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Essay- Mock I

"Is education the most effective tool to achieve gender equality?"

Outline

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Attention grabber
- 1.2 Thesis statement
- 1.3 General discussion

2. Education: the most effective tool to achieve gender equality

2.1 Prevails awareness about fundamental rights

- a. Rights of education and employment
- b. Right of freedom of speech
- c. Maternal rights

2.2 Contributing to economic growth

- a. Women can add up to \$3trillion to global economy
- b. Female CEOs excelling in business
- c. 70% of Pak's agriculture depends on women

2.3 Women excelling in STEM

- a. Arfa Karim - Youngest microsoft developer
- b. Mala Yousafzai - ambassador for women education
- c. Astroscientist - Sunita Marshall

2.4 Women as politicians and policy makers

- a. Benazir Bhutto - 1st female PM of Pak
- b. Maleeha Lodhi - former permanent representative of Pak at UN.
- c. Women representation in National Assembly increased upto 26% from 11%.

2.5 Women using pen as a sword

- a. Virginia Woolf - writer and feminist
- b. Nemrah ahmad - empowering women through her writings
- c. Increasing number of female professors in universities.

3. Rebuttal - education alone cannot fill the gender gap

3.1 Prudent policies against gender based violence

- a. Countering harrasement and sexual abuse.
- b. Increasing conviction rates from 0.5%.
- c. In 2023, 53,000 women were killed

by family members.

3.2 Countering patriarchy in rural areas

a. Born from a woman, cannot suppress a woman.

b. Equal opportunities for both genders.

4. Conclusion

In a nutshell, education is the ad-hoc key to achieve gender equality.

THE ESSAY

"You can lock your libraries but there is no bolt, no gate and no chain that can lock the freedom of my mind." **Virginia Woolf** wrote in her book "In her own's room." **It is an inevident fact that education is the ad-hoc key to achieve gender equality in the competitive world of power.** The world is progressing with each passing day and its the irony of human race that even in 21st century, they are still unable to fill the gender gap. Nature is irrespective of gender so must be the world. The universe that is equally available for both genders, it is prudent to accept the fact that both genders need equal opportunities too. Nature has blessed them equal potentials and that potential must be utilized for the enhancement of world and human race.

To encounter the gender gap its crucial to understand its root cause and finding a suitable solution for it.

The utmost cause that hinders gender equality is lack of awareness. No doubt education is basic need and right of every being but in some rural areas people are unaware of their rights

specially women. They are manipulated in such a way that they no longer wish to demand their fundamental rights. To address this uncertainty,

Pakistan has article 25 and 34 in its constitution that strictly ensures the education and women empowerment.

This is the reason education is necessary to achieve gender equality. Because women are educated rightly, they identify their rights and learn to stand for themselves against all odds and cultural norms.

Education makes them aware of their maternal rights including abortion and reproduction. Education enlighten their

approach towards healthy family planning. In rural areas where female illiteracy rate is quite high, education and awareness can help in achieving gender equality.

Moreover, educated women are the assets of any nation and state. As Allama Iqbal said, 'No nation can progress unless its women work equally along men'. Countries having high female literacy rate are more developed than countries having low female literacy rate. For example, **nordic countries have high gender equality** because their women are educated. Education paves the way for employment and hence to the economic stability as well. A survey shows if given equal opportunities women can contribute to **\$3 trillion to annual global economy**. In 27 countries female CEOs are leading the business paving a way for the economic stability of their country. Agriculture majorly contributes to the

economy of Pak and 70% women work salary free for agriculture. This depicts how economy of developed and developing countries highly depend on their women.

In addition to economy, education can strengthen women to lead in science and technology along with men. There are many examples that prove if women are given rightful education and equal opportunities as men - they can make every impossible, possible. Such as -

Arfa Karim - youngest software developer in the world, **Sunita Marshel** - 1st female Indian astronaut to enter space, **Benazir Bhutto** - 1st female prime minister of Pakistan, **Marium Mukhtiyar** - first female GD pilot in PAF. These examples depicts how women excelled the other gender in their dominant fields. And this is only possible when they are educated enough to fill this gender gap.

To no. more surprise ~~ka~~ educated women have lead in the domain of politics and policy making too. **Shaheed Benazir Bhutto** who was an oxford graduate served as the first female prime minister of Pakistan twice. **Maleeha Lodhi** - diplomat and a master of political science served as a permanent representative of Pakistan at United nations. This potrays how a qualitative education can prevail gender equality and how educated women are the valuable assets of any nation. As Bringham Young said, "Educate a man and he will educate a man. Educate a woman and she will educate generations."

Education has provided woman awareness to use it as a sword fo mitigate gender inequality. As it is said that **pen is more powerful than sword**. To encounter the

gender gap, women have stepped in the field to use their pen as sword. **Virginia Woolf** a famous fig writer and feminist educates women through her unparalleled writings. **Nemrah Ahmad** an Urdu novel writer and enterprenuer who educates young girls to be strong in all domains. Her writings and characters are strong and independent women. Other than these women are serving in healthcare as front liners. Women excelling majority of educated unemployed males of society depicts a clear picture that women are not weak. Their potential is just taken for granted. To mitigate this, education and awareness can help to achieve gender equality.

To counter argue the above discussion, the world needs a broader approach other than education to achieve gender equality in 21st century.

The world needs prudent and exodious policies to fight against gender-based violence to achieve gender equality. Mere education is not enough. Education may have paved the way for women employment but workplace harrasments, sexual abuse and domestic violence are still a question to gender equality. Government and UNHDF must adopt effective policies to address gender-based violence. **Pakistan ranked lowest in countries with gender equality with 53,000 women death due to domestic violence in 2023.** The poor conviction rates of 0.5% adds cherry to the top of whole situation. This shows that only education cannot help us achieve gender equality unless world has effective policies.

Patriarchy and fuedalism is another hurdle in achieving gender equality. The patriarchs are the narcissitic and self-centered men of society who feel an independent woman

a shame for their society. Due to this the sparkling potential of talented women burns in the fire of stove in their kitchens. Women empowerment plans must be adopted to strengthen women living under patriarchy. Equal opportunities are the right of both genders.

In a nutshell it has been concluded that **education is the ad-hoc key to achieve gender equality**. With rightful education and equal opportunities, women can do wonders in every domain. In this multipolar world, economies will sustain when both genders will work side by side. It is a global responsibility to educate women and provide them secure space to grow. Only in this way, we can gender equality can be achieved and practiced. The world has vast, vast opportunities for women and gender equality, that must be delivered peacefully.