

# A Study On Gender Discrimination Among The University Students In Kurdistan

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## ABSTRACT

The whole world, especially the different political regimes have been hiding the well-known truth about the gender discrimination as the obstacle in the human beings' evolution in terms of culture, values, ethics and independent thought continuously. The researchers and social activists have been discussing the issue especially in the educational system, through media and conferences but gender violence is still persisting in the society. It is so high in the Kurdistan region in Iraq, no symbol of changes has been achieved as the laws and practices are so biased in the political, social and legal system [20]. Even though, it is evidential that the male dominated society, gender discrimination against women, patriarchal gender value and violence especially against the women, and the restriction to women to access the socio-cultural activities in public or social media still persists in the region. In this study, the researchers try to get the significant concepts on gender discrimination how is it followed among their mission and vision among university students in Kurdistan. They need to develop their social perspective for the better future of the nation and the world [21]. This will be helping the university student to grasp the need for change in their transforming the social process on better society. The 21st century makes everybody be aware of social mobility and distance because of covid19 but the education and the globalization makes a lot of change in gender discrimination with the technology and Modern culture in learning and communication through education.

## Keywords

Gender Discrimination, University Students, Social System, Globalization, Transforming

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## Introduction

The most influential and prevailing disturbance in the social system, while comparing to cultural, economic, legal, political etc., is gender discrimination [3&12]. The whole world, especially the different political regimes have been hiding the well-known truth about the gender discrimination as the obstacle in the human beings' evolution in terms of culture, values, ethics and independent thought continuously [15&19]. The autocrats and totalitarians governments dreadfully ruling all around the world, for their selfishness and the creepy wish to rule forever have been whacking the social structure for generations to follow their ideologies and methods, where the prevailing gender discrimination has been being an unsung issue. The researchers and social activists have been discussing the issue especially in the educational system, for years in media, conferences and researches as the main subject but it is evident that the phenomenon has not been fetched a proper solution or satisfying changes as inequality and gender violence is still persisting in the society [1].

While discussing about the Gender discrimination, it is so high in the Kurdistan region in Iraq, no symbol of changes has been achieved as the laws and practices are so biased in the political, social and legal system. The ferocity and the constraint have been increasing against women and their freedom of movement since 2003 due to the existence of militancy and extremism, and the worsening conditions of economic and social circumstances [24]. Even though, the women's participation and achievements have been evidential in the politics, local campaigns and other social

activities, gender discrimination and violence against women's rights prevails especially in the educational system.

At this juncture, when the comparison in gender discrimination is equated especially in legal terms with the rest of the country, oddly it is moderately higher in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) [21]. Even though, it is evidential that the male dominated society, gender discrimination against women, patriarchal gender value and violence especially against the women, and the restriction to women to access the socio-cultural activities in public or social media still persists in the region. The continuous demands and efforts to Iraq by the Kurdish government to act as a liberal and democratic entity to prepare themselves as a legitimacy for the separation has not been attained as the gender discrimination and gender policy plays a vital role [4&18].

Iraqi government modified its laws, legislations, regulations and practices in the year 1986 and even implemented a few reservations to stop the discriminations against women which was an utter failure as the modification was again biased. Again, in the year 2005, the new Constitution of Iraq legislated Article 41, which again could not fetch the estimated result as the Article mentions Islam as the foundation of the legislation which gave permission to the religious groups to administrate the status matters [24]. The variation in the interpretation of different Islam communities related to gender discrimination especially in wedding, legal actions against violence against women, adultery, and pedophile cases especially against girls made the chaos in the execution of punishments as there is no uniformity,

which resulted to incidents of polygamy, child marriage or early marriage and desire marriage (short-term relationship) increased in the country and in the Kurdistan region too [5&8].

Comparing the position of women in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq especially in the legal position with the other regions of Iraq, has been improved so much in the previous decade. In 2011 a new act (The Law against Domestic Violence (No.8)), had been implemented which assured more protection for the women against violence on them including harassment against by the husband, that made stringent actions against perpetrators and hold accountable for the crime against the victim. The act banned the female genital mutilation too [ 11]. Even mitigating honour-killing which was regular in the society was alleviated by the law.

The policy of the Kurdish government had also been modified to make progress in the social status of the women. A few institutional bodies had been established to assure the safety and to deal the issues of women's problems [19]. A Special Directory had been formed to overlook the policy making in favour of the women and a High Council of Women's Affair in the Kurdistan parliament had been set to recommend the ministries on gender discrimination issues, in addition to the special courts to look into the domestic violence in three governorates of Kurdistan Region [16]. Adaptation of a higher gender quota of 30 percent for the women in 2009 and in 2013 in the parliament had been approved by the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women, which had been accepted and billed by the Kurdistan government, which is 25 percent in rest of the country [17].

As per the national and international organizations' reports the Kurdish Women's social and political status is healthier than remaining parts of the country. The reports indicated that child marriage (age group of 15-18) had been lowered in the Kurdistan Region. The problem arises in the implementation of the present laws to protect the women, as most of the judges in the courts are male [ 10&13]. The execution of the new laws is not implemented fairly by the male dominated judiciary system even though the parliament has implemented in favour of women to control the gender discrimination [ 14].

After a long struggle and implementing new rules to evade the gender discrimination, it is evident that educational ratio of the women in the region has been vastly improved [7]. Even though, many women are well educated, the participation of the women in political and public life is limited as they are still cultural bound. The participation of women in the political position is very low, even though they have quota, as the political leaders are male, who has the power to decide the candidature of the party [17]. As the participation of the women in the political and social activities are discriminated even after well education in the region reflects on the education of the women in the contemporary Kurdish society.

In all the circumstances the people living in the KRI are still being a follower of serious gender discrimination due to religious principles, even though they adapt a lot of global civilizational practices and technology are not giving change in their present lifestyle [ 22]. Many of the people sending their children up to university level and celebrate their graduation as a festival of their family. But in the mind and

the system where they have changed not in discrimination of the gender. In this study, the researchers try to get the significant concepts on gender discrimination how is it followed among their mission and vision.

## Objectives Of The Study

- To assess the level of gender discrimination among university students in Kurdistan
- To find out the Level of gender discrimination among the university students in Kurdistan with respect to the background variables

## Hypotheses Of The Study

1. There is no significant difference between the Below 20 years and Above 20 years' university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination.
2. There is no significant difference between Male and Female university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination.
3. There is no significant difference among Single, Married and Divorce university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination.
4. There is no significant difference between the below 1000\$ and above 1000\$ Parents income university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination.
5. There is no significant difference between the School level, College level and University level Parents education university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination.
6. There is no significant difference between inside the city and outside the city living university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination.
7. There is no significant difference between the Nuclear family and the Joined family university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination.

## Significant Of The Study

The present study of gender discrimination among the university students in Kurdistan was assumed with the subsequent scopes. The university students are matured enough on their vision and mission in gender discrimination. They need to develop their social perspective for the batter future of the nation and the world. The principles and policy of the government on gender discrimination should be modified or not to get stable and equality among the people. Because in all the fields of the KRI society men and women are working and sharing their responsibilities for the nation. In this position with the new improvement to change in their attitude through education on gender discrimination [6&22]. This study gathered gender discrimination among university students in Kurdistan. This will be helping the university student to grasp the need for change in their transforming the social process on batter society.

## Methodology

This study is descriptive research, involving survey techniques. As many as 300 university students of deferent

departments in Lebanese French University, Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq were selected as a sample using a random sampling technique. The gender discrimination Questionnaire was developed by the investigator aims at assessing student's vision was used to collect data. The collected data were subjected to differential and descriptive statistical analyses.

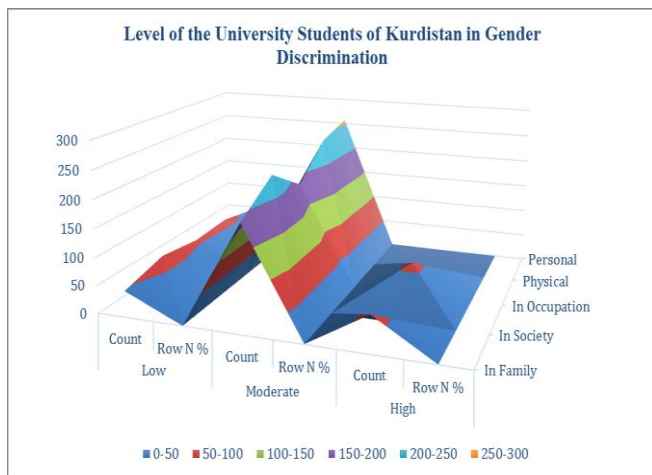
**Data Analysis**

**Table – 1**

Level of the University Students of Kurdistan in Gender Discrimination

Gender Discrimination	Low		Moderate		High	
	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %	Count	Row N %
In Family	47	15.7%	188	62.7%	65	21.7%
In Society	66	22.0%	234	78.0%	0	0.0%
In Occupation	55	18.3%	185	61.7%	60	20.0%
Physical	59	19.7%	241	80.3%	0	0.0%
Personal	43	14.3%	257	85.7%	0	0.0%

**Picture 1**



**Table – 2**

Significant Difference Between the Below 20 Years and Above 20 Years' University Students of Kurdistan in Their Gender Discrimination

Dimensions	Variable	Category	Count	Mean	S.D	t' - value	Result
In Family	Age	Below 20	90	11.73	3.242	0.200	NS
		Above 20	210	11.65	3.210		
In Society		Below 20	90	8.39	1.906	0.919	NS
		Above 20	210	8.16	2.040		
In Occupation		Below 20	90	11.33	2.099	0.274	NS
		Above 20	210	11.40	2.060		
Physical		Below 20	90	7.99	2.112	2.12	S
		Above 20	210	8.50	1.812		
Personal	Below 20	90	8.92	1.384	1.81	NS	
	Above 20	210	8.55	1.733			

(At 0.05% degrees of freedom, the 't' value is 1.96)

It is evident that the Below 20 Years and Above 20 Years' University Students of Kurdistan significantly differ in their level of Gender Discrimination in the dimension of wanted control to their Age. But, the calculated 't' value 2.12 is higher than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance in Physical factor.

**Table - 3**

The significant difference between the Male and Female university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination

Dimensions	Variable	Category	Count	Mean	S.D	t' - value	Result
In Family	Gender	Male	70	11.33	3.147	1.03	NS
		Female	230	11.78	3.234		
In Society		Male	70	7.99	2.116	1.15	NS
		Female	230	8.30	1.963		
In Occupation		Male	70	11.49	2.097	0.472	NS
		Female	230	11.35	2.063		
Physical		Male	70	8.63	1.678	1.40	NS
		Female	230	8.26	1.981		
Personal	Male	70	8.37	1.957	1.68	NS	
	Female	230	8.75	1.529			

(At 0.05% degrees of freedom, the 't' value is 1.96)

It is evident that the Male and Female university students of Kurdistan significantly non differ in their level of gender discrimination in the dimension of wanted control to their Gender.

**Table – 4** Significant Difference Among Single, Married and Divorce University Students of Kurdistan in Their Gender Discrimination

Dimension	Variable	Source of variation	df	Sum of Squares	Mean square variance	Calculated 'F' value	Remarks at 5% level
In Family	Marital Status	Between Groups	2	.188	.094	.581	NS
		Within Groups	297	48.087	.162		
In Society		Between Groups	2	.131	.065	.407	NS
		Within Groups	297	47.733	.161		
In Occupation		Between Groups	2	.140	.070	.800	NS
		Within Groups	297	25.961	.087		
Physical		Between Groups	2	.153	.076	.517	NS
		Within Groups	297	43.845	.148		
Personal	Between Groups	2	31.618	.337	3.167	S	
	Within Groups	297	32.293	.106			

(At 5% level of significance, the table value of 'F' ratio is 3.02)

It is evident that the Single, Married and Divorce University Students of Kurdistan significantly among differ in their level of Gender Discrimination in the dimension of wanted control to their Marital Status. But, the calculated 'F' value 3.167 is higher than the table value of 3.02 at 0.05 level of significance in Personal factor.

**Table – 5** Significant Difference Between the Below 1000\$ And Above 1000\$ Parents Income University Students of Kurdistan in Their Gender Discrimination

Dimensions	Variable	Category	Count	Mean	S.D	t' - value	Result
In Family	Parents Income	Below 1000\$	219	11.59	3.190	0.735	NS
		Above 1000\$	81	11.90	3.289		
In Society		Below 1000\$	219	8.20	2.003	0.431	NS
		Above 1000\$	81	8.31	2.004		
In Occupation		Below 1000\$	219	11.43	2.047	0.694	NS
		Above 1000\$	81	11.25	2.130		
Physical		Below 1000\$	219	8.40	1.926	0.751	NS
		Above 1000\$	81	8.21	1.902		
Personal		Below 1000\$	219	8.63	1.715	0.596	NS
		Above 1000\$	81	8.75	1.436		

(At 0.05% degrees of freedom, the 't' value is 1.96)

It is evident that the Below 1000\$ And Above 1000\$ Parents Income University Students of Kurdistan significantly differ in their level of Gender Discrimination in the dimension of wanted control to their Parents Income.

**Table – 6** Significant Difference among the School Level, College Level and University Level Parents Education University Students of Kurdistan in Their Gender Discrimination

Dimensions	Variable	Source of variation	Df	Sum of Squares	Mean square variance	Calculated 'F' value	Remarks at 5% level
In Family	Parents Education	Between Groups	2	13.378	6.689	.646	NS
		Within Groups	297	3076.259	10.358		
In Society		Between Groups	2	3.599	1.800	.448	NS
		Within Groups	297	1192.988	4.017		
In Occupation		Between Groups	2	2.039	1.020	.237	NS
		Within Groups	297	1276.877	4.299		
Physical		Between Groups	2	9.699	4.850	1.321	NS
		Within Groups	297	1090.247	3.671		
Personal		Between Groups	2	20.802	10.401	3.928	S
		Within Groups	297	786.518	2.648		

(At 0.05% degrees of freedom, the 't' value is 1.96)

It is evident that the School Level, College Level and University Level Parents Education University Students of Kurdistan significantly differ in their level of Gender Discrimination in the dimension of wanted control to their Parents Education. But, the calculated 't' value 3.928 is higher than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance in Personal factor.

**Table – 7**

The significant difference between the inside the city and outside the city living university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination

Dimensions	Variable	Category	Count	Mean	S.D	t' - value	Result
In Family	Native Place	inside the city	219	11.85	3.250	1.57	NS
		outside the city	81	11.20	3.084		
In Society		inside the city	219	8.13	2.017	1.34	NS
		outside the city	81	8.48	1.944		
In Occupation		inside the city	219	11.33	2.106	0.688	NS
		outside the city	81	11.52	1.969		
Physical		inside the city	219	8.35	1.944	0.005	NS
		outside the city	81	8.35	1.858		
Personal		inside the city	219	8.62	1.667	0.754	NS
		outside the city	81	8.78	1.581		

(At 0.05% degrees of freedom, the 't' value is 1.96)

It is evident that the inside the city and outside the city living university students of Kurdistan significantly differ in their level of gender discrimination in the dimension of wanted control to their Native Place.

**Table - 8**

The significant difference between the Nuclear family and the Joined family university students of Kurdistan in their gender discrimination

Dimensions	Variable	Category	Count	Mean	S.D	t' - value	Result
In Family	Type of Family	Nuclear family	63	11.78	3.265	0.280	NS
		Joined family	23	11.65	3.207		
In Society		Nuclear family	63	8.94	1.635	3.21	NS
		Joined family	23	8.04	2.049		
In Occupation		Nuclear family	63	11.95	2.019	2.47	NS
		Joined family	23	11.23	2.059		
Physical		Nuclear family	63	8.16	2.157	0.875	NS
		Joined family	23	8.40	1.851		
Personal		Nuclear family	63	8.94	1.469	1.50	NS
		Joined family	23	8.59	1.682		

(At 0.05% degrees of freedom, the 't' value is 1.96)

It is evident that the Nuclear family and the Joined family university students of Kurdistan significantly differ in their

level of gender discrimination in the dimension of wanted control to their Living with.

## Results And Discussion

The analysis of the data revealed that the level of gender discrimination among the university students in Kurdistan with respect to the background variables is moderate because of the region of Kurdistan is become with multicultural lifestyle and most of the western people are living with them in different thoughts. And It is evident that the Below 20 Years and Above 20 Years' University Students of Kurdistan significantly differ in a higher level of Physical factor on their Gender Discrimination to their Age it is due to the people of Kurdistan has given much importance to their children's growth and development till 20years in the physical growth. But, the Male and Female university students of Kurdistan significantly non differ in their level of gender discrimination on their Gender because of in all universities of Kurdistan is not following any discrimination between male and female on getting an education as well as interpersonal relationship. Among the Single, Married and Divorce University Students of Kurdistan significantly differ in their level of Personal factor in their Gender Discrimination on their Marital Status, because the lifestyle of Kurdish people is becoming change with globalization and technology as well, they are travelling around the world for education and trade. This is making them in personal understanding of gender discrimination and also small society is very easy to change with new thoughts by many reforms [2]. The university students of Kurdistan significantly non differ in their level of gender discrimination on their parent's income, Native place and the Types of family. It is due to the Kurdish culture. Here the people are well in the participation of educational progress in all aspects of life, there no difference in income due to social revolution and equality among the people mind and also living in rural or urban and family type. It is evident that the School Level, College Level and University Level Parents Education of University Students of Kurdistan significantly differ in their level of Gender Discrimination in Personal factor. At present the education in Kurdistan region is high, there are 2641 primary and secondary schools, 13 public and 11 private universities in KRG. Many people get their knowledge attainment with the benefits of KRG and nearly 1.7 million at schools and 115,000 at universities entailed for education, so the majority of the parents are educated with the personal impact to develop the culture, society and the nation without any gender discriminations [ 23].

## Conclusion

Gender discriminations is a part of social phenomenon and it is varying and changing because of teaching-learning at present world educational consequences. The majority of people think that there is no gender discrimination for men and women in Kurdish society. But there is some social and gender discrimination among the people who still follow the old tradition and culture with their theological constrain. Even though students studying in universities have more influence on the social mingling and gathering which tran-

forming education in society away from the discrimination of gender in Kurdistan. But this study reveals that personal and physical factors of the university students and their parents in gender and education have transformed society with some discrimination among the people life. The 21st century makes everybody be aware of social mobility and distance because of covid19 but the education and the globalization makes a lot of change in gender discrimination with the technology and Modern culture in learning and communication through education [9]. So as the gender discrimination among the university students in Kurdistan is moderate even though they have a better influence in their personal and physical factors of men and women for Transforming of Education in their development progress

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