

Essay: Gender Equality: A Popular slogan

① Introduction

② Overview of the concept of 'Gender Equality'

③ Gender equality is a popular yet ineffective slogan:

3a) Underrepresentation of women in politics and key positions

- UNFPA report → only 23% women are lawmakers or a part of parliament worldwide
- Pakistan → 60 seats reserved for women in parliament out of 342

3b) Women are systematically marginalized from achieving accessing opportunities

- Gallup Report (2023) → NEET Youth → out of 88 million, 22 million youth comes in NEET and mostly all women
- Book: 'Second sex' by Simone De Beauvoir

3c) Women are considerably low in STEM workforce as compared to their male counterpart

- UN Women → 28% of women in STEM

3d) Women are more prone to violence - physical, sexual and psychological

- UNFPA → every 5 in 5 women are victims of domestic violence

3e) Digital spaces are dominated by men that contributes to digital gender divide.

- ~~UN Women report~~ → women 19% less likely to use mobile internet
 mobile gender gap report

3f) Women are more likely to face digital violence in the form of cyber harassment

- Digital rights foundation → most of the cases registered are of women

3e) The sociocultural shocks are mostly faced by women in times of disaster or natural calamity

- Rising child marriages in India after 2022 floods

4) Gender equality is a popular and, somehow, an effective slogan too: From the other side of the spectrum

4a) Rising sensitivity on women's issues and rights

- inculcation of gender studies in curriculum in various higher education institutes

4b) Increasing number of international and national organizations working for improvement in gender equality

- Role of UN Women, UNFPA etc
- Role of Aseel and digital rights foundation and no. of civil society organizations in Pakistan and overall

4c) Improvement in the reproductive health of women (that were previously considered taboo)

- Pink Ribbon awareness
- Lady Health Workers
- Family planning

4d) Acceleration in the achievement of SDG's goals

- Latin America and Africa → 80% of the targets achieved
- Planning commission of Pak → cell on SDG's and tracking a yearly progress

5) Measures to achieve gender equality and by making it an effective slogan:

5a) Ensuring equal access to opportunities as of men - education, employment and healthcare

5b) Enforcement of strong laws on protection of women against gender based violence.

5c) Provision of scholarships in education and job quotas in employment to encourage participation

6) Conclusion

Thesis statement:-

Gender equality is a popular, yet ineffective slogan due to number of reasons that serve as a case in point to the entrenched and deeply rooted inequalities in various political, economic and social sectors. However, it is, somehow, an effective slogan too. Owing to various international and national development, it makes a reasonable point of its popularity and success as a slogan. But, the comparative void is still pervasive in accessing opportunities. By taking collective measures, path to gender equality can be ensured.