

Women's Empowerment in Pakistan...

Women's Empowerment Definitions;

- 1. Women Empowerment means; the process to increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.*
- 2. Women Empowerment refers to increasing the Spiritual, Political, Social, Educational, Gender, or Economic Strength of individuals and communities of Women.*

Aims & Objectives of W-E-P.

- ❖ Women's sense of Self-Worth.*
- ❖ Their Right to have and to determine choices.*
- ❖ Their Right to have access to Opportunities & Resources.*
- ❖ Their Right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home and their ability to influence the direction of Social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.*

About 66% of the female population in rural area is unutilized. This is mainly due to existing social customs. In Agriculture & Animal care the women contribute 90% of the total work force.

Women's are almost half of the population, perform 2/3rd of its work hours, receive 1/10th of the world's income & own less than 1/100th of the world property.

Among the world's 900 million illiterate people, women outnumber men two to one. 70% of people living in poverty are women.

The Main Problems that faced by women;

- ❖ **Stress & Fear**
- ❖ **Gender Discrimination.**
- ❖ **Woman Education.**
- ❖ **Female Infanticide & Dowry.**
- ❖ **Marriage in same caste and Child Marriages.**
- ❖ **Atrocities on Women: Raped, Harassment, Acid Victim, Killed, subdued & Humiliated almost daily.**

WOMEN'S ARE DEPRIVED OF:

- ❖ **Access to Health**
- ❖ **Access to Education**
- ❖ **Access to Employment**
- ❖ **Exposure to Media**
- ❖ **Domestic Violence**
- ❖ **Decision Making Power**
- ❖ **Freedom of Movement**

Quran said about “And for women are rights over men similar to those of men over women” (Noble Quran 2:228) “O mankind! Verily we have created you from a single (pair) of a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes that you may know each other.” (Al-Hujraat 49:13)

- ♣ **Equal Rights**
- ♣ **Equal Responsibilities**
- ♣ **Equally Accountable to God in Glorifying and Worshipping**

The Constitution of Pakistan 1973;

The Constitution ensures fundamental rights to all citizens without any discrimination of caste, creed, sex & religion. As per the Constitution of Pakistan; Articles 25;

**“All Citizens are equal, Irrespective of their Religion,
Cast and Gender in eyes of the Law.”**

Gender mainstreaming is essential for progress & prosperity. Nearly half of Pakistan's population is women, yet their participation is below the desirable in the process of development, socio-cultural traditions reinforced by lack of access to opportunity and resources relegate majority of the women to traditional roles.

Moreover in market orientated economic activities, although their contribution is substantial (agriculture) but largely it remains undervalued and unappreciated. Women's enterprises are often invisible segments of different markets and are not, therefore, recognized, counted or valued. For instance, many rural women engaged pre and post harvest processing which remains undercounted & undervalued. Hence women's contribution to both house hold & national economies remains unqualified.

There is 10% quota of employment reserved for women in public private sector organizations; currently it's less than 5%. Most of the women are employed in Ministries of health, Education, population welfare & Social welfare. In public sector a small % of women are occupying high profile positions, Labor force participation rates of women in Pakistan is on increase from 13.7 in 2008-2010 to 16.80% in 2013-2015.

By occupation women are still under represented at senior, legislative & managerial levels. The govt. has also fixed 10% quota for women Superior civil Services. Women and health, violence against women, women and poverty, women and armed conflict, women and economy, women and education training women in power and decision making, human rights of women, women and environment, institutional mechanism for advancement of women, women and media, girl child.