

Topic:

Women Empowerment - a myth
or reality

→ Patriarchal culture
forced marriages of women.

⇒ Outline :

A. Introduction :

a) Hook / Attention grabber

b) General statements

c) Thesis Statement: Despite the fact, every constitution is a pioneer of multiple rights regarding women empowerment like educational liberty, active political participation, financial independence etc, many on-ground realities such as challenged women education, societal norms and values, interdependency of women due to patriarchal culture have ~~always~~ ^{been} hindering in enforcing women empowerment on-ground.

B. Pointers which indicate women empowerment

is a reality (Anti-thesis):

1) Educational liberty is a socio-legal right of every woman.

a) Constitution protects the educational liberty of a woman.

b) Islam encourages woman's educational rights

c) Society plays a pivotal role in educational development of a woman.

2) Women are actively participating in political affairs of a country

a) Every woman has right to vote

b) Women possess reserved seats in parliament of a country

c) Pakistan has witnessed two females as head of federal and provincial governments.

3) Women are financially independent in every society

a) Every woman can pursue any job according to her taste and temperament.

- b) Women have right to do any type of business
- c) Women are not dependent on anyone anymore
- 4) Multiple career opportunities are paving the way regarding women empowerment
- a) Nursing plays a pivotal role in women development
- b) Teaching is a popular career option for a woman.
- c) Journalism contributes the most in capacity building of women.
- 5) Freedom of expression ^{and movement} is a mandatory right of every woman.
- a) A woman can question religio-political and socio-cultural practices of a country
- b) Women have right to move from one place to the other
- 6) Every woman can choose her life partner at any point of her life

a) A woman has right to marry another person in case of death of her husband

b) She also has choice to remain single throughout her life

C. Rebuttal to the pointers which indicate women empowerment is a reality (Thesis):

1) Educational liberty of women on ground does not exist

a) Most of the girls are having a challenged formal education

b) Almost half of the female population of Pakistan is illiterate

c) Literacy rate in KPK and Balochistan is even worse i.e 37% and 36% respectively.

2) Societal norms and values are always hindering in active political participation of women

a) A complex interplay of social and cultural factors have kept est 3.5 million women out of voter rolls in Pakistan

- b) Although, women have reserved seats in Parliament, parliament membership of a traditional, rural and middle class female is merely a dream
- c) Elite and middle class women are poles apart to each other, only 4% of ruling class have privileged to be head of government
- 3) Patriarchal culture discourages the financial independent of women
- a) Only 29% females of Pakistan own a bank account
- b) Women are discouraged to pursue jobs, makes them dependent on males
- 4) Women always have to struggle for not being exploited in different careers
- a) Lady doctors and female nurses are facing rape attempts in hospitals
- b) A famous model was killed by her brother for not leaving modelling in Pakistan

c) Women ~~do~~ not have equal career opportunities in male dominance society

5) A woman is manipulated in society or using her right of freedom of expression

a) Women are not allowed to wear certain outfits in contrast to the culture of a country.

b) A female journalist is manipulated verbally in 'Jalsa' by a head of provincial government in Islamabad.

c) We live in a society where character assassination of women is a cup of tea

6) Multiple domestic violence cases are being reported regarding female marriages

a) Forced marriages is still a ^{tribal} culture in different provinces of Pakistan.

b) A widow has no right to re-marry in our society

c) Ritual of 'Sati' is still a tradition in Hinduism

D. Conclusion :

(The Essay)

Mary Wollstonecraft who is considered as a foremother of feminism in her book "A vindication of the rights of women" concluded that women are not irrational and incompetent but the opportunities are not given on the basis of equality to both sexes, otherwise men and women are equal in all domains. Political and socio-economic fate of a country is determined by the co-operation between males and female population as both entities contributes almost fifty percent of each. Nations who have invested in capacity building of both sexes on equal basis, emerge as economic giants in modern world. These nations give equal treatment to their women also, because they ^{have} acknowledged the fact that such a large number of population cannot be overlooked. These nations are ^{either} developed ones or on

the way of becoming developed. On the other hand, developing nations especially in the third world countries who have not acknowledged the need of hour in earlier era of their existence, are still have been struggling with the debate that either a woman should have equal participation in society or not. Whether a close co-operation between males and females to run the socio-economic matters of a country is compulsory or not. Despite the fact, every constitution is a pioneer of multiple rights regarding women empowerment like educational liberty, active political participation, financial independence etc, many harsh realities such as challenged women education, societal norms and values and dependency of women due to patriarchal culture have been hindering in enforcing women empowerment on ground.

In the modern world, educational liberty is a mandatory socio-legal right of every woman. It is mandatory in each society and acknowledged by every country of the world. As it is protected by the constitution of almost every state of the world, infringement or suspension of this by-birth right is merely a dream. In any case of blow or any unconstitutional attempt or by passing any ^{type} of law which violates the very right will be declared null and void. No law can be made regarding infringement of fundamental rights including educational liberty. Apex courts of every entity of world are the custodian of freedom of education of women. Apart from it, the second most followed religion ^{across} the world 'Islam' protects and encourages this very right of the women. In the Holy Book and

through the teachings of Prophet (PBUH), it is rightly indicated that getting knowledge is rightful duty of every muslim either male or female. It is primarily the responsibility of parents to educate their children. Islam regarding educational liberty, does not distinguish between male and female and has clearly mentioned that one must get education from the lap of one's mother till death. Moreover, each society is religio-legal entity across the world, plays a pivotal role in educational development and capacity building of a woman. Society urges the women's movement from one place to the other for this very basic right. It prefers more, the educational liberty of women by acknowledging the fact that women are equally responsible regarding bright or dim future of a country. An educated mother creates an educated society. Since, the educational liberty of women

is protected and encouraged by the constitution and region respectively and positive societal role cannot be denied, women have the ^{right of} freedom of education.

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Another argument is given by many regarding women empowerment that women are actively participating in political affairs of a country. They are empowered to shape the geo-political and geo-economic businesses by paving the way towards a prosperous future of a state. Every woman across the world has a right to vote. Through this political power, a woman can decide the fate of her own country. She has right to elect any member of parliament as per her own choice and that very member is going to be her representative. On the top of that women also possess reserved seats in the parliament. A woman has to sit on those reserved

seats no matters what. These are the specific seats for women rather than general seats on whom one has right to get ~~offer~~ winning general election. Through reserved ones, women are empowered to take part in state affairs and have got an active role in legislation to reshape law and order business which are to be implemented by executive of a state. Moreover, women are empowered to run the whole state or a single entity i.e province, as a chief executive. For instance, history has witness two women who were empowered to be the head of federal and provincial governments in Pakistan. Ms Benazir Bhutto got the honour to serve as chief executive of Pakistan twice in late 1990s and so was Ms Maryam Nawaz who was elected as chief minister of Punjab after general elections. These two women

are sole example of women empowerment in third world countries like Pakistan.

Under these circumstance, women are empowered to actively participate in political affairs of a country.

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Financial independence is a sole attribute which ^{has been} contributing the most in women empowerment in any society. Due to this very factor, a woman is able to take bold decisions according to her own interests, enables her to break the chains of old traditions and customs. She has right to pursue any job as per her taste and temperament. Equal opportunities are given to her as compared to the males which make her excel in different fields of a country. Rather than job, she also has right to pursue any type of business which suits her qualities the most. In contemporary times,

she is not dependant on anyone and has become self-centered in this society. Kanwal Cheema is a sole example who has worked as Global Account Director of CISCO, left the job and has started her own business "My Impact Meter". It is evident that financial independence is contributing the most in women empowerment. It is prevailing in society and paving the way towards women empowerment.

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Broadening of horizon which is an exemplified trait towards rational thinking of women, leading females towards better career opportunities. There are multiple career opportunities for females to excel in various fields of life. In medical science, nursing plays a pivotal role in empowering and capacity building of women. Male nurses seem a little. There are female nurses who are found

every where in hospitals, are considered as various of humanity. Similarly, another most respected profession, inevitable in female capacity building leading the society towards ultimate future is teaching, playing a significant role in women empowerment. A teacher has higher moral values and is considered as noble profession among all. On the other hand, journalism contributed the most in capacity building of women. It includes reporting of political, economic and social issues across the country, gives the right of freedom of expression to individuals. Under those circumstances, it is inevitable that better and multiple career opportunities which contributed the most in pragmatic approach of thinking are leading the women toward empowerment.