

**CULTURE AND WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS IN  
SELECTED GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IN  
GAROWE PUNTLAND SOMALIA**

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### **DECLARATION A**

"This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other academic award in any university or institution of learning".



Zamzam Mohammed Samir

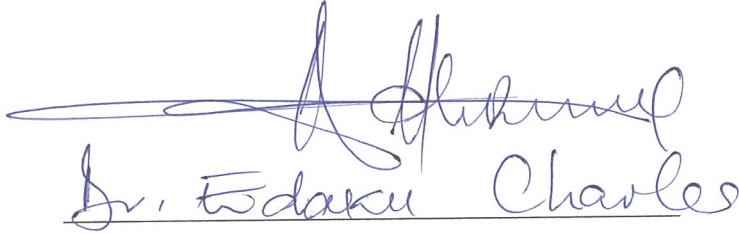
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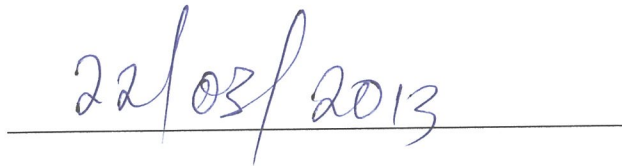
### **DECLARATION B**

"I confirm that the work reported in this thesis was carried out by the candidate under our supervision".



Dr. Edaku Charles

Name and Signature of Supervisor



22/03/2013

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to the former minister of Women Development And Family Affairs Hon. Asho Gelle Dirie.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

All praise is to Allah the Almighty. His Will is being and it is. This work is a complete illustration of his blessings to me.

I am grateful to my sponsor, Puntland Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MOWDAFA), which have been providing me with financial and moral support.

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To my parents, Research Assistants and Data Analyst, relatives, classmates and friends whose sincerity and reliability can never be matched.

## **ABSTRACT**

This study examined the culture and women participation in politics in Garowe Puntland state of Somalia. A self made questionnaire is used to collect data in order to obtain four research objectives; 1) to identify the profile of the respondents, 2) To determine the level of women's participation in politics in selected government institutions, 3) To examine the influence of culture on women participation in politics in selected government institutions, 4 To establish if there is any significant relationship between culture and women's participation in politics. Key findings from the study were (1) the profile of the respondents found that male (54.2%) dominates female (45.8%), in regard to education level, the majority of the respondent are bachelors degree holders with 34.5% followed by Diploma 23.9%, and those with Certificate constitutes 21.8%, while Master were 9.2% and while the rest constitutes 10.6% which is others and none of the respondents have PhD, the length of work experience that (5.6%) of the respondents have less than 1 year and only (30.2%) have between 2-6 years of experience, followed by the respondents who have 7-11years are (33.8%); and followed by the respondents who have 12-16years are (20.4%) and who are above 17years are (9.9%); (2) the overall level of influence of Culture found very satisfactory (mean=3.27); (3) the overall level of women Participation in politics is also found very satisfactory ( mean 3.26) ;. It was concluded that there is a significant relationship between the level of Culture and women Participation in politics in the Garowe Puntland Somalia, and also the Culture contributes 89% towards variations of the level of women Participation in politics based on the findings. This study recommends to will need a change about attitudes and beliefs of culture to ward the role of women participation in politics and all the public and private aspects and also to eliminate all the obstacles and stereotypes from cultural beliefs in the society that faced and challenges to women in political participation and involvements in public issues, as well as to increase the awareness of community to ward the role of women in political participation.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **THE PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE**

#### **Background of the Study**

Over the past generations of feminism dating from mid nineteenth century and the early 1960s have challenged for the very slow progress women have made in gaining political office around the world have been multi-causal, including: their lack of time for politics due to their domestic obligations, their lack of socialization for politics, their lower social capital and weaker asset base than men owing to discrimination in schools and in the market, their underrepresentation in the jobs that favor political careers, their marginalization within male-dominated parties, their inability to overcome male and incumbent bias in certain types of electoral systems (Randall, 1987; Matland and Taylor, 1997; Rule, 1981).

In 1993, only six on the United Nations [UN] member countries had women as heads of government. The average proportion of women in parliament worldwide had also fallen from 12% in 1989 to 10% in 1993, (United Nations, 1994). This decrease in the number of women legislators was attributed to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, where a sizeable number of women had been active in elective politics. By February 1997, women parliamentarians worldwide accounted for only 11.7%, an increase of only 0.4% since 1995 (United Nations, 1997). The dismal performance by women in politics comes after forty years since 1952 United Nations Declaration on Political rights of women and twenty years after the 1985 Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies.

In Africa, research conducted by the Economic commission of Africa in twenty-six African countries in 1993 revealed that political representation by women in those countries had increased by only 0.15% between 1993 to 1995. This was a very insignificant increase despite the fact that there had been increased democratization in those countries. The numerous United Nation, International and regional declarations and conventions on the issues of unequal gender relations and women's rights demonstrate the performance of political participation for women worldwide.

The most notable of these is the 1952 declaration of a convention on political rights of women; The 1960 international convention on civil and political rights; 1997 convention on Elimination of All Forms of discriminations against women (CEDAW); The Abuja Declaration on participatory Development; The role of Women in Africa in 1990s; The Arusha Declaration of 1990; The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and transformation and African Platform for Action 1994, (Paras 49-54).

Colonial administration introduced into the colonies western education and values. The majority of the population comprising peasants and women were also excluded from the political scene. In this way, colonism reshaped male-female power relations consolidated male dominance in politics. Despite the above restrictions, some few women were nominated to the legislative council of 1958 and 1960. But this had not longed for more than eight years whereby a military coup changed the whole political atmosphere of Somalia.

During this military regime (1969-1991), all political parties and activities were banned from the country. As a result of this military coup leader at that time, very few women were in the military and they were at the lower ranks and because of the culture and the religion of Islam, women were banned from political involvement in the entire country. They were allowed to mobilize people for voluntary projects and programmes of the government and they were only called the Revolutionary Mothers or Women, (Keynadid et al, 1994). This military regime paved the way for rebellions that were not united for a common goal but each targeting the presidential seat because the military regime arrested and targeted family members and clans of the rebel groups hence leading to many sufferings.

This severe suffering and loss of beloved ones forced some Somali women to join the guerrilla wars then being waged by the Somali Salvation Democratic Front [SSDF], Somali National Movement [SNM] and finally United Somali Congress [USC]. This was when women started being politically visible in political structure of the above-mentioned rebel groups and their combat armies, SSDF, SNM and USC.

In 1998, the establishment of Puntland state of Somalia by Somali Salvation Democratic Front [SSDF], was the turning point in the history of women and political power in Puntland State of Somalia. Women played a vital role because women who were army soldiers integrated into Puntland Military Force known as "Darwish," others performed countless tasks essential to the victory of Puntland State of Somalia. They supplied food, and key intelligence information essential for strategic planning. After the

set up of the semi-autonomous state known as Puntland State of Somalia, the position of women remained unchanged (Okashe, 2002).

The Government of Puntland State of Somalia has set up institutions that directly affect the political participation of women in Puntland State of Somalia. In this case, it is what they referred to us as the political empowerment of women in Puntland. These institutions include Establishment of elected local councils, establishment of upgrading of the women desk to the Ministry of Women and family Affairs [MOWDAFA].

According Puntland Gender policy (2008), In Puntland, the total population is 3.4 million of whom more than half are women, but numerical superiority does not extend to their status in society. They suffer from discrimination, subordination and oppression on all fronts, that is, socially, economically, culturally and most importantly politically.

Culture refers to the cumulative deposit of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group striving.

Verba, Schlozman and Brady, define political participation as activity that has the intent or effect of influencing public action, either directly, by influencing the making of public policy, or indirectly, by influencing the selection of political decision makers' (1995:38).

Lack of women's participation in politics are caused many factors such as culture, Religion, low capacity, Family conflict, early marriage and other factors. But most factor that effect low of women's participation

politics in puntland is a culture believes, Because, Puntland traditional structure, women were socially assigned to household tasks and other related issues like cooking, collecting cooking woods, fetching water, child-bearing and caring, animal production, etc. The status of women, as ascribed by the traditional society, remained the same.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Ever since, the establishment of Puntland Sate of Somalia in 1998, there have been failures to increase the level of women's political participation in Puntland. For instance, women emancipation through mainly affirmative action across government sectors, local governance and civil society organizations was aimed at allowing women to access equal opportunities with men in all spheres of life. This would be strong stepping stone for women to fully participate in politics.

Despite incremental rate in women political participation under the government, various problems persist. These include sex stereotyping and women marginalization by men. Women perceive politics as a dirty game. Society has also perceived women politicians as exceptional which make women look at politics as a man's venture leading to their marginalization and low participation in the political sphere.

The study therefore will examine the effects of culture in women's participation in politics in selected government institutions and women organizations in Puntland State of Somalia.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study will be;

- To determine the strength and the weakness of culture and women's participation in politics.
- To identify the gaps in terms of culture and women's participation in politics in selected government institutions in Puntland State of Somalia.

## **Research Objectives**

**General objectives** To establish the role of culture on women's participation in politics in selected government institutions in Puntland state of Somalia.

### **Specific objectives**

1. To determine the demographic characteristics of the respondents in terms of gender, age, education, religion, political experience.
2. To determine the level of women's participation in politics in selected government institutions.
3. To examine the influence of culture on women participation in politics in selected government institutions.
4. To establish if there is any significant relationship between culture and women's participation in politics in selected government institutions.

## **Research Questions**

- 1- What are the demographic characteristics of the respondents in terms of gender, age, education, religion, political experience?

- 2- What is the level of cultural influence on women's participation in selected government institutions?
- 3- What is the level of women's participation in politics in selected government institutions?
- 4- Is there any significant relationship between culture and women's participation in politics?

### **Hypothesis**

1. There is no significance relationship between culture and women's participation in politics.

### **Scope of the Study**

#### **Geographical scope**

The study will be conducted in Puntland, particularly in Garowe district which is located in the centre of Puntland State of Somalia and it is the capital city of Puntland administration. This study will target cultural influences and the level of women's participation in politics in Puntland Somalia

#### **Theoretical scope**

The study will be based on the development theory of the gender Gap, the orthodoxy (the orthodoxy account of female consmatism) proposed by RONALD INGLEHART PIPPA AND NORRIS, 1937. The developmental theory is based on the assumption that traditional societies are Characterized by sharply differentiated gender roles that discourage women from Jobs outside the home

#### **Content Scope**

The study intends to examine the levels of culture and women's participation in politics, the strengths and weakness of these aspects,

significant relationship in culture and women's participation in politics on Garowe, cause and effect relationship between the independent variable of (culture) and dependent variable ( women's participation in politics).

### **Time scope**

This research will focused on the culture and women's participation in politics that has been in implemented since 2007. This duration of 5 years will measure by the Researcher to be sufficient in charitable a statistically noteworthy amount of data to create general conceptual outline and also resistible data. The organizations can provide the essential information to input the objectives of the research.

### **Significances of the Study**

The information acquired from this research has considerable benefits to various bodies and institutions as under mentioned.

**To government Ministries;** the government ministries shall use the study outcome in identifying a better approach of women's involvement in politics.

**To Private organizations;** organizations shall use the outcome of the study in comparing their approaches in dealing with women's role in the organizations

**Scholars;** the study findings are helpful to those under taking gender and development or development studies as a course and practitioners; it shall act as a source of information (secondary data) in their attempt to undertake research in the same topic.



**Policy makers;** in attempt to making gender policy guidelines, it shall help policy makers to effectively develop best ways and policies that would not only be consistent but flexible.

**To Researcher;** The Study will be important because it will contribute to the researcher's fulfilment of requirements for the award of Masters Degree in Arts of Development Studies.

### **Operational Definitions of Key Terms.**

**Culture,** this is the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution, organization, or group.

**Women:** Woman is a female human. The term woman is usually reserved for an adult, with the term girl being the usual term for a female child or adolescent.

**Participation:** To have share or to have take and emphasizing the rights of individuals and the choices that they make in order to participation.

**Political:** it is an articulation, or working out of relationships within an already given power structure and it is an activity, a conscious, deliberate participation in the process by which resources is allocated among citizens.

**Political participation,** this is the female's participation in decision making particularly in government and executing agencies.

**Government institutions:** the exercise of political authority over the actions, affairs of a political unit and people, as well as the performance of certain functions for this unit or body, the action of governing political rule and administration.

**Gender:** refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women that are created in our families, our societies and our cultures. The concept of gender also includes the expectations held about the characteristics, aptitudes and likely behaviours of both women and men (femininity and masculinity). Gender roles and expectations are learned. They can change over time and they vary within and between cultures.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **Concepts, Opinions, Ideas From Authors/ Experts**

##### **The Concept of Culture**

According to Geert Hofstede (1991), there is many ways to think about culture, Dutch management professor Geert Hofstede refers to culture as the software of the mind and argues that it provides a guide for human on how to think and behave. Hofstende also defined culture as a social aspect "social institutions including family, education, political structures and media affect the ways in which people relate to one another, organize their activities to live in harmony with another, teach acceptable behavior to succeeding generation and govern themselves.

The gender status quo is maintained through low resource allocation to women's human development by the state, society and the family. This is reflected in the social indicators which reflect varying degrees of gender disparities in education, health, employment, ownership of productive resources and politics in all countries. Additionally gender is mediated through class, caste and ethnicity that structure access to resources and opportunities. The socio-cultural dependence of women is one of the key detrimental factors to their political participation in public political domain.

Women also find it hard to participate in politics due to limited time available to them because of their dual roles in the productive and reproductive spheres. With their primary roles as mothers and wives and competing domestic responsibilities and care work, they are left with little time to participate in politics. Women often lack social capital because

they are often not head of communities, tribes or kinship groups, resulting in the absence of constituency base for them and means of political participation such as political skills, economic resources, education, training and access to information.

## **Women**

Woman is a female human. The term woman is usually reserved for an adult, with the term girl being the usual term for a female child or adolescent. However, the term woman is also sometimes used to identify a female human, regardless of age, as in phrases such as "Women's rights". Unlike men, women are typically capable of giving, (Sissask A., Ed, 2001).

## **Participation**

Participation means many things to many people. Our review of the different bodies of literature about participation and of the various classifications of participatory activities helped to highlight the breadth of activities people are engaged in and identify some of the overlapping meanings and expressions of participation.

Participation in social science refers to different mechanisms for the public to express opinions - and ideally exert influence - regarding political, economic, management or other social decisions. Participatory decision making can take place along any realm of human social activity, including economic (i.e. participatory economics), political (i.e. participatory democracy or parpolity), management (i.e. participatory management), cultural (i.e. polyculturalism) or familial (i.e. feminism). For well-informed participation to occur, it is argued that some version of

transparency, e.g. radical transparency, is necessary, but not sufficient. It has also been argued that those most affected by a decision should have the most say while those that are least affected should have the least say in a topic, (Sherry Arnstein, 1969).

## **Politics**

According to Berger, I. (1995) refers Politics as a term is generally applied to the art or science of running governmental or state affairs, including behavior within civil governments, but also applies to institutions, fields, and special interest groups such as the corporate, academic, and religious segments of society. It consists of "social relations involving authority or power" and to the methods and tactics used to formulate and apply policy. Modern political discourse focuses on democracy and the relationship between people and politics. It is thought of as the way we choose government officials and make decisions about public policy. The historically of politics is reflected in the origin and development, and economics of the institutions of government.

## **Political Participation**

According to Verba, Schlozman and Brady (1995:38), define political participation as activity that has the intent or effect of influencing public action, either directly, by influencing the making of public policy, or indirectly, by influencing the selection of political decision makers. This definition includes voting, campaigning for a party or supporting party work through other means (e.g. policy development, membership drives), contacting policy-makers directly by writing or telephone, protest

activities, getting involved in organizations that take a stand in politics, taking part in informal efforts to solve community problems, and serving in a voluntary capacity on local governing boards such as school or zoning boards.

A long line of theorizing and research on participation in political science was inspired by Downs' (1957) rational choice approach, which seeks to understand the choice to participate in terms of the costs and benefits to individuals. The socioeconomic and mobilization models draw on this tradition. The standard socioeconomic model emphasizes the importance of the elements of socioeconomic status, particularly education, in predicting political participation. (This model is expressed in Verba & Nie, 1972, and is updated substantially in Verba, Scholzman, & Brady, 1995.) Rosenstone and Hansen (1993) developed the mobilization approach.

They argued that socioeconomic status influences who participates, but that mobilization by political elites drives when and how they participate. Finally, psychologists more often view political participation as an outcome of personality dispositions (e.g., efficacy) or attitudes (e.g., political identity, gender, racial/ethnic or "minority" consciousness; Block, Haan, & Smith, 1969; Rothman & Lichter, 1982; Stone & Schaffner, 1988).

### **Women and Politics**

The position in men and women in society, the family, social classes, group behavior age groups and how societies define decency and civility are interpreted differently with in every culture" ( Hofstede, 1991). The cultural acceptability of women in politics is held to be a function of

the timing of women's suffrage, where early suffrage has given the electorate more time to adjust to the idea of women's political participation, and has given women an extended apprenticeship in political competition. Religious practices are also held to shape the cultural acceptability of women in politics, with countries dominated by Catholicism and Islam least supportive of women in public office (Reynolds, 1999:23).

Psychological approaches to predicting political participation have focused on the personality dispositions, beliefs, or attitudes that increase the likelihood that individuals invest attention and interest in the public sphere or will take action to express their political beliefs (Cole & Stewart, 1996; Crosby, 1982; Crosby, Pufall, Snyder, O'Connell, & Whalen, 1989; Duncan & Stewart, 1995). Even more commonly, psychologists explore the conditions under which individuals, especially members of underrepresented groups—develop group consciousness or group identity and a commitment to collective or political action (Cross, 1971, 1991; Downing & Roush, 1985; Gurin, 1985; Gurin, Miller, & Gurin, 1980; Gurin & Townsend, 1986; Henderson-King & Stewart, 1997; Rinehart, 1992; Tajfel, 1978). These psychological approaches focus, then, on political participation as an outcome of social, experiential, and personality processes.

### **Culture and politics**

According Edward Said (1994), culture identifies two meanings of culture. First, it refers to the many practices like the arts, communication, and representation which have relative autonomy from the economic, social, and political domains. These human expressions have an aesthetic

dimension embedded in art and seek to cause pleasure and entertainment. Second, culture includes a community's reservoir of what defines them as a people which in most cases represents the best that has been known and thought. Through culture we are able to see society in its strengths and weaknesses and to see ourselves. Culture, viewed as such, becomes a space for engagement by various interests and forces. The danger with the uncritical reading of this notion of culture is that it may entail a valorisation of one's culture and an assumption that it is not answerable to views from the rest of the world. Thus the dehumanizing aspects of culture could easily be lost in this blind endorsement of one's culture. Equally, viewed from the 'outside', a people's culture could be rebuked in totality, without due regard to its positive attributes. Thus it is vital to recognize certain universal values, informed by advances in human thought and knowledge, and to respect the particularities of communities.

Culture is an important capability that people bring into development. It influences development through its various forms of expression; attitudes and behaviour related to work, reward and exchange; traditions of public discussion and participation; social support and association; cultural sites of heritage and memory; and influences on values and morals.

Through the process of socialization within the family, in educational institutions and other social spheres, boys and girls are conditioned to behave in certain ways and to play different roles in society. They are encouraged to conform to established cultural norms by being rewarded or punished for their behaviour. At times, the places women occupy in society are essentialized through claims of innate



predispositions. This conditioning and stereotyping could easily have the effect of questioning the capability of girls and women to perform certain tasks. Repeated regularly, it may solidify and become difficult to uproot from the mental frames of people. Glaring gaps in policy, legal frameworks and investment opportunities make it difficult for women to perform to their full potential in social, economic and political spheres.

The political domain, the empowerment of women has long been a goal of development work and it results from the respect of women's rights and also because women's political participation, their education, socio-economic status, legal rights, health and welfare are intricately linked to the survival of children and an improvement in the human condition. Equality is key to the formation of a democratic society which aspires to social justice and human rights. It is achieved by addressing imbalances in families, communities and nations. Thus action is required in political, economic, social and cultural spheres to ensure that women are not subjected to discrimination.

Rights, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, established that women's rights are human rights and that gender equality is key to national development, the institutionalization of democracy and good governance. Organizations, communities and governments were required to integrate women's empowerment in their activities and to eliminate or modify practices that are discriminatory of women and that curtail their pursuit of rights and capabilities.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) stipulates the urgency of eliminating stereotypes, customs, and norms that give rise to the many legal, political and economic constraints on women. Article I of CEDAW defines discrimination as "any distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, human rights, and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." Discriminations contribute to the perpetuation of gender inequalities. For instance, when women are not adequately represented in decision-making levels, their rights and freedoms may be violated. Notice that equality relates to the dignity, rights, opportunities and worth of men and women to participate in different spheres of life (Kameri-Mbote, 2002). Empowerment demands political participation, civil rights and reproductive rights for all women and a review of constitution, laws, policies that inhibit equality would be necessary. Equally, an enactment of women friendly statutes and policies would be a prerequisite for gender equality.

Within the contemporary political culture, a number of actions have been undertaken by governments to bridge the gap of gender inequality. Key among these is the attempt to mainstream gender issues in development efforts – agriculture, water, environment, industry, health, education, politics and decision making positions in order to influence politics that affect them directly.

## Theoretical Perspectives

This study is based on the Development Theory of the Gender Gap. The orthodoxy (*The Orthodox Account of Female Conservatism*) proposed by Tingsten, (1937) came under increasing challenge during the 1980s since scholars in many Western countries emphasized a pattern of gender realignment in the electorate, or a weakening of women's traditional conservatism. This pattern was noted in voting behavior in Britain (Baxter and Lansing, 1983; Rose and McAllister, 1986, 1990: 51; Heath, Jowell, and Curtice, 1985: 23; Welch and Thomas, 1988; Hayes and McAllister, 1997; Hayes, 1997) as well as in Germany (Rusciano 1992), the Netherlands (Mayer and Smith, 1995), and New Zealand (Vowles, 1993).

The theory suggested that the old theory of female conservatism was apparently no longer evident; instead, the situation in the 1980s seemed contingent upon political circumstances: in some established democracies women seemed to learn towards the right, in others to the left, particularly in Nordic societies (Oskarson, 1995), and in yet others no significant differences could be detected (Mayer and Smith, 1995; Norris, 1988; Oskarson, 1995; Studlar, McAllister and Hayes, 1998).

Studies of ideological self-placement, rather than voting choice, found that during the mid-1980s women in Western Europe tended to see themselves as slightly more rightwing than men, although this gap was reduced when controls were incorporated for labor force participation and religiosity (DeVaus and McAllister, 1989). Nevertheless Jelen, Thomas and Wilcox (1994) found that European women tended to be more left-leaning in their political attitudes and issue preferences.

## **Related Studies**

Beijing Platform for Action (1995) is an agenda for women's empowerment. It aims at, removing all the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making Process. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centered sustainable development. It respects and values the full diversity of women's situations and conditions and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment. The platform emphasises that women's equal participation in decision-making is not only a demand for justice or democracy, but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account. Without the perspective of women at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved." The Platform for Action defined two strategic objectives of ensure women's equal access to and full participation in all power structures and decision- making; and increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.

In Africa, research conducted by the Economic commission of Africa in twenty-six African countries in 1993 revealed that political representation by women in those countries had increased by only 0.15% between 1993 to 1995. This was a very insignificant increase despite the fact that there had been increased democratization in those countries.

The most notable of these is the 1952 declaration of a convention on political rights of women; The 1960 international convention on civil and political rights; 1997 convention on Elimination of All Forms of

discriminations against women (CEDAW); The Abuja Declaration on participatory Development; The role of Women in Africa in 1990s; The Arusha Declaration of 1990; The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and transformation and African Platform for Action 1994, (Paras 49-54). But just as there are many theories on recruitments, there are also different viewpoints on participation which is partly the reason why recruitments are done.

According to Crook and Manor participation is defined as citizen's active engagement with public institutions, an activity which falls into three well-defined modes: voting, election campaigning, and contacting or pressuring either individually or through group activity, including non-violent protests (Crook & Manor, 1998:7). Similarly, 'the concept of participation centres attention upon the ability of individuals to take part in the democratic process. At one level this may be through voting in elections, and thus influencing government and therefore the exercise of power. At another level participation includes involvement as elected decision-makers and through being elected to take part in the democratic process of representing the local community' (Bochel C. & Bochel H., 2000:9).

Additionally, political participation can include involvement in pressure groups, political parties, voting, campaigning on behalf of particular candidates and standing for election (ibid). But the focus of this study is on the numbers of those who get recruited (elected or appointed) eventually into the assemblies as councillors in the two areas being studied. Since appointments or election into the assemblies are forms of recruitment, it is necessary for a discussion of some recruitment models to

be done in order to broaden our understanding of the recruitment processes.

Many women in the generation that attended college during the 1960s have reported that they were influenced by the social movements of that era, even women who did not participate in them. In addition to political activists, social movements also appear to include “engaged observers”—individuals who are attentive to movement writings and activities, and express moral and even financial support for them, but who take no other action.

Abigail J. Stewart, Isis H. Settles, Nicholas J. G. Winter (1998), one important consequence of efforts to include attention to women’s political experiences has been discussion of the need to recognize the fact that the “public” and the “private” are neither fully separate nor distinguished by the concept of “the political.”

Some scholars have argued that traditional studies of political behavior are based on an androcentric model of the public sphere and of “the political,” which inevitably excludes women and many of their concerns; others have pointed to the ways in which public and private domains define and shape one another (e.g., Elshtain, 1974, 1981; Okin, 1991; Phillips, 1991; Sapiro, 1983, 1995; Sigel, 1996). When women are included in studies, more attention is often paid to activities focused on improving family, neighborhood, and community well-being, as well as on connections between the private sphere and politics (e.g., women politicians’ focus on children’s welfare, or the link between family roles and political participation Burns, (1997).

According to Nassali (2000) says that for long time women in Uganda were excluded from participating in politics and democracy. They were marginalized in the electoral as voters. In the first nationwide legislative council (LEGCO) election held in 1957, women were denied the right to vote on account of the restriction imposed on franchise which included property, income and work as pre-qualification for voting. Uganda women could not vote because they were uneducated, had no jobs and owned no property. Political violence continuous to deter women from participation at equal footing with men . Ignorance, lack of education, poverty , income and subordination are the major factors hindering women from realizing their equal potential with men.

Lipsitz Bem (1993) mentions that, in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20 centuries in the USA, white women and black men were not permitted to participate in politics because they were regarded as inferior , weak of low intelligence and because they owned no property or land. Women's roles were interpreted in terms of their reproductive function, caring for children and husbands and carrying out domestic chores. Their physical, biological and intellectual make-up was not considered fit for politics.

National statistics ( 1998) reveal that women continue to be grossly under-represented in decision making, policy formulation and implementation relating to various factions of local government the number of women participation as candidates in politics overall is less than 20%.

According to KWesiga (2000) women's power to make decisions is reduced if they do not own property or land. Some men prohibit their wives from tilling their land or selling the agricultural products raised on it.

The United Nations (2000), Nassali (2000) and Kwesiga (2000) agree that the low representation of women in the political decision-making process can be attributed to factors such as lack of finance, confidence and political commitment and negative social attitudes towards women.

In the realms of culture and region women have traditionally played no public role. Decisions and laws concerning their well-being were passed by men. Many women still fear to participate in politics because of religious and cultural dictates. Those who dare to participate are rebuked by society or labelled, being called *Kyakurasajja*, literally meaning behaving like a man.

Kwoba and Kashgire (1998) evaluated civic education and found that most women are upwelling to participate in politics because of domestic responsibilities. Their husbands may also refuse to give them permission or support them financially. Those women, who do try, find other women are reluctant to vote for women to represent them. Many people still believe in the superiority of men. Many women lack confidence and skills and some are unwilling to participate in local council politics because they cannot read or write well. Women who enter politics against their husbands' will or support candidates approved by their husbands, may be divorced, harassed, tormented or beaten by their husbands.

Moghadam (1992) claims that stakeholders have realized why women's participation is important and why consideration of gender is essential in the analysis of political and cultural movements, transition and social change. It is in this context, of the intensification of culture, ethnic and national identities, that we see clearly the uneven foundation of



development and social change and the way gender, the family and the passion of women has been politicized.

The recognition of gender violence as important issues of the women's rights agenda took different direction in different parts of the world. The international human law emerged in the context of activism and research on issues related to the social status of women and their right to participate in public activities. In Europe and north America the recognition of rape as a phenomenon affecting large numbers of women in the 1960s marked the beginning of a campaign against gender based violence. Gender violence was recognized as an instrument of controlling female sexuality. The analysis of gender violence become a useful tool for understanding the mechanisms sustaining violence against women in society and for developing strategies to undermine it (Mirada, 1994).

In the mid 1980s, Women in Development (WID) realized that the economic constraints, education, culture and religion were the main roots of women's marginalization. The impact of inadequate economic resources on women was analyzed. The importance of understanding the underpinnings of women's subordination in totality legal, cultural, religious and economic was better appreciated. This was a breakthrough for women's right activists, who began to develop new analytical perspectives to mobilize economic and political resources to redress social injustice.

In 1985, the Third World United Nations Women's conference was held in Nairobi and its major theme was the status of women in third world countries. The United Nation General Assembly passed resolution (No.40/36 of 29 November 1985) advocating concerted multi-disciplinary action, both within and outside the United Nation system, to address

violence against women. This United Nations resolution recognized that violence against women was an impediment to their full development and gender equity.

The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), held in 1989 and 1992, led by to the most important legal documents dealing with human right of women. This document describes gender violence and mark steps in the promotion of women's human rights to promote gender equality.

CEDAW (1989, 1992), defines gender basic violence as a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms from a position of equality with men. It is discrimination directed against women merely because they are women, or that affect women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivation.

In Puntland Somalia, ministry of women development and family affairs ( 2005) conducted Strategic Planning workshops participated by selected women leaders from all Puntland regions and districts in order to prepare and develop three years strategic plan of the ministry 2005-2007. The key issues argue the workshop were Inequality between men and women in Governance, decision making and leadership at all levels and all sectors since there is limited participation of women in political issues.

In the Puntland constitution there is an article that mentioned the allocated percentage of 20% for women inclusion in all sphere of women in positions of power and decision making. Although the parliament passed this article, women remain grossly under-represented in decision

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Research Design**

This study will employ the descriptive survey design specifically the descriptive comparative and descriptive correlation strategies. Descriptive studies are non-experimental researches that describe the characteristics of a particular individual, or of a group. It deals with the relationship between variables, testing of hypothesis and development of generalizations and use of theories that have universal validity. It also involves events that have already taken place and may be related to present conditions (Kothari, 2004). Further, descriptive surveys are used to discover causal relationships (descriptive correlational), differences (descriptive comparative), to provide precise quantitative description and to observe behavior (Treece and Treece, 1973).

#### **Research Population**

The target population of this study will be consisted of two hundred twenty (220) of stakeholders of Women in government and women in civil society in the ministry of women, development and family affairs as a Government institution and women organizations Ministries, Parliament, civil society in Garowe Puntland, Somalia. The government institutions are included since they are responsible for national policies of the government. The capital city of Puntland was selected because of relatively stable peace and it is the base of the government and main offices of women organization can be found.

### ***Sample Size***

The sample size will consist of one hundred and forty two (142) subjects selected from the following categories: Women in Ministries, Parliament, other agencies in organizations Garowe Puntland Somalia.. Table 1 below shows the respondents of the study.

The Sloven's formula (1978) is used to determine the minimum sample size.

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

Where: n= sample size

N= target population

e= level of significance/marginal error (0.05)

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)} \\ &= \frac{220}{1 + 220(0.0025)} \\ &= \frac{220}{1 + 0.55} \\ &= \frac{220}{1.55} \\ &= 141.93 \\ &\simeq 142 \end{aligned}$$

**Table 1**  
**Respondents of the Study**

No	Respondents	Total Target Population	Sample size
1.	Ministries	46	30
2.	Parliamentarians	24	15
3.	Local councils	47	30
4.	Women activists	57	37
5.	Religious/traditional leaders	46	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>142</b>

**Source: Primary Data 2013**

Therefore as proportional  $\frac{142 \times 46}{220} = 30$  (Cabinets)

$\frac{142 \times 24}{220} = 15$  (Parliamentarians)

$\frac{142 \times 47}{220} = 30$  (Local councils)

$\frac{142 \times 27}{220} = 37$  (Women activist)

$\frac{142 \times 46}{220} = 30$  (Religious/traditional leaders)

The sample was 142 whereas 30 respondents were cabinets, 15 respondents were parliamentarians, 30 respondents were local councils,



37 respondents were Women activists and 30 respondents were religious/traditional leaders.

### **Sampling Procedure**

The purposive sampling will be utilized to select the respondents based on these criteria:

1. Male or female respondents in any of the Women in Ministries, Parliament, other agencies in organizations included in the study
2. Work experience ranging from one year and above.

From the list of qualified respondents chosen based on the inclusion criteria, the Purposive random sampling will be used to finally select the respondents with consideration to the computed minimum sample size.

### **Research Instrument**

The research tools that will be utilized in this study include the following: (1) *face sheet* to gather data on the respondents' demographic characteristics (gender, age, qualifications, number of years work experience,), (2) *researcher devised questionnaires* to determine the level of the role of culture on women's participation in politics. The questionnaire consisted of a structured type for the collection of the required data in this study. A questionnaire is a formatted set of questions that was drawn up to meet objectives of the study Mugenda, & Mugendi (1989).

The reason of selecting this instrument is the researcher believes that the questionnaires will be the most reliable instrument to get the necessary information from the respondents without fear or hesitancy. It is also less costly as compared to other instruments. Each respondent was provided a chance to express his or her ideas, options, views freely in a provided space without any undue influence of the researcher or his assistants.

### **Validity and Reliability of the Instruments**

The researcher tested for validity of the culture and women participation in politics questionnaires which are non-standardized, where content validity was done by ensuring that questions or items in questionnaire conform to the study's conceptualization, supervisor and other senior staff in KIU who are experts in the field of the study evaluated the relevance, wording and clarity of questions or items in the instrument. Pre-testing for reliability was conducted by administering the questionnaire to 3 qualified administrators in selected among the staff of the Government who were not included actual questionnaire in this study.

### **Validity Table using Content Validity Index (CVI)**

The study used 3 judges whereby the first judge agreed that 19 items of the 23 items were valid, second judge agreed that 18 items and lastly third judge agreed that 17 items were valid. In addition to the inter-judge individual coefficient of validity, the average results of CVI are indicated in table 2.

**Table 2**  
**Computation of Content Validity**

Judges	Number of Items declared	÷ Total no. of items	= Inter judge individual coefficient validity
1 <sup>st</sup> Judge	19	23	.83
2 <sup>nd</sup> Judge	18	23	.78
3 <sup>rd</sup> Judge	20	23	.87
<b>Total inter-judge individual coefficient of validity-----2.48</b>			

Therefore, average CVI =  $\frac{\text{Total inter-judge individual coefficient validity}}{\text{Total number of judges}}$

Total number of judges

= 2.48

3.00

CVI ----- = **0.83**

For the instrument to be accepted as valid, the average index should be 0.7 or above. Therefore, since CVI is 0.83 then the instrument used in this study is valid.

Reliability is the degree to which an instrument consistently measures whatever it is measuring. An instrument is reliable if it produces the same results whenever it is repeatedly used to measure trait or concept from the same respondents even by other researchers. To ensure reliability, the two instruments were pre-tested by administering them to 10 respondents in Government officials, civil society and elders. Reliability of the data collected was tested using the Cronbach's coefficient alpha ( $\alpha$ ), computed using SPSS



**Table 3**  
**Computation of Reliability**  
**Cronbach's Alpha Co-efficients for Reliability of Instruments**

Construct	Number of Items	Cronbach's alpha
<b>1. Culture</b>		
1A. culture beliefs	3	0.85
1B. influence of religion	2	0.83
<b>1. Women participation in politics</b>	4	0.88

Source: Primary Data; 2012

Results in table 3 indicate that the instrument had a high degree of reliability, with all Cronbach's alphas for all items greater than 0.8, which is the minimum Cronbach's alpha required to declare the instrument reliable

### **Data Gathering Procedures**

#### ***Before the administration of the questionnaires***

1. An introduction letter will be obtained from the School of Post Graduate Studies and Research for the researcher to ask for approval to conduct the study from government staff, Politicians and women activists of government institutions.
2. When approved, the researcher will secure a list of the qualified respondents from government staff, Politicians and women activists of government institutions and select through systematic random sampling from this list to arrive at the minimum sample size.

3. The respondents will be explained about the study and will be requested to sign the Informed Consent Form (Appendix 3).
4. Select research assistants who would assist in the data collection; brief and orient them in order to be consistent in administering the questionnaires.

#### ***During the administration of the questionnaires***

1. Sufficient questionnaires will be distributed and the respondents will be requested to answer completely and not to leave any part of the questionnaires unanswered.
2. The researcher and assistants will emphasize retrieval of the questionnaires within five days from the date of distribution.
3. On retrieval, all returned questionnaires will be checked if all are answered.

#### ***After the administration of the questionnaires***

After receiving the questionnaire back, the researcher will, encode the data into the computer and statistically treated using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

#### **Data Analysis**

The researcher will use frequencies and percentages to determine the profile of respondents. Mean and standard deviations will be applied for the cultural and the level of women's participation in politics. Correlation analysis using Pearson's linear correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) will be used to analyze the relationships between culture and women's participation in politics.

The following mean range will be used to arrive at the mean of the individual indicators and interpretation:

*A. For the cultural effects*

<b>Mean Range</b>	<b>Response Mode</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
3.26-4.00	Always available	Very satisfactory
2.51-3.25	sometimes available	Satisfactory
1.76-2.50	Seldom	Fair
1.00-1.75	Not available	Poor

*B. For the level of women's participation in politics*

<b>Mean Range</b>	<b>Response Mode</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
3.26-4.00	Strongly Agree	Very High
2.51-3.25	Agree	High
1.76-2.50	Strongly Disagree	Very Low
1.00-1.75	Disagree	Low

**Ethical Considerations**

The researcher will be ethical in collecting of data and in the process of dissemination of findings, respect will be shown to those who are participating in the research and operate with sincerity and integrity, therefore to ensure confidentiality of the information provided by the respondents and to ascertain the practice of ethics in this study, the following activities will be implemented by the researcher:

1. The names of the participants shall not be coded.

2. Ask for authorization through a written request to the concerned managers or directors of selected government institutions and women organizations included in the study.
3. Acknowledge the authors quoted in this study through citations and referencing.
4. Present the findings in a generalized manner.

### **Limitations of the Study**

*Research instrument used:* The research instruments on culture and women participation in politics are not standardized. Therefore a validity and reliability test will be done to produce a credible measurement of the research variables.

*Attrition/Mortality:* Not all questionnaires maybe returned neither completely answered nor even retrieved back due to circumstances on the part of the respondents such as sickness and refusal to participate. In expectation to this, the researcher will reserve more respondents by exceeding the minimum sample size. The respondents will also be reminded not to leave any item in the questionnaires unanswered and will be closely followed up as to the date of retrieval.

*Testing:* The use of research assistants can bring about inconsistency in the administration of the questionnaires in terms of time of administration, understanding of the items in the questionnaires and explanations given to the respondents. To minimize this threat, the research assistants will be oriented and briefed on the procedures to be done in data collection.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter presents the presentation of data, analysis, and interpretation. The data analysis and interpretation was based on the research questions as well as research objectives, the presentation is divided into two parts. The first part presents the respondents profile or demographic information, while the second part deals with presentation, interpretation, and analysis of the research questions and objectives.

#### **Demographic Information of the Respondents**

This part presents the background and information of respondents who participated in the study. The purpose of this information was to find out the demographic characteristics of respondents and show the distribution of the population in the study.

In addition to that, the first objective of the study was to determine the demographic characteristics of respondents in terms of age, gender, education marital status, and occupation, category of public and private organizations. To examine the category that majority of the respondents fit in. Data on this objective was analyzed under the question "what are the profile characteristics of the respondents in terms of Age, Gender, and Educational, marital status, occupation and category of public and private organizations.

**Table 4**  
**Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**  
**N=142**

Major Category	Sub Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Sex</b>	Male	77	54.2
	Female	65	45.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Marital status</b>	Single	44	31.0
	Married	58	40.8
	Widower	24	16.9
	Widow	16	11.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age group</b>	20-39 yrs	57	40.1
	40-59 yrs	65	45.8
	60 and above	20	14.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Educational level</b>	Certificate	31	21.8
	Diploma	34	23.9
	Bachelor	49	34.5
	Master	13	9.2
	PhD	0	0.0
	Others	15	10.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number of Years Experience</b>	Less than 1year	8	5.6
	2-6years	43	30.3
	7-11years	48	33.8
	12-16years	29	20.4
	17 years and above	14	9.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Primary Data; 2013

Table 2, indicates that different categories were involved in the study. 54.2% of the respondents were male, while 45.8% were female. So, it shows that most of respondents were female than male. Also table 2 indicates that the majority of the respondents were between the ages of 40-59 years. This means that majority of the respondent were adult young which constitute 45.8%, while those within the age limit of 20-39 years constitute 40.1%, % the remaining age constitutes 14.1% and falls within the age of 60 and above. Table 2 also shows that ha majority of the respondents were married 58 which constitutes 40.8%, This was closely followed by the single age 44 which constitutes (31%) which corresponds with our earlier finding that next majority of the study's respondents, This was followed by a considerably high percentage of widowers (16.9%), while the least were widow at 11.3%.

Table 2, implies that the majority of the respondent are bachelors degree holders with 34.5% followed by Diploma 23.9%, and those with Certificate constitutes 21.8%, while Master were 9.2% and while the rest constitutes 10.6% which is others. About respondents level of experience results that most of the respondents in the selected institutions in Puntland Somalia are experienced, with majority of the respondents (48%) having more than 7years of experience this means they are involved long time and that is better.

### **The level of Culture influence women participation in Selected Government Institution in Garowe, Puntland State of Somalia.**

The table below shows results for the respondents' perceptions about the Culture, the second objective of this research was to determine the level of culture in Garowe in Puntland, Somalia. All questions were

rated using a four point likert scale, were: 1= Strongly disagree, 2= disagree, 3= agree, 4= Strongly agree. The self-rating of respondents were analyzed using mean indicating the level culture to which they recognize each as indicated in Table 4.

For interpretation of responses the following numerical value and description were followed:

<b>Mean Range</b>	<b>Response Mode</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
3.26-4.00	strongly agree	Very satisfactory
2.51-3.25	Agree	Satisfactory
1.76-2.50	Disagree	Fair
1.00-1.75	Strongly disagree	Poor



**Table 5**  
**The level of Culture in Selected Institutions in Garowe, Puntland**  
**State of Somalia**  
**(n=142)**

<b>Culture</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Women are weak sex and cannot handle any political office	3.31	Very Satisfactory	7
Women's labour supply is seasonal and therefore is not worth to participate in politics.	3.35	Very Satisfactory	6
Women are inferior group in society not worth of politics and any political office.	3.40	Very Satisfactory	5
Women are sentimental and cannot be good politicians	3.57	Very Satisfactory	4
Women are house managers (housekeepers) not worth of education.	3.71	Very Satisfactory	1
Men culturally are leader of the country economically, Politically and socially and there is no position for a women in politics	3.57	Very Satisfactory	4
Women culturally are less influential the social issue than men	3.59	Very Satisfactory	3
Clans and sub-clans culturally do not support women as representatives for both local councils and parliamentary seats.	3.65	Very Satisfactory	2
The beliefs of Patriarchy keep women dominated and subordinated.	3.15	Satisfactory	8
The socialization within the family, boys and girls are conditioned to perform in certain ways and to play different roles in society	3.11	Satisfactory	9
Misinterpretation of religion affects the women candidate for political offices.	2.65	Satisfactory	10
Some scholars of religion are against women participation in politics	2.23	Fair	11
<b>Overall Mean Index</b>	<b>3.27</b>	<b>Very Satisfactory</b>	

Source: Primary data, 2012

Results in table 5 shows that item analysis means indicate that the level of influence of Culture is very satisfactory in terms of i) Women are weak sex and cannot handle any political office (average mean = 3.31); ii) Women's labour supply is seasonal and therefore is not worth to participate in politics (average mean = 3.35); iii) Women are inferior group in society not worth of politics and any political office. (average mean = 3.40); iv) Women are sentimental and cannot be good politicians (average mean = 3.57); v) the Women are house managers (housekeepers) not worth of education (average mean = 3.71); vi) Men culturally are leader of the country economically, Politically and socially and there is no position for a women in politics (average mean = 3.57); vii) Women culturally are less influential the social issue than men (average mean = 3.59); viii) Clans and sub-clans culturally do not support women as representatives for both local councils and parliamentary seats (mean average = 3.65); ix) The beliefs of Patriarchy keep women dominated and subordinated ( mean average=3.15);x) The socialization within the family, boys and girls are conditioned to perform in certain ways and to play different roles in society ( mean average=3.13);xi) Misinterpretation of religion affects the women candidate for political offices ( mean average=2.65);xii) Some scholars of religion are against women participation in politics ( mean average=2.23).

### **Description of the Level of Women Participation in Politics**

The dependent variable in this study was **women Participation in politics** was measured using items or questions in the questionnaire,

with each question rated with four point Likert scale, ranging between one to four, where 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=agree and 4=strongly agree. The second objective in this study was set to determine the level of **women Participation in politics** in selected institutions in Garowe, Puntland State of Somalia, for which respondents were required to rate the level of **women Participation in politics** by indicating the level to which they agree with each item in the table. They had to this by feeling in the number that best describes their perceptions. Their responses were analyzed and described using means as summarized in table 4A below;

**Table 6**  
**Level of women Participation in politics in Selected Institutions**  
**in Garowe, Puntland State of Somalia**  
**(n= 142)**

<b>women Participation in politics</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Rank</b>
The Number of women in Cabinet of Puntland state of Somalia is low	3.35	Very Satisfactory	3
The Number of Women in Parliament of Puntland state of Somalia is low.	3.19	Satisfactory	8
The number of Women in local government councilors is low.	3.27	Very Satisfactory	6
Participation in political systems is still largely a monopoly of a few privileged men	3.28	Very Satisfactory	5
Obstacle for women participation politics is a result of lack of commitment by political leaders to empower women	3.48	Very Satisfactory	1
Cultural patriarchy respect male rights to leadership and inferior female leadership	3.25	Satisfactory	7
Economic and social disempowerment is another obstacle in achieving a higher number of women in politics	3.41	Very Satisfactory	2
Slow democratization process in the country is a major obstacle because it encourages disrespect for human rights while encouraging high tolerance for violence.	3.34	Very Satisfactory	4
Women's perception towards competing with men is wastage of time	3.10	Satisfactory	10
Women have less capacity than men	3.08	Satisfactory	11

Men's domination for women in politics is a worth	3.11	Satisfactory	9
<b>Overall Mean Index</b>	<b>3.26</b>	<b>Very Satisfactory</b>	

Source: Primary data, 2013

Table 4 results indicate that the level of women Participation in politics is relatively satisfactory in selected Institution in Garowe, Puntland Somalia, However, the overall mean index of the level of clan conflict is very satisfactory (overall mean index 3.26); we can say that the level of **women Participation in politics** in selected institutions of public and NGOs is relatively satisfactory. This confirms that selected Institutions in Garowe, Puntland Somalia.

**Relationship Between** Culture and Women participation in politics in Government Institutions in Garowe Puntland State of Somalia.

The last objective in this study was to determine the Relationship Between Culture and Women participation in politics selected Government Institutions in Garowe Puntland State of Somalia, for which it was hypothesized that the two variables are not significantly correlated. To test this null hypothesis, the researcher correlated all the mean perceptions computed in Table 3 and 4 above, using the Pearson's Linear Correlation Coefficient (PLCC,). Results of this test are indicated in table 5;

**Table 7**

**Correlation for Scores in Culture and Women participation in politics selected Government Institutions in Garowe Puntland State of Somalia**

(Level of significance 0.05)

<b>Variables Correlated</b>	<b>r-value</b>	<b>Sig.Value</b>	<b>Interpret</b>	<b>Decision Ho</b>
Culture vs Women Participation in Politics	.352**	.000	Positive and significant	Rejected

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Results in table 7 suggest that the level of Culture altogether is significantly correlated with level of Women Participation in politics in general ( $r = 0.352$ ,  $\text{Sig.} = 0.000$ ). This leads to a conclusion that Culture are important for Women Participation in Politics and these results are significant at 0.05 level of significance. Basing on these results, the stated research hypothesis is rejected, the alternative is accepted leading to a conclusion that Culture and Women participation in politics ( $\text{sig.} = 0.000$ ) are significantly correlated at 0.05 level of significance.

**Table 8**

**Regression Analysis for level of Culture and level of Women participation in politics**

(Level of significance 0.05)

<b>Variables Regressed</b>	<b>Adjusted <math>r^2</math></b>	<b>Beta</b>	<b>T-value</b>	<b>Sig.</b>	<b>Interpret.</b>	<b>Decision on <math>H_0</math></b>
Culture vs Women Participation in politics	0.89	-	11.487	0.000	Significant effect	Rejected

Cultural beliefs vs Womer. participation in politics	0.32	.377	18.443	0.000	Significant effect	Rejected
Influence of religion vs women participation in politics	0.24	.348	15.329	0.000	Significant effect	Rejected

*Source: Primary Data*

The results in table 8 suggest that culture positively and significantly affect women participation in politics in Garowe, Puntland Somalia ( $F=11.487$ , sig. = 0.000). The results indicate all the two Culture components together contribute over 89% towards variations in women participation in politics in Garowe Puntland Somalia (adjusted  $r^2 = 0.89$ ). Results also indicate that cultural beliefs component contributes 32% towards variations in women participation in politics, and influence of religion contributes 24%.

Considering coefficient section of table 8, results indicate that while all the two components of culture when taken together significantly affect women participation in politics of Garowe Puntland Somalia, not all the two components are individually significant and not all of them contribute the same way. Results indicate that of the two culture components one is more significantly affect women participation in politics, from there; culture beliefs significantly affects women participation in politics (Beta = 0.377); the second most significantly component that affects women participation in politics is influence of religion (Beta = 0.348).

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter presents the summary, conclusions and recommendations arising from the study along the study objectives.

#### **FINDINGS**

##### **Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

This study intended to assess the level of culture and women participation in politics in Garowe Puntland state of Somalia, and the study was guided by four specific objectives namely:

1. To determine the profile of the respondents in terms of gender, age, education marital status, Work experience.
2. To determine the level of women's participation in politics in selected government institutions.
3. To examine the influence of culture on women participation in politics in selected government institutions.
4. To establish if there is any significant relationship between culture and women's participation in politics.

Data analysis was done using SPSS's descriptive statistics and found out that 54.2% of the respondents were male, while 45.8% were female. So, it shows that most of respondents were male than female. Also table 4 indicates that the majority of the respondents were between the ages of 40-59 years. This means that majority of the respondent were adult age which constitute 45.8%, while those within the age limit of 60 and above years constitute 14.1%, while the age of 20-39 constitutes 40.1%. Table 4 also shows that the majority of the respondents were married 58 which

constitutes 40.8%, This was closely followed by the single age 44 which constitutes (31%) which corresponds with our earlier finding that next majority of the study's respondents, This was followed by a considerably high percentage of widowers (16.9%), while the least were widow at 11.3%. Table 4, implies that the majority of the respondent are bachelors degree holders with 34.5% followed by Diploma 23.9%, and those with Certificate constitutes 21.8%, while Master were 9.2% and while the rest constitutes 10.6% which is others. About respondents level of experience results that most of the respondents in the selected institutions in Puntland Somalia are experienced, with majority of the respondents (48%) having more than 7 years of experience this means they are involved long time and that is better

### **The level of Culture Influence Women Participation in Politics**

The study showed that the levels of culture are strong in supporting of continuous the challenges faced on women for participation of politics involvement to the government agencies as whole.

The study also showed that the traditional leaders who have a strong voice about the building of administration is dominate the role of women participation in politics and holding of public offices reason being of their gender, in other side some of wrong interpretation of religion about given to women in terms of their role and rights to participate in politics and hold of public offices still is a strong.



### **The Level of Women Participation in Politics**

Results also indicated that women participation in politics is very low in terms of holding public offices, decision making as well political involvement as whole, the missing of women participation in politics leads to continuous culture and stereotypes. the culture and stereotypes of Somali people have the power to decide whether the women participate in public issues like parliament or not, There is also a notable absence of women in the higher levels of government at the ministerial, director generals and head of department levels, which also directly impacts the ability of women to participate and influence decision making processes.

### **Relationship between Culture and Women Participation in Politics**

Results from using Pearson's Linear Correlation Coefficient shows that Culture is significantly correlated to the level of Women participation in politics of Garowe Puntland Somalia ( $r=.352$ , sig or  $p=0.000$ ). Basing on these results, the stated research hypothesis is rejected, the alternative is accepted leading to a conclusion that Culture and Women participation in politics where sig. = 0.000; are significantly correlated at 0.05 level of significance.

Regression analysis results indicated that the independent variables included in the model (culture) significantly influences changes in the dependent variable (women participation in politics) ( $F=11.487$ , sig. =0.00) which led to a conclusion that culture significantly explains the high rates of influence of women participation in politics in Puntland Somalia. Results further revealed that all Culture components together

significantly affect women participation in politics, the most significant culture components were cultural beliefs (Beta=0.377, sig. = 0.000); and Influence of religion (Beta=0.348, sig. = 0.000).

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion the study showed that the levels of culture are strong in supporting of continuous the challenges faced on women for participation of politics involvement to the government agencies as whole.

The study also showed that the traditional leaders who have a strong voice about the building of administration is dominate the role of women participation in politics and holding of public offices reason being of their gender, in other side some of wrong interpretation of religion about given to women in terms of their role and rights to participate in politics and hold of public offices still is a strong.

Results also indicated that women participation in politics is very low in terms of holding public offices, decision making as well political involvement as whole, the missing of women participation in politics leads to continuous culture and stereotypes.

Results from using Pearson's Linear Correlation Coefficient shows that Culture is significantly correlated to the level of Women participation in politics of Garowe Puntland Somalia. Basing on these results, the stated research hypothesis is rejected; the alternative is accepted leading to a conclusion that Culture and Women participation in politics.

Lack of women's participation in politics are caused many factors such as culture, Religion, low capacity, Family conflict, early marriage and other factors. But most factor that effect low of women's participation

politics in puntland is a culture believes, Because, Puntland traditional structure, women were socially assigned to household tasks and other related issues like cooking, collecting cooking woods, fetching water, child-bearing and caring, animal production, etc. The status of women, as ascribed by the traditional society, remained the same.

The cultural acceptability of women in politics is held to be a function of the timing of women's suffrage, where early suffrage has given the electorate more time to adjust to the idea of women's political participation, and has given women an extended apprenticeship in political competition. Religious practices are also held to shape the cultural acceptability of women in politics.

Additionally gender is mediated through class, caste and ethnicity that structure access to resources and opportunities. The socio-cultural dependence of women is one of the key detrimental factors to their political participation in public political domain.

Through the process of socialization within the family, in educational institutions and other social spheres, boys and girls are conditioned to behave in certain ways and to play different roles in society. They are encouraged to conform to established cultural norms by being rewarded or punished for their behaviour. At times, the places women occupy in society are essential zed through claims of innate predispositions. This conditioning and stereotyping could easily have the effect of questioning the capability of girls and women to perform certain tasks.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommends the following;

The government should develop policies to combat bad cultural practices which have long been hindering women involvements in politics as this inhibited women's social, economic and political growth.

The government should help start micro-finance and credit facilities to empower women economically particularly the low income earners in an attempt to reduce the rate of women living under the poverty line, and help improve their psychological and financial wellbeing.

The traditional leaders should help eliminate negative attitudes and stereotype against women's active involvement, as women are susceptible to the harm of the rigid cultural societies.

Women should be united and avoid any differences among them, so as to strive for common purpose and realize their goal.

Women should be part of all the three organs of the government such as the Judiciary, Executive and Parliament.

The government should come up with programs to empower women in good governance, and recognize them as productive citizens who possess the right to involve in matters concerning them.

The government should promote women and girl child education through enhancing their knowledge and promoting reproductive health program.

The members of the community should be sensitized on the role of women in political participation, particularly to the traditional and religious leaders and youth.

The women rights defenders should form and/or establish a national institute for women to help them practice their political rights and access decision making positions.

Women's portion/share should not be compromised. This can only be ensured through the commitment of the concerned stakeholders.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) should be adopted in places important for the participation of women in the public life of their countries.

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**OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, ECONOMICS AND  
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES  
COLLEGE OF HIGHER DEGREES AND RESEARCH (CHDR)**

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Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

**RE: REQUEST OF ZAMZAM MOHAMUD SAMRIYE  
MDS/36801/121/DF TO CONDUCT RESEARCH  
IN YOUR ORGANIZATION**

The above mentioned is a bonafide student of Kampala International University pursuing Master in Development Studies.

She is currently conducting a research entitled " **Culture and Women Participation in Politics in Selected Government Institutions in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia** ".

Your organization has been identified as a valuable source of information pertaining to her research project. The purpose of this letter is to request you to avail her with pertinent information he may need.

Any information shared with her from your organization shall be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Any assistance rendered to her will be highly appreciated.

Yours truly,

**Dr. Malinga Ramadhan  
Head of Department,  
Economics and Management Sciences, (CHDR)**

**NOTED BY:**

**Dr. Sofia Baidya Gaite  
Principal-CHDR**



**APPENDIX 1B**  
**TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR THE RESPONDENTS**

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Dear Sir/ Madam,

Greetings!

I am a Masters of Arts in Development Study candidate of Kampala International University. Part of the requirements for the award is a thesis. My study is entitled, **Culture and women Participation in Politics in Selected Government Institutions and women Organizations in Garowe Puntland, Somalia**. Within this context, may I request you to participate in this study by answering the questionnaires? Kindly do not leave any option unanswered. Any data you will provide shall be for academic purposes only, treated with utmost confidentiality and no information of such kind shall be disclosed to others.

May I retrieve the questionnaire within five days (5)?

Thank you very much in advance.

Yours faithfully,

Miss. Zamzam Mohamud Samriye

**APPENDIX 11**  
**CLEARANCE FROM ETHICS COMMITTEE**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate's Data**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. # \_\_\_\_\_

Course \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Study \_\_\_\_\_

**Ethical Review Checklist**

**The study reviewed considered the following:**

- ☐ Physical Safety of Human Subjects
- ☐ Psychological Safety
- ☐ Emotional Security
- ☐ Privacy
- ☐ Written Request for Author of Standardized Instrument
- ☐ Coding of Questionnaires/Anonymity/Confidentiality
- ☐ Permission to Conduct the Study
- ☐ Informed Consent
- ☐ Citations/Authors Recognized

**Results of Ethical Review**

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Conditional (to provide the Ethics Committee with corrections)
- ☐ Disapproved/ Resubmit Proposal

**Ethics Committee (Name and Signature)**

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Members \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX III**  
**INFORMED CONSENT**

I am giving my consent to be part of the research study of Zamzam Mohamud Zamriye that will focus on Culture and Women Participation in Politics.

I shall be assured of privacy, anonymity and confidentiality and that I will be given the option to refuse participation and right to withdraw my participation anytime.

I have been informed that the research is voluntary and that the results will be given to me if I ask for it.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX V**

### **PART A: FACE SHEET: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Direction: Please write your preferred option on the space provided before each item. Kindly use the rating guide below

#### **Gender (Please Tick (✓) :**

- ☐ (1) Male
- ☐ (2) Female

#### **Marital Status (Please Tick (✓) :**

- ☐ (1) Single
- ☐ (2) Married
- ☐ (3) Widower
- ☐ (4) Widow

#### **Age (Please Tick (✓) :**

- ☐ (1) 20-39
- ☐ (2) 40-59
- ☐ (4) 60 and above

#### **Education Qualification (Please Specify):**

- ☐ (2) Certificate
- ☐ (3) Diploma
- ☐ (4) Bachelors
- ☐ (5) Masters
- ☐ (6) PhD
- ☐ (7) Others

**Number of Years in Working (Please Tick):**

\_\_\_ (1) 0-5yrs

\_\_\_ (2) 5-10yrs

\_\_\_ (3) 10-15yrs

\_\_\_ (4) 15-20yrs

\_\_\_ (5) 20yrs and above

**SECTION B: INFLUENCE OF CULTURE ON WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS.**

**Instruction:** Please write your preferred option on the space provided before each item. Kindly use the rating guide below:

<b>Response Mode</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Description</b>
Strongly Agree	(1)	you agree with no doubt at all
Agree	(2)	You agree with some doubt
Disagree	(3)	You disagree with some doubt
Strongly Disagree	(4)	you disagree with no doubt at all

<b>Item</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A. Cultural beliefs and women participation in politics</b>				
1. Women are weak sex and cannot handle any political office				
2. Women's labour supply is seasonal and therefore is not worth to participate in politics.				

3. Women are inferior group in society not worth of politics and any political office.				
4. Women are sentimental and cannot be good politicians				
5. Women are house managers (housekeepers) not worth of education.				
6. Men culturally are leader of the country economically, Politically and socially and there is no position for a women in politics				
7. Women culturally are less influential the social issue than men				
3. Clans and sub-clans culturally do not support women as representatives for both local councils and parliamentary seats.				
9. The beliefs of Patriarchy keep women dominated and subordinated.				
10. The socialization within the family, boys and girls are conditioned to perform in certain ways and to play different roles in society				
<b>B. Influence of religion on women candidates</b>				
11. Misinterpretation of religion affects the women candidate for political offices.				
12. Some scholars of religion are against women participation in politics				

### **Section C: The Level of women Participation in politics.**

**Instruction:** Please write your preferred option on the space provided before each item. Kindly use the rating guide below:

Response Mode	Rating	Description
Strongly Agree at all	(1)	you agree with no doubt
Agree doubt	(2)	You agree with some
Disagree doubt	(3)	You disagree with some
Strongly Disagree doubt at all	(4)	you disagree with no

Item	1	2	3	4
1. The Number of women in Cabinet of Puntland state of Somalia is low				
2. The Number of Women in Parliament of puntland state of Somalia is low.				
3. The number of Women in local government councillors is low.				
4. Participation in political systems is still largely a monopoly of a few privileged men				
5. Obstacle for women participation politics is a result of lack of commitment by political leaders to empower women				
6. Cultural patriarchy respect male rights to leadership and inferior female leadership				
7. Economic and social disempowerment is another				

obstacle in achieving a higher number of women in politics				
8. Slow democratization process in the country is a major obstacle because it encourages disrespect for human rights while encouraging high tolerance for violence.				
9. Women's perception towards competing with men is wastage of time				
10. Women have less capacity than men				
11. Men's domination for women in politics is a worth				



## RESEARCHER'S CURRICULUM VITAE

To document the details of the researcher, his competency in writing a research and to recognize his efforts and qualifications, this part of the research report is thus meant.

### Personal Profile

Name: Zamzam Mohamud Samriye

Gender: Female

Nationality: Somali

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Institution	Year	Award
Kampala International University	2012-2013	Degree: Master in Arts of Development study
<b>Puntland State University, Garowe, Puntland</b>	2006- 2010	Degree: Bachelor of Business Administration
Gambol Secondary School Garowe Somalia	2002-2005	Faculty: Business Administration
Garowe I Darwiish Primary school Garowe, Somalia	1995 – 1997	

Intermediate

School Somalia 1997 – 2001

**Work Experience**

MUDAN Umbrella as Secretary 2002-2006

Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs  
as Webmaster and Secretary 2006-2007

Ministry of Women Development and Family  
Affairs as Accountant 2007-2011

Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs  
as Act Director Admin and Finance 2010-2011

Food Security And Nutrition Unit Analysis (FSNU)  
As Focal point of Ministry of Women Development  
and Family Affairs 2011-2011

Certificate for Excellent Work and Good Attendance  
Ministry of Women Development and  
Family Affairs March16, 2008

Award for Excellent Work and Good  
Attendance Ministry of Women Development  
and Family Affairs January 12, 2011

Award for Good Collaboration of  
Community reward By Media Collage Called

**Skills**

1. Computer literate.
2. Easy going with people from different culture, gender and social background.
3. Good team worker, share knowledge, creative thinker and hard working person.

**Interests**

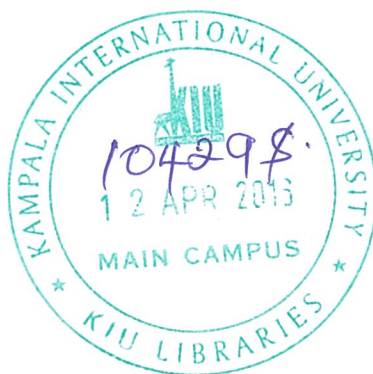
Reading books, involvement in community work and travelling.

**Referee**

Available on request.

**Recommendation**

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommends the following;



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