



Empowering Women: A Study of Gender Inequality and Activism in *I Am Malala The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by The Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai

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ABSTRACT

I am Malala portrays Pakistan and Mingora in particular, as a very anti-feminist society, we say misogynistic in many different ways, and women are mistreated and denigrated. As early as age 10, girls are married off. They believed that educating girls was a waste of time. This research paper examines the significance of educating girls; Malala's activism is centred on the power of education. As a result of spending her early years in and around schools, Malala quickly grasps the power that education has to influence a child's life, determine their prospects. It also examines the discrimination against women due to gender. Even before the young girl child is conceived, the cruelty starts. She is frequently prevented from conceiving. The young woman is seen as a burden. She frequently lacks the essential liberties and equal liberties necessary to lead a healthy adolescence and adult life.

KEYWORDS: Misogynistic, activism, gender inequality, women studies, women empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

More than two-thirds of the 796 million illiterate persons on the planet are women. Only 39% of rural girls attend secondary schools, according to international data. Compared to urban girls (59%), boys (60%) and boys in rural areas (45%), this percentage is significantly lower. Girls' eventual wages rise by 10–20 per cent for every additional year of basic school. Additionally, it pushes individuals to delay marriage, has fewer children, and expose fewer of them to violence.

Why is one Sex more prosperous than the other, to begin with? This inquiry comes from Malala, a 15-year-old girl. A young woman by the name of "Malala" recounts her experiences in early 2000s Pakistan and her struggle for girls' rights to education, freedom, and life in the book *I Am Malala*. There are five sections to the book, each of which introduces a new aspect of her life and experiences. Her daily routine at home and in SWAT village is depicted in the first section. She recalls the past of Pakistan, her birthplace, as well as the religious ties between the communities and national ideals. Malala describes the disparities in Pakistan. Despite having two boys, her parents never treated her as if she were inferior to them. Her father had instilled in her the belief that she was capable of anything, even pursuing an education. The opportunity for equitable education is thus provided to Malala, her brothers, and other girls in SWAT village when the man's ambition of establishing a school is eventually realized. The purpose of this research paper is to emphasize the value of gender equality and education for women.

POWER OF EDUCATION

Women and girls' education is still seen as a privilege rather than a human right in many Eastern countries. Women and girls are consistently deprived of the same acceptance as men solely due to their gender. Women and girls are still fighting to prove our worth as a member of society. (2)

The power of education is the central focus of all of Malala's activism. Malala gained an early understanding of how education can influence a child's life, including how it can determine their possibilities for the future and give them the courage to pursue their dreams. It is because of her education that Malala was empowered to stand strong against the Taliban occupation of her home, and she has used her fame to try to give as many other children as possible the opportunity to go to school.

I Am Malala praises the value of education all over the work, the opening sequence in which Malala is shot by the Taliban for taking the bus to school and concluding with Malala advocating for a UN resolution in support of universal education. It may be said that Malala's maturation is influenced by her education; the more she learns, the more she values education, and the more mature she becomes. "There is no greater weapon than knowledge and no greater source of knowledge than the written word." (4)

It is undeniable that Malala is very determined and compassionate since she persisted in fighting for what she saw as the greater good despite all the obstacles she had to overcome. Malala Yousafzai's determination was a crucial quality that aided her in her fight for children's education. Malala and her father began getting death threats after the Taliban entered because of their opinions on education. Malala refused her father's suggestion to transfer her to a boarding school and out of Swat. She writes, "I don't know why, but hearing I being targeted did not worry me." (119)

She wants to stay in Swat and continue to fight for what she believes in. When her father suggests that they stop their fight for equal education, Malala replies,

How can we do that? You were the one who said that if we believe in something greater than our lives, then our voices will only multiply even if we are dead. We can't disown our campaign. (224)

Malala determines that she would rather die fighting than give up and would not give up until she achieves her goals. Malala was shot by the Taliban on October 9, 2012, and she nearly died. She relocated to the UK and made a speedy recovery. Her voice was not silenced by the Taliban's effort to kill her; rather, it became louder. Malala Yousafzai is a highly compassionate person. She was compassionate and fought for the underprivileged. Some people either didn't want to pay the fees for their children to attend school or were unable to do so.

She also visited Jordan to meet with Syrian refugees, Kenya to meet with female students, and northern Nigeria to give a speech in support of the girls abducted by Boko Haram, a terrorist organization akin to the Taliban. All of these trips were funded by the Malala Fund. Malala endured a great deal of hardship to meet some of the individuals she was fighting for. Malala's compassion and care are two of her most important personal qualities, and they motivated her to fight for change. She is still fighting for educational rights now. Following her shooting, Malala Yousafzai and her cause received widespread attention. The Right to Education movement garnered more than two million signatures. The petition aided in the approval of Pakistan's first law granting the right to an education.

Malala looks a lot like her father, and she converses candidly, which serves as a springboard for her inevitable role in the uprising against the Taliban. She quickly realizes, however, that speaking involves more than simply reading off a piece of paper. If she wants to have an impact on her audience, she needs to speak from the heart and draw from her personal experiences. She will carry this example with her when she gains international recognition. Malala looks a lot like her father, and she converses candidly, which serves as a springboard for her inevitable role in the uprising against the Taliban. She quickly realizes, however, that speaking involves more than simply reading off a piece of paper. If she wants to have an impact on her audience, she needs to speak from the heart and draw from her personal experiences. She will carry this example with her when she gains international recognition.

Malala has legitimate concerns about the value of education, but the fundamental shift in her attitude toward instruction is that she starts to value it more and more. Malala is more mature and grounded towards the end of the book than she has ever been, and as a result, she is more convinced of the value of education. In the last section, she embarks on her most ambitious project to date: a United Nations goal designed to ensure education for every child worldwide.

Before she attacked, Malala was extraordinary shrouded by the press media in Pakistan and around the world. After her attack, Malala's notoriety became known throughout the world. Since her attack, several academics. In Western news media, she is covered for her show. Additionally, Malala has read the study. In particular, I Am Malala's research has focused on the cleaver's ability to portray the US and Britain's involvement in Pakistan's government, drone attacks, and the Taliban's harshness to women on order to defend the conflict on dread. Anyway, the majority of web pieces are polls for her book, which has received praise from both the UK and the US. Numerous studies examining why Malala becomes a news media focus have been conducted found on the web.

GENDER INEQUALITY

Education is a human right that is necessary for the enjoyment of all other rights, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In order to ensure that women have equal rights to males in the sphere of education, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women called on nations to take all necessary steps to end discrimination against women.

Gender inequality and women's status theories can aid in our understanding of the power disparities that exist in women's lives and may raise the likelihood of stalking victims. Although women's status is a significant role in stalking victimization, it ignores other aspects of victimization, such as victims' risk factors or activity patterns, which can be described by the theory of routine activities. The notion of routine activities enables researchers to look at quantifiable, precise aspects of people's everyday life that can raise the likelihood of stalking victims.

By merging these two viewpoints, we can more clearly explain why women are more prone to become stalking victims and what behaviors make them more susceptible to being stalked. Furthermore, we must comprehend the part that economic ability plays in people's capacity to change in order to more accurately describe how people alter their regular actions as a result of victimization. Theoretically, those who have been victimized wish to stop the behaviors that they believe led to their prior victimization in order to avoid it happening again. This viewpoint is frequently known as a "once bitten, twice shy" one. In order to avoid being victimized again, victims are likely to spend less time shopping, go out less often, and install home security systems.

Because of this, not all women are equally able to alter their situation. According to a supposition, women with lower economic status should be less able to alter their regular routines while women with greater status should be more able to do so. Victimization, as far as we are aware, has little impact on daily activities.

In the memoir *I Am Malala*, women in Pakistan describe the awful treatment they receive from the legal system, religious fundamentalism, and misuse of religion. According to Critelli, women often participate in social problems under the guise of religion or as a matter of custom. As a result, the phenomena can also be defined in terms of gender violence against women, including forced marriage, victimization in the name of honor, selling of brides, marriages with the Quran, restrictions in the political sphere, acid attacks, and the threat of terrorism.

Actually, this marriage decision is an unfair practice that gives Islam its name. Islamic law also asserts that a woman cannot be forced to marry someone without their consent. Countries that compel their citizens to get married do so because they have a rigid interpretation of local traditions. As a result, the cruel tradition of rationalizing male violence and crimes governs society.

Though we loved school, we hadn't realized how important education until the Taliban tried to stop us. Going to school, reading and doing our homework isn't just a way of passing time, it our future. (108)

Even while more females are getting access to primary school, there are still significant gender differences. Girls are prohibited from attending school for discriminatory reasons, such as the worry of violence, all throughout the world. In addition to being expected to do more housework as young adults than boys and being subject to forced and early child marriage in many parts of the world, girls are frequently dissuaded from pursuing careers in STEM disciplines. Girls made up 61% of the 123 million young people who lacked basic literacy skills in the world in 2013. For girls and young women as well as their communities and future generations, it is crucial to improve the socioeconomic outcomes for these groups of people. "I am proud to be a girl, and I know that girls can change the world." (119)

In order to ensure that the world is aware of the plight of girls who struggle to attend school in refugee camps in East Africa, Malala spent her 19th birthday in July 2016 traveling there. During her visit, she started the #YesAllGirls campaign to remind world leaders of their commitment to providing all girls, including refugees, with 12 years of free, secure, and high-quality education.

According to Malala, every boy and every girl has the right to obtain a high-quality education. Through education, we can better understand ourselves and one another and interact with the world in meaningful ways. However, whether of poverty, access barriers, violence, or discrimination, more than 130 million girls worldwide are denied this right.

CONCLUSION

If I am speaking for my rights, for the rights of girls, I am not doing anything wrong. It's my duty to do so. God wants to see how we behave in such situations. There is a saying in the Quran, „The falsehood has to go and the truth will prevail. “ If one man, Fazlullah, can destroy everything, why can't one girl change it? (74)

According to the aforementioned words, Malala seeks to inform her Lord, Allah, about the complex situation that targets her and other women in her hometown. As long as they follow all of Allah's instructions and refrain from all of His prohibitions, Muslims believe that their God, Allah, is always with his servants. The followers of Islam also hold the belief that Allah answers their prayers if they are directed toward kindness. Malala thinks that in this instance, her efforts to advocate for and promote women's rights were not improper. She also has faith in Allah to lead the truth to victory and triumph.

One of Malala's statements to the world is that she is fighting for Muslim women's access to public spaces and that Islam is a just religion that calls for men and women of all sexes to have the same status and rights in society. Malala has been fighting for Muslim women's access to public spaces for years. She tries to argue that practicing Islam does not involve acts of violence like those taught by the Taliban, who train their members to bomb, kill, and assault. Islam, however, emphasizes love and a message of peace for all people. In this situation, Malala also seeks to show that Islam does not give women the freedom they need to advance their education and find fulfilling employment.

After analyzing *I Am Malala* by Cristina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai using Islamic feminism, the scientist moves on to the next section, which consists of the end and idea. The scientist will present the results of the analysis conducted in the previous section in this section. In addition, the scientist will also provide information related to this evaluation with readers, especially for the next expert who employs a comparable hypothesis or item.

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