

Young Female Leaders for the Future

Mr. Saboor AHMED (Pakistan)

Historically, Pakistani politics has always been dominated by a few families and dictators, and they have reserved their rights in the country's politics. Also history tells us that political parties have always used the youth to achieve their political targets and, looking at the bigger picture, the role of the youth in Pakistani politics has always been limited. In retrospect, it is evident that little or no representation has been bestowed upon Pakistani youth, particularly the women.

However, in recent times, hope has arisen in the shape of Youth Parliament of Pakistan. Besides, it has brought optimism, a breath of fresh air. Young intellectuals, comprising both genders, are given importance, and finally it seems that Pakistan is on the verge of a revolution—an inhouse revolution that would change the face of Pakistan not only on the political front but also on others as well.

Moreover, “Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Founder of Pakistan” saw the youth as a major asset to the newly created state, i.e., Pakistan, and repeatedly emphasized the role of the youth in Pakistani politics. And he believed the youth was vital driving force for taking the country forward. His sayings reflected his belief that the young men and women are the leaders of the future.

“Pakistan is proud of her youth, particularly the students who have always been in the forefront in the hour of trial and need. You are the nation's leaders of tomorrow and you must fully equip yourselves with discipline, education, and training to cope with arduous tasks lying ahead of you. You should realize the magnitude of your responsibility and be ready to bear it”, said Muhammad Ali JINNAH. Keeping this message in mind, Pakistani youth have prepared themselves to take leading roles in politics, education, social work, sports and other spheres. On the political front, the youth of Pakistan, especially the women, have got the highest representation since the creation of Pakistan. A number of young female leaders have taken responsibility to lead the youth from the front. To mention a few, Maryam NAWAZ, the daughter of Prime Minister Nawaz SHARIF, joined the active politics a few years back, and now she is the chairperson of Youth Business Loan Scheme. Also, the daughters of former Prime Minister Benazir BHUTTO (Asifa and Bakhtawar BHUTTO) have announced to vigorously participate in Pakistani politics.



Ms. Maryam Nawaz



Ms. Ayesha Gulalai Wazir

In addition, Ayesha Gulalai WAZIR, the first woman ever elected as the member of National Assembly from FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas), is aged just 26, but nonetheless, she is ready to take up the challenges that her tribe, area, province, and country are facing for a long time.

There are still many others who are ready to lead the youth and the nation with great

strength and vigor. Meanwhile, on the educational front, Malala YOUSAFZAI, a 16-year-old school girl, rendered unforgettable service by putting her life in great danger, as she was shot in the head by an extremist. Since her recovery, she has become a globally recognized symbol of the promotion of education. Malala YOUSAFZAI has received numerous prestigious awards for her sacrifice, and is still committed to promoting the awareness of education among all people.



Ms. Malala Yousafzai

Today, Pakistani women enjoy a better status than most Muslim women in other countries. However, on average, the women's situation vis-à-vis men is one of systematic gender subordination, although there have been attempts by the government and enlightened groups to elevate the status of women in Pakistani society. Now, due to a heightened awareness among people, educational opportunities for Pakistani women have increased in the past few years.

Also, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, the first Pakistani woman to win an Oscar (Academy Award) for her documentary film "Saving Face", rendered great service by highlighting the brutal and inhumane act of throwing acid at women in Pakistani society, which is tarnishing the image of the country on a global level. Thus she has become a role model for social scientists, shedding light on the social evils that prevail in our society. To sum up, it can be said that all these endeavors by young female leaders have brought about the beginning of long-awaited dawn that will always be shining on each and every one of us without bias and prejudice.