

Gender Equality and National Development: Role of Women's Inclusion in Achieving ~~SD~~ SDGs in Pakistan

Outline:

I Introduction

Thesis: Gender Equality is integral to national development and the achievement of SDGs in Pakistan; however, Pakistan can only realize this dream if women are empowered to lead and structural barriers in their path are removed.

II Understanding the Nexus Between Gender Equality and National Development

III Gender Equality as a Driver of National Development and SDGs in Pakistan

A) Gender equality eradicates poverty through giving fair economic opportunities to ~~men~~ women

- B) Gender Equality helps to achieve food security by equal access to improved nutrition
- C) Gender equality ensures good health and well-being of women of all ages
- D) Gender equality ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and life long learning opportunities
- E) Gender equality reduces gender-based violence and fosters fulfilling lives
- F) Gender practices leads to environmental conservation by implementing women's knowledge of ecological and sustainable practices
- G) Gender equality ensures sustainable consumption and production of food patterns

IV Challenges Women face in Achieving SDGs:

- A) Women face systemic harassment at workplaces
- B) Women have poor access to resources

C) Women are more affected by climate change vulnerabilities

D) Women lack representation in decision making

V Ways Forward to Promote Women's Role in Achieving SDGs:

A) Educating girls can lead to increased participation of women in achieving SDGs

B) Strict enforcement of family and inheritance laws and accessible loans guarantee financial right to women

C) Engaging communities in discussions about gender equality and women's rights for changing societal norms and attitudes

VI Conclusion

"When women lead, the world changes," says the American philanthropist Melinda Gates. Despite the fact that each gender contributes equally and firmly to the beauty and balance of the world, the progressive role played by women in every field has long been undermined. Both men and women complete each other; however, women's role and voice still remain suppressed and controlled. In the 21st century, when the world faces a plethora of challenges that threaten the survival of the planet earth, the acknowledgment of women's role is needed much more than ever before. Gender equality and development are interconnected factors affecting the growth, sustainability, and progress of worldwide nations. Similarly, for a prosperous future of Pakistan, the role of Pakistani women is crucial as well. In Pakistan, the eradication of poverty, ensuring food, and imparting equitable education are only possible in the presence of equal gender participation. Moreover,

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the role of women in achieving SDGs in Pakistan is of a very significant nature. For instance, ending gender-based violence, achieving zero poverty, and conservation of ecological sanity cannot be achieved by ignoring the women. However, the path to inclusion of women in achieving sustainable development is beset with certain challenges which can only be addressed if pragmatic measures, such as educating the girls, promoting climate-resilient infrastructure, and engaging communities regarding gender equality, are taken. Gender equality is integral to national development and the achievement of SDGs; however, Pakistan can only realize this dream if women are empowered to lead and the structural barriers in their path are removed.