



## The Attitudes of Students in Jordanian Universities toward Participation in Ideological Political Parties in Jordan

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** This study examines the attitudes of students in Jordanian universities toward participation in ideological political parties in Jordan. It aims to determine whether various university study variables, such as gender, specialization, and level, impact participation trends. Additionally, the study seeks to uncover the discrepancy between the ideological parties and university students, identify the primary reasons for non-participation in political life, and determine the factors leading to increased participation. **Methods:** The study employed an exploratory, descriptive, and analytical research approach, utilizing a social survey methodology. It focused on the perceptions and opinions of Jordanian university students regarding ideological parties. The study sample consisted of randomly selected undergraduate students (536 in total) from Jordanian universities.

**Results:** The results indicate that female participation in ideological political parties is very limited compared to male participation. Furthermore, the study finds no significant differences in all statistical domains when considering specialization and level variables. The results also highlight that reasons contributing to non-participation include the fear of potential accountability and danger associated with party affiliation, the perception of parties as more personal than public, the lack of focus on youth issues in party content, the need of organizational experiences, and the government's lack of encouragement in joining political parties.

**Conclusions:** Based on the aforementioned results, the study recommends increasing comprehensive awareness programs about the role of parties in political life and democratic practice. There is a need to stimulate party activities, ensuring the freedom to participate and join such activities. Furthermore, providing a clear definition of the roles and tasks of political parties, as well as their operational methods, is crucial.

**Keywords:** Attitudes, political parties, political participation, university students, ideology.

### اتجاهات الطلبة في الجامعات الأردنية نحو المشاركة في الأحزاب السياسية العقائدية في الأردن

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#### ملخص

**الأهداف:** تهدف الدراسة إلى البحث في اتجاهات الطلبة في الجامعات الأردنية؛ وقابليتهم للمشاركة في الأحزاب السياسية الأيديولوجية في الأردن. كما تهدف إلى معرفة تأثير متغيرات الجنس، والتخصص، والمستوى، في تحديد الاتجاهات، والكشف عن أسباب عدم المشاركة في الحياة السياسية، والعوامل التي تساعد على رفع مستوى المشاركة.

**المنهجية:** اعتمدت الدراسة على منهج بحثي استكشافي وصفي تحليلي، قائم على المسح الاجتماعي؛ لدراسة تصورات الطلبة في الجامعات الأردنية عن الأحزاب العقائدية ورؤاهم تجاهها. وتكون مجتمع الدراسة من طلبة الجامعات الأردنية في مرحلة البكالوريوس، وبلغ حجم العينة المكتملة (536) طالباً وطالبة، جرى اختيارهم بطريقة عشوائية.

**النتائج:** أظهرت النتائج انحيازاً ضعيفاً جداً، من طلبة الجامعات الأردنية للمشاركة في الأحزاب السياسية الأيديولوجية؛ في ظل انعدام الخبرة العملية من قبل الطلبة- للتعاطي مع هذه الأحزاب، وأظهرت النتائج مشاركة محدودة جداً للإناث في الأحزاب السياسية الأيديولوجية، في مقابل المشاركة الذكورية، علاوة على انعدام الفروقات الإحصائية؛ فيما يخص متغيري التخصص والمستوى، كما أظهرت النتائج أسباباً عدة لانعدام المشاركة في الأحزاب السياسية الأيديولوجية في الأردن: أهمها: نقص الخبرات التنظيمية، واعتماد الأحزاب على التفوذ الشخصي، وعدم تشجيع الحكومة للانتساب للأحزاب السياسية.

**الخلاصة:** في ضوء النتائج السابقة؛ فإننا نوصي بزيادة برامج التوعية الشاملة حول دور الأحزاب في الحياة السياسية، والممارسة الديمقراطية، والعمل على تفعيل النشاط الحزبي في المجتمع، وضمان حريات المشاركة والانضمام إلى هذه الأنشطة الحزبية، وتقديم تعريف واضح لدور ومهام الأحزاب السياسية وطريقة عملها.

**الكلمات الدالة:** اتجاهات، الأحزاب السياسية، المشاركة السياسية، طلاب الجامعات، العقائدية.



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## 1. Introduction

Political parties are of great importance due to the nature of the role they play in democratic systems represented as a mechanism for political participation and political pluralism, in addition to their contribution to work on the transfer of power and the preparation of political currents (Jerusalem Studies Center, 2006). It is one of the acquired social and political motives that create the behavior of individuals (Mashqabeh, 2006). Jordan witnessed the ban on parties by the political leadership from 1957 until 1989, and they were absent due to accusations of the leftist parties of their affiliation with foreign political regimes and parties. As a result, political parties and civil society institutions have been active (Al-Azzam, 2003).

Under the new democratic phase, political participation is the essence of democracy. As philosopher Jean Doy posits, the bedrock of democracy as a political way of life is the participation of mature individuals in forming the values that govern the group's life and democracy (Rosenbaum, 1957). In this perspective, it signifies individuals' participation and their ability to influence policymaking (Huntington, 1993), typically through the avenue of political parties in their countries. Given these changes, university students carry a national responsibility and obligation to partake in political parties to further the principles and values of democracy, such as dialogue, pluralism, respect for the law, and rejection of intolerance and fear (Al-Azaibi, 2022).

Despite the significant passage of time since the stage of democratic transition, the degree of political involvement of university students in civil society institutions, particularly political parties, remains unclear (Sharab, 1998). Thus, restricted student participation in party bodies and structures, and other civil society institutions, has been a prominent feature accompanying the course of democratic life in Jordan since the issuance of the Political Parties Law in 1992 (Al-Rufou' & Masalha, 2004). Numerous societal level factors have contributed to consolidating this image, including the frail structure of civil society and its institutions in Jordan, despite their widespread existence post-1989, considering the role controlled by the state (Imad Al-Din, 2004). A reality between the state and society exists in exchange for a limited shared space with civil society institutions. This is due to reasons such as the lack of civic culture, the absence of the notion of civil society, and the awareness of its significance among a broad segment of citizens (Batayneh, 2003).

## 2. Research Problem

Despite the political détente in Jordan and the parties securing the legal license and protective umbrella, the underwhelming performance of the political parties has not convinced university students of the necessity of these parties as a fundamental pillar of democracy. Therefore, the political parties in Jordan have suffered from the students' reluctance, which is the public shock resulting from the political détente revealing deep problems experienced by most parties.

This new state of détente has freed the parties from considerations of maintaining internal cohesion when facing external oppression. However, during this period of détente, they also suffer from isolation, limited influence, and effectiveness among popular circles, and a decline in their political impact. Many events, including the parliamentary elections in the periods following this time of political détente, have illustrated this political situation relating to parties.

## 3. Research Questions

Given the research problem, the research questions are as follows:

1. What do students think about the experience of ideological parties in Jordan?
2. What is the role of parties in influencing decision-making and formulation institutions: government and parliament?
3. What are the reasons for reluctance to join parties from the students' point of view?
4. What is the future view of the role of ideological parties in political life?

## 4. Research Objectives

This study aims to identify the attitudes of students in Jordanian universities towards participation in ideological political parties in Jordan from the point of view of the students themselves to reveal the gap between ideological parties and university students, the most important reasons for non-partisan participation, and the factors that help strengthen it in Jordan. The following objectives are articulated to answer the research questions.

1. Identify the students' opinions on the experience of ideological parties in Jordan.

2. Explore the role of parties in influencing decision-making and formulation institutions: government and parliament.
3. Find out the reasons for reluctance to join parties from the point of view of the students' themselves.
4. Examine the future view of the role of ideological parties in political life.

### **5. Significance of the Research**

The significance of the study lies in the fact that it sheds light on a very important topic that deals with the study of students' attitudes in Jordanian universities towards participation in ideological political parties in Jordan, as participation at this level is still much less than the required level, and an indication of the desire to participate in ideological parties. In addition, the significance of the study is that it is one of the first applied studies that deals with students' attitudes in Jordanian universities towards participation in ideological political parties in Jordan in terms of explaining the nature of participation and its obstacles and how to enhance them because it provides a field diagnosis of the Jordanian political reality, as well as the importance of the question segment, which is a segment student in universities.

### **6. Research Limitations**

The results of the study can be generalized in light of the following limitations:

Time Limitations: The study is conducted in the first semester of the academic year (2020-2021).

Human Limitations: Students of Jordanian universities, which are official universities: public and private of bachelor's level in various academic years and from various disciplines, males, and females.

Spatial Limitations: The study is conducted in Jordanian universities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

### **7. Research Hypotheses**

The study is based on a main hypothesis stipulating "there is a direct relationship between the absence and weakness of democratic values among students in universities and the students' attitudes to participate in ideological political parties in Jordan".

### **8. Research Concepts**

To complete the methodology necessary to complete the research process, it is necessary to define the concepts and terms used in this study, which are:

#### **8.1 Attitudes**

Sheikh (1992) defines it as the tendency, behavior, or thinking differently toward other people, organizations, objects, or symbols (Sheikh, 1992). In addition, Almond (1965) describes political trends as the individual's view of the political system in its various parts, and the evaluation of a cycle in the system as a political agent. Attitudes have a set of factors that contribute to the process of their change, including internal factors such as changes in the economic and social status of society, changes in the political system, revolutions, and civil wars. As for the external factors, they are mostly directed from other societies and countries (Al-Fitouri, 2017).

#### **8.2 University Students**

They are the university youth category "males and females", which is the stage that falls between 18 and 30. It is the period during which young people can play social roles, actively participate in various walks of life, and maturely exercise the rights of adults and conscious commitments to their duties. Universities are educational institutions that have a strong influence on forming the individual, directing his behavior, and modifying his attitudes and trends.

#### **8.3 Political Participation**

It is the legitimate activity carried out by individuals to influence decision-makers and the decisions they take, and therefore it involves the ability of citizens to exercise their role in selecting rulers, and in the decision-making process of society (Al-Sheikh, 2008).

It is the interaction in some way towards the issues of the society in which the person lives, while political participation is described as one of the types of social interactions associated with the political field. His party affiliation and this participation take place through a set of activities, including participation in political parties Levels of political writing about political participation presented three types of political attitudes toward political participation, which are the

following:

1. Arguing: They are the ones who are constantly active in the field of politics, representing 5-47%.
2. Onlookers: They are the ones who participate in politics at the very least, representing about 60%.
3. The indifferent: They are the ones who do not participate in politics at all, representing about 33%.

#### **8.4 Political Parties**

It is defined as a social reservoir for a group of political ideas in an area of society, in addition to what it performs as a political channel, where these ideas gather and flow into the state system and manage the political process in the system and thus the party works to preserve the stability and continuity of the state (Al-Khatib, 2004). It is a permanent, local organization that establishes regular and diverse links with the national level, with a conscious will of its leaders, interested in seeking the support of the people (Duncan, 1992). The Political Parties Law in Jordan defines a party as a political organization consisting of a group of Jordanians per the Jordanian constitution and the provisions of the law with the intent of participating in political life, achieving specific goals that are received in political, economic and social affairs, and working through legitimate and peaceful means (Jordanian Parties Law, 2017).

Parties can be classified into ideological parties, program parties, and personal parties. Ideological Parties, however, are parties that are based on the existence of a political ideology of the party, through which it presents an explanation of the social, political, and economic reality, and based on this thought, it develops future visions (Afif, 2008). The main tasks and functions of political parties in a democratic society include the tasks of unifying and mobilizing citizens, formulating and compiling interests, formulating public policies, recruiting political leaders, and organizing parliament and government (Bartolini & Mayr, 2001).

#### **9. Literature Review**

Research work and studies relating to the Attitudes towards Participation in Ideological Political Parties in Jordan were arranged according to the oldest, then the newest. Al-Azzam (2003) aims to reveal the role of parties in the political development process and the obstacles that stand in their way and to identify the nature of Jordanian attitudes towards political parties. The study concluded that one of the most important reasons for the lack of political participation is the fear of security persecution and the lack of conviction in partisan work.

Al-Awamleh (2005) aimed to address the concept of political participation in Jordan, trace the history of the democratic process, the development of party life, and the most important elements of partisan pluralism in Jordan. Al-Ruwaidat (2006) aimed to shed light on the reasons for the reluctance of party work in the Jordanian arena despite the passage of a long period since the return of democratic life to Jordan, work, and political participation of parties and the economic, social and psychological factor.

Al-Adwan (2014) aims to reveal the various basic aspects of the left-wing nationalist parties' tendency to take political participation and the position of the political system on the participation of these parties in political life. The study also sought to identify the political stages that the development and establishment of these nationalist and leftist parties have gone through, their connection to political participation, and the most prominent positives and repercussions of these stages on political participation.

On the other hand, Al-Ghanamiyin (2018) aims at identifying the reality of political participation among students at the University of Jordan and determining if there are statistically significant differences in differences in the dimensions of political participation among the students of the University of Jordan due to the variables: gender, place of permanent residence, type of faculty, and academic level. The study also identifies the reality of political participation among Jordanian university students, where political participation is a democratic principle of the most important principles of the modern national state, along with the factors of political participation among students of the University of Jordan from the point of view of the students themselves.

Al-Taamari (2018) aims at identifying the obstacles to the establishment of active political parties and forces, classifying the most important means by which obstacles can be confronted, and activating the role of political parties and forces. This study also has dealt with the mechanisms of activating the role of political parties and a force, imposing the need to define

what is common and general, and more important among the instruments and means needed to confront them to reach solutions to activate the role of political parties and forces, such as returning to democracy and political openness. The brief literature review of the various readings and interpretations of attitudes toward political parties in Jordan evinces that they lend themselves to various analyses to acknowledge that there shall be a close focus on issues of political parties among youth (Al-Ghammaz et al., 2022).

### 9.1 The Intellectual Attitudes of Political Parties in Jordan

As put by (Al-Khatib, 2004), the licensed parties that appeared in Jordan after 1992 can be divided into four main streams:

**The National Trend:** The principles of this current in general are based on the idea of Arab unity, the message of the eternal nations, freedom, and socialism, and it stems from the principle that the Arab world is an indivisible political and economic unit. This current represents the following national parties: The Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, the Progressive Ba'ath Party, and the National Action Front.

**The Marxist Left:** It adopts Marxist ideological ideas and principles, and these parties have modified their premises to align with the parties' law and the Jordanian constitution. This current represents the following parties: The Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Democratic People's Party (the Hashd), the Jordanian Democratic People's Unity Party, and the Direct Democratic National Movement Party.

**Islamists:** This current is aware of presenting the Islamic religion as a system of principles, ideas, and programs to find solutions to social problems, and calls for the application of Islamic Sharia in various aspects of life. This current represents three parties: The Islamic Action Front party, "which represents the vast majority of the Islamic trend and is supported by the Muslim Brotherhood, which has broad popular influence." There is a party that calls itself the Arab Islamic Movement Party (Dua'a), and the Islamic Wasat Party.

**Centrist Conservative/Liberal:** This current focuses on general national principles that are not regulated by a single creed or idea, such as belief in democracy, political pluralism, public freedoms, preserving national identity, national unity, women's rights, and social justice, and improving economic and social conditions. This current is represented by parties, the most important of which are: The National Constitutional Party, and the Jordanian United Front Party.

General features of the parties at this stage 1992-2010 (Musalha, 1999).

A. Some parties rely on the influence of the party leader and his relationships and resort to purely administrative means or clan methods in forming the constituent bodies. This is the least of the parties concerning workers and small farmers, and some of them turn to one part of society without the other.

B. The inability of the parties to radically and effectively restructure their organizational structure to suit their public needs, has reduced their ability to establish dynamic links with citizens.

C. Its inability to develop its political discourse, the maturation of its institutions, and its openness to the public. It needs a political upbringing so that it can address the public according to targeted programs.

### 9.2 Obstacles to the Participation of University Students in Ideological Political Parties in Jordan

It is noted that political parties suffer from instability and weak presence in the local political scene, as their work is limited to issuing political statements or grouping through high committees for party coordination, while some parties have been completely absent from the scene, and some of them have not issued even a single political statement since their establishment. Others do not yet have their headquarters (Al-Awamilah, 2005).

1. Society's fear of the idea of partisanship, influenced by the long period of martial law that the country has lived through, and the fear that affiliation with the party will lead the person to some form of security persecution or the loss of employment opportunities in the upper echelons of government agencies and institutions or advanced positions in the public and private sectors.

2. The bad economic situation of young people in Jordan.

3. The supremacy of the ideas and mechanisms of nervous relations (kinship, clan) over the structure of society and the way people achieve their demands instead of the dominance of civil culture that presents ideas over clan affiliations (Al-Menoufi, 1985).

4. The hesitation in the position of successive governments regarding the development of a valid electoral law that is based on the one-vote system in a multi-seat constituency, by allocating a share of Parliament seats for political lists to compete for according to the proportional representation system, because the current electoral system marginalizes the role of political parties (Al-Saeedin, 2007).

5. A large number of political parties and their lack of tendency towards merging and alliance to form large parties, despite the similarity of many of them in goals and programs.

6. The adhesion of personality traits in some parties, which are centered on people who held high positions in the state, seeking to achieve personal interests and gains.

7. The parties did not express a clear class distinction but were limited to certain political and social elites, who were closer to loose personal gatherings than to organized political parties.

8. The absence of women from party programs, which made their participation in party work very limited, and not commensurate with what women represent as a percentage in Jordanian society.

9. Jordanian and Arab societal culture in general views partisan work negatively. The parties are accused of being anti-national.

Discourse should be used to encourage young people to participate in partisan work on one hand (Al-Ghammaz, 2023). On the other hand, parties must develop partisan work and grant the youth the opportunity for partisan leadership and give them more freedom of partisan work, in addition to youth assuming leadership positions in parties because of their capabilities and creative contributions. The follower of the role of Jordanian parties in Jordanian political life arrives at the following facts (Nuseirat, 2006).

A. If these parties are unable to organize their partisan work, they will not have any role in decision-making at the level of the broad nation.

B. If these parties play any role in decision-making, their decisions will be weak and have negative repercussions, on the basis that these decisions will serve personal interests and not national interests.

C. Those who follow the activities of the parties notice that in their current state, they cannot have any role in decision-making, based on the fact that national decisions need broad visions that stem from national interests and not from personal interests that characterize Jordanian parties (Lippa, 1990).

D. Those who follow the activities of the parties notice that they are many parties with few and useless actions and their goals focus on showing themselves and holding celebrations rather than on making decisions that are in the interest of the country and the citizen. Based on that, just talking about the role of these parties in decision-making needs more than a question mark (Gharaibeh, 2005).

## **10. Method & Procedures**

### **Research Approach**

This study is an exploratory, descriptive, and analytical study, based on the social survey approach by sample, to study the perceptions and opinions of students in Jordanian universities for ideological parties, and it is one of the best approaches used in social and political sciences, as the researcher can collect as much information and field data as possible and analyze them. It is the most appropriate approach to the nature of the research problem, and the subject of the study, and the most capable of reaching accurate scientific results estimated by the approved percentages to figures with statistical significance.

**Research Population and Sample:** The study population consists of Jordanian university students at the undergraduate level. The size of the completed sample was (536) male and female students who were randomly selected from the studied population. By distributing questionnaires to students in public and private universities through the Alchemer program, the program ensures that the student is not allowed to participate more than once in filling out the questionnaire or to leave it incomplete. In detail, 536 valid questionnaires were collected for analysis. These questionnaires were distributed to students of public and private universities (390 from public universities, 146 from private universities), 55% female and 45% male.

**Research Instrument:** The study is based on the use of the questionnaire instrument as a main means of collecting information and data from the sample of the study population. The researchers designed the instrument in line with the

objectives and questions of the study. The questionnaire questions varied to cover the following themes:

- 1- Respondent identification information
- 2- The general view of ideological parties in Jordan
- 3- Joining ideological parties and participating in their activities
- 4- The role of ideological parties in influencing decision-makers in Jordan.
- 5- Reasons for reluctance to join parties in Jordan.
- 6- Acceptance of different political parties to gain power

**Research Instrument Validity:** The questionnaire was presented in its initial form to a group of validators and specialized professors with experience. After studying their proposals, the necessary modifications were made until the questionnaire came out in its final form. The researcher distributed the questionnaire to the sample using an electronic program (Alchemer) due to the difficulty of conducting face-to-face interviews (education in universities and distance schools and e-learning) due to the epidemiological situation related to the spread of the Coronavirus in Jordan.

**Research Instrument Reliability:** To ensure the reliability of the instrument, the internal consistency was calculated according to Cronbach's alpha equation, and the reliability coefficient of the total score was (0.87). The indicators of Cronbach's Alpha indicate that the study instrument has, in general, a high coefficient of reliability and its ability to achieve the purposes of the study.

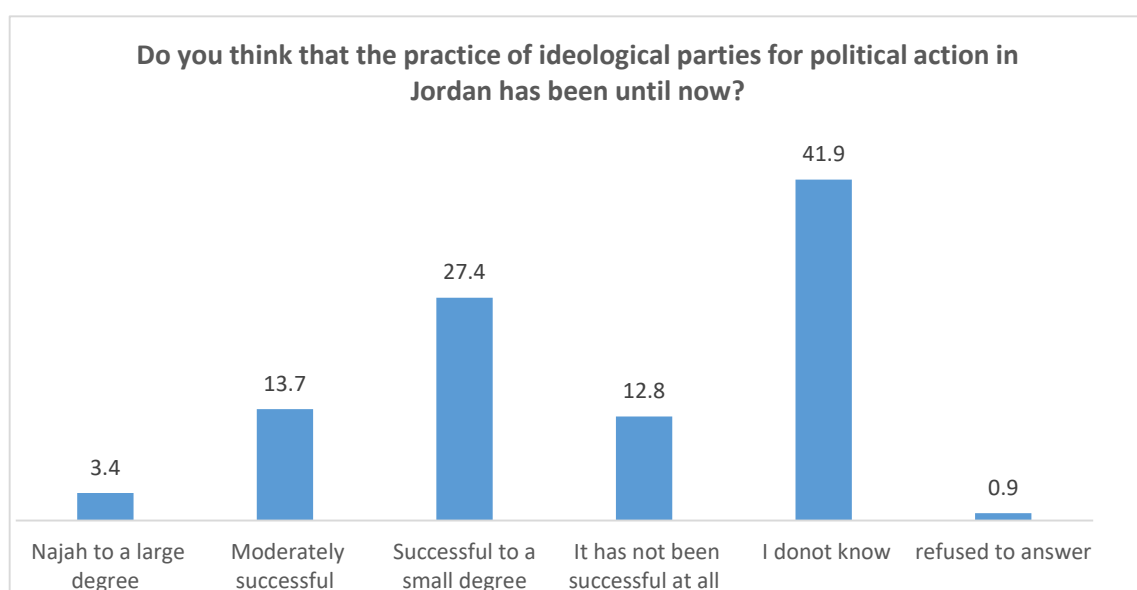
**Statistical Analysis:** The data was processed by inserting it into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program. Frequencies and percentages were also calculated to describe the characteristics of the study sample members, and other dimensions of the contents of the general objectives of the study.

## 11. Results & Discussion

This part gives an insight into the results & discussion incorporated into the research related to the Ideological Parties in Jordan. This section consists of 5 sections as follows:

### Section One: General View of Ideological Parties in Jordan

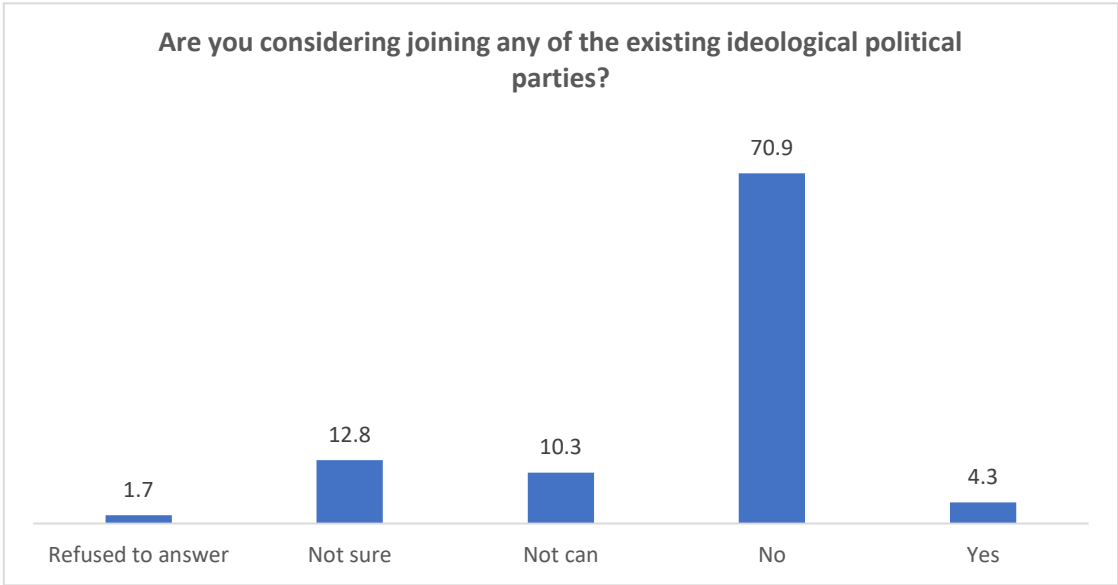
More than a quarter of students (27%) believe that the practice of ideological parties for political action in Jordan was successful in Jordan to a small degree, while (14%) believe that it was moderately successful, and only (3%) believe that it was highly successful, while (13%) that they were not successful at all. What is striking here in the results is that the majority of students do not know how to evaluate the practice of ideological parties for political action in Jordan. Figure (1) illustrates those results.



**Figure 1: Do You Think That the Practice of Ideological Parties for Political Action in Jordan Has Been Until Now?**

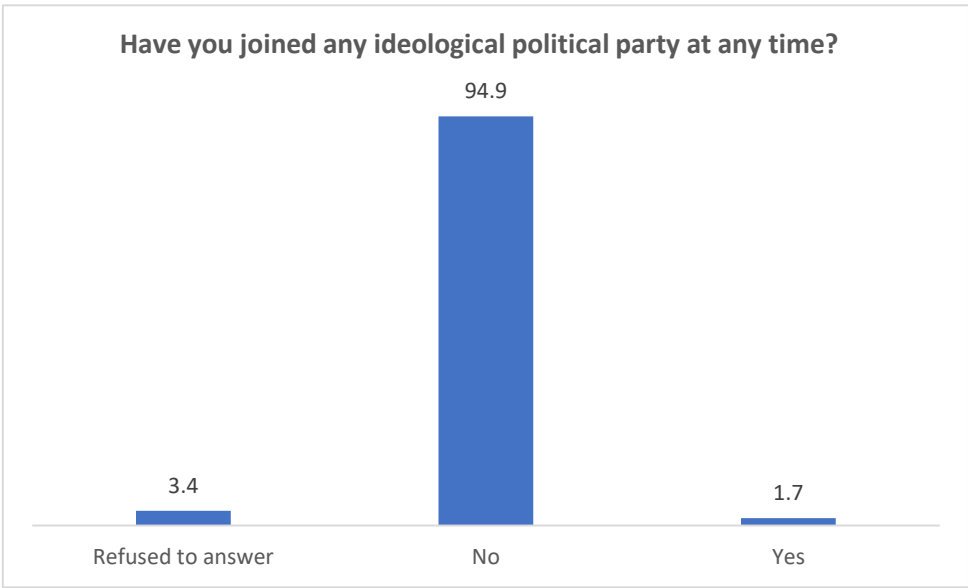
**Section Two: Joining Ideological Parties & Participating in their Activities**

As shown in Figure (1), when asked about the students’ thinking about joining the existing ideological parties in Jordan, only (4%) of them said that they think about joining these parties, while the vast majority of students (71%) said that they do not think about joining the existing ideological political parties. Currently in Jordan and (13%) reported that they are not sure whether to join ideological political parties or not to join. Figure (2) illustrates those results.



**Figure 2: Are You Considering Joining Any of the Existing Ideological Political Parties?**

As shown in Figure (2), the vast majority of students (95%) had never joined any ideological political party, while only (1.7%) reported that they had previously joined an ideological political party at some time in their lives. Figure (3) illustrates those results.

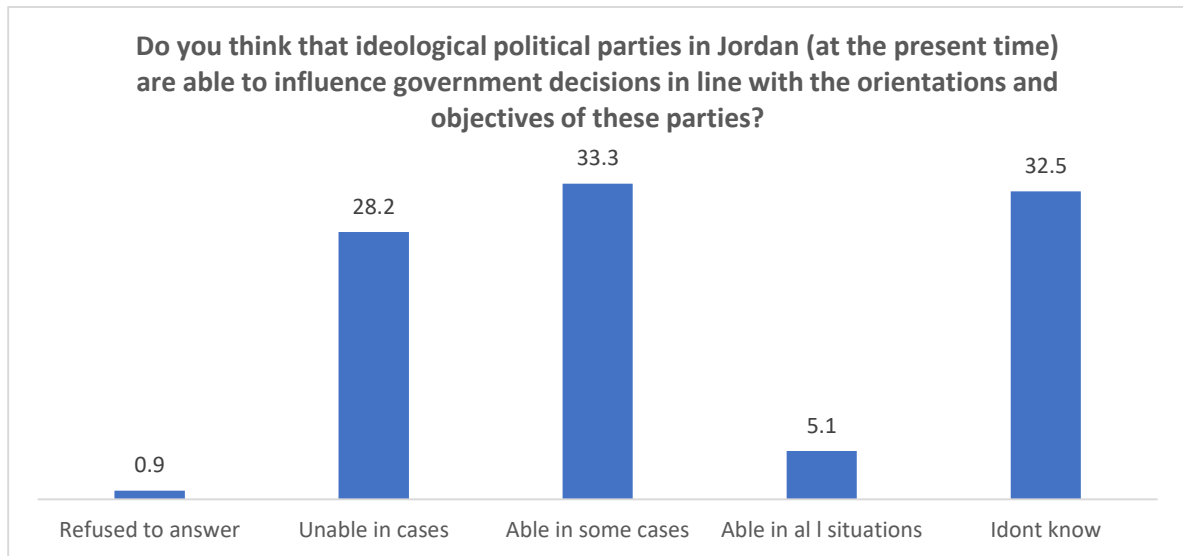


**Figure 3: Have You Joined Any Ideological Political Party at Any Time?**



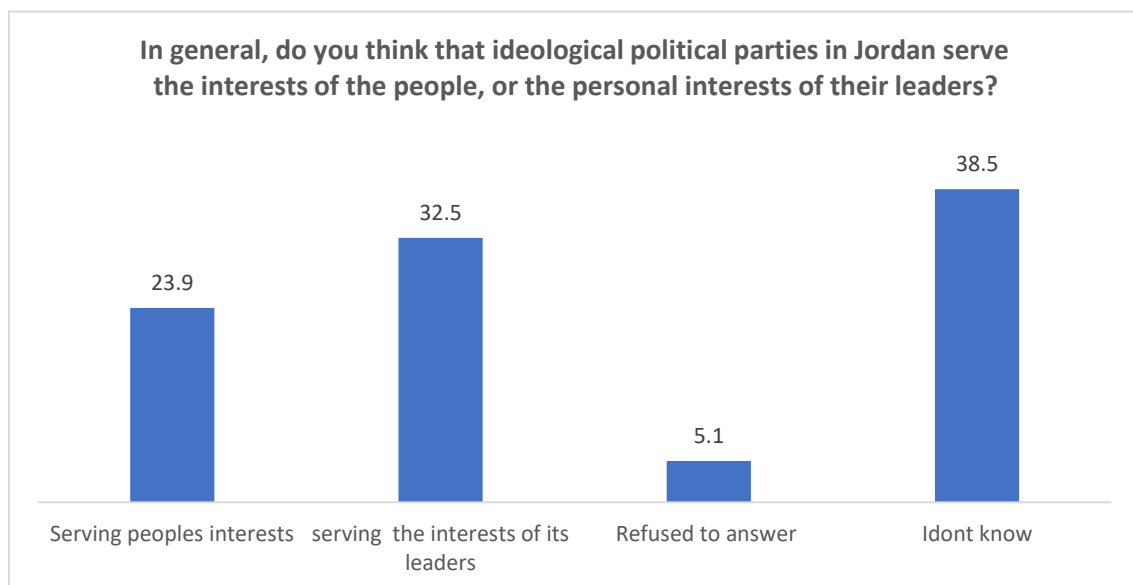
### Section Three: The Role of Ideological Parties in Influencing Decision-makers in Jordan.

As shown in Figure (3), a third of students (33%) believe that ideological political parties in Jordan (and at present in particular) and, in some cases, are capable of influencing government decisions in line with the orientations and objectives of these parties, while (28%) of students believe that these ideological parties are unable, and in all cases, to influence government decisions in line with the orientations and objectives of these parties. Figure (4) illustrates those results.



**Figure 4: Do You Think That Ideological Political Parties in Jordan (at the Present Time) are Able to Influence Government Decisions in Line with the Orientations and Objectives of these Parties?**

As shown in Figure (4), a third of students (33%) believe that ideological political parties in Jordan serve the personal interests of their leaders, while (24%) of students believe that ideological political parties in Jordan serve the interests of the people. The vast majority of students stated that they do not know whether ideological political parties in Jordan serve the interests of the people or serve the personal interests of their leaders. Figure (5) illustrates those results.



**Figure 5: In General, Do You Think That Ideological Political Parties in Jordan Serve the Interests of the People, or the Personal Interests of their Leaders?**

#### Section Four: Acceptance of Different Political Parties to Gain Power

As shown in Figure (5), students were asked a set of statements related to their acceptance of the idea of forming a government by a group of ideological parties that obtained a parliamentary majority through the elections. The results showed that a third of the students (34.2%) personally accept that the government forms a national political party that obtained a parliamentary majority through the elections, while the students accepted in the second place an Islamic political party (31%) that obtained a parliamentary majority through the elections to form a government. In third place come the nationalist parties (23.9%), while they came in fourth place in terms of acceptance of the formation of the government of liberal political parties, while the leftist political parties (socialist) came in last place with a rate of (6.8%). Table (1) illustrates those results.

**Table 1: In Principle, Do You Personally Accept the Arrival?**

Text of the Item	No	Yes	Refused to Answer	Unsure
A National Political Party that won a parliamentary majority through elections to power (formation of a government)	31.6	23.9	8.5	35.9
Islamic political party that won a parliamentary majority through elections to power (formation of a government)	28.2	30.8	6.8	34.2
The Left (socialist) political party that won a parliamentary majority through elections to power (formation of a government)	46.2	6.8	8.5	38.5
A liberal political party that won a parliamentary majority through elections to power (formation of a government)	44.4	8.5	9.4	37.6
A national political party that won a parliamentary majority through elections to power (formation of a government)	21.4	34.2	11.1	33.3

As shown in Table (1), about half of the students (46%) agree that the party is a political organization that aims for political participation through parliament, while 45% of the students agree that the party is a political organization that aims for political participation through the government, and only 17% of the students agree. However, a party is a political organization that aims to participate in politics by remaining in the opposition. Table (2) illustrates those results.

**Table 2: Do you Agree or Disagree with Each of the Following Statements?**

Text of the Item	I Agree	I Disagree	Refuse to Answer	I Don't Know
A party is a political organization that aims to participate in politics through the government	45.3	16.2	7.7	30.8
A party is a political organization that aims to participate in politics through Parliament	46.2	13.7	6	34.2
A party is a political organization that aims to participate in politics through Survival and opposition	17.1	29.1	6.8	47

#### Section Five: Reasons behind Reluctance to Join Parties in Jordan

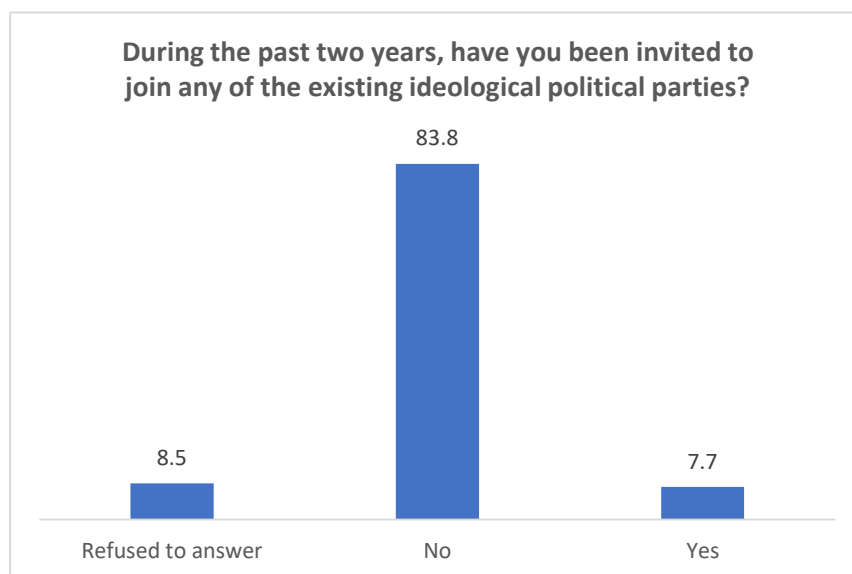
As shown in Table (2), more than half of the students (56%) believe that the insufficiency of the organizational capacity of the parties (lack of organizational experience) is one of the most important reasons for reluctance to join ideological parties, while (52%) of the students believe that the lack of a clear influence of the parties in the course of events. So far, things have prompted a reluctance to join ideological parties. Half of the students (49.6%) believe that the reason for the reluctance to join ideological parties is the reliance of some parties on personal influence. While (46%) believe that the reason for the reluctance to join ideological parties is that the parties in their content are personal (the dominance of the

phenomenon of personal parties). A total of (44%) of the students believe that the reasons for reluctance to join parties are: the government does not encourage affiliation with parties, and the financial capabilities of the parties are insufficient. On the other hand, (42.7%) believe that the reason is the previous partisan experience that does not encourage joining parties, while (30.8%) believe that the reason lies in the fact that the parties' programs do not address issues important to citizens. Table (3) illustrates those results.

**Table 3: Some of the Reasons Cited by Some of those Who Refuse to Join Ideological Parties**

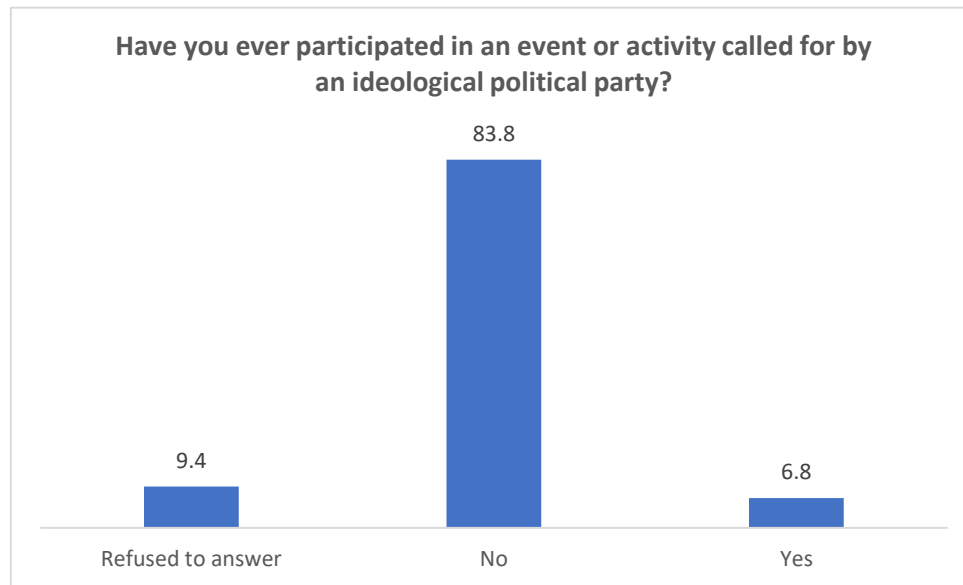
Text of the Item	I support	I oppose	I Refuse to Answer	I Don't Know
Inadequate party organizational capacity (lack of organizational expertise)	55.6	5.1	3.4	35.9
The lack of a clear influence of the parties in the course of affairs so far	52.1	7.7	6.8	33.3
Some parties rely on personal influence	49.6	12.8	6.8	30.8
Parties in their content are personal parties (the control of the phenomenon of personal parties)	46.2	16.2	2.6	35
The government does not encourage party affiliation	43.6	12.8	5.1	38.5
Inadequate financial capabilities of the parties	43.6	9.4	6	41
Previous party experience does not encourage joining parties	42.7	11.1	5.1	41
Party programs do not address issues important to citizens	30.8	19.7	5.1	44.4
The growing number of parties	29.1	20.5	6.8	43.6
Religious values that oppose the division of the nation into parties and groups	26.5	14.5	7.7	51.3
The short period since the establishment of the parties	23.1	22.2	4.3	50.4

As shown in Table (3), the vast majority of students (83.8%) were not invited during the past two years to join any of the existing ideological political parties, while (7.7%) of students reported that they were invited during the past two years to join one of the ideological political parties. Figure (6) illustrates those results.



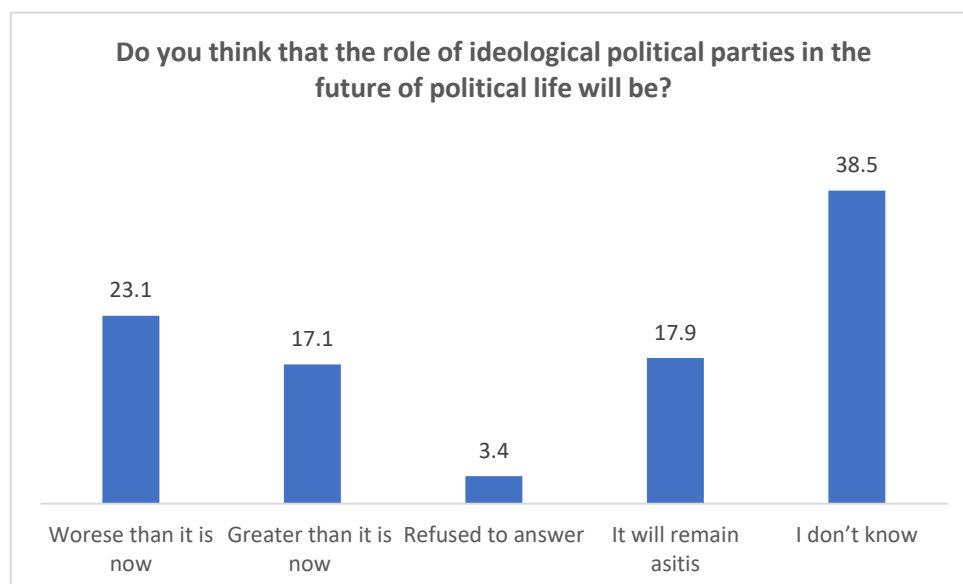
**Figure 6: During the Past Two Years, have you been Invited to Join Any of the Existing Ideological Political Parties?**

As shown in Figure (6), the vast majority of students (83.8%) did not participate in events or activities that were called for by ideological political parties, while (6.8%) of students reported that they were invited or participated in events or activities held by ideological political parties. Figure (7) illustrates those results.



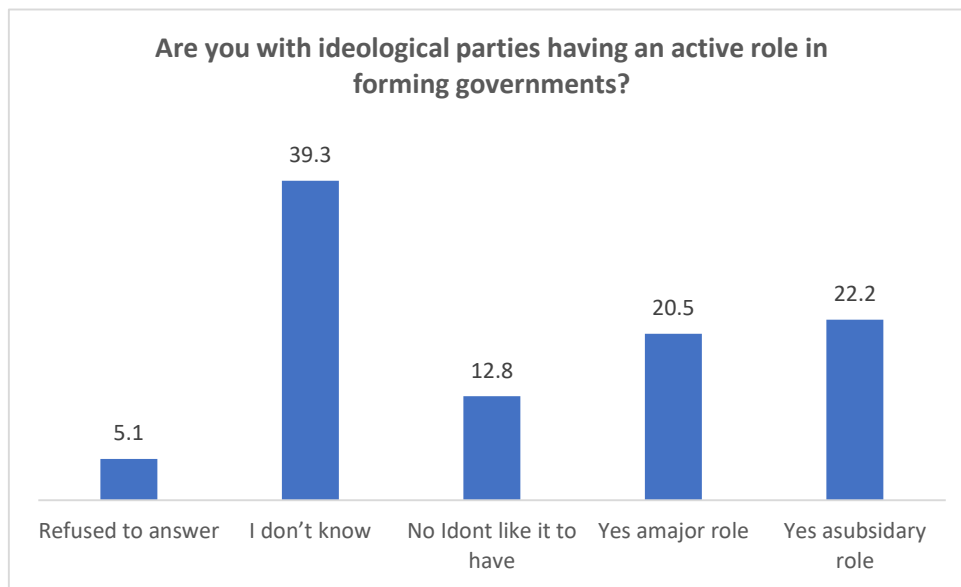
**Figure 7: Have You ever Participated in an Event or Activity Called for by an Ideological Political Party?**

As shown in Figure (7), (23%) of the students believe that the role of ideological political parties in the future of political life in Jordan will be worse than it is now, while (17%) of the students believe that the role of these parties will be greater than it is now, and (18%) believe that The role of ideological political parties in the future of political life in Jordan will remain as it is now (it will not change). Figure (8) illustrates those results.



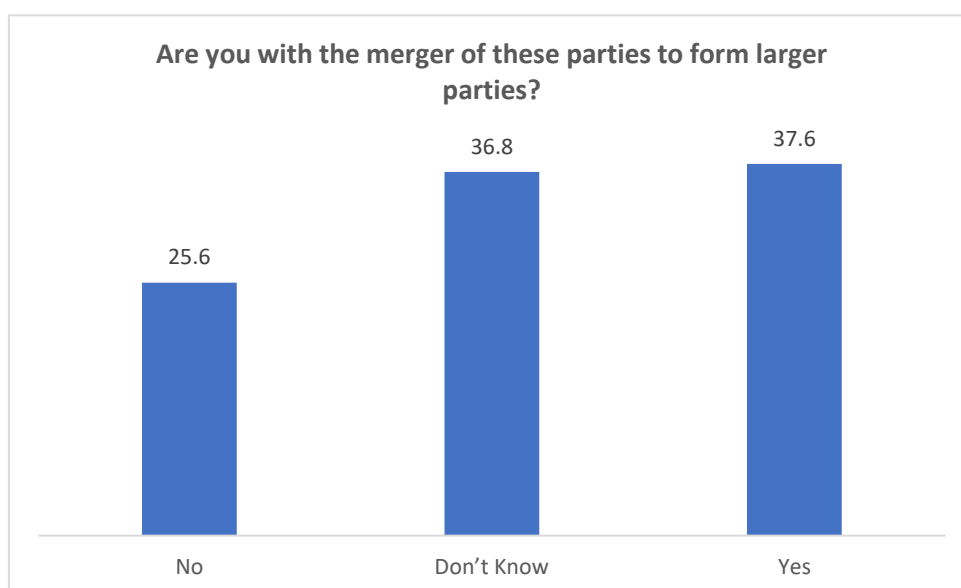
**Figure 8: Do you Think That the Role of Ideological Political Parties in the Future of Political Life Will Be?**

As shown in Figure (8), (23%) of the students believe that the role of ideological political parties in the future of political life in Jordan will be worse than it is now. However, (17%) of the students believe that the role of these parties will be greater than it is now, and (18%) believe that the role of ideological political parties in the future of political life in Jordan will remain as it is now (it will not change). Figure (8) illustrates those results. A total of (22%) of the students support that ideological parties have an active sub-role in forming governments, while (21%) of the students support that ideological parties have a major and effective role in forming governments. But the majority of students do not know what ideological parties should have an active role in forming governments or not. Figure (9) illustrates those results.



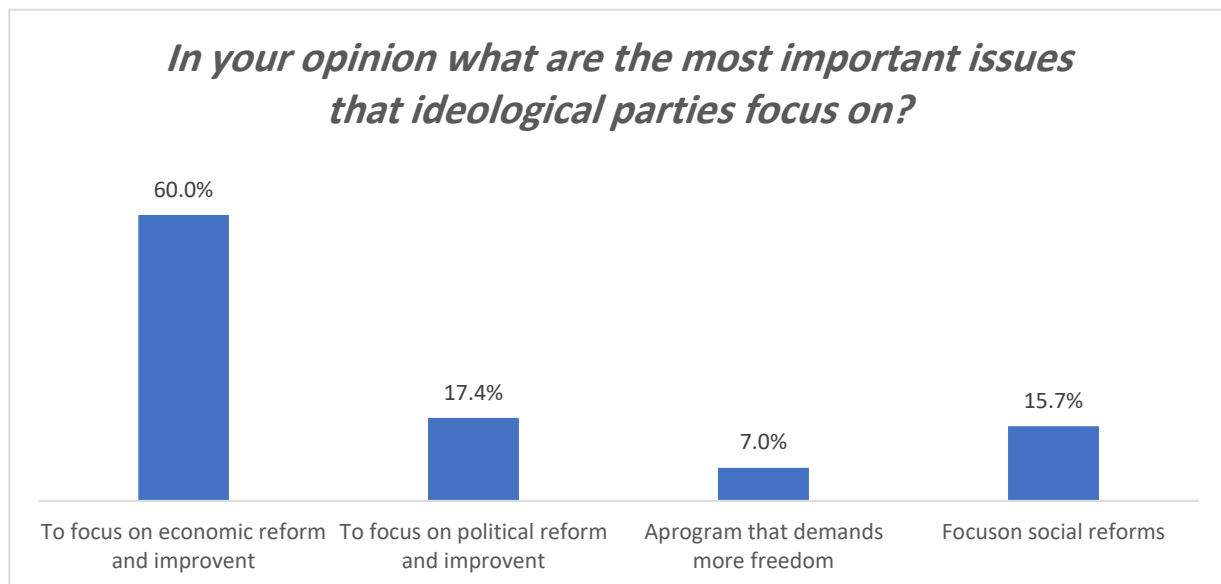
**Figure 9: Are you with Ideological Parties Having an Active Role in Forming Governments?**

As shown in Figure (9), (37.6%) of the students supported merging parties to form larger parties in terms of the number of members and the volume of programs presented, while nearly a quarter of respondents (25.6%) do not support the idea of merging parties to form larger parties. Figure (10) illustrates those results.



**Figure 10: Are You with the Merger of these Parties to Form Larger Parties?**

As shown in Figure (10), more than half of the students (60%) believe that political parties should focus on reform and economic improvement, while (17%) believe that ideological parties should focus on reform and political improvement. However, (16%) believe that ideological parties should focus on social reforms. Only (7%) believe that ideological parties should focus on programs that demand more freedoms. Figure (11) illustrates those results.



**Figure 11: *In your Opinion, What are the Most Important Issues that Ideological Parties Focus on?***

## **12. Conclusion**

To summarize, the research suggests that students do not gravitate towards participation in political parties due to the fear of potential accountability and associated dangers that come with party affiliations. They perceive political parties as personal entities rather than public ones and feel that they lack content relevant to youth issues. Additionally, the study found that students have limited knowledge about ideological parties and insufficient experience in dealing with them. Most students do not perceive the partisan experiences of ideological parties in Jordan as successful.

In addition, the majority of students believe that political parties should focus primarily on reforms, particularly economic and political improvements. Interestingly, the research also revealed that students broadly support the involvement of political parties in government formation, whether it's a major or minor role.

## **13. Recommendations**

Given the established results and review of prior literature related to the topic of ideological parties and Jordanian university students' perspectives concerning their involvement, support, and membership in these parties, the research recommends heightened efforts towards comprehensive awareness programs about the role of parties in political and democratic practices. It suggests increasing the activism and activity levels within the parties while ensuring the freedom of individuals to participate, join and contribute to such partisan events. It proposes providing a distinct definition of political parties, their roles, tasks, and operational methods.

Furthermore, the research recommends empowering parties by widening their reach to the parliament in the first place, and then bringing about parliamentary governments. There should be encouragement towards students, via universities, to join political parties and engage in political work within the academic environment, free from any obstacles that could potentially affect their future. Lastly, parties and their programs should adapt to comply with the current stage and move beyond the traditional programs that are currently offered by these parties.

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