

Obstacles Imposed by Families Against University Youth Participation in Political Parties in Jordan

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Abstract: Objective: This study aimed to identify the obstacles imposed by families that hinder the participation of university youth in the political life from their perspective and investigate the relationship between obstacles imposed by families and certain social variables. **Methodology:** The study adopted a descriptive approach and the sample was selected by a simple random method and consisted of 250 students from Princess Rahma College at Al-Balqa Applied University and it was distributed electronically. **Results:** found that the economic situation of the family was one of the prominent obstacles to youth participation in political parties. And there is a lack of family-oriented programs regarding political parties and their importance. The results also showed that families have concerns about the ideas proposed by some political parties, which could affect their children's future. The study did not find statistically significant differences at the ($\alpha = 0.05$) level in the level of obstacles imposed by families that limit the participation in political life, attributed to the variables of (gender, academic level, place of residence, and monthly income). **Conclusions:** Economic constraints, the lack of awareness programs aimed at parents, and parents' concerns about their children's participation limit the children's involvement in political parties. **Recommendations:** Based on the results, the study recommends the importance of reducing financial barriers that hinder youth participation in political parties, as well as raising awareness, providing guidance, and educating families about the importance of supporting the political involvement of university youth in parties.

Keywords: Political Parties, Political Participation, University Youth, Obstacle.

INTRODUCTION

The political participation of university youth is a crucial factor in shaping the future and achieving sustainable development. In Jordan, the participation of youth in political parties holds significant importance for the country's future and its political and social progress. With a youth population of approximately 2.2 million, constituting one-fifth of the overall population (Higher Population Council, 2022), Jordan recognizes the potential impact that engaged youth can have on society. The number of university students in Jordan until the academic year 2022-2023 was 407,387 in both public and private universities (Higher Education Institutions Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission, 2023).

Youth, in general, are a source of energy, vitality, creativity, and innovation in all societies. Their involvement in political activities can create a positive and lasting impact. University youth, in particular, have the potential to contribute to the development of new visions that cater to the evolving aspirations and needs of Jordanian society. Encouraging positive interactions between youth and political parties can serve as a means to bridge communication gaps between different generations within society. By bringing fresh ideas and innovative perspectives on national issues, youth can benefit political parties in developing their plans and programs.

The participation of university youth in political parties reflects their commitment to social responsibility and their belief in the importance of collective action and democratic participation. This engagement enhances political awareness, effective citizenship, and the development of decisions and policies that reflect the aspirations of various segments of society. Therefore, the participation of university youth in political parties contributes to the comprehensive development of Jordan and bridges generational gaps, ultimately building a better future for the country.

Political parties have a responsibility to include youth in their work and provide them with opportunities and space for active participation. Simultaneously, it is incumbent upon youth to respond to this call and actively engage in political decision-making. However, it appears that there are several family-related obstacles that hinder this important segment from participating in political life, particularly with regard to joining political parties. Despite the importance of youth engagement, the reality of Jordanian youth's participation in political parties remains weak, possibly due to various social, economic, and political factors.

As the family serves as the primary influence on youth, shaping their ideas, attitudes, and beliefs about various aspects of life, including political participation, understanding the obstacles related to families is crucial. This study aims to

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address the family-related obstacles that limit the participation of university youth in political parties in Jordan. Since limited research has been conducted on this aspect, delving into these obstacles becomes necessary for a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics within Jordanian society.

In a nutshell, this study seeks to shed light on the family-related challenges faced by university youth in their involvement with political parties. The family environment plays a central role in shaping individuals and imparting values and principles. Consequently, understanding the obstacles that hinder youth in the political arena is essential for gaining deep insights into the dynamics of Jordanian society.

Study Problem

Families play a significant role in shaping the social personality of their children and molding their various attitudes and values in light of the cultural heritage of society during the socialization process. Families guide their children's interactions with society, and direct them towards or away from certain actions based on the beliefs and values held by their parents on any work in the life, including participation in volunteer work. This includes political participation in various forms, one of which is participation through joining the political parties present in Jordanian society. Youth participation largely depends on the support, encouragement, and endorsement of political participation provided by their families, as families are the primary reference group for children. Youth participation holds high value in society as it plays a crucial role in shaping the future of their nation, their supposed role is strong and effective participation and facilitating the process of their participation in political parties as a type of volunteer work that enhances belonging to society. In Jordan, political participation through party membership has become essential and of great importance in society. The government encourages youth to participate in shaping the future of their nation through political participation and by joining various political parties, of which there are 57 licensed parties in Jordan (Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, 2022). Studies indicate that Jordanians' participation in political parties is low, with youth making up only one-third of the total party members, and the female participation rate stands at 34.83% of all party members. Additionally, political parties are significantly concentrated in the capital city of Amman at the expense of other cities (Bani Amer & Haddad, 2022).

As of 2021, there were 50 Jordanian political parties, with only two women holding the position of party secretary-general, and the women's membership rate in parties remained low (Abu Hammoud, 2021). Most studies and reports that have examined political party participation have overlooked the role that families may play in this context. Therefore, identifying the obstacles that families place in the way of their children's participation in political parties and the reasons for their opposition to such participation is important for gaining insight into the family's perspective on political party involvement, especially given the low participation of university youth. The low participation rate of young people in political parties in Jordan negatively affects democracy and the future of political parties in the country, making families one of the most influential factors in this regard.

Study Importance

The study holds importance on two aspects:

Theoretical Importance

- Scarce research on the impact of families on the political participation of university youth in Jordan.
- Given that youth constitute a significant portion of the population, their role in shaping the nation's future is of

paramount importance, and one form of this role is voluntary political participation by joining political parties as genuine partners.

- The study will help understand the influence of family relationships on the political participation decisions of youth, as well as the social expectations and constraints imposed on them and their impact on their decisions.
- Expanding the general view of political work through an understanding of Obstacles imposed by families can inspire relevant parties and decision-makers to develop policies and programs aimed at enhancing youth participation in political parties and achieving change.
- Providing policy recommendations directed at governments and community organizations to promote youth participation and address existing obstacles within families.

Practical Importance

Awareness and Education: By highlighting the challenges that youth face within families, the study can raise awareness about the importance of supporting youth participation in political life and providing them with the necessary opportunities and resources.

Program and Initiative Development: Practical studies provide the foundation for developing programs and initiatives targeting the removal of obstacles to youth participation in political life. These initiatives can promote political awareness and provide training and sustainable support to young people.

Empowering Families: By guiding and educating families on the importance of supporting their children's political participation, families can be empowered to contribute to removing obstacles and encouraging youth participation in political life.

Study Objectives

The study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Identify the most important family obstacles that university youth see as important obstacles that prevent their effective participation in political parties.
2. Examine the relationship between family-related obstacles and the following demographic variables: gender, educational level, place of residence, and monthly income of the family in Jordanian Dinars.

Study Questions

1. What are the family-related obstacles that hinder political participation among university youth?
2. Are there statistically significant differences (at $\alpha = 0.05$) in the level of family-related obstacles that hinder political participation among university youth based on gender?
3. Are there statistically significant differences (at $\alpha = 0.05$) in the level of family-related obstacles that hinder political participation among university youth based on educational level?
4. Are there statistically significant differences (at $\alpha = 0.05$) in the level of family-related obstacles that hinder political participation among university youth based on place of residence?
5. Are there statistically significant differences (at $\alpha = 0.05$) in the level of family-related obstacles that hinder political participation among university youth based on monthly income of the family in Jordanian Dinars?

Key Concepts and Methodological Terms for the Study

Political Parties: The political party was defined according to the Jordanian Constitution of (2022), Article (35): "A national political organization consisting of Jordanians united by common values of citizenship, goals, programs, visions and ideas, and aims to participate in political life and public work in peaceful, democratic ways for legitimate purposes and by engaging in the elections of all kinds, including parliamentary elections and the formation of governments or participation therein" (Official Gazette, 2022)

Political participation: "The activity carried out by the citizen in order to influence the governmental political decision-making process, meaning that participation aims to change the outcomes of political systems in a way that communicates the demands of individuals who participate politically" (Dilbaz, 2019)

University Youth: Students who are studying at Jordanian universities for the bachelor's level.

Obstacles imposed by family: all the measures taken by the family to limit the participation of its university youth in political parties.

Theoretical Background

Party life in Jordan began before the establishment of the Emirate of Transjordan in 1921, and after the end of World War I in 1919, as upon the discovery of the Balfour Declaration and the Sykes-Picot Agreement, some Jordanians joined the Syrian Independence Party, and then a branch of this party was established in Transjordan. When the Emirate of Transjordan was established, some of its members became ministers in the first Jordanian government in 1921.

A number of political parties were established, such as the Jordanian People's Party in 1927, which called for the formation of an elected government parliament to which the government would be accountable, and demanded resistance to the Jordanian-British Treaty and the independence of Jordan. The Executive Committee Party of the National Congress was also founded in 1929, resisting the British Mandate and the Zionist movement in that time, and after that a number of parties appeared, such as Jordanian Solidarity in 1933, Jordanian Brotherhood in 1937, and Social Nationalist in 1938. After few years, namely in 1943, the Muslim Brotherhood started (officially 1946). The same year (1946) the Jordanian Arab Party also started. A year later, the Jordanian People's Party began. Four years later (1951) the Jordanian Communist Party launched, and after one year the Liberation Party started, followed by the National Socialist Party in 1945. The later succeeded to form a national government in 1956 lead by Suleiman Al-Nabulsi, then the Arab Socialist Baath Party appeared in 1955, and in 1956 the first parties law of the Jordanian state was issued. Jordan witnessed the emergence of several party movements during the fifth and sixth decades of the last century, as a result of the political circumstances that the Jordanian political situation witnessed in 1957 and a state of emergency was declared, whereby party activity stopped until 1989, and after a long period of the cessation of party life, aspects of democratic and parliamentary life returned. The Political Parties Law was issued in 1992 and a number of parties were established, some of which remain in existence until now, and which were founded in a manner that took into account the prevailing ideologies. Parties of a programmatic nature were established, then the Parties Law 2007-2012 was issued, and the parties' file fell within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior. Then Parties Law No. (39) of 2015 appeared, which is in effect now, and the parties' file was transferred to the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs.

(Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, 2022). Political parties have several tasks in public life that differ depending on the system of each of the existing parties. These tasks include providing channels for popular participation and stimulating the level of participation in a way that makes it easier for individuals to put forward ideas and participate to achieve the main goal of the party's existence by participating or obtaining power in a peaceful way. Haroush (2016). It is noted that interest in youth through their place in the action plans of those concerned is present, but there is a reluctance to participate politically and engage in political activity in general among young people in Jordan (Al-Zaghailat, 2020). Therefore, to enhance and activate the participation of youth and women in parties, the Political Parties Law No. 7 for the year 2022, which stipulates that the participation rate of youth and women should not be less than 10% of the percentage of founders of political parties within the age group of 18-35, and an emphasis on increasing the participation rate of women and youth to reach 20% within three years (Political Parties Law, 2022). The new law came about due to the "reluctance of citizens, especially young people and women," from political party work in all its aspects (Al-Ayasra, 2022).

"In order to encourage participation in political parties, particularly among university youth, amendments and additions were made to the Political Parties Law through Article 4, Paragraph 3, which states: 'No Jordanian, including any encroachment on their constitutional or legal rights, shall be subject to prosecution or accountability by any official or unofficial entity due to their affiliation or the affiliation of any of their relatives.' This is also reflected in Paragraph C of the law, which states: 'No students of higher education institutions shall be subjected to any form of targeting due to their party or political affiliations.' Furthermore, Paragraph D of Article 4 of the Constitution states: 'Anyone who is subjected to a violation contrary to the provisions of this article has the right to resort to the competent courts to address the violation and claim compensation for material and moral damages' (Official Gazette, 2022). However, regardless of the government's efforts to promote youth participation in political parties, the role of the family and its influence must be taken into consideration. Young people are influenced by the values, attitudes, and guidance they receive from their families.

According to sociocultural theory, as proposed by Vygotsky, family values, customs, and traditions can play a significant role in shaping and directing the interests and participation of youth. If family culture discourages involvement in political affairs or prioritizes a focus on education and career, it may lead to young people not engaging in political parties (Fiky, 2022). Families can guide their children towards values and principles that reflect their political affiliation. When families encourage constructive dialogue and discussion about political and social issues, it is possible for children to develop a better understanding of political parties and political matters. Families also have a role in providing political education and awareness to their children by discussing current events and directing them to reliable sources of information. This was highlighted in the results of a study conducted by Al-Suwailimeen (2016) on a sample of party leaders and party members in Jordan, which found that there is an influence of societal upbringing on political participation, with societal upbringing explaining 57.6% of the variance in political participation (Al-Suwailimeen, 2016). The results of the study conducted by Khasawneh & Alzyoud (2022) also supported these findings. The Jordanian family plays a significant role in the moral upbringing of its children in the realms of social and economic values, as well as in intellectual and developmental aspects (Khasawneh & Alzyoud, 2022).

When families support constructive political participation, whether by encouraging their children to join political parties or participate in local political activities, it can have a positive impact on their political affiliation. Parents and family members serve as living role models for their children. If parents have a strong political affiliation, their children may adopt this affiliation due to the direct influence of their parents. Furthermore, by directing their children's attention towards important local and national issues, families can enhance political awareness and national identity.

However, in Jordan's social, economic, and political context, young people, especially university students, often face pressure from their families to excel academically and focus on their future careers. Families may perceive political participation as potentially affecting their children's academic achievements or diverting their focus away from future career prospects, particularly given the historical context where party affiliation was sometimes associated with restrictions, including job opportunities in the public sector (Al-Nabulsi, 2010). According to the Annual Report on Political Rights and Civil Liberties in Jordan for 2022, authorities have intimidated individuals attempting to form political parties, and some party leaders and members have faced harassment from officials, including travel bans, security summons, and refusal to renew legal documents (Freedom House, 2023).

These conditions can deter young people from engaging in political participation, placing a responsibility on families to protect their children from actions that could affect their future. Additionally, Jordan's challenging economic conditions, characterized by a high unemployment rate of 22.8% in 2022 (Department of Statistics, 2022), contribute to families' concerns about their children's economic prospects. According to the World Bank's report for 2022, Jordan is considered a country with low to middle-income levels (The World Bank, 2022).

Low family income may make university youth less inclined to participate politically, as they feel that the priority should be to improve their financial conditions. This may require them to work part-time to help the family cover study and living expenses, and therefore they have limited time to engage in political activities.

Previous studies

By reviewing previous studies by researchers on this topic, the results of Al-Khataibeh's study (2009) showed that young people do not participate in political parties in Jordan for several reasons, including the low economic status of young people, which was one of these important reasons, as males and females agreed that the low economic status is an obstacle in the face of their participation in parties, in addition to the weakness of confidence in the parties due to their large number (Al-Khataibeh, 2009). As for the study of Abu Mughli (2014), it was found that there is a positive correlation between the educational level of family members in Jordan and between enhancing political participation among family members and that there is an impact of the level of income on the pattern of political upbringing of family members, and there is an influence of the family on its children regarding strengthening national identity and preserving national achievements, initiatives and activities (Abu Mughli, 2014), including its role in shaping the children's affiliation to political parties, as shown by the results of the study of Samara& Malouf (2021) that the general estimate of the attitudes of students in Jordanian universities towards political participation is low, and there were no statistically significant differences in the attitudes of students in Jordanian universities towards participation in political life according to the gender variable, but there are statistically significant differences for the

variable of place of residence in favor of the southern regions (Samara& Malouf, 2021). Accordingly, we find that political participation in general is low in Jordan, whether political participation in elections in legislative, union, and civil institutions, as shown by the study of Al-Ghonmyeen et al. (2018), which did not specifically examine participation in political life, but rather dealt with youth participation in marches and sit-ins, which was also moderate, as its results showed the lack of significant relationship in the dimensions of political participation in terms of political interest, political knowledge, political activity and gender. The results also showed that there were no statistically significant differences in the dimensions of political participation according to place of residence. Differences also appeared in the dimension of "political activity" according to the academic level variable among students of the first and third years, and for the benefit of first-year students (Ghonmyeen et al. 2018). The results of Amsalem's (2016) study on Jordanian university students also showed that student participation in student councils at the university was high, while trends towards political participation were average. The results of the study showed that there were statistically significant differences for the variable of gender and democratic practice in favor of males, as well as the existence of statistically significant differences for the variable of school year in favor of the fourth year (Amsaleem, 2016). The observations on previous studies of the subject of the study indicated that the greatest interest of researchers was on the issue of political participation through participating in candidacy and election of Parliament and addressing the obstacles in general. As for the issue of participation through joining political parties and the role and impact of the family, studies were rare in light of the knowledge of the researchers, therefore, this study is distinguished from previous studies in that it addresses the obstacles to participation that are attributed to the family to compensate for the existing deficiency.

METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

The study employed several procedures to achieve its objectives. It began by identifying and describing the study's population, followed by outlining the methodology for selecting the study sample. Additionally, the study described the research instrument and the steps taken to ensure its validity and reliability. It detailed how the instrument was applied to the sample individuals, explained the data collection method, the correction process, and provided an overview of the statistical methods used to derive results. Here's a summary:

Study Approach

The study employed a descriptive research approach, chosen for its suitability in investigating the family-imposed obstacles to political participation among university students. The descriptive approach is a research methodology that focuses on accurately describing social phenomena as they exist. It involves collecting specific data and providing a comprehensive and precise description. In this study, the descriptive approach was utilized, and a survey was employed as one of the data collection methods to gather specific information pertaining to the research topic.

Data in the descriptive approach is meticulously classified and organized, with a focus on understanding and presenting the description in a logical manner. This method heavily relies on factual and tangible data to construct a precise depiction of the phenomenon under investigation. It serves as a crucial initial step in comprehending and documenting phenomena, establishing a solid foundation for future research analysis and interpretation.

The descriptive approach proves to be a powerful tool for understanding the current status of youth participation in political parties and documenting the intricacies related to the study topic. It enables the establishment of a strong foundation for comprehending the relationships between familial factors and the political engagement of university students.

Study Population

The study selected its population from students at Princess Rahma College, a part of Al-Balqa' Applied University in Al-Salt, Jordan. The total number of students in this population was 1350 (Al-Balqa' Applied University, 2022).

Study Sample

The sample members were randomly selected from the study population, consisting of 300 male and female students of Princess Rahma University College affiliated with Al-Balqa Applied University - Salt in Jordan, adopting the sample selection table developed by (Krejcie & Morgan (1970) and Sekeran & Bougie (2010)) which shows the selection of the study sample at an error level of (0.05). The survey questionnaires (300 in total) were distributed to the sample members via Google Survey using the electronic link. This resulted in 250 respondents, representing (83.3%) of the primary sample, which is an acceptable and representative proportion of the study population. Below is the demographic distribution of the study sample members according to demographic variables.

Table (1): Distribution of the study sample according to demographic variables.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Males	34	13.6
Females	216	86.4
Total	250	100.0
Gross Total	250	100.0
Academic level		
First Year	72	28.8
Second Year	77	30.8
Third Year	29	11.6
Fourth Year	72	28.8
Gross Total	250	100.0
Place of residence		
City	186	74.4
Village	41	16.4
Camp / Badia	23	9.2
Gross Total	250	100.0
Monthly income		
501 - 700 dinars	223	89.2
701 - 900 dinars	15	6.0
More than 900 dinars	12	4.8
Sample Gross Total	250	100.0
Father's educational level		
Secondary school and below	186	74.4
Intermediate diploma	26	10.4
Bachelor's	28	11.2
Postgraduate	10	4.0
Gross Total	250	100.0
Mother's educational level		
Secondary school and below	168	67.2
Intermediate diploma	54	21.6
Bachelor's	22	8.8
Postgraduate	6	2.4
Gross Total	250	100.0
Has any of your parents ever belonged to a party?		
Yes	6	2.4
No	244	97.6
Total	250	100.0

The data in Table (1) reveals the following information

- The sample consisted of 13.6% males and 86.4% females.
- Regarding the academic year of the students, (28.8%) were in their first year, (30.8%) in the second year, (11.6) % in the third year, and (28.8%) in the fourth year.

- In terms of residence, (74.4%) of the students lived in urban areas, (16.4%) in villages, and (9.2%) in camps and rural areas.
- Concerning monthly income, (89.2%) of the sample had a monthly income between (501 and 700) Jordanian Dinars, (6.0%) had an income between (701 and 900) Jordanian Dinars, and (4.8%) had a monthly income exceeding 900 Jordanian Dinars.
- As for the educational level of fathers, (74.4%) had an educational level of secondary school or below, (10.4%) had a diploma, (11.2%) had a bachelor's degree, and (4%) had postgraduate degrees.
- Regarding the educational level of mothers, (67.2%) had an educational level of secondary school or below, (21.6%) had a diploma, (8.8%) had a bachelor's degree, and (2.4%) had postgraduate degrees.
- A small percentage (2.4%) of the sample had fathers with prior experience in joining political parties, while the majority (97.6%) had no such experience.

Study Instrument

The study developed a scale to investigate obstacles imposed by family to political participation among university youth. The scale was constructed by reviewing the relevant literature and consulting previous studies, such as those by Al-Khataibeh (2009), Abu Mughli (2014), and Samara& Malouf, (2021). The scale consisted of two parts:

Part (1): This part collected demographic information, including gender, educational level, place of residence, occupation, monthly income of the family in Jordanian Dinars, and the educational level of both parents, along with whether either parent had prior party membership.

Part (2): This part contained 19 questions related to obstacles imposed by family to political participation among university youth.

Validity of the Study Instrument

To establish the validity of the study instrument, two methods were employed:

Content Validity: The initial version of the scale was presented to a panel of experts consisting of five specialized academics from the Departments of Social Work and Sociology at Princess Rahma University College at Al-Balqa Applied University, the University of Jordan, and Yarmouk University. They were asked to provide their opinions and feedback regarding the content validity of the scale, the relevance of the items, and their appropriateness for measuring the intended constructs. Based on their feedback and recommendations, some modifications were made to the scale. An (80%) agreement criterion was used to assess the validity of each item. The suggestions and comments of the experts were considered indicative of the apparent content validity of the instrument.

Construct Validity: Indications of the construct validity of the scale were calculated by calculating the correlation of the item score with the total score of the scale, and this is shown in Table No. (2):

Table (2): Correlation coefficients of the item with the total score of the dimension to which it belongs using the Pearson Correlation test to determine the construct validity of the scale of obstacles imposed by family to party participation among university youth.

Obstacles imposed by family to party participation among university youth	
Item No.	Correlation coefficient and total score
1	.748**
2	.693**
3	.764**
4	.829**
5	.819**
6	.849**
7	.791**
8	.865**
9	.796**
10	.816**
11	.853**
12	.807**
13	.801**
14	.851**
15	.817**
16	.817**
17	.822**
18	.762**
19	.764**

From Table (2), it can be observed that the correlation coefficients for the item with the total score of the scale ranged between (0.865 – 0.693). These values are higher than the criterion (0.30) that indicates the minimum threshold for discriminating items (Rest, 1979). This suggests that all paragraphs are discriminative and measure the same property related to the study's topic, which is the obstacles imposed by families against university youth participation in political life. This explains the construct validity of the scale, which consists of (19) items.

Reliability of the Study Instrument

To assess the reliability of the study's scale, Cronbach's Alpha coefficients were calculated. The Cronbach's Alpha value for the scale was found to be (0.969). Additionally, reliability was checked using the split-half method, where the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for the first part was (0.945), and the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for the second part was (0.946), and the correlation coefficient between the first and second parts was (0.888). Furthermore, the split-half reliability coefficient (Guttman's coefficient) was (0.939), which is considered acceptable for the purposes of this study (Jr et al., 2010).

Table (3): Presents the reliability coefficients for the scale measuring obstacles imposed by families against university youth participation in political life.

Cronbach Alpha	Part 1	Value	945.
		Number of Items	10
	Part 2	Value	946.
		Number of Items	9b
Total Items			19
Correlation coefficient between part 1 and part 2			888
Spearman-Brown Coefficient	Equal Length		941.
	Unequal Length		941.
Guttman Split-Half Coefficient			939.

Judgment of the Item (Scoring Key)

A Likert scale was used as the method for responding to items in a specific scale. Respondents were able to answer the scale items using several gradations. In this study, a five-point Likert scale was employed, allowing respondents to select their response from the following options: (Strongly Agree, scored as 5; Agree, scored as 4; Neutral, scored as 3; Disagree, scored as 2; Strongly Disagree, scored as 1). The mean values were calculated using the following equation:

(Upper value - Lower value of response options) divided by the number of levels, i.e.

$$\frac{5}{1} = \frac{4}{3} = 1.33 \text{ where this value equals the length of categories.}$$

Therefore, the low-level ranges from 1.00 to 2.33, the moderate level ranges from 2.34 to less than 3.67, and the high-level ranges from 3.68 to 5.00.

Study Procedures

The study followed several procedures to obtain its results. It began by reviewing previous studies related to obstacles imposed by families against university youth participation in political life. The researcher benefited from some of these previous studies, such as Al- Khataibeh (2009), Al-Nabulsi (2010), Samara & Maalouf (2021), Bani Amer & Haddad (2022). The researcher also made use of measurement tools applied in some of these previous studies. Subsequently, the study instrument was prepared, and data were collected for analysis and extraction of results. The study instrument underwent validation by presenting it to a panel of experts in the field, and adjustments were made based on their feedback. Afterward, the scale was distributed to the study sample through the online link (<https://forms.gle/M29vUjzVvHWN3Y2dA>) using the Google Survey platform. The study's objectives and scientific significance were clarified, and respondents were assured of the confidentiality of their information and that its use was solely for scientific research purposes. Emphasis was placed on the accuracy and seriousness of handling the study instrument. Following the administration of the questionnaire and the collection of data, the information was entered into a computer for analysis using the statistical software package SPSS.

Study Variables

This study encompassed several variables:

First: Independent Study Variables: Obstacles imposed by families.

Second: Mediating (Secondary Independent) Study Variables, including: the gender, place of residence, monthly income of the family in Jordanian Dinar, father's educational level, mother's educational level, whether either parent has previously affiliated with a political party (Parental political experience).

Third: Dependent Study Variable: Political participation among university youth.

Statistical Procedures Used

The data were processed using descriptive statistical methods to answer the study's questions, which included the following:

- Frequencies and percentages were calculated for the data describing the study sample.
- Pearson Correlation test was used, along with the Cronbach's Alpha test to ensure reliability. Additionally, the Split-Half test was employed to verify the internal structure validity and measurement tool reliability.
- To address the first research question, means and standard deviations were calculated.
- For the second research question, the study used Multiple Analysis of Variance One Way (MANOVA) and the Scheffe test for post-hoc comparisons.

STUDY RESULTS

Results of the First Question: What are the Obstacles imposed by families that hinder political participation among university youth? Means and standard deviations were computed to answer the first research question, revealing the responses obtained from the study sample regarding obstacles

imposed by families that hinder political participation among university youth. The data are presented in Table (4):

Table (4): Means and Standard Deviations of the study sample members' answers to the items on "Obstacles imposed by family to party participation among university youth" were arranged in descending order.

No.	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Order	Level
2	The family prioritizes finding employment over political participation	3.71	1.08	1	High
19	Lack of family-oriented programs to increase their effectiveness in educating young people in party participation.	3.59	1.14	2	Middle
10	My family fears for me because of the kind of ideas put forward by some parties.	3.56	1.07	3	Middle
11	My family believes that participating in parties could pose a threat to my life.	3.52	1.05	4	Middle
16	The inability of young people to face the challenges of participating in political party programs.	3.48	1.01	5	Middle
4	My family believes that there are no clear programs for political parties.	3.47	1.01	6	Middle
6	My family does not place a high value on party participation.	3.46	1.08	7	Middle
12	My family is concerned about my party involvement.	3.44	1.09	8	Middle
18	My family does not discuss with me the role of parties in society.	3.44	1.15	8	Middle
15	The lack of a common agenda between parties and community organizations to enhance youth party participation.	3.41	1.01	10	Middle
14	My family believes that party participation is limited to community figures, far from experience and competence.	3.38	1.06	11	Middle
5	My family rejects the idea of party participation.	3.37	1.11	12	Middle
8	My family sees the futility of party participation for young people.	3.36	1.05	13	Middle
3	The immaturity of the concept of party participation in the family.	3.34	1.12	14	Middle
17	The family believes that parties fail to achieve society's goals.	3.34	1.08	14	Middle
13	My family believes that the parties in society serve individual interests.	3.32	1.04	16	Middle
7	My family confirms that party participation reduces the chances of getting a job.	3.30	1.09	17	Middle
9	My family's past experiences of party involvement preclude my participation.	3.23	1.04	18	Middle
1	My family does not understand the importance of party involvement.	3.20	1.13	19	Middle
	General Mean	3.42	0.86		Middle

The data in Table (4) show that the mean scores for "Obstacles imposed by families to Political Participation among University Youth" ranged from (3.70 to 3.17.) The Obstacles imposed by families had an overall mean score of (3.42), which is considered moderate. Item number (2) had the highest mean score at (3.71), with a standard deviation of (1.08), indicating a high level. This item stated, "The family prioritizes finding

employment over political participation." In second place was item number (19) with a mean score of (3.59) and a standard deviation of (1.14), falling within the moderate level. This item stated, "Lack of family-oriented programs to increase their effectiveness in educating young people in party participation." In third place was item number (10) with a mean score of (3.56) and a standard deviation of (1.07), also falling within the moderate level. This item stated, "My family fears for me because of the kind of ideas put forward by some parties." In fourth place was item number (11) with a mean score of (3.52) and a standard deviation of (1.05), which is at a moderate level.

As for the last place, Item No. (1) came with a mean of (3.20) and a standard deviation of (1.13), and it is considered at a moderate level, which states (My family does not understand the importance of party involvement). As for the penultimate rank, item No. (9) came with a mean of (3.23) and a standard deviation of (1.04), and it is considered at a moderate level.

Results of the second question: Are there statistically significant differences at the level ($\alpha = 0.05$) in the level of obstacles imposed by family that limit participation in political life among university youth due to the variables of (gender, educational level, place of residence, monthly income of the family in Jordanian dinars)? To answer this question, the means were extracted and the One-Way MANOVA test was used. The obtained results are as follows:

Table (5): Means and standard deviations to investigate differences in the level of obstacles imposed by family that limit participation in political life among university youth due to the variables of (gender, educational level, place of residence, monthly income of the family in Jordanian dinars).

Variable	Category	Number	Mean	Standard deviation
Gender	Male	34	3.56	0.82
	Female	216	3.39	0.87
Academic Level	First Year	72	3.38	0.84
	Second Year	89	3.36	0.90
	Fourth year	89	3.50	0.85
	Total	250	3.42	0.86
Place of Residence	City	186	3.38	0.85
	Village	41	3.51	0.86
	Camp / Badia	23	3.58	0.98
	Total	250	3.42	0.86
Monthly Income	501-700 dinars	223	3.42	0.88
	701 - 900 dinars	15	3.24	0.81
	More than 900 dinars	12	3.60	0.54
	Total	250	3.42	0.86

The results of Table (5) indicated the presence of statistically significant differences in the mean scores of obstacles imposed by families to political participation among university youth due to the variables of (gender, educational level, place of residence, and monthly income of the family in Jordanian Dinar). The One-Way MANOVA test was used to detect the significance of these differences, and the results are presented in Table (6) as follows:

Table (6): One Way MANOVA Test to Determine the Significance of Differences in the Level of obstacles imposed by families to participation in political life among university youth attributed to the variables of (Gender, Educational Level, Place of Residence, and Monthly income of the family in Jordanian Dinar).

Source	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom Df	Mean squares	Value F	Statistical significance Sig.
Gender	.556	1	.556	.741	.390
Educational level	.807	2	.404	.539	.584
Place of Residence	1.072	2	.536	.715	.490
Monthly income	.744	2	.372	.496	.610
Error	181.389	242	.750		
Total	3103.640	250			
Corrected total	184.937	249			

The results of Table (6) indicate that there are no statistically significant differences at the (0.05) significance level in the level of the obstacles imposed by families to political participation

among university youth attributed to the variables of (gender, educational level, place of residence, and monthly income of the family in Jordanian Dinar). The statistical values for the F-test were (0.741, 0.539, 0.715, 0.496), which are not statistically significant at the (0.05) significance level and the differences between the values of the means, if any, do not reach the level of statistical significance.

DISCUSS THE RESULTS

The results of the study reflect the influence of economic conditions on political participation from the family's perspective. Jordanian families prioritize improving economic conditions by seeking employment to support the family income. This aligns with Al- Khataibeh's study (2009), which emphasized the impact of economic conditions and the priority of finding employment to financially support children. Additionally, the results indicate that families do not give significance to political party affiliation due to the absence of educational programs directed towards families, resulting in a lack of political culture within the family. According to Vygotsky's sociocultural theory, family values, customs, and traditions play a significant role in shaping and directing the interests and political participation of young individuals. Thus, if family political culture is weak, it will reflect on the children, leaving them with a weak political culture as well. On the other hand, the results of the study showed that the family does not want to get to know the existing parties in society, out of its belief that there is no real benefit to their existence. The family also believes that there are more important matters for their children, such as creating job opportunities for them and alleviating poverty. Furthermore, the study revealed that families have concerns about their children being exposed to ideas promoted by some political parties that may impact their social and professional lives, deterring them from political participation. These results are consistent with Al-Nabulsi's study (2010), which emphasized families' fear of their children's involvement in political party activities. Moreover, the study showed a weak influence of parents' previous experiences with political parties, possibly due to the historical gap in political party activity in Jordan from 1957 to 1989 when there were no political parties. The demographic data indicated that 97.6% of the parents of the study sample did not belong to any political party in their lives. Therefore, most of these parents likely have no orientations towards political parties, resulting in limited experiences in this regard.

Regarding the influence of certain demographic variables on the political participation of young individuals in terms of party affiliation, the findings indicate a lack of statistically significant differences in that no significant statistical differences were found between the level of obstacles imposed by family and the variables of gender, educational level, place of residence, and monthly income of the family in Jordanian dinars. This indicates that there is no statistically significant effect of obstacles imposed by family on party participation, so it can be said that the study did not find statistical evidence indicating the existence of a statistically significant relationship between obstacles imposed by family and party participation among university youth based on the variables included in the study and at the level of significance (0.05). These results did not agree with the result of the study of Abu Mughli (2014), which found that there is a positive relationship between the educational level of family members and enhancing their political participation, and that there is an effect of the level of income on the pattern of political upbringing of family members (Abu Mughli, 2014), while the results of this study are consistent with the results of the study of Samara and Malouf, (2021) and the study of Al-Ghonmyeen et al. (2018) that there are no statistically significant differences in the attitudes of Jordanian university students towards party participation according to the gender variable, while it differed

with the study of Alsaleem (2016).) which found significant differences attributed to gender in favor of males. The results of the study also differed regarding place of residence, as they differed with the presence of statistically significant differences for the variable of place of residence in favor of the southern regions (Samara& Malouf, 2021). While the results agreed with the study of Al-Ghonmyeen et al. (2018), whose results showed that there was no significant relationship in the dimensions of political participation and place of residence, the results of the study differed with the study of Al-Ghonmyeen et al. (2018) and AlSaleem (2016), which showed the presence of differences depending on the educational level variable. Guided by the above, there are other factors related to the family that have no relation to the variables included in the study that affect party participation among university youth, including what the sample members indicated in the previous question of the study about obstacles imposed by family in general, including obstacles imposed by family with a cultural dimension, as there are other cultural or social factors play a greater role in determining party participation behavior, which is explained by sociocultural theory, as well as trust in political parties and government institutions, and not responding to the needs of young people adequately. This can reduce young people's willingness to participate politically, in addition to the economic factors that has greatly affected university youth and their families who are looking to improve the level of family income and find work for their young children, which has made thinking about political participation by joining parties not important for young people and their families.

This requires the Jordanian state to realize that the real and effective participation of youth is closely linked to improving the economic level of the family, whose most important priority is securing the basic life requirements for its children, which are food, medicine, and education. After securing the basic needs, the person graduates to other interests in life. Improving the participation of university youth in political parties requires a comprehensive effort that includes education, awareness, removing obstacles, and providing support, as young people have the ability to change the political future of the country and contribute to achieving positive change, if they are provided with a good climate and conditions that allow them to participate.

CONCLUSION

- The Jordanian family places a high priority on economic matters, and one of their primary concerns is to improve economic conditions by having children contribute to the family income through employment.
- Weak political culture within families: The absence of targeted educational programs aimed at families has resulted in a diminished political culture within households. Consequently, families do not attach importance to their children's political party affiliations.
- There is concern about the potential influence of political party affiliation on children and its potential impact on their social and professional lives. This apprehension contributes to the hesitancy of both families and young individuals to engage in political participation.
- The influence of parents' past experiences with political parties was found to be limited, as parents had minimal exposure to political party involvement.
- Limited impact of demographic variables on political participation: The study did not reveal a significant correlation between demographic variables and political participation or party affiliation among youth.
- Cultural and social factors were identified as having a more substantial influence on partisan behavior, underscoring the significance of these aspects in shaping political engagement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Based on the study findings, the researchers propose several recommendations aimed at addressing the obstacles imposed by families on their children's participation in political parties in Jordan. These recommendations are as follows:
- Alleviating financial obstacles: Providing financial support or scholarships to university youth who aspire to engage in political participation can assist in overcoming economic obstacles. Such support can help young individuals cover the costs associated with political participation, as economic reasons often contribute to family opposition.
- Family and social support: It is crucial to encourage families to support the political interests of university youth and recognize the significance of their participation. Additionally, efforts should be made to enhance social support and improve children's communication skills within the family. By clarifying aspects that families may not be aware of regarding the importance of participation, parents can be more open to allowing their children to engage in political parties.
- Awareness and education for families and youth: Raising awareness and providing education to university youth and their families is vital in fostering an understanding of the importance of political participation and the role of political parties in decision-making within society. This can be accomplished through educational workshops, seminars, and other initiatives aimed at explaining the significance of the political process and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Disclosure Statements

The authors declare that they have no relevant or material financial interests that relate to this research.

- **Ethical approval and consent to participate:** The necessary approvals to conduct the research were obtained from the university and informed consent was provided by each of the subjects involved in this study.
- **Availability of data and materials:** Data is available upon reasonable request from the corresponding author.
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DRAFT



المعوقات الأسرية لمشاركة الشباب الجامعي في الأحزاب السياسية في الأردن

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الملخص: الهدف: الدراسة التعرف الى المعوقات الأسرية التي تعيق مشاركة الشباب الجامعي في الأحزاب من وجهة نظرهم وتحري العلاقة ما بين المعوقات الأسرية وما بين بعض المتغيرات الاجتماعية وهي النوع الاجتماعي، المستوى الدراسي، مكان السكن، الدخل الشهري للأسرة. **المنهج:** واعتمدت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي وقد تم اختيار العينة بالطريقة العشوائية البسيطة وتكونت من 250 من طلبة كلية الأميرة رحمة الجامعية جامعة البلقاء التطبيقية، وتم توزيعها إلكترونياً. **النتائج:** وقد خرجت الدراسة بعدد من النتائج منها، ان الوضع الاقتصادي للأسرة كان من احد ابرز المعوقات لمشاركة الشباب في الاحزاب حيث أن البحث عن عمل بالنسبة للأبناء اهم من المشاركة الحزبية بالنسبة للأسرة وكذلك عدم وجود برامج موجهة للأسرة حول الاحزاب واهميتها كما بينت النتائج ان الأسرة لديها خوف من الأفكار التي تطرحها بعض الأحزاب والتي قد تؤثر على مستقبل الأبناء، ولم تظهر نتائج الدراسة فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية عند مستوى ($\alpha = 0.05$) في مستوى المعوقات الأسرية التي تحد من المشاركة الحزبية تعزى لمتغيرات (النوع الاجتماعي ، المستوى الدراسي ، مكان السكن، الدخل الشهري). **الاستنتاجات:** إن القيود الاقتصادية، ونقص برامج التوعية الموجهة للأهل، ومخاوف الأهل من مشاركة أبنائهم تحد من مشاركة الأبناء في الأحزاب السياسية. **التوصيات:** وبناء على النتائج توصي الدراسة بأهمية التخفيف من العوائق المالية التي تعيق مشاركة الشباب في هذه الأحزاب، والتوعية والتوجيه للأسر وتشجيع الأسر على دعم اهتمامات الشباب الجامعي في المشاركة في الأحزاب..

الكلمات الدالة: الأحزاب، المشاركة السياسية، الشباب الجامعي، المعوقات