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NOA

Mock 8

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay:

Would the world be better if women ruled the world?

(Today's/major concerns are: first, economic)

Outline:-

I. Introduction: The penetration of the habit of language --- humanity the victim.

(Indira Gandhi)

In her speech, "True Liberation of Women" Indira Gandhi highlighted that stereotypes are preventing women from taking leadership roles.

II. Thesis (Main Point): Although critics dispassionately propound that women are no different, on a global scale women leaders can help in surmounting challenges of climate change, poverty, constant conflict and put an end to gender biases and stereotypes.

III. Contextualizing the term 'women leadership.'

IV. How will women leaders make the world a better place if they are like men in power?

V. How have women made the world a better place?

A. Women are not as interested in acquiring power to dominate others as men are.

B. Women tend to make more holistic decisions.

C. Women leaders will solve the problems.



that women face on a day to day basis,

D. Women will focus on the development and uplift of other women.

E. Women in leadership roles will put an end to unpaid domestic work being the sole responsibility of women.

F. Women leaders will ensure sustainability for future generations by investing heavily in human development.

G. Women being better negotiators would put an end to global conflicts.

**VI.** Women in the world have started taking charge over

A. The number of women in political offices is the highest in history.

B. Women are taking over the corporate world as their representation in executive positions is increasing.

C. Women from the Global South have taken over all walks of life.

D. Women in Pakistan have a history of leading from the front.

**VII.** There are instances of women in leadership positions not being able to make a difference but these are few and far between.

**VIII.** What can be done to ensure women that women make the world a better place.

**IX.** Conclusion



Essay: Would the World be better if women ruled the world?

"The penetration of the habit of language into the minds of little girls as they grow up to be women is more profound than most people, including most women, have realized. For it implies that personality is really a male attribute, <sup>and that women</sup> are a sub-human species. Man as leader, woman as follower; man as producer; woman as consumer; man as strength, woman as weakness; this is the cosmography that has brought us to man as aggressor and humanity the victim.

(Indira Gandhi)

In March 1980, Indira Gandhi, the first female Prime Minister of India, outlined the true liberation of women at the inauguration of the All India Women's Conference Building in India. She highlighted how stereotypes about male and female jobs and attributes has prevented <sup>women</sup> from coming forward. In her speech she cited the seminal work of Mr. King White, titled 'World and Women', to emphasize that it is the use of language that has perpetuated a misconception that only men can be leaders while women by nature are born to be followers. She says that the status-quo as it stands has excluded women from leadership positions and this exclusion has not harmed women as much as



it has deprived humanity of a fuller emancipation and growth. Today's major concerns are: first, economic and social inequality and injustice between the affluent and developing countries and within countries. Secondly, the race of acquiring dominance which expresses itself in countless ways but the most dangerous being the armament race which can be regarded as a death wish. Thirdly, the need to protect our only Earth from human rapacity and exploitation. These challenges are enormous and cannot be met only by men at the helm, however advanced they maybe, the effort has to be a universal one, conscious and concerted, considering no one too small to contribute. Do men have the natural prerogative to rule? How different would the world be if women ruled the world? Aren't men to blame for the historic challenges <sup>the</sup> world has faced from wars to arms race? If men have failed, should not women show the way? Although critics of female leadership dispassionately propound that when women did get opportunities to be at the helm of their countries but their actions were no different to men, on a global scale women's leadership can help in surmounting challenge of climate change, poverty, constant conflict and put an end to gender biases and stereotypes.

'Women ruling the world' or 'women dominating the world' has been sociologically referred to as 'matriarchy'. The term 'matriarch' is often used to describe a social system where a woman holds a central or a dominant position. Although this term has been most frequently used to describe



role women play in family contexts but if women are to take up world leadership it can be referred to as a 'matriarchal world order'. As per Lewis Henry Morgan, a 19<sup>th</sup> century anthropologist, 'matriarchy' could be used to describe a stage in human cultural evolution where gender dynamics permit women to be at the helm. This view however, has been seized by Brenda Lerner who espouses that matriarchy should not be viewed as a mirror image of patriarchy but as a system where both men and women held power and authority. This gives us a perfect picture of how the world will look like if women took over the leadership of the world as it shows there will be more equitable division of power and women will not be as power-hungry as men are and would not want a concentration of power in their hands. The first feature, therefore, would be equitable distribution of power in society.

However, critics point out that women will not be able to make any difference in society. As per primatologist, Jane Goodall, that it is tempting to say that it would be better if women took over everything but power corrupts and more power corrupts absolutely. There are instances of extraordinarily vicious, brutal and cruel women who have been in great powerful positions. Marjane Satrapi, the author of *Persepolis*, resonates with Ms. Goodall as she believes that nothing would change if women had power. She believes the by nature women and



men are very alike and equal and the notion of empathy and compassion does not depend on gender at all. Irrespective of gender, people with the same experiences and same sensitivities end up being the same kind of people. Critics point out that Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi, Kamala Harris and Haseena Wajid have led their countries but there is not enough merit in their leadership that such a model should be allowed to replicate at global level.

Irrespective of the criticism, lack of trust and skepticism attached to women ruling the world it is crucial to note that never in history have women ruled all over the world at once so no one knows how the world <sup>would</sup> look like if women are the global leaders. There are a few things which women would surely be different at when compared to men and that has the potential to make all the difference.

As per Kate Hudson, the general-secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, women are not as interested in power over others as men are and that is what makes all the difference. She espouses that when you look into <sup>governance</sup> models where women are leading a common factor to note would be that they are not interested in power over others. Instead they are empowering, inspiring by example, breaking down barriers to thinking and taking action. They are also uncompromising, but in



a good way. She gives examples of women who initiated the peace movement in response to nuclear armament race and how the women-led movement was able to shake the earth.

Women if assume leadership of the world, there would be notable differences in the way the world works. As per Maria Babshaw, director of Tate Group, "women tend to make more holistic decisions as they ask questions from a different perspective than men. An instance of holistic decision making is Jacinda Arden's decision to amend gun-laws in New Zealand following the Christ-Church Mosque attacks where in a space of 36 minutes on March 15, 2019, Brenton Tarrant, an Australian far-right extremist, fatally shot 51 people in a gun-shooting at two mosques. Jacinda Arden, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, led an independent inquiry into the matter which concluded that the reason for the attack was the fact that the country had lacunae in its fire-arm legislation. After garnering the requisite majority Jacinda was quick in amending the law which permitted people to carry-fire-arms. In the US thousands of individuals especially children have lost lives but the laws, <sup>permitting this</sup> still continue to stay intact.

A lot of women believe that women leadership would solve the problems that they face on a day to day basis. As per comedian Sofie Hagen there will be free tampons, legal



abortion everywhere, and actual convictions for rapists. The conviction rate for sexual assault offenders currently stands at 5% globally. Sofie also believes that with women taking charge there is hope that there maybe some law to limit how much a man was allowed to interrupt and manpplain. Although it is not certain to what extent this might be possible in a world with men at the helm of affairs but these issues of women are frequently ignored creating day-to-day problems for them. When Spain got a female at the head of the health ministry it passed legislation to remove taxes on period / menstrual-care products in an attempt to end period poverty. There is hope that when women take over the world such a model could be replicated at global level.

There is a substantive wealth of data which proves that when women become in-charge of either a department or a country they tend to uplift other women and take initiatives for their reform and development. When Benazir Bhutto became the Prime Minister of Pakistan her tenure revolutionised the status of women in Pakistan. She established the first women development bank, women studies centres in public sector universities for research on women-centric issues. She reserved a 5%



quota for women in public sector jobs, created the women police station, established the Lady Health Workers Program to increase access to health care for women in far-flung areas. During her tenure she spear-headed the formation of the Women Development Ministry, appointed women in the superior judiciary. All of these initiatives continue to benefit millions of women today.

Women taking up leadership positions would mean that women will not be the only ones left to take care of domestic responsibilities. As per physicist Athene Donald, working patterns would change globally if women took up leadership positions. Currently women across the world are indulged in unpaid care-taking chores at home. Multiple researches conducted by United Nations Women have shown that across the world 75-85% of care-taking is done by women and nearly 100% of it is unpaid. When women take up jobs outside the home they would be an increased requirement for men to step-up and contribute in the domestic chores as they will not be placed under the misplaced assumption that there is someone at home to pick-up the pieces. Parents both of the parents will take equal responsibility for children's upbringing.



As per Alag Murabit, UN High Commissioner, women in leadership positions would ensure sustainability for future generations. Women at the table, she believes, will invest heavily in better education, affordable healthcare and access to clean water. Women's political empowerment will produce collateral benefits in the form of LGBTQ rights, indigenous people's rights, children's rights and religious freedom. Family-friendly policies will be formulated to enable both parents to enjoy the privileges of parenting. One example of such legislation is Jacinda Arden's decision to introduce a law on maternity and paid paternity leave. For the longest time women lost work when they took the decision to have children, however, maternity leaves were introduced but such an initiative did not let fathers enjoy fatherhood as there would be no paid leave for them. Jacinda's decision to introduce paternity leave was a historic first and was replicated across the world.

The world currently suffers from the worst conflict and polarization. The advent of AI has propelled the world into a dark age with persisting competition over who would acquire a strategic technological advantage over the other. Research has shown that women are proponents of peace and are better negotiators with a special inclination towards collaboration.



and cooperation. Women are less likely to engage in wars and violence as per research conducted by the United States Institute of Peace as the protection of families and communities is central to their decision making. They propel the countries and the world towards socio-economic success as they work to promote social justice and inclusion, climate change management and reduce poverty, hunger and inequality. An instance of this is Indira Gandhi's historic speech at the United Nations where she decided to propound the issues of climate change and global warming in 1970s. She was the first world leader to show her commitment to the issue of climate change by highlighting it at the global level in the history of UN for the first time.

Women taking over the world is not a utopic idea as the early signs of such a change are already emerging. The number of women in political offices is increasing! Caroline Lucas, Member of the House of Commons has highlighted that the time has begun where women are taking their rightful place as equals. Having women in power makes a real difference. As the number of women members of Parliament has increased in the House of Commons, it has become evident that more and more initiatives are being



To tackle gender discrimination, women even in the corporate world are getting more and more executive positions. Although the developments are happening in a piecemeal manner, the process has nevertheless begun. Women leaders in businesses are also making a difference as they are helping their firms embrace modern ideas like flexible working and job sharing. Green politics is also on the rise and women are leading from the inspirational Petra Kell in Germany to Vandana Shiva there is a broad movement that sees women taking their rightful position as equals and leaders at every level in society.

This movement of women taking charge is not a Western reality as women in the Global South are also making their voices heard. It is not just political power which will help women run the world but it is power at every level of society. In education Malala Yousafzai has emerged as a stalwart voice for women in education. Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy is making her voice heard in the echelons of Hollywood and the film business around the world. Politicians like the President of India Droupadi Murmu are becoming the face of Global South politics. In health Dr. Sania Nishtar is leading the United Nations Program



for vaccination. A woman from Lebanon is leading United Nations Women and the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Boards and spokespersons have a significant weightage over the future of global governance.

Women in the global south especially Pakistan have been historically very active. They played a significant role in the freedom movement to thwart the colonial rules of the sub-continent. Later they united under the leadership of Liaquat Ali from the platform of APWA or All-Pakistan Women Association which became the driving force behind the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961 which granted women special rights in the case of divorce and child custody. Women had a critical role to play in the constitution making of 1973 and when martial-law was imposed by General Zia-ul-Haq and their <sup>political</sup> space was being stifled they came out under the Women Action Forum to protest against these injustices. The women farmers movement in Okara (Thappa B) after Musharraf's controversial tenancy laws was a historic-first where peasant leaders who were female started an armed resistance against cruel landlords. Similarly, women are emerging as leaders of dissent in Pakistan as Mahrag Biloch, a woman from Balochistan, is leading



the campaign against enforced disappearances of Baloch men.

When women become leaders, a plethora of things would be better most important there would be peace and the world could be more green. However, it is not to be forgotten that there is a side that just like the first two waves of feminism were dominated by cis-gendered, white women from elite Western backgrounds. Similarly global leadership of women should not be dominated by women from a particular class of the Global North as such a hegemonic design would not reap any positive benefits for the society. There needs to be recognition for intersectionality in women leadership as women's experiences are different based on their caste, religion, creed, ethnicity, colour and gender identity.

Many women politicians like Hasena Wajid, the former Minister of Bangladesh, are accused of being authoritarian.

If women in power continue the hegemonic ideas of men in power the world is likely to turn into a more dangerous place. Sheikh Hasena has emerged as an authoritarian female leader who has been accused of manipulating elections, carrying out



excessive and disproportionate violence and persecution against the opposition. By using undue influence over the judiciary she has put Khaleda Zia, her main opposition leader under arrest and has also been involved in the killing of workers of the opposition. She has also per the United States State Department seriously censored media and has interfered with the independence of judiciary. If such an authoritarian model of female leadership is allowed to run the outcomes would be worse than now.

Women leaders like Kamala Harris have also maintained stances against humanity by being complicit in genocide. Despite being a woman of colour with origins in Global South Kamala has actively been complicit in the supply of weapons to Israel. She has openly time and again come out in support of Israel's killing of innocent civilians in Gaza by refusing to call for a ceasefire and vetoing the resolution for a ceasefire in the United Nations Security Council. She is an example that all women do not stand against injustice and it is not more women like her that the world wants to see take up global leadership.



Sometimes women in leadership positions have taken disproportionate measures that have deepened the divide and created rift in society. Indira Gandhi, despite being the first female prime minister of India, has a controversial image as she proclaimed Emergency in the country after ordering her paramilitary forces to open direct fire on the Sikhs in the Golden Temple. She is also remembered for her controversial population control program where there was forced vasectomy of men which is against human rights.

Therefore, we just do not need women to be global leaders as that cannot guarantee the world to be a better place. The world would be a better place when women from diverse backgrounds assumed office with a desire not to voraciously acquire power but to work for the uplift of masses. We need women who would avoid conflict and by the use of their diplomatic skills they would bring an end to the existing and ongoing turmoil in the world. We need empathetic women with regard for humanity, human rights and justice. Women who stand with genocide are no better than men.



Women leaders too need to have accountability as without accountability any person can become a hegemon. Women leaders are needed at the helm of political affairs but along with that a free media, an independent judiciary and an educated populace is needed so that no one be it man or woman can transgress their limits.

We need women not with jingoistic ideas of hyper-nationalism rather we need women who have the potential to call a spade a spade and work towards global peace and development. Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, has a far-right political background but in her political career after assuming charge as the Prime Minister of the Italy she has transformed her political vision so that she is not perpetuating the ideology of the far-right.

Women have the potential and requisite qualification to be world leaders and there are a plethora of reasons which show that women have the potential to lead the world out of the current abyss into a peaceful and greener world. However, there are certain dark instances where women leaders have



followed the hegemonic ideas of men. However, proper governance and accountability checks can ensure that women serve to truly make the affairs of the world better.

" In the realm of strength, a woman stands tall  
A leader, a beacon she answers the call  
Her spirit unyielding, like a river untamed.  
In her, resilience and wisdom are framed."

(Maya Angelou)