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PATRIARCHAL DOMINANCE OF MEN AND WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN QUETTA

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ABSTRACT

Equal participation of men and women in political domain is one of the priorities for the development of women around the world. But in Pakistan where patriarchal set up is embedded; women face many socio- cultural challenges as well as face the patriarchal dominance of men upon her. This study was under taken in the capital city of Baluchistan, Quetta. Researcher used Qualitative research approach to accomplish the purpose of research; Researcher selected 25 female members of different political parties for data collection through semi-structured interview guide using purposive sampling method. The research reveals that there are many socio-cultural impediments that restricts women to participate in politics but patriarchal dominance of men is one of the major barriers that creates a block in women's political participation.

INTRODUCTION

Women cannot achieve independence unless they are free from every type of domination. All of us take this on board that the purpose of modernization and improvement program will not have been realized unless we look at visible practical terms that the condition of women in our country has completely changed and that they have been authorized to interfere in all dimensions of life equal with men[1].

For centuries, women around the globe have been involved in decision making process and politics. There are numerous exceptional names throughout the world that have been associated with the phrase Women who changed the world Women who made us believe in female political supremacy and by working and putting their contribution in their country's development but also to the political arena internationally, some among them are Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi. In spite of the significant achievements and advancement around the world, the list of women leaders remains short [2].

As in democracy, the voice of all citizens is given equal importance, but women constituting half of the world population yet are not getting equal chance to participate in decision making process around the globe [3]. They are underrepresented in social, economic and political affairs [4].

Like other countries, in Pakistan women hold low status socially, economically and especially in political affairs, women are suffering [5]. Despite of significant strides by Pakistan's government, in providing equal opportunities to women, they have denied equal approach to educational, political fields and in the formation of political processes have been discouraged [6].

Women's under represented status can be noted as symbolic representation in government. Women share only 1% of seats in parliament throughout the world [7].The political system, socio-economic growth differs with the culture and political systems of a particular society. Women are not a homogeneous group, there are racial, educational and ethnic differences among them [8].

The exclusion of females from politics restricts the democracy to grow in nation, limiting the economic progress and equal opportunity [9]. If the political process is dominated by men, forming policies that affect people, the political system can never bring balance between men and women [10]. Women who are interested to join politics finds political environment is mostly unfriendly to them, yet a rapid look at the

recent composition of political process can tell us that women are still far behind in putting their own opinions about their careers [11].

From centuries Pakistani society has been patriarchal in nature. Patriarchal set up has been a major trait of cultural societies. Patriarchy is a social set up that shapes society and shows men as the dominant character and women following men in every aspect of life. Patriarchal system allows men to have material advantages and putting barriers on the role and chores of women [12].

Neil & Domingo (2016)argues that patriarchal set up not only allowed men to dominate the cultural, social, religious aspects but also economic benefits which directly and indirectly goes to make him superior in always, taking decisions involved household to country matters. Such set up, if only had given the extra benefits to men, would have been digested, but it excluded women in many ways from the fields, where she should have been shown like no other. women had always considered to do all domestic jobs, no matter how difficult or time taking may be and she does not expect to have help from man as well as it is considered as ill manners in such society to take such jobs by men, not included in many fields, women were to led to a state where she lost her confidence and started believing that bread winners only have respect in society [13].

LITERATURE REVIEW

Patriarchal society

Patriarchy as an organization of male dominance decides women's connection in social matters. It changes male and females into men and women and build the segregation of gender-based roles where men are especially dominant [8].

Asiyanbola (2005) characterizes "patriarchy as: A hereditary, rational, political structure in which men by force, decides about the roles and responsibilities of men and women in society, by the help of religion, culture and traditional norms, where women is always at subordinate position."

Naz & Ahmed (2012) argue that employments and basic leadership control exist. Women are all the same for the most part divided into lines that are less paid than those normally held by men. Women are less sound fed and are more powerless than men. The patriarchal way of social structure in Pakistan gives women fewer probabilities to catch the support of territory, little degree of lawful assistance for equity and little open doors for political investment [13]. Marinova (2003) points out those women need to

smash various socio-cultural obstructions so as to work for cash. They are seen as an apparatus of bringing up children, taking care of individuals from family [11].

Neil & Domingo (2016) argue that women do barely have sufficient energy to take themselves. They have vanished their uniqueness in satisfying their household tasks. In normal time, most of the women don't have their own particular objectives rather they respond to the requests and the need of others [14].

Pakistan receives the least literacy rate of 49.9% among the South Asian countries [6]. The literacy rate in Pakistan is around 35.2%, in villages, its 25%, whereas 55% enrollment of girls has dropped to 25%. Due to economic, cultural and social barriers Women have generally been considered second class citizens. Though, 50% of the Pakistani populace is comprised of women in society, yet their development is not encouraging [3].

Bhasin (2006) states that obstacles to women strengthening begin from social process and beliefs. Patriarchal based control is legitimized and rehearsed on the state of society, a composite of custom, and religion which chooses and portrays the embraced a portion of women in people in the general field, their adaptability and their admission to money related resources, social and political influence as well [15].

Awan (2016) discussed that a woman is banned from putting her opinion in respect to her life, not even in her wedding issues. Once engaged, she remains completely with her mate's family [16].

Malhotra, Schuler & Boender (2002) defines the term empowerment as a procedure by which women get a bigger order over intellectual and material assets, which help them to raise their self-confidence and motivate them to lay weight on their rights and set out the logic of patriarchy and the gender discrimination based partiality against women. This will empower them to sort out themselves to affirm their independence to settle on choices and decisions, and at least kill their own subordination in all foundations and set ups of the general public [17].

The idea of Patriarchy and Women's Power

Bhasin (2006) defines Patriarchy as the arrangement of strength by men in all circles of matters around women where men control women's opportunity [15].

Nasreen, Sanauddin & Gul (2012) indicates that the patriarchal belief system plays in the economy and social, cultural structure levels and makes aberrations of social capital and

political limits amongst women and men. Taking a gander at its exact significance, patriarchy as passed on by the rules controlled by the 'male figure' or patriarch [18].

The word patriarch was initially applied to show the roles in a family totally dominated by men where all family members including children, females and slaves were under the control of the male anatomy. Today this particular word is generally showing the domination of men over women and having a right to dominate women [14].

Kiamba (2008) argue that the rejection of women in different zones would not be managed without the patriarchal structure in the family unit. Public patriarchy opens access for women to enter the private and public domains. The family is the site of patriarchal mistreatment however the control is not as strong as the patriarchal power in the general society area [19]. Bari (2005) examines that women's rejection is the aftereffect of patriarchal philosophy that determines the relationship model of women and government.

The household is the site of patriarchal domination but the control is not as durable as patriarchal power in the public domain. In the public arena, the subordination of women occurs at any place or at any level, although it does not formally exclude women. In the general society field, the subordination of women happens at wherever or at any level, but it doesn't formally prohibit women.

Marinova (2003) states that women are contributing in the work environment, and inward state and social systems, yet stay mediocre. Women are particularly subordinate regarding household tasks, gender roles, and similar as the target of men's cruelty. The patriarchal practices in the private and open areas are associated with a constant line; they are not particular and the relationship is corresponding.

Elashi (2014) examines that politics still tolerate the negative disgrace of being unsatisfactory for women, an idea that is kept up by educational, religious, and media foundations. Subsequently, despite the fact that the nation's political framework has opened its doors to women, women are still allocated to subordinate positions controlled by the nation's patriarchy [20].

Male arrogance and ego

Scholars have argued that it is hard for men to acknowledge women in a predominantly or administrative part and women need to battle significantly more than males however are acknowledged less. Great execution and awareness can do better for women to develop in politics [15].

Men's' restricted recognition about the female' traits and abilities is a notable barrier for females' growth and freedom. A man, despite of the possibility that he is competent and shows broad-mindedness, does not permit a female a similar space [21].

A few women are likewise occupied with leg pulling yet men attempt to make such a domain, to the point that hinders a women's advancement. The macho male inside his self-rises when he understands that a woman who went into politics following him, is "debilitating" to pass the pack [22].

Masculine Dominance of man

Research on masculinity reveals that it is not a natural trait, but a socially constructed role showing superiority over women. It shows that there are fundamental distinction among male and females, and it presumes that the system of domination of men over women in political set up and in domestic sphere is normal, as Bernard argued

"It is not so much the specific kinds of work men and women do – they have always varied from time to time and place to place – but the simple fact that the sexes do different kinds of work, whatever it is, which is in and of itself important. The division of labor by sex means that the work group becomes also a sex group. The very nature of maleness and femaleness becomes embedded in the sexual division of labor. One's sex and one's work are part of one another. One's work defines one's gender" [23].

Masculinism is constructed by a steady progression of social, familial and community related parts and activities and these roles are look after by females at domestic level, where initial socializing takes place. Boys are taught to be a man and they are exempted from doing house hold responsibilities inside house [21].

Gender Discrimination

The issues of gender inequity and gender injustice are the blocks for strengthening. In Pakistan, patriarchy is the pre-ruled social structure. This system favors the steady division of work and prohibited women's flexibility of growth and change. It strictly portrays women's part in step by step events [18].

Latif (2015) describes that the position of woman in our society is associated with her households; she expects fundamentally critical part in holding up the family by standing and nurturing kids and handling with the developed people from her family. In that respect are more fundamental unevenly between male and females in the field of direction, businesses, political intrigue, essential initiative, holding in the

advantages and access to prosperity organizations [24].

Acceptance for women's political participation is continually decreasing in Pakistan. Their status within the family system and in the overall population is measured not agreeable in the structure where women are discriminated. Other than the social form of gender roles, this uniqueness is similarly a result of male dominance [25].

The development of women is comprehended as the core issue for molding the place of women in society. Amongst the socially deprived parties, women always suffered due to gender discrimination, preference and rejection [20].

RESEARCH QUESTION

How patriarchal dominance of men is restricting women political participation in Quetta city?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study aims to explore the various socio-cultural constraints to women political participation in patriarchal set up. Researcher used qualitative research method to explore the barriers to women political participation under the patriarchal set up and male dominance. Researcher interviewed 25 female members of different political parties of Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province.

Keeping in mind the intent of this study, Purposive sampling was used and data was collected by using semi-structured interview guide as it is the best suited technique to get in-depth interpretation of a particular subject matter.

RESULTS

The majority of respondents agreed on the point of the patriarchal system of society as it was shown by the respondents that being a patriarchal society the rules for women are very rigid and they face discriminatory behavior by the male colleagues as well as by the other women as women also consider that women in politics can't survive and it's not a respected field for women. Patriarchate is the system of strength by men in all domains of life around women where men hold power over women's opportunity and freedom of expression. The reason of follow patriarchy is that it's embedded in our society and insists on the dominant role of male which is inherently transferred from one man to other particularly when supervising the women, it is believed to be gifted with the right to control and rule over the weak and maintain dominance over women. Patriarchy is viewed as male dominance in ideological, social, and political systems in which men decide which part of women shall play, including norms,

traditions, Education, division of labor and power.

Respondents' agreed on the point that we live in a society where women are banished from saying anything with respect to life even in the matters of her marriage related issues. Once married, she totally rests with her husband's family and she forgets herself. Patriarchal system is seen by the respondents as the system of subordination and it revolves around the decision of human races, where women are only to obey the decisions produced by men.

Culture is related to development, and it increases women's standing in society relative to men becomes more equal. Inevitably, this draws focus on culture and background of a certain nation, as the dominant culture often reflects how a woman is treated and perceived in that nation.

In the opinions of respondents many women members of political parties have to struggle with presenting themselves as the 'true traditional lady' versus a woman who can make changes in the development of the community. One has to fulfill both roles as a capable politician as well as the role model lady who keep the family together, to be looked up to by the voters. This is rather difficult, when one has limited resources, which is the case most of the times.

There has been a modification in the attitudes and norms in society, as a result, women have employment opportunities and career paths outside the house and she can participate actively in the social development of the country but this does not free her from the traditional role of wife and mother. She has to take on the obedient role at home, serving the in laws and husband.

Women politicians have viewed that the thinking structure of the majority of the people is still dominated by the patriarchy, and this makes it difficult for women to take up the challenges to confront the rigid cultural ideologies which never allows a woman to be a political leader and to lead the nation instead of leading the home. Respondents viewed that they are in a weak position when it comes to cultural norms and values because the male dominated society never shows a soft corner for women when she is competing with men. The cultural, traditional and religious teachings keep women restricted to be in limited fields.

Moving from the cultural ideology of a nation, traditional gender roles of women and men are not country or culture bound, they are everywhere, and this has led to formations of feminist perspectives all around the world. As feminist theory points out, "Gender roles are specific activities or

behavior norms that are gendered for males or females. Gender roles can be very problematic because it requires people to conform into their roles in order to not be seen as an outcast.

In interviews conducted, the main issue or challenge that women politicians spoke about very often and in a very obvious way was about the traditional roles of women. Even though we hear now and then about how there is equality between both genders in almost every sphere today, women politicians pointed out that they were still certain expected elements from them and certainly not, and this consciousness ran strong among all the participants of this study. An aspect of traditional gender roles are the gender stereotypes often associated with women. This shows that gender defines what you can and cannot do.

Women are subject to the prejudices that marginalize them and allow them to reach certain points or goals, but after that, these 'roles' or prejudices over power the women as it may be thousand's against one and it gets tougher to rise to key decision making positions traditionally dominated by men. But, in a male dominated society, men are not ready to share power with women and he does not want to.

DISCUSSION

The research revealed that women face numerous challenges with taking decision to enter into politics including socio-cultural, economic and political barriers as well as the cultural and traditional problems in the patriarchal structure of society where women are considered as a weak creature and subordinate to men.

There is a common perception about women that women as compare to men are more caring and not strong enough to handle political issues, so she should keep at home rearing children and taking care of household activities.

In numerous nations, women's essential parts are set as mother and housewives and to restrict them to these parts. Women fulfilling these roles now it has become the philosophy of a "Lady's place " believing this belief, women are believed to be playing the role of mother only" with regard to Pakistan, there is a perception that women are for kitchen works and children rather going out and taking interest outside home activities. These activities keep women engaged in the family matters and restrict their mobility. Indeed such stereotyped thoughts about women constitute real restrictions, societal pressure on women about capacity to compete with men, judgmental attitude about authority of

women. The result shows that women politicians are facing the problem of workload at home. The workload negatively affects the performance of women politicians as they are occupied with the family workload; also the women's reproductive role is not avoidable.

The result narrates that women politicians have to face pressure to be in politics and therefore most of them prefer to leave their political career because women are more caring and concerned about their family and kids rather than their career.

Literatures and study shows that women who are actively taking part in politics, in patriarchal set up of society are seen as "free women". They are regularly subjected to open disrespect and are openly criticized by their rivals, especially men who destroy woman's confidence by making negative remarks to depict women in politics.

This study shows that men cannot accept women in the positions of authority and running the men's domain, men perceive women as "Goddess of the home" rather than a political leader competing with men for the political position.

Patriarchal tradition is predominantly strong at grass root levels where Women are more dependent on their husbands and do not possess the courage to make their own decisions.

The majority of respondents agree that the political and masculine culture is a big challenge for women to cope. Culture doesn't keep a soft corner for women to be a politician and run a state. Culture is the key issue that produces other barriers for women to enter politics as a career and to continue it successfully.

Gender stereotyping is a challenge women politician's face in the political domain. Men in Pakistani society perceive women as subordinate and inferior to them. The negative gender stereotyping is very common in Pakistani society as it is the socialization and the culture that create boundaries and limitation for women to get into politics and compete with male opponents as well as cultural and negative gender stereotyping.

Pakistani women face gender discrimination which blocks the ways to participate actively. The majority of respondents agrees that in Pakistan, the structure of our society is patriarchal, which is under the rule of men and it creates barriers for women when she joins politics as a career.

Majority of respondents agreed that women's rejection from the political field is the after effect of patriarchal philosophy that decides the association of women and politics. The

patriarchal belief system mechanism deals in the economy and social, cultural structure and makes the boundaries of social capital and political restrictions amongst women and men.

CONCLUSION

Exclusion of women from political arena is the result of various factors including socio-cultural, economical, political and patriarchal system of our society. Since Pakistan is one of the patriarchal societies where patriarchal system is very strong and practiced particularly on grass root level which makes it stronger. Women get fewer opportunities to participate in political decision making and less acceptance as a leader. In regard to objective of the current study, it concludes that discriminatory traditional beliefs and patriarchal dominance of men blockade women political participation.

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