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# FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL AWARENESS REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL GENERAL ELECTIONS: A STUDY OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN PALESTINE

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## ABSTRACT

*The study aimed to specify the factors influencing the forming of student political awareness towards participating in the general national elections; through a: a field study on a sample of undergraduate students in Al-Istiqlal, An-Najah National, Hebron and Palestine Technical - Kadoorie universities in Palestine. The authors conducted a descriptive study that utilized a quantitative methodology approach. The significant destruction which the Palestinian people are exposed to under occupation by Israel has a significant negative impact on humans and all facets of the environment, was a challenge confronted by the authors in various scientific and academic domains. Accordingly, the authors conducted this study using a convenience sample that consisted of (412) participants from Bachelor's degree programs in from 4 Palestinian Universities. The findings indicate a generally high level of political awareness among students, with 68.7% expressing willingness to participate in elections. The study further indicated that numerous factors influenced the forming of the political awareness towards participating in general national elections. These included high regard for those which are connected with political societal circumstances, organizations of the civil society, the university, and individual positioning. The study found no significant differences based on demographic variables such as gender, academic year, residence, income, or parents' education. The study results support a number of recommendations, the most prominent of which is the necessity of reinforcing the role of educational institutions, especially the universities, for developing political awareness among students through the inclusion of the concepts of political participation and elections in course curriculum.*

**KEYWORDS:** Political Awareness, Participation, Elections, Palestine.

## 1. THE PROBLEM AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

Human consciousness that is open to both self and others serves as a benchmark for cultural advancement and progress; yet one finds no examples of it in the development of modernity and the contemporary era, because open-minded consciousness is grounded in a cognitive framework based on a balance between reason and emotion. Thus, consciousness is defined as a mental state characterized by a person's perception of the world through reason or emotion. Among the tools for achieving this balance are criticism for the sake of construction and reform, creativity for the sake of creating and composing elements of knowledge that contribute to the development of human societies (Jirjis & Abu Hajila, 2024). Based on this, human consciousness manifests in various forms that differ according to the perceived domain or the object of consciousness, as humans experience diverse forms of consciousness, such as religious, scientific, political, and moral consciousness. From this perspective, it can be said that political consciousness or awareness is the state in which an individual or members of society engage with issues of political life in their various dimensions and adopt an emotional stance toward these issues (Maghazi, 2019).

Political awareness is a topic that has attracted widespread attention from scholars and researchers', particularly in the Arab region. This is, due to their recognition of its role in equipping individuals to understand public systems and policies, government plans, and participation in the development of their societies—as one of the fundamental pillars upon which the social and political system is built. Ignoring it during the state-building process will almost certainly result in a weaker structure that will collapse in the face of any crisis affecting the state or civilization, regardless of the scale of political or demographic development (Ashour, 2023; Al-Khaza'leh & Lahiani, 2021). Building political consciousness cannot be achieved all at once but requires several stages, and the conditions for these stages must be established to advance the political reality of society (Al-Mawla, 2019; Durban, et al., 2025). Furthermore, political awareness holds exceptional importance for peoples, as it embodies the essence of their civilization, and reflects the level and extent of their resilience and ability to confront any instances of cultural, intellectual, and political invasion. The strength of a society's political awareness is a source of strength for the state's politics and stability, as well as for its economic, cultural, and social development; it unites members

of society with state institutions in achieving goals and addressing social issues (Hamdan & Bani Khalid, 2024). Consequently, it helps avoid the waste of funds in social reform and development and minimizes the material losses and various costs that the state incurs in addressing social issues (Ahmed & Abu Al-Qasim, 2017; Opeyemi, 2018).

Political awareness is closely linked to socialization. Socio-political socialization is the process through which an individual acquires and develops his or her political views. There are various mechanisms and tools for political socialization, including the family, educational institutions, political parties, peer groups, religious institutions, and media organizations. The process of political socialization of citizens and the development of their political awareness have become matters of great importance to which democratic states pay close attention and subject to extensive scientific study. Political socialization leads to the maturation of political awareness and the practice of political action. Through scientific study of political socialization, the government ensures that it gains public support for its democratic policies (Al-Farra, 2017; Azhar, et al., 2024). Political awareness is often linked to social and political socialization, as socialization is one of the most fundamental pillars in shaping political awareness, which determines the nature of an individual's behavior and their view of themselves and the society in which they live (Mounis, 2019). Political awareness is also an important factor influencing participation in political processes. Research has found that a higher level of political awareness, including knowledge of elections and politicians, is associated with increased political trust and participation (Al-Dulaimi et al., 2025; Zetra et al., 2022).

It is worth noting that the family is the first social group with which an individual interacts, and it serves as the primary framework within which they receive the foundations of their social and political upbringing. Numerous studies have confirmed that an individual's political orientation begins to take shape during the pre-school and pre-college years. An individual's personality is also shaped by the family through the freedoms the family allows its children—such as discussion, dialogue, expressing opinions, acceptance, and respect for others' views—or, conversely, through authoritarianism, coercion, negativity, and indifference (Al-Dulaimi & Al-Ta'an, 2024; Al-Sharif, 2025; Hayat et al., 2024).

The media is also considered one of the most important educational tools responsible for fostering political awareness among individuals, given its

ability to reach large segments of society by providing them with political information, knowledge, and ideas. More specifically, social media has brought about a radical shift in communication methods, leading to the emergence of new avenues for political engagement among college students. Social media platforms have become vibrant arenas where students launch movements, ranging from global movements such as #MeToo and Black Lives Matter to local protests around the world (Salam, et al., 2024; Batool, et al., 2020). Social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and others are not merely innovations in the online world; rather, their influence on public opinion is growing rapidly (Muzaffar, et al., 2019). With the growth of new communication technologies and the internet with its various applications, social media has become an important tool for individuals and institutions in acquiring political knowledge. There has been much discussion about its role in the political life of societies and its potential to bring about a qualitative shift in the fields of political media, awareness, education, and political change (Abdel Qader et al., 2024; Kholisoh et al., 2019; Siyal & Brohi, 2022).

Additionally, education plays a vital role in the development and progress of society and in instilling a sense of belonging and loyalty to the homeland. This is achieved through the contributions of educational institutions to the upbringing and development of individuals, as the political development of the educated individual is a fundamental goal of society. Thus, university education plays a crucial role in raising the level of political knowledge among university students and providing them with political education. As a result, university studies leave a clear imprint on students' political culture, shaping their political behavior and their view of themselves and the political world around them. (Abu Hamed, 2019). Given the importance of the university years, both for the individual and for society, in fostering a sense of national belonging and strengthening political awareness, the university stage is considered the highest level of education an individual undergoes. During this stage, university students are at the beginning of their journey toward political participation, such as in general elections, and the university provides a rich educational environment that encourages students to engage in political activities.

The true challenge facing contemporary higher education lies in its ever-evolving role in serving society and driving change within it. Universities

have come to play a vital part in raising public awareness and fostering cultural development, through the information and content they provide, which serves to elevate the cultural level and political awareness of university students. On the other hand, young people constitute an important segment of society, which requires them to be fully informed about current events and to possess political awareness and knowledge of what is happening so that they can take the lead in shaping public opinion in the future and contribute to the political sphere. University students must therefore possess at least a general understanding of politics to comprehend the reality around them and become active participants in decision-making. Some studies emphasize the need to link education with politics, finding that if the two are separated, education may lose its role in developing students' political awareness and shaping them politically. This may then create a political gap among individuals, potentially leading to negative phenomena such as apathy and political alienation that could harm societal development (Khudair & Hassan, 2023). Ultimately, it is essential to examine the political awareness of university students (Saleh & Hussein, 2023). Accordingly, the research question for the current study is as follows: What factors influence the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections? Within this overall aim, there were a number of sub-questions with regards to societal circumstances, the organizations of civil society and university, familial and individual contexts. These then became the objectives of the study (See table 2).

### **1.1. Scientific hypotheses:**

There is no statistically significant relationship at a significance level of ( $\alpha \geq 0.05$ ) between the factors influencing the formation of political awareness and participation in national general elections attributable to the demographic variables of gender, academic year, the university, place of residence, average monthly household income, and parents' educational level.

### **1.2. Significance of the Study:**

The significance of this study lies in obtaining new and reliable information about the factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections to address gaps in this field of knowledge. Additionally, the study looks to provide libraries and graduate students with a body of scholarly work on the factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in general

national elections. Further, this study aims to raise students' level of awareness, enhance their skills, and motivate them to conduct future studies on the subject to identify and address the factors underlying university students' reluctance to participate in national general elections.

### 1.3. Concepts of the Study

Political awareness is defined as a set of political values, attitudes, and principles that enable an individual to actively participate in analyzing the conditions and problems of their society, form judgments about them, determine their stance, and take action to improve and change them. It is based on political knowledge, forming a perception of political issues, and adopting and supporting a specific political stance, such as voting in elections and joining political organizations (Al-Shuwayhat, 2020; Mansour, 2023). The concept of political awareness also refers to an individual's or citizen's knowledge of their political rights and duties, as well as the political events and developments taking place around them (Al-Shalmani, 2025). Thus, political awareness is the general understanding of the political climate and the dynamics and strategies of political actors within the country or even beyond its borders, given the global interconnectedness of events, and is formed through the individual's awareness of themselves and others around them (Al-Laithi, 2021).

Political awareness has also been defined as the understanding among young people, any other group, — of the political and historical reality of their society, enabling young people to reach a stage of awareness regarding their role in the political process, their participation in voting and electoral behavior, their political orientations, their affiliation with existing parties, and how to utilize these variables to assess the political reality of their society and identify what should be supported or changed (Saadia, 2023). As a result, low political awareness may lead to a political vacuum encompassing apathy toward current events, narrow-mindedness, and a lack of proper understanding of national and global issues. This can result in certain undesirable behaviors, as well as a lack of a sense of belonging, limited knowledge of individuals' political rights and duties, and an inability to grasp the broader picture of the reality surrounding them and understand the events and occurrences taking place around them (Jawamir & Sajit, 2024; Jones, 2023). Consequently, low political awareness poses a serious threat to society, as it manifests in various negative behaviors such as the destruction of public

property, the use of force and violence against state symbols and citizens, and a susceptibility to being recruited by terrorist and subversive groups (Al-Saied, 2019; Kuwoto et al., 2024).

The concept of political awareness is thus complex and consists of three components: (i) political interest (the extent to which one is motivated to learn about politics), (ii) political knowledge (information regarding ideologies, political systems, and political processes), and (iii) political understanding (the ability to analyze and critically evaluate political events objectively) (Dauletova et al., 2022).

For the purpose of this study, the researchers utilized the following operational definition of the concept of political awareness; the knowledge, values, attitudes, and principles held by Palestinian university students that enable them to analyze and interpret political issues in Palestinian society and motivate them to join political organizations and actively participate in national and local elections.

## 2. METHODS OF THE STUDY

### 2.1. Sample and selection Procedures

The study sample consisted of 412 undergraduate students from four Palestinian universities': Al-Istiqal University, An-Najah National University, Hebron University and Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie. (see table 1). Due to the significant blockade and infrastructure destruction to which the Palestinian people are exposed to by the Israeli occupation, the study utilized an online questionnaire. A link to the online questionnaire was distributed and circulated through the academic affairs offices at the aforementioned Palestinian universities, as well as through the deans of graduate studies and scientific research, and the deans of student affairs who then shared this link with undergraduate students at their universities. The study relied on the following inclusion criteria: (i) the participant must be Palestinian and a student during the 2025–2026 academic year, (ii) the participant must voluntarily agree to participate. As a result of the field and communication constraints associated with the occupation and difficult economic conditions, which prevented reaching all students at the universities, participation was limited to students who had access to and were able to complete the online survey. (see table 1).

## 3. DATA COLLECTION

The current study adopted a cross-sectional design that describes the views of undergraduate students within a single point in time (December 2025–March 2026). The study adopted a quantitative

approach through a social survey, using a non-probability sample based on convenience sampling. A social survey involves describing and diagnosing a phenomenon, collecting data on it, and reporting on its current state, that is, what exists in a segment of society – through structured interviews or questionnaires (Al-Mahmoudi, 2019). The aim is to obtain a set of data, interpret it, generalize it, and contextualize it, all for the purpose of scientific

application (Daliou, 2023). Furthermore, a social survey is not merely a description or inventory of what actually exists; it goes beyond that to include other processes such as analysis, interpretation, and comparison of the current situation with other levels (Al-Fartousi & Al-Midani, 2023). Thus, it is well-suited to this study, both in terms of its subject matter and the adequacy of the data that can be collected.

*Table 1: Presents a description of the study sample and its demographic characteristics according to the variables.*

| The variable                     | Variable levels                       | Repetition | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Gender                           | Male                                  | 213        | 51.7           |
|                                  | female                                | 199        | 48.3           |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>                          | <b>412</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |
| Academic Year                    | First                                 | 105        | 25.5           |
|                                  | Second                                | 52         | 12.6           |
|                                  | Third                                 | 102        | 24.8           |
|                                  | Fourth                                | 97         | 23.5           |
|                                  | Fifth                                 | 56         | 13.6           |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>                          | <b>412</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |
| University                       | Al-Istiqlal Univ.                     | 87         | 21.1           |
|                                  | An-Najah N. Univ.                     | 170        | 41.3           |
|                                  | Hebron Univ.                          | 74         | 18.0           |
|                                  | Palestine Tec. Univ.                  | 81         | 19.7           |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>                          | <b>412</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |
| Place of residence               | City                                  | 172        | 41.7           |
|                                  | Village                               | 207        | 50.2           |
|                                  | Camp                                  | 33         | 8.0            |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>                          | <b>412</b> | <b>14.6</b>    |
| Average monthly household income | Less than 2,000 shekels               | 200        | 48.5           |
|                                  | From 2,000 to less than 4,000 shekels | 80         | 19.4           |
|                                  | From 4,000 to less than 6,000 shekels | 72         | 17.5           |
|                                  | 6,000 shekels and above               | 60         | 14.6           |
|                                  | <b>Total</b>                          | <b>412</b> | <b>100.0</b>   |

|                            |                       |            |              |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Parents' educational level | High school or lower. | 159        | 38.6         |
|                            | Bachelor's degree.    | 185        | 44.9         |
|                            | Graduate studies.     | 68         | 16.5         |
|                            | <b>Total</b>          | <b>412</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

### 3.1. Research Tool

The two authors used a survey questionnaire they specifically developed for this study. The questionnaire included seven items regarding the demographic data of the student respondents and covered five themes comprising 69 statements related to factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections (see table 2). Thus, the total number of questionnaire items was 76. The questionnaire used Likert's five-point scale as follows: Strongly agree (5), Agree (4), Neutral (3), Disagree (2), Strongly disagree (1).

The two authors ensured the validity of the

instrument by presenting it to a number of experienced and specialized reviewers in Palestine (the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) as well as other Arab countries. Experts and faculty members exchanged ideas and analyses regarding the reformulation of certain study statements to ensure that all dimensions of the subject under study were covered. Some adjustments were made to the wording of the statements, and after the required adjustments were made, the reviewers confirmed the validity of the study tool.

The researchers verified the reliability of the instrument using Cronbach's alpha, and the reliability coefficients for the instrument's subscales were as follows:

*Table 2: Study reliability coefficients using Cronbach's alpha.*

| N        | Themes                                                                                                                                                                                     | Number of paragraphs | Cronbach's alpha coefficient |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | Theme 1:<br>Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections, as related the societal circumstances having a political stamp | 17                   | 0.822                        |
| <b>2</b> | Theme 2:<br>Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and related to the organizations of the civil society           | 12                   | 0.858                        |
| <b>3</b> | Theme 3:<br>Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and those related to the university                             | 15                   | 0.916                        |
| <b>4</b> | Theme 4:<br>Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and those related to the family                                 | 11                   | 0.893                        |
| <b>5</b> | Theme 5:<br>Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and related to the individual                                   | 14                   | 0.850                        |
|          | <b>Overall Grade</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>69</b>            | <b>0.947</b>                 |

Table 2 shows that the study's dimensions have high reliability coefficients with an overall reliability coefficient of 0.947. These results are sufficient for the purposes of the current study.

### 3.2. Procedures and Ethical Considerations:

The researchers adhered to internationally recognized general principles of research ethics, such as respect for human dignity, informed consent, confidentiality and privacy, non-maleficence, beneficence, justice, transparency, and

accountability. Given the exceptional circumstances facing Palestinian society during the current conflict, the researchers followed the following procedures:

1. Informed consent: The online survey included an introductory page explaining the research objectives and nature of the study, as well as participants' rights, while emphasizing that participation was entirely voluntary and that participants had the right to withdraw at any time without any obligation.

2. Confidentiality and Privacy: No direct

identifying information was collected, and all responses were stored in secure electronic files accessible only to the researchers, with the data used strictly for scientific purposes in accordance with research principles.

3. Non-harm: The questionnaire was designed with the psychological and social well-being of participants in mind, avoiding questions that might cause trauma or additional stress to the students being studied.

4. Responsibility and Fairness: The researchers made every effort to distribute the research tool (the online survey link) fairly among students at the aforementioned universities, while ensuring that participation did not place an additional burden on the responding students given the difficult circumstances caused by the ongoing war.

### 3.3. Statistical Analyses:

After collecting the responses from the study sample, the data were coded and entered into a

computer, then statistically analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The statistical analyses used included: frequencies, arithmetic means, percentages, standard deviations, the independent t-test, and one-way ANOVA, as well as Cronbach's alpha to calculate the reliability coefficient. To interpret the study results, the researchers used the following arithmetic mean categories: less than 1.80 – very low; 1.81–2.60 – low; 2.61–3.40 – moderate; 3.41–4.20 – high; and 4.21–5.00 – very high.

## 4. RESULTS

In the preceding pages, the researchers have presented the theoretical and methodological aspects of the study. Here, the researchers present the results of the field study organized according to the sequence of the research questions.

If a general national election were held, would you participate?

**Table 3: Responses from the study sample regarding participation in national elections (n = 412).**

| Variables               | Variable level | Repetition | percentage   | Ranking |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------|
| Voting in the elections | Yes            | 283        | 68.7         | 1       |
|                         | No             | 129        | 31.3         | 2       |
| Total                   |                | <b>412</b> | <b>100.0</b> |         |

Table 3 shows that a high percentage of the study sample 68.7% expressed a willingness to participate in national elections if they were held, compared to 31.3% who stated they did not intend to participate. These results reflect a general positive inclination among the majority of the sample toward engaging in the electoral process, which can be explained by an acceptable level of political awareness or a sense of the importance of participation in influencing the course of political life.

Conversely, the significant proportion (nearly one-third) of respondents who do not intend to participate is an important indicator that cannot be ignored, as it may reflect a lack of trust in the electoral process, a sense of its futility, or frustration with the

current political reality. This result may also be linked to various factors such as the political climate, past experiences, or a lack of conviction that elections can bring about real change.

Based on this, it can be said that there is a popular base supporting participation. However, there is still a need to build trust and motivation among hesitant or resistant groups by improving the political environment, increasing transparency, and enhancing the credibility of the electoral process.

The answer to the first question, which reads: What factors influence the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections, particularly those related to societal circumstances having a political stamp?

**Table 4: Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections, particularly those related to political societal circumstances.**

| Ranking | Number | Paragraphs                                                                                                                                                     | Mean | Standard dev. | percentage | Appreciation |
|---------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1       | 12     | The scenes of war and its repercussions contributed to raising my political awareness and increased my following of political analyses and public discussions. | 4.02 | .94           | 80.4       | High         |
| 2       | 2      | The Israeli occupation's restrictions on elections in Jerusalem negatively affect the political awareness of young people.                                     | 3.93 | .84           | 78.6       | High         |

|                                      |    |                                                                                                                                                                                               |             |             |             |             |
|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 3                                    | 8  | The recent Gaza war contributed to deepening my awareness of the nature of the Palestinian political system and the limits of its effectiveness in managing the conflict with the occupation. | 3.91        | .80         | 78.2        | High        |
| 4                                    | 7  | I believe that the political division between the Palestinian forces will continue regardless of the outcome of the elections.                                                                | 3.88        | .92         | 77.6        | High        |
| 5                                    | 11 | The Gaza war reshaped my political priorities, putting national issues ahead of individual and service concerns.                                                                              | 3.84        | .94         | 76.8        | High        |
| 6                                    | 16 | The Gaza war deepened my awareness of the relationship between weak political representation and continuing national crises.                                                                  | 3.80        | .90         | 76.0        | High        |
| 7                                    | 9  | The repercussions of the Gaza war revealed a clear gap between Palestinian political discourse and field reality, which affected my level of confidence in the electoral process.             | 3.77        | .96         | 75.4        | High        |
| 8                                    | 17 | The Gaza war has contributed to a more mature political attitude toward electoral participation as a political act rather than a formality.                                                   | 3.73        | .90         | 74.6        | High        |
| 9                                    | 14 | The Gaza war highlighted the importance of popular legitimacy and elected institutions in confronting external pressures and security challenges.                                             | 3.72        | 1.00        | 74.4        | High        |
| 10                                   | 10 | The Gaza war has strengthened my conviction that political and electoral participation represents one of the tools of political resilience, despite its limited direct results.               | 3.71        | .98         | 74.2        | High        |
| 11                                   | 13 | The Gaza war has weakened my belief in the ability of elections alone to bring about fundamental change in light of the continuing Palestinian political division.                            | 3.65        | 1.04        | 73.0        | High        |
| 12                                   | 3  | Israeli barriers between cities limit my ability to participate in elections.                                                                                                                 | 3.58        | 1.02        | 71.6        | High        |
| 13                                   | 15 | The repercussions of the Gaza war prompted me to reevaluate the feasibility of participating in elections in the absence of a comprehensive national political consensus.                     | 3.58        | .95         | 71.6        | High        |
| 14                                   | 1  | My confidence in political organizations declined after the division in the Palestinian political system in 2007.                                                                             | 3.56        | 1.00        | 71.2        | High        |
| 15                                   | 6  | The repeated settler attacks make me feel that participating in the elections will not change the security situation.                                                                         | 3.50        | 1.13        | 70.0        | High        |
| 16                                   | 4  | Fear of political arrest weakens my ability to participate in elections.                                                                                                                      | 3.49        | 1.18        | 69.8        | High        |
| 17                                   | 5  | The fear of being arrested by the occupation authorities contributes to limiting my participation in the elections.                                                                           | 3.35        | 1.19        | 67.0        | Average     |
| <b>The overall score of the axis</b> |    |                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>3.71</b> | <b>0.50</b> | <b>74.2</b> | <b>High</b> |

Table 4 shows that the items related to factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections, and linked to political societal conditions, scored highly, with arithmetic means ranging from 3.35 to 4.02. The item with the highest mean was item No. (12), which reads: "The scenes of war and its repercussions contributed to raising my political awareness and increased my following of political analyses and public discussions" with a mean of (4.02) and a percentage of (80.4%). The statement with the lowest mean was statement No. (5), which reads: "The fear of being arrested by the occupation authorities contributes to limiting my participation in the elections" with a mean of (3.35) and a percentage of (67%). Consequently, this result indicates that the factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in general national elections and linked to political societal conditions were high, as evidenced by the overall score, which had a mean of (3.71) and a percentage of (74.2%).

We attribute this finding to the nature of the political and social environment in which students live, and which is characterized by the intensity and rapid pace of events. This contributes to raising their level of political awareness, especially given the constant presence of national issues in daily life imposed by occupation, wars, and their repercussions. The effects of these circumstances

foster a state of intellectual and political engagement, prompting individuals to follow public political analyses and discussions more closely. The researchers also note that continuous interaction with the media, both traditional and modern, has contributed to strengthening this awareness by providing a broad space for the circulation of information and the interpretation of events. This has helped foster more mature political perceptions among individuals regarding participation in national elections. Regarding the relative decline in the influence of the fear of arrest, we suggest this is explained within the framework of societal adaptation to political and security pressures, as this factor no longer constitutes a decisive obstacle to the formation of political awareness or interest in public affairs, compared to the influence of other factors related to societal conditions. Accordingly, the researchers assert that the high overall mean reflects a strong level of political awareness linked to political societal conditions, which is directly related to the specific nature of the political context currently facing Palestinian society and contributes to fostering interest in participating in general national elections.

The answer to the second question, which reads: What factors influence the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections, particularly those related to the organizations of civil society?

**Table 5: Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections, particularly those related to the organizations of civil society.**

| Ranking | Number | Paragraphs                                                                                                                                    | Mean | Standard dev. | percentage | Appreciation |
|---------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1       | 11     | The Gaza war worked to strengthen the Palestinian national narrative locally and globally.                                                    | 4.01 | .9            | 80.2       | High         |
| 2       | 3      | Lack of interest in political organization committees to provide clear programs on the needs and problems of youth.                           | 3.97 | .86           | 79.4       | High         |
| 3       | 4      | Lack of interest from government media institutions and newspapers in spreading the values of democracy and participation among young people. | 3.97 | .85           | 79.4       | High         |
| 4       | 10     | Lack of interest of political organization committees in exchanging political ideas among young people.                                       | 3.95 | .77           | 79.0       | High         |
| 5       | 12     | The Gaza war activated the media role of the committees of Palestinian political organizations.                                               | 3.88 | .80           | 77.6       | High         |
| 6       | 5      | Newspaper and magazine platforms are not committed to presenting young people's opinions and suggestions.                                     | 3.86 | .92           | 77.2       | High         |

|                                      |   |                                                                                                                        |             |             |             |             |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 7                                    | 8 | The failure of political organization committees to express the civility of society and its escalating needs.          | 3.86        | .81         | 77.2        | High        |
| 8                                    | 7 | Palestinian youth and sports centers' interest in youth political activities has declined.                             | 3.84        | .92         | 76.8        | High        |
| 9                                    | 1 | The interest of Palestinian political organizations' committees in the issue of political culture has declined.        | 3.78        | .82         | 75.6        | High        |
| 10                                   | 2 | Civil society organizations fear the issue of political culture.                                                       | 3.76        | .78         | 75.2        | High        |
| 11                                   | 6 | Low interest in youth political culture among professional unions, civil society organizations, and labor federations. | 3.75        | .93         | 75.0        | High        |
| 12                                   | 9 | Some political organizing committees focus on religious culture rather than political culture.                         | 3.52        | 1.00        | 70.4        | High        |
| <b>The overall score of the axis</b> |   |                                                                                                                        | <b>3.85</b> | <b>0.54</b> | <b>77.0</b> | <b>High</b> |

Table 5 shows that the items regarding factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections linked to civil society organizations scored high, with arithmetic means ranging from 3.52 to 4.01. The item with the highest mean was item No. (11), which states, "The Gaza war worked to strengthen the Palestinian national narrative locally and globally" with a mean of (4.01) and a percentage of (80.2%). The statement with the lowest mean was statement No. (9), which reads: "Some political organizing committees focus on religious culture rather than political culture" with a mean of (3.52) and a percentage of (70.4%). Consequently, this result indicates that the factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in general national elections linked to civil society organizations were high, as evidenced by the overall score, which had a mean of (3.85) and a percentage of (77%).

We suggest that this finding reflects the growing role played by civil society organizations in shaping political awareness, particularly given the complex political conditions facing Palestinian society. Through their activities and awareness-raising programs, these organizations have contributed to enhancing individuals' awareness of national issues and reinforcing the concept of political participation as a fundamental tool for influencing public discourse. The researchers also note that the

escalation of major events, foremost among them the Gaza genocide, has afforded civil society organizations greater space to highlight the Palestinian national narrative at both the local and international levels. This has positively impacted individuals' level of political awareness and strengthened their interest in following and engaging with public affairs. This interaction between political events and the performance of these organizations has contributed to raising awareness regarding participation in elections. Conversely, the researchers explain the lower average score for the section regarding some organizations' committees focusing on religious rather than political culture by noting that this orientation may limit the effectiveness of political awareness-raising discourse. However, it did not have a decisive impact in light of other, more influential factors related to the national dimension and general political conditions. Accordingly, we assert that the high means reflect the effectiveness of civil society organizations in fostering advanced political awareness, driven by their engagement with the national context and their ability to direct public attention toward the importance of participating in general national elections.

The answer to the third question, which reads: What factors influence the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and are related to the university?

**Table 6: Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and are related to the university.**

| Ranking | Number | Paragraphs                                                                                                      | Mean | Standard dev. | percentage | Appreciation |
|---------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1       | 3      | Poor development of citizenship values among students contributes to their low participation in political life. | 4.00 | .81           | 80.0       | High         |

|                                      |    |                                                                                                       |             |            |             |             |
|--------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2                                    | 12 | The university administration fears the occupation authorities' actions towards the university.       | 3.91        | .94        | 78.2        | High        |
| 3                                    | 11 | The university administration's concern for the educational process.                                  | 3.82        | .98        | 76.4        | High        |
| 4                                    | 4  | Weak political dialogue between students within the university halls.                                 | 3.81        | .93        | 76.2        | High        |
| 5                                    | 2  | Some professors ignored students' discussion of political issues within the university.               | 3.76        | 1.06       | 75.2        | High        |
| 6                                    | 1  | The university's interest in spreading political culture among students has declined.                 | 3.75        | .96        | 75.0        | High        |
| 7                                    | 13 | The role of student blocs at the university in developing students' political awareness has declined. | 3.75        | .99        | 75.0        | High        |
| 8                                    | 7  | The university's interest is limited to students' cultural activities.                                | 3.74        | .99        | 74.8        | High        |
| 9                                    | 9  | The university's separation from the political issues of young people.                                | 3.74        | .99        | 74.8        | High        |
| 10                                   | 6  | The university administration's lack of interest in student participation in the political process.   | 3.71        | 1.06       | 74.2        | High        |
| 11                                   | 8  | The university imposes restrictions on political activities on campus.                                | 3.70        | 1.07       | 74.0        | High        |
| 12                                   | 15 | The low efficiency of university courses in promoting political culture among students.               | 3.70        | 1.01       | 74.0        | High        |
| 13                                   | 14 | The Student Council encourages constructive political dialogue among students at the university.      | 3.49        | 1.07       | 69.8        | High        |
| 14                                   | 5  | The decline in political activities on campus affects the educational process.                        | 3.47        | 1.07       | 69.4        | High        |
| 15                                   | 10 | University professors' lack of political culture.                                                     | 3.29        | 1.02       | 65.8        | Average     |
| <b>The overall score of the axis</b> |    |                                                                                                       | <b>3.71</b> | <b>.68</b> | <b>74.2</b> | <b>High</b> |

Table 6 shows that the items related to factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections linked to the university scored high, with arithmetic means ranging from 3.29 to 4.00. The item with the highest mean was Item 3, which states, "Poor development of citizenship values among students contributes to their low participation in political life" with a mean of 4.00 and a percentage of 80%. The statement with the lowest mean was statement No. (10), which reads: "University professors' lack of political culture" with a mean of (3.29) and a percentage of (65.8%). Consequently, this result indicates that the factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and those related to the university were high, as indicated by the overall score, which had a mean of (3.71) and a percentage of (74.2%).

This finding highlights the pivotal role that the university plays, as an educational and social institution, in shaping students' awareness—not only on an academic level, but also on a political and civic level. The university represents an interactive

environment that allows students to engage with diverse ideas and participate in public debates, which contributes to developing their awareness of national issues and the importance of participating in political life. The researchers believe that the fact that the item regarding the weak development of civic values received the highest mean score reflects students' high awareness of the importance of these values in enhancing their political participation, as a sense of belonging and national responsibility constitutes a fundamental motivation for engaging in elections. This indicates that students possess a critical awareness of the shortcomings in the university environment regarding the promotion of these values. Conversely, we suggest that the low mean score for the item regarding university professors' lack of political culture reflects that students do not view this factor as a major obstacle. This may be attributed to the diversity of their sources of political knowledge, which are not limited to faculty members, given their exposure to the media and social media platforms. Accordingly, we assert that the high overall score reflects the contribution of the university environment,

including its academic and social interactions, to the formation of a notable political awareness among students. Although this is influenced to varying degrees by the extent to which civic values are established and reinforced on campus.

The answer to the fourth question, which reads: What factors influence the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and are related to the family?

**Table 7: Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and are related to the family.**

| Ranking                              | Number | Paragraphs                                                                           | Mean        | Standard dev. | percentage  | Appreciation   |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1                                    | 10     | The family's fear of the Israeli occupation for the future of its children.          | 4.05        | 1.00          | 81.0        | High           |
| 2                                    | 11     | Family concern for economic needs at the expense of political culture.               | 3.80        | 1.10          | 76.0        | High           |
| 3                                    | 7      | Weak family encouragement of youth involvement in political organizations.           | 3.52        | 1.12          | 70.4        | High           |
| 4                                    | 5      | Low level of family dialogue with young people on important political matters.       | 3.44        | 1.05          | 68.8        | High           |
| 5                                    | 4      | Weak family interest in the political upbringing of young people.                    | 3.26        | 1.07          | 65.2        | Average        |
| 6                                    | 8      | The lack of democratic values related to accepting other opinions within the family. | 3.17        | 1.24          | 63.4        | Average        |
| 7                                    | 6      | Family members do not participate in parliamentary elections.                        | 3.14        | 1.13          | 62.8        | Average        |
| 8                                    | 9      | The family's lack of respect for its children's intellectual privacy.                | 3.08        | 1.23          | 61.6        | Average        |
| 9                                    | 3      | The family's disregard for important political issues.                               | 3.04        | 1.16          | 60.8        | Average        |
| 10                                   | 2      | There is a weakness in the political culture of my family members.                   | 3.02        | 1.19          | 60.4        | Average        |
| 11                                   | 1      | My family ignores my political views and orientations.                               | 2.98        | 1.19          | 59.6        | Average        |
| <b>The overall score of the axis</b> |        |                                                                                      | <b>3.32</b> | <b>0.79</b>   | <b>66.4</b> | <b>Average</b> |

Table 7 shows that the items related to family-related factors influencing political awareness regarding participation in national general elections received moderate scores, with arithmetic means ranging from 2.98 to 4.05. The item with the highest mean was item (10), which reads "The family's fear of the Israeli occupation for the future of its children" with a mean of (4.05) and a percentage of (81%). The item with the lowest mean was item No. (1), which reads "My family ignores my political views and orientations" with a mean of (2.98) and a percentage of (59.6%). Consequently, this result indicates that the factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections related to the family were moderate, as indicated by the overall score, which had a mean of (3.32) and a percentage of (66.4%).

The researchers attribute this finding to the

complex nature of the family's role in shaping political awareness, as it exerts an indirect influence in which emotional and social dimensions intertwine with the political dimension. As the primary nurturing environment for the individual, the family contributes to the transmission of values and general attitudes. However, its influence in the political sphere is often characterized by caution, particularly in environments facing complex security and political conditions. The researchers explain the high mean score for the item regarding families' fear for their children's future in light of the political and security context, as families tend to adopt conservative stances aimed at protecting their children from potential risks. This reflects the presence of the security factor as one of the main determinants in shaping political attitudes within the family. While this fear serves as a motive for caution,

it also contributes to raising children's awareness of the nature of the political reality and its complexities. Conversely, the low mean score regarding the family's disregard for children's political views indicates a degree of dialogue and interaction within the family, allowing for the exchange of viewpoints and the inclusion of differing opinions. This reinforces the individual's autonomy in forming their political consciousness. Consequently, the researchers believe that the "moderate" nature of the

family's influence stems from a balance between its role in social and political socialization on the one hand, and its desire to avoid exposing its children to risks on the other, which makes its influence present but less intense compared to other factors.

The answer to the fifth question, which reads: What factors influence the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and are related to the individual?

**Table 8: Factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and are related to the individual.**

| Ranking                       | Number | Paragraphs                                                                                                     | Mean | Standard dev. | percentage | Appreciation |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------|------------|--------------|
| 1                             | 2      | Economic problems of youth.                                                                                    | 4.17 | .82           | 83.4       | High         |
| 2                             | 12     | Young people are increasingly busy with social media.                                                          | 4.11 | .87           | 82.2       | High         |
| 3                             | 13     | The use of technology has affected youth culture.                                                              | 4.09 | .88           | 81.8       | High         |
| 4                             | 14     | Low confidence of youth in Palestinian organizations.                                                          | 4.08 | .93           | 81.6       | High         |
| 5                             | 3      | Social problems of youth.                                                                                      | 4.01 | .84           | 80.2       | High         |
| 6                             | 5      | Young people lose confidence in the election results.                                                          | 3.99 | .95           | 79.8       | High         |
| 7                             | 1      | Poor cultural level of youth.                                                                                  | 3.95 | .90           | 79.0       | High         |
| 8                             | 9      | Youth attendance at political seminars has declined.                                                           | 3.94 | .94           | 78.8       | High         |
| 9                             | 7      | Psychological frustration of young people due to the negative performance of the Palestinian political system. | 3.92 | .99           | 78.4       | High         |
| 10                            | 6      | Young people's loss of confidence in the Palestinian political system.                                         | 3.90 | .93           | 78.0       | High         |
| 11                            | 10     | Weak youth participation in the electoral process.                                                             | 3.78 | .86           | 75.6       | High         |
| 12                            | 8      | Low youth follow-up on important political issues.                                                             | 3.66 | 1.06          | 73.2       | High         |
| 13                            | 11     | I feel that my electoral vote is influential in the election process.                                          | 3.56 | 1.22          | 71.2       | High         |
| 14                            | 4      | The weak value of youth's belonging to the homeland.                                                           | 3.54 | 1.08          | 70.8       | High         |
| The overall score of the axis |        |                                                                                                                | 3.91 | 0.55          | 78.2       | High         |

Table 8 shows that the items related to individual-level factors influencing political awareness regarding participation in national general elections received high scores, with arithmetic means ranging

from 3.54 to 4.17. The item with the highest mean was Item No. (2), which reads "Economic problems of youth" with a mean of (4.17) and a percentage of (83.4%). The item with the lowest mean was item No.

(4), which read “The weak value of youth's belonging to the homeland” with a mean of (3.54) and a percentage of (70.8%). Consequently, this result indicates that the factors influencing the formation of political awareness regarding participation in national general elections and related to the individual were high, as indicated by the overall score, which had a mean of (3.91) and a percentage of (78.2%).

The researchers attribute these findings to the growing role of individual factors in shaping political awareness, particularly considering the economic and social transformations that directly affect young people's lives. Economic pressures, chief among them unemployment and the rising cost of living, serve as a catalyst for increasing young people's interest in politics, as a sphere through which they can influence public policies related to their living conditions and future. We believe that the fact that the section on economic issues received the highest average score reflects a deep awareness among young people of the link between their economic conditions and political decisions, which drives them to develop a more mature political consciousness based on the connection between government performance and their daily lives. This reinforces their tendency to follow public issues and engage in

discussions related to elections. Conversely, the researchers explain the low mean score for the section on weak national belonging by noting that a sense of belonging remains present among young people to a reasonable degree and has not reached a level that constitutes a fundamental obstacle to the formation of political awareness or participation, despite the challenges they face. Based on this, the researchers assert that the high overall mean reflects that the individual, through their daily experiences and observations, has become a central factor in the development of political awareness, where economic factors intersect with political awareness to drive greater interest in participating in general national elections.

## 5. RESULTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC HYPOTHESES

Results of the first hypothesis, which states: There is no statistically significant relationship at a significance level of ( $\alpha \geq 0.05$ ) between the factors influencing the formation of political awareness and participation in national general elections attributable to gender.

To test this hypothesis, an independent samples t-test was used, as shown in Table 9.

**Table 9: Results of the t-test for two independent groups to examine the significance of differences in the responses of study participants regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections, according to gender.**

| Topic                                                              | Gender | Number | Mean   | Standard dev. | Degrees of freedom | T-value | Level of significance |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Factors related to societal circumstances having a political stamp | Male   | 213    | 3.7379 | .52344        | 410                | 1.122   | .262                  |
|                                                                    | Female | 199    | 3.6819 | .48651        |                    |         |                       |
| Factors related to the organizations of the civil society          | Male   | 213    | 3.9347 | .53964        | 410                | 3.175   | .002                  |
|                                                                    | Female | 199    | 3.7647 | .54693        |                    |         |                       |
| Factors related to the university                                  | Male   | 213    | 3.7433 | .75003        | 410                | .901    | .368                  |
|                                                                    | Female | 199    | 3.6827 | .60072        |                    |         |                       |
| Factors related to the family                                      | Male   | 213    | 3.3747 | .79598        | 410                | 1.346   | .179                  |
|                                                                    | Female | 199    | 3.2695 | .78938        |                    |         |                       |
| Factors related to the individual                                  | Male   | 213    | 3.9507 | .57171        | 410                | 1.425   | .155                  |
|                                                                    | Female | 199    | 3.8722 | .54420        |                    |         |                       |

Table (9) shows that the significance level is higher than required in the study ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the

responses of the study sample regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections, attributed to gender across all dimensions, except with the factors related to civil society organizations, and these differences favored males.

The researchers attribute this finding to the convergence of experiences and the social and political conditions faced by both men and women, as both groups are exposed to the same general context of events and challenges. This contributes to the formation of a political awareness that is largely similar, explaining the absence of statistically significant differences across most dimensions. The researchers also believe that exposure to the media and social media platforms, along with easy access to political information, has helped narrow the gender gap in political awareness, such that this awareness is no longer the exclusive domain of one group over another, but rather the product of a shared societal experience. Regarding the difference on the civil society organizations axis in favor of males, the

researchers accredit this to the nature of field participation, as males may have greater opportunities for direct engagement in the activities of these organizations – whether for social or cultural reasons or due to the nature of the movement and public work – which grants them broader experience in this field. This is reflected in their level of awareness specifically related to this area. Based on this, the researchers assert that gender was not a decisive factor in shaping political awareness in general, with the exception of the degree of practical engagement in civil society institutions, which may vary depending on the opportunities available to both men and women.

The results of the second hypothesis, which states: There is no statistically significant relationship at a significance level of ( $\alpha \geq 0.05$ ) between the factors influencing the formation of political awareness and participation in national general elections attributable to academic year.

To test this hypothesis, a one-way ANOVA was used, as shown in Table 10.

**Table 10: Results of the one-way ANOVA for the study sample's responses regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections, according to academic year.**

| Variables                                                                 | Source of the discrepancy | Total squares | Degrees of freedom | Mean of the squares | F-value | Level of significance |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| <b>Factors related to societal circumstances having a political stamp</b> | Between groups            | 1.614         | 4                  | .404                | 1.585   | .177                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 103.659       | 407                | .255                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 105.273       | 411                |                     |         |                       |
| <b>Factors related to the organizations of the civil society</b>          | Between groups            | 2.234         | 4                  | .559                | 1.868   | .115                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 121.704       | 407                | .299                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 123.938       | 411                |                     |         |                       |
| <b>Factors related to the university</b>                                  | Between groups            | 4.129         | 4                  | 1.032               | 2.247   | .063                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 186.958       | 407                | .459                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 191.087       | 411                |                     |         |                       |
| <b>Factors related to the family</b>                                      | Between groups            | 5.846         | 4                  | 1.462               | 2.351   | .054                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 252.991       | 407                | .622                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 258.838       | 411                |                     |         |                       |

|                                          |                |         |     |      |       |      |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-----|------|-------|------|
| <b>Factors related to the individual</b> | Between groups | 1.875   | 4   | .469 | 1.506 | .200 |
|                                          | Within groups  | 126.691 | 407 | .311 |       |      |
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 128.566 | 411 |      |       |      |

Table (10) shows that the significance level is higher than that required in the study ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted, indicating that there are no statistically significant differences in the responses of the study sample regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections, as attributed to academic year.

We ascribe this finding to the fact that students, regardless of their year of study, are exposed to a university environment that is similar in terms of educational content and social experiences, which limits the existence of significant differences in their level of political awareness. As a unified institutional framework, the university provides students with similar opportunities to learn about and engage with political issues, whether through coursework or extracurricular activities. The researchers also argue that the greatest influence on the formation of political awareness is not linked to the academic year as much as it is to factors outside the academic framework, such as the general political reality, the media, and social media platforms. These are factors

to which all students are exposed to a similar degree regardless of their academic level. Furthermore, the nature of the national issues at hand, and their inherently pressing and urgent character, contribute to the development of early political awareness among students, thereby reducing the likelihood of clear cumulative differences emerging as they progress through their academic years. Based on this, we assert that the absence of differences reflects a homogeneity in the sources shaping students' political awareness, and that academic year did not constitute a significant variable in this context compared to other factors that are more prominent and influential.

The results of the third hypothesis, which states: There is no statistically significant relationship at a significance level of ( $\alpha \geq 0.05$ ) between the factors influencing the formation of political awareness and participation in national general elections attributable to the university.

To test this hypothesis, a one-way ANOVA was used, as shown in Table 11.

**Table 11: Results of the one-way ANOVA for the study sample's responses regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections, according to the university variable.**

| Variables                                                                 | Source of the discrepancy | Total squares | Degrees of freedom | Mean of the squares | F-value | Level of significance |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| <b>Factors related to societal circumstances having a political stamp</b> | Between groups            | .255          | 3                  | .085                | .330    | .804                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 105.019       | 408                | .257                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 105.273       | 411                |                     |         |                       |
| <b>Factors related to the organizations of the civil society</b>          | Between groups            | .080          | 3                  | .027                | .088    | .967                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 123.858       | 408                | .304                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 123.938       | 411                |                     |         |                       |
| <b>Factors related to the university</b>                                  | Between groups            | 3.334         | 3                  | 1.111               | 2.415   | .066                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 187.753       | 408                | .460                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 191.087       | 411                |                     |         |                       |

|                                          |                |         |     |       |       |      |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-----|-------|-------|------|
| <b>Factors related to the family</b>     | Between groups | 3.170   | 3   | 1.057 | 1.686 | .169 |
|                                          | Within groups  | 255.667 | 408 | .627  |       |      |
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 258.838 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the individual</b> | Between groups | .542    | 3   | .181  | .576  | .631 |
|                                          | Within groups  | 128.024 | 408 | .314  |       |      |
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 128.566 | 411 |       |       |      |

Table (11) shows that the significance level is higher than that required in the study ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted, stating that there are no statistically significant differences in the responses of the study sample regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in general national elections, attributable to the university.

We accredit this finding to the fact that universities, despite their differences, operate within a similar educational and cultural environment in terms of curricula and extracurricular activities, which contributes to shaping a similar level of political awareness among students. Furthermore, the influence of the media and social media—which have become the primary sources of political information—extends beyond the university campus and creates a state of homogeneity in students' attitudes toward national issues, including

participation in elections. Additionally, the absence of differences may stem from the similarity of the social, economic, and political conditions in which students live, which play a pivotal role in shaping their political awareness to a greater extent than the influence of the university itself. Consequently, the university is no longer the decisive factor in shaping political awareness; rather, it is part of a broader system of overlapping influences that contribute to shaping individuals' attitudes toward political participation.

The results of the fourth hypothesis which states: There is no statistically significant relationship at a significance level of ( $\alpha \geq 0.05$ ) between the factors influencing the formation of political awareness and participation in national general elections attributable to place of residence.

A one-way ANOVA was used to test this hypothesis, as shown in Table 12.

**Table 12 Results of the one-way ANOVA for the study sample's responses regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections, according to place of residence.**

| <b>Variables</b>                                                          | <b>Source of the discrepancy</b> | <b>Total squares</b> | <b>Degrees of freedom</b> | <b>Mean of the squares</b> | <b>F-value</b> | <b>Level of significance</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Factors related to societal circumstances having a political stamp</b> | Between groups                   | .332                 | 2                         | .166                       | .647           | .524                         |
|                                                                           | Within groups                    | 104.941              | 409                       | .257                       |                |                              |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>                     | 105.273              | 411                       |                            |                |                              |
| <b>Factors related to the organizations of the civil society</b>          | Between groups                   | .073                 | 2                         | .037                       | .121           | .886                         |
|                                                                           | Within groups                    | 123.865              | 409                       | .303                       |                |                              |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>                     | 123.938              | 411                       |                            |                |                              |
| <b>Factors related to the university</b>                                  | Between groups                   | .684                 | 2                         | .342                       | .734           | .481                         |
|                                                                           | Within groups                    | 190.404              | 409                       | .466                       |                |                              |

|                                          |                |         |     |       |       |      |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-----|-------|-------|------|
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 191.087 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the family</b>     | Between groups | 2.318   | 2   | 1.159 | 1.848 | .159 |
|                                          | Within groups  | 256.520 | 409 | .627  |       |      |
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 258.838 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the individual</b> | Between groups | .025    | 2   | .012  | .040  | .961 |
|                                          | Within groups  | 128.541 | 409 | .314  |       |      |
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 128.566 | 411 |       |       |      |

Table (12) shows that the significance level is higher than that required in the study ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted, indicating that there are no statistically significant differences in the responses of the study sample regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in general national elections, attributable to place of residence.

The researchers attribute this finding to the fact that the influence of place of residence is no longer a decisive factor in shaping individuals' political awareness, given the current state of information accessibility and the significant advancements in communication technologies. The proliferation of traditional and digital media, alongside social media, has helped narrow the gaps between different residential environments—whether urban, rural, or in camps—and created a convergence in the level of knowledge and interest in political issues. This result can also be explained by the fact that individuals, regardless of where they live, are exposed to largely similar political and social conditions, particularly in

the broader national context, which reinforces their unified tendencies toward participating in elections. In addition, educational institutions and organizational and party frameworks play a role in creating a convergent political awareness that transcends the geographical boundaries of place of residence. Consequently, place of residence no longer represents a fundamentally influential variable in shaping political awareness, but rather has become part of a broader system of interrelated factors that contribute to guiding individuals' behavior and attitudes toward electoral participation.

The results of the fifth hypothesis, which states: There is no statistically significant relationship at a significance level of ( $\alpha \geq 0.05$ ) between the factors influencing the formation of political awareness and participation in national general elections and average monthly household income.

A one-way ANOVA was used to test this hypothesis, as shown in Table 13.

**Table 13 Results of the one-way ANOVA for the study sample's responses regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections, according to average monthly household income.**

| Variables                                                                 | Source of the discrepancy | Total squares | Degrees of freedom | Mean of the squares | F-value | Level of significance |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| <b>Factors related to societal circumstances having a political stamp</b> | Between groups            | 1.759         | 3                  | .586                | 2.310   | .076                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 103.515       | 408                | .254                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 105.273       | 411                |                     |         |                       |
| <b>Factors related to the organizations of the civil society</b>          | Between groups            | .277          | 3                  | .092                | .304    | .822                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 123.662       | 408                | .303                |         |                       |

|                                          |                |         |     |       |       |      |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-----|-------|-------|------|
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 123.938 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the university</b> | Between groups | 3.449   | 3   | 1.150 | 2.500 | .059 |
|                                          | Within groups  | 187.638 | 408 | .460  |       |      |
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 191.087 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the family</b>     | Between groups | 4.279   | 3   | 1.426 | 2.286 | .078 |
|                                          | Within groups  | 254.559 | 408 | .624  |       |      |
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 258.838 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the individual</b> | Between groups | .553    | 3   | .184  | .587  | .624 |
|                                          | Within groups  | 128.013 | 408 | .314  |       |      |
|                                          | <b>Total</b>   | 128.566 | 411 |       |       |      |

Table (13) shows that the significance level is higher than that required in the study ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted, indicating that there are no statistically significant differences in the responses of the study sample regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in general national elections, as ascribed to average monthly household income.

The researchers attribute this finding to the fact that monthly household income is no longer a significant factor influencing political awareness or voter turnout, given the social and economic changes that have helped narrow the gaps between individuals in terms of access to information and interest in public affairs. The widespread availability of media and social media has provided relatively equal opportunities for different economic groups to learn about political issues and follow current events, leading to a convergence in levels of political awareness regardless of income level. This result can also be explained by the fact that general national

issues affect all segments of society without exception, which strengthens individuals' sense of belonging and shared responsibility, and means that political participation is not directly linked to economic capacity. In addition, cultural, educational, and social affiliations may play a more influential role than economic factors in shaping political awareness and guiding electoral behavior. Consequently, monthly household income did not emerge as variable explaining differences in the level of political awareness or electoral participation, but rather is part of a broader system of interrelated factors that contribute to shaping individuals' political attitudes and behavior.

The results of the sixth hypothesis, which states: There is no statistically significant relationship at a significance level of ( $\alpha \geq 0.05$ ) between the factors influencing the formation of political awareness and participation in national general elections attributable to parents' educational level.

A one-way ANOVA was used to test this hypothesis, as shown in Table 14.

**Table 14: Results of the one-way ANOVA for the study sample's responses regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in national general elections, according to parents' educational level.**

| Variables                                                                 | Source of the discrepancy | Total squares | Degrees of freedom | Mean of the squares | F-value | Level of significance |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| <b>Factors related to societal circumstances having a political stamp</b> | Between groups            | .395          | 2                  | .198                | .771    | .463                  |
|                                                                           | Within groups             | 104.878       | 409                | .256                |         |                       |
|                                                                           | <b>Total</b>              | 105.273       | 411                |                     |         |                       |

|                                                                  |                |         |     |       |       |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-----|-------|-------|------|
| <b>Factors related to the organizations of the civil society</b> | Between groups | .538    | 2   | .269  | .892  | .411 |
|                                                                  | Within groups  | 123.400 | 409 | .302  |       |      |
|                                                                  | <b>Total</b>   | 123.938 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the university</b>                         | Between groups | .558    | 2   | .279  | .599  | .550 |
|                                                                  | Within groups  | 190.529 | 409 | .466  |       |      |
|                                                                  | <b>Total</b>   | 191.087 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the family</b>                             | Between groups | 3.591   | 2   | 1.795 | 2.877 | .057 |
|                                                                  | Within groups  | 255.247 | 409 | .624  |       |      |
|                                                                  | <b>Total</b>   | 258.838 | 411 |       |       |      |
| <b>Factors related to the individual</b>                         | Between groups | 1.750   | 2   | .875  | 2.823 | .061 |
|                                                                  | Within groups  | 126.815 | 409 | .310  |       |      |
|                                                                  | <b>Total</b>   | 128.566 | 411 |       |       |      |

Table (14) shows that the significance level is higher than that required in the study ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted, indicating that there are no statistically significant differences in the responses of the study sample regarding the factors influencing the formation of political awareness toward participation in general national elections, attributable to parents' educational level.

The researchers attribute this finding to the fact that parents' educational level is no longer a decisive factor in shaping their children's political awareness or influencing their participation in elections, given the cognitive and social transformations taking place in society. Individuals have come to rely more heavily on diverse sources of information, foremost among them the media and social media, which have contributed to the formation of political awareness that is relatively independent of the traditional family environment. This finding can also be explained by the fact that educational institutions, at all levels, play a significant role in developing students' political awareness, thereby compensating for potential differences resulting from variations in parents' educational levels. Furthermore, the nature of general national issues and their direct relevance to individuals' lives contribute to creating a sense of shared concern, regardless of the family's educational background. Consequently, the influence of parents' educational level appears limited compared to other more influential factors,

such as the educational environment, broader socialization, and engagement in the digital sphere, which collectively contribute more clearly to shaping individuals' attitudes toward political participation.

## 6. LIMITATIONS

The sample size was limited to 412 participants due to practical constraints associated with the occupation and genocide being perpetrated against the Palestinian people. The researchers encountered several factors that limited access to a larger number of students. The most notable factors are described below.

1. Security restrictions: The ongoing occupation and the fragmentation of Palestinian cities hindered direct access to students and prevented field surveys from being conducted.

2. Psychological and social pressures: The state of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty experienced by Palestinian students due to the ongoing illegal occupation has reduced their willingness to participate in research studies or devote time to answering questionnaires.

3. Instrument-induced selectivity: The reliance on an online questionnaire automatically excluded a segment of students who do not own smartphones or have internet access, which reduced the response rate.

4. Economic circumstances: Some students were forced to sell their personal belongings and smartphones and the proceeds to provide food and

drink for their families or to pay university tuition and cover transportation costs, especially in light of the Israeli financial blockade imposed on the Palestinian people.

5. **Timing:** The data collection period coincided with a critical phase of the war and the blockade, causing a number of students to decline participation due to their preoccupation with securing their basic needs.

6. **Living conditions:** Students are constantly preoccupied with meeting their daily needs throughout the day and stand in long lines for hours at the Israeli checkpoints that cut off Palestinian cities.

7. **Medical and emergency circumstances:** There is scarcely a Palestinian family that has not experienced the martyrdom or injury (whether serious, moderate, or minor) of a family member, or the imprisonment of innocent family members in Israeli prisons as a result of the illegal occupation and genocide. This situation negatively affects students' willingness to cooperate with the researchers in completing the online questionnaire.

Consequently, the limited sample size necessitates interpreting the results with caution and viewing them as a reflection of exceptional circumstances that do not permit generalization to all individuals living in Palestine. Conducting this study under unprecedented circumstances presented a challenge that was difficult for the authors in various scientific and academic fields to address.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY IN LIGHT OF ITS FINDINGS

1. The need to strengthen the role of

educational institutions, particularly universities, in fostering political awareness among students by incorporating concepts of political participation and elections into the curriculum, as well as by promoting student activities that encourage constructive political dialogue and debate.

2. The importance of positively leveraging the media and social media, given their significant role in shaping political awareness among various segments of society and working to guide these organizations and platforms towards spreading a culture of democratic participation and reinforcing national values.

3. The need to support community initiatives targeting young people, as they are the segment most affected and most capable of bringing about change, through awareness and training programs aimed at enhancing their participation in political life.

4. The integration of efforts between official and civil society institutions in promoting political awareness, so that the role is not limited to a single entity but is part of a comprehensive national framework that seeks to build a political culture based on awareness and responsibility.

5. The conducting of additional studies that address other variables that may have a greater impact on shaping political awareness, such as party affiliation, level of media exposure, and the nature of the cultural and social environment, with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of the factors influencing political participation.

6. The creation of a political environment that encourages participation by strengthening trust in the electoral process and ensuring transparency and integrity, thereby contributing to increased voter turnout in national elections.

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