

## Political Challenges of Women Empowerment in Pakistan

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**Abstract:** Right from the freedom struggle of the country, women in Pakistan have been actively participating in political activities in a number of ways. They have organized campaigns, raised funds, mobilized other women during the independence movement and subsequently made valuable contributions to consolidate democratic rule in the country. However, for much of Pakistan's turbulent political history, women have rarely been given party tickets for contesting elections. Their quota for reserved seats remained negligible. Legally, at the provincial and the federal legislative forums, women were given nominal representation by providing a few reserved seats. For example, up till 1988, women had only 10 reserved seats in the national assembly and 5 seats in each of the provincial assemblies. During 1988-2000, this number was reduced to 3-4 reserved seats in the national and each of the provincial assemblies (NCSW, 2005). From the year 2001 onwards, the legal framework has made space for absorbing a greater number of women into mainstream electoral politics. Beginning with the Local Government Ordinance (2001) that granted a 33% quota to women for contesting elections at the district, tehsil and union council levels, progress on women's political representation was further enhanced in 2002 when 17% of the seats in the national and provincial assemblies were reserved for women. For the first time in the country's history, 40,000 women councilors were occupying local government seats at different levels (UNDP, 2005). Though enhanced legal facilitation resulted in the participation of an unprecedented number of women at the local government level, the direct election of a substantial number of women to general seats of the national and provincial legislatures did not take place. For instance, in the 2008 general elections, only 10 women got directly elected to the four provincial assemblies, and that number only increased to 12 in the 2013 general elections. The socio-cultural and economic constraints barring women from active political participation in the male dominating society has in fact undermined their access to equal opportunities given by law. This research will help to find out the root causes for slow growth of women empowerment in Politics of Pakistan and will devise ways to women empowerment for democratic governance in Pakistan.

**Keywords:** Women, Empowerment, Politics, Pakistan, Asia, Muslims, IPU

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### I. Introduction

Being a highest population of this world women's struggle for the rights need to be reconcile to optimum level as their social and economic contribution significantly integrated with productive and reproductive system without failure. It has been also observed that female's participation in the political activities throughout the world very low and UNDP reported only 15% worldwide representation and most of the countries have less than 33% seats in the upper hierarchy of the parliament. Although there are many women in political parties at the operational level in Pakistan. Their growth to senior hierarchy is limited by many factors. The numbers of women in the senior leadership hierarchy of political parties are very limited. This study is focused to explore into the causes for slow leadership growth of women and the barriers faced by them in rising to the higher levels of Political organizational hierarchy. Since 1947, women's participation in politics is substantially important; however, there is low number of seats available for women's as compare to their population is higher than males. Moreover, political parties rarely given party tickets for contesting elections on merit basis or explicitly acquaintances are selected instead of leadership with professional skills. Federal legislative platform and provincial representation legitimately providing limited opportunities for women's governance in the country. Generally, male dominant culture of our society is considered basic reasons behind the discrimination of women empowerment. Quota based policies till 1988 for women representation in national assembly and each provincial assembly was only ten and five seats earmarked respectively. In this perspective situation becomes shoddier during 1988 – 2000 as already allocated lower quota further reduced to 3-4 seats in the national and provincial assemblies. While from the year 2001 onwards, women electoral politics quota modified and women participation by local government ordinance in mainstream of legal framework granted 33% quota for contesting elections which is resultantly further enhanced 17% of the seats in national and

provincial levels. This period provided women's opportunities with better platform to practice their political skills to serve country. Despite legal ordinance accelerated extraordinary participation by women at the local government but substantial representation of women to general seats of the national and provincial legislatures did not take place. Purpose behind this empirical study is to explore obstacles facing by women in political participation particularly in Pakistan and suggest some options to accelerate their political role independently instead of influential decisions, because being dominant population women's rights must be equivalently distributed in all field and its importance become case sensitive as male dominant societies less emphasized on women's problems. In these perspectives challenges' facing by women's required to be appraised on priority by male and female politicians; therefore feedback of politicians of Pakistan will be acquired to analyze and conclude the actual situation of political environment regarding women's empowerment issues linked to the upper hierarchy.

## **II. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Role of Women in Political History.**

Etymologically from Aristotle book "Politics" (Meier, 1990) refers Greek word (Barker & Stalley, 1998) to the management of human resource or (Sharma & Sharma, 2000) dealings with the inhabitants and political system is complete multi-dimensional approach which is anthropologically categorized into five major types i.e. republic, democratic, monarchy, communism and dictatorship (Waterfield, 2008) and Pakistan is democratic country and federally explicitly declared as Islamic republic (Binder, 1963). From 1857 war independence to 1947 women's participation was very impressive many women like Begum Hazrat Mahal the spouse of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, Bi Amma (Abadi Begum), the mother of Shoukat Ali and Mohammad Ali, Mrs. Zubaida Daoodi, wife of Maulana Shafi Daoodi, Azizan, Amjadi Begum (wife of Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar), Sadat Bano Kichlew was the wife of Dr. Saifuddin Kichlew, Zulekha Begum (wife of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad), Nishat un Nisa Begum (Begum Hasrat Mohani), Razia Khatoon (daughter of Nasiruddin), Akbari Begum was the mother of Barrister Asif Ali, Asghari Begum (mother of Qazi Abdur-Rahim), Habiba and Rahimi, Zehida Khatoon Sherwani (daughter of Muzzamil Khan Sherwani), Khadija Begum, Muneera Begum (wife of Maulana Mazharul Haq), Amina Qureshi, Fatima Qureshi, Amina Tyabji (wife of Abbas Tyabji), Rehana Tyabji (daughter of Abbas Tyabji), Hamida Tyabji (granddaughter of Shamsuddin Taybji), Begum Sakina Luqmani (daughter of Badruddin Taybji), Fatima Taib Ali, Shafaat un-Nisa Bibi (wife of Maulana Habibur Rehman of Ludhiana), Safia Saad, Begum Kulsoom Siyani, Asmat Ara Khatoon, Sughra Khatoon, Bibi Amatul Islam, Fatima Ismail, Sultana Hayat Ansari, Hazra Begum and Zuhra Ansari participated in the freedom struggle which is parallel contribution in various ways to paved the political purpose of the Muslims and resultantly Pakistan was created. Anticipated that approximately 225 Muslim women dedicated their lives to the revolution but generally appreciation not deliberated (Dr.Darakhshan Anjum, 2016). Subcontinent generally based on patriarchal culture where women authorized confined authority to represent her being a political leader (Alston, 2014).

### **2.2 Women's Empowerment in Parliament of Pakistan**

Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his motivational speech at Islamia College, 25 March 1940, concluded as without women participation in political system, political struggle could not succeed and existence of nations may not possible (Kiran, 2013). However, critically women ignored and faced discriminations into the mainstream of political legislation (Bari, 2010). Miss Fatima Jinnah first time participated for the presidential elections in 1965 to establish basic democracy despite she did not qualify but it is motivational step for other women (Rashiduzzaman, 1970) also, as her age was about 71 years and faced challenges particularly (Al-Mujahid, 1965) some ulma political opinion about female being a head of the state not allowed (Ansari, 2011); in contrast to this later on many ulma supported Benazir Bhutto being a first woman prime minister of Pakistan (Behuria, 2007) and currently all political parties either representing religious have also women members in national assembly (www.na.gov.pk, 2016). Politics is comprehensive subject has brief methodological practices in academic disciplines elaborated multiple sense of perceptions as art of governance to deal public affairs with power of resource management at any level, and the whole process of autonomy delegation linked with legitimacy in the form of constitution, law, religion, morality, ethics, and social norms (McCann, 2002, 2002). Women empowerment in political system may provide confidence for general population to gain equality. From historical data we observed that in 1<sup>st</sup> legislature from 10 Aug 1947 to 24 Oct 1954 out of 30 only 2 seats were held by women which is only 6.6% and 2<sup>nd</sup> legislature from 02 May 1955 to 07 Oct 1958 out of 80 women participation seems zero, however in 1956 constitution 3% of quota were allotted to women. Furthermore, constitution of 1962 nominally allowed 06 seats for women of Pakistan in legislation, resultantly 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> legislature from 08 June 1962 to 25 Mar 1969, women directly elected on their seats despite it represent 3.8% of the whole. While constitution of 1973 apparently reserved 10 seats but 6<sup>th</sup> legislature total seats were also increased to 210 and allocated percentage for women participation was only 5.2% of the

total. However, from 1988 to 1990 seats held by women were 22 to 24 approximately 11% and this interval show premier growth regardless 1993 to 1996 was critically low as 0.9% and 1.8% . After 2002 in 12<sup>th</sup> legislature highest percentage of 21.64% reserved for women’s and nominally total 74 seats were held by women out of 342 seats. Provincial representation is cumulatively 17.6% of the total strength (PILDAT, 2004).

**2.3 Women’s Empowerment and Contemporary Countries**

Nations realizing the importance of women political empowerment and current political sphere women’s commitment endorsed by their representation more effectively as compare to historical practices. Globally, women accumulative representation growing and approximately 22%, where Pakistan is dominantly empowered the women in legislation with 20% seats reserved for women. Geographically south Asian countries including Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka approximately consist of 1.6 billion population of the world. Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) and World Bank has compiled info data regarding contemporary political environment for women empowerment in different regions of the globe with appropriate ranking. Pakistan has 85<sup>th</sup> position out of 199 countries listed by IPU ranking, however women’s of Pakistan are impressively part of political system as 20.6% is closed to the 22%. South Asian women political and legislative representation is definitely variable as data shown in table 2.4 explicitly illustrated that Nepal has 48<sup>th</sup> position on global ranking and top of the south Asian countries providing 29.6% seats in their national assembly and Afghanistan despite from its critical regional conflicts representing 27.7% women in lower house and 26.5% in upper house which is appreciable and considerably question mark for country like India claimed democratic country and being a second largest territory of the world approximately 1.3 billion population has about 48% are women, which is nearly half of the total Indian population has only 12% representation. Sri Lanka has lowest ranking in south Asia as women representation at lower house 5.8% of the total 225 seats demonstrating women of this country required more struggle for political and legislative platform. In contemporary modality of political empowerment shows women generally deprived as compare to their population is 50% of the world while 22% representation is also retained at lower leadership instead of top hierarchy of the political and legislative system generally their struggle influenced by male dominated political system. In view of IPU data United States of America also has 97<sup>th</sup> position of world ranking constitutes 19.4% and 20% women seats at lower and upper house respectively. It is very critical situation where different factors associated to political empowerment composition of multiple hurdles to reach the highest level of representation on top hierarchy as influenced from bottom up in current system of the world in every aspect of life. Furthermore, religion perspectives Muslim countries has women representation in political and legislative environment is also inconstant as Afghanistan (27%), Bangladesh (20%), Pakistan (20%), Iran (5.9%), Indonesia (17.1%), Turkey (14.9%), Saudi Arabia (19.9%) etc. Generally, most of the people blamed that women in Muslim countries prejudice due to Islamic rulings while anticipated Iran most of the countries contrast to historical perception representing significant representation which may become increased, in this connection Afghanistan with 27% has remarkable progress while culture of this region is considerably strict for women. (IPU, 2016).

Table 2.4. Women’s participation in South Asia Legislation Source (IPU, 2016)

Rank	Country	National Assembly / Lower House				Senate / Upper House			
		Election	Seats	Women	%	Election	Seats	Women	%
48	Nepal	2013	595	176	29.6%	-	-	-	-
52	Afghanistan	2010	249	69	27.7%	2015	68	18	26.5%
85	Pakistan	2013	340	70	20.6%	2015	104	19	18.3%
89	Bangladesh	2014	350	70	20%	-	-	-	-
143	India	2014	543	65	12%	2016	244	27	11%
165	Bhutan	2013	47	4	8.5%	2013	25	2	8%
176	Maldives	2014	85	5	5.9%	-	-	-	-
177	Sri Lanka	2015	225	13	5.8%	-	-	-	-

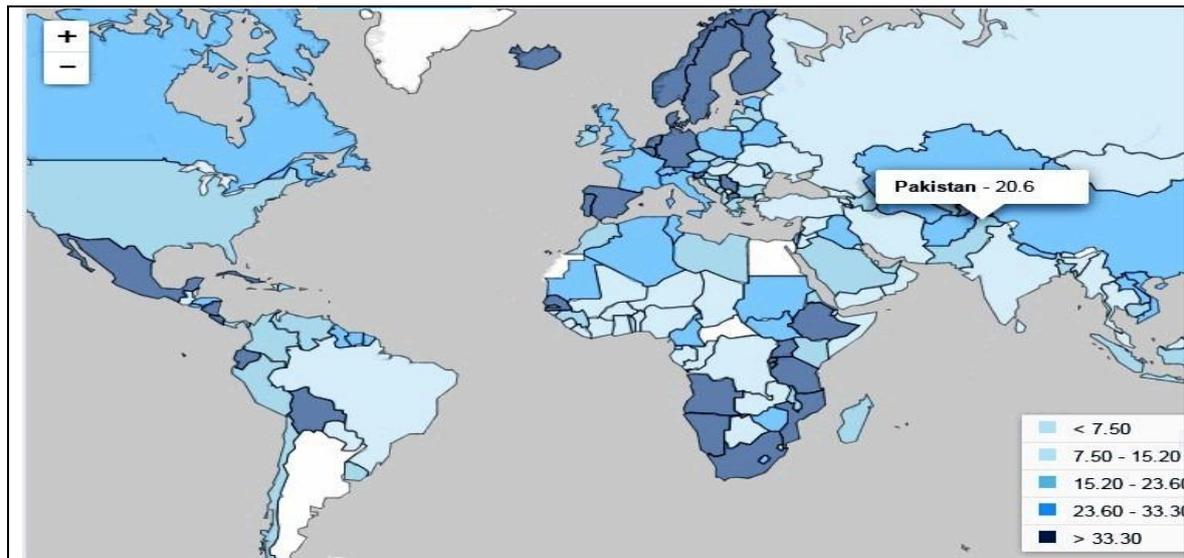


Figure 2.3 Seats held by women in parliament – Regional perspective (world Bank, 2016)

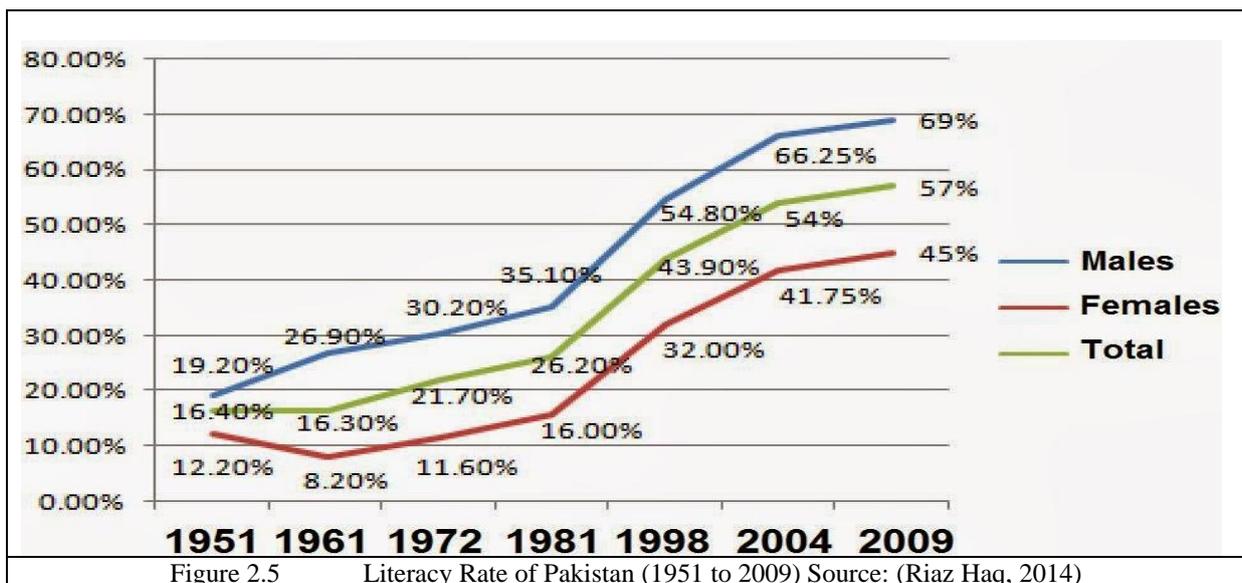
## 2.4 Women’s Empowerment and Challenges

Harvey (2004) quoted definition of empowerment as the methodology for skills development with knowledge enhancement techniques for self-confidence in learners decision and control over the required decisions (Skagen, Torras, Blaabjerg, & Hansen, 1997). On the basis of endorsed capabilities and knowledge based decision making skilled incorporation in democratic legislative decision making environment without biased oppression is refers to political empowerment and in this context acquiring a membership of national politics and legislative bodies (Miller, 1994). Constitution and Law specially reserved seats for women, in addition to general seats but apart from this and influence of other factors only few women contest for the general seats (Rashida Patel, 1979). On primary level cultural values still discriminating the women and depriving their rights almost in all fields of life although constitution provided liberty (Critelli, 2010). This culture directly inaugurates the social models where birth of girl usually victim of revulsion while religion in this region is Islam which positively correlate explicitly emphasize birth of girl as “blessing of Allah” (www.islamweb.net, 2016). Amna Mahmood identify two main levels of hurdles which may affect the women political empowerment distinctively domestic level and social level. All political parties having specified their women’s wings have much smaller membership of women’s wings than the male membership of the party. Voting behavior integrated with voter registration which is seems poor in case of women even women vote casting ratio is very limited, these types of issues increase the need of women wings of all the parties not only women vote but also visible influence on the decision making processes and political programs of their parties to solve tremendous problems ignored by male participants as throughout the political history of Pakistan women position not upto mark (Naz et al., 2010). Successful participation of women from lower hierarchy to upper tier being a political representative significantly correlated to ancestor’s heritage as mainstream of the woman participants of the assemblies belongs to political families (<http://www.dawn.com/>, 2014). Increasing women’s political participation is a temporary mean to achieve gender balance. Neither it facilitates the real political empowerment and the democratic participation of women nor does it remove all the barriers to political empowerment of women (Mahmood, 2004). Root cause of women discrimination mainly linked with social system / culture, economical, religion interpretation and political factors and the electorate’s lack of confidence in women, and exigencies of availability that political activity demands are equally major obstacles to women’s participation as unequal distribution of resources, lack of tradition and motivation to actively intervene in politics and economic & social criteria for political candidacy. absence / rare women empowerment institutions existing to promote women’s role in political system. (A Lopez-Claros, S Zahidi, 2005; U. P. Sinha, 2015).

### 2.4.1 Women and Literacy Challenges

Education is first step which is considerably helpful and enables the females for acquiring their rights with proper justification. Pakistan literacy rate is 58% consistently growing and as female in 2008 to 2012 have 61.5% which shows people of this country now realizing importance of girls education. However, previously literacy rate was very sympathetic as according to early census in 1950 women literacy rate was only 12%, this was the main factor which cause lag behind the women’s to participate in political system for their empowerment and similarly men literacy was also low as 14% and this leads to old naïve traditions about women capabilities and confined them to the discriminating environment. Similarly, only 6 seats were reserved

in the 1956 while today 60 seats are reserved for women, which comparatively result of knowledge development among the population to understand their rights. Another aspect is voter's education, which also correlated to the literacy because illiterate people cannot assess their core values and ignore the right selection of representative in provincial and national platform generally influenced by personal like / dislike rather than true analysis of candidate on the basis of performance. Moreover, Gender Inequality Index: only 19.3% of female attend secondary schooling compared to 46.1% of men with the ranking of 121<sup>st</sup> out of 155 (The News, 2016). National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Department for International Development (DFID) in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Education promoting the girls education in Pakistan by Pakistan Girls Education Initiative (PGEI) in connection with United Nations Girls Education Initiatives (UNGEI) on December 9, 2010. Educated women's can participate in politics with strong strategic decision power with appropriate knowledge based thoughts while illiterate women despondent from their rights due to lack of awareness (UNCHD).



#### 2.4.2 Women and Socio Economic Challenges

Economic is imperative aspect which may relate to women's empowerment in political and legislative participation. Definitely empowerment is capability to make strategic decision and demonstrate the existing gap due to lack of advocacy may ordinary practices for measurement and quantification methodology of empowerment integrated with all types of resource management either human resource, material and social marketing (Kabeer, 1999). Different studies frequently highlighted poverty challenges as 1.29 billion people fall in this category and World Bank estimated that about 70% belongs to women poverty whereas Asian Development Bank reported approximately 12.4% in Pakistan lived below the national poverty line and 50.7% of the population is employed and 12.6% share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector (Asian Development Bank, 2016). Moreover, according to human development index value 0.538 with 147<sup>th</sup> position out of 188 countries where 24.6% are working women in labor market as compare to 82.9% of male participation. However, south Asia HDI Value of 0.607 is below the value 0.666 but global rate for improvement in life increased to double since 1997 despite 800 million people still behind the poverty line (The News, 2016). Grameen Bank is example quoted by various intellectuals for women role in economic perspectives (Batiwala, 1994). According to survey results published in Economist April 2012 by Yasir Amin women labour reduced to 21% in 2011 while it was 33% in 2000. Poverty situation is very miserable and clearly exclaimed that how to be empowered in political system without economic resources and other dimension of this situation increased the need of women leadership in top political hierarchy to represent and establish policies governing the women empowerment in all sphere of life (Dawn News, 2013).

#### 2.4.2 Women and Socio Culture Challenges

Women's social status in urban and rural areas of Pakistan has less distinction despite urban women has educational advantage to represent themselves in various fields of life (Najam & Yusuf, 2013). Social subjugation of women manifested by inherent gender discrimination, racial, feudalism based domestic violence, religious and psychological factors although empowerment and participation of women elevated by supporting policies across the country and 20<sup>th</sup> century is considered with greater opportunities in political empowerment

seek by women being a social right (Azam, 1996). Various organizations promoting and acknowledging the political, economic and social rights of the women and resultantly important outcomes leading to important changes in women's live but these achievements still partly success to bring the equity in social system where disparities are reported in media reports (Brooks, 2016). Generally, strict family obligations are practiced against regular life of women because mostly parents contemplating thoughts about future marital issues therefor after certain age women's also face ligament challenges in these perspectives marriage of girls becomes on earlier age validated resultantly women empowerment in social system incorporated to reproductive system and social status after marriage usually preferred house wife in our culture while population of working women is very low (Dover, Hariharan, Cummings, & Staff, 2014). Sexual harassment in gender non-segregated environments is a big challenge to women's political participation as IPU also brief on October 2016 on this serious issues on the basis of survey results and still there is no mechanisms for protection of women within the political parties due to patriarchal system not only in Pakistan but globally (IPU, 2016). Women pay more cost for their engagement in politics in the process of national development and progress (Alston, 2014). Women in 21<sup>st</sup> Century, has space for political participation but support of political parties towards higher ranks with proper financial and human resource required to be improve on merit (Derichs & Thompson, 2013). Complexities are still exist and different frameworks and platforms like women in development (WID), gender in development (GAD), gender empowerment enabling environment (GEE), gender empowerment measure (GEM), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), gender related development index (GDI) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are emphasizes on women empowerment in order to promote equity in gender relationship and suitable indication where achievements required to be identified for successful socio cultural development (Emily Esplen with Emma Bell, 2007).

### **2.4.3 Women And Religion Interpretation**

(Zia, 2009) argues that there has been a significant turn in the discourse of feminist politics in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Education is basic need while girls in tribal areas are ignored for basic education and confined their right to Quran recitation without translation even pronunciation of Quran verses by girls not satisfactory (Buzdar & Ali, 2011). Islamic guidance revealed in the form of Quran and Sunnah explicitly prohibits inequality regardless of gender evidently Quran and Sunnah preaching's elaborates men and women equally without discrimination factor. In this perspective Surah Al Ahzab verse 35 shows that rewards and forgiveness will be provided to both men and women on the basis of devotion, believe, obedience, truthfulness, steadfastness, humbleness, charity, fasting, chaste and who remember the Allah. Similarly in various occasions and events women's were dealt equally in Islam (Habisch & Schmidpeter, 2016). Quran distinctively dedicated complete surah Al Nisa in addition to other verses revealed for the rights and solving problem belong to women.

## **III. Research Methodology**

Design of the research study is exploring the facts associated to the women empowerment in Pakistan. This research project is designed on the basis of systematic approach to manage research to attain quality. Hence according to system definition input, process and output are basic parameters, the research designed on this model as available literature being an input from various resources like books/articles and research instrument on the basis of research objectives and research gap process and this process further received input from respondents subsequently respondents input data process through meticulously analysis. Research design functionality is to accomplish the specific requirement through evidence in order to conform the research problem effectively without ambiguity. Systematically, relevant information evaluated and descriptively analyzed to reach conclusion entails the evidence pertains to objective theory. The validity and reliability of the research study must be understood critically and design of the research must be address on priority. Development of effective research design always integrated with well-defined explicitly defined research problem with proper justification and research design is considered basic strategy for preceding the whole process of searching the facts and figures. Literature reviews of previous research articles, books, news etc associated to research problem are part of comprehensive research designs and the research questions clearly and explicitly either closed or open ended must be focused on central theme of research problem. Similarly good research design also consists of qualitative or quantitative analysis according to the data obtained to determine outcomes of the research efforts. Type of research design elaborates the working structure and appropriately organized layout of the study. Although this study is specifically designed to investigate women empowerment in politics but has flexibility to generalize the conclusion on relevant aspects like girls education, social and economic issues etc. Moreover, the outcomes are respondents opinion on questions asked for people behavior regarding empowerment has been carefully collected and statistically analyzed on specific software with fair and unbiased manner. Formulation of research design after defining problem incorporate all necessary procedures and detail guidelines to conduct research project to gain answers as well as supporting information

regarding research problem. Generally, research designs are classified into two types as exploratory research design and conclusive research design. This research study related to women empowerment challenges in political participation is descriptive research as design is particularly based on questions regarding research problem to obtain the current opinion of politicians of Pakistan with respect to challenges or hurdles faced by women in the political environment. The descriptive research provide general overview after quantitatively testing of variables measured from certain system in this case political system and usually important recommendations beomes possilbe on the basis of rich data and detail analysis. Furthermore, cross section interpretations and philosophical design of this research covers the mix approach model to investigate the variables. Epidomologically it is not experimental butobservational study in descriptive design with cross sectional view point as male and female politicians in addition to their area of representation are considered as respondents against each query designed to collect valuable data. Moreover, exploration of phenomemon affecting women empowerment on qualitative and conclusive with respect to statistical analysis as quantitative methods are mainly categorized this research study as mixed design. Population is well known term which elaborates the group of individuals have similar characteristics. In this perspective scientific queries generally related to individual behavior and characteristics. This research study people involved in political system of Pakistan being a population is confined to the geographical regions of Pakistan consist four provinces and various cities. Although the size of population is not very large but due to geographical distances and sensitivity of research problem accessibility of respondents was not met successfully, ultimately every individual of the population cannot tested by the researcher. Categorically population of politicians can be classified on the basis of different criteria therefore, population can be assessed on provincial representation, gender based assessment, and party affiliation based assessment, active and inactive position, language based as well as religious school of thoughts are dominantly available for the investigation of politician opinion about women empowerment challenges in political system. Population of the study can be generally classified into two basic types can be target population and accessible population. Target population also known as theoretical population and ideally refers to entire group of individuals representing researcher interests while accessible population is subset of target population and on the basis of these subset researcher draw samples and conclusions either in descriptive way or inferential method to deliver characteristics or behavior regarding research problem related questions. This project draw two subset of target population first on the gender being a male or female response against this critical issue and second on the area of political representation like Senator, MNA, MPA and local bodies. Complete population of politicians being respondents could not possible to accomplish data collection procedure due to geographical non-accessibility hence convenience sampling is method adopted. It is very important to mentioned that questionnaire responses collected through arrangement of personnel meeting with many men and women politicians with due request and courtesy by ensuring confidentiality for their responses as the issue among the most of politician considered as very sensitive as well as geographical situation with respect to global terrorism specifically religious intolerance. Although 1170 politician were participated in 2013 election where 228 were women, but this strength refers to overall population appeared in political legislation process while sample size is very low as n=88 peoples including male and female has been participated for the accomplishment of this research study however, secondary data is available scholastically to support research significance. Convenience sampling technique has been adopted in order to collection of data from respondents. Target population is total number of politicians existing either active or inactive in political process but logically accessibility of politician is more important to obtain objectives of the study. Census study is not possible by including every politician in the study as not possible within limited budget and time frame, however, small, but carefully chosen sample has been used to represent the population. The sample reveals the features of the population from which it is drawn. Furthermore methodologically sampling categorized into probability and nonprobability samples, for example probability samples derived from population has non zero chance of selection and this method related to randomized , systematic and stratified design of sampling and advantage of this type of sampling is error can be calculated and inferences of the population estimated including error. Whereas non probability sampling method the samples draw from population derived in nonrandom manner therefore convenience sample, judgment and quota sampling snow ball are main types of this category. Data collection instrument is strategic methodology often used to accomplish the research purposes influenced by the type of variables used to acquired accurate data subject to the collection point and capabilities of the enumerator. In general data collection instrument distinguished by qualitative and quantitative design which supported by instrument like questionnaire, interviews, focus group, case studies and observation in qualitative perspectives and sample survey, administrative data, tracer studies and census applied for quantitative research. The instrument of this study is questionnaire based on five point likert scales to collect the data regarding behavior of people being a response against the questions asked related to the women empowerment challenges in political system of Pakistan.

IV. Data Analysis

Data interpretation involves various tools and techniques used for meticulous analysis to reach realistic conclusions

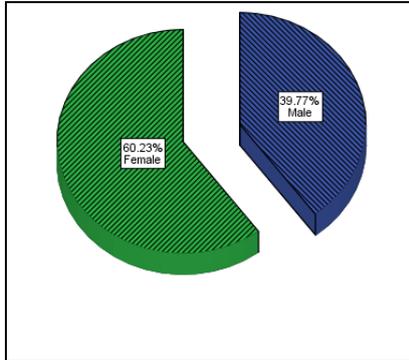


Figure 4.1 Respondents share by gender and designation

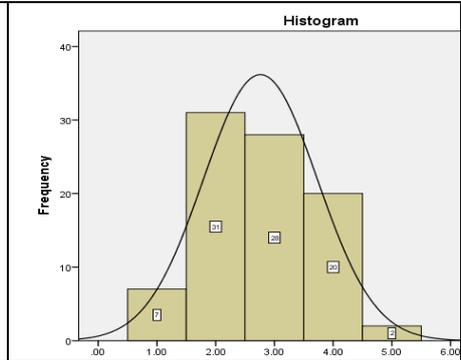
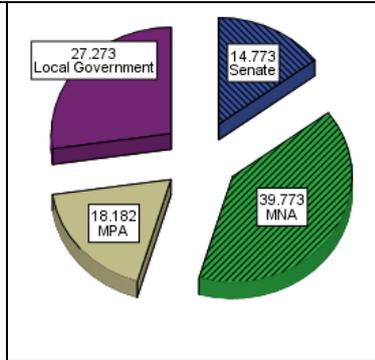


Figure 4.2 Women Have Equal Rights and Justified Quota in Political System of Pakistan

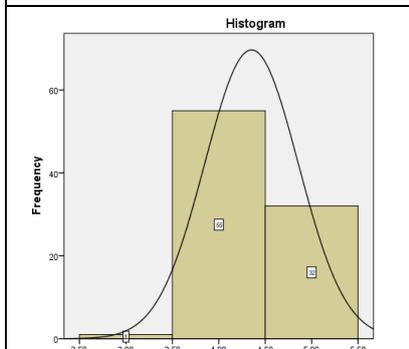


Figure 4.3 Gender Discrimination is Inherent Factor of Political System in Pakistan Due to Illiterate Culture

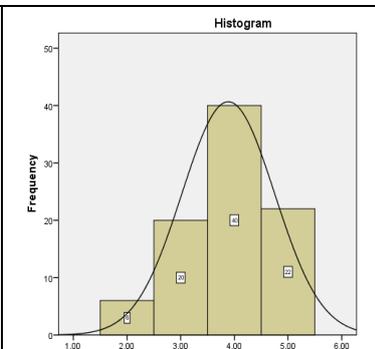


Figure 4.4 Gender Action Plan Developed may be Helpful to Prevent Discrimination or Harassment

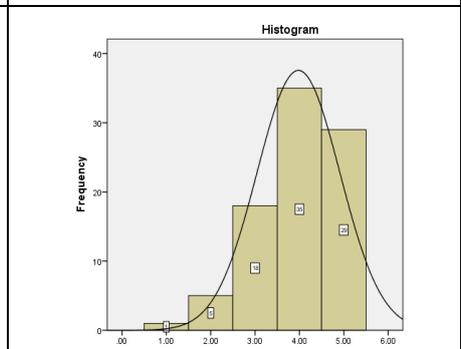


Figure 4.5 Socio-Economic Factors and Existing Structure are Main Barriers

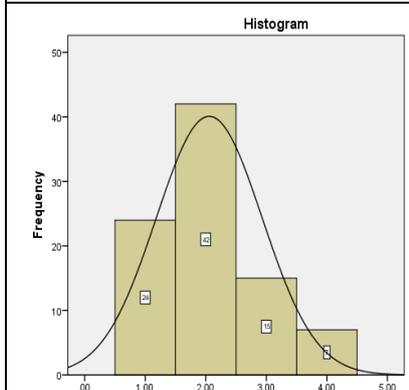


Figure 4.6 Absence of Leadership Capabilities

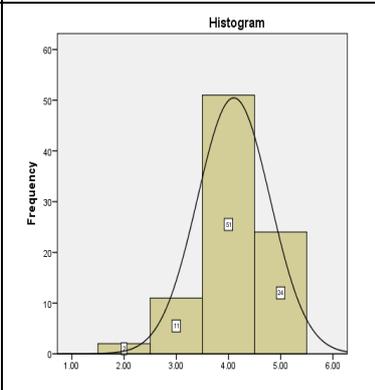


Figure 4.7 Gender Fair Government

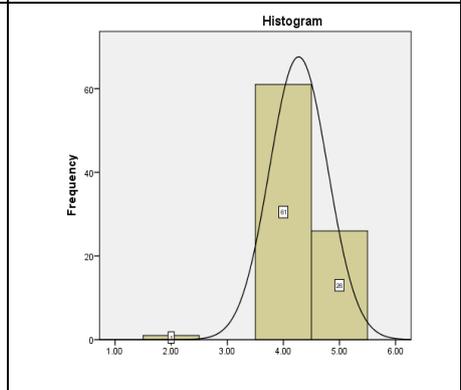


Figure 4.8 Absence / Rare Women Empowerment Institution Existing to Promote Women Role in Political System

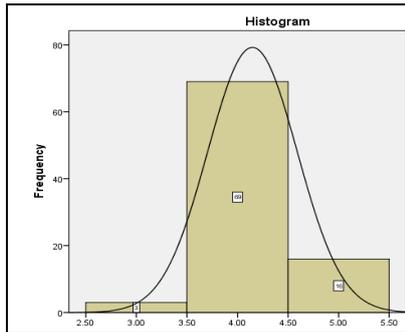


Figure 4.9 Strengthening of existing Women Wings of the Political Parties

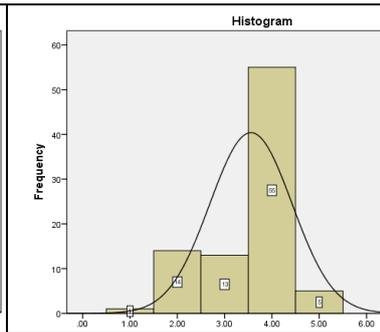


Figure 4.10 Women wings non visible influence on the decision making process

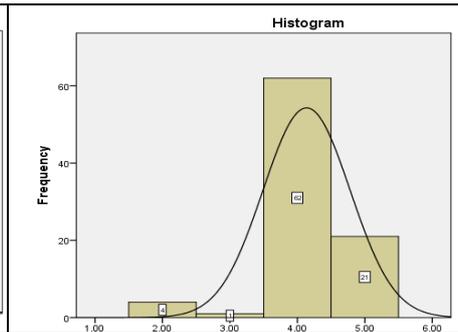


Figure 4.11 Successful Participation of Women From Lower Hierarchy to Upper Tier Being a Political Representative Significantly Correlated to Ancestor's Heritage

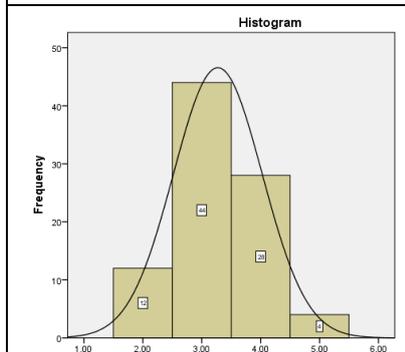


Figure 4.12 Women are Treated as Mere Fillers For Statistics Without Real Political and Economic Power

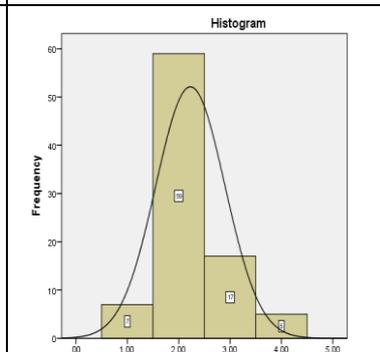


Figure 4.13 Previous and Current Work of Women Politicians Realized and Evaluated on the Basis of Standardized Performance Analysis and Found Satisfactory

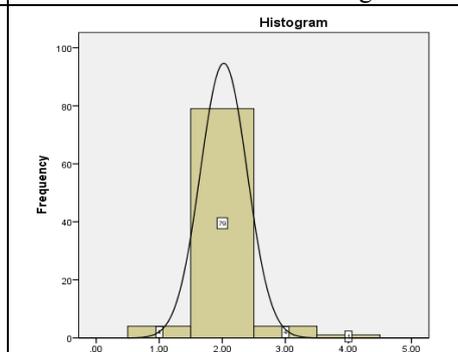


Figure 4.14 Numerical Strength in Parliament Contribute to The Women Empowerment

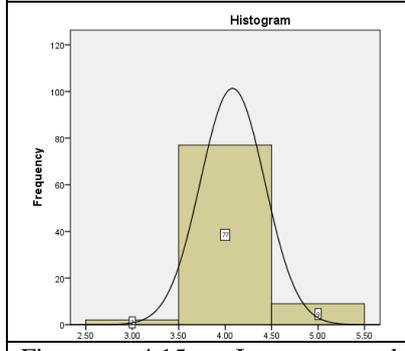


Figure 4.15 Impact and Effectiveness of Women Will Make a Difference because the Numerical Strength only in Legislation is Not an Indicator of Quality

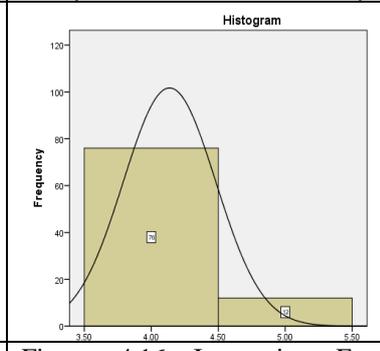


Figure 4.16 Imperative For Women To Claim Their Share of Power To Make Decisions For Political Empowerment

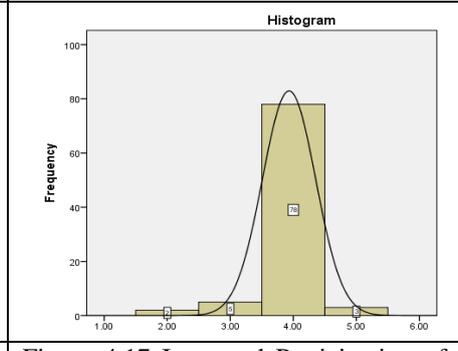


Figure 4.17 Increased Participation of Women in the Political Parties, Women Appointees in Important Positions Within The Parties

<p>Figure 4.18 The Electorate's Lack of Confidence in Women, and Exigencies of Availability that Political Activity Demands are Equally Major Obstacles to Women's Participation</p>	<p>Figure 4.19 Specific Budget Allocated For Development Projects For Women</p>	<p>Figure 4.20 The Discrimination that all Political Parties Having Specified Their Women's Wings Have Much Smaller Membership of Women's Wings than the Male Membership of the Party</p>
<p>Figure 4.21 Female Also be The Part of Decision Making Committees of The Party</p>	<p>Figure 4.22 Women May Even Make Better Decisions Than Men For The Simple Reason That They Take More Factors Into Consideration</p>	<p>Figure 4.23 Well-Developed Strategies to Increase the Level of Women's Participation in Decision-Making Bodies, Quality in Women's Representation</p>
<p>Figure 4.24 Opposing Trends in Politics Where Political Parties Continue To Resist The Granting of Party Tickets To Female Candidates</p>	<p>Figure 4.25 Female Become President/ Prime Minister of The Country</p>	<p>Figure 4.26 Mentorship Program Which may be Organized by the Participation To Develop Strategies For The Capacity Building of Women</p>

<p>Figure 4.27 Laws or Legislation For Increasing The Participation of Females in Cabinet or in Political Parties</p>	<p>Figure 4.28 There Must be Awareness Campaign For Women by Political Parties So That They Don't Remain Unaware</p>	<p>Figure 4.29 Some Sections of The Society Consider Women's Political Participation as Anti-Islamic</p>
<p>Figure 4.30 Lack of Mechanisms For Protection of Women Within the Political Parties</p>	<p>Figure 4.31 Nominating Women Candidates in Areas Where It is Difficult For Them To Win</p>	<p>Figure 4.32 The Culturally Accepted Principle That Women Responsibility at Home and to Their Families Hinders Their Entry and Progress in Politics</p>
<p>Figure 4.33 Lack of Unity Among Women Parliamentarians Because of Party Politics</p>	<p>Figure 4.34 to Increase Each Party's Membership of Women To a Minimum of 40% and Representation in The Central Working Committee to a Minimum of 30%</p>	<p>Figure 4.35 Women Pay More Cost For Their Engagement in Politics in the Process of National Development and Progress</p>

## V. Conclusion

Women deprived from their political participation rights which may influence by various factors. Accumulative 43% people rated that equal rights and justified quota is not available for women in our political system. Gender discrimination due to illiterate culture is observed from results and these results ultimately emphasized on gender action plan required to be developed to prevent discrimination and harassment as 70% agreed that gender action development plans must be initiated to overcome any type of harassment and gender discrimination associated with gender. Moreover socio-economic factors and existing structure of the political system hinders the women participation. In contrast people endorsed that women have satisfactory leadership capabilities in this perspective their strong desired to promote gender free government by involving women in

policy making process. There is no existence of a particular institution which promotes the women empowerment in political system, It is pertinent to mention their political studies being a subject or degree program in universities or college is considered as knowledge development whereas NGOs often focused on social issues pertains to daily life of a women. 97% people agreed that there is strong need to strengthen the existing women wings of all political parties in order to accomplish women empowerment goals. This approach provide competitive edge especially in urban areas, however outcomes of the practice required initiation of the process. It has been observed currently at least all political parties have women wing and the main reason of this approach linked with the women seats reserved for the women in parliament. By strengthening the women wings, large part of the population may benefit from their existence as to serve the nation. Cumulatively 75% of participants agreed that women wings do not influence on decision making process and political parties merely include the opinion or suggestion propagated from women wings. Cumulatively 94% of participants agreed that successful participation of women from lower hierarchy to upper tier being a political representative significantly correlated to ancestor's heritage. significant number of responses indicating the dispossess the women empowerment in realistic way as the whole political and economic powers integrated to each other as to execute political program financial support seems like a backbone and political authority is only solution where programs or projects for problem solving effectively sanction to proceed in a realistic manner. Large number of respondents as revealed from the resultant outcomes explicitly declared that there is lack of appreciation and neither standardized method of performance evaluation existed nor previous and current work of women politician realized accordingly. In connection with previous sections real power in politics and influence in decision making again mention here that numerical strength is not refers to women empowerment. Real empowerment is linked with decision making and implementation authority being a political leadership and same concept agreed by 90% who denied unrealistic numerical labeling. Again link with aforementioned sections further to numerical strength contradiction with real power in politics and influence in decision making impact and effectiveness of women will make a difference in order to ensure quality politics instead of ordinary legislation requirements. From the resultant data we can validate that almost in each section respondents feel authority of decision more important than conventional membership of the parliament. Women must claim and more struggle to attain his share of authority to make effective decisions in political arena as approximately half of the population belongs to women while political representation of women is very low whereas women participation significantly led them to important positions within the parties. Accumulative 51% participants agreed electorate's lack of confidence in women, and exigencies of availability that political activity demands are equally major obstacles to women's participation. Accumulative 98% participants agreed that appropriate budget must be allocated for women empowerment. Cumulatively all people agreed that women have insufficient quota or smaller membership than men which may seem discrimination. Accumulative 97% participants agreed that the female also be the part of decision making committees of the party, 74% participants that females take more factors into consideration for appropriate decisions; however, there is chance of biasness as 60% of the participants are women as world statistics regarding intelligent quotient test results indicated small variations between male and females IQ. 90% participants agreed that well-developed strategies to increase the level of women's participation in decision-making bodies, quality in women's representation. 43% participants agreed opposing trends in politics where political parties continue to resist the granting of party tickets to female candidates. 48% participants agreed that female become president/ prime minister of the country. All respondents agreed that mentorship programs are essentially required to develop women capacity building strategies in political arena. Cumulatively 95.5% agreed that necessary laws must be initiated to declare women participation as mandatory. Cumulatively all people agreed that awareness campaigns must be initiated to empower women in political system for their rights. 59% of the societies consider women's political participation as anti-Islamic. 30.7% thinking that lack of mechanisms for protection of women within the political parties. 36% responding that nominating women candidates in areas where it is difficult for them to win. 76% agreed the culturally accepted principle that women must first fulfill their responsibility at home and to their families hinders their entry and progress in politics.

lack of unity among women parliamentarians and they are not keen to take up women's issues because of party politics is not an issue as this thought is regretted by 36%. Almost people agree to increase each party's membership of women to a minimum of 40% and representation in the central working committee to a minimum of 30% to ensure that women participate in the process of decision. It is also accepted by majority that women pay more cost for their engagement in politics in the process of national development and progress. Keeping in view this fact, do you consider the need to create a feeling of cohesiveness in such a way that the status granted to women and reflected.

## VI. Recommendations

Conclusion drawn from literature reviewed and descriptive analysis shows particularly in all perspectives women required to continue their struggle for empowerment especially in political system. Although numerical strength of the women in parliament has been increased but still it is not justified quota as compare to their problems integrated with approximately 50% of the total population, quota should be gender fair realistic government with decision making authorities. It has also been observed from concluded data that illiteracy cause of actual ignorance leading to gender discrimination as data revealed after increasing literacy level, all parties established their political women wings, in this connection educational development of each Pakistani must be sustained in order to moderate enlighten nation. Moreover, gender action plan developed to avert gender harassment must be practiced with national action plans. Specific training institutes mandatory for developing leadership capabilities of women. Existing women wings should be strengthened with visible influence on the decision making by eliminating ancestor's factor towards upper positions. Standardized performance evaluation system must be initiated to realize work of every politician, for example how much budget or resources allocated and how many projects completed with quality management perspective.

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