

ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTRY

Outline

A. Introduction

B. A Brief Overview of the Parameters of Socio-economic Development of a country

C. Role of Women in the Social Development of a Country:

i. Women play a remarkable role in upbringing their families by making them capable and responsible citizens of state who willingly participate in the social uplift of individuals.

(Social Reproduction Theory)

ii. Women participation in education sector leads to high literacy rate and provision of quality education.

(Quote of Brigham Young)

iii. The healthcare sector undergoes a significant shift pertaining to the

exceptional role of women in scaling down mortality rate, disease outbreak and viral infections.

(Lady Health Workers and Polio eradication)

iv. Determined role exhibited by women in authoritative positions contribute to individual and community welfare.

(Women in Civil Services in Pakistan)

v. Women perform an outstanding job in climate change mitigation, sustainable lifestyle and conservation mechanism according to their deep connection with nature.

(Greta Thunberg's climate activism)

vi. Women play an instrumental part in nourishing a peaceful society by voicing against prevalent social evils, crimes and detrimental behaviours.

(Quote of Benito Mussolini)

vii. Women contribute to the foundation of a pluralistic, tolerant and multi-cultural society by promoting inter-

cultural dialogue and empathic discussion.

(Case study of Finland)

D. Role of Women in the Economic Development of a Country:

- i. Women bring about a pivotal change in the service sector by their excellent collaborative leaderships, inter-personal community and emotional intelligence.

(Alicia Boke Davis; Amazon's VP)

- ii. The role of women is fundamental to improve agricultural yield and soil fertility, leading to high export rate and low trade deficit.

(Report of FAO)

- iii. The constructive participation of women in the digital landscape generates more income and expands e-commerce sector.

(Remote digit jobs in Philippines)

- iii. Employment and earning of women in multifarious departments result

in high taxation and revenue generation
for the progress of country.

(OECD Report: Tax Morale)

iv. Women carry out an exclusive responsibility of materialising sustainable development and natural resource management.

(Gender and Green Governance by Agarwal)

vi. Women outperform other genders in terms of economic equity, transparency and profit as they are decisively more repugnant to corruption, bribery and illegal money generation than their male counterparts.

(Report of UN Women)

vii. Women as policy-makers drive economic inclusivity and institutional efficiency by targeting gender pay gap and promoting financial empowerment of vulnerable sections.

h. (Case Study of Rwanda)

k. Conclusion

The recent report published by UNDP indicates that Pakistan ranks one-hundred and sixty-eight among one-hundred and ninety-three countries in terms of human development index and progress. It also indicates the low performance of country in social and economic parameters. These regressive socio-economic conditions are attributed to many factors. Among these, gender gap is one of the significant causal agents as World Economic Forum reports that Pakistan stands last among one-hundred and forty-eight countries with regards to gender equality and women empowerment. Hence, the role of women and social economic development are closely and directly related. Firstly, women transform the family dynamics, making the inhabitants constructive and responsible subjects of state. Moreover, education and healthcare sector undergo remarkable transition pertaining to women

participation and notable contribution. Similarly, women play an exceptional part in the individual and community welfare as office holders. Likewise, they ensure climate change mitigation strategies to be implemented in society alongside the sustainable lifestyle. Women also nourish the formation of a peaceful society by becoming the champions of peace. Next to it, women frame a pluralistic and tolerant society by instilling empathetic understanding among distinctive groups. In the domain of economy, women display an astounding skill set in service and agricultural sectors, leading to improved performance. Women also play a vital role in upticking digital income. Moreover, tax pool extends owing to women employment. In the similar fashion, sagacious and natural resource management is attained by ^{the efforts of} women. Additionally, corruption, bribery

and black money generation decrease when women work in various sectors.

hastly, women as policy-makers result in economic inclusivity and enhanced institutional efficiency. Therefore, it is an undeniable fact that the role of women in the socio-economic development of a country is versatile, robust and positive which pushes it towards progress, prosperity and greatness.

There are many indicators of socio-economic development. In case of social progress, high literacy rate, efficacious healthcare sector and sustainable infrastructure accounts for development. Moreover, high human development index, peaceful society and welfare of citizens are equivalent to social development. While, economic development entails high GDP growth, low trade deficit, sustainable develop-

mental projects and low poverty. It also means effective digitisation, industrialisation and high performance service sector. The country which fulfills the maximum yardsticks of socio-economic development is Switzerland with high HDI and GDP as per UNDP report, 2024. Therefore, a plethora of interconnected factors signify a country's socio-economic development.

The nuanced role of women in the social development of a state will be discussed in the coming discourse.

First of all, women perform a pivotal part in raising fruitful and able citizens of state who transcend the bounds of social uplift. Woman as mother is a shaper of family

which is a core social unit. She is the first institution of her child who inculcates high social and moral values in him. Moreover, she reinforces the awareness of responsibilities in her family and consolidates them in the form of action. Additionally, she makes use of reward and punishment mechanism to make her child upright, constructive and exemplary social beings.

Social Reproductive theory clearly delineates the remarkable role of women in engendering capable and responsible citizens. These citizens take part in the voluntary social service which further improves the social standing of all ^{other} individuals. Therefore, women make individuals who in return create an ideal society.

Furthermore, women participation in education results

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in high literacy rate. Education which is a key standard of social development is influenced by women role. Because greater number of women students in primary, secondary and higher education eradicates illiteracy from a society. In addition to it, women as ^{researchers} professors and educationists disseminate knowledge in the society keeping in view the modern trends of quality education. As Brigham Young stated, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation." Therefore, women position is central to the intellectual development of entire society.

Moreover, the healthcare sector improves significantly pertaining to the vital part played

by women. Health sector is another pillar of social development, impacted by women. Women as doctors, nurses, nutritionist and healthcare professional impart awareness in the society regarding disease control and management. Furthermore, ^{low} mortality rate, high life expectancy and healthy child growth are directly related to women life and physical well-being. Case in view is the sincere efforts of lady health workers in the polio eradication, running arduous schemes in the remote areas of Pakistan. Hence, the active role of women in healthcare sector is testament of its efficiency and effectiveness.

In the similar manner, women perform a paramount role in individual and

community welfare utilising their authoritative positions. Women have immense potential to fight against the oppressive, holding them accountable to law. They ^{also} make best use of their chair to facilitate every section of society being aware of their needs. Additionally, ^{they} extend the service delivery to poor, marginalised genders and other vulnerable groups by outreaching them. Women bureaucrats in Pakistan are the best illustration of this, assisting oppressed women and other sections through their role. In this way, women as office holders in government sectors are the source of welfare at every level.

Additionally, women partake in climate change mitigation and sustainable lifestyle. Climate change is becoming a pernicious

threat to human society. The role of women in reducing its threats is crucial. Women as ^{climate} advocates demand a comprehensive mechanism by pinpointing the urgency of this danger. Furthermore, they are more likely to implement energy conservation procedures in home, offices and public places. Alongside, they actively participate in forestation, ^{making} sustainable choices and reducing carbon footprints pertaining to their deep connection with mother earth. Case in view is the instrumental advocacy of Greta Thunberg, attracting millions of followers for sustainability and climate protection strategies. Hence, women are central to sustainable social development and conservation.

Alongside, women are nurturers of a peaceful

society as they reflect a strong commitment to eradicate crimes, rape incidents and gender-based violence. These horrible actions make society hell on earth. Therefore, women stand as a resisting force by vividly highlighting these issues and demanding legislative reforms to curb them. Moreover, ^{educated} women as child bearers raises a dignified man who honours other women.

Consequently, rape cases and gender-based violence diminish from society. **Muossolin's quote with regard to men's aggressive nature demonstrates, "war is to a man what maternity is to a woman". It implicitly credits women for having softer aspects, needed for societal peace. In this regard, women lie at the core of a peaceful and livable society.**

Last but not the least, women contribution is inevitable to structure a pluralistic and multicultural society. Women are regarded as empathetic, compassionate and considerate beings. These features propel them to perceive marginalised and minority classes with equality and veneration. Moreover, they promote inter-community dialogue in their ^{respective} domains to eradicate prejudice and hatred. As a result racial, linguistic and religious disparity lower down and harmony prevails. Case study of Finland stands ^{as a} testimony to support this perspective where gender parity and communal harmony go side by side. Hence, women perform a commendable job to construct a more tolerant society.

Above discourse shed

light on the ^{role of women} in social development.

The role of women in economic development is discussed in the coming section.

Firstly, women bring out a transformative change in the service sector, boosting economic output. Research shows that women have remarkable collaborative leadership, inter-personal communication and emotional intelligence. Therefore, they leverage these qualities to yield excellent outcomes in ^{the} diversification of services. Consequently it expands the services to wide range of buyers both in physical and online spheres, enhancing the economic output of a country. **Alicia Bolea Davis** is a practical manifestation of women outperformance in increasing the services of Amazon during Covid. Hence, service sector generates

more profit by women workers.

Alongside, women also perform an outstanding role in agricultural sector pertaining to their inherent abilities in horticulture and ^{improving} soil fertility. Women carry great love for earth in their bosoms.

Therefore, they take special care of plants, crops and lands. Moreover, their sophistication to agriculture upticks the annual crop yield which makes a country independent in terms of food items. It also produces surplus which contributes to high exports and low trade deficit. The

report of Food and Agricultural Organisation depicts that ^{African} women participation in agriculture prompts more ^{than} sixty-percent efficiency of crops.

Clearly, women are responsible for high agricultural income.

Furthermore, women participate constructively in digital transformation of a country, generating online income. The flexibility of online work is a blessing in disguise for women. They vehemently utilise digital opportunities to work as freelancers, content creators and entrepreneurs. Moreover, their earning through e-commerce not only bring in taxes but also provide employment opportunities to other women. A survey in Philippines corroborates this as women led digital businesses saw high revenue collection. Resultantly, economic conditions of country moved in positive direction. Hence, women make best use of digital space for economic development of a country.

Additionally, Women employment in various institutes serves as a vehicle for direct and indirect taxes which are needed for economic

progress. When women are employed in public and private departments, they become financially stable to purchase more goods, contributing in taxes. Alongside, women are considered to be less tax averse owing to high tax morale in them. As a result, it expands the ^{direct} tax pool of a country to spend money on developmental projects. In this regard, the report of OECD on tax morale signifies that women are more likely to pay taxes than their male counterparts. Therefore, economic prosperity is achieved by high revenue generation.

Moreover, women play a paramount part in sustainable development and natural resource management which are the needs of today's world. For this, women

work on ecofriendly projects which are stable, sustainable and profitable.

Similarly, they implement energy conservation strategies at every level.

For natural resource management, they advocate against disruptive mining^{practices}, relentless consumption of land, water, energy and other sources. Case in view is Agarwal's book 'Gender and Green Governance', where she represents the crucial contribution of women in natural resource management. In this way, sustainable development and resource management are not possible without the role of women, producing sustaining income.

Similarly, women ensure economic equity, transparency and fair, profit-making. Women in their specific economic departments keep a close check on the spending

of money and ^{are more likely to} report the corruption to ^{the} concerned authorities. Moreover, women are less prone to bribery as compared to male counterparts as research points out that women make use of their position with integrity. To prove this, the report of UN Women elucidates that women are less corrupt and less likely to accept bribe than men.

This results in enhancing institutional economic capacity. Hence, economic equity and transparency are ensured owing to low corruption by women.

• Lastly, women as economic policy-makers drive economic inclusivity and institutional efficiency by eroding gender pay gap and pushing the economic empowerment of vulnerable groups. Economic inclusivity which encompasses the equal provision of economic benefits to

marginalised sections is crucial for real economic development. In order to materialise this, women make such policies which remove institutional discrimination against those classes. Moreover, they make sure that these sections attain fair sum from government's endeavours to improve their life and economic conditions. As a result, financial empowerment of an overlooked strata of society is turned into a reality supplanting their economic standing. **Case in view is Rwanda, where women in legislative framework devise efficacious economic policies to give advantages to all the myriad of sections.** Consequently, Rwanda's economy continues to grow stronger by an average of 8.2%. Therefore, inclusive economic growth and role of women in it

cannot be segregated.

In a nutshell, women perform a dynamic and constructive role in the socio-economic development of a country. The aforementioned factors illustrate that women bring out a remarkable shift in social prosperity by cultivating a responsible family whose members perform pivotal role as the responsible citizens. Similarly, education and healthcare sectors experience rapid change owing to women participation. Moreover, women are instrumental in community welfare programmes. Additionally, sustainable societal growth is possible owing to the central contribution of women in conservation mechanism. Next to it, women convert a regressive and tumultuous society to a peaceful, pluralistic and tolerant unit. ^{role of} Likewise, women in economic

uplift of a country is praiseworthy. Service and agricultural sectors undergo significant growth transition pertaining to women role. In the similar way, women outpace other genders in generating digital wealth, contributing in tax pool and partaking in prudent natural resource management (likewise). Likewise, women participate ^{in an} exceptional manner, in assuring economic equity and inclusivity. Hence, the fundamental role of women in the socio-economic development of a state makes it progressive, vibrant, sustainable and ahead of other countries.
