

Patriarchal norms limits women's participation in voting activities a case study of district upper Chitral

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Abstract

Research background: Despite making up half of the global population, women remain mostly underrepresented in decision-making roles. The women feel inspired to enter into the electoral politics and voting process to create a more balanced and equitable society for their peers. However, they face tremendous obstacles in their way because of patriarchal society and economic constraints. Women in these societies struggle harder and longer to compete with their male counterparts, as they dominate the political landscape.

Research methodology: The current study was conducted in district upper Chitral of KPK. More specifically political constituency PK-1 was constituted the study area. As the selected universe for the current study was upper Chitral. The three UCs (UC Mastuj, UC Charun and UC Laspur) are purposively selected. Total house hold population of selected villages stands at 1855. The required sample size for the population of 1855 stands at 320. One village (Awi, Booni-2, and Mastuj) is selected from the designated UCs.

Findings: The findings emphasize that highly significant association was found between Patriarchal expectations discourages women actively participate in political discussions, patriarchal norms leads to unequal political representation for women, Patriarchal norms limits women ability to freely express their political opinions and women's participation in voting activities.

Conclusion: Patriarchal norms significantly control women's participation in voting activities both in positive and negative directions. The male superiority in rural communities though discouraged women's participation in active political representation or free expression of political opinion, the women that had liberty to participate in voting activities felt pressure from their male family members to favor or disfavor a candidate.

Keywords: Patriarchal, tremendous obstacles, counterparts, political opinions.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

There is a persistent difference in political representation around the world. Despite making up half of the global population, women remain mostly underrepresented in decision-making roles. For eras, politics has been ruled by men, with societal norms limiting women to domestic duties and excluding them from public political life. Though women in many countries increased the right to vote in the 20th and 21st centuries, significant hindrances still impede their access and growth in politics. These hindrances are varied. Stereotypes that describe politics as a male-dominated field discourage women

looking for leadership roles. Traditional gender expectations often place the responsibility for childcare and household duties on women, limiting their capability to involve in political activities. Political parties themselves may foster discernment, often lacking gender-sensitive policies and structures that could support and empower women candidates (Adamu, 2023). The women feel inspired to enter into the electoral politics and voting process to create a more balanced and equitable society for their peers (Kerevel & Atkeson, 2017). However, they face tremendous obstacles in their way because of patriarchal society and economic constraints. Women in these societies struggle harder and longer to compete with their male counterparts, as they dominate the political landscape (Atkeson, 2003; & Okock & Asfaw, 2014). Women also face some other types of barriers to political empowerment, on the one hand, structural barriers caused by discriminatory laws and institutions that still reduce their opportunities to vote or run for political office. On the other hand, lack of financial means makes it less likely that women (unlike men) will be able to get the training, contacts and resources needed to become successful leaders (UN-Women, 2023). There are multiple reasons for the underrepresentation of women in politics, containing structural, cultural, and institutional challenges. Structural hindrances, such as laws that distinguish against women and electoral systems that service male candidates, limit women's ability to attain political office (Krook & O'Brien, 2012). Moreover, cultural norms and gender stereotypes strengthen traditional prospects for women, discouraging them from engaging in political activities (Childs & Krook, 2008). Women's political participation worldwide remains limited, with numerous challenges faced by women in the political field (Persson, et.al, 2024). A comparable pattern is perceived in Pakistan, where women's participation in politics is negligible at both local and national levels. The underrepresentation of women in politics is deeply entrenched in the wider social structure of society (Awan, 2023). The participation of women in politics is an essential indicator of a country's development. It has always played a considerable role in Pakistani politics, dating back to the independence movement. However, over time, women's engagement has been limited to particular social classes. The underrepresentation of women in politics has wide-reaching effects. When women are left out of policymaking, policies tend to supervise the various needs and perspectives of the population. Studies designate that greater female involvement in politics results in a broader range of problems being undertook, such as education, healthcare, and social welfare programs, which have a greater influence on women and families (AL-Kubaisi, et.al, 2024)

1.2 National, international and local scenario

In the modern world women play leading roles in shaping societies and nations. They are playing active roles in electoral politics across the globe. Through their participation and involvement in political process, they not only safeguard women's rights but also shape the society as peaceful and kind where everyone feels secure and safe. However, women still have a long arduous journey ahead to claim their rights on par with men. They have to break the glass ceiling of patriarchy in order to achieve their requisite position in political arena. Apart from those financial constraints also hinder women's progress in political fields as women still have to depend on men for financial needs. Women's participation in the economy is also minimal as most of the economic decisions are carried out by men. Hence, these factors limit the political progress of women, therefore, women contribute only 23.6 % of parliamentary seats worldwide being about half of the population in most of the countries around the world, such a low percentage of participation is a grave injustice towards women rights and also questions the quality and vibrancy of electoral democracy in the contemporary world (Kayumba, 2023). Pakistani society is patriarchal and deeply religious who discourage women's participation in politics. Hence, social and religious factors have been the main obstacles to women involvement in politics. Due to these reasons, women's participation in electoral democratic process has been minimal (Ali, 2002; & Lau, 1973).

1.3 Theoretical framework

1.3.1 Social Role Theory

Eagly (1987) presented the social role theory. The theory explains that the behavior and attitude of men and women is defined by the roles they have in society. Society has distributed male and female into breadwinners and home makers. Male and female are expected to behave in a certain way. They do not deviate from the expected roles they are given by the society. Politics has always been thought to be associated to men and men have been in politics since ages. In society men are expected to perform productive roles and female are expected to perform reproductive roles. This societal perception has negatively influenced female's participation in politics. Therefore, these expectations from women have always been hurdle for them to participate in politics. For participation and involvement in politics power and resources are the most important things one should possess, as in the patriarchal society women are confined to private sphere only and lack power and resources, therefore they have been away from politics for so long. Women are thought to be passive, subordinate, and unprincipled as compare to men and for active participation in politics one should be powerful, resourceful and principled. Another reason because of which women are away from political participation is cooperative, emotional and nurturing nature of women and they cannot take major decisions. They are very emotional by nature and cannot be rational at times when needed, and in political field one must always think rationally (Wood & Karten, 1986).

1.4 Justification of the study

Patriarchal norms considerably form the social, cultural, and institutional obstacles that limits women's participation in voting activities. By admitting these restrictions, we can better recognize how gender difference is continued through political subjugation, and work towards creating more inclusive systems where women have identical opportunities to involve in the democratic process. Understanding these aspects is important for encouraging gender equality and confirming that all individuals, irrespective of gender, can exercise their political rights spontaneously and completely. Chitral is far flung remote district of Pakistan which is sandwiched between the mountains of hindukush range. Within these mountains the people lived for centuries shaping the unique lifestyle with deeply engrained patriarchal norms, values and traditions perpetuating strong misogynist culture. Gender inequality along with patriarchal hierarchy, create social and cultural barriers which prevent and discourage women's empowerment and progress. Moreover, financial dependence, poverty and unemployment are also potent factors limiting women role in electoral engagement. So our study was focused on the patriarchal norms limits women's participation in voting activities in district upper Chitral.

1.5 Objectives of study

1. To find out the demographic profile of the respondents.
2. To find out the state of patriarchal norms in the study area.
3. To determine the state of women's participation in voting activities in the study area.
4. To find out the association of patriarchal norms with women's participation in voting activities.
5. To suggest policy recommendations in light of study findings.

II. Literature Review

The purpose of the literature review is to examine existing scholarly research and publication on determinants of women's participation in voting. It is one of the important parts of any research study. It provides a comprehensive overview of the current knowledge, theories and key concepts and also identify the gaps in the existing literature. The purpose of the literature review is to find out the most appropriate and related research works accomplished in a specific area.

2.1 Patriarchal Norms and Women's Participation in Voting Activities

Studies have been shown that, the role of women in politics is very low due to which their representation is also very low in parliament. This is because of men domination in decision making process. Women's position in politics has been disregarded in political sphere and their role is always subordinate in making any decisions in politics. This domination of man over women in politics is show that patriarchal culture is still dominate in our political culture. International community has recognized that women have been excluded from structures of power and politics since long (Dolan, et al., 2021). Everywhere in the world especially in developing countries the political realm has been ruled by the male superiority of the society. In these developing and poor societies women are limited to only reproductive and household activities while the productive public and political activities are employed to the male members of the society. It is a fact that women are the important parts of any society, no nation can get developed without the women side by side participation with men in the society. For their development every society needs to give equal chance to every individual to participate in the activities related to the politics. Although women participation in other fields of life are increasing, but in political sphere their involvement is less as compared to men which shows the strong patriarchal culture in politics (Ahmed, 2013). Studies have been shown that out of 195 countries there are 143 countries which have given equality to men and women in their constitutions, but still the discrimination is exist between women and men directly or indirectly. Still there are some laws and policies, social norms and practices which continuously discriminate women in the society. In Islamic countries there are some socio religious factors exist which affect women's ability to work with men and to participate other social activities especially in politics. The notion that "women are often regarded as tools in political games rather than actively participate themselves in the politics. Due the global patriarchal nature of politics women is debarred from politics as compared to their men colleagues. Round the world there are 70% seats of the parliament are employed by men, 80% legislative potions are also occupied by men and out of 193 countries 181 states are headed by males. This shows the patriarchal culture of politics and male dominance in the political sphere of the world (Chuki & Turner, 2017). Studies find out the historical concept of women political participation in Pakistan. Women participated actively in the Pakistan movement. Ms. Fatima Jinnah was the first mostly known figure who participated in the struggle movement. During the era of Bhutto women participation was also quite significant. However, Musharraf's age was also very important and significant in this regard. He increased the seats allocation for the women in politics both at the district and national level. In the history of Pakistan, the women political participation has gone through many ups and downs. Studies have been shown that in Pakistan there are still some obstacles which hindered women's participation in politics including, deeply rooted patriarchal culture and social norms (Zakar et al., 2018).

III. Research Methodology

3.1 Study design

This research study was conducted in the area of District Upper Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. A cross sectional research design was used for the study. In a cross sectional research design, a researcher gather data from the respondents in one visit. In this type of study, the age, education, gender, occupation and other demographic variables of the respondents are examined.

3.2 Universe of the Study

This study was conducted in district upper Chitral of KPK. More specifically political constituency PK-1 was constituted the study area. Chitral political constituency PK-1 has comprised of two Districts i.e., district upper Chitral and lower Chitral. As the selected universe for the current study was upper Chitral. The three UCs (UC Mastuj, UC Charun and UC Laspur) are purposively selected. There are four villages in UC Charun (VC charun, Booni-1, Booni-2 and Reshun), five villages in UC Laspur (Awi,

Sonoghur, Raman, Harchin, Laspur), and three villages in UC Mastuj (VC Mastuj, Parkusab, Parwak). One village (Awi, Booni-2, and Mastuj) is selected from the designated UCs. Total household population of selected villages is given in Table 3.1

Table 1. Proportional allocation of sample size into selected villages

| Name of selected union council | Name of selected village | Total household in selected village | Sample size |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| UC Mastuj | Mastuj | 550 | 95 |
| UC Charun | Booni-2 | 820 | 141 |
| UC Laspur | Awi | 485 | 84 |
| | Total | 1855 | 320 |

Source: Concerned Union Council Offices

3.2 Sample size and sampling

The total households of the selected village's stands at 1855 and a sample size of 320 respondents were selected. The sample size is proportionally allocated to each village using proportional allocation formula (Equation 1). The sample was selected using lottery method of simple random sampling.

$$n_i = (N_i/N) * n \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

Where n_i = required sample size for each village

N = population size

N_i = Population of each village

n = Sample size

3.4 Data collection

The data was collected through interview schedule consist of the dependent variable (patriarchal norms) and the independents variable (women's participation in voting activates). The variables were measured on three level Likert scale. Data was collected by the researcher herself, and face-to-face interview method was adopted for authentic data collection. The respondents were only female population.

3.5 Data Analysis

The collected data was coded and entered in SPSS software version 21, for its analysis at uni-variate level analysis, frequency and percentage distribution was carried out while at bi-variate level, the dependent and independent variables were cross-tabulated through Chi-square test.

3.6 Uni-variate analysis

Uni-variate analysis of data involves descriptive statistics, like frequency count and percentage calculation for demographic, background, independent variables (patriarchal norms, political interest of women, media exposure, women's education) and dependent variable (women participation in voting). Percentage was calculated using Equation-2.

$$\text{Percentage of data class} = f/N * 100 \dots\dots (\text{Equation-2})$$

Whereas,

f = data class's frequency

N = total observation

3.7 Bi-variate Analysis

To test the association between the dependent and independent variables, bi-variate analysis procedure was applied. Chi-square test was used to the association between the study variables. The value of chi-square was collected by using equation-3.

$$\chi^2 = \sum (O - E)^2 / E (\text{Equation-3})$$

Whereas,

χ^2 = chi-square

O = observed frequency in i row and j column

E = expected frequency regarding i row and j column

r = number of rows

e = number of columns

Df = (r-1) (e-1)

3.8 Conceptual framework

Independent variables

Patriarchal norms

Dependent Variable

Women's participation in voting activities

IV. Results and Discussion

This chapter has focused on analyzing and interpreting the data. Section 4.2 provides the detailed uni-variate analysis of both the dependent variable (women's participation in voting activities) and independent variable (patriarchal norms). At the end bivariate results of association between the dependent variable (women's participation in voting activities) and independent variable (patriarchal norms) is given in section 4.3.

4.1 Uni-variate Analysis

This section describes the uni-variate results of both the dependent variable (women's participation in voting activities) and independent variables (patriarchal norms, political interest of women, media exposure and women's education).

4.2 Patriarchal Norms

Patriarchal norms state the social, cultural and institutional practices that prioritize male power and supremacy, often prominent to systematic subordination of women. Table 4.8 explains the information about patriarchal norms regarding women's participation in voting activities. According to the results in table 4.8 46.3% respondents agreed that women felt pressure by their male family members while casting vote, 49.4% disagreed, while 4.4% respondents remained uncertain about this statement. Similarly, 58.4% respondents agreed that patriarchal beliefs influenced women perceivance of political candidate, 34.4% disagreed, while 7.2% respondent's response was uncertain to this statement. Women everywhere in the world face noteworthy hindrances to their political contribution, with socio-economic aspects and current organizations substitute as obstacles. Traditional and fundamental issues have controlled to determinedly low participation amounts. Women's political arrangement in Pakistan has been restricted throughout history (Rubab, Mustafa & Nawaz, 2020). In many countries, customary standards remain to describe women largely as mothers and homemakers, limiting their roles. An extremely embedded patriarchal value system supports gender-segregated parts, and these conformist traditional principles obstruct women's growth and participation in politics. Globally, there is a belief that proposes "a woman's place," often restrictive women to being "working mothers," usually in low-paid and non-political conditions. Furthermore, in definite countries, men even impact how women should cast their votes. Moreover, 62.2% respondents agreed that patriarchal expectations discouraged women to actively participate in political discussions, 34.4% disagreed with this statement and 3.1% respondents remained uncertain to it. Moreover, most of the respondents 73.8% agreed that patriarchal norms lead to unequal political representation for women, 22.8% disagreed and 3.4% respondents were uncertain to the statement. In addition, 67.2% respondents agreed that patriarchal norms limited women ability to freely express their political opinions, 30.9% respondents disagreed with this statement, while 1.9% remained uncertain. The patriarchal system is deeply rooted in Pakistani society. It creates an imbalanced power structure where men characteristically keep superior position and counselor of women, forming an influence inequity that withstands gender inequalities and limits women's independence, thus delaying their participation in public life. In Pakistani culture, women are frequently anticipated to uphold

wisdom of "diffidence," creating it interesting for them to contribute in electoral politics, where demonstration needs prominence and statement with various individuals. The distress of social disgrace and ruling serves as an important obstacle, averting women from engaging vigorously in political procedures (Rahim, 2024). In addition, 76.6% respondents agreed that challenging patriarchal norms is essential for women's equal participation in voting process, 17.5% disagreed to this statement and 5.9% respondents were uncertain. Furthermore, 66.9% respondents agreed that they may see changes in societal perception towards patriarchal norms and women's participation in voting process, 20.3% disagreed in this regard, while 12.8% respondents remained uncertain. Women's literacy, labor force involvement, and academic education increases their political participation. In developing countries, considerable cultural obstacles limit women's political representation, causing in low representation. However, with progress, social changes happen, and more women gain access to education and skilled opportunities. This indicates to a "critical frame" where educated women can efficiently promote for better representation. Finally, improving women's education and economic chances is vital for attaining gender justice in politics (White et al., 2024).

Table 2 Frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents regarding patriarchal norms

| S. No. | Statement | Agree | Disagree | Uncertain |
|--------|--|------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | Women feel pressure by their male family members while casting vote. | 148 (46.3) | 158 (49.4) | 14 (4.4) |
| 2 | Patriarchal beliefs influence women perceivance of political candidate | 187 (58.4) | 110 (34.4) | 23 (7.2) |
| 3 | Patriarchal expectations discourage women actively participate in political discussions | 199 (62.2) | 111 (34.7) | 10 (3.1) |
| 4 | Patriarchal norms lead to unequal political representation for women | 236 (73.8) | 73 (22.8) | 11 (3.4) |
| 5 | Patriarchal norms limit's women ability to freely express their political opinions | 215 (67.2) | 99 (30.9) | 6 (1.9) |
| 6 | Challenging patriarchal norms is essential for women's equal participation in voting process | 245 (76.6) | 56 (17.5) | 19 (5.9) |
| 7 | Any changes in societal perception towards patriarchal norms and women's participation in voting process | 214 (66.9) | 65 (20.3) | 41 (12.8) |

4.3 Bi-Variat Analysis

The purpose of bivariate analysis is to find the association between the dependent variable (women's participation in voting activities) and independent variable (patriarchal norms) by applying cross tabulation (chi-square test). The detailed discussion along with the justification behind their presence in the analysis is given bellow.

4.4. Association between patriarchal norms and women's participation in voting activities;

Patriarchal norms directly influence the voting behavior of women. Many women perceive that societal pressure, particularly the supremacy of male family members can influence their voting behavior. Patriarchal norms contribute considerably to the inadequate involvement of women in voting activities by forming an environment that discourages their political participation. These norms are often evident as social expectations that order male power and reduce women's voice, leading to feelings of pressure and disempowerment when it comes to political policymaking. Women may face pressure from family members to reproduce traditional roles, which can bound their independence in exercise their voting rights. To endorse equality in voting, it is important to challenge and disengage these patriarchal norms, developing a more comprehensive political scenery where women feel permitted to contribute wholly. Table 4.13 highlights the association between patriarchal norms and women's participation in voting

activities. Significant ($p=0.003$) association was found between the women feel pressure by their male family members while casting vote and women's participation in voting activities. Moreover, a significant ($p=0.007$) association was found between patriarchal beliefs influence women's recognition of political candidates and women's participation in voting activities. The finding show that patriarchal beliefs are significantly associated with the participation of women in voting activities. In various cultures, traditional gender roles limit women to household life, nurturing the impression that control in politics is a masculine feature. This not only confines women's participation but also inclines the political scenery, as masculine perspectives and experiences frequently go unrecognized. Men in authority may resist revolution out of terror of dropping their position or inspiration, further hardening gender differences. To discourse these challenges, it's essential to increase awareness about the significance of various governance and to implement operational changes that inspire women's involvement, such as mentorship agendas, policy improvements, and creativities expected at stimulating social opinions on gender parts. Development of a comprehensive political atmosphere includes not only authorizing women but also inspiring men to perform as associates in breach down the universal obstacles that withstand gender difference (Eisenstein, 2023). Though women constitute almost half of Pakistan's population, their part in politics has been traditionally controlled. Nowadays, women are more politically dynamic and honest than earlier, however numerous obstacles still hinder their contribution. These challenges stalk from deep-rooted patriarchal systems, a socio-cultural setting that helps gender partiality, and conventional understandings of Islam that frequently confine women's participation in public activities (Allauddin & Rind, 2020).

Furthermore, a highly significant ($p=0.000$) association was found between Patriarchal expectations discourages women actively participate in political discussions and women's participation in voting activities. Similarly, a highly significant ($p=0.000$) association was found between patriarchal norms leads to unequal political representation for women and women's participation in voting activities. Moreover, a highly significant ($p=0.000$) association was found between Patriarchal norms limits women ability to freely express their political opinions and women's participation in voting activities. The results show the strong significant association of patriarchal beliefs discourages the participation of women in voting activities and limits them in participation in politics. Research on women's political representation highlights a variety of factors that lead to different levels of representation across the globe. These factors can be grouped into structural or socioeconomic influences, institutional or political dynamics, and cultural or ideological beliefs, all of which are shaped by entrenched patriarchal systems. In a patriarchal political framework, men often occupy the positions in leadership roles, both in the executive branch and the legislature. Supporters of this structure contend that men are superior leaders and perceive women's involvement in politics as a disruption to the established social order. These views are rooted in traditional values regarding the appropriateness of women as leaders and assumptions about their abilities. Such patriarchal beliefs promote a rigid separation of gender roles, with men associated with the public sphere and women relegated to domestic responsibilities. This separation is often defended by the notion that society operates best when these traditional roles are preserved. As a result, women are commonly seen as lacking the necessary intellectual or emotional skills for political leadership, while men are viewed as inherently capable of making decisions for the welfare of the community or country. To overcome these challenges, it is essential to confront both the institutional barriers that sustain inequality and the cultural attitudes that support them. Only through a concerted effort can we aspire to enhance women's political representation and dismantle the patriarchal systems that impede their participation (White et al., 2024). However, a non-significant ($p=0.062$) association was found between challenging patriarchal norms was essential for women's equal participation in voting process and women's participation in voting activities. Similarly, a non-significant (0.414) association was found between any changes in societal perception towards patriarchal norms and women's participation in voting process and women's participation in voting activities. The results

propose that though it is essential to challenge patriarchal norms, more important efforts may be required to produce a societal change that inspires women's voting involvement. It may be valuable to emphasis on grassroots activities, enlightening creativities, and media campaigns that endorse gender impartiality and empower women politically. Women's participation in democracy is vibrant for promotion social harmony and constancy. It authorizes them to dynamically donate to their societies, subsequent in stronger and further pleasant cultures. Their engagement in the political domain can support stability the impact of central power constructions and encourage government responsibility. When women contribute in politics and embrace management roles, they develop role models for upcoming generations, stimulating customary gender norms and moving young girls to seek to positions of inspiration. This indication to a more comprehensive and various political setting. Thus, the consequence of women in democracy spreads elsewhere measly demonstration; it is important for the health, impartiality, and constancy of independent cultures. Endorsing women's dynamic engagement in politics is a critical phase toward attaining unaffected autonomous demonstration and proceeding social advancement (Grimalda and Tanzer, 2018). The findings of the study show the deep impact of patriarchal norms on women's political participation. The significant association shows that the societal expectation not only discourages women's participation in voting activities but also contribute to their underrepresentation in the political domain. Moreover, patriarchal norms limit the ability of women to express their opinions and hinder their fully participation in voting activities.

Table 3 Association between patriarchal norms and women's participation in voting activities;

| Statement | Perception | Women's participation in voting activity | | | Total | Chi-square (p-value) |
|---|------------------|---|---|--|-----------|---------------------------------|
| | | High Women's participation in voting activity | Medium Women's participation in voting activity | Low Women's participation in voting activity | | |
| Women feel pressure by their male family members while casting vote. | Agree | 102 (68.9) | 14 (9.5) | 32 (21.6) | 148 (100) | X ² 15.727 (P=0.003) |
| | Disagree | 78 (49.4) | 14 (8.9) | 66 (41.8) | 158 (100) | |
| | Uncertain | 9 (64.3) | 2 (14.3) | 3 (21.4) | 14 (100) | |
| Patriarchal beliefs influence women perceivance of political candidate | Agree | 106 (56.7) | 14 (7.5) | 67 (35.8) | 187 (100) | X ² 13.953 (P=0.007) |
| | Disagree | 75 (68.2) | 11 (10.0) | 24 (21.8) | 110 (100) | |
| | Uncertain | 8 (34.8) | 5 (21.7) | 10 (43.5) | 23 (100) | |
| Patriarchal expectations discourage women actively participate in political discussions | Agree | 129 (63.8) | 22 (11.1) | 48 (24.1) | 199 (100) | X ² 20.896 (P=0.000) |
| | Disagree | 57 (51.4) | 5 (4.5) | 49 (44.1) | 111 (100) | |
| | Uncertain | 3 (30.0) | 3 (30.0) | 4 (40.0) | 10 (100) | |
| Patriarchal norms lead to unequal political representation for women | Agree | 138 (58.5) | 18 (7.6) | 80 (33.9) | 236 (100) | X ² 20.070 (P=0.000) |
| | Disagree | 48 (65.8) | 7 (9.6) | 18 (24.7) | 73 (100) | |
| | Uncertain | 3 (23.3) | 5 (45.5) | 3 (27.3) | 11 (100) | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Patriarchal norms limit's women ability to freely express their political opinions | Agree | 125 (58.1) | 12 (5.6) | 78 (36.3) | 215 (100) | X ² 24.476 (P=0.000) |
| | Disagree | 63 (63.6) | 15 (15.2) | 21 (21.2) | 99 (100) | |
| | Uncertain | 1 (16.7) | 3 (50.0) | 2 (33.3) | 6 (100) | |
| Challenging patriarchal norms is essential for women's equal participation in voting process | Agree | 145 (56.2) | 21 (8.6) | 79 (32.2) | 245 (100) | X ² 8.946 (P=0.062) |
| | Disagree | 37 (66.1) | 4 (7.1) | 15 (26.8) | 56 (100) | |
| | Agree | 134 (62.6) | 20 (9.3) | 60 (28.0) | 214 (100) | |
| Any changes in societal perception towards patriarchal norms and women's participation in voting process | Agree | 134 (62.6) | 20 (9.3) | 60 (28.0) | 214 (100) | X ² 3.941 (P=0.414) |
| | Disagree | 34 (52.3) | 6 (9.2) | 25 (38.5) | 65 (100) | |
| | Uncertain | 21 (51.2) | 4 (9.8) | 16 (39.0) | 41 (100) | |

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

This chapter represents the main findings of the research by summarizing the results, drawing conclusions and providing recommendations. The summary, conclusion and recommendation which are concluded from the study are given bellow.

Summary

The main objective of this study was to determine the participation of women in voting activities in District Upper Chitral. The data was collected from 320 respondents. The collected data was analysis in SPSS, and the Chi-square test was applied to find the association between dependent and independent

Variables.

The results further show that 46.3% respondents agreed that women felt pressure by their male family members while casting vote, 58.4% agreed that patriarchal beliefs influenced women perceivance of political candidate, 62.2% agreed that patriarchal expectations discouraged women to actively participate in political discussions. Furthermore, 73.8% respondents agreed that patriarchal norms lead to unequal political representation for women, 67.2% agreed that patriarchal norms limited women ability to freely express their political opinions, 76.6% agreed that challenging patriarchal norms is essential for women's equal participation in voting process, and 66.9% saw changes in societal perception towards patriarchal norms and women's participation in voting process. Association results of women's participation in voting activities and patriarchal norms show that women's participation in voting activities had a highly significant association with patriarchal expectations discourages women actively participate in political discussions (p=0.000), patriarchal norms lead to unequal political representation for women (p=0.000) and patriarchal norms limits women ability to freely express their political opinions (p=0.000). Moreover, women's participation in voting activities had a significant association with women feel pressure by their male family members while casting vote (p=0.003), and patriarchal beliefs influence women's recognition of political candidates (p=0.007). However, a non-significant association was found between women's participation in voting activities and challenging patriarchal norms was essential for women's equal participation in voting process (p=0.062), any changes in societal perception towards patriarchal norms (p=0.414).

Conclusions

Patriarchal norms significantly control women's participation in voting activities both in positive and negative directions. The male superiority in rural communities though discouraged women's participation in active political representation or free expression of political opinion, the women that had liberty to participate in voting activities felt pressure from their male family members to favor or disfavor a candidate.

Recommendations

- ❖ To increase the women's participation in voting activities there is a need to create counter narrative against retrogressive patriarchal norms and values that hinder and impede women participation in political activities.
- ❖ To improve plans that inhabit young women and girls in politics, such as youth councils or political camps, to inculcate the significance of voting from an initial age.
- ❖ To develop online platforms which are easily accessible for women, that offer funds, webinars, and progresses focused on women's political involvement and the voting process. Also advocate the online voting method.
- ❖ To conduct campaign that highlight how education empowers women to participate in voting and decision-making, demonstrating the impact their voices can have on policies affecting their lives.
- ❖ To provide a platform where by women participation in politics is facilitated and supported at par with men.
- ❖ Create a peaceful and encouraging atmosphere during elections to attract women voters.

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