

# **POSITION PAPER**

COMMITTEE : **UN WOMEN**

DELEGATION : **Pakistan**

AGENDA ITEM : **Empowerment of Women**

Women's empowerment is an important problem that almost all countries should consider. Although several states have reiterated their commitments to provide equitable economic and political opportunities to women, others have been unable to attain the goal of equality between men and women. UN has addressed women's status as a human rights issue since its inception. In the Widespread research of Gupta (2017) on women's economic status shows that among rich and poor people, mostly women are poor. Women are either low paid, unpaid, or employed in part-time, low-status, precarious jobs. A similar situation prevails in the field of politics, as females hardly get a chance at political participation and representation. Unfortunately, election of women to political positions has served a symbolic purpose rather than establishing gender equality (Iwanaga, 2007).

Women's empowerment has always remained a contested issue in the complex socio-demographic and cultural milieu of Pakistan society. Women are ranked lower than men on all vital human development indicators (Abbas et. al., 2021). There are some success stories in its past in which women actively participated in politics and the economy in Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto came to power in Pakistan through free elections in 1988 and became the first female prime minister in the country's history. This election period was an opportunity for women, but unfortunately it did not continue. Therefore, studying various determinants of women's empowerment is urgently needed in the Pakistan context.

The reason why women do not have the desired social status is lack of lack of education, naivete about politics, and rigid social norms that obstruct women's participation. We believe that equality of opportunity can be created, and women's empowerment will be ensured when Legal regulations can be made such as compulsory education for girls up to a certain age, ease of opening a business for women and tax advantages, and tax and salary supports for businesses employing women.