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IS EDUCATION THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY FOR ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY?

OUTLINE

1. Introduction

Hook: "Educate a girl, change the world" - slogan of UN Women

Thesis statement: Educating every gender equally would lead to equality in all domains of the world affairs.

2. How education is the most effective way for achieving gender equality.

3. How the statement is reality

a. Women in education - case study - Finland

b. Women in Politics - case study - Rwanda

c. Women for advocating ~~other's~~ women rights - Fatima Jinnah ; Newzealand

d. Women in science - Marry Currie

e. ^{Economic} ~~Women~~ empowerment ~~tho~~ through education

f. Social Transformation through education

g. Change of mindset - social stereotypes

h. Reduces gender based violence

4. How educating women would achieve gender equality is a myth?

a. Education alone cannot achieve gender equality - case study: South-Asian, Middle Eastern countries

b. Discrimination and harassment is still a common practice -

c. Social barriers - women as a caregivers

d. Economic barriers.

5. Conditions under which education becomes effective

a. legal Protection and reforms

b. Introducing Quota system

c. End ~~Political~~ oppressive mindset against women - Afghanistan

d. Equal Economic ~~repres~~ and Political representation

6. Conclusion.

"Educate a girl, change the world". This is the slogan of United Nations Women Forum that advocates for equal rights and gender equality. Educating women has transformed the societies drastically. The countries where gender disparity is less are the world's happiest and stable countries. The overall population of women in a society ~~is~~ does not represent its participation in different domains such as politics, economy and legal sphere. But there are certain personalities who reflect the fact that through education, gender equality can be achieved. For instance, women advocating for women representation, women in scientific research, women in imparting unconventional mindset to ~~the~~ her generation etc. Similarly, a drastic change is observed in eliminating gender biases where women are educated. But, there are few uncertainties that illustrates that educating women cannot achieve gender equality in isolation. ~~Other~~ For example, in countries where education among women is profound, their societies also faces harassment, economic inequality, social barriers are many more. However, through

prerequisite course of action, the gender equality can be achieved through education. Throughout the history of gender biasness, education along with other pragmatic measures has resulted as catalyst in achieving equality and robust society. Thus, educating all genders without any discrimination would lead to equality in all domains of the world affairs.

The education leads to a pathway to all of prosperity in all domains of life. As said by Nelson Mandela:

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world".

The above statement of Nelson Mandela reflects the idea that education is the most powerful tool that can change anything then it can also achieve the gender equality. In addition to it, there are also various studies and research by international organisations that provide the evidence that education can shape a society.

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The most prominent examples of the fact that education can achieve gender equality are Nordic countries. These countries rank ~~an~~ on the top most countries that have less gender disparity on the Gender Gap Report.

In 2025, ~~the~~ Iceland, Norway, Finland ranked among the top most countries on the Global Gender Gap report. This report considers four main domains such as women literacy (education), access to health care (health), opportunities (economic) and political representation. ~~Thus~~, this shows that Nordic countries not only have equality in equality in education, but every aspect of country's affairs. Thus, these countries are the perfect example that education can achieve gender equality.

The most strong political leader, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah once said regarding women participation that, "A Nation cannot achieve its glory without women support".

This quotation illustrates that women's equal participation can change the fate of a nation. One most brilliant example in this regard is "Rwanda". Rwanda has gone through catastrophic event known as "Rwanda Genocide". The

post-genocide situation was immense destructive. Now, it ranks on the top most prosper countries in African continent. In terms of gender equality, Women hold more than 60% of representation in the parliament of Rwanda. Along with this, it has literacy rate over 70% with minimum gender disparity. Thus, this shows that education led to gender equality in Rwanda.

~~The~~ Women also support education rights of women and advocates for them. They fight for the equal opportunity and representation. Newzealand was the first country that had granted right of to vote to the women, upholding the equality. Similarly, Fatima Jinnah also advocated that women are equally responsible to choose the person to govern them. Education enabled them to understand the fact that wisdom and ~~respo~~ social responsibility does not solely rely upon the decisions made by men, but women are also responsible being equal part of the society. Therefore, educated women advocates for the rights of women because they know that gender equality can be achieved in this manner.

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In terms of science and ~~tech~~ research, ~~one of the~~ Madam Mary Curie plays a pivotal role. She proved that through education, women can also become part of the most ~~dom~~ male dominant field i.e. science. At that time, when women were confined to domestic roles, Mary Curie invented the phenomenon of radioactivity. This invention is now used in nuclear weapon, medical treatments and transmission of signals from one place to another. Besides that, she also made a precedents that women, by her will can eliminate ~~at~~ gender disparity.

Women through education can also achieve economic equality to men. The disparity in gender economic opportunity is still enormous as per the Gender Gap Report. Currently, women earn only 77% ~~less~~ of the men's income. However, this disparity vary from developed to developing country. According to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), by educating young girls, they can achieve an increase of 10% in their income. ~~by~~ These ~~above~~ statements refer to the idea that

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the economic opportunity gap can be eliminated through education.

It has been seen throughout the history that education has transformed the societies. Over the past centuries, civilizations were established and destroyed ~~upon~~ ^{there}. Once a Mongol leader said, "I am more affraid of the ^{enemy's} student that is coming out of the library than an enemy's worrier". This shows that education has always been a powerful asset. Thus, ^{women} who is giving birth to a new generation and upbringing a child can also impart education. For that purpose, she must be educated herself. Therefore, education without discrimination is imperative and it can also achieve gender equality.

~~So~~ The stereotypes that prevail in the society can also be eliminated through education. An educated women must change the mindset of their children against the negative stereotypes of the society. In this way, after a period of time, the new generation will bring a change in the society; stereotypes would be eliminated and

So does the gender disparity. According to a report by UNESCO, educated mothers are 50% less likely to endorse typical practices such as marrying off their children at early ages. Educating Education can achieve gender equality not just in practical aspects but in future and throughout the generations.

The Gender-based violence is one of the major menace that the society is going through. Although, the laws has been introduced to combat the gender-based violence but its implementation is yet not a common practice. Women are unaware of their rights and laws that can help them to get rid of GBV. To address this, education is necessary. This has been witnessed that educated and aware women ~~to not~~ speak up for their rights. One such example is Mukhtara Mai from Pakistan. Similarly, a study by World Bank in 2023 says that if the female enrollment would be increased by 10%, this will bring a drastic ~~change~~ reduction in domestic violence cases. Women would raise their

voice if they are educated about their rights.

Some scholars also argue that education will achieve gender equality is a myth. Education solely cannot prevail the equality.

In the South Asian countries, Middle Eastern and African countries the gender disparity is prevalent despite the education. These countries have more than 50% literacy rate but still they lack gender equality. Even the representation is not as per their population. For instance, in Pakistan where female population is 49%, but their representation in political, legal and economic domains is less than 20%. Afghanistan, Iran, India, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen etc are also undergoing the same gender biasness.

The practices like harassment is so common even in the countries where ~~education~~ literacy rate is also adequate. In this regard, India is one of the example. India has literacy rate more than 70% but in terms of harassment, this country is considered unsafe for a

women. Many travel vloggers have faced harassment which were recorded on live streaming. Similarly, Iran has 98% literacy rate, but there women deprive of their fundamental rights.

The certain established stereotypes that limits the gender equality in many societies. For instance, women is considered as a caregiver. Another example is ^{that} ~~women~~ ^{is} education opportunity is provided to women to get a good spouse and better in-laws after marriage. As per the statistics, 15% - 20% of women do not pursue their medical practice after completing their degree. In Pakistan the above facts are ~~not~~ prevalent in the developing countries. This reflects the social barriers which confine the women as an an caregiver and domestic individual.

Women faces pay-gap discrimination. They do not get paid equally despite giving equal work-part and time. As stated in the Gender Gap Report 2025 by World Economic Forum, it shows that women earn

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only 77% of the men's income annually. In the agriculture sector, the majority of the workforce is ~~based on~~ ~~it~~ comprises of women.

Despite the major participation, they get paid minimal wage. ~~Additional~~

Thus, the gender ~~inequality~~ cannot be achieved through education. Other developments are also necessary to end the gap based on gender identities.

There are certain conditions under which education can effectively achieve the goal of gender equality. Such as, modification in legal, political and economic structure is mandatory. Additionally, change of socio-cultural norms are also a pre-requisite measure. In this way, a multi-facet approach can lead to gender equality.

The rights of women can only be ensured if the legal protection is given along with the education. Many countries have established women rights but their implementation is yet not fully ensured. The laws

are unclear about the rights of women. So, the laws should be made clear for the better interpretation and quick justice. Moreover, the rights of women must be taught as a curriculum discourse as a part of education.

In this way, the awareness of the right will be effectively imparted. This would decrease the gender inequality.

There are many sectors which are devoid of equal representation of genders such as, politics, economy, legal and scientific sphere. In such scenario, quota system can play a drastic role. This would increase the participation into these spheres. In Pakistan, the political representation was less than 3% before introducing the quota system. Now, the women participation is 17% in National and Provincial Assembly, and 83% in local government respectively. Besides these specified seat, women also participate independant of the women quota. ~~Thus~~ Education will provide awareness of ~~that~~ the women previledges and such quota measures will lead to gender

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equality in near future.

The change of mindset is crucial for achieving the gender equality. Education ~~will~~ will not be productive in isolation. For instance, the current situation in Afghanistan. The women in Afghanistan are educated and wants to get education in the post-Taliban takeover. These women are aware of their rights and raises their stance of equality and fundamental rights. Unfortunately, the restrictions imposed by Taliban regime ~~have~~ are rigid and they do not allow women to get out of their homes or to pursue ~~any~~ education, career or any social activity. The International media stated the words of Afghan women that "Animals have better lives than us". In this case scenario, the problem lies in the mindset of their political regime. They misinterpret teachings of Islam. However, the change of mindset, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~rightful~~ ^{and} ~~educational~~ ^{and} interpretation of Islamic teachings can only bring change in Afghanistan.