

4. Women in Power Structures of Pakistan: Presence, Impact, and Limitations

Outline:

1. Introduction

Thesis: "This essay examines the presence of women in the formal power structures and structural power arrangements in Pakistan; explores its impacts on governance, economy, security, and society; and identifies limitations that need to be overcome to tackle the negative impacts of weak women presence in Pakistan's power structures."

2. Presence of Women in Power Structures of Pakistan

2.1. Formal Structures

(i) Quota system guarantees fixed presence in legislative system but

presence in executive is weak.

(ii) Low FLPR reflects weak presence in the economic structure

(iii) Quota system in ~~bea~~ bureaucracy and judiciary preserves presence

(iv) Female ~~part~~ presence remains low in military hierarchy of a hybrid state.

2.2. Structural Power Arrangements

(i) Society dominated by patriarchy has low presence of women in grassroots authority, control, and influence

(ii) Presence of women in religious authority is weak, perpetuating curtailed presence.

3. Impacts of weak presence of women in power structures

(i) Economy is deprived of huge GDP contribution

(ii) Governance reflects further decrease in service delivery, ~~an~~ increase in corruption (Case in point: Rwanda's post genocide female dominated assembly)

(iii) As per UNSCR 1325 logic, durable peace cannot be achieved.

(iv) Societal and religious ~~dogma~~ persists.

(v) Social Media becomes more important to further the narrative (Case in point: Aurat March).

4. Limitations that need to be overcome ~~to~~ increase ~~for~~ women presence in power structures.

(i) Deep rooted cultural and religious values stopping women from ~~agency~~.

(ii) True democratic benchmark needed for meaningful empowerment and power, not possible in praetorian state.

(iii) Low literacy rates limits women's participation in power structures

5. Conclusion

Essay:

In 1988, Pakistan experienced a landmark achievement. Benazir Bhutto became the first woman to be elected as a Prime Minister of a democratic government in the Muslim world. Less than two decades later on her return to the country, she was assassinated in Rawalpindi. Benazir was not the first, and certainly not the last prominent woman in the halls of power. Pakistan has birthed Fatima Jinnah, Begum Rana Liaquat, and Malala Yousafzai to name a few, women that have inspired others in

home and abroad. However, each one of these examples, when deeply studied, reveals that women in the power structures of Pakistan is neither a natural outcome that occurs frequently, nor a rare phenomena. To delve into the depths of women in Pakistani power structures, we need to ^{first} understand what they are. Power structures depict how authority, control, and influence are distributed in a society. In Pakistan, these power structures are characterized by a male dominated society with strong religious identity. This is reflected in the formal institutions like executive, legislative, and military. In such a setting, women's are not completely invisible, however, they are not achieving their true potential as well. These dynamics have far reaching consequences for the country as a whole in its pursuit of socio-economic and political goals. However, certain ~~limiting~~

deep-rooted limiting factors impede the path to prosperity. This essay will examine the presence of women in the formal power structures ^{in the} ~~in the~~ backdrop of structural power arrangements; explore its ~~impacts~~ ^{impacts} on governance, economy, security, and ^{and} society; identify the limitations that need to be overcome to tackle the ~~negative~~ ^{negative} impacts of weak women presence in Pakistan's power structures.