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## Analysing Gender Inequality through Education, Political Representation: Cross country examination of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

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### ABSTRACT:

Gender inequality is one of the important social challenges which our society has been facing for a long time. The curse of gender inequality varies from region to region, religion to religion and country to country but no one can deny the fact that it still exists most of the countries especially in developing countries in one form or the other. When it comes to gender inequality, one cannot limit it just social issue as it has a long term economic consequences also. No country can attain happiness and economic prosperity unless it takes certain measures to fill gender gap. Therefore, this study is designed to be conducted to give a comparative analysis of gender inequality in three neighbouring south Asian nations i.e. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

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### Literature Review

According to 2013, UNDP report on Human Development Indicators, all south Asian Countries except Afghanistan, ranked better for women than India (Human Development Report 2013). It also highlighted that: an Indian girl child aged 1-5 years is 75% more likely to die than the boy child is. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has an even more horrifying statistic to share—every 20 minutes, a woman is raped somewhere in India (NCRB 2018). Not only that: crimes against women have increased by 7.1% nationwide since 2010, and child rape cases have increased by 336% in the last 10 years.

Natural disasters obstruct pregnant and postpartum women's ability to migrate. Women are more vulnerable to disasters than men since they live longer than males. As a result, women are more likely than men to be the victims of gender-based Violence (Henrici, J. M; Helmuth, A. S; & Braun, J., 2010).

Pervaiz et al (2011) concluded that gender inequality in education generate negative associations with economic growth. This negative association indicates that we are falling the standard level, sum of skills and human resources through the exclusion of brilliant women and girls from the educational chances, though women could be more productive and can perform better than men and boys.

Jayachandran, S. (2014), has presented the roots of gender inequality in developing countries. This paper also discussed the several mechanisms through which the economic development could improve the relative outcomes of women & gender gaps can be reduced as country grows.

Chaudhary, & Sarkar, D. (2012), has tried to find out some factors i.e. educational status, work participation, level of gender inequality, of the Cooch Behar, a district of West-Bengal, India and suggested some relevant strategies implication for reducing this gender inequality to promote the deprived women of this district.

Naz, Ibrahim and Ahmad 2012: 167).The social condition of Pakistani women has an underpinning on the political aspect as well. The various social handicaps as discussed above also restrict women to participate in the political arena. Local customs based on social stigma like Pakhtun code of conduct (Pakhtunwali) and its components of Tor (stigma) and Peghor (satire), strongly discourage political empowerment of women.



Caste, gender and regional divides further compound the problem, with marginalised communities continuing to face severe economic disadvantages. iStock

## Economy

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### Study Area:

The proposed study attempts to draw a comparison among three south Asian neighbouring nations- India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Before 1947 Pakistan and Bangladesh were the part of undivided India. Pakistan was carved out of India in 1947 and again Bangladesh was liberated from Pakistan in 1971. Gender equality is pre requisite for economic development. We can think of economic prosperity and a balanced society only if we reduce gender biasness. Even though, there is religious difference among these countries but there social and economic challenges are similar to great extent. All the three countries are densely populated. There is religious extremism which is far more in Pakistan and as for India is concerned there is secularism giving equal rights to all irrespective of caste, colour, creed and gender. India provides more better opportunities for women as compared to eastern and western neighbour where number of state sponsored schemes have been launched for women along with central schemes being operational across India.

### Objectives:

- To study socioeconomic status of women
- To study gender disparity in political representation
- To study gender disparity in education

## Methodology:

To validate arguments the given paper attempts to generalise secondary data comprising of national as well as international publications, study conducted by different institutes, official reports of all the three countries, news articles from THE HINDU, TIMES OF INDIA and DAWN (a Pakistan based news paper) and similar reports/ studies from Bangladesh.

### About gender comparison of three countries based on education:

**Table 3.1**

**Current situation and future projection of literacy in Bangladesh rate less than 7 years of age (by sex)**

Year	Male			Female		
	National	Rural	Urban	National	Rural	Urban
2000	40.1	36.1	55.3	49.5	45.5	64.9
2005	48.1	42.9	63.2	55.8	50.4	72.1
2010	54.8	50.21	67.67	61.12	56.67	73.1
2014	60.68	55.85	72.61	65.77	61.14	76.38

Source: [https://archive.nyu.edu/bitstream/2451/33900/2/gender\\_inequality\\_in\\_bangladesh.pdf](https://archive.nyu.edu/bitstream/2451/33900/2/gender_inequality_in_bangladesh.pdf)

Table 3.1 shows a comparison of male and female literacy rate in Bangladesh. It is amazing to see this table that female literacy rate is more than male literacy rate at national, rural and urban level but overall literacy rate is not satisfactory in case of both male and female accept 72.61% and 76.38% respectively (2014) for urban male and female.

**Table3.2 showing national/ province-wise literacy rate in Pakistan**

National/provincial	Total	Male	Female
Pakistan	62.3	72.5	51.8
Rural	53.3	66.3	40.5
Urban	76.6	82.2	70.6
KP	55.3	73.3	38.5
Rural	52.7	71.6	35.3
Urban	66.8	80.4	53.3
Punjab	64.7	72.2	57.4
Rural	56.9	66.5	47.8
Urban	72.2	80.9	73.3
Sindh	62.2	72.8	49.9
Rural	44.1	60.1	25.7
Urban	78.4	84.3	71.7
Baluchistan	55.5	73.0	35.5
Rural	50.5	68.9	26.8
Urban	68.5	84.2	50.1

Source: **Pakistan Economic Survey 2018-19**

Table 3.2 shows male/ female comparison based on literacy rate. From the table it can be clearly observed that Pakistan is worst performer in respect of gender equality at national as well as provincial level with Punjab comparatively performing better followed by KP. Among all the provinces Baluchistan is looking deteriorated and discarded in all the aspects. Peculiar feature of Baluchistan is that it is rich in resources but economically poor and needs special attention.

**Table 3.3**

S.No.	Discipline	Male	Female
1	Arts	49,88,426	54,17,424
2	Science	23,12,602	25,05,224
3	Commerce	22,27,036	20,96,418
4	Engineering/ technology	26,17,155	10,69,136
5	Education	6,08,888	10,40,305
6	Medical science	6,32,069	8,94,174
7	Social science	5,48,423	5,57,689
8	IT & Computer	5,33,445	3,44,492
9	Management	5,16,273	2,98,594
10	Law	3,16,115	1,61,897

11	Others	6,69,319	6,92,057
Total		1,59,69,571	1,50,77,414

Source: All India Survey on Education, D/o of Higher Education, Ministry of Education

Table 3.3 shows male and female enrolled in different streams. Female are dominating in arts, commerce, sciences and social sciences while male dominating in rest of the subjects. As per this table not much difference is witnessed between male and female. There are numerous centrally sponsored as well as state sponsored schemes operational in India for upliftment and empowerment of women like Beti Padao Beti Bachao.

*About gender comparison of three countries based on political representation:*

**Table 3.4 Representation of women in Lok Sabha (1952-20140)**

Lok Sabha	Number of Seats	Women Members	Percentage
First (1952)	489	22	4.4
Second (1957)	494	27	5.4
Third (1962)	494	34	6.7
Fourth(1967)	523	31	5.9
Fifth(1971)	521	22	4.2
Sixth(1977)	544	19	3.4
Seventh(1980)	544	28	5.1
Eighth(1984)	544	44	8.1
Ninth(1989)	529	28	5.3
Tenth(1991)	509	36	7.0
Eleventh(1996)	541	40	7.4
Twelfth(1998)	545	44	8.0
Thirteen(1999)	543	48	8.8
Fourteen(2004)	543	45	8.1
Fifteen(2009)	543	59	10.9
Sixteen(2014)	543	61	11.2

Source: Election Commission of India

Table 3.4 shows women representation in lok sabha from 1952-2014. Women representation in lok sabha ranges from 4% to 11%. It shows that women were not given adequate political representation as per their population. But good thing about India is that it has passed a legislation giving 33% reservation to women. Women are playing key role at local levels like panchayat and municipality but they still need special attention because the objective of democracy and prosperity cannot be achieved without eliminating gender gap.

**Table 3.5 Representation of Women in Pakistan National Assembly**

National Assembly	Total Seats	Number of Women Legislators			
		Gen Seats	Reserved Seats	Total	Percentage
1927-77	144	6	0	6	4.2
March 1977 to July 5 1977	210	1	10	11	5.2
1985-1988	217	2	20	22	10.1
1988-1990	217	4	20	24	11.1
1990-93	217	2	0	2	0.9
1993-96	217	4	0	4	1.8
1997-99	217	6	0	6	2.4
2018-2022	342	-	-	69	20.17

Source: PILDAT, 2004, P, 24.

Pakistan has never remained politically stable country because of military hierarchy in the country which adversely affect not only people in general but also women at large. Pakistan got independence with India in 1947 but witnessed no systematic election procedure because of imposition of marshal law by military generals. General elections initiated in 1972 but unfortunately no Prime Minister has completed his five years tenure in the office as PM till date. This instability directly or indirectly affects women development widening gender gap.

**Table 3.6, Representation of women in Bangladesh parliament.**

Parliament	Total Seats	Reserved Seats for Women	Women won from general seats	Total women MPs	Percentage
1973-75	315	15	0	15	4.8

1979-82	330	30	2	32	9.7
1986-87	333	30	3	33	10.0
1988-90	300	0	4	4	1.3
1991-95	330	30	5	35	10.6
1996-1996	330	30	3	33	10.0
1996-2001	330	30	8	38	11.5
2001-2006	345	45	7	52	15.1
2008-2013	350	50	21	71	20.0
2014-2018	350	50	19	69	19.7
2019-2014	350	50	22	72	20.6

Source: [www.parliament.gov.bd](http://www.parliament.gov.bd)

Table 3.6 shows women representation in Bangladesh parliament since its independence to 2014. Bangladesh has performed better as compared to Pakistan but common problem of both the countries is their fatalist attitude towards religion not allowing women to go to school or contest election while there is no such thing in islam.

### Recommendations:

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