

IS Gender Equality

a Myth

not a life?

1- Introduction

Gender Equality is a myth

Thesis Statement:

It is evident that gender inequality persists in various forms globally. Achieving gender equality requires efforts towards creating a more equitable world for all genders.

2- Strands of Gender Equality

a - Equality in Political domain

b - Equality in Economic domain

c - Equality in Social domain

3- Contextualizing Gender Equality as a myth

a. Case Study of Tanzania

b. Case Study of India

4- What are the Factors Fabricating Gender Equality as a Myth

a. under-representation of women and third genders in legislation

b. Disadvantaged in political domain for leadership role.

- c. Uneven employment opportunities for women
- d. Disproportionate system of wages
- e. Endangered education system
- f. Polluted Ideology coupled about gender coupled with patriarchy
- g. Sexual objectification of women in society.

5 Why is Gender Equality Distant Dream in Pakistan

- a. Pronounced gender-based violence
- b. Low Participation of women in electoral process
- c. Inappropriate distribution of inheritance.

6. What are the Some Efforts being Made to Make the Grade of Gender Equality

- a. Four United Nations conferences on women
- b. Feminist efforts.

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7- How Can Gender Equality be Metamorphosed into Reality

- a. Dethroning Patriarchy nor matriarchy
- b. Implementation of international laws regarding women emancipation in its true sense
- c. Discouraging stereotypical attitude
- d. Integration of women in different field

8- Conclusion

The dawn of 21st century has renewed the intensity of the efforts to ensure gender equality. However, the world has achieved progress toward gender equality and women empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals. Women and girls continue to bear the adverse impact brunt of adverse economic and political impacts.

This arena reveals that gender equality is a myth. There are several factors fabricating gender equality as a myth. These include under-representation of women and transgender in legislation, disadvantaged in political domain for leadership role and uneven employment opportunities for women. Likewise, endangered education system and sexual objectification of women have clipped off the wings of women. Due to this, gender equality has become a distant dream in Pakistan. However, some efforts can be made for gender equality. Such as implementation of international laws regarding women and discouraging stereotypical attitude.

It is heartening to say that lack of representation of women and transgender in legislation witness the

gender equality as a myth. Women continue to be discriminated at Political fronts. Women are not given the importance in legislation. According to Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency, 20 percent of women are involved in the National Assembly and zero percent representation of the transgender. This Patriarchal attitude of man pushes the women into the depths of exploitation. Therefore, gender equality is just a fiction in Political arena.

Similarly, women find them in shaky ground in the domain of unemployment. Although women and men are created equal, yet ~~they~~ women have been given minimum access to job opportunities. The World Bank, sheds light on the Potential

aspect of the issue. The female labour force participation rate is fourth-eight percent as compared to men with 78 percent. The report reveals that women suffer in terms of economic opportunities.

By same token, a highly ^{en}dangered wage system has forced the women to step back. Men get paid much more than women for the same work and efforts. World Economic Forum's report 2022 continues to narrate while expounding the following agenda. Pakistan ranks 145th out of 146th countries.

Pakistan is the second worst country in the world across the several areas. These include education, health, economic opportunity and in leadership role. Hence, wage differentiation based on gender is the manifestation of gender

inequality.

Moreover, government neglects the women's education system. As the Salman Ali contextualizes the same issue in his article, "Girls deprived of education." Girls are worse off than boys. 32 percent of primary school age girls are not attending in Pakistan. By grade 6, 54 percent girls are out of school. Only 13 percent of girls are still at school by 9th grade. So girls are worse affected. On the other hand, where education is accessible or available, parents discriminate their sons and daughters. Even poor families send their boys to private schools and girls to government school or even no schools. This alarming situation shows that society sees to women as inferior.

Moreover, Polluted ideology about gender coupled with patriarchy has equivocally limited the space of women. Women are just considered as a mastermind of home management. This mind-boggling ideology has hindered the economic growth of Pakistan. Susan Cruea criticizes the prevailing idea of cult of domesticity by concluding that social system is designated to limit women's sphere of influence in homes and families. Therefore, men hold the prestigious position while the women remain gladdled in the clutches of patriarchy.

Moving ahead,
Sexual objectification of women has become a part of culture particularly in rural areas. Shulamith Firestone

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does justice with issue in his essay "The Dialectic of Sex". She says that woman is contemplated as a child-productive machine. Motherhood become central to woman. If a woman is not able to give birth to kids, it is believed that she lacks something. However, women have ~~its~~ its own identity and she needs to live by that identity. So, gender-based inequality in social objectification is a contributor to women's plight.

Women are suppressed in every corner of the world. Sadly, Pakistan viciously acknowledges the worst conditions of women. Gender norms are still a ruinous aspect in this regard. For instance, gender-based violence abuse, also the pronounced gender

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based violence. It includes physical, sexual and psychological violence. According to Human right watch reports, 70 Percent women in Pakistan suffer from sexual violence and 5000 women have been killed by domestic violence in 2022. Therefore, gender equality has become a distant dream in Pakistan.

Furthermore, low participation of women in electoral process restrict them from playing a role in democratic process. This legacy has shaken the confidence of ~~the~~ women. Election Commission of Pakistan report continues to narrate while expounding the following agenda. Only 5 percent of women have casted the vote in Shangla and 9.94 percent in North Waziristan in the general election 2018. Therefore, one can imagine that participation

of women in electoral process reaches at lower rank.

By same taken, Inappropriate distribution of inheritance has hindered the women from basic share of inheritance. Even, Islam has long before allotted half the share of endowment. As the outlined in the newly release Pakistan report published by Pakistan Policy Research Institute, ~~privat~~ provides the grim picture.

In Pakistan, only 40 percent of women get portion in inheritance. Most of the women are deprived of particularly in rural areas of Pakistan.

Hence, it is certainly a deep matter of the fact that gender inappropriate distribution of inheritance has become the tradition in Pakistan.

Keeping in mind the fact that gender

inequality, unfortunately, is a global phenomenon. In this regard, world community has made many efforts to empowering the women. United Nations has organised four conferences to address the plight of women and to work on abolishing the gender inequality. Furthermore, the feminists' efforts cannot be forgotten. They are increasingly becoming vocal about women's right. Metoo campaign is case in point.

Michael Shea has rightly said that while it is foolish to ignore the dark around us, it is futile to exaggerate it. So, the discussion of these points demonstrate that it needs to promote some strategies to promote gender equality.

Firstly, the

neither patriarchy nor matriarchy should be followed. By doing this, woman and man can make the positive changes in society. Secondly, United Nations should pay attention to gender equality in general and implementation of international laws regarding women emancipation. Thirdly, integration of women in different fields is the need of the hour, and they have last but not least, one should discourage the stereotypical attitude. If society follows these strategies, to counter gender equality would be changed to reality.

In a nutshell, the main motive of women empowerment is to bring the equality among ^{all} genders and not to segregate people based on

the genders. However, there are several factors making gender equality as a myth. These include, under-representation of women and third gender in legislation, even employment opportunities for women and endangered education system. On the other hand, gender equality has become a distant dream in Pakistan. In this context, some efforts have been put by United Nations. Moreover, gender equality can be metamorphosed into reality ~~intending~~ to discouraging stereotypical attitude and integration of women in different fields. **Rimbaud** writes that hopefully one day, women can become fully human beings, when man gives her freedom.