

Should Coeducation be Banned in Pakistan?

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Essay

The notion for putting a ban on coeducation in Pakistan has become a debateable topic for policy analysts. Some of them opine that coeducation should be banned primarily due to traditionalists mindset of the society. Furthermore, the cultural restraints do not cooperate with the idea of desegregation. There are other factors too which are considered to ban coeducation in Pakistan. Such as, distraction in classrooms due to presence of opposite genders has impacted students output. However, this is a wrong conclusion based on the myopic view of policy analysts. A few negatives

should not be responsible for segregation of coeducation system. The other side of coin is that two thousand years ago Plato favoured coeducation for the progress and prosperity of the society. Men and women are two fundamental elements of the society. They have equally responsible roles. These roles are fostered by schools. Additionally, the desegregation in schools allows both genders to work with harmony, promotes tolerance, creates mutual understanding and ultimately achieves gender equality. These values are necessary for a prosperous society. Therefore, banning coeducation is not feasible in the era of liberal values, as the world is in transformation ^{and aiming to achieve} towards ^{hailing} absolute gender equality.

Coeducation is referred as mixed gendered education in schools, colleges and universities. In Pakistan, almost all public schools have segregation, whereas, private schools are mostly desegregated (Ministry of Education). The educational setup in Pakistan is dominated by private sector, in urban areas therefore, mostly schools are coeducation. It is said that seventy percent of schools are

coeducation. Moreover, the prevalence of coeducation is more in urban areas as compared to rural. Thus, the traditional mindset in rural hampers the coeducation system and ultimately the progress of society.

In Pakistan, some policy analysts believe that coeducation should be banned due to cultural restraint in the society. There are families who are against the concept of mixed gendered education. Unfortunately only female students have to face the gender discrimination. Parents would rather keep their daughters at home than to send them to coeducation school.

But this is a flawed argument as there have been exemplary females such as Benazir Bhutto, Asma Jhangir, Bano Qudsia, Sharmeen Obaid and many more. All of them have a significant impact on the society. Bisma Salangi, a contemporary example, studied from Karachi's Evergreen Secondary School invented glasses to help drivers stay awake. She ~~was~~ ^{studied} from a coeducation school and today ^{is} a part of National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) team. Therefore, to ban ~~co~~ coeducation on grounds of cultural restrictions is an unjustified and a wrong notion.

Coeducation should not be banned in Pakistan is the farsighted view. It is a symbol of equality. To reduce gender discrimination from society, the right step is to start it from education. Schools, after home, function as a socializing agent. In American society, the acceptance of black started as equal citizens started from school. The desegregation of blacks and whites school led to the inclusion of black in the society. Similarly, once coeducation becomes prevalent in Pakistan, it will result in inclusion of females and transgenders more in the society. This will ultimately result in reduction of gender discrimination from the society.