

**ECONOMIC IMPEDIMENTS TO WOMEN POLITICAL STATUS IN DISTRICT
DIR LOWER KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN**

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Abstract

The major objective of the present study was to find out economic impediments to women political status in District Dir Lower Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Pakistan. A sample size of 186 (Political office bearers) of different political organization was randomly selected from total population 714 from three selected Tehsils including, Adenzai, Samarbagh & Timergara. The data was analyzed through frequency and percentage distribution. Moreover, dependent variable was indexed and cross tabulated with independent variable. Chi-square test statistics was applied to ascertain the relationship between dependent and independent variable respectively. The study explored that, a highly significant ($P=0.000$) association existed between control over family resources by a male has negatively affected women status ($P=0.000$), women are mostly dependent on male in economic domain ($P=0.000$), bread owner's duty is assigned to male members of a society ($P=0.000$), women are asked to do household chores which is often overlooked to be payable ($P=0.000$), poverty impedes women from political participation ($P=0.000$) lack of economic sources by female are one of the reason of their indictment ($P=0.000$), women can't campaign without men's well in economic and social terms ($P=0.000$) and women wage work is to be encouraged by men in Pukhtun society ($P=0.000$) with women political status. The study concluded that male were enjoying a complete hegemony right from household management to political participation, and the study also extended some of the recommendations.

Keywords: Economic Impediments, Women Political Status, Pukhtun Society

INTRODUCTION

Empowerment is actually related to the word “power” which means agreement to act for some precise purpose (Rappaport, 1987). It is envisioned with conservative, ethnocentric, and socialists approach, described by each with the sign of addressing minorities’ troubles, community a whole. Social unit and equal opportunity on the basis of social responsibilities in order to provide this law prevailed citizens (Solomon, 1976; Gutierrez & Ortega, 1991; Berger & Neuhaus, 1977; Boyte, 1984 and Rappaport, 1981, 1985, 1987). Apart from the above, Rappaport (1984) has noted that, empowerment impossibly does not employ meaning in definition of action with chance, rather it’s a multi dimensional phenomena, emphasizes on recruitment of people within country and organization.

Furthermore, women’s empowerment is a phenomenon related with several sticky points such as “voice, resources & rights. It comprises power, perceptions, resources and relationships based on access to sources, resources, and achievements. Empowerment of women is usually tasked up with economic supremacy and access to resources both inside and outside domestic pertaining to and independence of expression (World Bank, 2001; Chen, 1992; Kabeer, 1996; Mason & Smith, 2003; Sen, 1997 and Norris & Inglehart, 2003). As women’s involvement in the political process of development is of vital importance of both equity and development (Islam & Islam, 2012). Thus speaking about the challenging (Naz, et al., 2012); the status quo (Hust and Phillips, 2002) in return to the whole development of the society through women empowerment (Mahmood, 2004).

All over the globe, employment and political activities are referred and linked to sex and gender where men are responsible and are assigned the superior positions while women are not supposed to have the same. In response to this scenario women are not ready to take part in country’s politics. They are even not aware about the political parties and the political system of the country (UNDP, 2005). Women’s political empowerment means the autonomy of women to cast vote according to their choice, political participation, contesting election, political expression and demonstration, authority, power politics, decision making and implementation regarding their actions. In order to have a workable democratic polity, the importance of women’s political participation and their empowerment has been increasingly realized throughout the globe (Naz et al., 2012).

Furthermore, due to the prevalence of restrictive economic environment, social and cultural values women are tend to assign inferior position in Pakhtun society specifically excluded from politics (Naz, et al., 2012). Society will be always in frightful situation if women representation is not adequate in a particular social system (Naz & Ahmad, 2012).The prevalence of women participation in various spheres of life leads to development & prosperity of any nation and there is no country exists in today's world which enlightened only by the virtue of men socially, economically and politically (Haq, 2000).

ECONOMIC INSTITUTION HURDLES

Aderinwale (1997) and Eisenstein (1984) were highlighted that, in Pakistani society economic dependency of women further leads outcomes within the domain of decision making phenomenon both at family and community level respectively. Female as a result has been seen to be economically dependent on men and can't enjoyed a free access to ownership over the resources which often hamper their political involvement.

Finance is a crucial issue that females encounter in politics as they are dependent to men. Since a vast majority of the women is financially dependent to their males, they cannot contest elections without the consent of their families. Majority of the voters in Lahore said that women need financial support of family i.e. father, husband or brothers to contest elections. Women can contribute in politics to a great extent but the basic hurdle in their way is dependency on males. When they are financially independent, they can assert themselves as decision makers (Latif et al., 2015).

Furthermore, Nabaneh, (2010) was of the view that poverty is deeply rooted in the context of research area which obstructed women from political representation and participation as well due to highly expenses comes on the politics paradigm. Moreover, Ansari, (2012) articulated that lack of economics resources along with supporting skills regarding politics have greatly obstruct women from politics. Similarly, Bano , (2010) highlighted that, women are consider the cheapest labour and their wages and rewards are less as compare to men in every walk of life. In addition with, Kalam (2013) was of the views that, in today world women cannot afford the expenses of political domain. Apart from this, Shvedova, (2005) highlighted that the political parties do not support women in political

activities in terms of transportation and public congregation expenses arranged by themselves.

Similarly, Bano , (2010) was of the view that, for national bureau of statistics of Pakistan women economics are not counted because in Pakistani society women economic emancipation is concerned as a threat to male ego. In addition, ideologically the duty which is assigned by the culture of Pakistani society is homemaker and when women want to participate in occupation on the basis of disparity in wages and get insight into inferior position. Women lack ownership of productive resources. Despite women's legal rights to own and inherit property from their families, there are very few women who have access and control over these resources. A micro level survey of 1,000 rural households conducted in 1995 in Punjab found that only 36 women owned land in their own name, while only 9 of them had control over it (MWD (Ministry of Women Development, 1995).

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN PAKHTOON SOCIETY

Pukhtoon as a tribe and race is governed by unwritten codes of honor entitled "Pukhtoonwali" (Alam, 2012). It is a complete code of ethics, ensured with male superiority and having little room for women to creep in politics and other decision making phenomena. Freedom of expression and political role as leader and voter is often derived to be being subordinate to male. The fate has further been eroded due to the prevalence of wide spread illiteracy, ignorance and poverty (Bose & Rosi, 1983; Ansari, 2012; Amna, 2010; Haussman, 2008 and Asad et al., 2017). The female participation in 2013 general election the women ratio was considered as nil (0.06 percent). In addition, the fundamental rationale of low number of women participation in voting was male centrist esteem, misinterpretation of religion and societal standards. The statistics shows different areas of Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa election ratio on area wise i.e. Kohistan division (0%) ,District Bunir (0.07%) , Upper Dir (0 percent) and in lower Dir the ratio was (0.06%) female participation in voting (Pattan, 2013). Keeping in view the bleak social ranking of women to socio-political arena, this study is designed to revisit the phenomena of women participation in politics by pinpointing the major economic impediments.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in District Dir Lower Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Pakistan. District Dir lower contained on seven Tehsil’s. Proportional allocation of three tehsils were randomly selected namely “Timergara, Samarbagh and Adenzai” out of seven Tehsils. The data was conducted from the political office bearer. The total population of the respondents of three Teshils was 714 with 186 sample size was selected as per Sekeran universal table of sample size.

Table No.1. Table sharing total population and relative sample size

S. No	Name of the Tehsil (UCs)	Population Size (N)	Sample Size (n)
1	Tehsil Adenzai	294	77
2	Tehsil Samarbagh	210	55
3	Tehsil Timergara	210	55
	GRAND TOTAL	714	187

Sources: Field survey, 2018

A conceptual frame work was devised as shown in table 2 and questions were asked accordingly from respondents devised through three Likert Scale. The dependent variable (women political status) was cross tabulated and indexed with independent variable (economic impediments) to measure the association. Furthermore Chi-Square test statistics was used for bi-variate analysis which is follows.

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(O_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

Σ = Total of “ith” row J=1

$\Sigma_{j=1}$ Total of “jth” column

Independent variable	Dependent variable
Economic impediments	Women political status

*Table 2 Conceptual Framework

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution of goods and services are egalitarian basis between both genders of a society has been a long desire; but a debatable issue for the policymakers of development since long. Division of labor on gender basis with all achievements to self esteem and respect for each other gender are key to success in this regards. Table No 3 showed perception of the respondents regarding economic impediment to women political status. Pukhtoon as both tribe and race governed by unwritten codes of honor entitled “Pukhtoonwali” (Alam, 2012). It is a complete code of ethics, ensured with male dominance and superiority and having little room for women to creep in politics and other decision making phenomena either at household or communal level. Freedom of expression and political role as leader and voter is often derived out of made as male. Women’s fate is further eroded due to the prevalence of wide spread economic dependency, illiteracy, ignorance and poverty (Ansari, 2012 ; Amna, 2010; and Asad et al., 2017).

In the research area majority of the respondents 120 (64.5%) stated that control over family resources by a male has negatively affected women status. While 50 (26.9%) respondents opined that it does not matter whom control the family and 16 (8.6%) were unaware about the above statement. Furthermore, 70 (37.6%) out of total 186 (100%) respondents articulated that women are mostly dependent on male in economic domain. Whereas 99 (53.2%) respondents followed negatively and 17 (9.1%) had no idea about it. Likewise, majority 147 (79.0%) respondents viewed that bread owners duty is assigned to male members. While having frequency 39(21.0%) respondents reported that it are not only permissible to male members rather female as well women earning in any shape in disregarded in pakhtoon culture. Doing job outside have any office or organization is often dealt with negative social sanctions. Similarly, 89 (47.8%) respondents were agreed that women are asked to do household chores, which is often overlooked to be payable. Whereas 86 (46.2%) respondents had opposite views to the statement while 11(5.2%) respondents had no idea about the said statement.

Moreover, majority 104 (55.9%) of respondents were agreed that poverty impede female in political activities. Whereas 76 (40.9%) respondents had opposite response to the statement and 6 (3.2%) had no idea about the fore mentioned. Pakistan come under the jurisdiction of poor nations and poverty is the major reality of social and economic life for

people from all sphere of social life activities particularly politics which s highly resources based activities, having little consideration for morality, pity and character though ought to be in existence. Similarly, 155(83.3%) respondents negated the statement that a women vulnerable system is often in display on they are denied access to property rights share in inheritance and other economic affairs like running and meaning the household affairs. A woman is highly dependent on male members in rendering expenses ranging from wealth, to every aspect of human management. Furthermore, 143(76.9%) respondents in the research area stated that lack of economic sources by female are one of the reason of their indictment from politics. While 38 (21.0%) respondents opposed it and 5(2.7%) respondents were unaware regarding the former statement.

Similarly, 139 (74.7%) respondents were agreed that, women cannot campaign without the dependence on men in economic and social terms. Whereas having 39(21.0%) respondents disagreed with it and 8 (4.3%) had no idea about said statement. Education is a gamble, where resources are put to utilization for a better end results. Women as having secondary status, with grim chances to contest. Moreover, male dominance and control over resources are also reducing their chances to participate in politics and compel with men. Shvedha (2005) highlighted that, the political parties do not support women in political activities in terms of transportation and public congregation expenses arranged by themselves.

In addition, majority 132 (71.0%) respondents opposed the statement that, women wage work is to be encouraged by men in pukhtun society. Whereas 46(46.7%) respondents expressed yes and 8 (4.3%) had no idea regarding the above statement. For national bureau of statistics of Pakistan women economics are not counted because in Pakistani society women economic emancipation is concerned as a threat to male ego (Bano, 2010).

Table- 3. Frequencies distribution and percentage of the respondents regarding their perception of Economic impediments

S #	Statements	Yes	No	Uncertain	Total
1	Control over family resources by a male has negatively affected women status.	120(64.5)	50(26.9)	16(8.6)	186(100.0)
2	Women are the most dependent on male in economic domain.	70(37.6)	99(53.2)	17(9.1)	186(100.0)
3	Bread owner's duty is assigned to male members of a society.	147(79.0)	39(21.0)	0 (0.0)	186(100.0)
4	Women are asked to do household chores, which is often overlooked to be payable.	89(47.8)	86(46.2)	11(5.2)	186(100.0)
5	Poverty impede female from political participation.	104(55.9)	76(40.9)	6(3.2)	186(100.0)
6	Politics is not an expensive activity.	0 (0.0)	155(83.3)	31(16.7)	186(100.0)
7	Lake of economic sources by female are one of the reasons of their indictment.	143(76.9)	38(21.0)	5(2.7)	186(100.0)
8	Women cannot campaign either done dependence on men in economic and social terms.	139(74.7)	39(21.0)	8(4.3)	186(100.0)
9	Women wage work is to be encouraged by men in pukhtun society.	46(46.7)	132(71.0)	8(4,3)	186(100.0)
	Note : Number in table represent frequencies and number in parenthesis represent percentage proportion of the respondent.				

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Table- 4. Association between Economic Impediments and Women Political Status

Table No. (4) disclosed a highly significant ($P=0.000$) association between control over family resources by a male has negatively affected women status with women political status. It also be induced from these findings that, women though constitute half of the population, however, their reins are controlled by men. Their indictment has added miseries to their plight of participation in the development process due to a rigid social system. Naz (2011) and Khan (2011) were concluded that the social system is highly rigid for women empowerment, a female as it could thwart the prevailing social order with special reference to family related affairs. Furthermore, a strong association ($P=0.000$) was in existence between women are the most dependent on male in economic domain and women political status. It is apparent from these findings that gender based dynamics are highlighted in male is favor. Women are kept in denial with reference basic ambitious of life. Male has delegated the whole power in themselves, to decide over the fates of women. It is clear from the findings as explained in the preceding paras, if no room is available to women in empowerment no way, power of decision is also delegated to women in economic spheres of life as well. This statement is negatively supported by the findings of Eisenstein (1984) who concluded that in Pakistani society economic dependency of women further leads outcomes within the domain of decision making phenomenon both at family and community level respectively. Female as a result has been seen to be economically dependent on men and can't enjoyed a free access to ownership over the resources which often hamper their political involvement.

In addition to above, a highly significant association ($P=0.000$) was acknowledged between women political status and bread owners duty is assigned to male member of a society. In most parts of Pakistan society males are considered the only bread earners, while female ought to work inside the four walls of the house. This has lead to disparities and

conflict between genders in occupational structure with conspicuous low wages for women folk the market trends above the division of labor. Male although enjoying a leading position however, they also carry out their responsibilities bilateral to feed and protect women as family members. Likewise, a highly significant association ($P=0.000$) was found between women are asked to do household chores, which is often overlooked to be payable and women political status. It could be the resultant factor of a rigid social order in which women is band to carry out household chores without any recognition in familial terms. This negligence and oversightness could probably due to the continuous social traits, reserved in the social and cultural phenomena by no acknowledging women in their activities in economic terms. This statement is supported by the findings of Naz (2011) stated that, social system is highly rigid for women empowerment , a female as it could thwart the prevailing social order with special reference to family related affairs.

Furthermore, a strong and highly significant ($P=0.000$) association was delineated between poverty impede female from political participation and women political status. Pakistan comes under the jurisdiction of poor nations and poverty is the major hurdles for people from all sphere of social life activities particularly politics is resources based activities, which has little to do with morality, pity and character. Women low involvement in wage earning phenomena is yet another contributing factor within low socio-economic profile. The job market in most parts of Pakistan in general and in the research area particular is leading the capacity to encourage women in job related affairs.

In addition, a strong association ($P=0.000$) was disclosed between women political status and politics is not an expensive activity. A woman is highly dependent on male members in rendering expenses ranging from wealth, to every aspect of human management. Pakistan, as patriarchy society is rigidly control the women through the execution of social norms and values. These norms do emphasis over male hegemony. Further, being secondary in status, is seldom encouraged to carry on as political aspirants. The devious attachments to such prevalence could not be ruled out due to an anchor role of poverty as well. Nabaneh, (2010) was of the view that poverty is deeply rooted in the context of research area which obstructed women from political representation and participation as well due to highly expenses comes on the politics paradigm.

Similarly, a highly significant ($P=0.000$) association was found between lack of economic sources by female are one of the reason of their indictment with women political

status. A skill, getting sharpens while participating as an actor, is being absent in work like entering into political area. The vivid reason of this effect the lack of control over resources by a women. This statement is also supported by the work of Ansari, (2012) who articulated that lack of economics resources along with supporting skills regarding politics have greatly obstructed women from politics. Likewise, a strong association ($P=0.000$) was found in existence between Women have the liberty to campaign without dependence on men in economic and social terms and women political status. This statement is concluded by Shvedha (2005), highlighted that, the political parties do not support women in political activities in terms of transportation and public congregation expenses arranged by themselves.

Similarly, a highly significant association ($P=0.000$) was found between women political status and women wage work is considered to be encouraged by men in pukhtun society. A change is visible in family social dynamics. Families are spending more on education of its members. Females are also encouraged to acquire education. Acquisition by female could have been one of pushing factor for creating social consensus amongst males over female employment. However, Bano (2010), was of the view that, for national bureau of statistics of Pakistan women economics are not counted because in Pakistani society women economic emancipation is concerned as a threat to male ego.

Table- 4 Association between Economic impediments and women political status

Economic Impediments			Women Political Status				
S#	Statement	Attitudes	Yes	No	Uncertain	Total	Statistic s
1	Control over family resources by a male has negatively affected women status.	Yes	118(63.4)	2(1.1)	0(0.0)	120 (64.5)	$\chi^2= 361.865$ $P=(0.000)$
		No	0(0.0)	50(26.9)	0(0.0)	50(26.9)	
		Uncertain	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	16	16(8.6)	
2	Women are the most dependent on male in economic domain	Yes	34 (18.3)	36(19.4)	0(0.0)	70 (37.6)	$\chi^2=43.83$ 5 $P=(0.000)$)
		No	67(36.0)	16(8.6)	16(8.6)	99(53.2)	
		Uncertain	17 (9.1)	0 (0.0)	0(0.0)	17(9.1)	

3	Bread owners duty is assigned to male member of a society.	Yes	114(61.3)	33(17.7)	0(0.0)	147(79.0)	$\chi^2=89.91$
		No	4(2.2)	19(10.2)	16(8.6)	39(21.0)	8 p=(0.000)
4	Women are asked to do household chores, which is often overlooked to be payable.	Yes	32(17.20)	52(28.0)	5 (2.7)	89 (47.8)	$\chi^2=207.5$
		No	86(46.2)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	86(46.2)	0
		Uncertain	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	11(5.9)	11 (5.9)	p=(0.000)
5	Poverty impede female from political participation.	Yes	42(22.6)	52(28.0)	10(5.40)	104(55.9)	$\chi^2=134.4$
		No	76(40.9)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	76(40.9)	6
		Uncertain	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	6(3.2)	6(3.2)	P=0.000
6	Politics is not an expensive activity.	Yes	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	$\chi^2=109.1$
		No	118(63.4)	37(19.9)	0(0.0)	155(83.3)	54
		Uncertain	0	15(8.1)	16(8.6)	31()16.7	P=(0.000)
7	Lack of economic sources by female are one of the reason of their indictment.	Yes	117(62.9)	26(14.0)	0(0.0)	143 (76.9)	$\chi^2=140.6$
		No	1(0.5)	26(14.0)	11(5.9)	38(20.4)	16
		Uncertain	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	5 (2.7)	5 (2.7)	P=0.000
8	Women have the liberty to campaign without dependence on men in economic and social terms.	Yes	118(63.4)	21(11.8)	0(0.0)	139(74.7)	$\chi^2=183.4$
		No	0	31(16.7)	8(4.3)	39(21.0)	64
		Uncertain	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	8(4.3)	8(4.3)	P=0.000
9	Women wage work is considered to be encouraged by men in pukhtun society.	Yes	44(23.7)	1(0.5)	1(0.5)	46(24.7)	$\chi^2=91.09$
		No	74(39.8)	50(26.9)	8(4.3)	132(71.0)	4
		Uncertain	0(0.0)	1(0.5)	7(3.8)	8(4.3)	P=0.000
<p>Note: Number in table represent frequencies and number in parenthesis represent percentage proportion of the respondent. Source : Field Survey, 2018.</p>							

CONCLUSION

The study conducted on economic impediments to women in politics was carried out in District Dir lower. The study found that control over resources by male in the family has rendered women vividly on male's dominance. It was generally assumed that male were the bread owner and women had no option but to do household chores, which were often overlooked as not being paid. Women were further found as dependent on male due to lack of resources, object poverty and some strong resentment from society on the face of their campaign as candidates, . Women politics were found with no room in the existing social order as politics was the most excessive affairs and males were found is no any recognition over losing huge spending on women as candidate due to prevalence of strong patriarchal norms. However, their paid jobs in the job market has some sort of recognition as a sense of encouragement was in prevalence in the incumbent social system. Women status on equality basis, shoulder to shoulder with men and replacement of hegemonies norms pertaining to women jobs through taking enrichments from international social and economic system and Islamic teachings were put forwarded in light of the study objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of study findings it is recommended that male were enjoying a complete hegemony right from household management to political participation. Women had no any possession to enjoy an economic independence due to widespread poverty and patriarchy. Recognition to women household chores in economic terms and due share in resources could make women to contribute at par to men were extended some of the recommendations in the light of study.

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