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Putting The Needle on GDP:

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For the policymakers of Pakistan it's time to engage on discussion to approach of GDP and reconfigure the approach they used from last 77 years with view of economic building social and well being improving.

Take labour force participation (FLFP) in Pakistan for male is 81pc as of 2023. For women however it's worryingly low 24pc.

The ILO used these same indicators in 1990. After 30 years there is the work force of women increased by a bysomal 13%. The population increased more than double at that time.

How it can be relate to GDP? According to international growth center estimates that if the women work force i.e. FLFP as par of women as par with male. The Pakistan GDP could grow upto 60pc which means that \$240 bn extra would be added to current GDP \$374 bn. The answer seems simple enough - increased the

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Women workforce and things will workout. I have travel across the country and I saw a lot of womens working in the field so where is the gap?

There may be the Pakistan workforce survey underestimating female work force participation. According to recent research of World Bank that Urban of peshawar underestimate the female workforce by four percentage points. That is significant. There could be estimate in labour force &

Mostly women are not working because of the social norms and attitude of male family members. According to research of Asian developmental bank that about 40 pc women are not working that is because of the male family members who don't want to permit their women of work outside the home. This could be estimate in labour force or not or used in GDP calculation we don't know. But what we know that most of our women working are illiterate. Only 25 pc under university-graduated

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women are working in Pakistan by ADP study. Another research shows that 37% youth (15-29) ages across the country are not in education employment or training. For women it's quite more than male that is 62%. Population Council projected that this proportion of working age will remain same till 2025-2030.

Conclusion:

It's time for Pakistan policymakers to reconfigure their approach. We provide opportunities for women to access education, give them opportunities in employment work on their skills which could help to improve in our GDP growth. We need to change mindset of male family members and guide them about women participation female labour force participation because the answer is simple enough - Increase work force of women and things will work out.