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# BOYS WILL BE BOYS

OUTLINE:

1. Introduction:

Thesis statement: "Boys will be boys" is the phrase used to justify deviant behaviour, patriarchal culture and masculine traits. It deepens privileges of men and reinforces gender disparity. This popular phrase results in emotional instability of men, victim blaming and social dysfunction.

2. Origin of the phrase "Boys will be Boys."

3. Justifying male behaviour at Individual level.

- a. Biological makeup of boys gives them entitlement to have authority.
- b. Distinct Psychological traits of boys legitimize their bad behaviour.
- c. Environmental factors in the upbringing of boys asserts male superiority.

4. Boys will be boys at familial level.

- a. Parents avoid strict surveillance of boys.
- b. Families give boys an authoritative role and ownership entitlement.
- c. Perception of boys as providers pushes parents to invest on them more than girls.

5. Reinforcement of Male dominance in society.

- a. Patriarchal Culture favors boys in various fields.
- b. Society bolsters to masculinity traits to establish standard male behaviour.
- c. Boys receives privilege of being a male in male dominant society.

- d. Decisions taken by boys are considered rational and logical.
  - e. Boys are given an open end to choose profession without any restrictions.
  - f. Media and Tech giants perpetuates male dominance.
  - g. Religious ideologies strengthens patriarchy.
  - h. Decision-making positions in political domains are specified for boys.
6. Destructive effect of the phrase "Boys will be Boys" on Pakistani Society.
- a. Prevalence of legitimizing boys violence and aggression.
  - b. Badly: impacts boys intelligence and emotional health.
  - c. Creates destructive personalities of boys.
  - d. Perpetuates victim-blaming in the society.
  - e. Desensitization of Gender disparity issues in Pakistan.
7. Conclusion.

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The release of film "Barbie" in 2023 ignited flames on social issues related to patriarchy, autonomy of men and gender discrimination. The male character "Ken" overthrew Barbie after realizing the privileges of men in real world. Unfortunately, the plot of the film depicts today's world, where every action of men is justified and talked as "Boys will be Boys." This justification starts from the biological or psychological differences. Their deviant behaviour is ignored, giving them privilege to show gender superiority. The Patriarchal social culture and toxic masculinity traits legitimize bad behaviour of boys. The media and religious groups reinforce boys domination in every aspect of life. However, this phrase has severely destructed the social structure resulting in victim blaming, destructive personality traits in men and desensitization of gender issues. "Boys will be boys" is the phrase used to justify deviant behaviour, patriarchal culture and masculine traits. It deepens privileges of men and reinforces gender disparity. This popular phrase results in emotional instability of men, victim blaming and social dysfunction.

The tautology "Boys will be boys" has been used historically to downplay certain actions of boys. The rough, violent and aggressive nature of boys is given as justification of their irrational actions. However, this debate resurcated recently, when a famous Australian writer and

Journalist Clementine Ford discusses the damaging impacts of this phrase in her book "Fight like a Girl." She advocates for holding individuals accountable for their actions regardless of their gender. This phrase emphasizes gender stereotypes and expectations within the society. It not only affect opposite genders but damage emotional and psychological stability of men themselves. The justification of men's behaviour not only involves social influence but also judicial enforcement. This is illustrated by case of Brock Turner in 2016, where his defense attempted to excuse Turner's behaviour by using "Boys will be boys". Thus, the term depicts the social structure of real world in public, private and legal domains.

The biological makeup of boys gives them entitlement to have authority. The genetic composition of men consists of XY chromosomes which leads to the production of Testosterone (a male hormone). Testosterone initiates development of secondary sexual characters in male including muscle mass development, deepening of voice and growth of body hair. The physical strength pushes men to do rough and tough actions. The absolute total body strength of women has been reported as being roughly 67% that of men (Princeton University, Strength in Gender, 2020). Thus, the biological differences of boys from women makes them to have authoritative roles and justify their positions.

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Distinct Psychological traits of boys makes another reason for their prerogative. Boys have 24 hour hormonal cycle as compared to 28 days in girls. Hormones bear fundamental role in psychology and behaviour of an individual. A constant course of hormonal cycle gives boys stability, sustainability and dominance over post-menstrual mood swings seen in girls.

Furthermore, cognitive differences also give privileges to men to justify their wrongdoings.

Boys are considered aggressive, abusive, dominant, violent and risk taking; while females are subjugated due to their adapted, soft, and emotional nature. Therefore, psychological and cognitive differences indicates a reason for legitimizing boys deviant behaviour.

Furthermore, environmental factors in the upbringing of boys plays crucial role in asserting a male superiority. The different parenting techniques in the upbringing of male child gives them privileges. Boys are given an open hand to lead and stand by their decisions. However, females are advised to subordinate against male wishes. Moreover, opinions of boys are taken seriously as compared to the females who are considered as irrational and poor decision-makers. It is often seen in daily life that the decisions related to budget, finances, relationships and parenting are taken by males. Thus, general environmental perception within society leads to defending male actions.

Not only at individual level, but familial activities further strengthen deviant culture engraved in males. Parents often ignore routine actions of male child, which pushes boys to seek emotional connection from peer groups. This lack of surveillance from elders pushes boys to indulge in wrong actions.

The lack of emotional support from family reinforces interaction of boys to outside world, which leads them to involve in gangs, smoking and other illegal activities. However, families consider this interaction 'essential for the the development of' male traits and personality. Familial ideology related to the development of standard masculinity creates a buttress for boys to show aberrant actions.

In addition to this, authoritative role given to male gender in homes pushes them to overrule counter ideas and show superiority. Males are considered as owners of the house and thus obliged to have authority to make important decisions. This ownership entitlement to males is illustrated from ownership statistics in Pakistan. According to demographic and Health Survey (2017-18), only 3pc of surveyed women own a house between the age of 15 and 49 years, while men accounts for 72pc. It is therefore, females are often under the constant male authority and dominance in the families.

as Families generally considers boys <sup>as</sup> provider and thus grants huge investment. Parents invests more in boy's education, health and care as compared to females. Parents considers boys as a way of pay back at their old age while girls leave house after their marriage. This distinction in children's investment based on future ambitions creates gender discrimination overlooks girls participation within the family. Most of boys are given efficient education in private and elite schools in order to ace in professional life. While, female are often prevented to have professional life and should prioritise their families first. Thus, perception of boys as sole provider for families justifies disproportionate investment on them.

Moreover, the patriarchal culture overlooks merit based selection and offers them favourable opportunities in various fields. Patriarchal culture within any society reinforces male superiority and justifies illicit behaviours. Male dominance in many fields of the society creates less space for other genders to grow and progress in respective fields. The major companies prefer boys in their recruitments process due to their rational decision power and strong physical capabilities. Moreover, they are often given an open hand to experiment with new ideas. Thereby, paving path for progress of male dominance in professional life due to patriarchy.

The society bolsters toxic masculinity traits to reinforce specific behaviour patterns within society. Male gender is considered aggressive and violent while female is considered at receiving end. These behavioural patterns of boys are justified for domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault. Most of eastern families teach their daughters to compromise on aggressive behaviour of boys as it is inbuilt in their personality. Hence, society plays an important role in depicting behaviour of boys by normalizing their toxic and immoral acts.

Furthermore, boys take more privileges of being a boy within the society. Boys are devoid of any beauty standards typical regulations imposed on girls. Boys are not pressurized to look slim, beautiful or a certain way. However, girls are engrained to have attractive body and features. This can be illustrated with difference of perception on body hairs. Although, mammalian body has a distinctive feature of body hairs compared to other animal phylums. They are considered as gross for girls and are advised to remove it. Moreover, boys have privilege to live a fearless life, whereas girls are always protected and guarded by their male family members. Boys roam freely without any threat of sexual assault or harassment, while girls are bound to go out with certain reservations. The community offers many favors to boys due to their gender.



Boys are considered as rational decision makers and more intelligent than girls. All important decisions are bound to be addressed by males as seen in most societies. In many rural areas of Pakistan, informal justice system is given based on rationality of male. The "Tirga" system mostly prevailing in the country involves male peer groups of community, who take decisions of civil as well as criminal cases based on their intelligence. Furthermore, the grave verdicts by these informal settings sometimes violates basic human rights. But still, verdicts are taken as superior and bound to obey. Hence, decision making power of boys is excised as promising for the society.

In addition to this, boys are given an open end to choose their profession without any restriction. Boys are considered as provider for the family, for which they have to choose their working fields which will enhance their skills and provide better opportunities. However, females are considered as homemaker and are found to choose profession which will not hinder their domestic life. According to Christine L. William, nursing and housekeeping are considered better choices for females professional within society. But the huge concern for him was that boys get advantage in female's specific fields too. Male are given more wages and lenient atmosphere as compared to females. (Glass escalator: Hidden advantages for men in the

female professions). Thus, not only in personal life, but professional sphere also provide better opportunities for boys to grow.

As the world is transitioning into virtual world, media houses and tech giants perpetuate male dominance. Many leading positions are given to boys, which ultimately leads to biased recruitment and policies in favour of males. Radical feminists advocate for revolutionary change in society, as illustrated by their demand to provide decision making positions in every field. There is very poor involvement of females in Artificial Intelligence. According to UNESCO, only 22% of females AI professionals are present globally. Thus, journalism and technology demonstrates the disparity between genders and better position of boys in their domains.

Preferences given to boys are further strengthened by religious ideologies. Most religions offer superior role to boys in private and public life. In Christianity, females are ordered to submit themselves to their own husbands as they do to the lord (Ephesians 5: 22-24). In Islam, males are given a custodian rank in legal domain. However, many religious scholars misinterpret it and explain it as owner of females instead of custodians (Quran, 4: 34). Therefore, religious ideologies plays pivotal role in

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making favourable buttress for dominance of boys.

Furthermore, authoritative regimes and political domains are considered as an essence for boys. Many harsh decisions taken by previous authoritative leaders are glorified and perpetuated as need of that hour. The fascist regimes of Hitler and Mussolini in Germany and Italy respectively illustrated that authoritative personalities of boys can be integrated in politics even if it has severe consequences. Moreover, boys are given more political opportunities as compared to girls due to their influential background and public popularity. According to Global Gender Gap report 2023, Pakistan ranked 95 in political empowerment with 69 women out of 342 members of the National Assembly. Political field within the state or at international platform is considered to be better executed by boys.

The impacts of "Boys will be boys" for justifying bad behaviours of boys poses dangerous effects on Pakistani society. Many illegal acts are legitimized based on natural instincts of boys such as aggression and violence. Pakistani society is facing huge crisis related to gendered injustice. Gender based violence, honour killing and Acid attacks are avoided to be reported and advised to be settled informally. The murder charge on Gandeel Baloch's brother for killing his sister in 2016

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due to honor concerns was acquitted after some years. Thus, legitimizing illegal offences of boys poses inevitable dangers on Pakistani community.

Moreover, the strict obligation of strong personality results in deranged male behaviours. Many boys faces emotional instability and dysfunction due to toxic masculine imposition. Boys are refrained to cry or show emotional side of their personality. They are advised to be rough and tough against all odds. Emotional trait is physiological pattern in humans. Specific hormones called Endorphins are released in body when body feels pain or stress. The deviance to respond according to normal physiological needs of body creates imbalance in boys. This adhesion to toxic masculine patterns harm the psychological and emotional health of boys.

The privilege given to boys within society creates destructive personality of males. The superiority complex within boys pushes them to subjugate women at every stage of life. They ignore women's ideas and opinions which are counter to their ideologies. In professional life, males overthrow female hardwork and sometimes override their merit as well. Boys gaslight and manipulate girls to get personal advantages. This manipulative personality of boys is engendered due to male dominance in society.

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Furthermore, many boys justify their illicit behaviours and perpetuate victim blaming. The patriarchal society often blames the victim for her choices and offers easy access to offenders to escape trial. Victim-blaming is seen to increase many folds in Pakistan due to male privileges. Recent incidence of rape on Lahore motorway in 2020 illustrates the idea of victim blaming flourishing in Pakistan. CCPO Lahore (Capital City Police officer) stated that women should have avoided to drive alone at the middle of night. This shows that advantages given to boys establish deep roots of victim blame in society.

The regular male superiority in society desensitize gender discrimination and disparity issues. Normalization of patriarchy, violence and dominance by boys do not provide better platform to raise awareness about gender polarity in society. Many minor offenses go unnoticed and unregistered based on less severity. Persecution of girls in professional fields, gaslighting, sexual molestation and harassment are considered normal. This desensitization of gender issues and violations of basic human rights provide great opportunity to establish patriarchal society.

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In a nutshell, boys are given a better chance to legitimize every action based on their biological and psychological patterns. Their bad behaviour is ignored at family as well as community level. They are given open choice to have authoritative roles and leading positions in every profession due to their strong decision power and rational choices. The patriarchal society reinforces male aggression, toxic masculinity and male superiority. This results in harmful impacts in society such as emotional and psychological dysfunction. However, it is external as well as internal factors that determine the fate of boys within the society. Their biological traits justifies their aggressive behaviour while patriarchy reinforces male dominance and authority within society.

# LIFE WITHOUT CONTROVERSY IS

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## NO LIFE, BUT WHY ONE SHOULD NOT CHOOSE SAFE HEAVENS OF CONFIRMISM

### OUTLINE:

#### 1. Introduction:

Thesis statement: life is all about evolution and transformation. Man cannot live a progressive life without having controversial ideas. One should challenge conformity to bring new ideologies, innovations and revolution in the world. However, a balanced approach to both dimensions within moral boundaries can improve the quality of life.

#### 2. Conformity is easy way out, but it is not the best way to live:

#### 3. Why life without controversy is no life.

- a. Creates monotony which diminish excitement in life
- b. There will be no progressive and innovative ideas
- c. Predetermination of results based on past experiences.
- d. Diversification in the world is hindered.
- e. Odds of society cannot be challenged.

#### 4. Why one choose confirmism instead of Controversy.

- a. Fear to loose things.
- b. Man needs surity and absolutinism in his life decisions.
- c. Confirmism involves less struggle.
- d. Negative connotation of controversy pushes people to choose confirmity.
- e. To avoid disputes or social jeopardy.

- 5, Controversial ideas revolutionized the world.
- a, Genetically modified organisms improved agriculture and livestock.
  - b, Invention of birth control pills ensured women's health.
  - c, Printing press provided quick spread of information.
  - d, Advent of digital world allowed global access.
  - e, Steam engine revolutionized manufacturing industries.
  - f, Invention of Nuclear weapons created deterrence and prevented war escalation of war.

6, Conclusion.