

## Recent Initiatives of Pakistan's Government for the Protection of Women Rights

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**Abstract:** Women are the most important part of any society. In development process, it is necessary to excel women in an effective way. Pakistan is an Islamic Republic state and majority of the population based upon women. Allah Almighty is granted equal rights to both men and women. However, due to socio-cultural barriers women's are not enjoyed their rights as religion Islam is given to them. To create awareness about their rights and for the protection of their rights, government of Pakistan has been taken several initiatives. Present study was designed to explore the government's recent initiatives for the protection of women rights. The Study was conducted in twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad and a sample of 300 women were selected through simple random sampling technique. The limitation of the study was only females were interviewed for data collection. Results of this study reveal that the government is not taking solid initiatives for the protection of women rights in different segments of life. Most of the females about 78.5% were unaware about Muslim family law act that has clauses about the rights of women.

**Key words:** Family law • Government initiatives • Rights • Socio-Cultural • Twin cities • Women

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### INTRODUCTION

The status of Pakistani women significantly varies across regions and classes as well as it depends on the rural urban frontiers because of the rough socio economic development besides the social construction like tribal, feudal and capital also influence the females' lives heavily. Although women in Pakistan at present adore an improved status in comparison of most Muslim women in the world. Nevertheless, on usual, the state of women in relation to men is one of general gender demotion. Even though the government and racial groups continuously make efforts raise the status of women in society of Pakistan. At the present due to a raised awareness amongst folks, the educational opportunities improved in the preceding years for the women of Pakistan [1].

United Nations issued a report of Human Development, according to that Pakistan has better equality ratio in terms of gender in comparison of its neighboring country India [2]. The World Economic

Forum classified Chad, Pakistan and Yemen as the nastiest in their Global Gender Gap Report, the report accounts the extent of sex based inequalities in different areas for example education and health [3].

Women's right around the world is an important pointer to comprehend global well-being. A foremost global women's right treaty was ratified by the mainstream of the world's nation a few decade ago. Yet, despite many success enablement women, numerous issues still exist in all areas of life, ranging from the cultural, political to the monetary. For example, women often work more than men work, yet are paid less; gender discrimination affect girls and women through their generation women and girls are often are the ones that suffer the most deficiency. Many may think that women's right are only an issue in countries where religion is law, such as many Muslim countries [4].

A few prospects have also appears owed to the revitalization of the egalitarian procedure through voting, the re-invigoration of the legal organism and the top

echelon of anxiety exhibited at the worldwide echelon for the rights of female in Pakistan. Decades of activism by female and the knowledge added by functioning at the nationwide and local echelon on schemes and support for female's human rights have also show results, such that it can now be said that the subsequent age group of advocate has now added a toehold. The actuality of population's resides in Pakistan is masked in coating of disparities and inequalities, creation the delight and work out of human rights almost impractical. While the public look to the government to guard their rights, in reality the government is an artifact of the like inequities and cannot impartially play that part in the lives of its society. Dissimilarities between factions of populace stand on caste, class, customs, belief, political association, inhabited class, geological position and sex are devastating. Globally acknowledged signs of growth, both in stipulations of human growth as well as source division, reveal that the government has imitated disparities more than it has purposed as the facilitator of community development [5].

Government of Pakistan has been passed several laws like Criminal Law Act, 2011, known as Acid Control and Acid Crime Act has been passing on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2011 to give with protection to women from acid incorporating. Beneath of this Act, whoever kills anyone by throwing or by controlling poison or other precarious or acerbic core shall be fined with death or severe locking up for life and also with fine covering to one million of rupees [6].

Criminal Law Act, 2011 known as Prevention Of Anti Women Performs (Criminal Law Amendment) Act has been indorsed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2011, with a review to banish harmful old-age usual performs like forced Wedding, wedding with the Quran, wanni swara etc. [7].

Pakistan is an Islamic Republic state. Religion Islam is given equal rights to both men and women. However, due to patriarchal family system, females are oppressed. Government of Pakistan has been taken several initiatives for the protection of the women's rights and to create awareness about their rights. Present study was designed to explore those government initiatives, which were taken in different eras for the protection of the women rights.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Systematic and organized methodology means a complete set of procedures, which is followed during research and foundation of the research based upon

methodology [8]. Scientific methods provide a way for obtaining, analyzing and interpreting the knowledge. Research methodologies are different in different discipline and it varies according to the research nature. In different scientific discipline, different research approaches are used.

**Study Locale:** The present study was under taken in twin cities; Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The researcher was concentrating on the impact of recent initiative of Pakistan Government for protection of women rights in Pakistan.

**Sample Size:** A sample of 200 respondents were selected through simple random sampling technique, as the purpose of the study was to gain better knowledge of women condition and the impact of different laws on the protection of human rights. So, only women were selected as respondents without any discrimination of age, educational background, social class etc.

**Data Collection Tool:** An interview schedule comprising of in cooperation open ended and close-ended questions was designed in order to collect responses. The present study was focused on recent initiative of Pakistan Government for protection of women right in Pakistan. In order to create an effective interview schedule researcher collected material through various resources e.g. print and electronic media and discussed it with supervisor in to assure that it can get more and effective information.

**Data Collection:** The researcher herself through face-to-face interview collected data with respondents. Before conducting interview, researcher established a rapport with respondents through key informants.

**Data Analysis:** Collected data were analyzed through SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Analysis of data and interpretation of results are the most important steps in scientific research. Without these steps generalization and prediction cannot be achieved, which is the target of scientific research. Generalization and conclusion are drawn based on characteristics and attitudes of the respondents. Both Uni-variate and Bi-variate analysis were performed.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their views about government initiatives

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	28	14.0
No	132	66.0
Uncertain	40	20.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge of 1961, Muslim Family Law

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	43	21.5
No	157	78.5
Total	200	100.0

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to the knowledge of Article 38 of 1973 constitution

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	56	28.0
Disagree	106	53.0
Uncertain	38	19.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to the knowledge of harassment bill 2010

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	42	21.0
No	158	79.0
Total	200	100.0

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge about Hadood Ordinance

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	54	27.0
Disagree	146	73.0
Total	200	100.0

**Uni-Variate Analysis:** Views about Government Initiatives: Table 1 illustrates the distribution of respondents according to their views about government initiatives. According to 66.0% respondents, the government is not taking solid initiatives to make sure the maximum contribution of females in every sphere of life, while according to 14.0% respondents government is trying hard in this regard. About 20.0% respondents were uncertain of the government’s efforts. Above results was supported by [9] that females are unusually hampered by this condition for the reason that patriarchy is necessary to all the differences said above. The attainment of women’s human rights is indissolubly connected to the discount of sexual category differences in other fields of social, economically and administrative life. In spite of increasing indulgent of this amid policy-makers and improvement developers, extreme gaps among the people

do persist and successes have been changeable. In fact, over the last few years the state has become progressively delicate and less able to deliver on the promises of its Constitution. Four significant themes necessitate to be comprised in the analysis of women’s human rights in Pakistan armed fight, developing poverty, violent behavior against females and are short of excellent governance.

**Muslim Family Law (1961):** Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents according to the knowledge of 1961, Muslim family law major ratio 78.5% of respondents were unaware of the important law that has clauses about the rights of women. Only 21.5% respondents had a little knowledge of the law and the rights that this law gives to women. In Pakistan, problem does not only lie in policy or law making but the ignorance of people and lack of knowledge about laws also create many issues and problems for the public. People especially women are unaware of their rights and the protections that law has given them ultimately they have to face violence and ferocity. They accept the violation of their rights as their “fate.”

**Knowledge about Article 38 of 1973 Constitution:** Table 3 shows the distribution of respondents according to the knowledge of Article 38 of 1973 constitution and its implementation. Article 38 of 1973 constitution declares that distinctive representation will be given to females in local administration establishments. According to the opinion of 53.0% respondents, the government is not doing well enough in this regard. About 28.0% respondents said that government is taking some initiatives in this regard while 19.0% respondents were uncertain that whether government efforts are enough or not for giving women their due share.

**Harassment Bill 2010:** Table 4 shows the frequency Distribution of respondents according to their views about harassment at work place. About 45.0% respondents thought that women are harassed at work place especially in places where male are dominant and 32.0% respondents said that women do not face harassment while according to 23.0% respondents it is not always necessary that women face this problem. To stop harassment at work place, government passed Harassment Bill in 2010.

**Hadood Ordinance:** Table 5 shows that 67.0% respondents agreed women’s right to choose her life partner 13.0% respondents disagree women’s right to

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge about Nikah Nama

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	50	25.0
Disagree	150	75.0
Total	200	100.0

Hypothesis: 01

$H_0$  = There is no association between age and Awareness about the 1961 Family Law in Pakistan.

$H_1$  = There is association between age and Awareness about the 1961 Family Law in Pakistan.

2-Level of significance  $\alpha = 0.05$

3-Test statistic to be used  $\chi^2 - \text{Test}$

4-Computation. Cross-tabulation between age of the respondents and Awareness about the 1961 Family Law in Pakistan

Age of the Respondent		Awareness about the 1961 Family Law		Total
		yes	no	
Up to 25	Count	6	46	52
	% within Age (Year)	11.5%	88.5%	100.0%
26-35	Count	1	59	60
	% within Age (Year)	1.7%	98.3%	100.0%
36-45	Count	25	22	47
	% within Age (Year)	53.2%	46.8%	100.0%
46-55	Count	4	26	30
	% within Age (Year)	13.3%	86.7%	100.0%
Above 55	Count	7	4	11
	% within Age (Year)	63.6%	36.4%	100.0%
Total	Count	43	157	200
	% within Age (Year)	21.5%	78.5%	100.0%

Chi-square = 57.768; d.f. = 4; p = 0.00; Gamma Value = -.482; Contingency Coefficient = .473

Hypothesis: 02

$H_0$  = There is no association between age and experience against the sexual assault.

$H_1$  = There is association between age and experience against the sexual assault.

2-Level of significance  $\alpha = 0.05$

3-Test statistic to be used  $\chi^2 - \text{Test}$

4-Computation. Cross-tabulation between age of the respondents and experience against the sexual assault

Age of the Respondents		Experience against the Sexual Assault		Total
		yes	no	
Up to 25	Count	6	46	52
	% within Age (Year)	11.5%	88.5%	100.0%
26-35	Count	15	45	60
	% within Age (Year)	25.0%	75.0%	100.0%
36-45	Count	13	34	47
	% within Age (Year)	27.7%	72.3%	100.0%
46-55	Count	2	28	30
	% within Age (Year)	6.7%	93.3%	100.0%
Above 55	Count	8	3	11
	% within Age (Year)	72.7%	27.3%	100.0%
Total	Count	44	156	200
	% within Age (Year)	22.0%	78.0%	100.0%

Chi-square = 25.114; d.f. = 4; p = 0.00; Gamma Value = -.242; Contingency Coefficient = .334

choose her life partner that, while 20.0% respondents were uncertain of the fact. Forced wedding of females continuously take place. Females in Pakistan are not permitted to get married to somebody of their choice, love marriages for women in Pakistan is not acceptable even in highly qualified and liberal families. Numerous cases of Karo Kari stand associated to love marriage. Hadood Ordinance was passed to forced marriage and rite of Karo Kari.

**Knowledge about Nikah Nama:** Table 6 shows the frequency distribution of the respondents according to their knowledge about Nikah Nama. Nikah Nama is most important document of married life but when asked from the respondents whether they had ever read Nikah Nama (marriage certificate) or have any knowledge about its written contents. About 75% respondents responded in no while only 25% respondents had the knowledge of marriage certificate.

**Bi-Variate Analysis:** Cross-tabulation between age of the respondents and Awareness about the 1961 Family Law in Pakistan: Following the statistics, Chi-square value is 57.768, at the d.f is 4, the p-value is significant (0, 00), hence it can be stated that age of respondent and the awareness about the 1961 family law are dependent, meaning that they are highly evident related, the Gamma value, -.482 indicate the negative relationship among variables, the hypothesis there is association between the age of respondent and the awareness about the 1961 family law is accepted.

Cross-tabulation between age of the respondents and experience against the sexual assault: Following the statistics, Chi-square value is 25.114, at the d.f is 4, the p-value is significant (0, 00), hence it can be stated that age of respondent and the experience against the sexual assault are dependent, meaning that they are highly evident related, the Gamma value, -.242 indicate the negative relationship among variables, the hypothesis there is association between the age of respondent and the experience against the sexual assault is accepted.

## CONCLUSIONS

The status of Pakistani women significantly varies across regions and classes as well as it depends on the rural urban frontiers because of the rough socio economic development besides the social construction like tribal, feudal and capital also influence the females' lives heavily. Although women in Pakistan at present adore an

improved status in comparison of most Muslim women in the world. Nevertheless, on usual, the state of women in relation to men is one of general gender demotion. Women in Pakistan face several types of violence including acid throwing, rape, enforced wedding, enforced prostitution, trade of females (buying and selling) and murder in the name of honor. To gain better understanding of the complete range of ferocity against womenfolk, it is needed to contemplate its certain constituent measures. These all kinds of ferocity and violence are pretty changed, depending on the circumstances and situations that give rise and contribute in the intensification of violence. Every single of the forms of violence against women are dreadful, horrifying besides criminal and all such practices must be condemned. The list given below is not enlisting all forms of violence rather a summary of the most important types of violence that women mostly face. In 1947, when Pakistan was created, men and women enjoyed their rights with a little legal distinction. The succeeding foremost legislature affecting the legal and civil rights of women in Pakistan was its constitution of 1973, which progressed legal rights of women in the nation state on many frontages. In recent past different amendments in law has been made by the government for the protection of women rights.

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