

CLAIRVOYANT YEARNING OF MALALA YOUSAFZAI FOR WOMEN'S EDUCATION WITH REFERENCE TO *I AM MALALA*

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Abstract:

Women and girls in the emergent world are often deprived of opportunities for education. Absence of education limits prospects, declines family income, diminishes health, puts women and girls at risk of trafficking and mistreatment, and limits the economic improvement of entire countries. World education trusts that education for girls and women is the single most effective way to increase the lives of individual families as well as to bring economic development to poor communities worldwide. Patriarchal standards are deeply rooted in the society of Pakistan, and its different manifestations are observed in different aspects of the society. As mentioned above, gender partition of labour imposes women to chiefly focus in unpaid care work as mothers and wives at home, whereas men execute paid work, and come out as breadwinners. This has led to a low level of resource speculation in girls' education not only by their families but also by the state. There is a strong view about the Taliban's disagreement of the modern education system, especially girls' education that the Taliban stand on women's education is for the control in the country. Malala Yousafzai is perhaps the best known advocate for girls' education and her far-sighted opinion of Pakistan being a nation where all girl children should get their education is still a day dream.

Keywords: Education, girl's education, Patriarchal

Introduction:

Education has been a major challenge for Pakistan, especially in rural areas that are culturally rich and rigid and where it has always been ignored as compared to urban areas. According to Amartya Sen, education makes the horizon of vision wider and helps to disseminate the knowledge of family planning. Educated girls tend to have greater freedom to exercise their agency in family decision, including in matters of fertility and child birth.

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the country. The Taliban have a clear view about education and women. According to a statement of Muslim Khan, spokesman for the Taliban in the Swat valley,

We are Muslims. Had there not been an Islamic system of education and curriculum, then it would have been all right to import a system of education belonging to others. But fortunately, Islam provides its own system of education, politics, economics and justice....If Islam is a complete code of life, then what is the need to import education from the United Kingdom? (Shehzad 2009).

In this critical situation there emerged from swat valley an activist in the name of Malala Yousafzai. Malala Yousafzai was born in the town of Mingora, Pakistan to a poor but prominent Muslim family, headed by Ziauddin Yousafzai. Growing up, Ziauddin encouraged Malala to study literature and rhetoric, and to express herself freely. From an early age, Malala was conscious of the inferior position of women in her society: she was especially conscious of the difference between her mother, Tor Pekai, a woman with no formal education, and her father, a man with considerable training in writing, poetry, and oration. At the age of 11, Malala began writing a diary for a BBC blog, thanks to contacts her father had established. She also made an appearance in a *New York Times* documentary on life in Pakistan under the Taliban. Following these two projects, Malala became increasingly active in the media, in spite of her young age. *I am Malala* is a memoir, in which Malala makes a humble attempt to present her story and all the difficulties faced by her to take up education though her father had a school and was in full support for Malala.

Content:

Malala Yousafzai born on 12th June 1997 is a Pakistani activist for female education and the Youngest Nobel prize laureate. She is known mainly for human rights advocacy for education and for women in her native Swat valley in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of northwest Pakistan, where the local Taliban had at times banned girls from attending school. Yousafzai's advocacy has since grown into the international movement. Malala Yousafzai's *I am Malala* will make anyone to believe in the power of a single person's voice to instill a change in the world. Malala tries to expose the life of every individual in Pakistan. The Taliban have surrounded like the stars in the sky, and from their birds eye sight it is not easy for a revolution. Poetically saying Pakistani's have no more tears left to shed. The enormity of their acts and mistake of terror are too big for the protagonist to comprehend at a

very young age. Though the people try to be bold and strict in boycotting their rules, still psychologically they suffer highly from inner trauma to protect their precious life.

Malala Yousafzai's farsighted yearning was to see a peaceful country with all the girl children getting their right education. Education was only a dream for many children in Pakistan and one of the main reasons were the Taliban. The Taliban confined women to their homes, they could not come out of their homes without a veil and without being accompanied by a close male relative, they were not allowed to be treated by male doctors, and they were not allowed to do any jobs and get any education. Juan R.I. Cole further writes in his book that the Taliban largely excluded women from going to school, and from working outside the home.

When the Taliban took control of Kabul, they closed the girls' schools. Within three months, the Taliban had closed 63 schools, affecting 103,000 girls (Cole 2003:797-798, 804). The patriarchal mentality in that society means that the girls have the rights to be wives only and the boys have to be the heads of the families, thus women are oppressed all over Afghanistan. According to David Brinkley's saying "A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him" (Hindu). Malala is ready to accept the bricks wholeheartedly to lay a strong foundation for her communities. Progress never appears within comfort zone rather it positively takes place outside the comfort zone. Malala is initially and individually a dutiful daughter who devoted herself for the improvement of the social status of her family and also socially. In fact she is a woman who does not think much for herself and it is this thought that frames her relationship with other people.

Conclusion:

Malala tried to create a space for herself and other women in her country. She is truly an emerging new woman. Malala's achievements are praiseworthy when one looks at them against the backdrop of social scenario of Pakistan. "Education is education. We should learn everything and then choose which path to follow. Education is neither eastern nor western, it is human" (136). *I am Malala* delivers a message to each reader about the values of life, education, simple living and self-realisation. On reading this memoir one must necessarily realise education for women will help them to lead an adorable living. The endless vicissitudes of life makes her a matured woman. She crushes and defies the patriarchal restrictions and expectations to assert her identity to achieve self-satisfaction and self-fulfilment in life.

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