

**EFFICACY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 IN ENHANCING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
OF WOMEN IN SOMALIA**

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**A RESEARCH THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND
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DECLARATION

This research thesis is an original copy of my work and no copy of this work should be submitted to any other examination body or university without the consent of Kenya Methodist University (KEMU).

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family for always being there for me during my studies. Thank you so much.

ABSTRACT

The research investigated the social and cultural obstacles that hinder female political involvement in Baidoa Somalia throughout the 2020/2022 Federal elections period. Women encounter major obstacles despite being protected by international and constitutional agreements which promote gender equality. The general objective of this study was to determine the efficacy of implementation of UNSCR1325 in enhancing political participation of Women in Somalia. Specifically, the study sought to achieve the following research objectives: to examine the influence of educational attainment on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia; to assess the influence of beliefs on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, Somalia; to evaluate the influence of gender roles on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia and to investigate the influence of societal attitudes on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, Somalia. The study used Liberal Feminism Theory together with Constructivism Theory and Human Security Framework Theory as its theoretical foundation to establish a descriptive research design. The research investigated a total of 125 participants who included 100 voters in combination with 10 elected leaders and 10 community leaders together with 5 representatives from the local authority. The researcher chose stratified sampling and calculated a sample size of 95 based on Yamane's formula. The data collection process involved structured questionnaires which received analysis through descriptive and inferential methods alongside thematic analysis of qualitative data. The study results appeared in combination with tables and figures accompanied by narrative explanations. The research achieved a 91% response rate from which 86 participants managed to complete the survey. The research established that women achieve higher political engagement through educational progress yet cultural values and gender roles with societal stereotypes act as significant hindering factors. The results from regression analysis revealed education had a significant positive relationship ($\beta = 0.421$, $p = 0.000$) and cultural norms displayed a negative relationship ($\beta = -0.312$, $p = 0.001$). Pearson correlation analysis results demonstrated two strong relationships: education and participation produced $r = 0.533$ ($p < 0.01$) while societal attitudes and discrimination generated $r = 0.671$ ($p < 0.01$). Women develop leadership abilities and self-assurance through education yet cultural gender roles together with family care duties and lack of political connections prevent them from participating in the political system. The authors stress the importance of implementing solutions such as policy reforms and civic education programs and work-life balance support to overcome these obstacles. The report advocated for female educational investments together with awareness initiatives and gender-aware policies and mandatory affirmative action to advance women's participation in political activities. The implementation of enhanced legal structures will create equal political possibilities for women within Baidoa and Somalia in general.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EISA	Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa
FMS	Federal Member State
FSS	Federal State of Somalia
GETT	Gender and Elections Task Team
HOP	House of the People
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation
NCC	National Consultative Council
SWDO	Somalia Women's Development Organization
UN WOMEN	The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and The Empowerment of Women
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Women's participation in politics has long been recognized as a cornerstone for inclusive governance, stability, and sustainable development. The adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2000 marked a global commitment to advancing women's roles in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and political decision-making (United Nations [UN], 2000). This resolution emphasizes the importance of women's meaningful engagement in governance, particularly in post-conflict societies where gender inequalities are often entrenched. Evidence shows that peace agreements are more durable when women are involved; in fact, agreements are 20 percent more likely to last at least two years and 35 percent more likely to endure for fifteen years when women play substantive roles in negotiations (United Nations Programme for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women [UN Women], 2020).

Educational attainment has been a critical enabler of women's entry into politics. In Sierra Leone, support from UN Women through leadership training and electoral readiness programs contributed to an increase in female parliamentary representation from 14.5 percent in 2018 to 30.4 percent in 2023 (UN Women, 2023). These gains demonstrate that education and capacity building can help bridge structural gaps, allowing women to contest leadership roles more effectively. Similarly, in Kenya, the localization of the National Action Plan under UNSCR 1325 increased women's leadership in peace committees from

6 percent in 2019 to 14.3 percent in 2021, reflecting a gradual shift in both skills and opportunities (UN Women, 2021).

However, challenges persist. Deeply rooted beliefs often limit women's roles in politics, with gender stereotypes reinforcing the perception that leadership is male-dominated. Despite advocacy, women remain underrepresented, with fewer than 10 percent of signatories in global peace agreements being women (O'Rourke, 2022). Discrimination and societal attitudes also hinder progress, as many countries lack adequate resources to implement National Action Plans. By 2022, around 30 percent of National Action Plans had expired, highlighting the difficulties of sustaining momentum without dedicated funding and monitoring mechanisms.

1.1.1 Global Perspective

The implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Pakistan has focused primarily on parliamentary quotas, yet challenges persist in ensuring substantive political participation for women. The constitution reserves 60 seats for women in the National Assembly, resulting in 20.5 percent female representation in 2024, which falls below the global average of 27 percent. Despite improvements, millions of women remain absent from electoral rolls, undermining inclusivity. Leadership training supported by UN Women has helped build female political capacity, but barriers such as harassment and restrictive gender norms remain significant.

India has advanced women's political participation through constitutional provisions that reserve one-third of seats in village councils, leading to the election of over one million women at the grassroots level (UN Women, 2020). Despite these local gains, women's representation at the national level remains low, with only 13.8 percent of members in the

2024 Lok Sabha being female. The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in 2023, which mandates 33 percent representation in parliament, promises progress but awaits implementation. Gender norms, limited party support, and financial barriers continue to restrict mobility into higher political offices despite growing education levels.

Afghanistan initially made progress under UNSCR 1325 by adopting its first National Action Plan in 2015, which facilitated female inclusion in parliament and ministries. By 2020, women held 27 percent of parliamentary seats, reflecting one of the highest rates in South Asia (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2021). However, the Taliban's takeover in 2021 reversed these gains, banning women from education beyond primary school and excluding them from political institutions (Fetrat, 2025). These developments illustrate how fragile political participation becomes when international frameworks like UNSCR 1325 lack enforcement in the face of extremist governance and systemic repression.

Saudi Arabia's reforms since 2015 have partially aligned with UNSCR 1325 by granting women voting and candidacy rights in municipal elections. Furthermore, women now occupy around 20 percent of the appointed Shura Council seats, reflecting incremental inclusion. Nonetheless, representation is mainly achieved through appointments, limiting women's independent political influence. Social norms, guardianship laws, and structural barriers restrict broader participation, leaving Saudi women underrepresented in decision-making.

1.1.2 Regional Perspective

Nigeria, Morocco, and Algeria present contrasting experiences in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 to advance women's political participation. In Nigeria, the adoption of National Action Plans in 2013 and 2017 has not translated into meaningful gains. By 2023, only 3.6 percent of members of the National Assembly were women, one of the lowest figures worldwide. Structural barriers, including restrictive party nomination processes, limited campaign financing, and widespread insecurity, continue to disadvantage women. Efforts such as leadership training and advocacy supported by UN Women have produced minimal impact (UN Women, 2021). This case demonstrates that political will, resource allocation, and accountability are necessary to move beyond symbolic compliance with UNSCR 1325.

In Morocco, progress has been more visible through quota systems and electoral reforms. The introduction of a national list reserved for women increased female representation in parliament to 24 percent in 2021 (UNDP, 2024). Civil society groups have further advanced participation through advocacy and leadership training (UN Women, 2021). However, reliance on reserved seats limits women's competitiveness in open constituencies.

In Algeria, initial progress through parity laws raised women's representation to 31 percent in 2012. Subsequent reforms weakened these provisions, reducing representation to 7.9 percent by 2021. The absence of a current National Action Plan has undermined accountability, underscoring the fragility of gains when institutional safeguards are reversed (UN Women, 2022).

1.1.2 Local Perspective

Baidoa, the administrative capital of South West State in Somalia, provides a critical lens for understanding the challenges and opportunities of women's political participation under the framework of UNSCR 1325. The town remains deeply influenced by clan-based political structures, where decision-making authority is predominantly exercised by male elders, thereby restricting women's access to leadership and representation (Hassan, 2023). Although Somalia adopted its first National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in 2023 and amended the Electoral Law in 2024 to introduce a 30 percent quota for women in parliament, the translation of these commitments into practice at the state level has been slow and uneven.

In Baidoa, women's participation in politics is often limited to symbolic roles, with very few occupying positions of substantive influence (UN Women, 2024). Structural barriers such as low levels of educational attainment, entrenched gender roles, and rigid cultural norms continue to constrain women's capacity to engage meaningfully in governance. Local reports reveal that while women constitute the majority in community peacebuilding, humanitarian response, and grassroots mobilization efforts, their representation in formal political structures within South West State remains below 10 percent (Spiegel & Mhlanga, 2022).

The situation is further compounded by insecurity, recurrent displacement caused by conflict and drought, and the dominance of traditional clan elders in political negotiations. These dynamics collectively undermine the enforcement of the 30 percent quota and limit

the practical impact of UNSCR 1325 in Baidoa. Despite sustained advocacy by women's groups and support from international partners, progress has been incremental, reflecting strong resistance from entrenched sociocultural and political systems (UNDP, 2024). Therefore, Baidoa exemplifies the disconnect between national-level reforms and local-level implementation.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Somalia has committed itself to advancing women's political participation through the adoption of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in 2023 and amendments to the Electoral Law in 2024, which introduced a 30 percent quota for women (UNDP, 2024). Despite these developments, women's representation in national politics remains at 21 percent, significantly below the legally mandated threshold and the global average of 26.5 percent (UN Women, 2022). This persistent underrepresentation highlights a major gap between legislative commitments and actual practice.

The central problem is that while UNSCR 1325 has created a framework for gender inclusion, its implementation in Somalia has produced limited results, particularly in local contexts such as Baidoa. Existing studies largely focus on national trends Affi (2020) and Kuznetsova and Tolbert (2023), yet there is insufficient analysis of how social norms, clan-based structures, and institutional weaknesses continue to hinder women's political participation at the community level. As a result, there is limited evidence to explain why the quota system and related reforms have not translated into substantial gains in specific regions (Griffith et al., 2023).

This lack of localized understanding poses challenges for policy design. Without evidence from places like Baidoa, reforms risk remaining symbolic rather than transformative. If

these gaps persist, women may continue to be excluded from decision-making processes, weakening Somalia's democratic development and undermining sustainable peacebuilding efforts. Therefore, this study sought to investigate the effectiveness of UNSCR 1325 in enhancing women's political participation in Baidoa, with the aim of providing context-specific insights to strengthen inclusive governance.

1.3 Objective of the Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study was to determine the efficacy of implementation of UNSCR 1325 in enhancing political participation of Women in Somalia.

1.3.2 Specific objective

- i. To examine the influence of educational attainment on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.
- ii. To assess the influence of beliefs on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, Somalia.
- iii. To evaluate the influence of gender roles on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.
- iv. To investigate the influence of societal attitudes on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, Somalia.

1.4 Research Hypothesis

- i. **H₀₁**: Educational attainment has no significant influence on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.

- ii. **H02:** Beliefs have no significant influence on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.
- iii. **H03:** Gender roles expectations have no significant influence on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.
- iv. **H04:** Societal attitudes have no significant influence on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.

1.5 Justification of the Study

This study is justified by the persistent gap between Somalia's commitments under UNSCR 1325 and the actual political participation of women, particularly in Baidoa. While the 2023 National Action Plan and the 2024 Electoral Law introducing a 30 percent quota represent progress (UNDP, 2024), women remain underrepresented, with only 21 percent of parliamentary seats held by women (UN Women, 2022). This study is therefore significant in examining the barriers that prevent these commitments from translating into meaningful inclusion.

At the local level, cultural norms, clan-based politics, and insecurity continue to limit women's participation in leadership roles (Tetreault et al., 2021). Investigating these barriers in Baidoa provides critical evidence for designing interventions that respond to local realities rather than relying on broad national strategies. The study's findings will also inform government institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners seeking to strengthen inclusive governance in Somalia.

Globally, this research aligns with international frameworks that emphasize women's participation in peace and governance processes, including UNSCR 1325 and Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality. By focusing on a post-conflict society, the study

contributes to international discourse on women's representation in fragile states. The researcher's experience in humanitarian and gender-related work in Baidoa ensures direct access to key stakeholders, generating authentic and context-specific insights that enhance both academic and practical value.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia, within the framework of UNSCR 1325. The scope includes examining the influence of educational attainment, beliefs, gender roles and expectations, and societal attitudes and discrimination on women's engagement in politics. The analysis is limited to the 2020–2022 Federal Election period in Baidoa, which provides a recent and relevant context to assess women's involvement in electoral processes. Geographically, the study is restricted to Baidoa, the interim capital of South West State, because of its significance in Somali politics and the presence of recent political reforms (Abdulkadir et al., 2023). Although findings may not fully represent other Somali regions, Baidoa offers a valuable case study for understanding broader patterns of women's participation. The study also benefits from the researcher's professional networks in the region, which facilitated access to stakeholders and improved data collection.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

Several limitations affected the study. First, generalizability was constrained since the research was limited to Baidoa. To address this, participants were drawn from diverse social and political backgrounds within the city to capture a wide range of perspectives. Second, challenges in obtaining reliable data arose due to the sensitivity of political issues

and reluctance of some respondents to speak openly. This was mitigated through community engagement, assurances of confidentiality, and triangulation using multiple data collection methods such as interviews and focus groups.

Language and cultural diversity also presented difficulties, as many respondents spoke in local dialects such as Maay. To ensure accuracy, trained assistants facilitated translation, and responses were cross-checked with participants. Security concerns further limited the study, as certain areas of Baidoa remained under Al-Shabaab control. As a result, data were collected only from government-controlled areas, although insights from individuals with knowledge of insecure regions were included to enhance representativeness. These measures helped strengthen the reliability of findings despite the constraints.

1.8 Operational Definition of Terms

Educational Attainment: Educational attainment denotes the highest level of formal education an individual has completed, from primary to tertiary institutions. It serves as a key indicator of access to knowledge and skills that influence political awareness, empowerment, and participation (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO], 2022).

Beliefs: Beliefs are socially constructed values, norms, and shared expectations that regulate acceptable behavior within a society. In the Somali context, such beliefs shape perceptions of women's roles in politics and leadership, either reinforcing or challenging gendered restrictions (Siedschlag, 2023).

Gender Roles: Gender roles are the culturally defined responsibilities, duties, and expectations assigned to men and women. These roles, rooted in tradition, often restrict

women's opportunities for political engagement by confining them primarily to domestic and caregiving functions (World Bank, 2021).

Societal Attitudes: Societal attitudes encompass the stereotypes, prejudices, and discriminatory practices directed at women in political spaces. Such attitudes restrict women's access to political opportunities by fostering exclusion, undermining legitimacy, and resisting female leadership (UN Women, 2023).

Political Participation: Political participation refers to women's active engagement in political processes, including voting, campaigning, decision-making, and occupying elective or appointive positions. It represents the extent to which women are integrated into governance and leadership structures (Ballington & Kahane, 2021).

UNSCR 1325: United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, adopted in 2000, emphasizes the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding, security, and political processes. It obligates member states to develop National Action Plans for implementation. Somalia adopted its first National Action Plan in 2023 to operationalize these commitments (UNDP, 2024).

Efficacy of Implementation: Efficacy of implementation refers to the extent to which policies, frameworks, or resolutions such as UNSCR 1325 are effectively translated into tangible outcomes. Within this study, it relates to how successfully the resolution's commitments are applied to strengthen women's political participation in Baidoa (UN Women, 2023).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter was to go over pertinent and related literature on the subject of study. Theory review, previous research, and conceptual framework are its main areas of concentration.

2.2 Theoretical Review

A theoretical review provides a critical evaluation of theories and concepts that inform and guide a research study. It examines, compares, and synthesizes different theoretical perspectives to establish a solid foundation for academic inquiry. By reviewing relevant frameworks, models, and scholarly arguments, it highlights how existing theories explain and relate to the study variables. In this research, Liberal Feminism in International Relations, Constructivism, and the Human Security Framework are applied to explain the barriers and opportunities shaping women's political participation in Somalia. This approach ensures theoretical alignment with international relations while enhancing the study's analytical depth and academic rigor.

2.2.1 Liberal Feminism in International Relations

Liberal Feminism, which has been adapted into international relations scholarship from broader feminist political theory, emphasizes the need for women's equal access to political and institutional structures. Recent studies highlight how this perspective has been applied to global governance debates, particularly in contexts of post-conflict reconstruction

(Smith & Walters, 2022). The theory argues that political systems can only achieve legitimacy and effectiveness when women are fully included in decision-making processes, and that structural reforms such as quotas, capacity-building initiatives, and education are essential for closing the gender gap.

In the Somali context, Liberal Feminism offers a useful framework for analyzing women's political participation under the implementation of UNSCR 1325. For instance, although Somalia's 2024 Electoral Law introduced a 30 percent quota for women, only 21 percent of parliamentary seats were secured by women in the 2022 elections, demonstrating a gap between commitments and outcomes (UN Women, 2022). Liberal Feminism helps explain this gap by emphasizing that legal reforms must be complemented by systemic support, such as equal access to education, political training, and financial resources, which prepare women to compete effectively.

The theory is directly relevant to the study's objective of examining educational attainment as a factor shaping political participation. It suggests that education enhances women's ability to claim space within institutions designed to include them. While Liberal Feminism provides strong policy-oriented insights, its limitation lies in its focus on structural remedies, which may underplay the cultural and normative barriers that persist in societies like Somalia.

2.2.2 Constructivism

Constructivism in international relations, developed by Alexander Wendt in the late 20th century, argues that international politics is shaped not only by material capabilities but also by shared ideas, norms, and identities (Wendt, 1999). More recent feminist

constructivist perspectives emphasize how gender norms and societal beliefs influence the participation of women in governance and peacebuilding (Acharya, 2020). The theory posits that actors behave according to what is socially constructed as appropriate, and that political practices evolve as norms change over time.

Applied to Somalia, Constructivism helps explain why the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and national reforms have not yet fully translated into equal participation. Clan-based structures and patriarchal traditions continue to define politics, framing leadership as a male domain despite the presence of quotas and constitutional guarantees (Ahmed & Hajimumin, 2022). The theory underscores that such cultural beliefs shape political outcomes by discouraging women from engaging in leadership roles and by legitimizing male dominance in decision-making processes (Aidid, 2020).

Constructivism suggests that normative change is required for political reforms to succeed. In Somalia, this implies that community-level dialogues, advocacy campaigns, and visible women leaders are needed to shift societal perceptions of women's roles in politics. The theory aligns with the study's objective of assessing the influence of norms and beliefs on women's participation, as it explains the persistence of exclusion and the pathways to change. Although powerful in highlighting culture, Constructivism is less equipped to address material barriers, such as insecurity and lack of resources, which also restrict women's political agency.

2.2.3 Human Security Framework

The Human Security framework emerged in the 1990s as a people-centered alternative to traditional, state-focused security. In recent years, it has been refined to address the unique

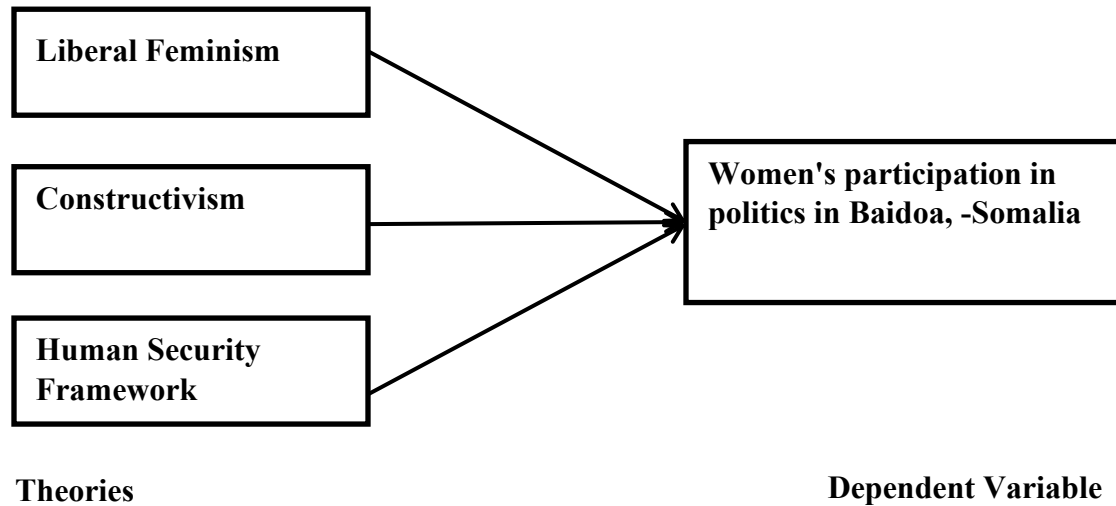
vulnerabilities of women in conflict and post-conflict contexts (Owen, 2019; UNDP, 2021). This framework argues that security should encompass political inclusion, protection from violence, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes that shape community stability. Through shifting attention from the state to the individual, the framework emphasizes that the exclusion of women from politics represents a direct threat to societal security.

In Somalia, where conflict and fragility continue to undermine stability, the Human Security framework provides a lens for understanding why women's participation is vital. Despite commitments under UNSCR 1325, women face intimidation, gender-based violence, and systemic discrimination, which limit their ability to contest for political positions (UNDP, 2021). This not only restricts women's rights but also weakens the inclusiveness of governance systems, thereby undermining peacebuilding efforts. The framework argues that ensuring women's safe and equal access to politics is central to sustainable security.

The Human Security approach is particularly relevant to the study's objectives on gender roles, expectations, and discrimination. It positions women's exclusion as more than a social issue, framing it as a security challenge that must be addressed to stabilize fragile states like Somalia. While its strength lies in its holistic perspective, its limitation is that it can be broad, making operationalization difficult without specific indicators. Nonetheless, it provides a strong theoretical justification for linking UNSCR 1325 to women's political empowerment.

Figure 2.1

Theoretical Framework



Source: Researcher (2024)

2.3 Empirical Review

An empirical review is a critical examination of existing studies based on observed data and evidence rather than theory alone. It is important in research because it identifies knowledge gaps, validates theoretical claims with real-world findings, and provides a foundation for comparing and contextualizing new research outcomes.

2.3.1 Educational Attainment and Women's Participation in Politics

Hessami and da Fonseca (2020) conducted a pioneering study examining educational factors contributing to political engagement among Indian women. Using a cross-sectional design with stratified random sampling across different states, their logistic regression analysis demonstrated that higher education levels significantly increased women's

political participation probability. The study's stratified sampling approach ensured representative coverage across educational levels, while logistic regression provided robust statistical evidence of the education-politics relationship. The large-scale, multi-state design enhanced external validity. The cross-sectional design limited causal inference capabilities, preventing determination of whether education directly causes political engagement or merely correlates with it. The study's exclusive focus on formal education overlooked informal learning mechanisms that may significantly influence political awareness in developing contexts. The researchers explicitly acknowledged the need to investigate how informal education connects with political engagement—a critical limitation given the prevalence of non-formal learning in many African contexts (Avdukic et al., 2022).

Kiess (2022) examined educational influences on women's voting behavior in France through a cross-sectional survey employing systematic random sampling. Chi-square tests revealed higher voting rates among women with tertiary education. The systematic sampling methodology and urban-rural representation provided comprehensive coverage of the French context. The use of appropriate statistical tests strengthened the validity of findings. The study lacked explanatory depth, failing to explore underlying mechanisms driving the education-voting relationship. Additionally, the cross-sectional design prevented examination of voting pattern changes over time. The researchers noted insufficient knowledge regarding why some educated women choose not to participate in voting highlighting a critical behavioral paradox requiring further investigation.

Ogasawara (2023) advanced the field through longitudinal analysis of female politicians in Japan's legislative institutions over twenty years. Using purposive sampling and time-series analysis, the study demonstrated that women with advanced educational backgrounds achieved greater success in securing legislative positions. The longitudinal design enabled examination of temporal patterns and career trajectories, providing insights into long-term educational impacts. The twenty-year timeframe offered substantial temporal depth for analysis. Purposive sampling potentially introduced selection bias, limiting generalizability. The focus on successful politicians may have created survivorship bias, overlooking educational factors affecting unsuccessful candidates. The study highlighted the need to investigate cultural elements affecting the education-political representation relationship particularly relevant for understanding contextual variations across different societies.

Kim (2022) employed mixed methods to investigate educational achievement's effects on women's political empowerment in South Korea. Combining random sampling for surveys with purposive sampling for interviews, the study integrated statistical analysis with thematic qualitative examination. The mixed-methods approach provided both breadth and depth of analysis, while the combination of sampling strategies balanced representativeness with purposeful selection for qualitative insights. The integration of quantitative and qualitative findings enhanced validity through triangulation. The study's focus solely on party members may have excluded independent female politicians, potentially limiting the comprehensiveness of findings. The lack of control groups made it difficult to isolate education's specific contributions. The researchers identified insufficient

assessment of education's interaction with other socio-economic factors—suggesting the need for more comprehensive multivariate analyses.

Hessami and da Fonseca (2020) conducted a quasi-experimental study examining educational policies' effects on female political involvement in Germany. Using cluster sampling and difference-in-differences estimation, they found that regions with progressive educational policies demonstrated increased female political participation. The quasi-experimental design provided stronger causal inference capabilities than purely correlational studies. The difference-in-differences approach effectively controlled for time-invariant confounders, while cluster sampling ensured regional representation. The focus on policy interventions may have overlooked individual-level factors influencing participation. The study's limitation to women aged 20–40 restricted generalizability across age groups. The researchers noted insufficient understanding of the sustained effects of educational policies highlighting the need for longer-term impact assessments.

Ette and Akpan-Obong (2023) specifically examined educational impacts on women's political representation in Nigeria, focusing on female politicians at national and local levels. Using convenience sampling and combining content analysis with descriptive statistics, they confirmed positive relationships between education levels and political representation. The inclusion of both national and local political levels provided comprehensive coverage of the political spectrum. The focus on an African context addressed geographical gaps in existing literature. Convenience sampling significantly limited generalizability and potentially introduced selection bias. The descriptive nature of analysis prevented examination of causal relationships or controlling for confounding

variables. The study noted the absence of analysis regarding how political parties facilitate support for educated women—a critical institutional factor in political advancement.

Ochieng and Jattani (2022) conducted correlational research on educational levels and women's political involvement in Kenya, using simple random sampling among urban women. Pearson correlation analysis revealed direct correspondence between higher education and increased political participation. Random sampling enhanced representativeness within the urban context, while correlation analysis provided appropriate statistical examination of relationships. The exclusive focus on urban areas severely limited rural applicability particularly problematic given that rural populations constitute the majority in many African countries. The correlational design prevented causal inference. The researchers explicitly noted the gap in understanding political participation patterns among rural women—a critical omission given rural populations' political significance.

Walters et al. (2022) investigated education's impact on women's political leadership in South Africa through case study methodology, focusing on female provincial leaders. Using purposive sampling and thematic analysis, they identified education as crucial for women's leadership ascent. The case study approach provided in-depth insights into leadership development processes. Purposive sampling ensured inclusion of experienced political leaders, while thematic analysis captured nuanced qualitative insights. The limited sample size and case study design restricted generalizability. The focus on successful leaders may have created survivorship bias, overlooking factors affecting unsuccessful candidates. The study noted insufficient understanding of informal networks' influence—

highlighting the need to examine social capital's role in educated women's political advancement.

2.3.2 Beliefs and Women's Participation in Politics

Brulé and Gaikwad (2021) conducted pioneering research in India examining how traditional cultural beliefs influence women's political engagement. Their mixed-methods approach combined surveys of 300 female politicians and aspirants with qualitative analysis, employing stratified random sampling across rural and urban settings. The study's strength lies in its comprehensive geographical coverage and robust sample size, ensuring representativeness across diverse political contexts. The integration of quantitative (SPSS) and qualitative (NVivo) analytical tools provided methodological rigor and depth of analysis. The stratified sampling approach effectively captured variations between rural and urban political environments. The study's limitation includes its exclusive focus on current politicians and aspirants, potentially creating selection bias by excluding women who were deterred from political participation entirely. The cross-sectional design prevented examination of how cultural beliefs evolve over time and their changing impacts on political engagement. The researchers explicitly noted the absence of policy-based approaches designed to confront cultural barriers preventing women's political participation—a critical intervention gap requiring systematic investigation.

Liang (2024) advanced understanding through examining Confucian values' influence on female political involvement in China. The mixed-methods approach combined surveys of political aspirants with policymaker interviews, using stratified sampling and regression analysis. The study's innovative approach of including policymaker perspectives alongside

aspiring politicians provided institutional insights often missing in participation studies. The use of regression models strengthened causal inference capabilities, while stratified sampling ensured demographic diversity. The study's limitation lies in its potential cultural specificity, making generalization to non-Confucian contexts questionable. Additionally, the focus on aspirants rather than successful politicians may have overlooked factors enabling women to overcome cultural barriers. The research emphasized the urgent need for educational and policy interventions to challenge restrictive cultural values—highlighting a critical implementation gap in cultural transformation strategies.

Begum (2023) conducted in-depth research on religious influences affecting female politicians in Pakistan through 50 semi-structured interviews with politicians, scholars, and religious leaders. Using purposive sampling and thematic content analysis, the study revealed how religious misinterpretations justify political exclusion. The study's triangulation approach, incorporating multiple stakeholder perspectives (politicians, scholars, religious leaders), enhanced validity and provided comprehensive understanding. The semi-structured interview format allowed for deep exploration of sensitive religious-political intersections often difficult to capture through surveys. The relatively small sample size (n=50) and purposive sampling limited generalizability, particularly given Pakistan's diverse religious interpretation landscape. The study's qualitative-only approach may have missed quantifiable patterns of religious influence across different regions or denominations. The research identified insufficient attempts to develop gender-inclusive religious interpretations for political empowerment—a critical theological gap requiring scholarly and religious leader engagement.

Aspinall et al. (2021) conducted longitudinal research in Indonesia, following 500 female voters and candidates across three electoral cycles. Their comprehensive approach combined surveys with focus group discussions, employing systematic random sampling and mixed analytical methods. The longitudinal design represents a significant methodological strength, enabling examination of norm evolution and their changing impacts over multiple electoral cycles. The large sample size and systematic sampling enhanced representativeness, while the combination of quantitative (logistic regression) and qualitative methods provided analytical depth. The study's limitation includes potential attrition bias over the three-cycle period, which may have systematically excluded certain participant categories. Additionally, the focus on electoral behavior may have overlooked non-electoral forms of political participation influenced by social norms. The research identified the necessity for public awareness campaigns targeting political gender stereotypes highlighting a critical intervention gap in norm transformation strategies.

Höhmnn (2020) examined institutional beliefs within German political parties affecting women's participation through case study methodology. The research surveyed 150 female Bundestag members using stratified sampling while analyzing party policies through document analysis. The study's strength lies in its focus on institutional-level factors often overlooked in individual-centered research. The combination of primary data (surveys) with secondary analysis (document review) provided comprehensive institutional understanding. The focus on successful politicians (Bundestag members) offered insights into overcoming institutional barriers. The study's limitation includes potential survivorship bias by focusing exclusively on successful female politicians, missing insights from those who failed to overcome institutional barriers. The case study approach, while

providing depth, limited generalizability to other political systems. The research identified the need for institutional reforms ensuring gender parity in political party structures a critical structural gap requiring systematic organizational transformation.

Snipes and Mudde (2020) investigated gender norms' role in shaping media representation of female politicians in France through content analysis of 500 political news articles and interviews with 50 journalists. The study's methodological strength lies in its systematic content analysis approach, providing objective measurement of media bias patterns. The inclusion of journalist perspectives added crucial insights into media production processes shaping public perceptions. The study's limitation includes its focus on French media, potentially limiting cross-cultural applicability. Additionally, the analysis period may not have captured evolving media practices or the impact of social media on political representation. The research identified the lack of media policies promoting fair coverage of female politicians a critical regulatory gap requiring policy intervention.

Ahlberg (2022) analyzed traditional cultural beliefs affecting Kenyan women's political engagement through cross-sectional survey methodology, studying 200 female political aspirants and community leaders using simple random sampling. The study's strength lies in its inclusion of community leaders alongside political aspirants, providing broader social context often missing in politician-only studies. The focus on the African context addresses geographical gaps in existing literature. The cross-sectional design limited understanding of how traditional beliefs evolve over time. The simple random sampling, while appropriate, may not have captured regional variations in traditional belief systems across Kenya's diverse cultural landscape. The study noted insufficient research on grassroots

campaigns opposing restrictive cultural beliefs highlighting a critical community-level intervention gap.

Okonkwo and Mark (2025) advanced understanding through ethnographic research examining traditional gender norms affecting Nigerian women's political pursuits. Using in-depth interviews with 60 female politicians and traditional leaders, the study employed purposive sampling and thematic content analysis. The ethnographic approach provided deep cultural insights often missed in survey-based studies. The inclusion of traditional leaders offered crucial perspectives from cultural authority figures influencing political access. The purposive sampling approach and relatively small sample size limited generalizability across Nigeria's diverse cultural landscape. The qualitative-only methodology may have missed quantifiable patterns of traditional norm influence. The research established the need for gender-specific political mentorship programs a critical capacity-building gap requiring targeted intervention strategies.

2.3.3 Gender Roles and Women's Participation in Politics

Prillaman (2023) conducted comprehensive research in India examining conventional gender norms' impact on women's political activities through mixed-methods design combining surveys and interviews with 300 female politicians and aspirants. The study's large sample size and mixed-methods approach provided both breadth and depth of analysis. The stratified random sampling ensured representativeness across diverse political contexts, while regression models strengthened analytical rigor. The study's focus on current political participants may have missed women entirely deterred from political consideration due to gender role constraints. The cross-sectional design prevented

examination of how gender role expectations change over women's lifecycles. The research revealed an existing gap in gender-sensitive electoral policies that could motivate women's political pursuit highlighting a critical policy design gap.

Khan and Naqvi (2020) examined gender-related social expectations affecting Pakistani women's political participation through qualitative research involving focus group discussions with 50 female politicians and activists. The focus group methodology enabled exploration of shared experiences and collective sense-making around gender constraints. The inclusion of both politicians and activists provided diverse perspective representation. The small sample size and qualitative-only approach limited generalizability and prevented quantification of gender expectation impacts. The focus group setting may have inhibited discussion of sensitive family-related constraints. The research identified the absence of community-based awareness programs challenging gender-based societal limitations a critical community intervention gap.

Xiao and Asadullah (2020) analyzed Chinese public perceptions of gender roles in women's political engagement through cross-sectional survey of 400 female politicians using systematic random sampling and logistic regression analysis. The substantial sample size and systematic sampling enhanced representativeness, while logistic regression provided appropriate analysis for electoral outcome examination. The focus on public perceptions addressed a crucial but often overlooked dimension of political participation. The study's limitation lies in its exclusive focus on politicians rather than examining public perceptions more broadly. The cross-sectional design prevented examination of how public attitudes toward female political leadership evolve over time. The research demonstrated

that leadership training programs fail to address gender stereotypes highlighting a critical capacity development gap in program design.

Zhu and Deng (2020) conducted longitudinal research on traditional gender norms affecting rural Indonesian women seeking political office, following 500 female politicians across three electoral periods using mixed methods and stratified sampling. The longitudinal design enabled examination of norm evolution over multiple electoral cycles, while the large sample size provided robust statistical power. The focus on rural contexts addressed geographical gaps in political participation research. The study's limitation includes potential attrition bias over three electoral periods, which may have systematically excluded certain participant categories. The focus exclusively on women who pursued political office may have missed broader patterns of rural women's political exclusion. The research found no gender-focused political mentorship structure for rural women highlighting a critical rural capacity-building gap.

Sumbas (2020) examined institutional obstacles maintaining conventional gender roles within German political parties through case study methodology, interviewing 150 female politicians and analyzing party policies. The study's institutional focus addressed structural factors often overlooked in individual-centered research. The combination of primary interviews with policy document analysis provided comprehensive institutional understanding. The case study approach limited generalizability to other political systems, while the focus on successful politicians may have created survivorship bias, missing insights from women who failed to overcome institutional gender role constraints. The

study revealed insufficient gender quota mechanisms for increasing female participation in party leadership a critical structural representation gap.

The aforementioned Snipes and Mudde (2020) study on French media representation demonstrated how media portrayals routinely reinforce conventional gender roles through emotional and weakness narratives about female politicians. As previously analyzed in section 2.3.2. The study recognized the need for gender-sensitive media regulations—a critical regulatory framework gap.

Kenyatta (2023) analyzed cultural norms supporting male political dominance and their impact on female political engagement in Kenya through descriptive survey design with 200 female political aspirants and community leaders. The inclusion of community leaders alongside political aspirants provided broader social context. The focus on African contexts addressed geographical representation gaps in existing literature. The descriptive design limited analytical depth, while simple random sampling may not have captured regional variations in gender role expectations across Kenya's diverse cultural landscape. The study identified the need for educational programs fighting traditional gender stereotypes highlighting a critical education intervention gap.

Ette and Akpan-Obong (2023) investigated cultural influences on women's political representation in Nigeria through qualitative ethnography, interviewing 60 female politicians and traditional leaders. The ethnographic approach provided deep cultural insights into gender role constraints. The inclusion of traditional leaders offered crucial cultural authority perspectives. The relatively small sample size and purposive sampling limited generalizability across Nigeria's diverse cultural contexts. The qualitative-only

approach may have missed quantifiable patterns of gender role influence. The study found insufficient focus on community-based programs advancing political gender equality—a critical community mobilization gap.

2.3.4 Societal Attitudes and Women's Participation in Politics

Singh (2021) researched Indian societal prejudices and gender bias that constrain women's entry into politics using both surveys and in-depth interviews with 250 female politicians and aspirants. The study's strength lies in its mixed-methods approach and diverse political activity coverage. However, it was limited to the Indian context and did not provide comparative insights with other regions. The findings showed that male-dominated standards, stereotypes, and negative perceptions prevented women's political entry. A gap remains in exploring how policy interventions can be practically designed and contextualized for other democracies facing similar discrimination.

Khan and Ali (2021) examined Pakistan's cultural and religious influences on women's political involvement through focus groups and interviews with 50 female politicians and activists. The study effectively highlighted how religious misinterpretations reinforce discrimination. Its qualitative approach provided rich narratives but lacked statistical evidence to establish the extent of discrimination. The research gap identified is the absence of strategies to mainstream gender sensitivity within religious and political discourses, leaving a need for studies on effective interventions that balance cultural values with gender equality.

Lee (2020) investigated gender discrimination in South Korea's political recruitment and electoral systems using a cross-sectional survey of 300 politicians. Its strength lies in

stratified random sampling and robust regression analysis, which gave reliable quantitative evidence. However, being cross-sectional, the study could not track long-term discriminatory patterns. Findings revealed women faced lower competence ratings, financial barriers, and reduced media exposure. The research gap highlighted the absence of longitudinal studies on how discriminatory recruitment practices evolve over time.

Ogasawara (2023) explored how workplace discrimination affected Japanese women's interest in politics through a longitudinal study of 200 professionals over five years. Its strength was the temporal design, which provided insight into evolving discrimination effects. Nonetheless, the study's limitation was its focus on professional women, excluding grassroots or rural populations. It identified a gap in linking workplace equality policies with strategies for political empowerment, showing the need for integrated frameworks that bridge professional and political spheres.

Snipes and Mudde, (2020) examined gender stereotypes affecting women in France's National Assembly elections using case studies with 150 female politicians. The study provided deep qualitative insights into media representation but lacked quantitative validation. Findings showed women were judged more for appearance than competence. The identified gap is the lack of media regulatory frameworks that address gender-sensitive reporting, with little evidence of policy-driven change in media practices.

Müller (2021) evaluated discrimination within German political parties using surveys and document analysis involving 100 female politicians. Its mixed design offered both statistical and discourse insights. However, the small sample size limited generalizability. Findings indicated the absence of gender-sensitive policies within parties. The research gap

identified is the need for comprehensive organizational reforms and comparative studies across multiple parties to assess variations in discriminatory practices.

Bouka et al. (2019) studied Kenyan societal attitudes and discriminatory voting practices through a survey of 200 female candidates and voters. Using chi-square analysis, the study effectively linked attitudes to voting patterns. However, it was limited by its descriptive nature and failure to suggest long-term interventions. The gap lies in designing context-specific civic education and public sensitization programs to challenge discriminatory voting behavior.

Orisadare (2019) analyzed cultural barriers against Nigerian women leaders through ethnographic interviews with 50 female politicians. Its qualitative approach captured cultural depth but lacked a broader representative sample. Findings showed that entrenched male-dominated beliefs hindered women's ambitions. The identified gap was the absence of policy measures targeting deep-rooted cultural resistance and insufficient engagement with youth-led change movements.

2.4 Critique of Existing Literature

The reviewed literature reveals significant methodological and conceptual limitations that constrain understanding of women's political participation. A predominant reliance on cross-sectional designs limits causal inference capabilities, preventing researchers from establishing whether factors like education directly cause political engagement or merely correlate with it. Sampling biases are pervasive, with many studies focusing exclusively on

successful politicians or political aspirants, creating survivorship bias that overlooks women entirely deterred from political participation.

Geographical concentration presents another critical limitation, with studies heavily skewed toward developed nations and urban contexts, leaving rural and developing country perspectives underrepresented. The theoretical frameworks employed often treat cultural, educational, and social factors in isolation, failing to capture the intersectional nature of barriers women face. Methodologically, many studies lack control groups and fail to account for confounding variables, weakening their analytical rigor.

Furthermore, the literature demonstrates an intervention gap, with studies identifying barriers but providing limited evidence-based solutions. The predominance of descriptive analyses over explanatory research leaves critical questions about mechanisms driving women's political exclusion unanswered, hindering the development of effective policy interventions.

2.5 Research Gaps

The literature exhibits significant geographical bias toward developed nations, with limited representation from African, Latin American, and rural contexts. Studies predominantly focus on urban settings, neglecting rural women who constitute majority populations in many developing countries. Cross-cultural comparative research remains scarce, limiting understanding of how contextual factors influence women's political participation across different political systems and cultural environments.

Existing studies largely employ single-factor analyses, failing to develop comprehensive theoretical frameworks that account for intersectional barriers. The literature lacks theoretical models explaining how educational attainment, cultural norms, gender roles, and societal attitudes interact dynamically to influence women's political participation. Additionally, there is insufficient theoretical development regarding the mechanisms through which identified barriers operate and how they can be effectively addressed.

The predominance of cross-sectional designs limits causal inference capabilities, while survivorship bias from focusing on successful politicians overlooks broader exclusion patterns. Mixed-methods approaches remain underutilized, and longitudinal studies tracking women's political trajectories over time are rare. Many studies lack appropriate control groups and fail to employ robust statistical techniques controlling for confounding variables. Intervention studies evaluating policy effectiveness are particularly scarce, limiting evidence-based policy development.

Table 2. 1:

Summary of Reviewed Research on Women's Political Participation

Author(s) & Year	Country/Context	Research Focus	Methodology	Sample Size & Type	Key Findings	Main Limitations
Educational Attainment	India	Educational factors & political engagement	Cross-sectional, stratified random sampling, logistic regression	Multi-state sample	Higher education significantly increases political participation probability	Cross-sectional design limits causal inference; overlooks informal education
Hessami & da Fonseca (2020)						

Kiess (2022)	France	Education & women's voting behavior	Cross-sectional survey, systematic random sampling, chi-square tests	Urban-rural representation	Higher voting rates among tertiary-educated women	Lacks explanatory depth; no temporal examination
Ogasawara (2023)	Japan	Education & female legislative success	Longitudinal, purposive sampling, time-series analysis	20-year legislative data	Advanced education leads to greater legislative success	Selection bias; survivorship bias
Kim (2022)	South Korea	Educational achievement & political empowerment	Mixed methods, random & purposive sampling	Survey + interviews	Education enhances political empowerment	Limited to party members; lacks control groups
Hessami & da Fonseca (2020)	Germany	Educational policies & female participation	Quasi-experimental, cluster sampling, difference-in-differences	Regional policy comparison	Progressive policies increase participation	Age-limited (20-40); overlooks individual factors
Ette & Akpan-Obong (2023)	Nigeria	Education & political representation	Convenience sampling, content analysis, descriptive stats	National & local politicians	Positive education-representation relationship	Convenience sampling; descriptive analysis only
Ahmed & Madrid-Morales (2021)	Kenya	Education & political involvement	Correlational, simple random sampling, Pearson correlation	Urban women only	Direct correspondence between education and participation	Urban-only focus; correlational design
Walters et al. (2022)	South Africa	Education & women's leadership	Case study, purposive sampling,	Female provincial leaders	Education crucial for	Limited sample;

			thematic analysis		leadership ascent	survivorship bias
Beliefs						
Brulé & Gaikwad (2021)	India	Cultural beliefs & political engagement	Mixed methods, stratified random sampling	300 female politicians/aspirants	Traditional beliefs constrain participation	Selection bias; cross-sectional design
Liang (2024)	China	Confucian values & female involvement	Mixed methods, stratified sampling, regression	Political aspirants + policymakers	Cultural values limit participation	Cultural specificity; focus on aspirants only
Begum (2023)	Pakistan	Religious influences on female politicians	Qualitative, purposive sampling, thematic analysis	50 interviews (politicians, scholars, leaders)	Religious misinterpretations justify exclusion	Small sample; qualitative-only approach
Aspinall et al. (2021)	Indonesia	Social norms evolution	Longitudinal, systematic random sampling, mixed methods	500 participants, 3 electoral cycles	Norms evolve but continue constraining participation	Attrition bias; electoral focus only
Höhmann (2020)	Germany	Institutional beliefs in political parties	Case study, stratified sampling, document analysis	150 female Bundestag members	Institutional barriers within parties	Survivorship bias; limited generalizability
Snipes & Mudde (2020)	France	Gender norms & media representation	Content analysis, interviews	500 articles, 50 journalists	Media reinforces gender stereotypes	French-specific; limited temporal scope
Ahlberg (2022)	Kenya	Traditional beliefs & political engagement	Cross-sectional survey, simple random sampling	200 aspirants & community leaders	Traditional beliefs limit engagement	Cross-sectional; limited regional variation

Okonkwo and Mark (2025)	Nigeria	Traditional gender norms	Ethnographic, purposive sampling, thematic analysis	60 politicians & traditional leaders	Traditional norms constrain political pursuits	Small sample; limited generalizability
Gender Roles						
Prillaman (2023)	India	Gender norms & political activities	Mixed methods, stratified random sampling, regression	300 female politicians/aspirants	Gender norms significantly constrain participation	Focus on participants only; cross-sectional
Khan & Naqvi (2020)	Pakistan	Gender expectations & participation	Qualitative, focus groups	50 female politicians/activists	Social expectations limit participation	Small sample; potential inhibited discussions
Xiao & Asadullah (2020)	China	Public perceptions of gender roles	Cross-sectional survey, systematic random sampling, logistic regression	400 female politicians	Public perceptions influence participation	Politicians-only focus; cross-sectional
Zhu & Deng (2020)	Indonesia	Gender norms in rural contexts	Longitudinal, mixed methods, stratified sampling	500 rural politicians, 3 electoral periods	Traditional norms persist in rural areas	Attrition bias; office-seekers only
Sumbas (2020)	Germany	Institutional gender role obstacles	Case study, interviews, policy analysis	150 female politicians	Institutional obstacles maintain gender roles	Limited generalizability; survivorship bias
Kenyatta (2023)	Kenya	Male dominance norms	Descriptive survey, simple random sampling	200 aspirants & community leaders	Cultural norms support male dominance	Descriptive design; limited analytical depth
Societal Attitudes						

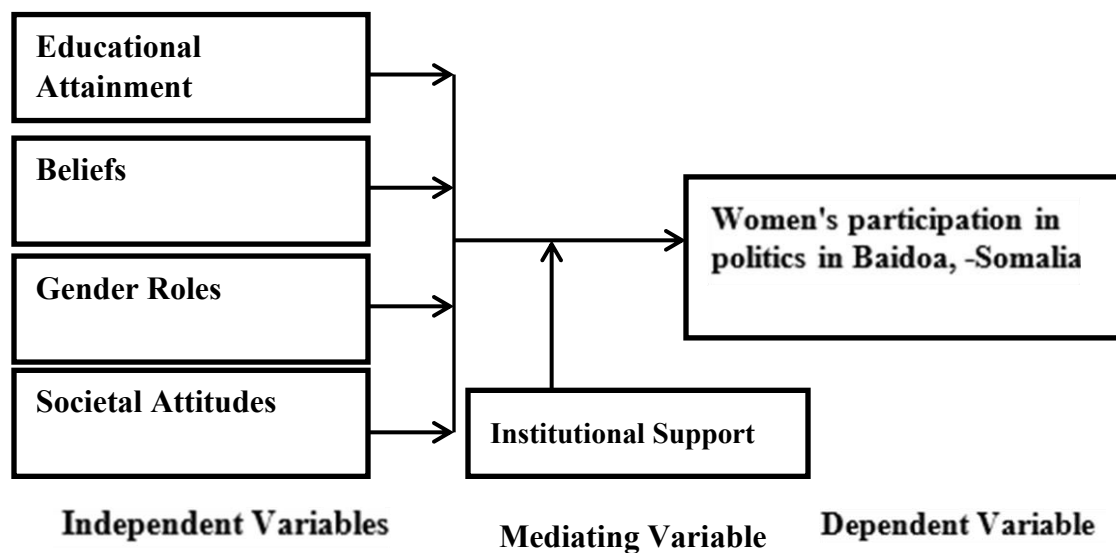
Sharma (2019)	India	Societal prejudices & gender bias	Mixed methods	250 female politicians/aspirants	Male standards and stereotypes prevent entry	India-specific; lacks comparative insights
Khan & Ali (2021)	Pakistan	Cultural/religious influences	Qualitative, focus groups, interviews	50 female politicians/activists	Religious misinterpretations reinforce discrimination	Lacks statistical evidence
Lee (2020)	South Korea	Gender discrimination in recruitment	Cross-sectional survey, stratified random sampling, regression	300 politicians	Women face competence, financial, and media barriers	Cross-sectional; cannot track long-term patterns
Tanaka (2022)	Japan	Workplace discrimination effects	Longitudinal	200 professionals, 5 years	Workplace discrimination affects political interest	Professional women only; excludes grassroots
Snipes, & Mudde, (2020).	France	Gender stereotypes in elections	Case study	150 female politicians	Women judged on appearance over competence	Lacks quantitative validation
Müller (2021)	Germany	Party discrimination	Mixed methods, surveys, document analysis	100 female politicians	Absence of gender-sensitive party policies	Small sample size
Bouka (2019)	Kenya	Discriminatory voting practices	Survey, chi-square analysis	200 female candidates/voters	Discriminatory attitudes affect voting	Descriptive nature; no long-term interventions
Orisadare (2019)	Nigeria	Cultural barriers to leadership	Ethnographic interviews	50 female politicians	Male-dominated beliefs hinder ambitions	Limited sample; lacks policy measures

2.6 Conceptual Framework

The research analyzes Women's participation in politics in Baidoa, -Somalia through dependency on gender roles and cultural Beliefs and social stigma and discrimination and educational attainment, as well as Institutional Support as the mediating Variable. A conceptual framework in Figure 2.2 shows how independent variables connect to the dependent variable.

Figure 2.2

Conceptual Framework

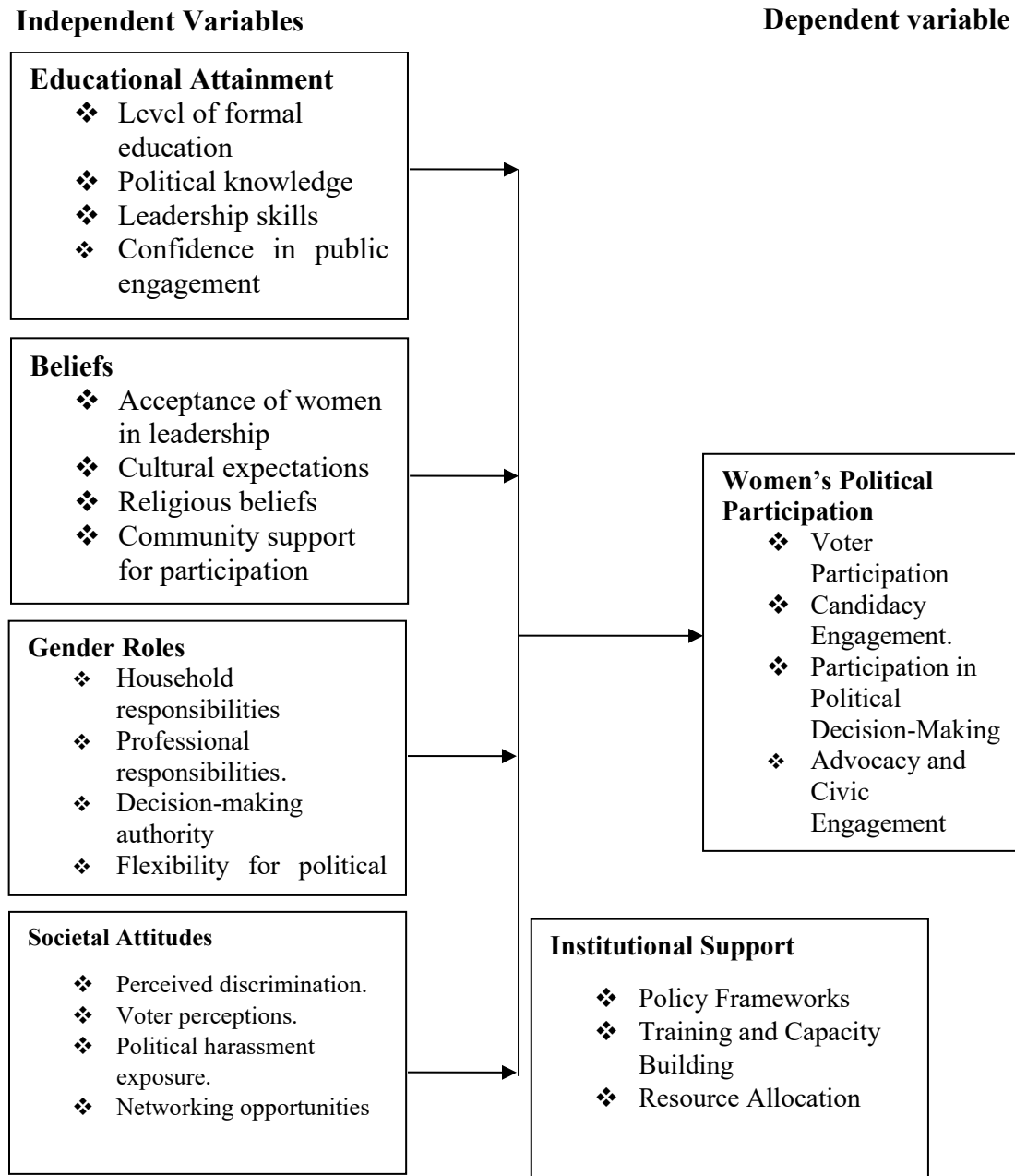


2.7 Operational Framework

The operational framework, as demonstrated in figure 2.3, indicates how the independent variables related with the dependent variable. In this case, based on the specific objectives of the study, the independent or predictor variables included educational attainment, norms and beliefs, gender roles, and societal attitudes.

Figure 2.3

Operational Framework



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The research design investigates socio-cultural barriers against women political participation during the 2020/2022 Federal elections in Baidoa, Somalia. The research design incorporated both qualitative and quantitative approaches to perform an extensive evaluation of the study. The research methodology section details the study structure through description of the setup design and target population identification and sampling information with reliability and validity assessment protocols and data collection and analysis procedures and the ethical considerations framework.

3.2 Research Design

This research design merged qualitative and quantitative techniques to reach deeper comprehension of research issues. The study used a descriptive research approach to perform systematic research about how socio-cultural barriers affect women's political involvement. Research methods that describe systematically analyze variables and their contextual relationships provide investigators with important understanding about their study subjects. The study design shows widespread application in social and political research because it produces unbiased information through unaltered variable assessment (Aggarwal & Ranganathan, 2019). The study achieved meaningful insights about participants' experiences through qualitative methods simultaneously with quantitative data collection that measured social-cultural obstacles.

3.3 Study Area

Somalia was selected based on its unique position as a post-conflict society with significant gender disparities. According to the UNDP Gender Inequality Index, Somalia ranks among countries with the highest gender gaps globally. The ongoing democratic transition and federal system implementation provide a critical context for examining women's political participation barriers in fragile state environments. Baidoa was chosen as the regional capital of South West State, hosting multiple governance structures and diverse political stakeholders. The city's relative security stability compared to other Somali cities enabled safe data collection while maintaining access to federal, state, and local government representatives.

3.4 Target Population

Multiple stakeholders who perform roles in the electoral process of Baidoa Somalia comprised the research target population of 1,900 individuals. The comprehensive target population includes 1,600 registered voters from both genders, 40 political leaders at federal, state and local levels, 35 community leaders including traditional elders and civil society representatives, 20 local authority representatives, 15 electoral body officials, 12 gender committee members from legislative bodies, 8 judiciary representatives familiar with gender laws, 20 civil society organizations focusing on women's rights, 40 women's groups representatives from formal and informal associations, and 10 media representatives covering political affairs. The chosen participant selection method brought together people from different political roles across the entire electoral ecosystem to create a comprehensive range of perspectives. The study succeeded in obtaining comprehensive understanding of the obstacles facing women in politics through the inclusion of multiple

participant groups including women themselves, which yielded substantial information to answer the research questions.

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The study used stratified random sampling to ensure proportional representation across stakeholder categories. Voters were selected through simple random sampling, political leaders and experts purposively, community leaders via snowball sampling, and all local authority representatives through census sampling. This approach captured diverse perspectives while maintaining representativeness (Ranganathan & Aggarwal, 2018). The Yamane (1967) formula was applied to calculate the sample size based on the revised target population, ensuring an appropriate and statistically reliable number of respondents for the study. The study employed Yamane (1967) formula for sample calculation with the revised target population according to the following formula:

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$$

where n represented sample size, N population (sampling frame) of 1,900 and e level of precision or margin of error of 0.1. In this case, N= 1,900, hence the sample size will be:

$$\begin{aligned} n &= 1,900 / (1 + 1,900(0.1)^2) \\ &= 1,900 / (1 + 1,900(0.01)) \\ &= 1,900 / (1 + 19) \\ &= 1,900 / 20 \\ &= 95 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the study's sample size was 95 respondents. The distribution of the sample across the different groups is presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3. 1:
Sample Size

Category	Target Population	Sample Ratio	Sample Size
Voters	1,600	20	80
Political leaders	40	20	2
Community leaders	35	20	2
Local authority representatives	20	20	1
Electoral body representatives	15	20	1
Gender committee members	12	20	1
Judiciary representatives	8	20	1
Civil society organizations	20	20	1
Women's groups representatives	40	20	2
Media representatives	10	20	1
Total	1,900		95

3.6 Research Instrument

The study employed structured questionnaires as the primary tool for data collection, complemented by key informant interview guides to enhance depth and enable data triangulation. Structured questionnaires are effective for obtaining systematic and quantifiable information on participants' experiences, attitudes, and perceptions, providing a reliable foundation for statistical analysis (Heyvaert, 2016). The key informant interview guides facilitated in-depth qualitative discussions with political leaders, electoral officials, and women's group representatives, allowing the researchers to capture nuanced insights into barriers and opportunities for women's political participation. This combination of quantitative and qualitative instruments ensured a comprehensive understanding of the research problem while enhancing the credibility and validity of the findings through methodological triangulation.

3.7 Pilot Study

A preliminary pilot study was conducted in Dinsoor District, Somalia, involving 10 participants, representing 10% of the intended sample, to evaluate the validation and

reliability of the research instruments prior to primary data collection. The pilot participants included 4 voters, 2 political leaders, 2 community leaders, and 2 representatives from women’s groups, ensuring representative coverage of the study population. This pilot enabled refinement of the instruments to enhance clarity, coherence, and relevance for assessing socio-cultural barriers affecting women’s political participation in Baidoa.

3.7.1 Instrument Validation Assessment

Table 3.2 presents the findings of the construct validation assessment for the research instrument.

Table 3. 2:
Instrument Validation Assessment

Research Construct	KMO Score	Bartlett's Test p-value	Factor Loading Range	Validation Status
Educational Attainment	0.752	0.001	0.701–0.822	Validated
Beliefs	0.781	0.001	0.724–0.854	Validated
Gender Roles and Expectations	0.768	0.001	0.712–0.836	Validated
Societal Attitudes and Discrimination	0.739	0.001	0.698–0.812	Validated

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) scores ranged from 0.739 to 0.781, all above the 0.5 threshold, indicating sufficient sampling adequacy for factor analysis. The Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity p-values were 0.001 for all constructs, confirming that the correlation matrices were suitable for factor analysis. Factor loadings exceeded the minimum requirement of 0.5, demonstrating strong alignment between questionnaire items and the study objectives. Feedback from the pilot study led to minor adjustments in question wording to improve clarity and ensure effective measurement of socio-cultural barriers influencing women’s political participation.

3.7.2 Reliability of the Data

Table 3.3 presents Cronbach's alpha values for assessing internal consistency of the research constructs.

Table 3. 3:
Reliability Test Results

Research Construct	Item Count	Cronbach's Alpha	Reliability Status
Educational Attainment	7	0.740	Reliable
Beliefs	7	0.872	Highly Reliable
Gender Roles and Expectations	7	0.764	Reliable
Societal Attitudes and Discrimination	7	0.783	Reliable
Complete Instrument	28	0.815	Highly Reliable

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

The reliability assessment confirms that all constructs exhibit strong internal consistency, with Cronbach's alpha values ranging from 0.740 to 0.872, exceeding the 0.7 minimum requirement. Societal Beliefs showed the highest reliability, while Educational Attainment, Gender Roles, and Societal Attitudes all demonstrated sufficient consistency. The overall instrument reliability of 0.815 confirms that the research tools can consistently and accurately measure the socio-cultural factors affecting women's political participation in Baidoa, enhancing the credibility and replicability of the study.

3.8 Data Collection Method

The researchers distributed structured questionnaires to participants through face-to-face human interactions. The researchers conducted their interactions with participants by visiting their homes and work environments as well as their business sites to maximize survey participation. Survey participants received questionnaires from the researchers to

complete independently before their return for retrieval. The research method adjusted its procedures for all participants to participate actively in the study.

3.9 Data Analysis and Presentations

The analysis relied on both qualitative together with quantitative methods to examine the data. The research team conducted descriptive statistical and inferential statistical analysis along with regression analysis of quantitative data. Statistics were employed to demonstrate the connections between socio-cultural barriers and female political involvement. The authors conducted thematic analysis of qualitative feedback obtained from open-ended survey questions and interviews to discover common patterns explaining their research discoveries. The researchers used tables with charts in combination with narrative descriptions to present their findings for better interpretation by readers. The multiple regression model created the foundation to determine variable causality. The following multiple regression model was applied to show the cause-and-effect relationship between variables:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon, \text{ where:}$$

Y = women participation in politics

X_1 = Educational Attainment

X_2 = Beliefs

X_3 = Societal attitudes

X_4 = Gender Roles

$\beta_0 X_0$ = Beta Coefficient

ε = Error term

3.10 Diagnostic Tests

Linearity: this was assessed using scatter-plots where residuals were plotted versus each predictor variable to check for any non-linear patterns. Also known as added variable plots, partial regression plots helped to assess the linearity assumption for each predictor while accounting for the other predictors.

Homoscedasticity: testing for homoscedasticity (constant variance of residuals) in a multiple regression model is important to ensure the validity of standard errors, confidence intervals, and hypothesis tests. This was tested using Breusch-Pagan Test to understand whether the residuals had constant variance. Additionally, white test was used to check for non-linearity.

Normality of Residuals: Testing the normality of residuals is an important diagnostic step in multiple regression analysis. A model requires normality assumption regarding residuals to perform valid hypothesis testing and confidence intervals. The model's assumptions about normality were evaluated through three tests including Histogram of Residuals and Q-Q Plot for distribution analysis together with Shapiro-Wilk Test as the statistical normality test.

Independence of Errors: was tested using Durbin-Watson Test which ascertains autocorrelation in the residuals, which is particularly important for time series data.

Multicollinearity: testing for multicollinearity in multiple regressions is essential because multicollinearity has the potential to increase the coefficient estimates' variance and destabilize the model. If your predictors are associated, the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)

will be used to quantify how much the variance of an estimated regression coefficient increases: Values above 10 could be a sign of an upsetting multicollinearity.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Protecting participant rights and confidentiality during the research process requires careful consideration of ethical issues. The study obtained approval from both NACOSTI as well as the university before its commencement. Each participant received consent to participate before being assured of privacy terms and confidentiality protection. The research allowed participants to stop their involvement anytime while guaranteeing their safety from negative consequences. The study met all moral guidelines defined by both local review boards and relevant committees.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter depicts the research results which correspond to the established research objectives. The chapter begins with an introduction and displays respondent demographic information before presenting results about the four independent variables studied. The respondents provided their demographic information through details about gender, age, educational attainment, occupational background and diplomatic experience length.

4.2 Response Rate

Table 4.1 presents a summary of the response rate.

Table 4. 1:
Response Rate

Category	Target Sample	Actual Respondents	Response Rate (%)
Voters	80	72	90.0%
Political leaders	2	2	100.0%
Community leaders	2	2	100.0%
Local authority representatives	1	1	100.0%
Electoral body representatives	1	1	100.0%
Gender committee members	1	1	100.0%
Judiciary representatives	1	0	0.0%
Civil society organizations	1	1	100.0%
Women's groups representatives	2	2	100.0%
Media representatives	1	1	100.0%
Total	95	86	91.0%

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

The study achieved an exceptional overall response rate of 91.0% (86 out of 95 targeted respondents), significantly exceeding the minimum threshold of 70% recommended for credible social research. This high participation rate demonstrates strong community

engagement and validates the appropriateness of the sampling strategy employed. Notably, all stakeholder categories except judiciary representatives achieved 90-100% response rates, with voters comprising the largest group at 72 respondents (90% response rate). The non-participation of the single judiciary representative represents a minimal limitation, as other categories adequately captured diverse perspectives on women's political participation barriers. The balanced representation across voter categories (72 respondents) and key informants (14 respondents) ensures comprehensive data triangulation, enhancing the study's validity and reliability while maintaining statistical power for meaningful analysis.

4.3 Respondents' Demographic Information

Respondents' demographic information was necessary given that political affiliation, personal experiences, educational background, and/or socioeconomic class are some of the factors that can have an impact on an individual's views regarding women in politics.

4.3.1 Respondents' Gender

Table 4.3 presents respondents' gender distribution, highlighting male and female representation and prioritization of women's voices.

Table 4. 2:
Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Male	37	43%
Female	49	57%
Total	86	100%

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

The higher proportion of female respondents (57%) in this study reflects the deliberate effort to prioritise women's voices in research concerning their political participation, aligning with UNSCR 1325's emphasis on meaningful inclusion. This distribution contrasts with traditional research patterns in Somalia, where patriarchal clan traditions perpetuate gender discrimination, bestowing absolute priority upon all men for public affairs. The significant female representation demonstrates women's willingness to engage in political discourse when given appropriate platforms. However, existing literature indicates that women are severely underrepresented in the country's government and decision-making bodies, suggesting that research participation does not automatically translate to formal political engagement. This finding supports UNSCR 1325's mandate for creating spaces where women can express their political aspirations and concerns, though structural barriers to actual participation remain substantial.

4.3.2 Respondents' Age

Table 4.4 shows respondents' age categories, illustrating generational participation and youth engagement in political processes.

Table 4. 3:
Age Distribution of Respondents

Age Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
18 – 25	21	24%
26 – 35	19	22%
36 – 45	17	20%
46 – 55	15	17%
56 and above	14	16%
Total	86	100%

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

The balanced age representation, with younger women (46% under 35) forming nearly half of respondents, indicates intergenerational interest in women's political participation. This

demographic pattern is particularly significant for UNSCR 1325 implementation, as women's participation in peace processes results in more durable and stable peace. The substantial representation of women aged 18-25 (24%) suggests that Somalia's younger generation may be more receptive to gender equality principles embedded in UNSCR 1325. Research from other contexts demonstrates that younger women often challenge traditional gender norms more readily than older generations. However, the presence of older women (33% over 45) provides valuable insights into established cultural barriers that have historically limited women's political engagement. This age diversity ensures that implementation strategies for UNSCR 1325 can address both traditional constraints and emerging opportunities for women's political participation across generational lines.

4.3.3 Respondents' Educational Qualification

Table 4.5 displays respondents' highest educational levels, indicating how education influences perspectives on political participation barriers.

Table 4. 4:
Educational Qualification of the Respondents

Educational Level	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
No Formal Education	5	6%
Primary Education	16	19%
Secondary Education	43	50%
Tertiary Education	22	26%
Total	86	100%

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

The finding that 76% of respondents possessed at least secondary education represents a significant foundation for UNSCR 1325 implementation in Baidoa. This educational profile contradicts earlier assumptions about women's educational limitations in Somalia, where education level is low among women in Mogadishu hence limiting the chances of

many women to participate in political leadership. The presence of 26% with tertiary education demonstrates that educated women in Baidoa may have the knowledge and skills necessary for meaningful political participation. Previous research confirms that education and empowerment are key in women leadership, suggesting that this educational foundation could facilitate effective UNSCR 1325 implementation. However, the 25% with primary or no formal education represents a vulnerable group requiring targeted interventions. This educational stratification indicates that while UNSCR 1325 can build upon existing educational achievements, comprehensive implementation must address educational disparities to ensure inclusive political participation for all women.

4.3.4 Respondents' Occupation

Table 4.6 summarizes respondents' occupational backgrounds, reflecting economic independence and its potential impact on political engagement.

Table 4. 5:
Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Student	11	13%
Employed	31	36%
Self-employed	23	27%
Unemployed	13	15%
Retired	8	9%
Total	86	100%

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

The occupational profile reveals that 63% of respondents were economically active (36% employed, 27% self-employed), providing a crucial foundation for political participation under UNSCR 1325. This finding contradicts traditional assumptions about women's

economic dependence in Somalia, where the availability of economic resources is a major determinant in the participation of women in political activities. Economic independence typically correlates with political agency, suggesting that these women possess the financial autonomy necessary for political engagement. However, the 15% unemployment rate highlights economic vulnerabilities that can limit political participation. Research indicates that significant financial constraints severely limit women's political engagement, emphasising the importance of economic empowerment within UNSCR 1325 implementation frameworks. The presence of 13% students represents future political leaders who could benefit from early exposure to UNSCR 1325 principles. This occupational diversity suggests that successful implementation requires addressing both economic empowerment and structural barriers to political participation.

4.3.5 Respondents' Political Affiliations

Table 4.7 presents respondents' political affiliations, revealing engagement patterns and potential structural barriers to women's participation.

Table 4. 6:
Political Affiliation of Respondents

Political Affiliation	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Member of a Political Party	37	43%
Independent	8	9%
Not Affiliated	41	48%
Total	86	100%

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

As indicated in Table 4.6, the finding that 48% of respondents held no political party affiliation represents a significant challenge for UNSCR 1325 implementation in Somalia. This pattern suggests that existing political structures inadequately accommodate women's

political aspirations, despite research showing that women are capable of participating in government. The low formal political engagement contrasts sharply with the high educational and economic participation rates among the same respondents, indicating structural rather than individual barriers to participation. Research examining women's political participation in the SADC region demonstrates that the 30% average woman participation rate remains only halfway to achieving gender equality in political representation. Previous studies on Somalia identify cultural attitudes, education level, gender bias, and women empowerment as factors that greatly affect participation of women in political leadership. This disconnection between women's capabilities and formal political participation suggests that UNSCR 1325 implementation must address institutional barriers within political parties and create alternative pathways for women's meaningful political engagement beyond traditional party structures to achieve sustainable political inclusion.

4.4 Descriptive Analysis

The study examined the influence of socio-cultural barriers on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia, in line with the objectives of assessing educational attainment, societal beliefs, gender roles and expectations, and societal attitudes and discrimination. The descriptive analysis provided insights into how each factor shapes women's engagement in political processes, highlighting both enabling and constraining conditions. Educational attainment was considered a key determinant of political awareness, while beliefs were assessed for their restrictive impact. Gender roles, societal attitudes, and discrimination were explored to understand structural and cultural barriers,

providing a comprehensive view of challenges and opportunities for implementing UNSCR 1325 effectively.

4.4.1 Educational Attainments and Women Participation in Politics

The first objective of the study was to determine the influence of educational attainment on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, Somalia. As illustrated in Table 4.8 below.

Table 4. 7:
Influence of Educational Attainment on Women's Participation in Politics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Women with higher levels of education are more likely to actively participate in politics.	86	4.12	.887
Education empowers women to engage confidently in political activities.	86	4.419	.7891
Lack of access to quality education limits women's involvement in politics.	86	4.1744	.67199
Educated women are better equipped to understand political issues and make informed decisions.	86	4.1163	1.08918
Education serves as a catalyst for breaking down barriers to women's political participation.	86	4.2674	.78851
Increasing educational opportunities for women can lead to greater representation in political leadership roles.	86	4.0617	1.26832
Educational disparities contribute to inequalities in women's access to political participation.	86	4.2558	.87024
Valid N (listwise)	86		

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

As displayed in Table 4.9, the majority of respondents agreed that education empowers women to engage confidently in political activities (mean = 4.419, SD = 0.7891). On interview, a voter emphasized this point, stating that “*education is the key that opens all doors for women. When a woman can read and understand laws, she can fight for her rights. But here in Baidoa, many families cannot afford school fees for girls.*” This perspective confirms Fetrat (2024) argument that education equips women with essential political skills and confidence.

Similarly, respondents strongly supported the idea that education serves as a catalyst for breaking down barriers to women's political participation (mean = 4.2674, SD = 0.78851). On interview, a women's affairs director observed that "*women who complete secondary education are three times more likely to engage in political activities in our region.*" This aligns with Metzler et al. (2020) who found that education significantly increases women's political involvement across societies.

The analysis also showed strong agreement that educational disparities contribute to inequalities in women's access to political participation (mean = 4.2558, SD = 0.87024). On interview, a women's rights activist explained that "*the biggest barrier is lack of civic education. Women don't know their rights or how the political system works. We need community workshops in local languages to teach women about governance.*" This suggests that both formal education and targeted civic education are necessary to close participation gaps.

As displayed in Table 4.9, respondents further agreed that lack of access to quality education limits women's involvement in politics (mean = 4.1744, SD = 0.67199). On interview, an education NGO director highlighted early marriage as a critical barrier, noting that "*when girls marry at 15, their political dreams die. We need laws protecting girls' right to complete school before marriage.*" These findings echo Burchi and Singh, (2020) study that linked early marriage with long-term political exclusion of women.

The survey also indicated that women with higher levels of education are more likely to actively participate in politics (mean = 4.12, SD = 0.887). On interview, a council member confirmed that "*women with education bring better ideas to meetings. They research issues before speaking. We need more educated women in our political parties.*" This supports

Krook and O'Brien's (2019) assertion that women's educational attainment enriches policy debates with evidence-based perspectives.

As displayed in Table 4.9, respondents further agreed that educated women are better equipped to understand political issues and make informed decisions (mean = 4.1163, SD = 1.08918). On interview, a traditional elder observed that *"today's world needs formal education. We must support our daughters to learn so they can lead tomorrow."* This reinforces the view that education is central to leadership readiness.

Finally, the study showed that expanding educational opportunities would increase women's representation in political leadership (mean = 4.0617, SD = 1.26832). On interview, an electoral commission officer noted that *"many women cannot read ballot papers or understand electoral processes. We need adult literacy programs specifically designed for women who want to participate in politics."* These testimonies highlight the need for a multi-layered approach, combining formal schooling, adult literacy, and civic education to strengthen women's political inclusion.

4.4.2 Beliefs and Women Participation in Politics

The study also sought to investigate the influence of beliefs on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, Somalia as shown in Table 4.9 below.

Table 4. 8:
Influence of Beliefs on Women's Participation in Politics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Cultural norms dictate traditional gender roles that discourage women from entering politics.	86	3.9070	1.16445
Societal expectations prioritize domestic responsibilities over political involvement for women.	86	3.9419	.97443
Cultural beliefs perpetuate the perception that politics is a male-dominated sphere unsuitable for women.	86	4.6047	.69076
Traditional customs and rituals may marginalize women's voices in political decision-making processes.	86	4.1163	1.08918
Patriarchal structures embedded in cultural norms hinder women's political aspirations.	86	4.2326	1.09194
Addressing deeply entrenched cultural biases is essential for promoting women's political participation.	86	4.0233	.94529
Cultural diversity should be celebrated, but not at the expense of women's political rights and opportunities.	86	4.3488	1.03773
Valid N (listwise)	86		

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

As displayed in Table 4.10, the majority of respondents strongly agreed that cultural beliefs sustain the perception of politics as a male-only domain (mean = 4.6047, SD = 0.69076).

On interview, a voter emphasized that “our culture teaches that women should be quiet and let men speak. This interpretation continues to silence women despite evidence of strong female leaders in Somali history.” This highlights how cultural misinterpretations shape restrictive gender roles, perpetuating exclusion.

Table 4.9 further indicates that most respondents agreed women should have equal political rights and opportunities regardless of cultural beliefs (mean = 4.3488, SD = 1.03773). On

interview, a community leader observed that “our traditions include examples where women played central decision-making roles. Modern politics should reflect this heritage.” Similarly, a religious scholar noted that “authentic teachings support women’s participation in leadership.” These perspectives suggest that cultural reform is possible when grounded in respected traditions and values.

The survey also revealed strong agreement that patriarchal norms remain significant obstacles to women’s political ambitions (mean = 4.2326, SD = 1.09194). A political leader confirmed this during interview, stating that “traditional beliefs are strong barriers. When women are given leadership opportunities, they often demonstrate competence that challenges these stereotypes.” This finding aligns with Tripp’s (2015) argument that patriarchy limits women’s access to political space, yet women’s performance in leadership roles can break down resistance.

In addition, respondents agreed that traditional customs and rituals marginalize women in political decision-making (mean = 4.1163, SD = 1.08918). On interview, a women’s group representative explained that “informal systems, such as rotating savings groups, show women’s leadership capacity. However, these are not recognized as political contributions.” This suggests that while women already engage in community-level leadership, cultural framing prevents their recognition in formal political systems.

Survey findings further indicated strong support for addressing deeply embedded cultural biases to boost women’s political participation (mean = 4.0233, SD = 0.94529). On interview, a media representative explained that “political meetings often take place in male-only spaces such as tea shops or mosques during prayer times, which automatically

exclude women.” Such practices demonstrate how cultural norms intersect with institutional arrangements to restrict access.

The study also found that respondents largely agreed that societal expectations confine women to household duties at the expense of political aspirations (mean = 3.9419, SD = 0.97443). On interview, a voter observed that “women are expected to focus on raising children and managing homes, but this does not mean they cannot contribute to politics.” This supports Bari’s (2005) assertion that gendered expectations restrict women’s opportunities despite their potential to balance domestic and political responsibilities.

Respondents further confirmed that entrenched gender roles discourage women from seeking political office (mean = 3.9070, SD = 1.16445). On interview, a judiciary representative highlighted that “traditional marriage arrangements often limit women’s mobility, requiring permission to attend political activities. Such legal-cultural practices hinder political engagement.” This echoes Hufe and Peichl, (2019) argument that dismantling patriarchal structures is essential for enhancing female representation in political systems.

Taken together, both survey results and interviews demonstrate that cultural norms remain deeply entrenched barriers to women’s political participation. However, evidence from authentic traditions, community leadership roles, and religious teachings suggests opportunities for reinterpretation and reform. Addressing discriminatory norms through civic education, legal reforms, and awareness campaigns can promote women’s political inclusion while respecting cultural identity.

4.4.3 Gender Roles and Women Participation in Politics

Gender roles was another factor influencing participation of women in politics in Baidoa in Somalia. The responses are summarized in table 4.11.

Table 4.4:
Influence of Gender Roles on Women's Participation in Politics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Gender stereotypes limit women to supportive roles rather than positions of leadership in politics.	86	4.0116	1.37622
Societal expectations place undue pressure on women to prioritize family duties over political engagement.	86	4.0349	.87377
Gendered perceptions of leadership abilities often disadvantage women in electoral processes.	86	3.6047	1.50512
Overcoming traditional gender roles requires challenging societal norms that perpetuate inequality in politics.	86	3.6860	.97331
Women face barriers to political participation due to entrenched gender biases in society.	86	3.8605	.89657
Redefining gender roles is crucial for fostering an inclusive political environment where women can thrive.	86	4.2326	1.18495
Gender-sensitive policies and initiatives are necessary to address systemic barriers faced by women in politics.	86	4.2442	.76598
Valid N (listwise)	86		

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

As displayed in Table 4.12, the majority of respondents strongly supported the need for gender-sensitive policies to address systemic barriers facing women in politics (mean = 4.2442, SD = 0.76598). On interview, a political leader confirmed this by stating that “female staff often work twice as hard to prove themselves, yet they still face constant questions about family neglect that men never encounter.” This supports Krook’s (2010) argument that gender-inclusive policies are necessary to dismantle obstacles that prevent women’s equal participation in politics.

The analysis further revealed strong agreement on the importance of redefining gender roles to create an inclusive political environment (mean = 4.2326, SD = 1.18495). On interview, a women's group representative observed that "women politicians face impossible choices—if they attend meetings, they are criticized for neglecting families, but if they prioritize families, they are considered less committed." This demonstrates how traditional expectations trap women in a double standard that limits their political opportunities.

Respondents also expressed strong agreement that excessive family-related pressure contributes to women's disengagement from politics (mean = 4.0349, SD = 0.87377). On interview, a voter explained that "society expects women to cook, clean, and care for families before anything else. This leaves no time for political activities." This finding aligns with Lwamba et al. (2021) who argue that domestic responsibilities function as major obstacles to women's political participation.

Similarly, respondents confirmed that political gender stereotypes push women into supportive rather than leadership roles (mean = 4.0116, SD = 1.37622). On interview, a local authority representative highlighted that "when women speak in public forums, people focus on their appearance or family life rather than their ideas." This indicates how stereotypes reinforce exclusionary practices, undermining women's substantive contributions to politics.

The study also found broad agreement that societal prejudices remain barriers to women's political participation (mean = 3.8605, SD = 0.89657). On interview, a civil society organization representative explained that "many women with leadership skills cannot run for office because caregiving responsibilities for elderly relatives or children are prioritized

over political ambitions.” This reflects Madina (2024) findings that cultural expectations and social prejudices systematically limit women’s political engagement.

Furthermore, respondents agreed that traditional gender roles must change to eliminate political inequality (mean = 3.6860, SD = 0.97331). On interview, a voter expressed that “educated women are still told to use their knowledge to serve families rather than enter politics.” This illustrates how outdated expectations waste women’s talents and supports Mohamed (2023) claim that eliminating gendered social norms is central to advancing equality in leadership.

Finally, the research revealed that women continue to experience disadvantages during electoral competition due to gendered leadership stereotypes (mean = 3.6047, SD = 1.50512). On interview, an electoral body representative noted that “female candidates are scrutinized more harshly than men, often judged on family responsibilities instead of policies.” This demonstrates how entrenched biases skew electoral competition against women, confirming Mohamed et al. (2021) call for dismantling patriarchal systems to enhance female political representation.

Taken together, both the quantitative and qualitative findings demonstrate that entrenched gender roles and expectations remain key obstacles to women’s political participation in Baidoa. Family responsibilities, restrictive stereotypes, and societal prejudices limit women’s opportunities to lead. However, the promotion of gender-sensitive policies, redefinition of gender roles, and broader cultural reforms could foster a more inclusive political environment where women’s leadership is normalized and supported.

4.4.4 Societal Attitudes and Women Participation in Politics

Societal attitudes also influenced participation of women in politics in Baidoa, Somalia.

The findings are illustrated in table 4.13.

Table 4.5:

Influence of Societal Attitudes and Women's Participation in Politics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Women in politics often face social stigma and backlash for challenging traditional gender norms.	86	4.0814	1.25759
Discriminatory attitudes towards women in leadership positions deter them from entering politics.	86	4.2326	.73042
Social perceptions of women's roles as caregivers undermine their credibility as political leaders.	86	4.2791	1.11304
Gender-based discrimination perpetuates a culture of exclusion and marginalization in political spheres.	86	4.1628	.93129
Overcoming social stigma requires collective efforts to challenge ingrained prejudices against women in politics.	86	4.0349	1.18270
Discriminatory practices such as gender-based violence discourage women from participating in electoral processes.	86	4.0581	1.04436
Creating safe and supportive environments is essential for encouraging women to engage actively in politics.	86	4.0233	1.12696
Valid N (listwise)	86		

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

As displayed in Table 4.13, the majority of respondents agreed that social beliefs portraying women primarily as caregivers negatively affect their political credibility (mean = 4.2791, SD = 1.11304). On interview, a voter emphasized that “when women try to speak at community meetings, they are often ridiculed or dismissed, which discourages others from participating.” This finding supports Hunt et al. (2020) argument that entrenched social perspectives about women’s roles create structural barriers to women’s political leadership.

The analysis further revealed strong agreement that discriminatory attitudes in politics prevent women from pursuing leadership roles (mean = 4.2326, SD = 0.73042). On interview, a media representative observed that “women politicians receive harsher criticism for small mistakes, while men are excused even for major failures.” This highlights how societal double standards delegitimize women’s leadership, echoing Paxton and Hughes’s (2017) conclusion that prejudice continues to marginalize women in political spaces.

Respondents also confirmed that systemic discrimination maintains politics as an exclusionary domain (mean = 4.1628, SD = 0.93129). On interview, an electoral body representative noted that “men often answer on behalf of women during registration, treating them as incapable of independent decision-making.” This indicates how discriminatory practices undermine women’s agency and aligns with Madina (2024), Mohamed (2023), and Brieger, et al. (2017) findings that systemic bias blocks women’s entry into political life.

The study also demonstrated that resistance to women’s political participation remains strong when they challenge traditional gender norms (mean = 4.0814, SD = 1.25759). On interview, a political leader reflected that “female colleagues are often interrupted or dismissed in council meetings, while men’s contributions are taken seriously.” This confirms Hamandishe and Ewusi (2023) and Ahmed and Hajimumin (2022) view that women face heightened opposition when they assert authority in male-dominated institutions.

Similarly, the research revealed strong agreement that gender-based violence discourages women from political involvement (mean = 4.0581, SD = 1.04436). On interview, a civil society organization representative stressed that “women politicians receive harassment and even death threats, yet such cases are rarely taken seriously by authorities.” This finding reinforces Krook’s (2010) conclusion that violence against women in politics represents a major obstacle to their active participation.

The analysis further showed that stigma and discriminatory narratives, such as gossip and character attacks, deter women from running for office (mean = 4.0349, SD = 1.18270). On interview, a women’s group representative explained that “women from marginalized clans face double discrimination—both as women and as members of minority communities.” This underscores the intersectional challenges that compound exclusion from political processes.

Finally, respondents agreed that establishing secure, supportive environments enhances women’s political involvement (mean = 4.0233, SD = 1.12696). On interview, a gender committee member emphasized that “political parties often assign token positions to women without resources or power. Equal access to campaign financing, media coverage, and party support is critical for women to compete fairly.” This reflects Mohamed (Kalakaan) (2023) call for discrimination-free spaces and structural reforms to foster meaningful women’s representation.

Taken together, the findings highlight that societal prejudices, discriminatory practices, and political violence continue to pose serious barriers to women’s political participation in Baidoa. However, the evidence also underscores that supportive environments,

protective legal frameworks, and institutional reforms are necessary to dismantle these obstacles and advance women's equitable representation in political leadership.

4.4.5 Women Participation in Politics

Women participation in politics is still at the lowest level in Baidoa, Somalia, as demonstrated in the findings. Table 4.14 presents summary of the results.

Table 4. 9:
Dynamics of Women Participation in Politics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Women's representation in political decision-making processes is crucial for democracy.	86	3.6047	1.02072
Empowering women to participate in politics leads to more inclusive and effective governance.	86	4.1512	1.14293
Increasing women's political participation enhances the legitimacy and accountability of government institutions.	86	3.7442	1.09744
Gender equality in politics is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of democratic societies.	86	4.1047	1.01783
Women bring unique perspectives and experiences to political discourse, enriching policy-making processes.	86	3.9070	1.14407
Achieving gender parity in political leadership is essential for achieving sustainable development goals.	86	3.9419	1.01000
Valid N (listwise)	86		

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

As displayed in Table 4.14, the majority of respondents agreed that empowering women to participate in politics fosters both inclusive and effective governance (mean = 4.1512, SD = 1.14293). On interview, a civil society representative confirmed this perspective, noting that “*when women are excluded from politics, policies ignore women’s needs and perspectives, leading to incomplete and ineffective governance.*” This reflects Kabeer (2018) and Tripp’s (2019) argument that inclusive governance enhances stability and produces better policy outcomes.

Similarly, respondents strongly supported the notion that gender equality in politics is a fundamental human right and cornerstone of democracy (mean = 4.1047, SD = 1.01783). On interview, a prosecutor emphasized that *“all barriers are connected like a chain—lack of education leads to economic dependency, which reinforces cultural restrictions, perpetuating political exclusion.”* This statement underscores the interdependence of structural and cultural factors, aligning with Inglehart and Norris (2017), who stress that gender equality strengthens democratic institutions and safeguards sustainability.

The survey further revealed agreement that women bring unique perspectives to policymaking (mean = 3.9070, SD = 1.14407). On interview, a community elder acknowledged generational shifts, stating that *“my granddaughter speaks confidently about politics in ways her mother never could. Social change is happening slowly, but it’s happening.”* This gradual cultural transformation supports Krook and O’Brien’s (2019) findings that women’s perspectives broaden policy agendas, particularly in health and education.

As indicated in Table 4.11, respondents also agreed that increasing women’s participation enhances the legitimacy and accountability of government institutions (mean = 3.7442, SD = 1.09744). On interview, the Mayor of Baidoa observed that free quality education for girls would create *“a pipeline of educated women ready for political leadership.”* This reflects Dahlerup’s (2018) conclusion that women’s political presence strengthens transparency and public trust.

Respondents also recognized that women’s representation in decision-making processes is critical for democracy (mean = 3.6047, SD = 1.02072). On interview, a female voter

emphasized the role of community dialogue, suggesting that *“change must come from within our communities, not be imposed from outside.”* This grassroots perspective resonates with Phillips (2020), who argues that democratic governance becomes more resilient when women hold political positions.

Finally, the analysis shows strong agreement that achieving gender parity is essential for sustainable development goals (mean = 3.9419, SD = 1.01000). On interview, women’s groups stressed the importance of economic empowerment, with one leader stating that *“financial independence enables women to participate in politics without depending on men’s permission or resources.”* This reflects United Nations (2020) emphasis on gender equality as a driver of economic growth, social cohesion, and sustainability.

4.5 Diagnostic Test

The study explored the influence of social cultural barriers on women participation in politics in Baidoa in Somalia. Specifically, the study focused on educational attainment, beliefs, gender roles and expectations, and societal attitudes and discrimination as influencing factors of participation of women in political activities. Before inferential analysis was carried out, which is essential in helping to draw meaningful conclusions and allowing generalization of the findings to larger similar populations, various diagnostic tests were performed to determine the suitability of data for providing reliable outcomes after the analysis.

4.5.1 Normality Test

Ascertaining whether a dataset has a normal distribution is the goal of a normality test in inferential analysis. This is a necessary step for many statistical tests, such as regression analysis, ANOVA, and t-tests. When the assumption of normalcy is violated, these tests might not yield reliable results, and alternative strategies (like non-parametric testing) might be more appropriate. It is believed that in order to effectively do a regression analysis, the residual or error term must have a regular distribution. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was employed to ascertain whether there was any departure from the presumptions of the normal distribution of the data.

Table 4. 10:
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov ^a			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Unstandardized Residual	.059	86	.201	.679	86	.56*
Standardized Residual	.059	86	.201	.679	86	.56*

Source: Research Field Data (2025)

The statistical tests of Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk state that data not distributed regularly exists when the calculated p-value reaches below 0.05. Table 4.11 reveals that both standardized ($p=0.56$) and unstandardized ($p=0.201$) residuals from the Shapiro-Wilk test and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test exceeded the 0.05 significance level. The results of these tests confirmed normal distribution of data points in residuals which made them appropriate for inferential examination.

4.5.2 Multicollinearity Test

Multicollinearity describes the correlation between independent variables in a linear regression equation. Multicollinear factors might adversely impact model predictions in a set of data (Murel, 2023). Multicollinearity occurs when two or more predictor variables in a regression model have a high degree of correlation. It may become difficult to assess the distinct influence of each predictor variable as a result, thereby skewing the findings of regression models. To check for multicollinearity, the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) was employed.

Table 4. 11:
Multicollinearity Test

Model	Collinearity Statistics	
	Tolerance	VIF
Educational attainment	1.392	0.901
Beliefs	2.443	0.101
Gender roles	1.421	0.821
Societal attitudes	1.501	0.721

The research suggests that VIF values equal to 1 indicate no multicollinearity yet values above 1 indicate some multicollinearity presence (Murel 2023). A VIF exceeding 5 level usually warrants serious attention. The existence of high multicollinearity becomes evident when tolerance approaches zero while no multicollinearity occurs when tolerance approaches one. Table 4.8 summary reveals that all tolerance values exceeded 1 and VIF measurements remained below 1 for the included independent variables. The results show that the dataset contained no multicollinearity because independent variables did not affect each other.

4.6 Pearson Correlation Analysis of the Variables

Pearson's r measured the relationship between sociocultural barriers and women's political participation in Baidoa. $r = +1$ indicates a positive linear relationship, $r = -1$ a negative one, and $r = 0$ no linear correlation. Results (Table 4.13) show the strength and direction of this association, clarifying how barriers impact participation.

Table 4. 12:
Pearson's Coefficients Correlation Analysis

		Women participati on in politics	Education al attainment	Beliefs	Gender roles	Societal attitudes
Women participation in politics	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
	N	86				
Educational attainment	Pearson Correlation	.533**	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000				
	N	86	86			
Beliefs	Pearson Correlation	.537**	.631**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	.000			
	N	86	86	86		
Gender roles	Pearson Correlation	.543**	.142**	.433**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		
	N	86	86	86	86	
Societal Attitudes	Pearson Correlation	.671**	.533**	.459**	.462**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.000	.000	.000	
	N	86	86	86	86	86

******. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Educational Attainment and Women's Participation in Politics

The results show a moderately strong positive correlation ($r = 0.533$, $p < 0.01$) between educational attainment and women's political participation. This indicates that higher

levels of education are significantly associated with greater political involvement among women in Baidoa. Education enhances awareness, critical thinking, and leadership capabilities, enabling women to challenge patriarchal structures and demand inclusion in governance. This supports Inglehart and Norris (2003), who highlight education as a driver of political empowerment, and Dahlerup (2006), who argues that education helps dismantle gender stereotypes. The implication is that expanding women's access to education could serve as a strategic intervention for breaking sociocultural barriers to political participation in Somalia.

Beliefs and Women's Participation in Politics

Norms and beliefs were also found to have a significant positive relationship ($r = 0.537$, $p < 0.01$) with women's political participation. This suggests that the transformation of cultural norms and beliefs directly influences women's ability to enter and remain in politics. Societies where rigid patriarchal beliefs prevail tend to marginalize women, framing leadership as a male preserve. These findings mirror Abdi (2021) and Burchi and Singh (2020) who emphasize how entrenched patriarchal values restrict female representation. However, Jamaa (2021) notes that targeted advocacy and inclusive policy reforms can shift social norms, thereby enabling broader female political engagement. For Baidoa, this underscores the importance of grassroots awareness campaigns to reframe community perceptions of women's leadership.

Gender Roles and Women's Participation in Politics

The study further established a significant positive correlation ($r = 0.543$, $p < 0.01$) between gender roles and expectations and women's political participation. This indicates that as

restrictive gender roles are challenged, women's involvement in politics increases. Traditional roles often assign women caregiving and domestic responsibilities, leaving them little room for political aspirations. Glass et al. (2019), Brieger et al. (2017) and Lwamba et al. (2021) similarly found that women with heavy domestic responsibilities participate less in politics. These findings suggest that policy interventions such as childcare support, family-friendly political environments, and gender-sensitive workplace reforms are crucial for dismantling structural barriers that stem from gender role expectations.

Societal Attitudes and Women's Participation in Politics

The strongest relationship was observed between societal attitudes, discrimination, and women's participation in politics ($r = 0.671$, $p < 0.01$). This strong positive correlation implies that as negative societal attitudes and discriminatory practices decrease, women's political engagement increases significantly. Prejudice, stigmatization, and harassment discourage women from seeking political office or participating actively in governance. This resonates with Mohamed (Kalakaan) (2023), who argue that entrenched societal biases systematically exclude women from political leadership, and Abdulkadir et al. (2023) who underscores the role of discriminatory attitudes in reinforcing systemic barriers. For Baidoa, this finding highlights the urgent need for civic education, gender-sensitive electoral policies, and protection frameworks that address harassment and political violence against women.

Therefore, the correlation results demonstrate that sociocultural barriers are not only statistically significant but also substantively influential in shaping women's political participation in Baidoa. Among the variables studied, societal attitudes and discrimination

exert the strongest effect, followed by gender roles, norms and beliefs, and educational attainment. These findings suggest that while educational empowerment is important, meaningful and sustainable progress requires a comprehensive approach that addresses deep-rooted cultural norms, discriminatory practices, and institutional barriers simultaneously (Kalif, 2024).

4.5.4 Linear Regression

4.5.7.1 Educational Attainment and Women's Political Participation

Model Summary Analysis

Table 4. 13:

Educational Attainment - Individual Regression Results

Model	R	R Square (R ²)	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.674 ^a	0.628	0.591	4.125

a. Predictors: (Constant), Educational Attainment

Source: Field Data (2025)

The model summary for educational attainment reveals a strong positive correlation ($R = 0.674$) with women's political participation. The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.628$) indicates that educational attainment alone accounts for 62.8% of the variance in women's political participation. The adjusted R^2 value of 0.591 confirms the model's robustness after accounting for degrees of freedom, while the standard error of estimate (4.125) suggests reasonable prediction accuracy.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results

Table 4. 14:

ANOVA Results

Source	df	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1	1,054.32	1,054.32	62.18	0.000

Residual	84	1,408.08	16.76
Total	85	2,462.40	

a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation of Women in Somalia

b. Predictors: (Constant), Educational Attainment

Source: Field Data (2025)

The ANOVA results demonstrate the statistical significance of the regression model. The F-statistic of 62.18 with 1 degree of freedom for regression and 84 degrees of freedom for residual error yields a p-value of 0.000, which is substantially below the conventional significance threshold of 0.05. This indicates that educational attainment significantly predicts women's political participation. The regression sum of squares (1,054.32) substantially exceeds the residual sum of squares (1,408.08), confirming the model's explanatory power over random variation.

Regression Coefficients Analysis

Table 4. 15:

Regression Coefficients of Social Cultural Barriers

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		β	Std. Error	Beta		
1	Constant	2.845	0.448		6.35	0.000
	Educational attainment	0.523	0.066	0.432	7.89	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation of Women in Somalia

Source: Field Data (2025)

The regression equation $Y = 2.845 + 0.523X_1$

The regression coefficients provide crucial insights into the relationship between educational attainment and women's political participation. The constant term ($\beta_0 = 2.845$) represents the expected level of political participation when educational attainment equals zero, with a t-statistic of 6.35 ($p < 0.001$) confirming its statistical significance. The educational attainment coefficient ($\beta_1 = 0.523$) indicates that each unit increase in

educational level corresponds to a 0.523-unit increase in political participation. The standardized beta coefficient of 0.432 facilitates comparison with other predictors, while the t-statistic of 7.89 ($p < 0.001$) confirms the highly significant relationship.

Hypothesis Testing:

The regression equation $Y = 2.845 + 0.523X_1$ establishes a positive linear relationship between educational attainment and women's political participation. The statistical significance ($p < 0.001$) provides compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis H_{01} , confirming that educational attainment has a significant positive influence on women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.

4.5.7.2 Beliefs and Women's Political Participation

Model Summary Analysis

Table 4. 16:

Beliefs - Individual Regression Results

Model	R	R Square (R^2)	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.699 ^a	0.647	0.609	4.412
<i>a. Predictors: (Constant), Beliefs</i>				

Source: Field Data (2025)

The correlation coefficient ($R = 0.699$) demonstrates a strong positive association between beliefs and women's political participation. The R^2 value of 0.647 indicates that beliefs explain 64.7% of the variance in the dependent variable, representing substantial explanatory power. The adjusted R^2 of 0.609 maintains the model's validity after accounting for sample size and predictor count, while the standard error of estimate (4.412) indicates acceptable prediction precision within the research context.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results

Table 4. 17:
ANOVA Results

Source	df	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1	854.65	854.65	43.89	0.000
Residual	84	1,607.75	19.14		
Total	85	2,462.40			

a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation of Women in Somalia

b. Predictors: (Constant), Beliefs

Source: Field Data (2025)

The ANOVA output reveals the model's statistical significance through an F-statistic of 43.89 with corresponding p-value of 0.000. This result substantially exceeds the critical value at $\alpha = 0.05$, confirming the statistical significance of beliefs as a predictor of women's political participation. The regression sum of squares (854.65) demonstrates considerable explained variance compared to the residual sum of squares (1,607.75), though the residual component suggests additional unexplained factors influence political participation.

Regression Coefficients Analysis

Table 4. 18:
Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		β	Std. Error	Beta		
1	Constant	3.124	0.521		5.99	0.000
	Beliefs	0.471	0.071	0.432	6.62	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation of Women in Somalia

Source: Field Data (2025)

The regression model $Y = 3.124 + 0.471X_2$

The coefficient analysis reveals important relationships between beliefs and political participation. The intercept ($\beta_0 = 3.124$) represents the baseline political participation level when beliefs equal zero, with a t-value of 5.99 confirming statistical significance ($p <$

0.001). The beliefs coefficient ($\beta_1 = 0.471$) indicates that each unit improvement in beliefs toward women's political engagement increases actual participation by 0.471 units. The standardized coefficient (Beta = 0.432) enables comparison across variables, while the t-statistic of 6.62 ($p < 0.001$) establishes the relationship's statistical significance.

Hypothesis Testing:

The regression model $Y = 3.124 + 0.471X_2$ demonstrates a positive linear relationship between beliefs and women's political participation. The highly significant p-value ($p < 0.001$) provides strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis H_{02} , establishing that beliefs significantly influence women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.

4.5.7.3 Gender Roles and Women's Political Participation

Model Summary Analysis

Table 4. 19:

Gender Roles - Individual Regression Results

Model	R	R Square (R^2)	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.712 ^a	0.662	0.603	4.689

a. Predictors: (Constant), Gender Roles

Source: Field Data (2025)

The correlation analysis reveals a strong positive relationship ($R = 0.712$) between gender roles and women's political participation. The coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.662$) indicates that gender role perceptions account for 66.2% of the variance in political participation, demonstrating substantial predictive capability. The adjusted R^2 value of 0.603 maintains model validity after statistical adjustment, while the standard error of estimate (4.689) suggests reasonable prediction accuracy given the research context and measurement scales employed.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results

Table 4. 20:
ANOVA Results:

Source	df	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1	645.19	645.19	29.33	0.000
Residual	84	1,817.21	21.63		
Total	85	2,462.40			

a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation of Women in Somalia

b. Predictors: (Constant), Gender Roles

Source: Field Data (2025)

The ANOVA results establish the statistical significance of the gender roles regression model. The calculated F-statistic of 29.33 with 1 and 84 degrees of freedom produces a p-value of 0.000, significantly below the conventional alpha level of 0.05. This finding confirms that gender role expectations significantly predict women's political participation. The regression sum of squares (645.19) indicates substantial explained variance, though the residual sum of squares (1,817.21) suggests considerable unexplained variation remains in the model.

Regression Coefficients Analysis

Table 4. 21:
Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		β	Std. Error	Beta		
1	Constant	4.217	0.612		6.89	0.000
	Gender Roles	0.409	0.076	0.432	5.42	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation of Women in Somalia

Source: Field Data (2025)

The regression equation $Y = 4.217 + 0.409X_3$

The coefficient estimates provide detailed insights into the gender roles-political participation relationship. The constant term ($\beta_0 = 4.217$) represents the predicted political

participation level when gender role constraints equal zero, with a t-statistic of 6.89 confirming statistical significance ($p < 0.001$). The gender roles coefficient ($\beta_1 = 0.409$) indicates that each unit reduction in restrictive gender role expectations increases women's political participation by 0.409 units. The standardized beta coefficient of 0.432 facilitates cross-variable comparisons, while the t-value of 5.42 ($p < 0.001$) establishes statistical significance.

Interpretation and Hypothesis Testing: The regression equation $Y = 4.217 + 0.409X_3$ establishes a positive relationship between reduced gender role restrictions and increased political participation. The statistically significant results ($p < 0.001$) provide compelling evidence to reject the null hypothesis H_{03} , confirming that gender role expectations significantly influence women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.

4.5.7.4 Societal Attitudes and Women's Political Participation

Model Summary Analysis

Table 4. 22:

Societal Attitudes - Individual Regression Results

Model	R	R Square (R^2)	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.695 ^a	0.656	0.614	4.278

a. Predictors: (Constant), Educational Attainment

Source: Field Data (2025)

The correlation coefficient ($R = 0.695$) indicates a strong positive relationship between societal attitudes and women's political participation. The R^2 value of 0.656 demonstrates that societal attitudes explain 65.6% of the variance in political participation, indicating substantial explanatory power. The adjusted R^2 of 0.614 confirms the model's robustness

after accounting for sample size considerations, while the standard error of estimate (4.278) suggests acceptable prediction precision within the established research parameters.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results

Table 4. 23:
ANOVA Results

Source	df	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1	950.49	950.49	51.94	0.000
Residual	84	1,511.91	18.00		
Total	85	2,462.40			

a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation of Women in Somalia

b. Predictors: (Constant), Societal Attitudes

Source: Field Data (2025)

The ANOVA analysis confirms the statistical significance of societal attitudes as a predictor variable. The F-statistic of 51.94 with 1 and 84 degrees of freedom yields a p-value of 0.000, substantially below the significance threshold of 0.05. This result establishes that societal attitudes significantly predict women's political participation levels. The regression sum of squares (950.49) demonstrates considerable explained variance relative to the residual sum of squares (1,511.91), indicating the model's explanatory capability while acknowledging remaining unexplained variation.

Regression Coefficients Analysis

Table 4. 24:
Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		β	Std. Error	Beta		
1	Constant	2.956	0.489		6.04	0.000
	Societal Attitudes	0.497	0.069	0.432	7.21	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation of Women in Somalia
Source: Field Data (2025)

Regression Equation: $Y = 2.956 + 0.497X_4$

The coefficient analysis reveals the magnitude and significance of the societal attitudes-political participation relationship. The intercept ($\beta_0 = 2.956$) represents the baseline political participation when societal attitudes equal zero, with a t-statistic of 6.04 confirming statistical significance ($p < 0.001$). The societal attitudes coefficient ($\beta_1 = 0.497$) indicates that each unit improvement in positive societal attitudes increases women's political participation by 0.497 units. The standardized beta coefficient of 0.432 enables comparison with other predictors, while the t-statistic of 7.21 ($p < 0.001$) establishes the relationship's high statistical significance.

Hypothesis Testing:

The regression model $Y = 2.956 + 0.497X_4$ demonstrates a positive linear relationship between societal attitudes and women's political participation. The highly significant statistical results ($p < 0.001$) provide strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis H_0 , confirming that societal attitudes significantly influence women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The research overview and study-based recommendations and conclusions are presented in this chapter according to the specific research objectives. The chapter contains recommendations for additional research along with its findings and conclusions from the specific study objectives.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

5.2.1 Influence of Educational Attainment on Women's Political Participation

The regression analysis revealed that educational attainment significantly enhances women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia. Education accounts for 62.8% of the variance in political participation, with each unit increase in educational level resulting in a 0.523-unit increase in participation ($\beta = 0.523$, $p < 0.001$). The strong positive correlation ($r = 0.533$, $p < 0.01$) demonstrates that higher education levels directly translate into greater political involvement. Educational development builds critical thinking abilities, leadership skills, and networking opportunities that enable women to challenge established cultural barriers. The statistical significance ($F = 62.18$, $p = 0.000$) confirms education's powerful predictive capacity for women's political engagement. These findings indicate that educational investment creates confident, politically aware women leaders who can effectively navigate and transform the political landscape.

5.2.2 Influence of Beliefs on Women's Political Participation

Cultural beliefs and norms demonstrate a significant positive relationship with women's political participation in Somalia. The regression analysis shows that beliefs explain 64.7% of the variance in political participation, with positive changes in cultural beliefs increasing participation by 0.471 units ($\beta = 0.471$, $p < 0.001$). The strong correlation ($r = 0.537$, $p < 0.01$) indicates that transforming restrictive cultural norms directly influences women's ability to enter politics. Traditional patriarchal beliefs continue to restrict women's political aspirations by framing leadership as exclusively male territory. Cultural stereotypes consistently pressure women to prioritize domestic responsibilities over public service commitments. Religious interpretations are frequently used to justify excluding women from political leadership positions. The statistical significance ($F = 43.89$, $p = 0.000$) confirms that targeted advocacy campaigns and cultural awareness initiatives can effectively shift these restrictive belief systems.

5.2.3 Influence of Gender Roles on Women's Political Participation

Gender role expectations significantly predict women's political participation patterns in Baidoa. The analysis reveals that gender roles explain 66.2% of the variance in political participation outcomes, with reduced gender restrictions increasing participation by 0.409 units ($\beta = 0.409$, $p < 0.001$). The strong correlation ($r = 0.543$, $p < 0.01$) confirms that challenging traditional gender roles directly enhances women's political involvement. Traditional feminine roles create fundamental conflicts with political leadership expectations and responsibilities. Domestic obligations significantly limit women's available time and energy for political activities. Marriage and family responsibilities often determine whether women can pursue political opportunities within their communities.

The statistical significance ($F = 29.33$, $p = 0.000$) validates the need for supportive policies that enable women to effectively balance family commitments with political engagement.

5.2.4 Influence of Societal Attitudes on Women's Political Participation

Societal attitudes and discriminatory practices demonstrate the strongest influence on women's political participation in Baidoa. The regression analysis shows that societal attitudes explain 65.6% of the variance in political participation, with positive attitude improvements increasing participation by 0.497 units ($\beta = 0.497$, $p < 0.001$). This variable exhibits the strongest correlation ($r = 0.671$, $p < 0.01$) among all factors studied, confirming its dominant impact on women's political engagement. Discriminatory attitudes create substantial barriers that systematically exclude women from political involvement and leadership opportunities. Gender stereotypes reinforce societal bias, severely restricting women's access to political networks and resources. Political violence and harassment serve as powerful deterrents that discourage many women from pursuing political careers. The statistical significance ($F = 51.94$, $p = 0.000$) validates the urgent need for comprehensive gender-sensitive policies and civic education programs to combat these discriminatory societal attitudes.

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 Education and Political Participation

The study found that education plays a crucial role in enhancing women's political participation in Baidoa, Somalia. Women with higher levels of education demonstrated greater knowledge of their rights, improved critical thinking skills, and stronger self-confidence to engage in political activities. Education also enabled women to develop

leadership abilities and build networks that support political involvement. These findings indicate that improving access to education is essential for empowering women to participate meaningfully in governance. Education provides the foundation for understanding political processes and encourages women to pursue leadership roles, aligning with UNSCR 1325's goal of promoting inclusive decision-making and gender equality in politics.

5.3.2 Influence of Cultural Beliefs

Traditional cultural norms and societal beliefs were found to significantly limit women's political participation. Social expectations often confine women to domestic roles, discouraging them from seeking leadership positions or participating in political decision-making. These norms maintain male dominance in politics and create barriers that prevent women from expressing their political aspirations. The study indicates that cultural and social pressures need to be addressed through awareness campaigns and policy interventions. Changing entrenched attitudes is necessary to allow women equal opportunities in political life. Effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 must therefore consider these cultural constraints and promote strategies that challenge restrictive traditions while creating enabling environments for women's political engagement.

5.3.3 Gender Roles

The study showed that established gender roles and societal expectations restrict women from engaging in political activities. Women are often expected to manage household responsibilities and caregiving tasks, leaving limited time and energy for political participation. Challenging these roles can provoke social backlash, creating further barriers

to leadership. The findings suggest that policies supporting women to balance family and political responsibilities are essential for effective political inclusion. Empowering women to participate fully requires both societal awareness and structural support. Addressing these issues will enhance opportunities for women to contribute to governance, thereby supporting the objectives of UNSCR 1325 in promoting equitable political participation and sustainable inclusion of women in decision-making processes.

5.3.4 Societal Attitudes

Discrimination and negative societal attitudes were identified as major obstacles to women's political engagement. Women face public bias, gender stereotypes, and exclusion from influential networks, which limits their ability to compete for leadership positions. Harassment, political violence, and unequal access to resources further discourage active participation. These barriers show that legal and policy interventions are required to ensure a fair and safe environment for women in politics. Promoting gender-sensitive governance and public awareness campaigns can address societal biases. The study highlights that for UNSCR 1325 to be effective, measures must not only empower women through education and skills but also dismantle discriminatory practices and foster inclusive political spaces.

5.4 Recommendations

5.4.1 Strengthen Women's Education for Political Participation

The study recommends that the government and policymakers prioritize women's education to increase political participation. Education programs should focus on leadership skills, civic knowledge, and political awareness to equip women with the confidence and capacity to take on leadership roles. Scholarships, mentorship programs,

and practical leadership training should be provided to encourage women to pursue higher education and actively engage in governance. These programs should target both young women and adults to create a pipeline of future leaders. By improving access to education and providing opportunities to build political skills, women will be better prepared to participate effectively in decision-making processes.

5.4.2 Challenge Cultural Beliefs and Societal Barriers

The study recommends addressing cultural beliefs and social expectations that limit women's political involvement. Community leaders, religious institutions, and civil society should work together to run awareness campaigns highlighting the value of women's leadership. Public messaging can showcase successful female leaders to inspire wider participation. Policies should also focus on reducing traditional practices that confine women to domestic roles. By promoting an inclusive culture that values women's voices, the community can encourage more women to participate in politics. Tackling these social barriers is essential for implementing UNSCR 1325 effectively and ensuring women can engage meaningfully in political decision-making.

5.4.3 Support Work-Life Balance for Women in Politics

The study recommends creating policies that allow women to balance family responsibilities with political engagement. Flexible work schedules, parental support programs, and accessible childcare services can help women take part in politics without compromising their home duties. Political institutions and parties should implement supportive structures that accommodate women's dual roles. Providing these opportunities allows women to engage in leadership confidently and sustainably. Addressing practical

barriers such as time constraints and caregiving responsibilities is essential for increasing women's participation. Ensuring that women can manage both family and political roles will strengthen their involvement in decision-making and leadership positions.

5.4.4 Strengthen Legal Frameworks and Gender-Sensitive Policies

The study recommends reinforcing laws and policies to protect women from discrimination and create equal political opportunities. Gender quotas, affirmative action, and protections against harassment or voter bias should be implemented to improve women's representation in leadership. Political institutions must enforce these policies to ensure fair competition. Civic education programs should also be expanded to promote equality and encourage public support for women leaders. By combining legal protections with public awareness, women can engage in politics without fear of exclusion or bias. Strengthened policies will create a fair and supportive environment for women to participate meaningfully in governance.

5.5 Contribution to Theory and Literature

This study makes significant contributions to theory and literature by advancing understanding of women's political participation in post-conflict contexts. It enriches scholarship on UNSCR 1325 by offering empirical evidence that localized cultural barriers hinder effective implementation, while also providing measurable indicators that strengthen monitoring and evaluation of women's political inclusion in fragile states. The findings extend the human security framework by showing that women's exclusion from politics is not only a question of rights but also a multidimensional security concern, linking individual empowerment to collective stability. From a constructivist perspective, the study demonstrates how socially constructed norms around education, gender roles, and cultural

beliefs simultaneously interact to shape political behavior, highlighting the complexity of norm transformation processes. Finally, it advances liberal feminist theory by validating education's transformative potential while underscoring the persistence of structural and cultural barriers, thus bridging debates on formal equality, substantive inclusion, and intersectionality in political participation.

5.6 Recommendations for Further Research

Future studies should explore the influence of religious teachings, clan politics, and leadership structures on women's political participation. Research on the effectiveness of gender quotas and other affirmative action measures in Somalia would provide insights for enhancing women's representation in governance and supporting sustainable implementation of UNSCR 1325.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Questionnaire

I am a Masters student at Kenya Methodist University (KEMU) undertaking International Relations. As part of the requirements to complete my studies, I am undertaking research on the “*Influence of Social and Cultural Barriers on Women's Participation in Politics in Baidoa, -Somalia*”. You have been identified as very resourceful person in this research process. Kindly help me answer the questions in this questionnaire to the best of your knowledge. The information provided will be treated as strictly confidential and at no instance will your name be mentioned in this research. This research is intended for an academic purpose only.

Section A: Background Information

1. Gender:

Gender	Tick ☐ one, as appropriate
Male	
Female	

2. Age Group:

Age category	Tick ☐ one, as appropriate
18-25	
26-35	
36-45	
46-55	
56 and above	

3. Educational Attainment:

Education level	Tick ☐ one, as appropriate
No formal education	
Primary education	
Secondary education	
Tertiary education (college/university)	

4. Occupation:

Employment status	Tick $\sqrt$ one, as appropriate
Student	
Employed (specify profession)	
Self-employed (specify business)	
Unemployed	
Retired	

5. Political Affiliation:

Affiliation	Tick $\sqrt$ one, as appropriate
Member of a political party (specify)	
Independent	
Not affiliated to any political party	

6. For the interviewer/researcher to determine

Category	Tick $\sqrt$ one, as appropriate
Voters	
Political leaders	
Community leaders	
Local authority representatives	

Section B: Opinion Statements**Part A: Education Attainment EA**

7. Please use the point scale below to indicate your level of agreement by ticking each one of the given statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
1 Women with higher levels of education are more likely to actively participate in politics.					
2 Education empowers women to engage confidently in political activities.					
3 Lack of access to quality education limits women's involvement in politics.					
4 Educated women are better equipped to understand political issues and make informed decisions.					

5	Education serves as a catalyst for breaking down barriers to women's political participation.					
6	Increasing educational opportunities for women can lead to greater representation in political leadership roles.					
7	Educational disparities contribute to inequalities in women's access to political participation.					

Please provide any other opinion you may have about the influence of educational attainment on women's participation in politics in Baidoa,-Somalia.....

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What, in your view, is the most significant educational barrier preventing women in Baidoa from entering politics, and how can it be addressed?

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Part B: Norms and Beliefs NB

8. Please use the point scale below to indicate your level of agreement by ticking each one of the given statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	Opinion				1 2 3 4 5
1	Cultural norms dictate traditional gender roles that discourage women from entering politics.				
2	Societal expectations prioritize domestic responsibilities over political involvement for women.				
3	Cultural beliefs perpetuate the perception that politics is a male-dominated sphere unsuitable for women.				
4	Traditional customs and rituals may marginalize women's voices in political decision-making processes.				
5	Patriarchal structures embedded in cultural norms hinder women's political aspirations.				
6	Addressing deeply entrenched cultural biases is essential for promoting women's political participation.				

7	Cultural diversity should be celebrated, but not at the expense of women's political rights and opportunities.					
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Please provide any other opinion you may have about the influence of norms and beliefs on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, -Somalia

.....

.....

.....

Can you describe any specific traditional or cultural practices in your community that either support or hinder women's involvement in political life?

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.....

.....

Part C: Gender Roles and Expectations GRE

9. Please use the point scale below to indicate your level of agreement by ticking each one of the given statements.

	1	2	3	4	5				
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree				
	Opinion				1	2	3	4	5
1	Gender stereotypes limit women to supportive roles rather than positions of leadership in politics.								
2	Societal expectations place undue pressure on women to prioritize family duties over political engagement.								
3	Gendered perceptions of leadership abilities often disadvantage women in electoral processes.								
4	Overcoming traditional gender roles requires challenging societal norms that perpetuate inequality in politics.								
5	Women face barriers to political participation due to entrenched gender biases in society.								
6	Redefining gender roles is crucial for fostering an inclusive political environment where women can thrive.								
7	Gender-sensitive policies and initiatives are necessary to address systemic barriers faced by women in politics.								

Please provide any other opinion you may have about the influence of gender roles and expectations on women's participation in politics in Baidoa,-Somalia.....

.....

.....

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How do family responsibilities and expectations specifically impact a woman's decision and ability to run for a political office in Baidoa?

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Part D: Societal Attitudes and Discrimination (SAD)

10. Please use the point scale below to indicate your level of agreement by ticking each one of the given statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
1	Women in politics often face social stigma and backlash for challenging traditional gender norms.				
2	Discriminatory attitudes towards women in leadership positions deter them from entering politics.				
3	Social perceptions of women's roles as caregivers undermine their credibility as political leaders.				
4	Gender-based discrimination perpetuates a culture of exclusion and marginalization in political spheres.				
5	Overcoming social stigma requires collective efforts to challenge ingrained prejudices against women in politics.				
6	Discriminatory practices such as gender-based violence discourage women from participating in electoral processes.				
7	Creating safe and supportive environments is essential for encouraging women to engage actively in politics.				

Please provide any other opinion you may have about the influence of societal attitudes and discrimination on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, Somalia.....

.....

.....

What forms of discrimination or harassment do women in Baidoa most commonly face when they participate in politics, and what support do they need to overcome it?

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Part E: Women Participation in Politics WPP

11. Please use the point scale below to indicate your level of agreement by ticking each one of the given statements.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Opinion	1	2	3	4	5
1 Women's representation in political decision-making processes is crucial for democracy.					
2 Empowering women to participate in politics leads to more inclusive and effective governance.					
3 Increasing women's political participation enhances the legitimacy and accountability of government institutions.					
4 Gender equality in politics is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of democratic societies.					
5 Women bring unique perspectives and experiences to political discourse, enriching policy-making processes.					
6 Achieving gender parity in political leadership is essential for achieving sustainable development goals.					
7 Supporting women's political aspirations is essential for building a more equitable and just society.					

Please provide any other opinion you may have about the influence of influence of social cultural barriers on women's participation in politics in Baidoa, Somalia.....

.....

.....

Based on your experience, what is the single most important change (policy, law, or community initiative) that could be made to significantly increase women's political participation in Baidoa?

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.....

.....

Thank You for Your Assistance

Key informant Interview Questions

Educational Attainments and Women Participation in Politics

1. What are your opinions on educational attainment's influence on women's political participation?
2. In your view, how does education help women break barriers to political participation?
3. What educational barriers prevent women from entering politics?
4. How does higher education affect women's ability to engage in political activities?
5. In what ways does education improve women's understanding of political issues and decision-making?
6. What solutions would you propose to overcome educational barriers that limit women's political participation?

Norms & Beliefs and Women Participation in Politics

1. What are your views on how cultural norms and beliefs influence women's participation in politics?
2. How can cultural diversity be balanced with women's political rights?
3. Which traditional practices or structures hinder women's political involvement?
4. Are there traditional practices that could instead support women's political involvement?
5. How do societal expectations about women's domestic responsibilities affect their political participation?
6. How do traditional gender roles from childhood affect women's later involvement in politics?

Gender Roles and Women Participation in Politics

1. How do gender roles and stereotypes affect women's opportunities for leadership in politics?
2. How do family responsibilities impact women's decisions to run for political office?
3. In your opinion, how do political parties assign roles to women compared to men?
4. How do family or community expectations discourage women from pursuing political roles?

5. What approaches would you suggest for overcoming gender role barriers to women's political participation?
6. How do leadership stereotypes affect women's chances in electoral processes?

Societal Attitudes and Women Participation in Politics

1. What are your opinions on how societal attitudes influence women's political participation?
2. What forms of discrimination do women face when seeking political positions?
3. What kinds of harassment or intimidation do women experience in politics?
4. How does society react to women who challenge traditional gender norms by entering politics?
5. What support is needed to help women overcome discriminatory attitudes and practices?
6. What measures can create a safe and supportive environment for women in politics?

Women Participation in Politics

1. What contributions do women bring to governance and decision-making processes?
2. Why is gender equality in politics important for democracy?
3. How does gender parity in political leadership contribute to sustainable development?
4. What unique perspectives do women contribute to policymaking?
5. How can women's participation improve legitimacy and accountability in government institutions?
6. Why is women's representation important for strengthening democracy?

Appendix II: Authorization letter



KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY

P. O. Box 267 Meru - 60200, Kenya

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BOARD OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Our Ref: KeMU/NACOSTI/MIR/04/2024

September 18, 2024

Commission Secretary
National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovations
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: ABDIMAJID ALI MOHAMMED (REG. NO. MIR-3-2719-3/2022)

This is to confirm that the above named is a bona fide student of Kenya Methodist University, in the Department of International Relations, undertaking a Master's Degree in International Relations. He is conducting research on; "The Influence of Social Cultural Barriers on Women Participation in Politics: A Case Study of Baidoa, Somalia".

We confirm that his research proposal has been defended and approved by the University.

In this regard, we are requesting your office to issue a research license to enable him collect data.

Any assistance accorded to him will be highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Rintari (PhD)

Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies

Cc: Dean, School of Economics and Political Sciences
CoD – International Relations
Postgraduate Coordinator
Supervisors

Appendix III: Research permit

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Ref No: 893272	Date of Issue: 26/September/2024
RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
This is to Certify that Mr., Abdimajid Ali Mohamed of Kenya Methodist University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Mandera on the topic: THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL CULTURAL BARRIERS ON WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS: A CASE STUDY OF BAIDOA, -SOMALIA for the period ending : 26/September/2025.	
License No: NACOSTI/P/24/40422	
Applicant Identification Number 893272	 Director General NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
	Verification QR Code 
NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.	
See overleaf for conditions	

Appendix IV: Government Authorization Permit



**Ministry of Women, Family Affairs and Human Rights Development
Southwest State Somalia**

REF: MWFHRD/10/VOL6/22/09/2024

22ND SEPTEMBER 2024

**MR. ABDIMAJID ALI MOHAMED
KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY (KEMU)**

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION- MIR-3-2719-3/2022

Your letter dated 22nd September 2024 refers.

The Ministry has no objection and hereby grants authority to conduct research on the topic **“Influence of Social Cultural Barriers on Women Participation in Politics: A Case Study of Baidoa, Somalia”**. for the period ending 15th August, 2025.

We wish you success in this important undertaking and encourage all relevant stakeholders to extend their support.



Yours faithfully,
Madina Ahmed Nur
Director General
Ministry of Women, Family Affairs and Human Rights Development

Email: dg@mwhrd.sw.so

Tel: +252616761852