

1. Introduction

Although women play a vital role in the economic, social, and political development, the gender gaps remain widespread all over the world, particularly in underdeveloped states suffering from conflict, poverty, and insecurity. However, such states recognize the high importance of gender equality and women's empowerment for sustainable peace. In this regard, entrepreneurship is the common aspect of projects in the troubled environments, though little is known about the contribution of entrepreneurship to peacebuilding. Based on what was said, this paper shall review the economic empowerment of women and their inclusion in entrepreneurship in the regions that witness conflicts. It represents an amalgam of administrative research with studies in politics, international relations, and related fields

Studies that focused on entrepreneurship and international peace initiatives confirm three attitudes, namely the destructive attitude, the economic attitude, and the social cohesion attitude. These attitudes show how entrepreneurship may create struggle and, at the same time, may make peace. Thus, this paper shall focus on the premise that established the female entrepreneurship as pillars of peace; i.e., on the personal transformation, social contributions, inclusive interactions, causes of struggle, integration of policies, and peacebuilding

The study uses the deconstruction method to identify the types of societal participation and flexibility, and the socioeconomic empowerment of women that fosters peace. In so doing, we raise the following problematic, "how does the female entrepreneurship that is established in the broad discourses of the social type contribute to establishing sustainable peace in the post-conflict societies?". From this question, sub-questions arise, as follows:

- ❖ What are the limits of the startups and entrepreneurship's contribution to the economic empowerment of women and to ending
- ❖ the causes of conflict?
- ❖ What methods can foster the role of female entrepreneurs in peacebuilding in post-conflict societies, drawing on international experiences and initiatives?

The study hypothesizes that entrepreneurship is key to peacebuilding thanks to its transformation potentials led by women in the conflict-affected regions. It sheds light on peace efforts and the type-based social projects, calls for social projects to build peace, and shows how the social type-based entrepreneurship may contribute to peace. In addition, it provides recommendations for integrating women in the social entrepreneurship programs based on the international initiatives. The study is divided into two axes:

1. The economic empowerment of women and sustainable peace: what correlations?

2. women's economic empowerment and peace: the international experiences and initiatives.

2.The economic empowerment of women and sustainable peace: what correlations?

Conflicts have a significant effect on the international community, for instance, statistics from the Institute for Economy and Peace (2021) show losses of 14.76 trillion USD in 2019, or 10.5% of global GDP. In addition, conflicts may be international or domestic, and are followed by peace; either passive, cold, or limited peace that manifests in ceasing violence based on official political agreements. Such limited peace does not end the risk of violence, as it leaves the possibility of escalation to wide range violence. The limited peace cannot turn into sustainable unless social and societal stability is achieved.

The insecurity leads to poverty, exodus, unemployment, illiteracy, and violence against women in its diverse forms, such as mistreatment, early marriage, and early pregnancy. These points affect the women's welfare, health, and social inclusio (United Nations Women peace and Security,2015)

Therefore, peacebuilding requires integrating women into the process, as confirmed by the international institutions and charters. In this context, the Millennium Declaration pointed to a set of basic values that must be achieved by the international community, such as liberation from fear and oppression, disarmament, growth, human rights, equality, democracy, good rule, and other standard frames, such as the decisions about the woman and her integration in the political, social, and economic life.

The Security Council Resolution 1889 (2009) confirmed the link between the

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female education and the economic security, and her efficient participation in ending conflicts, solving problems, and building a sustainable peace¹. Moreover, the Development Program of 2015 and Resolution 2242 (2015) that marked the 15th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 pointed to the effect of fanaticism and terrorism on women's rights, health, education, and social participation. It stated that the terrorist groups target women for funding and recruitment. It added that there is a causal relation between empowering women and achieving peace, law sovereignty, and economic prosperity. This was, also, included in the Sustainable Development Plan of 2030. In the changing international context, women's empowerment and gender equality are vital factors for ending conflicts (Ibidem).

Women's empowerment and inclusion in the political and economic life contribute to the socioeconomic transformations and end the causes of conflict. According to the UN, this empowerment is necessary for the human rights, gender equality, and sustainable peace. The women's economic empowerment is about ensuring equal chances for work, social protection, access to resources, and participation in the economic decision making starting from the family until the international institutions. Fostering the economic justice and women's rights and bridging the gender gaps in the labor market are pivotal for the achievement of 2030 agenda for sustainable development. When more women get job opportunities, the economies grow and common welfare prevails. Estimations show that bridging the gender gap may generate 07 trillion USD for the world economy.

The improvement of female education contributes to the economic empowerment of women and the achievement of a more inclusive and sustainable development. Education, skills, and coping with the rapid technological transformations are very important for the health and welfare of women and participation in labor market. Besides, the economic equality is beneficial for the economic activities and allows companies to grow. Estimations show that the companies with 1/3 female administrative employees achieve higher organizational performance (UN Women,) Women's positive role in establishing peace stems from their peaceful nature and pivotal role in transmitting a culture of

peace, as they are mothers, sisters, teachers, and workers. Men's participation in violence has allowed women to play a constructive role and contribute to the rehabilitation of societal infrastructures. The international agencies identified a set of measures to be included in the complex peacebuilding process.

2.1 First: Legitimizing the political participation:

To include women in politics, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD called for:

- ❖ Supporting the quota system and the different measures that increase the participation of women in the political life.
- ❖ Fostering the integration of women's rights into the constitutions.
- ❖ Fostering women's participation in the formal and informal peace discussions through the political pressure and funding.
- ❖ Fostering women's mobilization and participation in the political actions (OECD ,2013,p41).

2.2 Second:

For OECD, the safe economic cooperation is the basis for state-building. Women's needs and priorities differ from men's because women are more vulnerable in states of insecurity and more frequently targeted by inhuman practices and exploitation. To fight such practices, OECD suggested these measures:

1. Focusing on the security needs of women and girls.
2. Integrating female leaders and addressing their security needs.

Besides, other parties suggested:

- ❖ Combating violence against women, establishing legal units to defend vulnerable women, and providing necessary security and support.
- ❖ Establishing family response units within the Ministry of Internal Affairs to deliver improved services to women.

Launching awareness campaigns through media outlets and religious leaders to combat harassment against women (Suralaga,2013 ,p22).

2.3 Third: justice:

- ❖ Fostering and enforcing women's rights.

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- ❖ Encouraging reforms that empower women to access the formal and informal justice mechanisms.
- ❖ Fostering reforms of non-governmental and informal traditional settlement methods to cope with the international human rights standards (OECD ,2013,p42)
- ❖ Integrating units to solve issues within official entities to ensure a direct control on the informal sector and justice to limit the injustice against women.

Establishing pressure groups to include women in the informal justice mechanisms (Suralaga ,2013, p23).

2.4 Fourth: The economic construct:

Women may participate in violence, as in Salvador and Eretria, where 1/3 of the fighters are women. This hinders the economic and social development because peace requires their participation. In Nepal, women's empowerment program had provided support to 130000 members from 1999 to 2001, and highly affected the lives of the participating women, as more than 50% of them learned reading and writing, and 66% launched their businesses to gain bread (The World Bank2011, p163). Therefore, the international initiatives that support peace efforts call for devoting training programs for women to increase their opportunities in entrepreneurship, agriculture, marketing, etc. This requires investment in specific programs in agriculture, higher education, and trade to generate incomes (Suralaga ,2013,p23) and ensure the transparent management of the human resources.

2.5 Fifth: The revenues and services:

- ❖ Revising and addressing the incentives that affect the abilities of women and girls to access services.
- ❖ Integrating more women into the frontline services.
- ❖ Adopting the good and transparent fiscal administration by integrating women in budgeting, monitoring allocations, and taking decisions(OCDE ,p41).
- ❖ Applying gender balance to ensure the government benefits from the male and female revenues.
- ❖ Providing a friendly work environment for women, such as the female facilities, restaurants, prayer halls, nursery, etc

❖ Supporting the female organizations that empower women to take advantage of the basic services, such as education, work, healthcare, etc (Suralaga,2013 ,p23)

Women's empowerment contributes to the societal transformation actions and propels policy and institutions towards change. Therefore, the International Labor Organization and the donor states insisted on the gender perspectives in the programs of peace. The Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) confirmed that, in its endeavor to achieve the principles and aims of the UN Charter, it takes into account the civilians, mainly women and children, who are the most affected by the armed conflict. They are more subject to destitution and asylum, and are more targeted by the armed soldiers. Thus, the Resolution insisted on training all the Peacekeepers to protect children and women in conflicts, and to take into consideration the women's needs and rights. Among the main needs we find raising awareness about AIDs(.United Nation, Security Council Resolution 1325 ,2000)

Besides, the Resolution insisted on the vital role of women in preventing conflicts and making peace, and highlighted the importance of female participation in peacebuilding efforts and in taking decisions about the conflicts. In this regard, the Resolution expressed strong conviction regarding the integration of the gender approach in peacebuilding; therefore, it stated a set of roles that can be played by women to achieve such goal(Ibid):

1. Representing women on all the levels of decision making and in the national, regional, and international mechanisms of preventing, managing, and solving conflicts.

2. Appointing more women as representatives and envoys of peace. The member states have to nominate candidates to the General Secretary to include them in a central list that is periodically updated.

3. Contributing to the UN field actions, mainly among the military controllers, civil police, and human rights and humanitarian aid employees.

In the same context, the Security Council called on parties that make peace negotiations to take measures that ensure the protection and respectt of human rights, mainly of women, in the constitution, electoral system, police, and justice (United Nations Security Concil, Resolution 1325,2000,p4)· Afghanistan is among the states that tried to take such guidelines in reconstruction, as equality items, such as the right to vote for women, have been integrated in the new constitution,

which allowed a 25% female representation in the house of commons and 17% in the house of lords; this increased the political representation of women. Due to the discriminating situations, the informal nets, and the traditional authority practices that exclude women, the Ministry of Women Issues, the Committee of Human Rights, and the government set a national work plan to promote and improve the role of women. However, according to many rights organizations, this advance is very vulnerable due to the structural, cultural, and institutional obstacles.

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The challenges faced by the project of enlarging the participation of women in construction include the mistrust of the Afghan government and the doubts about its ability and will to protect the women's rights. In addition, the talks about the women's rights provoke the extremists who commit inhuman and unethical violations against the Afghan women((Suralaga,2013 ,p24) The sustainable development plan of 2030 insists on ensuring the full and efficient participation of women in the general, economic, and political life. The support to the female entrepreneurs is one of the methods that allow the governments and UN to achieve advance. Therefore, the UN, humanitarian agencies, civil society institutions, and some multinational companies have been mobilized to achieve this goal.

We shall discuss the main international initiatives that encourage integrating women in the economic construction to achieve the sustainable development, with its wide concept, and establish sustainable peace. We can resort to an inter-societal approach to present some models that aim at using the female entrepreneurship to foster peace and face the health and natural disasters. In Liberia, the UN Development program employed female motorcycle drivers, under the "Pink Association". During the spread of Ebola, the Association adjusted its services to include delivery of the groceries, what helped reduce the number of people who go to public places and markets. Thanks to these efforts, these women helped prevent the spread of the virus.

In India, the 'Swayam Shikshan Prayog' (the self-learning project) targets the women in the provinces of Maharashtra and Pehar to help become entrepreneurs in the field of clean energy. In this context, the women established the self-support groups to provide innovations to their societies, such as the clean energy

that uses gas, the rechargeable solar bulbs, the irrigation techniques that preserve the groundwater, the worm-based agriculture, and the fertilization techniques. The self-support groups gained the UN climate award in Marrakech Congress for climate change in 2016. The Congress focused on the opportunities available for the entrepreneurs to achieve the goal 2.4 of SDG (the sustainable agriculture), goal 6.4 (water management), goal 07 (clean energy at affordable prices), and goal 14.2 (the coastal and maritime ecological systems) (The International Peace Institute, 2017).

In the Middle-East and North Africa, the startups witness a wide development, as many incubators in Beirut, Ramallah, Gaza, Cairo, and Casablanca have been internationally recognized. A team in the platform of Middle East and North Africa for the female entrepreneurs in Mena studied the emerging trends and found out that the upcoming revolution would look different and that the young women are leading innovations, such as AI. In addition, a new index for the startups shows how Tunisia and Oman rank at the top of the North African and Middle Eastern states based on the evaluation of the human capital, access to funding, vitality of the startups, ICTs infrastructure, macro-context, and access to the international markets (Lechtenfeld, Millennials). In the Middle-East and North Africa, the startups witness a wide development, as many incubators in Beirut, Ramallah, Gaza, Cairo, and Casablanca have been internationally recognized. A team in the platform of Middle East and North Africa for the female entrepreneurs in Mena studied the emerging trends and found out that the upcoming revolution would look different and that the young women are leading innovations, such as AI. In addition, a new index for the startups shows how Tunisia and Oman rank at the top of the North African and Middle Eastern states based on the evaluation of the human capital, access to funding, vitality of the startups, ICTs infrastructure, macro-context, and access to the international markets (Lechtenfeld, Millennials).

The economic recovery during and after the conflict is a source of worries for many women. Therefore, it is necessary to design clear projects to support the women's needs and take advantage of their economic empowerment to build peace. In this context, we can present the successful international experiences with their specificities. In Congo, FAO supported the voluntary formation of the local communities to discuss the methods of improving life standards, food security, and exchange of thoughts regarding the relevant challenges. In the Northern East

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of Congo, fishing is traditionally dominated by males. However, the discussions and awareness raising changed the social norms and allowed women to exercise the activity to increase their incomes and improve their food security. The economic empowerment of women, the change of the social norms, and the good relation between the genders in the conflicting regions improve the economic expectations and foster peace. The purposeful support of the sustainable alternatives that consider the women's needs helps build peace (فرح).

The financial independence is crucial for the female entrepreneurs' peace efforts in khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Pakistan), When women achieve economic independence and contribute to the family income, the family stabilizes and the troubles decrease. This, in turn, fosters a peaceful family environment. Gabin e al (2020) conducted a study in the rural regions khyber pakhtunkhwa and found out that the women's control of the economic resources build ups just and harmonious family and social relations. In addition, the female entrepreneurs are influential models that challenge the cultural criteria and defend gender equality. The successful stories of women in leadership change the social norms and promote women's economic participation. The women's economic empowerment can challenge the traditional gender roles and contribute to the wide social transformations (Sameen Shah, & Ahmad,2024)

The experience of peacebuilding in Rwanda confirms that women's empowerment is the way to all the sustainable development goals. In addition, the UN envoy who discussed the role of the Rwandan women in fostering peace confirmed that the international expenditure patterns and habits differ between males and females, and that men spend only 40-45% of their incomes on families while women devote the double for the welfare of their families and environmental systems. This explains why women must be included in all the fields and why their integration in the national strategy of change is curial. The participation of the government of Rwanda to the efforts of gender equality achieved an unprecedented advance, as different mechanisms and laws have been enacted, and special forums and institutions have been established, such as the National Council of Women, the Social Type Control Bureau, the Parliament Women Forum, the Women Sector Chamber, etc. In addition, the legal system ensures equal rights in land ownership and heritage. Thus, 26% of the lands in Rwanda are owned by women, what helped them control the productive resources and access loans.

Politically speaking, the Rwandan constitution enshrined gender equality and devoted 30% of the leading position to women. Therefore, 61% of the parliament members are women and more than 50% of the ministers are females. Regarding business, equipping women with entrepreneurial and innovation skills is a priority. It manifests in the following points:

❖ Women who have good and innovative commercial projects are supported to get the primary capital from the financial institutions. In fact, the female entrepreneurs lead more than 42% of the companies in Rwanda and contribute with 78% to the transnational trade, which makes up 30% of the GDP.

❖ The government introduced agricultural programs and development societal associations to help the poor farmers, who are females in general, and improve their agricultural practices.

❖ The small and middle-sized companies are supported to get modern tools thanks to the rent at low prices.

Women need training on developing their leadership skills needed during conflict. Thus, Exxon Mobil corporation company has invested, since 2005, in the program of international woman in administration, which is managed by Plan International UAC and called GWIM, which marks international efforts that aim at helping women access training, education, resources, and support to improve their economic situations and develop their societies. Since its establishment, thousands of women have graduated from the program all over the world. They have established an international net of smart female leaders who influence the lives of thousands of people all over the world (Ibidem).

Many women are deprived of the economic opportunities due to their gender, leading to inequality in income, segregation in recruitment, marginalization, and dependence in the public and private sectors. It is necessary to insist on providing the life resources to preserve the financial stability in harsh conditions. This can be achieved through establishment of organizations that focus on women's growth and liberation through equipping them with income skills. The state support for such plans promotes women's participation to development. We are aware about the core value of the women's economic empowerment that is drawn from the human rights. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the outcomes of the restrictions imposed on the economic empowerment of women on the economies and societies.

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There is a need for protecting and supporting the women's rights and prosecuting their violations. This requires documentation of the violations, collecting data based on gender, and developing partnerships. However, the economic empowerment of women has not been fully used for peacebuilding only after the Security Council Resolution 1325 that recognizes the pivotal role of women in preventing and solving conflicts, making peace, and reconstruction after conflict, and insists on the female participation in peace establishment and economic recovery. However, and instead of focusing on the role of women in the economic reconstruction and peacebuilding, we witnessed focus on the physical violence against women during peacebuilding. Therefore, equal access to the economic resources and opportunities was neglected, leading to the emergence of potential struggles.

When the economic recovery programs are implemented in the conflicting environments, they do not satisfy the needs of women. In Ivory Coast for instance, despite that women represent 60 to 80% of food production labor force, the reconstruction after conflict did not consider their agricultural roles and prioritized the monetary crops, such as Cacao and coffee, which are planted by men. This banned woman from developing their living standards that are based on agriculture, and had negative effects on food security (Farah). According to the UN, investment in women improves the society as a whole. However, with the current investment rate, more than 340 million women would still live under the poverty line by 2030. The topic of the international day of women in 2024 stated that the world needs extra 360 billion USD so that the developing states manage to foster gender equality and achieve sustainable development goals. It adds that increasing the women share of assets and funding is vital for their economic empowerment, and that building institutions that develop the general investment in social goods and sustainable development is vital. Based on this, the UN outlined 05 points to accelerate the economic empowerment of women(UN Women, (2024

3.1. Resources:

Linking women to the financial resources helps meet their basic needs and start businesses. Nevertheless, statistics show that the small and middle-sized companies owned by women all over the world suffer a lack of funding estimated at 1.7 trillion USD. In this context, bridging the credit gap for these companies

may generate a rise of 12% in the annual income by 2030. In addition to the financial resources, women need access to lands, information, technology, and natural resources. In 2022, 2.7 billion people did not have access to internet, which is basic for getting a job or starting a business.

Women are less likely to possess agricultural lands in 87% of the surveyed states, although they make up 1/3 of the agricultural labor force. When women enjoy equal rights to access, possess, and use resources, they will be able to invest in themselves, improve their welfare and education, start a business, and build a society that works for them. For instance, in many contexts, the economic empowerment of women limits social type-based violence, increases the sociopolitical participation and leadership, and limits the risks of disasters.

3.2. Jobs:

When the woman gains a strong position in the labor force, she can exercise her rights. However, not all jobs are sufficient, as the job must be productive in a context of freedom, equality, security, and dignity. About 60% of the female labor force all over the world is in the informal sector. In the low-income states, the rate reaches 90%. Even when women get jobs, they are paid 80 cents compared to 01 USD for men. This gender inequality in incomes costs the world more than double the international GDP. The UN confirms that wage transparency, equal wage for the same job, and access to care may bridge the gap between the wages and genders in the workplace. The increase of the female participation in the sectors that are not sufficiently represented at the present, including science, technology, and engineering is key to her empowerment. In this context, the world had witnessed an increase of 20% in the GDP thanks to bridging the gender gap in recruitment. Besides, when the female entrepreneurs succeed, they create job vacancies and support innovation.

3.3. Time:

According to the UN, everybody needs care in their lives. The current social structure reflects the deep inequality in position and force, and that women spend most of their time in the unpaid care and housework compared to men. The gender gap in the unpaid care is a deep engine of inequality, as it limits their time and chances to get education, job, decent life, welfare, and amusement. The value of the female unpaid work all over the world is estimated at over than 10.8 trillion USD annually; i.e., 03 times the size of the international technology industry. The

investment in transforming the care systems is a tripartite gain, as it allows women to gain their time, creates job opportunities in the sector of care, and increases access to care services. Statistics show that bridging the gaps in the care services and widening the decent jobs may create about 300 million jobs by 2035. When considering access to care as a right, the woman can access the formal labor market and generate income.

3.4. Security:

Many women face different security threats, including social type violence, conflict, food insecurity, lack of social protection, domestic violence, etc. This violates their rights and hinders the economic participation. The international value of violence against women is estimated at over 1.5 trillion USD, or 02% of the international GDP. The number of women who live in the struggle regions was estimated at 614 million in 2022, which is 50% higher than in 2017. Such crises may increase the economic gaps, including the unpaid care services. Moreover, the crises increase inequality among women, as the female refugees are more subject to violence than the non-refugees. Studies show that the social protection systems that respond to the social type, such as the money transfers, may decrease the rate of deaths for women; this shows the relation between economic empowerment and security. Regardless its form, insecurity hinders the economic empowerment of women, causes poverty, and deprives women of their rights and potentials. It is necessary to the challenge social criteria that see women as inferior to men economically (Goldin,2024).

3.5. Rights:

The human rights are the heart of the economic empowerment of women. In this context, the unfair economic systems promote gender inequality and the discriminating social norms hinder women's access to information, nets, jobs, and assets. Internationally, women enjoy 77% of the legal rights enjoyed by men. The main strategies to foster women's rights in the context of the economic empowerment include laws and policies that support this empowerment, abolition of the segregating laws, development of the mechanisms of accountability to protect women's rights, and ensuring a higher rate of women's representation in decision making (Ibidem). The inclusion of the social type cannot be a mere secondary idea. Rather, the decision makers must deal with the needs for economic security and income during conflict. Besides, they must empower

women to participate in the recovery, reconstruction, and growth. This implies providing the needed social protection and dealing with the issues that undermine the economic participation. Thus, it is necessary to reduce the social type based violence and improve access to paid care. The female entrepreneurs and small companies led by women must be supported, and education gaps must be bridged.

Depending on the type, level, and phase of violence in the conflicting states, some interventions may support the economic empowerment of women, such as empowering women to get jobs and incomes, enlarging the economic opportunities that include part-time and distant jobs, and increasing the secure transportation means from and to school and work. Moreover, the policymakers must improve access to learning, training, skills, and degrees, and deal with the continuous political systems. The rise of the digital inclusion may boost the financial inclusion and economic participation of women, including training on ICTs jobs in the digital economy, such as Click-On Kaduna that is part of the World Bank and Rockefeller Company in Nigeria. Furthermore, the policy makers must prioritize women's access to digital tools, including digital money, financial services, online learning, and digital governance. The digital mechanisms may be beneficial for the bigger initiatives that empower women to reduce conflicts and build sustainable peace. (Ibidem)

4. CONCLUSION

This paper discussed the initiatives of encouraging entrepreneurship for peace, because it allows the economic empowerment of women, limits poverty, deals with gender inequality, and satisfies the wider development needed. We studied the relation between entrepreneurship and women's empowerment at a larger scale and found out that entrepreneurship directly contributes to empowerment. In this context, the existence of a source of income allows participation in decision making. Besides, the financial independence increases trust and welfare, as women can allocate resource for their welfare and that of their children. The influence of entrepreneurship affects the trust and abilities of decision makers. Furthermore, it contributes to the growth of the female entrepreneurs. Evidence shows that integrating women in peacebuilding improves the efforts of peace and reduces conflict.

Besides, the support of the female entrepreneurs positively affects the economic growth.

Based on what was said, we found out that:

1. The paper analyzed the relation between trade, peace, security, and the methods of bridging the gap between the genders to foster the role of women in all the sectors. This includes reviewing the established mechanisms and recommending innovative methods to foster a comprehensive approach that recognizes the benefits of empowering women to treat the deficits in democracy, rule, peace, and security.

2. The experiences show that the female entrepreneurs have a vital role in the social harmony and economic independence, as the social type is decisive for peace and the long-term conditions of the sustainable peace.

3. The female entrepreneurship fosters the peaceful culture.

4. The women's economic empowerment breaks the struggles, as women participate to ending the causal movements of struggles, such as poverty and unemployment, and thanks to their efforts as mothers, wives, and sisters.

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