

## Topic: Women Empowerment as an Agent of change

### Outline

I. **Introductory remarks:** Razia Sultan's example as agent of social change.

II. **Thesis Statement:** Women empowerment is a revolutionary concept as it can transform every field, be it social, economic or political; however, <sup>the cherished</sup> dream of women empowerment can only be realized if pragmatic steps such as dismantling patriarchy, promoting education for women and their financial independence to name a few, are taken at a worfooting.

III. A Historical view of women's struggle to achieve their dream.

IV. Understanding concept of women empowerment.

V. **Women Empowerment as Agent of Change:**

A. Brings economic prosperity and development: case of Bangladesh.

B. Revitalizes political system: the case study of Iceland.

C. Challenges social norms and values.

D. produces a generation of brilliant and bright minds.

E. Achieves much-needed concept of gender equality.

F. Promotes more peace and harmony.  
Aspect of UN Women.

VI. Major reasons for low women empowerment: A causal Analysis -

A. Prevailing Patriarchal mindset: Views of Sylvia Walby.

B. Prevalent gender-based violence: case study of Pakistan.

C. Wrong assumption about women as weak: Views of Plato and Darwin.

D. Lack of education and health facilities.

E. Financial dependence = view of Marxist feminist.

VII. Pragmatic ways to achieve Women empowerment:

A. Providing equal educational opportunities for women: Mary Wollstonecraft's views.

B. Concept of sisterhood in politics and Quake system

C. Changing social norms and values

D. Revitalize United Nations, especially UN Women.

E. Easy access to financial resources:

Case study of Uganda's women microfinance initiative.

F. Providing safe environment for women: Norway and Finland's achievements.

### VIII. Conclusion:

#### Essay

Razia Sultan, a sole breadwinner for her family, belongs to a poor family. Being born as a woman in Pakistan's patriarchal society is nothing short of a death sentence, she faced many obstacles in establishing a business to earn money for living. She is an owner of a business of making clothes and other equipments for sports. She has <sup>not</sup> only managed to climb social ladder for herself, but also has employed twenty other women in her home-based business. Can anyone imagine what women will accomplish if business

are removed? Can women not bring sustainable economic growth? Can women not bring social change in society? Can women not be a torch-bearer for gender equality? The answer is: Yes, they can. True, women empowerment is a revolutionary concept as it can transform every field, be it social, economic or political; However, the cherished dream of women empowerment can only be realized if pragmatic ways such as changing social norms, bringing economic independence and ensuring quality education for women, are taken as a war footing.

Topic: Freedom of expression is a Double-edged sword.

### Outline

I. Introductory remarks: Freedom of expression; a core human right

II. Thesis Statement: Freedom of expression can be <sup>both</sup> good and bad, depending on the way it is used.

III. Understanding Freedom of expression

IV. Significance of freedom of expression (Essential benefits).

A. Prevalence of Truth and intellectual development of society: ("on liberty" by Stuart Mill).

B. Promotion of democratic values and political participation: For instance, Arab Spring.

C. Protection of Minorities and marginalized groups: cases in point: #Me too movement and Black lives matter.

D. Enhanced accountability and transparency.

E. An effective tool to check authoritarianism: Ai weiqei, 9 cases

artist.

F. A good source of personal development and growth.

V. Insidious effects of unfettered <sup>freedom</sup> of expression.

A. Hate speech and incitement of violence: Rohingyas and speech of Buddhist Monk on Radio.

B. Rise of Islamophobia: the recent case of burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

C. Fake news and disinformation: The case in point of Covid-19.

D. Molding of public opinion in the wrong direction:

E. Violation of Privacy: George Orwell - 1984 Novel.

F. Online harassment and cyberbullying  
Report of <sup>Democracy</sup> ~~Human~~ Matters.

VI. ~~Some~~ Justified restrictions on freedom of expression: As per International convention on civil and political rights - Article 19(3)

VII. Some pragmatic steps to strike a balance in the use of freedom of expression:

A. Media literacy and diversity: the

Manufacturing consent by Noam Chomsky.

B. clearly defined laws and regulations to prevent fake news and hate speech.

C. Avoid invasion of individual privacy.

VIII. Concluding remarks

The idea of freedom of expression is not a new phenomenon; it has its roots in the ancient civilizations like Greece and Rome. However, freedom of expression has become the fundamental rights through ardour and hard struggle during <sup>the</sup> Enlightenment era and French Revolution. The philosophers, authors and artists provided the blueprint for making this cherished demand a reality. At present, freedom of expression is a core human right, protected by international law and almost every virtual constitutional bill of right in the world. Without this right, humans would be like sheeps, being dragged to the slaughter houses. King Martin Luther Jr., A civil right activist, has rightly said, "we die the day we keep silence about

things that matter." This proves that freedom of expression is the key to unlock untepped human potential; it creates conducive environment for personal growth and development. It promotes democracy and good governance and keeps in check authoritarian forces, whereas, unfettered use of freedom of expression could be a cause of concern. Its misuse can hurt the sentiments of others (rise of Islamophobia), encourage online harassment and can promote many more malaises in the society. Hence, freedom of expression is both good and bad; the way it is used can determine whether it is poison or honey.

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Topic: Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Outline:

- I. Introductory remarks: The case of Julius Caesar is a stark reminder of how absolute power corrupts individuals.
- II. Thesis Statement: True, power, especially absolute power, is a recipe for disaster both at individual and state level.
- III. Expansion of state of topic.
- IV. Understanding what power and absolute powers are.
- V. Individuals come under the spell of absolute power: Illustrations.
  - A. Absolute power in Hitler's hand resulted in the World War II and persecution of Jews.
  - B. Napoleon's unchecked power caused irreparable damage.
  - C. Mao's excessive power caused miseries across China.
  - D. Putin's autocratic power has wrecked havoc across the globe.

VI. Absolute power is unhealthy at state level:

A. It results in weak institutions:

Reference of Book "Why Nations fail" and case of South Korea and North Korea.

B. Violations of fundamental rights become commonplace occurrence: The regime Saddam Hussein and Iraq's human right status.

C. Wars and conflicts become frequent.

D. Persecution of minorities become the norm.

E. Corruption and Nepotism become widespread.

VII. Has absolute power always corrupted people? The case of Holy Prophet (PBUH).

VIII. Absolute power needs to be curbed:

Recommendations.

A. Introducing system of checks and balances is a viable option

B. Promoting accountability and rule of law lies at the heart of the problem

C. Proper training of individuals and leader is essential.

D. Encouraging the role of civil society can do the trick.

IX. Concluding remarks: unbridled power sows the seeds of self-destruction at individual and nation level.

Essay

History bears witness that whenever absolute power is concentrated in a single individual or an entity, the result has been nothing but chaos and <sup>tyranny</sup>. Take the example of Julius Caesar as a case of how <sup>absolute</sup> power corrupts people. When he became all-powerful emperor of the flourishing empire, he became the most dangerous man of his time. He violated the rules of the senate, discouraged dissent and persecuted his opponents. Julius Caesar is not alone who came under the spell of absolute power. Many influential individuals, such as Napoleon Bonaparte, Hitler, Mao and Putin, all have failed to resist the temptations of absolute power and caused irreparable damage in their time. In this regard, Yuval Noah Harari, in his famous book,

"Sapienti", writes, "when power becomes excessive, everything is a invitation to invade". Moreover, concentration of power at the state level in single institution or person, sows the seeds of self-destruction. With unchecked power in any entity, state institutions become toothless; violations of fundamental rights and persecutions of minorities become a common place occurrence. Therefore, it is right to say that power, especially absolute power, is a recipe for disaster both at individual and state level, and it needs to be checked with a proper frame-work.