

Date: 6/2/2025

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Q.No: 1 Title: Is Education the Key to Empowering Women in Pakistan?

outline

A) Introduction

Thesis statement:

Yes, education can empower the status of women in Pakistan by countering honour killing, Gender based violence and child marriages. Moreover, educating women can empower them in the fields of; politics, economy, socially and in education itself.

B) How does Education is the Key to Empower Women in Pakistan?

1) Education creates awareness

- About rights
- Personal protection

2) Raise Conscious about the eradication of patriarchy

3) Enhance economic independence

4) Diminishes Gender disparity

5) Ameliorate political participation and legislation

6) Well response to gender stereotypes

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7) Technical education make them able and independent on their male counterpart

8) Enforces to abolish restrictions on the use of social media

9) positively impacts on the sustainable development goals (SDGs)

c) Education alone cannot empower women in Pakistan.

1) Empowering women need equally political empowerment

2) Literacy rate of women in Sri Lanka and their women status

3) Highly educated women at work place are sexually harassed

4) Unequal wages with comparison to men being an educated

5) Educated women equally faced social restrictions and stereotypes

d) Conclusion

"The question is not who is going to let me; it's who's going to stop me. (Ayn Rand)"

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When a son born with parents they get happy and bring him toys associated men. Contrary to it, when daughter born the parents get sad and bring the toys associated with women. Later on, when they grown their perceptions were shaped as per the expectation of society. Only education can challenged and changed already existed perception about the roles based on genders in the society. Education not only can change the perception but also can empower women in the Pakistani society. Educating women mean are empowering them in the field of politics, economy, socially and in education sector in itself. Moreover, educating women raise their conscious about rights and personal protections. However, only education is not enough for the overall development of women in Pakistan. Women being highly educated are still harassed in the work places, less wages are given for the same work and social marginality by their member of the family. Nevertheless, women are being educated facing social, political and economic issues, but education will remove them one by one with regular and technical education. Overall, education is the key to empower the status of women in Pakistan.

Education is the key to empower women in Pakistan in the form of awareness.

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Education enhances awareness about the rights and protection against violence among women. Educated women can raise voice about their social, political and economic rights. They can demand for equal pay wages, political quotas and the eradication of social restrictions. Moreover, education aware the women about legal laws to report social and domestic violence. According to Amnesty International that 75 pc educated women approach to legal ways to punish the culprits and secure future protection from violence as compare to illiterate women.

Moreover, educating women can empower them by raising conscious about the atrocities of patriarchy. Patriarchy is a system in which a male is the head of the family. All the powers and decisions are exercised through his name. By educating women can challenge the system of patriarchy and ~~we~~ can ask for equal role of women to play in the decisions making. An educated women can decide independently about to whom to cast vote and about their reproductive decisions as well. According to the ~~was~~ United Nation that an educated 90 pc educated women take this decisions independently compared to 5 pc

illiterate women. Whereas, in Pakistan this number can increase to 70 pc by educating women in the country.

Similarly, educating women in Pakistan have the potential to reduce the gender disparity gap. According to World Economic Forum, 2024, Pakistan global rank in gender disparity is 145 out of 146. Pakistan is the second worst country for women after Afghanistan. Educating women in Pakistan can improve the situation to enhance women participation in every sector of life. Their wages can be equalized with men and political quota can be increased by increasing awareness through education. So, educating women have the potential to empower women by reducing the gender disparity.

In addition to it, education can empower women in Pakistan in the domain of politics. According to the 2022 digital census the women population in Pakistan are 49 pc. It is almost half of the population but only 60 seats are reserved for women out of 342 seats in national assembly. So, when the budget for allocation increases for education in general and specifically for women can raise awareness among women to demand for the equal participation in politics. When they get equal representation

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in the parliament, when they can legislate to secure their own rights and ensure their own protection as well. So, educating women can empower them in general and raising conscience to ensure their political participations in specifics.

Similarly, educating women in Pakistan can empower them to wisely handle the gender stereotypes in the society. Majority of the people are in the view that women are weak, timid, uncivilized and only born to do house chores. This view can only be challenged and transformed by educating women. An educated woman can response these stereotypes with a rational, wise and logical way to mould the perception of people. For example, there are women pilot, soldiers and doctors who performs their duties at the battle field and performing sensitive operations with bold hearts. So, educating women will empower them to handle gender stereotypes in logical and rational way to mould the perceptions of people.

Furthermore, technical and legal education empowers them to be independent and to be secured. Technical education make them able to learn different skills and

to earn for themselves. Furthermore, legal education empowers them to use existing laws for their own protection. Various laws passed by the government including work place harassment, protection against women and Sindh women protection authority act, only an educated and well aware women can take benefits of these laws to protect themselves. So, by educating a women can empower them on the basis of gaining technical skills and legal awareness for their own benefits.

In addition to it, educating women can empower them to challenge the existing status quo about the using of social media. Majority of the women in Pakistan are restricted from using social media platforms by their family members. They feel insecure and do not permit women to use social media for gaining access to fruitful informations. So, providing them education about the benefits of using social media including cyber security and personal data protection can empower their opinions and narratives via different social media platforms.

Similarly, educating women in Pakistan can also positively influence the policies of of the structural adjustment programmes (SAPs). When the International

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Monetary Fund (IMF) gives loan to Pakistan on certain conditions. Majority of the conditions are suggests to cut off the budget and subsidise from the human development projects including health and education. Most of the women relies on government hospitals and schools for their health and education. The conditions of IMF strictly impact these two sectors which have a direct consequence on women. So educating women will empower them to higher executive positions, where they will negotiate with the authorities about SAPs and its consequences on women. As a result, they will not imposed conditions on the areas which can badly impact the status of women in Pakistan.

However, education alone cannot empower women in Pakistan. Even though educated women in Pakistan face various challenges. So merely, relying on education for women empowerment is another mistake to avoid other areas about empowering of women.

The first and foremost is not only education but political empowerment is also mandatory for the improvement

of women status in Pakistan. Only 21 PC quota are given to women in the National Assembly. Moreover, these reserved seats for women are filled by the elite class women with their affiliations with certain political parties. As a result, those women then represent their parties manifestos rather than the common women of Pakistan. So, all of these women are highly educated but but less empowered due to the political legacies. Educating women is not enough until they are not politically empowered to improve their conditions in the country.

Moreover, the literacy rate of women in Sri Lanka is 82 PC, but these women still faces various forms of discrimination. Women jobs quota are 30 PC less than their counter part. Moreover, they are given low wages for the same work done by male. So, being educated could not assist women to empower them. However, education provides women professional educations which are in high demand are awarding equal pay wages. For example, doctors, pilot and lecturers are getting equal salaries with their counter part. So, educating women is the best solution to empower women in Pakistan.

Furthermore, highly educated women in offices at Pakistan still face the issue

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of harassment. If, the women refused to fulfill the demands of their seniors then their promotions are stopped or transferred to the far fetched areas. However, the government had passed work place harassment act 2010 to criminalized the act. So, now this can be utilized only by education women about their legal rights. Therefore, education is the key for the empowering women in Pakistan.

Furthermore, highly educated women in Pakistan are getting low wages as compared to their counter part. For example, women working in industries of packing and domestic services with unequal wages for the same working hour a man working in the office. However, this unequal wages can also be equalized by educating women to raise voice for equal pay salaries. In case, of not accepting their demand then they should boycott to provide their services. Moreover, they can also form strong union and universal sisterhood to address these issues collectively. So, all of these steps are only possible when the women are highly educated.

In addition to it, in the Pakistani society the educated women are equally facing the challenges of

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gender stereotypes. Specific gender roles and attributes are associated with women to keep them suppress either educated or not. They are termed as fragile, weak, dependent and the lack of confidence in them.

In case if, a woman is educated she face the same stereotypes as for an illiterate women. However, it is true but a narrow perspective, as a well educated women responses all of these gender based stereotypes with rational and logical way to mould the perception of people about women. So, education is the only key left in the Pakistan to empower the status of women in the country.

To sum up, it can be stated that education is the only key left with Pakistan to empower women in the country. Providing well education to will make them able to ask for their own rights and protect themselves via legal ways from violence and atrocities. Furthermore, educating women will empower them in the domains of politics, economy and society. They will legislate for their own protection in parliament after, getting proper education will make them able to get prestigious positions to get financial independency. However, beside education social awareness, awakening their potential to contribute in the various sectors of the country are the need of the hour.

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← The question is not who is going to let me; it is who is to going to stop me? (Ayn Rand)