

# Can Women be Equal to men in Pakistan?

## Outline.

1- Introduction.

2- Historical background.

3- Factors on the basis of which, one may say women can be equal to men:

a) The constitution of Pakistan guarantees equality of both sex.  
(Case in point: Article 25 and 34 of Pakistan's constitution)

b) NGOs in Pakistan are serving the women in all sorts of their rights.  
(Case in point: Aurat foundation)

c) There is increase in number of women chief Justice in judiciary  
(Case in point: Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Musarat Hilde)

d) Women as Police officers, are part of workforce that demands aggressive work.  
(Case in point: DPO Ammara Athar)

e) Government has announced special quotas for women in different jobs.  
(Case in point: Hiring of more women in Railway police)

f) There are reserved seats for women in Union Council and local bodies.

(Case in point: Percentage of seats of women in NPK, Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh)

g) Women of Pakistan are representing the country at international level.

(Case in point: Malala Yousaf Zai, Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy)

#### 4 Challenges in the way of women inequality.

a) Women of Pakistan hardly enjoy access of education.

(Case in point: female literacy rate is 28% in Pakistan).

b) Primitive norms of gender are systematically conspiring against women empowerment in Pakistan.

(Case in point: Global Gender Gap Index Report 2022)

c) Socio political and economic marginalization of women have paved the way for gender equality deficit in Pakistan.

(Case in point: World Bank report on women in 2022).

d) Retrogressive interpretation of religion has sanctified gender inequality in Pakistan.

e) Women in Pakistan are facing physical emotional and sexual abuse.

(Case in point: Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18)

#### 5- Recommendation for achieving gender equality in Pakistan.

a) Provision of equal health and educational facilities to women.

b) Primitive cultural bias must be dispelled with rationality and inclusiveness in order to achieve gender equality in Pakistan.

g) Transition from economic marginalization to economic emensipation.

d) Political emensipation can go a long way in ensuring gender equality in Pakistan.

e) Rational moderate and humanitarian religious discourse can shatter the chains of women subordination in Pakistan.

f) Disconnect between laws and their implimentation regarding women should be bridged to adress pervasive gender inequality in the country.

g) There is a need to encourage the women at grass root level in decision making process so that they can identify Choices and can make priorities.

6- Conclusion.

## Introduction:

"Behind every successful man there is a woman."

Women play a complementary and important role in the life of men. Nature has gifted them with special attributes, so that human race would continue to grow and prosper. They are the fulcrums around which the family revolves. Women are venturing into fields like aviation, defense etc. They have well-acknowledged contribution in the field of education and healthcare. Women comprise fifty percent of the human population, contributing the same percent to the GDP. Countries which have denied equal right to women, are backward both technologically and socially. Undoubtedly, men and women should have equal rights in all aspects. Therefore, women can be made equal to men in socio, political and economic life but there are certain formidable challenges. There is no doubt in the fact that constitution of Pakistan shows that, there is equality in both sex. Moreover, there is increase in number of women in judiciary, police offices and other different jobs in Pakistan. Along with that, women have reserved seats in various government institutions, like additional 10% seat for women in CSS. Simultaneously, there are certain challenges in the way of women inequality in Pakistan. These challenges includes: less access of education, socio-political and economic marginalization, primitive norms of gender, and Retrogressive

interpretation of religion. Furthermore, women of Pakistan are facing physical, emotional and sexual violence. These all challenges can be cured by providing women equal health and educational opportunities, by dispelling primitive cultural biasness, by including more women in judiciary so that they can make decisions, by understanding the basic problems and needs of women in Pakistan. In a nutshell, by involving the women in all spheres of life, only then a country can progress.