Predictors of Women Political Participation in Nairobi City County: An Empirical Exposition of Kenya's 2022 Elections

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Abstract
Political participation of women in urban setups has been substantially negated from existing studies as most of the present studies appear to largely focus on semi-urban and ruralsetups. This has created false equivalence by equating or drawing conclusions and generalizations on what is happening elsewhere to the local context.Although strides have been made in Kenya to mainstream gender issues in political participation and representation, the country is still grappling with gender disparities.This empirical study explores predictors of women political participation in Nairobi City County, Kenya. Data was collected from elected and nominated leaders in Nairobi City County (N=144). Because the population of the study was relatively small and accessible, census technique was applied to collect data from the entire population. A Cross-sectional survey research design was applied to solicit data both for independent and depend variables at a point in time.The study employed exploratory factor analysis to reduce variables associated with women participation in politics into key constructs. Consequently, Pearson correlation and multiple linear regression were used to test associations.Using desktop research and reviewing existing literature on factors associated with women political participation, twelve factors were pointed out. Consequently, data was collected on the extent to which the twelve factors influenced women political participation. These 12 factors were: Education, income, political affiliation, age, ethnicity, family structure, ethics and values, language, social support, religion, attitudes, and community safety. To ensure the scope of the study was researchable, exploratory factor analysis was applied to reduce the factors based on the Eigen value of 1. Furthermore, exploratory factor analysis enabled the study to establish whether the predictor variables had significant factor loadings, that is, test the structural validity of the variables under study. From the analysis of data, it was found that variables had high convergent validity and three components were extracted: education level, political affiliation, and income.Results from Pearson Correlation analysis indicated that income (r= (144), .688, p< .05.), political party affiliation (r= (144), .583, p< .05.), and education level (r= (144), .710, p< .05.) had a statistically significant influence on women political participation. Findings of this study have theoretical and practical implication on the factors associated with women political participation.

Introduction

Countries hold regular elections as a way of enhancing their democracies and entrenching a culture of political liberalization. Elections gives citizens opportunities to exercise their civil liberties and affords them opportunities to designate their preferred leaders (Chapman, 2019). Although many countries across

the globe hold routine elections, the number of women elected into representative seats in disproportionately low compared to those men (Wang *et al.,* 2019). Even though affirmative action legislations have been proposed to upscale the number of elected women, statistics indicate that women are still negated from mainstream political participation, which eventually disadvantage their representation or the ability to be elected into political office.According to the UN Women (2022), only 30 women in 28 countries serve as heads of state and/or government across the world. These daunting statistics speak to the imprudent culture that contributes to underrepresentation of women in many spheres of life, politics being no exception.

A number of predictors or factors associated with women political participation have beenhighlighted in mainstream empirical and conceptual literature. Because of the litany of variables interconnected with political participation by women, there is little consensus in literature on the main factors that translate into underrepresentation of women in political processes and eventual outcomes. Owing to geographical and cultural differences, predictors of political participation, particularly those of women are considerably unique and diverse (Banales*et al.,* 2020). Political participation in rural setups is significantlydistinct when compared to those in urban setups (Gimpel*et al.,* 2020). Because of the cosmopolitan nature of cities and urban places, traditions and conventions of yester years have noticeably decreased; however, a number of factors inherently determine women's political participation in mainstream politics. For instance, Escandón(2018) found that most women in urban places and major cities have joined political and feminism movements that enhancestheir participation in politics. This evidence speaks to the extent to which feminist ideas have impinged on the political process in urban places.

Drawing attention to specific predictors of women political participation in electoral processes, several factors have been researched and cited in literature.Liu(2022) highlighted several factors associated with gender gaps in political participation, particularly in Asia. Some of these factors include socio-economic factors that mostly characterize women. However, it was noted that participation of women in political processes had improved to an extent that it was almost at par with that of men. Portos*et al.* (2020) found that political participation by women is anchored on political affiliation and patronage intertwined with political party leadership.Similarly, Hessami, and da Fonseca(2020). Revealed that policies of political parties are directly interconnected with women's political participation in politicalprocessesin Europe since they see this as anopportunity to improve policies.Stockemer*et al.*(2018) underlined that economic and attitudinal factors are intertwined with women politicalparticipation, while age and education determine overall voting patterns. Although these studies offered an empirical approach in explaining key predictors of women political participation, their results cannot be assumed or generalized to the local context of Nairobi City County. This is the gap that the present study attempts to fill.

Many studies have been conducted in Africa to explain factors associated with political participation of women in political processes.Orisadare(2019) found that women movements in Nigeria were some of the key factors of women political participation in addition to education and affirmative action laws. Likewise, Dim andAsomah(2019) revealed that geo-political zone and socio-economic factors, such as party affiliation, place, of residence, religion and education, were significantly related to political participation by women in Nigeria. Madsen (2019) stated that informal and formal institutions in Ghana predicted participation of women in political processes. Notably, party structures formed some of the greatest obstacles towards participation of women since filing fees and other statutory requirements at the political party level disadvantaged women.Elsewhere, Mechkova andCarlitz(2021)established that

reduces incidences of infant and child mortality was statistically associated with improved women participation in political processes in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, the study revealed that countries that haveproportional electoral systems and gender quotas encouraged higher participation of women in politics. Countries that allow civil society movements are likely to encourage women's participation in politics. To that end, evidence emanating from West Africa point to the role of political parties/affiliation, education level, age, and political/gender quotas as key predictors of political participation by women. This evidence cannot be assumed to speak to the local context. Thus, this study seeks to delineate the key predictors of women political participation in Kenya by drawing empirical evidence of the 2022 general elections.

A number of studies have been conducted in the Horn of Africa and East Africa region since it is assumed that political processes in the region are homogenous. Regrettably, there are different politicalcultures in the region much to an extent that results from the member country cannot be generalized to other states. Rwanda remains one of the countries in the world that have the highest number of elected women into political representation. Burnet(2019) affirms that many Rwandese women participate in politicsbecause of gender attitudes and political institutions that are accommodative to women. Although education and age are connected with political participation, many Rwandese people are cooperative in terms of supporting women participation in politics (Chouchou, 2022). Additionally, Mukabera(2019) reveals that quota system as one of the key contributors to women political participation in Rwanda.Evidence from the Federal Republic of Somalia underlines economic/financial constraints, political culture, and patriarchy as key predictors of women participation in political processes (Mohamed &Samatar,2019). Similarly, Affi(2020) states that clanization of Somalia political institutions and exclusion of women from political participation as key factors that determine their participation.Moreover, Adam *et al.* (2018) portends the clan political system forms one of the biggest hinderances for women's political participation. Though studies in Somalia and Rwanda offer insights into predictors of women's political participation, they cannot be replicated to the case of Nairobi City County.

Studies done in Tanzania place women's political participationat36.7percent, which highlights a remarkable progress in the country's political dispensation (Wang & Yoon, 2018). Some of the factors associated with their participation in political processes as cited in Makulilo and Lihiru (2021) include: legal framework on women political participation, education level, political affiliation, among others. Additionally, MakuliloandBakari (2021) states that feminist movements, such as Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP-Mtandao), play important roles in enhancing political participation. In Uganda, a number of studies have highlighted key enablers and snags of women's political participation. First, there are 34.9 per cent of women representatives, which resonates well with 34 percent of women representation (UN Women, 2022). Factors associated with women participation unpolitical processes in Uganda include: access to electoral information, directly elected positions, strong patriarchal attitudes and practices, membership and office bearer in political associations, women's knowledge of existence of more than two political parties, among others. Evidence from Tanzania and Uganda offer important insights on the predictors of women political participation; however, there is little attempt on factors associated with participation of women in politics in cosmopolitan setups. To bridge this gap, this study offers an empirical exposition on the predictors of women participation in political processes, particularly in Nairobi City County.

There is resounding empirical evidence in Kenya on the factors associated with political participation of women. However, existing studies tend to negate the aspects of urban setups by focusing on the bigger

spectrum of political participation. For instance, Bouka*et al.* (2019) looks at women's political participation from the spectrum of Kenya's devolved political system and what the new constitution has been able to achieve in terms of increasing the participation and representation of women into political offices. Notably, the study underlined the role of political quotas as a key enabler of woman participation and representation in politics. Similarly, Kiplimo and Amunga(2021)portends that gender role traditions and beliefs are some of the confounding factors to women political participation. Notably, Onyancha andWambu(2021) states that lack of land ownership rights, fear to run against men counterparts, low level of education; gender roles and lack of experience in politics are some of the predictors of women participation in rural politics.Drawing on Kenya's 2010 constitution, Opoku*et al.* (2018) citespolitical environment characterized by violence and propaganda, discrimination based on gender and lack of support from fellow women as key barriers to political participation. To that end, studies conducted in Kenya somewhat negate the aspect of urban setup and, therefore, lack a holistic approach to studying predictors of political participation by women in urban setups. This is the gap the current fills by empirically examining predictors of women political participation in Nairobi City County.

Statement of the Problem

Political participation of women in urban setups has been substantially negated from existing studies as most of the present studies appear to largely focus on semi-urban and traditional societies. This has created false equivalence by equating or drawing conclusions and generalizations on what is happening elsewhere to the local context. Paucity of empirical evidence in urban politics and how women have been integrated or negated from mainstream participation has been a subject of empirical exposition. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2019) study found that more women compared to women are quoted as political experts to an extent that that societies are conditioned to equate politics as a man's job. This undeliberate approach disadvantages women in political competition when it comes to men and women competing for similar political seats. Since most urban/city dwellers are assumed to consume primetime news, they are twice likely to listen or watch from male political experts and/or politicians. As a consequence, women are disproportionately underprivileged in political competition.

Statistics by Hessami, and da Fonseca(2020) indicates that women occupied only 24.3% of parliamentary seats across the world in 2019 compared to 13.4% they held in 2000. Northern Europe has the highest concentration of women representation in parliament averaging at 42.8% in 2019. Regrettably, an estimated 27 countries have less than 10% female representation. This state of affairs points to low women participation in politics. Factors behind such statistics have somewhat been discussed in literature; however, it remains unclear on the specific predictors associated with women participation in urban setups given that such locations are distinct from rural places that are still dogged by traditions, such as patriarchy.According to UN Women (2022), only 21% females worldwide are government ministers, while there are only 14 countries across the world have achieved the 50% gender parity in their cabinets.

Although strides have been made in Kenya to mainstream gender issues in political participation and representation, the country is still grappling with gender disparities. For instance, the number of Women governors increased from four in 2017 to seven in 2022. The number of female candidates stood at 12.2% of all candidates and 49.1% of all voters (The East African, 2022). This in itself affirms under-participation by women in political processes, which leads to their eventual underrepresentation in political offices.Across the country, there were only 30female members of parliament out of 290 elective seats, which indicates low levels of female participation in political processes in the 2022 elections

(France 24, 2022). Rwanda has the highest female representation in the region at 61.25% compared to Kenya's 12.8% according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), a global organization of national parliaments. This suggests that Kenya has the lowest percent of women representation in the East Africa region.In Nairobi City County, only one woman was elected into the national assembly out of 17 constituencies. These statistics indicate presence of varied factors that predicate female participation in politics. To that end, this study focuses on the predictors of women participation in politics in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Method

Cross-sectional survey research design is adopted to investigate the predictors of women participation in political processes. The use of this design is justified since the focus of the study is to collect data for the study variables at a point in time. The independent variables of the study are factors associated with female participation in politics, while the dependent variable is the participation. To draw the interrelationship between the independent variable (predictors of political participation) and the response variable (political participation), various statistical analyses will be conducted by controlling for the independent variables to observe the response on the dependent variables.

The focus of the research is in Nairobi City County owing to the cosmopolitan nature of the city. Furthermore, Nairobi CityCounty is selected on the basis that there is low female representation although area is free from traditions that influence political participation in rural places.The study collected data from elected and nominated members of the county assembly of Nairobi City in addition to the Governor, Deputy Governor, Women Representative, and the Senator. Since the population is relatively small as tabulated in Table 1 census technique will be applied in order to collect data from the entire population.

Table 1: Sample Population

Category	Population	Proportion (%)
Governor	1	1.0
Deputy Governor	1	1.0
Elected Members of County Assembly	85	59.0
Nominated Members of County Assembly	38	26.0
Senator	1	1.0
County Women Representative	1	1.0
Members of Parliament	17	12.0
Total	144	100.0

Source: Nairobi City County (2022)

Questionnaires were administered through online data collection platforms, such as Google Forms. The questionnaire items were exported to Google Docs and the link was emailed to the research respondents. Stata version 15.0 was used to analyzed data, where various predictors of women political participation were reduced through exploratory factor analysis before multiple linear equation was applied to establish whether various factors associated with women's political participation were statistically significant or spurious.

Results

The study employed exploratory factor analysis to reduce variables associated with women participation in politics into key constructs. Consequently, Pearson correlation and multiple linear regression were used to test associations. Pearson correlation was applied to test the direction and strength of the relationship between predictors of women participation in politics, while multiple linear regression was applied to establish the relative weights of each predictor variable against the outcome variable.

Exploratory Factor Analysis

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure (KMO) of Sampling Adequacy and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity tests provide a minimum standard which should be passed before a factor analysis (or a principal components analysis) is conducted. KMO measure varies between 0 and 1, and values closer to 1 are better with a threshold of 0.6. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity tests the null hypothesis that the correlation matrix is an identity matrix. Since p-value is less than 0.5 (p-value < .001) the null hypothesis is rejected.

Table 2: KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.568
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	1113.862
	df	66
	Sig.	.000

Table 3 presents the communalities result which test the proportion of each variable's variance that can be explained by the retained factors, that is, the proportion of variance that each item has in common with other factors. From the findings, there was no single variable that had 100% communality or shared relationship with other factors. However, income, religion, and community safety had the highest communalities, that is, the amount of variation that is accounted for in each variable: 82.9%, 86.3%, and 82.7% respectively.In contrast, ethics and values (5.15%), age (56.1%), and attitudes (60.0%) shared less in common with other variables after extraction, suggesting that the variance is not well represented in the common retained factors as is the case with others factors.

Table 3: Factor reduction Communalities

Variable	Initial	Extraction
Education	1.000	.708
Income	1.000	.829
Politicalaffiliation	1.000	.672
Age	1.000	.561
Ethnicity	1.000	.770
Familystructure	1.000	.602
Ethicsandvalues	1.000	.515
Language	1.000	.639
Socialsupport	1.000	.645
Religion	1.000	.863
Attitudes	1.000	.600
Communitysafety	1.000	.827

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

In Table 4, Principal Component Analysis was used, which allows for the extraction of components that have an Eigen value greater than 1. The principal component analysis was used and three factors/components extracted. From the Table, the three components explain 68.6% of the total variation. Component 1 contributed the highest variation of 37.0%, the second component contributed 19.2%, whereas the third component contributed 12.4% of the total variations.

Table 4: Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	4.445	37.039	37.039	4.445	37.039	37.039
2	2.305	19.207	56.246	2.305	19.207	56.246
3	1.482	12.350	68.597	1.482	12.350	68.597
4	.963	8.023	76.620			
5	.809	6.740	83.360			
6	.679	5.657	89.017			
7	.369	3.074	92.090			
8	.334	2.786	94.876			
9	.293	2.446	97.322			
10	.141	1.172	98.494			
11	.111	.929	99.423			
12	.069	.577	100.000			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Table 5 contains the rotated factor loadings (factor pattern matrix), which represent both how the variables are weighted for each factor but also the correlation between the variables and the factor. The component matrix was rotated using Varimax (Variance Maximization) with Kaiser Normalization. The results below allowed the identification of what variables fall under each of the three extracted components (factors). Each of the 12 factors was looked at and placed to one of the three components depending on the percentage of variability (it explained the total variability of each factor). A factor belongs to a component to which it explains more variation than any other components.

Table 5: Component Matrix

	Component		
	1	2	3
Education	.733	-.317	.266
Income	.467	.768	-.146
Politicalaffiliation	.454	.674	-.106
Age	.493	.404	.393

Ethnicity	.497	.722	-.047
Familystructure	.643	-.427	-.077
Ethicsandvalues	.579	-.329	.266
Language	.709	-.208	-.307
Socialsupport	.780	-.023	.189
Religion	.058	.069	.924
Attitudes	.701	-.330	-.026
Communitysafety	.799	-.167	-.400

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. 3 components extracted.

From Table 5, the following components were extracted: age, family structure, ethics and values, language, social support, and attitudes belong to the first component. In contrast, ethnicity belongs to the second component, whereas religion belongs to the third component.

Pearson Correlation Analysis

The study applied the Pearson correlation analysis to establish the direction and strength of the relationship between the three predictors and women participation in politics. Table 6 presents results of the analyzed data.

Table 6: Pearson Correlation

		Income	Political affiliation	Education	Political Participation
Income	Pearson Correlation	1	.395[**]	.574[**]	.688[**]
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N	144	144	144	144
Political affiliation	Pearson Correlation	.395[**]	1	.446[**]	.583[**]
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.000
	N	144	144	144	144
Education	Pearson Correlation	.574[**]	.446[**]	1	.710[**]
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.000
	N	144	144	144	144
Political Participation	Pearson Correlation	.688[**]	.583[**]	.710[**]	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	
	N	144	144	144	144
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).					

As can be seen from Table 6, there is a positive correlation between income and political participation of women, r= (144), .688, p< .05. This signifies moderately strong and positive association between income and political participation of women. This result suggests that as the income of women increases so does their political participation. It is, therefore, possible to conclude that incomepositively influenceparticipation of women in political processes. From the study, it is evident that as income increase there is improved participation of women in political process since income enables them to

mobilize their constituents through rigorous campaigns and hiring of teams to enhance campaigns. In contrast, a drop in income will ultimately affect the capacity of female candidates to meet campaign fees, such as political party nomination fees.

From Table 6, there is a positive correlation between political party affiliationand political participation of women, r= (144), .583, p< .05. This signifies moderateand positive association between political affiliationand political participation of women. This result suggests that as the political affiliationof women increases so does their political participation. It is, therefore, possible to conclude that political affiliationpositively influencesparticipation of women in political processes. From the study, it is evident that as political affiliationincreases there is improved participation of women in political process since major political formations or parties can enable women to win seats that could not win as independent candidates or from small political parties and formations. In contrast, a drop in political affiliationwill ultimately affect the chances of female candidates winning in political dwells since political formations are essential in elevating the place and relevance of political candidates during elections.

From Table 6, there is a positive correlation between education level and political participation of women, r= (144), .710, p< .05. This signifies moderately strong and positive association between education leveland political participation of women. This result suggests that as the education levelof women increases so does their political participation. It is, therefore, possible to conclude that education levelpositively influencesparticipation of women in political processes. From the study, it is evident that as education levelincrease there is improved participation of women in political process since education enables female candidates to familiarize themselves with the rules of political parties and how they can access necessary support towards political processes. In contrast, loweducation levelswill in the end affect the capacity of female candidates to not only understand the dynamics of politics, but also lock them out of political seats since education is a statutory requirement for one to run for elective seats, such as governors.

Multiple Linear Regression
The combined effect of education level, political affiliation, and income on women political participation was tested using multiple linear regression analysis. The relative influence of each variable was assessed and this helped in ranking their order of weights or influence onwomen political participation. Table7 presents results of the analyzed data.

Table 7: Multiple Linear Regression Analysis

Model Summary				
Model	**R**	**R Square**	**Adjusted R Square**	**Std. Error of the Estimate**
1	.823[a]	.677	.670	.37477
a. Predictors: (Constant), Education level, Political Affiliation, Income				

ANOVA						
Model		**Sum of Squares**	**df**	**Mean Square**	**F**	**Sig.**
1	Regression	41.273	3	13.758	97.950	.000[b]

						t	Sig.
	Residual	19.664	140	.140			
	Total	60.936	143				
a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation							
b. Predictors: (Constant), Education level, Political Affiliation, Income							

Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.685	.153		4.486	.000
	Income	.283	.047	.362	6.059	.000
	Political Affiliation	.197	.040	.270	4.934	.000
	Education level	.297	.048	.382	6.239	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Political Participation						

Under the model summary, coefficient of determination explains the extent to which changes in the dependent variable can be explained by the change in the independent variables or the percentage of variation in the dependent variable (women political participation) that is explained by all the 3 predictor variables (education level, political affiliation, and income). The three independent variables that were studied, explain 67.7% of variance in women political participationas represented by the R^2. This therefore means that other factors not studied in this research contribute 32.3% of variance in women political participation.

Under the analysis of variance (ANOVA), the F critical at 5% level of significance was 2.669 for degree of freedom of 3 and 140. Since F calculated was greater than the F critical (value = 97.950), this show that the overall model was significant in predicting the relationship between education level, political affiliation, income and women political participation. The P value was 0.000 which was less than 0.05, thus showing a correlation between the predictor's variables (education level, political affiliation, and income) and outcome variable (women political participation). If the significance value of F was larger than 0.05 then the independent variables would not explain the variation in the dependent variable.

From the regression findings, the substitution of the equation ($Y = \beta0 + \beta1X1 + \beta2X2 + \beta3X3$ become: Women Political Participation= .685+ 0.283Income+ 0.197Political Affiliation+ 0.297Education

According to the equation, taking all factors; (education level, political affiliation, and income) constant at zero, women political participation in Nairobi City County Kenya will be 0.685. The data findings also showed that a unit increase in income variable would lead to a 0.283(28.3%) increase in women political participation outcomes. A unit increase in political affiliationby would lead to a 0.197 (19.7%) increase in women political participationoutcomes, while a unit increase in education level would lead to a 0.297 (29.7%) increase in women political participationoutcomes. This means that the order of significance on effects of education level, political affiliation, and incomeon women political participationwas private

security education level, income and political affiliation.This shows that the three variables contribute 77.7 %. This means that the three variables contribute 77.7 % of 67.7 % of predictors associated with women political participationin Nairobi City County, Kenya. Other predictors of women political participation not studied contribute to 22.3% to women political participation in Nairobi City County, Kenya.

Discussion

Predictors of female participation in political processes has been extensively studies in mainstream literature. However, there has been little attempt for such researches to focus on urban/city setups. The traditions and conventions of the rural communities may not be replicated to urban places with large lumps of population from various ethnicities and communities. Urban places have mixtures of political culture, thus a study from a given rural society cannot extensively paint a picture of the political culture of cities. Kenya held her general elections in August of 2022, where a number of women made attempts to vie for political office. Regrettably, the number of those elected into political seats was low. To have a holistic understanding on the factors associated with their political participation, this study employed an empirical approach by soliciting information from those who vied for political office.

Using desktop research and reviewing existing literature on factors associated with women political participation, twelve factors were pointed out. Consequently, data was collected on the extent to which the twelve factors influenced women political participation. These 12 factors were: Education, income, political affiliation, age, ethnicity, family structure, ethics and values, language, social support, religion, attitudes, and community safety. To ensure the scope of the study was practical, exploratory factor analysis was applied to reduce the factors based on the Eigen value of 1. Furthermore, exploratory factor analysis enabled the study to establish whether the predictor variables had significant factor loadings, that is, test the structural validity of the variables under study. From the analysis of data, it was found that variables had high convergent validity, where three components were extracted: education level, political affiliation, and income.

Income

Analysis of data established that income had a statistically significant influence on women political participation. This result agrees with extant literature on the interplay between the income of the female political candidates and their participation in political processes.For instance, Opoku*et al.* (2018) found that the level of income for female prospective candidates was largely intertwined with their political participation. The study revealed that the major barrier for female participation in political processes stemmed from lack of adequate resources to carry out campaigns. This is particularly true for women politicians in major cities, such as Nairobi where large sums of financial and human resources are need to conduct campaigns. Borrowing from the global perspective, Staudt(2019) revealed that political parties favor female candidates who have better financial capabilities over those with meagre incomes. Similarly, Bouka*et al.* (2019) stated that women face the challenge of financial difficulties, whichaffects their participation in politics. They could either be candidates or campaigners; However, due to low income, they decide to focus o their day-to-day activities, thus avoiding politics.

The connection between income and women political participation stems from the perceptive of political economy, where many women do not consider politics as a noble career. Thus, they take up other jobs. As a result, they are under-represented in political offices. This often disenfranchises them from future

participation. Dec(2019) found that gatekeepers in major political parties discourages female candidates from viewing from such political parties. Consequently, many women are left of mainstream politics as they cannot meaningfully control political parties. Because of the statutory fees demanded by political parties, most women are historically locked out political contests (. This often snowballs into affirmative action seats, where women are treated differently from men. Sometimes they are asked for kickbacks so that they can be nominated under gender/political quotas. To that end women have traditionally suffered the brunt of income disparities, which ultimately affects their political participation.

Political Affiliation

Affiliation with various political formation or parties continues to play a big role in determining electoral outcomes. Endorsing or belonging to a given political formation is traditionally tied with political processes in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa, such as Nigeria and South Africa.Nowotny(2018) argued that most political formations are often muddled with masculinities that do not provide opportunities with female candidates. Because such political parties have huge influence, most women do not get opportunities to pursue their political careers. This is particularly true in Kenya where major political formations are in the hands of men who sometimes frustrate female candidates. Most women who want to view through major political formations are often denied party tickets on the pretext that they are weak candidates. As a consequence, such women are denied their rightful chances of being elected into political office. Rheault*et al.* (2019) contended that women are often left out of major political parties because of perceived masculine nature of politics.

Political affiliation and women political affiliation is a reality in Kenya. Major political formations, such as *Azimio la Umoja* and *Kenya Kwanza,* controlled the 2022 general elections. All political seats in Nairobi City County were won by the two leading political formations. Women who did not get opportunities to vie using these political outfits were regrettably voted out. To that end, it is note-worth to state that political affiliation is directly associated with women political participation. For instance, women who did not belong to any the two leading political alliances did not get opportunities to campaign in proper ways. This assertion agrees with a study done by Kantola and Lombardo (2019) who found that women who belonged or associated with certain political movements, such as feminist political movements, were twice likely to be elected into political sears. This is not surprising because political formation wieldsimmense political power within the purview of political competition.

Education

The place of education in political participation cannot be over-emphasized. Education ensures that political players know or understand the rules and procedures of running for political office. It is a statutory requirement for political aspirants to have some form of education level before they are cleared to run for office. The process of moving from aspirants to candidates for political office often presents a stumbling block for many political prospects. Women candidates are often faced with this reality when it comes to running for office. Owing to historical and non-historical disadvantages on access to education, most women are often left out political competition. For instance, one must have a university degree before contesting for a gubernatorial position. Unfortunately, women who have the financial capability and political affinity are sometimes frustrated due to low levels of education. This assertion agrees with a study conducted by Stanikzai, M. (2021) who stated that many societies did not allow women to attain education, which continues to derail their level of political participation.

Conclusion

Several factors are associated with participation of women in politics. Some of the most prevalent factors include Education, income, political affiliation, age, ethnicity, family structure, ethics and values, language, social support, religion, attitudes, and community safety.Deducing from analyzed data, this paper concludes that income level, political affiliation, and level of education are key predictors of female participation. However, this does not negate the contribution of other factors in influencing participation of women in politics. Notably, income, education, and political affiliation are thought to influence the manner in which women participate as voters or candidates in political processes, particularly in urban setups.

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