

GENDER EQUALITY:

A POPULAR SLOGAN

Outline

1 Introduction:

Hook

Why is gender equality a popular slogan?

Thesis Statement:

Despite all the concerns and efforts to ensure gender equality, it still remains mere a slogan because little progress has been made in uplifting the status of women in political, social and economic sectors. So some urgent attention and some serious efforts are needed to reverse the situation.

2 Debunking the term "gender" and gender equality

A What is gender and gender equality?

B Historical perspective of the term "gender equality"

C The recognition of issue in various world conferences.

3 Marginalization of women making gender equality a popular slogan.

3.1 Political perspective.

A The underrepresentation of ~~genders~~ women in parliament.

Case in Point: (Women in politics: 2023' map created by UN women reveals the underrepresentation of women in parliament.

B Little decision making autonomy and legislation

C Gender victimization and character assassination.

3-2 Economic Inequalities.

A The widened gender pay gap in the workforce.

Case in point: According to international labor organization (ILO), women in Pakistan earn 34% less than men on average.

B Employment opportunities for women are in informal sectors.

3-3 Social Inequalities.

A Prevalence of gender based violence.

B Education and health disparities.

C Women have been deprived from their social and legal rights.

4 Prospects of Gender Equality.

➤ A Achievement of more cooperative and less prone world.
Social improvement.

5

Economic growth
 Measures to achieve
 gender equality:-

A Political participation should
 be meaningful.

B Provision of quality education
 and healthcare facilities.

C Gender sensitive legislation
 and implementation.

D Economic inequalities must
 be reduced.

6

Conclusion.

Essay

"Gender Equality is not the
 battle of sexes, it's a
 battle for equality, a battle
 that men and women
 wage side-by-side"

Gender equality is a popular
 slogan now a days. It
 has become a prominent

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point of discussion. Many international conferences and some NGOs are emphasizing the importance of gender equality. Societies are becoming more aware about the inequalities that impacts the women in every walk of life. Gender equality is crucial as it advocates for achieving human rights and social justice irrespective of gender. It's not just a single-sex issues but a fundamental human rights problem. But as in our society, women are always on the receiving. So the debate of "gender equality demands equal rights for men and women. But sadly, despite all the efforts and concerns to ensure gender equality it

still remains mere a slogan because very little progress has been made in uplifting the status of women in political, social and economic sector. So urgent attention and some serious efforts are needed to inverse the situation.

Gender is actually a social construct, that refers to the characteristics, behaviours, and identities of people. Every gender should have access to all the rights and opportunities. This situation or state is called "gender equality". The concept of gender equality is not new, it has evolved significantly over time. In ancient civilization gender roles were often

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strictly defined with men typically occupying the positions of power and women neglected to domestic roles. But the men started to suppress the women by making negative use of the powers given to him. From here the debate of "Gender Equality" started. Then the term became part of international Human Rights law ~~when~~ on December 10, 1948. After that there were ^{held} some conferences that discussed the popular slogan of "Gender Equality". OSCE Conference was held on 5-6 December 2023 with title of "Women and Men: Working together for equal rights" also emphasized the importance of gender equality. Some renowned NGOs are

also working to ensure gender equality, such as Aurat Foundation, UN Women, Bedari etc are working on women empowerment and the rights of women in every walk of life. Despite all the debates and efforts gender equality could not be acquired due to some factors that are becoming hurdles in the way of gender equality.

Among these hurdles, political representation is the major hurdle. The underrepresentation of women in politics and in parliament remains the most obvious factor in this regard. In Pakistan and all around the globe the women are not given enough

representation in parliament.

According to a report of UN Women with a title of Women in ~~2023~~ ^{Politics}: 2023, the representation of women in the parliament is only 26.5% and there are only 31 countries where women serve as Heads of State and Government. Even in Pakistan women make up only just 21% of members of Parliament and only 12% of women appointed at ministerial positions. So all these figures are the evidences that women are facing underrepresentation ~~of~~ in politics. With this much little representation women have little role in decision making and legislation. Furthermore, women ^{are} also victimized and they also face character assassination.

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Recently, we witnessed the issue of a leaked video of a female politician. Moreover, some female politicians were called targeted because of their physical appearance. So all these factors collectively contribute in becoming a hurdle for women representation in politics.

Secondly, economic inequalities are another factor in marginalization of women making gender equality a popular slogan. There is a clear difference in the wages of men and women in the workforce. According to International Labor Organization, women in Pakistan earn 34% less than men on an average. Globally, this gender pay gap is 20%. So women have to

face inequality even in economic sector. Apart from wages, women do not have opportunities in good sectors. For women, employment opportunities are in the informal sectors, such as female labourers in industries or agricultural sectors and sometimes women are hired for just packaging of items. These kind of informal sectors provide opportunities to the women.

Apart from these factors social inequalities are also making the slogan "gender equality" more popular. Gender based violence and domestic violence are prevailing not only in Pakistan but all around the world. UN women's rights committee report reveal that

there is a surge in gender based violence against women around the world. It increases 25% in 2022 as compared to the previous years. In Pakistan around, 27.3% women facing sexual violence and 21.7% are facing physical violence. The gender based violence is a serious issue in Pakistan now a days. The ~~real~~ rural areas and the communities of Afghan refugees are the places where domestic violence is prevailed to a great extent. Moreover ~~there~~ education and health disparities are also contributing to this trend. In Pakistan the female literacy rate is 51%. It shows that 49% of Pakistani women are illiterate. Especially in ~~the~~

Some provinces for example
KPK and Balochistan, where
a major portion of girls
never went to school. In
KPK and Balochistan, the
female literacy ^{is} **85%**
and **27%** respectively. ~~This~~ With
this less literacy rate,
Pakistan or any other
country cannot develop. As
we all are well
aware of the saying;
"If you educate a man,
you educate an individual;
But if you educate a
women, you educate a
nation." In addition to it,
women are also deprived
of some basic social
and legal rights. For instance,
women in Pakistan are denied
their rightful inheritance and
Haq Mehar. In Islam, there
is a fixed proportion for

women in inheritance but they are not able to secure even their basic right.

All these gender based discriminations are hammering the development and growth of Pakistan. They have impacts on the economy, peace and security and development of country. If the goal of gender equality is achieved it has many prospects. First of all, the world will succeed in acquiring a more cooperative and less prone environments where there will be more cooperation among men and women. Women will feel safe and secure and they will be able to contribute freely and effectively in the growth and

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development of the country.

When women will have the

~~same~~ equal opportunities in

education and healthcare

facilities, the nation as a whole

~~will~~ grow as the educated

women are the backbone

of a nation. Moreover when

the women representation in

politics will be high, it

will have long-lasting

consequences on the society.

Especially, all the women

related legislations will get

benefit from this. Moreover,

the economic inequalities

should also be diminished

so that women not only

improve their own livelihood

but also help to boost

the country. In simple

words world will be

a better place if the

world instead of using

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using the slogan of gender equality, make it a reality as well.

But some serious efforts are required to change this dream into a reality.

Starting with the measure to take the journey from mere slogan to reality, the political representation of women should be increased.

A meaningful representation of women is essential that will be helpful for all the women of society. It will ensure the role of women in decision making and all the women related legislations.

Furthermore, healthcare and education facilities should be improved for the women.

As in some rural and remote areas, women are

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dearth of the basic or
quality education. Some serious
efforts are needed to
improve the literacy rate
of women. For this, the
government of the country,
should initiate implementing
policies and programs to
promote girls' education. Some
kind of scholarships, stipends
and other incentives for
female students and their
families to encourage them.

A special quota should
be introduced in the
education and health department
for the women. Another
most important step that should
be taken is to introduce
gender sensitive legislation
to stop domestic and
gender based violence. Laws
and policies should be improved
and should also raise

awareness among the women about their rights. Last but not the least, the economic inequalities should also be reduced. Women also deserve the employment in the major sectors and also the wage gap between men and women should be minimized. All these measures have the potential to reduce gender inequality but all we need is honest efforts then this goal may be achieved.

In a nutshell, gender equality is a popular slogan now a days because the world is not able to make gender a reality. Although efforts are being made to reduce the gender discriminations

but still it remains mere
a slogan because very
little or no progress
has been made to raise
the status of women in
political, social and economic
sectors. still women has
not acquired the enough
~~majority~~ representation
in parliament
and they are facing
character assassination and
are being abused as well.
In the social sector,
they are facing domestic
violence. Multiple cases are
reported about the sexual,
physical and psychological
violence around the globe.
The reason behind all
kind of violence is
the illiteracy and unawareness
of women about their
rights. So by ensuring gender
equality, any society can

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grow; world will become a better place to live and less prone to violence. The society and country will grow as a whole, as women will be able to contribute to the economy of the country.

But to ensure all these prospects of gender equality, the state of any country especially of Pakistan should ~~not~~ adopt some measures. Such as women representation should be meaningful in politics. Moreover, women should also get the quality education same as of men. so they will be aware of their rights. Some strict laws should be ~~reduced~~ ^{introduced} and the existing laws and policies should be improved to make

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them effective to stop the
gender based violence and
domestic violence. Lastly, the
economic inequalities should
be reduced so that
women should also work
on equal footing with men.
Both should have the
same access to work
opportunities. By taking all
these measures we can turn
this slogan of gender equality
into a reality.