

Gender

Equality:

Reality Or

Myth

OUTLINE

1) Introduction:

2) Historical

Evolution Of

Gender Equality:

3) Gender Equality As Myth:

3.1) Wider Horizons For Learning platforms:

Example: Women as teachers, principals, toppers in exams, & competitive exams aspirants.

3.2) Boundless Opportunities In Health Sector:

Example: Females Monopoly in Gynaecology, Nursing, & mid-wifery.

3.3) Exclusive Business opportunities:

Example: Maria B, Sana Safinaz, Nadia Hussain, Khadijah Shah

3.4) Holistic
Matrimonial
Rights:

Example: Section
310-A of Constitution
of Pakistan 1973.

3.5) Fostering
Opportunities in
Legal Sector:

Example: Justice
Ayesha A. Malik,
Advocate Sabahat
as General Secretary in
Lahore District Bar
Associations

3.6) Strengthened Voices
Through Political
Rights:

Example: Females
leading key positions in
Politics like Maryam
Nawaz, Benazir Bhutto,
Begum Raana Waqar
Ali Khan, Maryam
Aurangzai.

3.7) Amplified Scope In Media Arena:

Example: Ayesa Khan,
Sajal Ahy, Saba Qamar,
Aimem + Minahal Khan

4)

Ground-breaking Rebuttals (Reality)

To Gender Equality:

4.1) Resistance In The Women's Education:

Case In Point: Higher
Male literacy rate is
68-73% while female
literacy rate lags at
52-54%. (Economic
Survey of Pakistan 2024-2025)

4.2) Confined Health Opportunities:

Case In Point: Significantly under-representation of women in surgical specializations of about only 17%. (Pakistan Medical and Dental Council - PMDC)

4.3) Bottle-necked Avenues In Business Sector

Case In Point: According to Global Gender Gap Report 2025, Pakistan stands on last - 148th.

4.4) Forced Early Marriages

Case In Point: More than 400 honour killings in Pakistan (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan 2024)

4.5) Societal Barriers In Legal Sector:

Case In Point: Only 7 female Judges out of 126 Judges (Law And Justice Report of Pakistan)

4.6) Glaring Gap In Women's Political Participation:

Case In Point: Women's Legislative Representation in Pakistan is 17-21% (GGR-2025).

4.7) Societal Barriers Curtailing Women's Digital Presence:

Case In Point: ^{Tiktokers -} ↑ Sana Yousof, Hira Anwar, and Muskan Sheikh

5) Conclusion:

"The Essay"

Like the first light that banishes darkness, in the same vein, empowering women transforms societies into vibrant gardens. This can be apparent from a funny conversation between ^{former American} President - Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama. So, the story begins with, when this couple went for a dinner at a restaurant. There Michelle recognized the restaurant owner as ~~her~~ an old friend. Here, Mr. Barack Obama threw a joke at Michelle that if you had married him, you would have been the wife of a restaurant owner. Michelle clapped back and said "if ^{had} I married him, he would

have been the President." Therefore, this story reminds one that women's immense influence and impact is shaping a man's life towards the abundance, growth, progress, and prosperity.

Gender equality is neither a new issue nor is it a fully settled one. Developed countries are dealing with it successfully. Whereas, developing countries are still struggling. Unfortunately, Pakistan is one of them.

The first section of this essay would discuss gender equality as myths which includes: wider horizons for learning platforms, broader opportunities in health sector, exclusive business opportunities, holistic matrimonial rights, fostering opportunities in

legal sector, strengthened voices through political rights, and amplified scope in media arena.

On contrary, the second section of this essay would present ground-breaking rebuttal (reality) for gender equality such as resistance in the women's education, confined health opportunities for women, bottle-necked avenues for women in business sector, forced early marriages, societal barriers in legal sector, and glaring gap in women's political participation and societal barriers curtailing women's digital presence.

Historically, since inception of Pakistan, it has been seen that women remain deprived of their rights, opportunities and participate as man, underscoring the prevailing situation of gender inequality in Pakistan.

Before diving deep into the discussion, let's have a look on historical evolution of gender inequality, so historically,

and therefore, called also as male-dominant society. This is apparent from Pakistan's birth which amplified gender challenges, despite Jinnah's calls for equality. Women's ^{representation} in politics were limited to reserved seats. Pakistan's 1973 Constitution - Article 25 promises equality, but ignored in practice. Benazir Bhutto was first female Prime Minister (1988), yet faced military and religious opposition. In same vein, in economical sphere women do 70% rural labor but remained as un-paid worker and had no land rights. In 1989, First Women Bank was established but women were denied for loans without male guarantors. In social sphere, Hudood Ordinance (1979) introduction further made it harder for women to report rape as it required four Muslim

(Sajia-Bibi case)

male witnesses, Mukhtaran
Mai (2002) - Gang-raped by
tribal jirga & yearly more
than 100 women faced
acid attacks for refusing
marriage. Similarly, another
great hurdle was feudal
lord system (Feudalism)
which denied women's
rights - education, inheritance,
marriage, freedom of
expression and many other
rights. Therefore, the
above presented
evidences clearly shows
the way how women
in Pakistan were
confined in all walks
of life and give birth
to inequalities between
male and female.

To begin
with, the educational
sector where it is
claimed that there
is women empowerment.
For instance, one can
see plenty of women
are serving in teaching

positions as teachers,
Principal and staff
members. In many
Schools, colleges and
Universities - it is found
that female students
are holding top
rank. Besides, it is
also found that ^{bounty of} women
are now even
appearing in Pakistan's
competitive exams like
CSS, PMS, PPSC, SPSC and
many others. Hence,
this demonstrates that
women are excelling
in educational sphere.

Besides,
educational sector,
here comes the
health department,
where women
empowerment seems
realistic. For instance,
in medical field, one
finds that women
are given more
participation. In hospitals,
there is a vast
working ^{majority} of female

doctors of about 70-80%. Additionally, beyond MBBS and BDS, there is a high demand of women who are specialized in fields like Nursing, mid-wifery, medical laboratory, physical therapy and radiology. It is also widely noticed that in fields like - Gynaecology, Dermatology, and Pediatrics there is women's monopoly. This highlights that women have dominant positions in health sector.

Para 3 --> 7.

Rebuttals Begin.

So far, this essay has shed light on women seeing as breaking barriers in all spheres. Now, on the flip side of coin, this section of essay would paint a grim picture and reveal the reality of women

empowerment in Pakistan.

First comes the educational sector where the participation of women is under question. Despite it has been seen that there is a wider horizon for women in educational sphere, but, in reality, women are facing resistance in their education. This is evident through the statistics presented by the Economic Survey of Pakistan of 2024-2025 that Male literacy rate stands higher at 68-73% while women literacy rate lags at 52-54%. Moreover, even if one draws the comparison of expenditure of GDP's between Pakistan and India. It has found that India spends 4.1% of its GDP on education as compare to Pakistan,

Spending only 1.9% of its GDP on Education.

This shows that there is a need for establishing and upgrading the educational sector and empowering women because in rural areas there is still the rule of patriarchal culture.

Therefore, in reality women faced resistance in educational areas and there is found the gender inequality.

Secondly, after seeing the women facing resistance in educational sector, here comes the health department where it has been claimed that women have monopoly in fields like gynaecology and other and enjoying boundless health opportunities. However, in reality, women have confined opportunities.

in health sector. This can be made clear through Pakistan's Medical and Dental ^{Council} Report which states that women remains significantly under-represented in surgical specialities (making up only 17% of registration), highlighting male dominance. Moreover, ~~in~~ rural areas, it is an up-hill task to find a lady doctor or nurse.

Therefore, in reality women have confined health opportunities.

Para 3 → 7...

Conclusion Para 7

To cap it all, the above discussion vividly encapsulates to what extent women are empowered in Pakistan. How women are treated as wrinkled

shirt which seems to be ironed out timely. In reality, despite claiming that women are excelling in all areas but, in Pakistan empowering women is still a distant-dream. Therefore, Pakistan's government should focused more on implementing more policies to empower women. It is rightly said by the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah,

"No Nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you."

**(Quaid-e-Azam
Mo Ali Jinnah)**