

University students' attitudes towards women's issues: a comparative study between the Universities of Duhok and Yuzuncu Yil(2014-2015)

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Abstract:

The current study aims to discover the attitudes of the students of the universities of Duhok and Yuzuncu Yil towards women's issues relating to education, work and assuming administrative positions and political participation. Besides, the study aims at spotting the impact of certain variables (e.g., sex, university, specialization and grade) on students' attitudes towards women's issues.

The importance of this study stands out as it looks at the significance of studying trends in general and at the significance of the subject of the gender equality of women and man their right to get education, employment, political participation and administrative positions. It also detects the role of university education in a change in attitudes towards some of the traditional social issues that hinder such a development, aiming at uncovering the proposals and future recommendations which may lead to prosperity and social stability.

This study depended on a descriptive approach that is based on a comparative study of the phenomenon as it is in reality. The researcher has used a special tool (a questionnaire) for the detection of students' attitudes towards the right of women to get education, employment, political participation and administrative positions. The preparation of the questionnaire has passed through two stages: The first stage: the exploratory study and the second stage: the basic field study.

The study sample consisted of (195) students selected from the University of Duhok and Yuzuncu Yil. The researcher used the following statistical treatments: (Frequencies, percentages) as well as test (T.Test) to find significant differences between the mean scores of students in the scale used in the light of the variables under study such as sex (male students, female students) and universities (Duhok University and Yuzuncu Yil University). The researcher depended on the analysis of mono variance in the comparison on the basis of grade and specialization.

The study has concluded the following findings:

1. The general trend for members of the study sample of both male and female students about women's issues was a positive one; the results indicate there is a growing belief in the importance of women's participation in employment, education and politics and that it is regarded as one of the factors affecting positively in the academic, social and economic aspects and this enhances the positive role of women in building the society.
2. The results revealed a statistically significant difference between mean scores of males and females in favour of females.
3. To detect significant differences in attitudes towards women's issues among

university students depending on the variable of university (Duhok, Yuzuncu Yil), the researcher compared between the average scores of students in the University of Duhok and the average scores of students in Yuzuncu Yil University. The results showed no significant differences in students' attitudes in the two universities.

4. The results revealed significant differences in the trends of respondents towards women's issues attributed to the variable of department of study (area of study) as the study indicates that students of the English Department at the University of Yuzuncu Yil showed more positive attitudes compared to other departments.
5. The results revealed the presence of significant differences in the trends of respondents towards women's issues attributed to the variable of the class or the school stage, and have found that fourth-grade students were more positive compared to the rest of the grades.
6. Finally, the results showed no significant differences in the trends of respondents towards women's issues due to age.

Keywords:- students, Attitude , women's issues

Introduction:

Universities continue to be history engines. This means that what is happening in universities embodies the image of the human future, taking into consideration its different aspects. Thus, universities are institutions in which new values are taught and passed to the society. This is primitively due to the consciences of science and the advancement in human knowledge. The academic university community represents the sequence of the value system within the society; the promotion of the historical sequence cannot be away from the upper knowledge institutions where the university embodies its finest forms and manifestations (AlAnsari and Watfa.2000: p. 97).

University students are considered an active community constituent that passes on the heritage of the community from parent generation to children and grandchildren generation. Therefore, university students help to absorb cultural constituents and purify them, and add to them from their innovations and creativity, and then pass them on to the following generations. The youths' minds are considered the most active minds in the areas of research and knowledge. As a matter of fact, the youths' age is the most important age in the nation, and the most active age in the preservation of nation's existence and development. Moreover, the youth represent the human capital of any society; so the development of youth is the rise and development of the society in terms of civilization and science (Shehata et al., 2003 , p. 34).

The Majority of university students are young. They are the most segments of society willing to accept the social changes and innovation. This is because the vast majority of them take a critical view which puts the whole system of the society, rules, methods of behavior and the current status under question. This leads to the contribution of youth in the possibility of taking new situations, attitudes and trends (Abdul Nabi0.2001,p.105).

What has helped the youth to form new trends and prepare them to contribute better in the society are the learning institutions, especially universities where various social issues are raised, including issues related to the recognition of women, their right to continue their education, their right to work, their possession of equal rights, their freedom of political participation, and their right to assume administrative and leading positions and so forth of things related to the reality and status of women in the society.

The situation of women in the region has witnessed a big improvement during the last two decades which has included all the economic, political, cultural, intellectual and legal fields. This development resulted from a number of factors including open-mindedness, liberal orientation, and the impetus of mass political action which emerged from the improvement of women situation and their human rights movement and also because of the international changes that led, and continues to pay in the direction of deepening the reforms and respect for human rights. As a consequence of this progress women got a number of rights, considered in the eyes of observers like a quantum leap in the direction of the actual dedication to gender equality, and the elimination of discrimination. However, this institutional and legal development did not achieve a lot in reality of women status as women still continue to suffer of exclusion, discrimination,

violence and lack of opportunities. There are major differences between text and reality. The paradox of improving women situation in the region lies largely in the fact that the legal text does not match with the socio- economic and cultural situations of women; this raises more questions about individuals' attitudes towards women's issues.

In the light of the globalization and changing world that benefits from the ability of communication and technological development, women's issues have moved with the rest of society issues for revival and renewal. This development has gone hand in hand with the development of the importance of women's issues in the context of taking care of human development without discrimination, intentional or unintentional ignorance of women. Thus, women's issue has become an important topic in all fields of life and various directions. The current interest in women in the development process is because women are the most affected ones by the side effects of the economic reform, the concomitant removal of subsidy policy, the high commodity prices, the reliance on free market and the rising of unemployment rates (Degwy, 2005, p. 220).

The subject of attitudes towards women's issues and the role of women development gained a worldwide attention. This has stood out through multiple women conferences which took place during the last quarter of the twentieth century. It began in the Copenhagen women international Conference in 1975 and in the second Women International conference that was held in 1985 and ended with Nairobi developing policies upon which the decisions of the Fourth World Conference on Women and its recommendations were based “during the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations entitled gender equality, development and peace in the twenty first century” (Ramsey, 2002, p. 587).

Based on reviewing the relevant literature on this subject, we find that the attitude towards women in the eastern communities in general take three basic directions. The first of these is the traditional trend which believes that women have weak minds and bodies and therefore their function is basically in their procreative and submissive role. This trend holds the view that women's mixing with men and her departure from house to work demeans religious values. The second direction is characterized by a relative liberal thinking without any opposition to traditions; women have the right to work within the scope of certain conditions because this would help to improve family conditions without leading to gender equality (Grame1982, p. 270). The third direction is completely liberal as it aims for equality of men and women in rights and duties; as a creature, women have the potential of creativity and the exercise of freedom. Supporters of this trend see that the backwardness of the society is caused by women's retardation (Alansari and Wtefh 0.2000, p. 190).

To enable women to contribute in the process of the progress and prosperity of the society and to provide their best capabilities and expertise, and to highlight their capabilities and skills, we have to improve women's conditions, help them do different roles and also help them identify their problems or the obstacles that are experienced inside and outside home. This is to raise their awareness of their problems. More help can be done by urging decision-makers and planners to take advantage of women's energies and

capabilities and involve them in the decision- making process of development, as well as in the development of measures to remove all the obstacles that limit their participation in employment and stand in their way to progress. This is because women's progress can contribute to the development of the society and its renaissance in all fields (Algyndi,2009, p. 181).

If our Eastern societies move towards democracy in an attempt to be consistent with the trends of contemporary civilization, it should be pointed out that the democratic society is based on several pillars, perhaps in the forefront is the belief in the equality in rights and responsibility and the respect of the opinions of others and accepting them regardless of their social kind. Accordingly, the idea of the current research has emerged; it aims to conduct a survey to identify the students' attitudes at the University of Duhok and Yale Yuzuncu Yil about women's issues in order to determine the nature of these trends.

The trends are considered the most important factors in determining and predicting human behavior, or they are one of the indicators which can help judge the reactions of various environmental stimuli. Knowing students' attitudes in universities towards women work, education and their right to assume administrative positions is related to the actual behavior towards women, their career role and assuming leadership positions. As for the negative trends, they are associated with the composition of misconceptions that contribute to the negative dealing with women. Thus scholars concerned with human behavior think that the psychological trend is the driving force behind what an individual does whether its positive or negative. It is through the individual's interaction with the environment that positions or decisions are taken sometimes (with) and sometimes (against) the various stimuli in that environment that are often the outcome of the overall experiences and situations that are passed by. Such decisions are based on the context or prior reference to it which is known as the psychological trend (Askar-and Ahmad, 2003: p. 558).

The problem of the study:

Many questions and opinions were posed about women's issues in the contemporary society. The most important of these issues is women's education, their right of working outside the house, assuming administrative and leading positions in institutions and their right of political participation. There are those who support and those who oppose this view; each group provides reasons that would back up their point of view. This is where the problem of the study appeared, focusing on answering the following questions:

1. What is the nature of the trends carried by university students about women's issues (education, work, equality, political participation)?
2. Do university students' attitudes toward women's issues vary according to these variables: age, gender, specialization, school grade and university?

The following are the justifications that led the researcher to conduct this research:

1. The researcher did not find any scientific research carried out locally to look at the trend towards women's work and their assuming of administrative and leading posts in the

various private and public administrative institutions.

2. Lack of the scientific knowledge of the factors that influence positively or negatively women's issues of getting education and employment, and assuming administrative and leading posts in the local community institutions.
3. The researcher has recognized the importance of this research as he reviewed the previous literature of both Arab and foreign studies associated with women's work and their developing role.

The importance of the study:

In general the importance of the current study can be summarized as follow:

1. The study of the psychological trends for individuals is regarded as important owing to that the human personality is a group of trends that affect the individual's habits, inclinations, conscience, styles and patterns of behavior (Mohammed, 1993, p. 749).
2. The importance of the current research can also be highlighted by identifying university students' visions and their attitudes towards some of the women's issues concerning their education, employment, political participation and assuming leading positions in the society.
3. To provide feedback and recommendations to those in charge of education departments in educational institutions concerning the prevailing employment and education of women and their right of political participation; this would enable these institutions to address the negative trends and promote the positive ones through the curriculum and extracurricular activities to support women's issues advocated by organizations and International bodies.
4. To contribute to the development and enrichment of the plans and programs designed by those in non-governmental organizations, or governmental departments and committees working on women's issues. This can be done through the provision of scientific indicators for young people with the prevailing attitudes towards women's issues.

The Objectives of the study:

The research aims to identify the following:

1. The nature of attitudes toward women's issues (education, work, equality, the right of political participation) among college students in general.
2. The significance of differences in the trends of university students about women's issues depending on the variable of (gender).
3. The significance of differences in the trends of university students about women's issues depending on the variable of the university (Duhok, Yuzuncu Yil).
4. The significance of differences in the trends of university students about women's issues depending on the variable of the department of study (specialization).
5. The significance of differences in college students' attitudes towards women's issues variable depending on the school grade.
6. The significance of differences in the trends of university students about women's issues depending on the age variable.

Terms used in the study:

1. (Attitude)

Attitude is defined as the emotional state that forms the opinion of the person or his belief of a particular subject in terms of rejection of the subject or its acceptance and the degree of rejection or acceptance. It is a state of mental and nervous readiness which comes through the experiences and expertise that the human passes through. These affect his responses of approval or disapproval towards specific topics. Thus he either prefers certain topics or tends to reject them; he therefore grants these topics either positive or negative criteria of different degrees depending on his attraction to them or his dislike of them. These topics are either things or persons, groups or ideas and principles (Shafiq 0.2006, S118-119).

And al-Zu'bi, (2001) defined it as a general mental or psychological response of an individual about specific stimuli related to a particular subject in an environment in which they live which is organized and guided by his past experiences. Therefore this individual is more dominated by this behavior than other behaviors, whether the behavior is characterized as a positive or a negative trend (Al Zu'bi 0.2001, p. 174).

Al-Obeidi, and Wali(2009) have defined it as a static acquired behavior which is relatively constant among individual and which determines the individual responses about some of the things or ideas or persons (Al-Obeidi, and Wali, 2009, p. 1).

And the trend has three basic components:

- A. Emotional component (emotional): a person's feelings and desires concerning the topic and his satisfaction or distaste, love or hatred of that topic (Ahmed, 2007, p. 196).
- B. Cognitive component: It consists of the awareness of the person subject to the direction and beliefs with him and his ideas carried by all this as well as the arguments accepted by individual subject to the direction (Shafiq, 2006, p. 123).
- C. Behavioral component: refers to the tendency of the individual in accordance with specific patterns of behavior in specific situations. And the trends work as trends of behavior, where you pay an individual to act in accordance with the trend that is adopted (Badawi, 1986, p. 379).

Theory background:

Talking about women's issues include many aspects such as the right of women to get education, employment, political participation and so on. Until a recent time, women's political participation was limited mostly to a specific class of rulers, their associates and the wealthy and influential people. While today, political participation is a right of all people; this is due to the invitations presented by intellectuals such as philosophers, writers and journalists, and also due to the spread of new ideas about democracy and citizenship which prompted individuals of both sexes to demand the right of political participation. Moreover the evolution of media and satellite technology and the use of the internet later

has lead to increase the numbers and voices of advocates of women's right of political participation, especially by young people in different countries and communities. To admit this, the United Nations General Assembly declared the International Youth day in 12 August 1999; also the United Nations report of 2007 focused on the need for consultation with young people in the developmental affairs.

Hence, the talk about involving women in all areas of development and its stages become necessary and urgent for community development. And to enable women make real contribution in the process of progress and prosperity of society and provide the best capabilities and expertise, and to highlight their capabilities and skills, we have to improve their conditions and help them to do different roles, and identify the problems or obstacles that are exposed inside or outside home in order to raise awareness about their problems, and urge decision makers and planners to take advantage of their energies, and involve them in the decision-making process of development, as well as the development of measures to remove all obstacles that limit their participation in employment, and stand in their way of progress. This is because the development of women leads to the development of the society and its renaissance in all fields.

Although our societies today are witnessing an increased interest in activating the women`s role in economic, social and political participation to meet the challenges that face every society in the light of the explosion of knowledge and technological development that make the world like a small village; however, the social reality in our Eastern societies with their cultural and traditional heritage that emphasizes male dominance and inferiority of women is one of the most important barriers to women's participation that prevents making women a full partner of men in the development efforts needed in our communities today more than any time before.

The trends are considered the most important determinants which enable the prediction of human behavior or as one of the indicators by which we can judge the reactions of various environmental stimuli. Knowing the trends of male and female workers in different institutions towards the issue of women`s assuming leading and administrative positions is related to the actual behavior towards women, their career role and their assuming leading positions, and also to the composition of misconceptions that contribute to the negative treatment of women. This is because scholars of human behavior consider psychological trend as a driving force behind what the individual does; as it is through their dealings with the environment that they take positions or decisions sometimes (with) and sometimes (against) the various stimuli in that environment that are often the result of the overall experiences and attitudes that is passed by. When such decisions are taken, it should depend on a prior reference that is based on a relative stability; this reference is known as the psychological trend (Askarand Ahmad, 2003: p. 558).

A woman`s assuming of administrative leadership positions in the eastern society institutions is one of the topics that vary with responses from a full consent of a great extent to a complete opposition and an absolute disapproval. The higher the respondents` responses about the work of women in administrative leadership positions, the higher the

opportunities of women to fill in administrative leadership positions and participate in decision-making and be influential at all levels.

Until recently, the political participation was limited mostly to a specific category of rulers, their assistants and the wealthy influential people. After that and since the renaissance and due to the invitations by the intellectuals such as philosophers, writers, journalists, and the spread of new ideas about democracy and citizenship encouraged peoples to demand their right of political participation.

Also the evolution of media and satellite technology and the use of the internet has increased the numbers of those calling for women's right of political participation, especially by young people in different countries and communities.

The women's issues have moved with the rest of the issues of the society for the revival and renewal in light of a changing world and a new era that takes advantage of the possibilities and means of communication and technological development. This has raised attention to women's issues in the context of interest in human development without discrimination or intentional or unintentional ignorance of women; thus, the women subject became strongly entered in all aspect of life in various directions. The current interest in women in the development process is because they are the social group that is mostly affected by the side effects of economic reform, the concomitant removal of subsidy policy, the rise of commodity prices, the reliance on the free market and the rise of unemployment rates (Degwy, 2005, p. 220).

The position of women issues has changed in the second half of the last century; no one tended to refuse women's right of education; thus, millions of females joined schools and universities and participated with activities of economic development but this change has led to the appearance of other issues and new problems existed the most important of which is woman's working and its consequences (Addi 2004: 138).

The eastern community looks at women in three basic trends. The first of these is the traditional trend which believes that women have weak minds and bodies and therefore their function is basically in their procreative and submissive role. This trend holds the view that women's mixing with men and her departure from house to work demeans religions values. The second direction is characterized by a relative liberal thinking without any opposition to traditions; women have the right to work within the scope of certain conditions because this would help to improve family conditions without leading to gender equality (Grame1982, p. 270). The third direction is completely liberal as it aims for equality of men and women in rights and responsibilities; as a creature, women have the potential of creativity and the exercise of freedom. Supporters of this trend see that the backwardness of the society is caused by women's retardation (Alansari and Watfa 2000, p. 190).

Today we note in our societies that the demands for women's education have increased; in fact women now equalize men in higher education in numbers. Also, they have entered the field of employment and participated with men in various sectors. Thus, the reality of women now differs from the past; there has been a noticeable change to their life that requires the study of the prevailing trends on their issues to find out their suitability

to keep up with our social heritage. The current reality puts a great challenge that imposes the need to unleash the human and financial capabilities and capacities of all categories without discrimination between males and females in order to make up the loss that our societies made during the last century. The conflict is not only a political struggle but it is an economic struggle too; how can the society stand up and preserve while its energies are being wasted. In this society women hold only a small percentage of the total workforce, while the European women occupy a very high ratio of the total workforce.

As we know that youth is the active agent in the society, who holds the heritage of the community of parents' generation to children and grandchildren generation; it works to absorb the culture components, purify them, and adds to them from their own thought and creativity; then it passes them on the next generation. The minds of young people are the most active minds in the areas of research and knowledge. Thus, as a matter of fact, we can say that the youth element is the most important element in the nation and the most active in the preservation of its existence and development; also, the young people represent the human capital of any society and its development is the rise and development of the society in terms of civilization and science (Shehata et al., 2003, p.34).

Moreover the young people are the most segments of the society willing to accept the changes and innovation; this is because the vast majority of them take critical position, ask questions about the existing systems, rules and methods of behavior; thus this contributes to the possibility that young people may take new situations, new attitudes and trends (Abdul Nabi 2001 , p. 105). We must also remember the important role played by educational institutions, especially universities in the formation and the creation of youth. Historically universities have been and continue to be the engines of history. This means that what is happening in these universities embodies the image of the human future. Thus, universities are institutions in which new values are taught and passed to the society. This is primitively due to the consciences of science and the advancement in human knowledge. The academic university community represents the sequence of the value system within the society; the promotion of the historical sequence cannot be away from the upper knowledge institutions where the university embodies its finest forms and manifestations (AlAnsari and Watfa 2000: p. 97)

The universities are considered the most important tributaries of human societies with the qualified human staffs that carry thought and culture that contribute to the formation of a promising future culture. Also, their attitudes and their opinions are important in judging various issues the most important of which are the trends towards women's education and work. Some studies have been conducted in different environments on youth trends and attitudes of women's issues. A study by AlSweiti (2008) has shown that those who were born in Palestine look to the women and to their work and their role in society and mixing with men in a positive way better than those who were born outside of Palestine while AlOsaily (2004) argued that the most prominent role of women from the point of view of the Palestinian youth is to be a housewife. Hamayel (2003) demonstrated that the trends of young people about women's work were positive.

On the whole, the study of trends occupies a prominent place in social psychology and in many personal studies and group dynamics in many applied fields such as education, health, politics ... etc. As it is the individual's attitudes towards a particular topic an indication of his behavior toward the subject (Jaber 2004 , p. 264).

Trends as other psychological and social concepts had many definitions; it is a hypothetical composition that refers to something which cannot be seen or see, but we can refer to it indirectly, through its effects, which usually include the actions of the individual or his behaviors, and through that we can observe it directly. Thus, it is impossible to be noticed but predictable through the actions of the individual himself; therefore, it is the readiness to respond in a manner involving preference or lack of preference to the subject of trend, and is usually relatively constant (Hassan 2001, p. 277).

Societies in general including our societies witness an increase of rate in youth moves towards more democracy. When this is compared to youth movement in the sixties of the last century, we note that it exceeded the limit of protest and demonstration to demand the right of political participation. Therefore, the youth are involved in the present events and in shaping the future and their participation may be a source of progress and prosperity and at the same time it may be a source of rebellion and decline and instability. So the future is still dependent on the good preparation of young university people by enabling them to carry out their roles with all the awareness and the creation and responsibility. Hence, our interest in the present study has come out and it aims to identify the trends of university students towards women's issues of education, employment and political participation.

The subject of political participation in general has received a pivotal attention by social scholars that investigate the fields of social, humanitarian and educational sciences, especially within societies that seek to determine the context of a community that increases the possibility of social, economic and political movement. University young people in our societies represent an important category that increases the political and electoral weight day after day; they are the outcome of demographic, political and educational changes in the societies with the end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty first century witnessed. They are now regarded as a source of renewal and change more than ever before. Thus, the university is one of the most important institutions that prepare students to work in the institutions and do political participation. This preparation depends on the area of academic freedom enjoyed by the university: the higher the roof of academic freedom in the universities, the greater and the more opportunities to prepare students for the exercise of future roles. The importance of political participation increases day by day within the conditions democratic transformation that is currently experienced by the world.

Literature Review:

The trends towards women's issues received the attention of many researchers. A study by Fari? (1998), entitled "The students of the Faculty of Education at the University of Sanaa attitudes towards the education of women in Yemeni society", showed that there are positive attitudes towards education of women in Yemeni society among the students

of the Faculty of Education at the University of Sanaa. These positive trends have taken several aspects in terms of the importance of women's education, and educational rights and the equality in education at all stages, and educational level and the right for women to reach the highest levels of education, and her right to choose the desired specialization without any pressure. It showed that the direction of students towards the participation of women in administrative and university teaching work was positive; It also found that there is a positive trend among students to work in mixed environment in future.

AlAnsari and Watfa(2000) carried out a study entitled "The positions of Kuwait University students of equality between men and women's issues in the light of some educational and social changes" on a sample of (714) students; the researchers used a questionnaire to measure students' attitudes and their trends on the issue of gender equality in the areas of life, especially on the issue of political participation of women in political work side by side with men and to find out the impact of social background of students' attitudes towards gender equality. The results showed that the trend of female students was positive towards gender equality, and that students have registered a strong opposition for the principle of the political participation of women, and that the educational and professional level of the parents plays a large role in influencing the trend of university students about the status of women: the higher the educational level of parents, the more positive trend of the children about the principle of equality between the sexes. Also the nature of the mother's work significantly affect on the attitudes and trends of students in science colleges more than those in humanity colleges. Moreover, the academic level has a negative impact on students' attitudes towards women's position and gender equality.

Mustafa (2002) studied the youth trends of the students in the final stages of Omar Al- Mukhtar University about women's going out to work. The study sample consisted of 255 students of the final year students. The study found that females have more positive attitudes than males toward women's going out to work, and that women have yet to reach the real contribution in the workforce and contribute to the economy and social production. Most of the views of the respondents stressed that the main motive behind the woman going out to work was primarily an economic motive and not just to prove the woman's personality. And that there is a great consensus among the respondents that there are some professions that are suitable for working women but not for others such as the teaching, nursing, administrative and the jobs that require a presence in the morning times only. These results represent negative trends for young people of both genders. This study also showed that there are negative trends towards the idea that women's get jobs because it would largely affect woman's house and therefore it would lead to family problems. However, the study confirmed that the Libyan women should participate with men in work to help in building the society. This opinion represents the positive trend among the respondents. The study concluded that factors such as the place of residence and the age are irrelevant in determining the youth trends towards young women's going out to work. It also showed that household income level has a role in pushing the views and attitudes of respondents about women's going out to work and this confirms the strength of the economic motive in the direction towards women's going out to work.

Hamayel (2003) studied the trends of the Al Najah University students in Palestinian about women's work. The study found that their attitudes were positive, and showed a statistically significant difference in their attitudes towards women's work due to the variables (sex, the work of the mother, the work of the father, place of residence, number of family members, academic level and academic average). In addition, the study recommended the introduction of a material about women in the society as a mandatory requirement of the university, with a focus on the domestic sphere. Also it confirmed that interest should be given to working mothers to help them enjoy psychological health.

The results of the Asker and Ahmed's study (2003), aimed to determine the quality of the psychological tendency to assume women supervisory positions in the Kuwaiti society, that was applied to a sample of (278) of university students and workers institutions of the State of Kuwait, showed a positive trend moderately relative to the whole sample, a positive direction of both sexes with a difference that is statistically significant in favor of females, a positive direction for people with different work experiences, as well as for married and unmarried people, with no statically significant difference between them. The researchers saw that the relative direction which is highlighted in the study represents an upward path of global demand of women's equality with men in the responsibilities, privileges, local variables of the increasing presence of women in institutions work, and the growing ambition in the collection of science and man's rival in the various functional sites.

The study conducted by AlOsaily (2004) found that the most prominent role of women from the point of Palestinian youth is to be a housewife, with giving them a role in the career position, but they did not show professional diversity, as is the case with men. Also, from the point of youth's view, women were not a decision maker in the living reality that affects all classes of people.

Al-Jamali (2005) referred to the role of women in the political development of the Sultanate of Oman in expanding the size of the political participation of Omani women at the present time. It also indicated the growing opportunity of women's participation in policies, in developmental plans and programs, and in studying the issues and projects of interest to the community. The study also highlighted that Omani women assumed outstanding administrative and leading jobs and positions (e.g., Minister, Ambassador, Director General, Director of the Department, a consultant, an expert etc). The study concluded by referring to the orientation of the state at the present time to focus on the developmental role of women, and to activate its participation in the fields of political, economic and social life.

Khalifa (2006) conducted a study entitled " Trends of a sample of students from Qatar towards modernization and the development of social and cultural roles of Qatari women". The study was applied on a sample of 136 students of the University of Qatar. The results showed a statistically significant differences in the scale of trend about social and cultural roles of Qatari women and the scale of renovation of these roles, and the scale of modernization and development in the community due to the variable of sex, and that there were no statistically significant differences (in part) in the scale of the trend towards

social and cultural roles of Qatari women and the scale of updating these roles, and the scale of modernization and development in the community due to the variable of number of years of study. The study revealed no differences attributable to the impact of bilateral interaction (sex and number of years of study) on the scale of trends.

AlSuweti's study (2008) focused on the trends of young people in the Palestinian universities towards the status of women in the Palestinian society. The sample consisted of (171) of male and female students of Palestinian universities in the West Bank, and the researcher used a scale of trends towards the status of women. The results showed that there were no statistically significant differences in students' attitudes toward the status of women according to the variable of the education of the father and the mother and according to the spatial background of the members of the sample. But there were statistically significant differences in the sex variable in favor of females and in the variable of the spatial background for parents of the respondents in terms of the place for the benefit of those born in Palestine. The study showed that those who were born in Palestine look at women, their employment, their role in society and mixing with men in a positive way better than those who were born outside of Palestine.

The method and the procedures First: the approach of the study:

The researcher used in this study the descriptive analytical method for it is the suitable method used in this kind of studies. The descriptive analytical method can be defined as "a method of search that deals with the existing events, phenomena and practices that are available to study and measure as they are without the intervention of a researcher at their events. The researcher can interact with them, describe and analyze them" (Agha and Alustath 1999, p. 83).

Second: The population and sample of the study:

The population of the study consists of students of the University of Duhok and Yuzuncu Yil for the academic year 2014-2015. The samples were selected randomly but there is a classification approach used which are students are divided into humanity college , engineering and medicine, So the sample of study included (195) male and female students who were selected from the two universities; they were (96) males and 99 females. Table 1 shows the characteristics of the research sample.

Table 1: the demographic characteristics of the research sample.

Characteristics	Frequency	100% percentage
The university:		
Duhok	80	
Yuzuncu Yil	115	
The gender:		
Male	96	
Female	99	
The age:		
18-20 year	54	

21-23 year	48	
24-26 year	68	
27-29 year	25	
The grade:		
The first year	52	
The second year	26	
The third year	103	
The fourth year	14	

Third: The tool of the study:

The study was built after reviewing the educational and social literature and looking at the previous studies on the subject. The researcher has also conducted an opinion poll of a sample of university students which consisted of (50) male and female students from the university young people done through informal personal interviews; then the researcher built the scales of trends according to the following steps:

- Identification of the primary dimensions of the measure.
- Drafting the items that fall under each dimension.
- Setting up the scale in the initial phase, which included (45) items.

The questionnaire was presented to a number of arbitrators from faculty members of the university. After doing the amendments recommended by the arbitrators, the author deleted some items of the questionnaire, and some items were modified, some were added and others were reformulated. The number of items after the final amendment was (40) items distributed on areas which represent women's education, women's employment, assuming administrative positions, and political participation. Each item was given a weight based on a scale of five grades to indicate the degree of approval: (Strongly agree, agree, no idea, disagree, Strongly disagree)

Tool's Reliability

Proceeding from the view of AIRifai that: "a number of arbitrators should judge if the item represents a true representation of what the author aims to, and whether it measures this" (AIRifai, 1992: p. 232), the researcher presented the tool of the research to a number of arbitrators who are specialized in the field of education, psychology and sociology at the faculty of Arts and faculty of Education at the Universities of Duhok and Salahuddin, to take their views on the validity of phrases of the tool that was developed to measure and evaluate. After that, the researcher calculated the ratio of the agreement between the arbitrators at the level of each phrase, and ranged acceptable ratio between 80% and 100%, and ruled out anything below this. By applying this procedure, the author made sure of the appropriateness of the vocabulary used for the purpose for which it was developed which is recognizing the trends of the university youth towards women's issues in the areas of education, employment, leadership and political participation. Therefore, it was decided to keep(40) items (Appendix 1).

Statistical treatments:

To achieve the objectives of the study, The (SPSS) statistical program was used and the following statistical treatments were adopted: -

1. Average mean and standard deviation.
2. T-test for one sample and two independent samples.
3. Analytical unilateral variation.
4. Scheffee test of dimension.

Research results:

The research results will be displayed in the light of the goals, as follows:

First goal:

Since the first goal in the research aimed to identify the nature of the trends of university students about women's issues (education, work, equality, the right to political participation) in general, thus the researcher used the T-test on one sample as a statistical technique to deal with the data contained in the research. This helped in the comparison between the arithmetic mean achieved for the degree of the sample of individuals (151.57) with a standard deviation of (20.16) degree, and the hypothesis testing mean of (120) degrees. The results showed a statistically significant difference between the two means and in favor of the scored mean where the calculated value of T was equal to (21.872) and is statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05) and the degree of freedom (194), as shown in table (2).

Table (2) significant difference between the arithmetic, the scored and the hypothesized means of the trend towards women's issues in general

Variables	Sample	Scored mean	Standards deviation	Hypothesized mean	T calculated value	Level of significant
Attitude toward women's issues	195	151.57	20.16	120	21.872	0.05

As the difference between the two means is for the benefit of the scored mean, it implies that the trends of college students in general are positive towards women's issues. This result can be explained by saying that university students are the elite of the society and have positive ideas for the liberation of women and the need for participation of men in contemporary life, and that the success of women in their daily lives requires a level of education and awareness of the affairs of their age and daily life.

The second objective:

As the second objective seeks to know the significance of differences in attitudes towards women's issues among university students according to the gender variable (gender), the data were dealt with statistically in a way where the researcher compared between the average male's degrees (143.10) and the average female's degrees (159.79) using samples T- test for two independent samples as a statistical method. The results showed the presence of a statistically significant difference between the mean scores of the two groups in favor of females group, as it was equal to the value of T (6.337), a statistically

significant at the level of significance (0.05) and the degree of freedom (193), as shown in table (3)

Table (3) Significant difference in the attitudes towards women's issues depending on the variable of gender

Group	Number	Degrees' Average	Standards deviation	Calculated T value	Level of significant
Males	96	143.10	18.64	6.337	0.05
Females	99	159.79	18.13		

According to the results shown in the above table, females' trends towards women's issues were more positive than males' trends among the students at the Universities of Duhok and Yuzuncu Yil. This result can be explained by a variety of reasons; some are related to the personality of the woman, her willingness to liberation and equality; others are linked to the social environment and the process of socialization.

Third goal:

To detect significant differences in attitudes towards women's issues among university students according to the variable of 'university' (Duhok and Yuzuncu Yil), the researcher resorted to process the data statistically to compare between the average scores of students in Duhok University of (150.83) degrees and the average scores of students at the University of Yuzuncu Yil of (152.09) degrees using samples T- test for two independent samples as a statistical method. The results demonstrated that there is no statistically significant difference between the mean scores of the two groups, as the T value was equal to (0.428) which is not statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05) and the degree of freedom (193), as shown in the table (4).

Table (4) Significant difference in the attitudes towards women's issues depending on the variable of university

University	Number	Degrees' Average	Standards deviation	Calculated T value	Level of significant
Duhok	80	150.83	17.26	0.428	0.05
Yuzuncu Yil	115	152.09	22.01		

The result shown in the table means that there is no statistically significant difference between the trends of the students of the University of Duhok and the trends of the students of Yuzuncu Yil University. This indicates that the university variable does not affect the nature of the attitudes among students.

Fourth goal:

As the fourth goal in the current research seeks to identify significant differences in attitudes towards women's issues among university students, depending on the variable of department of study (specialization), the researcher resorted to use a one- way analysis of

variance as a means of statistical treatment in an attempt to compare the nine study departments that were selected in determining the respondents, namely: (Departments of Mathematics, English language, Kurdish language, social studies, and kindergarten) in Duhok University, and the Departments of (the English language, sociology, history, and geography) in Yuzuncu Yil University. The results showed the presence of statistically significant differences in the trends of respondents towards women's issues attributed to the variable of department of study (area of study), reaching F value (4.908), a statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05) and degrees of freedom (8186). Table 5 shows this.

Table (5) Results of analytical variance to denote the difference in attitudes towards women's issues depending on the analysis of the academic department

Variance resource	Sum of squares	Degree of freedom	Mean of squares	F Value	Level of Significance
Between groups	13745.43	8	1718.17	4.908	0.05
Within groups	65114.08	186	350.07		
Total	78859.51	194	194		

Since this result indicates the presence of a statistically significant difference, this requires the use of dimensional test for the detection of the sites of the statistically significant differences. Therefore, the researcher used the Scheffe dimensional test to do couple comparisons between departments. The results showed the following:

1. There is a statistically significant difference between the average scores of students in the Department of Sociology at the University of Yuzuncu Yil and the average scores of students in the Department of History at the University of Yuzuncu Yil ; the difference was for the benefit of students of the Department of Sociology.
2. There were no statistically significant differences in the rest of the comparisons.

Table (6) illustrates this.

Table (6) Scheffe test results of the couple comparisons between trends in university departments

University	Department	Number	Average of grades	Average of grades
Yuzuncu Yil	Geography	22	137.18	
Duhok	English	20	143.50	43.50
Duhok	Math	20	144.35	144.35
Yuzuncu Yil	History	20	150.25	150.25
Duhok	Kindergarten	21	151.28	151.28
Duhok	Social Sciences	21	151.90	151.90
Duhok	Kurdish Language	18	156.27	156.27
Yuzuncu Yil	English	23	159.13	159.13
Yuzuncu Yil	Sociology	30		164.60

Fifth goal:

As the fifth goal in the current research seeks to identify significant differences in attitudes towards women's issues among university students depending on the variable of the grade, the researcher resorted to use a one-way analysis of variance as a means of statistical treatment in an attempt to compare the four grades (school grades) from which the respondents were selected. The results showed the presence of significant differences in the trends of respondents towards women's issues attributed to the variable of the school grade, reaching F value (4.805), a statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05) and degrees of freedom (3191). Table (7) illustrates this.

Table (7) Results of variance analysis to denote the difference in attitudes towards women's issues depending on the grade (school grade)

Variance resource	Sum of squares	Degree of freedom	Mean of squares	F-Value	Level of Significance
Between groups	5533.85	3	1844.61	4.805	0.05
Within groups	73325.66	191	383.90		
Total	78859.51	194			

Since this result indicates the presence of a statistically significant difference, this requires the use of dimensional test for the detection of the sites of the statistically significant differences. Therefore, the researcher used the Scheffe dimensional test to do couple comparisons between departments. The results showed the following:

1. The presence of a statistically significant difference between the average scores of students in the first grade and the average scores of students in the second grade; the difference is in favor of the first-grade students.
2. The existence of a statistically significant difference between the average scores of students in the second grade and the average scores of students in the fourth grade, and the difference was in favor of the fourth grade students.
3. The result did not show statistically significant differences in the rest of the comparisons. Table (8) illustrates this.

Table (8) Scheffe test results of couple comparisons in trends depending on the school grade

The grade	Number	Average of Grades	Average of Grades
First Year	52	153.78	
Second Year	26	138.57	
Third Year	103	152.75	
Fourth Year	14	158.85	

Sixth objective:

As the sixth goal in the current research seeks to identify significant differences in attitudes towards women's issues among university students depending on the variable of age, the researcher resorted to use a one-way analysis of variance as a means of statistical treatment in an attempt to compare the different age groups, where the sample was divided into four age groups. The results showed that there are no significant differences in the trends of respondents towards women's issues attributed to the variable of age, reaching F value (0.632), a statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05) and degrees of freedom (3191). Table (9) illustrates this.

Table (9)

Results of variance analysis to denote the difference in attitudes towards women's issues depending on age

Variance source	Sum of squares	Degree of freedom	Mean of Squares	F- Value	Level of significance
Between groups	774.514	3	258.171	0.632	0.05
Within Groups	78085.004	191	408.822		
Total	78859.518	194			

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