

Is gender equality a problem or solution?

Consider the relevance of gender equality on whether it is a problem or solution.

Type: DYA Date: 08 Apr 2020
Name: San Ann Tau Album: Gender Equality

Student Answer

1) Introduction

test

2) Opposing View

twrwerew

3) Rebuttall

-- none --

4) Supporting View 1

-- none --

5) Supporting View 2

-- none --

6) Supporting View 3

-- none --

7) Conclusion

-- none --

Tutor Answer

1) Introduction

With modernisation, the role of women in society has evolved drastically. Women have come to play a greater role in society which leads to the question of whether such a change is truly beneficial to the world. Those who hold strong traditional and cultural values will find gender equality a problem. However those who hold more modern ways of thinking will feel that gender equality is a solution to many problems in society. After examining the impact of gender equality in different aspects of society, this essay takes the stand that gender equality is a solution.

2) Opposing View

Topic Sentence: Gender equality will allow women to have greater economic involvement which may unfortunately lead to an erosion of family values and change in gender roles.

Elaboration: Traditionally, women are homemakers and are financially reliant on their husbands who are the breadwinners. With gender equality, this social norm will be eradicated as there will be greater improvement in the education and employment opportunities for women. This leads to greater financial independence for women and makes them less reliant on men.

Example: In 2018, the annual population in brief report of Singapore saw that there was a 7.2% increase of women who were single as compared to 2007. The total fertility rate also hit a 7 year low. Thus, with the growing liberalisation of values, there is no longer a huge stigma of women having to get married early in Singapore. With their new found self-sufficiency, some choose not to get married or choose to delay their child birth in fear of jeopardising their career.

Linking Sentence: Therefore, gender equality will create a change in cultural values and eradicate certain social norms which may result in severe economic consequences such as a slowing population growth and aging population.

3) Rebuttal

Topic Sentence: However, this should not be a major cause of concern as the government does react to these problems and changes in social values by implementing policies.

Elaboration: The government still recognises that family is an important foundation of society. Therefore, they implement policies to uphold these family values.

Example: In Singapore, a policy was implemented in 2017 where working males are entitled to 2 weeks of paternity leave. Giving paternity leave thus encourages males to play a greater role in children, so that the responsibility does not all fall onto the females. With the addition of maternity and childcare leave as well as baby bonuses and tax rebates for having children, working mothers can also better manage their career and family. Therefore, the government ensures that population growth and the social norm of what constitutes a traditional family unit is not compromised with gender equality.

Linking Sentence: Therefore, with efforts from the government to counter the problems that may possibly arise from achieving gender equality.

4) Supporting View 1

Topic Sentence: Gender equality is the key to economic advancement as it allows for more labour and resources to be tapped on.

Elaboration: In every country, the untapped potential of women is immense and cannot be ignored. When more opportunities are given to women, they can take on roles that are more suited to their given strengths, thus improving the efficiency of the economy.

Example: A study was released in 2018 by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) staff that closing the gender gap could boost GDP in Canada by 4%, Japan by 4% and Pakistan by 32%. Therefore some countries miss out on a significant percentage of growth per capita due to a lack of gender diversity in the labour market. Especially for third-world countries where gender discrimination is a serious issue and poverty is also a concern, having gender equality would greatly boost their country's economy.

Linking Sentence: Therefore, when more labour and resources are accessed through gender equality, the government can devote their resources to improving other aspects of society.

5) Supporting View 2

Topic Sentence: Gender equality is vital as a solution to population control and demographic challenges as the proliferation of education allows them to make better decisions for family development.

Elaboration: In many countries, gender inequality fuels population growth when women are denied legal, social and economic rights such as education. They establish their identity by being someone's wife and someone's mother.

Example: According to a report from Indo-Asian News Service (IANS), around 19 million Indian women give birth to seven or more children. A substantial majority of these women are illiterate and reside in the rural parts of the country. A lack of education and employment results in women relying on childbearing to assert their identity and status in the household. This also results in the inability to make better financial decisions and thus unable to break their family out of poverty.

Linking Sentence: Therefore, if women have more access to greater knowledge and opportunities, they have a greater say in decision making, including the number of children they desire. On a larger perspective, this will resolve the issue of over population and poverty in the country.

6) Supporting View 3

Topic Sentence: Gender equality will lead to social empowerment for women, allowing them to be viewed as equal beings and lead to fairer practices in society.

Elaboration: Based on traditional cultural and religious beliefs, females are viewed by society as inferior to men due to ascribed characteristics which they have no control over. However with social empowerment for women, social media can be used as a catalyst for more fundamental rights for women.

Example: For example, the "#MeToo" movement on sexual assault and harassment that started on Twitter was a huge catalyst for improved women's rights. A study by the Pew Research Center found that the "#MeToo" hashtag was used more than 19 million times on Twitter. This social movement had a measurable effort on workplaces as seen by a June study by Challenger Gray & Christmas which found out that over half of the 150 companies they surveyed reviewed their sexual harassment policies, up from about a third in January 2018. Therefore, a seemingly simple hashtag on twitter had the ability to raise

awareness of gender discrimination in society which led to positive improvements to solve the issue.
Linking Sentence: Hence, gender equality is crucial in managing ill practices in society that put women at a disadvantage.

7) Conclusion

In retrospect, gender equality is a solution for the lack of economic development, population growth issues and abuse of human rights. Even though there is the possibility of problems arising from having gender equality, it can be solved with appropriate government policies put in place.
