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Women Hold up Half the Sky

1 Introduction:-

Thesis Statement:-

"Women are indispensable contributors to every dimension, but cultural and structural barriers limit their potential; empowering them through education, legal rights, and political participation is essential for true development."

2 Role of Women in Societal Development:

②a Women as family builders and caregivers.

(Women globally perform over 75% of unpaid care and domestic work). (UN Women 2022)

②b Contribution to education and moral upbringing.

(Children of educated mothers are 50% more likely to survive beyond age five. (UNICEF))

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- ② Participation in national economies:
(Equal workforce participation could boost global GDP by \$28 trillion). (World Economic Forum) 2023

3- Challenges Hindering Women's potential:

③a Patriarchal mindset and cultural barriers

(34% of Pakistani women justify domestic violence showing internalized patriarchy)
(PDHS (2018))

③b Gender-based violence and lack of legal protection.

(Over 63% of Pakistani women have faced domestic violence). (UN Women Pakistan)

③c Unequal access to education and employment:

(129 million girls are out of school globally; Pakistan has 28% gender gap in literacy) (UNESCO (2022))

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4- Empowering Women as the Key to Achieving Balanced societal progress:

(4a) Legal reforms and policy initiatives

Punjab Women Protection Act (2016) and Harassment at Workplace Act (2010) support women's rights in Pakistan.

(4b) Education and Skill development for women.

(50% quota for female students to promote higher education).

(Ehsas Undergraduate Scholarship)

(4c) Political Participation and leadership roles.

Pakistan reserves 17% of National Assembly seats for women; Rwanda leads globally with 61% women in parliament.

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5. Global And Islamic perspective on women's status:

(5a) International conventions and gender equality goals
Dedicated to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls) [UN SDG, 5]

(5b) Quranic emphasis on dignity and rights of women.
"To men is allotted what they earn, and to women what they earn"
(Surah An-Nisa 4:32)

(5c) Women role models in Islamic history & modern world.

i- Hazrat Ayesha (RA) - a major Islamic Scholar.

ii- Malala Yousafzai - Youngest Nobel Prize Winner.

6 Conclusion: