

Women Sportspersons are new ambassadors of the soft image of Pakistan.

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Women sportspersons are new ambassadors of the soft image of Pakistan.

They are breaking stereotypes regarding Pakistani society, and building an image of new, ^{and} vibrant Pakistan.

2. Increasing involvement of women in Sports in Pakistan

How women sportspersons are new ambassadors of the soft image of Pakistan?

3. Breaking stereotypes regarding Pakistani society

4. Showcasing toleration of ideas Society towards new ideas

5. Symbol of improved security

situation of Pakistan.

6. Equality of ~~equal~~ opportunities for both genders.

7. Sign of improving economic situation of Pakistan

8. Fit women, a symbol of healthy Pakistan

9. Prediction of bright future of Pakistan

10. Neutralization of foreign propogandas

11. Manifestation of defeat of fanaticism

12. An example for other Islamic nations

13. Pakistani ^{Female} sports persons attracting tourism and Investment

14. Source of improving relations with other countries

15. Conclusion

Essay

As flowers are to garden, so, the women are to nation. Aesthetics of garden lies in prominency of flowers, and the soft image of any nation lies in the status of their women.

It is the reason that women sports persons are new ambassadors of the soft image of Pakistan.

These sports persons are breaking stereotypes regarding Pakistani society. They are symbol of improved economic and security situation of Pakistan. It manifests

the equality of opportunities for both men and women. Active women are symbolizing the active

Pakistan, and are signs of bright future of Pakistan. It

helps in neutralizing the foreign propoganda, manifests defeat of

~~propoganda~~^{fanaticism}, and helps Pakistan setting a positive example for

other Islamic nations. In a nutshell, these women sportsperson are painting a new picture of Pakistan on global scale.

The trend of involvement of women in sports is increasing day by day. But the situation was not always as good as it is today. In Zia's era, it was not possible for women to present news on television without scarf, not to talk of their involvement in sports. Moreover, in large parts of Pakistan, it is not possible for women to take part in any co-curricular activity out of their house. But these traditional norms have finally started disappearing, and today, Pakistani women are vibrant enough to change the course of history.

With the help of sports, Pakistani women are breaking stereotypes regarding Pakistani society. These stereotypes include Patriarchal society, where women are oppressed, and are not allowed to become part of social life. But the sports, which is an important part of any healthy society, the representation of women is a symbol that Pakistani society is as healthy for women, as it is for men, and availability of social life is not only limited to women, but it is also available for women.

Additionally, it manifests the toleration of Pakistani society towards new ideas. The concept of involvement of women in sports is quite new to this society. As, in Pakistani culture,

women are, traditionally, supposed to fulfill the responsibilities related to household. But in modern era, when women are becoming more and more integrated to social life, and are joining every field of life, Pakistani women are also actively participating in sports. Pakistan has its national teams in cricket, football, hockey and volleyball. All these teams reveal upon world these realities that Pakistani society is not dogmatic but it is an adaptive society, which is open towards positive ideas.

Along with that, the active participation of women in sports also presents the improved security situation of Pakistan. At one time, due to security threats, women could not even secure education. The

attack on Malala Yousafzai for advocating women education ^{is} was an example that reveals the grave security situation in previous decade. But now the situation has seen a drastic change, and women from across the country are actively participating in sports on national and international level. This positive change gives world the message that security situation in Pakistan has greatly been improved, and these women sports persons are evidence of that.

Moreover, as women are joining men even in sports. It is a symbol of equal opportunities for men and women in Pakistan. Though, according to the Constitution of Pakistan, no discrimination can be made on the basis of gender. But in past, it was largely considered a theoretical

concept due to patriarchal structure of society. But now, as women are competing men in every field including sports. It is a manifestation that constitutional and democratic values are practised in true letter and spirit in Pakistan.

When opportunities for women are becoming ^{equal} to men in practical realm. It is often a symbol of improving economic condition of Pakistan. As Yuval Noah Harari wrote that in 21st century economic growth in true sense can only be seen by active participation of women in economic fields (21 lessons from 21st century). So, when Pakistani women are actively engaged in fields like professional sports, where years and years of hardwork is required before professionally playing any

sport. It shows that women are not only allowed, but they often have relentless support from their families and societies, and it is the reason that it is possible for them to achieve such milestones in life.

Along with economic growth, the active participation of women in sports is a sign of healthy Pakistan. Across the world, Pakistan is, unfortunately, known for problems like malnutrition, and lack of access to outdoor activities. As a report of World Bank (WB) reveals that ~~the~~ more than 80 percent of Pakistani women do not have access to facilities that they can enjoy any outdoor activity. But the active participation of women in sports on all levels ~~that~~ inspite of limited opportunities,

Pakistani women are resilient and making their own way. Even this active participation, and encouraging performance of Pakistani women sportspersons is putting the credibility of such reports at paradox. It reveals the passion of Pakistani society towards health and fitness, that even with minimum facilities, Pakistani women are able to compete the athletes from first world. It manifests the commitment of Pakistani nation towards health and fitness.

The women sportspersons vibrantly participating in various sports and building a positive posture of Pakistan in front of world are predicting a bright future of Pakistan. It is a manifestation before world that it is a new and changed Pakistan, where women are equally participating

in the growth and development of country as men. As in accordance with the quote of Quaid-e-Azam that Pakistan can only achieve the goals of progress and prosperity by involving women into every field. It is a depiction of the country which is emerging to adapt according to changing standards of time. Hence, women participation in sports at all levels is a symbol to world that Pakistan is an emerging power and has bright future.

These ambassadors of Pakistan's soft image are playing major role in neutralizing the foreign propoganda. In accordance with India's policy to isolate Pakistan on International stage, every effort has been made to present Pakistan as Patriarchal and misogynistic state. Moreover, western media has often contributed in deteriorating the image of Pakistan.

However, these woman ambassadors of Pakistan have played crucial role in practically denying all such allegations. As, a person watching Pakistani women actively participating in diverse sports on international stage cannot believe in such biased news and propogandas.

On one hand, these brave women sports persons have defeated the foreign propogandas, and on other hand, they are manifestations of defeat of fanaticism in Pakistan. At one time, fanatical powers were quite influential that it was not possible for women to take part in any ^{sports,} supports but now the power of those fanatics have often been neutralized, and women participating in sports events at all scales is presenting the world that Pakistani ^{is no more} society ^{is} in the hands of fanatics

Rather this new state is free from influence of fanatical powers

This shift in Pakistani culture, and its adaptability towards new ideas sets an example for other Islamic nations. as in many Islamic states, it is not possible for women to actively participate in sports events. However, the side effect of such policies is that such states are lacking behind, and are feeling difficulty in competing with other nations. For instance, Iran is an oil rich country, but due to severe restrictions on women regarding their very personal matters, ^{it} paints a gloomy picture regarding Iranian state and society. Therefore, Pakistan sets an example that dynamic and positive shift towards new policies is important in order to wash away that gloomy picture. Moreover, states like Saudi Arabia which are

striving to portray them as a modest emerging power, Pakistan is a good example to follow.

Pakistani sportspersons playing outside of the country present an image of Pakistan on world stage, and when women are performing, it sends a positive message towards world. It is owing to these women sportspersons that more and more people are considering Pakistan a safe country, and multiple female ^{visitors} sportspersons from diverse countries like Canada, New Zealand, and England have preferred to visit Pakistan on solo trips in recent years. Moreover, these ambassadors of Pakistan are also crucial in attracting foreign direct investment as it is choice of every investor to invest in such country which is open and welcoming towards change.

Along with that, Pakistani women sports persons are often crucial in improving relations of Pakistan with other country. It is present in the policy guidelines of European Union and United States, that relations towards free and democratic states would be encouraged. Through ^{women} sport persons, Pakistan is manifesting its democracy and inclusivity on world stage. It often helps Pakistan in improving its ranking on indexes like gender gap index, and world happiness index. It helps in improving the image of Pakistani state in front of authorities of these states. Hence it is a great source of improving relations with other states.

In conclusion, the involvement of Pakistani women in sports is not only a positive sign for Pakistani society, but it is also helping Pakistan

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in repainting it on global scale. The traditional views regarding Pakistani society of being Patriarchal and misogynistic are finally breaking away, and a new image of Pakistani society as vibrant, changing and inclusive society are emerging. It is nullifying foreign propogandas and is manifesting the defect of fanaticism in the country. These women ambassadors are helping Pakistan in attracting tourism and investment, and more importantly, improving relations with other countries. In this way, Pakistan is setting an example for other states which want to flourish. To cut the long story short, These women sports persons are flowers of this garden, which are playing crucial role in enhancing the beauty of garden for visitors.