

Pakistan men have equal chances as women

Brainstorming:

Education gap

Economic inequality

Lack of political representation

Legal and institutional flaws

Patriarchal dominance

Social and cultural barriers (honor killing, domestic abuse, early marriages, cultural normalization of discrimination)

Outline

1. Introduction

Hook

Background

Thesis statement: Pakistani women do not have the same opportunities as men in all walks of life. The disparities in educational, social, political and economic spheres validates this argument. The structural barriers, systemic discrimination and male dominated norms privileges men over women.

2. Huge Educational Gap

a. literacy rate difference of 21% (men 72% and women 52%)

b. rural literacy is

c. Nobel laureate, Malala Yousafzai assertion on education.

3. Economic inequality

a. women merely constitute 22.5 percent of Labour force

b. harassment in workplaces is another grave issue women are facing

c. A wide gender wage gap

4. Political participation; institutional barriers

a. only one woman is a minister, despite holding 22pc of NA seats

b. a popular narrative circulates that "women can't play the role of leaders."

c. Gender-based variations from barriers leading to representation in policy making and governance.

5. Legal and Structural barriers

a. gap between law and practice

b. ineffective implementation of anti harassment laws

c. Inheritance right denial despite legal provision.

6. Health and survival barriers

a. high maternal mortality rate

b. Documentation, fear and gender keep women from accessing healthcare

7. Social and cultural barriers

Domestic abuse

Honor killing

Harassment

Early marriages

cultural normalization of discrimination

9. Counter arguments

a. Constitutional provisions guarantees equality

Rebuttal: The reality is far different. Despite constitutional protection, it is not implemented in true letter and spirit.

b. Some women have achieved high positions

Rebuttal: This is only small part of achievements. The rural areas in which women are densely populated are facing barriers in all domains i.e education, politics, social and cultural. All barriers hinders their independence.

Conclusion

The Essay

Can women truly be equal to men in a world where deep-rooted cultural and discriminatory laws still hold them back? The proposition that “Pakistani men have equal chances as women” is outright flawed. If they would had equal chances, they would have enjoyed the same privileges as men in all spheres of life. Despite the women that constitute 49pc of the total population, they are rarely accorded equal rights in the country. They continue to be treated as second class and inferior citizens. Even if they try to get their equal rights which are religiously and constitutionally guaranteed, they come under the influence of cultural and societal norms that “you are a girl, you shouldn't raise your voice” or sometimes hold back from their own interpretations of religion such as Sabr. Allah did not mention patience in Quran to bear domestic violence, economic inequality and educational barriers. Thus, Pakistani women do not have equal chances as men because of the high educational gap, economic inequality, low political representation, legal barriers, health discrimination and social and cultural barriers.

The first and the foremost is the educational gap between men and women. This is the foundation that will make their future either bright or grim. Despite this immense educational importance, nearly 12 million girls are out of school, according to UNICEF. Social restrictions, financial constraints, and distance of travel keep enrollment low in rural Balochistan and Interior Sindh. In most cases, the boys are their only reference. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the literacy rate for women stands at approximately 51%, compared to 72% for men, this gap of 21pc indicates the reality that Pakistani women do not have equal chances as men in education. Moreover, in rural areas, where the majority of population resides, cultural norms allow boys to pursue education while girls' education are seen as undesirable or unnecessary. Furthermore, unsafe environments, male dominated teachers, and institutions far from their home are the hindrance for women more than men. Their ideas of early marriages, also restricts women to prefer higher education. In our country, there are laws which do not allow girls to have early marriages. However, the implementation of the law always lags behind. As Nobel laureate, Malala Yusufzai asserted on education that "One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution." Yet for millions of girls in our country that solution is inaccessible.