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MOCK EXAM

THE ESSAY

FROM HOMEFRONT TO FRONTLINES: WOMEN'S IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY

1. Introduction

2 a) An Overview of women's evolving role in national security

b) Thesis Statement: Over the years, women's role has been continuously evolving from the angel of the house to the warrior at the national front contributing in the military, ~~be~~^{uregu}cracy, law enforcement, foreign policy, and disaster management bolstering national security and stability and thereby adding to global security with effective outcomes.

2. Instances to demonstrate women's inclusiveness casting profound impact on national security and stability.

a) Global efforts to women's inclusive participation in peace keeping and conflict resolutions paving the way to strengthening national and global stability

Case study: UNSC Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000 on "WPS"

b) Need for diversification of women's role to a larger spectrum

Reference: Women Share of Global Population is under 50%. (World Bank Data Report)

c) Women providing services in the military and bureaucracy

Example: Lieutenant General Nigra Gohar

d) Effective contribution of women in the law making and enforcement

Reference: Women constitute 45% of Police force, a 2020 News report

→ first female judge of Lahore High Court

Case Study: ASP Sherbano Nagvi's exceptional bravery in mob lynching incident

e) Participation in conflict resolutions, peace making missions

Reference: In 2022, women participated in conflict party negotiations or delegates in four of 5 active AUUN led peace processes (16% participation); UN Report

f) Influencing international relations through diplomatic services

Example: Maleeha Lodhi, Sherry Rehman

g) Women's role in National Disaster management

Case studies: Kasht Foundation

Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS)

3. Hindrances in the way of women's contribution to national security and stability.

a) A predominantly patriarchal society confines women within boundaries of house

b) Prevailing gender stereotypes and conservative mindsets.

c) Typical perception considering women ineffective in decision making fields

d) Religious dogmas and religious misinterpretations constricts women's way to national security

e) Workplace harassment and discrimination

f) Early marriages denies women contribution to national security and stability.

4. Recommendations that can increase women's impact on national security and stability.

a) Collective efforts at national and international levels combating women's non-inclusiveness

b) An increase in women quota in the fields of military, laws, and intelligence

agencies.

c) Gender sensitive training and capacity building programs to enhance women skills

d) Create supportive infrastructure

e) Gender mainstreaming into national strategies policies.

f) Seeking international cooperation

5. Conclusion.

THE ESSAY

"Nothing for us without us. Nothing for women without the involvement and inclusion", a remark by "Joyce Banda" echoes the paramount importance of shifting women's role from the conventional home sustainer to a much broader contributing figure to national security, growth and stability. Empowering women's transition from traditional caregivers to multifaceted leaders, capable of driving national and global security is the need of presently evolving world. Previously, a woman designated to provide for sustainable home environment and emotional support of husband and

children was believed to be the angel of the house. This monotonous role had ~~an~~ constrained her diverse capabilities and better future prospects. Women has been bestowed with multitasking, strong decision making and captivating communication skills through which she can act as agent of change challenging the traditional thinking and contributing to larger national interests. Over the years, women's role has been continuously evolving from the angel of the house to the warrior at the national front contributing in the military, ~~been~~ bureaucracy, law enforcement, foreign policy, disaster management and other areas bolstering national security and stability and thereby adding to global security with effective outcomes.

There have been ample instances that traces women's inclusiveness casting a profound impact on national and global security and stability. No nation can claim progress without providing equal socio-economic and political opportunities to all sections of society. Numerous instances from history elucidates how nations achieved glory by affectively incorporating both genders during the time of turmoil and crisis.

The Pakistan Independence ^{Movement} is a classic example of men and women joining hands to free its nation from the shackles of slavery and achieving much aspired independence.

From the Civil rights movement to the larger arena of state security and stability, women's inclusive participation and their services cannot be denied.

The first instance demonstrating the need of women representation to larger national interests is evident in the global efforts by international organizations.

The United Nations Security Council long ago realized the paramount necessity of women's equal participation towards conflict resolutions and peace-keeping missions. It is illustrated by the ~~World~~ United Nations Security Council UNSC Resolution: UNSC Resolution¹³²⁵ on

"Women, Peace and Security" abbreviated as "WPS" was adopted on 31st October, 2000 as a part of international effort to increase women inclusiveness in UN peacekeeping pursuits. It realized the urgency to provide women with equal footing by ensuring her presence in peace resolutions. Consequently, several resolutions were adopted later on in different years to achieve the target of WPS of incorporating women's unique

Stance on Security Concerns.

Secondly, with globalization and technological advancement, the traditional notions ~~had~~ have been so somehow changing realizing the importance of gender equality. There has been a growing demand for diversification of women's role into a larger spectrum of national security affairs. Considering, her larger population constituting half of world's population, they cannot be ignored in terms of decision making processes. "According to World Bank Data Report, "Women share of Global population is under 50%." Such a large contributor to world population cannot be ignored, paving the way to supporting her role as peace builder in the prevention of conflict. Hence, women's large numbers increase women's impact on national security and stability.

The third instance of women's contribution to national interests and security matters is reflected in the plethora of services provided by women in different vast range of fields. Military, one of the most prestigious ~~and~~ ^{fields and} determining factor of national security or has now many women in it. In Pakistan, female ~~admission~~ ^{are increasingly} and joining military forces of Navy, Army and Airforce. The passion to serve national interest

has surpassed the bounds of Conservatism with increase in women participation every year. "Women make up 4% of Pakistan's military officers corps" (The News, 2020)

Although a seemingly less percentage, still it shows women's interest in securing national interests. The spirit of serving the country and promoting national security sees no bounds. ^{As shown by Lieutenant General Nigar Cohen.} Thus, Pakistani women's

Similarly, another contributor to Pakistan's national interest is Bureaucracy. Here also, women are seeking career options by appearing in CSS exams. There is an equal craze and passion for joining civil services among boys and girls, with girls not only joining ~~CSS~~ civil services but serving in administration departments, Police forces etc. The ^{recent} incident of mob lynching and persecution of a woman due to misperception of mob was a storming issue, however, valourly handled by ASP Sherbanu Naqwi, who prudently and bravely dismissed the situation by rescuing the lady and handling the mob, spreading the message of women's power to preserve national stability during adverse situation.

Police forces considered a field typically suited to men, is now increasingly occupied by female police officer as according to report Women constitute 5% of Police forces (2020)

Not only in military, and bureaucracy, and law enforcement agencies, women are also stepping ahead in conflict resolutions and peace keeping missions. The United Nations efforts ~~and~~ in this prospect has positively added to women's inclusive participation in the cause of national security. As shown in report, **In 2000, women participated in conflict party negotiations or delegates in four out of 5 active UN lead peace processes (16% participation) (UN Report)**. Women's shrewdness and problem solving skills offer a greater stimulus to conflict resolutions helping in strengthening national security.

Along with participation in international organizations' missions, women do not even lag behind in the realm of international relation by providing diplomatic services. This international participation provides a striking contrast to her image as submissive and a doormat housewife who cannot even leave the house without husband's permission. In the global arena, ♀ women have emerged as leading diplomats representing Pakistan at international level. The diplomatic services of Maleeha Lodhi and Sherry Rehman are noteworthy to mention.

Every the pre last Pakistani ambassador to UN was a woman. Her women's unique stance, patiently impressive and persuading communication skills facilitates better dialogues between the states, leading to increased cooperation among states. When different states are politically tied in foreign relations and counter every antistate elements through dialogues, chances of conflict are meagre, increasing states' security and stability. Hence, women have successfully played their part in diplomatic missions.

Besides, women are well-equipped to cope with national disasters. In National Disaster Management, women are offering valuable services helping the afflicted with coping mechanisms to rehabilitate and emerge as great models of resilience. In this area, the contribution of ~~Mateeha~~ ~~Kodhi~~ Kashf Foundation and Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) are praiseworthy where women leaders are ~~providing~~ besides providing socio-economic support to oppressed women are also engaged in national disaster management program to mitigate the loss. So, the services of women associated with disaster management programs are also helping aiding to national security and stability.

So far, women's inclusive activeness towards increased national security measures have been brought to the front-fore-front. But with every positive side of the picture, there is also gloomy side exhibited in the form of hinderances and manifold affective filter in women's contribution to national stability measures.

The very first hinderance encountered by women is the predominantly patriarchal societal structure with man emerging as the sole decision maker and financial support of the family. It is this patriarchal setup, which is posing a challenge to women's independence and future career prospect. Confining women within the boundaries of the wall deteriorates her intellectual capabilities.

On the contrary, even within patriarchal family structure, if the father is supporting ~~the~~ the daughter's ambition, her services towards national security are eminent.

Another obstacle is presented by prevailing gender stereotypes and conservative mindsets, which denies women participation in life changing

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State interest measures. The psychological practice of assigning certain roles to specific genders obstructs women's path to national security concerns.

Besides, there is a typically wrong perception of considering women ineffective in decision making processes. National Security and Stability, a decisive factor of state prosperity is considered to be a hard nut to crack by women. This is what the dominating men at the front fore front of prestigious social positions deem, however, this mentality needs to be replaced keeping in view the large number of women actively engaged in all economic spheres.

In Pakistan, the religious dogmas and misinterpretations constrict women's way to national security. Certain old school of thoughts misinterprets religion, and in the name of religion curbs women's independent thinking to be west oriented approach. Such religious misinterpretations needs to be get rid of in our society.

In addition, to further probe into the hinderances in women's inclusiveness, a great concern among women is

ext workplace discrimination and harassment. In the male dominant society, woman stepping outside the house experience some level of workplace distinction and harassment leaving her with no option but to quit to keep her integrity intact. When such evil practice becomes a norm, women's path to state security is hindered.

Another much debated but ignored concern is early marriages. In the rural areas particularly, a girl of barely 15 or 16 years is made to marry and forebear children. She has to quit her studies, which is glaring concern in rural areas. The talented girls entrapped in the early marriage cannot even imagine working their part in national security.

Nevertheless, every deadlock can be opened through certain practical measures to counter the exacerbating situation/state of affairs. Women, although subjected to many multifaceted hindrances can still raise their heads through certain leading to positive agents of change. In this way, certain recommendations can be ~~the~~ keep in consideration to

increase women's impact on national security and stability.

Collective efforts at national and international level to combat women's non-inclusive position. Additionally, an increase in women quota in the fields of military, law enforcement and intelligence agencies can stimulate and positively ~~encourage~~ propell them forward. Furthermore, certain gender sensitive training and capacity building programs need to be introduced to enhance women skilled. Their participation in such programs must be ensured. Creating supportive infrastructure can also be a good measure so that mothers can take benefit from childcare facilities and also good working conditions for single girls can help out. To add further, gender mainstreaming is so crucially important in national strategies policies. Lastly, seeking international cooperation can also facilitate women's inclusive participation in national security.

To conclude, national security and stability is a sensitive goal that needs equal participation of men and women. Through equal footing and collaborating

for the collective aim shall this goal ~~no~~ be achieved. Segregating women from national security measures is like isolating half of the world's population. With increased awareness of women's effective participation in all spheres of life, global and national efforts have considerably increased to incorporate them. Women are successfully working in the different domains of national security as in military, bureaucracy, law making and enforcement, foreign policy and disaster management. Their inclusiveness have helped to bolster national security and stability ~~by~~ broadening her role from home front to frontline.

