

# CLOSING PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC GENDER GAP IS A GROWTH STRATEGY, NOT A SLOGAN

~~XX~~

WELL ATTEMPTED ESSAY--ALL ASPECTS COVERED WELL...THERE IS VAGUE DESCRIPTION IN PARTS- CORRECT THAT BY CLEARLY ESTABLISHING LINK BETWEEN CLOSING THE GENDER GAP AND ITS EXPECTED OUTCOME/IMPACT

## 3) INTRODUCTION

Thesis Statement: Indeed, closing Pakistan's economic gender gap can be a growth strategy due to inclusiveness in political, economic and social, and other ~~spheres~~ of society.

Therefore, government needs to take ~~lucrative~~ measures in these areas to increase economic growth.

## 2) CLOSING PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC GENDER GAP AS A GROWTH STRATEGY IN FOLLOWING WAYS:

### 2.1) Political Dimension

- Closing Economic <sup>gender</sup> Gap is a means to increasing woman political mobility.
- Leading towards efficient use of vote, ~~diminishing~~ pre-poll rigging.

### 2.2) Economic Sphere

- Closing Economic Gender Gap will increase exports
- It will ~~improve~~ the well being of

woman, stabilizing socio-economic conditions

## 2.3) Social Arena

- a. More focus on Education and Health
- b. Reducing ~~object~~ Poverty

## 2.4) Technological Sphere

- a. Increasing digital literacy, reaping Economic Rewards
- b. Recognizing ~~the~~ culture of modern Technology especially Artificial Intelligence

## 2.5) ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- a. ~~Less emission of carbon~~ owing to rising income levels of Households
- b. more use of Renewable Substitutes

Link to Gender

## 3) MEASURES TO REDUCE ECONOMIC GENDER GAP

- a. Free and Fair Education
- b. ~~Reducing~~ Gender-Based Violence
- c. Eroding Patriarchal Mind-set by awareness
- d. Constitutionalizing Equal Labour wages
- e. Improving Public Health

## ESSAY

There is no doubt that economic growth is tied with having equal economic opportunities for man and woman. Countries in Europe such as Norway, Sweden and Finland have more woman participation as compared to man. They are on the top of the Human Development Index due to prevailing gender equality. However, Pakistan finds itself at 168<sup>th</sup> country out of 180+ countries in HDI. This basically stems from chronic gender disparity in Pakistan. Closing country's economic gender gap could be turned in growth strategy. Closing the gap will increase women political mobility, exports and focus on education and health. It will also lead to digital literacy and least use of hydro carbon in house chores. For further reducing economic gender gaps, government should provide free and fair education, reduce gender-based violence and improving public health. In fact, closing Pakistan's economic

gender gap can be a growth strategy due to inclusiveness in political, economic and social, and other spheres of society. Therefore, government needs to take corrective measures in these areas to economic growth.

To begin with, closing Pakistan's economic gender gap will increase women political mobility. Politics plays a pivotal role in economy. When women are given the same chances as compared to men in economy as as a labour, they will be able to participate in politics. Men is more in pursuit of power and money in politics, while women is more learned towards improving health and education. According to International Labor Organization, women labor in Pakistan stands only at 24%. And woman political participation is only 17% as per National Assembly of Pakistan. So, closing the economic labor gap will increase the political participation of women.

Besides, closing the economic gender gap will help woman vote independently. Woman political participation not only matters at national level but it also matters ~~at time of~~ vote casting. According to report of common wealth on Pakistan's 2024 elections, it said that the elections were rigged one.

Normally, pre-poll rigging is widespread in Pakistan and woman becomes **GOOD** the most vulnerable ones. Votes are casted in exchange of some money. If woman gets equal economic opportunities, it will rise their income levels leading towards independent selection of their representatives. Therefore, selection of a representative on merit base will help improve the economy.

Moreover, reducing economic gender gap will improve country exports. For any country both women and man labour is the most important for the economy. As per State bank of Pakistan,

Country's exports are nearly \$20 billion and this exports possesses only 8% woman participation - ILO demonstrates if equal opportunities are given, exports will definitely skyrocket. In terms of IMF report, Pakistan has the potential of \$80 billions in exports. Hence, closing ~~is~~ economic gender gap is ~~vital~~ for country's economy.

Furthermore, shrinking economic gap is a means to enhance women well-being. Due to low household income, woman faces chronic issues of health, education and sanitation. The well-being is not limited to her, her children are also ~~beneficiary~~ of her well-being. By giving economic opportunity, she will be able to take care of herself in case of health or any other ~~emergency~~. She will also invest on her education as well as her children's education. this will ultimately open the road for community as well as

economic growth. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) says hardly 3% women are property owners or well-establish entrepreneurs in Pakistan. Thus, closing the economic gender gap is essential for women well-being.

In addition to this, improving gender gap in economic terms will lead to more focus on education and health. Pakistan's rural areas are far-behind in education and health due to prevailing income discrepancies. In this, women are the grave victim of poor education and health. If women gets the same chances as men, their condition can be improved. Pakistan Household of development Economics (PIDE) survey declares that there are 24% students who lie in the age bracket of 18 and 91. This is because of low household income. If both husband and wife are employed, then these children can education. So, reducing economic gender gap improves the condition of education as well as health.

Narrowing of economic gender gap will also alleviate abject poverty. Pakistan depicts a grim picture of poverty. As per World Bank (WIB), Pakistan is suffering from chronic poverty as its 45% population lives below poverty line. Growing prices of necessities brings people on the verge of poverty. Single bread-winner in home is unable to meet the inflation levels. Therefore, equal labor opportunities for women is a need of hour. If both husband and wife are bread winner of the house, then they can eradicate the poverty. Hence, closing the economic gender gap will bring, especially out of poverty.

Further closing the labour gender gap will improve digital literacy. Pakistan is lagging behind reaping the dividends of this technological era. It is due to worsening socio-economic conditions of people. There is huge digital

divide due to economic gender gap. In Majority of rural areas, only the guardian of home has a most phone. women, due to limited economic opportunities are always behind them. There is a huge potential in Pakistani rural women to earn through social media. As per ~~Pakistan Telecom Authority (PTA)~~, the ~~Internet~~ penetration in Pakistan is hardly 15%. Desrth of governmental support and opportunity, women is unable to earn from digitalization. Thus, removing the economic gender gap can lead to digital literacy, earning its rewards.

In the same fashion, ~~squeezing~~ the economic gender gap may lead to technology recognition. Most of ~~the~~ Pakistan's rural community is skeptical to the use of "Internet of things" such as ATM cards, vouchers, and doing online shopping. Pakistan can take the dividends of digitalization by firstly giving economic opportunities to everyone, then making them

VAGUE

use digital devices. Pakistan could increase tax-collection from this. The main thing will be closing the economic gender. If women are not in digital community, then growth may not take place. PTA reports the digital literacy rate of rural areas is nearly 22%. <sup>alerting</sup> So, gender gap in economy can increase digital literacy of women, resping its rewards. So, for spreading the culture of technology, economic gender gap must be overcome.

ELABORATE

By closing economic gender gap, we will be heading towards environmental sustainability.

As per (PBS), Pakistan's 70%

population lives in rural areas.

Due to low levels of household income, people in rural areas

use animal dung for cooling

food. The dung is high in

carbon emission which deteriorates

the environment. If equal economic

opportunities are given, household income

will increase and people will no more be using柴 for cooking. They will ultimately come to the gas which is provided by government. Hence, environmental sustainability can be achieved through economic gender equality.

By closing the gender gap, people will be shifting from non-renewable sources of energy to renewable.

HOW?

The gender gap can not always be seen in rural and urban dimensions. Urban people have more job opportunities as compared to rural. The people of rural areas, therefore, use non-renewable sources of energy for their agriculture and home. They use diesel for irrigating their land and contributing more in environmental degradation.

If they are given some economic opportunities, they can shift from diesel engines to solar engines for water irrigation. Thus, closing

economic gender gap also aid in environmental sustainability.

For turning closing economic gender gaps into growth strategy, government needs to take lucrative measures. The first and foremost measure government should take is giving free and fair education. According to article 25A of the constitution of Pakistan, every citizen has right to free and fair education from 4 to 16 years of age. If this right is given on merit, then the youth will be able to take part in country's growth. If not only the free education but also fair education which is the need of current times. As per PIDE survey, more than 95% educated youth of Pakistan is unemployed. The fair education should be based on current dynamics of education across the globe. Hence, free and fair education will close the economic gender gap.

Secondly, government should eradicate gender-based violence paving a smoother way for women to do job. Pakistan is badly affected by GBV which erodes the women participation. Women at workplace faces harassment, she while travelling, faces harassment. This should be eradicated the first. According to Human Rights Commission based in Pakistan, GBV criminal reporting and imprisonment ratio is 1 to 2 percent. There is dire need of saving women from GBV as their future is ruined by this violence.

Thirdly, government needs to take adequate measures for dismantling patriarchal mindset by awareness. This can be done through public awareness, making people understand the importance of education for the well-being of woman. Government should ~~convince~~ people by ~~convincing~~ community's elders as in rural areas a community elder has all power.

Government can also spread awareness through district newspapers, news channels and sending women groups to rural areas with giving them security. Therefore, patriarchy, in this way, can be removed from society.

Fourthly, concerned authority needs to close the economic gender gap by using its constitution. Currently, according to ILO, women in Pakistan earn 95% less than the men. For bringing the wages on the same page, government should come up with new constitutional change of equalizing labour wages. Hence, this way economic gender gap could be achieved.

Fifthly, government should improve health delivery. Many of rural areas of Pakistan are working with doctors and modern equipment, and medicines.

Women, when get pregnant hardly

recover from the treatment leading towards loss of job or opportunity. It is a dire need of hour to bring proper health and sanitation in rural areas so that women can participate despite the seasonal ill. Thus, improving health will help women continue the job.

To sum up, closing economic gender gap can be a growth strategy due to inclusiveness in political, economic and social, and other spheres of society. The growth can be achieved through women political mobility, growing exports, improving education and health, increasing digital literacy and focus on environmental sustainability. However, government should take corrective measure in the wake of prevailing challenges such as giving free and fair education, reducing gender-based violence, eroding patriarchal mindset and improving public health.

So, economic growth can be achieved through

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economic inclusiveness, especially women inclusivity.