

# Growing intolerance for women in Pakistan

## Outline

- ① Introduction
- ② Women vs the misogynistic society of Pakistan
- ③ The fault-lines of Pakistani society, making women marginalized
  - Ⓐ Biased social standards for women in society
  - Ⓑ Lower literacy rate, a cage for women
  - Ⓒ Misunderstood religious teachings actualizing anti women sentiments in society
  - Ⓓ Lack of economical opportunities for women in Pakistan
  - Ⓔ women harassment has become an order of the day in Pakistan
  - Ⓕ failure of state to safeguard the women rights
  - Ⓖ unavailability of platforms to demand & secure women rights
- ④ Without women development Pakistan will face severe socio-economic and political crisis
  - Ⓐ Pakistan is wasting half of its human capital
  - Ⓑ Economic dol-drums will remain the future of Pakistan
  - Ⓒ Social harmony will be a mere dream without women development.

## Importance of Women's Education

- ⑤ Pakistan has to address the concerns to make women an asset for the nation
  - Ⓐ Independent women, will make an independent Pakistan
  - Ⓑ Pakistan has to educate its society about women rights and duties
  - Ⓒ Literate and skillful women will flourish Pakistan
  - Ⓓ State has to eradicate Patriarchy from the society
- ⑥ Conclusion



"Empowering women is a key to building a future we want" these words of Amartya Sen shows the importance of women for any society. Unluckily the word empowering a woman is missing from Pakistani society. A society where women are 51% of the total population but the country is still among the worst places to live in for a woman. In a place full of misogynistic men, a woman faces harassment, assault, discrimination and marginalisation on daily bases. All these problems a woman faces today are actually the failure & the fault-lines of Islamic republic of Pakistan as a state. Without women empowerment Pakistan cannot achieve desired socio-economic and political developments. Pakistan has to engage its women capital in every sector so the population become an asset of the nation.

The Pakistani society is plagued with misogyny. Misogyny



is a curse for the development of the country. A woman cannot participate in social affairs, unable to get her due right, faces biased standards of the society will always becomes a liability for the society. In Pakistani society a woman faces suppression by the hegemony of men in economic, social, political, educational and in many other sectors. A nation cannot become great where women suppression has become an order of the day.

It is always a society who look-after its people so everyone gets equal opportunities & rights. But there are many loopholes in Pakistani society which seems to be dragging a woman behind a man. These loop-holes exposes the biased standards of Pakistani society. Many a women have listned the famous proverb 'what will people say' in their lives. It has become a hurdle in the path of success for every women. The Pakistani society should



come out of the biased standards. So every being can participate for the well-being of society.

on the other hand low literacy rate has become a cage for women. Education is the very basic demand to work in any sector. An uneducated woman will be unable to get a job or to work in a respectable sector where society allows them to work. So automatically low literacy rate becomes a cage for women. The literacy rate of women in Pakistan is 35% lowest in South Asia. Higher literacy guarantees a developed future. Scandinavian countries are an example for the world.

Similarly religion plays a great role in society. Religion shape the the views of people. But unfortunately some altered religious teachings had actuated anti women sentiments in society. These anti women sentiments sealed a woman within four walls. Also these misunderstood religious teachings bereave a woman from



her basic rights like education, Independence, or to marry. The severity of these sentiments even leads to honour killing. 'The influence of Taliban Islam can be seen in border areas of Pakistan with Afghanistan'. Areas like South Waziristan are an example where women follow strict altered Shariah laws.

In the same way lack of economic opportunities for women in Pakistan is a big concern. It should be great concern that a country having 107 million women had no woman chief of army staff, or a woman Inspector general of police, and a very minute number of CEOs, Chairmans or other Sector representatives. It is all because a woman don't get an equal opportunity as a man. 'Pakistan is ranked 143rd in economic participation and opportunities' for a woman. The indicator does not bode good signs. Opportunities should be given on equally bases.

Along with this physical violence has become an order of the day in Pakistan. Harassment, torture Spousal violence can be easily



traced in our society. The women of Pakistan are experiencing these violences from their home to their work places. These tortures make a woman physically, psychologically ill. 'Noor Muqadam case, Lahore motorway incident' and many other cases are the stark realities of Pakistani society. Rule of law and tight check and balance from state authorities can improve this inhuman stereotype.

It should also be noted that along with society a state also has to play a great role to safeguard the rights of its people. But in case of Pakistan, state seems failing to do so. From justice, maternal mortality, Rape, murder, mal-nutrition and so on the catastrophic condition of state organs exposes the reality. 'Every year 4,77,000 women die of maternal mortality, 5200 rape cases only in 2021.' These figures are actually the failure of state to secure a woman.



Moreover the unavailability of any strong platform where women can register their problems and demand for their solution is ~~creating~~ a buffer between women and authorities. Women are unable to raise their voices at a single platform so they can work together for their right. Scarcity of platforms for women makes her sealed within four walls. 'Women relief committee (WRC), women action front (WAF), Sindhiani Tahreek' all these forums had played a great role in Pakistan for the rights of women. Women of Pakistan are in dire need of platforms like these.

In addition to these problems women are facing in Pakistan, Pakistan has to bear the consequences of these problems. Pakistan is wasting half of its human capital as there are 107 million women in Pakistan out of 220 million population. If Gender gap, low women participation in labour or hundreds of other



factors will not be improved  
Pakistan will surely face severe  
consequences in terms of economy,  
social welfare and other sectors.

'Quran says, women are twin  
halves of men'. An Islamic  
republic, Pakistan should utilize  
its whole human capital for the  
well-being of nation.

It can also be said  
that if Pakistan did not empower  
its women, economic stability will  
remain a dream for Pakistan.  
by informal economy a woman can  
bring \$15 to \$20 per month for  
country. 'If the female force were to  
become equal to the male working  
population Pakistan's GDP could increase  
by 60% by 2025'. This makes  
it clear that without women  
participation Pakistan's economy will  
remain in doldrums.

Also how can one  
forget the importance of social  
harmony for any nation. Society  
is the building block of any  
nation. A disrupted, biased, chaotic



Can not be the testimony of great, developed nations. 'African and Middle eastern countries are an example' that although they have gold and oil reserves but the regions failed to emerge as leaders because of social chaos in society.

Coming towards the solutions, Pakistan has to make its women socially, economically independent. An independent woman will lead to an independent Pakistan. Pakistan has to provide them opportunities, soft loans, micro financing schemes, particular quotas, start up schemes and many more opportunities to empower a woman. 'Women are the architect of the society' the quotation is true in its all sense but only for those who have authority.

Also here ~~Pakistan~~ has to educate its people about what is women rights? what feminist movements are all about, what are your duties as a male.



So the stereotypes should break. Most of the problems women faces in society are due to unawareness of the due right and duties of women. A difference in mentalities can only be bring through right and effective education through social media, curriculum media, TV industry. All these platform can collectively to educate Pakistani society.

It should also be added that a woman can not flourish in a patriarchic society. Pakistan has to eradicate patriarchy from its society. Male hegemonic sectors, societies are the cause of women suppression. A woman can work in her full strength ~~without~~ only when she will feel free, safe in the environment.

<sup>e</sup> Article 25(1), 25(2) of The Constitution of Pakistan' say All citizens are equal before law and there should be no discrimination on the basis of sex.



on summing up the story it is made clear that there are many loopholes in Pakistani society and in state itself. which are making Pakistan lag behind in social, economical and political sectors. The unacceptability of women in society is a question mark on the culture, Religion, ethics Teaching and on the state itself. without women empowerment Pakistan can not succeed in its aims of becoming a great nation. A gender equal society would be the one where the word gender does not exist: where everyone can be themselves (Gloria Steinem).