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Topic Is education the most effective tool for achieving gender equality?

### Outline:

#### 1 Introduction

Thesis statement: The question of whether education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality or not has sparked many debates. Some believe that education is not the most effective tool for achieving gender parity. However, ground realities at a closer look reveal that education is the most effective tool for achieving equality between genders.

#### 2 Examining education as a driver of gender equality

#### 3 Education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality (Thesis)

a) Education gives necessary skills and knowledge to women for employment opportunities

b) Education dismantles the stereotypes of gender in society

c) Educated woman has opportunity of political and leadership participation



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d) Educated society advocates for gender equality and speaks against discrimination and for gender-based violence

e) Education incorporates inter-generational change in society

f) Literate gender in governance and administration formulates gender inclusive policies

g) Education empowers gender to speak for their rights

4 Education is not the most effective tool for achieving gender equality (Antithesis)

a) Patriarchy still persists despite education

b) Education without political and legal guarantees is ineffective

5 However, ground realities show that education is the most effective tool instrument for achieving gender parity (Synthesis)

a) Education dismantles patriarchy and gradually transforms the society

b) Both political and legal tools <sup>are essential</sup> ~~can play~~ but education plays pivotal role in bridging equality between gender

6 Conclusion

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Essay:

“If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you educate a woman, you educate a nation.” This proverb reflects that educating a woman transforms society. Education is not merely a tool for personal growth; it is a strong force that shapes families, communities, and nations — from poverty to prosperity, extremism to moderation, and from an undeveloped to a developed economy. A point arises here: can education bridge the gap of gender equality. In short, the question of whether education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality or not has sparked many debates. Some believe that education is not the most effective tool for achieving gender parity. However, ground realities at a closer look reveal that education is the most effective tool for achieving equality between genders. The validity of this thesis is reinforced by series of persuasive arguments. This



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includes woman acquires necessary skills and knowledge through education that opens the door for employment opportunities. Parallel to this, education dismantles the stereotypes of gender and incorporates inter-generational changes in society. Furthermore, education enables genders' participations in political and leadership role, as a result, virtuous minds formulate gender inclusive policies. Notwithstanding, this claim, there is an opposite view who claims that education is not the most effective instrument for achieving gender parity. To substantiate this stance, they highlight several supporting ideas. These justifications are grounded in the following pivotal points: Patriarchy still persists despite education and without political and legal guarantee, education alone is ineffective. However, by looking at these arguments, one may say these are not valid and <sup>are like</sup> making mountain out of molehill.

Before discussing the topic,



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Let's examine the education as a driver of gender equality. Education is a potent driver of gender parity. It helps different genders to acquire knowledge and to learn skills that enable access of gender ~~for~~ employment opportunities. For example, Bangladesh's female literacy rise led to greater participation in garment industry, reducing gender gap. In addition to this, countries with higher female literacy have higher gender parity indexes as per the report of UNESCO (2022). Furthermore, education drives gender equality by challenging harmful norms, increasing civic engagement, and improving health and well-being. It addresses disparities, reforms the institution and structure, ~~thereby~~ <sup>which creates</sup> ~~leads~~ to gender-sensitive society. Nations like Rwanda, Finland, and Sweden has achieved gender parity through mass literacy alongside structural reforms.

One of the key propositions



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that validates education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality is that education gives necessary skills and knowledge to women for employment opportunities. Such knowledge and skills ~~pro~~insills critical thinking and helps in getting jobs. Education offers knowledge and skills which are essential for acquiring different career avenues. Women having knowledge and expertise <sup>easily</sup> gets ~~easy~~ these work force opportunities. This not only brings women in works but also promote gender equality. India has made significant efforts to empower girls in STEM education. Initiative like Disha program provide scholarship and mentorship to girls. Moreover, Australia and UAE <sup>has</sup> also launched several initiative to promote girls education. Thus, education offers economic opportunities to women, showing education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality.



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The other idea that justifies the education is the most effective instrument for achieving gender equality is that education dismantles gender stereotypes in society. This is because education enlightens the morality of genders which encourages equality between man and woman. Education promotes awareness in students through gender-sensitive curricula and materials. Moreover, education fosters critical thinking, which empowers students to question harmful gender norms by discussing them. This promotes awareness and openness to challenging stereotypes. Simone de Beauvoir discussed in his book *The Second Sex* that gender stereotypes is socially constructed. Knowledge is the only tool that dismantles these gender stereotypes in society. Hence, education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality through breaking down the gender stereotypes from society.



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Another pertinent point of significance that authenticates the premise education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality is that educated women have opportunities of political and leadership participation.

This is a potential avenue of sustained changing regarding gender equality in the society. When a woman ~~performs~~<sup>acquires</sup> education, she becomes eligible for political and leadership roles. Such roles open the door for other women on the leadership position. In addition to this, this also provides equal opportunities and encourages gender inclusivity in the decision-making positions. UN Women, Generation Equality Accountability Report of Sept 21, 2023 notes that education and civic training are feeders of women participation on leadership roles. This substantiates that education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality through giving opportunities to women in decision-making roles.



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Equally compelling is the argument that educated society advocates ~~parity and speaks against~~ for gender discrimination and ~~for~~ gender-based violence. The reason is that this advocacy for gender fosters gender parity in the society and speaks equally for all gender. Education nurtures the cognitive of gender and promotes awareness of issue related to gender such as gender discrimination and gender violence. Such critical thinking corrects the actions among gender and promotes equality. Besides equality, awareness among educated gender advocates for these issue. This advocacy ~~for~~ ~~gender~~ not only resolve gender-based issues but also speaks equally against these violences. According to a report, educated society advocates against gender bias and discrimination, encouraging men and women to become active agents of equality.

(Promoting Gender Equality, Springer, Sept 2022).

This demonstrates that educated society promotes gender equality by advocating against



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all discrimination and violence.

Moreover, the thesis remains unassailable in the light of the discourse that education incorporates intergenerational change in society.

It gradually transfers society from gender inequality to gender inclusivity.

When people become educated, they ~~promote~~ <sup>create</sup> gender-sensitive family by

educating both boys and girls. They focus on both equally without discouraging

anyone. Even, they promote gender parity outside from their home. Moreover, when

women becomes educate, she ~~promote~~ educates

her daughter, thereby incorporating intergenerational change in society. UNICEF

suggests "Gender Transformative Education"

for gender parity. This approach to education goes

beyond access, aiming to transform gender norms and

power relations, thereby contributing to intergenerational

societal change. This illustrates that education

serves as a catalyst for inter-generational

changes in society.



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Not only inter-generational societal change but also ~~vision~~ literate individual in governance and administration formulates gender inclusive policies. This curtails <sup>gender</sup> glass ceiling and Gender blind budgeting from society. When literate person comes <sup>in position</sup> in governance and administration ~~also~~ through getting quality of education, He or she formulates policies keeping on view of different gender. In addition to this, He allocates gender inclusive budget that benefits all gender and promotes gender parity in the society. This also removes <sup>gender</sup> glass ceiling and empowers different gender. A ~~research~~ <sup>study</sup> explores that gender-inclusive education complements productive capacity to promote governance quality ~~which~~ <sup>that</sup> formulates gender inclusive policies ~~in~~ and promote parity between genders. (lifelong Gender-Inclusive education, Productive capacity, and Governance Quality, International Journal of educational department, Feb 2025). This proves that literate individual formulates gender inclusive



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politics when he is in governance and administration.

Last but not ~~the~~ least, education empowers genders to speak for their rights. The reason is that education nurtures the critical thinking that raises the demand for equality. Education promotes awareness among genders of their rights. When they know about equality before law, they ask for rights equally as <sup>embodied in</sup> ~~that~~ constitution.

Additionally, they struggle for <sup>gaining</sup> ~~getting~~ their rights and speak against injustices and discrimination against specific gender. Historically, it is evident that when women became educated they asked for equality and for their right such as in three waves of feminism. They started from suffrage right to ~~right~~ equality and fairness. Ergo, education empowers genders to speak out for their rights.



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Notwithstanding, this claim, there is "opposite" view, who believes that education is not the most effective tool for achieving gender equality. This stance highlights that patriarchy still persists despite education. This is because genders are biased towards their sexes, male towards male and female towards female. Educated people, men and women, hold gender-biased views. Patriarchy is a standard issue and despite education and high literacy, it still dominates <sup>in</sup> the society. This patriarchy discourages gender parity and promotes gender-biased and ~~patri~~ male dominance in society.

A research of Dr Faizana Bari in gender studies in Pakistan shows that patriarchy dominates in the society of Pakistan. Educated men in universities and work places continue to harass women. Thus, educated people hold patriarchy and gender biased, showing education is <sup>not</sup> the most effective tool for achieving gender equality.



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In the same vein, education without political and legal guarantees is ineffective. Education alone cannot uphold ~~the~~ equality between genders. Indeed, education is a tool of achieving gender equality by awaring and educating people. But it solely cannot achieve gender parity in society. It becomes hollow and ineffective without political and legal guarantees. Decision-makers hold highest rank in the society. ~~They~~ If they promote gender parity in policies and budgeting then education along with this produces great impacts on society. Moreover, Law ensures equality and protect genders right. If both political and legal <sup>are</sup> not guaranting equality, education is meaningless. A research explores that education can promote gender equality only when complemented by supportive pedagogical practices and aligned legislation ~~more~~ <sup>and</sup> implemented by legal authority.

(Challenges to Gender Equality in Governance: Legal Mechanisms and Barriers, International Journal of Law and



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Policy, Volume 2, 2024) This shows that education alone cannot promote gender equality without the support of legislation and legal implementation.

Nevertheless, the argument presented by the opponents that patriarchy still persists despite education is not valid. As education gradually dismantles patriarchy and transforms society. The reason is that everything takes time for its impact, therefore, education also need time to make its result in society. Patriarchy is not a current phenomenon; it is a traditional practice of society.

Therefore, by promoting effective education that awares <sup>young</sup> ~~people~~ about harmful practices.

It takes time to show its impact in society and promote equality. A report highlights that female leadership in education is a transformational force - when women lead schools, they often emphasize inclusion, collaboration, and equitable learning, fostering gender-equal norms.

(UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM), 2025, Gender edition: Women Lead for Learning).



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It is evident that education gradually dismantles patriarchy and transforms gender equal society.

In the same way, the idea about education without political and legal guarantees is effective is unjustified. As political and legal tools are crucial but education plays pivotal role in bridging equality between gender. It is because education nurtures critical thinking and awares people about their rights. Political and legal tool are crucial but they do not promote gender equality until the issue raises in society. Education does this by educating people about their rights and duties. When they aware about these, they speaks for equality and <sup>highlight</sup> ~~raise~~ the issue through peaceful protests. Ultimately, political and legal tool promote and guarantee gender parity. A research article highlights that legal and political entitlements is important but education increases agency and capabilities



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in society for gender parity (Transformative learning, intersectionality and capability approaches, Erin Murphy-Graham, American Academy of Arts and Science, Fall 2024). Thus, education is crucial and plays pivotal role in bridging gap between equality.

In a nutshell, it is proved that education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality. These arguments include education dismantles gender stereotypes and empowers men and women to speak for their rights. Furthermore, ~~wisdom~~ <sup>wise</sup> minds in governance formulates gender inclusive policies. Additionally, education offers prerequisite knowledge and skills to genders ~~which that~~ for acquiring economic opportunities. However, the notion that education is not the most effective tool for achieving gender equality, as patriarchy still persists, despite education in society. Besides patriarchy, <sup>political</sup> ~~education~~ and legal instrument are crucial <sup>because</sup> ~~along with~~ education alone cannot promote gender equality.



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These arguments are proved to be void and baseless. Therefore, the argument that education is the most effective tool for achieving gender equality is more persuasive than the counter stance. So, ~~state~~ world should prioritize effective education to achieve gender parity.