

# Topic: Gender Equality: A popular Slogan

## OUTLINE

### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement:

Gender Equality has become a popular slogan due to strong voices raised against discrimination faced by different gender. This slogan helps all genders in achieving equality in different field of life. It must be further raised for the advocacy of equal rights for all genders.

### 2. What is gender equality and popular slogan

### 3. Reasons that gender equality has become a popular slogan

a. Women raised their voices against

injustices practised against them

b. Women equal labour force

participation is inevitable to fight poverty

c. Made a victim of gender-based violence

d. Discrimination in pay wages between men and women



e: Gender-biased in education for women

#### 4. Historical struggles in making gender equality a popular slogan

- a. Movements for equal rights of women were started in 18<sup>th</sup> century
- b. Slogans raised against gender-based violence in 2nd wave of feminism
- c. Workplace Harassment of women was highlighted in 3rd wave of feminism

#### 5. Benefits of emergence of gender equality as a popular slogan

- a. Women were given voting rights in 20<sup>th</sup> century
- b. Declaration of women rights as human rights in 1995 by WHO
- c. Women representation in politics and governance

#### 6. Hurdles in the way of raising slogan of gender equality

- a. Patriarchal mindset of society
- b. Security threats to the activists of gender equality movements
- c. Religious misinterpretation by religious scholars



## 7. How the hurdles in the way of generalising slogan of gender equality can be overcome

a. Legislation granting all gender to exercise their autonomy must be devised

b. Government must support the movements working for women's rights

c. Strict punishment on violating the rights of different gender

## 8. Conclusion

### Essay

Gender equality is more than a goal itself. It is a precondition in reducing the challenge of poverty, producing sustainable growth and good governance (**Kofi Anan**). The slogan of gender equality is proved to be very beneficial for women in achieving their rights, respect and representation in all fields of life. It has a long history, as women were facing discrimination and low status as compared to men. So, struggles for getting them equal rights and which proved to be fruitful. Women were



facing discrimination in equal pay wages, gender-based violence, inequality in girls education and the poor status of women invoked them to raise their voices for gender equality. Many movements of feminism had started for the advocacy of gender equality. These struggles prove to be beneficial in achieving some of the goals like voting rights and representation of women in politics and governance.

But, there are many hurdles in the way of achieving gender equality like patriarchal mindset of society has not changed yet and security threats faced by the activists of women rights movements. Due to the struggles faced of these movements, Gender equality has become a popular slogan due to strong voices raised against discrimination faced by different gender. This slogan helps all gender in achieving equality in all fields of life. It must be further raised for the advocacy of gender equality.



Basically, gender equality is the equal rights for every human being on this earth. In the context of historical background, women were always considered inferior to men in all aspects of life i.e. physically, socially, financially etc. Due to this inequality, various slogans were being raised for the equal rights for women. So, the slogan of gender equality, a popular slogan came into being which had benefited women a lot in achieving their rights of vote, education, equal pay wages etc. Due to its standard as a popular slogan, gender equality is being recognized in every society, in legislature and in every community. This helped women to get their rights.

One of the main reasons that gender equality has become a popular slogan is that the women started raising their voices against injustices held against them. They started realizing the



discrimination ~~to~~ practised against them. Women ~~st~~raised their voices against these violences, which helped in getting their issues registered against higher authorities. In early 18<sup>th</sup> century, women were not given voting rights, considered inferior to men and many more. In this way, their issues were getting highlighted and the gender equality was emerged as a popular slogan.

Other reason for gender equality ~~is~~ has become a popular slogan is that the women equal labour force participation is inevitable to fight poverty. While examining the economic conditions of world, it is significant to involve women in labour force ~~equally~~ as that of men. Women being almost half of the population can contribute to the economy and ultimately in reducing the poverty. Women being the half of population ~~can~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~utilized~~ ~~equally~~, GDP can be raised by 24% and



poverty can be reduced by 84%.

So, the realization of world in utilizing women in labour force equally as men, has helped in achieving gender equality and it is popularized as a slogan.

Women are continuously made a victim of gender-based violence. Due to these violences inflicted upon women, gender equality has become a popular slogan. Due to continuous bearing of violence in the hands of male-dominated society, women are gathered under the flag of gender equality. According to United Nations, almost 245 Million girls over the age of 15 years are bearing gender-based violence at the hands of their guardians. These violences have let them stand against their rights and speak for their equal rights as that of men.

Women are discriminated against compared to men in



discrimination of pay wages.

women are paid less amount of money as compared to men for the same duty hours and same nature of job. This has created a sense of gender inequality in women and to struggle for their equal rights. According to PEW research centre, women are paid 67 cents of a dollar paid to men, ~~was~~ in 1982, which is raised to 82 cents now, but not equal to men. Equal number of duty hours but women are discriminated against men has let the gender equality to be raised as a popular slogan.

Gender equality is raised as a popular slogan, as ~~was~~ women are gender-biased in education. The preference of education of male child over female education has helped the gender equality to be raised as a popular slogan. According to World Bank,



almost 24 Million children are out of school, out of which 15 Million are girls. In this way, women are discriminated in getting their education, so they realized to achieve the gender equality and to distort the practices of gender inequality.

Due to the situation of women discrimination and inferiority in the historical context, movements for the equal rights of women were started in 18<sup>th</sup> century.

These move 1st wave of feminism was started to for the advocacy of equal rights for women. John Activists like John Stuart Mill and Henry Taylor had participated a lot. A book of John Stuart Mill "The Subjection of women" had illustrated the inequalities faced by women in the world dominated by men.

These movements and activists helped a lot ~~to~~<sup>to</sup> women in achieving the equal rights in some aspects of life.



More historical struggles for equal rights of women had started in 2nd wave of feminism in which slogans were raised against gender-based violence faced by women in patriarchal society of men. Many Radical feminists had written books and publications regarding inequalities practised by women in western societies. F. Mackey had written a book *Radical feminists: Feminist activism* in which she raised a point that if men and women are not equal, then why women are being exploited and inferiorated at the hands of male-dominant society. These historical struggles had helped alot in achieving some kind of gender equality for women.

Women were facing workplace harassment was highlighted in the 3rd wave of feminism after 1990s. Women got the rights of job independantly, but they



were harassed at the hands of their senior male officers. So, this issue was raised in 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of feminism. S. Beudogen in her publication "Third wave feminism and the politics of gender in late modernity" <sup>explained</sup> that third wave of feminism has helped a lot in achieving gender equality for women. So, these movements played a critical role in achieving gender equality and promoting the slogan of gender equality.

There are many benefits attained by the emergence of gender equality as a popular slogan, one of these is that women were given the voting rights in 20<sup>th</sup> century in its earlier phase. This is one of the greatest achievement, as before to this, women were not given voting rights. On 20 August 1920, through 19<sup>th</sup> amendment women were given voting rights in United States of America. In this way, women's consultation



in a democratic process of a country had become as important as that of men. It was achieved as a result of struggles of 1st wave feminists. In this way, women were given a sort of some gender equality through this popular slogan.

One of the many ~~as~~ benefits of emergence of gender equality as a popular slogan is that the Declaration of women rights as human rights. Previously, human rights were just referred to the men's rights. But, ~~due~~ according to United Nations, in 1995, women's rights were declared as human rights. ~~So~~ Therefore, women were given equal rights as that of men, ~~as~~ a result of struggles of third wave of feminism. Slowly but steadily, the popular slogan of gender equality has favoured women in advocating and achieving equal rights for women.



Another benefit of emergence of gender equality as a popular slogan is that <sup>the</sup> women started representing themselves in politics and governance. Women participate in politics and got allocated to higher position and this is achieved as a result of raising gender equality as a popular slogan. Khertek Anchimaa Toka is the first ever the president of Tuva's people's Republic, is the first ever female elected head of state. While, Benazir Bhutto being the first ever <sup>female</sup> Prime Minister of Muslim World. It proved that the due to the popular slogans of gender equality, women are occupying top positions in politics and governance.

There are many hurdles in the way of raising slogan of gender equality, one of which is the patriarchal mindset of the society. The patriarchal mindset of society does not let the



society to achieve gender equality. Post Radical feminism in 2nd wave of feminism had devised Patriarchal theory in which they declared it a trans-historical phenomenon that male-dominance is the deepest phenomenon than any other form of oppression which is a hurdle in the way of achieving gender equality. So, patriarchal mindset of a society is not letting women to achieve equal rights as that of men. Women are always kept inferior to men in patriarchal societies.

One of the many hurdles in the way of raising slogan of gender equality is the security threats to the activists of gender equality movements. It means that women are not given chance to raise their voices against the oppression, they are facing in this society. Just like in Pakistan, Aurat March activists, who raise slogans on 8<sup>th</sup> of March



are given security threats. It is a hurdle in the way of achieving equal rights for women. This attitude of any society hampers in the way of raising gender equality as a popular slogan.

Other reasons which proves to be a hurdle in the way of raising gender equality as a popular slogan is the religious misinterpretation by religious scholars. Even though, Islam ~~has~~ and all other religions has given women equal, even greater rights than men in some aspects. But, the religious scholars misinterpret the religious teachings and spread the word that women are not allowed to speak up for their rights and prohibited to be participated in such movements. In this way, gender equality is not being raised as popular slogan, as it should be.



There are many ways through which the hurdles in the way of raising slogan of gender equality can be overcome, one is to do the legislation granting all gender to exercise their autonomy must be devised. It would help women in getting legislative right to practise their human rights without any restrictions.

The reason I made women's issues central to the foreign policy of United States was not that I am a feminist but because we know that societies are stable if women are politically and economically competent (Madeleine Albright). It means that the inclusion of women rights in legislation is very important for the stable progress of the country.

One of the many solutions through which the hurdles in the way of raising slogan of gender equality can be overcome, is that the Government must lend their support to the



movements working for women's rights. It is important for the security of these movements, whose activists are facing many security threats. ~~Gov~~ It is the responsibility of the government of a country to provide financial and social support to the movements and N.G.Os working for the advocacy of gender equality. In this way, they would be encouraged to work harder for raising gender equality as a popular slogan.

Last but not the least, another recommendation to solve the hurdles in the way of raising slogan of gender equality is the strict punishment to those who violate the rights of <sup>different</sup> gender.

If punishments are inflicted to the oppressor, then the oppression of gender inequality can be discarded. Strict punishments through legislations must be set for the oppressors. When they would be punished for their oppression,



others would be prohibited from doing these activities. So, by devising strict punishments, oppression against specific genders can be stopped and the slogan of gender equality can be further raised.

In a nutshell, gender equality raised as a popular slogan proved to be beneficial for women in achieving equal rights in many aspects of life, as that of men. But, there are many hurdles which are in the way hindering the achievement of gender equality. Basically, the deeproots of internal structure of society is weakened, which must be repaired to achieve equality further. These hurdles must be overcome by passing legislative laws and strict punishments for those who violate these laws. This slogan has empowered all genders but requires further steps, still. No two leaves are alike, and yet there is no antagonism, Between them or



between the branches on which  
they grow (M.K. Gandhi).