



## The Rising of Moon on Political Sight: A Study of Benazir Bhutto

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### Abstract

Benazir Bhutto was not only the first female prime minister of Pakistan but also the first lady to rule the Muslim world. She predominately rules the country in two different occasions. Her time being a prime minister saw many ups and downs. She stood affirm in order to promote democracy and democratic values in Pakistan. For this she was known as champion of democracy. She explicitly stated that “Democracy is best revenge”. Observing the hanging of his father by a military dictator, she bravely fought for democracy and for political stability of country. During her time at Oxford University, she made several declamations in advocating democracy. Being a woman she worked to empower women of her country. This research tends to find the political leadership of Benazir Bhutto and her role to empower women of her country. The study uses historical context in order to determine her leadership role and also the role in empowering women.

**Keywords:** Political Role, Feminism, Pakistani Politics, Women in Politics

### 1. Introduction

Benazir Bhutto, the first woman to govern a country with predominantly Muslim population, is still highly honored as an iconic figure in the political history of Pakistan and globally. Despite the numerous challenges she had to outlive and personal miseries she went through, her journey was marked by resilience, sharpness and unfaltering adherence to democracy. Her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was a well-known politician and founder of Pakistan people’s party (PPP). She was born on June 21, 1953 in Karachi, Pakistan as her father’s child. Benazir had a distinguished education; she first attended Harvard University before going to University of Oxford. In Oxford however she became the first Asian woman to be elected as president of The Oxford Union. This accomplishment showcased her leadership ability at such an early stage as well as her commitment to public service.

The legacy left behind by Benazir’s family could not be extricated from her politics career. The chief minister position was held by her father during military takeover that took place in 1979 until he was sacked after which he died (Ali, M., & Shahid, M. R., 2022). Thereupon, she made a firm commitment to pursue the objective set by his late father of promoting democracy along with social justice. Her path to power was not smooth at all times since it involved numerous obstacles at each turn. During General Zia-ul-Haq’s military rule period she spent years either in prison or placed under house arrest throughout her life time. Nonetheless despite many hardships faced by her Benazir never stopped fighting for achieving the goals set in political life for her. When elected Prime Minister in 1988, she became also the first woman heading government of Muslim-majority nation ever. Her perseverance eventually bore fruits because besides being the first female holding this position (Chawla, M. I., 2017).

It is also during Benazir Bhutto’s tenure as Prime Minister that Pakistan underwent extensive attempts to modernize and make it a better place to live in. She pushed for women’s rights, more education opportunities as well as economic reforms aimed at poverty reduction. Her leadership was an inspiration to many people especially women in Pakistan and the Muslim world. However, indeed her tenure had not been without controversies. Accusations of corruption and mismanagement occasioned her governments that led her being removed from power in 1990 and again 1996. Despite these setbacks, Benazir continued being a strong personality within Pakistani politics who symbolized fight against dictatorships for democracy and civilian rule. However, on 27th December 2007, Benazir Bhutto’s life came to an abrupt end as she was assassinated during a political rally in Rawalpindi. The whole world was left stunned by this event, which marked the end of one era in Pakistani politics forever (Azeem, M., & Ahmad, M., 2021).

Despite her untimely death at a young age, the memory of Benazir Bhutto will endure. She is still considered an emblem of courage and tenacity, inspiring generations of men and women to partake in politics and defend democratic ideals. Her biography was a strong example of how far-sighted leadership can change lives and determination makes a difference during crises that look insurmountable. In few words, Benazir Bhutto was more than just another politician; she was the first person who crossed these limits for her kids. These accomplishments have continued to ring through time, reflecting the lasting power of her vision for an equal and democratic society both in Pakistan as well as globally (Bennis, W., 1994).

### 2. The Role of Personality in Political Discourse

A political system relies on leadership. Leaders' actions and decisions are thought to determine a state's success or failure. Therefore, their social impact should not be disregarded. Leadership is often crucial, especially in changing a state's structure and functions. A leader's perception, qualities, training, and beliefs affect their role in any political system. Despite their colonial histories, Pakistan and India produced prominent female leaders

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Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi. They obviously struggled to fulfil their constitutional duties. Assessing their role in this situation is crucial. This chapter explains leadership, focussing on women leadership, to evaluate Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi's leadership responsibilities (Bhatia, S., 2008). Three variables were chosen for this goal. This examination examines leadership's different traits and perspectives to understand women's position in South Asian politics. The analysis covers India and Pakistan only. Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto are case studies. Economic development/reform, political party reorientation, and women's engagement are also considered. Before analysing women's leadership in South Asian politics, Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi should be examined to define leadership and women's leadership (Ghani & Ali, 2015).

### **3. Benazir Bhutto's Personality was subjected to a Number of Assumptions**

Despite the performance of the fundamental assumptions in the aforementioned subtopic, some of these assumptions, including both hypotheses, are being examined through the interviews that were conducted with a variety of individuals at a variety of times as part of the "case study of Benazir Bhutto's personality." An evaluation of Benazir Bhutto's political personality as a political leader is a very challenging undertaking due to the fact that she continues to be as enthusiastic as she was before. The phrase "...she is a lady who is elegant, open-minded, sharp, and loyal to her cause" is a fitting description of her if her father was a powerful politician. And at the same time, she is as diplomatic and skilled as any other politician on the planet. She is aware of when to move forward and when to remain in reserve. In addition to being a very brilliant speaker, she is also a highly intellectual person who works extremely hard. The motto of the great leaders of the democracy is something that Benazir Bhutto always believes in and always says, "Even crippled democracy is better than Martial Law." Benazir Bhutto always believes in it and always says it. In the same way as Winston Churchill did, she also believes that courage is an essential human attribute. The phrase "it is not possible to practice any other human virtue without courage" was something that she held to be true. It is necessary to require a variety of different types of courage. Having intellectual courage permits one to sort through a variety of ideals and come to a conclusion about any given situation. There is also the courage of one's convictions, which is referred to as moral courage. Because, as she puts it, she is frequently moving along the route of her choice, which is full of physical hardship, the physical courage is equally as crucial (Sekine, K. 1992).

There is a lot of "will power" in her, and she is a reformer. Her bravery is abundantly evident, as is her intelligence and political acumen; "she does not go in search of dangers, but if it is there, she just meets it and subdues it, and of course, she is a master of crisis management." Further to those characteristics of Benazir Bhutto's personality, her determination to rise to the occasion and her shrewd instinct for survival, as well as her determination not to shrink away from challenges and not to become unnerved when she was under attack, are the reasons why she exhibited such extraordinary bravery in the face of a dangerous situation that would have intimidated the majority of anyone else. When she battles for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan under General Zia's Martial Law in the 1880s, she manages political issues in such a way that she mobilizes the attention of the world towards Pakistan. This demonstrates the steely quality that lies beneath the serene appearance. (Ghani, & Ali, 2015). Moreover, to being a politician who is brave and unyielding in her beliefs, she is also an exceptionally skilled tactician. It is a well-known fact that throughout her whole political career, she did not experience any times of relative calm. Instead, she was frequently confronted with a variety of intense pressures and turbulent situations. She confronted all of them, even the risk of being killed, with a great deal of bravery, tact, tough-mindedness, and self-control; being cool-headed and accepting of challenges is something she does. As a result of her immense energy and working capacity, in addition to her talent for invention, she has been referred to as the second Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistani politics. According to the statement, "She possesses this remarkable ability of stretching her capacity in proportion to the demands that are placed upon her. "It appears that the excessively long hours and stresses that she is subjected to at work have become a part of her, and they have even helped her develop a greater capacity for endurance. She seems to have inherited her father's capacity to get over exhaustion in a matter of minutes, fatigue that has built up over a number of hours of rigorous work or frenetic travel, and she does not appreciate it when she is told that she is looking fatigued.

It cannot be denied that Benazir Bhutto is a magnetic personality. The fact that she is able to attract large crowds wherever she goes is a manifestation of her impressive charisma. Her talks are straightforward and straightforward, frequently achieving the intimacy of private conversation, with occasional flashes of homegrown wit that appeal to the average person. Benazir Bhutto is revered and idolized all over Pakistan due to the fact that Pakistanis have a propensity to disobey their leaders. Everywhere she goes, she is surrounded by a mob of sycophants who lavish her with praise and admiration. She is known as "Mai Baap" or "The Only Leader" of people who are impoverished through the millions of Pakistanis. (Bhutto, M. B.1996).

Benazir Bhutto's father, who was interested in international events, was the one who initiated her schooling and offered her training in politics when she was a child. Only a few of young women in this field have ever been presented with opportunities of the kind that she was able to grasp. Not only did the great leaders of nations from all over the world come to sit in the flower-decorated halls of her house, but as Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's companion, she encountered on their home ground such world figures as Sukarno and Chou-En-Lai when she was still a young child. "Benazir Bhutto was always around when world leaders discussed wide ranging international issues with

her father and when Pakistani politicians brought to him their problems and disputes," her mother said. "...Benazir Bhutto was always there." From her anonymous vantage point close to the seat of power, she was able to observe and report everything. Despite the fact that she does not count any assistance, she recalls a vast storage of political experience, training, and a grasp of men and circumstances. Because of this, Benazir Bhutto had a substantial amount of political training. She received her education within the company of her father and through her travels to other countries; all of these experiences provided her with considerable training in international relations, which she was able to successfully exploit when she came to power. Therefore, as a result of her training in international relations, there was a wider repertory of her behaviors in the realm of foreign policy to take into consideration. Benazir Bhutto is a political leader who is pragmatic. She is attentive to her environment and has adapted herself to the new knowledge and imperative for change that has been suggested by the environment. The statement made by Benazir Bhutto is that "...she will not hesitate to change her father's policies if it seems that changes are warranted."

She is described as "...the well-organized and supreme and sulked autocrat, who had taken almost imperiously decisions that her own father would not have dared to take." This is a statement that is widely held by some individuals (Maya, 2016). As a result of her pragmatic and sensitive approach to her surroundings, as well as her openness to new knowledge, Benazir Bhutto was prepared and willing to make adjustments whenever the circumstances needed it. Because she is a politician who is known for being "realistic," Benazir Bhutto is fully aware of the "realities" that are presented by the current environment. As a result of her observations and experiences, she has realized that "moral influence" is not a suitable alternative for practical power, that a self-consistent ideology is not the most powerful political force, and that it is necessary to display resistance to pressure. The modifications that Benazir Bhutto made to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's traditional foreign policy were a clear indication of her willingness to make adjustments in response to the conditions and conditions that prevailed at the time. To the extent that Benazir Bhutto's personality is reflected in Pakistan's foreign policy, the key to the success of this strategy comes in the fact that she is pragmatic and is willing to make changes in response to the circumstances and environment that are there at the moment. (Ghani, & Ali, 2015).

#### **4. Benazir's Charismatic Leadership and the Mobilization of Political Support**

Within the context of South Asian politics, Benazir Bhutto's leadership style as the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan is illustrative of both the potential and the obstacles that women encounter in positions of political leadership position. Her presentation was characterized by a combination of charismatic power, reforming passion, and resolute drive. The charisma that Bhutto possessed was a crucial role in her leadership; she had the ability to motivate and mobilize large groups of people, and she utilized her personal appeal to win support and negotiate the unstable political terrain of Pakistan. Her approach to governance was notable for its reformist nature, with a primary emphasis on economic liberalization, privatization, and measures to stabilize Pakistan's economy. In spite of the fact that she was given a politically turbulent environment to inherit, she advocated for policies that intended to reduce fiscal deficits and fostered growth in the private sector respectively. Bhutto also placed a significant emphasis on the empowerment of women. She advocated for expanded political engagement of women and initiated a variety of social reforms to improve women's rights in the areas of education, healthcare, and the ability to exercise their legal rights. Her tenure was characterized by a dedication to democratic values and political pluralism, throughout which she frequently faced opposition from segments of the military and conservatives who were opposed to her initiatives. However, her tenure was also tarnished by allegations of corruption and incompetence, which reflected the structural issues she faced during her time in office. The manner in which Bhutto exercised leadership was resolute and flexible, and she made a persistent effort to strike a balance between the requirements of administration and her vision for a Pakistan that was more progressive and inclusive. The legacy she leaves behind is a demonstration of the difficulties of female leadership in a patriarchal society. It demonstrates both the progress that has been accomplished and the ongoing struggles that are still present. (Ghani & Ali, 2015). In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, despite the global proliferation of technology and ongoing scientific efforts to explore life on Mars, we find ourselves engaged in discussions surrounding the highly contentious topic of women's empowerment. The lady is unfortunately seen as the most vulnerable individual in Pakistani society, often expressed using embellished language. Islam is the predominant religion in this society, with the majority of the inhabitants adhering to it. Islam, as a religion, protects the social, political, and economic rights of both men and women. However, there are certain organizations that hold misogynistic beliefs and distort cultural and religious norms when it comes to women's rights. In Pakistan, it is atypical for such hate speech against a particular gender to occur; misogyny has persisted from ancient times to the present day (Bhutto, M. B., 1996).

Mohammad Ali Jinnah, during the founding of Pakistan, declared that women should have equal rights to men in all aspects of life and should actively contribute to the country's progress alongside males. The sentiment is ensured under Article 25 and 34 of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. The article 25 of the Constitution guarantees that all citizens are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection. It also prohibits discrimination based on sex. However, this chapter does not prevent the State from making special provisions to protect women and children. On the other hand, article 34 of the Constitution emphasizes the need to take measures to ensure the full participation of women in all aspects of national life. However, the enforcement of these rules has not only

been disregarded but openly breached. Women persist in enduring the effects of patriarchal systems, misconstrued religious regulations, and socio-cultural conventions that are detrimental to women. (Weiss, A. M. 1990). Women's rights and freedom are severely violated in Pakistan, since women are denied access to education, freedom of speech, the ability to choose their own partners in marriage, and the enjoyment of social rights. Their rights are infringed upon by the widespread and unyielding adherence to norms and practices that are both cruel and inhumane, such as honor killing, wani, child marriage, karokari, and marriage with the Qur'an. There are multiple situations in which the empowerment of women in Pakistan can be evaluated, but none is more crucial than the legal aspect. The framing of women's legal rights is crucial when determining the most effective approach to promoting women's empowerment. The constitutional history is marked by instances of negligence and questionable actions, illustrating the lack of commitment and policies of dictators and anti-woman factions, including politicians and clerics, towards achieving legal equality for women (Azeem & Ahmad, 2021).

### **5. Benazir Bhutto and the Reorientation of Political Parties**

The political parties that Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi ran for elections were the most renowned parties in their respective countries during that period. They assumed the position of Prime Minister in their respective countries based on the influence and popularity of their political parties. When comparing Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto in terms of their political affiliations, they both achieved global recognition as social icons. Prominent political parties consistently provide satisfaction and achievement to their leaders, while also garnering support from the people. The strength of other parties paled in comparison to the Peoples Party led by Benazir Bhutto and the Indian National Congress led by Indira Gandhi. The Indian National Congress, led by Indira Gandhi, actively advocated for more female participation in parliament, distinguishing itself from other political parties in India. Benazir Bhutto was a member of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). She held the position of Chairperson of this renowned political party, which is one of the prominent political parties in Pakistan. As a leader, she held the belief that leadership entails a steadfast dedication to a concept, a dream, and a vision of what is attainable. My aspiration is for my country and its citizens to stop engaging in conflict and enable our children to achieve their maximum capabilities, irrespective of gender, social standing, or ideology". Benazir's party secured victory in the 1988 elections by running on a socialist platform centered around the provision of basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter, as symbolized by the slogan "Roti (Food), Kapra (clothes), Makan (shelter)". Her father had won Pakistan's first general election in 1970 with the same ideology. The 1988 PPP Manifesto declared, "Islam is our faith, democracy is our politics, and socialism is our economy, all power to the people." Benazir's party promoted Islamic Socialist principles to improve Pakistan. Benazir's party actively restored democracy. After returning from self-imposed exile in 1986, she openly defied Zia. We created the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) to fight fundamental Islamization in the country. Baluchs, Punjabis, Pathans, Sindhis, and PPP members fiercely fought Zia-ul-Haq's martial law regime (Cookman, C., 2010). Progressive and inclusive politics that foster democracy is what they want. Thus, Benazir Bhutto won the 1988 Pakistani elections. Her party easily defeated the orthodox Islamic Democratic Alliance. Benazir Bhutto saw this election as a fight against powerful opponents. PPP killed 20,000 Pakistani workers. As the daughter of a prominent leader, she was hailed by hundreds of admirers in Pakistan. As the daughter of a prominent politician, she faced many hurdles. She was confident that she would win justice in Pakistan and that democracy would prevail. She elegantly argued in her book that political parties cannot survive under a dictatorship, like desert flowers. Political parties have thrived despite hurdles, serving as our nation's moral compass. She won because of her father's policy. She decided to oppose the system and personally connect with the people to move from a military dictatorship to democracy. Her priorities were education, safe drinking water, sanitation, power, and health. Budgetary allocations in various fields were boosted to promote democracy and freedom in Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto promised the nation that her party will help by doing these steps:

1. Education enhancement
2. Kept diplomatic relations with the US, USSR, and China.
3. Minority rights protection
4. Greater provincial autonomy
5. Launch of a national health policy
6. Women's rights activism

She failed to meet most of these goals. Party goals were unfulfilled. Her political party collapsed in 1990 after she and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, were accused of corruption. The Pakistan People's Party took office in 1993 with a "Agenda for Change," which prioritised the social sector and directly addressed people's concerns. Benazir Bhutto won a large election and was re-elected as Pakistan's prime minister (Bhutto, 2014).

### **6. The Charter of Democracy**

Primary Factors Driving the Charter of Democracy On October 12, 1999, General Pervez Musharraf removed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his government from power in a nonviolent coup and implemented Provisional Constitutional Orders to administer the country. On November 6, 1999, he created the National Security Council (NSC), a council dominated by the military, and started the NAB to launch politically motivated investigations

against his government's opponents (Shah, A. 2014). In order to establish legitimacy, General Musharraf orchestrated a referendum to assume the presidency of Pakistan and implemented new election regulations for the general elections in 2002. Only individuals with a bachelor's degree are eligible to participate in the elections. Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, two famous leaders of Pakistan, resided in exile. The PML-Q, led by the monarch, emerged victorious in the election and established a dominant coalition by garnering support from the MQM, MMA, and independent members (Ahmed, I. (2015).

The National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) was established in July 2002 with the purpose of suggesting constitutional revisions, which were later adopted through the Legal Framework Order (LFO). On August 21, 2002, the LFO (Legal Framework Order) approved all the actions of the military government, which included extending General Musharraf's presidential term by five years and allowing him to continue serving as the COAS (Chief of Army Staff). The president was granted the power to dissolve the National Assembly at their own discretion, appoint military chiefs and governors, approve the appointment of Judges of the Superior Courts, and regulate the NSC, which gave the military a validated institutional role in government affairs. (Shah, A. 2014). The 17th amendment legitimized the Legal Framework Order (LFO) and all the legislation passed from October 12, 1999, to the present. The 17th amendment significantly altered the constitutional framework of 1973 and the parliamentary system of administration. Intelligence officers have overseen the monitoring of civil bureaucracy. Various levels of military personnel were deployed to assess the impact of government, public opinion, bureaucratic control, and intelligence collecting (Yaseen, Z. 2015). General Musharraf's reputation in the United States was already tarnished due to his increasing authoritarian behavior, such as hijacking elections, suppressing the courts, and ultimately declaring a state of emergency in November 2007. Bruce Riedel, Teresita Schaffer, and several other members of the US Congress expressed disappointment that the Bush administration made no efforts to advance democracy in Pakistan (Jaffrelot, C. (2017).

### **7. Female Participation in the decision-making process and Empowerment**

Women are vital to development decision-making in many industries. Governments are doing more to promote and ensure women's leadership and political engagement. First-time candidate Benazir Bhutto became Pakistan's first female Prime Minister in 1988 (Ghani & Ali, 2015). These elections used a first-party system after 11 years. These elections resumed party-based elections after 11 years. In these elections, women's participation dropped slightly. Women ran for 38 national and provincial seats, winning 6. The National Assembly had 17 seats, the Punjab Assembly 13, the Sindh Assembly 5, the NWFP 2, and the Baluchistan Assembly 1. In this election, the National Assembly received four seats and the Punjab and NWFP Assembly each received one. The 1993 elections saw a slight increase in women running for general seats. Only 7 of 41 National Assembly seats sought by women were won. Women won 4 of 16 National Assembly seats. One seat each for Punjab, Sindh, and NWFP. India has less female representation in politics than Pakistan during Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto's tenure. In 1967, Indira Gandhi won 31 Lok Sabha seats for women, their greatest ever. In 1993, Benazir Bhutto's election gave women the most seats, 41. Thus, women are more involved in Pakistan than India. Benazir Bhutto advocated for women's equality everywhere. Indira Gandhi didn't prioritise women's issues like Benazir Bhutto. Pakistan has more women in parliaments than India. The Pakistan People's Party empowered and mobilised women in politics. Benazir Bhutto's time saw few women in politics. However, her dedication to empowering women in many ways proved fruitful. The increased participation of women in Pakistan's Parliament has helped them reach government jobs. When Benazir Bhutto's party leader Fehmida Mirza became the National Assembly's first speaker, she showed her strength as a woman in Pakistan and the Muslim world. Benazir Bhutto was instrumental in encouraging women's political engagement in Pakistan and South Asia. The Australian Magazine's 1996 list of 100 most significant women featured Benazir Bhutto (Richter, 1989).

### **8. Benazir Bhutto: Advocating Women's Rights and Legal Empowerment in Pakistan**

A brief review of Pakistan's sixty-eight-year legislative history of women's empowerment shows that few leaders and statespersons have supported women's rights, while many have opposed them. Shaheed Benazir Bhutto tirelessly promoted women's rights and legal empowerment. Ms. Bhutto is dedicated to women's empowerment. Benazir knew the struggles Pakistani women faced as a woman. Her national and worldwide advocacy for women's emancipation was consistent. She actively opposed women's discrimination laws. Benazir Bhutto was Prime Minister twice, 1988–1990 and 1993–1996. Her pro-women's-rights ideas and agenda won women over in both elections. Bhutto's 1988 election campaign saw unprecedented numbers of women at her rallies. Women marched for Bhutto, a first in the country. The study comprised educated middle-class women, housewives, professional women, and lower-class women from urban and rural Pakistan (Ghani, & Ali, 2015).

Pakistan's women's rights and empowerment legislation has a complicated history of growth and disappointments. The state must reconcile opposing views on women's role in Pakistani society to define women's rights. Many positive laws have been passed to empower women, but much work remains to fully implement them and meet the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women's goals. Lack of political and social determination among lawmakers, fundamentalists, and anti-women elements has perpetuated women's historical

obstacles. Pakistani women can be legally empowered by strong democratic institutions, secular beliefs, and an involved civil society. These criteria are essential for the government to modify constitutional, statutory, and customary laws. After imprisonment and exile, Benazir Bhutto returned to Pakistan, unwilling to endure women's conditions. She then campaigned for 1988 general elections. Bhutto has a clear vision and steadfast commitment to women's freedom. Her local and international advocacy for women's rights was consistent. The first Muslim woman to become prime minister was Benazir Bhutto in 1988. Her feelings about that day were, "This was not a personal achievement, but rather a collective achievement for all those who had made sacrifices in the name of democracy." The dynamic leader and her ministers' efforts during her two brief tenure as Pakistan's prime minister should be properly examined. (M. Azeem 2020). Policies towards women changed after he became Prime Minister in 1988. In her statements during the general election campaign, especially in the 1988 party manifesto, she outlined a broad vision and plan for empowering women through legislation.

After becoming Prime Minister, she advocated for legal reforms to empower women and undertook various social, political, and economic projects. In the Senate and National Assembly, her party did not have a majority. Despite lacking majority support, she had to form a coalition administration. She was also fiercely opposed by anti-women elements. According to the most orthodox religious authorities, a woman cannot head a country under Islamic law. They wanted Prime Minister Bhutto ousted immediately. The Prime Minister responded that Islam is a religion, not a government. She also pledged to use her influence to ensure that Pakistani women had legal rights (Fleschenberg, A. 2013). Benazir Bhutto developed policies to improve women's social, political, and economic conditions. She liberalised media and abolished press censorship, changing women's media roles. The task she did was crucial. The Ministry of Women's Development was created to address women's issues. It was a major effort by a deceased leader to empower and protect women. In 1988, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto became prime minister and renamed the Women's Division the Ministry of Women's Development.

### **9. Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi**

Benazir Bhutto became Pakistan's first female Prime Minister and the first Muslim-majority nation's democratically elected leader in 1988. Benazir Bhutto was famous and controversial during her 1988 and 1993 administrations. This article, "Pakistan under Benazir Bhutto," describes her as a brave character who challenged military rule and helped the country move to democracy. The goal was to make Pakistan economically prosperous, socially inclusive, and politically stable. However, she fell short of her aims. Benazir was a charismatic leader. Aviation, atomic weapons modernisation, and research programs were started by her in Pakistan. Pakistan launched the first Muslim satellite into Earth's orbit in 1990, a major achievement under Benazir Bhutto. Indira Gandhi was the first female Indian politician and second female world leader. She served four terms (Solangi, A. B., Sahito, I. H., & Bhatti, I., 2020). From 1966 to 1977 and 1980 to 1984, she served in India. Gandhi, the second-longest-serving female prime minister in history, served her country. She had amazing skills that captivated the world. According to "Indira Gandhi the Relationship between Personality Profile and Leadership Style," Indira Gandhi, a notable Indian female leader, had a diverse personality with four traits: ambition, reticence, contentiousness, and dominance. These features reveal her character. Gandhi's daughter inherited his charisma. Her policy knowledge was superb. Her campaign slogan, "Abolish Poverty," reduced India's poverty rate significantly. Her charming personality and political acumen won over the public but alienated many MPs. The following factors/indicators are used to evaluate Benazir Bhutto and Indira Gandhi's leadership.

- Economic growth and reforms
- Political parties undergoing reorientation

Enhancing the empowerment and participation of women. (Shafqat's 1996.)

### **10. Advancements and Constraints in Gender Reforms During Benazir Bhutto's Tenure**

Benazir Bhutto fought for gender equality during her 1988 and 1993 administrations. Her party had the only female Prime Minister. The party developed a nationwide public service employment strategy for women, including a 10% quota. Her party believes effective legislation will give women legal control of resources and assets. The party also failed to tackle forced marriages, honour killings, and family law abuses by establishing family courts with female justices. Government failed to provide child custody. Although she promised to appoint women to higher courts, she did not. The key policy-making bodies for gender problems will include the Department of Women Development. This notice also failed. As prime minister, Benazir Bhutto might transform women's status. She missed this chance. From 1988 until 1990, Benazir Bhutto was Prime Minister, laying the groundwork for major changes. Pakistan's first women's police station opened in 1994, during her second term as leader from 1993 to 1996. This groundbreaking endeavour addressed women's justice issues. Domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and other gender-based violence were easier to report at women's police stations because only women worked there (Bhutto, B. 2014).

### **11. The First Women Bank Limited**

The First Women Bank Limited (FWBL) is a manifestation of the visionary and progressive ideas of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's inaugural female Prime Minister. The bank was founded in 1989 with the purpose of catering to the specific financial requirements of women in Pakistan, encouraging their financial autonomy, and advancing

gender parity. This paper explores the origins of FWBL, its influence on the empowerment of women, and the contributions made by Benazir Bhutto to this important project. FWBL was established on November 21, 1989, and officially opened by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in December of that year. The founding of FWBL was not solely a financial undertaking, but rather a social revolution. The institution was devoted to empowering women through the provision of financial services customized to meet their unique requirements. The bank's primary funding and backing originated from five prominent public sector banks: National Bank of Pakistan, Habib Bank Limited, Muslim Commercial Bank, United Bank Limited, and Allied Bank Limited, indicating a strong and solid support network at its inception. The primary objective of FWBL was to enhance the empowerment of women by promoting their financial autonomy. The bank sought to tackle the structural barriers that impeded women's complete engagement in economic endeavors by providing banking services tailored exclusively for women. The issues encompassed restricted loan accessibility, insufficient financial literacy, and societal obstacles to entrepreneurship, FWBL has had a profound effect by facilitating women's access to financial services. Historically, women in Pakistan encountered multiple barriers when it came to accessing financial services, such as societal conventions and the absence of banking facilities that catered to women's needs. FWBL addressed this disparity by establishing an all-encompassing and encouraging banking atmosphere. The company provided a range of credit options, such as microfinance loans, small and medium enterprise (SME) loans, and consumer loans, that empowered women to initiate and grow their enterprises (Weiss, A. M. 2012).

FWBL has played a vital role in promoting and supporting female business in Pakistan. The bank has enabled numerous women to launch and expand their own enterprises by offering financial resources and support. This not only bolstered the economic advancement of these women but also had a more extensive influence on the economy by generating employment opportunities and fostering economic vitality. The bank additionally organized training programs and workshops to provide women with vital expertise in financial management, entrepreneurship, and business development, thereby augmenting their ability to thrive. The efforts implemented by FWBL have had a significant influence on the social and economic advancement of women. The bank's provision of financial independence has empowered women to engage more actively in economic activities, resulting in enhanced living standards and increased social mobility. This empowerment has a cascading impact, fostering gender parity and promoting the holistic advancement of society. Benazir Bhutto played a crucial role in the creation of FWBL through her leadership. Being the inaugural female Prime Minister of a nation with a Muslim majority, she introduced a pioneering vision for the advancement of women. She acknowledged the crucial significance of financial autonomy in attaining gender parity and perceived the creation of FWBL as a tactical maneuver to economically empower women. Bhutto's initiatives were aimed at fostering an inclusive society that enabled women to make equal contributions to the nation's progress. She demonstrated her support for women's rights and empowerment by creating FWBL. By establishing this financial institution, she established a standard for future measures targeting the advancement of women and their inclusion in the financial sector. The vision of Benazir Bhutto continues to endure through FWBL. The bank remains a crucial institution for promoting women's financial empowerment in Pakistan. Throughout its existence, it has broadened its range of services and geographical coverage, while adjusting to the evolving demands of women and the economy. Bhutto's prescience in founding FWBL has had enduring effects, bolstering the continuous endeavors to advance gender parity in Pakistan (Azeem, M. 2020).

## 12. Conclusion

In order to conclude the study, it is found that Benazir Bhutto played a great role in order to accomplish political stability in country. This accomplishment showcased her leadership ability at such an early stage as well as her commitment to public service.

The legacy left behind by Benazir's family could not be extricated from her politics career. The chief minister position was held by her father during military takeover that took place in 1979 until he was sacked after which he died. Thereupon, she made a firm commitment to pursue the objective set by his late father of promoting democracy along with social justice. Her path to power was not smooth at all times since it involved numerous obstacles at each turn. During General Zia-ul-Haq's military rule period she spent years either in prison or placed under house arrest throughout her life time. Nonetheless despite many hardships faced by her Benazir never stopped fighting for achieving the goals set in political life for her. When elected Prime Minister in 1988, she became also the first woman heading government of Muslim-majority nation ever. Her perseverance eventually bore fruits because besides being the first female holding this position. Despite having serious threats she return back to Pakistan in 2007 from self-exile and challenge the military dictatorship of country. She was shot in a political rally in Rawalpindi in 2008. With her sacrifice to life she was remembered as champion of democracy in Pakistan.

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