.34 to 3) high problems.

The validity of the tool was tested by presenting it to a number of arbitrators from university professors. All confirmed that it is valid for the study. Pearson correlation coefficients were used to measure the validity and reliability of the questionnaire and the Alpha Cronbach coefficient to determine the reliability of the questionnaire which reached (77%) This is regarded a high percentage of the validity of the questionnaire. The researcher also used the statistical parameters of frequencies, percentages, weighted average, standard deviation, Pearson correlation coefficient to measure the validity of the questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha test is also used to determine the stability of the questionnaire, while the Spearman-Brown coefficient is used for reliability. Then the researchers analyzed the data extracting results using the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS)

### 3- Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Demographic data of the respondents:

**Table No. (1) Distribution of sample members by college, age, average, marital status and place of residence for university female students.**

University. The data was collected during the period 12-27-2021 until 11-1-2022.

The researchers designed a questionnaire to measure the manifestations of political participation of the university female student and the obstacles that limit participation in the light of the social and psychological theoretical framework. The respondents were asked to answer the nature of the manifestations of political participation in a domain consisting of (8) statements. The questionnaire also included determining the nature of the obstacles in five fields: personal, family, community, university and political obstacles. Each field contains (8) basic phrases. The questionnaire also contains five items about demographic data about university female students including college, university average, education level of the head of the family, social status, place of age, and thus, total paragraphs of the questionnaire reached (53) phrases.

The level of each of the scale dimensions (weak, medium, high) was measured by subtracting the lower bound from the upper bound ( $3-1 = 2$ ) and then dividing this range by the number of three response cells ( $2 \div 3 = 0.66$ ) after that adding the lower bound score to determine the effectiveness of a statement, dimension, or scale as:

Arithmetic means from (1 to 1.66) is weak problems, arithmetic mean from (1.67 to 2.33)

<b>Variables</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>Faculty</b>	scientific	136	40.1
	humanities	203	59.9
<b>Academic rate GPA</b>	Acceptable	17	5.0
	Good	78	23.0
<b>Education of the family head</b>	Very Good	138	40.7
	Excellent	106	31.3
<b>Education of the family head</b>	below secondary school	43	12.7
	secondary	100	29.5
	university	140	41.3
	above university	56	16.5

While average of (5.0) is acceptable. Regarding to the level of education of the head of the family, the results showed that (41.3) have university education and (29.5) have secondary education, (16.5) have above university, while (12.7) have less than

<b>Variables</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Ratio</b>
<b>marital status</b>	miss	267	78.8
	married	59	17.4
<b>Residence</b>	divorced	12	3.5
	widow	1	3.0
<b>Residence</b>	North Gaza	25	7.4
	Gaza City	136	40.1
	- Middle area	44	13.0
	Khanyounis	91	26.8
	Rafah	43	12.7

It is clear from the analysis of the data that (59.9) of the respondents were from humanities colleges and (40.1) from scientific colleges. Regarding to the university average, the results showed that average of (40.7) is very good, (23) is good and (31.3) is excellent.

**3.2: Determining the manifestations of political participation of university female students, as it represents one of the objectives of the study. The results showed that there are low levels of participation as determined by university female students, and this is explained below:**

secondary education. Regarding to marital status, it was found that (78.8) are women, (17.4) are married, (3.5) are divorced. The results showed that (40.1) are from Gaza City, (26.8) are from Khanyounis, (13.0) are from Central area, while (12.7) are from Rafah governorate.

**Table No. (2) manifestations of political participation of university female students**

Article #	What are the manifestations of political participation of university female students?		Yes	To some extent	No	Total weights	weighted average	Standard deviation	Relative weight	Order
1	Ensuring that you attend political meetings regularly.	Percent	53	122	164	567	1.67	0.73108	55.6	4
		%	15.6	36.0	48.4					
2	Participating in marches and peaceful political	Percent	31	84	224	485	1.43	0.65525	47.6	8
		%	9.1	24.8	66.1					
3	Signing support petitions - an objection to a matter.	Percent	58	102	179	557	1.64	0.75724	54.6	5
		%	17.1	30.1	52.8					
4	Affiliation with the membership of a political party.	Percent	40	66	233	485	1.43	0.69470	47.6	7
		%	11.8	19.5	68.7					
5	Ensuring knowledge of the principles and programs of political parties	Percent	60	116	163	575	1.69	0.75311	56.3	3
		%	17.7	34.2	48.1					
6	concerning in participating in the elections for the female student	Percent	71	103	165	584	1.72	0.78811	57.3	1
		%	20.9	30.4	48.7					
7	Getting interest in attending political seminars at the university.	Percent	60	114	165	576	1.69	0.75463	56.3	2
		%	17.7	33.6	48.7					
8	Participating in training programs on political work.	Percent	48	100	191	535	1.57	0.72707	52.3	6
		%	14.2	29.5	56.3					
<b>Overall score</b>						545.5	1.60	-----	53.4	low

political participation for university female students are represented in (Getting interest in participating in the elections of the female student council) with a mean of (1.72). Then, (concerning in attending political meetings at the university) with a mean of (1.69). The researchers attributed this to the fact that

It is clear from the data of Table No. (2) that the level of manifestations of political participation of university female students is (low) with a weighted average of (1.60) and a relative weight of (53.4). By reviewing the order of the paragraphs of the dimension, it was found that the highest manifestations of

(participating in peaceful political marches and protests) with a mean of (1.43). The researchers refer to the fact that the major political parties, especially the major ones, take the responsibility for the Palestinian division, and they work according to their partisan interests and gains, not based on national ones, in addition to the female students' belief that participating in political protests may cause them harm, security follow-up and endangerment. These results are consistent with the results of (Kesi & Cook 2007, Rhetoric 2009), who assured the weak participation of young people in belonging to political parties.

**3.3: Determining the obstacles that limit the political participation of university students, as it represents one of the objectives of the study. The results showed that there are high levels of obstacles as determined by university female students, and this is clarified below:**

participation in elections and meetings is easy, especially that it is within the walls of the university and is often in the academic spare time. Student elections include many incentives especially in electoral campaigns by student blocs and groups to urge female students to participate as well as suspending academic work during the elections which encourages participation. These results are consistent with the results of (Al-Shuwaihat and Al-Khawaldeh 2013), which confirmed that the highest form of political participation for university female students is voting in student council elections.

The results also agree with the study of both (Kate & Taso 2008) which affirmed that the level of political participation of university youth is very weak and that they view it as a cynical and indifferent view.

While the least manifestations of political participation for university female students are represented in (affiliation with a political party membership) with a mean of (1.43) and, then

**Table No. (3) shows the personal obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students.**

Article #	Personal obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students		Yes	To some extent	No	Total weights	Weighted average	Standard deviation	Relative weight	Order
1	The students' belief that belonging to political parties exposes them to problems and dangers	Percent	164	120	55	787	2.32	0.73773	77.3	3
		%	48.4	35.4	16.2					
2	Low awareness of female students about their political rights and duties	Percent	135	127	77	736	2.17	0.77321	72.3	5
		%	39.8	37.5	22.7					
3	The female students' priorities are far from being interested in political	Percent	212	99	28	862	2.54	0.64388	84.6	1
		%	62.5	29.2	8.3					
4	The female	Percent	142	107	90	730	2.15	0.81412	71.6	7

	students consider political work as one of the roles and specializations of men	%	41.9	31.6	26.5					
5	Frustration of the prevailing political	Percent	207	91	41	844	2.48	0.70231	82.6	2
		%	61.1	26.8	12.1					
6	The spread of negativity, indifference and weak patriotism among university female students	Percent	144	105	90	732	2.15	0.81661	71.6	6
		%	42.5	31.0	26.5					
7	Absence of clarity around the role of university female students in political participation	Percent	141	133	65	754	2.22	0.74770	74	4
		%	41.6	39.2	19.2					
8	Low spirit of competition in front of men	Percent	102	105	132	648	1.91	0.82732	63.6	8
		%	30.1	31.0	38.9					
<b>Overall score</b>					761.6	2.24	-----	74.7	<b>Intermediate</b>	

among male university youth is much higher than that of females.

While the least personal obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students are represented in (the female students consider political work as one of the roles and specialization of men) with a mean of (2.15) and, then (the low spirit of competition in front of men) with a mean of (1.91). The researchers attributed this to the fact that Palestinian woman is an essential partner in the struggle against the occupation. She is a mother, sister and a wife of the martyr, the captive and the wounded man. Therefore, she participates strongly in the political system. The basic law guarantees her the right to nominate and vote. There is no a political institution without a quota for women.

**Table No. (4) illustrates the family obstacles that limit the political participation of female university students.**

It is clear from the data of Table No. (3) that the level of personal obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students is (medium), with a weighted average of (2.24) and a relative weight of (74.7). By reviewing the order of the paragraphs of the dimension, it shows that the highest personal obstacles that limit the political participation of female university students are represented in (female students' priorities far from interest in political participation) with a mean of (2.54), then (frustration from the prevailing political conditions) with a mean of (2.48). The researchers attributes this to the state of political frustration for the state of Palestinian division, conflict and blocs between factions and the lack of a unified political horizon towards the major issues of the Palestinian people as well as failure of Palestinian political system to fulfill the people's aspirations especially the peaceful transfer of power. These results are consistent with the results of the study (Al-Shami 2011), which confirmed that the degree of political interest

Article #	family obstacles that limit the political participation of female university students		Yes	To some extent	No	Total weights	Weighted average	Standard deviation	Relative weight	Order
1	Family socialization based on the subordination of women to men	Percent	138	100	101	715	2.10	0.83376	70	5
		%	40.7	29.5	29.8					
2	Weak family awareness of the importance of the university female student in political	Percent	136	107	96	718	2.11	0.82002	70.3	4
		%	40.1	31.6	28.3					
3	The negative family view which prefers to stay away from political	Percent	172	95	72	778	2.29	0.79663	76.3	2
		%	50.7	28.0	21.2					
4	The family's fear of the impact of participation on the student's academic achievement	Percent	178	99	62	794	2.34	0.76982	78	1
		%	52.5	29.2	18.3					
5	The pressure of patriarchal authority and not leaving space for political	Percent	115	91	133	660	1.94	0.85493	64.6	7
		%	33.9	26.8	39.2					
6	The low cultural and educational level of the family	Percent	100	85	154	624	1.84	0.85207	61.3	8
		%	29.5	25.1	45.4					
7	Excessive housework on university girls	Percent	156	107	76	758	2.23	0.79406	74.3	3
		%	46.0	31.6	22.4					
8	The presence of negative family experiences towards political participation	Percent	127	117	95	710	2.09	0.80490	69.6	6
		%	37.5	34.5	28.0					

political participation of university female students is (medium), with a weighted average of (2.12) and a relative weight of (70.5). By

It is clear from the data of Table No. (4) that the level of family obstacles that limit the

outside the home or university. These results are in agreement with (Mar'i 2013), which confirmed that one of the most important family obstacles is the family's lack of interest in political participation and the weakness of family awareness.

While the least family obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students are represented in (patriarchal pressure and not leaving space for political participation) with a mean of (1.94), then (the low cultural and educational level of the family) with a mean of (1.84). This result appears to be normal and consistent with the results of Table No. (1) which indicates that (58%) of the study sample has the level of education of their families' heads of is a university qualification and beyond university qualification. This positively affects the support the political participation for the university female student.

**Table No. (5) shows the social obstacles that limit the political participation of female university students.**

Article #	social obstacles that limit the political participation of female university ..students		Yes	To some extent	No	Total weights	weighted average	Standard deviation	Relative weight	Order
1	Consolidating the idea that political action is the responsibility of men	Percent	153	105	81	750	2.21	0.80440	73.6	7
		%	45.1	31.0	23.9					
2	The low efforts of civil society organizations in encouraging female students to participate in .politics	Percent	168	112	59	787	2.32	0.75360	77.3	2
		%	49.6	33.0	17.4					
3	Customs and traditions that restrict women's .freedom	Percent	159	118	62	775	2.28	0.75613	76	5
		%	46.9	34.8	18.3					
4	The society's marginalization of the political role of the university .female student	Percent	144	127	68	754	2.22	0.75948	74	6
		%	42.5	37.5	20.1					
5	Women's lack of	Percent	135	102	102	711	2.09	0.83167	69.6	8

reviewing the order of the paragraphs of the dimension, it was found that the highest family obstacles that limit the political participation of university students are represented in (Family Fear of the impact of participation on the female student's academic Achievement Level) with a mean of (2.34), then (The negative family view which prefers to stay away from political action) with an Average of (2.29). The researchers attributed this to the political action that requires effort in attendance and participation in political activities Such as seminars, lectures, demonstrations, mobilization and promotion of specific ideas and an increase in political knowledge. All these can be seen by the family that will be at the expense of the female student's study and academic performance, in addition to the conservative eastern family's view, especially towards the girl which places many restrictions on the movement of the girl

	awareness of their role and their confidence in their abilities in political action	%	39.8	30.1	30.1					
6	Weakness of the media's role in spreading political culture among university female students	Percent	161	123	55	784	2.31	0.73552	77	3
		%	47.5	36.3	16.2					
7	The lack of training programs for university students in the fields of political work	Percent	189	102	48	819	2.41	0.72641	80.3	1
		%	55.8	30.1	14.2					
8	Absence of societal appreciation for the contributions of university female students in political work.	Percent	160	126	53	785	2.31	0.72819	77	4
		%	47.2	37.2	15.6					
<b>Overall score</b>					770.6	2.27	-----	75.6	<b>Intermediate</b>	

that it is possible to activate the participation of young people in political life by providing them with knowledge and the experiences that they learn through field practice.

While the least social obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students are represented in (consolidating the idea that political work is the responsibility of men and male youth) with an average of (2.21), then (women's lack of awareness of their role and their confidence in their abilities in political work) with a mean of (2.09), then (women's lack of awareness of their role and their confidence in their abilities in political action) with a mean of (2.09).

It is clear from the data of Table No. (5) that the level of social obstacles that limit the political participation of university students is (medium) with a weighted average of (2.27) and a relative weight of (75.6). By reviewing the order of the paragraphs of the dimension, it was found that the highest social obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students are represented in (the lack of training programs for university female students in the fields of political work) with a mean of (2.41) and, then (the low efforts of civil society organizations in encouraging female students to participate in politics) with a mean of (2.32).

These results are consistent with the results of the study (Checkoway 2005), which confirmed

**Table No. (6) illustrates the university obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students.**

rticle #	university obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students		Yes	To some extent	No	Total weights	weighted average	Standard deviation	Relative weight	Order
1	The scarcity of	Percent	161	115	63	776	2.28	0.76086	76	4

	university curricula focusing on political work	%	47.5	33.9	18.6					
2	The lack of adequate time to practice student political activities due to the crowding of the academic day <i>with lectures</i>	Percent	220	87	32	866	2.55	0.66114	85	1
		%	64.9	25.7	9.4					
3	Political student activities take place in a traditional <i>classroom</i>	Percent	180	114	45	813	2.39	0.71178	79.6	2
		%	53.1	33.6	13.3					
4	University restrictions that determine the paths of political participation for female students according to a specific vision to	Percent	168	121	50	796	2.34	0.72350	78	3
		%	49.6	35.7	14.7					
5	Student elections at the university go according to	Percent	151	109	79	750	2.21	0.79701	73.6	5
		%	44.5	32.2	23.3					
6	University female students do not have the opportunity to engage in students political activities that are appropriate to their desires and	Percent	139	84	116	701	2.06	0.86592	68.6	8
		%	41.0	24.8	34.2					
7	The university adopts the ideas of a political party that contradicts student's negative tendencies and	Percent	141	129	69	750	2.21	0.75899	73.6	6
		%	41.6	38.1	20.4					
8	Faculty members do not accept dialogue and discussion with female students on political issues	Percent	124	119	96	706	2.08	0.80252	69.3	7
		%	36.6	35.1	28.3					
<b>Overall score</b>					769.7	2.27	-----	75.4	<b>Intermediate</b>	

political participation of university students is (medium) with a weighted average of (2.27)

It is evident from the data of Table No. (6) that the level of university obstacles that limit the

While the least university obstacles restricting the political participation of university female students represented in (the faculty members do not accept dialogue and discussion with female students on political issues) with an arithmetic average of (2.08), then (university students do not have the opportunity to practice student political activities appropriate to their desires and tendencies) with an arithmetic average of (2.06).

These results agree with both the study of Kate & Taso (2008), which confirmed that among the most important obstacles of the weak political participation of female students is that students are busy with studies and lack of free time. The study of (Kate & Taso (2008) confirmed that the weakness of political participation of young people is due to reliance on traditional methods of dealing with young people and their political awareness.

and a relative weight of (75.4). By reviewing the order of the paragraphs of the dimension, it was found that the highest university obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students are represented in (lack of appropriate time to practice student political activities due to the crowding of the school day with lectures) with an arithmetic average of (2.55), then (student political activities take place in a traditional framework) with an average of (2.39). The researchers believe that political activities in universities are limited to seminars, hosting a political figure or national stature or celebrating in commemoration or organizing student elections which in most universities in the Gaza Strip are not held, but carried out by acclamation. Therefore, there is a need to enrich the curricula with political work and its various fields, establish student political centers, organize political debates and competitions among students for enriching and creating political knowledge awareness.

**Table No. (7) illustrates the political obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students.**

Title #	political obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students		Yes	To some extent	No	Total weights	weighted average	Standard deviation	Relative weight	Order
1	Prioritizing the personal and partisan interests of politicians over the national interest	Percent	198	97	44	832	2.45	0.71344	81.6	2
		%	58.4	28.6	13.0					
2	The political environment in Gaza does not encourage political participation and freedom of expression	Percent	179	110	50	807	2.38	0.72958	79.3	4
		%	52.8	32.4	14.7					
3	The low percentage of women representation in political parties.	Percent	168	112	59	787	2.32	0.75360	77.3	7
		%	49.6	33.0	17.4					

4	Political parties programs do not meet the political aspirations of university female students	Percent	156	124	59	775	2.28	0.74430	76	8
		%	46.0	36.6	17.4					
5	Failure to comply with the legislation and laws organizing women's political	Percent	198	98	43	833	2.45	0.70947	81.6	3
		%	58.4	28.9	12.7					
6	Weak representation of the female component in political	Percent	172	127	40	810	2.38	0.68931	79.3	5
		%	50.7	37.5	11.8					
7	Partisanship, organizational fanaticism and nepotism is an important factor impeding the political participation of female students	Percent	208	98	33	853	2.51	0.66764	83.6	1
		%	61.4	28.9	9.7					
8	The view on political work is a security one.	Percent	174	114	51	801	2.36	0.73051	78.6	6
		%	51.3	33.6	15.0					
<b>Overall score</b>						812.2	2.39	-----	79.6	<b>Intermediate</b>

These results are consistent with the results of the study of (Khattabiya 2009, Al-Shami 2011), who emphasized that political parties are concerned with personal interests, not national and public ones.

While the least political obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students is represented in (the weak percentage of women's representation in political parties) with a mean of (2.32), then (the programs of political parties do not meet the political aspirations for university female students) with a mean of (2.28). The researchers attributed this to the fact that the Palestinian parties give great representation to women in line with democratic principles and women's rights and also in respect of women's struggle and their effective contribution in political action. Also, all parties have departments, frameworks and arms for university students (such as the Fateh youth organization, the Islamic bloc, the Islamic fraternity, liberal groups and others) who have a role in meeting the aspirations of university female students.

It is clear from the data of Table No. (7) that the level of political obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students is (medium) with a weighted average of (2.39) and a relative weight of (79.6). By reviewing the order of the paragraphs of the dimension, it was found that the highest political obstacles that limit the political participation of university students are represented in (partisanship, organizational fanaticism and nepotism is an important factor impeding the political participation of students) with a mean of (2.51) and, then (presenting the personal and partisan interest of politicians over the national interest) with an average of (2.45). The two researchers consider that one of the most important reluctance reasons of female students to political participation is to reduce political work to serving the party, partisan extremism and the factional interests of the organization and its affiliates at the expense of the homeland and the citizen.

- 6- Paying attention to student elections in universities, lectures, seminars, and political activities and working to organize them on a regularly.
- 7- Developing the efforts of civil society organizations in encouraging female students to participate in politics.
- 8- The interest of the audio-visual and print media in spreading political culture among university female students.

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#### **4. Conclusion**

The current study sought to identify the obstacles that limit the political participation of university female students. the study concluded that there are many obstacles, where the political obstacles came first and represented in partisanship, organizational fanaticism and nepotism. These were regarded an important factor that hinders the political participation of female students and presenting the personal and partisan interests of politicians over the national ones. Then, the social obstacles occupied the second rank, which were represented in the lack of training programs for university female students in the fields of political work as well as the low efforts of civil society organizations in encouraging female students to participate in political activities. Then, the university obstacles came at third level which were represented in the lack of appropriate time to practice student political activities due to the crowding of the school day with lectures and student political activities that take place in traditional framework. Fourth, the personal obstacles, which were represented in the students' priorities far from interest in political participation and frustration with the prevailing political conditions. Finally, the family obstacles, which were represented in the family's fear of the impact of participation on the level of the student's academic achievement and the negative family outlook, which prefers to stay away from political work. Through the results of the study, the researchers suggest some scientific recommendations to confront the obstacles that limit the political participation of university students. The recommendations are as follows:

#### **5- Recommendations:**

- 1- Educating university female students about their political rights and duties and changing the view and idea that political work is the responsibility of men and young males.
- 2- Developing family awareness of the importance of the university student's political participation.
- 3- Providing training programs for university female students in the fields of political work.
- 4- Increasing the focus of university curricula on political work and its various fields.
- 5- Providing the appropriate and sufficient time to practice student political activities.

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