

• Breaking Stereotypes: Gender Roles in Pakistan's Evolving Society •

OUTLINE

1. Introduction

Hook

Background

Thesis Statement: Gender roles in Pakistan are changing. Traditional stereotypes are being challenged. Education, media, and law are helping reshape society. A more equal future is possible.

2. Historical Perspective

2.1 Traditional Expectations

2.2 Cultural and Religious Influences

2.3 Representation in Literature and Media

3. Contemporary Shifts in Gender Roles

3.1 Education as a Catalyst for Change

3.2 Women in the Workforce

3.3 Men in Non-Traditional Roles

4. Role of Media and Pop Culture

4.1 Progressive Dramas and Films

- Udaari
- Baghi

4.2 Social Media Movements

- #MeToo
- Auval March

4.3 Influencers and Public Figures

- Muniba Mazari
- Mahira Khan

5. Legislative and Policy Changes

5.1 Law supporting Gender Equality

5.2 Government and NGO Initiatives

6. Social Resistance and Persistent Challenges

6.1 Honor Culture and Gender-Based Violence

6.2 Misinterpretation of Religion

7. The Way Forward

- Need for Inclusive Education

- Engaging Men and Boys

- Strengthening Institutions and Legal Framework

- Cultural Representation and Dialogue

8. Conclusion

Proper deconstruct the topic

Focus on 2nd part of the statement

Evolving gender roles in Pakistan's society

Highlight the role of women in different areas and breaking the stereotypes

ESSAY:

1. Introduction:

Muhammad Ali Jinnah notes, "No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you." This quote shows the value of gender equality in society. In Pakistan, traditional gender roles have treated men as providers and women as caretakers. But now, this is changing. More women go to universities and jobs in health, media and technology. For example, Malala Yousafzai fights for girls education, and Jahan Ara leads in Tech. Men also support gender equality and take roles at home. TV shows like, Baghi and movements like Aurat March challenge old ideas. Laws protect women at work and punish violence, but many are not enforced, especially rural areas. NGOs and the government support women through programs like the Benazir Income Support Programme. Still, honor culture, weak law

enforcement, and deep-rooted beliefs slow progress. Despite these barriers, more people now believe in equal rights for all. This growing awareness gives hope for a more just and balanced society in Pakistan. Gender roles in Pakistan are changing. Traditional stereotypes are being challenged. Education, media and law are helping reshape society. A more equal future is possible.

a. Historical Perspective of Gender Roles in Pakistan -

Historically, Pakistani society has operated within a patriarchal framework where men have been viewed primarily as bread-bakers and decision-makers, responsible for financial stability and external affairs of the family. Conversely, women have been traditionally expected to serve as homemakers and caregivers, managing domestic responsibilities and nurturing children. This division of roles reinforced

a gender hierarchy that limited women's participation in public and economic life.

Cultural traditions and interpretation of religion have played a significant role in shaping and maintaining gender roles. While, Islam emphasizes equality and mutual respect between men and women. Misinterpretations of religious texts have often been used to justify male dominance and restricts women's right. Additionally, cultural practices such as purdah (female seclusion), early marriage, and domestic confinement have further constrained women's mobility and social visibility.

The portrayal of gender roles in literature and media has historically reflected and reinforced these societal norms. Such as, classic narratives Umrar Jaan and Heer Ranjha illustrate women bound by love, honor and societal expectations. It symbolizes

the tension between individual desire and traditional duty.

Similarly, early Pakistani dramas continued to portray women confined to domestic spheres rarely challenging patriarchal norms.

3. ~~Contemporary Shifts in Gender Roles~~

~~Education has played a big role in changing gender roles in Pakistan. More women are now studying in universities and entering professional fields. Malala Yousafzai became a global symbol for girl's education.~~

~~Education and media have increased awareness and critical thinking, helping both men and women question old traditions.~~

Women are joining the workforce in growing numbers, especially in healthcare, education, media, IT and business. Figures like Jehan Ara (tech entrepreneur) and Nighat Dad (cyber rights activist) show how women are taking the lead. Many are now leaders and decision-

makers, with workplaces introducing gender quotas and promoting inclusion.

Some men are now becoming stay-at-home fathers, especially in cities, and are more involved in parenting, cooking, and household chores. Many also act as allies for gender equality, supporting women's rights and fairness at work - for example through movement like HeForShe.

Improve arguments

Substantiate your argument with evidences

Improve structure of body paragraph