

8. Empowering Women is Not Rebellion; It is Resto- -ration of Balance

Outline

A. Introduction

1. "No nation can rise to the height....," by
Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

2. What is women empowerment?

3. Thesis statement

B. How Empowering Women is Not Rebellion

C. Women's Empowerment Results in Restoration of Balance

1. Women empowerment is ensurance
of provision of equal human rights;
a. United Nations Charter of human
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2. Women empowerment fosters gender
equality and weeds out gender related
myths;

a. Elimination of social dogmas related
to male dominated jobs: jobs in
Army and Engineering

b. Social dogmas associated with educational

fields

3. Women empowerment ensures social

stability: restoration of peace;

a. Prevention of women centric movements:

Case study of Aurat March in Pakistan

b. Disruption of economic activities due to feminist movements around the globe

4. Women empowerment results in social well-being and a healthy society;

a. Case study of population control measures in Iran

b. World Health Organisation report on unwanted pregnancies in Pakistan: high mortality rate and low life expectancy

5. Provision of inheritance rights ensures economic independence of women and prevents family disputes;

a. Muslim family law ordinance of Pakistan: Haq Bakhshana system in tribal areas

6. Economic inclusion of women leads to economic growth and prosperity;

a. Case study of Bangladesh: inclusion of women in textile industry increased textile exports

b. International Labour Organisation report on Women in economic sector of Pakistan: only 20% in job sector resulted in poor growth

7. Women integration in politics results in restoration of democratic norms;

a. Women centric laws and prevention of gender-based violence.

b. Elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2024: zero percent women voters turn out in Bunir

8. Women empowerment results in digital inclusion of women: Equal digital rights;

a. Financial independence of women

b. Digital Right Foundation report on digital disparity in Pakistan

9. Women empowerment strengthens judicial system of a country;

a. Encourages women to speak against dogmas associated with crimes against women: rape and sexual abuse

b. Case study of Mukhtaramai: conviction of rape culprits resulted in dispensation of justice

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1. Women Centric Legislations
2. Education and awareness

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Essay

"No nation can rise to the height of glory, if ~~you~~ its women are not side by side to men," said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah while emphasizing the significance of inclusion of women in politics, health, education and all sectors of a society. According to the United Nations, women empowerment is the provision of all social, economic, and political rights to women in society, which are mentioned in the Human Right Charter of the United Nations. Many orthodox cultures and social dogmas consider women

empowerment as a rebellion because they believe that women are inferior to men; and they must stay at home, and should only engage in house activities such as giving birth to babies, nourishing them and doing house chores. However, proponents of women empowerment believe that it leads to restoration of balance, as women empowerment ensures equality in terms of provision of basic human rights; it fosters gender equality by eradicating social dogmas; it restores peace and stability by preventing women-centric social movements; it ensures a healthy society through health centric policies; it prevents gender-based violence; and it results in economic growth by inclusion of women in economic sector. Through women centric legislation, education and social-awareness programmes women can be empowered, and it would ultimately ensure restore balance.

This discourse would shed light on the role of women empowerment in restoration of balance and ways forward for ~~empowering~~ empowering women.

To start with, empowering women is being considered as a rebellion by certain orthodox societies and even by some religions. For instance, in Jewish and Christian societies women are being taken as an object to please men; they are considered ^{to be} responsible for all sins. Thus, they are not granted ~~equal~~ equal rights as social beings in some orthodox Jewish and Christian societies. Similarly, in primitive areas of developing countries such as Pakistan, inclusion of women in education, economic, health and political sector is against their cultural norms of those areas because according to their perception women's ^{place} ~~position~~ is at home, and they should

stay at home. Resultantly, these areas remain marginalised; their out-of-school children rate is high as compared to other areas where women are empowered; and they face social issues such as high crime rate, gender-based violence, poor health and high mortality rate and poor economic growth. Whereas, areas with educated, financially empowered and emotionally strong women such as Islamabad shows high standard of living. Therefore women empowerment cannot be as rebellion.

The previous discourse has explained the myths regarding women empowerment, the next discourse would explain the role of women empowerment in restoration of balance.

To begin with, women empowerment results in equality in terms of provision of human rights. The charter of United Nations of human rights calls for equality of humans and provisions of human rights.

right to education, health, property, freedom, religion, freedom of speech and ~~and~~ inclusion in politics. Therefore, when women of a country are empowered, it definitely ensures the provision of human rights promised in the United Nations charter, and ensures a peaceful global society.

Further, women empowerment eliminates gender-related dogmas and fosters gender equality. Social perception associated with inclusion of women in certain jobs such as engineering and army prevents women to apply for such jobs. Moreover, women usually do not opt ^{educational} fields dominated by men such as computer-engineering and information technology, which creates gender inequality. However, an empowered female would choose such fields and it would ensure gender-equality. Hence, women empowerment eliminates social dogmas and promotes gender equality.

Moreover, when women in a society are empowered, it

ensures the equal provision of social rights, as and it results in restoration of social peace. Contrastingly, when women are ~~are~~ not granted rights, it results in women right movements which create social chaos. In Pakistan, patriarchal norms marginalised women, and exorbitant women right movements emerged such as Aurat March and #Meetoomovements, which disrupted social peace and stability. Such movements halted daily life activities and also caused supply chain disruptions, which fueled inflation and ultimately, created social instability. Therefore, women empowerment maintains social balance, and prevents social demonstrations.

Additionally, when women in a society are ~~are~~ empowered it ultimately leads to a healthy and society.

In Iran, through women centric population control measures, Iranian government reduced births per woman

from 6 to 2 children. It reduced unwanted pregnancies and mortality rate of women and children. In contrast to this, the World Health Organisation has reported nearly 48 million unwanted pregnancies, which increased a burden on health sector and poor delivery of health services which leads to high mortality rate and low life expectancy in Pakistan. Therefore, women empowerment is mandatory in ensuring a healthy society.

In addition to this, when women are granted inheritance rights it creates a social balance by preventing family disputes and making women financially independent. In Pakistan despite provisions of inheritance rights in Muslim Family Law Ordinance, women in Balochistan are subjected to give up on their rights under their cultural norms such as Hag Bakshuana, which rendered s

Women to financially dependent on men, and it paves the way for disputes and conflicts. Therefore, empowering women through granting them inheritance rights ensure social and economic stability.

Furthermore, the integration of women in economic sector results in restoration of economic stability.

In Bangladesh, the government empowered women through inclusion of women in textile sector; it resultantly, increased textile exports, which strengthened the economy of Bangladesh. However, in Pakistan International Labour Organisation in 2023 reported that ^{just} nearly 20-22% of women are in job sector, and despite having nearly 48-49% of women out of total population, they are not integrated in economic sector. This resulted in poor economic growth in Pakistan. So, inclusion of women in jobs ensures economic growth and prosperity.

To add to this, integration of women in politics results in formulation of women-centric policies and laws, it prevents gender-based violence and restores social balance. In KPK, during, in 2024 general elections of Pakistan, this area showed zero percent voters turn out, which results in demonstrating the reason for marginalisation of this area. In KPK, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, nearly 47% of girls are out of school according to a report by United Nations Child Emergency Foundation. Hence, women inclusion in politics ensures provision of education and prevents gender based violence in marginalised areas.

Moreover, digital empowerment of women results in provision of equal digital laws rights, and it increases economic well-being of women. When women are granted digital skills, it reduces economic burden on men, and results

in enhancing living standards. In Pakistan, Digital Right Foundation reported gender disparity in terms of digital inclusion of men and women. Only 52% women have access to digital media which further fuels poverty due to overburdening women on men. Thus, digital inclusion of women reduces financial stresses and ensures equality of digital rights.

Lastly, women empowerment also strengthens judicial system of a country. When women speaks against sexual abuse and rape, it encourages reporting of such cases which remain unreported due to social dogmas associated with sexual abuse cases. Mukhtara Mai, a rape victim in a village of Pakistan, spoke against rape; it resulted in an increase in reporting of rape crimes. Moreover, her voice reached to international media, and her culprits were punished through

law. Thus, women empowerment ensures dispensation of justice.

The previous discussion emphasized the role of women empowerment in restoration of balance. The next discussion would focus on ways forward for women empowerment.

Firstly, women centric legislation can play a significant role in formulation of policies for inclusion of women in education, health and job sector which ultimately result in empowerment of women. It is possible only through a strong political will and integration of women in politics. Thus, women centric legislation can be a major game changer for empowering women.

Further, education and awareness in marginalised areas can have a greater influence to eliminate social myths and dogmas related to

gender. It would empower women and ~~strong~~^{would} result in social and economic well-being of the whole society. Therefore, education and so social awareness programmes are necessary for empowering women of marginalised areas.

To cap it all, women empowerment can play a significant role in restoration of balance by ensuring gender equality; restoration of social peace by preventing women right movements; restoration of democratic norms by inclusion of women in politics; ~~increasing~~^{reducing} economic burden of women on men through digital inclusion and digital skills; dispensation of justice and increased conviction rate against crimes against women; and provision of equal rights to women according to the Charter of the United Nations. Thus, women empowerment is not a rebellion

; and it is the restoration of social, economic and political balance; and women centric legislations and social & awareness programmes can play a significant role in empowering women.

