


Can women be equal to men in Pakistan.

Outline:

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement  Write thesis statement here

2. Development which shows that women can be equal to men in Pakistan.

- a) Women role in economic ~~has been enhanced~~ ^{increased} activities
- b) Electoral participation has been increasing ✓
- c) Women are largely present in politics ✓
- d) Women are successfully working in government sectors ✓
- e) Societal setup about women as ~~breadwinner~~ ^{domestic workers} is also changing.

participating

f. Women are highlighting in educational domain

4.

g. In military ~~forces~~ women are also actively working.

3. Women are facing certain hurdles in achieving equality with men.

a) Patriarchal dominance is hindering women equality in Pakistan.

b) Sexual harassment is present in different fields.

c) Educational disparities are also hindering women equality particularly in rural areas.

d) Some extremists also use religion as a tool against women equality.

5.

4. Ways to overcome hurdles and steps to make them equal to men,

a) There should be proper implementation of Gender National policy framework

~~No such framework exists~~

b) The opportunity of UNICEF National gender strategy should be properly avail

availed

c) Women rights in Islam should be highlighted by Islamic scholars instead of hard image

d) Awareness campaigns should be launched to change patriarchal setup

5. Conclusion

There is an ongoing debate on this issue that can women be equal to men in Pakistan. But here are certain developments which show that women can be equal to men.

As women role in economic has ~~been~~ increased and **is also** their electoral participation ~~has also been~~ increasing. Now women are largely participating in politics, ~~in~~ government sectors and in most of the fields.

Even now the societal setup about women as ~~housewife~~ **house-wives**

is also changing with ~~respect to~~ time. Although women are highlighting present

in every field still there
 are certain hurdles
 for women in Pakistan
 due to patriarchal setup
 of society. In spite of
 development still somehow
 sexual harassment is
 present in different
 fields that ~~are~~ is
 hampering women equality
 and success. Some
 extremists also use
 religion as a tool
 against women. But instead
 of ~~some~~ some of these
 hurdles there are still
 some ways ~~are present~~
 to integrate women in
 society and to make
 them equal to men.
 Thus, there is no denying
 the fact that women
 can be equal to men.

The following sentences are in repetition

in

Pakistan in socio-political economic spheres. But the road to this equality has certain formidable challenges. However, these challenges can be addressed through strong and bold measures.

There are certain developments which show that women can be equal to men in Pakistan. Firstly, it can be seen that women role in economics has been increased in Pakistan from the last few years. Now women are also considered as breadwinner in society as compared to ancient times when women role was just of housewife.

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Forexample : Efforts are ongoing to reduce gender gap in the labor market. ~~Like wise~~ According to World Bank collection the female labor force participation in Pakistan was reported 23.18% in 2023 which was double than the previous years. In addition to this Benazir Income Support Program has also financially supported millions of women. Moreover National Gender Data Portal has also been established to track progress on women's economic empowerment and to gain information about policies. Thus, these examples show that women role

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in economics has ~~been~~
increased from previous
years which shows
that women have the
potential to be equal
to men in Pakistan.

Along with economic
participation, women role
in electoral participation
has also been increasing.

Because the role of women
in electoral participation
in Pakistan has seen a
notable increase in recent
years. Likewise:

Election
Commission of Pakistan and
other stakeholders worked
to reduce the overall

gender gap on voter rolls
from 12.4m in 2018 to
9.9m in 2023.

Election
Act 2017 is also one
of the best achievement

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to become women equal to men. Because according to this act: Election is considered null and void if women voter turnout is less than 10%.

And it was the first time that Pakistan registered more women voters compared to men in 2024 elections.

Almost 2.3 million more women turned out to vote in 2024 compared to 2018.

Thus, these statistics of Election Commission of Pakistan demonstrate a positive trend towards increased female electoral participation, reflecting a broader movement towards becoming women equal to men.

Thirdly, women are largely present in politics.

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~~like this~~
Even in present era
the Chief Minister of
Pakistan's largest province
(Punjab) is a woman ✓

Not only in present
time ~~also~~ observing history
it is clearly seen
that Pakistan's first
female Prime minister
took over the command
of country in 1998,
which was a remarkable
achievement in the whole
muslim world. ✓ After this

women parliamentary caucus
was made in 2008 in
Musharraf's era. Women
quota is also present
in provincial and local
government. ✓ Thus, all these
examples shows that
women are largely present
in politics and they

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can be equal to men
in Pakistan

Fourthly, along with
politics, women are also
successfully working in
governmental sectors of

Pakistan. Fore example there
is 10% quota for

women in public sector
employment, province level
quotas are even higher

such as 15% in Punjab
And in CSS, PMS and

all other competitive
examinations for Government
recruitments, women are

equally welcomed to
participate along with men.

In Gilgit Baltistan

and Balochistan women

~~have~~ also been achieving

success in government
sectors and in bureaucracy.

In previous day in May 2024, 6 women were promoted to DC in these provinces, although these provinces are less developed as compared to other provinces of Pakistan. But, these example underscore the ongoing efforts of government and highlight the positive trend of women's increasing involvement in government sectors.

Fifthly, the societal setup regarding women as breadwinners in Pakistan is also changing day by day, and it reflects a positive shift towards becoming women equal to men. For-example. A specific report on this topic is titled "Homemakers or bread

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winner: labour force partici-
pation of Pakistani women,
published in the journal
Community Work & Family.

The report discusses that
support from fathers and
husbands, as well as
personal strategies adopted
by women to overcome
gender-based discrimination,
that facilitate women's
participation in the labor
market and this parti-
cipation changed the
perspectives of society
about women as bread-
winner. These studies
prove that societal
setup regarding women
as breadwinner is
changing day by day.

Sixthly, women are also
highlighting in educational

domains, Women in Pakistan have been making remarkable progress in the educational domain and international organizations are also praising Pakistan's efforts to become women equal to men in education.

For example:

The Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education (PAGE) was recognized as a laureate of the 2023 UNESCO Prize for Girls and women's education. PAGE's star Schools program has impacted over 540,000 girls including minorities and refugees, helping them overcome challenges to go to school. In addition to this The

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National Report on the
Status of Women in
Pakistan 2023 emphasized
the government's commitment
to promoting an environ-
ment where women can
realize their full
potential. Thus, these

examples highlight the
ongoing efforts and
successes of Pakistani
girls in overcoming
barriers and achieving
excellence in education.

Along with all the
above development, there
is another remarkable
development that is
active participation of
Pakistani women in
military forces in the
past few years. This
development can help

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Pakistani women in becoming equal to men. International organization and agencies also praised this remarkable shift.

For example: The UN Women report "Women Peacekeeping: Barrier Assessment in the Recruitment and Retention of Pakistani Women Peacekeepers."

acknowledged Pakistan as having the sixth-highest number of women staff officers and military observers in UN peace-

keeping missions. It praised the success stories of Pakistani women peacekeepers who have overcome barriers and served as peacekeepers. An article titled

"Empowering women in
 the Pakistan Army: A
 Catalyst for Gender Equality
 and National Progress"
 discussed the transformative
 shift in the Pakistan
 Army's approach to
 gender equality. It high-
 lighted the army's
 initiatives to encourage
 women's active participation
 in various spheres of
 military service. These
 examples and reports
 demonstrates the positive
 role of Pakistani
 institutions in becoming
 women equal to
 men.

In spite of all these
 developments, critics says
 that there are some
 hurdles in achieving

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women equality in
Pakistan. Following are
the some hurdles that
hinders women equality
in Pakistan.

Firstly in Pakistan
patriarchal dominance is
deeply entrenched societal
norm that hinders the
progress of women's equality.
This dominance manifests
in various forms such as
gender discrimination in
education, employment and
healthcare. And women
are also viewed as dependent
beings. For example:
women, especially those in
rural areas are often
confined to their homes,
symbolized by the Claden
and Char-diwari.
Secondly, in Pakistan

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sexual harassment at the workplace is a grave issue that hinders women's equality. Here are some examples illustrating its impact.

① ~~Career~~ progression; women may avoid certain jobs due to fear of harassment.

② ~~Economic~~ independence: harassment can lead to absenteeism, productivity or even job loss, undermining women's economic independence and reinforcing their financial dependency on male family members. Thus, sexual harassment on workplace hinders women development and this is one of the main hurdle in becoming women equal to men in Pakistan.

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Thirdly, educational disparities in rural areas and religious extremism against women are the significant barriers to women's equality in

Pakistan. Educational disparities in rural areas cause limited access of education to girls hence result in economic interdependences of women to

~~men~~ family members. And religious extremism against women also prevent women from pursuing education or careers, reinforcing the belief that women should not step outside the traditional roles.

But these challenges are not insurmountable, they

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require a concerted effort to address. Thus, by recognizing the interconnected nature of these issues here are the comprehensive recommendations that not only mitigate the immediate effects of these barriers but will also lay the groundwork for long-term empowerment and equality for women in Pakistan.

Firstly, there should be proper implementation of Gender National Policy Framework, because this a pivotal step in ensuring women equality. However, its success depends on proper implementation.

This requires a multi-tiered approach that

1.1.80
Includes legislative reforms
enforcement of laws that
protect women rights.

The framework should be
integrated across all
levels of governance,
with clear accountability.

Secondly UNICEF's
National Gender Strategy
(2024-2027) for Pakistan
presents a comprehensive plan

for becoming women
equal to men. To
fully leverage this

opportunity, it is crucial
to implement the strategy
across both urban and
rural areas.

The strategy
focus on addressing
structural barriers and
promoting socio-ecological
models for change must
be supported by Robust

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partnerships between government bodies, civil society and international organization. This collaborative effort can drive transformative change and significantly improve the lives of girls and women in Pakistan.

Thirdly, Islam grants significant rights to women, and these should be emphasized by scholars to promote gender equality and for becoming women equal to men. Influential figures like Dr. Riffat Hassan and Asma Barlas have made strides in reinterpreting Quranic texts from a non-patriarchal perspective laying a foundation for Islamic feminism in

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the country. This by focusing on women's rights in Islam and by promoting religious texts that support women's equality, women equality in Pakistan can be achieved.

Fourthly, to dismantle the patriarchal setup in Pakistani society awareness campaigns could play a crucial role. For - examples; initiatives like "Aurat March", if taken positively and seriously about women's right like education, health, employment then it could transform patriarchal setup of society.

So, conclusively it has been proved from

examples that there is
no denying fact that
women can be equal
to men in Pakistan in
the socio-economic
and political domains.

But the road to
this equality has certain
challenges. However, these
challenges can be
addressed through strong
and bold measures.
Some of these measures
are already mentioned
above.

So,

Equality for women
in Pakistan is **not** just
a dream, it is a
right that, with
perseverance and unity
can transform into
reality.

Wind up the essay instead of
re-opening it