

A Critical Review: A Significant Role of Women in the Development of the Society

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Received: June 10, 2021 Accepted: September 21, 2021 Published: September 30, 2021

doi:10.5296/ijch.v8i2.19058

URL: <https://doi.org/10.5296/ijch.v8i2.19058>

Abstract

Women are equal to men in Pakistan and contribute with some effort to economic development, democratic stability, and social quality. It is fact that Pakistani society is male-dominated and male constitutes a major part of the population of the country. In this regard, women face many problems to progress and obtain due status. In spite of all hurdles, Pakistani women are being an important contribution to the development of society in both rural and urban areas of all provinces. This paper discusses different roles of women from an Islamic point of view, roles of women in the Labour Force, and roles of women in the politics of Pakistan. The explanatory method has been for data collection from the secondary sources data collection like research articles, research journal and books. The finding of the article indicates that women despite numerous difficulties they are motivated, industrious and ready to work for the progress of the society of Pakistan. Consequently, the government and competent authorities should focus on the education, health, nutrition, training, safety and freedom of Pakistani women so that they can play their roles in the development of the country without any fear and discrimination.

Keywords: Pakistani women, economic growth, democratic, stability, politics

1. Introduction

We are going to discuss the personality without her world of the male is incomplete and charmless in every walk of life from the origin of humanity till in the present age. In this regard that personality is a woman who is considered an essential part of the world. The important progress of many countries is due to the major contribution of women around the world in the current time. But the condition of the women still in a bad situation and their fat has not been changed so for up to their status. Further, those societies in the nations are at the top of the list in the progress in economic, business, education, law, and even in the military that has given due respect to the women according to their skills and professions. If we see the status of the women in Pakistan it is worse as compared to the other countries.

Actually, if we see the scenario of the world regarding women. It will come to identify that around the world 43% of women are involved in agricultural labor along with men while this ratio even increases up to 70% in various countries. In the world, 80% of the agricultural production comes from African counties. In which major work is performed by the women in the small forms and agricultural lands. In this regard, women are not inferior at all in any condition and status.

In Pakistan women, prestige is still truncated, and regarding women, our country is considered the worst. We have complete 73 independent but 80% of women still in different sorts of forced work and face different sorts of violence at offices, agricultural forced work, business, and education. Further, in the gender development index, our country is about 83 numbers from 93 countries. One thing more our country is one of those countries where there is a negative sex ratio of about 101 women to 107 men. Due to such condition, Pakistan is counted in those where women role is denied in the progress of the society and the country.

Islam has equal status to men and women and both share the responsibilities of their life to

make it comfortable to lead. They are also considered as two-wheel of the same cart to maintain the cart for the work. In this regard, Islam has given great importance and status. But due to personal interest, many narrow-minded Ulmas misinterpret the status of women. Thus, it is the truth that the real soul of Islam gives equal rights in every walk of life. The Holy Prophet emphasis on the status of woman in his hades that obtaining an education is the equal right of a man and a woman.

1.1 Importance of Roles of Women in the Society

In the developed countries admit the role of women in the development of the economy, commerce, education, and law. In Pakistan, women have played a significant role in the progress of society and the country. But their roles have not been recognized as parallel to the men. According to Olah Richter (2014), the main essential roles of women are discussed when they are engaged in social work, voluntary tasks, and willing performance in the development of society. In this way, women's roles are recognized when they perform their household activities. These are known as their cultural values in a specific society when they look after their children, husband, and complete household tasks.

Further, with the passage of time women's roles have been transformed in society and included human race development, social justice, equal rights in every walk of life are influencing the policy convinced transformation. Dhaske (2016) mentions that in India women do the social work activities in public and private sectors in order to bring equal gender privileges in India. In Pakistan, women are also playing their precious contributions to the labor force and politics. Thus, it is mandatory to highlight the significant roles of women in the development of Pakistani society.

1.2 Objectives

In this article main objectives are:

- To explore Islamic points of view about women's empowerment.
- To explore the contribution of women in the labor force of Pakistan.
- To explore the role of women in the politics of Pakistan.

1.3 Research Questions

- What is the Islamic point of view about woman empowerment?
- What is the contribution of women to the labor force of Pakistan?
- What is the role of the woman in the politics of Pakistan?

2. Literature Review

It is time to encourage women's contribution parallel to men in every walk of life to the betterment and the development of the economy and social change in the country. Habayib and Cinnamon (2015) mentioned that most of the countries of the world now a day's focus on equal opportunities for both males and females. In addition, in this concern, the first step is to

educate the female of the country because without education it is difficult to bring women forward to face the challenges of the world scenario. Asrar (2011) indicated that send women to school is the best way to provide a uniform platform to empower women. He further mentioned that in Israel women's education ratio is increasing day by day and it indicates that they are dead serious in women's empowerment and development of the country with the help of the women.

Fatima (2010) mentioned that Pakistan includes the line of the developing countries so the government must invest in the sector of education for female education at every stage from primary to the university level. Moreover, she supports her view by mentioning that Pakistan, India, Morocco, and Bangladesh are some countries where the female education ratio is less as compare to the developed countries. Need to bring Pakistan at satisfactory level women education and it is one of the vital sources to bring the state more stable in every sector. If we see that, men's and women's education ratio has increased in 1991 that is 47% and 27% as compare to 1981 which is 35% and 16%. Further, the education ratio in the rural areas is unsatisfactory which is 27% and 6% in the country.

Grunenfelder (2013) described that from 1980 to 2000 in Pakistan the ratio of women's contribution has been at encouraging as compared to the other South Asian countries. In this concern in 2008, the ratio of women jobs increased by up to 22% while men 82%. This sort of situation is unsatisfactory for Pakistan.

The major problems which are a significant hurdle for women's progress are Pardah. Especially women of Abbottabad, Battagram, Haripur, Kohistan, interior Sindh, interior Punjab, North Waziristan, and many areas of Baluchistan. Besio (2006) mentioned that these women are forced to wear Pardah by family members, and it is one of the factor women have not come forward to participate in the development of the society otherwise Pakistani women are intelligent, creative, and productive to assist the other women to participate the welfare of the Pakistani society. In this regard, women's support, motivation, and education are mandatory for the economic, political and social development of the country. Otherwise, it would be difficult for the country to meet the challenges of the world which are changing day by day. Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam also focused the women's empowerment for the betterment of society. He says that no one nation reaches its glory unless women of the state go side by side to men. It is one of the crimes that women are shut up within the four walls of the house. Thus, the Pakistani government and institutions should construct suitable policies regarding women's status and education so that they can be part of the development of the country.

3. Methodology

In this research article explanatory method has been employed to collect the data. In addition, secondary sources have been used like research journals, articles, books, and authentic internet websites to highlight the roles of women in the development of society. Thus, the major focus is given on the Islamic view about women, roles of women in the labor force, and roles of women in the politics of Pakistan.

4. Woman's Roles in Islam, Roles of Women in Labour Force and Roles of Women in the Politics of Pakistan

Islam is a complete religion and provided women the equal privilege to the man. The most important responsibility of the woman is that she is a key agent to preserve the human race. In every relation like the mother, sister, and wife she performs every responsibility with sincerity. If we see that as a mother, she not look after her husband but also children with keen interest without any wrong claim. The first school of every child is the lap of the mother in which children learn such education that would unavailable in the universities and the libraries of the world.

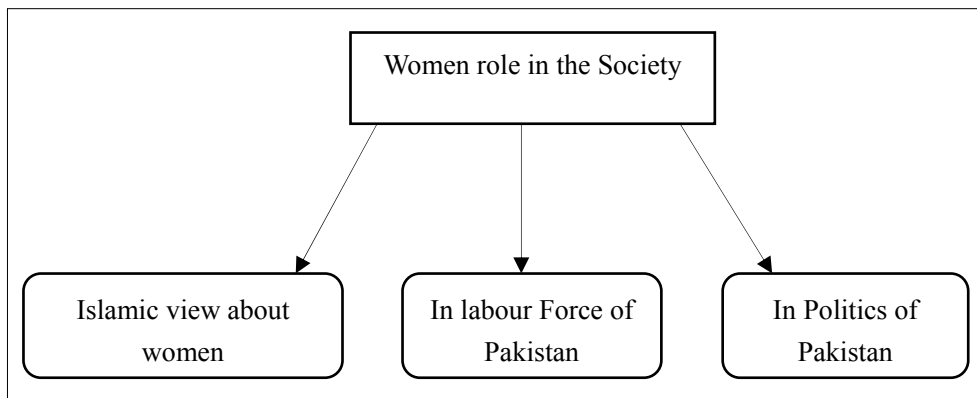


Figure 1. Women roles in Pakistani society

4.1 Islamic View about Roles of Pakistan

Islam is the complete religion in the world in every aspect of life. In addition, Islam has provided every due right to women like education, security, and freedom. Loodhi (2012) mentioned that Islam empowers women and it indicates due respect for women parallel to men. In this concerned numerous Hades are available for guidance. For instance, the Holy Prophet says that knowledge is equally important for males and females. Moreover, women's rights importance is also given in the Holy Quran as well. For instance, "O, believers, both men, and women _are friends and protector of one another". (Al-Taubah 9:71)

Islam has provided women rights which are told us about 1400 years ago and it is clearly mentioned without any discrimination that both males and females are equal in every aspect of life. In this regard, men should give respect to the mother, daughter, and wife because they are always for the welfare of him. Wrong concepts are available regarding women's jobs in Pakistani society. Iram (2013) described that Quran and Hades permit women for the business and the job. Women earn in business with honesty and fairness.

Pakistan got independence in the name of religion which is Islam. In this regard, Islam gives every equal right to women in education, commerce, and household jobs. It means if anyone does not allow women to provide their due rights it means he/she denies Islamic law which is the key foundation of our country. In this concern, the government of Pakistan should take useful strategies for the development of women's rights so that they can play a positive role in

society. Consequently, their participation will bring more prosperity to Pakistan's economy and social life.

4.2 Women Roles in Labour Potency of Pakistan

Like other countries of the world, Pakistani women also playing a significant role in the development of the economy of the state. Moreover, labor surveys 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2018 stats show there is a huge increase in the participation of women in various sectors of the region. Their labor force has rapid growth during the mentioned years. For instance, up to 2015-16 women, workforce contribution was accessible about 61.4 million while 46.38 was male labor force available. It shows the positive and productive women labor force signs for Pakistan in the coming year for economic development.

Table 1. Male and female labour force in Pakistan

LABOUR FORCE AT NATIONAL LEVEL						
YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2013	2014	2015
MALE	41.91	42.44	43.95	45.98	45.65	46.38
FEMALE	11.81	12.48	13.19	13.76	14.45	14.66
BOTH	53.72	54.92	57.24	59.74	60.10	61.04

Further, it shows the positive growth in both genders in the labor force, and women labor force has increased in rural areas as well up to 2015-16. In this regard, 12.25 million participate in different jobs in Pakistan in all provinces. Thus, such kind of signs is beneficial for the country in the coming year for the political, economic and social development.

Table 2. Male and female labour force of rural in Pakistan

RURAL LABOUR FORCE AT NATIONAL LEVEL						
YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2013	2014	2015
MALE	27.51	27.77	28.69	29.89	29.10	29.70
FEMALE	09.79	10.40	11.01	11.34	12.04	12.25
BOTH	37.30	38.17	39.70	41.23	41.14	41.95

Table 3. Male and female labour force of urban in Pakistan

URBAN LABOUR FORCE AT NATIONAL LEVEL						
YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2013	2014	2015
MALE	14.40	14.67	15.26	16.90	16.55	16.68
FEMALE	2.02	2.08	2.28	1.61	2.41	2.41
BOTH	16.42	16.75	17.54	18.51	18.96	19.09

4.3 Pakistani Women Roles in Politics

A lot of discussions have been made that there is no proper status given to women in Pakistan as compare to other Asian countries. But Pakistan women have made way with their hardworking, commitment, and dedication in every sector of society, especially in politics. In politics, women's roles are matchless and admirable which cannot be ignored at any cost. Women in Pakistan participate in politics not to only obtain equal status like men but also to raise an equal voice for the education, betterment, and freedom of rural women in all provinces. These women want to motivate rural women, reduce the weakness and provide a uniform platform to grow not only for their families but also participate to improve the socio-economic development of the state.

Moreover, many women participated in the election of Pakistan and have become Provincial and National Member of the Assemblies in all provinces. For instance, Fryal Talpur member of the Provincial Assembly, Dr. Fehmida Mirza Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan. Other women like Shahla Raza were elected Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Pakistan. In this regard, Prof. Zakar (2011) mentioned that Pakistani women have been playing a very productive and useful role in politics equal to men. More educated, sincere, motivated, and efficient women leaders required for the betterment of Pakistani politics to achieve the desired goals in democratic governance.

5. Conclusion

In this research article roles of women have been described and focused which are important to bring in the front of common people. Because women are also a crucial part of the development of the economic and every walk of life. It is a fact that Pakistani women are not only competent but also able ready to work and contribute in every sort of difficulties for the beloved country. Further, this article discusses the major difficulties which are faced by women and how they come out of it. Consequently, the government and competent authorities should focus to education, health, nutrition, training, safety and freedom of Pakistani women so that they can play their roles in the development of the country without any fear and discrimination.

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