

Gender equality: A popular slogan

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Gender equality is a popular slogan because women demand rights and they are being suppressed as compared to men in the world.

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Michelle Bachelet (the former president of Chile).

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Essay

Michelle Bachelet, the former president of Chile, highlights the importance of gender equality, "Gender equality will only be reached if we are able to empower women." Gender equality is a popular slogan because women demand rights and they are being suppressed as compared to men in the world. Gender equality is a term in which all genders deserve equal rights. Four types of gender exist biologically in the world i.e. male, female, inter-sex and trans-gender. On the other side, some people observe gender behaviour which is shaped by societal norms. The demand for gender equality arose in the early 20th century and continues to grow in the 21st century. There are some factors such as physical violence, sexual violence, right to life, access to education, consent for marriage, objectification of woman, etc. that have made gender equality a popular slogan. The slogan of gender equality gain popularity due to various international activities such as international human rights and international NGOs. It is need of the hour to ensure gender equality by implementing ways forward such as increase awareness and practice culture. Gender equality is

a popular slogan and it is a direction to ensure gender equality among all genders in the world.

The gender can be defined sexually. In the context of sex, there are four types of sexes, e.g. male, female, inter-sex and trans-gender, exist in the world. Male and female are present in large proportion in the world and they are part of society to give offspring. Inter-sex are those who born with wrong body. They have not likely body to produce generation. Trans-gender are those who born in the wrong body. They do not decide whether they are male or female. All types of gender, except male, demand the gender equality.

The gender can also be defined on the basis of societal norms. Gender is a social construct. The concept of the gender depends upon the norms and values of society. The society explains the role of gender. A gender, who is a male or female in a certain society, he or she may have another gender assumption in another society. For example, a female may wear shawl (dupatta) in one part of the world, but wearing a shawl may be considered shameful and inappropriate in another

region of the globe. This social attitude on gender increases the slogan of gender equality.

UNICEF defines gender equality as, "Gender equality means that women, men, girls and boys must enjoy equal rights, resources, opportunities and protections." Gender equality is a concept where all types of gender seek equal rights and opportunities in various aspects of society. It increases the importance of equal rights and possibilities. All genders, whether male, female, inter-sex or trans-gender, must have equal rights to live their life according to their will. They should not have been obliged to act unpleasantly at the behest of other people. All gender can be able to do job anywhere and get equal wages. The female cannot be forced for marriage. The body shaming of inter-sex and trans-gender must be curbed. The slogan of gender equality is an initiative to promote gender equality around the world.

The demand of gender equality arose in the early 20th century with the start of 1st wave. In this wave, women demanded equal contract and property rights. The second wave started between 1960s to 1980s. The

slogan of 2nd wave is "The personal is political", which identified women's cultural and political inequalities. The 3rd wave initiated in 1990s. This wave demanded equal wages and child daycare. This wave responded to perceived failures of 2nd wave. The 4th wave initiated in the 20th century. This wave also reached the developing countries like Pakistan. In this wave, the use of social media is increased and different platforms are utilized to demand rights. This wave ensures the empowerment of women in the present-day world. These four waves highlight the slogan of gender equality.

Some factors have made gender equality a popular slogan. The primary factor is gender-based violence. There are different types of gender-based violence. The first is physical violence. The different genders, most probably female, face physical violence. Physical violence is the activity to harm a gender by inappropriate methods. UN Women reported that an estimated 736 million women - almost one in three - have been subjected to physical violence. The women are being suppressed and violated physically by throwing acids on their bodies. Honour killing

is another physical violence in which the violated gender has not any honour and respect. They are blamed and neglected. So, physical violence increases the slogan of gender equality.

The second type of gender-based violence is sexual violence. The gender are facing the sexual violence. They become sexual victims. Sexual violence is the sex activity without the consent of gender. The trans-gender and inter-sex people face body shaming. Their body is shameful for them. The rape cases^{are} also increasing in the world. UN Women stated that globally 6% of women have been subjected to sexual violence. The women are forced for sex, in turn, they are being raped. So, sexual violence increases the demand of gender equality.

The third type of gender-based violence is domestic violence. Domestic violence is the activity to suppress a wife by her husband. The women in the world are violated domestically. UN Women indicated that more than 640 million women (26%) aged 15 and older have been subjected to intimate partner violence. Different conditions are forced on women by their conditions. They are

not allowed to go out of home, do a job and earn money. They have not right to produce children according to her requirement. The most families are patriarchal, likely in Pakistan, so women are being violated in their families. The women have less role in the society as compared to men. So, domestic violence enhance the value of slogan of gender equality.

The fourth type of gender-based violence is the psychological violence. The psychological violence is the violence of gender through thoughts and mind. The gender are being violated psychologically by affecting their mindset. A report from online source shows that nearly half of all women (48.4%) in the United States experience psychological violence. The stalking is the process to move behind the woman. Harrassment is the activity to threaten women by doing some illegal activity. The threat is the action to give a warning to gender about her personal matters. So, 'gender equality' slogan is enhanced by psychological violence.

The fifth type of gender-based violence is verbal violence. Verbal violence is the disrespect and shame

of someone talking. This violence is often associated with inter-sex, trans-gender and women. The woman is treated rudely and aggressively at home and workplace. The woman is always considered a weak and frail person. For example, gas-lighting and body-shaming are used for verbal violence. These words "You are imagine things that never happened", and "No one will love you because of how you look", are used in gas-lighting and body-shaming, respectively. This narrative increase the verbal violence by ~~wom~~ putting women into abusing and shaming activities. Most of the abusing words are used as the replacement of name of women. The verbal violence shows that women have not good personality in the worldly matters. The verbal violence raises the slogan of gender equality.

The six type of gender-based violence is the economic violence. Economic violence is the violence of gender through economic values and standards. The woman, as well inter-sex and trans-genders, has not equal opportunities to do job and earn valuable amount. Their salaries are less than males. United Nations reported, "For every dollar men earn, women earn 77 cents." Some ^women are

not allowed to earn, so they are not in a position to take care of her and her family appropriately. It created a wage gap among different genders in the world. They are dependent on their partners to run a house. They are economically violated. They also face other problems due to economic violence. So, economic violence intensifies the slogan of gender equality.

Another factor that made gender equality a popular slogan is gender-based discrimination. There are different forms of gender-based discrimination. The first form is right to life. The gender, especially women, has not right to live their life according to her desires. Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index disclosed, "only 45-8% of Sierra Leonean women feel safe walking home at night in their communities." They have not right to make decision about themselves. They are discriminated in the view of social laws. They are obliged to wear a dress which is not against the culture of society. They are not allowed to make social alliances as it seems inappropriate. They are forced to spend her life privately. It creates inequality among genders. So, right to life heightens the slogan of gender equality.

The second form of gender-based discrimination is access to education. The rare number of inter-sex and trans-gender community get education. The female education is also short as compared to male. UNICEF revealed, "119 million girls are out of school around the world." Some girls face familial issues to get education. They are not allowed to go to school for education. These girls even do not know how to read and write. On the other side, those girls who are going to school, they are not getting quality education just like that of boys' education. The education of women is not considered optimistic across the world. Instead, it is thinking that education is fragile for women. So, access to education advance the slogan of gender equality.

The third form of gender-based discrimination is the consent for marriage. The girls are not asked for marriage. Their consent for marriage has not any importance. It does not matter to ask their will regarding marriage. UNICEF reported, "South Asia is still home to the largest number of child brides, 285 million (44%), followed by sub-Saharan Africa, 115 million (18%)." Some communities forced the girls to get married at an

early age. At this age, they do not know the meaning of marriage. The girls married a person who is unknown for them. They forced to become a housewife. These forceful marriage bring various issues in the world. Therefore, consent for marriage escalates the demand of gender equality.

The fourth form of gender-based discrimination is the reproductive rights. The women are not encouraged to give birth a child according to her health. Her priorities does not keep importance. Instead, they are discouraged to demand their reproductive demands. UNICEF stated, "World, only 1 in 2 adolescent girls and young women aged 15-19 have their demands for family planning satisfied by modern methods." In this situation, mother or baby sometimes die at time of delivery. The girls, who do not know about offspring, faces a significant number of children. It creates many tensions in the world. The lack of reproductive rights is harmful to raise a child in an appropriate way. So reproductive rights elevate the slogan of gender equality.

The fifth form of gender-based discrimination is health care facility. The different genders have not equal rights

to maintain their health. In the case of inter-sex and trans-gender, the health is often neglected. They women are also facing health issues. American Cancer Study predicts, "About 310720 new cases of ^{invasive} breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in 2024." They has not any preference to pay focus on their health. They feel unhealthy in the sense of reproduction. They do not get health care after the birth of baby. Different diseases are diagnosed among women. The regular check-ups of female is not happening according to health standards. Their fragile health is not suitable for them and their families. So, health care facility raises the slogan of gender equality.

The sixth form of gender-based discrimination is work facilities. Inter-sex and trans-gender people have not any specific facility for work. They are often avoided to work alongwith other people. The woman also faces the problems to work. Many women have not any facility to work accurately. On the other side, those females who are working in some offices become victims to sexual and physical violence and harrassment. Their salaries are not equal to salary of man. The wage gap is created among boys' and girls' salary. Some girls are often

done unpaid work. United Nations reported, "Woman carry out at least 2.5 times more unpaid work than men". In this way, women faces various problems regarding job, in turn, it leads to inequality in work. So, work facilities strengthen the slogan of gender inequality.

The seventh form of gender-based discrimination is the right to property. The woman, as well as intersex and trans-gender, has not right to get property as an inheritance. Food and Agricultural Organization showed, "Fewer than 15% of agricultural landholders are women and 85% are men around the world." Their property is not actually for them, but for her brothers and male-partners. They are not in a position to take decision regarding her property. The females are often blamed to take their share in the property. They can not use their property for their benefits. Although some laws are present regarding property, but not implemented accurately. The girls are dependent on boys in the case of property. The patriarchal society has only right to own property. So, inequality and right to property enlarges the slogan of gender inequality.

The eighth form of gender-based

discrimination is the political participation. The inter-sex and transgender people has not any importance in the political participation. Their presence or absence does not matter at all. Likewise, women's role in the politics is also neglected. United Nations showed, "Only six countries have 50% or more women in parliament in single or lower houses, e.g. Rwanda 61% and UAE 50%." In early history, there was no political participation of women. Instead, they have not rights to vote. However, at present times women are taking part in politics in some countries of the world. But still, they have limited roles. It is considered shameful and disrespect for women to represent themselves in the politics. So, back in political participation enhances the slogan of gender equality.

The last but not the least factor that have made gender equality a popular slogan is the objectification of woman. Objectification is a method to represent women in some activity for the sake of enhancing popularity of business or something else. Women are often treated as objects. They are indulged in activities that do not suit them. The woman are used for the purpose of objectification, in turn, these women only earn a small

amount of money. For example, a woman may be portrayed only for looks in an ad for a product, with little regard for her personality or contributions. Most businesses use the picture of girls for popularity and attractiveness. These businesses display photos of women as a title photos. Similarly, some TV ads are made by girls. Girls are appearing in TV shows just for the purpose of entertainment. These activities of objectification underestimate the ability and potential of women. Hence, objectification raises the slogan of gender equality.

The slogan of gender equality become popular due to international activities. International human rights organisations highlight the importance of gender equality. They ensure that every gender is equal and has ability to take part in every field of life. These international organisations increase the efficiency of all genders, especially women, to spend their life in a good way. For example, "Equality Now" is an international human right organisation, which became in 1992 in New York, USA. These human rights organisations give directions to human demand human rights. The women and

trans-genders realize their importance with the actions of human rights organizations. They know that they are humans, so they have also human rights. In this way, the demand of gender equality increases under the popular slogan "gender equality".

The international non-government organisations (NGOs) are also working as a catalyst to enhance the slogan of gender equality. They urged the community in different perspectives to demand rights. For example, Amnesty International became in 28 May, 1961 is an international NGO. This NGO is working in London, UK for the purpose of human's rights. NGOs promote the education of girls through different scholarships. They make sure the freedom of woman. They protect the lives of inter-sex and trans-gender. The NGOs are working in different countries, so the people of these countries get a courage and potential to demand rights. NGOs also affect the policies of government to implement for the favour of all genders. Therefore, NGOs are source to boost the demand for gender equality.

The international civil society is also engaged to advance the slogan

of gender equality. The civil society such as scholars, writers, activists, etc increases the demand and slogan of gender equality through their opinion. The members of civil society promote the laws and norms of society under which different genders realize their importance and capabilities. Malala Yousafzai, for example, is a Pakistani activist. She advocates for the education of girls, particularly in regions where girls face barriers to gain education. Civil society members appear on different platforms, i.e. TV channels, newspapers, social media, to spread their message among masses across the world. So, different genders act to demand their rights, in turn, the slogan of gender equality augments.

It is a top priority to ensure gender equality because it is an initiative to give rights to every gender in the world. Some ways forward can be used to ensure gender equality. The gender equality must realized by everyone to maintain equality among masses. The people should have awareness to follow the slogan of gender equality. The culture of a society should be practiced in such a way that allows every gender to take part

in different fields of life. The government should make and implement laws that strengthen gender equality. Through these activities, the slogan of gender equality can become popular. In turn, it leads to gender equality.

The slogan of gender equality became popular because different genders demand equal rights. The people use the slogan of gender equality worldwide because inequality lies among masses. Some factors such as domestic violence, psychological violence, verbal violence, reproductive rights, health care facility, work facilities, etc. highlight the importance of gender equality under a popular slogan. Some international activities also help promote the slogan of gender equality. The gender equality should be ensured in order to bring equal among genders. Some ways forward such as practice culture and government laws can be used to fulfill the purpose. The slogan of gender equality is a popular initiative at promoting and ensuring gender equality.