

Day: MTWTFS

Date: ___/___/___

Name: Urooba Shafique
Roll no: 32625
Batch: ~~Bot~~ 59 (Online)
Subject: English Essay
Date: 7 May-2024

①

Mock Exam I

The Essay

The Ambitious Journey Towards Gender Equality

Outlines

I Introduction

- 1- Decoding the term "Gender"
- 2- Significance of gender equality
- 3- Thesis Statement: Gender inequality a much debated international issue, creates numerous hinderances to women empowerment. This demands certain socio-economic and political reforms with sustainable development programs to ensure smooth journey towards gender equality.

II What are the obstacles in women's journey towards gender equality

- 1) Patriarchal setup of Pakistan
- 2) Economic disparities with harassment cases

"Women still earn 16% less than men"
 (Gender Pay Gap Statistics)

3) Socio-cultural taboos

→ Dowry system; Women as Homemakers;
 Honour killing

4) Less political representation nationally and internationally

→ Less representation in UN in history
 → ~~no~~ ^{Only} female Prime Minister of Pakistan: ^{Benazir} ~~Bhutto~~

5) Deprivation in healthcare and education

- 2 Million more girls than boys are out of school.
- 21% of girls get married before 18 years in Pakistan (Recent report)

III How journey towards gender equality be ensured?

1- Challenging patriarchy

→ Introducing inclusive gender participation in society

2. No workplace discrimination

→ Strict penalties under Constitution on workplace harassment

3- Ending domestic violence, rape cases, Kidnapping, force marriages (Political & Constitutional reforms)

4. Compulsory right to education
→ Putting an end to early marriages

5) Sustainable development programs
→ Certain approaches like WID and WAD are ~~not~~ effective
→ Role of NGOs in Women empowerment
→ Increased awareness campaigns
→ Rise in feminist movements.
→ Women studies as an academic discipline

IV Conclusion

THE ESSAY

Nelson Mandela once said, "Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression". The viewpoint of Mandela ~~has~~ ~~been~~ is being relevant even today. Since the First Wave of Feminism (1900-1959) demanding Women Suffrage right, there has been a growing discussion on the ways to achieve gender equality. The term "Gender" itself needs explanation as it is frequently ~~is~~ used to mean "Sex". While "Sex" refers to the biological characteristics differentiating men and women mainly on the basis of genitalia, "Gender" is

a socially constructed reality. Gender refers to the attributes, behavioral patterns, related roles and responsibilities being assigned to men and women. The very definition shows how certain conventional thoughts stem from society. Gender equality is very important in every sphere of life whether educational, political, economic or socio-cultural. Gender inequality a much debated international issue, creates numerous hinderances to women empowerment. This demands certain socio-economic and political reforms along with sustainable development programs ensuring smooth journey towards gender equality.

Before finding out the ways to facilitate smooth journey towards gender empowerment. There is a need to acknowledge hinderances in this way. ~~How~~ Gender empowerment is not a simple goal to achieve.

Firstly, patriarchal setup and is a predominantly crucial factor behind the issue of gender disparity. In Pakistan, man is supposed to be the head and ultimate decision maker of the family due to his economic superiority. Being breadwinner and potential financial

Support for the family, his his authority cannot be challenged. If this patriarchal setup includes inculcates authoritative ownership role in the males, which often leads to women's compromised situation. ~~She~~^{Female} can be denied educational right and confined within boundary of walls if the father commands so.

The second contributor to gender discrimination is economic disparity.

According to Gender ~~to~~ Pay Gap Statistics, Women still earn 16% less than men".

In the offices, business ~~in~~ organizations and factories, women are employed as they do not much argue on their economic rights.

Even the famous actresses having a ~~not~~ comparatively significant role in Movie or drama than men are paid less remuneration for their bigger roles, which they repeatedly resonates and speak up against. Furthermore, women become a victim to workplace harassment as evident in our society. Whether it is educational

~~Third important obstacle in gender~~
~~inequality~~ In Booker Prize Winner Novel, "Shuggie Bain", the female protagonist who was a single mother was shown to be victim of repeated workplace harassment

by her Boss to which resulted in her mental trauma and etc. made her alcoholic. Such cases are multiple and they needs to be addressed any how

Third important obstacle towards gender disparity is the presence of manifold Socio-cultural taboos ~~are~~ in our Society.

Dowry system has been made a compulsory contributory factor to women marriages. Unless she fills the her so called new house with ^{abundant} treasures of of high esteemed values, she is not considered worthy of respect. Simi After that, she is assigned the task of home making and being a good home maker with specialized cooking skills. Similarly, killing a women in the name of Honour by male family members is a social taboo and regressive picture of our Society, still it is ~~portrayed~~ ^{depicted} as morally virtuous tasks of ~~violating~~ eliminating pollution out of their lives because of violations from standard norms.

less political representation both on national and international level is also contributing force in of escalating/worsening the gender gap. In the United Nations, there is minimum representation of women.

Similarly, in Pakistan there is scarce political participation of women. All + Majority of political seats are occupied by males due to the perception of males as being good leaders and decision makers.

This is because women is deprived of decision making right from her home environment. Without getting the due opportunity, they cannot influence and contribute to country's prosperity.

hastly, deprivation in educational and basic health care facilities present a sorry picture of widening gender gap.

A major contributing factor in female empowerment is the tool of education.

With education comes knowledge, and "Knowledge is power" as Francis Bacon used to say. However, women is deprived of this basic right. According to a survey,

21% of girls get married before 18 years of age in Pakistan". A girl who wants to pursue higher education is trapped in early marriage, unfortunately causing/putting an end to her aspirations. ~~SE~~ A

more depressing image is explicit in the rural areas where high school girls are bound to marry early and bearing children which compels them to drop out of school. "As per Statistical Report, 2 Million

more girls than boys are out of school". Hence all these hinderances obstructs natural progression towards increased gender equality.

Gender equality is not a steady phenomena, it constantly but gradually heading concept. If hinderances are multiple, possible course of action are also manifold for smooth transitional journey of gender equality and empowerment. The first of these indicators to ensure gender equality is to change the traditional setup of patriarchy. Although patriarchy is not a negative aspect always, still it gives wave to many other women problems. Proponents of "Second Wave of Feminism" had utter disgust for patriarchal mindset and their whole journey ~~was~~ of struggle was to challenge and ultimately abolish patriarchy. Patriar:

Patriarchy is a relationship of dominance that systematically oppresses and marginalize women (Radical Feminists). Thus, introducing inclusive gender participation will liberate the women in all societal spheres, and helping them to get out of their inferiority complexes.

Secondly, workplace discrimination is a much avoided issue, and if tackled with suitable reforms, it can positively contribute in journey of gender equality. Women suppressed due to workplace harassment needs to raise their voice against such lustful owners. However, women mostly remain silent due to social taboos attached with if such things are exposed publicly. Moreover, the owners/employers constantly blackmail the ladies against action. Despite all the consequences, women in first place needs the courage speaking against economic injustices and harassment and such. Self-confidence can only be assured through strict penalties under constitution on such harassers.

Thirdly, not only workplace harassment, many connected issues related to gender inequality needs to be addressed. This means ^{minimizing} ending domestic violence, rape cases, kidnapping, forced marriages, forced prostitution practices through strict check and balances. The government needs to ^{introduce} effective remedial policies like strict compliance of law and order, early court hearings instead of delaying cases for years, strict regulatory ~~restrictions~~ and check on the police officers to in time submission

of case studies. The recent news regarding father sexually abusing her own daughter is a severe women rights violation and concern of highest degree posing a mental trauma of not being protection even from father who is supposed to be the guardian of family. To add more, "6,624 cases of rape were reported in 2023, reflecting a 12% increase from the 5,890 cases reported in 2022." Only strict regulatory actions can stop this menace.

Another positive contributor towards successful gender empowerment journey is provided by education. By putting an end to teenage early marriages, women must be encouraged to pursue higher education. Positive support system should be provided by family and mentors informing women about importance of education specially in rural areas. While ~~an~~ urban women have good access to social media awareness and university education, rural women/girls are at loss. Therefore, educational campaigns countrywide should be introduced regarding the power of education. Once women ~~are~~ get right to education, their self-awareness, self-confidence, decision making skills, leadership and management qualities ~~are~~ ^{will be} effectively fostered.

Last but not the least, Sustainable development programs are already been under process bridging the gender gap & and transitioning to equality in society. Certain approaches like WID (Women in Development) and WAD (Women and Development) are working to guarantee women their due rights. WID is basically orchestrating range of activities concerning women in the development domain; ensuring improved educational and employment, equality in political and social participation, and more health services. Similarly, WAD regards women as instrumental part of development process and questions the sources and nature of women subordination.

NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) along with their diverse social activities are increasingly contributing towards gender equality movements. The brave and valiant ladies are constantly raising their voices against all forms of oppression. Rise in feminist movements was also one of the outcomes of women's public voice against injustices caused to them. "Aurat March Movements" emerged in Pakistan celebrating women independence & challenging conventional norms of male dominance. Different

Slogans have been raised after years of silence. "Women Studies" emerged as an academic discipline along with "Gender Studies". Women studies addresses all the rights guaranteed to women and ~~her~~ ensures equal participation and opportunities on different scales of society. Thus, Sustainable development strategies have paved the way towards gender equality.

To conclude, gender equality is a complex issue that needs multifaceted approach. It needs to identify and minimize all the oppressive means obstructing the way to gender equality. When all those obstacles are identified, a roadmap is essential to be followed that can bridge up and align our journey to the correct and much deserved path of gender equality. By working on political, economic, social, in fact every social level constricting women liberation, challenging and addressing traditional patriarchal setup and creating sustainable development programs for increased awareness on gender inequality issue, our society can witness a significant and positive

change. This can also help us get appreciation globally on this international issue.

Thus, the ambitious journey towards gender equality can only become practice reality if all necessary steps are taken in true spirit. Changing social fabric of our society through journey towards gender equality must be focused as much as possible. To conclude the discussion with Emma Watson's wonderful stance:

"Gender equality not only liberates women but also men from prescribed gender stereotypes".

