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ID Code:

	Category	Total marks
Content	Qualitative analysis	10
	Quantitative analysis	10
	Validity & Reliability	10
	Relevance	10
Language	Sentence structure	5
	Vocabulary	5
	Clarity	5
	Command of language	5
	Expression	5
Structure	Outline	5
	Introduction	5
	Body paragraphs	5
	Conclusion	5
Coherence	Cohesion	5
	Coherence	10
		Total

Is Feminism a clearly understood concept in our society?

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Feminism is not a clearly understood concept in Pakistani society since a lot of myths and misconceptions are associated with it. It is, therefore, the feminist movements in the country have faced severe backlashes so far. However, through education and awareness campaigns the society can be enlightened about the true aims of feminists.

2. What is feminism

3. Myths and misconceptions about feminism in Pakistani society (thesis)

a. Feminism is considered as a western propaganda against Islam

b. Feminism is about men hating

c. Feminism is associated with nudity and prostitution

d. Feminism is perceived as a threat to family system

e. Feminism is thought to be against women fertility

4. Debunking the myths and misconceptions about feminism in Pakistan: (Anti-thesis)

a. Though feminism is a western concept but ^{it is} not against Islam

b. Feminism is not about hating men rather it is about equality

c. Feminism does not promote nudity and prostitution but in reality it is against them.

d. Feminism is not a threat to family system rather it is a threat to toxic masculinity

e. Feminism is not against women's fertility rather it is about ^{to} healthy mother and ^{and} child

5. Feminism can be a blessing if the myths and misconceptions are addressed (Synthesis)

a. May like many western values it can benefit humanity

b. Equality between genders through feminism can bring prosperity

c. Feminism can abolish prostitution and nudity since they are patriarchal by nature

d. Feminism can ab-eradicate toxic

masculinity ~~and~~ which leads to healthy families
e. Mother and child health can be improved
if feminism prevailed

b. Conclusion

Essay

Feminism is not only about women but it is also about other genders; if prevailed, feminism will bring true joy and happiness to the world (Michelle Obama). It is very well said by the former first lady of America that feminism is about all genders and it is about humanity. It is the ideology which focuses on equality and respect and through equality and mutual respect this world can be made a living paradise. But unfortunately, in Pakistan, feminism is perceived as a negative perspective based on hatred. It is because feminism is not a clearly understood concept in Pakistani society since a lot of myths and misconceptions are associated with it. It is, therefore, the feminist movements in the country have faced severe backlashes so far. However, through education and awareness campaigns the society can be enlightened about the true aims of feminists. The range of misconceptions associated with feminism are that

it is considered a western propaganda, men's hating, nudity and sexual freedom, a threat family system and against women fertility. However, feminism is actually not against Islam. It is about equality, elimination of oppression and toxic masculinity and health-care of a mother and child. If the misconceptions about feminism are addressed it will benefit humanity, bring prosperity and equality, abolish oppression and eradicate other evils of Pakistani society.

Feminism is not only about rights for women. It is the combination of ideologies, movements, activism and efforts which seek social, economical and political equality between genders and elimination of all kind of oppression of marginalized genders particularly women and trans people (50 key concepts in Gender Studies). Feminism started in Europe in late 19th century mostly due to the writings of Mary Wollstonecraft. It witnessed waves of movements which are known as "waves of

feminism (Fatima Bari). So far there had been three waves of feminism which championed different rights for women and identified the different kinds of oppression in each wave. In Pakistan, the feminist got active in 1960s which stimulated the Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1962 (Fatima Bari). Since 2018, the Pakistani feminists hold a rally called the "Aurat March" in different cities of Pakistan against the different kinds of oppression which have perpetuated in the society and try to educate people. So far they have not been fully successful in their aims, however, they have considerably gotten people's attention.

The first and foremost among the myths and misconception about feminism in Pakistani society is that it is considered as a western propaganda against Islam. The common people take it as something heretic. This perception about feminism entrenched in

the influence of Mullah (clergy) in the daily lives of people. As it is argued by Hussain Haggani that the Pakistani society was made ultra-religious by the 'Mullah-military' nexus in Zia's regime. Thus, common person is not ready to hear anything other than the local version of religion (Reimagining Pakistan). So the ultra-religious system do not allow people to understand feminism and terms it against Islam.

Another myth and misconception about feminism which is quite common around the world including Pakistan is that it is based on 'men's hating'. Most men and even women think that it is an organized attack on men. It is due to this mindset people oppose feminism. According to Dr. Farzana Bari that the lack of participation of men in women marches in Pakistan is due to the misconception that these feminist marches are against men based on hatred. Thus, it is

a common misunderstanding that feminism is about hating men.

The most visible myth and misconception about feminism in Pakistan is that it is associated with nudity and prostitution. People think feminists seek sexual freedom and promote nakedness. This conception has been built due to the misunderstanding of the local version of popular feminist slogan "My body, My choice" which translates ^{into Urdu} as "Mera Jism, Meri Marzi". This slogan is being used by the feminists in their protests. Although, there is nothing wrong in this slogan but it has been negatively connotated with prostitution and nudity in Pakistan. Thus, the whole feminist movement is looked as promoter of these things.

Another misconception about feminism in Pakistani society is that it is perceived as a threat to family system. People fear that with feminism young generation will

start breaking the familial bonds. This phobia is entrenched in the fact that in West the concept of family system is diminishing. People there are living as boyfriend-girlfriend without a social contract; not as ~~man~~ a husband and wife. People think as a consequence of feminism, while fearing that it may diminish the eastern family system too.

Feminism is also ~~perceived~~ thought to be against women's fertility in Pakistan. This myth ~~is~~ seems to threaten the culture of raising multiple children by every couple. People think that feminists will stop ~~produce~~ their wives from producing multiple children. This perception about feminism is partly due to the writings of feminist writers like 'Firestone' who advocated that women should remove their 'uteruses' to free themselves, and partly due to some local feminists who do not like to bear children ^{personally} (Rubina Saigol). Thus, it is conceived that feminism is all together against bearing children.

The above discussed myths about feminism hides clear understanding of it in Pakistani society. Thus, it is crucial to debunk these myths one-by-one for a true understanding of the concept.

Regarding the first myth that feminism is a western propaganda against Islam is untrue and baseless. Though feminism is a western concept but it is not against Islam. It is about humanity and rights. In this context Islam is not against feminism rather, ~~rather~~ Islam is considered to be a feminist religion by many scholars like Syed Qutub and others. It is Islam who first gave rights to women and elevated their status in society. Thus, regarding a human right concept against Islam is unjustified.

Secondly, feminism is not about hating men rather it is about equality between men and women. Equality is based on

love, not hatred. In patriarchal society like Pakistan's, women are thought and seen inferior to men, not equal. Thus, they are deprived of their rights. This perception that 'feminism is about men's hating' is itself a propaganda to stop the spread of feminism because if equality is achieved through feminism the so-called prestige of men will be gone and women will be able to take their rights. So, in reality feminism is about women rights and equality, not men's hating.

~~The~~ Similarly, feminism does not promote nudity and prostitution but in reality it is against them since they are against human dignity. Although, many people associate feminism with these things in sheer ignorance, however, there are many who know feminism but they are threatened by the aims of it. Judi Butler argues that many educated men know the true essence of feminism

Therefore they fear of it that it may deprive them of their upper-hand over women. So they slut-shame the feminists. That is why associating feminism with nudity and prostitution is part of this propaganda.

Fourthly, feminism is not a threat to the Asian or Eastern family system but it is a threat to toxic masculinity. Feminists do not criticize the institution of family, however, they criticize the sub-ordination and subjugation of women in families. They demand equal distribution of family's wealth and also the domestic responsibilities between men and women (Simon de Behavior). In this process they threaten and challenge the toxic masculinity which is only about to oppress women. Hence feminism is about a family based on equality in all aspects without any oppression of women.

Finally, feminism is not against women's fertility rather it is about the health of mother

and the child. Bearing many children not only affect the health of mothers and children but also affect the country with population explosion. It is therefore feminists argue ~~that~~ to produce children without compromising the health of mother and children. It is a scientific fact that producing many children will negatively affect the health of both the mother and the children. Moreover, parents cannot able to give the due care for upbringing of many children. That is why it is good to produce less children as per the feminist perspective. However, it does not mean that it is against producing children at all, rather the main focus is on the better health of mothers and children.

Feminism can be a blessing if the myths and misconceptions associated with it are addressed properly, like many other western values it can benefit humanity. Many eurocentric concepts like democracy, human rights, international law have benefited humanity. There are

many like the scientific revolution has changed the whole world. Being western feminism can too bring a revolution if it is accepted in pakistani society. Being western not necessarily can be an evil as many think in the east. Feminism will not only abolish women oppression but it can also eradicate the discrimination to the trans people and ease the social burden and responsibilities of men. So it can be a blessing like other good western concepts if the misconceptions are removed.

Similarly, feminism can be a blessing since it talks about equality and equality between genders can bring prosperity to the world. Humans around the world are suffering due to different kinds of inequalities: social, economic, political and others. Feminism is a voice against these inequalities. It advocates equality among humans regardless of gender, race, colour and ethnicity. In patriarchal world, men are supposed to

be the bread earner and sole provider to the family. Feminism liberates men from being the sole responsible person on financial matters and encourage women to earn for themselves and their families. Thus feminism is building a prosper world through equality among humans.

Another way feminism can be a blessing if the myths associated to it are removed is that: it can abolish prostitution and nudity since they are patriarchal by nature. Like other oppressions feminists see these as an oppression and exploitation of women. Feminism terms these against humanity and want to abolish them because women are treated as an object, not humans. These objectification of women is very old and systematically developed for the benefits of men (Mary Wolfstoncraft). Therefore feminism will abolish these exploitations with others if prevailed.

Moreover, feminism can be a blessing by eradicating toxic masculinity which leads to healthy families. The concept of 'hegemonic masculinity' or "alpha male" is not only negatively affecting women but also men. It brings with it a lot of expectations and conditions, due to which masculinity becomes toxic. (Ayesha Khudidi)

Feminism addresses the social constructions of genders and also points out the negative consequences of such constructions on the genders. Masculinity, thus, a social construct leads to a lot of problems, particularly in family life. Feminism can eliminate such social constructs and benefit humanity.

Finally, feminism can be a blessing if prevailed as it focuses on the ^{improved} health of mother and child. Currently, the mortality rate of mothers and children are high as per medical reports in Pakistan. Feminists are working to give awareness about mother-child health and its significance. Due to

different social and religious taboos, population control and family planning have not been given due importance in Pakistani society. Feminism is breaking the social and religious stereotypes thus improving the mother-child health in the society (Nida Kirmani). So feminism can benefit humanity in this regard as well.

In conclusion, it is argued that feminism is not a fully understood phenomenon in Pakistan. There are a lot of misunderstandings and myths associated with it which are partly due to lack of education and partly to malign the concept. Many men regard it as heresy and propaganda mechanism to promote western values and to promote immorality in the society. They see it as a threat to the power and prestige in the family system and term it as a men-hating concept. However, feminism is above all these misconceptions. It is about equality between genders, mutual

respect and love. It is a voice against all kind of oppression and exploitations of women. It advocates social, political and economical rights and opportunities for women. Nonetheless, it also points out the burden and huge responsibilities on men in the name of "masculinity". If feminism prevailed it will revolutionize the lives of humans. It will bring love, joy, and prosperity to the world.