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### Women's Empowerment in the Middle East

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## Abstract

This research-aims to point out the argument for empowering women in the Middle East, and why it is important to the development of a country.

## Introduction

"When I look at the word 'empowerment,' I see the word 'power.' And so when we speak of 'women's empowerment,' to me it is about changing the systems, institutions, and mindsets that perpetuate patriarchal hierarchies of power and social order." — Sangeeta Chowdhry, senior program director of economic justice, Global Fund for Women

## Problem

- 1-Women work against themselves
- 2-Women's basic rights, jobs and education, are not enough.
- 3-The role of the family
- 4-Women in politics: is it an effective role?
- 5- National Laws

Labor Force participation of Women by Marital status

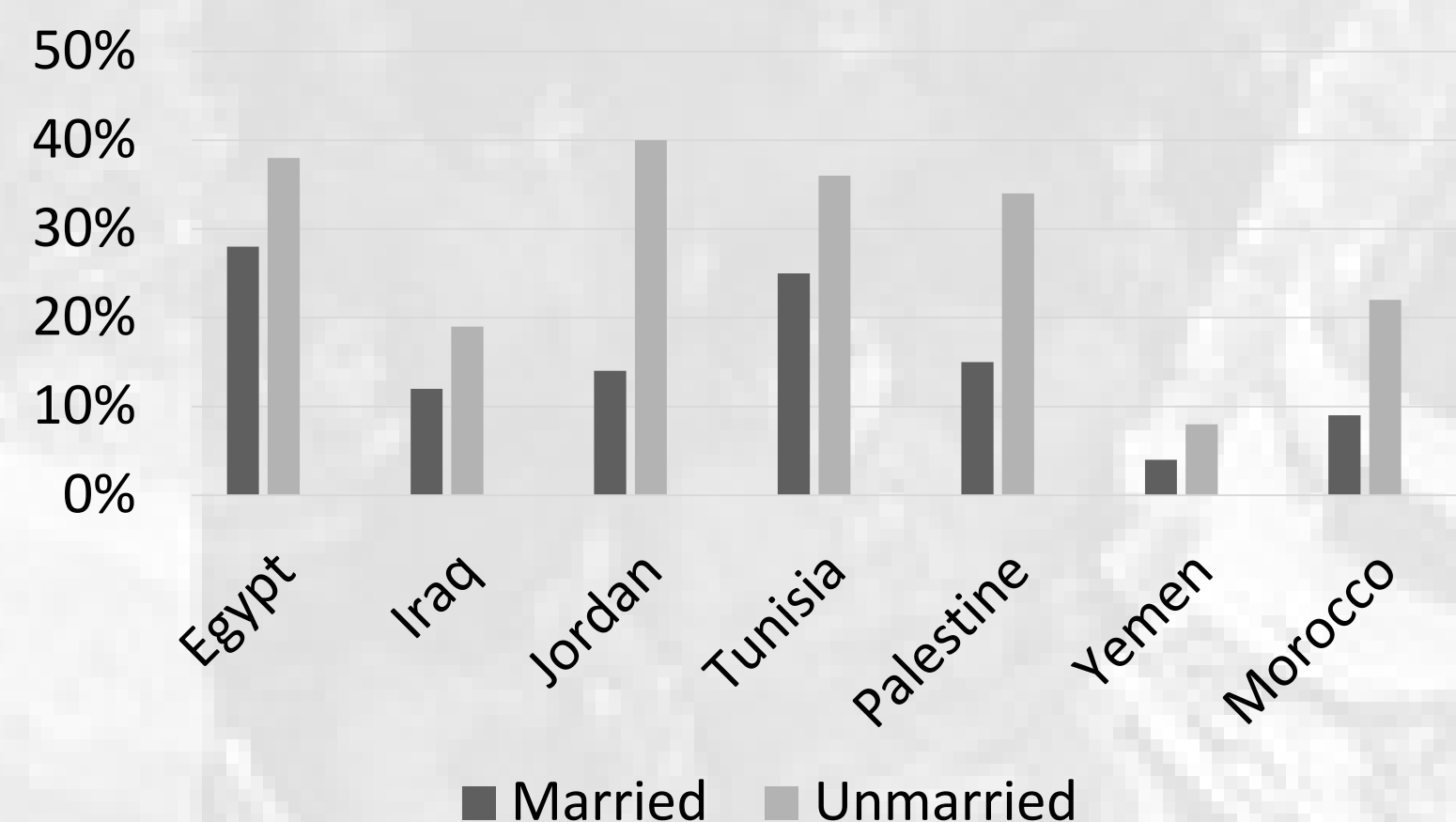


Fig. (1). "Labor Force Participation of Women by Marital status" explains the changes in the labor force between married and unmarried women in some Middle East countries. (2013).

## Case Study

- Ruqaiya Al-Muhareb and many other Saudi activists were in jail for 9 months
- held incommunicado for months and tortured, including electric shock and flogging
- government denied the suffering they went through



Fig.(2). "Saudi Activist Women" Saudi women who have been in jail for demanding to drive a car.

- Some Saudi people said that they went to jail so they will be a lesson for other women to not demand anything such as driving for women
- The crown prince denied this and said they are collaborating with Qatari and Iranian Intelligence



Fig.(3). "Trial of Women Saudi Activist to Open Wednesday" Amnesty International - women asking to release Saudi women from jail. (2019).

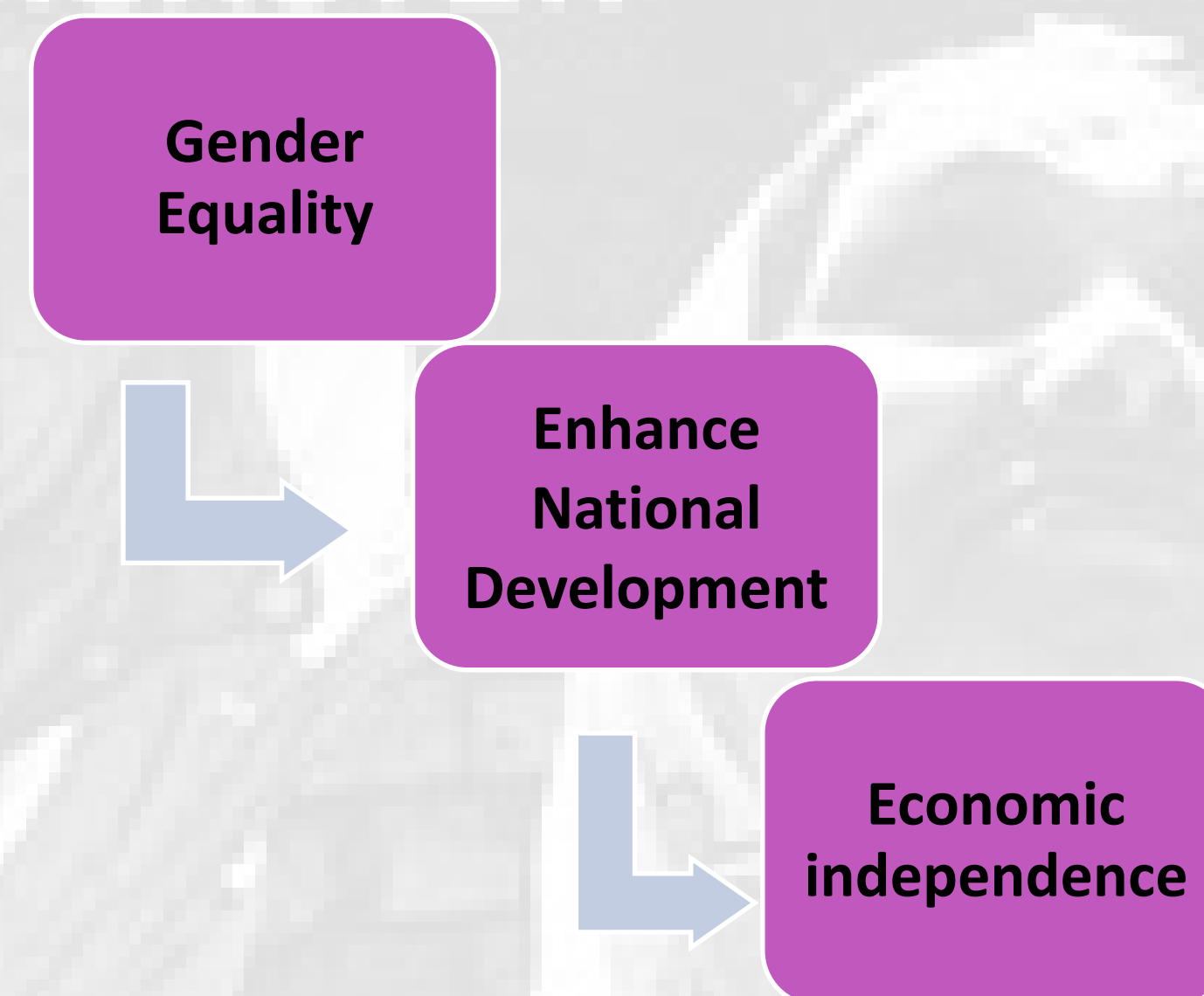
## Why it is important?

"We need women at all levels, including the top, to change the dynamic, reshape the conversation, to make sure women's voices are heard and heeded, not overlooked and ignored. — Sheryl Sandberg

### • Personal Level



### • Social Level



## Acknowledgments

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## Conclusion

**Women's empowerment is a way for a country to become democratic and be part of International development.**

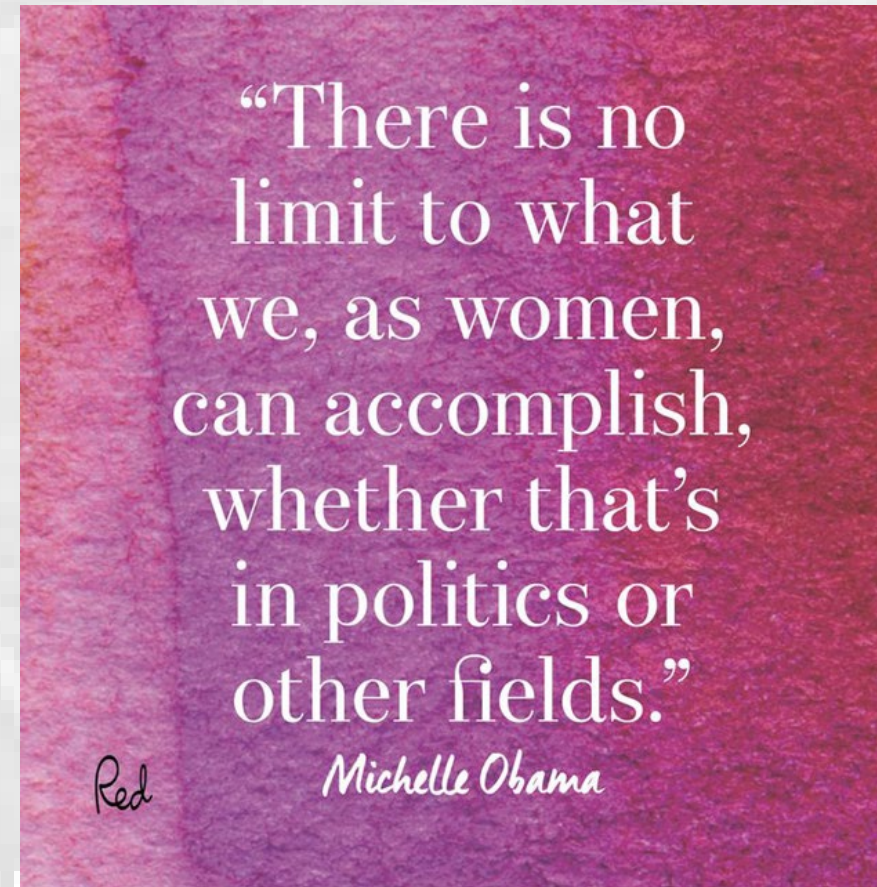


Fig.(4).

Do you think the Middle East can achieve women's empowerment one day?



Fig.(5). This explains "the number of candidates female in Bangladesh aspiring to contest the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) elections is record high but these candidates are reportedly under pressure to withdraw from contesting elections from their male rivals".

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