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The Unseen struggle of Women against patriarchal norms in Pakistan.

Outline:

1. Introduction:

Women are facing hindrances in their development in the fields of economic, empowerment, socio-cultural norms and political and civic engagements. Due to male dominance in every field. As a result of these obstacles women are participating and organizing feminist movements, protests and education campaigns to gain their rights. However, this struggle has remained unseen and unnoted in the power corridors.

2. Hindrances facing by women in their development in Patriarchal society:

2.1 Social and cultural norms:
honor and shame culture, early marriages

2.2 Less representation in economic empowerment; limited access to education and employment

- 2.3 Under-representation in political and civic engagement; limiting voting rights
- 2.4 Limited access to health and well-being; gender based violence and abuse
- 2.5 Psychological and emotional obstacles

3. Unseen struggle of Women against these prevalent patriarchal norms:

- 3.1 Feminist movements and activism; MeToo movement
- 3.2 Protests and demonstrations; the Women march in 2017
- 3.3 Social media campaigns, Times Up and Equality Now campaigns
- 3.4 Education and awareness programs like Mahabund
- 3.5 Individual resistance in the form of challenging traditional gender roles
- 3.6 Collective actions like forming women organizations

9. Conclusion:

Patriarchal norms are major hindrances to women development and as a result of this women face struggles.

Patriarchal norms are prevalent in the Pakistani society. Because of historical reasons patriarchal norms have rooted in every segment of society. Among them social and cultural norms, less representation in the economic empowerment, under-representation in the political and civic engagement - are most prevalent. In addition to these patriarchal norms, limited access to the better health facilities and wellbeing and psychological and emotional supports are hindering the way of women development. These patriarchal norms are a leading cause of struggle of women. The women in Pakistani society individually and collectively struggled to overcome these aforementioned norms. The most prominent are the feminist movement and activism, social media campaigns, protests and demonstrations, educational awareness and individual resistance to the prevalent patriarchal norms. This struggle of women is unfirearm in the political and power corridors of

the country. Nested interests of the politicians and the quota system are throwing culprits in the struggle of women. However, as a result of these campaigns and struggles we will witness that women will overcome patriarchal norms and attain their rights of proper representation and in every sphere of life.

Social and cultural norms are hindering the development of women and these are prevalent patriarchal norms. In Pakistan, women are restricted to the domestic and caregiving roles. According to reports, ^{national} women are less productive in the work that is being done outside home. In addition to this, women's behaviour are being controlled. These restrictions on women are because of they are considered as honour of the family. Furthermore women are forced to early marriages. According to statistics ^{which} provide as witnessed more early marriages leading to restrictions in

acquiring education. Lastly, women are forced to wear burjas. This dress code is considered a symbol of a family that restricting women to participate in every walk of life. Therefore, social and cultural norms are patriarchal norms which is a cause of women's struggle.

In the patriarchal societies, less representation of women in economic empowerment is also a leading cause of women's struggle. Women have limited access to the education and employment. According to reports 20 million ~~and~~ children are out of school among which 16 million are girls. In addition to this women at the workplaces receive less pay as compared to their male counterparts. Thus having unequal opportunities in reaching to the managerial positions. Furthermore, there are restricted laws in terms of land holding and inheritance according to labour force survey only 17% of women in Pakistan have their own land. Lastly, the domesticated women

are unpaid for their household work and child care. Therefore, less representation in economic empowerment is a patriarchal norm.

Under representation in politics and civic engagement is also another patriarchal norm. In Pakistani politics, women are only represented only by quotas. This system restricts the meritocracy and promotes the loyalty. For example, many prominent women politicians are enjoying the public offices like Information Minister of Punjab. In addition to the political representation, women have limited voting rights. They are not allowed to exercise their right of vote. According to Fiford reports, less than 45% of women have casted their votes. Furthermore, restrictive laws and policies like women are not allowed to travel alone. Therefore, political and civic engagement is a norm hindering the women's progress and a leading cause of women's struggle.

Limited access to health and well-being is another patriarchal norm. Women in their pregnancy are not allowed to visit doctors rather 80% of women had not any doctor during their delivery. Furthermore, there are prevalent violence against women like gang rape, honor killing and acid burning. Restricting them to come to hospitals because of fear of being notified. In addition to this, women lack adequate nutrition which leads them to suffer from anemia. According to reports, 41% of women are suffering from anemia. Lastly, mostly in villages, women are considered as children machines and having a lot of children is considered an honour. These problems are being created because of less access to family planning and contraceptives. Therefore, limited access to health and well-being is a case of women struggle.

Women started feminists movements in order to push back

The patriarchal norms and to attain their due share. In this regard MeToo movement has importance. This movement began in 2016 and gained momentum in 2017. The motto of this movement is to encourage women to share their experiences about sexual harassment and assault. In addition to this #MeToo is also a significant step in this regard. On 8 of March every year women protest for their rights. In this activism women also use other means to raise their voices into the corridors of politics through public demonstration.

Women march demonstrations are held throughout the world on January 21, 2017. The aim of this march is to support gender, equality, civil rights and other issues. In addition to these issues women march also shed light on pay equality, LGBTQIA civil rights, affordable health and reproductive freedom. These issues are prevalent in the

patrilachal society

Social media campaigns are the platforms used by women to gain their rights and to maintain a say in this regard. Among the social media campaigns #MeToo campaign can be considered as the result of previous social media campaigns. In this regard various anti-street harassment campaigns have been launched online such as Anti-Harass Cell in Pakistan. In addition to this, some facebook pages related to women have reached followership to millions. Therefore, different social media platforms like facebook, twitter and Instagram are seen widely used to highlight the role of women for the patrilachal society of Pakistan.

Women also ^{organize} part of the education and awareness campaigns to highlight their issues in the patrilachal society. In this regard, the foundation and working

establishment of Aurat foundation is a significant step. This foundation have advocated the rights of vote and their fair representation in politics. Furthermore, Fatimah Tinnah Women University has founded and this is a welcoming step in achieving higher education in Pakistan. In addition to this various departments in universities are established like Gender department in Bahauddin Zikria University and the BS four years programmes for women studies have established to give and empower women in breaking norms of the patriarchal society.

Individually, women have also tried to break the norms of patriarchy. Women have attained different strategies and planning in this regard. Like women challenged the traditional gender role. In the street norms of patriarchy women had not participated in the media and

certain professions like banking are filled for men. So, women challenged and now actively participating in above mentioned professions. Furthermore, women individually have fought for their reproductive and educational rights. The case studies of ~~Shahbaz~~ Zai, Mulehatah Mai and Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy are important in this regard.

Lastly, women have also taken collective actions to give tough time to the patriarchal norms. Women have formed women organizations like All Pakistan Women Association and Aurat Foundation are significant steps. Furthermore, women through collective effort advocate for the policy changes. The working of Human Rights Ministry in this regard is a welcoming step. In addition to this, women also collaborated with men to further their agenda. Therefore, collective efforts in the form of organizations is an important step to break the norms of patriarchal society.

To conclude, women in patriarchal society have witnessed obstacles which lead them to start struggle against these norms. Socio-cultural norms, less representation in economic empowerment, under representation in political and civic engagement, limited access to health and well being and psychological and emotional obstacles are the chains in the patriarchal society and these obstacles cause women to struggle and strive for their rights. Women used different platforms including the feminist movements, protests and demonstrations, social media campaigns. To some extent, these strives of women have proven successful but they have to participate in the individual and as well as collective actions to make their rights successful. If women start striving more towards the alignment of their agenda in comparable to the international focal associations for women, then they say would be heard and they will break the negative patriarchal norms.