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Essay: The Ambiguous Journey towards Gender Equality

Outline:

1: Introduction:

1.1: Still in 21st century, the role associated with specific gender, the patriarchal and societal norms, the controversial practices and Disparity in financial, educational and political sectors is proof of Ambiguous journey towards gender equality.

2: Main Body:

2.1: Decoding the term Gender Equality

2.2: Inequality faced by Men (Role as breadwinners, financial responsibilities and societal taboos)

2.3: Inequality faced by Transgenders. (Role as an emerging thing, No fundamental rights)

2.4: Gender Disparity faced by female

2.4.1: Inherited Patriarchal system

2.4.2: Common conventional practices

(Nari, Marriage with Quran, Nalla Salla)

2.4.3: Societal Taboos and verbal abuse against female

2.4.4: Enormous violent practices.

(Acid attack, honour killing, Rape)

2.4.5: Low female representation in major

state sectors.

2.4.6 Equal population of females and less

reservation of seats in Politics.

2.4.7 Unaccepted Economic independency of

Female.

2.4.8 Specific Heathcases absence for females
3: Conclusion:

A rural Pakistan's areas, where people having strong belief on cast and creed system. The lower class young boy fell in love with upper class elder girls. This unaccepted relation by society calls for Panchayat (decision making bodies in rural areas). The panch decided to punish boy by attacking his honour. ^{His} and sister named Mukhtasim Maii was gang raped by Males of opposite party. The whole world shivered by hearing this call of justice and equality. Pakistan from its birth till today is facing Gender Disparity. The role associated with specific gender, the patriarchal and societal norms, the controversial practices and ^{Gender} Disparity in major state sectors is proof of Ambiguous journey towards Gender equality. Standing on the crossroad of 21st century, its imperative to critically examine the Gender Equality faced by All genders Male, Female and Transgender in Pakistani societal game.

system. Not only females but Male are also burdened with the patriarchal system of society in which all financial responsibilities are shouldered on Male making its life hectic and burdened. Major taboo associated with Male is his role as Bread Winner which makes the societal attitude towards slow learner males harsh. They are called obsolete, useless and even ~~critically target~~ ^{Not a man} his ego. These statements make Male violent and hard repressing their emotions. One of the taboos for male is "Devotee of his wife" if he do cares and if he do not the same Man is called Cruel and violent i.e; Society is only ready to accept his role as Financial supporter, crushing his emotions. For example: A Male can't cry even in state of sorrow, ~~like~~ or facing pain. Drawing the curtains on societal attitude making Male Harsh and violent is a form of Disparity and Emotional trauma faced by Men.

Pivoting towards The aspect of Gender Inequality faced by Transg-

endless, their societal accepted role is Amusers or Beggars. Why not Bread winner or a domestic workers.

In Pakistan, Transgender are facing social exclusion and stigma, often stunned by society leading to low self-esteem, depression and anxiety. They have limited access to education and employments. Discriminatory Practices prevents their growth of career and educational journey. They seek barriers for Health care facilities for instant Many Hospitals did not accept them and don't have a third option other than male and female on their medical forms. Transgender are underrepresented in politics and major state decision making bodies which limit their ability to advocate for their rights. They are prone to religious and cultural discrimination. Above All, Transgender are not accepted by their own families leading them vulnerable to this harsh attitude and loneliness.

Transitioning towards the Gender Disparity faced by Female in Pakistan is most highlighted one because

use Major population of Pakistan consists Male and Female with 52% of Female ratio in country and Discriminatory behaviour in all departments. The inherited inequality faced by Women is one of major contributors impeding the Growth of country. The Male dominant Patriarchal system, repressing females from the domestic level, is backbone of Gender Disparity. Female did not have right for their personal decision of life. i.e; their will for marriage is often neglected. Despite religious freedom they are not allowed to marry according to their will. Another example is their choice of carrier made by elders of family or Father or by her brothers.

Furthermore the controversial societal practices in backward areas are still common in Pakistan which raise a big question mark on Gender Equality. Some common practices considered absolutely right by society are discriminatory and cruel practices on females where women are only left as a subject. For example Wani, is common practice in rural

areas of Sindh and Balochistan in which female (sister or daughter) or ones who committed some crime or burden is given to the oppressed party i.e; The women of men is ~~fixed~~ ^{given} as punishment of crime committed by men. Another example is 'Marriage with Quran' in which the Rais and Jagirdar families of rural areas of Pakistan marry their daughter with Quran so that their inherited properties ~~who~~ would be protected. Commonly practiced system of "Watta Satta" all over the Pakistan is also the form of oppression only faced by females in which if married life of brother is ruined it will automatically disturb the married life of his sister. All of these practices are considered right in society as people see they protected future of their daughter but actually its violent and discriminatory practices against females.

Adding to this the verbal abuse is only faced by females in Pakistan whether its the fault of her father her brother or her son, from all the side abusive language, commonly called 'Ghali' is faced by ~~pointing~~ ^{pointing} the furniture

relations. Another form of verbal abuse is Absusive
taboos associated with female commonly ^{practiced} in
backward areas of Pakistan. Not limited to
Common societal practices Some English language
words are also discriminatory form between
Males and Females. For instance An unmarried
Male is called 'Bachelors' which means
the lucky one while the unmarried female
is called 'Maiden/Spinster' means the unlucky
one. Why These language disparities despite
the same status or state one is consider
^{fortunate} and other ^{unfortunate}. These
absusive and discriminatory language for
Female determines the ambiguity of
Gender Equality.

Expanding upon the idea of
violent practices (Muhitarians main case) as
explained earlier there are more ^{forms of} violence
Physical violence faced by female. Starting
from the societal unit a home, females are
vulnerable to domestic violence i.e; often
beaten by their parents, brothers or elders
either they are faulty or not. Other dom-
estic violence is Marital Rape suffered by
female and Above all both of these Domes-
tic violent practices are consider as the

Family matter, ... Out of the domestic state females are prone to Acid Attacks and Honour killing. According to recent research High ratio of Honour killing in Pakistan is found in Khyber Pakhtawon Khaw regions. One of most notorious cases of Honour killing is Murder of **Qandeel Baloch** a famous Model and media influencer by his own brother for only satisfying his self esteem. Another case of violence against female is **Safia Bibi** case she was a domestic worker and raped by land lord and his son. According to Punjab Gender Disparity Report 2016: There are 2938 reported cases of rape, 43 of Acid attacks and 222 of Honour killing.

Moving towards the state and Gender discrimination. About half of the Pakistan population is comprising of female with No representation of female as head in major departments of state such as Wildlife, Aviation, Military, Intelligence & Agricultural. Even the seats reserved for females in these departments are very less in numbers. The lack of female representation in major state bodies is impeding their career growth. The political participation of

females is very small and the females that take part are from elite politically stronger background i.e; that societal behaviour towards females not allows them to be parts of politics or not accept female as a leader. The seats reserved by females in National Assembly are minor (60) as compared to 234 of total seats. In the 75 years history of Pakistan, only one female served the country as Prime Minister and one is serving as Chief Minister. Both of them having stronger political background. This political disparity faced by females is painting vivid picture of gender inequality in Pakistan.

Adding to this discrimination faced by females in economic perspective is a major cause of impeding growth of country. According to recent research only 1% of females are entrepreneurs in Pakistan. The large wages gap of male and female workers is discriminatory attitude. For instance from domestic male and female worker to actors and actresses all ^{females} ~~are~~ ^{are} facing wages disparities. Its major reason may be the roles associated with female as house wife or homemakers and male as

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ibaz.

Bread winner. The societal mindset restricted to see female as House Wife make unacceptable economic independency of females even calling independent ladies rebellion or evil spreader in society. Unobserving the ground reality The societal and state collectively hampered the economic independency of females.

Moreover, there are specific healthcare requirements of females which are neglected in Pakistan.

According to World Economic reforms the Health care disparity scored ~ 0.36 out of 1 in Pakistan.

There is high Maternal mortality rate. Female are suffering from menstrual stigma with no leaves or healthcare facilities in major departments in special days of females. From a education institution (School) to Political bodies (Parliament) the necessary Health care facilities are absent for females.

All of These thing collectively marked a Big Question Mark on journey toward Gender Equality.

According to Gender Gap Report 2023 by World Economic forum Not Even a single country have achieved the Gender Equality and Pakistan ranked at 5th worst country

in terms of gender disparity out of 146 countries of the world. Disparity in Economic, societal, political and Educational sectors adds to this gap of equality in Pakistan. A country cannot be progressed without role of females. Hoping for the positive societal attitude towards female community and encouraging them to participate in all field of life, may leads to a new Pakistan but till now the Gender Equality seems to be ambiguous journey.

Starting time: 11:25.

Ending time: 02:32.

Brainstorming

Decoding term Gender Equality

Women:

→ Social Practices (Wari, ^{marriage} ~~honour to~~ ^{Quran} ~~Watan~~)

→ GGI Report 2023 → WFF

→ Communal taboos

→ Inequality in Education.

use of Verbal and Physical Violence.

→ ~~Specific health care~~

Violence against females
→ Acid attacks
→ Honour Killing
→ Rape.
Role of Female in Economic activities.

Men:

→ ^{Financial} ~~Economic~~ responsibilities → Mental stress.

→ Emotional trauma

→ Societal Taboos

→ Role of Men → Only as Breadwinner

Other Gender: Beggary Amusement sexual

→ Transgender ~~only~~ purpose.

→ Not fundamental rights.

→ Societal taboos

→ Extremist → violence

No right to vote.
Not right to marry.
parents - birth → rejection)
No right to learn.
right of freedom of speech.

Suggestion