

You can tell the strength of a nation by the women behind its men.

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Women play pivotal role in nation building, as they immensely contribute in nation's polity, economy and society. Thus, the strength of a nation can be measured by the active role women are playing. On the contrary, nations which fails to equip and arm women for nation building jobs are destined to fall behind in the global arena.

2- Historical overview of women role in nation building

3- Strength of a nation lies at women shoulder

3.1- Immensely important human capital

3.2- Make up half of the nation population

3.3- Play a critical role in economic activity -

A case of Bangladesh

3.4- Play pivotal role in political leadership -

A case of Benazir Bhutto, Angela Merkel

3.5- Women role in Entrepreneurship and tourism - A case of Hunza

3.6 - Ensure conducive environment for peace and resolving conflicts.

4 - Nations where women are behind man are doomed to fail men

4.1 - Loss of untapped human capital - A case of Afghanistan

4.2 - Abysmal social indicators

4.3 - Loss of economic growth - A case of Pakistan

4.4 - Absence of Political culture and discourse

4.5 - ~~high incidence of~~ absolute poverty and inequality in society

4.6 - ~~can~~ lead to social unrest - A case of high gender based violence, Aurat March

5 - Ways to make an equal level playing ground for women

5.1 - ^{Free} Access to universal education

5.2 - Financial inclusion of women by digitization

5.3 - Increase special spending on women well-being

5.4 - High political representation in all spheres

6 - Conclusion

“So much to do and so little time, and women hold up half the sky” Chairman Mao. As women makes up half of the nation population thus they play an equal role as man in nation building. This idea was understood by chairman Mao during his stint in power and he fully utilized the potential of Chinese women in nation building. Moreover, nations which are providing women with equal opportunities are harnessing human capital which will benefit them immensely in ^{the} long term. As evident in Bangladesh where women makes up 60-70% of textile workers and are adding value ~~addition~~ in the product. Similarly, women political role in nation's rejuvenation and ensuring collective unity and strength put nations on path to ^{growth} trajectory. Like, Angela Merkel of Germany, who turned German economy into Europe economic engine. However, when nations don't provide women with the equal opportunity and skill set, they are simply putting them ~~part~~ ^{self} on ^{the path of} economic stagnation, and socio-political volatility. Thereby, lowers nation standing in the

global arena. Thus, it can be said that women play a pivotal role in nation building, as they immensely contribute in nation's polity, economy and society. Thus, the strength of a nation can be measured by the active role women are playing. On the contrary, nations which fails to equip and arm women for nation building jobs are destined to fall behind in the global arena.

Do not add examples in introductory paragraph

women always played an instrumental role in nation building. Like, during the 'Pakistan Movement' Muslim women along with men played an effective role in achieving the dream of Pakistan. For instance, Begum Liaquat Ali Khan and wife of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Fatima Jinnah were vocal in materialising Pakistan dream. Likewise, Chinese women played an exceptional role during Mao cultural revolution of 1960's. As they did ^{continuous} wide immense farming and mechanical work to make China stand on its feet. Hence, ^{these} women pivotal role enforced the dream of Pakistan and vibrant China.

Human Capital refer to ^{an} idea where people are educated, healthy and have skills by which ^{they} can positively contribute in nation polity, society and economy. For that United Nation has developed an 'Human Development Index' where by, nations are categorised as developed, underdeveloped and developing nations. Thus, nations which have HDI means that high women participation in nation building. For instance, Japan, USA and Finland have high HDI where as Pakistan has a HDI of 0.41, which is lowest in the region. Therefore, it can be said that Pakistan has not tapped its women potential, where as nations like USA, Finland have tapped it.

Similarly, women are half of the population of a nation. Thence, if they are not given with the equal opportunities nations will eventually fall behind in all sphere. As per latest census by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics women makes up 49.1% of total Pakistan's population. And if such a high equivalent population falls behind its male counterpart then nations

will fall in the abyss of low growth, economic stagnation and low productivity. Thereby, it can be deduced that women are an important part of any nation's growth, values and social resilience.

The economic engine of a nation lies at women's shoulder. As women are ^{more} equally blessed with ideas and thought processes, which can turn nation's fortunes. For instance, Bangladesh which was referred in the past as 'bread basket' due to low agricultural productivity and rampant poverty has now become 'South Asian Tiger'. This miracle happened due to inclusion of women in textile sector. Moreover, empowerment of women was done through ^{imparting} education and skills. This increased Bangladesh's export many times. So, it can be inferred that women can ~~make~~ 'economic miracles' as happened in Bangladesh. Women's ^{active} role in politics can lead to the development of a strong political culture. As women's role as mothers, sisters and wife etc. can ^{help} foster an environment of consensus building. For instance, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's stint ensured that

German economy to remain as a ^{central} European economic engine. Her prudent economic policies cemented European Integration. Likewise, in Pakistan Benazir Bhutto assumed the office as Pakistan's Prime Minister ensured the democratic continuity and fostered federation. As she tried to address the grievances of peripheries. Hence, women role in politics can foster democratic growth and societal well-being.

The entrepreneurship role of women can make immense economic dividend for nations. For instance, Arfa Karim was the youngest Microsoft computer entrepreneur, who brought Pakistan immense fame and respect in the global arena. Similarly, in Hunza women are actively playing a pivotal role in establishing and fostering local tourism. As these women project cultural artifacts and run hotels. This leads to an environment of safety and inclusivity for coming tourists. Therefore, women role in entrepreneurship can bring immense dividend for a nation.

Lastly, women leaders can create an environment for peace and well-being. As they have maternal tendencies, they are averse to conflict and hostilities. Likewise, research shows that women leaders are more better able to handle a volatile situation. Like, when Christ Church Massacre happened in 2019 New Zealand the then Prime Minister Jacinda Arden opened inclusive arms for Muslim community and created an environment of collectivism. Thence, ^{this allayed} ~~lead~~ the crisis and helped in posing a united front against extremism and Islamophobia.

Absence of women from national discourse is a loss to nation polity, society and economy. Moreover, nations ^{afterward} fail to harness human capital ^{which} is a further testament to that claim. ^{Like recently} ~~For instance,~~ Taliban 2.0 have banned girls higher education in various districts and provinces. ^{Thence,} ~~it~~ is loss to future nation human capital. ^{Furthermore,} ~~Moreover,~~ steps like these will ^{deteriorate} squelch growth and Afghan value. Hence, nations ^{which} fail to untapped

human capital will fall behind in global arena.

Failure to inculcate women in public policy will eventually lead to bad social outcomes. As per Liberal feminist perspective failure to inculcate women in polity and economy will lead to socio-economic stagnation. As Pakistan ranks 145/146 in Gender Parity Index of 2023. This clearly shows that priorities are misplaced.

Hence, abysmal social outcomes is the product of women exclusion. Similarly, failure to

integrate women in national economy leads to poor economic returns. As when women are economically excluded nations cannot grow. This similar idea was compounded by Robinson and Daren in their book 'Why Nation Fail?'. Likewise, in

Pakistan women are economically marginalised and segregated. As per Pakistan Poverty alleviation Fund women makes up 70% of poor people. Hence, nations failure to inculcate women economically result economic stagnation and low productivity.

The absence of women from political sphere leads to democratic erosion. As women are fundamental and equal torch bearer of democratic light. Thus, their absence from nation discourse results into democratic recession. Like, in Pakistan only 13% of women are in the Parliament. This shows the magnitude of political unawareness ~~observed~~ among women.

When women are behind men, this exacerbate poverty and social inequity. As women are continuously dependent on men for financial needs. This makes them vulnerable for gender abuse.

As South Asian region has high poverty and high incidence of inequality, thence, women living in south Asia are prone to violence and destitution.

Likewise, in Pakistan women makes up less than 20%.

employment in the formal sector. Thus, ^{the} limitations ~~are~~ tracks to prosperity and development in the long run.

Likewise, when women are far behind men this can potentially lead to social unrest.

As conflict approach states that there are conflict in the societies between haves (those who have resources) and have's not (those who don't have resources). This perpetual conflict translates into social unrest, which can disturb the societal harmony. This is evident in Pakistan where 'Aurat March' social movement are gaining traction. As these march argue for ^{hyper} women empowerment and freedom so, social unrest can be a factor which can disturb the society established status-quo.

So in order to provide women with equal opportunities states must invest heavily in providing 'free education'. Likewise, incentives must be given to parents that if they send their daughter to school they will get free flour and daily use item. Moreover, grants must be given to girls who are from far peripheries, so that they can have ^{universal} quality education. Hence, education access must be the top agenda to bridge the gap between man and women.

Another way to bridge the gendered gap is to ^{empower} ~~mark~~ women financially. As financial inclusion by digitisation process can lead to financial autonomy among women. Moreover, women who are working in informal sectors must be brought to formal net. So that their rights can be actively guarded by the state. Thus, in this regard, Central Banks must adopt women centric beneficial policy by giving them interest free loans for business. Hence, steps like these can lead to empowerment among women.

Similarly, states must actively and prudently spend more on social spending measures. As it will lead to greater independence among women. For instance, Likewise, Indian state Kerala heavily spent on women empowerment, as it provides parents grants to educate their children. Furthermore, higher health spending has resulted into better health outcome.

Another case in point is Bangladesh which has lowered its population due to better social spending.

~~any~~ ^{on} women

Spending. Hence, has acquired immense gains for nation export and productivity ^{due} ~~thanks~~ to women inclusion.

Lastly, women must be given ^{equal} political autonomy. because this ~~can~~ ^{But} leads to far greater returns. For that to happen, nations must increase women representation in Parliament and Local bodies. Moreover, women must be given equal representation in Cabinet. As this will break the 'glass-ceiling' phenomenon rampant world wide. In addition, it will lower gender-parity and will provide women greater say in nations affairs. Thus, high political representation can lead to more empowerment and autonomy for women.

Neitzsche famously said, "Become who you are",

Thus, women world wide must strive to become a better and equal counterpart to man. As they are blessed with unparalleled capabilities and potential. ^{Likewise, the} ~~The~~ examples stated earlier are an ^{testament} ~~example~~ that women can do wonders in.

their life. The success of Bangladesh and India shows that by equipping women with the right skill set nations can do economic miracles in the global arena. However, the challenges women face are unprecedented. As they face discrimination and exclusion as evident in Afghanistan. Moreover, their exclusion can lead to loss of human capital and economic stagnation. However, providing them with equal opportunities can turn nation stronger, prosperous and united against all crisis. Hence, when women become equal to man, then sky is the limit for nations.