



# LEARNING JOURNAL UNIT 5

POLS 1503-01 GLOBALIZATION - AY2024-T3



1.

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1. In your own words, explain what you understand by womenomics. How does womenomics apply to your country, provide reliable evidence?

Womenomics is an emerging term now a days to empower women and involve them in contributing towards economic growth and more participation in workforce. Lack of opportunities, social support systems and other factors make it difficult for women to join workforce and their capabilities remain under-utilized, hence this terminology has evolved to increase awareness (What is womenomics?, 2015).

As of my country Pakistan, womenomics is very important rather most ignored topic. The women participation is relatively low in the workforce. According to World Bank data, only 20.1% women were actively contributing in 2021 despite being 53% of the chunk of population. While in the meantime the world's average was 47.7%. This means a large portion of the country's potential workforce is underutilized, and according to IMF study if this gender gap is closed and more participation is added to workforce, the GDP Pakistan can be boosted by 30%. It can also help in reducing poverty and giving more power to women over their life. It will also be a major factor towards improvement of maternal and child health, education, and overall social development.

But this is not as easy as it is said, many challenges need to be addressed before this can happen. There are many cultural and societal norms which need to be changed and leniencies should be given. In addition, proper education and basic training is required for all of it to happen. The other major hinderance is lack of childcare facilities. It needs a mass education, awareness, adequate policies to facilitate women and cross these barriers. Then they can add to the workforce and yield economic growth.

Sana ur rehman arain

2. Find one reliable short (2-3 pages) academic article related to various development projects in your country. Summarize the article and write the reasons why you choose the article.

The article I would like to share and summarize is "Women's Social Empowerment and Microfinance: A Brief Review of Literature" by Ambreen Khursheed. This article is about social entrepreneurship and how it helps women to empower themselves, reduce poverty and help in the economy. It explains many case studies and empirical evidence from multiple projects in Pakistan and various developing countries. This article signifies the importance of social entrepreneurship, financial inclusions and unfolds stories about various projects and initiatives stated and going on, which help build strong women who are financially independent and their roles in building economy. It also explains in great depth about the hardships and challenges faced by women in developing countries. It covers the subject of economic opportunities given and how access to resources changes the scenario. Hence the article highlights the potential of social entrepreneurship as a viable strategy for empowering women and addressing poverty.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various development projects in your country with proper evidence and citations.

There are many development projects being done in Pakistan. Every project has some advantages and disadvantages which depends on how they were planned, designed, implemented, and completed or not completed. It also depends on whether they achieved the goals for which they were planned or was it just a waste of resources. Following are some examples of advantages:

# **POVERTY REDUCTION:**

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in Pakistan provided cash transfers to millions of poor households to help alleviate the poverty on household level (Malik et al., 2013).

It was a well-planned project and provided cash transfers to all adults in households to ensure fulfilling their needs, removing poverty, access to healthcare and improving the quality of their life. It empowered women to use their own money for setting small businesses as well.

## **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT:**

Nowadays more projects are put forward to teach skill to women and give hands on training in the field of microfinance initiatives thus promoting female entrepreneurship.

A study by Cheema et al. (2016) found that women's participation in microfinance programs in Pakistan led to increased household decision-making power and improved socioeconomic status.

## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:

It is a well-known fact that development projects can contribute to the improvement of infrastructure, such as roads, water supply, and energy systems ultimately facilitating economic growth and improve access to essential services (Imran & Niazi, 2011).

# **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:**

As the sustainable development awareness is rising and climate conservation is ensured, current projects are aiming to promote sustainable practices, such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource management hence contributing to environmental conservation and climate resilience (Khan et al., 2013).

Following are some examples of disadvantages:

#### **DEPENDENCY ON EXTERNAL AID:**

Majority of the development projects in Pakistan are run by external funding from international organizations or foreign governments. This can create dependency and sustainability challenges when the funding ends (Anwar, 2007). Sometimes aid is not extended, and the projects are left uncompleted, drowning millions in waste.

## CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT:

Corruption and mismanagement of resources have been reported in some development projects in Pakistan, there are evidence of projects on paper but not in reality which hinders their effectiveness and erode public trust (Transparency International, 2021).

## **CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BARRIERS:**

Some development projects may face challenges due to cultural and social barriers, such as resistance to change, gender norms, or lack of community engagement, which can undermine their success (Malik et al., 2013).

## UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS:

The benefits of development projects may not be evenly distributed, leading to disparities, and exacerbating existing inequalities within communities (Maeenduddin et al., 2020).

To maximize the advantages and mitigate the disadvantages, it is crucial for development projects in Pakistan to be well-designed, culturally sensitive, and inclusive, with strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms. Additionally, promoting local ownership,

community engagement, and sustainable strategies can contribute to the long-term success and impact of these projects.

Wordcount: 898

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