

"Is Gender Equality a Myth?"

A) Introduction

i. Thesis statement

It is widely believed that Gender equality is achieved. However, the plight of women in society, and their role in decision making indicate that gender equality is yet to be achieved.

B) Understanding the definition of gender equality.

C) An Anthropological view of gender equality.

D) How gender equality is a myth?

E) Economic disparities

i. Unequal job opportunities

ii. Women cheap labour

F) Women's mobility and social restrictions.

G) Patriarchal attitudes and the perceived fragility of women.

i. The concept of varni (swara)

H) The role of women in legislation
 i = marginalized third gender

ii = Quota based system

I) Gender disparity in the judiciary of Pakistan.

J) Representation of women through reserved quota in the Civil Services of Pakistan.

K) Challenges to women's access to education.

L) Challenges to the survival of women.

i = Honour killing

ii = selective abortion

M) Denial of women's rightful share in inheritance

N) The absence of women in the highest global leadership positions

O) Conclusion.

"One is not born women, rather becomes." Women plays an important role in the society. She has got the status of mother, sister, daughter and wife, but failed to achieve their her rights. Many feminist movements are still working for the rights of women. Some people believe that gender equality is achieved, but certain factors shows her plight. Women gets unequal job opportunities which lead to their vulnerability to resist against the odds. Women are paid less than men, and they are considered as the cheap labour force. Similarly, societal restrictions inflicted upon her has marginalized women to play their roles for the betterment of the society. Patriarchal mindset of men suffers women in everyway of life and they are being killed in the name of honour. Subsequently, they have got a very little role in legislation and decision making. Alongside, quota based system

have limited their presence in the entire system of Pakistan. As it is widely believed that gender equality is achieved. However, the plight of women in society and their limited role in decision making indicate that gender equality is yet to be achieved.

According to exact definition of equality, it is the amalgam of three different words i.e. status, opportunities and Rights. They have achieved status of wife, sister, daughter and mother. They are also provided opportunities in different fields of life, but have they provided their rights? Gender equality is considered the provision of rights only to women, but actually it is achieved when both women and men get the same rights. Many developed nations are still trying to achieve gender equality, so developing and underdeveloped nations are very far from the achievement of gender equality.

Anthropological perspective explain the weak nature of women.

Karl Marx believed that the status of individual is determined in the society by holding the means of production or by having any relation with it.

Women less role in production shows their weak status determined by society.

The two world wars have provided women some opportunities to work as the men labour force were fall shorter, but later they were again limited to the four wall of the home.

That opportunity paved the way for their subsequent feminist movements which demanded the rights of women.

Hence, the limited role of women in the mode of production shows her weak status determined by the society.

Women get unequal job opportunities around the world, and they resultantly lack economic security.

Providing women with the same economic security will bring positive changes in the life of a country.

In 2021, women employment to population ratio was 23.2% while men employment rate was 79.2%. Women in Pakistan earn less than men which lead to their dependence on men. Therefore, unequal job opportunities of women indicate that gender equality is not yet achieved.

Women are considered as a cheap labour force compared to men who are paid enough. This explicit discrimination cool down the zeal of women to participate for the betterment of their society. Women in Pakistan earn around 18 percent less than men. This discrimination has led to an exclusion of around 47 million of women from the labour force. Thus, cheap labour force of women shows the dominating role of men and indicate that gender equality is not yet achieved.

women growth is not possible if society inflict restrictions on their movement. women mobility is going through serious conditions where she is restricted at first to go out and then harassed in public. 70% of women reported sexual harassment in public transport. This large number shows women frailty and their helplessness to protect their dignity. Thus, the plight of women in public ~~indication~~ indicate that gender equality is not existed in true means.

Another threat to the freedom of women is their unwanted and forceful marriage which is common in the rural areas of Punjab and KPK. women are married to the rivals for ending disputes ~~among~~ between families. According to Aurat foundation report (2021), every year almost 180 cases has been reported of vani (swara), although the exact figure is not clear

due to not reporting. This tradition exhibit the dominant patriarchal society which have subordinated women. Hence, such discrimination with women clearly indicate that gender equality is yet far from achieving.

Gender equality is not just the provision of rights ~~more~~ to men and women, but to the transgenders.

Despite a large number in the society, eunuchs are even ignored to grant their basic rights. According

to a survey, 60 percent of people do not want to befriend eunuchs.

In contrast to the women; eunuchs get no place in decision making and legislation. This unhuman treatment

with eunuchs lead to their marginalization and resultantly they become street dancers, beggars and snatchers.

consequently, the slogans of gender equality are nothing more than a myth.

The women quota based system reveal more about gender inequality. As quota provide immediate access of women into legislature, Bureaucracy and other decision making arena but it shows that equality is not yet achieved. Out of 342 general seats, women got only 60 seats in the Parliament. Low number of women in the Parliament mean less representation of women and their issues. Therefore, women remain subordinate. Hence, the quota based system and unequal representation of women on ground shows gender equality is just a myth.

Judiciary is one of the main pillars of the state which interpret the laws. Judiciary plays a significant role by providing women their rights and secure their dignity. In Pakistan, out of the total top judges, only 5.5 percent are women. This low number of women

in judiciary indicate their underrepresentation. In short, the unfair and unequal role of women in the judiciary determine their subordinate status and gender inequality.

Bureaucracy is the backbone of the state machinery which runs the state. Civil services of Pakistan's recruitment provide deserving individuals the opportunity to be a part of bureaucracy. Women have 10% of quota of the overall seats, particularly 15% in Punjab, 10% in KPK, 5% in Baluchistan and 5% in Sindh respectively. This discrimination hinders their growth towards success and creates barriers in the journey to stand equal to men. To sum up, this disparity confirms the gender equality mere a slogan.

Prosperity of the nation is not possible without the education.

Education plays a vital role in raising the living standard of people.

despite covering half of the sky, women do not get equal chances to secure their future and get education.

According to Economic Survey of Pakistan (2025) the women literacy rate is only 52.8%.

while men literacy rate is 88%.

This disparity leads to lag women behind in every field of life. Thus, gender equality is not yet seems to be achieved.

After being discriminated everywhere, women have a serious threat to their survival. Women are being killed in the name of honour. Every year multiple cases are reported which cause serious threat to their survival. According to Aurat Foundation report (2021), 1000 women are killed in the name of honour every year.

Although this is not the exact figure because multiple of cases are not being reported. This inhuman act shows gender equality is still far from achieving.

Being weak and subordinate unit of the society, women face hardships everywhere. They are prone to the atrocities inflicted upon them by the society even before they are born by selective abortion of female fetuses.

According to world bank report: estimated 82 million of women are missing from the population in india due to abortions.

This indicate a wide gap in gender equality. Thus, believing gender equality in this era of disparity is no more but daydreaming.

Governments across the world ensure people right to inheritance. offspring receive their share in the property of their parents. This right is being protected by islam and also the government of Pakistan. yet, women are deprived of it. According to IPRI, only 40.81% of female receives share in inheritance. This social evil has only faced by women who are ignored their right. Therefore,

it is hard to say that gender equality exists in correct forms.

In 21 century, world nations are still struggling to ensure gender equality. west being the flag-bearer of democracy and human rights and equality, is itself lag behind to raise the standard of women to stand beside men. till date, no United Nations secretary ^{is} ~~are~~ ever nominated for the position, and no U.S president has taken anyone who is woman to ~~for~~ women and being discriminated universally.

This unjust treatment with women indicate that gender equality is yet to be achieved.

many people believe that gender equality is achieved but the role of women in decision-making and their plight in society shows that gender equality is not yet achieved. women are prone to the atrocities inflicted upon them by society which

make them lag behind. Discrimination faced by women is that they are being killed in the name of honour. Women also face education barriers which hinder their growth. They are ignored globally their rights, and considered inferior to men. They are often deprived of their right of inheritance, in contrast men get their equal part. Women are kept underrepresented in judiciary which have made the rest legally subordinated. They have been given the representation through quota based system which limit their growth. Although gender equality appears to be an unjustified promise in many parts of the world, but it is not an unattainable ideal. The global awareness, international commitment to women right and active participation of women indicate that society are moving - slowly but surely - towards equality. The journey maybe long, but with consistent efforts, progressive policies, and change in societal mindset, the dream of true gender equality can eventually transform from myth to reality.