

# The Role Of Pressure Groups In Guiding Decision-Makers In Jordan: A Study In Political Sociology

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## ABSTRACT

The study aim to examine the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan. The study population includes from all Jordanian press political Journalists and political activist. The sample consist of (100) person. The study used a questionnaires related to pressure groups in guiding decision-makers which consist of two variables (Parties, The media). The study found that the degree of the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan is high also the pressure groups components (Parties, The media) have high mean. The result reveals that it was found that there is no statistically significant differences between the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan attributed to sex and it was found that there is statistically significant difference attributed to experience. The study recommended to increasing awareness among Jordanian parties about the civilized methods of pressure groups to influence government decision-makers in the political and other fields.

**Keywords:** Pressure Groups, Decision-Makers.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Political decisions in many countries are affected by the opinion of the street and the accompanying movements of the so-called pressure groups in society that are concerned with various political issues.

The phenomenon of groups in general is an old phenomenon, whose primary concerns centered on economic and financial interests, and their scope did not exceed family or family interests. As for pressure groups, in their modern sense, they are interest groups in the form of an organization that seeks to pressure the government apparatus or members of Parliament in order to achieve a specific economic, social or political interest. This type of group appeared in the United States of America and

Western European societies in particular, where the climate contributed Democracy in its emergence, strengthening its influence and its diversity (Mahdawi, 2019).

Gabriela (2015) reported that pressure groups of representatives of professions, as important categories of private and special interest groups, influence political decisions in increasing budgetary allocations distributed for specialized organizations in the field. The unions, which defend the rights and freedoms of employees, target the aspects of labor or professional legislation. In this category are included veteran's work and those of military conflicts organizations. They fight constantly, mainly for privileges, advantages, economic, financial and fiscal exemptions.

Pressure groups are among the political forces that exist for political systems, and these groups are characterized as a social organization, but they practice political work. Members of pressure groups meet with one organization or a number of organizations where they have common interests. Pressure groups work to make government decisions serve their interests. In order to achieve their goals, these groups may not be satisfied with influencing governments and official actors only, but they may also turn to informal forces such as the media, political parties, and public opinion within the political system because of the large role of these informal forces in shaping public policies (the Bayaa, 2020).

Pressure groups are defined as “groups that seek to achieve a goal or objectives linked to the interests of their members by all possible means, through influencing and pressure on the decisions and policies of the political authority, but none of their goals is to gain power” (Naji, 2007).

Pressure Group is a type of group that some individuals or groups of members of a society resort to forming or joining in order to influence its general policy on a specific topic or issue, which for these individuals or groups represents a core common interest that binds them (Jassim, 2018).

Some writers prefer calling them interest groups because they actually represent groups looking for their interests in the first place regardless of the means used to achieve them, and because they also practice persuasion, and the term pressure groups is criticized from another aspect, as it is understood that it includes a threat to use a specific part of the threat or the ability to Revenge in some way in the event that the government does not respond to the demands it submitted (Ali, 2008).

Qadri (2015) indicates that pressure groups are organizations that aim to influence decision makers. The interests of pressure groups differ from one group to another, and from one political system to another, and from one society to another, in terms of influence, goals and degree of influence.

## 2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Political pressure is one of the most important means of influencing the structure and structure of the public authorities in the state, and thus it is one of the most important peaceful methods that lead to the participation of the spectrum of society in the policy of governance, due to the position of the groups that exercise it among members of society, and the strength of the means and mechanisms that they harness to achieve this (Al-Turkmani, 2018).

Pressure groups, in their role in drawing up public policy and influencing it, differ from one group to another and from one political system to another. There are groups that focus on the political side, and other groups focus on the economic, cultural, or humanitarian side. There are also permanent pressure groups and temporary pressure groups that appear in Under certain conditions, then disappear once the government responds to its demands (Al-Bayaa, 2020).

Jassim (2018) points out that in contemporary political systems, the presence of interest groups with their diversity and divergence of orientations is one of their most important characteristics. Interest groups are among the most prominent civil society or non-governmental institutions, and their chances of having an effective and effective presence increase with the availability of a more democratic climate. Usually their number tends to increase with the increasing rates and level of development. Hence its growth and progress was more evident in democratic and industrial societies than in others in general.

Therefore; the problem of the study is to know the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan.

## 3. THE STUDY'S OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS

This study aimed to examine the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan through answers following questions:

**Q.1:** What is the degree of the role of pressure

groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan?

**Q.2:** Is there any statistically significant difference between degree of the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan attributed to (sex, experience)?

#### **4. THE STUDY'S SIGNIFICANCE**

The importance of the study lies in the importance of pressure groups in society in general particular in Jordan in which political awareness differs in comparison with other societies, due to the different degree of influence of party groups in society. Here, it is important to shed light on the influence of pressure groups on political decision-makers in the Jordanian state.

#### **5. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

##### **The Study's Terms are Defined Below:**

**Pressure Groups:** Groups that put pressure on decision-makers or authorities in order to achieve their goals, and the degree and quality of pressure they exert varies according to the group's capabilities and level of organization, and even its social status (Qahtan, 2004).

**Decision-Makers:** Political decision-making is a complex process that passes through several stages and affects a number of psychological, economic, political and other factors and influences

#### **6. THE STUDY'S LIMITATIONS**

The present study was conducted in a random sample of political Journalists and political activist in Jordan only. It was conducted during the year 2021.

#### **7. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Al-Bayaa (2020) discussed the role of AIPAC as a pressure group on the process of drawing and formulating public policy in the United States of America, which is one of the main matters that is reflected on the stability and internal security in the country, and determines the state's priorities and orientations in the foreign policy of all countries of the world, as public policy is affected in The United States has many official and unofficial influences, and because the United States is one of the liberal countries in which the role of informal actors is

growing, as they play a major role in influencing public policies, such as pressure groups that have influence and power in influencing public policy makers in the United States. The results of the study showed that the importance of AIPAC emerges from the great role it plays in influencing the results of the American elections. AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affairs Committee) is one of the most important lobbying groups in the United States, as it has a strong influence and a great ability to influence public policy makers in the United States.

Dahmani and Lakhdari (2019) researched pressure groups and their role in making public policy in Algeria, and relied on the descriptive approach. The study concluded that the process of success or failure of the state's public policies depends to a large extent on the ability of the political system to perform the tasks and functions of public policy in a correct and balanced manner for all groups of society, and in the political movement witnessed by the Arab and Moroccan streets in particular, despite the openness of the political horizon and practice Democracy, it seems that political parties are unable to lead this ambition and express the demands of society, and here pressure groups or interest groups emerge as an active force in society.

Darwish and Attawa (2019) examined the role of pressure groups in making public policy for the state of Tunisia. The study followed the analytical approach by reviewing the theoretical literature. The study focuses on the way pressure groups influence the public policy-making process of the State of Tunisia. Since public policy is an activity and a reflection on the source of authority and its legitimacy and the nature of the relationship between its institutions, pressure groups have an important role in this, through dialogue with the government or Pressure on it by activating the protests or through funding and propaganda, especially during the election period. The study concluded that the political reforms that Tunisia witnessed contributed to expanding the tasks of pressure groups in making the country's general policies, since there is a direct

relationship between the application of democratic values by the political system, and the work of pressure groups.

Bouissa and Belasal (2019) examined the limits of the influence of pressure groups in the public policy-making process by applying them to employers' organizations in the Maghreb countries, by researching the ways and mechanisms used by these groups to influence decision-making circles, in addition to defining the nature of that role and clarifying Implications: The results of the study concluded that employers' organizations in the Maghreb countries have a prominent and influential role in the public policy-making process that tends to serve the interests of these groups rather than responding to the interests of society.

Al-Turkmani (2018) studied the nature of the Palestinian political pressure groups influencing the state authorities and its political system, and the importance of the role assigned to them to promote good governance. The study followed the analytical approach, by extrapolating and analyzing the most important Palestinian legislation that regulates the work of political pressure groups. The study concluded that the political pressure exercised by pressure groups is one of the most important ways to guarantee the participation of all spectrums of the Palestinian people in the process of political decision-making and the promotion of good governance, through the material, human and technical mechanisms owned by these groups. The study also showed that the success of good governance in Palestine is linked The extent of activating the role of political pressure groups, and respecting their freedom of choice as the most important determinant of the quality of the Palestinian political system, as well as activating human rights, the rule of law and law, and reforming the judicial system as the most important institution in the system of good governance.

Gabriela (2015) presents the activity of nongovernmental groups and the political effects of their actions in Romania. The influence of pressure

groups is presented by researching political events that took place in Romania. Pressure groups are handled indirectly by the ruling class, in order to conduct a benefit in its own interest. The conclusion demonstrates the degree of manipulation of civil society through pressure groups. Handling civil society by groups that appear and disappear, is the most direct method with which political ruling class in a democratic state strengthens its interest.

Buckle (2009) examines the impact of Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) on pressure group behaviour and strategies. MMP altered the distribution of public policy decision-making power. The study finds that most expectations of pressure groups under MMP have been borne out. In particular, pressure groups have developed a wider range of political relationships and access points, have achieved more success through engagement with select committees and have been more willing to lobby and campaign publicly in opposition to Executive policy. In addition, it finds pressure groups have adopted an increasingly flexible and politically independent mentality and it finds there has been a blurring of boundaries between insider and outsider pressure groups. Finally, it concludes that policy influence has become more complex under MMP and created the need for increased pressure group sophistication.

The literature review showed the importance of pressure groups in society in general. The studies have shown that pressure groups help direct decision-makers towards the required solutions to various political, environmental and social issues, especially with regard to the issues of elections, unemployment, parties and others. The studies used the descriptive approach and the descriptive analytical approach, and some studies used the questionnaire to measure the opinion of the sample they chose, and some used the interview and others. The current study benefited from the theoretical literature by forming the study methodology and measurement tool.

## 8. METHODOLOGY

The researchers adopted a descriptive analytical approach in order to achieve study objectives by conduct a field survey. The population of the study consists from all Jordanian press political Journalists and political activist.

Sample: The sample consists of 100 Jordanian political Journalists and political activist. Table 1 presents the distribution of the sample. Where a copy of the questionnaire was sent to them via e-mail, which is the main study tool.

**Table 1:** Study Sample Characteristics (Sex, Experience)

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percent
Sex	Male	71	71
	Female	29	29
	Total	100	100.0
Experience	Less than 5 year	37	37
	5-10 years	43	43
	More than 10 years	20	20
	Total	100	100.0

### The Study's Instrument

The study's questionnaire was developed based on literature review. 12 statement set to measure the attitude of sample among the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan. The rating categories in the latter questionnaire are: never, sometimes, neutral, often and always. The score of these categories are: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

### Validity of the Scale

The validity of the scale measured through evaluation the questionnaire by several experts from

Jordanian university.

### Reliability of the Scale

The reliability of the questionnaire was measured through calculating the Cronbach alpha coefficient value. The value of Cronbach alpha was 0.807 which is accepted.

### The Study's Variables

The study's variables are listed below:

The independent variables: Sex, Experience.

The independent variable: role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan.

## METHODS & STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The SPSS program was used for analyzing the collected data. Several methods were used to analyze data statistically such as frequencies and percentages means and standard deviations Cronbach alpha coefficient value, multivariate analysis and Scheffe method.

The following criteria were used to classify means:

1–2.49: low

2.50–3.24: moderate

3.25–4: High

## 9. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### First Question

**Q.1: What is the degree of the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan?**

Table 2 shows the means and standard deviations of sample answer about the degree of the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan.

**Table 2:** Means and Standard Deviations of sample Answer

No	Statements	M	S.D	Rank	Degree
	<b>Parties</b>				
2	Parties form pressure groups in the political sphere	3.88	0.970	1	High
8	Parties play an important role in influencing the decision-maker	3.87	0.930	2	High
5	Parties are not widely spread in society	3.85	0.981	3	High
3	Parties derive their strength from the number of their members in society	3.83	0.998	4	High
1	Parliament is concerned with the point of view of pressure groups when discussing laws	3.81	1.003	5	High

<b>4</b>	Government agencies take into account the opinion of pressure group	3.80	0.994	6	High
	<b>Total</b>	3.85	0.970		High
	<b>The media</b>				
<b>7</b>	The media is important to pressure groups	3.79	1.028	7	High
<b>11</b>	Lobbying groups use different media to influence decision-makers	3.78	0.997	8	High
<b>12</b>	The media cannot be separated from the goals of the pressure groups	3.77	0.955	9	High
<b>6</b>	The media discuss political issues freely	3.75	1.014	10	High
<b>9</b>	Pressure groups can benefit from the media	3.73	0.933	11	High
<b>10</b>	The media helps pressure groups to present their point of view	3.72	0.990	12	High
	<b>Total</b>	3.76	0.980		High
	<b>The Role of Pressure Groups</b>	3.82	0.971		High

Based on Table 2, the degree of the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan is high. That is because the overall mean of the role of pressure groups is 3.82. The overall standard deviation is 0.971.

The pressure groups components (Parties, The media) have high mean. The mean of parties is 3.85 and the mean for the media is 3.76 which is mean that parties and the media have a high impact on guiding decision-makers in Jordan.

The mean of statement (2) which states: "Parties form pressure groups in the political sphere" is ranked first. It is 3.88 with high degree. The standard deviation of the latter statement is 0.970.

The mean of statement (10) which states: "The media helps pressure groups to present their point of view" is ranked the last. It is 3.72 with high degree. The standard deviation of the latter statement is 0.990.

The results show that there is a clear and important role for pressure groups on decision-makers in the political field. The study sample confirmed that political parties contribute to influencing political decisions because they are considered pressure groups, although political parties in Jordan need more effort to develop their methods of work, especially when Presentation of views and the formation of public opinion in the community. The results showed that there is an influence of the media in the field of pressure on governments and decision

makers in political and other public issues. These results confirm the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan.

### Second Question

**Q.2: Is there any statistically significant difference between degree of the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan attributed to (sex, experience)?**

Means and standard deviations are calculated. Table 3 presents these values:

**Table 3:** Means and standard deviations for the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan attributed to (sex, experience)

Variable	Category	No	S.D	M
Sex	Male	71	3.85	0.906
	Female	29	3.84	0.970
Experience	Less than 5 year	37	3.83	1.101
	5-10 years	43	3.79	0.843
	More than 10 years	20	3.78	0.827

Based on Table 3, it appears that there are differences between the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan attributed to (sex, experience). To identify whether these differences are statistically significant or not at the statistical significance level of  $\alpha=0.05$ , the multivariate

analysis of variance was conducted. The results of analysis are presented below through Table 4 below:

**Table 4:** The results of the multivariate analysis of variance

Source	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig. *
Sex	0.876	1	876	0.562	0.131
Experience	0.091	2	0.091	0.128	0.000
Error	67.345	97	0.600		
Total	1730.528	100			

Based on Table 4, it was found that there is no statistically significant differences between the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan attributed to sex and it was found that there is statistically significant difference attributed to

experience.

In order to reveal the source of the differences between the dimensional comparisons were made by the Scheffe method. As shown in Table 5.

**Table 4:** The results of Scheffe method for Experience

	Experience	Mean	Sig
Less than 5 year	5-10 years	-0.45573	0.431
	More than 10 years	-0.78842	0.000
5-10 years	Less than 5 year	0.35629	0.321
	More than 10 years	-0.01224	0.113
More than 10 years	5-10 years	-1.13210	0.411
	Less than 5 year	0.35347	0.325

Based on Table 5, it was found that there is statistically significant differences between the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers in Jordan attributed to experience regarding the category (More than 10 years).

The results indicate that gender does not affect the sample's attitudes towards the answers regarding the degree of influence of pressure groups on political decision-makers. The results also indicate that the high experience of the sample increases their ability to deal with issues related to pressure groups in the political field, especially that the study sample includes journalists and political activists.

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The researchers recommend the following:

- Increasing awareness among Jordanian parties about the civilized methods of pressure groups to influence government decision-makers in the political and other fields.

- Conducting more studies to measure the role of pressure groups in guiding decision-makers.

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