

Abstract of the Study

Political Participation of the Women in Al-Tafilah Governorate as a Voter and Candidate “Reality and Challenges”

Abstract

This study aimed to find out the degree of the woman`s political participation in Al- Tafilah Governorate as a voter and candidate in light of the reality and the challenges.

Study sample consisted of (25) elected woman and working in the local government, they were selected by the purposive method to answer the study instrument`s questions from the point of view of the candidate woman and (1000) females from Al- Tafilah community who were randomly selected and eligible by the legal age to participate in the political process to answer the study instrument`s questions from the point of view of the voting woman.

The questionnaire has been applied to them which consisted of (38) items, after ascertaining its validity and stability.

Results showed that the total mean of the study sample individuals` answers (Al- Tafilah community women as voters) on all the questionnaire`s items came medium with mean (2.88).

In addition, mean of the total degree of the study sample individuals` answers (the purposely sample), the elected in the local governance on all the questionnaire`s items was (3.12) at a medium degree.

While item (2) which indicates, **“My tribe supports the male candidate, which makes me fear of plunging into this experiment”** came with the highest mean between the items.while the less mean item was item (33) which states **“I enjoy community popularity which is considered a motive for me to plunge into the political work experience”** from the point of view of the study random sample (Al- Tafilah community women as voters).

While item (12) has occupied the highest mean between the items, which states **“The community from one side and the decision makers from the other side are not aware of the importance of my political participation”**

The less mean item was item (28), which indicates **“Competition of more than one candidate at the tribe’s level limits my opportunity in the participation”** from the point of view of the purposive study sample (the elected in the local governance).

Furthermore, results of the study have proved the presence of differences with statistically significance at significance level ($\alpha=0.05$) in independency degree of the woman’s participation in the political work from the point of view of the random sample (Al- Tafilah community’s women as voters) attribute to the study variables as follow:

Marital status variable in favor of the widow, profession variable and in favor of the working women, scientific qualification variable in favor of the graduate studies, while there are no differences with statistically significance attribute to age variable.

In addition, results have found the presence of differences with statistical significance at significance level ($\alpha=0.05$) in independency degree of the woman's participation in the political work from the point of view of the purposely sample (the elected in the local governance) attribute to the study variables as follow:

Marital status variable and in favor of the single, profession variable in favor of the unemployed, age variable in favor of the (40-59) age category, scientific qualification and in favor of the graduate studies.

The study recommending directing the organizations in the civic society, especially the women's organizations to design counseling programs and training workshops to rise level of the political awareness among the women in Al- Tafilah governorate as voter, and importance of their effective participation, qualifying and training the women who work in the political process (local governance) on the laws and the organizing systems of their work's nature, making them aware of the laws organizing the political work.

Also, the study recommending re-thinking about item number (3) from article number (18) from the municipalities law which includes the qualifications that should be available in those who wish to be candidates as chairman or members in the local governance, not to be employee or worker at any ministry or public development or public official institution or municipality unless he presents his resignation a month before the starting date of nomination.

The municipality lawyer should cancel his contract with it during this period, replacing the resignation by a leave without salary until the end of the participation in the political process.

Directing the specialists and the researchers to conduct a field study aims at measuring degree of the effectiveness of the women in the political work (local governance) in making the decisions and the effective social influence.

In addition to calling the organizations and the concerned parties to design training workshops to integrate them in the society, in the community and voluntary work, to rise their awareness about the importance of the community work, because of the clear effect of the community experience on the woman's independence to plunge into the political work.

Keywords: political participation, independence of the woman's participation in the political process.

Study Population and Sample

Study population consisted of all women in Al- Tafilah Governorate who were eligible by the legal age to participate in the political work.

Study sample consisted of a purposely sample that has targeted (25) elected women and work in the local governance to answer the study instrument's questions from the point of view of the elected woman.

In addition, random sample that has targeted (100) women from Al-Tafeelah community who were eligible by the legal age to participate in the political process to answer the study's instrument from the point of view of the voting woman.

Table (1) shows the distribution of the study sample according to the demographic variables.

Discussion of the Study Results and Recommendations

First: Illustrating and Discussion of the Study Results:

In light of the results reached by the present study, this chapter discusses the results and proposing some recommendations in their light.

Results of the study from point of view of all study sample individuals the random (Al- Tafilah community women as voters) and the purposive (the elected in the local governance) showed that:

- There is a clear weakness in independence of the woman's participation in Al- Tafilah Governorate in the political process as voter and candidate; this is attribute to the prevalence of the masculine culture and dependence of the woman on the man stemming from the cultural and social reality of the community in Al- Tafilah Governorate.
- Hesitation of the working woman to plunge into the political process experience for fear from losing her job when she nominates, this is attribute to text of item (3) from article (18) of the municipality law, which includes the qualifications that should be available in the one who wishes to nominate as chairman or member in the local governance, not to be an employee or a worker at any ministry or public department or public official institution or municipality unless submitting his resignation one month before the beginning of the nomination date.

In addition, the lawyer of the municipality should terminate his contract with it during this period.

Participation in the political process for the woman to enter the experience becomes unguaranteed regarding the results, making her preferring to adhere with her job, which is considered the source of her income for her and her family.

- Study sample sees that the woman is unable to be effective in the decision making positions which limits the women to vote for her, this attributes to the fact the if the Tafilah community women do not feel clear effect of political participation of the elected woman in the local governance compared with the community women in the services the women need.
- The study sample does not accept the idea nominating the woman to enter the political work process, if it happens, she does not prefer giving the voice to a nominated woman who has entered the experience previously.

This attributes to the community's women lack of awareness about the importance of woman's participation in the political work from one side, and the ineffectiveness of the elected woman in the local governance from the other side.

Also, results of the study from the point of view of the random sample (Al-Tafilah governorate women as voters) showed the following:

- The woman in Al- Tafilah Governorate belongs to the tribe and see that the tribe accepts supporting the male nominated when entering the political work experience, which forces her to give her voice to the

man who is supported by the tribe, regardless of any qualifications or advantages of the other candidates, this attributes to the woman's dependence on the tribe in Al- Tafilah governorate, which again forces her to give her voice to the man supported by the tribe.

This result agrees with result of (Tahboob, 2003).

- The woman in Al- Tafilah Governorate does not see that she has sufficient social popularity motivating her to enter the political work experience as voter and nominated, this attribute to lack of paying attention to the social and voluntary work in the life of the woman and her adherence to the typical image of the woman as a wife and house wife and her view that the community and voluntary work are without benefits.
- The woman in the marital status widow is more independent in participating in the political work, while the married woman in the marital status is less independent in the participation in the political process, this attributes to the man's authority as head of the family over his wife, and interference in all her issues and her decision to select the candidate he supports in the social custom, traditions and economic situation.
- The working is more independent in the participation in the political process, while the non-working woman is less independent in selecting the candidate she sees more competent to represent her in the political work.
- Age variable is not significant with degree of the woman's participation in Al- Tafilah Governorate, this attributes to the fact that the man with authoritative image pushes the woman to vote regardless of her age.

This is confirmed by the quantitative percentage rise in the woman's participation in the political process as a voter according to statistics, Department of General Statistics / Ministry of Planning 2019 by (61%) compared to men (39%), this result contradicts with results of Al-Rawashdeh and Al-Ara (2016) study.

- The woman with scientific qualification graduate studies is more independent in the participation in the political work, this attributes to the degree of awareness of the women who have scientific qualification of graduate studies, and her ability to select the one who represents her in the political work (the local governance) from one side and her social value between her family members, her tribe and her community from the other side.

While the woman with education less than the general secondary is less independent in participating in the political work, this is attributed to the authority of the family and society to the uneducated woman with general secondary and less education, and the authority of the man in the family on her, easily dependent on the family and the tribe decision from one side, and lack of awareness about importance of her participation as a voter in the political process and selecting the one who represents her from the other side.

While results of the study showed the following from the point of view of the purposive sample (the elected in the local governance):

- Community and decision makers are not aware of importance of my political participation, which means that the nominated woman in the current round in the local governance sees that the community represented by the women and decision makers do not perceive importance of her participation in the political process.

This attributes to the nominated lack of awareness in the political work, which makes the man, enjoys his authority over the woman, not only at home but also inside the local governance, and she is assigned to the ineffective committees, practicing on her all forms of pressure to vote for the decision that he sees more relevant.

- Lack of full dependency of the nominated woman on the women when plunges in the political work experience.

This attributes to the nominee's culture, which stems from her life reality as a woman in Al-Tafeelah Governorate, she perceives that women follow the men and she believes that the males' support is the way for her wining.

- The women's quota might be an opportunity for the woman to participate in the political work, but the woman in Al-Tafeelah Governorate can engage in the political work without the need for the women's quota from her point of view, this attributes to the reality experience, since the elected in the last round have witnessed the competition experience regardless of the quota to gain many seats in the election process depending on the male's base.

Its origin might be the family with the goal to improve the financial position of the woman and considering the political work as an opportunity for a woman with education less than secondary, since the Jordanian municipality law allows her to enter the political work

and her opportunity to receive a work in shadow of the increasing numbers of the graduates who are qualified to work, since the percentage of the elected non-working women who have less than the secondary education is high.

- Marital status single woman is more independent in participating in the political work, while the less independent is the married woman, this attributes to her ability and capability to leave the tribe's decision to nominate and participate in the political work.

Results found that the married woman is more connected with the family's tribe from one side and with her husband's tribe from the other side, which increases the males' opportunity for domination.

- The unemployed woman is more concerned to participate in the political work, while the employed woman is less concerned to participate in the political work.

This attributed to the absence of fear of losing her job and her ability to have a job opportunity through her nomination to be a source of income for her, mostly the goal of nomination in this case is to receive a job and a source of income far from the awareness about the importance of her participation in the political work and without possessing their sufficient political awareness to plunge into the experience.

This is what represents the reality of the woman's participation in the political work these days.

While the employed woman is less motivated to enter the political process a nominate, this attributes to the fear of losing her job in case of entering the nomination experience without success.

- The woman with scientific qualification graduate studies is more independent to participate in the political process, this attributes to the degree of her awareness and her social status, and the ability to gain support of her family and her tribe in case of nomination.

While the woman with scientific qualification less than the general secondary is less independent to participate on the political process.

This attributes to the lack of sufficient awareness and to ease of directing her through the man, the family and the tribe to nominate with the objective to receive job opportunity and improving her position in the shadow of the difficult economic conditions the family is living in, in Al- Tafilah governorate.

- The woman in the age category (40-50) years old more incline to participate in the political process, this attributes to the degree of her awareness in the 40s and the beginning of passing the typical image of the woman as a mother and a house wife.

The woman at this stage finds that her children are becoming at the youth age and no longer need her as when they are very young, she finds herself devoted to participate in the political work from one side, and finds the participation covers some of the free time she is living through at this age.

The woman from the age category (18-28) years old is less attendance to participate in the political process, this attributes to text

of item (1) from article (18) from the municipality election law regarding the qualifications that should be available in those who wish to nominate and participate in the political process (local governance) chairman or member, to compete 25 years old, because less than this age, the woman will be unready to plunge into the experience, since she will be in the beginning of her practical, family and house wife life.

Second: Recommendations

Through the results that the study has reached, the researcher recommends:

- Directing the decision makers to design counselling programs and workshops to raise the level of women's political awareness in Al-Tafilah Governorate as a voter and importance of her effective participation.
- Directing the decision makers to re-think about item number (3) from article (18) from the municipalities law which includes the qualifications that should be available in the one who wishes to nominate as a chairman or member in the local governance, not to be an employee or a worker at any ministry or public department or public official institution or municipality unless introducing his resignation a month before the beginning of the nomination date.

In addition, the municipality's lawyer should terminate his contract with it during this period, replacing the resignation with leave without a salary until the end of the participation in the political work.

- Directing the specialists and the researchers to conduct a field study aims at measuring degree of effectiveness of the females working in the political process (local governance) in making the decisions and effective community influence.
- Qualifying and training the working females in the political process on the organizing laws and systems organizing nature of their work making them aware of the laws organizing the political work.
- Calling the organizations in the civic society, also the concerned public institutions to design training workshops to integrate the

women in the community in the social and voluntary work to enlighten them about the importance of the social work, since the social experience has the clear effect on the woman's independency in plunging into the political work.