

Abstract

The Political Participation of Jordanian Women: A Case Study of Female Students in the Political Science Department at the University of Jordan and the Applied Science University

The aim of this study is to assess the political participation of female students attending the Political Science Departments at the University of Jordan and the Applied Sciences University. The study tries to find answers to the following questions:

- 1- What is the range of political participation in the two universities through the students' councils and the different social and educational clubs?
- 2- What is the range of political participation?
- 3- How do the media influence their political participation?
- 4- What are the effects of social, educational and economic aspects on the conditions of female students in their participation in politics?

This study involves random sample of female students attending the Political Science Departments at the University of Jordan (Government University) and the Applied Science University (private university). The sample comprise (160) female student registered for the 1998-1999 academic year, representing all class levels. The questionnaire prepared for this purpose includes (25) questions.

The result of the study shows no significant difference between answers of the two universities. This indicates that female students in government or private universities share the same views. The study gives an indication that the political participation of female students inside the university was active through their participation in different clubs and the Students' Union. The political participation of female students outside of the university was limited, based on their participation in the parliamentary election.

There is an important finding that shows that the democratic and political stability in Jordan did not manage to improve the political participation of female students. Some were even hesitant in their answers. Moreover, the political science curriculum does not have much influence on the students. The study highlights students' feelings that the political parties in the Jordanian universities do not have a strong present.