

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



AURAT FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2015



Aurat Foundation

Report: Annual Report 2015
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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAC	AAWAZ <i>Agahi</i> (awareness) Centre
AAF	Aurat Action Forum
ADF	AWAZ District Forum
AF	Aurat Foundation
AGHS	Asma, Gulrukh, Hina and Shahla (law firm)
AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
ANF	AAWAZ National Forum
ANP	Awami National Party
AOM	Area Opening Meeting
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
ASF	Acid Survivors' Foundation
ATF	AAWAZ <i>Tehsil</i> Forum
AUF	AAWAZ Union council Forum
AVF	AAWAZ Village Forum
BBC	BISP Beneficiary Committee
BISP	Benazir Income Support Programme
BTCC	BISP <i>Tehsil</i> Coordination Committee
BUCC	Beneficiary Union Council Committee
CAC	Citizen Action Committee
CAO	Civic Advocacy Organization
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CLAAS	Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
CRM	Child Rights Movement
CSC	Civil Society Coalition
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
DV	Domestic Violence
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence

GCI	Gender Concerns International
GEP	Gender Equity Program
HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFT	Insan Foundation Trust
IHI	Insani Huqooq Ittehad
IRC	Interactive Resource Centre
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LG	Local Government
LISTEN	Leverage in Social Transformation of Elected Nominees
LRC	Labour Resource Centre
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MSI	Management Systems International
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NAF	National Advisory Forum
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCSW	Provincial Commission on the Status of Women
PFC	Provincial Finance Commission
PGC	Pakistan Gender Coalition
PM	Prime Minister
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPAF	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
PPP	Pakistan People's Party
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf
PTV	Pakistan Television
RHV	Raising Her Voice
SDPI	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
SJA	Sindh Judicial Academy
SM	Social Mobilization
SMC	School Management Committee

SO	Social Organizer
SPO	Strengthening Participatory Organisation
SSO	Senior Social Organizer
SWWDD	Social Welfare and Women Development Department
TAF	The Asia Foundation
ToT	Training-of-Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	Violence Against Women
WDD	Women Development Department
WGW	Working Group for Women
WLG	Women leader Group
WLP	Women's Learning Partnership

Introduction

This annual report is one that carries with it very unfortunate and deeply disturbing events seen throughout the country, leaving us with shrinking space and heavy instability as to where our future lays.

On 16 December, 2014, Pakistan was rudely jolted into an erect understanding that the country is at war. When seven gunmen entered a school building in Peshawar and killed innocent children and their teachers, a united resolve to fight a violent and religiously motivated ideology has been realized. This horrific incident has formed the country's future course on the war on terror. We hope for the future sake of this country, this political resolve has not come too late and does not breach constitutional and fundamental rights.

It was also during this report year, in April 2015 that the vibrant human rights activist was fatally gunned down. Sabeen Mahmud's death has left a great void in voices that speak up and ask the difficult questions. Aurat Foundation is deeply saddened and condemns in the strongest words Sabeen's death, whose aura and causes inspired many young Pakistanis to gain awareness to stand up against personal, social and political wrongs.

With these sad events, we also saw some positive changes. In June 2015, the Election Commission of Pakistan declared the PK-95, Lower Dir, of 7 May 2015, null and void on the basis that women were barred from voting. AF, backed by other rights activists, was in the forefront of this campaign. Institutional decisions that hold up constitutional guarantees are ones that AF campaigns for and welcomes this particular decision as a small victory for women and democracy.

Another move to reiterate AF's commitment to support institutions includes the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) in May 2015. The purpose of this MoU is to strengthen the capacity of women parliamentarians with regard to legislation and the legislative processes.

Further AF, through its various projects, has aimed towards training individual women leaders and members of the judiciary and police on more gender neutral ways of working. The lack implementation and suggestions on how to improve implementation of new pro-women laws has also been extensively debated at public forums organised by Aurat Foundation.

But with these rare glimpses of hope come unprecedented scenes of brutality, discrimination and fatal attacks on Pakistani women and girls in the name of so-called honour and false charges of blasphemy. Shama Masih and Farzana Perveen come immediately to mind. Shama Masih, a poor Christian woman, pregnant and a mother of three children, was thrown in a flaming brick kiln on alleged charges of blasphemy. Farzana Perveen was stoned outside the Lahore High Court for daring to marry a man of her choice. Unfortunately, these incidents are not rare but on the contradictory rising with no sign of legal reprehension for the perpetrators.

Aurat Foundation, through the hard work of all its staff and members of the Board of Governors and under the wise counsel and guidance of Nigar Ahmad, strives to help improve society

towards a more tolerant, gender neutral space. And there is no doubt that AF has spread a positive and wide net across all parts of the country. But the country's events show that we have a long way to go. With that Faiz's couplets seem pact to end this message.

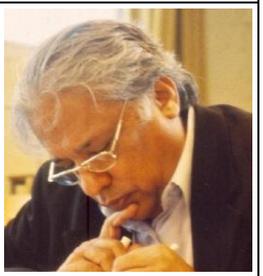
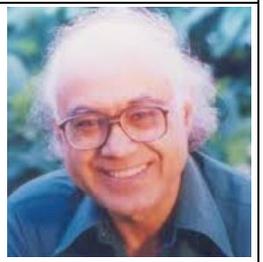
The lamp still waits for the morning breeze,
The night weighs on us still.
This is not the moment of our freedom.
Keep moving, keep moving!
We have not arrived!

ابھی چراغ سر رہ کو کچھ خبر ہی نہیں
ابھی گرانی شب میں کی نہیں آئی
نجات دیدہ و دل کی گھڑی نہیں آئی
پلے چلو کہ وہ منزل ابھی نہیں آئی

(Faiz Ahmed Faiz)

Naeem Ahmed Mirza
Chief Operating Officer
Aurat Foundation
January 2015, Islamabad

Board of Governors

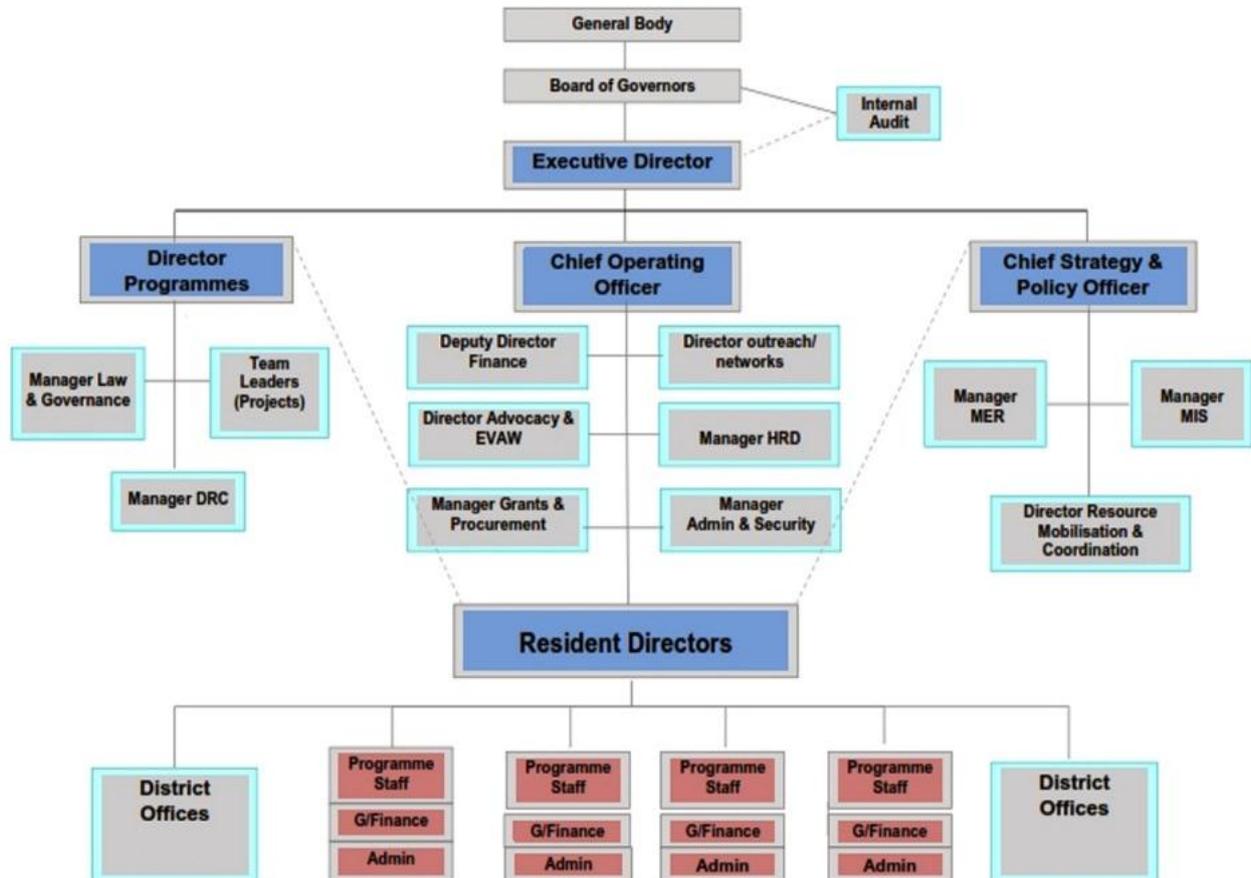
<p>Dr. Masuma Hasan <i>President</i></p> <p>Development Practitioner; former Cabinet Secretary & Ambassador; Researcher</p>		<p>Nigar Ahmad <i>Member/Executive Director</i></p> <p>Economist; Human Rights Activist; Development Practitioner</p>	
<p>Mohammad Tahseen <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Executive Director, South Asia Partnership Pakistan; Development Expert; Human Rights Activist</p>		<p>Arif Hasan <i>Member</i></p> <p>Architect & Planner; Social Researcher and Writer; Development Practitioner</p>	
<p>Anis Haroon <i>Member</i></p> <p>Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women; Women's Rights Activist</p>		<p>Tasneem Siddiqui <i>Member</i></p> <p>Chairman Saiban; former Director, Katchi Abadis, KDA; Development Practitioner</p>	
<p>Samina Rahman <i>Member</i></p> <p>Educationist; Women's Rights Activist</p>		<p>Anjum Riyazul Haque <i>Member</i></p> <p>Development Professional, former UNESCO head in Pakistan</p>	
<p>Dr. Aliya H. Khan <i>Member</i></p> <p>Educationist; Economist, Development Expert</p>			

Executive Council of Aurat Foundation

Name	Function	Gender	Affiliation
Nigar Ahmad	Executive Director	Female	29 years
Naeem Ahmed Mirza	Chief Operating Officer	Male	18 years
M. Younas Khalid	Chief Strategy & Policy Officer	Male	20 years
Nasreen Zehra	Resident Director, Lahore	Female	19 years
Shabina Ayaz	Resident Director, Peshawar	Female	19 years
Haroon Dawood	Resident Director, Quetta	Male	18 years
Mahnaz Rahman	Resident Director, Karachi	Female	11 years

Organogram

Institutional Structure Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation



Audit Report



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Servis House
2-Main Gulberg Jail Road,
Lahore Pakistan

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Independent auditors' report to Board of Governors

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation**, which comprise of the balance sheet as at 30 June 2015 and the income and expenditure account, the statement of changes in accumulated funds and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

The Board of Governors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan, and for such internal controls as the Board of Governors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the approved auditing standards as applicable in Pakistan. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Board of Governors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

MMH/SA

KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co., a Partnership firm registered in Pakistan and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ('KPMG International'), a Swiss entity.



KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation** as at 30 June 2015, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan.

Date: 2 May 2016

Lahore

KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co
Chartered Accountants
(M. Rehan Chughtai)

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2015

		2015	2014		2015	2014
	Note	Rupees	Rupees	Assets	Note	Rupees
Funds and liabilities						
<i>Accumulated funds</i>						
General fund		68,039,733	31,914,154			
Endowment fund-restricted		1,035,924	1,035,924			
Donated funds-restricted		12,987,271	1,966,762			
Deferred capital grants-restricted	7	57,990,347	40,393,518			
		140,053,275	75,310,358			
<i>Non current liabilities</i>						
Staff severance pay		8,669,604				
<i>Current liabilities</i>						
Trade and other payables	8	38,470,659	44,648,326			
Short term loan	9	500,000	500,000			
		38,970,659	45,148,326			
<i>Contingencies and commitments</i>						
	10	187,693,538	120,458,684			
Assets						
<i>Non-current assets</i>						
Property and equipment	11	58,645,440	41,164,730			
Intangible assets	12	3,935,223	3,646,496			
		62,580,663	44,811,226			
<i>Current assets</i>						
Advances, deposits, prepayments and other receivables	13	32,178,065	27,675,733			
Cash and bank balances	14	92,934,810	47,971,725			
		125,112,875	75,647,458			
		187,693,538	120,458,684			

The annexed notes 1 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Lahore

Nigar Ahmad
Executive Director

S. Talib
S. Suman
Director

Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation
Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note	Aurat		Consolidated	
	Foundation Rupees	Projects Rupees	2015 Rupees	2014 Rupees
Income				
	-	864,592,700	864,592,700	621,745,375
	40,099,063	-	40,099,063	-
	3,299,227	-	3,299,227	2,643,407
15	11,089,520	-	11,089,520	33,892,848
	-	-	-	3,925,417
	-	15,344,522	15,344,522	9,461,007
	54,487,810	879,937,222	934,425,032	671,668,054

Expenditure

	-	223,355,528	223,355,528	-
17	10,901,567	348,436,906	359,338,473	249,969,569
	885,965	114,341,985	115,227,950	251,192,102
	-	5,085,296	5,085,296	3,553,775
	6,500	10,627,034	10,633,534	6,924,440
	389	47,646,735	47,647,124	19,833,103
	2,500,000	29,620,425	32,120,425	25,221,324
	3,455	8,550,343	8,553,798	8,243,798
	15,217	37,071,815	37,087,032	18,626,694
	970,443	7,648,799	8,619,242	12,367,594
	-	408,938	408,938	340,382
	399,680	10,431,978	10,831,658	19,463,129
	354,646	1,110,444	1,465,090	399,437
	-	8,969,970	8,969,970	4,380,339
	21,000	8,616,400	8,637,400	6,181,599
	1,359,401	-	1,359,401	430,000
	-	-	-	3,925,417
	-	2,670,104	2,670,104	2,519,407
11	251,442	13,708,249	13,959,691	7,940,920
12	-	1,636,273	1,636,273	1,690,673
	692,526	-	692,526	-
	18,362,231	879,937,222	898,299,453	643,203,702
Net surplus	36,125,579	-	36,125,579	28,464,352

The annexed notes 1 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Lahore

Executive Director

Director

List of Operational Projects (July 2013–June 2014)

Sr #	Project	Donor
1	AAWAZ Voice & Accountability Programme	DFID
2	SM-NCTP, WeT	DFID
3	Gender Equity Programme	USAID
4	Institutional strengthening to bring gender reforms	Trocaire
5	Leverage in Social Transformation of Elected Nominees WLP, Safe districts (pilot project)	Oxfam
6	Reclaiming gender rights in crises	UNFPA
7	Regional initiatives: Women and child friendly spaces, KPK	UNICEF
8	Voter mobilization campaign, Sindh	UNDP

Chapter One

Law and Policy Reform

1. Law and Policy Reform

The Constitution of Pakistan has created progressive provisions in which women are equal and free to participate in the political process as voters and as representatives of the people. Unfortunately, the recognition of women in the political process has not always been realised in many parts of Pakistan, even till today. Aurat Foundation has always highlighted, as blatant discrimination, the barring of women from the political process. AF has relentlessly campaigned to emphasise the importance of the female vote in order to strengthen the democratic process. After the 18th amendment, the importance of voting by all citizens is further emphasised to enable local governments to better represent and serve those that vote them into power.

Strengthening ties with and building capacities of all institutions that encompass women voters and women political representatives is a mandated AF commitment.

In 1966, when women were barred from voting, a successful petition was filed in the Sindh High Court. Forty nine years later, the next historic move has been the 2015 decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan, to declare null and void the election results in Lower Dir in which women were barred from voting in the general elections. Women's rights activists, with Aurat Foundation in the forefront, led the successful campaign to have the elections annulled.

1.1 Women win over denial of their right to vote after 49 years



The ECP took suo motto action after various women's rights activists and organisations raised concern demanding that the election be declared null and void in the by-polls of PK-95, where women were barred to cast their vote.

On 2 June, 2015, in a historic move, taking notice of barring women to cast their vote, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) declared the May 7, 2015, by-polls in PK-95, Lower Dir-II, as null and void and directed re-elections for the constituency. Constitutionally, women in Pakistan have the right to vote but in practice there are many areas in the country where women are denied this right. Lower Dir II was on of these areas.

“Aurat Foundation has been monitoring general and local government elections, raising women’s disfranchisement issues and giving recommendations continuously since 1991. This is a historic decision towards women’s political empowerment and would have far reaching impact on women’s struggle for political rights”, said Ms. Shabina Ayaz, the resident director of the Aurat Foundation, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She also valued the timing of the decision as complaints arose regarding women’s denial of the vote in the recent local government elections in the province. She said the decision would encourage women voters and candidates to file their complaints if denied this right.

The case was heard by the ECP under the Chief Election Commissioner, retired Justice Sardar Raza Khan. Seven women’s rights activists appeared as petitioners, namely Ms. Shabina Ayaz, Aurat Foundation, Ms. Bushra Goher, MNA ANP, Ms. Tahira Abdullah, Ms. Farbana Bari, rights activists, Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson NCSW, Ms. Irshad Begum, ABKT, and Mr. Sikandar, SAP-PK.

Lower Dir’s powerful men have a history of excluding women from the election process. In the 2013 general election they signed a deal to bar women from voting. All political parties, including religious and other parties, were part of the process to bar women from voting. This flawed agreement was signed on May 10, 2013 and bore the signatures of Dr. Nazir of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, Aizaz-ul-Mulk Afkari of the Jamaat-i-Islami, Haji Abdul Rahman Khan of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, Malik Rehman of Pakistan People’s Party, Abdul Wahid of Awami National Party and Dr. Deedar Mohammad of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. A party found to violate the agreement would be fined Rs.5 million. In 2001, Aurat Foundation filed a similar petition in the Peshawar High Court against barring women from exercising their right to vote during the local government elections.

1.2 MoU signed with Women Parliamentary Caucus

The Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) and Aurat Foundation, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 19, 2015. The MoU was signed to help sensitize legislators on primary and secondary legislations on women’s issues and to enhance the knowledge of newly elected women parliamentarians with the legislative process.

Secretary WPC, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik and AF’s Director, Advocacy and Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW), Ms. Rabeea Hadi, signed the MoU. Senior women parliamentarians including Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb, MNA PML-N, Ms. Syeda Zahra Wadood Fatemi, MNA PML-N, Ms. Asiya Tanoli, MNA PML-N, Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali, MNA JUI-F, Ms. Munnaza Hassan, MNA PTI, were all present on the occasion.

Overall, the WPC has 90 members, parliamentarians from both Houses of Parliament. "Strengthening of institutions that play key role in protecting women is very important. Keeping this need in mind, we have signed MoUs with institutions. This MoU is also part of this effort," said Ms. Rabeea Hadi.



Under this MoU, the parties have agreed to collaborate, on a non- exclusive basis, to address critical issues of concern for women, including eradication of gender based violence. They will hold joint conferences and briefings according to a mutually developed schedule and will hold discussions on existing pro women laws, procedural and implementation gaps and required actions.

1.3 Critical issues of concern for women and need for legislation discussed with members of political parties



AAWAZ voice and accountability programme continuously engages with national and provincial assembly members in order to build and support women’s political participation within political parties and the electoral process.

In continuation of such initiatives AF, AAWAZ held a national consultation on 3 April, 2015, in Bhurban, Murree. In collaboration with all AAWAZ consortium partners, AF organised this consultation to bring forward pending legislative challenges and emphasis the need for new legislation on women’s related issues and concerns.

The agenda of the consultation entailed:

- Status of current and pending legislation (national and provincial),
- Identification of issues for proposed amendments and new legislation,
- Challenges and opportunities of the legislation process.



Participants from all major political parties, representatives of provincial women caucuses, DAI, SPO and AF attended this consultation. Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, PML N, & Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus, chaired the consultation. Participants from leading political parties included Mr. Shehryar Afridi, MNA, PTI, Mr. Tariq Ahmed Khan, Secretary Information QWP, Ms. Nabila Hakima Khanum MPA, PTI, Mr. Shaukat Basra, Secretary Information PPPP, Mr. M Ali Rashid, MNA, MQM, Ms. Nusrat Abbasi, MPA, PML F, Ms. Munaza Hassan, MNA, PTI, Ms. Aisha Syed, MNA, JI, Ms. Tehseen Fawad, MPA, PML N, Dr. Farid Piracha, Deputy Secretary General, JI, Ms. Sadia Sohail, MPA, PTI, Ms. Nafeesa Khattak, MNA, PTI, Ms. Mussarat Ahmadzeb, MNA, Independent, Ms. Naeema Kishwar, MNA, JUI, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, MNA, PML N and Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus, Ms. Sorat Thabo, MPA, PML N, Ms. Fariah Emad, MNA, PML N, Ms. Shazia Ashfaq Mattu, MNA, PML N and Ms. Shaheen Shafiq, MNA, PML.



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1.4 Women parliamentarians demand capacity building during a sensitization workshop



In its continuous efforts to enhance the knowledge of newly elected women parliamentarians on the legislative process and to further develop network mechanisms among women caucuses, Aurat Foundation organised a two-day sensitization workshop with women parliamentarians on 'Legislative Business and Role of Parliamentarians in

Pro-Women legislations’, on April 1-2, 2015, Bhurban, Murree. The workshop was organised under the ‘Gender Based Violence – Advocacy and Capacity Building’ programme supported by Trocaire, Australian Government and Australian Aid.

Ms. Rabeea Hadi, Director Advocacy and EAW, AF, facilitated the session. She highlighted the need for the session taking into consideration the fact that the General Elections of 2013 revealed that the majority of women parliamentarians had been elected for the first time.



Concern among women parliamentarians has been, as was also expressed during the two-day consultation, that they lack information and capacity to introduce new legislation and actively participate in the assemblies’ business. Ms. Nusrat Seher Abbassi, MPA, PML-F, Sindh Assembly, expressed concern over not receiving Urdu versions of bills. Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, MNA, PML-N and General Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), said that although more pro-women laws are needed, there was a strong need for effective implementation of these laws. Ms. Kishwar Zehra, MNA, MQM, said that women parliamentarians who are independent candidates face many of obstacles in introducing bills as mostly private member bills are ignored or dropped. Ms. Jamila Gilani, former MNA and Provincial General Secretary ANP, in response to other members’ demand that women parliamentarians should be provided development funds, opposed the suggestion and instead suggested that development funds to male parliamentarians should be ceased. Ms. Shaheen Shafeeq, MNA, PML-N, said that in order to support and rehabilitate women victims of domestic violence, the WPC should establish its offices in each district of the country. Other members present at the consultation raised concerns regarding problems faced when submitting questions during assembly sessions. Most parliamentarians present in the workshop demanded that more women should be given an opportunity to contest elections on winnable general seats.

Mr. Muhammad Mushtaq, Joint Secretary (Legislation), National Assembly, gave a detailed presentation on drafting and moving bills, resolutions and motions, raising Calling Attentions Notices and Point of Orders, putting questions and asking supplementary questions.



Dr. Rakhshinda Parveen, Founder Anger by Rakhshi spoke about the importance of networking and alliance building among women parliamentarians and their parliamentary caucuses.



While talking about the achievements of enacting pro-women laws, Mr. Naeem Mirza, Chief Operating Officer, AF, paid tribute to the active role women political workers at the grassroots level play in the political process, often facing jail sentences and other harsh adversities.

Mr. Younas Khalid, Chief Strategy and Policy Officer, AF, spoke about the sustainable development goals and their history, and the challenges governments face in their future implementation.

Ms. Maliha Zia, Manager Law and Gender, AF, spoke on the need for women specific legislation based on constitutional provisions. She said that it was important to recognize the constraints, technical and financial constraints that legislators, especially female legislators face.

Other women parliamentarians present during the workshop included Ms. Nafisa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, MNA, PTI, Ms. Sorth Thebo, MPA, PML-F, Sindh Assembly, Ms. Asia Naz Tanoli, MNA, PML-N, Ms. Aisha Syed, MNA, JI, Ms. Shazia Ashtaq Mattu, MNA, PML-N, Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali, MNA, JUI-F, and Ms. Surraiya Asghar, MNA, PML-N.



1.5 Consultation on Youth Policy, Sindh



On June 22, 2015, Aurat Foundation, Karachi, organised a consultation on youth policy in Sindh. The consultation addressed the importance of empowering youth for the long term national development of the country.

Ms. Malka Khan, Regional Coordinator LISTEN, Sindh and Balochistan, welcomed the participants. Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director, AF, spoke regarding the LISTEN project and the importance of a youth policy. She said that there was an immediate need for such a policy in Sindh help empower young people socially, politically and economically. She said that with the support of the 2012 Legislators' Policy and civil society any such policy could be easily implemented. It was acknowledged that the Department of Youth Affairs, Sindh was taking basic steps for youth empowerment. However, Ms. Rehman emphasised that it was essential that other departments and organizations also work hand-in-hand for the cause.

Mr. Rizwan Jaffer, Founder of the Youth Parliament Project, said that the formation of a youth parliament had allowed many young people in Sindh to get involved. A representative from Bargael, a Sindh based NGO, shared a draft policy with the participants, which had been drafted after consultation with MPAs and youth representatives. Unfortunately, this draft has been pending since 2012. Mr. Noor Bajeeer, Executive Director, CSSP and Dr. Sikander Mandrio also spoke at the occasion.

1.6 Parliamentarians should lobby for a 'Gender Budget Statement'

On May 10, 2015, AF organised a study circle to bring awareness among parliamentarians regarding a more gender neutral budget. The event was held at Islamabad hotel, Islamabad called the 'Women's Development Agenda in Next Federal Budget 2015-16'. The study circle aimed to emphasis to parliamentarians the importance of lobbying the government to present a 'Gender Budget Statement', which would highlight the amount allocated for women's development.

Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq, a consultant on public financial management, delivered a detailed presentation on 'Women's Development Agenda in upcoming Budget 2015 – 2016'. Ms. Uzma Zarrin, Director Programmes, AF, coordinated the study circle and the question hour session.

Measuring women's development in Pakistan, Mr. Ishtiaq highlighted the Annual Gender Gap Index 2014 report, published by World Economic Forum, which shows

that Pakistan ranked at 141 out of 142 surveyed countries. The rank measures four key areas, economic participation, education, health and political empowerment.

Mr. Ishtiaq further linked budget allocations for women's development with Pakistan's international commitments. He emphasised the need to break down the budget to show where it may be lacking, such as in health and education.



Ms. Nafeesa Khattak, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emphasised the need for local governments to create means to generate their own revenue.

Ms. Naseema, Pakhtunkhwa Mili Awami Party (PKMAP), that such informative sessions were necessary for legislators. She highlighted that legislators from Balochistan needed such information in order to get better involved in the budget making process at the provincial and federal level.

Mr. Naeem Mirza, COO, AF, in his closing remarks, emphasized that concerned government institutions and civil society organizations must focus more on resource allocations rather than direct but isolated service delivery at the village level. He pointed out that equal access of men and women to natural resources was essential for national development and progress.

1.7 Provincial legislators give commitment to strengthen GBV related laws and policies

AF's Peshawar office organised a provincial consultation, on March 9, 2015, at Pearl Continental Hotel, Peshawar, to discuss how to strengthen laws and policy related to Gender Based Violence (GBV). Ms. Shabina Ayaz, Resident Director, Peshawar shared



the situation of violence against women (VAW) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She said that in 2014, 736 women faced different forms of violence. Among various categories of violence against women, murder topped the list followed by suicide and 'honour' killings.

Mr. Asad Qaisar, speaker Provincial Assembly, while speaking on the occasion, said that he will support all initiatives regarding women and those with disabilities. He said that a women's university and girls' degree

college were to open in Swabi. Regarding legislation on domestic violence he said that the government will develop a strategy towards this.

Ms. Zarin Zai, member Provincial Assembly, will arrange meetings with the speaker and other members of the House to further discuss the domestic violence bill and how to move it forward. Ms. Shirin Javed, Regional Coordinator, AF, conducted a session on relevant laws. Mr. Ejaz, Deputy Director Child Commission, was also a speaker at the consultation.

1.8 AF identifies gaps in implementation of Anti-Women Practices Act 2011



On November 25, 2014, presenting an in-depth analysis of gaps in implementation of the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act 2011, Aurat Foundation, Islamabad, in collaboration with Trocaire, launched a study titled ‘Forced Marriages and Inheritance Deprivation’. Ms. Shaista Malik, Member National Assembly and Secretary General WPC, was the chief guest at the occasion.

Undertaken in 6 districts of Pakistan, the study was conducted between 2013 and 2014 and assesses the implementation of the Act. The new law criminalizes depriving women of their inheritance, forced marriages and comprises insertions to the Pakistan Penal Code 1980 (PPC), making practices such as *watta satta*, *badl-e-sulah* and marriage to the Quran, illegal.

The study was researched and written by Ms. Sara Zaman. She said that during the research stages police officers, public prosecutors, medico-legal personal and women survivors were contacted throughout the country. The study pointed out the lack of awareness regarding the law amongst among all concerned professionals and the general. Ms. Zaman’s recommendations included duration of initial police training to be increased from 9 months to a year. Police must be provided details about the law, particularly in Urdu. She also emphasized the need to increase the number of women in the police force and medico-legal departments and ensure that women police stations be situated in easily accessible areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General, Federal Judicial Academy, Dr. Faqir Hussain said that the lack of enforcement of women’s rights was due to the firm hold of patriarchy and tribalism in society. Dr. Hussain suggested obligating the Revenue

Authorities for automatic transfer of inheritance shares to women. He recommended that civil courts should decide cases of female inheritance through the use of the ADR or by regular hearing, and decide the matter in three months.

Mr. Ehsan Ghani, Inspector General Police, Islamabad, while pointing to the role of police in implementing the law, emphasized the need for coordination among various institutions concerned for formulation and implementation of laws. He recommended that instead of women police stations, the government should establish ‘women complaint cells’.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Director, Ministry of Health Dr. Shafqat Jawaid Sheikh said that gender based violence is a global public health issue. He pointed out that the rise in Pakistan of violence against women was a serious reproductive health problem.

Ms. Samar Minallah, women’s rights activist, in her presentation, said that it is important to address some of the lacunas in the Act. She also emphasised the need to clarify the definitions of customs identified in the law. Ms. Minallah said the most vital issue was raising awareness of the new law amongst law enforcement agencies. A national media campaign through various mediums of communication is required.

Ms. Shaista Malik highlighted that WPC is an all parties’ forum and women from all parties unite together for the passage of women friendly laws. She said WPC is also keen to approach like-minded male parliamentarians and civil society organisations to help bring out new laws.

Mr. Naeem Mirza, COO, AF, acknowledged improvement of women’s rights legislation and policy making at the provincial level but showed concerned at the bleak situation at the federal level. He recommended that WPC should be given an advisory role in women’s rights legislation. He also recommended that the National Plan of Action on women’s rights should be developed at provincial levels. He suggested that all women friendly laws be brought under one chapter in the PPC, in order to facilitate legal literacy.

1.9 Study circle on pending bills and implementation of pro-women laws organised

Aurat Foundation’s Karachi office organised a study circle on March 12, 2015, at Sheraton Hotel to discuss the implementation and challenges of pro-women laws. There were a number of participants that included members of various organizations such as Bint-e-Fatima Old Home Trust, Women Development Foundation, HANDS, etc. The



participants also included Ms. Erum Khalid, MPA and Secretary Sindh Women Parliamentary Caucus, and Mr. Shoaib Ashraf, Advocate Supreme Court.

Ms. Maliha Zia, manager, law and gender, AF, gave a briefing on relevant legal updates as well as the issues and hurdles that need to be addressed and tackled. Her main focus was on the domestic violence laws and the Child Marriage Restraint Act. Justice (R) Shaiq Usmani pointed out some of the issues related to the lack of proper implementation and the delay in Rules of Business being formed in time. The study circle was followed by suggestions made by participants on this issue. Some of the suggestions included forming committees, increasing involvement of media in creating awareness, adjusting curriculum, and teaching the subject of Ethics in schools.

1.10 Religious Freedom Caucus formed

The Pakistan Religious Freedom Initiative: Leader of Influence (PRFI) project of Aurat Foundation organised a consultation with the legislators on February 26, 2015, at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. The purpose of the consultation was to discuss the draft bill called 'Institutionalized Legal Discrimination against Religious Minorities'. The consultation was followed by an orientation session on the formation of a 'Religious Freedom Caucus'.



Ms. Mahnaz Rehman, Resident Director, AF began with the opening remarks to include a glowing homage to late Justice Rana Baghwan Das and the role minorities play in the country's progress and prosperity.

Ms. Erum Javed, Project Manager PRFI introduced the Project titled 'Pakistan Religious Freedom Initiative: Leader of Influence (PRFI)' and vowed to table at least three bills in a year's time. She said that religious extremism and intolerance is a serious threat to the people of Pakistan in general and minorities in particular.

Ms. Fareeda Tahir, Associate Programme Manager PRFI, said that there is a technical working group headed by Justice Majida Rizvi. Members include lawyers, NGO's representatives, government officials and other likeminded organisations and individuals that work on minority rights. She went on to highlight that the situation for minorities is deteriorating from bad to worse.

Others that attended included Ms. Syeda Shahla Raza, Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly, Ms. Noor Bano, NGO representative, Ms. Erum Azeem Farouqi, MPA-MQM, Ms. Naheed Begum, MPA-MQM, Ms. Naila Muneer, MPA-MQM, Ms. Khairunissa Mughal, MPA-PPP, Ms. Erum Khalid, MPA-PPP, Ms. Gazala Sial, MPA-PPP, Ms. Saira Shalwani, MPA-PPP and Mr. Moazzam Ali, Consultant.

1.11 Institutionalized legal discrimination against religious minorities discussed

A provincial consultation was organised by Pakistan Religious Freedom Initiative (PRFI): Leaders of Influence, Aurat Foundation, at Marriott Hotel, Karachi on February 24, 2015. Activists, researchers, scholars, lawyers and journalists attended the meeting. There was deliberation on the discussion paper, ‘Institutionalized Legal Discrimination against Religious Minorities’ prepared by legal expert Ms. Maliha Zia.

Ms. Syed Moazzam Ali, Consultant, shared the Focused Group Discussion (FGDs) reports, conducted by him in various districts of Sindh. Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, Mr. Javed Qazi and Mr. Shoaib Ashraf also spoke on the occasion.



The Asia Foundation (TAF) representative, Mr. Kashif Kamal said TAF is currently supporting three different projects in the country, each focused on empowerment of marginalized sections.

Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director, AF, Sindh, said that NGOs may complement government efforts but never cannot substitute it, hence the government ought to realize its responsibilities towards citizens in terms of their basic needs as well as in the larger context of their constitutional and legal rights.

Ms. Fareeda Tahir, Associate Project Manager, AF, said that members of the Women Parliamentary Caucus, and the almost formed Religious Freedom Caucus should serve as lobby groups across party lines to create religious freedom wings in their respective parties. She said most government officials did not know about the 5% job quota for non-Muslims.

1.12 Provincial Consultation on ‘The Child Marriage Prohibition Bill, 2014’

Aurat Foundation Quetta office organised a provincial consultation on ‘The Child Marriage Prohibition Bill, 2014’ at Serena Hotel, Quetta on June 3, 2014 under the LISTEN project. Members of Balochistan provincial assembly former senators, senior lawyers, Secretary Women’s Development, representatives from the law department, senior media personnel, religious scholars, activists and INGO/NGO representatives attended the consultation. The objective of the workshop was to share the first draft of the bill with different stakeholders for further recommendations and comments.

Women parliamentarians who spoke at the occasion included Ms. Husun Bano, MPA, JUI, Ms. Spozhmai Achakzai, MPA, PKMAP, Dr. Shama Ishaq, MPA, NP, and Ms. Samina Khan, MPA, PML-N. The proposed bill was drafted and presented by member National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and renowned lawyer, Justice (retired) Mehta Kailashnath Kohli.

Ms. Saima Haroon, Aurat Foundation, presented an overview on the overall situation of child marriages in the country, especially in Balochistan. Mr. Haroon Dawood, Resident Director, AF Quetta office, spoke on the problems related to child marriages and its effects on a girl's life in particular and the society at large.

A working group, comprising members of the provincial assembly, Secretary Women's Development, representative from the law department and religious scholars were formed to further work and lobby for the passage of the bill.



Chapter Two

Capacity Building and Consultative Processes

2. Capacity Building and Consultative Processes

Aurat Foundation's continuous capacity building trainings and workshops are across every project and institutional work reaching all spheres of the socio-economic groups with whom we work. This includes extensive training for and by women community leaders particularly through our LISTEN project. We have also seen extensive training with the police during this reporting period, recognizing that there is dire need to enhance the knowledge and skills of the police force, which is usually the first point of contact for women victims of violence.

We aim to achieve consultative processes that are extensive, thorough and inclusive with the realization that real change will be possible if the views of all stakeholders are taken into consideration. We are happy to report that this year we have held several extensive consultative conferences issues related to minorities and youth.

2.1 Police officials given training on Implementation of Pro – Women Legislation

Thirty two police officials from diverse ranks were sensitized about pro-women laws at a two day workshop held on 27-28th January, 2015, in Islamabad. Aurat Foundation conducted the capacity building training in collaboration with the National Police Bureau. The theme of the training was 'sensitization of police for implementation of pro-women laws'. The training was conducted with the objectives to bring awareness to various ranks of the police when dealing with victims of rape, domestic violence against women, sexual harassment of children and understanding of law(s).

Social worker and women rights activists Ms. Saliha Ramay and Ms. Rabeea Hadi discussed different concepts relating to pro-women laws. Participants were briefed about the social understanding of gender, gender based discriminations and stereotypes in society and the importance of self-awareness to avoid such preconceived notions while dealing with cases of 'Violence Against Women (VAW)'. Policemen performed different role plays based on hypothetical cases to demonstrate practical examples of domestic violence and the role of the police in counselling the victims and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

On the second day of training, Ms. Farkhanda Aurangzib, Ms. Rabeea Hadi and Ms. Sadia Mumtaz, all from AF, conducted three informative sessions on the roles and responsibilities of the police in dealing with gender-based-violence victims, procedures of collecting evidence in such cases and consulting medico legal experts.



2.2 Police instructors and Moharrars were given training on pro-women laws

Aurat Foundation's Karachi office organised a two-day training with police instructors and Moharrars on pro-women laws held on 26-27 January, 2015, at Mehran Hotel, Karachi. The training, attended by head investigative officers and Moharrars, focused on the Sindh Child Marriage Act, domestic violence and other relevant laws. The training was divided into different sessions and a certificate distribution ceremony took place at the end of two-day training.

Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation, commenced the training with an introductory session on gender, gender stereotyping and cultural/class influence on gender, how culture defines gender and its roles, and how gender roles and perspective vary within classes. Ms. Maliha Zia, Manager Law and Gender, Aurat Foundation, conducted the next session on the understanding of pro-women laws.

At the end, certificates were distributed by Mr. Ghulam Qadir Thebo, IG, Sindh, Ms. Shela Qureshi, ASP, and Mr. Faizulah Korejo, SSP Investigation, to those who attended the workshop. The overall consensus of participants was that the training gave them a better and in-depth understanding of gender issues, its influences and the clash of classes.



2.3 Medico-legal officers, lawyers and civil society representatives sensitized on pro-women laws

Aurat Foundation held a two-day capacity building training under the theme 'Sensitization medico-legal officers, lawyers and civil society representatives on pro-women legislation' on February 26-27, 2015, at Islamabad. The training was attended by participants working in medico-legal departments of Federal Government Polyclinic Hospital and Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), women shelter managers, lawyers from the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court and representatives from civil society organisations. The training was conducted with the objectives to orient the participants in dealing with victims of rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment of children and understanding the legal obligations of professionals dealing with such victims.

Women's rights activist Ms. Shabana Arif commenced the training. Ms. Rabeea Hadi, AF, briefed the participants about the social understanding of gender, gender based discriminations and stereotypes in society and the importance of self-awareness to avoid such preconceived notions when dealing with cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

On the second day, Ms. Rabeea Hadi conducted an informative session on violence against women statistics in the country, importance of forensic evidence and the need of building a coordinated network among the concerned departments and people to effectively work together and ensure speedy justice to victims. Mr. Muhammad Haider Imtiaz, an Islamabad based lawyer, discussed pro-women laws and the recent



legislations both on federal and provincial levels aimed at bringing gender balance in Pakistan and highlighted areas where new laws are needed.

2.4 Meeting with Bar Council, police officials on religious freedom organised

Pakistan Religious Freedom Initiative (PRFI), a joint project of Aurat Foundation and The Asia Foundation organised a meeting with the Bar Council, police officials, and stakeholders on February 21, 2015 at Marriot Hotel, Karachi.

Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation, shared a brief history of Aurat Foundation and its activities. Ms. Erum Javed, Project Manager, shared the background and rationale of the PRFI project with the participants. Advocate Shoaib Ashraf gave a presentation on the first draft of ‘Institutionalized Legal Discrimination against Religious Minorities’. He covered the legal and social aspects of fundamental rights, and the electoral system for non-Muslims.

Dr. Mohsin Naqvi, Professor CBEC (SIUT) presented the existing laws for religious minorities, Registration for Marriage, etc. Ms. Fareeda Tahir, Associate Project Manager, PRFI, emphasized the need to make laws on hate crime and hate speech.



Mr. Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Minister for Social Welfare shared that they have sufficient number of non-Muslim employees in the department but need to improve attitudes and behaviour towards non-Muslims. Advocate Rubina Brohi shared that we need to work with the Shia community as they are heavily targeted. Mr. Abid Zubairi said that the judicial system seems to be for rich people because poor people cannot afford to access it.

2.5 Session on pro-women laws was held

A 2-day session on pro-women laws was held on March 13th and 14th 2015 at Mehran Hotel, Karachi. The purpose was to build capacity and strengthen networking of medical and legal institutions.

Ms. Mahnaz Rehman commenced the event by conducting a session on the gender perspective. She highlighted the importance of understanding gender and discussed the misconceptions people hold about gender. She defined the difference between gender and sex i.e. sex is biological but gender is a socially constructed role as defined by society. Gender role is influenced by various social and environmental factors and therefore also influenced by class. Gender roles, especially in our culture, also vary within classes (lower to upper class).

The rest of the event was focused on already existent pro-women laws. This part of the event was conducted by Ms. Sarah Zaman and Ms. Maliha Zia. Both gave a detailed understanding about the forms of violence against women, relevant laws and discussed the hurdles that relate to implementation. The training ended with a distribution of certificates to all participants.

2.6 Issue of quota for non-Muslims raised with education department

Aurat Foundation's Karachi office, under its Pakistan Religious Freedom Initiative: Leaders of Influence project, organised a meeting with Mr. Fazlullah Pechuhu, the Secretary, Education Department, Government of Sindh, at Tughluq House, Sindh Secretariat, Karachi, on April, 6, 2015.



Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Residential Director, Aurat Foundation, briefed the participants about the basic objectives of the project. Ms. Fareeda Tahir, Associate Programme Manager, AF, while giving details of the project, said that a round of focus group discussions were organised in four districts of Sindh, namely Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Tando Allayar, so as to identify the issues faced by non-Muslims. A

Technical Working Group, chaired by Justice (R) Majida Rizvi, was also established with members from different stakeholders including lawyers, media personnel, NGOs, government institutions etc. The group, under the guidance of the Chairperson, is working on the bill on the issue to be submitted in the Sindh Assembly. She said that the group demands effective implementation of the 5% quota for non-Muslims in the Education Department.

Mr. Fazlullah Pechuhu, responded that a 10% quota for Non-Muslims is already in place in the National Testing Service, and that they were trying to get the same in other sections of the department. Dr. Fauzia Khan from the Curriculum Wing, ELD, said that the Wing welcomes Aurat Foundation to work on curriculum.



2.7 Meeting with Police Department, Sindh

Aurat Foundation organised a meeting with officials of the Police Department, Sindh, on May 4, 2015, at Marriott hotel, Karachi. The meeting was organised under the 'Religious Freedom Initiatives: Leaders of Influence' project. Participants included Mr. Nusrat Mangan, IG Prison, Ms. Sheeba Shah, Senior Superintendent and



other police officials namely Ms. Masooma Changazi, Ms. Azra Memon and Ms. Habiba Hasan. Aurat Foundation was represented by Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director, Ms. Erum Javed, Manager, Ms. Fareeda Tahir, Associate Programme Manager and Ms. Anis Fatima.

Mr. Magan said that there were many casts in the Hindu community that had different practices, and hence, identifying their issues needed more extensive research. He further went on to say that religious teachings in schools did not follow best practice as it separates students from each other. He was of the opinion that religion should not be taught in schools at all.

2.8 Meeting for Religious Freedom Caucus in Sindh assembly held

The representatives from Aurat Foundation met with government officials and politicians, specifically MPAs, to discuss the issue of religious freedom for religious minorities. Notable personalities that attended the meeting included MPAs such Ms. Mahtab Akber Rashidi, PML-F, Ms. Shamim Mumtaz, PPP, Ms. Iram Khalid, PPP along with individuals like Mr. Mohammad Umar who represented PPP at the event. Apart from these dignitaries, Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Residential Director AF, Ms. Erum Javed, Project Manager PRFI/TAF, Mr. Imran Sangrasi and Ms. Fareeda Tahir, Associate Programme Manager, AF also attended the event.

At the meeting held of May 29, 2015 an introduction of the participants took place. Ms. Fareeda Tahir, AF, introduced the project, Pakistan Religious Freedom Initiative. She mentioned that historically Aurat Foundation was seen as just working for the rights of women. However, it is due to this project that Aurat Foundation is also being recognized as a champion of the rights of minorities. Under this project, AF works on issues that include but are not limited to hate speech, forced conversion, forced marriages, quota problems, the behaviour of the police and the response of the various political parties in light of this issue.



Ms. Tahir said that another way in which they were working on tackling the problem was the introduction of new legislation that would improve the conditions for religious minorities. It was for this purpose, that they had hired Ms. Maliha Zia Lari as a consultant, so that new bills could be drafted. She further mentioned that at the moment, non- Muslims were being hired for jobs in the government through a 5% quota. To ensure that this quota was set, they had met with the Secretary for Education, Secretary for Social Welfare, Secretary for Women Development, and government officials like the Ombudsman Sindh.

2.9 AAWAZ: Training of Trainer on ‘Democracy: Home to Parliament’

Two ‘Trainings of Trainers’ (ToTs), 5 days each, were organised by Aurat Foundation, under AAWAZ programme, in two batches i.e. 17-21 March, 2015, and 21-30 March,

2015, at Hill View Hotel, Islamabad. The trainings addressed the capacity building plan's theme 'Democracy: Home to Parliament'. The participants, 110 in number, were invited from 45 districts of AAWAZ programme.

Background

AAWAZ voice and accountability programme during this reporting period held various trainings. Trainings were divided into two batches. First Batch comprised 53 participants from 17th March 2015 to 21st March 2015, and 2nd Batch comprised 57 from 26th March to 30th March 2015. The main components included:

- Session1: Delivery of Awareness –Raising Workshop
- Session2: Our land our Lives
- Session3: Human Democratic State , Active Citizens
- Session4: Star Citizens
- Session 5: Action planning (Circle of Concern and influence)
- Session 6: Reflection
- Theory of Change (Micro Training)
- Islam and religious diversity (Micro Training)

Sessions were accompanied by well composed sets of energisers, games and activities



that are easily implementable at village level.

2.10 Consultation on ‘The Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2013’

The Gender Based Violence (GBV) - Advocacy & Capacity Development Project of Aurat Foundation, with the support of Women Leaders Partnership (WLP), organised a consultation on ‘Implementation of The Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act, 2013’, on July 3, 2014, at Hotel Mehran, Karachi. On the occasion, women police officers were also awarded with shields for their hard work and contribution to bringing women in the mainstream. The guests included Ms. Syeda Shahla Raza, Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly, Ms. Mahtab Akber Rashidi, MPA- PML-F, Ms. Sorath Theabo, MPA-PML-N, Ms. Saima Shah Asim, Ms. Nasimunisa, MPA-MQM.

2.11 Capacity Training workshop for women leaders

A refresher training workshop was held in Lahore in which 36 women leaders from 15 districts of province Punjab and 3 districts of province KP participated.

The topics covered during the workshop were:

1. Understanding the concepts of governance, good governance and community governance.
2. Acquaintance with the current setup of governance at community level.
3. Elements of good governance.
4. Effective community governance model.
5. Key elements of community governance model.
6. Benefits of community governance model.
7. Understanding the concept of social accountability.
8. Areas of concern in association with social accountability.
9. Benefits of social accountability.
10. Understanding gender justice, women rights and role of public representatives.

During the sessions, different learning techniques were used like participatory approach, brain storming, interactive session, and group work. Hand outs and relevant resource material was also distributed among participants. The participants enthusiastically participated in the sessions of this training and also enriched the proceedings with their field experience and learning.



2.12 Training workshop for community leaders

Two refresher training workshops were held in Punjab and Sindh in which 60 women leaders from 30 project districts participated. The topics covered during the workshop were:

1. Understanding Gender: basic concepts, gender and sex, social construction.
2. Defining Gender Responsive Budgeting: what is a gender budget? What a gender budget looks like? Objectives of gender responsive budgeting? Understanding gender equality and equity?
3. Linkages: understanding some linkages for developing gender responsive budgeting at district level.
4. Gender analysis of budgets: internalizing the concept to analyse budgets from gender perspective at the district level, method and tools for analysis.

5. Pre-requisites and principles of Gender Budgeting: political will, accountability, human and financial resources, coordination, gender disaggregated data, transparency, partnership and cooperation.
6. Advocating for pro poor and pro women budgeting at district level: understanding advocacy, presenting pro poor and pro women plans, measuring change through setting milestones and indicators, success indicators.

The aim of the workshops was to impart skills of Women Leaders from the 30 project districts on how to analyse, monitor and assess budgets from a gender perspective. This necessitated a discussion and understanding of gender concepts, contemporary budgeting processes and practices. There was also an exploration of the range of methodologies and tools currently in use to analyse national budgets from a gender perspective and the tools of monitoring and impact assessment of budgets.

Different techniques were adopted to develop the interest of participants. Participatory approaches such as brainstorming, interactive session, and group activities were organised to raise the participants' interest. Training hand outs and resource material which was simple and concise including subject related information were distributed among the participants. Multimedia and power point slides were also used as a tool of learning during the TOTs. The participants enthusiastically participated in the sessions of this training and also enriched the proceedings with their field experience and learning.



2.13 LISTEN: Training by master trainers

With regard to successful completion of refresher training workshops LISTEN organised training by master trainers in 30 project districts. AF staff played the role of facilitation of these master trainer women leaders to prepare their sessions to hold a 2 days training with the guidance of manual prepared for trainers. In result of that in 30 project districts, these training workshops were held, through, which the capacity of 1,324 women leaders was enhanced in below mentioned topics:



- Understanding the concepts of governance, good governance and community governance.
- Acquaintance with the current setup of governance at community level.
- Elements of good governance.
- Effective community governance model.
- Key elements of community governance model.
- Benefits of community governance model.
- Understanding the concept of social accountability.
- Areas of concern in association with social accountability.

- Benefits of social accountability.
- Understanding gender justice, women rights and role of public representatives.



The training was conducted in simple language for better understanding of women leaders on the issues. The training program was designed to enhance the participants' capacities and made them aware about the different concepts of community governance and accountability.

2.14 LISTEN: Women and Youth Delegates Meeting with Elected Representatives

Elected representatives were approached with topics that were discussed and concerns raised at the district levels. The topics were varied including political participation, women friendly spaces, social cohesion and participation in upcoming local government elections. The elected representatives and representatives of district administration i.e. district coordination officer, social welfare department, NADRA, Bait-ul-Mal, Zakat & Ushar committee, education department, health department and women from political parties who are office bearers at district level were invited and presented them recommended demands of women generated on the basis of issues of women. The topics included women and minorities and their opportunities, women political party workers, voter registration issues, legislation regarding early and forced marriage and domestic violence, the *thana* culture, among other topics.



Chapter Three

Social Mobilisation and Citizens Engagement

3. Social Mobilisation and Citizens Engagement

Social mobilization is used as a means to motivate change, to bring awareness among people and ultimately for ordinary citizens to demand and claim their rights. Aurat Foundation has been involved in engagement with ordinary citizens at all levels, concerning issues ranging from the importance of obtaining national ID cards, awareness around pro-women laws and initiating dialogue to help women leaders organically grow with their own communities.

3.1 Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP): Outreach and mobilisation through Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT) programme (2012-2016):

To support the Government of Pakistan (GoP) initiative under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), the World Bank and UK-Aid have extended technical and financial assistance for establishing, strengthening and institutionalizing the Federal Safety Net Authority in Pakistan. With the financial and technical assistance of UK-aid, the Aurat Foundation



(AF) and its partners carried out the pilot test phase August, 2012- February, 2013 with a purpose to test the social mobilisation design for the Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT) program.

Social Mobilisation is one of the key elements of Waseela-e-Taleem programme, envisaged to inculcate co-responsibility of beneficiaries in the success and take-up of the programme. Through social mobilisation, the beneficiary mothers are organised in groups/committees at the village, union council and tehsil level where permissible.

In the pilot and extended phase of social mobilization, Aurat Foundation already tested a preliminary social mobilisation strategy by using an adaptive research model and on the basis of its findings, have drafted a composite and compatible social mobilization strategy through development of protocols, addressing the issues of regional and geographical diversity, cultural context and practicability in terms of mobility of BISP beneficiary women.

In continuation of the extended phase implemented in 16 districts and based on its learning, the project was expanded to 16 more districts in four provinces as well as AJK & GB region. Thus currently the programme is being implemented in 32 districts which include Larkana, Sukkur, Benazirabad, Karachi South, Thatta and Qamabr Shahdadt in Sindh Province; Rawalpindi, Narowal, Sialkot, Khushab, Rahimyar Khan, Bhawalpur and Bhwalnagar in Punjab Province; Charsadda, Kohat, Mansehra, Malakand, Noshera, Bannu and Haripur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province; Loralai, Musa Khel, Noshki, Jhal Magsi, Gawadarand Awaran in Balochistan Province; Skardu, Gilgit and Diamir in Gilgit-Baltistan Region; Mirpur, Bagh and Kotli from AJK region respectively.

The primary objective of expanded phase was to outreach maximum number of Waseela-e-Taleem women beneficiaries and ensure that their children are registered and admitted under WeT programme, which is a conditional cash transfer.



Waseela-e-Taleem programme was designed keeping in view the concept of co-responsibility, where cash is transferred to the underprivileged recipient households of BISP. The WeT program is a conditional cash transfer program where BISP beneficiary mothers/families must ensure the enrolment of their children between ages 5-12 in primary schools and their retention by attaining 70% attendance to benefit from the program. Moreover, the expanded scope of the project integrates the social mobilization process with Micro Supply Capacity Assessment (MSCA) of public and private sector schools, registration of the WeT beneficiaries, admission and enrolment of their eligible children and attendance compliance of the enrolled children on quarterly basis. With this context, AF and its partners rolled out the expanded scope of the program from 1st August, 2014 and now is implementing activities in 32 districts of 4 Provinces, Gilgit Biltistan and AJK region.

3.1.1 Outreach of the programme

The project outreach has been extended to 32 districts of four provinces of Pakistan, GB and AJ&K regions. It covers five pilot districts (C-I), 11 extended phase districts (C-II) and 16 expanded phase districts (C-III). The project has undertaken the micro supply capacity assessment of anticipated 39,636 public schools, mapping of about 0.940210 million beneficiaries, registration of 1,129,352 mother beneficiaries, and formation of new 31,340 BBCs along with 45,372 capacity building events of staff and beneficiaries including all stakeholders in 103 Tehsils of 27 districts.

The outreach and mobilization achieved against the key targets during May 2014 – July 2015 are as follows:

Description of activity	Project targets	Achievement
Mapping		
BISP beneficiaries mapped-out in 67 tehsils of 16 newly included districts of four provinces and two regions (AJ&K and GB) of Pakistan.	940,210	320,534
Beneficiary mobilization		
Beneficiary mobilization, meetings with WeT women.	34,804	16,089
Meetings with local village elders, notables, influential.	14,117	8,677
Monthly meetings with BBCs		
Bi-monthly meetings of Benazir Income Support Programme beneficiary committees.	437,310	44,595

BBCs formation		
BISP Beneficiary Committees formed in 67 tehsils of 16 new districts.	31,340	8,513
Capacity building		
Capacity building events conducted for beneficiaries at registration camps, teachers training and BISP women leaders about WeT programme.	45,374	12,134
Registration & admission		
Registration of WeT women beneficiaries.	700,000	398,000
Admission of children (5-12years) admitted in public and private primary schools.	1,300,000	725,000
Entry and uploading of admitted children in prescribed admission compliance module.	1,300,000	699,677

The geographical spread is represented in Figure 1 below, which reflects the overall outreach of WeT programme.



Figure – 1: Scope of the Project – Geographical Coverage

3.2 LISTEN: Leverage in social transformation of elected nominees

LISTEN (2013-2017) project aims to promote active citizenship among 1,200 women and youth in 30 targeted districts by building their capacities to strengthen women's voices through dialogue and engagement with provincial and national assembly representatives. The current proposed intervention is also a step forward towards appraisal of elected leaders.

The LISTEN programme has contributed to the empowerment of women and youth. The activities include trainings for capacity building and knowledge sharing, designed for grass root level inclusion. These activities have helped in the behavioural change of

communities and in turn the empowerment of women. There is no doubt that women leaders raised voices due to the project.

The geographical outreach of the project covers 30 districts of Pakistan i.e. 15 districts of Punjab, 9 districts of Sindh, 3 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 3 districts of Balochistan. Within these 30 districts, the project is being implemented in 92 tehsils (of total 123), 145 union councils (of total 2,036), and 86 villages (of total 32,115).

3.2.1 Direct beneficiaries of the project (75% women, 25% youth)

In 2nd year of the project (July 2014 – June 2015), 5,345 women, men and youth capacitated through 4 refresher training courses, 30 downstream training workshops, 60 study circles, 30 meetings with elected representatives, 30 interactive theatre activities, 3 media talk shows, 6 media stunt activities at university level and 2 media campaigns.

In-direct beneficiaries (75% women, 25% youth)

In-direct beneficiaries of the project through counselling from women leaders groups. Women leaders and youth representation from different walks of life include:

- Lectures / teachers = 10%
- Human Rights activists / NGOs workers = 17%
- Home-based workers = 10%
- Political workers = 13%
- Students / youth = 25%
- Private jobs (Beautician, shopkeeper, labour, etc) = 11%
- Health department = 7%
- Lawyers = 6%
- Government officials = 1%

Indirect beneficiaries

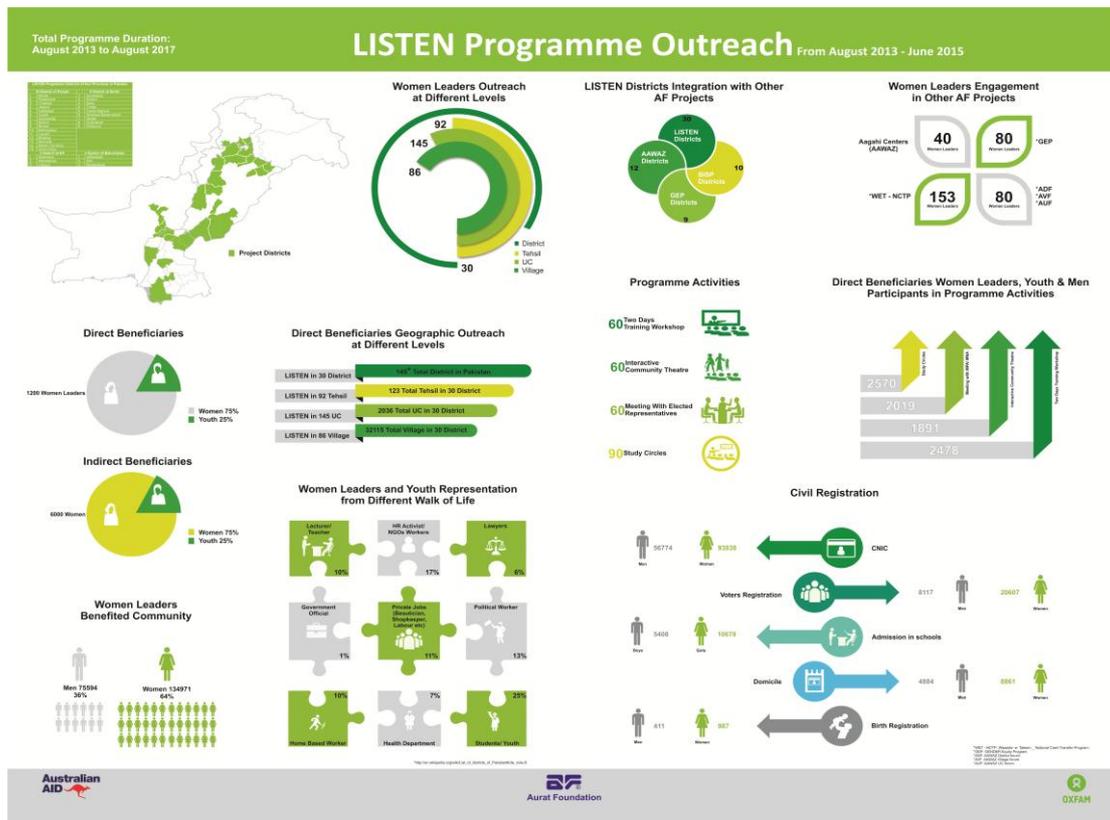
Women leaders facilitated 31,578 men and 53,611 women to obtain their CNIC. They helped 20,157 voter registration, 7,694 domiciles, and referred 4,309 poor patients to hospital for treatment. Moreover, 3,673 women were engaged in different micro financing institutes to start small business, and parents were mobilized for enrolling their children - 3,443 boys, 6,476 girls in schools.

CNIC		Voter Registration	Domicile	Referring patients to hospital	Facilitation for micro credit	Enrolment of children in school	
F	M					F	M
53,611	31,578	20,157	7,694	4,309	3,673	6,476	3,443

Women leaders under the LISTEN project are also being engaged through other AF projects, which include:

- 40 women leaders through Aagahi Centes of AAWAZ project
- 80 women leaders through Gender Equity Project (GEP)
- 153 women leader through Waseela-e-Taleem – National Cash Transfer Programme (WET-NCTP)

- 80 women leaders through AAWAZ District Forum (ADF), AAWAZ Village Forum (AVF), AAWAZ District UC (AUF)



In the 2nd year of the project (July 2014 – June 2015), 5,345 women, men & youth capacitated through 4 refresher training courses, 30 downstream training workshops, 60 study circles, 30 meetings with elected representatives, 30 interactive theatre, 3 media talk show, 6 media stunt activities at university level and 2 media campaigns which ultimately resulted in facilitating 31,578 men, 53,611 women to get their CNIC, 20,157 voter registration, 7,694 domiciles, referring 4,309 poor patients to hospital for treatment. Moreover 3,673 women were engaged with different micro financing institutes for starting small business, and parents were mobilised for enrolling their children 3,443 boys, 6,476 girls at schools.

3.3 AAWAZ: Voice and Accountability Programme:

AAWAZ Voice and Accountability Programme (2012-2017) is a five-year programme to strengthen democratic processes in Pakistan by making it more open, inclusive and accountable to citizens. It is funded by DFID and managed by DAI. The programme is being implemented in 45 districts across Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces by Aurat Foundation, SAP-PK, SPO and Sungi Development Foundation.

In order to achieve its goal of maximizing outreach and mobilization on women, girls and minorities' issues, the following forums and centres were established under AAWAZ and Accountability Programme during 2014-2015:

- 13 AAWAZ District Forums (ADFs) in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- 26 AAWAZ Tehsil Forums (ATFs) in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- 130 AAWAZ Union Council Forums (AUFs) in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- 1300 AAWAZ Village Forums (AVFs) in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- 130 AAWAZ Aagahi Centres (AACs) managed by 130 female Resource Persons (RPs), facilitation over 5,000 people per month.
- Two AAWAZ Provincial Forum (APFs) and one AAWAZ National Forum (ANF), which connects parliamentarians, legislators, lawyers, media representatives, political parties' representatives, human rights organizations and activists etc. for gender based legislation under AAWAZ themes.

Through these forums following tasks were accomplished:

Task	Women	Men	Total
CNIC registration	19,538	11,016	30,554
Birth registration	1,961	1,468	3,429
Voter registration	15,523	10,486	26,009

The awareness and mobilization campaign inspired huge number of women, men and organizations to join the above forum. The detail is as under:

- Over 41,844 person join in AAWAZ forums (Women: 15,205, Men: 26,639);
- 50 Community Partner Organizations (CPOs) engaged at UC and village level;
- 64,747 person signed petition for local government elections, and 63,011 people signed petition for anti-hate speech and social harmony; and
- 11,743 person (6,218 women, 5,908 men, 6 transgender) were sensitized on human rights, roles and responsibilities of an active citizen and state.

During 2014 – 2015, the main focus of the AAWAZ programme was to strengthen the various forums and build their capacities for raising their voices. The year marked with the commemoration of 16 days of activism where approximately 118,000 people signed a resolution for ending domestic violence and Child Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM). Lobbying and advocacy meeting with the legislators were made throughout the year to draft and pass bills for protection of women and religious minorities. Women assemblies were conducted to build women's constituencies through promoting a culture of rights and bringing them in leadership positions (as candidates and voters).

Under AAWAZ programme, a cadre of well informed and sensitized youth (young boys and girls) was created through Youth Conventions to raise voice for rights and accountability and firmly reject 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAW&G) and its associated customary practices and mindsets, which promote gender discrimination. Cultural and peace events were celebrated at union council (UC) and district level for the promotion of peace and harmony. Consultation meetings with lawyers, media, journalists and social activists were also organised for bringing harmony in the society. *Khuli Kachehri*'s were organised at UC level to highlight and resolve the issues on the basis of priority.

Chapter 4

Advocacy, Awareness-Raising and Lobbying

4. Advocacy, Awareness-Raising and Lobbying

Aurat Foundation is essentially an advocacy organisation that has established a wide network around the country, lobbying and creating awareness around gender related issues, including pro-women laws. As an organisation, we have also raised our voices against societal injustices, protesting against the lack of State involvement to protect persecuted groups and marginalised people.

4.1 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 2015, New York

4.1.1 Meeting with Ms Carol Ballantine- Policy Officer HIV & Gender (Trocaire)

In a side meeting during CSW 2015, Aurat Foundation's Trocaire team met with Ms. Carol Ballantine, Policy Officer HIV & Gender, Trocaire. AF's team shared the organisations various alliances with institutional stakeholders, including the National Police Bureau, federal and provincial judicial academies and the Women Parliamentary Caucus. AF also informed Ms. Ballantine of AF's annual VAW reports,



research studies regarding the Anti-Women Practices Act and AF's efforts to link regional issues at the national and international level, where necessary. During this meeting, the AF team included Mr. Asim Malik, Ms. Mumtaz Mughal and Ms. Rabeea Hadi.

4.1.2 Meeting with Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

As a side meeting, held on 11 March, 2015, the AF team met with Her Excellency Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Ambassador / Permanent Representative of Pakistan, United Nations.



Ms. Rabeea Hadi, Mr. Asim Malik, Ms. Farkhanda Aurangzeb and Ms. Mumtaz Mughul represented Aurat Foundation. The ambassador was briefed on the scope of AF's work, including government engagements and facilitations at different levels. The ambassador offered her services to lobby for the cause of Pakistani women at international forums.



4.1.3 Meeting with Ms. Nasrin, SIDA

Aurat Foundation delegation had a meeting with Ms. Nasrin from SIDA on 17 March, 2015 in New York.

The major focus of the discussion was on the partnership between Women Learning Partnership (WLP) and Aurat Foundation. Information regarding the scope of the work of Aurat Foundation, its regional and national engagements and the demographics of the areas were shared with Ms. Nasrin. AF highlighted the reasons for the importance of the relationship including regional integration, particularly between countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also it was important that Muslim countries share information and experiences on issues that are common. It is also important that there is a platform to connect on regional and national issues in order to advocate for them at the national and international level.

4.2 International Women's Day: Civil society demands legislation against domestic violence

Effective legislation to prevent domestic violence and sexual offences against women was strongly demanded by thousands of women, men and youth at an event organised by AAWAZ programme run by four major civil society organizations namely Aurat Foundation, SAP-PK, SPO and SUNGI Development Foundation, to mark International Women's Day on 8 March, 2015, at Quaid-e-Aiwan, F-9 Park, Islamabad.

The event included a panel discussion, resistance poetry, mime and a musical. The panelists included Ms Rubina Khalid, member Senate, Ms. Meraj Khan, MPA from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly, Ms. Nusrat Sehr Abbassi, member Sindh Assembly, Ms. Tehseen Fawad, MPA from Punjab Assembly, Mr. Naeem Mirza, COO Aurat Foundation, and Ms. Asma Shirazi, renowned media person. Ms. Feroza Zahra, Manager AAWAZ Programme, Aurat Foundation and Ms. Anbreen Ajayb, Gender Specialist from SPO, moderated the event.

Senator Rubina Khalid while addressing the conference said that unless an effective strategy for implementation is devised and put in practice, even the most effective legislation does not deliver e.g. although there is now an anti-rape law, but when it comes to registering FIR at the police stations and proving evidence, the law becomes ineffective. Ms. Meraj Khan, MPA from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assembly, she said that the efforts are very much present to bring legislation against domestic violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ms. Nusrat Sehr Abbassi, member Sindh Assembly, said we need awareness around our rights and the laws and policies, which are already in existence. Ms Tehseen Fawad, MPA from Punjab Assembly, also emphasized the need for gender-based legislation and effective measures for their implementation. She gave commitments that she and her colleagues in the Punjab assembly would enhance their struggle for the passage of the law against domestic violence from the Punjab assembly.

Ms. Asma Shirazi, the renowned media person, in her talk emphasized that there is a need to replace and change the terminologies, which are discriminatory towards women such as ‘*sinf-e-nazuk*’, ‘*mardana-war*’ etc. She said that we must get rid of these terms



and concepts from the media, syllabus and daily lives. She suggested that a chapter shall be include in school syllabus on Malala’s struggle for girls’ education.

Mr. Naeem Mirza, COO, Aurat Foundation, said that men claim that they earn and bring money, but the fact is that this money is converted into care economy where women do rest of the domestic labour, including rearing children.

Mr. Haris Khalique and Ms. Aliya Mirza, renowned poets and human rights activists recited their resistance poems. Later, a mime depicting women’s struggle was presented by Ms. Huma Naz Group and resistance songs were sung by ‘GAO, SUNO BADO Campaign’ lead by Mr. Ali Aftab Saeed Group.

The celebrations concluded with the adoption of a Charter of Demands on women’s rights, which the participants passed unanimously. The charter of demand urged the

federal government and the governments of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to legislate against domestic violence and declare it crime in law. The charter further demanded that in order to stop child marriages and



forced marriages effective legislation and strategy must be ensured; for immediate solution of local issues and development works, the local government must be restored immediately, representation of women, farmers, labourers and minorities must be ensured and political parties must include their women party workers in decision making. The charter also demanded that the parliament, through an amendment in Political Parties Order, 2002, reserve at least 10% quota for women on general seats in general elections. It also demanded that 'thana culture' should be changed so that its environment becomes friendly and respectful for citizens particularly women citizens. Women police stations must be empowered and women should be appointed as 'Muharrar' in each police station.

4.3 Twin cities mourned the Peshawar school attack.

Activists of civil society, led by Aurat Foundation, political parties, school children, citizens, gathered for the second day, in Islamabad to express solidarity with the victims. The participants were holding large banners, which read, 'Peshawar Bleeds: Killing innocent unarmed children? This is not war, This is not Jihad, This is not Islam. This is purely Barbarianism'.

In addition to this, many more protests were organised in the capital and other cities by civil society activists to condemn the attack on the Army Public School, Peshawar. The protesters asked the government to prepare a clear policy against terrorism.



4.4 International Human Rights Day: Public solidarity event titled ‘Apno Ki Yaad’



A solidarity event titled ‘*Apno Ki Yaad*’ was organised on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2014. The aim of the event was to bring to light the dire situation of women even after the passage of various pro women laws and the increase in the cases of violence against women. Ms. Rabeea Hadi of AF said that civil society and women’s right’s activists were present at the event. Giving a situational analysis of violence against in Pakistan Ms. Hadi said that during January – September 2014, 1,543 cases of kidnapping / abducting women were reported i.e. 4 women per day; 1,256 women were murdered i.e. 3 women per day; 1,149 women were raped and gang-raped i.e. 3 women per day, which shows 17% increase compared to last year; 708 women committed suicide at the rate of 2 women per day; 604 women were killed in the name of ‘honour’ i.e. 2 women per day; and 392 cases of domestic violence were reported during the period i.e. 1 case per day. Similarly, despite the passage of The Criminal Law (Third Amendment) Act, 2011(the laws which deals with the anti-women customary practices like wanni, swara etc), forced marriages and child marriages are still prevalent.



Ms. Asyia Nasir, Member National Assembly, JUI-F, during her address to the public rally, condemned the forced conversions of minority women and girls and their forced marriage to Muslims.

While giving the key findings of the events under ‘16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women’, Ms. Feroza Zahra, National Programme Manager, AAWAZ Programme, Aurat Foundation, said that 128,464 signatures/hand prints were received from 39 districts, which pledged to ‘Stop domestic violence, early and forced marriages’.

Renowned poets Ms. Kishwar Naheed and Ms. Alya Mirza read their poems on ending violence against women and girls. A signature campaign was also launched during the event demanding an to violence against women and bringing important legislation and its implementation.

At the end of the public event, the participants passed a resolution for ending violence against women. The resolutions were read out by Mr. Akram Khurshid, National Programme Manager, AAWAZ Programme, SPO. The major resolutions included: effective legislation and its implementation for ending violence against



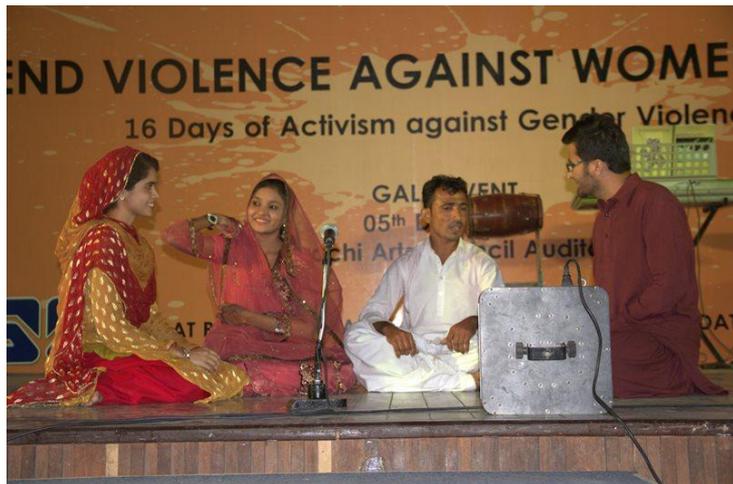
women and children; domestic violence to be declared a crime; law to declare 18 years as marriageable age; the law dealing with the anti-women customary practices like wanni, swara etc be implemented effectively and jurisdiction of the law be extended to Gilgit-Baltistan, FATA and PATA; institutions and organizations supporting women victims of violence need to be strengthen.

4.5 16-Days of Activism to End Violence against Women celebrated

4.5.1 Awareness of gender base violence

As part of the 16-Days of Activism to End Violence against Women, Aurat Foundation, in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organised an activity on 5 December 2014, at the *Arts Council Auditorium, Karachi*. The event started with keynote speakers and followed by live performances. Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director Aurat Foundation Karachi office, gave a history of the 16-Days’ campaign i.e. to create awareness on gender based violence.

Dr. Masuma Hasan, Former Secretary Cabinet Division, and President, Aurat Foundation's Board of Governors, talked about the importance of implementation and how laws could be made stronger and implemented effectively. "We have to establish a platform and create awareness about existing pro-women laws. Ms. Shala Qureshi, from the police department, said that one could not just criticize but needed to take action and responsibility. The



The next part of the event consisted of live performances by various community members about violence against women. They performed skits that touched upon critical issues like acid throwing, early and forced marriages and other prominent issues. Various stalls were also displayed by different organisations.

4.5.2 Theatre performances

During the 16 Days of Activism the LISTEN programme organize theatre performances that were generated during study circles. These interactive theatre performances were held in 30 project districts in which 1,133 women participated.



4.5.3 Youth Front Media Campaigns

LISTEN organised two youth front media campaigns during the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence". In 2014, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign continued the theme of "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence against Women". Through this campaign, different messages covering information of 16 days of activism and one pro-women law was on aired via FM 101, FM 96 and FM 88. A total of 5 messages with different laws were aired during these days.

4.5.4 Study circles organised

LISTEN programme organised a total of 60 study circles in 30 districts in which 1,495 women leaders participated. These study circles were organised under two main

themes, namely the 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence. These included “empowering women, empowering humanity” and study circles to discuss women’s political participation in local government elections.

4.6 AF celebrates Malala Yousafzai’s Nobel Peace Prize

Aurat Foundation, along Leader’s Group and Citizen Action Committees gathered in order to celebrate the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Malala Yousafzai, a large number of civil society representatives and human rights activists gathered in front of the National Press Club on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, on the call of Aurat Foundation.

A large cake with lit candles was cut to mark the occasion. Poetry was recited as the jubilant crowd chanted slogans. Pigeons were set free to express joy and solidarity with Malala’s mission. The participants held placards inscribed with messages of pride and celebrations for Malala who made history by winning the prestigious award at such a young age.



On this occasion, eminent human rights activist Ms. Tahira Abdullah congratulated Malala’s family at this joyous occasion. She said that the nation should not forget Dr. Abdus Salam on this occasion. "I am proud to be a Pakistani who has seen the country winning two Nobel Peace Prizes," she said.

Renowned poet and human rights activist Kishawar Naheed read her famous poem "Wo jo bachion say bhi daar gayay" (Those who are afraid of girls). Analyst and rights activist Haris Khalique said that the Nobel Peace Prize for Malala is not an award for an individual but it is for all champions who fight for women’s and girls’ rights.

“This Nobel Peace Prize is a matter of great joy and pride for us. On this occasion, we would like to reaffirm our commitment for peace and rights of all women and girls around the world,” said Mr. Naeem Mirza, COO, AF. He said that if two important sectors including education and law enforcement are completely given to women, there will be peace and prosperity in the country. “This award has reaffirmed my belief that the next century belongs to women. In recognition of their services, women of Pakistan have excelled in every sector including sports, art and literature, education and information technology,” he said

Chief of Party, Gender Equity Program and rights activist Ms. Simi Kamal said, "We have seen how they have crossed boundaries, knocked on the glass ceiling and made name across the board whether it be commerce, business, entrepreneurship, literature, poetry, academic excellence, sports, development and empowerment. Young girls are living empowerment 'no just talking about it.' Who could be a better example than Malala Yousafzai. We are proud of her."

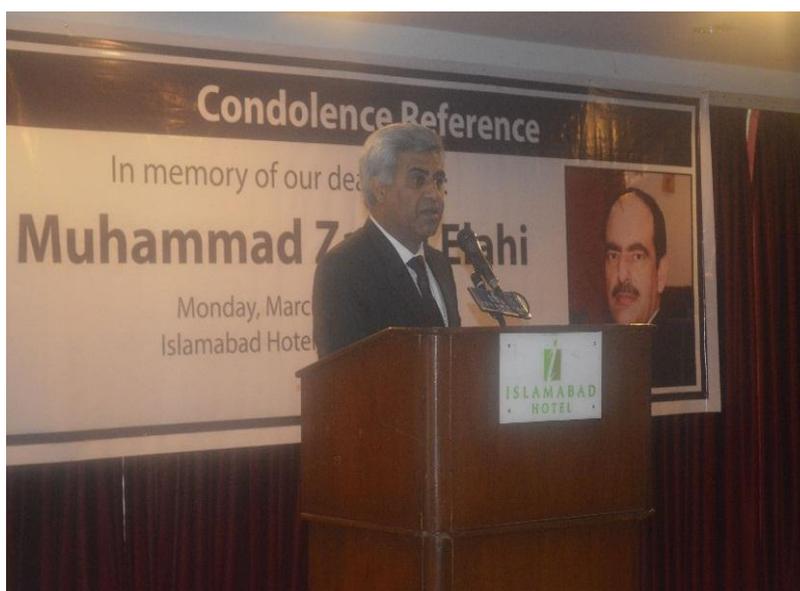
Director Advocacy, AF, Rabeea Hadi said that Pakistan is proud of the fact that during the past two years, women of Pakistan have won some of the prestigious national and international awards. She said, "This award has given us the message that we should educate our girls".

4.6.1 Screening of the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony

Aurat Foundation in collaboration with Rawalpindi and Islamabad Union of Journalist (RIUJ) organised a live screening of the award ceremony of Malala receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. The participants appreciated Malala’s struggle for girls’ education and her courage to stand up against all odds in this struggle. The consortium partners of AAWAZ Programme organised the public event, rally and the screening of the award ceremony.

4.7 Friends of Muhammad Zahid Elahi organised condolence reference

On Monday, 30 March, 2015, friends of Muhammad Zahid Elahi organised a condolence reference in his memory at Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad. Mr. Muhammad Zahid Elahi, who died on February 4, 2015, in an unfortunate road accident, was a developmental sector expert, humanitarian and philanthropist who served in



organizations like CIDA, UN, TAF, DAI etc. After graduating from London, he started his carrier as a journalist from The Frontier Post.

Mr. Daniyal Aziz, former MNA, Mr. Kanwar Muhammd Dilshad, former Secretary Election Commission, Mr. Harris Khalique, Ms. Farah Azeem Khan, Mr. Niaz Ahmed Kathia, Mr. Mumtaz Tanoli, Mr. Qaisar Butt, Mr. Qazi Azmat Esa, Mr. Irfan Mufti, Mr. Nazir Ahmed Ujjan, Mr. Naeem Mirza were among the friends who paid their tributes. Mr. Younas Khalid coordinated the event. Throughout his life, he remained committed to improving the lives of other around him and befitting tributes were paid to his work and the person he was.

4.8 Book launched on women’s right of choice of marriage and right to inheritance

Aurat Foundation, Karachi office organised the book launching ceremony of the research study done by Ms. Sarah Zaman on International Human Rights Day December 10, 2014, at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. The study focused on two major rights of women - right of choice to marriage and the right to inheritance. This day was also significant in that it marked the end of the 16-Days of Activism against the Gender-Based Violence Campaign. It was widely attended by all stakeholders including parliamentarians and members of civil society.

The event started with Ms. Sarah Zaman’s presentation giving details of the study and the challenges and problems she and her colleagues faced in carrying out this research. It was followed by observations and opinions from the panellists, which included the Chief Guest Mr. Ghulam Qadir Thebo, IGP Police, Mr. Khalique Shaikh, DIG South, Ms. Nusrat Abbasi, MPA (PML-F), Ms. Erum Khalid, MPA (PPPP), and Ms. Noor Naz Agha, Advocate Supreme Court. All the panelists commended the initiative and efforts of Ms. Sarah Zaman and her team.

Mr. Ghulam Qadir Thebo appreciated the recommendations made in the research study and emphasized that until and unless we focus on education our problems won’t end. He shared that his department is in the process of making the lodging of FIR more convenient for the complainant, and also that various training modules are being developed and executed for sensitization of all those involved. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Mahnaz Rahman, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation, Karachi.



4.9 Civil society protested lynching and burning a Christian couple

Civil society and human rights groups held a protest demonstration in front of the National Press Club to condemn the lynching and burning of a Christian couple in a Kot Radha Kishan, Kasur District, for alleged blasphemy. The demonstration was organised under Insani Haqooq Ittehad (IHI), the human rights coalition of CSOs and committed individuals in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Twenty-eight years old Shahzad Masih and his five-month-pregnant wife Shama Masih, 24, were brutally tortured by an enraged mob before they were set ablaze at a brick kiln near Chak No.59 early Tuesday.

Reportedly, the couple received Rs.200,000 in advance from the kiln owner. They wanted to quit bonded labour but they had no money to repay the owner before leaving the job. The infuriated kiln owner blamed the couple for blasphemy and instigated the prayer leader and the public to take revenge.



4.10 Legislations according to United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD) demanded



Aurat Foundation, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Special Education, organised a policy dialogue, titled ‘Road Map for Justice and Equality for Persons with Disability (PWD)’ on December 3, 2014, the International Day of Persons with Disability, at F-9 Park, Islamabad. The event was supported by AUSDFAT, Trocaire and Women Learning Partnership (WLP).

Speakers at the occasion spoke about the challenges faced by persons with disability and their social inclusion. They also talked about the need for improved awareness among stakeholders was highlighted that no clear legislation at the national level exists for the rights of persons with disability, and hence strong and effective lobbying is required with relevant stakeholders. The policy dialogue focused on challenges faced of establishing inclusion setups and national and international commitments, which have direct implications on persons with disability.

Ms. Ammara Anwar, programme specialist, Pakistan Foundation Fighting Blindness, spoke at the occasion and said that the major challenges faced included insufficient quota allocation for persons with disabilities, and 18th amendment and its consequences. Lack of interest from both government and private sectors for the development of persons with disabilities is another major issue. On the education front, lack of trained teachers and study mechanisms especially for persons with mental disorders are the key challenges. Lack of implementation of quota available for PWDs in employment is also an issue. Ms. Saba Mohsin, Early Intervention Consultant, stressed the need for sufficient financial resources, community participation, and on-going evaluation of established programmes. Ms. Sardar Pirzada, journalist, shared his experience of how he became a first blind journalist. He said three levels of advocacy were required one at state level, secondly by the civil society and thirdly by the disable people them. Mr. Jawwad Afzal, Deputy Director, Directorate General of Special Education, in his presentation shared that out of total population of 180 million, there are 4 to 8 million persons with disabilities in Pakistan, and 45% of these are children under age 18.

Barrister Usman Ibrahim, State minister for Capital Administration and Development Division said that the government is committed to address the challenges faced by the persons with disability. Barrister Abid Waheed MD Bait-ul-Mal said that Bait-ul-Mal is updating services for the PWD's by introducing electronic wheel chairs and other assistive aids.



Prof. Farkhanda Aurangzeb, Director Coordination, AF, stressed the need to create special opportunities for women with disabilities. Director Advocacy and EAW, AF, Ms. Rabeea Hadi demanded an employment quota equal to the percentage of disability existing in the society. She suggested the government to prepare a comprehensive database to identify exact number of persons with disabilities. Mr. Naeem Mirza, COO, AF demanded legislations according to United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD).

In the closing remarks, Director General Directorate of Special Education Sibghat-ur-Rehman acknowledged the efforts of the organizers and said that the Directorate would seriously follow up the recommendations that came out from the policy dialogue. The event was followed by a family fun gala for disabled children, inaugurated by Barrister Usman Ibrahim, Minister Capital Administration and Development Division.

4.11 Pakistan Civil Society Forum (PCSF) discussed civil society's role in curbing of extremism and terrorism in Pakistan

Pakistan Civil Society Forum (PCSF), a national forum of civil society organizations, issued a declaration here today regarding the horrific killing of innocent school children

and teachers in Peshawar. A national consultation, was organised, titled ‘Civil Society’s Role in Curbing Extremism and Terrorism’, on December 24, 2014, in Islamabad, to brainstorm on the possible role of civil society in helping to curb extremism and terrorism in Pakistan.

Mr. Naseer Memon, Chief Executive SPO, and member of the Pakistan Civil Society Forum (PCSF) Executive Committee, in his opening remarks said that due to police blunders we are all victims of our own misplaced priorities. Terrorism should be condemned and disowned in all forms and the state of Pakistan should adopt an unambiguous narrative on terrorism. Religion should be detached from state affairs.

Mr. A H Nayyar, professor Quaid-e-Azam University, said that if the government is indeed serious about eliminating terrorism, then terrorism in all its forms must be eliminated. The government should abandon using proxy terrorists to achieve foreign policy objectives. The state should drastically overhaul the public prosecution system bring reforms to madrassas.

Mr. Sajid Qaisrani, Executive Director, SUNGI Development Foundation, said that civil society shall extends its struggle against extremism and terrorism and shall engage other concerned groups / institutions e.g. bureaucracy, judiciary etc.

Mr. Hussain Naqi, Joint Director, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), recommended that civil society should be involved in finalizing the national security policy. The state should immediately withdraw protection to extremist individuals and groups.

Dr. Khalid Masud, renowned scholar, dispelled that religious scholars should be approached to help curb extremism as he believed they themselves are responsible for the same.

Prof. Dr. Sarfraz Khan, Director Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar, said that in order to eliminate terrorism Pakistan must establish peaceful relations with its neighbouring countries.

Mr. Pervez Hoodbhoy, renowned intellectual and academician, suggested that the next protest against Maulvi Abdul Aziz should not be held in front of Lal Masjid but in front of the CDA office as Maulvi Abdul Aziz is an employee of the CDA. He also suggested that we shall monitor the mosques and their sermons.

Ms. Zubeda Khatoon, Khwendo Kor, said we must unite together in this time of crisis and save our children and their future.

Mr. Muhammad Tahsin, Secretary PCSF & Executive Director, South Asia Partnership Pakistan, said that our current foreign and interior policies were in fact made by a small group of so-called experts or by the establishment, and it is time that reform take place in consultation with larger groups including political parties and civil society.

Ms. Marvi Sirmed, prominent citizen activist, suggested establishing a counter terrorism force, well equipped, trained and professional, to fight terrorism. The government should establish a ‘Counter-radicalization Division’ under the Ministry of

Interior, and re-activate NACTA. The government should review the ‘Anti-Terrorism Act’ and bring legislation on the lines of homeland security. The government should establish a central agency for intelligence, the national intelligence directorate, under which all intelligence agencies are coordinated. The government should bring FATA reforms and improve the administrative control there.

Mr. Amjad Nazir, human rights activists, said there was a UN moratorium for non-execution of offenders. He highlighted the weak judicial and prison system. He suggested in cases of blasphemy and charges of terrorism, a faceless judiciary is recommended as an effective measure to hide the identity of the judges.

The members of the Pakistan Civil Society Forum (PCSF) and participants of the consultation passed the following declaration:

Islamabad Declaration

December 24, 2014

Islamabad

Civil society of Pakistan is heartbroken by 16/12, the Peshawar incident, where 134 schoolchildren and 14 adults, lost their lives in a bloody and gruesome act of terrorism. Whereas we continue to mourn and register our forceful protest in all cities of Pakistan, this incident also reminds us of all previous cases of terrorism wherein we lost people of Pakistan, including innocent citizens, police and army personnel, Christians, Hazaras and Ahmedis, etc. We stand with the parents and families of the all lost souls in such times of crisis. We BELIEVE it is time that State of Pakistan, including Army, Parliament and Judiciary, must own the fact that terrorism is our own product of the policies myopically upheld, abetted and covered so far. State of Pakistan needs to immediately relinquish its policy of treating some people, areas, provinces, and other sections of society as children of the lesser god, and revert to the ideal benevolent functions for which a state is actually meant.

Pakistan Civil Society Forum (PSCF) welcomes the government and political parties resolve to curb the menace of extremism and terrorism. While affirming our support to the democratic dispensation, PSCF calls for uncompromising stance on major policy issues, i.e., reversal of strategic depth, reversal of “good-bad Taliban doctrine” and tacit support and sponsorship to Taliban groups. It would however render its fullest support to any committed drive against terrorism and extremism if envisaged into national action by the government and the political parties.

PSCF calls for:

- *Relinquishing the “national security state” paradigm to “welfare human security state” which serves its people without any regard of any particular religion, caste, creed and sex.*
- *Ownership of the State of Pakistan, by its key institutions, in eradicating the menace of terrorism in all its manifestations, e.g., Taliban, religious extremist groups, militant outfits and militias, considering them inhuman, unpatriotic and undemocratic.*
- *All inclusive measures for discouraging extremism, Taliban groups and leaders, sectarian organisations, their supporters and their ideology, in media and public spaces*

- *Long-term, sustainable and non-discriminatory anti-terror, anti-Taliban and anti-extremism drive across Pakistan. This call is in consistence with civil society's long standing stance for moderate society.*
- *Upholding of values of justice, right to fair trial and transparency in arrests and convictions.*
- *Complete reversal of the policy of strategic depth, and efforts of regional coordination and cooperation, especially between Pakistan and Afghanistan, on peace, border management and anti-terror actions.*
- *Better education environment, values of inclusion, democracy, rights of all people, women and religious minorities, in all types of curricula, so that it is not just instructional, but motivational.*
- *Stringent action against hate speech from the pulpit.*
- *Serious and committed drive of de-weaponization of society, especially religious clergy and all religious seminaries.*
- *Effective Madrissah and Mosques monitoring.*
- *Making public reports of all Commissions made so far in Pakistan on different incidents of terrorism, state's failure and excesses, and taking up recommendations for policy and legislative reforms.*



4.12 AF's representative joined Asia Pacific Beijing +20 review process

In order to participate in the Asia Pacific Beijing+20 review process, AF's representative Ms. Uzma Zarrin, Director Programmes attended a 3 days CSO session from November 14-16, 2014 followed by Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Conference held from November 17-20, 2014 at UN Centre, Bangkok. The session facilitated review of 12 critical areas and consolidated civil society perspectives for the outcome document, which was presented



in the conference for the final adoption through well debated inter governmental and

inter ministerial, meetings held during the conference. Prof. Farkhanda Auragzeb, Director Coordination, AF attended the conference as part of governmental delegation.



4.13 Towards Women Friendly Policing

On December 9, 2014, AF's Gender Equity Programme (GEP) held an event entitled, "Towards Women Friendly Policing" on December 9, 2014. The purpose of the event was to discuss the hurdles women face when accessing justice in Pakistan via a panel consisting of representatives from the police and legal profession. The panel discussion focused on the countless reasons why women in Pakistan avoid the justice system and day-to-day challenges faced by the police. Some of the shortcomings on Pakistan's legislation were also discussed. The foremost being adherence to an archaic justice system inherited from the British. At the end of the discussion panellists offered suggestions on how the current justice system can be made more women-friendly. An insightful question & answer session commenced once the panel discussion had ended during which university students asked questions related to police and legislation.

Chapter Five

Support for Civil Society Organizations

5. Support for Civil Society Organizations

Gender Equity Program - GEP is a grant-making programme being implemented in collaboration with the Asia Foundation, funded by USAID. It will extend over 400 grants to civil society organizations and governmental gender entities. It has four key objectives:

- i. women's access to justice and human rights
- ii. women's economic empowerment
- iii. combating gender-based violence, and
- iv. capacity-building of Pakistani organization.

Gender Equity Program achieved following outreach and mobilization targets:

- 1,956 women home based workers were mobilized
- About 308 selected women home based workers were trained as master trainers through a total of 30 Training of Trainers (TOTs)
- 12 Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCCs) were established in 12 districts to facilitate women home based workers
- 14 advocacy activities sensitized 1,372 key stakeholders (725 women and 647 men)
- 41 Women workers conventions were organised in 15 districts of Pakistan.
- 6,475 women workers and 890 men workers also participated in these conventions
- 1,762 women workers were sensitized about their rights through 62 trainings
- 219 women employer and 268 men employers were oriented about workers laws and work environment in 25 sessions
- 378 women leaders were trained to take forward GEP objectives beyond GEP. They have further reached out to 1898 women workers through 66 rollout activities
- 14 district level networks established in 14 districts of Pakistan. In addition, one District Women Protection Network was also established in Skardu, GB.
- 1,326 GBV survivors were provided services like shelters, psycho social counselling, legal counselling, legal aid and helplines services.

In July 2014 Grant Cycle 7A was launched. A total of 27 sub-grants were awarded under this grant cycle out of which 14 completed their performance period on 30 September, 2015.

5.1. Promoting improved livelihoods for informal sector workers

A significant number of women are employed in the informal sector across Pakistan. While home based work constitutes a critical opportunity for women to earn incomes, the prevalent environment in which they function allows for limited empowerment. These 12 grants were in support of greater organization, enhancement of product and establishment of direct access to market. The sub-grants enhanced women's existing work, their skills and their craft to improve their income generating abilities in the identified districts. They involved an initial mapping to identify the range of handicrafts and/or products being produced by women in these areas and an opportunity to rally these groups on their rights as well as link them with existing social security schemes.

An extensive skill development and product enhancement initiative was undertaken on marketing these improved products to break out of their existing niche and cater to a wider and better paying audience.

Trade Facilitation & Communication Centres (TFCC) have been established to cater to the ongoing needs of women home based workers. The TFCCs include a marketing space for display and sale of women’s improved products as well as facilitating linkages with potential buyers. Furthermore, these TFCCs also function as women-friendly communication hubs, catering to the home based workers as well as other women, where all the necessary Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities are made readily available.

A total of 12 livelihoods sub grants were implemented during Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) of GEP. These were 15 months planned to be completed in September 2015. However, due to issues of new USAID GST regulations, Ramadan and security situation, 11 of these grants received a no-cost extension for another two months. These grants will now end in November 2015.

These grants were designed and implemented to improve livelihoods of informal sector women workers mainly home based workers. 13 mapping exercises were carried out to identify women artisan groups and existing skill base of these women home based workers. These mapping exercises were consolidated to identify and mobilize groups of women home based workers in districts and identify most marketable skills that can be further developed and translated into innovative products for improved livelihoods. More than 2,300 women home based workers were identified and mapped through these surveys.

Table 1: Mapping Exercises

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
Mapping exercise	04	03	03	01	01	01	0	13
Women artisan mapped	1,134	210	490	200	80	200	0	2,314

As a result of mapping exercises, a total of 1,956 women home based workers were mobilised into 97 village level groups in their respective regions. Please see table below.

Table 2: Home Based Women Workers Groups Mobilized

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
No of HBWs groups	34	14	21	10	08	10	0	97
No of Women Mobilized	696	330	450	200	80	200	0	1,956

5.2 TOTs for Women Home Based Workers and Linkages with Social Security

About 308 selected women home based workers were trained as master trainers through a total of 30 Training of Trainers (TOTs). These women home based workers representing village level groups will further replicate these trainings other home based workers. Table 16 shows that 37 replication trainings were conducted in which 1,552 women home based workers were trained on product design and colour theories.

Table 3: TOTs for Women Home Based Workers

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
TOT for Product Ideation	04	02	03	01	0	01	0	11

TOT on sample production	03	02	04	01	0	01	0	11
TOT on input supplier	03	02	02	0	0	01	0	08

Table 4: Skill Development Workshops for Home Based Women Workers

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
Skill development workshops	05	12	01	0	12	07	0	37
Women trained	822	259	11	0	96	304	0	1,552

In order to link women home based workers with social security and other benefit schemes, 36 meetings were conducted.

Table 5: Number of Meetings with Benefit Schemes

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
No of Linkages	04	05	06	13	01	07	0	36
No of Women Participation	43	29	35	217	08	0	0	332
No of Men	39	16	10	22	12	0	0	109

5.3 Advocacy Initiatives

Under three themes different advocacy initiatives were carried out including grant opening meetings, orientation meetings and workshops. These were conducted with key stakeholders including Chamber of Commerce (corporate sector entities) and District Bar. Other stakeholders included Court Administration, Labour & Trade Union, and representatives of private sector industries, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and representatives from media. These advocacy initiatives were focused and had following purposes:

- Introducing project modalities to all stakeholders and sharing information and objectives of the sub grants.
- Creating awareness on requirements of women workers, gender sensitive work environments and policies, while sensitizing on practical measures that can be taken to address existing gaps on this front.

Table 6: Advocacy Initiatives for Women Workers

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
Total advocacy meetings conducted	06	0	0	05	01	01	01	14
Women participated	289	0	0	55	109	153	119	725
Men participated	209	0	0	208	87	64	79	647
Total Participation	498	0	0	263	196	217	198	1,372

During Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) of GEP, a total of 14 advocacy activities were completed sensitizing a total of 1372 key stakeholders (725 women and 647 men). The key stakeholders that were sensitized are mentioned above.

Baseline Survey/Mapping Exercises

During Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015), a total of 5 baselines surveys and 2 mapping exercises were conducted under Cycle 7B. 2 sub-grantees; Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) and Soon Valley Development Program completed their mapping exercises while JOBS International Private Limited, Virtual University, Attitude Skills and Knowledge Development, COMSATS and Life Development Foundation completed its baseline survey.

Main purpose of these baseline surveys is to assess the socio-economic conditions of the trainees, awareness regarding their situation and willingness to change.

Establishment of Training Centres

PODA established four training centres in three Tehsils of District Chakwal. Choa Saidan Shah, Kallar Kahar, Tehsil Chakwal and Chakwal City are the location of these four training centres. The selected 120 artisans were divided into a group of 30 women; the trainings will commence in Year Six (FY Oct. 2015-Sept. 2016).

Coordination Meetings with Empowerment thru Creative Integration (ECI)

All sub grantees under the IT theme have been conducting Coordination Meetings with ECI for development of IT training modules for selected trainees as per respective identified skill. After the finalization of these training manuals, the sub grantees will be conducting trainings in the next year.

5.4 Awareness-raising and Policy Advocacy on Women's Rights and Labour Laws for Women Workers

Grant Cycle 7A advocacy theme on enhancing women workers awareness on their rights and labour laws has 15 sub-grants across all regions and all these were active sub-grants during Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) of GEP. These sub-grants have completed their activities and ended on 30th September 2015.

The sub-grants were designed to:

- Analyse labour policies, women workers related legal provisions and lacunas in the existing legislation regarding women working in formal and informal sector of the economy.
- Develop modules that encompasses concepts of women's rights and labour laws (distinct information as applicable to formal vs. informal women workers)
- Carry out a range of district level trainings and orientations.
- Hold provincial and national level consultations with policy makers and parliamentarians to share and discuss recommendations and enlist their support for the required amendments in the existing legislation related to HBWWs.

Women Worker's Conventions

Women Workers Conventions (WWC) remained an important tool for 15 advocacy sub-grants under Grant Cycle 7A. These conventions provided a platform for the articulation of demands by women workers and ensured that their voices are heard. During the Year 5 of GEP, 41 conventions were organised in 15 districts of Pakistan. These conventions have turned out to be a great platform actively participated by a huge number of grassroots women workers (6475) while 890 men workers also participated at these conventions.

Table 7: Women Worker’s Conventions

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
No. of WWCs	15	06	06	02	03	03	06	41
No. of Women Participated	2,260	745	1,187	352	472	521	938	6,475
No. of Men Participated	364	72	164	58	142	07	83	890

Sensitizing Women Workers and Employers on Labour Laws and Anti Sexual Harassment Laws

These trainings were aimed at raising awareness of worker rights, build their understanding on related laws/policies and women-specific provisions in these laws, as well as develop their leadership capacity.

Table 8: Sensitizing Women Workers

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
No. of Workshop for Women Workers	25	05	10	05	05	05	07	62
No. of Women Trained	822	154	169	130	171	128	188	1,762
No. of Men Trained	32	0	13	0	0	0	18	63

Orientation sessions for employers were aimed at creating awareness amongst employers on specific needs and requirements of women workers, gender sensitive work environments and policies, while educating them on practical measures that can be taken to address existing gaps on this front. A total of 25 sessions were conducted in which 219 women employer and 268 men employers were oriented.

Table 9: Orientation Sessions for Employers

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
No. of Sessions Conducted	11	01	05	0	02	03	03	25
Women Participants	71	05	88	0	10	15	30	219
Men Participants	174	05	0	0	39	30	20	268

Training Women Leaders

These trainings were focused on building leadership skills, sharing advocacy and activism methods and focusing on an advanced awareness on workers’ rights situation. These women then serve as community leaders and advocates to take up the agenda of women workers’ rights in their particular district during and beyond the sub-grant lifespan. The women workers leaders (WWL) are part of the regional and national networks of women workers formed by HomeNet Pakistan; national level GEP sub-grantee.

GEP has achieved its target as 15 trainings for WWLs were conducted 378 women leaders were trained to take forward GEP objectives beyond GEP.

Table 10: Leadership Trainings for Women Workers

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
No. of WWL Trainings	05	03	02	01	01	01	02	15

No. of Women Trained	130	56	47	20	32	24	69	378
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As part of their leadership training and to implement learning for a wider audience, the WWL designed, planned and organised one session each catering to a group of women workers in their individual areas. This activity helped build momentum amongst the women workers' groups on the rallying of their rights and also helped the WWL establish as advocates and activists. These 378 WWLs has mobilized and reached out to 1898 women workers.

Table 11: Roll out Activities by Women Leaders

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
No. of Sessions Conducted	25	05	10	05	05	05	11	66
Women Participants	690	51	454	91	123	98	391	1,898
Men Participants	16	0	02	0	24	0	0	42

District Level Women Workers Networks

The identified and trained WWLs, 5 in each district collectively formed a district-level network to developed linkages with the Chambers of Commerce and Trade Unions in the districts with the facilitation of grantees. These district-level networks will then be brought together in provincial as well as national level networks which are overseen and managed by the National Advocacy Partner, HomeNet Pakistan.

GEP has achieved its target by establishing 14 district level networks in 14 districts of Pakistan. In addition, one District Women Protection Network was also established in Skardu, GB.

Table 12: Linkages Development Meetings

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
District Women Workers Networks	05	02	02	01	01	01	02	14

Strategic Engagements to Support Women Workers

Strategic engagements were designed in 15 advocacy sub-grants under Grant Cycle 7A to familiarize the district and provincial authorities on the efforts facilitated through the GEP initiative, build their buy-in on the women workers rights agenda and ensure their support where needed. A total of 24 district and 5 provincial level engagements were expedited. One of the important outcomes of this initiative is the participation of 328 women workers in these meetings and creating linkages with district and provincial labour departments. In addition, 9 meetings with labour unions were also held.

Table 13: Linkages with Provincial and District Labour Departments

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
District Labour Department	12	7	4	0	0	0	01	24
Provincial Labour Department	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	5
Meetings with Labour Unions	01	06	01	0	01	0	0	09

Women Workers Involved	197	43	73	0	0	0	12	328
Men Involved	88	51	56	0	0	0	04	199

5.5 Grant Cycle 7B

A total of 19 sub-grants were awarded under Grant Cycle 7B in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015). Grant Cycle 7B was rolled out in mid-January 2015 and the sub-grantees were still in the process of signing the LoGs when they were informed of the GST directive. As a result, they had to be guided to plan activities whereby they would not lose time and still achieve some of the agreed deliverables.

5.5.1 Advocacy Campaign for Allocation and Rehabilitation of Women Friendly Spaces

Under this theme, 7 sub-grants were awarded to increase women's empowerment by working towards creation of women-friendly environment facilitating their mobility and economic participation.

The first component of the sub-grants was to undertake advocacy efforts with employers ranging from private companies, industries and chambers of commerce in selected districts. The second component focused on advocacy campaigns for the allocation of designated toilets and private waiting areas for women in court premises at the district level. The campaign targeted bar associations and councils in their capacity as representative bodies of the lawyers in the district.

5.5.2 Innovative approaches to promoting women's economic empowerment

Six 'open ended' sub-grants were awarded to support initiatives that facilitate women's economic empowerment through innovative, sustainable and creative ways. These sub-grants were not bound to specific geographical locations or defined activity/output expectations. Interested organizations were encouraged to submit applications that propose localized, context-specific, innovative and sustainable economic activities for women.

5.5.3 Supporting Women Graduates to Access Information Technology (IT) Sectors through Internship Programs

Information technology (IT) has traditionally remained an untapped sector for women. GEP envisioned support to fresh women graduates by providing specialized training and internship placements. The value addition through these inputs is expected to capacitate women, provide relevant entry points into the job market and increase their chances of finding long-term employment in the sector. A total of 6 sub-grants were awarded under this theme.

5.6 Grant Cycle 9A

A total of 7 grants were active under Grant Cycle 9A which included 5 sub-grants of Lahore Hub, Women Development Department - Balochistan and NCSW grant.

Through two seamless service hubs (Lahore and Balochistan), a total of 83 women were provided shelter. Of the 83 women in shelters, 76 received psychosocial counselling followed by 65 receiving legal counselling and another 45 receiving legal aid. Mediation was provided to 40 women and 36 women were provided health services.

Table 14: Services Provided to GBV Survivors

Shelters	Psychosocial Counselling	Legal Counselling	Legal Aid	Mediation	Health Services
CLASS	11	19	9	11	14
DCT	36	17	17	5	15
Sibi	19	19	13	17	0
Khuzdar	10	10	6	7	7
Total	76	65	45	40	36

Of the total 83 women in shelters, 23 women received skill trainings supported by GEP. GEP supported helplines have provided following services to callers.

Table 15: Services Provided through Helplines

Shelters	Legal Aid	Legal Counselling	Psychosocial Counselling	Information Services	Referred
LRC	18	0	34	16	20
Quetta/Sibi	0	17	17	17	0
Total	18	17	51	33	20

5.6.1 Profile of GBV Survivors Seeking Shelter

A total of 45 women were provided shelter during Year Five (FY Oct. 2015-Sept. 2016) of GEP. The age of women in shelters varied between 13 to 52 years, with majority (52 percent) falling in late-twenties.

Table 16: Age of GBV Survivors

Age Groups	Beneficiaries	%
13-18	11	13
19-30	43	52
31-52	29	35
Total	83	100

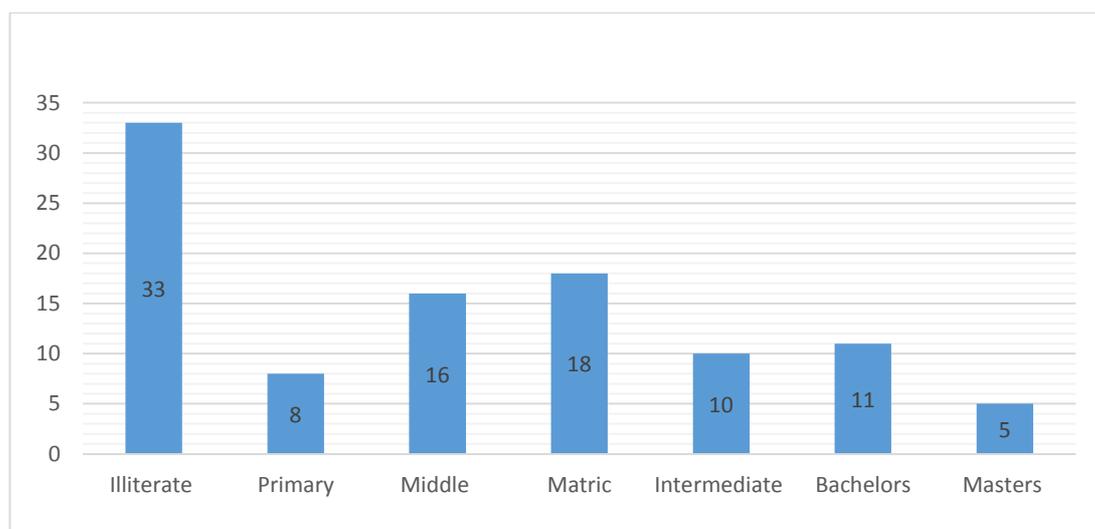
Most of the women were married (71 percent) as shown in the table below and some of them were also accompanied by children.

Table 17: Marital Status of GBV Survivors

Marital Status	Beneficiaries	%
Married	59	71
Single	20	24
Divorced/widowed	4	5
Total	83	100

Furthermore, a quarter of the residents were illiterate while the educational background of the rest ranged from primary to masters' degree. A comprehensive picture is visible in the figures provided below.

Figure 1: Education of GBV Survivors



The main reason forcing women to leave their homes and seeking shelter is domestic violence reported by 59 percent of shelter beneficiaries. The rest of the 18 percent of GBV survivors reported forced conversions, blasphemy charges and community violence as reasons for seeking shelter. The main perpetrator of violence remained the husband as reported by a large majority (54 percent) of GBV survivors followed by community members (23 percent).

Figure 2: Types of Gender Based Violence

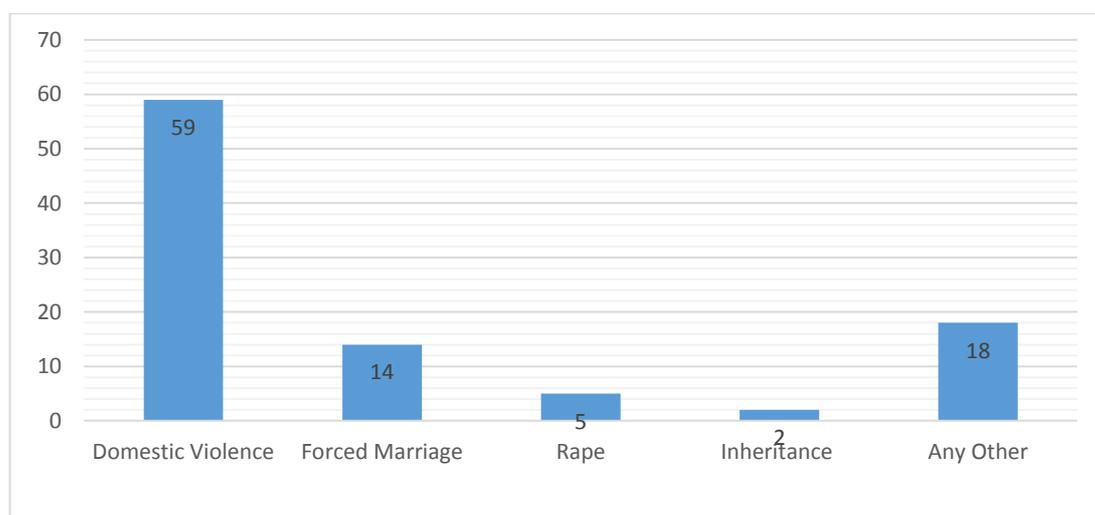


Table 18: Perpetrators of Violence

Perpetrators	Beneficiaries	%
Community Members	19	23
Male Member Family	16	19
Female Member Family	1	1
Husband	45	54
Strangers	2	2
Total	83	100

About 40 percent of GBV survivors seeking shelter were self-referred followed by 20 percent referred by lawyers.

Table 19: Referrals to Shelters

Referred By	Beneficiaries	%
Self	33	40
Helpline	4	5
Police	9	11
Lawyer	17	20
Friend	9	11
Any Other	7	13
Total	83	100

5.7 Grant Cycle 9B

Three public sector universities were approved by USAID under Grant Cycle 9B but had to be deferred to Year Six (FY Oct. 2015-Sept. 2016) due to lag in funding. Please see below for the names of these Universities:

- University of Agriculture – Faisalabad
- Allama Iqbal Open University – Islamabad
- Sardar Bahadur Khan University – Quetta

5.8 Grant Cycles in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014 – Sept. 2015)

5.8.1 Overall Progress on GEP Grant Cycles

By the end of Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015), 209 sub-grants has been awarded under GEP out of which 152 sub-grants were completed and closed successfully. 54 sub-grants were functional during Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) under Grant Cycles 7A, 7B, 8 and 9A and 169 proposals were assessed for Grants Cycles 10, 10A and 11.

Furthermore, 21 sub-grants were processed under Grant Cycle 7A along with two consultancies awarded to support the 12 sub-grants designed under the theme of 'promoting improved livelihoods for informal sector workers. Twenty-two sub-grants were finalized for Grant Cycle 7B of which 19 were implemented during Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015).

13 sub-grants of Grant Cycle 8 on “Strengthening District Bar Associations and Setting up Facilitation Kiosks in Courts” were deferred to Year Six (FY Oct. 2015-Sept. 2016) due to non-availability of USAID funds. The Ministry of Law Justice and Human Rights (MOLJHR) was the only sub-grant rolled out under Grant Cycle 8 in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015).

The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) sub-grant was launched in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) and completed several of its activities successfully.

Two seamless service delivery hubs under Grant Cycle 9A started in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) and will continue into Year Six (FY Oct. 2015-Sept. 2016).

Three public sector grants under Grant Cycle 9B were approved by USAID but have now been deferred to Year Six (Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) due to lag in USAID incremental funding.

The grants that were functional during any part of Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) are given below.

Table 20: List of Sub-Grants Operational during part of or all of Year Five

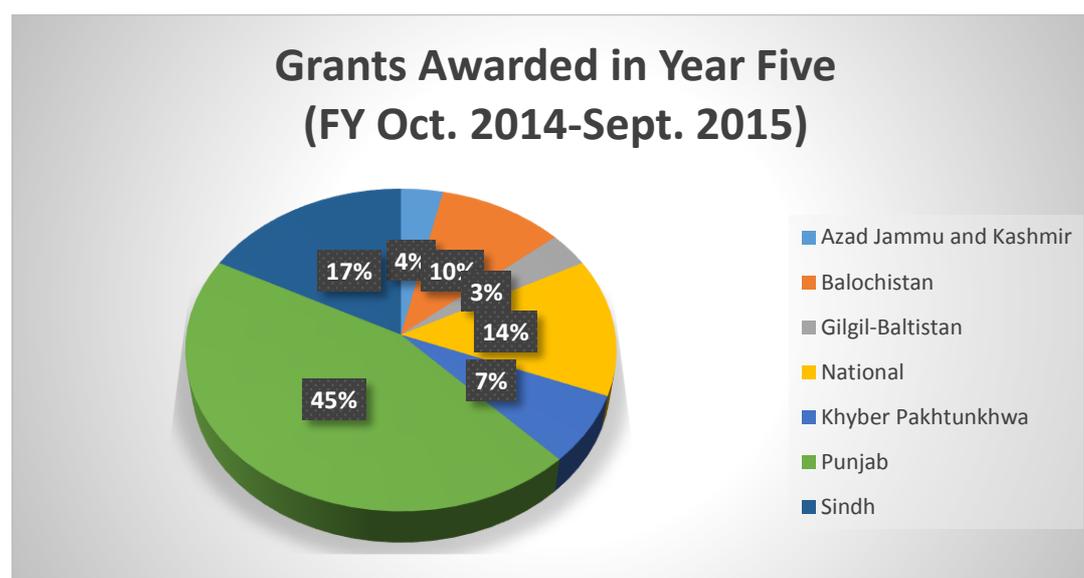
Operational Grants in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015)			
Sr. No.	Objective No.	Grant Cycle No.	Sub-Grantee
1	Objective 4	Cycle-2	Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO)
2	Objective 3	Cycle-6A	Association of Global Humanists & Ethics (AGHE)
3	Objective 2	Cycle-6B	Sindh Judicial Academy (SJA)
4	Objective 4	Cycle-6B	Provincial Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), Peshawar
5	Objective 3	Cycle-6B	Social Welfare and Women Development Department (SWWDD), AJK
6	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Community Support Concern (CSC)
7	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Women's Rights Association (WRA)
8	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Sahara Taraqiati Tanzeem Dharema (STTD)
9	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	MOJAZ Foundation
10	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Khwendo Kor (KK)
11	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Pakistan Hoslamand Khawateen Network (PHKN)
12	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Social Awareness and Development Organization (SADO)
13	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Sindh Development Society (SDS)
14	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Women Development Foundation (WDF)
15	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Balochistan Environmental & Educational Journey (BEEJ)
16	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Durawa Development Organization (DDO)
17	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Mountain Areas Farmer Support Organization (MAFSO)
18	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Bedari
19	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Association of Women for Awareness and Motivation (AWAM)
20	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Insan Dost Association (IDA)
21	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Pakistan Rural Workers Social Worker Organization (PRWSWO)
22	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Human Resource Development Network (HRDN)
23	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	National Organization for working Communities (NOW Communities)
24	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Legal Rights Forum (LRF)
25	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Sewa Development Trust Sindh (SDTS)
26	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Coastal Association for Research and Development (CARD)
27	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Aware Girls
28	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Rural Development Project (RDP)

29	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Al-Shahbaz Women Organization (ASWO)
30	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	UKs
31	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	Sukhi Development Foundation (SDF)
32	Objective 2	Cycle-7A	HomeNet Pakistan
33	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Pirabhat Women Development Society
34	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Balochistan Social Development Programme (BSDP)
35	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Drugs and Narcotics Educational Services for Humanity (DANESH)
36	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Community Initiatives for Development in Pakistan (CIDP)
37	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	College of tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM)- Karachi
38	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Ghazi Social Welfare Association (GSWA)
39	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Grass-root Organization for Human Development (GODH)
40	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Social Cooperation Initiative (SCI)
41	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Virtual University
42	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Attitude, Skill, Knowledge (ASK) Development (Pvt. Ltd)
43	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA)
44	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Soon Valley Development Program -SVDP
45	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	College of tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM)-Okara
46	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	AIDS Awareness Society (AAS)
47	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Karakoram Area Development Organization (KADO)
48	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	COMSATS
49	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Life Development Foundation (LDF)
50	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	Empowerment thru Creative Integration (ECI)
51	Objective 2	Cycle-7B	JOBS International Private Limited (JIPL)
52	Objective 1	Cycle-8	Ministry of Law Justice & Human Rights
53	Objective 3	Cycle-9 A	Centre for legal Aid and Assistance and Settlement
54	Objective 3	Cycle-9 A	DASTAK Charitable Trust
55	Objective 3	Cycle-9 A	Insaan Foundation Trust
56	Objective 3	Cycle-9 A	Labor Resource Centre
57	Objective 3	Cycle-9 A	Sudhar Society
58	Objective 3	Cycle-9 A	Women Development Department - Balochistan
59	Objective 3	Cycle-9 A	National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)

5.8.2 Provincial Distribution of Sub-Grants

The provincial distribution of grants awarded in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) is given below. As the chart indicates, Punjab received the highest number of grants 45%, followed by Sindh at 17%, National at 14%, Balochistan at 10% and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at 7%.

Figure 3: Provincial Distribution of Sub-Grants Awarded in Year Five



5.8.3 Sub-Grants by Objective

Please see below for the number of grants awarded by the end of Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) under the 4 objectives of GEP.

Table 21: Number of Grants Awarded by the End of Year Five

Cycle No.	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Total
Cycle-1	4	13	7	1	25
Cycle-2	5	3	6	3	17
Cycle-3	-	-	15	-	15
Cycle-4	-	-	23	-	23
Cycle-5	-	-	20	-	20
Cycle-6A	-	-	41	-	41
Cycle-6B	-	1	3	7	11
Cycle-7A	-	27	-	-	27
Cycle-7B	-	22	-	-	22
Cycle-8	1	-	-	-	1
Cycle-9A	-	-	7	-	7
	10	66	122	11	209

5.8.4 Break-up of Sub-Grants by Types of Institutions

In the last five years, 169 sub-grants have been awarded to civil society organizations, 17 to public institutions and 12 to public sector universities across the country. Please see below for details on these grants.

Table 22: Break-Up of Sub-Grants by Institutions

	Break-up of Sub-Grants by Institutions				
	Total Sub-Grants	University Grants	CSO Grants	For Profit Organization	Public Institution Grants
Cycle 1	26	1	16	3	6
Cycle 2	16	3	7	3	3
Cycle 3	15	-	15	-	-
Cycle 4	23	-	23	-	-

Cycle 5	20	-	20	-	-
Cycle 6A	41	-	41	-	-
Cycle 6B	11	6	-	-	5
Cycle 7	27	-	27	-	-
Cycle 7B	22	2	15	5	-
Cycle 8	1	-	-	-	1
Cycle 9	7	-	5	-	2
Total	209	12	169	11	17

5.8.5 Sub-Grants Tracking

This section tracks sub grants in different stages of award process during Year 5 of GEP. In addition effort has been made to review active sub-grants by grant cycles, regions, tiers and financing instruments.

The table below tracks cycle wise progress of sub-grants.

Table 23: Cycle-wise Tracking of Sub-Grants

S.N	Progress	GC 7A	GC 7B	GC 8	GC 9A	GC 9B	GC 10	Total
1	Approval Received in Year Five		3	13	9	3		28
2	Grants Awarded							0
3	Grants Operational	27	19	1	7			54

During Year 5, a total of 28 approvals of sub-grants have been received from USAID whereas no grants were awarded due to unavailability of funds for FY 2014. USAID advised GEP to delay the awarding of grants.

5.8.6 Active Sub Grants by Region and Grant Cycles

A total of 54 sub-grants were active under Grant Cycles 7A, 7B, 8 and 9A during Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) of GEP. The table below shows the number of active grants by region and grant cycles.

Table 24: Number of Active Grants by Regions

S.N	Region	GC 7A	GC 7B	GC 8	GC 9A	Total
1	ICT / National	2	4	1	1	8
2	Punjab	9	6		5	20
3	Sindh	5	4			9
4	KPK	5	1			6
5	Balochistan	2	2		1	5
6	AJK	2	1			3
7	GB	2	1			3
	Total	27	19	1	7	54

Figure 4 below shows that out of the total 54 active sub-grants, majority (20 sub-grants) are in Punjab followed by Sindh (9 sub-grants) and ICT/National (8 sub-grants). Figure 5 shows active sub-grants by cycles demonstrating that the highest number of sub-grants were awarded under Grant Cycle 7A (27 sub-grants) followed by 19 sub-grants under 7B.

Figure 4: Active Sub-grants by Regions

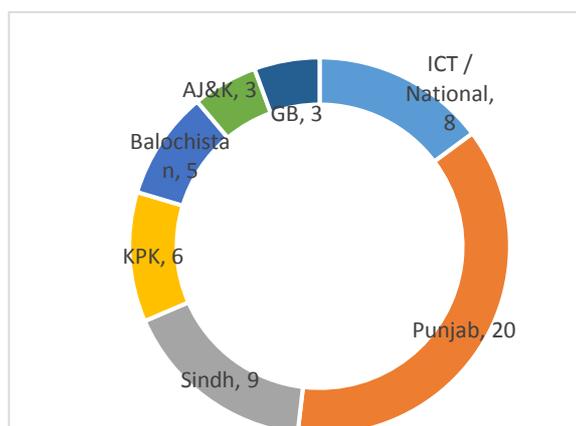
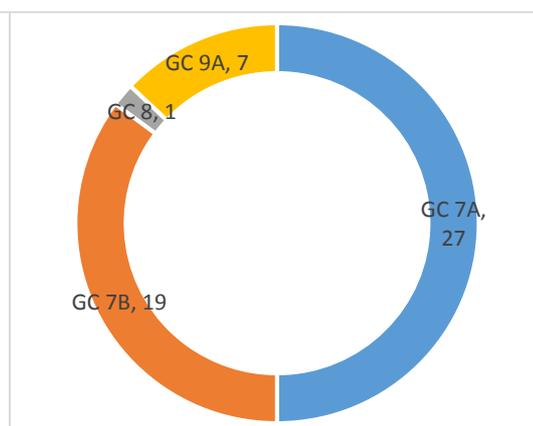


Figure 5: Active Sub-Grants by Cycles



5.8.7 Active Sub-Grants by Tier

Financial Allocation of GEP sub-grant awards fall into three distinct tiers as following:

- Tier 1: Up to: \$75,000
- Tier 2: Up to \$150,000
- Tier 3: Over \$150,000

Tier 1 awards are most frequent (36 sub grants) followed by tier 2 (12 sub-grants). In terms of regional distribution, Punjab has received most tier 1 grants (22) followed by Sindh (9 sub-grants).

Table 25: Tier-wise Active Sub-Grants

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
Tier 1	16	07	05	04	02	01	01	36
Tier 2	04	01	01	01	01	01	02	12
Tier 3	02	00	00	00	00	00	04	06
Total	22	09	06	05	03	02	07	54

5.8.8 Active Sub-Grants by Objective

Combating GBV has remained at the heart of GEP during Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015). Of the 54 sub-grants functional, majority of sub-grants (46) were awarded to combat GBV across Pakistan. Punjab being the largest region received highest number of sub-grants (18) to combat GBV. Please see table below for details.

Table 26: Objective-Wise Active Sub-Grants

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJK	ICT	Total
Objective 1	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	01
Objective 2	18	09	06	04	03	02	04	46
Objective 3	04	00	00	01	00	00	02	07
Total	22	09	06	05	03	02	07	54

5.8.9 Financing Instrument-Wise Active Sub-Grants

Three financing instruments are being used in GEP as USAID guidelines for awarding the sub-grants. These instruments are:

- Simplified Grants
- Fixed Obligation Grants (FOG)
- Expense on the Behalf of Grantee (EBOG)

Simplified award is the most common instrument used for GEP in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) followed by FOG awarded for 17 sub-grants. Only 2 EBOGs were administered for Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights (MoLJHR) and National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) under Grant Cycles 8 and 9A respectively.

Table 27: Instrument-Wise Active Sub Grants

	Punjab	Sindh	KPK	Balochistan	GB	AJ&K	ICT	Total
Simplified	13	06	05	05	02	01	03	35
FOG	09	03	01	00	01	01	02	17
EBOG	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	02
Total	22	09	06	05	03	02	07	54

5.9 Financial Progress

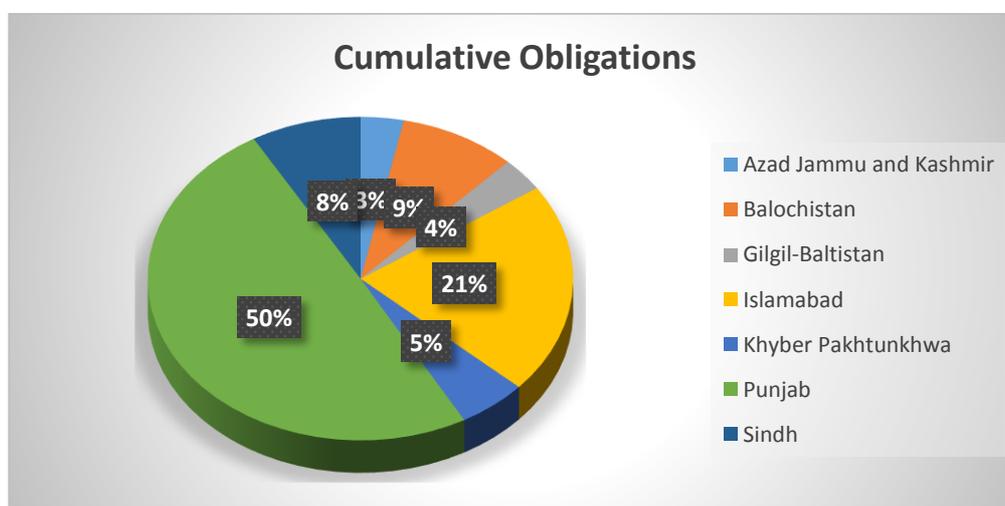
The financial progress of GEP in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) resulted in cumulative obligations of USD 11,476,824. The burn rate of obligated funds on 30th September, 2015 stood at 68%. Please see below for a table with the financial progress of GEP as of 30th September, 2015.

Table 28: GEP Financial Progress as of 30th September, 2015 (in USD)

Objective	Obligation						Disbursement						Remaining Obligation
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Cumulative	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Cumulative	
1	562,061	13,501	-	-	152,711	728,293	150,924	214,098	122,110	24,622	-	511,754	216,539
2	746,180	35,872	277,422	1,521,441	1,525,061	4,105,976	340,927	336,737	81,710	287,518	1,310,737	2,357,629	1,748,346
3	1,072,112	1,887,405	2,085,377	(15,014)	700,560	5,680,440	177,375	1,716,506	1,933,360	404,934	328,507	4,560,682	1,119,758
4	451,119	343,698	458,503	(278,859)	(12,346)	962,115	101,825	286,162	258,698	220,317	30,621	897,623	64,493
Total	2,831,492	2,280,476	2,771,302	1,227,568	2,365,986	11,476,824	771,051	2,553,508	2,395,878	937,391	1,669,865	8,327,688	3,149,136

The regional break-up of cumulative obligations of GEP up to the end of Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015) is provided below.

Figure 6: Regional Break-up of Cumulative Obligations – End of Year Five



During Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015), USAID informed AF that funds for FY 2014 have not arrived. It was reiterated in several meetings that no dates were available about the time at which funds will be received and it was unlikely that these funds would be only be available in the GEP Year Five (FY Oct. 2014-Sept. 2015).

In the light of the above situation, USAID advised AF to hold back all sub-grants until the arrival of funds and approval of AF's request for incremental funding. This way some funds were made available for operational costs. AF shared a request for Incremental Funding on April 22, 2015, which was approved by the USAID on September 11, 2015.

5.10 Showcasing GEP Events in Year Five (FY Oct. 2014 – Sept. 2015)

Due to the funding lag, the planned events of GEP on Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism could not be carried out. However, five workshops and meetings were organised as under:

5.10.1 Towards Women Friendly Policing

On December 9, 2014, GEP held an event entitled, "Towards Women Friendly Policing" on December 9, 2014. The purpose of the event was to discuss the hurdles women face when accessing justice in Pakistan via a panel consisting of representatives from the police and legal profession. The panel discussion focused on the countless reasons why women in Pakistan avoid the justice system and day-to-day challenges faced by the police. Some of the shortcomings on Pakistan's legislation was also discussed the foremost being adherence to an archaic justice system inherited from the British. At the end of the discussion panellists offered suggestions on how the current justice system can be made more women-friendly. An insightful Question & Answer (Q&A) session commenced once the panel discussion had ended during which university students asked questions related to police and legislation.

5.10.2 GEP Observes World Cancer Day

On February 4, 2015 GEP observed World Cancer Day in collaboration with Shifa Hospital. A free of cost Breast Screening and Cancer Awareness Session was held at AF's head office during which 42 women employees were examined. The session raised awareness on cancer, taught women to self-examine themselves and encouraged them to have regular check-ups done especially after the age of 40.

5.10.3 Communications Working Group Meeting

GEP held a Communications Working Group (CWG) meeting on February 14, 2015 at the AF head office for Communications Specialists of USAID projects. During the meeting guidelines to develop short and crisp Public Service Messages (PSMs) were discussed and the benefits of engaging with the masses via various medians of social media. A group activity wherein participants were asked to develop a social media campaign centred on International Women's Day and International Water Day took place during the meeting with each group presenting at the end of the meeting.

5.10.4 Pre-Grant Orientation Workshops for Grant Cycle 11

GEP held five Pre-Grant Orientation Workshops for Grant Cycle 11 in Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Peshawar and Karachi in April 2015. The aim of these meetings was to introduce GEP to potential sub-grantees for grant cycle 11. The session helped participants to understand the themes of Grant Cycle 11 which are strengthening district

bar associations & setting up facilitation kiosks and engaging with minority groups on women's rights. These orientation workshops also helped participants comprehend the eligibility criteria and procedures for applying for the grant. Furthermore, they also clarified ambiguities regarding the procedures and objectives of the grants.

5.10.5 Orientation Meeting for GEP Sub-Grantees on USAID GST Directive

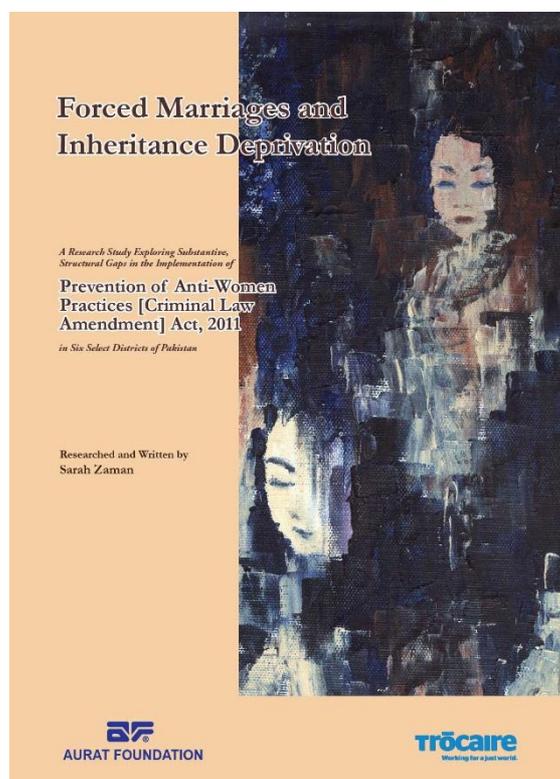
GEP held a meeting for sub-grantees of grant cycles 7A and 7B in Karachi on June 5, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to explain USAID's new GST exemption procedure and answer queries and concerns of sub-grantees. The session was attended by 9 sub-grantees.

Chapter Six

Research and Publications

6 Research and Publications

As the organization's full name suggests - Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation - we are committed to publication and wide dissemination of material in order to create awareness among women and men regarding the rights of women. In addition to raising awareness, the aim of publishing and dissemination of advocacy flyers and posters is to help create a demand from ordinary citizens, for change.

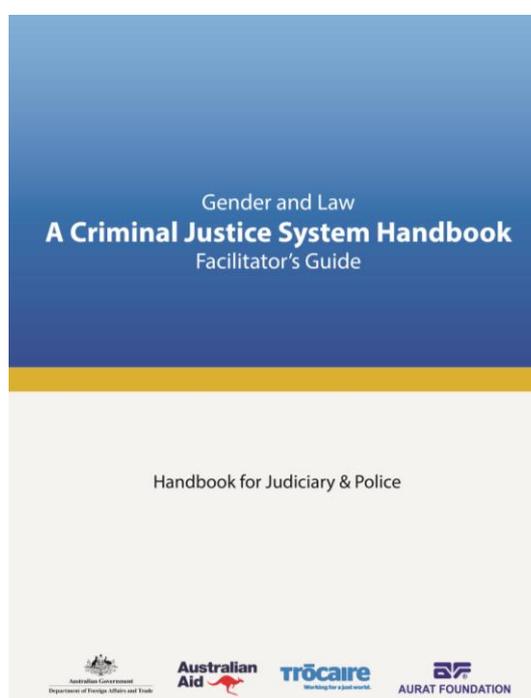


6.1 Forced Marriages and Inheritance Deprivation

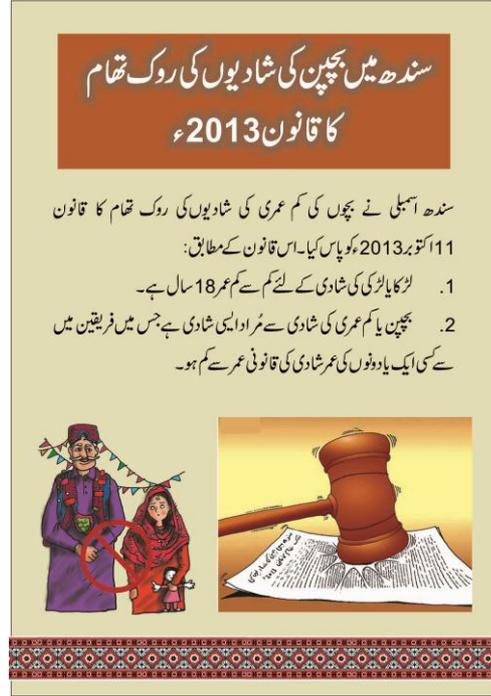
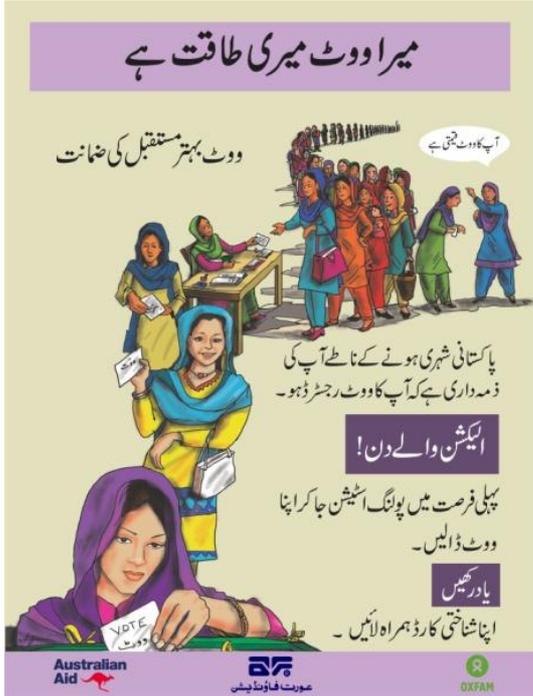
A research study by Ms. Sarah Zaman was carried out titled Forced Marriages and Inheritance Deprivation. This study is based on research carried out in six districts around the country, exploring the gaps in the implementation of the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act 2011.

6.2 Gender and Law: A criminal Justice System Handbook

A facilitator's guide was produced under the Trocaire project titled A Criminal Justice System Handbook. This handbook was a useful guide to members of the judiciary and police on issues relating to gender and law. A research study and analysis took place in four districts around the country. The analysis is titled Gender Responsive Education Budgeting Analysis.

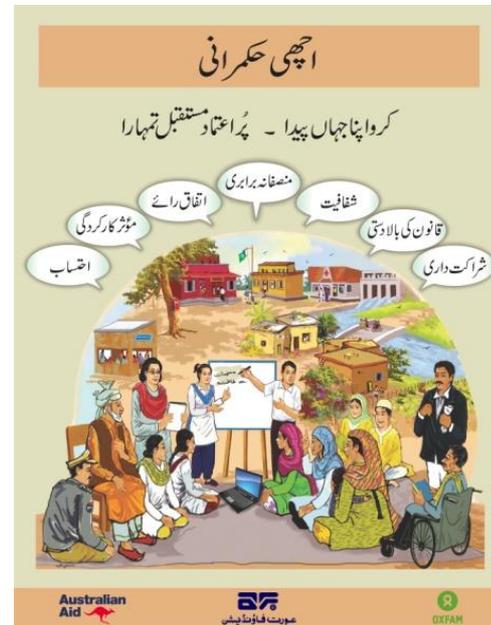


6.3 Posters



Keeping in view the LG election to be held at the provincial level, posters were published and widely shared to highlight the importance of voting. Pamphlets on Sindh's Early Child Marriage Act 2013 were published to raise awareness regarding the law and its attempt to protect minor children.

The IEC material has disseminated among participants of various project related activities. These have also been distributed among district partners, local and provincial governments, civil society organisations, community based organisations in 30 (LISTEN) project districts. This material was also distributed to AF district offices, AAWAZ Agahi centres, where a huge number of community members visit and receive information.



6.5 AF & Civil Society in Media

TRIBUNE

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Live screening

Islootes celebrate Malala's award



RAISING AWARENESS: Participants marched from the National Press Club to Super Market chanting slogans against govt 'apathy' on punishing those who commit acts of violence against women. PHOTO: MELHARUDDIN/AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Separately, rally taken out to highlight violence against women

MAHA MUSSADQ
ISLAMABAD
As the world lauded Malala Yousafzai while she received the Nobel Peace Prize, celebrations were also in the air in her home country. Fanatical cheers echoed as hundreds gathered at the National Press Club to watch the live transmission of the Award Ceremony in Oslo on Wednesday evening. Students, members of the civil society and journalists had gathered to watch the live screening of the event organised by The Aurat Foundation in collaboration

with Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists. With broadened smiles and numb eyes, participants watched the programme on a projector screen. With affixed expressions on their faces, participants heard the speech live and appreciated Malala's struggle for girls' education and her courage to stand against all odds. "When the words are silent, even one voice becomes powerful. Her words are so motivating," said Ali Kazmi, a student who had come to the event. Sakal Inani, president of the PFUI, said Malala is the pride of the nation and this award had brought with it a reason for everyone to get together and celebrate. "Malala's victory is a clear message to ex-

trémists that our women and even girls are not scared to raise their voice," said Barr. RUJ President Ali Raza Alvi said Malala proved the point that the pen is powerful than the bullet and that her courage must be appreciated.

Rally raises awareness on women's rights
With almost 7,500 cases of violence against women reported in Pakistan this year, hundreds of rights activists gathered at the National Press Club to express solidarity and support for those who have been affected by the 'heinous' crime on Wednesday afternoon. Orange flags piled at the reception desk were guarded by a team of youngsters that handed out placards with

"These [figures] are just the tip of the iceberg. There are so many cases that go unreported"

heart-wrenching messages of support and courage for victims of gender-based violence. A large tent eclipsed hundreds of chairs, filled up by men and women who had travelled from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab to raise their voice for the voiceless. "Of course all of those present here have been affected by some kind of harassment at some level" said Samina Saeed from Rawalpindi, adding that



"some will speak about it and some won't". Saeed, whose family is not supportive of her participating in such events, said more women were now speaking up in the country. She explained that women learn about their rights in such events and go back and educate their children.

A total of 7,824 cases were reported last year and 7,450 have been reported so far in 2014, said Rabeesa Hadi, director of advocacy at Aurat Foundation while talking to *The Express Tribune*. Providing details, Hadi said from January to September this year, 1,543 cases of kidnapping/abduction were reported; 1,356 women were murdered and 1,149 were raped and gang-raped. Motevra, she informed, that 604 women were killed in the name of 'honour' and 391 cases of domestic violence were reported during the period. A total of 55 cases of acid throwing and 33 of burning were also reported this year. "These [figures] are just the tip of the iceberg" said Hadi, adding that "There are so many cases that go unreported".

Kishwar Naheed recited verses on ending violence against women, and said girls should be taught self-defence lessons in schools

At the end, supporters marched from the National Press Club to Super Market chanting slogans against perpetrators of violence against women and the government's 'apathy' in punishing them. Renowned poet Kishwar Naheed recited verses on ending violence against women, and said girls should be taught self-defence lessons in schools so they can protect themselves. At the end, supporters marched from the National Press Club to Super Market chanting slogans against perpetrators of violence against women and the government's 'apathy' in punishing them. A total of 7,824 cases were reported last year and 7,450 have been reported so far in 2014, said Rabeesa Hadi, director of advocacy at Aurat Foundation while talking to *The Express Tribune*. Providing details, Hadi said from January to September this year, 1,543 cases of kidnapping/abduction were reported; 1,356 women were murdered and 1,149 were raped and gang-raped. Motevra, she informed, that 604 women were killed in the name of 'honour' and 391 cases of domestic violence were reported during the period. A total of 55 cases of acid throwing and 33 of burning were also reported this year. "These [figures] are just the tip of the iceberg" said Hadi, adding that "There are so many cases that go unreported".

DAWN

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Calls for representation of persons with disabilities in parliament

Colourful event marks International Day for Persons with Disabilities; report launched

By A Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ammara Amara's life, as a person with a visual impairment, has never been easy. However, she says, it's not her disability that has caused her as much pain as the discouraging attitude of people around her. "One day, when I was a child, I went to the park with my mother and brother, who is also visually impaired. A woman whose walking stick stopped and told my mother that we were a punishment from God and she should seek forgiveness from him," Ammara said.

"As I grew older, I faced more difficulties. I started to do Bachelor in Business Administration but many universities rejected my application because I was not able to see. Fortunately, I managed to complete my education but I haven't started applying for jobs, my disability again became a problem. A bank told me that could not have my own bank account because I will not be able to carry a cheque book, so an American Teller Machine (ATM) she said."

Sardar Ahmad Pirzada, who has been working as a journalist, also has a visual impairment. He said that there are 20 million people with disabilities in Pakistan and around 50 million live with a disabled person. "There should be a representation of people with disabilities in the parliament, because that is the only way that their issues will be raised and policies will be made," he said.

"Administration and Development Division (ADD) Minister Barjees Khan announced that the participants that steps will be taken to resolve the problems faced by persons with disabilities."

He said that the implementation of recommendations put forward in the policy document will be a priority for the ministry.

Pakistan Bahadur Managing Director Barjees Khan Bahadur Sheikh stated assurance that issues will be carried on to know the exact number of citizens living with disabilities.

Aurat Foundation Chief Coordinating Officer Mirza Mansoor Khan said in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

ICSP Deputy Director Javed Akmal said in 1947 there were three centres for the rehabilitation of disabled persons in Pakistan. In 1980 there were 66 centres and in 2013 number of those centres

reached to 608. Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Person Deputy Director Zia Akmal Beg told DAWN that according to WHO estimates there are around 100,000 people in Islamabad who are disabled but only around 2,000 children are in contact with rehabilitation centre.

He said special cards were issued to persons with disabilities so that they can use them to receive benefits and relaxations but the process for issuance of these cards is as lengthy and difficult that majority of people do not have these cards.

Special cards were also put up as part of the event with 12 seats put up to ensure openness to participants about educational and rehabilitative equipment for persons with disabilities.

Report Launched
According to a report titled 'Moving from the Margins' launched by the British Council on Wednesday, there are various estimates of number of PWDs in Pakistan ranging from 3 million to 20 million.

If WHO average is applied there are 27 million PWDs in Pakistan, which is more than the total population of Sweden, Austria and Switzerland combined.

The report recommends developing a comprehensive framework for the protection of rights and dignity of PWDs in all aspects of life, establishing a legal governance department to develop and monitor the implementation of policies for PWDs.

It further recommended that effective use of resources be ensured in health, education and employment services.

The report said there was a need to build an environment that supports employment of persons with disabilities and persons with disabilities must be represented in Parliament.

It was launched at an event organised in collaboration with an NGO 'Special Talent Exchange Programme'.

Member of National Assembly Maryam Aurangzeb (from Pakistan Medical Long-termers, speaking at the event, said the government should have been invited to participate in the completion of the report.

However, she said, after the 15th Amendment PWDs have become the responsibility of provinces.

"Accessibility for people with disabilities is a big issue. If facilities are not available to disabled persons in a building, it shows that they are not accepted there. Quality of education should be toward for PWDs," she said.

A statement issued by WHO said that persons with disabilities make up the largest and most disadvantaged minority in the world.



A SPECIAL child takes part in a competition at a function in P-9 Park on Wednesday. The other picture is of Meh Nazim, press officer in the US embassy, speaking at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Wednesday. — White Star



Meh Nazim, press officer in the US embassy, speaking at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Wednesday. — White Star



ISLAMABAD: Civil society activists mourn in F-6 Super Market.—Staff photo

Demand for tightening noose around terrorists echoes

N
NOKHAIZ SAHI
ISLAMABAD

Civil society, human rights activists, political and religious parties all came out to express solidarity and mourn the killing of children in an army-run school in Peshawar and demand of the government to take strict action against terrorists.

While demanding the government action, participants of rallies, also supported the ongoing military operation Zarb-e-Azb against the terrorists.

The people and activists of civil society workers of Awami National Party (ANP), Awami Workers Party, people from different segments of the society including students, human rights activists, political party representatives, traders, doctors and religious party workers started arriving at NPC in the evening to show solidarity with aggrieved families.

Most of the people were seen carrying pictures of martyred children and raised slogans against Taliban while demanding government to hang terrorists who have been found guilty and were in jails.

Women Chamber of Commerce also organised a rally against Taliban and participants were seen holding the placards and which were then translated into slogans against extremists. Talking to The Nation Shama Ashraf said that it's time that

nation must stand up against the terrorism in the country and should not waste the sacrifices of innocent children.

Workers of political parties blocked roads in front of Super Market and NPC, chanted slogans and made speeches urging the government, military establishment and political parties to adopt unanimous policy towards extremists.

Human rights activist Tahira Abdulla said that there are no bad Taliban or good Taliban and they are dead Taliban and government should crush the Taliban. She said that it was the responsibility of all parties to speak aloud against terrorists at one platform and show the unity for bright future of Pakistan.

Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women Khawar Mumtaz said that even in open war, children enjoy protection. She said that no war could be won by killing children. "In our capacity as citizens, we should identify and reject all such elements. We have seen how brutal and heartless they are," she added.

Human rights activist Naeem Mirza said that this incident has further strengthened the resolve of Pakistani nation to fight back. "Our enemies saw that we went back to attend Wahga Border ceremony next day of a blast that killed 55 people. We are all on the roads today to give them the same message," he added.



ایس ایم ایف کے زیر اہتمام اسلام آباد میں منعقد کیے جانے والے ایک احتجاجی جلسے میں شریکین کی ایک گروپ

Senate passes bills against honour killings, custodial deaths

Anti-rape bill among four laws adopted

By Amir Wasim

ISLAMABAD: The Senate unanimously passed on Monday four important bills, including the one which makes honour-killing a non-compoundable offence.

It also cleared a bill envisaging punishment for elements responsible for torture and custodial death and another ensuring speedy justice to rape victims.

The upper house also passed a bill amending the Privatisation Commission Ordinance to ensure transparency in the process.

All the bills were moved by members of the main opposition PPP as private member's bills and three of

them by Sughra Imam, who is among the 52 senators retiring on March 11.

The bills were passed without any debate as the government did not oppose them, knowing that all of them had been thoroughly discussed by relevant standing committees and some of amendments suggested by the government had been incorporated.

The bills require approval of the National Assembly and presidential assent to become laws.

The so-called honour killing has been made a non-compoundable crime through amendments to Schedule 2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (C:PC) 1898.

Sughra Imam, when contacted after approval of the bill, said since family members were found involved in honour killing cases, the rate of conviction was almost nil because in most cases, the accused

being a member of the same family was pardoned by heirs of victim.

According to the bill "honour killings are common throughout Pakistan and claim lives of hundreds of victims every year". It cites figures obtained from a women rights organisation, Aurat Foundation, stating that 432 women were reportedly killed in the name of honour in 2012, 705 in 2011, 557 in 2010, 604 in 2009 and 475 in 2008.

"These figures do not include unreported cases or, indeed, the number of men who are often killed alongside women in the name of honour," says the bill. "Addressing the loopholes and lacunae in the existing laws is essential in order to prevent these crimes from being repeatedly committed."

ANTI-TORTURE BILL: The

Continued on Page 5

Senate passes bills against honour..

Continued from Page 1

Torture, Custodial Death and Custodial Rape (Prevention and Punishment) Bill 2014 proposing imprisonment and fine for perpetrators of torture in custody and custodial rapes and deaths was tabled by PPP's Farhatullah Babar.

The bill makes inadmissible as evidence statements obtained through torture besides prescribing life imprisonment and Rs5 million fine for custodial death or rape and a minimum of five years in jail and fine up to Rs1m for torture.

"No reason including a state of war, emergency, political instability or an order of a superior authority shall constitute a defence against torture," according to the bill.

It defines "torture" as "inflicting physical or mental pain upon another person in custody, for obtaining any information or a confession or harassing and molesting a woman for this purpose."

"Furthermore, any public servant or any other person who has a duty to act and either intentionally or negligently fails to prevent the commission of the offence of custodial death or custodial rape shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than seven years which may extend to 10 years and with fine which may extend to Rs1 million."

The bill states that "no female shall be detained in order to extract information regarding the whereabouts of a person accused of any offence or to extract evidence from such female". Moreover, according to the bill, no woman/girl will

be taken or held in custody by a man and only a female public servant can lawfully take her into custody.

Under the bill, complaints of torture can be filed with the Federal Investigation Agency or a sessions judge against any person, including a public servant.

The bill has made it mandatory to complete investigation in complaints of torture in 14 days and trial in three weeks. It gives the right to appeal before a high court to a convict in 10 days. The court will be bound to decide such appeals in 30 days.

The bill suggests that complaints filed with mala fide intent are punishable with imprisonment of up to one year with/for a fine of up to Rs100,000.

ANTI-RAPE LAWS: The bill amends different sections of the Pakistan Penal Code, the (Jamsoni-Shahadat) Order and the C:PC to ensure speedy trial of accused in rape cases and suggests punishment for disclosing identity of rape victims.

It bans the publication of court proceedings "without the previous permission of such court", suggesting a two-year imprisonment for those violating this section.

The bill proposes capital punishment for police personnel or other public servants found involved in rape of women in their custody.

It suggests three-year imprisonment to a "public servant" for failing "to carry out the investigation properly or diligently or failing to pursue the case in any court of law properly and in breach of his duties".

Two-day sensitisation workshop held for women parliamentarians

Women parliamentarians demand capacity building sessions on legislative business

Staff Report

BHURBAN: After spending two parliamentary years in their respective assemblies, most of women parliamentarians still lack information and capacity to introduce legislation and actively participate in the assemblies' business.

This was realised during a two-day sensitisation workshop when women parliamentarians complained lack of information and support and demanded capacity building sessions on legislative business.

Looking into parliamentary experience of the sitting women parliamentarians reveals that among a total of 211 women parliamentarians who joined the national and provincial assemblies after the General Election 2013, majority of them is 144 joined in for the first time, and hence need of information and skills on legislative business.

Continuing its process of enhancing knowledge of newly elected women parliamentarians on legislative business and developing network mechanism among women caucus, Aurat Foundation organised a two-day sensitisation workshop of women parliamentarians on 'Legislative Business and Role of Parliamentarians in Pro-Women Legislation', from April 1-2 at Bhurban in Murree. The workshop was organised under its 'Gender Based Violence - Advocacy and Capacity Building' programme supported by Trocaire, the Australian government and Australian Aid.

National Assembly Joint Secretary (Legislation) Muhammad Mushtaq gave a detailed presentation on drafting and moving bills, resolutions and motions, raising calling attention notices and putting questions and asking supplementary questions on. His session also covered the pre- and post-introduction of bills, on how and where to get the support for drafting a bill, how to bring the bill on the assembly business, what if the bill is referred to a concerned standing committee, and what if a bill is dropped or lapsed.

PML-N's MPA from Sindh Assembly Nazam Shaheen Ahmad complained that contrary to the practice in the National Assembly, like introduction of a bill is not provided to the members. Members of the National Assembly also complained that they faced problems on submitting ques-

tions to be taken during the assembly sessions as the time is lapsed, and on Fridays the floors of the assembly building to Notice Office (office for legislative questions) are blocked due to Friday prayers, whereas the time for submitting the questions during other weekdays is also limited.

According to his observation that women parliamentarians usually do not utilize the available resources and support, Mushtaq urged the present members to benefit from the researchers and editors and other staff available for their support.

Aurat Foundation Manager Law and Gender Masha-Gun spoke on legislation and role of parliamentarians, women specific legislation in Pakistan, important factors for legislative role of parliamentarians, and shifting from legislation to implementation. She said that women specific legislation in Pakistan is based on the Equality clause in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Clause 25, Equality of citizens) which says that all citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law.

She said that the Article specifically allows for laws which fall within the ambit of affirmative action or the quotas for women or women and children specific laws to be passed without being deemed discriminatory. While describing the issues relating to legislation in Pakistan, she said that it was important to first recognise the constraints that legislators, especially female legislators, face in Pakistan. There must also be a mechanism to determine what kind of legislation is required, she added. The major focus in Pakistan has been on criminalisation of different categories of violence. It is essential to avoid barriers to communication and try to make the law as accessible as possible, she further said.

The participants pointed out that passage of laws has been a great success but there has been poor implementation. One of the recommended methods for this purpose would be to focus attention on the different segments of the criminal justice system is the police, medical staff, lawyers, judges and jails.

While speaking on the networking and alliance building among women parliamentarians and their parliamentary caucuses, Dr Rakhshanda Parveen, Consultant and

Founder Creative Asper by Rakhshanda, discussed the ethical, political tactics and strategies required for such alliance building. She suggested women parliamentarians to build strategic alliances as no one succeeds alone. "Adapt the market that relationship building is part of your job and development. Know your big picture, bend the strategy and the tactical, don't ever treat people like 'strategies or tactics', know your communication style, build relationships before you need them, be appreciable and be open to the possibilities," she said.

Aurat Foundation Chief Strategy and Policy Officer Yasmin Khalid spoke about the sustainable development goals and their history; the proposed 17 goals, how and why these goals were chosen; whether governments were happy about the proposed goals; if the number of goals were expected to be changed; how would the goals be funded; and when would these goals come into force.

PML-N's MNA and General Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), Shaista Pervaiz, said that although more pro-women laws were needed there was a strong need for effective implementation of these laws. While talking about her legislative experience, MQM's MNA Kulbaw Zehra said that women member from opposition face a lot of obstacles in introducing bills, resolutions etc, as mostly the private member bills are ignored or dropped.

ANP Provincial General Secretary and former MNA Janis Gilani, in response to other members' demand that women parliamentarians should be provided development funds to even men parliamentarians be stopped. PML-N's MNA Shaheen Shafiq suggested that in order to support and rehabilitate women victims of domestic violence, Women Parliamentary Caucus should establish its office in each district. Most of the parliamentarians present in the workshop demanded that more women should be given opportunity to contest elections in winnable general seats. Independent MNA Musarat Ahmadzeb even proposed to WPC that women's reserve seats be reduced and instead a quota on general seats created for women.

Legislative business Women MPs demand capacity building

NEWS DESK

Women parliamentarians have demanded support and capacity building for them to actively participate in the legislative business.

The two-day workshop on "Legislative Business and Role of Parliamentarians in Pro-Women Legislation", organised by the Aurat Foundation, concluded at Bhurban on Thursday, said a press release.

National Assembly Joint Secretary Muhammad Mushtaq gave a detailed presentation on drafting and moving bills, resolutions and motions; raising calling attention notices and point of orders; and putting questions and supplementary questions. He also highlighted how parliamentarians could benefit from researchers, editors and other parliament staff.

The participants pointed out that passage of laws has been

Passage of laws has been a success but there has been poor implementation.

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PML-N MNA and Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) General Secretary Shaista Pervaiz said that although more pro-women laws are needed, there is strong need for effective implementation of these laws.

A total of 211 women parliamentarians joined the National and provincial assemblies after the 2013 general election. Of them, 144 came to the parliament for the first time, and hence needed information and training in legislative business.

The workshop was organised with the support of Trocaire and Australian Aid.

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Govt fails to produce data on budget spending for women

Myra Imran
Islamabad

Despite efforts for gender responsive budgeting in the past, the government has failed to produce segregated data on budget spending for women's welfare and rights.

The issue was discussed at large in a study circle on 'Women's Development Agenda in Next Federal Budget 2015-16 in line with UN MDGs/SDGs' with Parliamentarians and civil society representatives organised by Aurat Foundation on Tuesday.

Expert and Consultant Public Financial Management Nohman Ishtiaq delivered a detailed lecture on the topic which led to the discussion on the role of Parliamentarians and civil society moderated by Aurat Foundation Director Programmes Uzma Zarin.

Nohman Ishtiaq said that Pakistan's project planning, budgeting and monitoring processes are mostly gender blind. He urged Parliamentarians to raise vital questions in the Parliament including how much budget is being allocated for women and girls, how much budget was actually spent and what improvement it brought in the lives of women and girls?

The participants of the study circle suggested the Parliamentarians to lobby and recommend to the government to present 'Gender Budget Statement' as part of the Budget Books, which shall highlight the amounts allocated for women development.

They talked about the limitations of the Parliamentarians in suggesting and change in the budget and discussed ways to exercise influence in the process of budget making. They said that local government bodies would be in a better position to implement and ensure gender responsive budgeting.

Highlighting the stages of budget making and implementation where Parliamentarians can play major role, Nohman Ishtiaq said that at the budget implementation stage, the Standing Committee could review gender specific initiatives and their implementation.

At the federal level, there is no Standing Committee of women development. One option could be to create an informal group of members from other Standing Committees and interact with them on regular basis on issues related to women or an informal group of federal and provincial members can be created to formulate National Action Plan on women develop-

ment — including required legislation, specific actions, etc," he said.

He gave an example of the report published by the federal level Standing Committee on women in 2009. "Such work can be continued in the Provincial Assemblies," he recommended.

Mr Ishtiaq also linked the budget allocations for women's development with Pakistan's commitments which it made to UN through conventions and treaties signed e.g. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention against Torture (CAT), International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ICRPD) etc.

He said that the government and women's rights organizations should analyze the situation of women and girls in a sector such as health, education, and assess in order to implement gender-responsive policies. "This must be followed by an as-

essment of the outputs of these allocations in order to evaluate how resources are actually spent, and policies and programmes implemented," he added.

Speaking on this occasion, Nafeesa Khatik from PTI, gave the examples of foreign countries where local governments generate their own revenue from car parking etc. She suggested the same practice for revenue generation base for local governments instead of depending solely on federal and provincial governments.

Naseema from Pachtunhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) said that legislators from Balochistan need such information and training to enhance their involvement in the budget making process at provincial and federal level.

Chief Operating Officer Aurat Foundation Naeem Mirza, in his closing remarks, emphasized that government institutions and civil society organizations should focus more on resource allocations rather than direct but isolated service delivery at village level like road construction etc.

Pointing to women's centuries old deprivation from, he said that equal access of men and women to natural resources is essential for national development and progress.

The Nation

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

MPs urged to lobby for gender budget statement

OUR STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Parliamentarians should lobby and recommend to the government to present 'gender budget statement' as part of the budget books, which shall highlight the amounts allocated for women development.

This was realised during a study circle on 'Women's Development Agenda in Next Federal Budget 2015-16 in line with UN MDGs/SDGs' with parliamentarians and civil society representatives. The event was organised by Aurat Foundation on Tuesday. Nohman Ishtiaq, expert/consultant public financial management, delivered a detailed presentation on 'Women's Development Agenda in upcoming Budget 2015 - 2016'. Uzma Zarin, director programmes Aurat Foundation, coordinated the study circle and the question hour session.

Measuring women's development in Pakistan, the Annual Gender Gap Index 2014 report, published by World Economic Forum, shows that Pakistan ranked at 141 out of 142 surveyed countries. The rank measures four key areas: in economic participation and opportunity Pakistan ranks at 141; in education Pakistan ranks at 132; in health and survival it ranks at 119; in political empowerment Pakistan ranks at 85. The figures show that women's economic empowerment, children's schooling and health are the most under-budgeted sectors.



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