

Factors Influencing Women's Electoral Participation In District Mardan (Pakistan): An Empirical Analysis Of The Public Perception With Regard To 2018 General Elections

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ABSTRACT:

This research examines the factors impeding female voter participation in Mardan district in relation to the 2018 general election. The study has identified many factors such as conservative Pakhtun culture, economic dependence of women, women's lack of interest in politics, lack of family cooperation, women's family responsibilities, lack of political awareness, lack of education, the Absence of women's CNIC and lack of women's vote registration. The study is quantitative and its scope is limited to Mardan district. The data were collected through a questionnaire in Mardan District from 400 respondents using convenience sampling. Data were analyzed using frequency, percent, and chi-square tests. The data were further elaborated using various independent variables such as area, gender, age and literacy.

KEYWORDS: Electoral participation, district Mardan, general elections 2018, Voting gender gap, Factors of participation, voters.

INTRODUCTION:

It is the lifeline of participatory democracy and involves different numbers of people in different activities at different times (Franklin, 2001: 2). Scholars have considered voting as a democratic responsibility. In addition to the expected costs and benefits of voting, Downs assumes that the cost of voting itself, which relates to social responsibility in turn for voter turnout, determines whether or not he or she reaches out to vote. Campbell, Gurin and Miller (1954, 194) define voting as "one should participate in the electoral process for oneself and others" and measure it further by asking respondents' opinions.

In other words, the nature of the right to vote is a strong support for democracy. The more

voters consider it an essential responsibility, the more likely they are to participate in the voting (Tang, 2018: 80).

Verba and Pye define it as "civic activity that has a more or less direct effect on the choice of officials and the actions they take". This means that not only to exercise the right to vote, but the division of power at all levels of government in the state. Electoral participation implies actual participation in this voluntary activity, where members participate in electing ruler directly or indirectly and formulating public policy. This means that in the process of political participation, people actually participate in political activities (George, 2018: 108).

According to Gopal Krishna, the decision of voting for one candidate or other can be completely dogged by non-political considerations and in most cases the voter is not aware of the choice that he/she is making in the election (Robert, 1980: 290).

According to Herbert Mack Kloski, this is a voluntary activity in which members of the public directly or indirectly participate in the election of rulers in the formulation of public policy. Conway defines it as "the activities of citizens who seek to influence the structure of government, the election of government officials, or government policy. Huntington defines it as those activities of an individual citizen that influence government decisions (Mc Closky, 1968: 252). Nie and Verba believe that political participation involves such legitimate activities by individuals, whose purpose is more or less directly influenced by the choices of government officials and the actions taken (Nie, 1971: 9).

Women's political participation is increasing significantly, especially when it comes to voting. It is practiced even in many of the Western industrialized democracies, including the United States, United Kingdom and Europe in general. Since politics and political activity are still considered men's realm, women are left aside. Femininity puts women out of political activity and is pursued in a political context. People don't want women to be involved in politics, they consider it as a masculine domain. Smith et al. (2007) explained that voters prefer the masculine characteristics of candidates for certain political positions. On the other hand, female candidates face discrimination when entering male career fields, including politics. In addition, voters want politicians and leaders to be male rather than female. Male traits need to perform higher positions.

Voters will use their perceived political abilities and personal characteristics when evaluating candidates for certain political positions. Rudman and Kilianski (2000) noted that political issues are classified as "male" and "female". Health care, women's rights, and social welfare are seen as women's issues, while the military, national defense, crime, and the

economy are seen as men's issues. Voters generally believe that women's issues are not as important as men's. Emotion, warmth, honesty, and compassion are stereotyped as feminine, while strength, aggression, independence, and self-confidence are masculine qualities. Feminization characteristics are inconsistent with politics and political activities, which reduces the level of women's political participation in elections and representation. (Mas'udah, 2019: 115-16).

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What are the factors that affect the women's electoral participation in District Mardan with reference to 2018 General Elections?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The purpose of this research is to explore the factors of gender gap about women's electoral participation in 2018 General Elections in District Mardan. This study also emphasizes on the responsibilities of women politicians in decision making process and the possible hindrances through which they are facing.

Quantitative Method

This study is based on quantitative method. Primary data was collected through questionnaire from the public in District Mardan.

Universe of the Study

The scope of the study is District Mardan. The sampling frame of the quantitative approach is male and female registered voters of District Mardan. The total number of registered voters in District Mardan is 1,239,067 whereas male registered voters are 719,872 and female registered voters are 520,067.

Sampling Size

Sample size has chosen by applying the taro Yamane's Formula. The sample size is 400 respondents have taken through taro Yamane's Formula out of the total of 1,239,067 registered voters of District Mardan. Taro Yamane's Formula, (1967) is as under:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where

“n” is the sample size.

“N” is the total population of the study.

“e” is the margin error i.e. equal to (.05).

$$n = 1,239,067 / 1 + 1,239,067 (.05)^2$$

$$n = 1,239,067 / 1 + 1,239,06 (0.0025)$$

$$n = 1,239,067 / 1,239,068 (0.0025)$$

$$n = 1,239,067 / 3,097.67$$

$$n = 399.99$$

$$n = 400$$

Hence, a sample size of 400 respondents has taken from District Mardan. Respondents were selected by convenience sampling from different categories as follows:

Category	Respondents from Urban		Respondents from Rural		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Illiterate	50	50	50	50	200
Literate	50	50	50	50	200
Total	100	100	100	100	400

Questionnaire

For the collection of data, questionnaire has been used as a tool. It consists of several open and close-ended questions that measured on 5-Points Likert Scale.

Analysis of Data:

The data has been analyzed through SPSS software. It comprised of descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) and inferential statistics (Chi-square test and p-value).

FACTORS AFFECTING WOMEN'S ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION IN DISTRICT MARDAN WITH REFERENCE TO 2018 GENERAL ELECTIONS: DATA ANALYSIS

This study has analyzed analyze all those factors that affect women's electoral participation in District Mardan with reference to 2018 General Elections. The concept of women's electoral participation was analyzed and evaluated through various close ended questions. Firstly, general questions were asked in order to know about the general perception of people towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. Further questions have been asked mostly related to various factors which will clearly indicate the gender gap of women's electoral participation in District Mardan with reference to 2018 General Elections. Percentages and frequencies have been calculated for all questions. Each of these questions has further analyzed by numerous independent variables i.e. urban/rural, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Vote Casting by Women

Casting of vote by women in elections is the fundamental right of women. It is, therefore very important to find out the viewpoint of people towards casting of vote by women. In this context, the answers were collected to the question, “Women should cast vote in elections?” People were asked to learn about the perception of women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question

was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 1: shows Vote Casting by Women

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	76 (19.0%)	101 (25.3%)	6 (1.5%)	11 (2.8%)	6 (1.5%)	200 (50%)	12.93 3	0.01 2
	Rural	68 (17.0%)	104 (26.0%)	3 (0.8%)	25 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	144 (36.0%)	205 (51.3%)	9 (2.3%)	36 (9.0%)	6 (1.5%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	53 (13.3%)	119 (29.8%)	1 (0.3%)	24 (6.0%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)	24.78 4	0.00 0
	Female	91 (22.8%)	86 (21.5%)	8 (2.0%)	12 (3.0%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	144 (36.0%)	205 (51.3%)	9 (2.3%)	36 (9.0%)	6 (1.5%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	100 (25.0%)	125 (31.3%)	6 (1.5%)	19 (4.8%)	3 (0.8%)	253 (63.3%)	6.677 6	0.57 2
	31-50 Years	33 (8.3%)	64 (16.0%)	3 (0.8%)	14 (3.5%)	2 (0.5%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	11 (2.8%)	16 (4.0%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (0.8%)	1 (0.3%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	144 (36.0%)	205 (51.3%)	9 (2.3%)	36 (9.0%)	6 (1.5%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	80 (20.0%)	104 (26.0%)	1 (0.3%)	12 (3.0%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)	11.26 6	0.02 4
	Illiterate	64 (16.0%)	101 (25.3%)	8 (2.0%)	24 (6.0%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	144 (36.0%)	205 (51.3%)	9 (2.3%)	36 (9.0%)	6 (1.5%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table, it shows that (26%) of rural respondents and (29.8%) of male respondents agreed that women should cast vote in elections. Similarly, (31.3%) of respondents, who are 18-30 years old and literate respondents (26%) showed almost the same response.

This question can be concluded that, it is found that most of the respondents from rural parts, male respondents, the age group of 18-30 years and literate respondents favored that women should cast vote in elections. Thus, majority of respondents support women in electoral participation.

1.5 Women's Electoral Participation and Pardah as a Barrier

In order to know about factors of gender gap in women's electoral participation, question was asked from the respondents in a survey. In this context, the answers were collected to the question, "Pardah is an impediment in the way

of women's electoral participation?" People were asked to learn about the response towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 2: shows Women's Electoral Participation and Pardah as a Barrier

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	26 (6.5%)	54 (13.5%)	25 (6.3%)	59 (14.8%)	35 (8.8%)	200 (50%)	12.63 2	0.027
	Rural	24 (6.0%)	60 (15.0%)	7 (1.8%)	68 (17.0%)	41 (10.3%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	50 (12.5%)	114 (28.5%)	32 (8.0%)	127 (31.8%)	76 (19.0%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	36 (9.0%)	78 (19.5%)	16 (4.0%)	40 (10.0%)	29 (7.3%)	200 (50%)	47.81 1	0.000
	Female	14 (3.5%)	36 (9.0%)	16 (4.0%)	87 (21.8%)	47 (11.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	50 (12.5%)	114 (28.5%)	32 (8.0%)	127 (31.8%)	76 (19.0%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	29 (7.3%)	66 (16.5%)	23 (5.8%)	83 (20.8%)	52 (13.0%)	253 (63.3%)	13.65 0	0.019 0
	31-50 Years	17 (4.3%)	38 (9.5%)	4 (1.0%)	34 (8.5%)	22 (5.5%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	4 (1.0%)	10 (2.5%)	5 (1.3%)	10 (2.5%)	2 (0.5%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	50 (12.5%)	114 (28.5%)	32 (8.0%)	127 (31.8%)	76 (19.0%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	20 (5.0%)	47 (11.8%)	17 (4.3%)	73 (18.3%)	42 (10.5%)	200 (50%)	10.31 8	0.067
	Illiterate	30 (7.5%)	67 (16.8%)	15 (3.8%)	54 (13.5%)	34 (8.5%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	50 (12.5%)	114 (28.5%)	32 (8.0%)	127 (31.8%)	76 (19.0%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

The above table mentions that limited number of rural respondents (17%) , (21.8%) of the female respondents (20.8%) of respondents who are 18-30 years old and (18.3%) of literate respondents showed that they are not agree with the statement that pardah is the hurdle in the

way of women's electoral participation. However, (19.5%) of male respondents, the elder respondents whose age is 31-50 years (9.5%) and (16.8%) of illiterate respondents agreed with the opinion. It means that there is inconsistency in this consideration. To

conclude, it was found that majority of respondents are disagreed with the stance.

Women's Electoral Participation and Pakhtun Culture as a Barrier

In order to know about factors of gender gap in women's electoral participation, question was asked from the respondents in a survey. In this

context, the answers were collected to the question, "Pakhtun Culture is the barrier in the way of women's electoral participation?" People were asked to learn about the responses towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 3: shows Women's Electoral Participation and Pakhtun Culture as a Barrier

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	54 (13.5%)	58 (14.5%)	16 (4.0%)	52 (13.0%)	20 (5.0%)	200 (50%)	3.807	0.433
	Rural	42 (10.5%)	70 (17.5%)	13 (3.3%)	49 (12.3%)	26 (6.5%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	96 (24.0%)	128 (32.0%)	29 (7.3%)	101 (25.3%)	46 (11.5%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	59 (14.8%)	73 (18.3%)	12 (3.0%)	42 (10.5%)	14 (3.5%)	200 (50%)	18.340	0.001
	Female	37 (9.3%)	55 (13.8%)	17 (4.3%)	59 (14.8%)	32 (8.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	96 (24.0%)	128 (32.0%)	29 (7.3%)	101 (25.3%)	46 (11.5%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	58 (14.5%)	79 (19.8%)	23 (5.8%)	66 (16.5%)	27 (6.8%)	253 (63.3%)	8.514	0.385
	31-50 Years	28 (7.0%)	39 (9.8%)	3 (0.8%)	31 (7.8%)	15 (3.8%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	10 (2.5%)	10 (2.5%)	3 (0.8%)	4 (1.0%)	4 (1.0%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	96 (24.0%)	128 (32.0%)	29 (7.3%)	101 (25.3%)	46 (11.5%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	40 (10.0%)	54 (13.5%)	17 (4.3%)	62 (15.5%)	27 (6.8%)	200 (50%)	13.283	0.010
	Illiterate	56 (14.0%)	74 (18.5%)	12 (3.0%)	39 (9.8%)	19 (4.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	96 (24.0%)	128 (32.0%)	29 (7.3%)	101 (25.3%)	46 (11.5%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

The above table reveals that limited number of rural respondents (17.5%) and (18.3%) male participants stated that pakhtun culture is a barrier in the way of women's electoral

participation. The same response is followed by respondents whose age from 18-30 years (19.8%) and (18.5%) of illiterate respondents. This question can be concluded, most of the respondents from rural regions, male

respondents, the age group of 18-30 years and illiterate respondents responded that pakhtun culture is an impediment in the way of women's electoral participation. This shows that majority of respondents are agreed with the stance.

Women's Electoral Participation and Religion as a Barrier

In order to pinpoint about factors of gender gap in women's electoral participation, question

was asked from the respondents during survey. In this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Religion is the barrier in the way of women's electoral participation?" People were asked to learn about the perception of women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 4: shows Women's Electoral Participation and Religion as a Barrier

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	33 (8.3%)	47 (11.8%)	25 (6.3%)	66 (16.5%)	29 (7.3%)	200 (50%)	15.54 6	0.00 4
	Rural	32 (8.0%)	61 (15.3%)	9 (2.3%)	51 (12.8%)	47 (11.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	65 (16.3%)	108 (27.0%)	34 (8.5%)	117 (29.3%)	76 (19.0%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	44 (11.0%)	73 (18.3%)	19 (4.8%)	40 (10.0%)	24 (6.0%)	200 (50%)	15.54 6	0.00 0
	Female	21 (5.3%)	35 (8.8%)	15 (3.8%)	77 (19.3%)	52 (13.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	65 (16.3%)	108 (27.0%)	34 (8.5%)	117 (29.3%)	76 (19.0%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	37 (9.3%)	60 (15.0%)	26 (6.5%)	79 (19.8%)	51 (12.8%)	253 (63.3%)	9.429	0.30 7
	31-50 Years	21 (5.3%)	38 (9.5%)	6 (1.5%)	29 (7.3%)	22 (5.5%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	7 (1.8%)	10 (2.5%)	2 (0.5%)	9 (2.3%)	3 (0.8%)	31 (7.8%)		
Education	Literate	18 (4.5%)	48 (12.0%)	24 (6.0%)	65 (16.3%)	45 (11.3%)	200 (50%)	24.06 0	0.00 0
	Illiterate	47 (11.8%)	60 (15.0%)	10 (2.5%)	52 (13.0%)	31 (7.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	65 (16.3%)	108 (27.0%)	34 (8.5%)	117 (29.3%)	76 (19.0%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table, it reveals that limited number of urban respondents (16.5%), (19.3%) of female respondents, (19.8%) of

respondents who are 18-30 years old and (16.3%) of literate respondents opposed that that religion is a barrier in the way of women's electoral participation. However, (15.3%) of

rural respondents, (18.3%) of male respondents, the elder respondents whose age is 31-50 years (9.5%) and (15%) of illiterate respondents are agreed with the point of view. This shows that there is discrepancy in remarks of respondents. To conclude, it was found that majority of respondents rejected the stance.

Women's Electoral Participation and Economic Dependency as a Barrier

In order to find out factors of gender gap in women's electoral participation, question was

asked from the respondents during survey. In this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Economic dependency is the barrier in the way of women's electoral participation?" People were asked to learn about the perception of women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 5: shows Women's Electoral Participation and Economic Dependency as a Barrier

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	51 (12.8%)	80 (20.0%)	21 (5.3%)	37 (9.3%)	10 (2.5%)	200 (50%)	4.132	0.531
	Rural	45 (11.3%)	83 (20.8%)	31 (7.8%)	30 (7.5%)	11 (2.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	96 (24.0%)	163 (40.8%)	52 (13.0%)	67 (16.8%)	21 (5.3%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	59 (14.8%)	89 (22.3%)	23 (5.8%)	19 (4.8%)	10 (2.5%)	200 (50%)	20.714	0.001
	Female	37 (9.3%)	74 (18.5%)	29 (7.3%)	48 (12.0%)	11 (2.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	96 (24.0%)	163 (40.8%)	52 (13.0%)	67 (16.8%)	21 (5.3%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	62 (15.5%)	100 (25.0%)	37 (9.3%)	39 (9.8%)	14 (3.5%)	253 (63.3%)	7.828	0.646
	31-50 Years	26 (6.5%)	52 (13.0%)	12 (3.0%)	19 (4.8%)	7 (1.8%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	8 (2.0%)	11 (2.8%)	3 (0.8%)	9 (2.3%)	0 (0.0%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	96 (24.0%)	163 (40.8%)	52 (13.0%)	67 (16.8%)	21 (5.3%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	42 (10.5%)	69 (17.3%)	37 (9.3%)	41 (10.3%)	10 (2.5%)	200 (50%)	19.048	0.002
	Illiterate	54 (13.5%)	94 (23.5%)	15 (3.8%)	26 (6.5%)	11 (2.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	96 (24.0%)	163 (40.8%)	52 (13.0%)	67 (16.8%)	21 (5.3%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

The above table reveals that (20.8%) of rural respondents and (22.3%) of male respondents asserted that economic dependency is a barrier in the way of women's electoral participation. The same response is followed by (25%) of respondents who are 18-30 years old and (23.5%) of illiterate people. Thus, majority of the respondents have the same remarks.

Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

In order to know about the interest of women in vote casting, in this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Women are not interested to cast vote due to non-cooperation from family?" People were asked to learn about the factor of gender gap towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 6: shows Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	49 (12.3%)	96 (24.0%)	16 (4.0%)	31 (7.8%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	5.962	0.202
	Rural	56 (14.0%)	107 (26.8%)	9 (2.3%)	19 (4.8%)	9 (2.3%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	105 (26.3%)	203 (50.8%)	25 (6.3%)	50 (12.5%)	17 (4.3%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	56 (14.0%)	101 (25.3%)	12 (3.0%)	23 (5.8%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	0.890	0.926
	Female	49 (12.3%)	102 (25.5%)	13 (3.3%)	27 (6.8%)	9 (2.3%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	105 (26.3%)	203 (50.8%)	25 (6.3%)	50 (12.5%)	17 (4.3%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	64 (16.0%)	129 (32.3%)	15 (3.8%)	33 (8.3%)	12 (3.0%)	253 (63.3%)	2.932	0.939
	31-50 Years	31 (7.8%)	59 (14.8%)	7 (1.8%)	14 (3.5%)	5 (1.3%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	10 (2.5%)	15 (3.8%)	3 (0.8%)	3 (0.8%)	0 (0.0%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	105 (26.3%)	203 (50.8%)	25 (6.3%)	50 (12.5%)	17 (4.3%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	42 (10.5%)	101 (25.3%)	16 (4.0%)	31 (7.8%)	10 (2.5%)	200 (50%)	9.574	0.048
	Illiterate	63 (15.8%)	102 (25.5%)	9 (2.3%)	19 (4.8%)	7 (1.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	105 (26.3%)	203 (50.8%)	25 (6.3%)	50 (12.5%)	17 (4.3%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

The above table mentions that a considerable number of rural participants (26.8%) and (25.5%) of female respondents confessed that women are not interested to cast vote due to non-cooperation from family. Whereas, (32.3%) of respondents who are 18-30 years old and illiterate people (25.5%) also upheld the same view.

By concluding this, it is assumed that majority of respondents from rural regions, female respondents, the age group of 18-30 years and illiterate respondents responded that women are not interested to cast vote due to non-cooperation from family. This shows that

majority of respondents are agreed with the viewpoint.

Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

In order to find out the deliberation of women in vote casting, in this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Women are not interested to cast vote due to fulfilling family responsibilities?" People were asked to learn about the factor of gender gap towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 7: shows Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	59 (14.8%)	80 (20.0%)	13 (3.3%)	40 (10.0%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	9.316	0.096
	Rural	55 (13.8%)	104 (26.0%)	10 (2.5%)	23 (5.8%)	7 (1.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	114 (28.5%)	184 (46.0%)	23 (5.8%)	63 (15.8%)	15 (3.8%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	60 (15.0%)	91 (22.8%)	13 (3.3%)	28 (7.0%)	7 (1.8%)	200 (50%)	2.573	0.765
	Female	54 (13.5%)	93 (23.3%)	10 (2.5%)	35 (8.8%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	114 (28.5%)	184 (46.0%)	23 (5.8%)	63 (15.8%)	15 (3.8%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	74 (18.5%)	111 (27.8%)	15 (3.8%)	41 (10.3%)	11 (2.8%)	253 (63.3%)	3.065	0.980
	31-50 Years	33 (8.3%)	58 (14.5%)	6 (1.5%)	16 (4.0%)	3 (0.8%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	7 (1.8%)	15 (3.8%)	2 (0.5%)	6 (1.5%)	1 (0.3%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	114 (28.5%)	184 (46.0%)	23 (5.8%)	63 (15.8%)	15 (3.8%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	46 (11.5%)	87 (21.8%)	16 (4.0%)	43 (10.8%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	17.774	0.003
	Illiterate	68 (17.0%)	97 (24.3%)	7 (1.8%)	20 (5.0%)	7 (1.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	114 (28.5%)	184 (46.0%)	23 (5.8%)	63 (15.8%)	15 (3.8%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

The above table shows that (26%) of rural respondents as well as (23.3%) of female respondents asserted that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to fulfilling family responsibilities. While, (27.8%) of respondents who are 18-30 years old and (24.3%) of illiterate respondents also have the same affirmation.

To finish this, it is ascertain that majority of respondents from rural regions, female respondents, the age group of 18-30 years and illiterate respondents responded that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to fulfilling family responsibilities. This shows

that most of respondents are agreed with the viewpoint.

Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

To determine the interest of women in electoral politics, In this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of interest in politics?" People were asked to learn about the factor of gender gap towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 8: shows Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	61 (15.3%)	88 (22.0%)	16 (4.0%)	24 (6.0%)	11 (2.8%)	200 (50%)	5.022	0.285
	Rural	53 (13.3%)	109 (27.3%)	10 (2.5%)	20 (5.0%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	114 (28.5%)	197 (49.3%)	26 (6.5%)	44 (11.0%)	19 (4.8%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	64 (16.0%)	97 (24.3%)	9 (2.3%)	22 (5.5%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	4.700	0.319
	Female	50 (12.5%)	100 (25.0%)	17 (4.3%)	22 (5.5%)	11 (2.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	114 (28.5%)	197 (49.3%)	26 (6.5%)	44 (11.0%)	19 (4.8%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	75 (18.8%)	117 (29.3%)	19 (4.8%)	27 (6.8%)	15 (3.8%)	253 (63.3%)	5.144	0.742
	31-50 Years	31 (7.8%)	62 (15.5%)	6 (1.5%)	14 (3.5%)	3 (0.8%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	8 (2.0%)	18 (4.5%)	1 (0.3%)	3 (0.8%)	1 (0.3%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	114 (28.5%)	197 (49.3%)	26 (6.5%)	44 (11.0%)	19 (4.8%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	50 (12.5%)	90 (22.5%)	16 (4.0%)	31 (7.8%)	13 (3.3%)	200 (50%)	14.514	0.006
	Illiterate	64 (16.0%)	107 (26.8%)	10 (2.5%)	13 (3.3%)	6 (1.5%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	114 (28.5%)	197 (49.3%)	26 (6.5%)	44 (11.0%)	19 (4.8%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table it shows that (27.3%) of the rural respondents and female participants (25%) recognized that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of interest in politics. Similarly, the respondents who are 18-30 years old (29.3%) and illiterate participants (26.8%) also maintained the same viewpoint.

Lastly, it is discovered that most of the respondents belonging to rural areas, female respondents, age group from 18-30 years and illiterate clearly admitted the view that women

are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of interest in politics.

Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

In order to find out the awareness of women in politics, in this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of awareness in politics?" People were asked to learn about the factor of gender gap towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across

multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 9: shows Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	50 (12.5%)	91 (22.8%)	23 (5.8%)	29 (7.3%)	7 (1.8%)	200 (50%)	6.249	0.181
	Rural	49 (12.3%)	111 (27.8%)	15 (3.8%)	18 (4.5%)	7 (1.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	99 (24.8%)	202 (50.5%)	38 (9.5%)	47 (11.8%)	14 (3.5%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	61 (15.3%)	99 (24.8%)	17 (4.3%)	17 (4.3%)	6 (1.5%)	200 (50%)	9.725	0.045
	Female	38 (9.5%)	103 (25.8%)	21 (5.3%)	30 (7.5%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	99 (24.8%)	202 (50.5%)	38 (9.5%)	47 (11.8%)	14 (3.5%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	63 (15.8%)	124 (31.0%)	23 (5.8%)	32 (8.0%)	11 (2.8%)	253 (63.3%)	3.382	0.908
	31-50 Years	29 (7.3%)	61 (15.3%)	13 (3.3%)	11 (2.8%)	2 (0.5%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	7 (1.8%)	17 (4.3%)	2 (0.5%)	4 (1.0%)	1 (0.3%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	99 (24.8%)	202 (50.5%)	38 (9.5%)	47 (11.8%)	14 (3.5%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	47 (11.8%)	83 (20.8%)	25 (6.3%)	33 (8.3%)	12 (3.0%)	200 (50%)	25.282	0.000
	Illiterate	52 (13.0%)	119 (29.8%)	13 (3.3%)	14 (3.5%)	2 (0.5%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	99 (24.8%)	202 (50.5%)	38 (9.5%)	47 (11.8%)	14 (3.5%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

The above table mentions that (27.8%) of rural respondents and (25.8%) of female respondents stated that due to lack of awareness in politics, they do not participate in elections. Similarly, (31%) of the respondents who are 18-30 years old and illiterate participants (29.8%) also followed the same standpoint.

Lastly, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents from rural areas, female

respondents, age group from 18-30 years and illiterate clearly confessed that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of awareness in politics.

Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

Education plays a crucial role in every field of life. It is, therefore very important to find out the interest of women in elections. In this

respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of education?" People were asked to learn about the factor of gender gap towards women's electoral

participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 10: shows Women's Electoral Participation and their interest in Vote Casting

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	43 (10.8%)	103 (25.8%)	17 (4.3%)	29 (7.3%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	1.843	0.765
	Rural	46 (11.5%)	109 (27.3%)	12 (3.0%)	28 (7.0%)	5 (1.3%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	89 (22.3%)	212 (53.0%)	29 (7.3%)	57 (14.3%)	13 (3.3%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	50 (12.5%)	113 (28.3%)	11 (2.8%)	21 (5.3%)	5 (1.3%)	200 (50%)	8.613	0.072
	Female	39 (9.8%)	99 (24.8%)	18 (4.5%)	36 (9.0%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	89 (22.3%)	212 (53.0%)	29 (7.3%)	57 (14.3%)	13 (3.3%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	59 (14.8%)	133 (33.3%)	15 (3.8%)	39 (9.8%)	7 (1.8%)	253 (63.3%)	6.800	0.558
	31-50 Years	20 (5.0%)	66 (16.5%)	11 (2.8%)	14 (3.5%)	5 (1.3%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	10 (2.5%)	13 (3.3%)	3 (0.8%)	4 (1.0%)	1 (0.3%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	89 (22.3%)	212 (53.0%)	29 (7.3%)	57 (14.3%)	13 (3.3%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	49 (12.3%)	97 (24.3%)	12 (3.0%)	32 (8.0%)	10 (2.5%)	200 (50%)	7.929	0.094
	Illiterate	40 (10.0%)	115 (28.8%)	17 (4.3%)	25 (6.3%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	89 (22.3%)	212 (53.0%)	29 (7.3%)	57 (14.3%)	13 (3.3%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table, it indicates that (27.3%) of rural respondents as well as (28.3%) of the male respondents stated that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of education. Similarly, (33.3%) of respondents who are 18-30 years old and

(28.8%) of illiterate respondents also maintained the same vision.

To finish, it was found that majority of the respondents hailing to rural areas, male respondents, age group from 18-30 years and illiterate respondents greatly agreed with the standpoint that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of education.

Women's Electoral Participation in 2018 Elections and its Comparison with 2013 Elections

To explore women's electoral participation in 2018 general elections with comparison to 2013 elections, in this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Women's electoral

participation has increased in 2018 General Elections as compare to 2013 General Elections?" People were asked to learn about the perception of women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 11: shows Women's Electoral Participation in 2018 Elections and its Comparison with 2013 Elections

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	45 (11.3%)	66 (16.5%)	70 (17.5%)	13 (3.3%)	6 (1.5%)	200 (50%)	8.228	0.084
	Rural	32 (8.0%)	71 (17.8%)	88 (22.0%)	7 (1.8%)	2 (0.5%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	77 (19.3%)	137 (34.3%)	158 (39.5%)	20 (5.0%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	39 (9.8%)	79 (19.8%)	71 (17.8%)	8 (2.0%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)	6.152	0.188
	Female	38 (9.5%)	58 (14.5%)	87 (21.8%)	12 (3.0%)	5 (1.3%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	77 (19.3%)	137 (34.3%)	158 (39.5%)	20 (5.0%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	56 (14.0%)	88 (22.0%)	92 (23.0%)	12 (3.0%)	5 (1.3%)	253 (63.3%)	6.460	0.596
	31-50 Years	15 (3.8%)	38 (9.5%)	54 (13.5%)	7 (1.8%)	2 (0.5%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	6 (1.5%)	11 (2.8%)	12 (3.0%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	77 (19.3%)	137 (34.3%)	158 (39.5%)	20 (5.0%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	40 (10.0%)	74 (18.5%)	72 (18.0%)	9 (2.3%)	5 (1.3%)	200 (50%)	2.941	0.568
	Illiterate	37 (9.3%)	63 (15.8%)	86 (21.5%)	11 (2.8%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	77 (19.3%)	137 (34.3%)	158 (39.5%)	20 (5.0%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

The above table mentions that (22%) of rural respondents and (21.8%) of female respondents followed by the age group 18-30 years (23%) and illiterate participants (21.5%) responded that they don't know about the advancement of

women's electoral participation in 2018 general elections.

This question can be concluded that most of the people hailing to rural areas, female respondents, age group from 18-30 years and illiterate respondents greatly lack political awareness because they didn't know about advancement of women electoral participation in 2018 general elections as compare to 2013 general elections.

Women's Electoral Participation and the Electoral Act 2017

The Electoral Act of 2017 has increased the participation of women in elections. It is,

therefore very important to know about the impact of Electoral Act of 2017. In this context, the answers were collected to the question, "The Electoral Act of 2017 has reduced gender gap in vote casting?" People were asked to learn about the perception of women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 12: shows Women's Electoral Participation and the Electoral Act 2017

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	21 (5.3%)	43 (10.8%)	118 (29.5%)	12 (3.0%)	6 (1.5%)	200 (50%)	11.12 7	0.02 5
	Rural	12 (3.0%)	35 (8.8%)	146 (36.5%)	5 (1.3%)	2 (0.5%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	33 (8.3%)	78 (19.5%)	264 (66.0%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	20 (5.0%)	43 (10.8%)	120 (30.0%)	12 (3.0%)	5 (1.3%)	200 (50%)	7.870	0.09 6
	Female	13 (3.3%)	35 (8.8%)	144 (36.0%)	5 (1.3%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	33 (8.3%)	78 (19.5%)	264 (66.0%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	20 (5.0%)	48 (12.0%)	163 (40.8%)	15 (3.8%)	7 (1.8%)	253 (63.3%)	15.73 5	0.04 6
	31-50 Years	7 (1.8%)	23 (5.8%)	85 (21.3%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	6 (1.5%)	7 (1.8%)	16 (4.0%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	33 (8.3%)	78 (19.5%)	264 (66.0%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	26 (6.5%)	45 (11.3%)	110 (27.5%)	13 (3.3%)	6 (1.5%)	200 (50%)	26.88 4	0.00 0
	Illiterate	7 (1.8%)	33 (8.3%)	154 (38.5%)	4 (1.0%)	2 (0.5%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	33 (8.3%)	78 (19.5%)	264 (66.0%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table, it shows that (36.5%) of rural respondents and (36%) of female respondents pursued by (40.8%) whose are 18-30 years old as well as (38.5%) of the illiterate respondents stated that they don't know about the Electoral Act of 2017 has reduced gender gap in vote casting. It means that majority of the respondents lack electoral awareness.

To conclude, a large number of respondents from rural parts, female respondents, the age group of 18-30 years and illiterate respondents responded that they have no idea about the

Electoral Act of 2017 has reduced gender gap in vote casting.

Women's Electoral Participation and the impact of Electoral Act 2017

In order to know about the impact of Electoral Act of 2017, in this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Women's participation in 2018 General Elections has increased after the Electoral Act 2017?" People were asked to learn about the perception of women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 13: shows Women's Electoral Participation and the impact of Electoral Act 2017

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	24 (6.0%)	52 (13.0%)	106 (26.5%)	10 (2.5%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	10.25 9	0.03 6
	Rural	18 (4.5%)	57 (14.3%)	118 (29.5%)	7 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	42 (10.5%)	109 (27.3%)	224 (56.0%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	24 (6.0%)	54 (13.5%)	107 (26.8%)	10 (2.5%)	5 (1.3%)	200 (50%)	2.342	2.34 2
	Female	18 (4.5%)	55 (13.8%)	117 (29.3%)	7 (1.8%)	3 (0.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	42 (10.5%)	109 (27.3%)	224 (56.0%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	30 (7.5%)	70 (17.5%)	134 (33.5%)	12 (3.0%)	7 (1.8%)	253 (63.3%)	5.742	0.67 6
	31-50 Years	9 (2.3%)	29 (7.3%)	73 (18.3%)	4 (1.0%)	1 (0.3%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	3 (0.8%)	10 (2.5%)	17 (4.3%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	42 (10.5%)	109 (27.3%)	224 (56.0%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	30 (7.5%)	68 (17.0%)	84 (21.0%)	12 (3.0%)	6 (1.5%)	200 (50%)	33.28 5	0.00 0
	Illiterate	12 (3.0%)	41 (10.3%)	140 (35.0%)	5 (1.3%)	2 (0.5%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	42 (10.5%)	109 (27.3%)	224 (56.0%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table, it mentions that (29.5%) of rural respondents as well as female participants (29.3%) specified that they don't know about the growth of women's participation in 2018 General Elections after Electoral Act of 2017. In the same way, (33.5%) of the respondents who are 18-30 years old and (35%) of the illiterate respondents are also agreed with the stance.

Lastly, it is shown that majority of the respondents from rural areas, female respondents, age group from 18-30 years and illiterate clearly negated about the growth of

women's participation in 2018 General Elections after Electoral Act of 2017.

Women's Electoral Participation and Lack of CNIC

CNIC is playing a crucial role as an indicator in electoral participation. It is, therefore, very important to know about the impact of lack of CNIC. In this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Lack of CNIC leads to women deprivation from the right to cast vote?" People were asked to learn about the gender gap towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question

was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 14: shows Women's Electoral Participation and Lack of CNIC

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	44 (11.0%)	122 (30.5%)	11 (2.8%)	13 (3.3%)	10 (2.5%)	200 (50%)	3.614	0.461
	Rural	51 (12.8%)	120 (30.0%)	9 (2.3%)	16 (4.0%)	4 (1.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	95 (23.8%)	242 (60.5%)	20 (5.0%)	29 (7.3%)	14 (3.5%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	42 (10.5%)	134 (33.5%)	9 (2.3%)	10 (2.5%)	5 (1.3%)	200 (50%)	8.203	0.084
	Female	53 (13.3%)	108 (27.0%)	11 (2.8%)	19 (4.8%)	9 (2.3%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	95 (23.8%)	242 (60.5%)	20 (5.0%)	29 (7.3%)	14 (3.5%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	64 (16.0%)	148 (37.0%)	11 (2.8%)	18 (4.5%)	12 (3.0%)	253 (63.3%)	11.132	0.194
	31-50 Years	27 (6.8%)	71 (17.8%)	8 (2.0%)	10 (2.5%)	0 (0.0%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	4 (1.0%)	23 (5.8%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.3%)	2 (0.5%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	95 (23.8%)	242 (60.5%)	20 (5.0%)	29 (7.3%)	14 (3.5%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	55 (13.8%)	110 (27.5%)	9 (2.3%)	16 (4.0%)	10 (2.5%)	200 (50%)	7.450	0.114
	Illiterate	40 (10.0%)	132 (33.0%)	11 (2.8%)	13 (3.3%)	4 (1.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	95 (23.8%)	242 (60.5%)	20 (5.0%)	29 (7.3%)	14 (3.5%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table it reveals that (30.5%) of urban respondents, (33.5%) of male respondents, (37%) of respondents who are 18-30 years old and (33%) of illiterate respondents supported the view that lack of CNIC leads to women deprivation from the right to cast vote. Lastly, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents from urban areas, male respondents, age group from 18-30 years and illiterate strongly supported the factor that lack

of CNIC leads to women deprivation from the right to cast vote.

Women's Electoral Participation and Traditional Society as a Barrier

In order to know about the gender gap in women's electoral participation, in this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Keeping in view the traditional society, women are discouraged from moving out of their homes to take active part in social

activities?" People were asked to learn about the perception of women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question

was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 15: shows Women's Electoral Participation and Traditional Society as a Barrier

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	45 (11.3%)	113 (28.3%)	17 (4.3%)	17 (4.3%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	0.228	0.994
	Rural	43 (10.8%)	114 (28.5%)	17 (4.3%)	19 (4.8%)	7 (1.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	88 (22.0%)	227 (56.8%)	34 (8.5%)	36 (9.0%)	15 (3.8%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	46 (11.5%)	122 (30.5%)	9 (2.3%)	17 (4.3%)	6 (1.5%)	200 (50%)	9.695	0.046
	Female	42 (10.5%)	105 (26.3%)	25 (6.3%)	19 (4.8%)	9 (2.3%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	88 (22.0%)	227 (56.8%)	34 (8.5%)	36 (9.0%)	15 (3.8%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	53 (13.3%)	153 (38.3%)	18 (4.5%)	22 (5.5%)	7 (1.8%)	253 (63.3%)	18.960	0.015
	31-50 Years	21 (5.3%)	61 (15.3%)	13 (3.3%)	13 (3.3%)	8 (2.0%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	14 (3.5%)	13 (3.3%)	3 (0.8%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	88 (22.0%)	227 (56.8%)	34 (8.5%)	36 (9.0%)	15 (3.8%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	48 (12.0%)	108 (27.0%)	14 (3.5%)	22 (5.5%)	8 (2.0%)	200 (50%)	4.164	0.384
	Illiterate	40 (10.0%)	119 (29.8%)	20 (5.0%)	14 (3.5%)	7 (1.8%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	88 (22.0%)	227 (56.8%)	34 (8.5%)	36 (9.0%)	15 (3.8%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table it reveals that (28.5%) of rural respondents as well as (30.5%) of male respondents admitted that due to the traditional society, women are discouraged from moving out of their homes to take active part in social activities. Likewise, (38.3%) of respondents who are 18-30 years old and (29.8%) of illiterate respondents are also agreed with the stance.

To finish, it was disclosed that most of the respondents from rural parts, male respondents, age group from 18-30 years and illiterate respondents clearly agreed that due to the traditional society, women are discouraged from moving out of their homes to take active part in social activities.

Women's Electoral Participation and lack of Voting Registration

Voting registration is a vital part in the electoral process. It is therefore, very essential to identify the importance of women's voting registration. In this respect, the answers were collected to the question, "Lack of women's voting registration

reduces voting turn out?" People were asked to learn about the gender gap towards women's electoral participation in District Mardan. This question was analyzed across multiple variables such as urban rural subdivision, gender, age, and literacy-based.

Table 16: shows Women's Electoral Participation and lack of Voting Registration

Variable	Sub-category of Variable	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total	Chi-square	P-value
Area	Urban	43 (10.8%)	99 (24.8%)	41 (10.3%)	15 (3.8%)	2 (0.5%)	200 (50%)	4.453	0.348
	Rural	43 (10.8%)	107 (26.8%)	42 (10.5%)	8 (2.0%)	0 (0.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	86 (21.5%)	206 (51.5%)	83 (20.8%)	23 (5.8%)	2 (0.5%)	400 (100%)		
Gender	Male	45 (11.3%)	115 (28.8%)	26 (6.5%)	12 (3.0%)	2 (0.5%)	200 (50%)	16.604	0.002
	Female	41 (10.3%)	91 (22.8%)	57 (14.3%)	11 (2.8%)	0 (0.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	86 (21.5%)	206 (51.5%)	83 (20.8%)	23 (5.8%)	2 (0.5%)	400 (100%)		
Age	18-30 Years	54 (13.5%)	122 (30.5%)	58 (14.5%)	17 (4.3%)	2 (0.5%)	253 (63.3%)	7.848	0.448
	31-50 Years	23 (5.8%)	70 (17.5%)	19 (4.8%)	4 (1.0%)	0 (0.0%)	116 (29.0%)		
	Above 50	9 (2.3%)	14 (3.5%)	6 (1.5%)	2 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	31 (7.8%)		
	Total	86 (21.5%)	206 (51.5%)	83 (20.8%)	23 (5.8%)	2 (0.5%)	400 (100%)		
Education	Literate	48 (12.0%)	97 (24.3%)	38 (9.5%)	15 (3.8%)	2 (0.5%)	200 (50%)	6.583	0.160
	Illiterate	38 (9.5%)	109 (27.3%)	45 (11.3%)	8 (2.0%)	0 (0.0%)	200 (50%)		
	Total	86 (21.5%)	206 (51.5%)	83 (20.8%)	23 (5.8%)	2 (0.5%)	400 (100%)		

Explanation and Results

According to the above table, it shows that (26.8%) of rural respondents, (28.8%) of male respondents, (30.5%) of respondents whose age from 18-30 years and (27.3%) of illiterate respondents are of the view that lack of

women's voting registration reduces voting turn out.

To finish, it was found that most of the respondents belonging from rural regions, male respondents, the age group of 18-30 years and illiterate respondents agreed that lack of women's voting registration reduces voting

turn out. This shows that lack of voting registration is one of the factors of gender gap in women's electoral participation.

MAJOR FINDINGS:

- A large number of respondents 51.3% agreed that women should cast vote in elections.
- A considerable number of respondents 31.8% refused that Pardah is an impediment in the way of women's electoral participation.
- Most of the respondents 32% confessed the idea that pakhtun culture is a barrier in the way of women's electoral participation.
- Majority of respondents 29.3% denied the idea that religion is a barrier in the way of women's electoral participation.
- A significant number of respondents 40.8% agreed that economic dependency is an obstacle in the way of women's electoral participation.
- A large number of respondents 50.8% responded that women are not interested to cast vote due to non-cooperation from family.
- A good number of respondents 46% agreed that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to fulfilling family responsibilities.
- A considerable number of respondents 49.5% maintained that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of interest in politics.
- A large number of respondents 50.5% admitted the view that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of political awareness.
- Great number of respondents 53% showed great confession that women are not interested to cast vote in elections due to lack of education.
- An average number of respondents 39.5% stated that they did not know about women's electoral participation

in 2018 general elections as compare to 2013 general elections.

- A great number of respondents 66% declared that they did not know about the Electoral Act of 2017 has reduced gender gap in vote casting.
- A large number of respondents 56% did not know that women's participation in 2018 General Elections has increased after the Electoral Act 2017.
- An extensive number of respondents 60.5% were of the view that lack of CNIC leads to women deprivation from the right to cast vote.
- A large number of respondents 56.8% admitted that due to the traditional society, women are discouraged from moving out of their homes to take active part in social activities.
- Majority of the respondents 51.5% showed that lack of women's voting registration reduces voting turn out.

CONCLUSION

The study is mainly focusing on concept i.e. electoral participation in District Mardan. Regarding women's electoral participation, there are different factors that are responsible for gender gap in women's electoral participation as well. These include pakhtun culture (32%) and economic dependency (40.8%). But there are a number of factors that hinder women's electoral participation in District Mardan. Most of the women did not cast their vote in elections due to non-cooperation from family (50.8%), fulfilling family responsibilities (46%), lack of political awareness (50.5%), lack of education (53%) and lack of political interest (49.5%). Government measure in the form of enactment of Electoral Act 2017 has encouraged women to participate in elections as much significance has been given to women's vote.

Among the factors of gender gap in women's electoral participation, majority of the respondents declared that CNIC is a key

element for the electoral process and the lack of women's CNIC leads women deprivation from the right to vote. Moreover, lack of women's voting registration is also act as an impediment in the way of women's electoral participation.

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