

(English Essay)

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 ^{been} ~~always~~ 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 3.5million 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 on 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, ^{have been} emerged 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 dependancy 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 woman

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 matter what. These are the specific seats for women rather than general seats on whom one has right to get ~~after~~ 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. Karwal 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.

158
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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

everywhere in hospitals, are considered as various of humanity. Similarly, another most respected profession, inevitable in female capacity building and 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 towards empowerment.

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In contemporary times, a modern women is well aware

of her fundamental rights which a state has pledged about, include freedom of expression and movement on the top. Almost every constitution is a pioneer of such basic rights, are interpreted by Apex Courts time and again. There has been a vast domain of freedom of expression and movement. In recent time, a woman has power to question and challenge religio-political and socio-cultural practices prevailing in any country. Moreover, she has been given a right of free movement from one place to the other. As far as the example is concerned, every state across the world gives constitutional fundamental rights include freedom of expression and movement, in Pakistan, article 8-28 vows the fundamental rights of the citizens, freedom of expression and movement has also been a part of. To summarize, freedom is

prevailing in the society, mandatory for every woman across the globe and its awareness among women is leading them towards empowerment.

166 words

In addition to the above discussion, every woman is empowered to marry anybody whom she will consider to be with in her life. ^{or} This is her sole right, through which she can exercise at any point of her life. Furthermore, she is also empowered to get divorce in case of any exploitation by her partner and has right to remarry in case of death of her husband, also. On the top of that she has choice to remain single throughout her life, it all depends on her taste and temperament irrespective of her caste and creed. A famous journalist Reham Khan is a true face of women empowerment as she has been married third time

after getting divorce from her earlier husband. Nevertheless, it is evident that in modern society women empowerment is truly a reality and she has right to spend her life according to her self-centric policies, irrespective of any external factor which has ability to influence her policies.

158 words

Many arguments ^{of the scholars} have been discussed earlier which represents that women empowerment is a reality, however, the harsh fact is that it is a myth and does not exist on ground in real world. Educational liberty of a woman does not exist on ground actually. Education of males is particularly preferred over females in society. Girls who are in formal education are having a challenged education, in many cases, are forced to be out

of school worldwide. As far as the literacy of women of Pakistan is concerned, almost half of female population of Pakistan is illiterate. Literacy rate in KPK and Balochistan where the Pashtun and Baloch ethnicities are in dominant, is even worse i.e. 37% and 36% respectively. According to the gender snapshot report 2024 which is recently published, there is an extreme situation of educational liberty of women as 119 million women/girls are not in formal education and are out of school worldwide. A clear contrast can be seen regarding the educational liberty of women, provided by the constitution and actual on ground reality. Therefore every female of the world is not a part of educational liberty.

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On the top of that societal norms and values have always been hindering

in active political participation of women. Diversification can be seen between constitutional right and cultural norms of various ethnicities. A complex interplay of social and cultural factors have kept most of the women out of voter rolls. Furthermore, it is very clear that women ^{possess} reserved seats in Parliaments, however, the membership of traditional, rural and middle class female is merely a dream. Elite and middle ^{class} women are poles apart to each other in terms of mindset, and resources and ^{due to} cultural factors. Only 4% of ruling class have privilege to be the head of government and on the other hand, almost 3.5 million women in Pakistan are out of voter rolls, primarily because of societal norms and values, hinder in excellence of traditional, rural and middle class women. Therefore, the active

political participation of ^{rural} ~~city~~ woman is compromised due to diversification of societal norms and values. In this way, the helplessness of a traditional woman hinders in participation of political affairs of a country.

168 words

In addition to it, the financial independence of women has always been discouraged by the patriarchal mindset. Women are forced to be dependent on patriarchy and their liberation has always been compromised. It is ridiculous that even in this modern world, female's owning of a bank account is prohibited among various ethnicities. The ethnic nationalism is prevailing in society which is always in competition with other. This competition ultimate results in restrictions among women. Moreover, women are not allowed to pursue jobs and to start their own business,

make them dependent on patriarchy. Over 380 million women and girls are in extreme poverty worldwide, living on less ^{than} \$1.90 per day. In case of Pakistan, only 29% women have bank accounts and this disparity severely impedes national economic development.

120 words

Furthermore, women who have potential to build their position in society, have to struggle for not being exploited in different careers by male counter-parts. A woman cannot overlook the behaviour of male colleagues towards her. She always have to differentiate the intentions of her counterparts in professional life. In medical field, ~~women~~ ^{both doctors and female nurses} often face rape attempts by males colleagues and patients also. Similarly, modelling is another a controversial profession, adopted by

females in male dominance society.

It is ironic that in modern society, a male can pursue modelling but a female cannot, as equal career opportunities are seemed rarely. According to a report 'The Gender Snapshot 2024', 1 out of 8, women and girls in the world aged between 15-49 years were subjected to sexual or physical violence in 2023. It clearly indicates that gender based violation is still a burning issue. A continuous exploitation is hindering in enforcing women empowerment in actual world.

150 words

In continuation to this, it is doubtless that women are manipulated in society on using of her right of freedom of expressions. Although, it is acknowledged by the constitution but its practice can hardly be seen in society. Constitutional and cultural contrast exist.

in the society as there are certain things, ^{have been} allowed by the constitution but prohibited by culture. Women are not allowed to wear particular outfits in contrast to the culture. Similarly, a female journalist has been manipulated in live 'Jalsa' by a head of provincial government in Islamabad. Due to the fact that we live in a polarized society where the character assassination of women is a cup of tea. A patriarchal mindset only take a minute to encompass sweeping statements regarding character of a woman. Former Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto also remained a sole victim of character assassination by the opposition parties of her time which resulted into her early marriage. Therefore, this manipulation of women regarding freedom of expression is clearly hindering in enforcing women empowerment.

Moreover, last but not least, multiple domestic violence ^{cases} are being reported regarding female marriages. Matrimonial right of women and girl is still challenged and often practiced by choice of patriarchy. In Pakistan, forced marriages is a tribal culture. In multiple cases, women are not taken into confidence, whether they want to marry a particular person or not. Similarly, widow's right of re-marriage is still questioned and challenged in our society. If she utilizes this right, she will be considered a symbol of hatred in society. There are also multiple examples which even question that a widow has a right to survive or not. In extreme cases, she is forced to death as the ritual of 'Sati' has been clearly indicating that. In this way, it is evident that the basic matrimonial right is

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still questioned. It is leading to severity of domestic violence and the factor of women empowerment has not been going to acknowledged at all.

It is doubtless that every constitution is a sole representative of women rights and pioneer of women empowerment regarding the factors like educational liberty, active political participation, financial independence etc. However, actual on ground realities are completely different, primarily, because of patriarchal mindset which has been hindering in enforcing women empowerment. Socio-legal right of education and political participation is challenged by societal norms. Financial dependance and women's exploitation in different field can be everywhere because of patriarchal culture. Women's manipulation on right of freedom of

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expression and domestic violence cases are sole representatives of women's exploitation rather than empowerment.

As per the report of gender snapshot, published in 2013, it may take another 286 years to remove discriminatory laws and close prevailing gaps.

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