Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189

http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

# Issues and Trends in Political Participation of Women: A Study of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

**Aziz Ur Rehman**
MPhil Scholar, Department of Sociology, Hazara University Mansehra-Pakistan. Email address: aziz37724@gmail.com

**Dr. Haji Ur Rahman** (Corresponding Author)
Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Hazara University Mansehra-Pakistan. Email address: dr.hajiurrehman@hu.edu.pk

**Shakeel Ahmad**
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Hazara University Mansehra-Pakistan. Email address: shakeel.sociologist@hu.edu.pk

## ABSTRACT

The level of female political involvement represents a fundamental guideline for community growth therefore developing nations such as Pakistan require their active leadership. This study aims to understand the legal framework, strategies that promote gender equality and the role of institution in electoral process. Qualitative method was use to collect the data and analyze the data. Data was collect through purposive sampling technique from eight MPA and then analyze it thematically. The findings highlight that domestic legal frameworks promoting gender equality face limitations due to inadequate enforcement and lack of awareness. The study highlights the need for comprehensive strategies, including skill development, fostering political awareness, and institutional support, to create an inclusive political environment. These findings provide actionable insights and policy recommendations to enhance women political engagement and advance gender equality in politics.

**Keywords:** Human Right, Decision-Making, Democratic Governance And Political Agency.

## Introduction

Various arguments support women equal participation in politics. The justice arguments emphasize that, since women constitute half of the world's population, it is their basic human right to be equally involved in politics. The experience arguments highlight that women unique experiences in both private and public life necessitate their equal representation in decision-making to address their specific challenges effectively. The interest argument acknowledges that women and men have different interests, making it important for women to have a voice in politics to represent and address women specific needs. The symbolic argument suggests that women in politics act as role model, inspiring other women to join politics, thereby encouraging more women to enter the field. Lastly, the democratic argument states that when both

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

genders participate equally in politics, it strengthens the democratic governance system, promoting equal participation (Kassa, 2015). All these points emphasize the importance of women having an equal role in politics at all levels of government, which directly contributes to the nation's socio-economic development and empowers women. Despite women making up half of the global population, they hold less than one-fourth (23%) of political positions, from national parliaments to local government (Krook et al., 2010). Scholars highlight that significant impact of electoral processes on women participation. The variation of women participation across different electoral processes is notable. Unlike cultural attitudes or a country's development level, which are harder to change, electoral systems are more flexible. Therefore, reforming electoral rules often presents a more achievable goal for improving women representation compared to altering societal views on women (Matland, 2005).

**Issues/Barriers faced by the women in political participation**

Historically, Pakistan political landscape has been marked by gender inequality and patriarchal control over decision-making. Although initiatives such as the Devolution of Power Plan (2001**)** and the introduction of a 33% quota for women in local governments have attempted to encourage greater female participation, these efforts have had limited impact. Women remain underrepresented in decision-making roles**,** and their involvement in **governance** is often superficial (Pakistan Devolution of Power Plan, 2001). Despite increased educational and employment opportunities, gender-based barriers continue to restrict women political agency. According to Andersen (1975) the sociodemographic shifts among this group of women contribute to their heightened participation. Also, it examines the correlation the relationship between feminism and political participation, as well as the influence of the 1972 election in mobilizing working women, is explored in the context of examining women involvement in politics. Despite these opportunities, women faced challenges due to societal norms and institutional barriers that limited their full engagement in local governance in the province (Awan & Muhammad, 2016). Addressing these issues through coordinated efforts will enhance women participation, leading to better decision-making on gender-based laws in education, health, the workplace, and society (Begum, 2023).

**Trends in women political participation**

The American National Election Studies (ANES) used television for data collection in the 1980s, but stopped doing so in the 1990s due to the high cost. With the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and electronic voter databases reducing costs, the researchers validated survey responses about registration and turnout in the 2008 election, assessing the effectiveness of TV (Berent et al., 2016). In their 1924 book "Non-Voting," Charles E. Merriam and Harold F. Gosnell revealed that Chicago's registration requirements excluded many eligible voters. Their data demonstrated a threefold difference: more adult citizens couldn't vote due to registration issues than registered voters choosing not to participate. The reasons for non-participation differed significantly between those unregistered and those registered but abstaining from voting (Kelley et al., 1967). This study provides an in-depth analysis of electoral process in Pakistan, concentrating on trends and issues appropriate to the political

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

participation of women in general elections from 2013 to 2024 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Examining how socioeconomic concerns, demographic shifts, and innovations in technology have shaped elections in past centuries and how they are shaping elections in the present. Through an examination of voting patterns and the involvement of women, the research delves into pressing concerns such as fraud in elections, campaign financing, unfavourable public opinion, and political violence. In order to provide light on the advantages and disadvantages of the electoral system and its effects on feminine political engagement, this research investigates the function, decision-making authority, tactics, and unions of political parties (AL-Kubaisi et al., 2024).

**Problem Statement**

Participation of women in elections functions as an important marker for both gender equality and democratic system governance. Few women participate in political activities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Pakistan because of social traditions along with financial difficulties and institutional system obstacles. The constitutional guarantees and legal structures that create political rights for women do not translate into equal participation rates between women and men throughout elections. This research will evaluate the success rates of current women's political inclusion enhancement programs and policy initiatives. The research outcomes will support wider investigations relating to women's empowerment together with democratic representation and sustainable development in Pakistan.

**Research Objectives**

To understand the legal framework on women political participation
To find out the key strategies that promote gender equality
To explore the institutions role in the electoral commission

**Literature Review**

In a controlled experiment on gender differences in candidate emergence, we find that men and women are equally likely to volunteer when the representative is chosen randomly. However, women are less likely to become candidates in an election-based scenario (Kanthak & Woon, 2015). Due to gender imbalances and a patriarchal system, women in Pakistan are often marginalized in politics. While the quota system has improved female representation in parliament, effective strategies and policies are still needed to empower women and enhance their political engagement. This study aims to explore the key challenges and opportunities for female political participation in Pakistan, focusing on obstacles and prospects for women in leadership roles (Begum, 2023). Discrimination against women starts early, with issues like forced labour and trafficking, and a belief that educating girls is wasteful. Working women face hostility and harassment, and public spaces can be difficult due to scrutiny. While progress has been made, especially in urban areas, rural regions still face significant challenges. Addressing these issues may involve community petitions and organized actions, similar to campaigns against sweatshop labour (Tabassum, et al, 2015).

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189

http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

**Legal Framework for election commission of Pakistan**

However, challenges persist. Women representation on general seats was only 3.4%, and their employment within the ECP is low at 1.8%. Efforts are underway to increase female employees to at least 10% (Post Election Review Report: General Election 2013). On August 21, 2002, General Pervez Musharraf implemented the Legal Framework Order (LFO), which introduced measures to enhance women representation in politics by setting a 33% quota for women in all legislative and decision-making bodies. This order increased the number of general seats allocated to women from 1.4% in the 11th National Assembly (1991-1999) to 20% in the 12th National Assembly. Under this framework, 33% of reserved seats were designated for women: 60 out of 342 in the National Assembly, 17 out of 100 in the Senate, 66 out of 137 in the Punjab Assembly, 29 in the Sindh Assembly, 22 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 11 in Baluchistan (Naz, 2014). The 18th Amendment to the Constitution in 2010 provided provinces with the authority to independently address women development issues, along with other matters (Sanchita, 2014).

**Theoretic Framework**

**Feminist Theory: Intersectionality and Patriarchy**

This research is fundamentally grounded on feminist philosophy, focusing on interconnectivity and patriarchal. The concept of intersectionality, which highlights the interconnectivity of social classifications such as race, class, and gender. To study the many obstacles women encountered on the path to political involvement, this idea is essential. In addition, patriarchy, as a feminist theory notion, reveals the institutionalized male dominance over women in many areas of life, including the political arena. When it comes to female involvement and entry into the political system, gender stereotypes play a significant role. The paper explores the ways in which female identities and patriarchal systems have influenced their roles as voters, activists, and candidates in general elections using a lens of theory (Beauvoir, 2011).

**Institutional Theory**

In this theory analysing how formal and informal institutions, like political parties, electoral processes, and legislative frameworks, also influence women political participation is provided by institutional theory. Institutional theory view, institutions set the "rules of the game" that control opportunities and political behaviour. Exploring how parliamentary measures like party quotas, reserved quota seats for women, and the role of electoral commissions have either helped or delayed women involvement in political engagement is one of area in which institutional theory is especially helpful in the background of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The knowledge permits an examination of the ways in which the internal structures of political parties have either facilitated or hindered the representation of women throughout history (March & Olsen, 1984).

**Research Methodology**

We use qualitative research method for this study to collect and analyse the data. The researcher also adopts phenomenological research design to know the lived experiences of women participating in electoral process. This approach allows for in-

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

depth exploration of individual perspectives, allowing the researcher to capture the nuances of cultural, legal, and institutional factors that influence women participation in politics. The study was carried out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sample includes 8 females' respondents' members of the Provincial Assembly. The researcher collect data through purposive sampling technique. In-depth interviews were conducted with the respondents. The collected data was transcribed to English and then thematically analyzed by using the thematic method of Braun and Clarke (2006).

**Analysis**

The data was analysed thematically.

**Theme: 1 Domestic Legal Frameworks**

Domestic Legal Frameworks encompass the body of laws, regulations, and policies established within a country to govern various aspects of society, including political participation, gender equality, and individual rights. These frameworks are essential for shaping and influencing how effectively gender equality and other social goals are achieved.

However, challenges persist. Women representation on general seats was only 3.4%, and their employment within the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is low at 1.8%. Efforts are underway to increase female employees to at least 10% (Post Election Review Report: General Election 2013). In 2002, the Legal Framework Order (LFO) increased women political quota to 33% in legislative bodies. These measures underscore the importance of **domestic legal frameworks** in promoting gender equality and enhancing women political participation by setting quotas and aiming to improve women representation and employment in political institutions (PERR, 2013).

The 18th Amendment, passed in 2010, granted provinces the autonomy to address women development issues independently. This amendment empowered provincial governments to create and implement policies tailored to the specific needs of women in their regions, thus promoting more localized and effective approaches to women development and empowerment (Naz, 2014; Sanchita, 2014).

States Parties are required to take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life. They must ensure that women have the same rights as men to, Vote in all elections and public referenda and be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; Participate in the formulation and implementation of government policy, hold public office, and perform all public functions at every level of government; Engage in non-governmental organizations and associations involved in the public and political life of the country (United Nations, 1979).

| Aspect | Description |
|---|---|
| Legal Framework Limitations | Often restrict women participation; current policies favor men. |
| Implementation Challenges | Ineffective enforcement; need improved implementation and practical application. |

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189

http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

| | |
|---|---|
| Focus on Equal Rights | Should prioritize equal rights over quotas; emphasis on education and empowerment. |

**Legal Framework Limitations:** Domestic legal frameworks often restrict women political participation and create barriers. Current policies may favour men and do not fully support women engagement in elections.

**Implementation Challenges:** Effective enforcement of gender equality laws is frequently inadequate. There is a need for improved implementation and practical application of legal frameworks to ensure they effectively support women political participation.

**Focus on Equal Rights:** Legal frameworks should prioritize ensuring equal rights for women rather than just meeting quota requirements. Enhanced focus on education, empowerment, and election freedom is essential for meaningful progress.

**Discussion**

GH and NA are agreeing that while legal frameworks are crucial for promoting gender equality, they often fall short in supporting women full political participation due to a variety of limitations and implementation challenges.

Existing legal frameworks frequently reflect and reinforce longstanding gender biases and structural barriers that hinder women political involvement.

**(جہاں قانون کا سایہ نہ ہو، وہاں اندھیرا ہی اندھیرا ہے۔)**

**"Where there is no shadow of the law, there is only darkness."**

Many policies may inadvertently favour male candidates or fail to address the specific challenges faced by women, such as societal expectations or lack of access to resources.

**(عورت کا مقام گھر کی چار دیواری میں ہے)**

**"A woman place is within the four walls of the house."**

A culture that inhibits women from running for political office may be exacerbated by workplace harassment and discrimination or by laws that do not take gender equality into account. The comprehensive support networks necessary for women's full engagement in politics may be lacking in present policies. This encompasses inadequate safeguards against gender-based violence, maternity leave, and support in reconciling political and familial responsibilities. In the absence of these resources, women may face significant barriers that hinder their full participation in or advancement within the political sphere.

The most well-meaning rules might backfire if there is a lack of effective execution. Inadequate resources for checking legal compliance political witlessness, and bureaucratic inefficiency are some of the reasons why equal opportunity legislation may not be implemented as successfully as they may be.

As an outcome, laws are frequently not properly implemented or enforced, which weakens their intended effect. For instance, the efficacy of these regulations is diminished in the absence of severe punishments for non-compliance and transparent processes for dealing with infractions. In many cases, the lack of rigorous accountability procedures and oversight prevents the efficient execution of laws

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189

http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

relating to gender equality. Without consistent evaluations and well-defined reporting processes, it may be difficult to identify and address enforcement deficiencies. Efficient monitoring systems are critical for keeping tabs on changes, addressing concerns, and ensuring fair and uniform legislative administration.

| Perspective | Insights |
|---|---|
| **Framework Limitations** | Reinforce gender biases; fail to support women political involvement. |
| **Support Structure Gaps** | Lack provisions for balancing roles; inadequate support for full participation. |
| **Enforcement Issues** | Insufficient resources and political will impede law enforcement. |
| **Monitoring and Accountability** | Need rigorous systems for tracking and improving enforcement effectiveness. |

**Theme: 2 Effective Strategies to Promote Gender Equality**

Effective techniques for advancing gender equality encompass a range of initiatives and policies designed to rectify gender disparities, particularly in the realms of political participation, education, and economic opportunities. Many successful strategies exist for promoting gender equality:

Hussain et al. (2017). In order to advance gender equality, it is necessary to address a diverse array of issues, such as the necessity for enforcement and awareness, intra-party policies, education and belief building, and political and educational opportunities. Highlight the significance of informing women about their political rights via media channels to foster heightened political engagement. Their investigation of political reforms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa indicates that these improvements, in addition to enhanced educational initiatives, might significantly elevate women's political engagement. The involvement and representation of women in the political system can be significantly enhanced by expanding educational opportunities, boosting confidence, implementing effective intra-party policies, and raising awareness (Bilal and Ahmad, 2018)

This paper investigates whether improvements designed to enhance female representation result in increased influence for women within political parties, providing new insights into the efficacy of gender quotas in promoting gender equality in politics (Verge & Fuente 2014).

| Strategies | Description |
|---|---|
| Political and Educational Opportunities | Promote higher education, skill development, and economic independence for women. |
| Intra-Party Policies | Implement supportive party policies and intra-party elections to enhance participation. |
| Education and Confidence Building | Support education, skills training, and confidence programs to empower women. |
| Need for Enforcement and Awareness | Improve enforcement and increase awareness of gender equality laws. |

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

**Political and Educational Opportunities:**
Creating political opportunities, and promoting higher educational skills development for women. Such initiatives aim to make women economically independent through small scale enterprises to generate programs for women income. Initiatives aimed at economic independence through small industries and income-generating programs.

**Intra-Party Policies:**
In order to encourage women to actively participate in politics, party policy and intraparty elections must be more accommodating.

**Education and Confidence Building:**
In order to empower women, it is crucial to promote their education, boost their confidence, and provide them with skill training. Domestic legal structures that effectively promote gender equality are being put into place.

**Need for Enforcement and Awareness:**
Gender equality legal frameworks are frequently under-awarded and under-enforced. These structures can only work if there is better enforcement and more people are aware of them.

**Implementation Challenges:**
The enforcement and execution of legal frameworks that promote gender equality are often met with difficulties. To make sure these frameworks perform as intended, there needs to be more regulation and more monitoring.

**Discussion**
SZ emphasizes the need for programs that help women get degrees, improve their skills, and become financially independent, as well as the need of expanding women's access to political and educational opportunities. They contend that women's engagement in politics can be greatly improved by prioritizing their empowerment through these measures.
**(ہنر مند عورت گھر کی رونق، ملک کی ترقی۔)**
" The accomplishments of a nation and its citizens are reflected in a woman's level of skill.
Women need economic independence and skill development more than anything else if they are to gain the self-assurance and competence to engage in politics and make a difference. AZ stresses the importance of better intra-party policy. They advocate for more inclusive party elections where women can take part and for more robust measures that help women in politics. This is an essential first step toward achieving gender parity in political party leadership roles, which in turn can pave the way for greater female engagement in politics.
**(پارٹی کے اندرونی نظام کی بہتری سے عورتوں کو آگے بڑھنے کا موقع ملتا ہے۔)**
**"Improving the internal systems of the party provides women the opportunity to advance."**
MB demonstrates the importance of knowledge and self-assurance, stressing that

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189

http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

empowering women politically requires investing in their education, skill sets, and self-esteem. It is believed that domestic legal frameworks must be effectively implemented in order to improve gender equality. This means that legislative reforms should be accompanied with training programs and practical assistance.

**(تعلیم روشنی ہے، جو ہر اندھیرے کو دور کرتی ہے۔)**

**"Education is the light that dispels all darkness."**

NA in addition to Respondents SK and AZ, highlights a major obstacle to the execution and enforcement of gender equality legislation. They contend that although legal frameworks are crucial, there is a lack of knowledge and enforcement in many of them. Because of this, policies that aim to promote gender equality are not effectively enforced. For these frameworks to actually help women advance in politics, stricter enforcement, closer monitoring, and more public awareness are all necessary.

| Perspective | Insights |
|---|---|
| Political and Educational Opportunities | Focus on education and skills to empower women political engagement. |
| Intra-Party Policies | Robust policies within parties are crucial for women political advancement. |
| Education and Confidence Building | Education and training build confidence and empower women politically. |
| Implementation Challenges | Effective enforcement and monitoring of legal frameworks are needed. |

**Theme: 3 Role of Institutions in the Electoral Commission**

The efficacy, openness, and credibility of the voting process depend on the Electoral Commission's institutional role. All democratic elections rely on the Electoral Commission and the many supporting and interacting institutions. An outline of the many organizations that have an impact on and provide support to the Electoral Commission is as follows.

In order to avoid prejudice and promote gender equality, these entities regulate and manage elections. The power of the Electoral Commission affects its capability to uphold laws and promote equitable political participation, particularly for women (IDEA, 2018). Electoral commissions that are open and fair build public trust and empower underrepresented groups, particularly women, to take part in the process (Norris, 2015).

| Aspect | Description |
|---|---|
| Insufficient Institutional Support for Women | Current support mechanisms are inadequate, impacting women political engagement. |
| Challenges in Enforcement and Implementation | Lack of rigorous enforcement and monitoring undermines gender equality laws. |
| Need for Improved Engagement and Resources | Enhanced resources and institutional backing are needed for effective support. |

Annual Methodological Archive Research Review
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about
Volume 4, Issue 3 (2026)

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189
http://amresearchreview.com/index.php/Journal/about

Electoral Commission Inadequacy in Supporting Women's Political Participation: This crucial topic has been brought up by multiple responses. All parties agree that the existing support mechanisms put in place by the Commission are inadequate and hinder women's capacity to actively participate in politics. More institutional assistance is needed to create more equal chances for women, according to respondents.

**Difficulties in Enforcing and Implementing:**

There is good reason to be worried about the Electoral Commission's performance in enforcing gender equality regulations. Stricter implementation and oversight procedures are necessary to ensure the correct execution of laws promoting gender equality, according to respondents. Ineffective enforcement undermines the Commission's capacity to promote women's political engagement.

Everyone seems to agree that the Electoral Commission should do more to encourage women to run for office by providing them with the resources they need. To remove barriers and inspire more women to get involved in politics, there needs to be more institutional support, including more resources and practical help.

**Discussion**

Respondents SK consistently point out that the Electoral Commission plays a pivotal role in shaping women political participation, yet its effectiveness is hindered by several key issues.

The principal issue raised is the insufficient assistance from the Electoral Commission. The existing systems are considered insufficient for guaranteeing that women have equal opportunity to engage in politics. This weakness impairs women's capacity to fully participate in the political arena, indicating a necessity for a more comprehensive support structure inside the Commission. Enhanced institutional support is essential for bridging these gaps and fostering gender equality in political involvement.

**(جہاں مدد کا ساتھ ہو، وہاں عورتوں کی سیاست کی راہ ہو۔)**

**"Where there is support, there is a path for women in politics."**

A significant concern is the difficulty in enforcing gender equality legislation. Respondents highlight that although the Electoral Commission is crucial for advancing gender equality, its enforcement procedures frequently prove inadequate. A demand exists for more stringent execution and oversight to guarantee that gender equality programs fulfill their intended objectives. In the absence of effective enforcement, even well-structured policies may fail to instigate significant change, obstructing women political participation.

SR emphasizes the necessity for the Electoral Commission to improve its engagement with women's problems by offering enhanced resources and support. This encompasses not just augmenting financial and logistical support but also devising more efficacious programs and techniques to enhance women's political engagement. Enhanced involvement and resource distribution are essential to surmount the obstacles women encounter and to guarantee their full and effective participation in the political process.

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189



| Perspective | Insights |
|---|---|
| Support Deficiency | The Electoral Commission lacks adequate support for women participation. |
| Enforcement Challenges | Effective implementation and monitoring of laws are crucial for progress. |
| Resource Allocation | Better engagement and resource provision are essential for overcoming barriers. |

## Conclusion

This study attempts to explore the domestic legal framework, strategies to ensure gender equality and the role of institutions in electoral process. Women in our society were deprived from various right including participation in electoral process. Various factors prevent them to participate in this legal process. The state also gives them that basic right. In this study discover domestic legal frameworks, however central, often decrease short due to implementation issues. Effective strategies to promote women political participation and also including attractive educational opportunities, improving economic empowerment, and establishment legal and institutional support in political environment.

## References

AL-Kubaisi, H. A. R., Shah, F. A., Siddiqui, A. H., & Ahmed, S. (2024). Electoral Politics in Pakistan: Trends, Issues, and the Role of Political Parties. Remittances Review, 9(1), 854-890.

Awan, M. A., & Muhammad, A. (2016). Political participation of women in Pakistan: historical and political dynamics shaping the structure of politics for women. Global Islamic.

Beauvoir, S. de. (2011). The second sex. Vintage Books. (Original work published 1949

Begum, A. (2023). Political participation of female in Pakistan: Prospects and challenges. Unisia, 41(1), 39-76.

Berent, M. K., Krasnik, J. A., & Lucia, A. (2016). Measuring voter registration and turnout in surveys: Do official government records yield more accurate assessments? Public

Bilal, M., & Ahmad, Z. (2018). *Political reforms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and their impact on women participation*. Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences, 38(2), 123-136.

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using Thematic Analysis in Psychology. Qualitative Research in Psychology, 3, 77-101. https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp063oa.

Hussain, S., Ahmed, W., Khan, A., & Ullah, F. (2017). Factors Affecting Women Participation in Local Bodies' Election in Pakistan. Journal of Gender and Social Issues, 16(1), 91-91.

Kanthak, K., & Woon, J. (2015). Women don't run? Election aversion and candidate entry. American journal of political science, 59(3), 595-612.

Kassa, T. (2015). The case for women equal participation in politics: Justice,

Online ISSN 3007-3197
Print ISSN 3007-3189



experience, interest, symbolic, and democratic arguments. Journal of Political Science, 42(2), 267-283.

Kelley, S., Ayres, R. E., & Bowen, W. G. (1967). Registration and voting: Putting first things first. American Political Science Review, 61(2), 359-379.

Krook, M. L. (2010). Women representation in parliament: A qualitative comparative analysis. Political Studies, 58(5), 905-924. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9248.2010.00833.x.

March, J. G., & Olsen, J. P. (1984). The new institutionalism: Organizational factors in political life. American Political Science Review, 78(3), 734-749.

Matland, R. E. (2005). Enhancing women political participation: legislative recruitment and electoral systems. Women in parliament: Beyond numbers, 2, 93-111.

Naz, R. (2014). Gender Review of Political Frame Work for Women Political Participation, National Commission on Status of women, pp. 1-20. Qudratullah. (March 8.2012). Punjab women Empowerment.

Naz, S. (2014). The impact of the Legal Framework Order on women representation in Pakistan. Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences, 34(1), 15-30.

Norris, P. (2015). Why electoral integrity matters. Cambridge University Press.

Pakistan Devolution of Power Plan. (2001). Devolution of Power Plan: A comprehensive plan for local governance. Government of Pakistan.

Sanchita, S. (2014). The 18th Amendment and its implications for women rights in Pakistan. Journal of Law and Society, 11(3), 78-92.

Tabassum, N., Afzal, T., & Tabassum, H. (2015). Shifting trends of women participation in local government in Pakistan: a study with special focus on Sindh province. Mystic Thoughts-Research Journal of Sufism and Peace, 1(o1).

United Nations. (1979). Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Adopted and opened for signature, ratification, and accession by General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979.

Verge, T., & De la Fuente, M. (2014). Playing with different cards: Party politics, gender quotas and women empowerment. International Political Science Review, 35(1), 67-79.