

7. Gender Equality: A popular slogan

↳ Introduction:

Gender Equality is a popular slogan due to educational, political, and economic gap. However, gender parity can be achieved by removing educational, political and economic hindrances for women.

≡ How Gender Equality is only a popular slogan:

2.1 Education and literacy gap:

- According to UNESCO, women literacy rate is 41% while male literacy rate is 72% in 2023.

2.2 political participation and representation gap:

- women have only 22% ^{political} representation in National assembly and in Senate only 17% political representation. (Dawn)

2.3 Digital literacy gap of women:

- According to Pakistan telecommunication authority; only 50% of women have mobile phones while 82% of males have mobile phones

2.4 Domestic violence faced by women:

- In 2024, 2238 cases of domestic violence were reported as per sustainable social development organization.

2.5 Bride burning cases:

- According to BBC news, approximately 300 cases were reported each year of bride burning.

2.6 Honour killing cases:

- According to human rights commission Pakistan, 423 cases of honour killing were reported in 2024.

2.7 Acid throwing cases:

- According to the nations news; approximately 150 to 200 cases of acid throwing are reported every year.

2.8 Sexual harassment cases:

- According to federal ombudsmen secretariat of woman from 2018 to 2022, 5008 cases of sexual harassment have been reported.

3 Importance of gender equality for the country:

3.1 Economic boost:

- If gender equality is achieved, then economic boost is observed upto 34% to 35%. (Dawn)

3.2 Political clout will be enhanced if gender parity is achieved:

- women related laws will be created.

3.3 Social conditions would be enhanced:

- Educated women shall educate children and nurture well.

4 solutions to create gender equality:

4.1 Encourage women for their right of education.

4.2 Increase political participation and representation of women by increasing seats in national assembly and senate.

4.3 Encourage women to acquire skills for using digital devices.

4.4 Implement domestic violence laws and policies

4.5 Bride burning should be mitigated by implementing laws and policies.

4.6 Honour killing can be mitigated by implementing tough laws and policies.

4.7 Acid throwing can be mitigated by implementing laws and policies.

4.8 Prevention of electronic crimes and harassment acts of 2018 and 2016 can be implemented.

5 Conclusion:

~~"There is no tool for development, more effective than the empowerment of women?" as per ~~claire mairchild~~ women are the backbone of social, political and economical growth of a nation. The word gender parity means equal opportunities that are provided to both genders that is male and female. However, there are certain factors due to which gender parity has not been achieved such as: Educational and literacy gap, political participation and literacy gap, digital gap, Domestic violence based by women, Bride burning, Honour Killing, Acid throwing and Sexual harassment against women. Moreover, if gender equality can be achieved then socially, politically and economically~~

country can flourish. For instance, to deal with the factors which are creating hindrances in the way of gender parity is important. Therefore, empowering women for their right of getting education is necessary, increasing political participation and representation of women in national assembly and senate, encourage women to acquire skills for digital devices usage, implement laws of domestic violence and policies, implement laws and policies of bride burning, honour killing laws should be implemented, Acid throwing out should be implemented and implementation of acts such as Electronic crimes and prevention acts of 2016 and 2018. Gender equality can only be achievable if proper implementation of laws can be achieved.

The first and the foremost challenge in the gender parity is the Educational gap. According to UNESCO, only 41% of women are literate. while, 72% of men are literate. This creates a huge gap of literacy between a man and a female. In another report that was

published by UNESCO, it was pointed out that 123 million girls are out of school worldwide. In Pakistan, around 25 percent of girls more likely to dropout from schools and enter into marriages. There are certain factors that restrain women for getting education such as: Social and cultural taboos, early marriages and a myth that woman should be marry early. These creates educational gaps between women and men.

The second challenge of gender parity is political participation and representation of women. According to the dawn news report, women have 22% representation in the national assembly, while in senate women have 17% representation. The rest is of men.

The more representation of men and the less representation of female creates gender gaps in political arena. In many news reports, it was declared that women face harassment and hate speech during political speeches in public. While men does not face any such harassments. This creates hindrances for women to participate in politics.

The third challenge in gender parity for women is the digital literacy gap. According to

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority: In 2023
approximately 50% of females have mobile
phones while more than 82% of males have
mobile phones. The difference in having mobile
phones between male and female genders
create digital gap. In another reports published
by GSMA mobile gap report, it was pointed that
only 66% of women have internet access,
while 78% of males have an internet access
worldwide.

The fourth challenge of gender parity is the
domestic violence; faced by women. According
to Sustainable Social Development Organization,
2238 cases of domestic violence have been
reported in 2024. Domestic violence is the violence
faced by a woman at home. A woman can
become the victim of violence by her husband,
father or brother or any other member of
the family. Domestic violence is due to sever-
al reasons such as: not doing house chores,
not taking care of childrens, not taking
care of her husband, or even not obeying
her parents or brother. While, a male cannot
face any such domestic violence.

The fifth challenge in achieving gender parity is bride burning cases. According to the BBC news, approximately 300 cases of bride burning have been reported every year. Bride burning or stove burning is due to several reasons such as: not carrying enough dowry, not fulfilling the demands of her husband and her husband's parents. Bride burning is the brutal crime and women being the victim of it.

The sixth challenge in achieving gender equality is honour killing cases. According to human rights commission of Pakistan, approximately 423 cases of honour killing have been reported in 2024. While, According to the Sindh police department 58 cases of honour killing were reported in the month of April 2025. The Banostakzai is a case in point of Balochistan. She was brutally killed by her brother. Her crime was, she married with another tribe male with her own consent. While, male on the other hand cannot face any such crimes. It is the woman who has always been the victim of honour killing.

The seventh challenge in achieving gender parity is acid throwing cases. As per the nations report it was pointed out that approximately 150 to 200 cases of acid throwing have been reported every year. Acid throwing or acid attack is also known as oil of vitriol. Throwing of acid over women's face, body, hand, feet or any of other women's body part. The acid is thrown to women due to several reasons such as rejecting marriage proposal or sexual advances.

The last challenge in achieving gender equality is sexual harassment cases against women. According to federal ombudsman secretariat of woman, approximately 5008 cases have been reported from 2018 to 2022. Sexual harassment is the harassment of woman at home, workplace, streets or any other places.

The gender equality is very much important for economic, political and social development of a nation. According to the dawn news, if woman can enter into workforce same like man then economic growth can

be increased to 34% to 35% of woman shall participate in the workforce same like man than economic growth could be increased. However, educated women can nurture her child very well. For instance, if political participation of woman could be increased then women related laws can come into force and ultimately, the fate of gender equality can be achieved. As per united nations, where women are strengthened, societies are empowered.

The first solution in achieving gender equality is empowering women to get education. As it is mentioned in the Article 25(A) of the constitution of Pakistan that education is compulsory right to every children. As one african proverb says that, if you educate a man, you educate an individual. but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation.

The second solution in achieving gender equality is encourage women to participate in politics. The political representation of women in national assembly and the

senate can be enhanced. women should be given protection during political rallies and speeches. In case of hate and abusing speech used against women in rallies or speeches, those persons should be taken into custody. offenders should be taken into custody and fine is legalized.

The third solution to achieve gender equality is to promote skills and encourage women for gaining skills in digital devices. The programmes should be created and established nationwide for women. In which, women should be encouraged to acquire and gain skills in digital world.

The fourth solution to achieve gender equality is to implement domestic violence bills, acts and laws. **Prevention of domestic violence act 2012** should be implemented. So that, domestic violence cases should be reduced and women would no longer be the victim of domestic violence.

The fifth solution in achieving gender equality is nationwide implementation of bride burning law. The offender should be

taken into custody and strong action should be taken against the offender by judiciary, so that, woman can no longer be the victim of bride burning cases.

The sixth solution in achieving gender equality is mitigation of honour killing completely. **The honour killing act** should be implemented nationwide. Strict law enforcement can be carried. So that, a woman can no longer be the victim of honour killings.

The seventh solution in achieving gender equality is mitigation of acid throwing cases. **The acid throwing act** can be implemented. Strict action can be taken against the offender. Oil of vitriol can be banned. Only chemical laboratories under license can be given. Ordinary individual cannot sell or purchase oil of vitriol.

The last solution in achieving the gender equality is enforcement of laws and policies against sexual harassment. **The prevention of electronic crimes act 2016**, can be implemented. So that sexual harassment can be mitigated. **The protection of women at workplace act 2010** act should be implemented.

Gender equality is important for the progress of nation and society. There are certain hindrances in the way of gender equality such as: Educational gap between male and female, political participation and the representation gap, digital literacy gap between man and woman, Domestic violence faced by woman, bride burning, honour killing, Acid throwing and sexual harassment. For instance, gender equality can be achieved if proper solutions can be implemented nation wide such as empowering women to get education, increasing political participation and representation of women by increasing political seats in national assembly and senate, encourage women to acquire skills in digital technology, implement laws related to domestic violence, bride burning, honour killing, acid throwing and sexual harassment. As Kofi annan has said, "~~the development of women is more effective than the empowerment of women~~ circle within herself is the power to create, nurture and transform."