

'Frailty: Thy Name is Women'

Outline

1. Introduction

2. What does the phrase 'Frailty: thy name is women' signify?

- Women are weaker than man.

3. Why frailty is attributed to women:

i) Gender stereotypes prevalent in the society.

ii) Feudalism misleads the masses about women

iii) Patriarchal structure of society pushing women to subservient roles.

iv) Illiteracy leads to misconceptions about women

v) Conservative mindset in the society

vi) Misinterpretation of religion injecting venom.

4. Women breaking through the shackles of frailty in the present world:

i) Women as administrators
Case - Jacinda Arden, Benazir Bhutto

ii) Women's momentous role in the field of science

Case - Marie Curie - Nobel prize holder

iii) Women in Armed Forces

Case study: Nigar Johar — 'awarded with Tamgha-e-Imtiaz'.

5. Measures to counter the myth of the frailty of Women:

- i) Legislating laws about rights of women shall be ensured
- ii) Women shall be mainstreamed in decision making.
- iii) Breaking gender stereotypes by educating and creating awareness among masses.
- iv) Media to shoulder the responsibility of social uplift of women.

6. Conclusion

"When you are a woman in a male dominated society, you have to work twice as hard to prove yourself," said Asma Jahangir. The notion that women are weak, has been prevailing in the world since so long. It is due to the male dominated society, where the women are not given equal representation in the social, political, educational and economic arena, and therefore they have to work even more harder to prove themselves. Such inequalities prevalent in the society hinder their participation and contributions in the socioeconomic sphere. ~~Frailty~~ Frailty is usually attributed to them due to their ~~suppressed~~ ^{suppressed} role in the society, which is never regarded. Moreover, the social ~~sectors~~ ^{factors} such as lack of education, and misinterpretation of religion also play role. However, the strength of women can be gauged in the present world through their ~~to~~ magnificent contributions in the fields of science, medicine, armed forces and others. In a nutshell, the frail gender, as women are often called, has achieved significant accomplishments in several fields of life. However, societal shackles still stand in the way of women's empowerment, but they can be countered effectively ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~with~~ education and legislation.

The statement 'Faily: Thy name is women' originated, what was called the 'Golden Age of English literature'. The phrase belongs to Shakespeare's play 'Hamlet' where ~~he regarded~~ it reflects the gendered views and social expectations of that era. It was the time when women held traditional roles of home-makers and child bearers, they were considered creatures born for little cause. Back then, women did not hold the decision-making power, even for ~~themselves~~, like the decision of marriage and others as well. The phrase also expresses the beliefs which are still prevalent that women are weaker than man, reflecting the similar idea as given by Shakespeare.

The ^{concept of} term 'frailty' is attributed to women due to various reasons. The foremost among them is the gender stereotypes prevalent in the society. The common misconceptions associated with these stereotypes include women being soft spoken, submissive and dependent on men. This factor, to a large extent, ~~belongs to~~ is common due to the customs and traditions in the society which favour men more than women. ~~In daily~~ Everyday life examples present a clear picture to support this argument.

It is that women cannot be personally autonomous, they are too weak to carry any responsibility or they can't study more than their brothers or male members in the family. All this depicts the stereotypes that render women to be considered weak.

Feudalism is also a leading factor that has added to the misconception about women. Feudal lords have also strived to subjugate each other. Unfortunately, women have been their worst victims. Feudal lords have a sense of superiority over women, they consider them inferior, and their rights are not accepted. In feudal societies, women are considered a looming threat to the influence and power of the feudalists. They tend to pose severe punishments upon them in order to suppress them. Thus, feudalism prevailing in the world misleads the masses about women.

The patriarchal social structure pushing women to subservient roles also adds up in considering that women are a weaker part of society. Men hold prominent roles of bread winning, and thus ~~thus~~ women are mere objects of their honour. Through this patriar

chal structure, they are pushed to play subservient roles, do minor jobs, have less career choices; all due to the societal norms that they have to follow. Thus, they ~~are~~ are not supported to perform a productive role and are considered the weaker segment of society.

Furthermore, lack of education exacerbates the issue of women subjugation. In a society where education is not prioritised, people suffer heavily from false beliefs. * Education adds up to the knowledge about women rights and opens doors for more opportunities for girls. Therefore, they can play a constructive role by shattering the false beliefs and by bringing the truth to light. But illiteracy hinders ~~this~~ all this, thus demeaning them and their role in the society.

The Conservative mindset in the society is also a deterministic factor in women being considered weaker part of society. The established fact that women are weak is a conservative approach, ~~that~~ which has underestimated the capacity of women. The myths about women in society are so intense that those women who surpass men in a

field of life are considered exceptional cases. The instance of Aristotle's thought that women are incapable and emotional and are 'designed to be governed by man' is notable in this regard. Thus the societal conservative mindset blows the concept of women suppression.

Additionally, the misinterpretation of ~~women~~ religion is another cause. Many ~~societal~~ religious clerics disregard the role of women in the social and political spaces, due to the misinterpretation and biased judgement of divine injunctions. Even, some religions have very explicitly mentioned that men and women are equal. But the pseudo practitioners hold a misogynist approach where they selectively emphasize particular teaching while disregarding a more inclusive perspective. This eventually distorts their women's achievements in any walk of life.

However, women's role in the current world is quite evident, where they negate the myth of frailty. This is prominent due to their active role in every sector of the society. The present world is witnessing women ~~being~~ holding administrative

and leadership roles worldwide. They present a more optimistic ~~and~~ outlook to gender equality and have earned ~~them~~ a place in the mainstream leadership of even some developing countries like Pakistan. The case of Jacinda Arden, New Zealand's Prime Minister, and Benazir Bhutto, who has served as the first female Prime Minister in the Muslim world are the the expt amples of ~~the~~ women being capable enough to hold top leads in the world.

Similarly, women play momentous role in the field of science. Women have revolutioned the scientific world. They have shattered the ~~r~~ traditional norms that girls do not hold the skill for scientific discoveries. Rather, they have mad' accomplishments in the field of science. A notable example is that of Marie Curie, a leading scientist. She made history when she received a Nobel Prize for her monumental work on radiation. Thus, ~~these~~ ^{she was} women are a a fine example that indicates womens' capability to excel in any field, hence challenging the myth of their frailty.

In the same way, Women ~~were~~ ^{are}

also considered unfit to serve for their country. However, in the present time they have debunked the belief too. Women have been playing active role in the armed forces, serving their country, as well as securing their personal interests. They enthusiastically join the armed forces to serve their nation and fight the enemies, despite knowing the hardships this road brings to them. The example of Lt. General Nigar Johar, Pakistan's first female Lt. General, was awarded with Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (TI). Thus, even the armed forces have found women equally strong as men.

In order to eradicate the discriminatory approach and falsehoods about women, certain concrete steps should be taken. Feasible laws shall be legislated to ensure the rights of women. This is because, once the rights ^{of women} are legally protected, they will be able to come forward in every walk of life. Their achievements in every field will serve as a proof of their skill and ability to do anything ~~they~~ in the world. The instance of government of Morocco can be considered. ~~who~~ They initiated 'National Equality Plan' which aims to integrate a gender approach into National

policy and development programs. In this way, their inclusivity and protection is ensured, and they can play their part effectively.

Correspondingly, it is imperative to make space ^{for women} in decision making. The conservative and myopic view towards women cannot be legislated unless they are empowered to make decisions for themselves. Their participation in the political, social and economic forums must be ensured, in order to work for the welfare of entire ^{gender} women community. American civil rights activist Maya Angelou once said, "Each time a woman stands for herself, without knowing it's possible, without claiming it, she stands up for all women." Thus, women should be mainstreamed ~~by~~ in decision making to better protect their rights.

Educating the public and making them aware of the women rights is also a step towards breaking the gender-based stereotypes in the society. Many women are victims of men's violence because of lack of education. Men, being the breadwinners, are also considered superior creatures due to strong economic position in society, and thus

are regarded as power-oriented. This is due to lack of awareness in the society that both genders do not share roles and the concept of superiority prevails. Such behaviours and notions can only be amended by ensuring the provision of quality education among masses.

Alongwith these, media can play a pivotal role in defying myths about women. Both print and electronic media can shoulder the responsibility. The influencers, through podcasts and interviews, can highlight the accomplishments of women in the society. Moreover, actors and writers should promote the ideas of women being strong and capable if their potential is utilized.

On the concluding note, women are often regarded as a frail gender in the society, due to various ~~societal~~ ~~ills~~ ~~present~~ prevalent in the society. Their role as administrators, scientists and armed personnel ~~and~~ ~~and~~ can never be downgraded, but ~~it can~~ the ills can be countered by their mainstreaming through legislation. Women have made phenomenal changes in every field they choose to work in. But due to the societal constraints which include patriarchal norms

and illiteracy, they are often regarded as a weak and frail gender, dominated upon by men. However, these behaviours can be countered by making them a part of legislation process and educating the people via awareness and media support. In this way, misconceptions about women shall be wiped out of the society.

