

Essay-3

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Frailty is no more the name of Women.

I- Introduction:

↳ Thesis Statement:

Indeed, Women cannot be considered frail anymore. They have fought tirelessly for their political, economic and social rights; in the end they attained political awareness, economic independence and social connectivity. However, organizational frameworks and institutional biases still hinder their way.

II- Historical Strive of Women for Empowerment:

A- Efforts for equal rights in education and membership of society.

1- "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" by Mary Wollstonecraft.

B- Contribution of Women in political discourse during Enlightenment Era.

1- Madame Geoffrine led political debates in Salons

C- Women in West Demanded Equal

Political rights and economic freedom

- 1- Suffrage movement in US and UK
- 2- Right of Voting and Property rights were granted after 80-100 years of struggle.

Women Are No More Frail:

A- Political Activism and Strong Opposition to Tyranny by Women in 21st Century.

- 1- Humaira Qaderi - An Afghan Writer - fought for women rights and education under oppressive regime of Taliban
- 2- Asma Jahangir - A firm shield for women & oppressed under Zia-ul-Haq and Musharraf.

B- Women - A Powerful Voice Against Genocidal Oppressions of Israel.

- 1- Greta Thunberg and Flotilla Aid mission 2025 in attempt to break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza.

C- Women Leading in the field of Art, Music and Films.

- 1- Beyonce holds the record with highest Grammys - 32
- 2- Shermeen Obaid Chinai - The only Pakistani to win 2 Oscars

D. Basketball's following has massively increased due to women's Basketball.

1- The Caitlin Clark Effect - Drew 18.9m views to her final College Championship game in 2024 (more than any man's/women's, college or pro) Basketball game since 2019.

2- Serena Williams (32 Grand Slams Winner)

E- Women on Leadership roles in big Companies

1- Sheryl Sandberg - COO of Facebook - (2008-2022)

2- Indra Nooyi - CEO of PepsiCo - (2006-2018)

F- Annual Women Marches spread Awareness and empower girls of Farflung Areas

1- Aurat March in Pakistan has led to women empowerment discourse in many fields

G- Smart use of technology has empowered women to report and subsequently convict harassers.

1- Me Too Movement

2- My body, My Choice Movement

H- Women's Activism against judicial prejudice and parallel judicial systems have led to critique of status quo & safeguard of women

1- The Case of Mulhata Mia's Activism

IV- Social, Political and Economic Reforms: A Key to Women Empowerment

A- Deligitimization of parallel judicial systems like panchayat and Jirgas.

B- Increased number of reserved seats in Assemblies for women.

C- Swift trials of Accused Harassers.

D- Increased scholarships for Girls in STEM.

E- Child-Care System in Organizations for the support of working Mothers.

V. Conclusion:-

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A woman of 21st century is economically independent, politically involved and socially aware. Women now stand tall in sports, leadership role and science. Serena Williams, Jacinda Ardern and Marie Curie are perfect examples. For them to excel in their fields, women of 18th century and onwards paved their path.

The struggle for equal rights, political representation and educational opportunities started during enlightenment era. In result, in 21st century, women ~~can~~ stand against tyrant regimes, use their activism against genocidal oppressions, lead the field of Art, Music and films, contribute to massive sport following & lead big companies. That's why, women can not be considered frail anymore.

They are now politically aware, economically independent and socially connected. However, Organizational frameworks and Institutional biases still hinders their way. That's why, swift reforms

in judiciary, education system, local parallel systems and social models are needed. Furthermore, the successive paragraph will highlight the historical struggle of women for empowerment which helped them reach the heights of excellence.

In response to the "Vindication of the rights of Men", Mary Wollstonecraft wrote a book "A Vindication of the Rights of Women." Her efforts for women's equal rights of education and membership of society led to the women's role in enlightenment era. The needs of women were highlighted in the draft and were simultaneously heard. This was a remarkable start of women's strive for universal rights and first step to empowerment.

In addition, during enlightenment era, women helped the revolution grow by organizing spaces like salons, cafes for political debates. Madame Geoffrine would organize these debates on bigger level &

invite philosophers like Voltaire, Rousseau to spread their words. Through this, women strengthened their place, politically and socially. However, they were still deprived of political representation, right to vote and property rights.

So, Women in United States, started protesting for their voting rights - popularly called suffrage movement. The movement started in 1840s and ended with 19th Amendment of U.S. Constitution in 1920. Where the right to vote to be denied on the basis on sex was rejected and women were given right to vote. In United Kingdom, the suffrage movement started around the same time and ended ~~with~~ ^{women getting} in 1928, with men and equal right to vote at the age of 21.

This struggle for women in suffrage movement lasted for 80-100 years and yielded its fruit in shape of politically active women. Women now stand against

tyrant regimes and its policies.

Asma Jahangir - A Pakistani Human rights activist - led a protest against Hudood Ordinance by Zia-ul-Haq and demanded justice for women. She even led Lawyers movement in Musharraf's era against his faulty reforms. Women use their pen against oppressive regimes like Taliban, which even most men hesitate to do. Humaira Qadeer in her book 'Dancing in the mosque' highlighted Taliban's discrimination against women and her time under their rule.

In addition to political activism, women can also be found in a leading position to voice against any International War Crimes.

Greta Thunberg, has been awarded multiple times for her activism against genocidal oppression of Israel yet she led a flotilla Aid mission in 2025 to attempt to break the naval blockade in Gaza by Israel. Furthermore, with their fight against oppressor, women

don't shy away from making records in the field of Music and Films.

The field of Music, Art and films has been championed by women for decades. Beyonce holds the record in music with highest Grammys. No one has ever got 32 grammys in their music career. Meanwhile, a Pakistani Film Director leads Pakistani film Industry with 2 Academy awards.

Along with art, women has excelled sports. Serena Williams has set the record of 32 grand slams in Tennis while Catlin Clark is considered a magnet for attracting audience & viewers to the Basketball. Her global viewership has gained her a title - "The Catlin Clark Effect". She drew 18.9m views to her final College Championship game in 2024, which is more than any man's, women's, college or pro viewership of Basketball game since 2019.

Besides sports, women have gained popularity and success in leadership roles. Be it Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand or Indra Nooyi - CEO of PepsiCo - (2006-2018). Including her, Sheryl Sandberg has also served as a COO of Facebook firm (2008 - 2022). Women have proved themselves over and over again for decades of leadership in multinational companies.

Women along with leadership, are using technology to safeguard themselves and empower against against any harassment or social hindrance. Me too movement initiated and led by them, has made them strong, socially connected to like minded people and ~~also~~ helped them attain social acceptance. Movements like My Body, My Choice has empowered women to attain bodily autonomy and reject social expectations of them. In response, Women now stand firm on her choices and against any injustice or gender based violence.

Due to these movements, hundreds of women & girls fight for their rights in courts. These movements provide them recognition and support. Similarly, when Mukhtara Mai was first stripped off of her rights by jirga and then judiciary of Pakistan, the social groups provided her support. In response the parallel judicial systems were criticized and protested against.

Nevertheless, the key to women's empowerment and safety in any community lies in delegitimization of parallel judicial systems or parallel systems of any kind. Parallel judicial systems like panchayat and jirga favour men's honour and present women as a tool for diplomacy. Swara, Kola-kali and other such traditions, especially in South Asia should be eliminated to guarantee women empowerment.

Similarly to adopt such policies, the legislative needs women centric representation. Thus, the number for reserved seats for women should be increased, both in Provincial and National Assemblies. Women must be part of policy making so any discrimination any women can be rejected. Women inclusivity in government institutes will lead to policies which are needed urgently for women.

One of the policies is - swift trials of Accused Harassers and murderers. Zahir Jaffer even after accepting his charge of murder is not sentenced to death. Noor Mukhadom, Sara Yousof and many more awaits for justice. We can safeguard our girls with such policies and by providing them required education of Science & Technology to keep up with the worlds.

In result, government should device scholarships for girls in

STEM, so the world can see
more Arfa Karims, Madam Curie
and Female Scientists -

To support women in science and
other fields, Organizations, Institutes-
be it corporate or government
sector- both should include
child care service to support
working mothers in order to
guarantee women labour participation.

In nutshell, Women have come
a long way. From striving for
their political representation to
political activism and standing
against the tyrant - women
proved themselves that they are
not frail. Women are empowered
enough to stand tall in the
roles of leadership, in sports,
in the field of Art, in science
and social oppression against
all. The woman of 21st Century
is, hence, anything but frail

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