

The ambitious Journey towards gender equality:

Brain - Storming

Less economic opportunities

Political representation

Educational opportunities

Less educational opportunities

The ambitious journey towards gender equality

Economic Participation

Political Sector

Sports representation

Legal arena

Less participation in Sports.

The ambitious journey towards Gender equality

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The Essay

Introduction:

It was assumed that Germany would win the WWII because of its strong army and weapons but they were defeated. Their fall was evident as they restricted the participation of women on the other hand, Queen Elizabeth participated and the automobile industry utilized the human resources. The results were clear: Britain won & Germany defeated. So without equal opportunities for men and women no nation guarantee the success. In case of Pakistan the journey towards the equality of men and women is not ambitious despite of opportunities in various sectors, still women participation in major sectors like education, economic, legal, political is very less as compared to men. In addition there are increasing numbers of cases of rape and honor killing. So, for the prosperity of country equality in every sector is fundamental requirement.

2 First, this essay will discuss the factors which indicate an ambitious journey towards gender equality. Second section will give the restructure of ambitious journey towards equal opportunities for both genders.

2- Factors indicating journey towards gender equality is ambitious.

2.1- Educational opportunities

Education is a fundamental pillar of any society. Pakistan has made substantial progress for equal education of girls and boys. Initiatives such as Girls Stipended Program has major role to provide financial assistance to females. Moreover, recently Government has introduced the Pink Bus service for female students and teachers in Islamabad. A report of UNESCO indicated that education of girls in Pakistan has increased from 35% in 2000 to 60% in 2022. Moreover Pakistani women are pursuing higher education and achieving remarkable achievements. As in year 2021 Female Professor from GC University Lahore had received "Researcher of the Year" award from HEC.

Education is empowering females to excel in every field of life.

2.2 Economic Participation

In economic sector, Pakistani women have made significant progress. Many prominent females like Musarat Misbah, Dr. Shamsheer Akhtar have earned their names in this field. Initiatives like Prime Minister Youth Business Loan Scheme have been launched to provide financial assistance to men and women of Pakistan, media, textile sector has list of women who have proved their skills. In media industry Shadmira Barel Chinn has won two Oscar awards for her documentaries on women of Pakistan. These achievements indicates that Pakistani females are no less than their counterparts in economic sector.

2.3 Political Representation

While talking about the participation of Pakistani women in political arena the first which comes to mind is Benazir Bhutto. She had served as first female Prime Minister of Muslim world. Apart from that Fatima Jinnah,

Rana Liaqat Ali Khan were the symbol of women empowerment during the creation of Pakistan. The constitution of Pakistan grant equal right of women. There are reserved seats for females in National assembly. In many women serve in National and provincial cabinets, and play role in Policy making of country. The number of women in National assembly has increased from 12% in year 2000 to 16% in 2022 (Dawn News).

2.4 Legal Arena

Moreover, Pakistani women have opportunities to represent the judiciary. Asma Jahangir was prominent advocate of Supreme Court of Pakistan. She had major role in the strengthening the Supreme court. ~~Best~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~case~~ is recent example of Justice Ayesha Malik who is the first women to serve in Supreme court. She was named in BBC's report of most influential women - Justice Tahirah Syed and Justice Musabbih Hildali are serving in high courts. Their appointments are significant mile stone in history of Pakistan which indicate a journey towards gender equality. There is quote for

females in judiciary which
the effort of Government shows
providing equal opportunities to women

3- Factors indicating
towards gender equality is journey
ambitious. not

So far, this essay has
the factor showing ambitious discussed
towards gender equality. The journey
will discuss the factors which next section
debate the ambitious journey of gender
equality. will be

3.1 Less educational opportunities

First factor impeding the gender
equality is less opportunities for
females. Despite the enrollment of girls
in colleges and universities, the
reality is different. Statistics for
girls enrollment is not positive.

According to Social and Economic Survey
of Pakistan in year 2018 half of
the girls having age 10 or above have
attended the school. in addition to this
only half women between age 10 to 24
know reading or writing. Education situation
is good in urban areas. but in rural

where the situation is much worse - they
major factor in rural areas is less
number of institutions specially college. So
girls obtain their education till metric
and then they leave study because they
they are not allowed to study in
cities. additionally the patriarchal system
of rural areas discourage female education.
in case of cities there are large
numbers of girls who get higher
education but they are not allowed by
their parent to do jobs. So, such
conventional mindsets believes on education
of and jobs of boys than girls.

3.2 Less Economic opportunities.

Similarly, economic sectors provide
less opportunities to women. at global level
38% women are participating in economic
sector. But in case of Pakistan female
work force is very less major reasons
are social norms, family environment,
less facilities like transport or hostels.
another threatening factor is workplace
harassment which hinders the active
participation of women in workplace.
There is largest gender gap in work
force of men and women.

In addition to this, women do jobs are less paid than men who have children face more difficulty in job because there are very few day care centre offered by the institution of Government. So at the end they have to leave the job. Government should take initiatives to create healthy work environment for women to increase labor force.

3.3. Less political representation

The third factor which is influencing the ambitious journey towards gender equality is less participation of women in political sector. Women face barriers in voting, seeking office, in making policies. out of 60 million registered voters, only 40% are females. The major reason is their underrepresentation in political sector.

The recent years have witnessed prejudicial attitude towards women who are even elected in assemblies. They face harsh and slandering remarks or name calling by the male members of assembly. In case of electoral voters those who are registered, they cannot participate

in rural and backward areas especially
number of cases have been reported
in KPK. they are restricted by these
male members. not only in Pakistan
but in developing countries no women have
served as president of country. Government
needs to bring reform to ensure these
participation.

3.4 Legal Sector

Additionally, the legal sector
is witnessed less involvement of
women than men. There are only
few names who made to the higher
positions. There are more likelihood of
male judges to be appointed as judges
of high court and supreme court.
Mostly women serve in session courts
and they are often sidelined
by their male counterparts. As
a result they are less likely to
seek higher positions and promotions. judicial
system needs reform to implement the
past policies for male and female
judges.

3.5 Less participation in Sports

Similarly, Sports arena of India provides very less opportunities to females. Female cricketer team receive less funds and coaching facilities than men cricketer team. One factor is less media coverage for female. So, people are more interested in male sports. Another factor is social taboos. Female face taboos from their family members or other social institutions like they would develop a male-like bodies. Men teams get more resources and foreign funds. Due to these factors female representation in sports is very less. There is dire need to bring reforms in sports sector to improve facilities for female players and efforts should be made to recognize their talent and achievement.

3.6 Cases on Honor killing and rape.

Last but not the least, is increasing number of honor killing

and rape cases against women.
Pakistan ranked 1st out of
153 countries in cases of domestic
violence and honor killing. New policies
the ~~pol~~ remain effective in preventing
these cases. There are large number
of cases who are under reported.

According to report by
UN 900 women annually killed
in name of honor in 2019.

This is alarming situation. If women
are unable to obtain security that this
situation will hinder their social and
economical development.

These cases have been increasing
day by day and no strict measure
has been implemented so far. Government
should give prime attention to this
threatening situation. Safety of women
should be given priority by government.
They should take more serious steps
to prevent the vicious crimes of
rape and honor killing.

4. Conclusion

It is evident from the above mentioned arguments that the journey of gender equality is not ambitious. As females are far behind the males in various sectors. Less effort have been put to raise the status of women and providing them equal opportunities. Government should give priority to females ^{rights} similar to males. There is dire need of developing and implementing the policies for advancement of females. Such policies should be monitored strictly and strict actions should be taken against rape & harassment in order to ensure the effective participation of females uplifting the status of country.