

Shehryar Yousaf

[Traditional family structures cannot bear challenges of modern world]

Outline:

(1). Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Traditional family structures cannot address modern world economic, social, and political challenges, rather they exacerbate these challenges

(2). Decoding the concepts of traditional family structures and challenges of modern world

(3). Traditional family structures exacerbate modern world challenges

(a) Exacerbates economic challenges

- (i). Lack of women's education in traditional family structures hinder economic contributions
- (ii). Traditional gender roles affect GDP growth rate by limiting women's economic participation
- (iii). Women's lack of economic participation affects consumer's purchasing power and fiscal deficit

(b) Exacerbates social challenges

- (i). Lack of women's education in traditional family structures increase poverty
- (ii). Marginalization of women in traditional family structures exacerbate inequalities
- (iii). It can potentially lead to social polarization and social unrest

(3). Exacerbates political challenges

- (i) Traditional family structures result in lack of women's political participation
- (ii) Marginalization of women is against the democratic principles of equality
- (iii) Limits women's role in leadership to address political challenges

(4). Traditional Family structures can also solve modern world challenges

- (a) ~~Part~~ Patriarchal culture through checks and balance prevents their children from engaging in social crimes
- b). Traditional family structures instill values of peaceful coexistence and pluralism
- c). Protects women and children from harassment

(5). An analysis of traditional family structures and its relationship with modern challenges in Pakistan

(6) Conclusion

Traditional family structures, characterized by patriarchy and female subjugation, are incapable and ineffective to address modern world challenges. These traditional family structures which were deeply entrenched during colonialism, still find their traces in developing parts of the world. Traditional family structures are characterized by patriarchy, male dominance, female subjugation, lack of priority towards women's education, not allowing women for economic activities, and limiting her role in political processes. As an adverse consequence, these structure impose severe implications in economic, social, and political domains. Lack of women's education and unemployment results in reduced GDP growth, which also contributes to balance of payment crisis. Lack of women's economic participation also increases fiscal deficit by reducing state's collection of taxes. Similarly, traditional family structures exacerbate social challenges by increasing poverty, inequality, and social polarization. Deprivation from the fundamental rights in these

structures has the potential to being social unrest in the society. Likewise, these family structures are insufficient to address political challenges. These structures fosters a culture of lack of women's political participation which also deprives political landscape from women's leadership. This results in democratic deficit in these societies. However, traditional family structures^{es} also contribute to addressing modern challenges by preventing social crimes, protecting women and children from harassment, and instilling values of peaceful coexistence.

Traditional family structures cannot bear challenges of modern world. Traditional family structures are characterized by patriarchal culture and male dominance.

These cultures were primarily imposed during colonial eras on indigenous cultures. These family structures deprive women from their fundamental rights of education, employment, political participation, etc. On the other hand, modern world challenges are characterized by inequality, poverty, social polarization, gender inequality, etc.

DATE: / /

The thesis is build on the idea that these traditional family structures are inadequate to address these modern growing challenges of the world. Instead, they exacerbate these challenges by limiting women's participation.

One of the most critical challenges of modern world is economic downturn, particularly for Global South. Traditional family structures further hinder economic growth in developing world by imposing traditional gender roles. Even in the 21st century, women are deprived from their fundamental right of education in patriarchal cultures. Owing to lack of education, women find it struggling to meaningfully contribute to the economic growth of the country. Women not given the right to participate in economic activities have severe economic implications.

The GDP of a country is dependent on women's participation in production of goods and services. Since the traditional family structures limit women's participation in economic sphere, it badly affects GDP growth of a

DATE: _____
country. Lack of GDP growth also results in balance of payment crisis. The decrease in production of goods due to lack of women's participate reduces exports of a country, and trade deficit is often intertwined with balance of payment crisis. In simple words, traditional family structures reduce women's economic participation, which badly affects GDP growth, trade deficit, and balance of payment crisis.

Similarly, traditional family structures also exhibit a positive correlation with fiscal deficits. Traditional family structures assign women with traditional gender roles of household responsibilities. This reduces women's participation in economic domain, which directly impacts state's ability to collect taxes. When a major segment of population does not participate economically, state's fiscal payment is badly impacted. It increases expenditure on social welfare programs for dependant class which do not contribute to economy. Also, lack of women's

employment reduces purchasing power of consumers, which adds to slower production and industrial growth. Lack of skilled labor and consumer purchasing power also discourages FDI, which is crucial for economic growth. All of these arguments can also be validated from research reports from World Bank and IMF. "Women in Finance" is a research report by IMF which highlights women's role in economic growth.

Another critical area where traditional family structures have failed is social domain. These structures have rather further exacerbated social problems of the society. These social challenges, family structures exacerbate social challenges poverty, inequality and social polarization by limiting women's right to education and marginalizing women by depriving from fundamental rights. John Stuart Mill in his book, "The Subjection of Women" demonstrates how these traditional gender roles lead to inequality and social polarization in society.

Women are marginalized in traditional family structures which further worsen the modern challenges. Marginalization of women is evident from lack of education and employment opportunities. Resultantly, massive poverty and inequality can be observed in those societies which primarily lie in Global South. It is among the United Nations Sustainable ^{Development} Goals (UNSDGs) to decrease poverty and inequality. In order to achieve these goals, it is important to bring changes in traditional family structures, which is among the main causes of poverty and inequality.

Similarly, modern social challenges are also characterized by social polarization, especially in diverse societies. Traditional family structures further divide the society along gender lines. It also creates stereotyping which badly influences and impacts the society. When social polarization occurs, there is a grave potential for social unrest by marginalized community. Feminist movements in

clearly reflect the potential of public protests, as well as of hate speech against male dominant patriarchal culture. In order to address these social challenges, it is important to replace traditional family structures with a liberal family structure.

Likewise, traditional family structures have also proven to be inadequate for modern political challenges. Similar to economic and social perspective, traditional family structures are a challenge in itself to political framework of democracy. This is due to lack of women's political participation and marginalization of women, which are against the democratic principles.

Political participation is a democratic right of all citizens without which democracy is incomplete. Traditional family structures limit women's participation in politics. The severity of the issue can be realized from the fact that in some areas, women are not even allowed to go outside and

DATE: / /

vote in the electoral process. This results in democratic deficit, as democracy is built on inclusive public participation of the citizens.

Similarly, democratic political framework is built on equal constitutional rights to all citizens. However, traditional family structures only give those rights which are allowed by male figure of the family. As discussed previously, women in these structures are deprived from their basic fundamental rights. For instance, **Article 25** of the constitution of Pakistan gives all citizens the right to education, but this right is not given to women in these traditional family structures.

Furthermore, it is the considered view of political analysts that women's leadership in political domain is of paramount importance to uplift the society. However, traditional family structure create and reinforce traditional gender roles which give no room for women's leadership in political

sphere. There are a number of political women in ^{political} leadership who have made great impacts in the society. Asma Jahangir worked extensively to promote human rights in Pakistan. Similarly, Vandana Shiva, who is an environmental feminist, has significantly contributed in environment sustainability, along with promoting feminism. The deprivation from women leadership due to traditional family structures adversely impacts the society in an unparalleled manner.

However, there are also proponents on the other side of the argument which assume that traditional family structures possess the capacity to solve challenges of the modern world. One of the ways through which traditional family structures address modern challenges is by monitoring to prevent illicit actions from their children. These structures also protect women and children from becoming victims of harassment which is often a subject of feminism. Traditional family structures also exhibit pluralism.

The modern world challenges are often characterized by increasing crimes and hate speech. These are a lot of juveniles and immature adults who engage in criminal activities. These young people are also actively involved in hate speech, which results in social polarization. All of these problems are addressed by traditional family structures in which the father keeps a good check and balance on the activities of their children. This monitoring can reduce crimes and hate speech prevalent in modern times.

Similarly, traditional family structures also often exhibit joint-family system. It is a system where close relatives other than parents and siblings live together. Lack of acceptance and exclusion are big problems of today's generation. Living in a traditional family structure exhibits and instills acceptance for other people. This instills qualities of peaceful coexistence and fosters pluralism. As a result, these

Traditional family structures instill pluralism and diversity, which are critical challenges of modern world.

Furthermore, traditional family structures save women and children from abuse and harassment. Violence against women and harassment are among the main challenges of **fourth wave of feminism**. These traditional structures provide protection to women, and save them from getting harmed by society.

Pakistan is a heterogeneous society in which both traditional ^{family} gender structures, as well as liberal family structures, prevail. But for the larger population, especially in rural areas, there is a strong presence of traditional family structures. These family structures hinder the country's progress in economic, political, and social domains. Women's education is not prioritized in Pakistan due to the orthodox interpretation of Islam, which is purely a cultural element. There are a

Lack of economic opportunities for women, which affect GDP, fiscal deficit, and balance of payment for the country. Politically, women's participation has been very low. However, there is a fast-paced growing shift in traditional gender roles. Women are getting more empowered to acquire education and participate in economic progress. International and national organizations, like UNICEF and Arel March empowering women to overcome traditional barriers. As a result to these initiatives, traditional family structures in Pakistan are transforming to address modern needs.

In conclusion, traditional family structures are ineffective to address the growing challenges of the modern world. The modern world challenges can mainly be divided in 3 types: economic, social, and political. Economic challenges include challenges of balance of payment crisis and fiscal deficit. Traditional family structures limit women's participation in economic activities, which reduce GDP, reduce consumer purchasing power.

affect production of goods, increase trade deficit, results in lower collection of taxes and fiscal deficit, and exacerbates balance of payment crisis. Similarly, modern social challenges encompass poverty, inequality, social polarization, and hate speech. Traditional family structures limit women's participation in education and economy, which increase poverty, inequality, and create potential of social unrest due to polarization. Likewise, political challenges require democracy, equal participation of citizens, and equal democratic rights with equal opportunities of women's leadership. However, all of these are denied in traditional family structures. In a nut shell, traditional family structures need to be replaced with liberal family structures to address challenges of modern world.