

The Impact of an Ineffective Security System on Women's Political Participation in Pukhtoon Society

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The main aim of the present study was to determine the impact of an ineffective security system on women's political participation in Pukhtoon Society. For this purpose, a sample of 205 female respondents was selected from District Wari, Dir upper-Pakistan for the collection of primary data. The relationship between ineffective security systems and women's political participation was examined via bivariate and multivariate analysis. The findings of such revealed that lack of an effective security system for women significantly affects women's participation in political activities as the value of χ^2 is 323,900, highly significant at 1% of significance. Likewise, the results of Kendall's tau-b disclosed a highly positive ($T_b=0.993$) association between lack of an effective security system and women's political participation. Besides, the impact of literacy on the relationship between lack of security and women's political participation was examined through multivariate analysis. The relationship between the mentioned variables was found to be non-significant ($p=0.10$) and highly positive ($T^b=1.00$) within the illiterate group. Meanwhile, the aforementioned variables were found to be highly significant ($p=0.000$) and strongly positive ($T^b=0.993$) among the literate group. The study concluded that the ineffective security system within the research site restricted women to take an active part in politics. Based on the above findings, this study puts forward some recommendations. These include starting different workshops and awareness sessions to encourage women, increasing women's reserve seats to attract women's interest in political matters, strengthening the law and order situation, and

making security systems effective, particularly for female politicians.

Keyword: *Ineffective Security, Women, Politics, Participation*

INTRODUCTION

Undoubtedly, fifty percent of the world's population is based on women folk, but they are allocated only twenty-three percent of all seats in senates and parliaments throughout the globe (Dey & Das, 2020; Latif, Usman, Kataria, & Abdullah, 2020). Keeping this fact in mind, the present study attempts to explore the impact of ineffective security systems on women's political participation and empowerment. The term 'political empowerment' of women can be defined as the independence of women to be involved in the electoral process according to their choice, such as, casting votes, contesting the election as contenders, their political expression and demonstration, gaining authority and power as men. Moreover, for the smooth running of society and for a workable democratic state, the political empowerment of women has been increasingly recognised throughout the world. Further, women are fifty percent of the world's population. For these reasons, women's active involvement in the political process cannot be ignored (Leijenaar, 2013; Mahmood, 2004; Shami, 2009; Sharma, 2020). Stereotype views are being held by laymen of society regarding women's inability to take active parts in political activities, as they are not seen as politically socialised and their core duties being considered as reproduction and home-based activities with unfamiliarity of politics. In most cases, the "capability" issues are associated with women and that is not with other marginalised groups which are frequently founded on the identity of cast based classification in which women have always been deprived and kept in the lower position in a social system (Bano, 2009; IDEA, 2003).

Inequality has been observed, based on gender, in the educational system, access to health facilities, employment opportunities, political involvement, decision-making process and job opportunities. Moreover, less investment and interest in the promotion of female education is a common practice in Pakistani society. The status of women in the majority of societies and even within families is not reflected to be satisfactory and they have been discriminated against in every sector (Regan & Paskeviciute, 2003; Vickers, Rankin, & Appelle, 2019). There are so many factors responsible for the growing discrimination of women in the political arena. Some of them are mass ignorance, an ineffective educational system, economic dependency on men, the active role of pressure groups, lack of political awareness among women, gender-related sensitivity, lack of security to female participants, lack of female interest in politics, etc. Moreover, the government is also failing in the provision of equal political opportunities to both men and women to ensure their contributions in national development (Bari, 2005; Bukhari & Ramzan, 2013; Khan & Naqvi, 2018; Krook, 2017; Krook & Restrepo Sanín, 2016).

FOCUS OF THE STUDY

Women in society, whether developed or underdeveloped societies, are usually deprived of their rights including their participation in politics. In such an imbalanced social environment, women usually avoid participation in political activities. Electoral violence and an insecure environment have been identified as major constraints and as a faltering block to stop women's participation in political activities as voters, contesting candidates, and election managers. Furthermore, violence against women is used as a negative tool in several ways during the election process to discourage women's political participation (Awan, 2016; Critelli, 2010; Syed, Tabassum, & Afzal, 2013). Keeping in mind the above facts, the present study will highlight the impact of an ineffective security system on women's political participation.

METHODOLOGY

The present research study was carried out in district Wari, Dir upper, KPK, Pakistan. Primary data regarding study variables was collected through interviews, from 205 out of 363 female participants whose were aged 17 years and above. The above sample size was determined through the proportionally allocated method (see table 1) adopted by Ullah and Muhammad (2020).

Table 1: Proportional allocation of sample size in various villages in the study area

	Village Name		Sample size
1	Wari Payin	97	55
2	Wari Bala	83	47
3	Kakad	106	60
4	Das Kor	77	43
Total		363	205

Converting all of the items into a single factor for calculation is called indexation. So, all of the statements of the listed variables were indexed. Before indexing, a reliability test, using Cronbach's alpha, was run to determine the items' internal accuracy. On both scales, reliability tests yielded values greater than 0.80. The collected data was analysed with SPSS. Furthermore, chi-squared test was applied to determine the impact of ineffective security systems on women's political participation at the bivariate and multi-variate levels of study (Ullah et al., 2021). Furthermore, the main aim of the multi-variate analysis was to see whether the literacy of the respondents influenced the relationship between ineffective security systems and women's political participation. Kendall's Tau-b test was used to determine the strength and direction of the study variables.

RESULTS

The Impact of Ineffective Security System on Women Political Participation

Data regarding the lack of effective security system for women and its impact on women's political participation is mentioned below in table 2. Findings of the study show that the majority, that is 142 of the sample size, revealed that lack of effective women's security system negatively affected women's participation in political activities, while 58 of the respondents negated this statement, and 5 of the participates did not know about it. Notwithstanding, the relationship of lack of security and women's political participation was explored through the Chi-square test. Findings of the Chi-square show that lack of effective security significantly affects women's participation in political activities because the value of χ^2 is 323,900 and is highly significant at 1% of significance. Likewise, results of Kendall's tau-b disclosed a highly positive ($T^b=0.993$) association between lack of security and women's political participation.

Table 2 The Impact of an Ineffective Security System on Women's Political Participation

Security system	Women Political Participation			Total	Statistics
	Yes	No	Don't Know		
Ineffective	142(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	142(69.3%)	$\chi^2 =$ 323.900 $p =0.000$ $T^b =0.993$
Effective	0(0%)	58(100%)	2(40%)	60(29.3%)	
Moderate	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(60%)	3(1.5%)	
Total	142(100%)	58(100%)	5(100%)	205(100%)	

The Impact of an Ineffective Security System on Women Political Participation (Controlling Literacy of The Respondents)

Results in Table 3 show that majority of the respondents, i.e., 99 from the illiterate group, stated that lack of an effective security system negatively affects female participation in political activities. Likewise, 43 of the respondents from the literate group opined that women's political participation was negatively affected by lack of an effective security system. Besides, the impact of literacy on the relationship between lack of security and women's political participation was examined through multivariate analysis. The relationship between the mentioned variables was found to be non-significant ($p =0.10$) and highly positive ($T^b =1.00$) within the illiterate group. Meanwhile, the aforementioned variables were found to be highly significant ($p =0.000$) and strongly positive ($T^b =0.993$) among the literate group.

Table 3 The Impact of an Ineffective Security System on Women's Political Participation (Controlling Literacy of the Respondents)

Education status	Security system	Women Political Participation			Total	Statistics
		Yes	No	Don't Know		
Illiterate	Ineffective	99(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	99(99%)	$x^2 =$ 100.000 $p = 0.10$ $T^b = 1.00$
	Effective	0(0%)	1(100%)	0(0%)	1(1%)	
	Moderate	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	
	Total	99(100%)	1(100%)	0(0%)	100(100%)	
Literate	Ineffective	43(100%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	43(41%)	$x^2 =$ 1.65.164 $p = 0.000$ $T^b = 0.993$
	Effective	0(0%)	57(100%)	2(40%)	59(56.2%)	
	Moderate	0(0%)	0(0%)	3(60%)	3(2.9%)	
	Total	43(100%)	57(100%)	5(100%)	105(100%)	

DISCUSSION

As a main aim, this study investigated and revealed the impact of an ineffective security system on women's political participation in district Wari, Upper Dir, KPK, Pakistan. The major findings of the study show that the majority (142) of the sample size stated that low security negatively affected women's participation in political activities. Out of 142 participants, 99 participants were from the illiterate group and 43 respondents were from the literate group. Similar findings were concluded by Naz and Ahmad (2012), that women's political empowerment in Puktoon society is negatively affected by the Purdah system and prevalence of security problems. Findings of the present and previous research studies vividly show that female politicians, particularly in Puktoon society, are not safe. They are pressured and threatened to avoid the dirty games of politics by male counterpart. Thus, insecurity of female politicians decreases their participation in political activities. It is important to mention that women in Puktoon culture are considered the honour of the family and they are not allowed to be involved in dirty games of politics which is considered solely a male activity. Some other traits of Puktoon culture including Tor (dishonour), and Peghor (satire) that also negatively co-exist with their engagement in political spheres. Findings of the Chi-square show that lack of an ineffective women's security system significantly ($p=0.000$) affects women's participation in political activities. Likewise, results of Kendall's tau-b disclosed a highly positive ($T^b=0.993$) association between lack of security measures and women's political participation. In the multivariate analysis, the relationship between the aforementioned variables was found to be highly significant ($p = 0.000$) and strongly positive ($T^b = 0.993$) among the literate group. These findings are closely in line with the previous work that women in Puktoon are discouraged in taking part in politics. They have little access to political activities i.e., voting, governance, and contesting an election. Several female politicians were assassinated across Pakistan for their political activities. For instance, the living example of Zilla Huma, a provincial minister in Baluchistan, and former late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto were killed due to their active participation in political activities (Akhtar & Métraux, 2013; Bose & Rossi,



1983; Latif et al., 2020). The above-mentioned findings clearly show that women in Pukhtoon society are considered to be confined only to indoor activities i.e., domestic activities, while their political activities are strictly restricted by the prevalent social system and often their participation leads them into violent assaults. Besides, intervention by the Government of Pakistan to protect women in public spheres is insufficient. All of the aforementioned factors led to less female participation in political activities.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

The present study, undoubtedly, is one of the significant contributions from the context of Pukhtoons, to the existing literature in dealing with women's political life. It is concluded from the findings of the study that Pukhtoon society is patriarchal in nature. The ineffective security systems prevalent in the targeted area of the study restricted women to take an active part in politics. Moreover, social norms, economic dependency, and security threats are some of the contributing factors towards less female participation in political regimes. Based on the above findings, this study put forward some recommendations. These include, starting different workshops and awareness sessions to encourage women, increasing women's reserve seats to attract women's interest in political matters, strengthening the law and order situation, and making an effective security system particularly for female politicians.

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