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Day **M T W T F S**

## A Introduction

Thesis Statement: Gender inequality exists in Pakistan, and on that basis it proves that women in Pakistan are not equal to their counterpart.

## B Gender Inequality in Pakistan

Evidence: Gender Gap Index 2024

### (a) At Social level

i) Men in Society have more privileges than women

Evidence Education and Health by WEF

ii) Men have more decision making power than women

iii) Men enjoy more freedom than women

iv) Social status of a woman have no count in society

Evidence: Secondary sale

### (b) At Economic level

i) Men have more Job opportunities than women

Evidence: WEF report 2024

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ii) Men have more space to run a business than women

Evidence:

iii) Men have more opportunities to earn from agricultural activities

Evidence: Land owners are male / Landless

iii) Men gets more benefits from inheritance and Property rights than women

(c) At Political level

i) Women Political Participation is less than men

ii) Women as an election candidates are less in number than men

iii) Women Representation in Government legislative bodies is very much smaller as compared to men

Evidence: Number of females in Cabinet and committees

(d) At Religious level

- i) Women in Pakistan are not allowed to Preach
- ii) Women cannot attend religious gatherings at large
- iii) Women have not enough opportunities to learn religious teachings

C Wayforward

D Conclusion



## Introduction

Pakistan is heterogenous society. It has been facing multiple challenges since inception. One of the most vital issue which has been facing by Pakistan is gender inequality. The sharp difference between men and women exists at many levels, and both are not equal to each other. It mean gender inequality exists in Pakistan, and women are not equal to their counterpart. For example, this difference can be seen at social, economic, political and religious level. But some people believe that women in Pakistan also have multiple previligas like their role in domestic affair, social level, participation in politics, and their presence in job market. However, women in Pakistan by law can do job, play their role at different level, but in practice women role at these levels are not equal to men because of social barriers. So, it is not wrong to say that women in Pakistan facing multiple challenges. Now, this is responsibility of state and society to bridge this gap and get benefit from half of population.

Pakistan has a male dominant society

and gender inequality exists there men in Pakistan have more privileges than women. Although, by population size men and women are near to equal but by opportunities, there is gender gap exists. According to latest report of World Economic Forum on gender gap indicates Pakistan is 145 out of 146 countries in the list. But still some people argue that by law women are equal to men in Pakistan. For example, there is no restriction in constitution, which restrict women to do job or participate in political or social activities. However, Pakistan is a patriarchal society, and due to this dominant role women cannot avail opportunities. Therefore, the sharp difference is present there.

Pakistani society is a male dominant society. Men enjoys more privileges than women. Latest World Economic report reveals that in social order specifically education and health sectors are highly influenced by male and Pakistan ranked 137th and 139th in these sectors in gender participation context. On the other hand, some pro-patriarch comment this



stance that in both sectors healthy figure of female workers is doing job and no restriction for other females to join these sectors. However, in reality women facing multiple challenges to do jobs in these profession. Moreover, women doing job also facing a lot of huddles to carry their duties.

In Pakistani society, men enjoys more decision making powers than their counterpart. For example, a house is run by male and he decide how house hold activities run or he decide where to enroll his children and how many children etc. In some areas like south Punjab, Sindhawal, tribal areas panchayat system exists where decision are made by noble men of that area and women can't even participate.

To oppose this stance, some people claim that women run household activities as their husband are out for job activities so, each decision is directly links to present parent which is mother, a female. However, in a population of 241 million at large decision making lies at the male side and their decisions are binding to everyone living under his guardianship.

Men in Pakistan enjoy more freedom as compared to women. To explain this, male/boys are free to move in a society. They have not face any constraints by family or society. Their each act is justified, but women/girls unable to enjoy liberty at such level, they have to face multiple restrictions from family to society. But, other group have different view as they claim women are also enjoying liberty in Pakistan, and that can seen in multiple cities across the country. However, Pakistan largely consist of rural population, where these liberties are not present even you can't imagine these sort of things there. So, in this context, a sharp division between male and female exists.

In Pakistani society women's social status is questionable and mostly they are living under dominance of their counterpart. Women in Pakistan have secondary role in society, and they are unable to compete male at large scale. This shows clear inequality. While, some



people believe that Pakistan is an Islamic country, and women under religious and political laws enjoys their due status in society. However, in practice Pakistan is a state where rule of law is not exemplary so, it is hard for women to enjoy their due social status. So, practically in social status order women are not equal to men.

This situation of gender gap not only exists at social level, but this gap also present at economic level. Men in Pakistan have enjoy more job opportunities than women. According to World <sup>Bank.</sup> Economic Report 2024 in Peshawar stated that only 9.4% women are in labour force and men are 75.9%. This indicates how sharp division is there. But few people claim that women and men in Pakistan have equal job opportunities, and this is also ensures through quota system to accommodate women in society. However, quota system prove that inequality exists, and to bridge the gap this system is use. Moreover, number of examples like women numbers in



many fields identify the imbalance of male and female workers. Hence, it is confirmed that in job sector women are less in number than to the men.

In Patriarchal society of Pakistan, it is more difficult for women to start or run a business. To explain this, in Islamabad or any other major cities 90% plus business are run by male, and women are restricted to run beauty parlor or small business at very small scale. But some people argue that constitution gives freedom to every citizen to start or run a business, and there is no compulsion for women. However, business women in this society are very rare to find out. Maximum business are belong to men, and women faced many challenges to run a business because of social barriers and hurdles created by dominant side. In this context, gender inequality identifies as a major concern in the society.

This inequality does not only exist in business sector, but in agriculture sector disparity among men and women exists. Men almost

control all the agricultural activities and earn from these, but women only can support men in the field. But some people point out that there is no restriction on women to earn from agricultural land, and women voluntarily withdraw their due rights. However, men in society having more power and privileges does not allow women to own and earn from agriculture. This shows the male dominant role in agricultural field as well.

Women get less benefits from inheritance and properties as compared to male. Usually, women have to voluntarily withdraw from inheritance and property rights but actually emotional blackmailing or force is behind all such activities. But some factions of society argue that Muslim Family Laws 1961 exists in Pakistan and women can challenge any act of force or violence to gain property. However, the weak execution of laws and social barriers creates hurdles for women to claim their property. While, emotional blackmailing is even can't control. All these



argument allow to believe that gender disparity exists, and women are not equal to men.

Gender inequality is present at another level, which is political. In society like Pakistan, where women participation in political affairs is very much less in numbers. According to the World Economic Forum Report 2022 0.158% women in Pakistan are politically empowered. It means women's political consciousness is less than men. In rural areas, women can vote but only on the direction of male head of the family. Some people have opposing arguments, as they believe women can freely vote as male head wasn't present when a woman deciding whom to vote? However, practically women in patriarchal society are much bound to social barriers as they never goes against their family heads. Hence, it is true that women in Pakistan are not equal to men in context of political participation.

Women participation as an election candidate are much less than men. Women usually not considered by political parties, due to

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social hurdles and dominant role of male. In recent General Elections held in February 08, 2024, the number of female candidates from three major parties are as follows PTI gave 21 tickets, PMN gave 06 tickets and PPP had given only two ticket to female candidates for National assembly's general seats. Numbers of overall female candidates are minor in number. But few people argue that female candidates can contest election and there is no restriction. Moreover, Election act 2017 clearly instruct political parties to give 5% tickets to female candidates. However, in a male dominant society it is hard to give equal representation to female candidates. These examples confirms the inequality between male and female election contestant.

By less in number as candidate, the women representation at governmental structure is too much short as compare to male representation. Although, Constitution provide them special or reserve seats to accommodate, but still women in legislative bodies, Cabinet and at other portfolio are small in number. In opinion



of some people, women can play their part in different ministries and committees, also act as PM for example Benazir Bhutto, and as CM for example Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz. However, point to ponder is that women can play their part, but in real sense they even can't get opportunities to speak just like their counterparts given.

With social, political and economic inequalities, women has been facing challenges in religious domain as well. Women in Pakistan are not allow to preach just like male from different sect preach their religion. To contrast this opinion some people present examples of few section of preachers whom female members also travel to preach. However, at large scale, religious preaching duty is alligned with male, and they are sole authority to travel across the whole country and preach. This shows that inequality between male and female muslims exists in Pakistan.

women in Pakistani society are unable to attend religious gatherings like prayers in mosque. Although, there is sectarian divide also present, but at small scale women attend mosques like, Jamat Islami; a religious-political allows women in their respective centers to attend these activities. But many people oppose this stance, as they believe women can't attend any religious practice, and they must contain themselves in their houses. However, in early stages of Islam, this is well known fact that women were also allowed to offer prayers in mosque like freedom in all other levels either social, economical or political, but within the boundaries of Shariah.

A large number of women in Pakistan having trouble to learn Islamic teachings, because they are not allowed to regularly visit any learning center or contact an Islamic scholar, that's the reason women in Pakistan are illiterate in both contemporary or religious education. But some people



have opinions that religious teachings are teach to women at every level, and women in Pakistan aware of these teachings. However, the known fact about Pakistani society is that majority of women have not enough religious knowledge as men in society have. By this comparison, a clear divide in religious matters also indicates the gender inequality.

As discuss in above paragraphs about gender discrimination at social, economic, political and religious levels that prove this stance that women are not equal to men in society. Now, what ~~is~~ way forward to end this discrimination is discuss next.

State of Pakistan is responsible to end biasness and discrimination between male and female. State must ensure the proper execution of written laws related to women's rights. All executive bodies must ensure the fundamental rights, and bridge the gap between men and women. State

must do this at social level by awareness.

At economic level, by providing equal opportunities and in some cases prefer women to make them equal. At political level, by ensuring women participation free from any influence, and build up political consciousness in women. At religious level, its the duty of religious groups and society itself can improve this.

In a nut shell, women in Pakistan have been facing discrimination, and they are not equal to ~~the~~ men.

This is present at various levels, like social, economical, political and religious, which clearly indicates that gender gap exists. Now, this is the responsibility of ~~But~~ in some's people point of views women do have rights at all the levels.

However, this is known fact that women in Pakistan are not equal to men at any level. Now, this is the responsibility of government and society to end this gap by taking measures to make Pakistan gender equal state.