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The Role of Female Education in the Development of Pakistani Society



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Abstract: *This paper examines Pakistan's female education system and its role on the development of society. Education has great impacts on social justice, gender equality, economic growth, and women's overall empowerment. Despite being vital and complex, with both social and economic facets, the evolution of Pakistani society greatly depends on the role that female education plays. Although there are many obstacles to overcome, such as resource limitations, gender inequality, and cultural barriers, women's education in Pakistan has the potential to significantly advance the country's overall progress. The challenges women encounter in obtaining education are also covered, and suggestions are made for using female education to promote inclusive, sustainable development. Women's education plays a vital role in Pakistan's development in several social, political, and economic spheres. Education for women and girls is essential to resolve long-standing social injustice in a nation where gender disparities still exist. In this regard, the direct and indirect advantages of female education are examined, emphasizing how it promotes gender equality, economic growth, health advancement, and societal advancement. Despite Pakistan's progress in increasing female literacy, obstacles still exist because of socio-economic divisions, cultural norms, and the lack of access to high-quality education in rural areas. This study evaluates the significance of female education and their role in the society and offer practical suggestions to enhance girls' access to quality of education in Pakistan. The main purpose of this study is to educate women and not only to improve people's lives but also to create a more equitable, prosperous society for all.*

Keywords: Female education, development, society, Pakistan, gender equality.

Introduction

No society can develop and flourish when its females are uneducated. Educated women plays a crucial role in the development of any society. An educated woman can look after her children and the entire family because education provides useful knowledge about society, rights and responsibilities, religion, healthcare, culture and customs, as well as innovations and everyday achievements. Therefore, education is of utmost importance for the development of every

society—especially in Pakistani society, where the female education ratio is low. The development of communities and societies is greatly dependent on female education in every nation and society. If women are discouraged from pursuing education, no society can flourish. The development of any society is positively impacted by education. In contrast to other countries around the world, Pakistan has a very low female education ratio. Pakistani women face numerous obstacles and difficulties in their pursuit of higher education, including

financial constraints, social norms and traditions, male dominance, family restrictions, and an unstable environment. Even so, education has the power to transform the world and make any society prosperous and change for the better. One of the main forces behind the advancement of society has long been thought to be education. Women's education in Pakistan is crucial to determine the future of the country. Education has a strong correlation between improvements in family well-being, economic performance, health outcomes, and social stability. Pakistan continues to have one of the lowest rates of female literacy in the world, despite these advantages. Economic inequality, political unpredictability, and societal norms all continue to prevent women from receiving high-quality education. Women's education plays a crucial role. In addition to addressing the individual benefits for women, female education can also address the collective benefits for the entire country, resulting in broader societal development. Education can play a significant role for the development of a society. One of the most important but still undeveloped aspects of Pakistan's growth strategy is female education. In Pakistan, female education has faced many obstacles over the years, despite the obvious advantages that an educated female population can offer to social justice, healthcare advancement, and economic growth. Especially in rural areas, political instability, infrastructural deficiencies, and cultural barriers still prevent women from accessing high-quality education. The primary goal of education for women is to advance Pakistani society. It also highlights the life-changing effects of education on women and investigates the connection between educating girls and promoting national development. Girls continue to face obstacles that keep them from going to school, and these obstacles are influenced by both cultural and socio-economic factors. Additionally, it investigates the social and economic advantages of educating women, especially the potential for increased economic opportunity, better family health, and decreased poverty. It is impossible to ignore the significance of women's education for the advancement of any society. Investing in high-quality education for women helps to

create a stable nation, morally upright communities, economic growth, and better futures for coming generations. Societies are more prosperous when educated women raise healthier children and stronger families. But despite these clear advantages, millions of women worldwide, including in Pakistan are not allowed to receive even the most basic education. According to UNICEF estimation, 119 million girls are not attending school globally in the current situation. Of these, 87 million girls are in primary school. Girls are twice as likely to not attend school in conflict-ridden nations as they are in peaceful areas. The most frequent issues are poverty, cultural norms, early marriages, and gender-based inequality, though the causes can differ widely. Education is the need of the day and it crucial for the development of society as Napoléon Bonapart said, "If you educate a man, you educate a person if you educate a woman, you educate the whole family." The progress and development of the entire society, and particularly of Pakistani society, depend on women's education.

Research Methodology

The research methodology is based on both primary and secondary sources, such as books, articles, magazines, newspapers, journals, and the internet.

The Importance of Women Education

Women education is essential for the advancement and long-term growth of Pakistani societies. Women with higher levels of education make substantial contributions to their families' and communities' general well-being, health, and economy. Women who possess education are more likely to ensure their children, particularly daughters, attend school, make informed health decisions, and engage in the workforce (UNICEF, 2023). Women's education not only advances social justice but also boosts economic growth in Pakistan, where gender inequality is still a significant obstacle. Higher GDP growth and better public health outcomes are directly correlated with higher female literacy rates (World Bank, 2022). Additionally, women's education promotes civic engagement and support for rights-based

policies, which fortifies democratic institutions. Therefore, funding for female education is not only a question of gender equity but also a vital strategic investment for Pakistan's overall progress. The development of any society is more dependent on education. Without education, no society can flourish. Education plays a crucial role especially for female. Since women are the backbone of their families, educated women can guide their families in the right direction and instill positive habits in their kids, whereas uneducated women will not have this kind of experience. Building just societies where women can pursue their desired careers without hindrance and feel supported throughout their academic journeys is the aim of education.

Its need of the day to educate women and empower them by providing merit-based scholarships and arrange welcome classrooms where female students are encouraged to succeed in a range of subjects, from the humanities to STEM. The Effects of Economic Development Economic growth is certain to be significantly impacted in nations where women have equal access to education. Utilizing the potential of this sizable demographic is crucial, particularly in a nation like Pakistan, where women comprise over half of the population. But their education is very less as compared to men. Women with more education are more likely to find employment, make a steady living, and reinvest in their communities and families. According to UNESCO, a girl's earning potential can rise by up to 20% with just one more year of education.

Political Leadership and Representation

Politics and leadership positions are consistently underrepresented by women. They can take on leadership roles and stand up for their rights in any circumstance because of the knowledge and confidence that education provides. This leads to the development of more inclusive governance models that recognize women's rights and create progressive policies that ultimately help society. Education can significantly increase women's representation and leadership in politics. Education gives women in Pakistan the information, self-assurance, and abilities they need to participate in public life, even though

their level of involvement in political decision-making is still low. Women with higher levels of education are more likely to exercise civic rights, comprehend political procedures, and engage in advocacy, voting, and election campaigns (UN Women, 2022).

The development of critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills, all necessary for political leadership, through education this skill can develop. Moreover, girls are inspired to imagine themselves in similar positions when they see educated female role models in politics, defying gender stereotypes that frequently discourage female leadership. Gender studies and political consciousness in school curricula can also influence inclusive attitudes in both boys and girls, fostering an atmosphere that is more encouraging for female leaders (World Bank, 2021). Increasing access to education, particularly in rural areas, along with leadership development initiatives and political mentoring for young women, can greatly increase Pakistani women's political participation. A more representative, democratic, and egalitarian society is ultimately paved with education.

Dispelling Gender Stereotypes in Careers and Education

Due in large part to gender stereotypes, women have historically been underrepresented in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Since education gives people the skills they need to enter a variety of fields, it is the only way to challenge these norms.

By empowering girls to pursue a variety of career paths and giving them the tools they need to succeed, education plays a vital role in challenging these norms. Individual perceptions can also be changed by programs like awareness campaigns, scholarships for women in STEM, and mentorship programs.

Family health and wellness

Well-educated women can make better dietary decisions for their families and are more conscious of their own health. According to expert educationist that, there is a direct correlation between a mother's education level and a 7–9% decrease in under-five mortality for

every additional year of education. Consequently, it is reasonable to conclude that education for women is directly related to healthier lifestyles for coming generations.

Creating Societies with Compassion

Women are less likely to participate in or put up with violence when they have more education. Rather, they have a significant impact on fostering harmony and understanding among communities. As a result, their children develop strong moral character traits that are passed down through the generations. As a result, when we consider the education of women and girls, we are also contributing to the development of more compassionate societies for all.

The Value of Education for Women in Islam

Islam emphasizes gender equity in education and views education as a fundamental right that is equally applicable to men and women. Women have contributed significantly to leadership, scholarship, and intellectual endeavors throughout Islamic history. The contributions of women to the development of Islamic civilization are exemplified by the lives of notable female figures such as Lady Fatima Zahra (RA), who is admired for her leadership and wisdom, and Lady Aisha (RA), a prominent authority in Hadith. Women's education is crucial in Islam because it enables them to carry out their responsibilities as visionary community leaders and loving caregivers, improving family well-being and fostering strong moral principles in the next generation. Lady Fatima Zahra (RA), Chair are reviving this tradition by encouraging academic research on women's roles and the feminine facets of divinity in Islam and beyond. It guarantees that the contributions made by Muslim women will always motivate and influence a more just society.

International Cooperation in Women's Education

Individual efforts are necessary, but systemic changes are desperately needed in Pakistan regarding women's education. In developing nations, the government has a significant impact on women's education through enhancing school facilities, establishing secure learning spaces,

educating educators, and enacting laws that promote this goal. Particularly in rural areas, this encourages parents to send their daughters to school without worrying about their safety. Pakistan is working to change cultural perceptions and give everyone the same opportunity to enroll in the country's top undergraduate programs. In addition to providing opportunities for women to succeed in traditionally male-dominated fields like STEM, the university cultivates an inclusive culture. Furthermore, several international organizations, including the World Bank and UNICEF, are attempting to improve policies that impede girls' education and build more equitable societies.

Growth of the Economy

Putting money into women's education has a big impact on economic growth. According to a study by Hassan and Rafaz (2017), Pakistan's GDP increases by 96% for every 1% increase in female education, female labor force participation, education spending, and fertility rate. According to Shanxi et al. (2025), educated women are more likely to pursue higher-paying careers, enhance household well-being, and make wise decisions regarding family planning and health, all of which will advance the development of the country.

Family Medical Services

Educated mothers can give good health treatment instead of uneducated mothers for their kids. Children of educated mothers are more likely to seek medical attention and have healthier offspring. Daughters of educated mothers enjoy better health, higher living standards, and greater financial independence (Noor et al., 2020). Furthermore, educated women tend to marry later and have fewer children, which can help to improve family well-being and slow down population growth.

Cultural and Social Change

Mothers with education can influence their children's and society's behavior in a positive way. Education for women challenges traditional norms and empowers them to actively contribute to the progress of society.

Because educated women are more likely to support community development, fight for their rights, and participate in decision-making process, society becomes more inclusive and equitable (Khan, 2022).

Pakistan's Present Situation in Female Education

In Pakistan, female education is still a complicated topic, even with recent advancements of 2023, Pakistan's female literacy rate is roughly 47%, which is much lower than the country's male literacy rate of roughly 72%, according to UNESCO. In rural areas, where social and economic barriers limit women's access to education, the disparity is especially noticeable. The difficulties faced by women are made worse by Pakistan's education system's deficient infrastructure, lack of funding, and shortage of female teachers.

Despite some recent progress, Pakistan still faces many obstacles in female education. Gender disparities persist, particularly in rural areas where girls' access to high-quality education is restricted by cultural norms, poverty, and inadequate infrastructure. Pakistan's female literacy rate is roughly 48%, while the male literacy rate is 70%, according to UNESCO (2023), indicating a persistent gender gap. Early marriages, worries about safety, and a dearth of female educators and educational institutions are all contributing factors. Regional variations are also pronounced; compared to Punjab, female enrollment rates are lower in provinces like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan. Although efforts by the government and international aid organizations have been made to address these problems, significant progress has been hampered by societal attitudes and systemic obstacles (World Bank, 2022).

Pakistan still faces major obstacles in female education, especially in rural and underserved areas, despite notable advancements. Approximately 21 million girls and 25 million boys are enrolled in educational institutions as of the 2022–2023 school year. Around 13.71 million girls are still not enrolled in school, though, with the national out-of-school rate for

girls being 41.5%, higher than the rate for boys (34.9%). In regions like Baluchistan, where 58% of girls do not attend school, this discrepancy is even more noticeable.

This educational disparity is caused by several factors. Cultural norms and early marriages further hinder girls' educational aspirations, and economic constraints frequently cause families to prioritize the education of boys. Furthermore, the situation is made worse in rural areas by a shortage of female teachers and poor school facilities.

The government responded by enacting programs like the Conditional Cash Transfer component of the Benazir Income Support Program, which offers financial incentives to families to send their daughters to school, and the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes gender-sensitive education. The government and international groups like UNICEF and the Malala Fund have also collaborated to increase underprivileged girls' access to education. Although the gross enrollment rate for girls at the primary level increased from 68% in 2018 to 72% in 2023 because of these efforts, there are still issues. To close the gender gap and guarantee fair educational opportunities for all Pakistani girls, more funding must be allocated to community involvement, teacher preparation, and educational infrastructure.

Female Education's Contribution to Social and Health Development

Education for women is essential to enhance health outcomes. Women with higher levels of education are more likely to make knowledgeable choices about nutrition, health care, and family planning.

Lower Infant Mortality Rates: Mothers with higher levels of education are more likely to obtain healthcare services and have fewer children, which lowers infant mortality rates.

Better Family Health: Women with higher levels of education are more likely to lead healthier lives and give their kids better diets, both of which enhance public health in general.

Social Justice and Gender Equality: Women who receive an education are better equipped to

question social norms and promote gender equality. Women with higher levels of education are more likely to engage in social and political activities, fostering social justice and change.

Obstacles to Female Education in Pakistan

In Pakistan, women face several obstacles that keep them from obtaining an education, particularly in rural areas. These consist of:

Religious and Cultural Barriers: In some areas, conservative beliefs limit women's access to education because they believe it is unneeded or improper.

Financial Barriers: Families in poverty frequently must give their priority to male children's over their female children's because they cannot afford the costs of tuition, uniforms, and transportation.

Safety Concerns: In some regions of Pakistan, like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan, girls' access to safe education is impeded by the threat of terrorism and violence. Access to high-quality education is further hampered by inadequate infrastructure, which includes a shortage of schools, especially for girls, and a shortage of female teachers in rural areas.

Female Education's Effect on Economic Development

The potential of female education to promote economic development is among its most significant effects. Educated women make several contributions to the workforce such as:

Better Labor Market Results: Educated women are more likely to contribute to the workforce, engage in the formal economy, and receive higher wages. Poverty is decreased and financial independence is improved by this economic empowerment.

Less Economic Inequality: By encouraging women to pursue higher education, the gender pay gap should be closed, resulting in more equitable economic growth. Women with higher levels of education typically use their income to improve their family's quality of life.

Greater Entrepreneurship: Education empowers women to launch and run enterprises, which can boost employment and the economy

of the country. According to a survey it indicates that a mere 10% increase in the number of women employed could result in an \$18 billion increase in Pakistan's GDP, which would be a substantial contribution to the nation's overall progress.

Literacy and Education

Generations of educated people are raised by educated women. Education women are more inclined to support the health and education of their offspring. In conservative communities, female teachers can contribute to a rise in female school attendance.

Women can pursue careers in research, science, medicine, and education, all of which advance innovation and national knowledge.

Economic Participation: Through education women can contribute to the workforce, operate businesses, and increase GDP. Many local economies in rural areas are supported by women working in cottage industries, handicrafts, and agriculture. Women who receive skillful training can become self-sufficient by working in fields like IT, fashion, healthcare, and freelancing.

Healthcare Sector: Women educations are vital, particularly in rural areas where cultural norms prevent women from seeking medical advice from male physicians. National health outcomes can be enhanced by women who advocate for family planning, maternal health, and hygiene.

Political and Civic Engagement: Benazir Bhutto and Malala Yousafzai are two examples of women in leadership positions who motivate others and influence public policy. More inclusive institutions are created through active engagement in civic society, local government, and politics due to female education.

Human Rights and Social Reform
Women can spearhead campaigns for legal rights, education, and environmental sustainability. They can also be powerful advocates for the abolition of child marriage, dowry customs, and gender-based violence.

Boosting Communities and Families

Women are typically the first teachers in the home, teaching the next generation civic and moral values. Women can plan health campaigns, literacy campaigns, or welfare projects by getting involved in the community.

Policy Recommendations

The following actions are suggested to fully utilize the potential of female education:

Boost Education Funding: Increase the share of GDP devoted to education with the goal of matching or surpassing the current 2.4% allotment.

Overcome Socio-cultural Barriers: Put in place initiatives that dispel gender stereotypes and highlight the importance of educating girls.

Improve Infrastructure: Construct secure and easily accessible educational facilities, especially in isolated and rural locations.

Community Engagement: To guarantee cultural acceptance and support, involve nearby communities in educational initiatives.

Gender Disparities: Especially in conservative and rural areas, men and women have notably different levels of education. To decrease gender disparities, its need to promote separate girls' schools in every village with low of cast.

Limited Access in Rural Areas: In rural areas, women frequently encounter additional challenges, including long commutes to school, cultural attitudes that discourage female education, and a dearth of institutions exclusively for women. In such areas the government should implement law that no male prohibits girls from schooling.

Government Initiatives and Challenges: Although the government has implemented policies to improve female education, insufficient funding, a lack of implementation, and a low priority for girls' education remain barriers. To fully utilize the potential of female education, Pakistan needs to remove the obstacles that prevent girls from attending school. Among the main suggestions are as under:

Increase Government Investment: The government needs to make sure that current

policies aimed at raising female literacy rates are implemented and devote more funds to education, particularly for girls.

Community Engagement and Awareness: Particularly in rural and conservative areas, efforts should be made to engage communities in the value of female education.

Safe and Inclusive Schools: It's critical to establish a safe and encouraging environment for girls, which entails enhancing the infrastructure, recruiting more female educators, and providing financial aid to families so that girls can attend school.

Cooperation with NGOs: In rural areas where the government has little influence, non-governmental organizations can be very helpful in promoting and assisting female education.

CONCLUSION

One of the most effective means of attaining sustainable development in Pakistan is the education of women. Pakistan's population can reach its full potential if the obstacles to female education are removed, women are empowered, and equal access to educational opportunities is guaranteed. Improvements in social justice, health outcomes, economic conditions, and political participation are all directly impacted by female education, which advances society. Consequently, as a major force behind national development, female education must be given top priority by the government, society, and international community. In Pakistan, female education is unquestionably a potent development catalyst. Empowering women and girls have a direct impact on the political, social, and economic arenas, opening doors for long-term development and raising everyone's standard of living. There is no doubt that women's education improves economic performance, reduces poverty, and raises health standards. Education encourages social justice and gender equality and gives women the means to confront the injustices they encounter. More gender equality in educational systems is necessary to help both boys and girls succeed academically. The development of fundamental abilities such as critical thinking and communication should be facilitated by these

systems to guarantee women equality in all fields especially in education. To create inclusive societies where children stay in school and mature to break the cycles of inequality for future generations, we must close this access gap.

The full and equal participation of Pakistan's women is essential to its development. Women's empowerment is a wise move for long-term, sustainable national development as well as a matter of justice. Women play a crucial role in a progressive and prosperous Pakistan as mothers, workers, leaders, and change agents.

Pakistan's sustainable development depends on women's active participation and empowerment. Women make up half of the population and are essential to families, communities, and the economy. Whether they are leaders, educators, business owners, or medical professionals, they have the power to inspire whole generations. Increased educational attainment, better health outcomes, decreased poverty rates, and more stable societies are all benefits of equal opportunity for women. But for Pakistan to fully realize their potential, the cultural and structural barriers that prevent women from participating must be eliminated. The nation can attain inclusive growth by spending money on girls' education, guaranteeing equality in the workplace, defending women's rights, and encouraging leadership. A truly developed Pakistan is one in which women actively shape the country's progress rather than merely supporting it.

Through women education it can make significant and transformative contributions in the social, political, and economic spheres to the advancement of Pakistani society. A more prosperous country and stronger communities are the results of empowering women and promoting gender equality. Women can contribute positively to Pakistan's development in the following ways. Prioritizing female education can change Pakistan's future despite persistent obstacles like socio-cultural limitations and scarce resources. Together, the government, civil society, and international organizations must eliminate these barriers and establish a nurturing atmosphere

that empowers girls to go to school and finish their education. Pakistan can unleash the potential of its women and ensure a more promising and prosperous future by facilitating access to education and encouraging female empowerment.

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