

TOPIC → Frailty, Thy Name is Woman

OUTLINE

1) INTRODUCTION

a) HOOK

b) Understanding the concept of Women frailty.

c) Thesis statement

2) WHY WOMEN ARE CONSIDERED FRAIL

a) Biological reason

b) Political reason

c) Social reason

3) HISTORY OF WOMEN BEING FRAIL

~~a) Men being born as frail~~

b) Aristotle's view on women as incomplete men.

c) ill treatment of women during medieval period.

a) Situation of Women before the advent of Islam.

4) HOW MODERN WOMEN ARE NOT FRAIL

- a) Role in Politics.
- b) Acing science and technology.
- c) Competing in sports.
- d) Working in media and literature

5) HURDLES TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- a) Lack of education and awareness.
- b) Stereotypes.
- c) Gender Biases and sexism.
- d) Patriarchy.

6) WAY FORWARD TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- a) Provide education
- b) Breaking stereotypes
- c) Raising voice against Gender Bias
- d) Help women to become financially independent.

7) CONCLUSION

"Women hold up half the sky." These words from Mao Zedong are the pure definition of women being as important as men ^{and} not only as a frail gender. As mothers, sisters, and wives they are builders and breakers of life. Women hold much importance, yet words like frail are attached to them owing to their less body strength and ~~presence~~ presence of patriarchy. Over the years, they have built their strength while fighting against all the ill norms of society. One needs to go back in ancient times to understand the concept of "Frailty, thy name is woman". Back when women held the traditional roles of homemakers and child bearers, they were considered creatures born for little cause because of their soft nature. Shakespeare ~~is~~ also belongs to same

era and held similar beliefs, evident in his writings. The background of the statement also comes from one of his play. "Hamlet", the main character calls out his mother weak because she had married her deceased husband's brother just a month after his death. Women, considered as a ~~fragile~~^{frail} gender has achieved significant accomplishment in several fields of life, like politics, sports and science. However, societal barriers still stand in the women's way, but they can be solved through men's support and proper education.

After getting an understanding of the source of statement, it is essential to determine whether or not it holds true today. So, there is a need to weigh the weakness and strengths of the women. The developing world has seen significant achievements regarding women's

Government and respect. However, the developing world is still far behind in this matter. There, women are judged for biological, social and political reasons. The biggest reason is that women have been built differently; possibly weaker, than men as they much lesser muscular strength than men. Nevertheless, the proponents of this belief fail to explain how a woman's body endures the painful process of childbirth. So, women are considered weak just because they look weak.

Another reason women are considered lesser beings than men is ~~that~~ their ~~of~~ less involvement in political arena. In most developing nations, women are not given enough seats in

parliament, and because of this, their issues are not vocalized as much as needed, it also undermines the problems women face around the globe. According to a report there is only 24.5 percent representation of women in parliaments around the world, with only 8 percent serving as national leaders. It indicates the lack of women's presence in the most crucial policy-making sphere of the world.

The third reason why women are rendered weak is ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~that~~ of a social nature. The society humans have developed over the centuries is predominantly patriarchal. Men hold prominent roles of breadwinning and women are mere objects of their honour. Thus they are pushed to play a obedient role

in family life. It is evident from a common Pakistani households and other developing nations do not usually get the opportunity to play a productive role in society, leading to the development of a common perception of them as being of low stature.

Before the advent of Islam, the situation of Arab women was very alarming. Arabs used to bury women alive just because on the basis of their gender women had no rights on anything and they lived a very tough life at that time. Under the tribal laws, as a general women had virtually no legal status.

The tribe acted as main functional unit of Arabian society and these tribes were patriarchal. The inheritance was

passed through males and women could not inherit property. Women were often considered property to be inherited or seized in a tribal conflict.

Aristotle believed that a woman was born due to an incomplete pregnancy, so she is irrational and incomplete. Not only Aristotle but also other Greek thinkers believed that woman was the root of all evil. This view of Greek thinkers consolidated these views about women in Greece and later in the Christian world. Due to the low status of woman, they had no status in Greek democracy. She had the right to citizenship, could not vote, could not participate in the assembly, not inherit property and could not hold any public office.

In 1484, Pope Innocent VIII claimed that witches along with devil are causing damage to crops and aborting infants. He commissioned "Malleus Maleficarum" that helped Christians to hunt down witches. After that, witchcraft trials were common in Europe and North America from fourteenth century to seventeenth century. It results in torturing and killing of millions of women. As second class citizens, women become a convenient source of evil and were used as scapegoats. Most of the targeted women were mentally ill ~~and~~ and few of them got killed in the case of revenge. Women branded as witches were subjected to horrible tortures, including

rape, beating and other public shaming.

Despite the differential attitude of the developing nations towards women, they have risen in several parts of the world and become politically more potent. Especially in the 21st century, women have started getting into more decisive leadership and administrative roles. A pretty helpful example could be seen in Pakistan - movement, where women worked side by side with their male counterparts to help the then Muslims on their way towards a separate homeland. Fatimah Jinnah is a notable name for women's front-line leadership in guiding Muslims, back in the mid-20th century. Thus, women poses the capabilities to lead independently and they have starting doing so in the political arena.

In addition to politics, women have also earned accolades in the world of science. The ever-growing area of science and technology could not progress at current pace had it not been for women's efforts. A shining example of such women is Madam Marie, Her scientist who discovered the elements Radium and polonium while working with her husband. She is the only person to have won a Noble Prize in two fields. In addition, her constant hard work and service for the cause of humanity are what have helped man develop critical cancer treatment regimes today. It means women have the capacity to work side by side with man. Thus, women have also emerged as strong scientists.

The apparently frail gender has not limited itself to working within boundaries; instead, women have also made it into esteemed sports arenas worldwide. They have gone beyond the ordinary and tested their limits in the fields that were earlier considered men's fields. For example, Rubab Raza became Pakistan's first female Olympic swimmer when she swam at 2004 Olympics. She became the second Pakistani female athlete to compete at the Olympics. Another example could be of Sana Mir who is one of the prolific women cricketers in the world. Sports have not remained a men-only ground, and females have also proved themselves in this area.

Not only women made a name in sports, they have excel the

fields of media and literature as well. Sharmain Obaid Chanoi is a good example for women empowerment in media who was awarded two Oscars for her contributions. A successful Pakistani woman who initially won two Academy Awards for her filmmaking activities that highlighted women's rights. Sharmeen was the first artist to co-chair world forum. Her name was among the most influential Muslims in the world in 2020. Along side media, women have played a great role in shaping ~~media~~ literature as well. Banu Qudsia is a famous novelist and playwright. She is also known as one of the most prominent Urdu writers in modern era.

Although women have endured a fair share of pains to get equal recognition as men in various parts of the world, there remains a gap between how the two genders are treated. The first reason is lack of education and awareness. On one hand, unaware people fail to recognize women's work; on the other hand they do not give them the respect they deserve. Thus, women are marginalized in several sectors of life.

Second the stereotypes also stand in the way of women's progress. Especially the workplace stereotypes where men feel insecure or ashamed if a woman makes a great leap, or they do not believe in women's skills, and women are hence barred from taking over specific task like leadership roles in projects.

sadly, if a lack of workplace ethics has not done enough harm to women, ^{then} there is unconscious gender biases in our society as well.

For example, men casually joke about females and pass sexist remarks and not even considering it wrong. This attitude has made developing societies toxic for women and made them loose confidence in themselves. Women are asked to endure in silence every stone that comes their way as if they are entitled to misconduct.

Even worse is that if a woman stands up against such misbehavior, no one listens to her because of patriarchal nature of society.

Such are the miseries women of third world face today.

Nevertheless, despite all the hurdles mentioned earlier, one cannot assert that women are frail because they have achieved as high a status as men have and still have not given up the effort. The myth of women being weak can be busted by working on some practicable measures. For instance the most crucial task is to raise awareness and educate the masses. It would help broaden people's horizons, and they would be able to respect and appreciate women's hard work, leading to women's empowerment around the globe.

Next to it, gender stereotypes need to be broken in workplaces by allowing to lead non-traditional projects like fieldwork. Moreover, businesses should be made more inclusive and diverse so that more female workplace is inducted,

which would help further ease the way for young women to walk on the path to empowerment around the globe.

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As much as general awareness and collective action are important, men's supporting role for women around them is equally critical. Thus, if all men stand up to back the

Women of their household, the backlash from the patriarchal society against women's empowerment would be greatly reduced. Hence, the need of the hour is that of an encouraging and favorable role of the male community.

Finally, women can help other women by providing them with financial support. When women with strong personalities and power come forth to help the marginalized, it would create a huge impact, for financially independent women would not be a burden on the country. Rather, they would help take developing countries' economies to new heights.

In conclusion, women have been regarded as weak for most recorded history, with several mentions in literature and art. Misconceptions about their bodily and mental strength and persistence are unfamiliar to none. Nevertheless, they have not let such criticism be the force that stops them from pursuing what they want to.

They have achieved everything men have ~~made~~ ^{without} ~~not~~ comprising their roles as mothers, sisters and wives. Women empowerment could be brought by awareness, breaking stereotypes and make them financially independent.

And it is imperative to do so because women ~~make~~ ^make up half the world's population, with the whole of humanity owing its existence to their presence.