

2<sup>nd</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**DEBATES IN CONTEMPORARY  
GENDER ISSUES:  
FIVE YEARS OF  
SDGs IN PAKISTAN**

**ABSTRACT BOOK**



**March 31, 2021**

University of Management  
and Technology, Lahore

**ORGANIZED BY**

Department of Sociology



School of Social Sciences  
and Humanities

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Department of Sociology is extremely thankful to UMT management and administration for the smooth organization of the conference. Without their support it would not have been possible for us to organize this conference successfully. Our special thanks goes to the following;

### **Organizer**

- University of Management and Technology
- Team, Department of Sociology
- Students, Department of Sociology

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## **About UMT**

UMT is a project of Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) Trust. ILM was established in 1990 by leading educationists, professionals, and industrialists with an aim to enhance the organizational and individual effectiveness. Guided by the noble mission of helping others in actualizing their limitless human potential to its finest shape, ILM sought to respond to the challenges of information-based economy, globalization, and ever increasing complexity. The University of Management and Technology has evolved into a premier institution of higher learning in the country. It is recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) as a 'W4' category (highest rank) university. For more than two years, UMT was also at the top as per HEC ranking in General Category (medium-sized) of private sector institutions in the Punjab. UMT has also been named among the top 500 in QS Asia University Rankings 2019.

UMT – now an independent, not-for-profit, private institution of higher learning – received her degree-granting charter first as the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) in 2002 through an Act of the Assembly of the Punjab. Later, on 16 June 2004, IMT became University of Management and Technology through the passing of a similar Act by the Punjab Assembly. In September 2007, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, upgraded the category of UMT from 'Category X' / previous 'Category B' to 'Category W' / previous 'Category A'.

UMT offers a broad range of 140+ bachelor, master and doctoral degree programs in disciplines such as Commerce, Accounting, Business Administration, Banking and Finance, Business and IT, Computer Science, Economics, Education, Electrical Engineering, Aviation, Management, Supply Chain, Textile Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Information Systems, Linguistics, Media and Communication, School Management, Social Sciences, Educational Leadership Management, Law, English Language Teaching, and many more. All academic programs meet HEC criteria. The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has accredited BS Electrical Engineering, BS Mechanical Engineering, BS Civil Engineering and BS Industrial Engineering programs while the BBA and MBA programs are accredited by the National Business Education Accreditation Council. The National Computer Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC) has accredited the BS Computer Science, Software Engineering and BS Information Technology programs. Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP) has granted accreditation to BS City and Regional Planning and B. Architecture program. The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) has also accredited the LLB program. Quality assurance systems as suggested by HEC have been implemented at UMT.

At present, fourteen schools and five institutes are operating under the umbrella of UMT, namely: School of Architecture and Planning (SAP), School of Business and Economics (SBE), School of Commerce and Accountancy (SCA), School of Engineering (SEN), School of Food and Agricultural Sciences (SFAS), School of Governance and Society (SGS), School of Health Sciences (SHS), School of Law and Policy (SLP), School of Professional Advancement (SPA), School of Science, School of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSS&H), School of Systems and Technology (SST), School of Textiles and Design (STD), School of Media and Communication Studies (SM&CS), School of Professional Psychology (SPP), Institute of Aviation Studies (IAS), Institute of Liberal Arts (ILA), Institute of Islamic Perspective and Guidance (IIPG).

UMT distinguishes itself with 700+ faculty members including 200+ PhDs, 20,000+ alumni-ae and 25,000+ students from 100 districts of Pakistan and 18 countries across the globe. The University has state-of-the-art science, engineering and textile laboratories, computer network, well-stocked library with over 130,000+ books and digital resources to facilitate learning and research. The University also offers generous financial assistance to students. Scholarships and merit based awards are being availed by a large number of students.

[www.umt.edu.pk](http://www.umt.edu.pk)

## **About Department**

The Sociology Department has established its niche because of its focus on contemporary social issues. The department focuses and emphasis on social concerns that help students to prepare for research, teaching, social service and social welfare missions. The Sociology Department envision a new wave of accomplished researchers, competent students able to fractionate social and domestic issues while suggesting probable and possible outcomes and solutions and above all participants' who are empowered to accomplish feats in academia which will allow progression throughout society. The graduates over here are concerned with understanding the human condition, past and present, and are equipped with the skills of developing rapport in unfamiliar situations, collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data, thinking analytically at the macro, meso, and micro levels, and communicating effectively, both orally and in writing. All of these skills are highly relevant to the multicultural and global world. Sociology students in the program are well-prepared for further academic study, and/or for pursuing careers in social services, criminal justice, education, research, health, social and corporate sector, marketing, business consulting, policy analysis, program and projects evaluation, community participation and development. With industrial linkages and a global chain of universities linked to the Sociology of Department, employment and academic recognition are primary objectives that the Department of Sociology aims for always.

<https://ssh.umt.edu.pk/Sociology/Home.aspx>

# **MESSAGES**



**Conference Patron: Dr. Muhammad Aslam (S.I.)**

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Rector, UMT



The faculty and administration of University of Management and Technology has always been promoting, advocating and facilitating research culture in the university. We encourage departments to conduct national and international conferences not only to add to the existing body of knowledge but also to engage and train the students as future researchers. Despite the blow back of the pandemic, the current academic year is marked with the successful conduction of many national conferences in UMT.

I am pleased that Department of Sociology has added another feather to its cap by organizing this conference on contemporary gender issues. Here I wish to applaud the department for its consistent and considerable contribution since its inception at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. I hope that the department would keep on taking initiatives and providing platform for meaningful research activities.

I thank all the distinguished guests, presenters, participants for joining us and sharing their insights on gender issues and for providing a comprehensive appraisal of gender and sustainable development goals (SDGs).

**Conference Deputy Patron: Mr. Abid HK Sherwani**

Director General, UMT



Gender is a vision to treat men and women and people with special needs equally in social, economic and all other aspects of life. The best practice is to not be discriminated any marginalized community on the basis of their gender, race or religion. All Humans are equal and this is the message of Islam.

Gender equality is one of the objectives of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Sustainable Development Goal 5.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Debate on Contemporary Gender Issues is a platform which will activate the socialists, think tanks, policy implementation institutes and organizations to formulate a comprehensive gender framework at their individual and national level to attain the objectives of gender equality and justice. As Deputy Patron of conference, I want express my deepest gratitude to all my participants, educationist, social activists and researchers who joined this platform in spite of critical pandemic issue of COVID-19. I highly appreciate all stakeholders to raise their voices for the rights of neglected groups in lieu of securing their future by ensuring their participation in socio-economic, civil, cultural and political policy reforms and professional development.

Best of Luck

**Conference Chair: Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Akhter**

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Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, UMT



In today's globalized world gender has become an area of key focus in all Development Programs. Gender was one of the main concerns in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is a cross cutting theme in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, Pakistan is still far from achieving the desired results in gender indicators. Department of Sociology at University of Management and Technology (UMT) is contributing to the international and national themes across gender in a meaningful way. I am pleased to see that the Department takes initiative to provide a platform for scholars, academicians, researchers and policy makers to debate on contemporary Gender issues faced in Pakistan. It is our second conference and I hope that this tradition will only continue from here. The conference is a welcome step indeed and I believe that that researchers and scholars from academia and development sector will deliberate on diverse gender related issues and challenges and come up with tangible solutions. We received a good number of abstracts on conference sub themes from all provinces of Pakistan. The conference will provide a unique opportunity to students, scholars, academicians and researchers to not only interact and share knowledge but also to learn from each other. I appreciate untiring efforts of the organizers of the conference and congratulate them for organizing such a commendable event. Lastly but most importantly, I welcome all the delegates of the conference to the virtual conference. The past year has been tumultuous and difficult for most in academia. We hope that the virtual conference, although not a substitute, will enable you to engage with pertinent issues.

**Conference Convener: Dr. Basharat Hussain**

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Chairperson, Department of Sociology, UMT



Greetings to one and all. I feel immense happiness to be amongst you all in the virtual second chapter of this conference designed to initiate dialogue aimed at bridging gaps drifting us, individually and collectively apart. Amid the world coming to a halt in the wake of a deadly disease, fragility of human life in an eye opening reality has dawned upon mankind. It is perhaps a soft reminder for everyone to understand the 'kind' in 'mankind' for which dialogue is imperative. It is only these various points of view coming together on a focal point to be synthesized into a furthermore progressive narrative playing a pivotal role in shaping solutions of today's problems and also to identify and perhaps rectify the various coming in the future. In the Sociology Department we as a team are trying hard to promote dialogue on gender issues among different stakeholders. We all know that the pandemic has hit the less privileged and marginalized more. This includes women and transgender in our society. We need confidence and a platform like this to highlight their issues so that we can achieve sustainable development goals for all and not the few. I am thankful to honorable Dr. Muhammad Aslam Rector, UMT, Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Akhter, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, and my team for their wonderful support in organizing this conference.

**Conference Co-Convener: Dr. Ambreen Salahuddin**

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Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UMT



It is a moment of pride for us at the Department of Sociology to hold 2<sup>nd</sup> online National Conference on “Debates in Contemporary Gender Issues: Five Years of SDGs in Pakistan”. We at UMT aim to promote indigenous gender discourses in Pakistan. We are aware of the complexities attached with sharing concerns over gender issues. In terms of gender rating, we belong to a country which is at number 148 out of 149 countries in Global Gender Gap Index.

We are happy to provide a platform to present and share research in the fields of gender and women studies as we are not only taking concerns on chronic gender issues but also seeking solutions in the light of Pakistan’s progress on SDGs indicators.

We are also glad to share that we reviewed meaningful abstracts on diverse themes and we are hopeful that this conference will prove to be beneficial for researchers, faculty members and participants especially in the pandemic times.

**Conference Secretary: Dr. Iram Rasheed**

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Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UMT



As the Secretary of the 2nd National Conference on '*Debates in Contemporary Gender Issues: Five Years of SDGs in Pakistan*', it is my sheer honor and privilege to be the part of conference management team. At UMT, we are committed to engage in and encourage the growth of academic dialogue and debate on issues that concern our society. Bearing this in mind, this year we intend to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals in a Pakistani including but not limited to gender equality, gender and environment etc.

Arranging a conference, albeit virtually, during a global pandemic had its own challenges. In this regard, I would like to express my gratitude to the conference team, the UMT departments, OCMS, OTS and Accounts office that have put in a lot of time and effort to organize this event.

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra**

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Professor, Forman Christian College University



Addressing the issues of inequity and inequality is the basic principle for a futuristic and composite understanding of life. Economically lesser privileged societies often ignore the importance of each gender in hierarchy of issues in development. The lopsided growth overlooks the basic rights creating a chasm between mere living and a dignified life. Today the societies in particular and the world in general need to understand the meaning of a harmonious and balanced life. Through social justice discriminations could be decreased and an ambience of trust and sharing could easily be generated. If an individual is enabled by recognizing his/her rights, then without an iota of doubt, he/she is ready to engage with a new vision of responsibilities. To create a society with its moral strengths disparities based upon gender, class, and economic status have to be seriously addressed eliminating biases regarding education, economic opportunities and class divisions.

Prof. Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra will deliver her keynote address on the topic “**Gender Inclusive Society: A Life Celebrated.**”

# **Conference Program**



One Day Online National Conference on  
 Debates in Contemporary Gender Issues: Five Years of  
 SDGs in Pakistan

## Conference Program

March 31, 2021 (Wednesday)

8:30 am – 8:55 am	<b>Registration / Housekeeping Issues</b>
8:55 – 9:00 am	<b>Guests and Participants to be Settled</b>
9:00 am	<b>Recitation of the Holy Quran and National Anthem</b>
<b>Inaugural Session</b> 9:05 am – 10:15 am	<p><b>Welcome Note by Conference Convener:</b>                  Dr. Basharat Hussain (Chairperson, Department of Sociology, UMT)</p> <p><b>Keynote Address (Guest of Honor):</b>                  Professor Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra (FCCU, Lahore)</p> <p><b>Chief Guest's Note:</b>                  Dr. Naushaba Hasan Murad (Chairperson, WILL)</p> <p><b>Address by the Patron:</b>                  Dr. Muhammad Aslam (S.I.) (Rector, UMT)</p> <p><b>Vote of Thanks by Conference Chair:</b>                  Professor Dr. Mumtaz Akhter (Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, UMT)</p>
<b>Working Session A</b> 10:30 am – 12:45 pm	<p><b>Theme:</b> Social Issues and Gender Inequalities in Pakistan: An Overview of SDGs Progress</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Dr. Subha Malik, Assistant Professor and Chairperson, Gender and Development Studies, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Tayyaba Sohail, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UMT, Lahore.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gender Equality: Is this a Reality or Ruse?</b>  <i>Faiza Zaheer, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Forman Christian College University, Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li> <li>• <b>Subversion of the Gender Stereotypes in Shoaib Mansoor's Verna (2017): A Radical Feminist Analysis</b>  <i>Rida Sarfraz, Sadia Riaz, Naheed Ashfaq and Faiza Abid, Assistant Professors, Khubaib ur Rehman, Student, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li> <li>• <b>Issues and Challenges of Transgenders in Pakistan to Gain Access to Equal Job Opportunities</b>  <i>Muhammad Tariq Gul, MPhil Scholar, School of Religion and Philosophy, Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan and Aisha Ayub, Advocate, Lahore High Court, Pakistan.</i></li> </ul>	

- **Ecofeminism and the Male Panoptical Gaze in Rupri Kaur's *Milk and Honey***  
*Ifrah Afzal, Lecturer, Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Lahore, Pakistan.*
- **Gender Gap in Higher Education in Pakistan: A Study of Aspirations, Motivation and Mobility Among Women Students in Agricultural Sciences**  
*Naveed Farah, Lecturer, Department of Rural Sociology, Babar Shahbaz, Associate Professor, Institute of Agri. Extension & Rural Development, Izhar Ahmad Khan, Associate Professor, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.*
- **Lack of Social Support and Emotional Behavioral Problems: The Picture of Gender Biasness**  
*Urooj Iqbal, Student MPhil and Rabia Khadim, Lecturer, Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Management and Technology Lahore, Pakistan.*
- **Gender Differences in Perception of Sexual Harassment in Higher Education Institutes**  
*Ruhina Ghassan, Student and Dr. Subha Malik, Associate Professor, Department of Gender and Development Studies, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.*
- **Children raising Children: Why Girl Child**  
*Dr. Shelina Bhamani, Sohail Ahmed, Sheraz Ahmed, Fayaz Umrani, Sadaf Jakhro, Khaliq Qureshi, and Asad Ali. The Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan.*
- **Women's Political Representation in Pakistan and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Looking Beyond the Numbers**  
*Dr. Sher Muhammad, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Govt. College Bhalwal, Sargodha, Pakistan.*
- **Health Services for Transgender: Challenges Faced by Transgender Community in Pakistan for Access to Health Services due to Prejudiced Attitude of Medical Practitioners**  
*Syeda Memoona Ali and Aymen Imtiaz, Research Scholars, Forman Christian College A Chartered University, Lahore, Pakistan.*
- **Gender Inequality: Understanding the Current Women's Status with Reference to Rural Pakistan**  
*Saima Gulzar, Professor and Rumana Khan Shirwani, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Planning, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, UMT.*
- **The Gender Inequalities and Female Perception about Sex Education in Pakistan**  
*Sadia Nawaz Hiraj, Trainee Clinical Psychologist, Forman Christian College, and Dr Rabia Farooqi, Assistant Professor, University of Central Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.*

**Q & A Session, Concluding, Remarks by Session Chair**

<b>Working Session B</b> 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	<b>Theme :</b> Contemporary Feminist Debates in Pakistan <b>Chair:</b> Dr. Wajid Tahir, Gender Expert and Post-Doctoral Fellow, Philipps-University Marburg, Germany. <b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Inam ul Haq, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, UMT, Lahore.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>A Study on Street Harassment Faced by Women at Public Places</b> <i>Arooj Safdar, Student, Nayab Javed, Lecturer, Department of Gender and Development Studies, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li><li>• <b>Rhetoric of Silence in the Glass Bangles: A Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis</b> <i>Dr. Fauzia Janjua, Associate Professor, Department of English, International Islamic University, Islamabad and Syeda Aniqah Sabahat, PhD Scholar, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan.</i></li><li>• <b>Public Places Safety isn't for All</b> <i>Kiran Ikram, Lecturer Sociology, LCWU) and Nimra Ishtiaq, Lecturer Sociology, Toppers Law College, Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li><li>• <b>The Feminist Perspective in Political Science: An Analysis of Perception in Pakistani Academia</b> <i>Rabia Akram, MPhil Scholar Political Science, MT and Dr. Fatima Sajjad Assistant Professor of International Relations at University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li><li>• <b>A Feminist Reading of Hanif's Our Lady of Alice Bhatti</b> <i>Ramla Aslam Khan, Forman Christian College And University. Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li><li>• <b>Barriers Associated with Domestic Violence Screening of Pregnant Women; A Qualitative Study on Health Practitioners of Lahore, Pakistan</b> <i>Sana Ashraf, Postgraduate Student, MA Social Research Methods, University of Leeds, UK. Former Lecturer at Institute of Business Administration and Economics Department of University of the Punjab, FAST-NU and Government College University, Pakistan.</i></li><li>• <b>Problematic Depiction of Women in Veet Ads against a Progressive Backdrop in Pakistan</b> <i>Umaimah Riaz Malik, Kinnaird College for Women's University, Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li><li>• <b>The Role of Media and Family in Perpetuating Sexual Violence against Women: A Study of Chup Raho and Udaari</b> <i>Unaiza Nadeem, Research Scholar and Dr. Shirin Zubair, Professor of English, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li><li>• <b>Teacher-Student Interaction and Mental Health Problems: Testing the Differences of Gender</b> <i>Ushna Farrukh and Umaiza Bashir, Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan.</i></li></ul>	

- **Tendulkar’s Silence! The Court is in Session: A study of Liberal Feminism**  
*Sadia Nazeer, Assistant Professor, Department of English, SBBWUP, and PhD Scholar, IIUI, Pakistan.*
- **Fahmida Riaz: Shattering Stereotypes and Taboos**  
*Syeda Abeer Bukhari, Researcher, Syed and Jahan Law Associates Chamber. MPhil Scholar, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan.*

**Q & A Session, Concluding, Remarks by Session Chair**

**Working Session C**  
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

**Theme:** Women Empowerment and Economic Development

**Chair:** Dr. Abida Malik, University of Nottingham UK.  
Director of Studies at the University of Bolton, The UK  
Parliament Academic Fellow.

**Moderator:** Dr. Beenish Malik, Assistant Professor,  
Department of Sociology, UMT, Lahore.

- **Ostracism as Predictor of Well-being among Transgender**  
*Gazala Ismail, Research Scholar, Clinical Psychology and Dr. Shazia Habib, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, GC University, Faisalabad, Pakistan.*
- **Exploring Dynamics behind Political Marginalization of Pashtoon Women: A Case Study of Lakki Marwat**  
*Inamullah Marwat, Visiting Faculty, Department of Political Science and International Relations, UMT, Lahore.*
- **Decent Work and Economic Growth without Quality Education: Evidence from Pakistani Women Youtubers**  
*Saima Khan, PhD Scholar, Global Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo Japan.*
- **Participation of Indigenous Women in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage**  
*Dr. Saima Gulzar, Professor and Sana Younas, Research Scholar, School of Architecture and Planning, UMT, Pakistan.*
- **Female Resistance and Reclamation of Space in Socio-cultural, Political and Historical Backdrop of Fall of Dhaka in Raihana A Hasan’s *Sips from a Broken Teacup***  
*Momal Zahra, MPhil Scholar, English Literature and Dr Shirin Zubair, Professor, Kinnaird College for Women Lahore.*
- **Resistance of Women against their Human Rights Violations in Indian held Kashmir: An Analysis of International Human Rights Discourse (1989-2019)**  
*Izzat Raazia, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Political Science and International Relations UMT, Lahore, Pakistan.*

- **The Role of Women Action Forum in Strengthening Feminist Movement in Pakistan**

*Iqra Rass, MPhil Scholar and Dr. Iram Rasheed, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan.*

- **Breaking Second Glass Ceiling: Lived Experiences of Women Entrepreneurs in Pakistan**

*Dr. Ambreen Salahuddin, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UMT, Lahore.*

**Q & A Session, Concluding, Remarks by Session Chair**

<b>Closing Ceremony 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks by Deputy Patron</b> Mr. Abid HK Sherwani Director General, UMT.
	<b>Vote of Thanks by Conference Co-Convener</b> Dr. Ambreen Salahuddin (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UMT)

## Session A

# Social Issues and Gender Inequalities in Pakistan: An Overview of SDGs Progress

## **Gender Equality: Is this a Reality or Ruse?**

Faiza Zaheer, Assistant Professor, Department of English,  
Forman Christian College University, Lahore, Pakistan.

[faizazaheer76@gmail.com](mailto:faizazaheer76@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

Gender issues have been and are still one of the major debates in Pakistan since last few decades. Unfortunately, nothing significant has been done to address this predominant disparity. Questions regarding the reality of gender equality as an achievable goal still need to be addressed properly and emphatically. This misunderstanding is quite persistent in our society regarding this question of equality. In country like Pakistan, people have different approaches towards the problems of gender equality. As equality is sometimes understood in terms of equality in rights but not in duties. Some feminist groups believe in equality how women are treated at their respective workplaces. Yet there are some groups which do not understand or intend to understand the true essence and definition of gender equality at all. The basic purpose to address this issue is to understand women's social existence in the society and the acceptance of that existence by the opposite gender. Now another question is which class among female is socially accepted and how females belong to this specific class should help other classes to be accepted by the society. In our society, equality is not related to genders only, but this problem is quite prevalent within the gender as well. So, our social structure faces two major societal and cultural issues; equality among the genders and within the gender. This paper aims at exposing the main questions regarding gender equality and its basic understanding by both genders. This is usually observed that sometimes even females fail to understand the essential meaning of equality and to them this specific expression is defined in terms of homes where they are kept as captives with the false impression of ownership. This is how they are controlled not only by males but also by females who are superior to them in education and social class and there is a constant struggle of these socially inferior females to get acknowledged not only by males but by females as well. The main objective of this paper is to expose the problems of females not only for the cause of equality but to get to know their rights regarding education, social class and cultural structure. This paper will also attempt to explore the reasons that eventually lead women to social conditionings regarding inferiority complex and failure in both challenging and accepting their social and cultural status. Manuscript will also include the Feminist Theories of Judith Butler, Julia Kristeva and Simon de Beauvoir to establish a connection between the gender equality and equality within the gender. Major contemporary issues regarding females will be discussed and analyzed to find out the solutions and recommendations to make this society a better place for the existing generation and the generations to come.

**Keywords:** Gender, Equality, Feminism, Social inferiority, Female rights, Equality within the gender, Education

## Subversion of the Gender Stereotypes in Shoaib Mansoor's *Verna* (2017): A Radical Feminist Analysis

### Rida Sarfraz

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### Abstract

It is a hard known fact that in Pakistani Chauvinistic society, a female has always been taken as a suppressed commodity irrespective of feminist movements and legal rights. This eventually has led to the social as well as epistemological marginalization of females in the society. Although, in a country where the female population is 51%, such topics of female empowerment either goes into a black hole or are not well received. This study aims at the critical analysis of the transformative journey of the protagonist of a Pakistani social-drama film *Verna* (2017) written, directed and produced by Shoaib Mansoor. The in-depth analysis will debunk the persistent myth of females' subjugation and objectification by dominant masculine principles from being a victim to a self-reliant individual of long forsaken matriarchal hierarchy within authoritative patriarchies. The paper employs qualitative research methodology and delves on Mary Daly's ideology of challenging the views of the misogynistic society that let the phallocracy victimize its women, sap women's vigor, and refute women's socioeconomic and political power, derived from her work "Gyn/Ecology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism." (1978). The research will reveal the streaks of buildings roman where *Verna's* protagonist *sara*, initially a rape victim, later turns out to be a completely strong character. Through a close critical analysis of the movie, this research seeks to address the film's subversive representation of socially constructed stereotypical male and female roles to contest the long-established gender dogmas apprehended by the patriarchal society. Conclusively, the paper presents itself a critique of the patriarchal society where sexual assault and psychological violence are overly pervasive despite legal implications.

**Keyword:** Phallocracy, Marginalization, Matriarchy, Gender stereotypes



## Issues and Challenges of Transgenders in Pakistan to Gain Access to Equal Job Opportunities

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### Abstract

The study aims to identify the gap between, Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights Act), 2018 and policies that grants equal opportunities despite these laws transgenders do not have access to the equal opportunities. Traditionally they are relegated to the entertainment, sex work and the begging industry. The study is deigned to identify the challenges that deprive the transgenders to earn a decent earning, livelihood and equal access to the job opportunities.

1. Gender Mainstreaming- The two percent quota has sensitized the government towards the rights of the transgenders, recognition as third gender on cnic.
2. Loopholes in the policy- Quotas are not enough to grant equal access to employment opportunities, inclusive policy making that provides technical education for access to the jobs.
3. To identify the geo-political factors of inadequate population census of the transgenders. Population of Transgender as per the census report of 2017 is underrated. For an objective policy discourse and to formulate the policy in accordance with the welfare of transgender and accurate census of transgender is needed
4. Public humiliation, ridicule, marginalization and social exclusion. This behavior is not limited to street behavior, but it is also experienced in government offices and private offices.
5. Societal behavior is a social construct and to de-construct it with past discourses of transgender position of power and trust in South-Asia.
6. Publicly spread awareness of Transgenders existence and transgender as human creation and to remove the myth of transgender as bad omen, third degree creature and believes associated to the Hindu mythology.
7. Revival and upgradation through education and awareness of the general public is essential for the transgender to get their rights as per their identity.

The first step involves reviewing the policies and practices on transgenders employments and opportunities in public and private sector. This will be followed by reviewing the transgenders ground position in the employment sector (public-private). The next step would be to engage a set of key stakeholders across Pakistan including community representatives, government functionaries, law practitioners, academics and civil society representative. The policy areas requiring attention will be identified to address the problems of transgenders. The results of this research will be a good addition in the existing body of knowledge.

**Keywords:** Gender mainstreaming, Transgender, Issues, Opportunities, Pakistan

## **Ecofeminism and the Male Panoptical Gaze in Rupri Kaur's *Milk and Honey***

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### **Abstract**

This paper examines the poetic collection of Rupri Kaur's *Milk and Honey* through four stages of a woman's life after her encounter with male abuse. Stretching the limits of gender inequality, the male's hidden surveillance acts as a keen tactic to exercise unnatural power and control in a socially constructed environment. The connections between misuse of nonhuman nature and female oppression are explored through Foucault's theory of the Panopticism that presents a disciplined social control nuanced with the most treacherous intent. The females' natural consciousness and her instinctive relationship with the environment does not allow her to see the prowling, coercive male observer in an ordinary environment. This research paper considers the influence of ecofeminism on gender inequality and the environment through the structural premise of the Panopticon. The architectural design of the Panopticon offers strict spatial partitioning of cells, a circular ground plan and the inspection house at the center. These characteristics of the Panopticon are conditioned by the male as a form of natural environment for the female to discipline her for total submission. However, this in return allows the ecofeminist agenda of individuality, social and ideological change to rise in order to improve the cultural standing of women and nature with the knowledge or power acquired after experiencing exploitation. The four-part process of hurt, love, breaking and healing in *Milk and Honey* are explained by using natural and human imagery of body parts, like "eyelashes", "fingers", "lips", "thighs", "tree trunk arms", "earth", "sun" etc. to highlight the ecofeminism challenges and struggles to overcome domination in a seemingly natural space. The objectives of the research are not to subvert the women's historical role as the nurturing caregiver and the male's position as the center of authority but to understand the covert male and the unnatural order he creates of power and control that is far from any basic human empathy. Ultimately, the artificiality of the male façade offers a very weak inner self, wrought with insecurities that ironically gives the female unmatched strength when she comes out of his surveilling prison. The result is an unflinching self-belief in the woman which is most natural and irresistible in any human. Thus, Rupri Kaur's ecofeminism is empowering in its accentuation of the value of human life, as a living entity that reserves the right to protect herself and the environment around.

**Keywords:** Ecofeminism, Power and control, Environmental discourse, Environmental justice

## **Gender Gap in Higher Education in Pakistan: A Study of Aspirations, Motivation and Mobility among Women Students in Agricultural Sciences**

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### **Abstract**

It is globally recognized that education in general and higher education in particular is one of the key tools to strengthen women empowerment. However, in Pakistan, there is gender divide in education and this divide is more prominent in higher education of science, technology and agriculture. The SDG's 4 & 5 are directly linked to achieve these targets to eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal participation and equal opportunities for leadership. The gender divide becomes even wider in higher education in foreign countries in spite of the fact that many opportunities in the form of foreign scholarships offered by various agencies. As Pakistan has an agricultural-based economy and more than 40% of the total labor force of country is engaged in agriculture and most of the agricultural labor force is composed of women. But several research studies have shown that rural women have least access to extension and training services due to socio-cultural norms as there is a lack of women researchers and agricultural extension workers in the field. In this context, this research study was conducted to explore the factors behind women disinclination towards higher studies and foreign scholarships in agriculture and allied sector. The major objectives of the present study were to explore the perceptions and aspirations of women agricultural students about higher studies and studying abroad, to identify social, cultural and financial factors that hinder women decisions regarding higher studies abroad in agriculture.

The study was conducted at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and the girl students of UAF constituted the population of study. A mixed methodology /design was used to gather the information from the women in education sector related to agricultural A proportionate sample of 250 respondents was taken from major faculties of UAF for quantitative data collection. Semi-structured interview schedule was used as a research instrument which was comprised of major questions about perceptions of female students about higher studies. For qualitative data collection, two FGDs were conducted with the students having desire for going abroad for higher studies. Ten key informant interviews were conducted with girl students currently availing scholarship opportunities abroad.

The results indicate that overwhelming majority (99.6%) of respondents have positive opinion about higher education and, majority of the respondents (84.5 %) perceived that their

families would allow them to go abroad on scholarship, however our qualitative data indicated that the financial constraints, fear of society and religion and alien culture are some of the constraining factors in this regards. Education of mother, family type, marriage, socio-cultural norms, religious misconceptions and feeling about the attitude of society towards women were some of the significant factors that were affecting women disinclination towards higher education in agriculture. On the other hand, lack of information about scholarship opportunities, lengthy and hectic process of scholarship application, admission and searching supervisor in a foreign university and developing a good research proposal are some of the major challenges identified by the respondents in accepting scholarship opportunities.

It is concluded that the problem is cultural rather than the economic as opportunities in the form of financial assistance and scholarship from various national and international sources are available but cultural norms, fear of society and cultural shocks are the major hindering factors in women disinclination towards getting higher education abroad. Hence, strong advocacy campaigns for female students and their families and communities are required to tackle such stereotypes.

**Keywords:** Pakistan, Gender in education, Agricultural education, Gender gap, motivation, Aspirations

## **Lack of Social Support and Emotional Behavioral Problems: The Picture of Gender Biasness**

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### **Abstract**

In under-developed countries, gender inequality can be identified through the provision of food, education, opportunities and a platform to groom and progress. A gap has always been observed for social and emotional support to girls who are working hard and paying attention to their life goals such as schooling. This is a case study of 16 years old girl, studying in 8<sup>th</sup> class, referred by the teacher with complaints of school absentees, not learning lessons and doing homework. The child faced problems of forgetfulness while orating and writing the lesson. Several assessment modalities revealed that the child had low self-esteem and social skills issues. Due to the consistent torturing and less support from family and school, she was also getting anxious. Management plan was devised based on rapport building, social skills training, anxiety management, self-esteem boosting exercise and study skills training. All improvements were maintained over the period of three months. This case study illustrated that the child was as functional as her class fellows but she was lacking in social support by family and school administration which ultimately became the cause of her low self-esteem and related issues.

**Keywords:** Gender biasness, Social support, Self-esteem, Functional analysis, Cognitive assessment battery

## Gender Differences in Perception of Sexual Harassment in Higher Education Institutes

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### Abstract

Sexual harassment; a social issue which is present in every society, globally, which interferes in an individual's social and professional life. It happens almost everywhere i.e. at workplaces, public places or institutes as well. The objectives of the present study were;

- 1) To explore the differences of male and female students' perception of sexual harassment in Higher Education Institutes.
- 2) To find out the presence of sexual harassment exists in universities.
- 3) And what are the common types of sexual harassment in higher education institutes.

This study was a mixed method comprised of; Quantitative and Qualitative research. Sample of the study included of 400 students (200 males and 200 females) from two government and two private universities. In quantitative study, Sexual Harassment Perception Questionnaire (SHPQ) was used to find out these differences in perceptions as every person has his own view for different situations. The quantitative data was statistically analyzed using independent sample t-test and One-Way ANOVA. The study revealed the significant differences in perception of students. Study showed that both genders perceived that female students get more harassed than male students. The factors that affect the perception frequently were gender and age. The results also revealed that both men and women can be both perpetrator and target of sexual harassment in this era. Qualitative part was analyzed using thematic analysis. Verbal harassment was the most common type of sexual harassment mostly found in higher education institutes. According to the results, sexual harassment exists in private universities more than Public. Major themes emerged from the sub themes were; perception of sexual harassment, presence of sexual harassment in higher education institutes, perpetrator, victim, reasons of sexual harassment, role of physical appearance, role of power, role of media, after effects of sexual harassment and reasons of silence against sexual harassment. The findings recommended that regulations for sexual harassment should be implemented in universities, laws should be made for sexual harassment in higher education institutes. Students should be aware of sexual harassment through seminars, self-defense classes and awareness campaigns and every institute should have a counselling center for the betterment of the mental health of students.

**Keywords:** Gender differences, Sexual harassment, Higher educational institutions

## Children Raising Children: Why Girl Child

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### Abstract

Children raising children phenomenon has been untouched in the context of lower middle income countries (LMICs). The trend of sibling caretaking in this part of the world exists in reality however it is too organic to be considered. Specifically, in Pakistan general observations share that elder sibling parenting their younger sibling is very common whether urban or rural context and the prevalence of it increases when it comes to resource constraints settings and remote areas. More than often the girl child living in poverty is deprived of her right to a happy and normal childhood and made to work as a caregiver to younger siblings. The eldest girl child has significant responsibilities at home including cooking and cleaning, and above all, caring for younger siblings. This is a conventional family norm in the rural setting, although not always limited to the female gender and passed down from generation to generation, stemming from a lack of education and awareness coupled with financial limitations, large family size, and poor access to healthcare. We conducted a study of 150 families which had sibling caretaking practices happening to explore practices and perceptions of parents regarding the sibling caretaking using a mixed method study design. Our results revealed that the parents assigned some specific caregiving tasks significantly more to their daughters (girls) than sons (boys). Also, the qualitative data reflects that themes on parents regarding girl child's responsibility on raising younger siblings, obligation to help, future preparedness, and effective utilization of her domestic time. The findings have been alarming and call for urgent and accelerated actions to work on gender equitable awareness programs for families and communities. So that the girl child education, participation, empowerment and financial stability can be worked on.

**Keywords:** Education, Equity, Girl child, Sibling caretaking

## **Women's Political Representation in Pakistan and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Looking Beyond the Numbers**

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### **Abstract**

Although women's political representation has increased over the past 20 years, but their share in decision-making institution is still insignificant. Globally, women's membership in parliaments rose to 24.1 % at the end of 2018, representing an increase of 13 percentage points compared with two decades ago. A fundamental prerequisite for achieving the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" is gender equality. Progressing women's political participation is an important target of Sustainable Development Goals. Target Goal 5.5 clearly pledges to "Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life". Pakistan has also adopted various policies to enhance women's representation in political institutions. This paper focuses on the impact of those policies on women's political representation, but the purpose is to look beyond the numbers (substantive representation). According to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) ranking (2019) of women in ministerial positions, Pakistan ranked 136 in the world. The study has found that the gender quota helped in increasing women's numbers in Parliament, but it could not bring more women in decision making positions. It is suggested that women empowerment remain a dream until women have substantive representation rather than descriptive representation.

**Keywords:** political representation, gender equality, sustainable development goals, decision-making, substantive representation



## **Health Services for Transgender: Challenges faced by Transgender Community in Pakistan for access to Health Services due to Prejudiced Attitude of Medical Practitioners**

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### **Abstract**

The paper seeks to highlight the challenges faced by the transgender community of Pakistan concerning their healthcare needs caused due to medical practitioners' prejudiced attitude towards their gender identity and by bringing to light these disparities, the authors aim to focus on the need of reforms in the medical practitioners' professional code of ethics so they are bind to make it more inclusive and safe for their trans patients. The paper alludes to examples of transgender discrimination in United States medical practitioners for establishing the fact that it is a common issue in a first world country and a third world country. The paper through secondary research, identifies the physical and psychological effects of pre-existing prejudices around the transgender community that determine the attitude of health care providers (from doctors to paramedics) and their interactions with trans patients. The paper discusses the negative impact of discrimination faced by trans patients at a physiological and social level in the health care sector which ultimately influences their choice of a treatment about their general and specific medical conditions. Furthermore, the paper identifies financial hindrances and lack of knowledge of medical practitioners about transgender treatment due to the scarcity of a safe and healthy environment for the examination and treatment of these individuals; an attitude of averseness towards medical aid is seen to be adopted by the trans community which ultimately deprives them of their basic human right of access to medical treatment. The paper recognizes a gap between the medical and transgender communities and strongly believes there is a need to bridge it. The paper concludes by suggesting some of the immediate reforms that can be adopted at the government and local level which will effectively improve the present scenario and will lead towards an acceptance of trans community's easy access to health services.

**Keywords:** Transgender community, Medical practitioners, Access to knowledge, Health services, Discrimination and harassment, Healthcare needs, Physical and mental health.

**Gender Inequality: Understanding the Current Women's Status  
with Reference to Rural Pakistan**

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**Abstract**

Gender Inequality is one of the major issues discussed around the globe with different associated perspectives. Pakistan being the developing nation is also part of this current debate and trying to find the ways to respond to this global phenomenon. Pakistani rural women are bound with the historical and cultural systems practiced from years to be limited within the premises with no economic and developmental contributions. The developing countries like Pakistan needs the women's contribution (almost 50% of the whole population) in the current economic crisis. This research is focused on the rural areas of Pakistan where household expenditures are increasing at faster rate and poverty is increasing accordingly. The gender equality and the balance can help in the reductions of poverty in such areas. Women empowerment is the innovative solution and is the current need of the rural areas of Pakistan. The women empowerment is a complex phenomenon (with its inherited misconceptions) and its implementation in various societies paved their success. Empowering women and improving their status are essential ingredients for realizing the full potential of the economic and potential development of the entire society thus ensuring sustainable development.

**Keywords:** Gender Inequality, Women, Empowerment, Rural, Pakistan

## **The Gender Inequalities and Female Perception about Sex Education in Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

The present research was aimed to explore sources regarding sex education among females and gender discrimination they faced on daily basis. A Sample was conceded of undergraduate females, between the age arrays of 20-23 years. Sample was composed by employing convenience sampling. Three focus groups were escorted; each focus group was granted of six participants. Data was scrutinized by using thematic approach in which deductive method was used and fifteen themes were emerged. Studies shows that females have a privilege of getting sex education more easily than males but in some families the male family members have to maintain certain distance with female family members when it comes to share issues like sex education. The Young girls in study accepted the fact that they are being treated differently and their source of sex education was different from their brothers. Gender inequality had negative influence on young girls in order to attain sex education at home and educational centers. Mothers usually inform girls about sexual matters but don't give sex education to their sons. This study helps to understand gender inequalities, different perspectives, sources and difficulties in acquiring sex education. Findings of research can be further implemented in the areas of cultural psychology and will benefit to comprehend Pakistani culture, to understand patriarchy, taboo linked with sex education and gender inequalities. Gender differences and problems in achieving sex education helps researcher in field of gender psychology. This will further help to comprehend the gender biasness and differences in society.

**Keywords:** Sex education, Sexually transmitted diseases, Bodily changes, Inappropriate touch, Parental bonding.

## Session B

# Contemporary Feminist Debates in Pakistan

## **A Study on Street Harassment Faced by Women at Public Places**

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### **Abstract**

Street harassment has become an alarming issue in Pakistan. Previous studies have been conducted on sexual harassment at workplaces and academic institutes. This study attempted to explore the perception, factors of street harassment in a public place. Moreover, this study also found the preventive measures that should be taken to stop street harassment at different public places. A cross-sectional survey was conducted of 150 males and females, randomly selected from different areas of Lahore. A self-developed questionnaire was used to collect the data.

The analysis showed that most street harassments occurred at busy markets and public transports. Moreover, the analysis also highlighted that patriarchal practices are one of the leading factors of street harassment. Furthermore, results revealed that lack of reporting, fear of the police, and lack of legal binding are major obstacles to stop the street harassment faced by women in public places. This study recommends that government should develop preventive measures, create awareness among women and the general public about the reporting process and develop follow-up mechanisms to ensure women's safety in public places.

**Keywords:** Street harassment, Women, Public places, Safety

## Rhetoric of Silence in *the Glass Bangles*: A Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis

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### **Abstract**

The study examines literary illustrations of women's silence in Zia Gurchani's short fiction *The Glass Bangles*. His protagonist chooses silence as a form of speech, usually as a refusal to enact subordination. Silence entails a variety of manifestations with a wide range of acts from a very simple to a relatively complex actions, hence has cast its shadow upon the story. In order to understand the rhetoric of silence, this study seeks guidance from the theoretical concept of *silence as resistance* by Susan Gal (1991) which explicates the notion of silence and silent actions of women against patriarchal society. The socio-cultural aspect of this resistance was examined through Feminist Critical Discourse Analysis approach (Lazar, 2005). The research concludes that intentional female silences in the selected story encompass a virtuous mode of communication, condemnation and resistance.

**Keywords:** Women, Resistance, Rhetoric, Silence, Feminism, Critical Discourse Analysis, Patriarchy

## **Public Places Safety isn't for All**

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### **Abstract**

With rapid urbanization and the introduction of development along with it, modernization has paved its way into every society of the world. Along with these developmental changes, safety of the individual has also been targeted and a major concern. The most effected entity of this event are Females.

Safe public spaces isn't a privilege, it is the basic human right. But sadly the society we live in sees it from a different angle. Lahore is one of the most crowded and populated city of Punjab where participation of women in the development of the city is remarkable and couldn't be ignored. And for this purpose women have to leave their homes and visit workplaces, go to their educational institutions and for this they have to move and face public places and sadly the time we live in, these public places are the grounds of horrendous activities and discomfort to so many females out there.

Our world and the society we live in are gradually becoming so threatening for so many of us that even stepping out of the house give them chills. On daily basis there are hundreds and thousands of females who leave their home either for educational purpose, jobs or for any other reason or activity with the fear of unsafe world they will step in once they leave their sanctuary i.e. their home. And the fear is due to the inevitable threats they feel, heard about and even have experienced in the public places and public transportation. This fear isn't always related to feeling being uninviting; at times it is also mortally dangerous to them, which leaves a lifelong scar on their personality and on their soul.

This study examines the female's perceptions and experiences regarding safety at public places and the consequential factors contributing towards the insecurity of females in public places. And for this purpose university going girls and working women, who travel on their own to their required destination, were selected for Focus group discussion and In-depth interviews.

**Keywords:** Safety, Public places, Fears. Threats.

**The Feminist Perspective in Political Science: An Analysis of Perception  
in Pakistani Academia**

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**Abstract**

The feminist perspective emerged in the field of Political Science/ International Relations in the decade of 1980s as part of the larger critical turn in Social Sciences. One of the core concern of the Political Science/IR feminist perspective remained Marginalization of women's role and voices in mainstream academic discourse of war and peace. This study uses Sandra Harding's stand point theory to determine how the feminist perspective is perceived in Political Science/International Relations academia of Pakistan. The perception of feminist perspective in local academia has been observed through interviews from scholarly academicians in the Political Science/IR field from five Post-Graduate Lahore based universities in Pakistan. Since local academic discourses are underrepresented in largely Euro centric discipline of Political Science/IR , this study will contribute towards better understanding of local perceptions on a key critical academic perspective( Feminism) in Political Science/IR. The result of study shows that feminist perspective is marginalized in local academia in terms of perception and this area of research not only lacks awareness among local academia but is underdeveloped. Serious efforts are required to promote academic research and development in this field with the support of government, academic institutions and researchers.

**Keywords:** Feminist perspective, Marginalization, Perception, Academia



## **A Feminist Reading of Hanif's *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti***

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### **Abstract**

This paper describes the character of Alice Bhatti who is a threefold marginalised woman in a cruel patriarchal society in the neighbourhood of Karachi. The novel discusses and discloses a new kind of feminism from the lens of Hamlet's "Frailty Thy Name Is Woman". The novel explores the relationships between gender, religion and a woman's existence in a typical South Asian society.

It uses Muhammad Hanif's *Our Lady Of Alice Bhatti* and Shakespeare's famous play *Hamlet* as its primary texts and it uses articles like "Interpreter of Maladies" by Parul Sehgal and "Hamlet: A Feminist Argument" by Steve Henderson as its secondary sources.

The method which has been brought into use to assess the texts is qualitative in nature and will extensively explore women as a marginalised gender and how a Christian woman suffered through many ordeals and yet was wrongfully blamed for her doings. This discussion leads to the analysis with the reference to Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. In which the protagonist states, "Frailty thy name is woman".

Many important questions like have women gained no respect over the centuries? Are they still considered morally, physically and emotionally frail because of their gender? Do women have the right to do what they want? Are they still obliged to seek male support in order to live a good life? will be raised and answered.

This paper will give the primary texts a new perspective to be studied from. An Elizabethan play's feminist perspective being analysed from the lens of a South Asian contemporary novel based on a woman's life and experiences. This particular lens has not been conventionally used by many researchers to study a novel like Hanif's, hence it will help the reader to know more about the concept of feminism and misogyny in the Elizabethan Era and its comparison with the current times.

**Keywords:** Feminist reading, Muhammad Hanif's, Alice Bhatti, Feminist perspective

## **Barriers Associated with Domestic Violence Screening of Pregnant Women; A Qualitative Study on Health Practitioners of Lahore, Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

Domestic violence against women being a rampant practice has been followed by many studies for addressing the issue and reforming the policy structures for the social practitioners. Unfortunately the subjection of violence against women is found among pregnant women resulting in lower birth weight and still births. The present research aims to examine the level of role played by health practitioners in domestic violence screening of the pregnant women visiting for gynecological care. The research questions of the study also focus to disclose the barriers associated with extracting this sensitive information and relevancy of performing this important task. For this purpose, a qualitative research approach was used with data collected through seven in depth interviews from health practitioners including obstetricians and lady health visitors. Family Health Hospital, Rahnuma (Family Planning Association of Pakistan) of Lahore city was selected as the proposed area for data collection as it receives a significant number of patients from all socio economic neighborhoods for contraceptive services, antenatal and post-delivery care. The study results revealed that cultural and institutional barriers in the form of consideration of violence as a private family matter that needs to be disclosed to anyone due to fear of perpetrator and lack of training of practitioners in revealing this sensitive information hinders the intervention of practitioners for domestic violence screening of pregnant women making it a challenging task. Future research can be conducted to address the importance of this complex issue through vast investigation including participation of pregnant women and health care providers at national level including public and private health institutions.

**Keywords:** Barriers, Domestic violence screening, Health practitioners, Pregnant women, Qualitative approach

## **Problematic Depiction of Women in Veet Ads against a Progressive Backdrop in Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

This paper examines the depiction of *an ideal woman* in three recent Pakistani Veet ads featuring Mahira Khan as the main lead, with the tag line “always ready”. In order to understand the visual objectification and representation of how a woman *should* appear according to the patriarchal ideology behind the making of such ads, it will employ Laura Mulvey's study of how women are represented on the screen to “connote *to-be-looked-at-ness*”, in her essay *Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema*. Furthermore, it will also look into the authentication of the hegemonic standards of beauty by these ads in the light of Richard Dyer's essay *Stereotyping*.

Mulvey's *Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema* discusses “the way the unconscious of patriarchal society has structured film form” (Mulvey) in the light of psychoanalytic theory. It primarily focuses on films that are produced to be viewed by the spectators in the cinema. However, her argument can further be extended towards other media forms like advertisements. Furthermore, Mulvey was criticized to be taking into account only the heterosexual male spectator in this essay, but in her other essay i.e. *Afterthoughts on “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” inspired by ‘Duel in the Sun’*, she claims that in her previous essay, she was not concerned about the sex of the spectator but “the relationship between the image of woman on the screen and the ‘masculinization’ of the spectator position” that works upon the notion of “in-built patterns of pleasure and identification” (Mulvey) that “impose masculinity as ‘point of view’” (Mulvey).

Similarly, Richard Dyer, in his essay *Stereotyping*, addresses the issue of maintaining control by “ruling groups” over weaker ones—like homosexuals and women—through establishing hegemonic structures when they “attempt to fashion the whole of society according to their own world-view, value-system, sensibility, and ideology” (Dyer).

In the light of these works, this paper will expose the negative influence of such ads on the collective consciousness of Pakistani society and how it pushes back the struggle of Pakistani women to gain equal status and opportunities as men.

**Keywords:** Depiction of women, Veet, Media, Pakistan

## **The Role of Media and Family in Perpetuating Sexual Violence against Women: A Study of *Chup Raho* and *Udaari***

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### **Abstract**

The aim of this research is to illustrate the role of the institutions of media and family in Pakistan in reinforcing sexual violence against women and children. To this end, we analyze two Pakistani television drama serials *Chup Raho* (2014) and *Udaari* (2016) addressing the social taboos of child molestation and sexual assault which are currently pressing issues in Pakistani society. These dramas have portrayed that female victims of any social class are threatened by the rapist and then pressurized by the family members to stay silent for being raped. One scene from episode 4 of *Chup Raho*, while one scene from episode 9 of *Udaari* is selected because of the taboos that are addressed in the selected scenes. The video stills and the dialogues of the selected scenes are used to analyze the linguistic and non-linguistic behaviour of the culprits and the victims with the help of five stages of “Building Things Through Language” by James Paul Gee (2010) consisting of Significance, Practices, Relationship, Politics, and Sign systems and Knowledge. The findings of the research show that patriarchal social system is the major reason why women are treated as sexual objects and are threatened to remain silent, on the other hand, they are compelled not to open up about their assault and molestation to anyone for protecting their family’s honour due to which women undergo emotional and psychological trauma for maintaining silence over a longer period of time. Pakistani electronic media should not produce such programmes for the sake of increasing their ratings but for raising awareness among the viewers regarding the good touch and the bad touch. In addition to this, the female victims being assaulted and molested by any family member should also be provided justice, while the culprit should be punished for his horrendous crime.

**Keywords:** Media, Family, Violence against women

## **Teacher-Student Interaction and Mental Health Problems: Testing the Differences of Gender**

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### **Abstract**

Gender can be understood as the behavioral, cultural, or psychological trait which is normally associated with one human and person. Gender is not a characteristics we born with or not a thing we have, but this is something a person do or perform. So the current study was done to identify the gender difference in terms of Teacher- Student interaction and Mental Health Problems. The objective of the study was to explore the effect of teacher interaction with their students and mental health problems in terms of gender differences. A sample of 210 students form Madrassa, Government and Private schools, were selected through stratified random sampling studying. The participants were given Teacher Student Interaction Scale, School Children Problem Scale (Mahmood & Saleem, 2011) and demographic Performa. The results revealed that the girls have more emotional behavioral problems than boys. In addition, the relationship of boys with teachers in the classroom turned out to be healthier than the girls. The results led to believe that there are gender differences in terms of interaction with teachers and mental health problems.

**Keywords:** Gender, Teacher-Student interaction, Emotional behavioral problems, Differences

## **Tendulkar's *Silence! The Court is in Session*: A study of Liberal Feminism**

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### **Abstract**

This study comprises a keen observation on Vijay Tendulkar's play, *Silence! The Court is in Session* from Stuart Mill's Liberal Feminist's perspective. It thoroughly examines the similar attributes of feminine image that is perceived as moderate if persuading her life according to her standards. It agrees to the theory that is being typically highlighted in the name of Secularism, to the world. The play thrives to bring forth the issue that is perceived as petty and has always been neglected by the so-called custodians of it. Moreover, it portrays an apt picture of the real faces of the patriarchs who have always played a firm role in order to deny justice for women. Moreover, the bias towards the deliberate spinsters thriving to achieve equivalent role as men, is also focused on. Liberal feminism points out that Liberal; supposedly universal standards of humanity, equality and reason were not in fact universal because women were denied full social participation, public life and education. The seeming paradox at the heart of Liberalism, which asserted equality and liberty for all yet maintained a rigorous inequality in relation to certain groups, should be understood in terms of the particular meanings given to these words. Despite some problematic points in Mill's considerations, his essay on women's subjection may be regarded as one of the philosophically most interesting conceptions of liberal feminism.

**Keywords:** Liberal feminism, Status, Suppress, Subjection, Secularism.

## **Fahmida Riaz: Shattering Stereotypes and Taboos**

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### **Abstract**

This paper analyses Fahmida Riaz's acts of shattering stereotypes and taboos through words. The aim of this paper is to explain the efforts of Fehmida Riaz in a time when women were silenced and were hushed to express their opinions openly. This research also discusses the Zia regime and her acts of defiance. The objective of this research is to decipher how like Fehmida Riaz has bluntly written about love, consummation, sexuality, women and female sensibility. This also explicates that she said the unsaid and wrote the unwritten, breaking barriers and kicking off the stumbling blocks in the way of women's success. This also focuses the point when, during and after partition of the sub-continent, men's desires to protect the new nation found a metaphor in the woman's body. Censorship and Banning of literature in addition to bold literature considered 'pornographic' is discussed in detail as well. This research shows that all that is private is political. This also rejects the idea of "honor" residing in a woman's body. This research is unique as it fills the gap in research on Fehmida Riaz and also, on the transgression of women of the sub-continent. Little on the agency of women of the sub-continent has been written. Biographical, Thematic, Psychoanalytic, Feminist and Poetic approaches are used. The themes: Freedom of speech and *un-silencing* the silenced have been used as groundwork for this research. Future researchers can build their research on the vocalicity of women on tabooed topics in circumstantial hardships and also on Fehmida Riaz, as is deciphered in this study.

**Keywords:** Fehmida Riaz, Women, Sexuality, Stereotypes, Agency, Taboo, No means No

Session C  
Women Empowerment and Economic  
Development



## Ostracism as Predictor of Well-being among Transgender

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### Abstract

Transgender population has to face many psychological problems due to not fitting into the binary categories (men and women) in Pakistani society. Therefore, the current study aimed to explore the role of ostracism in well-being (hedonic and eudemonic) among transgender. The correlational research design was used in the present study. The sample of ( $N=109$ ) transgender was selected from Faisalabad and Lahore city through purposive and snow-ball sampling techniques. Urdu versions of General Ostracism Scale (Ismail & Habib, 2019), Negative and Positive Affect Scale (Ismail & Habib, 2019), Psychological Well-being Scale (Aslam & Kausar, 2010) and Satisfaction with life Scale (Butt, Ghani, & Khan, 2014) were used as study measures. Data was analyzed by using Pearson product moment correlation, Linear regression analyses and Multivariate Analyses of Variance (MANOVA). The results on correlation analysis show significant negative relationship between ostracism and eudemonic (psychological) well-being while significant positive correlation was found between ostracism and only one dimension of hedonic well-being (negative affect). The findings of linear regression analyses revealed that ostracism was found to be significant predictor of negative affect ( $R^2 = .12$ ,  $F = 7.43$ ,  $***p < .001$ ) and eudemonic (psychological) well-being ( $R^2 = .103$ ,  $F = 6.05$ ,  $**p < .01$ ) among transgender. The results on MANOVA revealed significant differences on life satisfaction, psychological well-being and positive affect in terms of levels of education. The current study findings can be utilized in various NGOs and mental health settings with reference to introducing management plans. We can also teach them coping strategies to deal with ostracism in turn improving levels of transgender's well-being.

**Keyword:** Ostracism, Eudemonic well-being, Hedonic well-being, Transgender

## **Exploring Dynamics behind Political Marginalization of Pashtoon Women: A Case Study of Lakki Marwat**

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### **Abstract**

Democracy and feminism go hand in hand. Political empowerment of women, which is a feminists' standpoint as well, agrees with the spirit of democracy. It will not be wrong to say that there is a strong co-relation among political participation of women, gender equality and democracy as the implementation and functioning of each depends upon the relative application and working of the others and vice versa. Moreover, there is no gainsaying the fact that gender equality can hardly be actualized in any other sphere of life if there exists no equal opportunities in the political sphere. Democracy, as the rule of people utilizing maximum participation of all the people through elections, of course relatively speaking, is the preferred governance apparatus in modern times. Several factors influence electoral processes. Women's participation is a noteworthy factor. However, barring women from voting is not unusual in Pakistan like many other developing societies. Pashtoon belt, in particular, owing to various political, religious and ethnic undercurrents has witnessed this tendency. This study focuses on two factors comprising ethnicity as a collective cultural frame and religion i.e. Islam in how these affect women's electoral participation and political involvement.

Lately, many such measures have been taken by the government which can ensure women's electoral participation. One of these measures is passage of the Elections Act, 2017 which stipulates as per Section 9 (1) of the Act that ECP can declare an election void in any constituency if women's turnout is less than 10%. In the lately held elections across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and newly merged districts of erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas in 2018, a lot of cases were reported about women being barred from voting in districts like Lakki Marwat, Dir, etc. All these case studies make an apt case for research about women's marginalization in the political sphere. In this research paper, the major focus will be on the political marginalization of women in Lakki Marwat. The research is essentially ethnographic and a variety of data collection techniques in the likes of existing literature, standardized surveys, focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews, and informal discussions will be employed. This study takes the theoretical position falling closer to the feminist perspective. It focuses on how social structures and processes control the agency of women and hinder their right to "universal adult franchise". The theoretical stance likewise is also close to social constructionists in a sense of how socially constructed networks of interests take refuge in religion & ethnicity and work toward barring women from voting. The study does substantiate that ethnicity and religion affect the agency of women's electoral participation across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and erstwhile FATA. It is imperative to explore barriers in the way of women electoral marginalization in the Pashtun belt in the light of 10% mandatory participation of women in voting as per Election Act, 2017 as Pakistan is about to approach the next general election in 2023. This study can certainly prove fruitful in making a sense of challenges being faced by Pashtun women in becoming a part of elections and can turn out to be a step in strengthening democracy across Pakistan.

**Keywords:** Governance & democracy, Women political marginalization, Pashtoonwali, Islam

## **Decent Work and Economic Growth without Quality Education: Evidence from Pakistani Women Youtubers**

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### **Abstract**

Global discourse on development argues that quality education – modern neoliberal schooling – opens the avenues of economic growth for the women of developing nation states. It is claimed that modern education provides participatory chances in economic undertakings for women of developing countries (Khoja-Moolji 2015) by allowing them to enter formal labor force (Gene B. Sperling 2016). For this reason, development organizations consider education as central for economic empowerment of local women (DIFID 2005,) as well as in ensuring a civilized future society (UNESCO 2002:13). In this paper, I will uncover the credibility of these claims offered by global narrative about gender equality, women empowerment, and sustainable development through education. I will reason in this conference, the global narrative about gender equality as a result of economic participation through quality education – modern neoliberal schooling – needs to be examined within local context of Pakistan. To test these global narratives, I have explored various YouTube channels as a case study through visual ethnography. These channels are run by Pakistani women who may not be considered well-qualified under definition of being well-educated. I have further conducted 100 in-depth interviews from various urban and rural parts of Punjab, Islamabad Capital territory and Gilgit-Baltistan, by employing ethnographic research methodology to support my visual data. These interviews have exposed opinions of Pakistani women regarding education, employability and empowerment.

From both the sets of ethnographic data, I have discovered that global narrative about development as economic involvement through education may not be universally true for women of all social segments in Pakistan. The research has deciphered that there is significant number of women who don't find a necessary connection between education and economic growth. These women argue that the less number or lack of jobs, and/or nepotism with reference system in country doesn't let educated people enter in employment sector. Therefore, for them attaining education is not linked to economic growth but to their mental and moral development. The respondents further disclosed their views by emphasizing the significance of skills over education in ensuring the economic growth. For many respondents, education may only be the name of paper collection in form of degrees. Within this context, I will present selected YouTube channels of ordinarily qualified Pakistani women who display their domestic skills, like cooking, stitching, makeup etc., on social media to participate in economic growth. Thus, these women defy the claim of sustainable global development that quality education is a chief medium to ensure economic growth. This research doesn't attempt to deny this global claim but offers other nuances within the context of global discourse on education within the local context of post-colonial countries like Pakistan. In conclusion, this paper is an attempt to prove that quality education is not necessarily the only means to achieve economic growth. Rather, there is a possibility that women with less-education or low-quality education may find decent work to participate in economic growth through their informal domestic skills.

**Keywords:** Education, YouTube Channels, Economic Growth, Pakistani Women, Domestic skills, Sustainable development, Gender equality

## **Participation of Indigenous Women in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage**

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### **Abstract**

The conservation of cultural heritage with the involvement of community resulted into many successful projects around the world. The strong bonding of the indigenous heritage and the community helped in bridging the gaps (between the government, professionals and the locals) by playing significant role in the revival of the areas. Indigenous women are more influential at the community level than men mostly in the developing countries like Pakistan due to their limitations of living within the boundaries. The involvement of women in the participatory process for the conservation of built heritage would be a more appropriate way of motivating the whole community. The study is focused on Walled City of Lahore. The data was collected through questionnaire and results were interpreted. The indigenous women participation was found marvelous and also documented in few of the small scale projects. The women involvement in large scale projects would be more beneficial for the heritage sector. The conclusions were drawn for creating the opportunities for the utilization of the women potentials in the conservation of heritage.

**Keywords:** Women, Participation, Conservation, Heritage

**Female Resistance and Reclamation of Space in socio-cultural, political and historical backdrop of Fall of Dhaka in Raihana A Hasan's *Sips from a Broken Teacup***

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**Abstract**

This qualitative research identifies with the Helen Cixous and Virginia's Woolf's concerns regarding silencing of women in history and reclamation of their right of writing. This study can be placed under the larger context of Feminism. It traces active female consciousness in portraying the role of woman: their quest for survival, contribution toward society and their fighting spirit during the troubled times of partition of Pakistan in 1971. It is an attempt of retrieving the history on which there is a patriarchal control. Hasan has resisted against the phallogocentric control on knowledge where history is mostly documented by male members of the society. Thereby, this paper aims at exploring how Hasan has reclaimed her position in writing and documenting history and has narrated her-story. She has proved that with acute female consciousness woman become huge source of knowledge and recorders of socio-cultural and political histories. With the help of alternative genre of memoir, she has painted landscape as a mindscape during the political and ideological war of 1971.

The objective of the study is to explore how Hasan has raised voice against injustices towards women in socio-cultural setup of tea plantations in East Wing of Pakistan in 1960s. It is on record that women writers have faced many difficulties in publishing their works. They have been forced to use Pseudo names for publications and making their space in literary circle. Moreover, male writers have not given women their rightful space in their writings. Women can better voice their issues and document their contribution in the society up till now if they own their place in field of writing. Therefore, this research attempts to depict how multilayered and significant women writings are and why there is need for women to write. Hence, the gender inequalities and resistance of women in *Sips from a Broken Teacup* is traced for this purpose in the paper.

There are works in which history of 1971 is recorded but there is shortage of first hand personal narratives of survivors of the times and Hasan's memoir fills the gap of the research. Moreover, this research will aid in inculcating that women can use writing as a tool to retrieve their lost socio, cultural and political identities from past and raise voice against their subjugation in future. Future researchers can extend their research on how including her-story in history provide different perspective of the same event and present a wider and vivid picture of reality.

**Keywords:** Female consciousness, Gender inequalities, Ideological, Phallogocentric control, Resistance

## **Resistance of Women against their Human Rights Violations in Indian held Kashmir: An Analysis of International Human Rights Discourse (1989-2019)**

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### **Abstract**

The Vale of Kashmir, once famed for its mesmerizing beauty and tranquility, remains to be the site of one of the most longstanding ongoing conflicts between India and Pakistan. For long, Kashmiris have been facing the inhuman brutal treatment by the Indian paramilitary forces. India not only took control of the Vale but also terrorized the minds and bodies of the people after refusing to implement the UN resolutions of free and impartial plebiscite. Moreover, demanding their inalienable right of self-determination, the Kashmiri women along with the men have vigor of freedom, passion of self-determination, desire to exercise free will and to become a free nation. The objective of the current study will particularly unveil the experiences of women that they had undergone as a direct hit of violence, rapes, molestation and physical and sexual exploitation by the Indian armed forces with impunity as well as indirect effects of the absence of their male relatives (fathers, husbands and sons) in genocide, disappearances and mass and unidentified graves have made the women sole bread earners during 1989-2019. Even though, the women have been worst hit of conflict situation and their resistance has been visible, they have been lagged behind in dialogue process. The peace negotiations are failed to address concerns and grievances of women during and after conflict situations. However, the UN has been trying to address the concerns of women through varied resolutions but it should do more to implement these mandates. The aim of the current research is to highlight the experiences, needs and voices of women during the enduring Kashmir conflict that will be based on the analysis of International Human Rights NGOs along with other discourse.

Content Analysis is a widely used technique in Qualitative Approach in which Latent content analysis in Summative approach refers to the process of interpretation and contextualization of data in order to understand underlying meanings the content and particularly the words used in the content. However, the Manifest Content Analysis refers towards the quantification of data. In the current study, latent content analysis will be used.

**Keywords:** Victimization, Resistance, Women, Indian held Kashmir

## **The Role of Women Action Forum in Strengthening Feminist Movement in Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

Feminism is a social movement and ideology that prescribes for the political, economic, and social rights for women. However, to understand feminism as a movement, it is imperative to trace out the roots of women's subjection over the course of history. This study contributes to the body of literature related to the feminist movements as it highlights the role and history of women's movement in strengthening feminist movement in Pakistan. The main objectives of the study are to trace out the historical roots of feminist movement in Pakistan. It also focuses on the struggles and challenges faced by Women Action Forum (WAF) in pursuit of women's rights. The study is qualitative in nature by following interpretive ontological and social constructivism epistemological stance. It is based on the case study research design and to explore the case, archival data and empirical data is used as a source of data collection. Four (4) Key informant interviews are taken from the leading activists of WAF through purposive sampling. Data is analyzed by using thematic analysis technique. This research is an appraisal of the history of women's movement in Pakistan to students at academic forum. It is suggested that documentaries and films must be made on the historic struggles of WAF and WAF should be represented as the face of the most powerful women's movement in Pakistan. It is also suggested that the feminism and feminist movements should be taught with reference to the local context rather than overemphasizing on western theories.

**Keywords:** Feminist movements, Women Action Forum, Pakistan

## **Breaking Second Glass Ceiling: Lived Experiences of Women Entrepreneurs in Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

The glass ceiling is a well-recognized phenomenon in the corporate sector thwarting aspirant women to gain senior management positions. It is an indiscernible barrier and a strong ceiling blocking women moving up in the management hierarchy. This paper, however, explores the existence of the second glass ceiling for women entrepreneurs who escaped the corporate world to start their businesses but are trapped by another glass ceiling. This research mainly explores the existence of a second glass ceiling for women entrepreneurs and the ways they used to get through it. This study is conducted for an in-depth understanding and uses the phenomenological approach. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with women entrepreneurs of Lahore. This paper apart from explaining the second glass ceiling also finds solutions to break it.

**Keywords:** Glass Ceiling, Experiences, Women Entrepreneurs, Pakistan





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