

TOPIC -> GENDER EQUALITY IS A MYTH

OUTLINE

1) INTRODUCTION

a) Hook

b) General statements

c) Thesis statement

2) INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN VARIOUS SECTORS:

2.2) Education

a) More females are out of school than males because of:

i) Poverty

ii) Early marriages

iii) Conservative mindset

iv) Cultural norms

v) Lack of facilities and female staff.

2.3) Economy

- a) Almost zero involvement in every business except beauty salons and home boutiques.
- b) Hold degrees just for better marriage proposals.
- c) Less pay as compared to male.

2.4) Legal Sector

- a) Too little number of judges and lawyers.

2.5) Sports

- a) No significant achievements due to:
 - i) No support from families.
 - ii) Lack of facilities.

2.6) Media and Literature

- a) Under-representation of women in media and literature.

3) WOMEN AS VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS:

- a) Domestic Violence
- b) Honour Killings
- c) Facing Harassment

4) WAY FORWARD TO GENDER EQUALITY:

- a) Impose law against discrimination.
- b) Provide opportunities to women.
- c) Eradicate stereotypes regarding women.

5) CONCLUSION

2.1) POLITICS

- a) Few female politicians as compared to male
- b) less female voters
- c) Political parties do not show interest in female candidate.

Behind every successful man, there is a woman but why there is no one behind successful women?

This is a very serious question and especially for third world countries like Pakistan where gender equality is just a mere joke. From centuries women have been deprived of their basic ~~rights~~ ^{rights} in every field. Whether it's education or something else they never got their demands. Without empowerment of women in various sectors of life, no nation can guarantee success and prosperity. In a country like Pakistan where women are almost half of population, gender inequality still holds strong grounds. Therefore, this essay would discuss various factors where gender equality seems a distant dream. ~~Women~~ Women face gender inequality in almost every sector of life and this cause trouble in

making. ~~every~~ societies, especially ^{a better place} in third world countries. If a country has to excel, then role of women must be increased. Without gender equality Pakistan can neither develop nor it gains respect in the world.

irstly ~~comes~~ the political sector. Here ~~political~~ participation of women seems good but that's not the reality. Women representation in Pakistan assemblies is only 20% which is less than Afghanistan (27%) and Nepal (32%). Since independence there is only one female ^{Prime Minister} ~~have~~ Pakistan. Women ~~are~~ ^{only} 10% quota in political parties. Not only as candidates but women do not take part in politics as voters as well. In 2018 election, there were zero female voters. In out in lower Dir, KPK election was held and females

cast votes. (Dawn Editorial, 2020). Above all these inequalities, the political parties themselves do not show much interest in female candidates. The reason is political parties are well aware of the fact that a male candidate would be more beneficial for them and help winning the contest. This patriarchal mindset damage the confidence of female candidate. In 2018 election, 45% of political parties did not file a single female candidate and out of 182 female contestant overall, only 15 managed to claim victory.

Education is the strongest weapon of any nation and if a country denies this weapon to its female it will only bring negative impact. All the developed nations of

world focus on education regardless of gender discrimination. One of the ~~most important~~ reasons of downfall of developing countries is lack of education, and particularly women's education. In a country like Pakistan where women makes the other half of population, imagine how much it will damage the country. Out of 22 million people here are 12 million girls that are out of school in Pakistan (Pakistan Social Living Standards Survey 2018-19). According to same source girls from poor families are 22% less likely to attend school than poor boys. The literacy rate of women in Pakistan is ~~also~~ alarming as per the report of "Human Development" females in Pakistan have only 30% literacy rate. Early marriages of girls is

another obstacle in women education. There are about 19 million child brides in Pakistan. (UNICEF) it means one out of six young women were married in childhood. There are other reasons as well that creates hurdles for women education like conservative mindsets, cultural norms and lack of facilities.

According to report of Dawn approximately 710 schools were destroyed by Taliban in KPK.

Role of women in building ^{economy} is very important but unfortunately gender inequality has hindered that too. Not only in developing countries but women role in economy is almost nothing in front of male all over the world. Big economical sectors like agriculture, transport and industries are run by male and women can not even imagine

to take part in that. According to DAWN news, female entrepreneurship is just 4 percent as compared to Bangladesh 7.27 and India's 14%. Most of females in Pakistan hold degrees just for marriage proposals. Their degrees will help them find a better life partner and that cost a country financially.

According to Pakistan Medical Council (PMC) 50% of graduated women doctors did not practice or left employment in short period of time.

Above all mentioned inequalities final nail in the coffin is less pay as compared to their male counterparts. Women get paid less for exactly the same work done by males. Acc. to the report of "Economic Policy

institute" in 2023, women were paid 22% less on average than men.

Legal sector is the fourth point that confirms gender equality is just a myth. The number of ^{female} judges and lawyers in Pakistan is 100 less. The legal profession has only 5.5% of females and no woman has ever been appointed as judge of supreme court of Pakistan or Attorney-General in the history of Pakistan. A report compiled by the "Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan" revealed that out of 126 judges in Pakistan's Superior judiciary, only 7 are female. As per another report, out of total 3142 judges and judicial officers, only 572 are females which makes the total of only 18% of working judges in Pakistan. The total number of ^{registered} female advocates

only 12% out of which... 11% belongs to Punjab only.

Gender bias in sports is a global problem, but it is especially prevalent in developing nations. In many cultures, girls and women are not allowed to play sports or even engage in physical activity. Women did not get the support from families as they consider female sports a social taboo. One reason is that there is a general belief that sports are for men and women should not be involved in them. Women from Pakistan has never won any medal in olympics and any trophy in cricket and Hockey.

Another reason of ~~weakness~~ failure of Pakistan women in sports is lack of facilities. Government do not take serious interest in women sports, for

example in 2020 only 5% budget was allocated by "Pakistan Cricket Board" for women's cricket while 19% for their male counterparts.

Although women have provided a lot in the fields of media and literature yet they are under-representative in these sectors. According to ~~the~~ a report by the "Media Matters for Democracy", women constitute only 24% of the total media workforce in Pakistan. The under-representation of women journalists in newsrooms and lack of gender sensitive policies have forced the Pakistani media industry into a state of gender emergency. According to a report by the "Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority" (PEMRA) in 2019, women constitute only 12% of total workplace in electronics.

media industry in Pakistan.
In 2000's the journalist community
had only 5% of women.
Although there have increase in
women journalist after 2010.
yet out of 29000 journalist
in Pakistan; there are only
1000 women. This under-representation
of women in media clearly
shows the gender inequality in
this sector too.

~~From~~ The history of domestic violence
on women is old enough.
From time to time protest
had been made ~~over~~ all
over the world but no
significant measures had
been taken till date. Women in
Pakistan have been victims
of physical, mental and
emotional abuse. According to a
report of "Human Rights Watch"
published in 2009, 70-90% of

Pakistani women suffered with some kind of domestic violence. Apart from domestic abuse women also suffered from "Honor Killing" in Pakistan. There have been many cases of "Honor Killing" registered in Pakistan. According to the "Human Rights Commission of Pakistan" over 470 cases of honor killing were reported in Pakistan in 2021. Despite recent legal laws, Honor Killing remains a common practice in Pakistan today. Along with violence, and Honor Killings women also face harassment at almost every level of their lives. Acc to the report of "Center for gender and policy studies" girls face harassment at school and even on the way to educational institutes as well. Acc to "AASHA" 100% of women

have suffered from harassment
~~at some~~ point of their lives:
~~women~~ faced harassment at
work places.

Gender inequality is a menace
to society and it stops the
society to grow positively. There
should be steps taken to
ensure gender equality across
the globe. Government should
impose strict laws that
ensure equal rights like
equal pay, property ownership
and education. Provide women
opportunities through training
in different programs and
funding for women-owned
businesses. Actively work to
dismantle gender stereotypes
and ~~the~~ ~~progress~~ without limit
the progress of any gender.
Media and public campaigns
can play a crucial role
in societal attitudes.

In conclusion, the overall image looks increasingly black. From Honor Killings to ~~sexual~~ harassments women face all sort of extreme practices that clearly shows gender inequality. Besides, the participation of women in socio-economic and political arenas is almost negligible as compared to men. Majority of women are deprived of literacy and numeracy skills. Even feminist have failed to protect women under their wings. There is a dire need to reform the whole system with sense of gender sensitivity. The world will continue to struggle, unless it gives all due rights to its soft creature. Hence, it is undebatable that gender equality is myth.