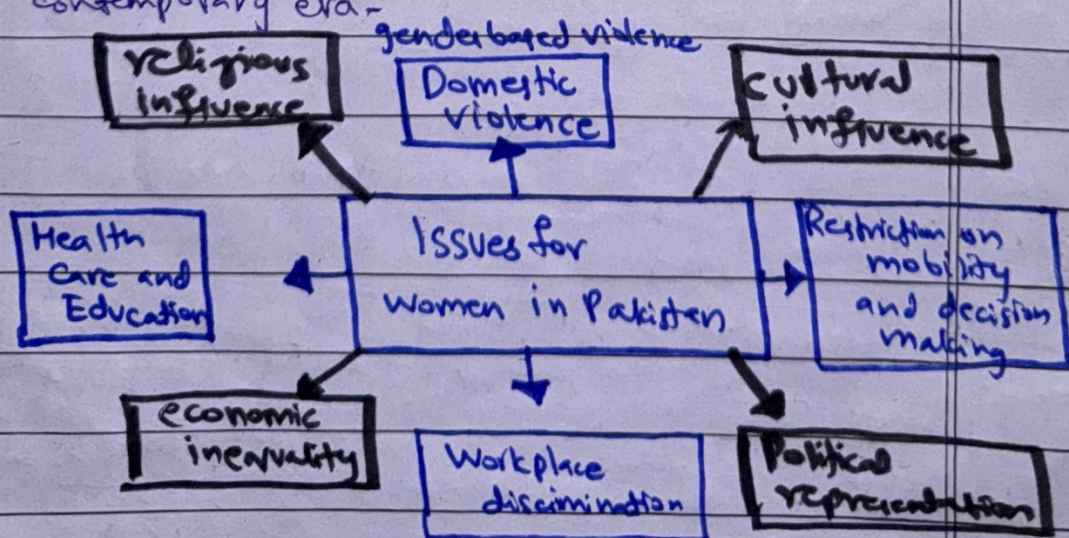


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Issues for Women in Pakistan

Gender inequality persists as a pressing issue globally. Despite the success of many developed countries in socio-economic sectors, no country has fully achieved gender equality. Pakistan is one of the country which has these issues existing since long. It is deeply rooted in our social norms. From a child birth, these issues of inequality between man and women starts. Family in rural areas put pressure on women to give birth to a baby boy first. Illiteracy is the main reason behind this stereotypical society of Pakistan. Following are some of the issues a women is facing in Pakistan in this contemporary era.



- Gender-based violence

The foremost issue a woman is facing in Pakistan is gender-based violence which includes **domestic violence, sexual violence and honor killings**. Pakistan state has reported high rate spousal violence reports every year. Man in every culture of Pakistan behaves as a superior authority in every house hold - Traditionally man is a bread winner and decision maker of a house and women is responsible for household duties only. And even if a woman is working officially outside she has to take up both responsibilities of house hold and work at the same time. Rape cases reported more often now in Pakistan as men mentality sees women as weak and fragile as they believe in **Shakespearean 'Frailty thy name is woman'**. Sana Yousaf case recently reported in Islamabad which was murdered on the issue of rejection to a man. These types of gender based violence is the main issue for women in Pakistan.

- Work-place discrimination

The secondary issue women of Pakistan is facing is work place discrimination between male and female in respect to their wages and responsibilities. Females are often underpaid as of men in the same company. **John Smith** in his book **"Imperialism in the 21st century: Globalization, Super-Exploitation and Capitalism Final crisis"** says that women are low paid everywhere because their male boss believes that their pay is just like a supplement to their household as the primary pay of a man runs a family that's why they are paying low. This workplace offers lack safety for women protection also. **Sexual harassment at work place, lack of safe and affordable transportation, wages** all are part of issues faced by a woman now a days.

• Health care and Education

The third important issue is related to a woman health and her education. In rural areas of Pakistan, there are limited access of

female teachers that's why these families are not comfortable to educate their girls in that schools especially in KPK and South Punjab. According to Pakistan **Economic Survey (FY 2024-2025)**, data reveals that **out-of-school children at 38% overall with 42% of female**. This is a huge figure for a nation who wants to be developed as education of women is equally important in nowadays as of men. Then there is limited facilities of **reproductive health services** especially in underdeveloped, marginalized and rural areas of Pakistan. As a state, policy should be made to improve health and education structures in Pakistan's backwards areas to liberate the maximum children as they are the upcoming future of Pakistan. This is only possible when our society treats men and women equally.

• **Restriction on mobility and decision making**

Due to the patriarchal society and norms of Pakistan, Men of every household put restrictions on mobility of a woman.

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They found environment as a non-safe actors for these girls but actually men are the ones who can make it better for a woman. There are barriers for women in even their own life decision making. Women faced discrimination and prejudice in the issues like **inheritance, marriage and divorce**.

They obey their elders to live in a society. A woman should make autonomous decision of one's life to eradicate this issue from the root and men should support them in that.

• Economic inequality

Pakistani women face issues in job opportunities also. Men are preferred and the foremost priority of a company everywhere in Pakistan due to the protection and safety issue of Pakistan. According to Asian development bank report 2022, 70% selection firms hire only males while only 20% of firms hire females within which 69% of women do not get any **maternity, parental leaves and wages**.

Moreover, these firms do not provide pick and drop off services transportation which results in sexual harassment and **inappropriate behaviors** from male passengers and drivers also. Data shows that every year there are more girls enrolling in mbbs than of boys but their ratio of practising medicine afterwards is so low as compared to man due to gender discrimination and household issues. Man prefer a girl who take responsibility of their household fully and ~~leave~~ forced them to leave their jobs. These issues prevail for a very long time in Pakistan's society resulting in poverty, unemployment and limited opportunities for a girl.

• Political representation

Number of political representation of women in Pakistan is far less than that of man. Government of Pakistan took very effective steps to initiate women quota in every field exempli gratia, in National assembly 60 out of

342 seats are reserved for women but the problem is that women are facing discrimination there too. These ideas, thoughts are given less importance as of men and they're very less say in decision making bodies. These issues are prevailing in 21st century also.

• Cultural and religious influence

- Pakistan existing President Asif Ali

Zardari passed a **child marriage bill**

which says that minimum legal age of marriage is 18 which is opposed by

many religious leaders of Pakistan. It

shows how they interpret Islam for their own benefits only and makes people

separate within one another. Modern problems

need **ITman, ITihad** according to which

a problem is interpreted according to

Quran and Sunnah. But these religious

influences are exploiting the rights

of women especially and making the

youth mindset blurred. Additionally these

things deeply entrenched in our culture and

people are behaving in same way with woman as of the time of 'Jahalat' in **Arab** before Prophet P.B.U.H where women are buried alive but the difference is that today women's independence and autonomy is buried under male dominance.

- **Critical analysis**

Islam gave rights to woman from its life to inheritance and more. People should follow the real Islam and its interpretation to live their lives accordingly to that. In a book "**Geometry of God**" by **Uzma Aslam Khan**, she says how a single ideology is forced in the minds of people and through interpretation of Islam in a single way disturbs the ideology of whole society. These issues of woman in Pakistan can only be solved by working on three dimensions which are **parity, equity and equality** - Parity refers to the equal enrolment of both men and women in schools whereas equity refers to the equal opportunity provided to them. ~~both~~ on the

other hand equality refers to the freedom, equal rights and equal opportunities to the woman. Both men and women are equally important to make a society better living place for both of them.

• Conclusion

No doubt, Pakistan has ~~implemented~~^{made} many policies for women empowerment and it has the momentum and potential to eradicate gender inequality especially issues with women in best possible way by implementing equal, inclusive and strategic policies all over the Pakistan particularly in marginalized and under-developed areas.
