STATUS OF GENDER IN PAKISTAN

Over the decades population of Pakistan has faced many gender-based issues and problems. The most prominent and biggest issue faced in Pakistan in terms of gender is **gender inequality**, especially females have been facing gender discrimination in Pakistan in all walks of life. Male gender is traditionally deemed as superior and dominant gender despite the fact that female gender makes up for the half of the population of country.

Females and especially third gender community often fall victim to **domestic, physical, emotional and sexual abuse** by male gender due to toxic mentality and twisted perceptions of masculinity in the society. **Forced marriage** is very common practice in rural areas of Pakistan. Young girls are forced to marry for the settelment of their families disputes.

**Honor killing** has become an honorable institution in rural areas of Pakistan.

Another most **sensitive social issue of Pakistan is discrimination and violence against the transgender community.** Transgenders, also known as the “third” gender, are considered an abomination by the society. Transgenders are frowned upon and are considered as degenerates, being treated as if they are not even human. Transgenders represent a group of people who enjoy the least amount of respect and rights in Pakistan.

Due to the controversial nature and the typical uptight and backward mindset of people, the subject of transgender rights in Pakistan is not even discussed in the sophisticated and literate part of the community. The transgender community has been rebuked all over Pakistan and is not even considered as equals to the other members of the society.

There is an inborn fear of the transgenders amongst the “normal people” and this fear is inflicted since childhood. Pakistani parents are insecure and believe it’s inappropriate for their child to interact with a transgender hence developing this feeling of reluctance towards them. Transgenders are subjected to violence in Pakistan. A few months back a transgender activist who fought for the rights of transgenders was shot in Peshawar. KPK transgender alliance coordinator was shot six times and when driven to the hospital the doctors made them wait for an hour trying to figure out whether to shift him to the male ward or female ward, which eventually led to Alisha’s death.

Transgenders are not only subjected to **physical violence but sexual harassment and rape** as well. Pakistan’s constitution contains laws in written form that safeguard the rights of transgenders but unfortunately, when the time comes to enforce the laws, no as such implementation of these said laws can be seen from the government’s end.

“As Pakistanis we need to realize that this is not merely a war that these individuals have to fight, they are humans just like us and deserve as much of a right to good education , good job opportunities and fair and equal treatment as any other normal member of the community. We need to be the voice that speaks on their behalf, fights for their rights and makes living less painful for them.”

**Overpopulation** has come as one of the biggest problems of our country and the government tends to pay no heed to it. Over population in Pakistan is due to many factors such as,

**1. Lack Of Women Empowerment**, it is presumed that men have more authority over women. Women are subject to accepting anything that is thrown their way, thus, if the man wants more kids – the wife has to obey accordingly without second questioning the husband’s decision and turning into a baby-making-machine.

### 2.Illiteracy Among The Masses In Pakistan

### 3.Imbalance Between Birth And Death Rate

### 4. Lack Of Family Planning

### 5. Strong Religious Beliefs That Focus On Expanding The Family

The growing population of Pakistan has caused us many problems – the government needs to resort to ways to control it; like providing better education, raising awareness of family planning and most importantly, the long-awaited census.

**Unemployment and poverty** is another serious threat to Pakistani nation. **People have no jobs, no money due to unemployment, and hence no means of satisfying their own needs and bearing the responsibility of their family. Sometimes, they want to earn money in a short time, by any means - even gambling or get themselves involved in different criminal activities. Poverty** is another factor which turns youths into gamblers. People already have limited resources and in this current era and it is difficult to get a job. Even if they find one, their salaries are much lower that inflation in Pakistan. This is why youth play a shortcut to earn money by spending a short time in gambling their money.

On the other hand, people have no time to even think for themselves. They are mostly engaged in gambling or if they are free they keep on thinking about turning others into gamblers.

The government should work on reducing unemployment and poverty rate. Children can't study and have to drop out from school before graduating because their parents don't have enough money to pay their tuition fee. These children grow up without full education. They can't find good jobs or they end up as unemployed. The government should invest in the education of people so that they can become educated and earn for their family. The government should also take stern action against gamblers so that youth, old people and new generations can be saved, and this unethical practice which is prohibited by Islam, can be put to an end.