

Short Essay

Topic:

Gender equality is a myth.

Thesis Statement:

Although progress has been made in achieving gender equality, myriads of factors prove that gender equality is a myth. Nonetheless, by taking some meticulously devised measures, gender parity can be achieved in a true sense.

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B- Invest in initiatives to increase women's access to education and vocational training ✓

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In a world brimming with diversity, the pursuit of equality stands as a fundamental pillar of progress and justice. From the dawn of civilisation, the quest for equitable rights and opportunities has been an unwavering human endeavor, challenging societal norms and fostering transformative change. At the heart of this ongoing pursuit lies the crucial question of gender equality, a concept that resonates with the inherent right of women to be treated with dignity, respect and equal consideration. But this inherent right of women has been undermined proving that gender equality is a myth. Deep-rooted patriarchal societies, discrimination in inheritance, and unequal educational opportunities are some of the manifestations that are hindering the progress being made towards gender equality. However, there are some factors proving that gender equality is a fact such as women equality in the west, and equality enshrined in constitution.

and law. To achieve ~~the~~ true gender equality, some effective measures can be implemented such as advocating for stronger enforcement of existing laws protecting women's rights, and investing in initiatives to increase women's access to education and vocational training. Hence, although progress has been made in achieving gender equality, myriads of factors prove that gender equality is a myth. Nonetheless, by taking some meticulously devised measures gender parity can be achieved in a true sense.

First of all, gender equality is a myth as deep-rooted patriarchal society serves as compelling evidence that achieving true gender equality remain an elusive goal. This deeply entrenched system woven into the fabric of many cultures, tends to perpetuate the discriminatory practices and unequal power dynamics between men and women. Historical traditions and customs from the past often influence the society that marginalize women, limiting their access to education,

employment opportunities, and leadership roles. Despite advancements in the legal frameworks and societal awareness, the enduring influence of patriarchal ideologies hinders substantial progress towards gender parity. The pervasive nature of this system is evident in everyday situations, from unequal pay in workplaces to gender-based violence, underscoring the stark reality that equality remains a mere dream. Moreover, the persistence of traditional gender roles and expectations further solidifies the notion that societal attitudes need comprehensive transformation to break free from the constraints of patriarchal norms. Hence, it is for sure that deeply-entrenched patriarchal society thwarts the progress being made towards gender equality, so proved to be a myth.

Furthermore, discrimination in inheritance also underscores the unequal treatment of individuals further adding fuel to the fire. In many societies, deeply ingrained biases often result in preferential treatment towards male

heirs, disadvantaging female beneficiaries. This gender-based discrimination can be observed in the unequal distribution of assets and property, where sons may receive more significant shares than daughters, perpetuating a cycle of economic disparity. For instance, a 2021 Human Rights Commission of Pakistan report found that women in Pakistan receive less than their rightful share of inheritance in 80% of cases. The report also found that women are often forced to give up their inheritance in exchange for a small dowry or other financial compensation. Furthermore, social class and caste systems can contribute to discriminatory inheritance practices, with marginalized groups facing additional hurdles in accessing their rightful legacies. Thus, one cannot raise his eyebrows regarding gender equality as a myth due to discriminatory practices in inheritance.

Last but not least, the existence of unequal educational opportunities proves that gender equality still remains a myth. Across the globe,

Girls and women frequently encounter barriers that limit their access to education. Discriminatory practices, cultural norms, and traditions contribute to the perpetuation of these inequalities. In many instances, girls are disproportionately affected by factors such as early marriage, gender-based violence, and traditional biases that prioritize boys' education. Limited access to quality education not only hinders individual development but also reinforces broader gender disparities. For instance, according to Pakistan Education Statistics Report 2022, the literacy rate for women is 47 percent, compared to 72 percent for men. Moreover, these inequalities increase cycles of poverty and limit the potential for social and economic advancement, particularly for women. Furthermore, the persistent underrepresentation of girls in schools reflects deeply rooted gender norms that prioritize male education. Hence, it is proved that unequal educational opportunities hinders the way in achieving gender equality, so it remains a myth.

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On the contrary, there are some manifestations proving that gender equality is not a myth, rather it is a fact.

Firstly, in the Western world, advancements in women's rights and gender equality serve as tangible evidence that gender equality is a fact. Over the years, significant strides have been made in dismantling discriminatory practices and fostering equal opportunities for women. Legal frameworks ensure women's rights in areas such as education, employment, and healthcare, contributing to a more equitable society. For instance, in 2021, Iceland became the first country in the world to legally mandate equal pay for equal work between genders. Moreover, the presence of women in leadership roles, i.e., political positions signifies that gender equality has become a fact. Several Western countries have witnessed a rise in female political representation in recent years. For instance, Finland currently boasts the world's youngest female Prime Minister, Sanna Marin, and

Kamala Harris became the first woman and person of color to serve as Vice President of the United States.

Hence, these milestones prove that traditional gender barriers have been ~~dis~~ dismantled and gender equality is prevailing in the world.

Secondly, the existence of legal provisions and constitutional guarantees aimed at ensuring equality signals that gender equality is a fact. Constitutions in many countries articulate the principles of non-discrimination and equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of gender. For instance, Article 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan states that equality will be ensured to all the citizens of Pakistan and prohibits discrimination of all kinds. Furthermore, affirmative action policies and initiatives further demonstrate a deliberate effort to address historical imbalances. Hence, while challenges persist in translating legal provisions into tangible social change, the fact that gender equality is enshrined in constitutions serve as

a compelling argument against dismissing it as a mere myth, emphasizing the ongoing societal progress towards achieving genuine equality.

However, some effective policy measures can be implemented to achieve true gender equality.

First and the foremost, advocating for stronger enforcement of existing laws protecting women's rights emerges as a crucial strategy to attain true gender equality. Despite significant legal advancements aimed at ensuring equal rights, the effective implementation of these laws often falters, perpetuating disparities. By bolstering enforcement mechanisms, societies can create a more robust framework for safeguarding women's rights in various spheres.

Strengthened legal measures can act as a deterrent against gender-based discrimination, harassment and violence.

Moreover, this will foster an environment where women can participate fully and without the fear of repercussions.

Furthermore, enhanced enforcement sends

a clear message that violations will be met with consequences, challenging ingrained societal norms that increase gender inequality. It empowers women by providing them with the means to seek justice when their rights are violated. Thus, gender equality can be attained if existing laws are enforced properly.

Furthermore, investing in initiatives that enhance women's access to education and vocational training stands out as a paramount solution to attain genuine gender equality. Education serves as a powerful catalyst for social change, empowering women with knowledge, skills, and confidence. When women have equal opportunities for education, they are better equipped to participate in various sectors of society, contributing meaningfully to economic, political, and social development. Vocational training further enhances their practical skills, increasing employability and economic independence. This holistic approach not only benefits individual women but

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also leads to broader societal advantages. Hence, gender equality can be prevailed in the world if countries invest in initiatives that enhance women's access to education and vocational training.

In a nutshell, it can be said without an iota of doubt that gender equality remains a myth due to multifarious factors contributing to it. On the contrary, there are other factors proving that gender equality is not a myth, rather it is a fact. However, the impeding elements in the way for achieving true gender parity can be curbed by taking some meticulously devised measures. Some of the best effective measures are advocating for stronger enforcement of existing laws protecting women's rights, and investing in initiatives to increase women's access to education and vocational training. These solutions can provide the best way to attain genuine gender equality. It is the need of time to pay heed to such initiatives and policy

measures to diminish existing societal norms and traditions. The day is not far when both genders will enjoy equality in all sectors of their life.

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