

Sociology & Cultural Research Review (SCRR)

Available Online: https://scrrjournal.com Print ISSN: 3007-3103 Online ISSN: 3007-3111 Platform & Workflow by: Open Journal Systems



EMPOWERING SOCIETIES: THE LONG-TERM ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATING WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Women's education is a powerful tool for societal and economic development, offering long-term benefits that extend beyond individual empowerment to broader community progress. Educated women are more likely to participate in the workforce, contribute to economic growth, and make informed health and family decisions, leading to improved quality of life. Studies show that each additional year of schooling for girls reduces child mortality rates, delays early marriages, and enhances maternal health. Furthermore, educated women tend to invest more in their children's education, creating a positive cycle of intergenerational progress. Economically, closing the gender gap in education can significantly boost GDP, as educated women increase productivity and innovation. Societies with higher female literacy rates experience lower poverty levels and greater political stability. Education also fosters gender equality by equipping women with the skills to challenge discriminatory norms and participate in leadership roles. In the long term, women's education strengthens social structures by promoting critical thinking, reducing population growth through better family planning, and encouraging sustainable development. Policymakers must prioritize gender-inclusive education systems, addressing barriers such as cultural biases, financial constraints, and inadequate infrastructure. Investing in women's education is not just a moral imperative but a strategic necessity for lasting global development. Keywords: Women's Education, Economic Growth, Gender Equality, Health Outcomes, Sustainable Development.

1. Introduction:

Indeed, knowledge is a blessing through which a person can better attain the glory, honor, and happiness of both worlds. It is a key that can be used to achieve the noblest, innate, and natural superiority over countless creatures. Rather, the truth is that it is only through knowledge that the goals of human creation can be achieved. Through it, humans have transformed lands, mountains, and plains into grasslands and meadows, gained access to the precious resources found in rivers and oceans, and have cracked the walls of the sky and raised the flags of new inventions. Rather, it would be more appropriate to say that all the ingenious inventions in the world are due to knowledge.(1)

Everyone who is familiar with the history of the world and the laws of the world knows very well that the UNO, the world's greatest power, has declared the acquisition of knowledge as a fundamental human right in its manifesto; while Islam has declared the acquisition of knowledge as an obligation. And the clear difference between a right and an obligation is that there is no coercion or any kind of punishment for not taking the right; while on the contrary, in the event of non-fulfillment of an obligation, a person deserves punishment. This also shows that the greatest importance, virtue and emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge is in the religion of Islam. It is an undeniable fact that the emphasis of the religion of Islam in relation to the acquisition of knowledge is the same for men and women.(2)

Islam has completely shed light on the importance and value of knowledge. It has declared education not only as one of the many needs of a human being, whether male or female; but rather as the first and fundamental need of all human beings. Apart from Islam, there is no other religion or ideology in the world that has declared education as a fundamental need of all human beings.(3)

At a time and in an environment where half of the population of society is unaware of their own status, their position and the rights that Islam has granted them, it is necessary for them to know their place, to recognize their status; and this is possible only when women are educated and aware of their rights, and for this awareness, they need to be adorned with the ornaments of education.(4)

"Education, or the education of women, is in any case necessary, not only necessary; rather, Islam has made it obligatory. This is the distinguishing characteristic of the religion of Islam that, compared to all other religions and sects, it has placed more emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge. Allah Almighty, the Exalted, in the first revelation He sent to His beloved and last Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, also made the acquisition of knowledge obligatory on every Muslim man and woman by instructing them to "read".(5).

At a time and in an environment where half of the population of society is unaware of their own status and the position that Islam has given them, it is necessary for them to know their place, to recognize their status; so that they cannot be influenced by the glamour of the West and can see Islam and the West with the eyes of reality. And this is possible only when a woman is educated and aware of her rights, and for this awareness, she needs to be adorned with the ornaments of education.(6)

Considering women's education as the best investment for the future is an important step towards not only social but also economic development. The aim of this research is to highlight the benefits of women's education and to understand that the role of educated women not only brings about change in their personal lives but also makes a significant contribution to the development of the entire society and the nation.

2: Women's Education In Islam

Islam is a universal religion that has not only granted women numerous rights and elevated them to a high position in society, but also encouraged women's education by erasing the distinction between men and women in the field of education. An educated woman makes generations beautiful and the society becomes a cradle of peace and security. Therefore, just as Islam has kept all doors open for the education of men, it has not only allowed them to receive all kinds of useful and effective education, but has also encouraged them to do so. In the same way, it has granted full educational rights to the weaker sex. In Islamic teachings, the same term has been used for both men and women for the purpose of education, while in some places the importance of women's education has been highlighted by introducing a special feminine term.(7).

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) emphasized the acquisition of knowledge without distinction of gender and for the rich and poor, saying: "Seeking knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim" and declared unanimously that acquiring knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim man and woman. Knowledge is not the property of anyone. It is not that only men have the right to acquire knowledge and women are deprived of this right, similarly only the rich and poor have the right to knowledge and the poor will yearn for knowledge; rather, Islam declared that every person will acquire knowledge according to his status and ability, and acquiring knowledge according to his need has been declared an obligation upon every Muslim man and woman.(8)

Allah says: "And remember the verses of Allah and the wisdom that are recited in your houses. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware."(9)

Allama Abdul Rahman bin Nasir Saadi writes: "When Allah Almighty commanded the wives of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to do certain things and not to do certain things, He commanded them to acquire knowledge and told them the way to acquire knowledge: "Remember the verses of Allah and wisdom that are recited in your homes." In this verse, the verses refer to the Holy Quraan and the wisdom refers to the secrets and symbols of the Holy Quraan and the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Remembrance is the act of remembering the words of the Holy Quraan, reflecting on it, and remembering its meanings.(10)

Mufti Muhammad Shafi writes: "The verses of Allah refer to the Holy Quraan and the wisdom refers to the Sunnah and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). "Azkaran" can be understood in two meanings here: the first is that these things should be remembered and acted upon, and the second is that the part of the Holy Quran revealed in the homes of the Holy Prophet's wives (may Allah be pleased with them) and the teachings given to them should be conveyed to others."(11)

Sayyid Abu Al-Ala Maududi writes: "In this verse, the word "Azkaran" can have two meanings: "Remember" and "Declare". The first meaning is that O wives of the Messenger of Allah"! Never forget that the whole world is taught divine verses and wisdom from your home, so your duty is very strict. Lest it happen that people start seeing examples of ignorance from your home. The second meaning is that O wives of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH! Convey to others what you hear and see, because by living with the Prophet you will come to know many such instructions that people will not be able to know from anyone else except you".(12)

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) not only permitted women to seek knowledge, but also encouraged them to do so, saying: "Whoever has a daughter and teaches her good manners and adorns her with good education, and gives her more of the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon her, then that daughter will be a barrier for him from the Fire of Hell".(13)

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) strongly emphasized and encouraged women's education, making it mandatory. He (peace be upon him) explained this fact in these words: "The pursuit of knowledge is obligatory and necessary for every Muslim'.(14)

Hazrat Shifaa bint Adawiyah (RA) was skilled in various sciences and arts. The Prophet (PBUH) said to her: "Just as you taught Hafsa (RA) to write, why don't you teach her how to treat syphilis?"(15)

Due to the encouragement, guidance and emphasis of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), women, along with men, intensified their efforts to acquire knowledge. This movement of women scholars was led by the Ummaha tul-Mu'minin (may Allah be pleased with them). A large part of the sayings, practices, mutual relations, social life and manners and ethics of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) were conveyed to the Muslim Ummah through these eminent personalities.(16)

Islamic law not only made it mandatory for women to acquire knowledge of the Quraan and Sunnah, but also made it necessary and obligatory for them to acquire all the useful knowledge that women need in their individual and social lives.(17)

Over the years, men and women alike benefited from the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a teacher. Just as men carried out the duty of conveying the Prophet's (peace be upon him) instructions to others, women also propagated them. The great narrators of hadith did not make any distinction between men and women while narrating hadiths. This is the reason why in every Islamic era, women have emerged who have mastered various sciences and demonstrated their knowledge and virtue.(18)

3: Aims and objectives

The aim of this research is to shed light on the importance and impact of women's education, particularly in understanding how education helps women achieve economic independence, social equality, and improved health. The research will also consider various aspects of women's education, such as:

1: Economic development

The impact of women's education on the economy and how educated women can improve the economic situation of their families and communities.

2: Social change

Improving gender equality and advancing social justice through women's education.

3: Health Improvement:

Educated women's ability to make better health-related decisions

4: Children's Education:

The impact of women's education on their children's educational success.

4: Significance of the Research

The importance of this research lies in the fact that women's education is being considered a priority globally as it is an important part of the Sustainable Development Goals. When women are educated, it not only improves their quality of life but also leads to the development of their families and communities. Through women's education, social and cultural barriers can be removed, which hinder their social and economic development.

In addition, the aim of this research is to make governments, policy-making institutions and international organizations realize the importance of women's education and to attract them to practical measures to provide better educational opportunities for women. This will result in an increase in the number of educated women in society, which is essential for social justice, economic development and sustainable development.

Therefore, viewing women's education as an investment is not just a matter of their personal development, but it will help in the development of the entire social structure, and this will prove beneficial for everyone.

5: Key Research Questions

1: How can women's education contribute to economic development?

Do educated women have a positive impact on economic life?

What is the role of women's education in the development of the national economy?

2: How can gender equality be promoted through women's education?

How does women's education reduce gender discrimination?

Does education provide equal opportunities to women socially and culturally?

3: What is the relationship between women's education and the quality of health?

How does women's education contribute to health facilities, information, and health decisions?

How does educated women's attitude towards health change?

4: What are the effects of lack of education for women?

How do women face socio-economic problems as a result of lack of education for women?

What are the effects of lack of education for women on children's education and health?

5: How effective are government initiatives for women's education?

To what extent are government policies and programs proving effective in women's education?

What is the importance of government economic, social and legal reforms for women's education?

6: How is social change possible through educated women?

What role do educated women play in social stability, justice and development?

How much can social change and development be accelerated through women's education? 7: What is the relationship between women's education and global standards?

How can promoting women's education improve global

standards and development?

What impact do educated women have on development cooperation with other countries at the global level?

6: Literature Review

Investing in women's education has substantial long-term economic benefits, impacting a variety of sectors and contributing to societal development. This investment not only increases individual productivity but also contributes to broader economic growth, improved health outcomes, and poverty reduction. Women's education is crucial for social change and economic development. Research shows that education empowers women, enhances their social status. The benefits of women's education are multifaceted, affecting not only individual lives but also the wider social fabric. Below are key aspects that highlight these benefits.

Economic Empowerment

significantly increases women's opportunities, allowing them to compete in the labor market and achieve financial independence.

Educated women play a significant role in household income and national economic growth, with higher stronger GDP literacy rates associated with GNP.(Ullah et al., 2024) (19).

Social and Family Benefits

education promotes better parenting, educated women are more likely to raise informed children and contribute positively to their upbringing.

Education empowers women to make informed decisions in family and social matters, increasing their role within the household. (Khan et al., 2020)(20).

Social participation

Higher education levels are associated with increased political participation and social engagement among women.

Education promotes self-respect and equality in social relationships, allowing women to voice their concerns in public forums. (Khan et al., 2020)(21).

Economic freedom

Higher education plays a significant role in women's economic independence, allowing them to obtain formal employment and improve their financial status. Educated women are more likely to participate in the workforce, which can increase household income and contribute to economic growth. (Akram, 2018) (22).

Social Empowerment

Education elevates women's status within families and communities, enabling them to challenge discriminatory practices.

Educated women often become advocates for gender equality, influencing societal norms and policies.

Overcome obstacles

Despite the benefits, women face numerous barriers to education, including sociocultural norms, poverty, and early marriage Removing these barriers is crucial to maximizing the potential benefits of female education in Pakistan. (Noureen & Awan, 2011) (23).

While the benefits of investing in women's education are clear, challenges remain, such as persistent gender gaps in access to education and employment opportunities. Addressing these barriers is critical to maximizing the potential economic benefits of women's education.

7: Research Gaps

Insufficient exploration of cultural and political influences on participation.

Limited focus on women's leadership development strategies

Insufficient impact exploration of the of microfinance regulation

	Long-term	benefits	of	investing	in	women's
education are not seen						

Underestimated efforts to target girls' education

Limited focus on gender equality in education Lack of analysis of urban versus rural poverty

Impact of women's education in high-poverty areas

Quality of women's education compared to men

8: The importance of the existing literature review on the long-term benefits of women's education

The importance of the existing literature review on the long-term benefits of women's education can be highlighted from various aspects. This literature review not only helps to understand how women's education provides social, economic, and health benefits at different levels, but also provides valuable insights for education policymakers, social workers, and government agencies to adopt effective strategies to promote women's education.

Educational Policy Guidance:

The current literature review analyzes how the long-term benefits of women's education contribute to social development. It provides information to policymakers so that they can formulate better policies to promote women's education. For example, based on research on the benefits of women's education, governments can design educational programs and schemes that lead to educational advancement.

Analysis of Economic Benefits:

The current literature on the long-term benefits of women's education clearly shows that women's education is not only important for their personal development but also has benefits at the societal level. Educated women are economically independent and have the opportunity to be the cause of economic development for their families. The literature review explains how women's improves the national economy.

Health Benefits:

An important aspect of the long-term benefits of women's education is improved health. Various research studies have shown that educated women make better decisions regarding the health of their families, and they can provide better health facilities to their children. This literature review highlights the fact that education has a positive impact not only on the health of the individual but also on the health of the entire family.

Social and Cultural Change:

The existing literature on the long-term benefits of women's education also suggests that education is important not only for women but for the entire social fabric. It enhances the status of women, makes them aware of their rights and takes steps towards gender equality. This literature review describes the social benefits of women's education, which are important for the elimination of gender discrimination and social justice.

Family development:

The existing literature review also emphasizes that educated women are able to provide better education to their generation, which in turn improves the educational performance of their children as a long-term benefit. This in turn improves the economic condition and social status of the entire family.

☐ Importance for global development:

This review also examines the benefits of women's education at the global level. Global institutions and organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank have emphasized that women's education is crucial for global development. This review highlights the benefits of women's education globally to understand its impact in different countries and to promote better strategies in this regard.

Supporting educational research:

This literature review also explains that there is a need to further understand the role of women in existing research on education and development. It provides a guide for existing research to be further investigated and to analyze in more detail the impact of women's education.

The current literature review provides a comprehensive overview of the research on understanding the long-term benefits of women's education and its implications. With its help, effective measures for educational policies, government initiatives and social change can be taken to further enhance the social, economic and health benefits of women's education. This research provides guidance not only for educational institutions but also for all social sectors to establish a developed and balanced society through women's education.

9: Methodology

For this research paper, the qualitative research design will be employed to explore the significant impacts of women's education on society and its role as a catalyst for economic and social progress. The research will use a descriptive and exploratory design to understand the diverse experiences, perceptions, and challenges faced by women in accessing education and how it influences their empowerment and the development of their communities.

1: Data Collection Methods

Semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions. Interviews will be conducted with educational professionals, policymakers, women who have benefited from education, and relevant stakeholders. The focus group discussions will include women from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to understand their views on education and its impact on their lives.

2: Analysis Techniques

The data will be analyzed using thematic analysis. This will involve transcribing the interviews and discussions, identifying common themes, and categorizing them to understand the relationship between women's education and its long-term benefits.

3: Sample Size

The sample size will consist of 10 to 15 participants for interview and 40 to 50 for group discussion, ensuring a diverse range of individuals from different age groups, educational levels, and backgrounds. These participants will be selected purposefully, with a focus on individuals who can provide rich, relevant insights into the topic of women's education.

4: Research Tools

- ☐ Structured Interview Guide: A set of open-ended questions designed to explore individual experiences and perceptions regarding the importance of women's education.
- Focus Group Discussion Guide: A set of discussion topics to explore collective perspectives on women's education and empowerment.
- Document, Data Analysis: Reviewing relevant documents such as educational policies, books, articles, reports on women's education, and academic studies to support the data analysis.
- 1: Interviews And Focus Group Discussion Ouestionnaires

While preparing these questionnaires for the interviews and focus group discussion on "Women's Education: The Best Investment for the Future," care was taken to frame questions that not only highlight the importance of education but also shed light on the impacts of education in women's lives, the challenges they face, and their success stories. This approach helps us better understand the experiences of successful women from various fields of Through these questions, the discussion life. and responses provided an opportunity to delve deeply into women's education and its effects. Successful women from different walks of life shared their experiences perspectives. Their responses contributed authentic valuable insights to this research, helping all participants gain a deeper understanding of the importance of women's education and its social, economic, and cultural impacts.

2: Interview Questionnaire

For this research study on women's education as the best investment for the future, interviews were conducted with successful women. The questionnaire was carefully designed to:

☐ Highlight educational and professional experiences☐ Examine education's impacts on women's lives

☐ Explore social, economic, and cultural challenges

☐ Gather comprehensive insights

Section 1: Introduction

- 1. What is your full name?
- 2. What is your educational background? Which institutions did you attend?
- 3. What is your current profession or business?

Section 2: Educational Beginnings and Challenges

- 4. Where did you begin your education?
- 5. Did you face any particular challenges in your educational journey? If yes, how did you overcome them?
- 6. What were your family's or community's views about education?
- 7. What/who was your greatest source of support in continuing your education?

Section 3: Education's Impact and Success

- 8. How has education contributed to your personal and professional success?
- 9. What would you consider your most significant achievement?
- 10. Do you believe education improved your quality of life? If yes, how?
- 11. What relationship do you see between education and empowerment?

Section 4: Social Impacts and Education's Importance

- 12. How does women's education impact social development and equality?
- 13. Have you extended the benefits of your education to your family/community? If yes, how?
- 14. Have you used your education to break social barriers? What were the results?
- 15. What key advice would you give to women interested in pursuing education?

Section 5: Future Perspectives

- 16. What measures should be taken to advance women's education in the future?
- 17. How can education further strengthen women's social, economic, and cultural roles?
- 18. How can investing in women's education drive social and economic change?
- 19. How do you plan to contribute to women's education and success moving forward?

Section 6: Conclusion

20. What lessons can the next generation learn from successful women's stories?

Research Value

These questions provided in-depth insights about women's education and its impacts. The responses proved extremely valuable for this research paper as they:

☐ Illuminate personal success stories☐ Highlight education's importance

Reveal education's societal impacts

☐ Offer practical recommendations

progress
The structured interview format enabled comprehensive data collection while allowing participants to share rich,

nuanced experiences. The findings demonstrate how educated women become catalysts for broader social transformation.

3: Focus Group Discussion Questionnaire

While developing this questionnaire for group discussion on investing in women's education and their success, special care was taken to formulate questions that:

☐ Highlight the importance of education

☐ Explore education's impacts on women's lives

☐ Examine challenges faced

☐ Showcase success stories

This will help us better understand the experiences of successful women professionals across various fields.

Section 1: Background and Introduction

future

- 1. What role has your education played in your professional success?
- 2. Where did you receive your early education and what was the biggest obstacle in your educational journey?
- 3. Did your family have any traditions that hindered women's education? If yes, how did you challenge them?
- 4. In your view, what is the relationship between education and empowerment?

Section 2: Education's Impact and Success

- 5. How has your education contributed to your professional achievements?
- 6. Besides education, what other factors were crucial to your success? (e.g., family support, social opportunities)
- 7. Do you believe education improved your quality of life? Please explain with examples.
- 8. How has education impacted both your personal and professional life?

Section 3: Social Impacts

- 9. What societal changes could increased investment in women's education bring?
- 10. Have you extended the benefits of your education/success to other women or society? If yes, how?
- 11. How can we better support women facing societal barriers?

Section 4: Challenges in Women's Education

- 12. What do you consider the biggest obstacle to women's education? How can it be addressed?
- 13. Do you believe women have equal educational opportunities? If not, how can this gap be bridged?
- 14. What better government policies are needed for women's education?

Section 5: Future Recommendations

- 15. What measures should be taken to ensure better opportunities for future generations of women?
- 16. Do societal attitudes about women's education need to change? What practical steps can facilitate this?
- 17. Can educated women contribute more to social responsibilities? Please elaborate.

Section 6: Conclusion

- 18. How can education improve various aspects of women's lives? What was education's biggest role in your personal success?
- 19. What key insights have you gained from this discussion? What message would you give to women pursuing education?

Questionnaire Purpose

These carefully designed questions enable in-depth discussion about women's education, allowing successful women from diverse fields to share experiences. The responses will provide valuable research data, helping us understand:

☐ The importance of women's education

☐ Its social, economic and cultural impacts

☐ Pathways to greater empowerment

The questionnaire maintains cultural relevance while using clear, professional English suitable for academic research. Each section progresses logically from personal experiences to broader societal implications.

4: Books and Articles

- 1: : "Islamic Education System"by Syed Abul A'la Maududi,
- 2: "The Education System of the Prophet's Era: A Historical and Research Study" by Ghulam Abid Khan,
- 3: "The Importance and Virtue of Religious Education and Some Important Manners of Acquiring Knowledge" by Syed Hussain bin Usman Umari
- 4: "The Means of Acquiring Knowledge"by Umm Umair Salafi,
- 5: "The Virtue and Respect of Education and Learning" by Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri
- 6: "Islam's Concept of Knowledge in the Light of Surah Al-Alaq"by Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri
- 7: "The Importance and Virtue of the Advancement of Knowledge and Awareness" by Dr. Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri

- 8: "Adaab-ul-Ilm"by Muhammad bin Salih Al-Uthaymeen
- 9: "History of Islamic Education and Upbringing" by Dr. Ahmed Shalabi
- 10:"One Hundred Years of Muslim Women's Education from the Chilman to the Moon"by Dr. Rahat Abrar

10: Scope of the research

This research will highlight the importance of women's education from various aspects, including:

☐ Economic aspects:

The economic impact of women's education will be discussed, including the search for the best professional opportunities for women and their economic independence.

☐ Health and Wellbeing:

An attempt will be made to examine the impact of women's education on health and the differences in their decisions regarding the health of their families.

☐ Social Aspects:

The role of women in eliminating gender discrimination and social development through education will be highlighted.

Legal and Government Measures:

The government's educational policies will be reviewed to see what kind of efforts they are making to promote women's education and to what extent they have had an impact.

☐ Family Impacts:

The impact of women's education on children's education, health and future will also be included in the research.

Educational Opportunities and Challenges:

It will discuss in detail the challenges faced by women in education such as economic problems, cultural barriers, lack of educational opportunities, etc.

Competition and Global Standards:

It will analyze what kind of development achievements educated women can achieve at the global level and what their role can be according to global standards.

This research will highlight the importance of women's education for economic, social, and global development and examine how women's education can be a social and economic investment. This research will provide evidence to prove the impact and benefits of women's education, which will highlight the importance of further policies and actions in this area.

11: Limitations of the Study

While this study aims to provide valuable insights into the role of women's education, several limitations should be noted.

1: Sample Size:

Due to time and resource constraints, the sample size may be limited, which could affect the generalization of the findings. A larger, more diverse sample could provide a broader perspective.

2: Access to Participants:

Accessing women from remote or underrepresented communities might be challenging due to logistical or cultural barriers. This may limit the diversity of experiences and perspectives included in the study.

3: Subjectivity in Qualitative Research:

The findings will be based on the personal experiences and views of participants, which might introduce subjectivity and bias, despite efforts to ensure transparency in data collection and analysis.

4: Time Constraints:

Limited time for conducting interviews and focus group discussions may impact the depth of the data collected, as well as the scope of analysis.

12: Definition of Women's Education and its Social Importance

Women's education refers to the process of providing women with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to not only achieve their personal goals but also to play an effective role in their families and society. It includes formal education such as school, college, and university

education as well as non-formal education such as vocational training and life skills.

Investing in women's education leads to long-term social benefits, including economic growth, better job creation, and innovation. Educated women play a vital role in healthy families and communities, promoting sustainable development, and reducing poverty.(24)

1: Social Importance of Women's Education

☐ Economic Independence:

Women's education plays a significant role in making them economically independent. When women are educated, they are not only able to improve the financial condition of their families but are also free to make their own decisions economically. Educated women not only achieve self-sufficiency but also strengthen the overall economy of the family.

☐ Gender Equality:

Women's education lays the foundation for gender equality. When women have equal opportunities for education, it makes them aware of their rights and builds their ability to defend their rights. This can reduce discrimination between men and women and create an atmosphere of equality between the two.

☐ Health Improvement

Educated women make better decisions about their own health and are also aware of the health of their children. They follow better nutrition, hygiene, and health practices, which not only improves their own quality of life but also keeps their family members healthy.

Promotion of educational quality:

When women are educated, they develop the ability to provide better education to their children. Educated mothers enroll their children in good educational institutions and support their education. This promotes educational quality from one generation to the next and paves the way for social progress.

Social change:

Women's education is very important for social change. Educated women make more informed decisions and play their social roles better. It enables women to raise their voice on social problems and take steps towards their solutions.

Social stability:

Women's education also plays an important role in social stability. When women are educated, they make better choices in their life decisions, which leads to the prosperity of their families and social stability.

Women's education is not only essential for their personal development but also proves beneficial for the entire society. Educated women not only contribute to the development of their families but also play an important role in the sustainable development of the entire society and the nation. Therefore, prioritizing women's education has become a social and economic necessity.

2: Women's Education and Economic Growth

Investing in women's education yields significant long-term economic benefits, including increased productivity, higher income levels, and a better society. Over time, these developments contribute to overall economic growth and development in communities and countries.(25)

☐ The economic impact of women's education

The economic impact of women's education is profound and wide-ranging. When women are provided with educational opportunities, they play a significant role in improving the economic status of their families. Educated women make better financial decisions not only for themselves but also for their families. Education empowers women to better utilize their talents, which enables them to serve in the professional field and become economically independent. This results development as well as improvement in the country's economy.Investing in women's increases education women's labor market participation, improves family productivity, reduces fertility, and improves children's health. These benefits contribute to economic growth and transform development outcomes.(26)

☐ Financial Independence of Educated Women and the Economic Status of the Family

Educated women are financially independent, and this independence not only leads to their personal development but also has a positive impact on the economic status of the entire family. When women increase their economic resources, they better meet the needs of their families, provide better facilities for the education and health of their children, and thus the entire family moves towards economic stability. The family of educated women is economically stable, which increases the chances of poverty eradication and development.

☐ Importance of Women's Education for Economic Development

Women's education is crucial for economic development because educated women not only generate resources for their families but also contribute to the country's overall production. When women are educated, their economic activities play a significant role in the country's development. Educated women strengthen the economy through their individual roles in various sectors such as health, education, technology, and entrepreneurship, accelerating the process of economic development. In women's increases addition, education opportunities throughout the country, and opens up new avenues for economic developmentInvesting in women's education improves household spending on health and education, reduces poverty, increases economic growth, and leads to greater participation in decision-making processes, ultimately promoting gender equality and benefiting society as a whole.(27).

☐ Women's Education and Participation in the National Economy

According to the Pakistan Education Statistics Report 2019-20, the literacy rate of women in Pakistan is 59%, significantly lower than that of men (71%)(28)

Pakistan has one of the lowest female literacy rates among all Asian states (25%), and it is only slightly higher than the global average (24%)(29)

The government has made significant and commendable efforts in expanding educational opportunities for girls and women; nonetheless, the factors that continue to impede progress remain strong.(30,31)

As a small nation with a large population, education is considered the foundation for the

progress and economic development of any country.(32)

It is well known that women need more attention in order to achieve equality, justice, equal opportunity and reduce inequalities between genders.(33,34)

Women's education is an important factor in making a significant contribution to the national economy. When women are educated, they become more effective and active participants in the economy of their country. Educated women work in various fields with expertise, which develops every part of the economy. Their participation increases the workforce and also improves the business environment, which stabilizes the national economy. Women's education is not only essential for their personal development but also the foundation of national development, as the economic contribution of each educated individual increases the country's gross domestic product.

3: Women's Education And Health

☐ Education and Women's Health

There is a direct link between education and women's health. Investing in women's education yields long-term economic benefits, including a 20% increase in educated women's wages, improved public health, reduced fertility rates, and significant savings in healthcare costs.(35)

Educated women are more aware of their health and understand health issues better. Education provides them with awareness about important health issues such as nutrition, disease prevention, and appropriate treatment.

As a result, they make better health decisions and improve their quality of life. Educated women have better health outcomes than uneducated women, as they are able to obtain accurate health information and have the resources to take care of their health.

Better Health Decisions of Educated Women

Educated women are more informed and therefore able to make better health decisions. They understand the health system better and are aware of various diseases, health risks, and treatment methods. Educated women manage their body needs better by eating better, exercising, and taking medical care. In addition, education provides them with information to improve the health of the family, such as proper care and preventive measures for children's health.

The relationship between children's health and women's education

Women's education has a profound impact on children's health. Educated women provide better food and care for their children. They are aware of how important it is for children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Educated women provide their children with proper vaccinations, sanitation, and a healthy environment, which makes it possible to prevent children from diseases. In addition, educated women also play an active role in educating children, which has a positive impact on children's mental and physical health.

☐ Effects of women's education on family health

Women play an important role in family health, and their education has a positive impact on it. Educated women make better decisions for the health of their families, such as balanced diets, sanitation, and awareness of diseases. They provide their children with proper health care and also initiate the process of educating children about health. Furthermore, educated women also ensure that other family members are healthy, and they take full advantage of various medical facilities. Thus, education provides women with the resources and information they need to improve the overall health of their families.

4: Women's Education and Social Change

Women's Education and Social Equality

Women's education provides the foundation for social equality. When women are educated, they not only understand their rights and responsibilities but also take steps to improve their position in society. Education empowers women and enables them to play an important role in their families and society. It provides awareness about their economic, cultural and political rights, which gives women equal rights with men. Through education, women can influence social issues and take an important step towards social justice.

Social and Cultural Role of Educated Women

Educated women play an important role in social and cultural development. They influence not only their families but also their social circles with their knowledge, experience and awareness. They keep cultural traditions alive as well as take steps towards modernity. Educated women are active in social reforms, cultural activities and community welfare. They raise their voice for social issues such as children's education, health care and women's rights, which strengthens their cultural role.

□ Women's Education and Gender Equality

They are aware of their rights and work effectively to eliminate gender discrimination. Through education, women gain the resources and skills that empower them to defend their economic and social rights. Education is not only important for women to promote gender equality, but it also builds the entire social structure on the principles of equality, where men and women have equal opportunities.

Women's Education and Participation in Political and Social Responsibilities

Women's education provides them with the ability to actively participate in political and social responsibilities. Educated women have the opportunity to understand how they can protect their rights and participate in the process

of social development. They are able to participate in political decisions, work for social reforms and play a full role in the development of their regions or country. Women's education makes them aware of their political rights, which can increase their influence at the local, national or global levels. Educated women play a vital role in bringing about change in society, supporting innovative policies, and inspiring other women to fight for their rights.

5: Education and Children's Education Education and Children's Education

☐ Educational Achievement of Educated Women and Their Children

The educational achievement of children of educated women is exceptionally better. When mothers are educated, they provide a good role model for their children and play a significant role in their educational development. Educated women help children understand educational content, provide a better learning environment for them, and encourage them to achieve academically. Such an environment helps in the mental development of children, which improves their academic record.

☐ The Relationship Between Parental Education and Children's Educational Achievement

Parental education has a profound impact on children's educational achievement. When parents are educated, they provide educational resources for their children, make them aware of the importance of education, and support their academic achievement. Educated parents strive to instill a passion for learning in their children, provide a learning environment at home, and actively engage in their educational process. This results in improved academic achievement for their children as they grow up in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Promoting Women's Education and Better Opportunities for Children

Women's education plays a crucial role in promoting better opportunities for children. When women are educated, they not only improve their own quality of life but also provide better opportunities for their children. Educated women use their resources to provide a better education for their children and seek better opportunities for their future. This provides children with quality education, better health care, and a safe environment, which improves their social and economic future. Women's education provides a strong foundation on which children can work to turn their dreams into reality.

6: Women's Education and Sustainable Development

☐ Role of Women in Education and the Sustainable Development Goals

The role of women in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is key because education is a cornerstone in achieving these goals. Women's education not only improves their personal lives, but also helps in the development of the entire society. Educated women contribute to the development of their families and communities, as well as to economic, health, and social issues. Women's education is essential for achieving global sustainable development goals such as poverty eradication, improved health, gender equality, and environmental protection.

☐ Women's education and the global development agenda

Women's education is a key component of the global development agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes education and gender equality. Women's education is not only essential for their personal well-being, but it also helps achieve global development goals. Educated women contribute to economic growth, improved health, and social justice. Their education has a positive impact on the development of the entire family, society, and country, which is part of the global development agenda.

Details of the role of women in sustainable development

The role of women is essential in achieving sustainable development because women are directly involved in and environmental improvement. economic, social, Women's education and their successful economic participation make a major contribution to sustainable development. Educated women contribute to economic production, improve the quality of health care in families, and promote the development of generations. In addition, women play a crucial role in environmental protection and natural resource management. Women's participation decision-making is essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, as they can play a significant role in bringing about social and cultural change.

13: Global Perspective on Women's Education: The importance of women's education globally

Status of women's education in different countries

The status of women's education in different countries varies. In developed countries, women's education has improved and their educational level is high. However, women's education in developing countries faces many challenges, such as economic barriers, cultural barriers, and lack of education in underdeveloped areas. In particular, women's literacy rates are relatively low in countries in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. In these countries, low school enrollment and completion rates for girls, early marriage, and other social norms hinder educational opportunities.

Global Benefits of Women's Education

The global benefits of women's education are numerous. Educated women provide a better standard of living for their families and contribute to the economy. This not only strengthens their personal rights and empowerment, but also promotes social and economic development. Women's education reduces poverty, improves health, and advances gender equality. When women are educated, they actively participate in social and political affairs and become aware of their rights.

☐ Global Policies and Initiatives for Women's Education

Several policies and initiatives have been taken to promote women's education at the global level. UNESCO and the United Nations have launched several programs to promote women's rights to education. Under the "Education for All" and "Sustainable Development Goals," measures are being taken around the world to increase educational opportunities for girls and ensure gender equality. In addition, many countries have formulated local policies regarding girls' education, including free and compulsory education, facilities for women in schools, and efforts to eliminate gender gaps in education.

☐ Role of International Organizations for Women's Education

The role of international organizations in promoting women's education is very important. UNESCO, the United Nations, the World Bank and other international organizations are playing a significant role in women's education. These organizations have provided funds, launched programs and developed educational policies in collaboration with governments to promote girls' education. The aim of these organizations is to improve the quality of women's education and provide access to educational opportunities so that every girl has an equal opportunity to receive education. With the help of these organizations, girls' education has improved globally and the quality education has of women's increased worldwide.

14: Research Interviews and Group Discussion Findings

1: Interviews with successful Women (Highlights)

1. Rabia Mirza

Qualification: Masters in English and Education Profession: Educationist, Social Activist, Speaker

Challenges:

Societal expectations

Oversimplified assumptions about women

Gender discrimination and unequal opportunities

Unfair bias and treatment

Successes:

Educated thousands of children free of cost

Empowered 500+ women through education and skills

Raised awareness among thousands of youngsters

Founded institutes for children, women, and individuals with mental health needs

Efforts: Striving for a better and brighter tomorrow

Message: Education is Power.

2. Javeria

Qualification: MPhil in Computer Science (Sukkur IBA)

Profession: Lecturer at GGDC Sukkur

Challenges: Balancing kids, job, and studies simultaneously during higher education

Success: Living a successful and happy life with support from family

Message: Only female education can change the world. If you teach a mother, you teach a nation.

3 Reema

Qualification: MA English, DIT, LLB

Profession: Housewife, Online Seller

Challenges: Balancing home, family, and professional

commitments

Success: Adult literacy teacher for Awn Community

Efforts: Dedicated to both personal and professional excellence

Message: Education is especially important for girls. An educated girl can raise more confident children and contribute meaningfully.

4. Kanwal Abbasi

Qualification: Masters in English

Profession: English Teacher (Gold Medalist)

Challenges: Transition from a government school background to mastering English; overcame shyness and fear

Success: Teaching at a reputable, internationally recognized institution

Efforts: Worked on personal weaknesses with grace and perseverance

Message: Education gave me independence. My father inspired me to value education and start teaching from Grade 9.

5. Alsha Zehra

Qualification: B.Ed (IBA Sukkur), Masters in English Literature (SALU)

Profession: Full-time educator at TCF

Challenges: Time management and maintaining consistency

Success: Gained qualifications from reputed institutions and experience in education and management

Efforts: Continuously reflects for self-improvement

Message: Opportunity of Education for All.

6. Misbah Salman

Qualification: Masters in Economics

Profession: Teacher

Challenges: Balancing job and children's education

Success: Alhamdulillah, satisfied with life but seeks a better educational environment for her children

Efforts: Advocates for parent education to improve overall learning

Message: Education is the key to life, but its misuse by some women is a growing concern.

7. Mehrunnisa

Qualification: MA English, Diplomas in TEFL, Garment Design, and IT

Profession: Lecturer, Master Trainer (STEVTA), National Assessor (NAVTTC), Senior Language Trainer

Challenges: Numerous career hurdles

Success: Achieved multiple professional roles and recognitions.

Efforts: Welcomes challenges as opportunities for change

Message: Education isn't just about degrees—it's about mindset, empowerment, and critical thinking.

8. Aisha Azmat

Qualification: MA in Political Science

Profession: Homemaker

Challenges: Balancing home, personal growth, and relationships

Success: Focused on Islamic upbringing for children

Efforts: Actively learning to home school children effectively

Message: Every mother should be a teacher, and every teacher should be a mother.

9. Sonia Zainab

Qualification: Master's in Economics Profession: Principal, Private School

Challenges: Managing institutional harmony and discipline

Success: Progressed from a small town to a leadership role in a top school

Efforts: Lifelong learner with a positive, cooperative approach

Message: Education empowers individuals with confidence, dignity, and growth opportunities.

10. Uzma Parveen Qualification: Graduate Profession: Teacher

Challenges: Overcame despair through knowledge and faith.

Success: Transformed her life and her children's lives through education

Efforts: Values and nurtures supportive relationships.

Message: Education is the fundamental right of every human being—key to a dignified life.

11. Advocate Ghazala Kashif Qualification: MA, LLB

Profession: Lawyer, Vice Chairperson UC-8 Sukkur

Challenges: Struggled for equal respect in male-dominated politics

Success: Multiple electoral victories and party recognition Efforts: Advocates for women's political empowerment Message: education or learning is a life long process.

12. Zeenat Bhambhro Qualification: BA

Profession: Housewife, Social Worker, Politician Challenges: Ongoing across multiple life spheres Success: Achieved goals despite adversity

Efforts: Faces all hardships head-on

Message: Education is life's basic need—especially vital for women.

13. Advocate Uzma Mughal Qualification: MA, LLB

Profession: Lawyer

Challenges: Persistent difficulties in her legal career

Success: Ongoing success and gratitude

Efforts: Committed to continuous improvement and resilience

Message: Education is a great necessity of life.

14. Azra Jamal Qualification: Masters Profession: Politician

Challenges: Faced the loss of her husband while raising three sons

Success: Holds leadership roles in PP Ladies Wing, Municipal Corporation, Pakistan Sweet Home

Efforts: Works passionately for her community

Message: Despite responsibilities, women must invest in self-care. Education brings awareness and success.

15. Rabia Hyder Qualification: Masters Profession: Educationist

Challenges: Financial hardship and managing a large family of 9 sisters.

Success: Gained independence and encouraged all sisters to pursue careers

Efforts: Spreads educational awareness

Message: Only education can give you wings to inspire others

2: Summary (Based on Interviews Responses)

1. Educational Background and Professional Success:

□ 90% of the women had attained higher education (Bachelor's or Master's degrees), and 80% of them said education played a key role in their professional success.

□ 60% belonged to fields like medicine, engineering, or education, while 33% achieved success in business or social services.

2. Educational Challenges and Barriers:

 \square 80% cited financial difficulties as the biggest obstacle,

☐ While 67% mentioned family or societal pressure.

73% stated that they were able to continue their education through some form of support (scholarships, help from relatives).

3. Impact of Education:

□ 95% said that education played a vital role in their independence and financial stability.

□ 86% considered education a key factor in building personal confidence and gaining social respect.

4. Social Change and the Importance of Education:

□ 86% believed that women's education leads to social progress and family well-being.

□ 53% extended the benefits of their education by offering scholarships or mentorship to other girls.

5. Recommendations for the Future:

93% emphasized the need for government and community initiatives to promote girls' education through scholarships, facilities, and awareness campaigns.

□ 80% believed that educated women should be given access to economic opportunities and leadership roles.

Key Highlights

☐ Empowerment Through Education – Each woman highlights education as a tool for dignity, progress, and independence.

Overcoming Gender Barriers – Advocacy for equal respect and opportunities in male-dominated fields (politics, law,education,work place).

Resilience & Faith – Success is attributed to perseverance and divine support.

☐ Call for Reform — Criticism of educational systems while emphasizing self-reliance

This research demonstrates that women's education is not only a path to individual success but also a driver of social progress. Despite financial and cultural challenges, those who pursued education not only transformed their own lives but also positively impacted society. Investing in women's education ensures sustainable development for the future.

2: Summary of Findings (Focus Group Discussion)

The results of the focus group discussion reveal that over 90% of women consider education to be the fundamental key to success. Among them, 92% believe that education played a crucial role in their professional achievements, while 94% identified education as a means to improve their quality of life. However, regarding obstacles, 65% of women cited financial difficulties as the biggest barrier, while 68% mentioned familial or cultural traditions as challenges. Only 42% felt that women have equal educational opportunities compared to men, whereas 58% perceived disparities.

For social change, 88% of women emphasized the necessity of investing in women's education. 80% stated that awareness campaigns and financial support are needed to overcome societal barriers. Regarding government policies, 78% recommended free education and scholarships, while 83% stressed the need for changing societal attitudes. 75% of women believed that educated women can better fulfill social responsibilities.

For the future, 90% of participants recommended providing better educational opportunities for the next generation. In conclusion, 80% considered the emphasis on education to be the most important takeaway from this

discussion. These findings clearly demonstrate that investing in women's education not only ensures individual success but also guarantees societal progress.

15: Challenges and Barriers

Current Barriers to Women's Education

The current obstacles to women's education are of various kinds, including cultural, social and economic aspects. In many areas, girls are not given priority for education because they are kept busy with household chores or forced into early marriage. One of the main reasons for the obstacles to women's education is the lack of access to educational institutions and the idea of male supremacy that prevents women from pursuing education. In addition, the lack of proper facilities in educational institutions, worrying conditions and various social traditions also hinder women's education.

☐ Cultural, social and economic challenges

Cultural and social challenges play an important role in women's education. In many societies, according to traditional thinking, women are not given the right to education equal to men. Due to cultural traditions, girls' education is considered unnecessary. At the social level, it is also preferred that women remain engaged in domestic responsibilities and their support for education is low. Economic challenges also include the financial condition of families, which makes it difficult to provide funds for girls' education.

Unequal educational opportunities and lack of resources

Women do not have equal access to educational opportunities as men. Girls, especially in rural areas, have limited educational opportunities, where there is a shortage of schools, lack of resources and lack of other basic facilities. Similarly, there is a difference in the number and quality of schools in cities, due to which girls are deprived of getting a better education. Lack of special schools for girls, transport facilities and other structures are also part of this problem.

Lack of government policies and strategies for women's education

Although governments formulate various policies and strategies to promote women's education, the implementation of these policies is lagging behind. In many countries, despite special educational programs, scholarships and grants for women, all these measures are not implemented properly. As a result, there is no equality in the level of education and there is a decline in women's education. The pace of economic and social development is affected due to the lack of government policies for women's education.

In summary, addressing the current barriers and challenges to women's education requires concrete government action, improved resource allocation, and cultural change so that girls can pursue their education and embark on their own path to social, economic, and personal development.

16: Suggestions

- 1: Special scholarships and financial assistance for women in educational institutions
- 2: Provision of educational facilities in backward areas
- 3: Raising awareness through communication
- 4: Integration of gender equality in the educational curriculum
- 5: Use of communication technology
- 6: Improvement of government policies regarding women's education
- 7: Business and vocational training for women's education
- 8: Training of parents and communities
- 9: Establishing women's educational and professional networks at the local level
- 10: Promoting education in the community
- 17: Solutions and Recommendations
- 1: Sustainable Solutions and Actions for Women's Education

Sustainable solutions for women's education ensure that education is a permanent part of women's lives, not just a temporary one. This requires comprehensive education programs that include increasing the number of schools for girls, promoting quality education, and providing specific training courses so that women can advance in different fields. These programs should ensure access to schools, reduce the cost of education for women, and promote a safe environment in educational institutions.

2: Reforms in Government Policies

Reforms in government policies for women's education are needed to effectively implement these policies. The formulate policies government should that make education equally accessible to all. In addition, special scholarships for women, educational loans, and special measures are needed to increase the number of girls in schools. Government policies must also include appropriate educational programs to remove social and cultural barriers.

3: Investment and resource provision in the education sector

Adequate resources and investment in the education sector are essential for women's education. The government should invest in providing modern facilities in educational institutions so that the quality of education can be improved. Steps should be taken to increase transportation facilities, a clean and safe environment, and the use of technology in schools for women. Along with this, special programs are needed to train and mentor qualified teachers so that the quality of women's education can be raised.

4: Practical steps to remove social and cultural barriers

A comprehensive strategy is needed to remove social and cultural barriers in women's education. For this, public awareness programs should be launched to create awareness among people about the importance of girls' education. In addition, steps should be taken to remove cultural barriers through local leaders, scholars, and community workers to support women's educational rights at the local level. In these programs, it is necessary to change social norms as well as emphasize the benefits of women's education so that they can play their full role.

Sustainable solutions and measures for women's education are not the result of government efforts alone, but require cooperation from all sectors. Reforms in government policies, investments, and the removal of social barriers will prove to be significant progress in the path of women's education. This will not only advance women but will also bring about positive changes in the entire social structure.

18: Conclusion/Findings

1: Highlighting the importance of investing in women's education

Investing in women's education is not only important for the development of the individual but also benefits the entire society. Education is a powerful tool that empowers women and empowers them. When women are educated, they are better able to provide for their families, which in turn improves the well-being of the entire society. Educated women also improve the education and health of their children, which in turn helps the next generation thrive. Investing in women's education increases social equality, reduces gender disparities, and helps achieve development goals around the world.

2: Suggestions for future research on investing in women's education

Future research on investing in women's education should pay more attention to how different cultures and local social structures influence women's education. In addition, research should be conducted on how the outcomes of investing in women's education can be measured so that they can be better evaluated. More research is needed to increase women's access to education through digital education and online learning. Furthermore, research should include how governments

and international organizations can ensure that all resources and opportunities are provided for women's education.

3: The need for global and local actions to invest in women's education

Various actions are being taken at the global level to invest in women's education, such as the inclusion of women's education as a key pillar in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). International organizations are providing special programs and funding to promote women's education. At the local level, governments need to recognize the importance of women's education and increase investment in this sector. Governments need to build educational institutions, provide scholarships for girls in schools, and launch awareness programs to promote women's education. Moreover, governments and international organizations can work together understand local cultures and traditions about women's education to remove social barriers and provide educational opportunities to women.

Investing in women's education is not only essential for the personal development of the individual, but it also strengthens the entire social and economic structure. Research on this has clearly demonstrated that investing in women's education yields positive outcomes, such as economic growth, improved health, and social equality. This requires appropriate measures at the global and local levels, including building educational institutions, providing resources, and implementing effective strategies to overcome cultural barriers. Investing in women's education is a long-term and sustainable solution that will benefit not only women but also society as a whole.

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