

TOPIC :-

Importance of Women Education in Pakistan

It is rightly said by Birgham Young :

→ "You educate a man; you educate a man.
You educate a women; you educate a
generation."

There is no second opinion about the fact that education is one of the fundamental and key factor of an individual's success, growth, and development. The right of acquiring quality education is the right of an individual since his/her birth. The importance of education can not be denied as it's reflected from the saying of Holy Prophet (PBUH):

"The seeking of knowledge is obligatory
for every Muslim."

(Al-Tarmidani Hadith 74)

Keeping in view the importance and need of education, how can we deny the fact that quality education is not only necessary for men but also for women.

→ Around 50% of world population is comprising of women. Considering that only men have the right to gain knowledge is absolutely condemned not only globally but

also according to Islamic principles. The right of education must be granted to women equally. The international forum has paid much attention to this issue and is further highlighting it to create awareness about importance of education for women. However, Pakistan, unfortunately has been unable to meet the standards of a quality and decent level of education for women.

→ Right to Education Pakistan, also known as RTE, is an advocacy campaign for equal education rights for all children in Pakistan including men and women. The article 25-A of the Pakistani Constitution states:-

"The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of five to sixteen years in such manners as may be determined by law."

Furthermore, women's education in Pakistan is a fundamental right of every female citizen, according to article 37 of the constitution of Pakistan; but gender discrimination still exists in the educational sector.

→ According to Global Gender gap report, Pakistan's ranks 153 out of 156 and according to UN Women, 53.6% of women are deprived of education, training and employment in Pakistan as compared to only 7.4% of men. No doubt, it is an alarming condition for Pakistani government to pay special attention to this serious concern. The progress of a country is impossible if half of the population is uneducated.

As Napoleon said :-

"Nation's progress is impossible without trained and educated mothers. If the women of my country are not educated, about half of the people will be ignorant."

Education for women is extremely imperative as it plays an important role in making them an individual that can train the upcoming generation of a nation. Since, mother is the first guide and mentor of a child, it would be impossible to set a building strong if the basis are weak. Women are the soul of the society and a body can never function without its soul. History demonstrates the fact that the countries where women are deprived of education faces extreme problems of economic and global crisis.

The main causes of depriving women from education is the poor mentality of society. They assume that women are merely born and made to give birth to children, do the household chores and take care of men and children. No doubt, it is their ethical duty to take care of their family but it definitely does not mean ^{that} they are treated like servants and slaves. An educated women can not be exploited easily as she is well aware of her rights and duties.

A number of examples from national and international forum are in front of us that tell about the success of educated women. Arfa Karim, Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy,

Benazir Bhutto, Sitara Barooj and ultimately the nobel prize winner, Malala Yousufzai are worth mentioning names of Pakistan. In addition, Marie Curie, Rosalind Franklin, Ada Lovelace have stretched the boundaries laid down on women's education by working in the field of Chemistry & Physics, X-ray crystallography and computer programming respectively. There are many more that are still an inspiration to behold.

In a nutshell, women education is extremely important for a better generation and a developed country. Efforts should be made to promote women education in Pakistan from local to national level. Creating awareness is the primary factor in eradicating women illiteracy. The campaigns of providing loans and free education to women entrepreneurs and students should be initiated that help them to gain confidence and work with much more interest and security. Females should be encouraged for on site jobs and office work as well. "Community Services" shall be formed at district levels to go from village to village and provide awareness to not only underdeveloped and underprivileged area girls but also to their families that why it is necessary to educate women. By working leaps and bounds, we shall be able to overcome this huge issue and set our nation on the path of success and prosperity.

"If we are going to see real development then our best investment is WOMEN!"

(Desmond Tutu)