

Frailty, thy name  
is woman

## Outline

1- Introduction

2- Understanding the fragility  
of women

3- Factors leading to the fragility  
of women

i) the belief of biological difference  
→ women should perform reproductive role

ii) Prevailed conservative notions  
→ Kate Millet, Sexual Politics,

iii) the myth of less mental capacity  
of women

→ Justice and Law Commission report: women  
are only 7 out 126 Judges

4- Debunking the myth of  
women fragility

i) Role of women in Politics

→ Fatima Jinnah, Begum Shaista Ikromullah

ii) Role of women as administrators  
→ Razia Sultana, Benazir Bhutto

iii) Commendable work of women  
in literature  
→ Virginia Woolf, Ismat Chughtai

iv) Undeniable role of women in  
Science  
→ Marie Curie: awarded with two  
Nobel prizes

v) Brilliant performance of women  
in sports  
→ Serena Williams

vi) Excellent performance of women  
in mountain climbing  
→ Samba Baig

vii) Role of women in armed forces  
→ Lieutenant Nigal Jahan: world  
Star of Imtiaz

## 5- Strategies for ending the concept of women's fragility

- the provision of equal opportunities  
to women
- the eradication of gender-based  
discrimination



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6- Conclusion

## The Essay

Razia Sultana, a daughter of an Indian King Shams ud din Altamush, was crowned as a new ~~king~~<sup>emperor</sup> after the death of her father. Although, she was nominated by her father, she encountered a forceful resistance from the conservative factions. The conservatives of that period had argued that women could not hold the office of an emperor because of less mental capacity. Moreover, according to their belief, women are less capable to run the affairs of state than men. Resultantly, the conservatives had killed Razia Sultana because of her feminine gender. This story reveals a bitter fact that the conservative factions ~~make~~ make women fragile cautiously. The denial of proper opportunity to women convert them into a marginalised community. Similarly, the biological differences and the prevailed conservative ideals in the society are presenting woman as a fragile creature. However, the reality is quite different from this. In fact, the participation of women in politics, literature, and science has debunked this



myth completely. Furthermore, women role as administrators, mountain climbers and generals in armed forces has further deconstructed the myth of a woman fragility. Apart from this, certain strategies like the provision of equal opportunities to women and the eradication of gender-based discrimination can end the notion of woman fragility. Hence, the biological differences and conservative ideas present women as a fragile creature. However, the participation of women in politics, science, and literature has debunked this myth.

Before exploring the underlying causes of women fragility, it is pertinent to understand the notion of women fragility. The fragility of women refers to weakness of women in performing certain tasks that are primarily associated with men. The conservative attitudes are credited with the creation of women fragility. A renowned feminist author, Simon De Beauvoir, has argued that "One is not born, but becomes a woman" [The Second Sex]. It means that the nature has not created woman as a fragile creature but the conservative ideas of the society has converted woman into a fragile creature. Hence, the fragility



of women is the result of social attitudes.

Firstly, the Conservatives describes biological differences for proving the fragility of women. According to these difference, they argue that God has created ~~was~~ women for performing a reproductive role. Unlike the muscular strength of men entails that they have to perform bigger tasks. Moreover, women can not perform certain tasks due to her different biological structure like having specific days. ~~born~~ the other hand, men are not constrained by these limitations. Hence, the biological differences determine the fragility of women.

Secondly, the prevailed Conservative ideas highlight the fragile nature of women. They Conservative ideas such ~~was~~ women are emotionally weak, have less muscular strength restrict women participation in outdoor activities. Kate Millet, a feminist author, has "revealed that" patriarchy is the "most fundamental institution restricting women participation in many activities [Sexual Politics]. The Conservative ideas are also the direct result of patriarchy. Therefore, the Conservative



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

ideas contribute in the fragility of women

Similarly, the myth of less mental capacity of women also makes women as a fragile creature. It is believed that women do not have enough mental capacity in comparison to men. Resultantly, they can not perform the jobs involving mental performance. <sup>For instance</sup> there are only seven <sup>females</sup> out of one hundred and twenty six judges in Pakistan. Moreover, there is not a single female holding the office of Attorney General of Pakistan. [Justice and Law Commission report, Islamabad]. Therefore, the pre-conceived notion of women having less mental capacity making women a fragile creature.

Although, the conservative ideas present women as a fragile creature, the participation of women in different areas has deconstructed this narrative.

First comes the role of women in politics. Many women have played a vital role in political field along with men. The example can be taken of Pakistan movement. The remarkable role of Fatima Jinnah and Begum Shaista Ikramullah can not be ignored. As far as the



The role of Fatima Jinnah i.e. concerned, she stood shoulder by shoulder with her brother Quaid-e-Azam. Apart from this, she has struggled against the dictatorship of Ayub Khan. Hence, the political role of women indicates that women are not fragile.

In the same manner, the role of women as successful administrators has debunked the myth of women fragility. It is often believed that the men are the only good administrators. However, the administrative role of Razia Sultana, an Indian Princess, is historical achievement of good administration. In the same way, the administrative role of Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi can not be ignored. Both the ladies have ruled their countries efficiently. Therefore, the administrative role of women deconstructs the narrative that women can be administrators.

Apart from this, women role in literature has also deconstructed the narrative of women fragility. ~~Men~~ Men are credit credited with higher mental faculties. However, the literary achievement of women has marginalised this concept. The literary works of Virginia Woolf and Ismat Chughtai are of great importance. Moreover, Saadat



Hansen Manfo, a great Short Story writer, has praised Ismelt Chughtai for her literary works. Therefore, the literary achievements of women destroy the concept of a fragile woman.

Similarly, the role of women in science has also highlighted to women empowerment. The field of science is primarily associated with men due to their higher mental capacity. In a reaction to this, the role of women scientists have left men far behind. For instance, Marie Curie, a female scientist, has won two nobel prizes in the different branches of science. Therefore, the scientific contribution of women has shattered the concepts of a weaker woman.

Apart from this, the brilliant performance of women in sports is destroying the concept of women fragility. The games such as cricket and football are considered the games for men. However, the participation of women in these games are leaving men behind. Smriti Mandhana, Alyse Perry, and Sara Mir are the women who have dominated the game of cricket. Furthermore, the Serena Williams is a Renamed Tennis Champion. Mary Kom is a famous boxing champion from India. Therefore, women role in sports



has deconstructed the narrative of a fragile woman.

Most importantly, the role of mountain women as mountain climbers has also shattered the concept of women fragility. The mountain climbing is often considered a dangerous task. It is primarily associated with men. Contrarily, the women role as a successful mountain climber has proved this concept false. Samina Baig, a Pakistan mountain climber, has surpassed the world largest mountain K2. Therefore, the role of women as a mountain climber has also debunked the myth of women fragility.

The last but not the least role of women shattering the notion of women fragility is the participation of women in armed forces. It is often believed that men are capable of performing dangerous tasks such as fighting in battles. However, women have shattered this concept by participating in battles. Rani Lakshmi Bai, often remembered as 'Jhansi ki Rani', has fought against colonial power. Recently, a woman named Nigar Johar has assumed the office of first female lieutenant in Pakistan Army. Moreover, she has also received Sitara-e-Imtiaz 'for



in service. Hence, the role of women in armed forces has debunked the myth of a fragile woman.

Despite the unwavering commitment of women in shattering the concept of a fragile woman there is still need of adopting certain steps for rooting out this. Men should adopt these concepts. First of all, men should provide a fair ground to women for competing with them. Secondly, men should not discriminate against women on the basis of gender. The recent report indicates that Pakistan is worst country for women. [The Global Gender Gap]. There is a dire need of rooting out the gender based violence and gender-based discrimination for ending the fragility of women. Hence, men should take a responsibility for providing equal opportunities to women. In order to end their pre-conceived fragile nature.

In Conclusion, it becomes obvious that the societal attitude consider woman a fragile creature. However, this fragile of women can be ended by adopting certain steps. Although, women are participating in different fields for rooting out the marginalisation of women. The ~~no~~ participation of



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DAY: \_\_\_\_\_

of women in sports, literature and science are an attempt of this. Moreover, the political and administrative roles of women are also challenging the concepts of women marginalisation. In order to end the fragility of women, the example of Scandinavia can be followed. This country has implemented equal policies for men and women. Therefore, the day is not far enough when women will not be considered a fragile creature.

