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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 15% 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 billion). (World Economic Forum 2023)

### 3- Challenges Hindering Women's Potential:

#### ③ 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 38% 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.

good well elaborated and quite well relevant

## 6 Conclusion: