

'State of Women Rights in Pakistan'

A. Introduction:

B. Manifestations of the precarious state of women rights in Pakistan:

1. Domestic violence against women is frequent
 - a. National Commission for Human Rights report
2. Women are unsafe in their respective workplaces
 - a. Report by the News Int'l
3. Women face cultural barriers while pursuing education
 - a. Insecure mindset of men in rural and tribal setup
4. Mobility is difficult for women in Pakistani society
 - a. cultural constraints and fear of harassment

5. No right to live a healthy life

a. 85% women reported no physical activity in their whole life - PDHS Survey

b. Demonstrations of religious clergy against family parks in Banna

6. Women Belonging to the minority group are unsafe.

a. forced conversions at Dargah Bharchundi Sharif in Mirpur Mathelo, Sindh

7. Honour killings are common in tribal and rural setup compromising the women's very right to life.

a. killing of Bano Bibi in Balochistan on love marriage

8. Child marriages strip young girls of their childhood, education, and autonomy

a. story of Tabassum Adnan

9. Achieving the ends meet is difficult for women due to wage disparity

a. Gender pay gap report

10. Women face backlash and criticism when they talk or demonstrate for their basic rights.

- a. religious rhetoric against organizers
- b. Digital rights foundation Report

11. Women are deprived of their due inheritance in property.

- a. 'Women Inheritance Paradox in Pakistan: Faith vs. Family' by Munazza Ahmed

12. Women are underrepresented in leadership roles in Pakistan.

- a. women comprise only 5% of federal workforce - The Express Tribune
- b. Only 30 out of 168 assembly seats in Sindh assembly

13. Ineffective legal system fails to safeguard women and their rights.

- a. Only 0.5% conviction rates for honour killings and rape besides other GBV's - Aurat Foundation 2023

c. Why are women deprived of their basic rights in Pakistan?

- Patriarchal Mindset
- Ineffective Judicial System
- low literacy rate
- Misinterpretation of religion.

D. Addressing the causes to make Pakistan safe and secure for women:

- Special Gender tribunals
- Special training for Judges and law enforcers for conduct of gender-based cases
- Addressing the illiteracy problem and spreading awareness
- Religious clergy to contain misinterpretation of religion

E. Conclusion:

The state of women rights in Pakistan is miserable and at its lowest. Pakistan stood last in the Global Gender Gap Index 2025 assisted by World Economic Forum. This statistic is a manifestation of the alarming situation of women's rights in Pakistan. Domestic violence is common in Pakistan against women. They are unsafe at workplaces. Pursuing education is difficult for them because of cultural barriers. Moreover, mobility is difficult for women in the Pakistani society and a distant dream for those residing in tribal or rural setup. Similarly, living a healthy life is a luxury for women in Pakistan. Furthermore, girls belonging to minority groups are unsafe. Honour killings are also common that strip the women of their very right to life. Such is the situation that women are facing in Pakistan. Women rights are nowhere to be witnessed because of socioeconomic disparities, religious

misinterpretations, ineffective legal system, and conservative patriarchal mindset.

To start with, domestic violence against women is frequent in Pakistan. They are persecuted at the hands of men within their households. For many women in Pakistan, dealing with physical and mental abuse is a part of their daily life. Men ~~projecting~~ ^{subjecting} their wives to violence is a sign of masculinity in many remote areas and cultures in Pakistan. The reasons reside deeply in insecure patriarchal mindset. As per a report by National Commission for Human Rights, over 80% of Gender-Based violence fall into the category of domestic violence. Such is the intensity at which women are faced with violence domestically. Hence, domestic violence is targeted at women in Pakistan.

Moreover, women in Pakistan are insecure and unsafe in their respective workplaces. Workplace harassment is so common in Pakistan that women are now used to deal with it in their daily life. The situation has gotten so serious that even women with 'hijab' are not secure. Whether it be hooting at girls in educational institutions, or pressuring the female assistant to get engaged in an illicit affair, Pakistani men have left no stone unturned to harass women. A report by The News International revealed that 91% of women in Pakistan confirmed that they have been harassed in some way. This report uncovers a dark picture of Pakistani society when it comes to women. Therefore, workplace harassment is common in Pakistan.

Furthermore, it is difficult for girls to pursue education in Pakistan. While getting education is a luxury for girls residing in remote and tribal areas, those who pursue education are faced with various challenges. First, to convince the parents to put their trust in their daughters' abilities, and then to deal with harassment in educational institutions. Various cases included a teacher asking girl to do inappropriate things against her will and when she put up this issue with her parents, they simply put her education to a halt. Such complex problems face the women who pursue education in Pakistan. Therefore, pursuing education is difficult for women in Pakistan.

In a similar way, daily life movement is difficult for women in Pakistan. First, to get permission from the male head of the family, then wearing a proper clothing that covers her, and then when she goes outside to run an errand, she has to bear creepy men staring at her and ignore the comments that they pass on her. Such a scenario has resulted in women themselves avoiding to go outside and becoming dependant on male family members to run their necessary errands. A BBC documentary showcased that women were nowhere to be seen in the dense markets of Peshawar. This women absenteeism is the direct result of men making them uncomfortable outside their homes. Thus, mobility is difficult for women in Pakistan.