

Breaking Stereotypes: Gender Roles in Pakistan's Evolving Society

1- Introduction

Hook

Background

Thesis statement: Pakistan being a new born and developing country devoted its energies to break gender related stereotypes however, enormous efforts are required yet to achieve well balanced gender roles.

2- Condition of Gender in Pakistan

Women in newly independent state; 1947 scenario

Evolution in Gender Roles (1947-2000s)

3- Global Influence on Evolution

Impact of waves of feminism on gender roles in Pakistan

4- Current Level of Improvement

Women's contribution in different fields; social, political etc

5- Opportunities and Restrictions

Quota system to enhance

gender roles and legislations to protect
Attitude of society is a restriction

- 6- Is Pakistan Successful in Breaking Stereotypes; Criticism
- 7- Hindrances in Achieving Gender Equality

Role of media, wrong religious interpretation, tribal culture etc

- 8- Filling the Gap in Gender Roles
True religious teachings, awarness, correct implementation of legislation

- 9- Conclusion

Feminism is not about making women strong. Woman is already strong. It is for changing how the world perceive that strength, claimed by Anderson. Gender roles have been a long debate and it is not a novel topic. The study of history claims different gender roles through out the history.

The long study of history and sociology suggests that gender roles are not fixed. Gender is a social construct and hence the gender roles. In recent history, women struggle to reverse the gender roles and to achieve well balanced share in fields of life. Moreover, in Pakistan gender roles are also continuously changing since 1947. Globalization also contributes in evolution of gender roles because it brings awareness. In 1947, Fatima Jinnah, Begam Rana Liaquat Ali Khan and few other contributed in achieving independence. However, rest of the maximum population of females suffocated with domestic and patriarchal restrictions. Benazir Bhutto became first female Prime Minister which contributes in reversing in gender roles. Musharraf's contribution by quota system empowers women

and further eroded chains of domestic gender roles. Therefore, from countable females personalities at time of independence to uncountable share of women in Pakistan now, is evident. Pakistan being a new born and developing nation devoted its energies to break gender related stereotypes however, enormous efforts are yet required to achieve well balanced gender roles.

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"I was nothing more than a possession for him", notes by Tehmina Durrani in 'My Feudal Lords'. Woman has been treated as a possession and become the most devastating victim of post - independence scenario. Women always treated badly during wars as a sex object. The muslim women who left their homes with their families after independence. They treated as

non-human and Pakistan received bag of cutted breasts. Even though males also suffered and independence demands lives. So, females have equal share in achieving Pakistan. Bapsi sidhwa portrayed condition of females in Pakistan in her work 'The Ice Candy Man'. After achieving Pakistan, the archaic gender roles continued and females restricted to homes. Today, females are counterparts in all fields of life. The political figures like Zulfigar Bhutto, later his daughter Benazir, then Musharraf participate in empowering women. Begam Rana Liaqat Ali Khan's share and organizations like APWA protect women from violence. The quota system to ensure women's participation in public affairs. The legislations like Workplace Harassment Act and others provide

security. of All such efforts are significant and the women participation in political, economic and social domains is resulted in those efforts. The women from being victim of post-independence massacre to leading positions is achieved by Pakistan.

The demand and achievement of gender roles in society like Pakistan become possible by globalization of gender roles. The autonomy women enjoy is a result of different waves of feminism. In early 90s, the first wave of feminism demands right to vote. New Zealand is the first country to give right to vote to women. Later, UK and USA (in 1919) also give the right. In Pakistan, woman enjoys this right to vote since 1947. In second wave of feminism, the feminists demand

their share in other fields of life. They demand right to get education and secure themselves economically. Virginia Woolf in 'A Room of One's Own' highlights that Shakespeare's sister is buried in unnamed grave and lived a pathetic life. This is because she can not get education and secure herself economically. Meanwhile, in third wave of feminism in 1990s. The feminists break the stereotypes of women as domestic toy. The feminists reject all the standards and demand equal share. In result of waves of feminism, women secure social, political and economic rights. These waves spread across the globe. The emergence of globalization act as catalyst to strengthen women rights. This wave also wrapped Pakistan and technology is further improving the gender roles. If

the women ^{in west} is equal achiever
 of gender roles, so is in Pakistan.
 In Pakistan, females are bread-
 winners and males help in
 domestic affairs. So, this ~~re~~ change
 in gender role is result of
 waves of feminism and successfully
 influence the gender roles in
 Pakistan.

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