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Topic: 8

Are emerging waves of feminism destabilizing the family system of Pakistan

OUTLINE:

I- INTRODUCTION

Thesis statement: the steady and steep emerging waves of feminism are stabilizing the family system of Pakistan. However, some might disagree with this notion which does not seem very convincing.

II- CONCEPTUALIZATION OF EMERGING WAVES OF FEMINISM

- 1- The origins of feminism
- 2- #MeToo and Mera Jism is Mera Mirzi based slogans

III- AN OVERVIEW OF FAMILY SYSTEM OF PAKISTAN

Extended and joint family structure in Pakistan.

IV- EMERGING WAVES OF FEMINISM ARE DESTABILIZING THE FAMILY SYSTEM OF PAKISTAN - (opposing yet unconvincing arguments)

- a) women are showing resistance to do household chores give impetus to destable family system

Case-in-point: 32.3 Percent Rise in Khula Cases (2023)

- b) Mainstream feminization of drama and art are encouraging defiant behaviours among women; thus, leading a stable family system
Case-in-point: "Mery Pas Jun Hoo" Serial (2018)

V- TO WHAT EXTENT THESE EMERGING WAVES OF FEMINISM ARE STABILISING THE FAMILY SYSTEM OF PAKISTAN - (MAIN ARGUMENT)

- a) women participation in labour market leading into an economically stable family system.
Case-in-point: Rafia Zakria's Economic utility of Women (2020)
- b) Awareness of family courts and legal provisions among women are promoting stability in domestic families.
Case-in-point: Women's protection Bill (2020)
- c) Men are now supporting women in doing household chores and caring babies so this is leading to a stability.
Case-in-point: Women's Growth by Hadia Majid

d) Women are helping each other to weed out the patriarchal behaviours in domestic set-up; this is leading into a stability.

Case-in-point: Anti-women
Practice Bill (2010)

e) Women are now riding motorcycles independently, so they are not dependant on men in this domain.

Case-in-point: Nighat Begum
ride in Karachi

VI- CONCLUSION

The essence of this discourse contends that the emerging waves of feminism are leading toward a well-stable family system of Pakistan.

A stable family system can be likened to a solid foundation of a building that provides resilience against storms. By contrast, the instable family system can be derailed further. The rapidly emerging waves of feminism are ushering an era of stable family system in Pakistan. At micro-level, women are increasingly participating in labour markets, which give impetus to stable family system. Besides this, the rising waves of feminism in Pakistan are inculcating the sense of awareness among women. Today, women are more conscious about their family planning system. At macro-level, the (dramas) and artists are injecting the spirit of feminism among the family system of Pakistan. In contrast to their patriarchal mindsets in the past, families in Pakistan are now more aware to the rights of

women. In a similar vein, some people disagree with the aforementioned notion. They contend that the rising waves of feminism in Pakistan are derailing the traditional family systems. They believe that women are showing more resistance in doing household chores. Likewise, the drama and art are making women more defiant these days. Despite this all, these opposing arguments do not seem much convincing.

The historic roots of feminism can be traced back to the era of Industrial Revolution (1760s). At that time, Elizabeth Cady Stanton has raised her voice for the rights of women. Afterward of this, different waves of feminism come to the fore to empower women. In Pakistan, the presence of emerging

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waves of feminism has been seen since time immemorial. The case of Meesha Shefi, Rizwana, and Qandeel Baloch highlight the pervasion of emerging waves such as #METOO and "Mera Jism Meri Marzi" (my body, my choice). Thus, the emergence of feminism in Pakistan not only empowers women but also injects optimism into the family system of Pakistan.

The family system of Pakistan is tilting towards extended and joint-family structure. In traditional family setup, the women are largely ignored in decision making and property distributions. However, the emerging waves of feminism in Pakistan are empowering women to participate in decision making, and agricultural trade marketing in their houses. Therefore, the steady and steep feminization of domestic women are leading

to a stable family system in Pakistan.

Despite the stable family system in Pakistan, some people contend that the steady and steep feminization are encouraging women to show resistance in domestic family set-up. In domestic household, women are refusing to do all the chores. For instance, the khula cases registered in 2023 are all time high at 32.3%. The gradual increase in the khula cases is due to the emerging waves of feminism in Pakistan. Therefore, this leads towards an unstable family system in Pakistan.

Besides this, another argument claims by some people is that mainstream drama and art are manipulating the women to show defiant behaviours in the family system of Pakistan. For instance, the serial

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"Meray Pas Tum Ho," highlights the colossal rights of women that can make them more defiant in traditional family system. This depiction of emerging waves of feminism in Pakistan can manipulate other women to claim separation. Therefore, the feminization of art and drama are leading into a unstable family system of Pakistan.

Although the opposing arguments are looking valid, they are not convincing yet. So let's dive into the extent of emerging waves of feminism in Pakistan in stabilizing the family system of Pakistan.

In the realm of women's participation in the labor markets, the increasing presence of women in workplace contributes to the growth of family system. In Pakistan,

This has been happening because of the influence of emerging waves of feminism. Rafia Zakaria, in her book "Against White feminism," calls this as an economic utility of women in urban cities of Pakistan. Therefore, the vast presence of women in the labor market is catapulted by the emergence of feminism in Pakistan.

Besides the labor participation, the rapidly emerging waves of feminism are empowering women to claim their rights through family courts. In the past, women are not aware of their rights. However, the emergence of feminism in Pakistan is helping women to proclaim their rights. This will lead to a stable family system in Pakistan because members of family system will comprise

in order to avoid family court based hurdles.

Furthermore to this, men are now more comprising in their family system because of emerging waves of feminism in Pakistan. Men are supporting women in doing house hold chores and caring babies in the family system of Pakistan. Hadia Majid in her magnum-opus, "Women's Work & Growth," asserts that men are now more supportive to their spouses in urban cities. They help each other in performing house chores. Therefore, the rising waves of feminization in Pakistan has made men to support their spouses. This gradually leads toward a stable family system in Pakistan.

In addition to men supporting women in family system, these days women are more self-aware to their legal rights. This awareness plays

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a key role in stabilizing the traditional family system of Pakistan. In her book "Women's Empowerment in Pakistan" Rashida Patel contend that women in Pakistan are now more aware to the legal acts, such as Women's Protection Bill, Prevention of Anti-women Practice Bill, and Harassment of women in workplace Act (2010). This awareness inculcates stability in domestic setup prevailing in Pakistan.

Aside of this awareness aspect, the rise of feminisation in Pakistan has encouraged the women to ride the motorcycles, and buses independently. In the past, women are limited to ravs only. However, the surge of feminization in Pakistan has encouraged women to learn and ride motorcycles. By using this method of

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transportation, women are not anymore dependent on men. Therefore, this positively impacts the traditional family system of Pakistan.

In addition to this, the emerging waves of feminism in Pakistan has unmasked the positive aspect of family planning system. In traditional family system of Pakistan, women are now engaging into a long-term family planning ideas. The Gallup Pakistan Report (2021-22) indicates that 85% of women are aware of at least one method of contraception and the major initiatives started by Lady Health Workers (LHW). This reflects the positive impacts of emerging feminization on family planning system. This leads the traditional system of Pakistan into a more stable family system. The domestic family households are now considering the family planning seriously.

-Good

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The essence of this entire discourse contends that the emerging waves of feminism in Pakistan are stabilizing the family system of Pakistan. However, some people disagree with this notion, and they argue that this steady and steep emergence of feminism are hindering the balance of family system of Pakistan. In all perspectives, their arguments do not seem much convincing because women are now actively participating in labour - markets, carefully planning family system, and regularly driving motorcycle. All of these diads are leading towards a well stable family system in Pakistan.

