

Frailty is no more the name
of women

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: In the contemporary world, the increasing role of women in politics, global affairs and a variety of other aspects of life proves that traditional notion of associating 'Frailty' with women is no longer the norm anymore.

2. How Traditionally the Word 'Frailty' is Linked With Women

3. Empowered — the New Norm For Women (Thesis)

- a) Women's participation in politics.
- b) Women's Contributions as social activists.
- c) Women emerging as successful entrepreneurs.
- d) Women's performance in the field of Education.

4. Frailty - the Name of Women (Antithesis)

- (a) Women's ~~stated~~ role should be restricted to domestic affairs only.
- (b) Women are inferior to men
- (c) Men should be the sole breadwinners of family.
- (d) Pursuing higher education is not the need of women.

5. Frailty is no longer the Identity of Women in the Modern World (Synthesis)

- a) Impacts of Women in global affairs
- b) Women challenging the traditional societal constructs.
- c) Economic growth of a state lies in the financial empowerment of women
- d) Women competing men in the field of education

6. Conclusion

In 1960, the whole world witnessed a strange incident, a widow that was supposed to be a liability to her relatives and a societal burden took oath and emerged before the world as the first ever woman to become the Prime Minister of a country that was Sri Lanka. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, a ~~sign~~ symbol of strength and resilience and a political figure of women empowerment proved to the whole world that women are not weak or fragile anymore rather they are the symbol of empowerment and courage. The world 'frailty' in the context of women holds a metaphorical meaning that women are weak, fragile, emotional and inferior to men. However, in the current context of the contemporary world, this is not true. Women are no longer weak or fragile, rather they ~~are~~ have become a symbol of strength and courage.

The magnitude of women's participation and their impacts in politics proves that they are no longer restricted by social compulsions. Moreover, their achievements

as to entrepreneurs and performances in the field of education is the evidence that they are not inferior to men. On the other hand some traditionalists argue that women belong to home, they are inferior to men and only men have the right to make decisions regarding global affairs. However, this narrow perspective ~~does~~ has been rejected by the current world order. The empowered, brave and courageous ladies have busted the traditionalists' myth through the performances and achievements in various fields across the globe.

The word 'frailty' symbolises physical weakness and emotional instability that has been attributed to the female gender historically. It refers to the confinement of women to domesticated roles and their social perception of being incompetent with regards to social affairs as compared to men. Traditionally, men are considered to be rational, physically strong and the dominant gender while women are labelled as weak,

emotional and irrational Shakespeare has also attributed the word frailty to women in his plays. However, this notion is no more relevant in today's world.

The increasing number of women participating in politics is one of the major reasons that show women should no more be associated with frailty. Through politics one could contribute towards ^{the} social change and ensure the rights of common public. The increasing participation of women in politics would increase the involvement of women in the legislative process thus contributing to social change. The

United Nations' Facts and figures report of January, 2025 shows that the number of women participating in the legislative process is on the rise with 36 percent participation in Latin America, 33 percent in Europe and North America, 27 percent in Africa and 23.5 percent in Asia. Hence, it proves that women are ~~not~~ longer suppressed rather they are empowered and should not be defined by the word 'frailty'.

On the contrary, the proponents of labelling women as 'frail'

argue that women are physiologically different to men and they are more suited for domestic affairs only. Women should be responsible for the daily house chores only and it is the men's responsibility to look after the global affairs.

This was a widely accepted norm in the patriarchal societies of the past. During the Victorian Era, women were described as belonging to the "private sphere" while men belong to the "public sphere". In this way the proponents that associate women with frailty argue that women are fragile and should be restricted to domestic roles only.

The impacts of ~~increased~~ women in politics strengthens the stance that women are no longer frail rather they can also participate in legislative affairs and bring about a positive change. Women are no longer restricted to domestic affairs and suppressed by patriarchal norms. The emergence of the waves of feminism and political leaders like Benazir Bhutto prove that women can challenge the traditional norms and should not be associated with frailty.

anymore.

In a nut shell, it can be concluded that in the context of contemporary world, it would be illogical to attribute the word 'frailty' to women. The active participation of women in global affairs, in their role as social activists and their participation and performances in the field of finance and education proves that women are challenging the social norms and are becoming empowered as the human society evolves. ^{However,} Some traditionists that are part of the patriarchal society still refer women as frail and irrational but this no longer the truth anymore in the contemporary world and this myth is busted by the impacts women have shown through their achievements in various aspects of life. This shows that human society is evolving and more and more steps should be taken to uplift the status of women and empower them to eradicate the gender parity that exists in the world.