

Date: 9th July, 2024

From Homefront to Frontlines:

Women's Impact on National Security and Stability

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement:

Women in Pakistan are exerting hard to get their existence felt. They play a pivotal role not only in maintaining household chores but also in the National Security and Stability. However, few out-moded customs cause hindrance in their line of duty. Nevertheless, by taking course-correction measures, such stumbling blocks can be averted.

2. Multifaceted roles of women from homefront to frontlines

3. How women impact national security and stability:

- Raising generation of dignity
- Enhanced role in law making, law execution and law interpretation
- Elevation at influential position to ensure National security and stability
- Commendable role in administration for maintaining law and order
- Enhanced role in social sectors
- Women in policing

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4. Hurdles in rendering of services for National Security and Stability

- a. Male-dominated Patriarchal society
- b. Women shackled in age-old customs
- c. Lack of education
- d. Poor health of women

5. Measures for mitigating stumbling blocks to foster the role of women at National level

- a. Patriarchal system to be done away with
- b. Provision of education to women
- c. Budget allocation for improving the plight of women
- d. Formulation of gender-sensitive policies
- e. Inclusion of women in law enforcement agencies
- f. Quota system to bring women to the fore

6. Conclusion

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In February 2024, a case of alleged Blasphemy appeared in Punjab. It fanned the air of hatred and extremism to the extent that the law and order situation was rapidly deteriorating in the area. However, thanks to the timely intervention by a woman police officer, who by dint of her professionalism averted the threat to peace and stability of the area. Women in Pakistan play a commendable role from the confines of their homes to the national level. They play an important role in raising the dignified nation. Women play a crucial role in law making, law execution and law interpretation. Moreover, in recent times women have been elevated to the influential positions and are rendering exemplary services in their respective domains. They also play an important role in maintaining law and order situations. Further social services of women cannot be overlooked. However, there are few hurdles in the way of women's prosperity that render them helpless. These include; male dominated society, shackling of women in age-old traditions, lack of education and poor health of women. Nevertheless, the redemptive measures would reduce the lacunae

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Prevalent in the society and set the women on the path to prosperity so they can play their assigned roles without any intimidation of being shut by their male counterparts.

Women in Pakistan play versatile roles. From ~~raising~~ rearing and bearing of the children, maintaining household chores to the maintenance of national security and stability. As per the census of 2023, women constitute one half the population of Pakistan. Hence, their presence and services cannot be overlooked.

Moving towards the impacts of women in the national security and stability. First impact that women exert is their role in the dichotomy of legislation. The Elections of 2024, witnessed historical number of women legislators in provincial and national assemblies. Their increased participation enhanced their role in policy making regarding national security of the country. Moreover, the Executive branch of federation and federating units include a number of ~~many~~ female ministers who render invaluable services

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in the implementation of the law. Further, the ^{female} judges in supreme and high courts do not lag behind in interpreting the law to dispense the justice.

on the whole, females inclusion in the legislative process have increased manifold the importance of women.

Moving ahead, women play an important role in the raising of a dignified generation. It is said that the lap of woman is the first institution of education. Besides, when the first unit of social systems - the family - is raised on the sound basis will create a peaceful nation. So, the stability of the country is contingent upon the soundness of the first unit of society that family which hinges upon the oversight and ability of women.

In addition to this, the elections of 2024, the elevation of first female chief minister of the largest province of Pakistan, who proved herself an epitome of excellence in the administration.

keeping in view her 100 days performance, one would sense that she has succeeded her counterparts in other provinces in maintaining security and stability of the country.

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According to the Counter Terrorism Department's report 2023 Punjab has seen a steep decline in terrorism related activities in the province. This speaks volume for the role of women in the national security and stability.

Besides this, women do not lag behind in proving their worth in administration. The floods of 2022 are testament to the biblical abilities of women in coping with unprecedented times. A video of a female administrator surfaced and got viral on social media in which she was seen going from house to house to shift people in safe areas. Thanks to her timely administrative acumen that the chaos in the wake of unprecedented flood was averted.

Further, women play a pivotal role in the health and education sectors. The care giving nature of women help them in raising and making the national populace healthy and well-acquainted of the global and national on-goings.

Moreover, the inclusion of women in police service and subsequent mammoth role played by them cannot be overemphasized. The incident of 2017 of the attack on Karachi Stock Exchange market speaks volume of the ability of women in maintaining the national security and stability of the country. The attack was spoiled owing to the prompt operation led by SSP Suhail Aziz, that failed the filthy motives of the terrorists. So, from the above facts, it is ascertained that women are the guardians of national security and the flag bearers of the stability of the country.

However, despite the laudable roles played by the women, they are still confronted with the patriarchal society, which cause hindrances in their strides. According to WAF, about 60 percent of the women are married before the age of 10 years. And about 15 percent of health related issues are linked to early marriages and early and frequent pregnancies. Further, the male-dominated society bars women from pursuing their career and receive higher education.

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Such a state of affairs renders them at the goodwill of their male to exert a influence in the society.

Moreover, there is widely held perception that women are treated for the service of men. This perception of age of ignorance proves detrimental for the women who seek to play a role in the national affairs of the state.

Further, the deprivation of women from education and seeking health facilities violate the constitutional right to basic amenities.

The poor health and lack of education to seek their constitutional rights pushes them to the breeding chain of poverty and they are unable to raise their heads from the deep-rooted poverty to seek the rights and redressal of their plight from the working courts of Pakistan.

Nevertheless, as every disease has a medicine to be cured, similarly the the hurdles in the way of women to come to the fore to maintain the national security and

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Stability can be attained by a revolt against the male-dominated society. Moreover, mass education must be provided to the women to acquaint them of their legal, religious and social rights. In this regard, the services of print, electronic and social media can be sought. Besides, the campaigns and seminars regarding the discriminated plight of women can aid improve her role.

Moreover, the government must increase its budgetary allocation for the women development funds. The gender-sensitive policies must be well formulated in this regard. Quota system must be introduced in all sectors of the government to enhance the participation of women at national level.

Last but not the least, there is dire need to include more and more women in the law enforcement agencies. Because when they are in such agencies, they understand the complexities of the organization. It will aid them in protecting themselves and the

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country against the malign intentions of the non-state actors.

In conclusion, it is submitted that the women in Pakistan are the real Sinq-e-Ahram who dare not put their life at danger for the country's safety ~~survives~~. The services of women in legislative, executive, judicial, health, education and law enforcement besides their household responsibilities can-not be overlooked. However, few hindrances in her way to national strides can be overcome by taking mitigating / course-collection measures. Rightly her the founder of Pakistan Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah said,

You cannot become a successful nation, unless you women work side by side you.