

Essay Topic:

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Women empowerment will bring the revolution that we dream of.

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Women empowerment is a guiding principle towards revolution that we dream of. It strengthens democracy, enhance economic growth and promote gender parity. Although, there are some hurdles such as lack of government policies, absence of political awareness and the patriarchal mindset, yet by adopting stern measures these issues can be eradicate.

2- Proposition of women empowerment to bring revolution (overview)

3- Women empowerment a driving force behind revolution we dream of

- a- Educated mothers give birth to an educated nation
- b- Political Participation Strengthens democracy
- c- Equal employment opportunities enhance economic growth
- d- Legal and social protection discourage domestic violence
(Personal is Political)
- e- Frequent healthcare facilities reduce maternal deaths
- f- Women Participation in decision making brings gender parity.

4- Hurdles in the way of women empowerment

- a- Lack of Government Policies

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- b- Absence of Political awareness among masses
- c- Budgetary constraint regarding healthcare facilities
- d- Glass ceiling against Participation in decision making
- e- Domestic violence an endemic social problem

(A girl in the river)

b- Stereotyping behavior of the society

5- Possible measures to achieve women empowerment

- a- Make education compulsory for women
- b- Ensure equal employment opportunities
- c- Eradicate domestic violence
- d- Provide healthcare facilities
- e- Protect women against workplace harassment

6- Conclusion:

Essay:

"No Nation can rise to the highest of glory unless her women stand side by side with men." (Quaid-

e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah). These

lines by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah present the glory and development of nations with the empowerment of women. Likewise, women empowerment will bring a revolution

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that we dream of such as educated mother gives birth to an educated nation, Political Participation strengthen democracy and equal employment opportunities enhance economic growth. Furthermore, legal and social protection has discouraged domestic violence, frequent healthcare facilities reduce maternal deaths and women participation in decision making is bring gender parity. However, there are some hurdles such as lack of government policies, political awareness among masses and the stereotyping behaviour of the society. Therefore, there is a need to take several steps to promote women empowerment. In a nutshell, women empowerment is a guiding principle towards revolution that we dream of. It strengthens democracy, enhance economic growth and promote gender parity. Although, there are some hurdles such as lack of government policies, absence of political awareness and the patriarchal mindset, yet by adopting stern measures these issues can be eradicate.

Women empowerment is the way to bring revolution that mankind dream of. Unfortunately,

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their lack of representation in governance, economics, politics and education make them vulnerable. The World Economic Forum recently released the Global Gender Gap Report, 2022. The report quantifies how big the gender gap is in areas including educational attainment, economic participation, health and political empowerment. Pakistan is placed 145 out of 146 countries doing marginally better than Afghanistan. Therefore, there is a need to ensure women participation in all sphere of life such as ⁱⁿ politics, economics and governance this could brought fruitful results. According to UNDP 2021 Report that womenomics is not just a good social move, it could be added USD 12 trillion to the global GDP by 2025 by advancing women equality. This shows that women empowerment being the revolution that humans dream of.

Educated mother gives birth to an educated nation is one of the driving forces behind revolution that ~~man~~ humans dream of. The reason is that education brings awareness in human beings. An educated mother has transformed the lives of their children in a right way. She has tried her best to acquaint her children with

fruitful knowledge to make them useful members of the society. Furthermore, she knows about her duties and bears the responsibilities of upbringing their children in right direction. According to **Napoleon Bonaparte**: "Give me an educated mother, I shall promise you the birth of a civilized, educated nation." In a nutshell an educated mother gives birth to an educated nation which bring a revolution.

Apart from educated mother gives birth to an educated nation, Political Participation that strengthen democracy is another driving force behind the revolution that we dream of. The reason is that women have involved in decision-making process. Through this way they have given their opinion and raised questions at every possible forum. Appointment of women as a head of state and to other executive posts have strengthen democracy.

USA is one of the best examples of democracy, and its voice President is female. Furthermore, **India** is also a democratic country and

Its head of state is female. Thus, women participation in politics strengthen democracy which bring revolution that we dream of.

Alongwith Political Participation, equal employment opportunities enhance economic growth. The reason is that women participation in economic sectors have contributed to GDP. Women's economic empowerment have boosted Productivity, increase economic diversification and income equality. Furthermore, women participation in businesses and other income generating sectors had promoted competition among the workers. Women have more working capacity than men therefore, they can perform their duties more consistently. In developed countries like USA, China and Japan women are working side by side with men and contributing to the economic growth of their countries. In a nutshell, equal employment opportunities to women have improved economic growth.

Apart from equal employment opportunities, legal and social protection

discourage domestic violence. The is that their protection is to be recognized at social and legal sphere. In a Patriarchal Societies like Pakistan domestic violence is a normal practice and increasing day by day. However, provide legal and social protection can eradicate the menace. In the second wave of feminism women raised a slogan that: "The Personal is Political". By this they meant that domestic violence is not a personal matter of women, but it is a political one. They demanded to resolve it politically through legislation. In a nutshell, domestic violence can be discouraged by providing legal and social protection.

Alongwith legal and social protection, frequent healthcare facilities reduce maternal deaths. The reason is that the pregnant women receives proper treatment in time. The maternal deaths can be reduced by providing frequent healthcare facilities. These includes

maternity hospitals, childcare institutions, awareness among the masses and discourage old cultural beliefs and practices. China has improved its maternal and infant mortality by providing healthcare facilities. According to the National Health Commission of China 2022 Report: In 2021, China recorded a maternal mortality rate of 16.1 Per 100,000. Therefore, there are 3,032 maternal and child healthcare institutions, 793 maternity hospitals and 151 children hospitals nationwide. In a nutshell, frequent healthcare facilities reduce maternal deaths.

Along with frequent healthcare facilities which reduce maternal deaths, women participation in decision making brings gender parity. The reason is that women advocate more effectively for gender equality. Therefore, equal participation of men and women in every field of life is the ultimate force behind gender parity. Bangladesh is one of the glaring example that is struggling for women empowerment. According to Council on Foreign Relations 2019

~~Referring~~ meeting Bangladesh' Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina said, that women empowerment had been an important cornerstone of her domestic policy. Furthermore, she said, that women in Bangladesh held high position in politics, government, Parliament, local bodies, business, military, police and security agencies, as well as in U.N Peacekeeping.

According to the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2022,

Bangladesh is ranked first in South Asia and second in Asia on overall women empowerment. Thus, women participation in decision making brings gender parity.

There are several hurdles in the way of women empowerment chiefly among these is lack of government policies. The reason is that lack of government interest in women empowerment.

In a patriarchal societies like Pakistan government officials comprises mainly of male members. They do not consider women as a driving force behind social and economic prosperity. Furthermore,

Politicians are engaged in power grab rather than focusing on women empowerment. However, lack of government proactive policies leads women to a deplorable condition. Furthermore, lack of sustainable government policies regarding domestic violence, political participation, healthcare facilities have an ultimate impact on women empowerment. In a nutshell, lack of government policies make hurdles in the way of women empowerment.

Along with lack of government policies, absence of political awareness among masses is a hurdle in the way of women empowerment. The reason is that the low literacy rate in the country. Education is one of the important factors to make people politically aware. Unfortunately, in Pakistan mostly of the people are unaware, whom to vote and why to vote. Pakistan is a youth dominated country which is an important asset for the better politics, but unfortunately mostly of

its school going children are out of school. According to NCRC (National Commission on the Rights of child) Report, Pakistan has 22.8 million children between 5 and 16 years old out of school. Through this way women have lacked awareness regarding their Political rights. This shows that lack of Political awareness among masses is a hurdle in women empowerment.

Apart from absence of Political awareness among masses, budgetary constraint regarding healthcare facilities is one of the hurdles in the way of women empowerment. The reason is that lack of government interest to take healthcare facilities on Priority base. This shows that countries like Pakistan is facing dearth of healthcare facilities such as maternity hospitals, maternal and childcare institutions and women nutritional support. Furthermore, the women of farflung areas are impacting severely due to lack of healthcare facilities and they are traveling for

a miles of distance. The federal budget 2021-2022 in which the health budget is Rs 28.3bn though it is still a mere 0.4% of the total budget (Zafar Mirza, "Healthcare and Budget 2021-22", August, 2021). In a nutshell, budgetary constraint is a ~~hurdle~~ hurdle in the way of providing healthcare facilities.

Along with budgetary constraint regarding healthcare facilities, glass ceiling against participation in decision making is another hurdle in the way of women empowerment. The reason behind this is a ^{cultural} patriarchal mindset. Women are being deprived to participate in decision making worldwide. Pakistan is one of the glaring example. There is a cultural barriers in the way of women participation in decision-making. For example male family member has discouraged women from voting in elections and the religious seminaries who want the confinement of women within the four walls. Currently in Pakistan's Parliament there is only 21 Percent female.

In the National Assembly out of 342 members, female representation is only 3 percent if reserved seats are excluded which are 60 seats. (Shazia Mehboub Tanoli, "Gendered Politics Prevail", February, 2022). Additionally, according to World Economic Forum 2022 Report Pakistan has placed 95th in Political empowerment. In a nutshell, glass ceiling against women participation in decision-making is a hurdle in women empowerment.

Apart from glass ceiling against participation in decision making, domestic violence an endemic social problem is a hurdle in the way of women empowerment. The reason is that the cultural taboos regarding women prevailed in the society. Domestic violence is a common problem all over the world. It is prevalent in both developing and developed world, but it has deeper roots in a patriarchal societies like Pakistan.

It includes honour killing, vani and forced marriages. According to a UN 2022 Report, one in three females

aged 15 or older, or approximately 736 million women and girls worldwide, have suffered physical or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both, at least once in their life. Furthermore, the Oscar-winning Pakistani documentary, "A Girl in the River" by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy follows the story of Saba who survived an honour killing attack is one of the examples of domestic violence. This shows that domestic violence is an endemic social problem.

Along with domestic violence an endemic social problem, stereotyping behaviour of the society is another hurdle in the way of women empowerment. The reason is that to maintain cultural barriers. The stereotyping behaviour which creates discrimination between male and female and give them certain roles. The stereotyping behaviour that men are bread earner and women are to grow up their children and work at home. Furthermore, the stereotyped society gives

titles of "bitches" and "whores" to an assertive women, while men who do not appear or act masculine are called "sissies" or "wimps". However, media, education sectors, Peers and family are the sources to promote these stereotyping behaviors. This shows that stereotyping behavior is one of the hurdles in the way of Women empowerment.

In order to achieve women empowerment there is a need to make education compulsory for women. Women education has a great importance, because they give birth to the societies. Education has contributed to the glory of civilization. In the same way an educated women have contributed to the societies in a multiple ways. For example they are contributing to the economic, political, legal and social spheres. "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a family." (Brigham Young). Article 25-A was

introduced as a part of the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 2010 shows that all five-16 years-olds should have access to free education. Thus, to bring women empowerment there is a need to make education compulsory for women.

Apart from making education compulsory for women, ensure equal employment opportunities to achieve women empowerment.

The government should make proactive policies and implement it with true spirit. Ensure equal participation of women in economic, political, legal and decision making avenues to achieve women empowerment.

Furthermore, the government should adopt stern measures against corruption and bribery, which make hurdles in the way of providing equal employment opportunities. Almost in every department there is a need of women to participate. For example in police department there is a need to ~~hire~~ hire more women station house officers where women discuss their grievances without ^{any} hesitation.

In a nutshell, ensure equal employment opportunities to achieve women empowerment.

Alongwith ensuring equal employment opportunities, eradicate domestic violence to bring women empowerment. The government should make new laws and implement the existing law with letter and spirit.

Likewise, sensetising police investigations and improve police attitude towards women survivors. Additionally, provide protective environment to women in the police stations and courts where they could discuss their grievances. There is a need that the law enforcing agencies should punish the culprits of domestic violence with an iron hand. Furthermore, eradicate the loopholes present in the law that the honour kill has the option of forgiveness. Thus, to bring women empowerment there is a need to eradicate domestic violence.

Alongwith, eradicate domestic violence, provide healthcare facilities to achieve women empowerment. The government needs

to adopt a holistic strategy to address the issues of women health. For example maternal deaths, high birth rate, lack of proper nutrition and delivery. The government should allocate a desirable percentage in budget for healthcare facilities. Furthermore, the federal as well as the provincial government build maternity hospitals, dispensaries and other health-care facilities for women. The Pakistan maternal mortality survey reports 298 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in Balochistan compared to the national average of 186. (Zahra Rao and Sajjad Husain "The women of Kech", September 2021).

In a nutshell, provide healthcare facilities to achieve women empowerment.

Apart from provide health care facilities, protect women against workplace harassment to achieve women empowerment.

The constitution of Pakistan also provide a guiding principle regarding women rights protection and dignity. Article 25 of the 1973 constitution ensures equality

before the law and equal protection of the law and states that there should be no discrimination on the basis of sex. Article 25(3) and 26(2) allow the state to make special provisions for the protection of women. Furthermore, "The Protection against Harassment of Women at the Work place Act 2010" is a positive step of the Parliament. Therefore, there is a need that government should implement it with letter and spirit. Additionally, there should be internal organizational inquiry committee where these issues should be discussed with full justice. Women should support from their family male members to make complaint against the culprit. Thus, protect women against workplace harassment to make them empowered.

It is concluded that women empowerment is a guiding principle towards revolution that we dream of. It strengthens democracy, enhance economic growth and promote gender parity. Furthermore, it gives birth to a civilized nation and promote conscious raising

among masses regarding women rights. There are some hurdles in the way of achieving women empowerment such as lack of government policies, budgetary constraint, stereotyping behavior of the society and glass ceiling against participation in decision making. Therefore, there is a need to adopt stern measures to overcome these issues such as, make education compulsory for women, ensure equal employment opportunities, eradicate domestic violence, provide healthcare facilities and protect women against workplace harassment.

It is necessary to believe that there is always light at the end of tunnel. Increase social awareness regarding women empowerment in society is a ray of hope that one day they will enjoy empowerment in society.