

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH POLITICAL
PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT MARDAN, KHYBER
PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN**



By

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FINAL APPROVAL OF THESIS

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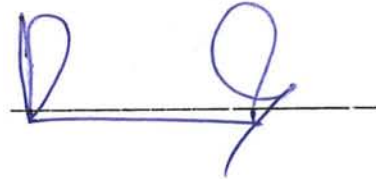
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Abstract

The current study examines the women's empowerment through political participation in the district Mardan, Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Pakistan. Women in Mardan were now politically, socially, and economically active, as compared to the past decades. Last elections 2017, where 49% of women were cast their vote in Mardan District and KPK as a whole. This showed that women in KPK are now politically active and brock the traditional political culture. In Pakistan, since long women were alienated from politics. After the Musharraf's Govt, women's reserve seats were increased from 5% to 33% across the country, which gives women the opportunity to participate in politics and political activities. The Political Capital was used as a theory which explains that women ho has more political capital are more likely to participate in political both directly and indirectly. The quantitative research approach was used and designed a descriptive study. The Universe of the study was the District Mardan, where the women were interviewed both married and unmarried, however, majority of the respondents were married women. The closed-ended questionnaires were used as a data collection tool. The face-to-face interviews has been done with illiterate women. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) has been used as a data analysis tool. For the present research, both descriptive and inferential statistics were applied. The findings of the study showed that the majority of women were married, they have access to education, healthcare, and have property right. Women from the last decades were more involved in politics, where they are active in direct politics and indirect politics now. Similarly, women in Mardan were more active in political campaigns both on social media and practical ways. Furthermore, women in Mardan are now cast vote, right to cast vote, involved in fund raising process. Moreover, the majority of women were stated that politics is the best career opportunity for them to empower themselves in society. The results of inferential statistics where the bivariate correlation was applied with 95% of Confidence Interval and 5% of Margin of Error. The results showed that political participation and women empowerment is statistically correlated. Hence, it was stated that political participation empowered women in the society, so that, the Govt and political parties, as well as the civil society, need to enhance the women's politics in Pakistan, especially in District Mardan.

KeyWords: Political Participation, Women Empowerment, Political Capital, SPSS, Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

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Chapter No.1

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is the highest populated country now in number six and soon capture the number five position in terms of population, where women are occupied almost 50% of the total population. Women are active in most of the sectors in Pakistan, like administration, education, law enforcement agencies, medical fields, and many other related fields, where women's representation is high, and they are active. Women in Pakistan are playing a significant role in the socio-economic development of a country. As compared to male, women are still very rearward in every sphere of life, either social, political, and economic life, where gender segregation is very high. Women have representations in almost every fields in Pakistan, but their political arrangements are so for being apolitical since the independent in 1947. Many famous women have contested elections process in history but could not be prospered and succeeded due to social and religious factors, like Fatima Jannah and many other social activist women. Since the year 2000 women' representation in pollical was very less as less than 5%, but during the Parwaz Musharraf's era Govt has reserved 33% of total seats in national and provincial assemblies for women to enhance the women's political participation. This gives women the opportunity to participate in politics and take decisions, which assistances other women in society (Naz 2011).

According to the UNDP, worldwide women have occupied around 15% of the total political representations, many developed countries are faraway to give political rights to women, like the USA, where they just granted suffrage rights to women in late 1920s. With comparison to the rest of the world, Pakistan has reserved seat for women, were come to assemblies starved of contesting election processes and become members of national or provincial assemblies. Since 1947 very few women were in assemblies as associated with their population ratio. As the Pakistani society is patriarchal, where women are always discouraged to participate in politics, political activities and hold administrative public positions. Even, many political parties do not encourage women in their membership scheme and several other political parties are not even grant women tickets to contest direct election

process and become a member of national or provincial assemblies and represent women (Naz & Chaudhary.2012).

There are two types of political participation, first is direct political participation and second is indirect political participation. Direct political participation means to contest election process either independent candidate or through party ticket. Second, indirect political participation is the participation in politics without contesting the direct election process, this included the casting of the votes, involvement in political campaigns, participation in political corner meetings, fundraising campaigns and discussing politics through social media and in public domains. Similarly, in Pakistan women are more active in politics indirectly as compared to directly participate (Khan 2016). Women in Pakistan those who have political background and references in political parties are contesting election process were ordinary women have not ever accidental to participate directly in politics and become a member of national or provincial assemblies (Begum 2002).

Many famous political philosophers were thoughtful that, politics is male-centric in the histories, and women are unfit for politics and public work. The same situation was prevailed since in the year 2002, where women were very less in politics in Pakistan. Whereas, in the year 2002, through the introduction of Legal Framework Order (LFO), the General Pervaiz Musharraf has secured 33% of general reserve seats in national and 17% of seats in local Govt election and state legislatures respectively (NCSW 2010). In history, women were underprivileged from their political rights their gives them the ability to hold public offices and take a decision, which best serves their own interest and women's in Pakistan (Bari 2009).

Many studies have stated that there is a closed relationship between political participation and women empowerment. Only women can better understand women problems and issues in real ways and able to fight for women's political, social, and economic right. Similarly, with the struggle of women politician and activates Pakistan become part of the first fifty countries of the world who has established a

permanent and independent National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) (Pakistan 2003). Moreover, the political history of women in Pakistan or subcontinent were rich, as compared to women in Western countries. Politics empowered women in their social, political, and economic life of women. Furthermore, women politics can make legislative for the rights of women in assemblies, like the introduction of women harassment act, workplace harassment act, women property right act etc., were a struggle of the women politician (Goshi 2013).

Most of the educated, feminist, and working-class women are active in politics in Pakistan. Those women who have less educational background and lack of political backgrounds are a far way for direct political participation. Educated women are more empowered in their life and in terms of the decision-making process, so that is they have a high level of political participation. Those women who are politically active are more likely active in other fields of life. Women who are active in political activities are mostly unmarried and working women. Political participation leads women empowerment in different categories, like domestic empowerment, social empowerment, and economic empowerment. At a larger scale, woman who is politically active have more likely and higher chances to participate in decision making at the community levels and household levels. Moreover, political participation, either direct or indirect gives women awareness regarding their rights and duties where women become a good mother or owner of the house (Kamal 2012., Yousaf 2013).

Many studies have drawn relationship with the political and women's empowerment in regard to some certain selected items. The political participation enhances women domestic decision-making skills and ability, like purchasing of food, family size, the decision about children education and health, marriages of children. Moreover, political participation improved women's decisions regarding financial decisions, where women's have access to work, small and large purchases,

livestock purchase and sales. Furthermore, political participations give women's chances to the household resources like household expenses rights, spending, purchasing clothes and other food items, paying bills and children fees and financial support to their relatives (Yousaf 2013., Baloch 2002., Harris 2010).

Moreover, political participation stretches the women's chances of mobility from one place to another place, like women during political campaign move from one place to another place. Also, it will provide an opportunity to health access mobility, visit their relatives etc., in addition, political participation also enhances women's level of communication, were discussing politics in society, home and on social media, discussing family level issues, participating to resolve community-level issues and matters, also women can discuss with her husband about family planning and birth pane. Finally, women, who are politically active have more educated and self-empowered in decision making for themselves and their society (Anwar and Ahmed 2017., Gohar 2016).

In the year 2011, there were total 38.8 million male voters were registered, and 32.2 million females registered voters were registered in Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa, where the women have around 48% of ratio in politics and vote turnover (Rana, Express Tribune 2011). Vote turnover or women political participation is varying from province to province in Pakistan. However, every province, woman is active in politics either directly or indirectly. When it comes to the Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa women are active in politics after Pakistan's Tehreek Insaaf's Govt and their political campaigns and give value to women at party level and involved them in meetings etc. Similarly, women are indirectly more active in Mardan district which is the second-largest district of the Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa (Mardan 2016). Like other districts, the Mardan is rich for women political participation of women where women are politically aware. Although women in Mardan are socio-economically poor, more dependent on their husband, still they are more actively politically (Chattan 2013).

Many religious parties and religious leaders have stated that women had broken the traditional norms of society to even contest elections and participation in politics. Politically women in Mardan are more active because of the political leader Begum Zari Sarfraz (1923-2008) who was elected member of the national assembly from NA-10 Mardan seat. The credit from Mardan of the first elected women MNA and MPA goes to the Begum Naseem Wali Khan, as a result of the general elections process in the year 1977 and 1988, 1990 and 1997 respectively, she has in the elections (Khan 2016). Moreover, in the year 1985, Zarnoosha Bibi has also contested election from the same constituency.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Women in Mardan have less education, poor socio-economic background and living under the traditional and conservative social structures where women are not allowed to work and get an education. However, now the social structured is change women are participating in public work like participation in politics and other community developmental work. Due to these many religious leaders and conservative religious political parties are discouraging women politics. Despite all these still women are active in politics. To what extend women who are active in politics are empowered in decision making at the household level as well as community level?

1.2. Objective of the Study

The research examines the women's empowerment through political participation in district Mardan, Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa. The main objectives of the study were as follows:

- To examines the level intensity of women's involvement in politics in district Mardan Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.
- To study the level and nature of women's empowerment in district Mardan Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

- To find out the relationship between political participation and women's empowerment in district Mardan Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

1.3. Significance of Study

Every study has its own significance and importance and has a future perspective. For the present study, it has both theoretical and practical importance. Although numerous research studies have been conducted regarding women's politics, the present study is the sociological examination of women empowerment through political participation. The study mainly focused on politics and women empowerment in terms of their political decision makings. This study helps to add the existing literature and help those new researchers who want to conduct research on a similar topic or domain.

Moreover, the study has some practical importance or significances, where this research will create awareness among women in Mardan regarding their political rights and the importance of political participation either direct or indirect. Secondly, the research explored the relationship between women's empowerment and political participation. The findings will be helpful for non-governmental organizations for policy-making purposes.

Chapter No. 2

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

2.1. Background of the Study

Politics was men concerned in the Western civilizations for many decades, where only the feminist's women and working women would take part in politics and political activities. According to the official statistics, women occupied almost half of the total population of the world, but their engagements and activities are apolitical. So that is why women across the world have less ratio in politics and public affairs as compared to males (Bari 2009). Whereas the politics means participation in the political activities either directly (through contest election process) or indirectly, where women can take part in other related activities, such as, her involvement in political rallies, party campaigns, caste vote in elections etc., Only women can understand the real women's issues and requirements, so it needs to be women to come forward in politics and play their active role in the socio-political development of a country (Ishaq 2013). Therefore, political participation gives women opportunity in their life about the decision-making process in terms of household decisions and societal level. Women's empowerment can be measured in respect of following selected items, such as educational empowerment, financial empowerment, social empowerment etc. All these have strongly associated with politics and political activities (Khan 2016., Rudman and Kilianski 2000).

Many research studies have shown that women's empowerment has statistical significance with political participation, like women's mobilities for political activities and her social movement with different social and political purposes. Moreover, women who are active in politics, are more likely to be moved from one village to another for business and other socio-political activities. Women political participation gives chances to women to interact with each other, which enhance their social capital and political level and improve their level of public relations in the public domain. Similarly, the public relation delivers opportunities for women to enlarge their political participation through networking and interacting with other women and men in society. The networking among women provides other women

to hare their issues to the woman politician and she can take the issues to the higher authorities at the state level or discuss at the party level. In past events, across the world, women have participated and organized many social and political movements, which have directly talk about women right, most of them called feminist movement or waves of feminism, where the first women feminist wave was for the political rights (John 2007., AFP 2013). Due to those women's right movement, which has gotten access to the policymaking bodies at the Govt level. Many countries have reserved seats for women in politics due to their less level of participation in political activities (Kamal 2012., Baloch 2000).

Similarly, in Pakistan, women were disaffected from politics and political activities for numerous periods. Since 2000 women in Pakistan were disadvantaged from their political activities. In the year 2002, Gen Mushtarraf has increased women quota from the 5% to 33%, due to women movement, request from women and pressures from human right organization vis-à-vis women political rights. Women's political representation means give them access to the decision-making bodies and police making for women right in politics and other fields where women's representation is less as compared to males.

Many studies Naz (2011), Naz & Chaudhary (2012), Baloch (2000) have shown that there is a statistically positive relationship between women's empowerment and their participation in politics and political activities. On the other hand, women who are more empowered in society are more active in politics. As said, that, political participation also empowers women in society. Both variables (political participation & women's empowerment have a relationship). Women's political participation has two-fold aspects: direct political participation where women participation in contesting direct election process through party ticket or as an independent candidate. However, on the other side, women have indirect political participation, where women can take part in political activities, like involvement in political campaigns both through media or visit different seats, active in party level

meetings, participation in corner meetings, active in political rallies and fundraising process.

On the other hand, women's empowerment means the ability and capacity of women in the political grounds and social strata, where women can do and hold some powers, which can be influenced her decision-making power in the society. Women empowerment can be measure with the help of certain selected items, such as the domestic level decision making, which included the purchasing of foods for family, decision regarding the family size, marriage of their children, where the children's education and employment process. The second is financial empowerment, where women decided regarding the larger level purchase, women's access to work and usage of her own salary. The third aspect is access to household decision-making process where her ability to manage the household daily affairs like buy clothes, independently spend her salary, paying utility bills etc. The fourth aspect is her mobility and communication with her husband. The fifth is her ability to participate in politics. The sixth educational decision making was for herself and for her children educational decisions (Begum 2002., Anwar and Ahmed 2017., Ishaq 2013).

2.2. Political Participation and Women's Empowerment

According to Andersen (1975:448) who has stated that politics and involvement in political activities were men concerned in western societies for many decades, where women were not even permissible to cast her vote. Only a few feminists and working women were active in social and political activities where they were in few. Women who were participating in politics did not have a proper direction and guidance of politics, due to the ignorance of women in politics. Similarly, the period between 1956 to 1960 and between 1968 to 1972, the women have seemed increased in political participation. The year between 1956 and 1972 the average political participation among women increased .22%, that of men by only .07 % respectively. In Western societies, the political participation propensity was

changed from the year 1970 to 1972, respectively. Whereas the political participation ratio among the white color women was around 43% and 8% among the professional and educated women. However, the real democracy and political system always found to equal participation from both men and women in the public domain.

Similarly, Bano (2009:19-20) has argued that from many decades' women can be estranged from politics and political activities by society. There are numerous socio-economic factors, which hindrance women participation in politics. To overcome the existing barriers is to encourage women's political participating in politics and other related social activities. To enhance women participation in politics is through the introduction of gender quotas at national or regional levels, which not only increase the number of women in politics but also improve the overall her social status of women in the society. The quota system is to observe as a significant strategy measure for increasing women's admittance to the decision-making bodies at the state levels. The major purpose of the quota system is to employed women straight into a political position without any contesting of the election process to limit their segregation in politics and public domain. Moreover, the quotas system is applied as an impermanent measure, which somehow minimizes the barriers for women to participate in political activities (Naz 2011., Bari 2009).

Moreover, according to Bari (2005:09), the egalitarianism has truthfully attended men batter than women in every aspect of life. As in the political system from antique Greece to the modern time of the 21st century, both public and private grounds, women were excluded from the citizenship and treat her second-class citizen and deprive her of even basic rights, such as education, right to cast vote, healthcare etc. The well-known political philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, Rousseau, John Lock they all where contemplated women is incompetent for politics and inefficient to manage the public affairs (Bari 2009). However, Khan & Ara (2006: 90) defendable that women management level status is very significant

for altering the male-dominated political program. Political participation enhances women social capital and political capital, which means that women can increase their level of communication with the other women, political leaders, which safeguards their mobility and accessibility to the social hierarchy and public affairs (Bolzendahl and Coffee 2010:319).

Women occupied almost half of the total population of the world. Women empowerment is very important to enhance their social, political, and economic status in the society. Similarly, women play an important role in the decision and policy-making process of any country. In Indian societies, where the strong patriarchal social system, which restrains the inspiration of women in society. Despite all these difficulties and challenges, the Indian government has placed significant resources to enlarge women participation in politics and political activities (Shami 2010).

Moreover, the Indian Govt through its 73rd amendment of the 1992 Act, where the Govt of India has reserved almost 1/3 seats for women in their legislative for women. Moreover, in the year 2009, the Government of India has agreed that 50% of seats which were reserved for women in their Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and several other states, including the Rajasthan, Odessa, and Behar (UN 2012). Indian Govt has unswervingly recruited women in decision making bodies through the direct involvement of women in politics. Similarly, Khan and Ara (2006) argued that the direct elected women memberships and association have created a new avenue to contribute to the decision-making procedure in the only self-governing organizations at the grass root levels.

Across the world, only in current years, women have hardly received attention in providing their political contributions. At the government level, they have no say in political decisions (Kassa 2015). Moreover, in the Ethiopia where the Govt has introduced the development plan detailed for women and children with commitments to increase the women participation in politics, decision making and to reduce violence against women and harassment in the workplace (Kassa 2015).

The ancient Athens practiced democracy, back in the 5th century BC. Sadly, the exclusion of women from politics and decision-making dates to the Athens society, where the Athenian women were not considered as a citizen and the power to vote was only limited to the man.

In 2014, overall, the literacy rate of Pakistan was 58%, where the rate among women was around 60% from the year 2008 to 2012. According to the census of 1950, the women literacy rate was just around 12%, which was declared as the main factor due to which women in the political system. Along with that, the male literacy rate was also very low, which was around 14% as a result man practiced the same old acuties about women abilities, which limited them to their houses. Similarly, in 1960 only 6 seats were reserved for women in assemblies, while today it increased up to 60 seats (Ghafoor, Haider, 2018). It is observed that very rare party tickets have been given to women in the entire political history of Pakistan. The UNDP reported that a total of 15% of worldwide women representation in politics and the majority of countries have hardly 33% seats in their parliament. Which shows that not only in Pakistan, throughout the world women participation in politics is also very less. In Pakistan, 20% of legislative seats are reserved for women (Ghafoor, Haider, 2018). while in 1990, 1993 and 1997, there were no seats allocated for women neither at provincial level nor at the national level (Awan 2018).

Furthermore, among the Asian countries like Nepal, which is at the top of the Asian countries, it is at 48th position on the global ranking, by providing around the 26.6% seats in the National assembly to women. India being a democratic and second-largest terrain having almost 48% of women population offers only 12% representation to its female politicians at the national level. Similarly, Afghanistan, despite being conflicts in the region, gives 22.7% in the lower house and around 26% in the upper house. Sri Lanka remains the lowest ranking in south Asia, only 5.8% women representation at the lower house. Hence, women need more legal podiums and struggle to accomplish more representation and involvement in

politics. Whereas, Pakistan had set a tendency of providing positive and encouraging examples of successful women in politics (Bano 2009). For instance, in the year 1988, the Benazir Buttho, who became first-ever women Prime Minister of the whole Muslim countries. In the Muslim world, MS-Fehmida Miraz was the first speaker of the national assembly, and in the year 2013, more than 100 women arrived the upper and lower house of the national assembly of Pakistan (Awan 2018).

2.3. Political Participation and Women's Empowerment in Pakistan

In the context of Pakistan and political history, since the year 1947 the independent women political participation was very less, which is less than 5% of total seats in national and provincial assemblies. After the year 2000, women's political participation and their involvement in decision-making bodies were maximized to 33% representation in decision making bodies. Moreover, women still in Pakistan were breathing in traditional and bounded under social norms and culture. These outdated and traditional norms do not allow women to participate in politics and involved in public affairs. Women in Pakistan are painstaking as a second-class citizen due to the strong patriarchal social structure. To maximize the women participation in politics and also in the public domain, it is necessary to give them maximum chances to get excellence in education, because education delivers base for the economic, social, political and gender empowerment among women in the society and in the political grounds. Only the educated women can participate in public domain activities and aware of their political, social, and economic rights and knowledge to achieve their rights through collective efforts (Naz, Ibrahim and Ahmad 2012:163).

Similarly, in Pakistan women, political participation and their involvement in public matters were very less. According to Shami (2010:146) till to the Gen Parvaz Musharraf's era, women political participation was identical less and always legged behindhand and it is around 2%, which is less as compared to their overall

population ratio, where women employed almost half of the total population of Pakistan. Similarly, Parvaz Musharraf has augmented the reserved seats for women in the assemblies from 2% to 20% and women now also institute around 33% of representation in the Union, Tehsil and District Councils levels, this seems a positive change in the political system. Additionally, many more women have been sent as diplomats to numerous states. Moreover, the Musharraf has also hosted the campaigners to safeguard and defend the women political participation across the country. He selected few women for advisory purpose and appointed them ministers (Bhutta 2014).

Furthermore, during the Musharraf's era, many women connected bills have been presented and approved which were a milestone for the women's empowerment in the society. These bills included the prevention of the Domestic Violence Bill 2003, the Honor Killing Act, and Women Protection Act (that has significantly reduced the anti-women bias of the Hadood Ordinances have aided to bring to the surface a new strain of women politicians in the history. Their roles in the passage of these Acts have established that there is light at the end of the difficult and hard tunnel. However, the slight illustration of women in policymaking and political activities (Niner, Parashar and George 2012:76).

Additionally, in Pakistan. according to the cense of 2017 women constitute of the total of 48% of the population of Pakistan. In 2014, the general literacy rate of Pakistan was around 58% of both male and females. Where the female literacy rate increases by around 60% from the year 2008 to 2012, respectively. According to the census of the year 1950, the women literacy rate was just around 12%, which was acknowledged as the main factor due to which women in the political system. Along with that male literacy rate was also very low (14%) as a result man experienced the same old perceptions regarding the women abilities, and capacities, which confined them to their houses. Similarly, in 1960 only 6 seats were reserved for women, while in 2018it increased up to 60 (Ghafoor, Haider, 2018). However,

as compared to their population and current literacy rate women political participation is very less. Moreover, in Pakistan, only women who are well educated or who have political family who have influence in politics are active in political grounds.

Similarly, women faced many barriers in their life, and everyday conditions, which never let women take part in politics. The major fences or barriers are the overall socio-economic conditions and traditional norms and social structures. In the year 2008, women political participation in parliamentary politics was just around 17.7% globally, which is significantly very fewer as compared to the population they have had a hold. Similar conditions exist in Pakistan where women are not active in politics. In Pakistan to manage with this challenge the government has introduced the quota system for women in politics, which not only enlarge their political participation but also authorized them in the society. Furthermore, in Pakistan the Devolution of Power Plan (a Local Government Plan) was accepted and permitted in March 2000, keeping 33% seats for women in their legislative councils at the local, tehsil, metropolis, and district level (Gafoor and Haider 2018). In the local council's level, with an increase in the number of councils, about 70,000 women were gaining participation in the self-government system. Additionally, the Ex-President Musharraf in the year 2002 accepted and approved an act, which augmented seats for women both in national and provincial assemblies. He allocated around 60 seats for women, which was supplementary than three times then to previously kept seats, which were only 20 seats for women in past (Ali and Akhtar 2012:98:99).

Furthermore, Pakistan being an Islamic country, it must be their chief objective in its policies, that creates an equivalent chance for both male and females in every aspect of life. But in Pakistan, women are more disadvantaged and unprivileged conditions of their basic rights, like access to education, basic healthcare accessibility, participation in politics, the decision-making process at the household

level and her involvement in social activities. However, in Islam, there is not any reference existed which relegated or negated the influence of women in our society in terms of their empowerment. To flourish the country Pakistan economically, politically, and socially it must be quintessence the full-fledged empowerment of women in our workplace, home, politics, education (Dost, et al. 2011).

2.4. Barriers on the way of Women's Politics and their Empowerment

Women's are facing more crucial problems and issues, as compared to male in society in every aspect of life. Several features either social, political, and economic are influenced women's political activities and their empowerment in society. According to the Ghafoor and Haider, (2018) founded that the domestic level actions and engagements and the social level activities are most affecting factors for women empowerment in politics. As every party have its women wing, which has certain duties and responsibilities, but it is observed that membership of women in political wings is significantly smaller than the male members of the party or women's membership is largely ignored in the political grounds. However, only the educated women are holding strong decision-making power along with the knowledge of the subject who can participate in politics on contrary, the uneducated women stayed underprivileged of their right due to lack of education and awareness regarding the politics and political activities (Ghafoor, Haider, 2018). Similarly, according to the World Bank report 2016, about 70% of women living in the state of poverty worldwide. Many studies have emphasized that poverty as an important factor, which create hurdles for women to be political member and performance political activities and take part in social level activities.

Furthermore, a study conducted by the UN Women (2015), and Aurat Foundation (2012) both have stated that the sexual harassment is an additional big challenge for women participating in political activities at party level. This issue is not yet highlighted and there is no proper mechanism or law which can provide protection to the women working in the political party due to the patriarchal system in Pakistan. In additional at the party level, women's opinion is also negated by the

male higher authorities and party leaders. Similarly, around 75% of participants said women wings have no say in the decision-making process in Pakistan. And their suggestions or opinions are barely encompassed, which are circulated by women wing, whereas around 94% of the participant were agreed that it is important to ensure participation of women from lower to the upper level of the system for significant representation. Researchers have found that there is no mechanism and trend of appraisal and appreciation neither standardize methods to evaluate the actual performance of previous or current work of women politician.

Furthermore, in Pakistan, approximately, 76% of people said that women should first serve their family and look after their responsibilities at home, which hinders the progress of women empowerment and political participation. In the year 2000, under military rule, women quota was raised up to 33% at local government units including union, tehsil, and district level (Awan 2018). Political parties consider women as a passive vote bank and they use women in public gathering and functions as their representatives only. Also, male party members place less trust in women's ability to win elections that is why the percentage of party nomination for general seats is also less. In the year 1956, Pakistan has opted the universal adult suffrage providing the right to vote to all men and women aged ranged 18 or above. From the year 1970's and onward severe gender disparities have been experimental in the national assembly elections held in the 1970s (Cheema.et al. 2019).

Similarly, there are a large number of studies conducted on gender inequality found among women turnout in dissimilar backgrounds around the world. It happened because of the already distinct gender roles, which may discourage women from participating in politics and social activities. Mostly the domain of women is defined as the private and protected place, such as home and men leading the community and political space. The researchers, Cheema.et al. (2019) and Awan (2018) all of them have found that most of the women cannot step out of their homes without seeking their husband's permission even to pick of drop off their children at school and regular checkups at hospitals. In such scenario engaging in

political activities become impossible for women to come forward in the ground and contest election process.

Furthermore, it was also founded that, men have also agreed from the fact that women participation is almost invisible in politics and public offices. Because representatives or politicians have ignored the needs and issues of women that is why women participation is low in voting turnout, political campaigns, and participation in political rallies (Cheema et al, 2019). There is a significant difference between the preferences found among men and women. Similarly, a study showed that in Sub-Saharan Africa women prefer clean drinking water projects while men choose roads and bridges. Similar results found in the Indonesian context and they proposed the gender-based difference are based on the gender-based division of labor in-home and in society, respectively. The study conducted in Lower Dir reveals several explanations for women's lack of participation in political activities. Reasons such as lack of education, purdah system, patriarchal societies, the typical attitude of people towards women (Khan 2018., Shami 2010., Lowndes 2004).

Major Assumptions

On the basis of literature review, following assumptions have been drawn:

- Women political participation enhance women empowerment in the society.
- Women empowerment has also relationship with women's political participation.
- Mostly, educated and working women are active in politics and political activities.
- Women's political participation is less in direct (contesting election process), and indirectly (participate in political rallies, cast votes, campaigns etc.) women are more active politically.
- Women who have higher level of social and political capital are more likely active in politics and political activities.

Chapter No 3

THEORITICALFRAMWORK

The sociological theories are articulated to clarify, envisage, and comprehend any type of social phenomenon, challenge to the present state or the level of knowledge and to expand the standing knowledge within the limits of critical bouncing expectations. The present research utilized the political capital theory. The theoretical framework establishes and describes the theory that explains why the research problem under study exists in the present situation.

3.1. Theory of Political Capital

The concept of Political Capital was given by the Pierre Bourdieu first time in the year 1986 to study the different forms of capitals, such as social capital, political capital, and economic capital of women mostly. The political capital was first time used as a description in the political theory to be conceptualized and operationalized the situation, accumulation of resources to build the power of trust, relationship, influences, goodwill among the politician and with the members in party and as a whole society, where different stakeholders are existed and influence the political scenario.

The political capital is a type of economic capitals or resource or the real currency, which can easily be cash or to mobilize voters, stakeholders, policymakers, writers, think tanks, reformers, for their personal needs and goals. Moreover, the political capital can be used for the determination of accomplishing of the collective goals.

Additionally, the political capital is a standing, reputation, goodwill and credibility and reliability of politicians and political members to form a capital which is consisted of the combination of the policy position and ideological views. The political capital can be obtained through experiences, superiority, and plateful of a senior position. Moreover, the achievement of leadership position through efforts also included in the political capital. The political capital is high among females as compared males, but there is a difference in terms of political experiences and holding of leadership and executive-level positions at the party level. In the political grounds, females are less using their political capital due to social norms and

stricture, where males are using their political capital for personal and collective goals.

Political capital mobilizes the political worker for achieving common goals with the intension of maintaining their political status. Political capital provides the opportunity for people to know about the political rights and duties which are necessary for political development.

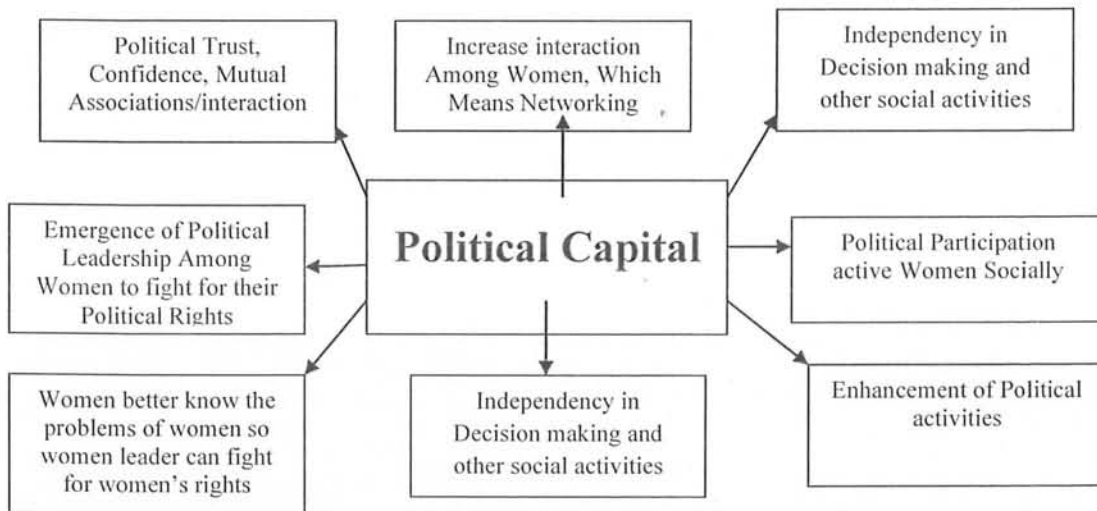
3.2. Application of Political Capital Theory

In examining the political theory, the capital means the relationships and association of people based on the social association. As it was stated that, women have higher social capital as compared to male, but she is not used the political capital due to social structure. Association among women can give them confidence, self-learning, trust, cooperation, aware of the political rights and duties, mutual gain and know about the fight for collective right. Political participation gives women political empowerment in society, which is necessary for women's productivity and political potential.

Women empowerment can enhance women political participation. In the context of the current study, women are living under the old, aged customs and traditional social norms where women are less allowed to participate in politics. In Mardan, those women are very active in politics, who are educated and belonged to the political families. Women who are educated and doing jobs are also active in politics, where most of those women who are socially empowered are politically active. Women's empowerment inspires economic performance and political participation among female. When women participate in politics, then they become politically socialized through interaction and participation in different political events. Political capital offers a strong network among women which create a political institution. They mobilize to develop their political rights and duties.

Political capital bind women together in political institutions, where women can generalize trust, building extended political networks, engaging in community development work, and participating in all kinds of voluntary associations which enhance and strong women political capital and their political performance when they come to contest election process.

Figure. 3.1.1. Theory of Political Capital



3.3. Propositions

Political capital theory stated that women empowerment enhances women political participations and political participation increase the women empowerment. When women's political capital increase, then they can invest their political capital to improve political involvement and strong their political networking. Women empowerment can lead them to empower politically. Women political empowerment means working for other women's social, political, and economic rights and duties.

3.4. Hypothesis

To measure the relationship between women empowerment and political participation among females of Mardan KPK.

3.4.1. Null Hypothesis (H_0)

Women empowerment has no relationship with the political participation among females in Mardan KPK.

3.4.2. Alternative hypothesis (H_1)

Women empowerment has relationship with the political participation among females in Mardan KPK.

Chapter No 4

CONCEPTUALIZATION AND OPERATIONALIZATION

4.1. Conceptualization

Conceptualization is the process of designing the concept or variables with the help of literature. In conceptualization the variables can be define and explain with the proper referencing. In the present study there are two variables: 1) women empowerment and 2) political participation.

4.1.1. Women Empowerment

According to the Rahman (2013:10), the women empowerment is the procedure and making women able to contribute to decision making which affects them their individual and social life. Moreover, Rahman (2013:12) also stated that women empowerment is an actual sense is the sensation of women about pronouncement making and her ability to think on a certain idea or concept. Women come to know and see her that she has the right to take decision and entertainment of her influence in decision making. Empowerment of women has different categories, like their economic empowerment, social empowerment, political empowerment.

Furthermore, Ali and Akhtar (2012:99) stated that women empowerment is a notion and her aptitude to participate in communal developmental program and projects. Similarly, working with the community give women to control her social capital and encouragement and influence other people in society, who are influenced by women. The empowerment of women is not influenced public with force, rather people or male admit the position or status of women and authority and her self-respect in the society.

In addition, women empowerment is devoted to the individual autonomy of women, their participation in public connected signs of progress and development, completely admittance to the economic possessions and resources, say in the political decision makings, respects of their cooperative and shared existence, influenced in the society and use of her social capital for personal or collective causes. Pakistan is being an Islamic society, which has the basic and important or fundamental belief is right to women. Islam gives equal rights to women in society,

equal political rights, social rights, and economic rights. In addition, women have a right in Islam that they can select their life partner with her own choice (Dost et al. 2011:12).

From all the above definitions and concepts, women empowerment is the way and process of women's access to social life, political life, and economic life. Women have the right to participate in every spare of life either personal or social life. All the authors were agreed that freedom of women regarding their decisions called women empowerment.

4.1.2. Political Participation

According to Eremenko (1995:1), the political participation means in any self-governing political system where the public has right to give their view, express their right, their attitude towards political affairs, and absorbed in the Govt work and their activities. Activities which unswervingly or indirectly influence the Govt and their actions. Moreover, political participation is even listening to political news, political discussion either formal or informal, doing politics and participation in the casting of the vote which is the fundamental right of women in the society.

Moreover, Lamprianos (2013:20) originated that, the political participation is the accomplishment of people or citizens who are looking for and to influence or to support the Govt, its policies, and political activities of the party. In addition, political participation is the association between citizens and with their Govt and Govt activities. Furthermore, political participation is referred to any lawful or illegal activities of Govt where inhabitants participate and presented their interest, support in the decision-making procedure, making their legalized demands, debates over ongoing political activities, and other forms of languages interconnected orally or through the media, and other social media tools and techniques. Moreover, political participation is unswervingly mentioned to the casting voting in elections, seeking political information, deliberating the political activities, attendance corners party conferences and meetings, contributing monetarily and financially in their

political party and communicating with the representatives and in the supporting in making of public policies and public affairs (Shapiro and Winters 2008:12).

However, the more prescribed definition of political participation given by the Bergström (1997:23) and stated that the straight and formal way of women's participation in political activities, which included their recognized level of enrollment in a party, campaigning and registering their voters, speech writing and public speaking in public places, working in political campaigns and competing for public and party office.

From all the definitions given by authors, the political participation is the participation of citizens in casting votes, involvement in party gatherings, fund raising process for political activities, discussing politics etc.,

4.2. Operationalization

Operationalization is the procedure where the concepts or variables are explained according to the current existing context of the present research study.

4.2.1. Women Empowerment

In the context of the present research, women empowerment is in the District Mardan where women have right to elect their political representative, participation in political activities which gives them the ability and capacity to influence in the society. Women political empowerment not only empowered women politically, economically, and socially, but empowerment them to complete hold on their own reproductive life and health. Women empowerment in politics is given women the reproductive rights, her self-significance and importance, gives them equal rights to choose her life partner, right to vote in elections, access to the education and spending authority of her salary or income.

Women political empowerment is the ability and capacity of women to work in politics as a responsible citizen. Political empowerment gives women ability and confidence socially and domestic level. In Pakistan to strengths the women

politically the Ex. President Gen R Musharrf increases the number of reserve seats in the national assembly. On the other side, the Benazir led Pakistan's People Party (PPP) government introduced the LHV program for women empowerment in the society. Moreover, the PPP government has passed the bills in nation assembly concerning the empowerment of women, such as protection against the harassment in the workplace, to the prevention of anti-women practices bill 2008 which empowered them in the political grounds and able them to take their own decision at their own end (Zai 2009:228).

In the context of current study women in Mardan where they have political rights social and economic rights. Political empowerment gives women in society as regards.

4.2.2. Political Participation

In the context of district Mardan where women are living in old aged social norms and traditions. Where they do not have political rights. In the present context women, participation in politics is not only contested direct election process but women's participation in other political activities. Political participation has two aspects and exists in everywhere. The first is the direct political participation where a candidate directly involves and contest election process, where the second aspect is political indirect participation where caste vote, involvement in a political campaign, involvement in political rallies, participation in corner meetings and fundraising for political campaigns and political membership in any political party.

In district Mardan political participation is not only narrowed with contesting direct election process but also the other side's their involvement in political camping's, financially support to the party, involved in the decision-making process, take part in party manifesto and its promotions, stand by their party at long marches and relies etc upon. When women participate in all such activities in real term women participation in politics. When women participate in politics in a results women

Chapter 5

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

leader come ahead and encourage and support of women right and fight for them in policies making bodies.

But in Mardan women have very less turn over in eve casting votes. Women in Mardan are stuck in old age traditions and norms which did not give them the ability to participate in politics.

The research methodology is the systematized knowledge and steps which are being followed while conducting any research study in a systematic manner.

5.1. Research Design

In the current research study, the quantitative research approach was selected, and designed a descriptive study in an organized manner. The quantitative approach focused on the methodical collection of data, analysis the arithmetical data, and draw the implication from the data through graphs, percentages, frequencies, and inferential way. The researcher has designated define tools and techniques for the data collection and process.

5.2. Universe of the Study

The important step is the assortment and description of the target population. The current research was conducted in district Mardan which is the second biggest district of Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa. District Mardan is the second largest district and women are consisted of half of the population, but still, they are far away from the politics and political activities. The universe of the study was Mardan district of Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa.

5.3. Target Population

The target population of the study was those women who were allied or afflicted with different political parties in district Mardan. The age ranged was confined to the 18-40 years both educated and uneducated and both married and unmarried.

5.4. Sampling Technique

For the present research, at the first stage researcher has recognized and identified respondents through social referral methods and then at the second stage the simple random sampling technique was selected. Because simple random sampling techniques is easy and appropriate according to the local of the area.

5.5. Sample Size

The total size of sample was limited to the two hundred (200) female respondents. The sample size of 200 was satisfactory for the obligatory the required results about the women empowerment and political participation in Mardan both direct and indirect political involvement.

5.6. Tools for Data Collection

For the research, the structured closed ended questionnaire was used to composed data from the field. The questionnaire was design in English language and translated in the local language as well. The questionnaires were distributed among the respondents and those respondents who does not know about the English or reading researcher has conducted face to face interview through female colleague. The questionnaire was divided into three main sections, 1) socio-demographic information of respondents 2) questions regarding women empowerment and 3) political participation.

5.7. Data collection Techniques

The questionnaires were distributed among respondents because questionaries were self-administered. Those respondents who were not understand the English language were interviewed.

5.8. Tools for data Analysis

For the current research, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used as a data analysis tool. The response was designed in codes and put into the SPSS.

5.9. Data Analysis Techniques

Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used aa a data analysis technique. The descriptive statistics included percentages, frequencies, and graphs. On the other hand, the inferential statistics included chi-square and correlation test through the SPSS.

5.10. Pre-testing

To maintain the validity and reliability total fifteen respondents were taken for pre-testing of research tool. Respondents were taken from the same district Mardan who were affiliated with any political party and known to the researcher.

5.11. Opportunities and Limitation of the Study

Every research study has some limitations and opportunities, for the present research has also opportunities and limitations. During the data collection process, the researcher faced numerous and variety difficulties regarding their demographic and personal information like income, marital status etc. The researcher has gain respondents trust and confidence during field work. The data were collected from those respondents who were freely participated in research through their own personal consent. The researcher has assured them regarding the confidentiality of their data and only use the data for academic purposes.

The study was focused on women politics, so that is why all the respondents were females they were not feel comfortable with a researcher for the exploring their view regarding the political participation, so that is why the researcher accompanied a female during data collection from those villages where females were not known to the researcher.

Through this research the researcher come crossed about the situation of women politics in Mardan. Through the research the researcher got the practical field experience and ways of filed work.

5.12. Ethical Concern

Every research has some ethical concerns and social science has its own ethics and it is dared necessary for the researcher to follow them during research. For the present research, because all the respondents were females so that is why the researcher has taken the permission letter from the university and accompanied a female from family during data collection. Because the social structure of Mardan is

conservative where males are not allowed to talk females. The data were collected in a friendly manner from respondents so that they will not undergoes any kind of pressure and which influence on the results.

Secondly, the confidentiality of the respondent's data is very important where the researcher has assured the respondents about the confidence of their data. The data was only used for academic purposes.

Chapter No 6

RESULTS

The chapter deals with the results (both descriptive and inferential) where the tables were used to explain the results or findings.

Part-1: Descriptive Statistics

Table No. 1. Age of Respondents

Category	Frequency	Percentage
18-23	43	21.5
24-29	77	38.5
30-35	41	20.5
Above 35	39	19.5
Total	200	100.0

The table No. 1 showed the age of respondents, where 21.5% of respondents were between the age of 18-23 years, 38.5% of respondents were between 24-29 years, 20.5% of respondents were between 30-35 years and 19.5% of respondents were above 35 years. The conclusion of the table showed that, majority of respondents were between the age of 24 to 29 years old.

Table No. 2. Education of Respondents

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	40	20.0
Under-Matric	43	21.5
Intermediate	51	25.5
Graduation	52	26.0
Master	9	4.5
Above master	5	2.5
Total	200	100.0

The table No. 2 showed the education level of respondents, where 20% of respondents were illiterate, 21.5% of respondents were under-matric, 25.5% of respondents were intermediate, 26% of respondents were graduates, 4.5% of respondents were maters and 2.5% of respondents possessed above master level of education. The conclusion of the table showed that majority of respondents were graduate and intermediate.

Table No. 3. Marital Status of Respondents

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Married	146	73.0
Un-Married	31	15.5
Divorce	6	3.0
Any other	17	8.5
Total	200	100.0

The table No. 3 showed the marital status of respondents, where 73% of respondents were married, 15.5% of respondents were unmarried, 3% of respondents were divorce, and 8.5% of respondents were belonged to any other category.

Table No. 4. Occupation of Respondents

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Housewife/unemployed	100	50.0
Govt Job	43	21.5
Private Job	14	7.0
Students	43	21.5
Total	200	100.0

The table No. 4 showed the occupation of respondents, where 50% of respondents were housewife, 21.5% of respondents were Govt job, 7% of respondents were

doing private jobs and 21.5% of respondents were still studying at different categories. The conclusion of the table showed that majority of women were household/unemployed.

Table No. 5. Family Type

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Joint	112	56.0
Neutral	31	15.5
Extended	57	28.5
Total	200	100.0

The table No. 5 showed the family type of respondents, where 56% of respondents were living in joint family system, 15.5% of respondents were living in Neutral family system and 28.5% of respondents were living in extended family system. The conclusion of the table showed that, majority of respondents were living in joint family system.

Table No. 6. Family Monthly Income

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 20k	11	5.5
20-40k	24	12.0
41-60k	89	44.5
Above 60k	76	38.0
Total	200	100.0

The table No. 6 showed the family income of respondents where 5.5% of respondents, 12% of respondents have monthly salary 20-40k, 44.5% of respondents have 41-60k and 38% of respondents have above 60k monthly income.

Table No. 7. Women's Political Association Important

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	86	43.0
Strongly Agreed	77	38.5
Neutral	17	8.5
Disagreed	11	5.5
Strongly Disagreed	9	4.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 7 showed that, women perception regarding the women's political association is important, where 43% of respondents were agreed, 38.5% were strongly agreed, 8.5% of respondents were neutral, 5.5% of respondents were disagreed, 4.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, women's political association is important.

Table No. 8. Women should take part in Political Campaigns.

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	91	45.5
Strongly Agreed	41	20.5
Neutral	31	15.5
Disagreed	21	10.5
Strongly Disagreed	16	8.0
Total	200	100.0

The No. 8 showed that, women perception regarding the Women should take part in political campaigns, where 45.5% of respondents were agreed, 20.5% were strongly agreed, 15.5% of respondents were neutral, 10.5% of respondents were disagreed, 8% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated

that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, Women should take part in political campaigns.

Table No. 9. Women should Participate in Rallies.

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	93	46.5
Strongly Agreed	52	26.0
Neutral	19	9.5
Disagreed	23	11.5
Strongly Disagreed	13	6.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 9 showed that, women perception regarding the Women should participate in rallies, where 46.5% of respondents were agreed, 26% were strongly agreed, 9.5% of respondents were neutral, 11.5% of respondents were disagreed, 6.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, Women should participate in rallies.

Table No. 10. Women have Right to Cast Vote

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	60	30.0
Strongly Agreed	125	62.5
Neutral	7	3.5
Disagreed	3	1.5
Strongly Disagreed	5	2.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 10 showed that, women perception regarding the Women have right to cast vote, where 30% of respondents were agreed, 62.5% were strongly agreed, 3.5% of

respondents were neutral, 1.5% of respondents were disagreed, 2.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, women have right to cast vote.

Table No. 11. Presence of Women Necessary in Party Meetings

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	60	30.0
Strongly Agreed	55	27.5
Neutral	43	21.5
Disagreed	19	9.5
Strongly Disagreed	23	11.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 11 showed that, women perception regarding the Presence of women is necessary in party meetings, where 30% of respondents were agreed, 27.5% were strongly agreed, 21.5% of respondents were neutral, 9.5% of respondents were disagreed, 11.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, presence of women is necessary in party meetings.

Table No. 12. Networking Among Women Enlarged Political Participation

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	70	35.0
Strongly Agreed	60	30.0
Neutral	32	16.0
Disagreed	17	8.5
Strongly Disagreed	21	10.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 12 showed that, women perception regarding the Networking among women maximize their political participation, where 35% of respondents were agreed, 30% were strongly agreed, 16% of respondents were neutral, 8.5% of respondents were disagreed, 10.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, networking among women maximize their political participation.

Table No. 13. Nomination Encourages Participation in Politics

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	97	48.5
Strongly Agreed	70	35.0
Neutral	13	6.5
Disagreed	9	4.5
Strongly Disagreed	11	5.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 13 showed that, women perception regarding the Nomination encourages the women participation in politics, where 48.5% of respondents were agreed, 35% were strongly agreed, 6.5% of respondents were neutral, 4.5% of respondents were disagreed, 5.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, nomination encourages the women participation in politics.

Table No. 14. Women should be Accessed to Party Level Information

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	75	37.5
Strongly Agreed	57	28.5
Neutral	37	18.5
Disagreed	17	8.5
Strongly Disagreed	14	7.0
Total	200	100.0

The No. 14 showed that, women perception regarding the Women should be accessed to party level information, where 37.5% of respondents were agreed, 28.5% were strongly agreed, 18.5% of respondents were neutral, 8.5% of respondents were disagreed, 7% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, women should be accessed to party level information.

Table No. 15. You are Planning to Contest Elections

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	21	10.5
Strongly Agreed	19	9.5
Neutral	79	39.5
Disagreed	42	21.0
Strongly Disagreed	39	19.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 15 showed that, women perception regarding the You are planning to contest elections, where 10.5% of respondents were agreed, 9.5% were strongly agreed, 39.5% of respondents were neutral, 21% of respondents were disagreed,

19.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you are planning to contest elections.

Table No. 16. You have Casted the Vote on Your Own Choice

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	60	30.0
Strongly Agreed	53	26.5
Neutral	47	23.5
Disagreed	21	10.5
Strongly Disagreed	19	9.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 16 showed that, women perception regarding the You have casted the vote on your own choice, where 30% of respondents were agreed, 26.5% were strongly agreed, 23.5% of respondents were neutral, 10.5% of respondents were disagreed, 9.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you have casted the vote on your own choice.

Table No. 17. Women do more Struggle for Political Rights than Men.

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	87	43.5
Strongly Agreed	71	35.5
Neutral	14	7.0
Disagreed	11	5.5
Strongly Disagreed	17	8.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 17 showed that, women perception regarding the women does more struggle for political rights than men, where 43.5% of respondents were agreed, 35.5% were strongly agreed, 7% of respondents were neutral, 5.5% of respondents were disagreed, 8.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, women do more struggle for political rights than men.

Table No. 18. Your Opinion is Worth in Party

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	43	21.5
Strongly Agreed	40	20.0
Neutral	51	25.5
Disagreed	39	19.5
Strongly Disagreed	27	13.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 18 showed that, women perception regarding the Your opinion is worth in party meetings, where 21.5% of respondents were agreed, 20% were strongly agreed, 25.5% of respondents were neutral, 19.5% of respondents were disagreed, 13.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, your opinion is worth in party meetings.

Table No. 19. Your Participating in Political Rallies

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	41	20.5
Strongly Agreed	35	17.5
Neutral	41	20.5
Disagreed	36	18.0
Strongly Disagreed	47	23.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 19 showed that, women perception regarding the You're participating in political rallies, where 20.5% of respondents were agreed, 17.5% were strongly agreed, 20.5% of respondents were neutral, 18% of respondents were disagreed, 23.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you're participating in political rallies.

Table No. 20. You have Access to Modern Education

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	51	25.5
Strongly Agreed	59	29.5
Neutral	19	9.5
Disagreed	40	20.0
Strongly Disagreed	31	15.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 20 showed that, women perception regarding the You have access to modern education, where 25.5% of respondents were agreed, 29.5% were strongly agreed, 9.5% of respondents were neutral, 20% of respondents were disagreed, 15.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table

stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you have access to modern education.

Table No. 21. You are Free in Family Decision Making

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	71	35.5
Strongly Agreed	58	29.0
Neutral	31	15.5
Disagreed	17	8.5
Strongly Disagreed	23	11.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 21 showed that, women perception regarding the You are free in family decision making, where 35.5% of respondents were agreed, 29% were strongly agreed, 15.5% of respondents were neutral, 8.5% of respondents were disagreed, 11.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you are free in family decision making.

Table No. 22. You are More Dependent on Husband

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	40	20.0
Strongly Agreed	38	19.0
Neutral	27	13.5
Disagreed	48	24.0
Strongly Disagreed	47	23.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 22 showed that, women perception regarding the You are more dependent on husband, where 20% of respondents were agreed, 19% were strongly agreed,

13.5% of respondents were neutral, 24% of respondents were disagreed, 23.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you are more dependent on husband.

Table No. 23. You have Access to Health Facilities

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	57	28.5
Strongly Agreed	77	38.5
Neutral	13	6.5
Disagreed	25	12.5
Strongly Disagreed	28	14.0
Total	200	100.0

The No. 23 showed that, women perception regarding the you have access to health facilities, where 28.5% of respondents were agreed, 38.5% were strongly agreed, 6.5% of respondents were neutral, 12.5% of respondents were disagreed, 14% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you have access to health facilities.

Table No. 24. Right to Spend your Salary

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	52	26.0
Strongly Agreed	56	28.0
Neutral	14	7.0
Disagreed	40	20.0
Strongly Disagreed	38	19.0
Total	200	100.0

The No. 24 showed that, women perception regarding the You have right to spend your salary with your own choice, where 26% of respondents were agreed, 28% were strongly agreed, 7% of respondents were neutral, 20% of respondents were disagreed, 19% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you have right to spend your salary with your own choice.

Table No. 25. You have Property Right in Family

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	39	19.5
Strongly Agreed	50	25.0
Neutral	21	10.5
Disagreed	44	22.0
Strongly Disagreed	46	23.0
Total	200	100.0

The No. 25 showed that, women perception regarding the You have property right in family, where 19.5% of respondents were agreed, 25% were strongly agreed, 10.5% of respondents were neutral, 22% of respondents were disagreed, 23% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were disagreed or strongly disagreed that, you have property right in family.

Table No. 26. You have Family Planning Rights

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	45	22.5
Strongly Agreed	47	23.5
Neutral	32	16.0
Disagreed	37	18.5
Strongly Disagreed	39	19.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 26 showed that, women perception regarding the You have property right in family, where 22.5% of respondents were agreed, 23.5% were strongly agreed, 16% of respondents were neutral, 18.5% of respondents were disagreed, 19.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, you have property right in family.

Table No. 27. Politics is the Best Carrier for You

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	66	33.0
Strongly Agreed	65	32.5
Neutral	19	9.5
Disagreed	27	13.5
Strongly Disagreed	23	11.5
Total	200	100.0

The No. 27 showed that, women perception regarding the Politics is the best carrier opportunity for you, where 33 % of respondents were agreed, 32.5% were strongly agreed, 9.5% of respondents were neutral, 13.5% of respondents were disagreed, 11.5% were strongly disagreed about the statement. The conclusion of the table

stated that majority of respondents were agreed or strongly agreed that, politics is the best carrier opportunity for you.

Part. 2: Inferential Statistics

Table No. 28. Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Women Empowerment	2.6667	1.34464	200
Political Participation	2.2233	1.11679	200

The table No. 28 showed the descriptive statistics of women empowerment and political participation. Women empowerment included ten questions where the mean was taken and where in a political participation also included ten questions. The summary was based on the mean score of variables.

Table No. 29. Correlations Between Political Participation and Women Empowerment

		Political Participation	Women Empowerment
Political Participation	Pearson Correlation	1	.971**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	200	200
Women Empowerment	Pearson Correlation	.971**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	200	200

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table No. 29 showed the correlation between political participation and women empowerment. The Confidence Interval was set as the 95% and Margin of Error was 5%. Value below the 0.05% would be statistically significance. So, there is a correlation/association between political participation and women empowerment in district Mardan, KPK.

Chapter No. 7

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. Discussion

Women empowerment is a process, where women have access to education, healthcare, political participation, property rights, and empowerment in decision making power in household level and societal level. Many studies have shown that women who are educated, feminist and working are more likely to participate in politics and political activities both directly, where women contest election process and indirectly where women participate in political campaigns, rallies, fundraising for party politics, casting vote in their own choice.

The current study was conducted in the Mardan KPK, where women are now participating in politics, both directly and indirectly. In the year 2011 there were a total of 38.8 million male voters were registered, and 32.2 million females registered voters were registered. in Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa, the women have 48% of ratio in politics (Rana, Express Tribune 2011). Similarly, in the present study, almost 92% of women have stated that they have cast vote in their own choice, and 81.5% of respondents that is women have stated that women's association is very important in politics and their involvement is very important for women's empowerment. Moreover, women in Mardan have cast vote on their own choice, where the majority of 56.5% of women have cast vote on their own choice, which means that women in Mardan were now empowered politically, socially, and economically. Now traditional ways of life are changing into modern ways of life.

Women's political participation is increasing day by day and the vote turnover or women political participation is varying from province to province in Pakistan. However, every provinces woman is active in politics either directly or indirectly. When it comes to Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa, women are active in politics after Pakistan's Tehreek Insaaf's Govt and their political campaigns and give value to women. Similarly, women are indirectly more active in Mardan district which is the second-largest district of Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa (Mardan 2016). Like other districts, Mardan is rich for women political participation. Although women in

Mardan are socio-economically poor, more dependent on their husband, still they are more actively politically (Chattan 2013). Women's in Mardan are also politically active were 72.5% of women want to participate in political rallies, and 92% of women were stated that women have the right to cast vote.

Many religious parties and leaders have stated that women had broken the traditional norms of society to even contest elections and participation in politics. Politically women in Mardan are more active because of the political leader Begum Zari Sarfraz (1923 to 2008) who elected member of the national assembly from NA-10 Mardan seat. The credit from Mardan of the first elected women MNA and MPA goes to Begum Naseem Wali Khan as a result of the general elections process in the year 1977 and 1988, 1990 and 1997 respectively (Khan 2016). Moreover, in the year 1985, Zarnoosha Bibi has also contested election from the same constituency.

Similarly, women in Mardan were active in political activities, where 75% of women stated women's need more struggle as compared to male, where women have to make networks to strengthen their position, where 65% of women have stated that networking is important, and which maximized women political participation where 75% of respondents have stated that nomination increase women political involvement. Women in Mardan not only politically empowered, however, but women in Mardan also are now motivated towards education, where 55% of women have no access to education, and 65% of women now participated in the household decision making process, 67% of women have access to healthcare, 46% of women have now family planning rights and finally around 60% women have stated that politics might be the best career opportunity for them to empower themselves in the society.

7.2. Conclusion

women were alienated from politics in Pakistan since long, where women were confined in the house and their engagements were apolitical. After 2000, Gen

Musharraf has maximized the women participating in introduced reserve seats for women in national, provincial, and local Govt level. Before 2000 women direct political participation was less than 5%, however, Musharraf has increase seats in local Govt from 5% to 33%, now women are enjoying 33% representation in politics. Moreover, the Election Commission of Pakistan has also made laws were in political if women's participation is less than 10% the election of that constituency will vanish the whole election process. In Maradan 2013 general election 49% of total women were cast vote. Where many women were a member of the Mardan district. Women in Mardan were now politically empowered and were involved in both direct and indirect politics.

7.3. Recommendations

On the basis of finding and results, following recommendation have been endorsed:

- Women need support at party level as well as from her family level.
- Reserve seat will be increase up to 40% for women in local, provincial, and national level which enhance their empowerment in the society.
- Women political participation and women empowerment has positive correlation.
- Political participation empowers women to take part in social, and economic activities and women for the betterment of other deprived women.
- Education, healthcare, and property rights empowered women, so the society must encourage women's education, healthcare, and property rights.

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ANNEXURE

Structured Closed Ended Questionnaires

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT MARDAN, KHAYBAR PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN

By

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The research study is being carried out for the partial fulfillment of degree in Sociology from the Department of Sociology Quaid-I Azam University, Islamabad. The titled “women empowerment through political participation in Mardan district Khaybar Pakhtunkhwa”. All the information which you will provide us be kept in close confidence and only use for academic purposes. May you participate in interview?		
Instruction: Please Tick in the box		
Part-1: The Socio-Demographic Profile of Respondents		
S. No	Categories	Responses
1	Age	1. 18 to 23 2. 24 to 29 3. 30-35 4. Above 35
2	Education	1. Illiterate 2. Under Matric 3 Intermediate 4. Graduation 5. Master 6 Above Master
3	Marital Status	1. Married 2. Unmarried 3. Divorce 4. Any other
4	Occupation	1. Housewife/housewife 2. Govt Job 3. Private Job 4. Student
5	Family type	1. Joint family 2. Neutral family 3.

		Extended family		
6	Family Monthly Income	1. Less than 20k 60k 5. Above 60k	2. 20k-40k	3. 41k-

Part-2: Political Participation						
1. Agreed 2. Strongly agreed 3. Neutral 4. Disagreed 5. Strongly disagreed						
S. No	Categories	1	2	3	4	5
7	Women's political association is important					
8	Women should take part in political campaigns					
9	Women should participate in rallies					
10	Women have right to cast vote					
11	Presence of women is necessary in party meetings					
12	Networking among women maximize their political participation					
13	Nomination encourages the women participation in					

	politics					
14	Women should be accessed to party level information					
15	You are planning to contest elections					

Part-3: Women's Empowerment						
1. Agreed 2. Strongly agreed 3. Neutral 4. Disagreed 5. Strongly disagreed						
S. No	Categories	1	2	3	4	5
16	You have casted the vote on your own choice					
17	Women do more struggle for political rights than men					
18	Your opinion is worth in party meetings					
19	Your participating in political rallies					
20	You have access to modern education					
21	You are free in family decision making					
22	You are more dependent on husband					
23	You have access to health facilities					
24	You have right to spend your salary with your own choice					
25	You have property right in family					
26	You have family planning rights					
27	Politics is the best carrier opportunity for you					