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If women are not protected socially, can legal actions protect them?

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Social Protection and legal actions are both essential for women to progress. However, legal actions alone can't guarantee a peaceful life for women. Legal actions are ineffective without implementing social protection.

2- Correlation between Social protection and legal actions.

3- Social protection is Paramount (Thesis)

a- Political representation of women depends on men's endorsement

b- Financial problems create domestic violence on women

c- Honor-killing, rape, and acid attacks find social acceptance

d- Selective roles are accepted only for women

e- Climate change hits women the hardest as they have to prepare food

4- Social protection can be successful only if legal protection is provided. (Antithesis)

a- Equal right provided in the constitution.

b- Law does not discriminate on the basis of sex.

c- Acts and ordinances are there to protect women

d- The law has same legal protection for women in all roles.

e- Women are provided with everything at home. to prepare food and do other chores.

5- Legal actions are ineffective without implementation of social protection (systemic)

a- Majority of women representatives are relatives of male politicians

b- Poor women are unable to get access to legal protection

c- Negative social attitude towards women getting legal help.

d- Patriarchal society considers working women as easy target.

e- legal protection can't ensure the provision of essential things at home.

Conclusion

In an era marked by evolving societal norms and progressive legal frameworks, the question of whether legal actions can provide sufficient protection for women in the absence of comprehensive social safeguards has garnered significant attentions. This inquiry delves into the intricate interplay between the law and society, examining the extent to which legal measures can serve as a bulwark against gender-based discrimination and violence when broader societal support systems are lacking. As we explore this broad and complex issue, it becomes evident that until the thorough implementation of social protection, legal actions will bear no sweet fruit. Although legal actions do provide a sigh of relief to the women, social subjugation of their rights are no secret. Women are considered easy targets outside the home-boundary. They are harrassed at the workplaces and no legal actions are enough to stop that from happening. Mostly, women are seen as maids, who are expected to do all chores at home and arrange water at whatever cost they have to pay, for the family.

The effectiveness of legal actions in safeguarding women when social protection is deficient is a nuanced issue. While laws can provide essential tools to address gender-based discrimination and violence, their impact is directly linked with broader societal context. Robust legislation, combined with effective enforcement, can serve as a deterrent and recourse for women facing injustice. However, the success of legal measures is constrained by deeply ingrained cultural norms, unequal power dynamics and systemic biases. Hence, to comprehensively protect women, a dual approach is imperative.

The political representation of women depends on the endorsement of men. The heads of the political parties, around the globe, are mostly men. The women participation is subject to the approval by men. Moreover, the quota reserved for women politicians is quite low and in no way, can give women the right to equal representation. Men, therefore, have direct influence on women's participation and

support or lack thereof, can significantly impact a woman's political career.

Historically, the women having financial issues, encounter most domestic violence than the others. The women who can't secure a job and face financial hurdles are beaten up by their partners. Statistics show that 39% of women with financial problems face domestic violence as they can't provide for the essentials expected of them. Women who lack economic independence or access to resources, they find themselves trapped in abusive relationships, unable to escape due to fear of economic destitution. The power dynamics within such relationships are skewed, with abusers using financial control as a means of coercion and manipulation. Hence, women are abused and manipulated if they don't have access to essential resources.

It is a chilling reality that honor killings, rape, and acid attacks continue to find social acceptance. These awful acts, perpetrated against women, represent a deep-seated misogyny that persists despite global efforts for gender

equality. The normalization of such violence is a stark reminder of the urgent need for societal transformation and legal reforms to protect women's rights.

The UNGA resolution 61/143, "Elimination of crimes against women and girls (2006)" was passed to minimize the effects these crimes but they are still occurring in huge numbers even today. Hence, even a UNGA resolution couldn't stop these heinous crimes from finding social acceptance.

The women are only appreciated, if they are acquiring a few selective roles, in the society. For example, Women are admired as mothers, sisters but other roles that women acquire, are largely demotivated. The women outside their homes are considered easy target- are oftenly harassed. They are demoralized and dejected but remain silent due to career aspects, and financial constraints. Conclusively, women are only admired when they are performing certain selected roles and are subject to open harassment in the other roles.

Climate change also impacts women the most as they have to provide food for their families. Due to climate change the water is not easily accessible to everyone. To prepare food on time, women have to go extra miles to get water and get it back to their home. As per IPCC, Pakistan's water resources has decreased significantly. In 2018, Pakistan had reserves of 1068 MAF but as of July 2023 it has decreased to 468 MAF. So in many areas of Pakistan, water is not available within the radius of a few miles and hence, women have to walk a few miles daily to secure water.