

AGEHI

Advocates of Gender, Education & Health Information



SACHET



AGEHI Resource Center,
established by Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen,
the founder Executive Director, SACHET.

AGEHI is an acronym standing for **Advocates of Gender, Education and Health Information**. **AGEHI** itself is an Urdu word bearing meanings like Knowledge, Awareness, Perception and Insight.

The objective of **AGEHI** is to advocate for gender sensitization, education and health promotion by disseminating information. AGEHI aims to achieve its broad objective through IEC, networking and research. The intended beneficiaries are the students from remote areas of Pakistan, young professionals and researchers, media personnel and program managers working in the areas of gender, education and health.

President's Message

SACHET will be completing two years of its life in May 2001. During this brief period it has made significant inroads into the NGOs family in Islamabad and the adjoining areas. It is a matter of pride that SACHET initiated and is now running thirty five projects for community welfare, vocational training, health care, and poverty alleviation. Its Tele-series Gender Watch alone made an impact on people's thinking regarding gender differences, wherever the PTV and PTV signals reached. Many of the episodes were picked up by various organizations for use in their activities.

The SACHET Newsletter is meant to facilitate cross fertilization of ideas, exchange of information, promote learning and elicit feedback from clients and peers. I consider it an important step towards the growth of SACHET and its various programs. I will watch its progress with great interest and extend my best wishes to this venture.

Dr. A. Q. Khan (NI & Bar, HI)

SACHET

Society for the Advancement of Community, Health, Education and Training (SACHET) established by the renowned scientist Dr. A. Q. Khan (NI & Bar, HI) in Islamabad in May 1999, is striving to promote human development in Pakistan with an innovative and immaculate approach. SACHET's mandated objectives are as follows:

- To promote gender awareness and sensitivity in Pakistan
- To narrow gender gaps in health, education and economic participation
- To promote economic empowerment of the underprivileged
- To promote awareness and sensitivity about sexual and reproductive health rights, information education and service

Click www.sachet.org.pk to know more about SACHET & its programs.

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Welcome to the first Newsletter
'AGEHI' by SACHET

We look forward to your comments,
responses & reactions
Happy Reading

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Dr. Attiya Inayatullah

Federal Minister for Women Development, Social Welfare & Special Education

The crisis of women's development in Pakistan revolves around the failure of communicating with women. Although Islam was the first major religion to grant so wide ranging rights to women; yet illiteracy, traditional norms customary practices have remained major hurdles in the uplift and well being of women. Opening of information channels, is therefore, foremost precursor of women's progress.



SACHET, as an upcoming NGO, has taken many laudable steps to create awareness amongst women themselves besides the provision of services at the doorstep.

I am delighted to learn that SACHET has taken the initiative of starting AGEHI-an information resource center on development issues, especially those concerning women and the family. I am sure, it will embrace success like other projects of SACHET. Information is knowledge and knowledge is power. This new center can make an important contribution towards the empowerment of the disadvantaged community by disseminating information about health, education, mother-child welfare and other contemporary issues. We as individuals and as a nation have to prepare ourselves for the great task. The private sector as partners of government have an important role in this endeavor. I am sure that under the dynamic leadership of Dr. A. Q. Khan, SACHET and its AGEHI resource center will emerge as a model Pakistani NGO.

Prof. Dr. Atta ur Rehman (TI, SI, HI)

Federal Minister for Science and Technology

I am pleased to learn that the Society for the Advancement of Community, Health, Education & Training (SACEHT) is going to publish its Newsletter. Lack of awareness and widening gender gap in health, education & economic involvement are some of the basic reasons that continue to confront authorities from achieving an evenhanded human resource development in Pakistan. Realizing the importance of this crucial deficiency and coming out with a program to help overcome these problems is a welcome development that deserves encouragement & applause for all those who are willing to sacrifice their time and energy for underprivileged & uninformed fellow citizens.

The modern scientific approach in social development is a partnership between a supportive government, organizations like SACHET, those who are disadvantaged & the broader community. We all have a vested interest in the success of our people. We want to harness our energies & empower our citizens to participate in the development and become an active part of an exciting new Pakistan. They should also be able to take place in building a future society of which we can be proud. We should prepare our female population to a spiritual sensitivity to their culture and tradition, a heart for scientific creativity, an awareness of the world's diversity and the practical experience that will make them effective contestants in the new challenges before us. They should carry forward the best from the past & march ahead with dignity in their future.

I am pleased to know that SACHET has chosen this important task & is making strides in its endeavors. I earnestly wish SACHET all the success in its purpose and pray for a better Pakistan for every Pakistani.



Editorial

Violence Against Women

Violence against women is one of the most urgent agenda item and concern of our times. Women are castigated for being women in all ways and at all places; be it a household or a battlefield. They are abused by the uninstructed as well as by the well taught with the same vehemence but in different manners. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is no exception. It would be too naive to reject any violent practices against human beings of lesser fortune in general and women in particular in our homeland. It would be equally unrealistic to claim that such practices would be eradicated by any half-cooked governmental policy or a donor-funded NGO project. However, remaining a silent spectator on this human or gender issue is not less equivalent to committing a crime like violence. On the International Day of Women, I request the **Chief Executive of Pakistan** to vow for breaking the silence against violence. On the practical side, the one little measure (with great social impact) that he could do is to use all media to publicize the scientific fact that sex of an offspring is determined from the father's share of chromosome. Women by no means are "sinful" or "culprits" in this vital determination. It may happen that our next generation may not be composed of wild, ruthless and angry fathers who kill or abuse their wives and girl children as a mark of rejection of their gender which in fact is none else but Almighty's decision.

Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen

?????

I was looking for a driver. A friend sent a candidate to me. It was a man who appeared to be in his sixth decade. He was bearded (henna was too obvious) and a cap was fitted on his head. I began the interview with the easiest, and may be the most irrelevant question. "Tumharay kitnay bachay hain?" "Four", he replied proudly. "What are they doing?" I inquired further. He gave me their particulars (all of them had left their studies and were virtual vagabonds) "So you do not have any girl", I commented while attempting to make my tone as complimentary as possible. "Na ji na, meiri tein beityan hein (no, no, I have 3 daughters)" he corrected me quickly, adding as much despondency as possible. He appeared very close to the stereotyped character roles that appear in nearly all Hindi/Urdu social films. "So you have 7 children" I declared to confirm. He nodded indubitably. I concluded the interview.

What should I do in the light of the above?

Select this man as my driver? (He is so gender insensitive!)

or

Send him on a gender training course?

How much time will be needed to change this man's attitude?

How quickly will he learn to count his daughters as well?

Can anybody tell me?

Rakhshinda

Gender in Pakistan

By Sarah Javeed

The term gender is generally a misconstrued term that is mostly understood as issues pertaining to female segment of the population. Whereas the word gender according to the Oxford dictionary means "grammatical grouping of words (nouns and pronouns) into classes (masculine, feminine and neutral) or sex. But in the operational context, gender actually describes the accepted attributes, roles and relationships between men and women in a given society, that are socially and culturally created and are not biologically determined.

However, in case of developing countries like Pakistan, the term tends to focus more on females due to the discriminatory behavior towards them by a significant faction of the society. Although, in a country where almost 30 percent of the population lives below poverty line, it cannot be assumed that only the women suffer, but culturally and socially males are relatively more privileged. All statistics, whether related to education, health or employment shows that females lag behind in every sector. Not only do they experience cultural and religious constraints by limited mobility, carrying the burden of family honor, lack of decision making, but are also the underdogs of the family and by and large, the entire community in comparison to the males.

But with changing times, the situation is moving towards positive developments. There is a growing awareness among the development activists and policy makers that without the active participation of the female sex in all facets of life there is little hope for any sustainable development to take place. At the global level, Pakistan has signed several international commitments to protect the basic human rights and ensure gender equality. These are: the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); the Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (FLSAW) in Nairobi, 1985; the Program of Action agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD: Cairo, 1994); Education for all (Jomtien: 1990, and Dehli, 1993); UNCED (Rio; 1992); World Summit on Social Development (WSSD: Copenhagen, 1995); and the Platform for Action signed at the fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW: Beijing, 1995). Pakistan is also a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).¹

However, this process is still in early stages and has yet to have a strong impact at the grassroots level. It will certainly take time for the people to unlearn the traits which have been practiced for generations.

¹ National Plan of Action (NPA) For Women (Draft), Beijing Follow-up Unit, Ministry of Women Development, Islamabad, 1997.

The Non-Government Organizations have an important role to play in the development of society. SACHET is among the new organizations evolved during recent years. It is noteworthy for some distinct features. It combines field services with advocacy, information dissemination and exchange of research and training. It has also established service delivery both in the urban and rural areas. Recently it has started micro financing for projects run mostly by women.

The publication of a regular newsletter is another step, which should facilitate exchange of information and germination of new ideas. I certainly hope that SACHET will continue to expand and maintain the quality of its activities.

Dr. Zeba A Satthar

**Vice President,
Population Association of Pakistan**

The social sector scene in Pakistan has suffered from many problems, like dearth of resources, defective service delivery and insufficient data. The public sector and the NGOs have to collaborate with each other to strengthen this sector. SACHET, in a brief period, has made a name for itself. I am pleased that it is starting its own newsletter. This should help exchanging views and experiences of various departments and NGOs working for the uplift of women and providing community guidance and social services. We will be looking forward to the contribution of this new initiative by an upcoming Pakistani NGO.

Dr. Abdul Hakim
Director
National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS)

Struggle for gender equality and women's overwhelming participation in different sectors gives us the guarantee of a healthy and balanced society in the country. Islam gives supreme priority to gender equality and equity can only be provided through equal access for all segments of social strata to the resources and opportunities which exists.

Gender refers to how we expect girls and boys, women and men to behave in their daily lives. These differences in behavior are reflected in roles, responsibilities access to views and perceptions held by men and women.

Gender issues are not just women's issues as is often derived. Being a broader term, it has to do with how our society and particularly our attitude towards each other teach us to be a real man or woman.

Despite having a liberal approach and strict laws, which provide respect both to women and men and protect all their rights, the socio-economic development indicator of a large segment of Pakistani society have surprisingly remained very low and have been a major obstacle to the country's development. So the need is there that men and women must have equal opportunities to serve others, play active role for the betterment of family's economic conditions to guide the country towards a healthy and prosperous society.

Tahir Niaz, Journalist,
Islamabad

We have learnt that SACHET is bringing out a newsletter to highlight the issues related to gender differences, population problems and social and economic inequalities in the Pakistani society. I can only appreciate this and wish it best of luck. Such efforts are commendable of NGOs like SACHET. SACHET should continue the good work.

Dr. Iqbal Alam
United Nations, New York.
April 18, 2001

An interview with Dr. M. S. Jillani

DR. M. S. JILLANI

Dr. M. S. Jillani was born in 1933 at Jullundher (British India) and migrated to Pakistan in 1947. He earned his master's degree in Economics from Government College Lahore in 1955 and his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago in 1957-60. He is a former university lecturer in Economics at the Punjab University, Head of the Department of Sociology at the university of Karachi, Chief Economic group and Additional Secretary Pakistan Planning Commission, Head of Economic Advisor's wing, Ministry of Finance, Chief (Director) Technical Cooperation Division at the United Nations ESCAP, Federal Secretary to the Government of Pakistan and Executive Director- the National Institute of Population Studies Islamabad. He is currently the President of the Population Association of Pakistan, for the term ending December 2002. He is married and lives in Islamabad.

The AGEHI Newsletter team held a lengthy two hours interview with Dr. Jillani. We are sharing the excerpts from our two hour discussion with Dr. Sahib with our readers, so that they can also benefit from his vast experience. (Editor)

Professional Information?

Basically I am an economist, however, I have always been interested in the human, social and cultural aspects of life as they react with economics. So you can say that I am a sort of a mixture of Sociology and Economics, as far as my professional interest is concerned. Later on I specialized in Demography. I took up Demography as I felt that the real problem that the world will be facing in the years to come was fast population growth. I am talking of 1950's. Later on a lot of social scientists saw population emerging as a major problem facing the world and most of the miseries and problems being created for the people were due to over-population. So whenever I get an opportunity, I underscore the problem of over-population and fast population growth. By now in many countries, the fertility rates have started declining; in some, they have reached quite low levels. But now new problems are coming up, like large younger population, and older persons. So the population in the working age group increasingly, has to provide for the older population as well as for the younger population. This combination can be very cumbersome. We should be getting ready for this.

Likewise migration has always been a major problem. With bigger and frequent wars, refugee movements and due to global warming, more droughts and floods. The world with shrinking natural resources will not be able to sustain a large population. My essential interest as such remains the people as studied by Economics, Sociology and Demography. But I'll be honest: in my leisure time even now I enjoy reading Economics and learning about it than any other subject.

What is development?

To me economic development means increasing resources or making more goods and services available for consumption. Social development is taken as social sector development, i.e. education, health, women development, etc. etc.

My concept of development is very simple but comprehensive. I take development as making people happier, that is, meet all their demands and wishes which are legitimate and which give their demands and wishes which are legitimate and which give them a good life and they feel comfortable. And that people can lead a happy life according to their own wishes and without hurting other people. By this I do not mean that you take away the initiative from the people or their desire to develop themselves. We should look for development in which the rights of others are not trampled.

What is planning?

Planning is a very simple concept. We plan things essentially to get the maximum out of the resources or the facilities or the bounties of nature that we have got at our disposal. The process involved is the crux of life; it is not an economic aspect purely. It is a concept of leading a life by determining priorities. We confront choices all the time in various situations. But we have limited amount of money or power, so one has to decide, where to spend the money or use power. If it is done



methodically one can cover a long distance and achieve great heights. Even the animals, determine their priorities. They don't waste their energies and conserve time, energy and resources.

What is human development?

The concept of human development actually has sprung as a sort of a reaction to pure capitalization.

In the capitalist way of thinking, the people concentrating on the creation, expansion and production of money. Everything was being measured in terms of money and the Gross Domestic Product etc. Aspects of life which were basic yet intangible in a way, were not being paid much attention - instead of developing health, imparting education, providing housing, supplying drinking water controlling diseases and hunger, all the attention was being given to increasing wealth, irrespective of the state of its distribution. In order to make development and planning comprehensive, and to cover all aspects of the life of a person, the social sector was brought to the main stream of economic thought.

GNP Verses Human Development?

As I said before, all economic development or human development, whatever you call it was being measured in terms of material development, that is, what is the growth rate of the so-called productive sector. It did not show the real conditions of a society because the difference between the rich and the poor was so vast. It is the product of the capitalistic system, under which the individual is encouraged to become as rich as he can with considerations of other members of the society. As a result, in countries like even the United States, the poverty pockets are spread all over the country and there exist the richest and the poorest at extremes that the human society can have.

It is instructive to learn that in most primitive societies or I would say original societies, economic differences did not exist to the same extent. They are the product of bigoted human cultures. Everybody knows how in some societies the class or the caste system, are given so much importance, that the common man, specially, the poorer segments of a country, are crushed under the burden of poverty and social discrimination, depriving them of their self-confidence and initiative.

Subsidies?

Many countries are pursuing poverty alleviation programs. But they also take steps that go contrary to anti-poverty policies, for example, the subsidies. There has been a raging controversy about abolishing subsidies on certain goods and services basic to the common man, particularly the less privileged members of society, like subsidizes on wheat, other grains, fertilizers, oil and so on. Now, the international financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF, have been pleading that these subsidies should be withdrawn - and in certain cases they have been - the people who would suffer the most as a result of this are the poor people, whose highest expenditure is on wheat and cooking oil and other commodities of basic use. Indirectly, you are just depriving the poorest population of even a few comforts that they could buy with the money that they could save in the presence of subsidies.

The major argument in favor of removing subsidies is that the users should bear their own burden and pay for whatever services they are getting.

The over all result is that common man is the hardest hit, the richest segments of population, are in a position to pay so they get the best services at the expenses of the poor man who cannot afford.

Gender?

The discussion on society in the modern times, has started revolving around those particular sections of society which have been either under privileged, or which have not been getting opportunities for

growing up. The gender issue has come up strongly during the last 20 or 30 years. For the future of human society, the issue of gender, has a number of facets. Firstly, it is a fact that women, have been treated like cattle. They are responsible for all household chores. They produce children. They cater to the needs of the entire household. They work in the fields, at the sea, at the shore, in the factories or wherever. Even the normal labor that was expected from men, was handed over to women. All of it was without any economic reward. But as a result of a lot of agitation, advocacy and education, women have started participating in business and administration. This has eased the situation of women somewhat. But it has also created many problems. While , it cuts them off from their traditional role as the pivot and the focal point of the family, and treated as the custodian of the household. Men, thus have exploited them thoroughly over the centuries.

The main question is whether economic activity of women is desirable or not? Instead of solving their problems, gainful occupation perhaps adds to their burden because their traditional role in the household is not been terminated. As such most of the working women, have now to carry the dual burden of gainful work, also carrying the load of household chores; after they have finished their occupational duties. They have to look after the children, cook food and clean up. The question that arises is; what can these women particularly do if they have to give up the work outside the household?. It means that they would remain in a hole. They can remain without the benefits of the times and the modern life. It means that they once again become the old house wives, who don't know much about what was happening outside because the men always treated them as morons who did not have the wisdom or the IQ of really dealing with society. Their position even in family matters was not given much weight. So I personally feel that women must have education and whatever position in a society they can gain, they should accept the challenges of the jobs within their capacity and for which they get an opportunity. And by work I mean, that they should work for monetary as far as possible. This will require the skill to balance their role at home and the role outside the home and adopt a way of life where they can perform both the roles without straining themselves. There is no doubt that female education in a society like Pakistan - at least female literacy is a must. And there should also be opportunities for some economically gainful work. In spite of my strong views on this issue, I do know that it is not an easy task. Discrimination against women and the tradition of suppressing and oppressing them is almost millenniums old. It will take a lot of effort and time before the attitudes of people will change. We should remember that men who had been subjugating the female members of their household for centuries will not give up easily. But the struggle should continue.

women's contribution towards the income of the family is welcomed as it raises the standard of living of everybody in the family

Role of donors in society?

I have rather strong views about the role of donors in development. Frankly, all the aid, all the help and assistance from the donors, that we have been receiving after the Second World War - starting of course with the Marshall plan in Europe and the Colombo plan in case of South Asia and then the great plunge by the US aid giving have crippled out economies. They have stunted our aspirations for developing our resources and acquiring skills. Had this aid not been there, perhaps we would have been slightly poorer, but we would have been more confident and would have developed our own resources to stand on our feet. I can hear the foot steps of the donors again. Very soon they may show their faces in the developing countries. The reason is purely economic they have to expand trade between developed and the developing countries. The conduit of aid is very useful because you give money to poor countries. With that they buy goods produced by the industrial countries. So whatever they give as loan, is spent in buying their goods at the expense of your own goods, in the process, adding to debts. The foreign debt has already increased so

much that aid will only add to it as they do not have the capacity to return it and the developing countries are no longer ignorant of the role of foreign aid. As such many may object to foreign grant. My feeling is that the developed world will offer loans on very low interest rates and will say that this is not grant, this is not assistance, this is rather a loan for development and it will help build your capacity. I think countries will have to be very careful about receiving aid or contracting loans on very soft terms. There could be traps and these loans might be the vehicle to funnel the products of the developed countries to the poorer countries. This may keep the local industries stunted. So as I said before, one has to be very careful about the donations and loans.

Social change?

The biggest need of developing countries like Pakistan is the social transformation, which will change the attitudes of the people and make them conducive to social, cultural, and economic development. Because the tragedy of most of the developing countries is that they still lack the will to develop themselves. Unless this desire is rekindled not many positive changes can be brought about in the society.

We should remember that almost the entire developing world has been the colony of various industrial powers. As such they, over anywhere between 100 to 500 years, have developed an attitude of looking up to the colonial power for patronage. This give rise to autocratic and undemocratic Government and a feudal attitude, under which people lose their identity and act only upon the directions given by the powerful and the influential, who took the place of colonial powers who have left behind a way of life in which the common man is hampered by lack of freedom.

Participatory approaches?

Participation of the common man in development has been tried in many developing countries. Pakistan, sine independence, had a number of different programs of community development based upon participatory approach. Under the programs, the common man, was encouraged to make his own decisions and cooperate with other members of the society to achieve development goals. But most of these programs did not work. Mostly they gave rise only to political corruption, because the money was channeled through the powerful politicians, feudal lords or other influential members of society. They swallowed a quite a bit of that money and little development took place. This only opened the door for individuals who exploit the common man for their own benefit in the name of development at the grassroots. So I do not see a bright future for participatory approach. Partly, the people have gotten used to receiving all the services without paying for them. That was the colonial model. In the later years, they got used to getting favors through powerful members of society, like the feudal lords, the political bosses or the bureaucrats. So my feeling is that programs should have some grassroots development provisions but they should be planned and promulgated very carefully, otherwise the old models will be adopted; they have not done much good in the past nor they would be beneficial in the future. Desirable as they may be, they have pitfalls, particularly in an illiterate society where people can't understand the problems. They cannot take decisions; they cannot read what is to be conveyed to them, they cannot understand what they are signing or on what they are putting their thumb impression.

Unless people are made conscious, and they are helped to develop the capacity of making decisions for themselves - sensible and rational decisions .I don't think that the grassroots programs can be very useful. This time, they may be phased-starting with literacy and education for attitudinal change.

A Must Read Memo

Every issue will have a specific page in this Newsletter for the introduction of young people who are proficient in their respective fields.

If you are less than 40 years with expertise in research work, send us your bio data with two latest photographs (optional).

The objective of this "projection" is to provide an opportunity to the upcoming researchers and public health scientists to get introduced within the ever growing development circle.

Aysha Sheraz is a researcher with expertise in conducting qualitative and quantitative surveys in the field of population. Presently she is working in a research organization, National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), with the responsibility to evaluate population welfare program performance which include developing research proposals, conducting surveys, preparing questionnaire, organizing and conducting staff trainings, carrying out data analysis and writing reports. During her 11 years of experience she has attended various training courses covering demographic and participatory approaches areas. In addition to conducting a number of surveys at NIPS, she has also contributed and assisted in the preparation of numerous final reports. She is 36, and has acquired her M.Sc. Degree in Medical Demography from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine UK., University of London. She has ambitions to carry out research in reproductive health, on youth and adolescents as well as issues related to environment and population. e-mail: research@nips.sdnpc.undp.org

Saima Hamid, female, 34 years of age, has five and a half years of practical experience of research and teaching at different medical and private institutions. She is also trained to study conception, design, analysis and report writing in the field and facility based studies. She has further capability of proposal development and management along with the skills in review of literature using electronic and statistical database. Presently she is serving as an Instructor at Health Services Academy and foresees her future as a researcher in the field of Public Health. She took her MBBS degree in 1991 from Fatima Jinnah Medical College, Lahore and acquired another degree of M.Sc. in Public Health in the year 2000 from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

Ayazuddin, male, 37, experienced in conducting evaluations of population related projects with expertise in preparation of questionnaire for in-depth research and proposal writing for demographic surveys in the field of population. He is working in a research organization with an experience of 13 years. Salient training related to research is his M.A. in Applied Population Research (APR) from University of Exeter, UK. in 1992-93. He has recently joined as Chief Statistical Officer in Federal Bureau of Statistics, which has a lot of data available to be used for research in the future. His favorite subject for the future studies is Status of Women and its Relationship with Fertility and Contraception.

AGEHI World

Dr. Johan Leeuwenburg
Physician, Senior Epidemiologist,
The Royal Netherlands

Case Study; Hospital in Addis Ababa

During the last week of January 2001 I visited the Addis Ababa Fistula hospital which attracts women from all over Ethiopia and East Africa who have developed vesico-vaginal or recto-vaginal fistulae, usually as a complication of delivery at young age.

The hospital is run by two resident female obstetricians and one visiting specialist from Australia. I knew Dr. Mulu Muleta from the Antwerp Tropical Institute where she completed her one-year course for Master of Science in Disease Control with emphases on Reproductive Health in September 2000. I had met her and her husband in December 2000, but did not find then an opportunity to visit the hospital, that has a very dedicated staff for nursing care and additional supportive staff with 2 wards of 25 patients each, kept immaculately clean. This hospital can easily serve as a shining example for other hospital in East Africa, and, I dare say for some European hospitals as well. Operations are carried out 3 days per week. Postoperatively, patients are kept for 3 weeks during which physiotherapy is commenced of the perennial muscles. Some former patients are nursing-aides. It may be obvious that this hospital has a unique position, experienced medical staff, who also train future obstetricians/gynaecologists, experienced nursing staff and supportive staff and good hospital management. The hospital is located off Jimma Road in a compound full of flowering shrubs and trees slowly sloping towards a valley.

Polygamy as a risk factor for child mortality in Northern Sudan [paper read at the annual meeting of Population Association Of America-PAA; March 2001, Washington DC]

El Rayah A. Osman, South Carolina State University, Oragneburg, SC 29117,
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The main purpose of this matter is to examine the possible links between polygamy (meaning that a man has several wives) and child mortality (death to children under five years of age) in Northern Sudan introduce three hypotheses to account for the effect of polygamy on child survival. Employing data from Sudan Demographic and Health survey (1989/90), logistic regression techniques were used to test these hypotheses. The results show support for the hypothesis that women may experience the cost of polygamy through an increase in child mortality. That is, women living in polygamous marriages have low child survival rates compared to those living in monogamous marriages.

Women Rights & Wrongs

•It's a crime for the slave to love her bonds.

Ghada Samman-Syrian Writer

•Even more important than being first is not being the last.

Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female justice on the US Supreme Court

•Modern young women.....

Show a strong hostility to the word "feminism",
And all which they imagine it to connote. They are, nevertheless, themselves the products of the women's movement.

**Ray (Rachel) Strachey, English suffragist,
Who so opined-no, not yesterday-but in 1946**

•I do not wish [women] to have power over men, but over themselves.

**Mary Wollstonecraft,
The formidable eighteenth-century feminist**

•We still think of a powerful man as a born leader and a powerful woman as an anomaly.

**Margaret Atwood,
One of Canada's coolest contemporary authors**

•Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less.

**Susan B. Anthony,
The mother of American feminism**

•If you catch a man, throw him back.

Women's liberation slogan, Circa 1975

•Nobody objects to a woman being a good writer or sculptor or geneticist as long as she manages also to be a good wife, mother, good-looking, good-tempered, well-dressed, well-groomed, and unaggressive.

Marya Manes, journalist

•I have no patience with women who ask permission to think. Let women establish their claims by great and good work and not by conventions.

**Ros Bonheur,
Nineteenth century French artist**

•The embattled gates to equal rights indeed opened up for modern women, but I sometimes think to myself: "That's not what I meant by freedom-it is only social progress.

Helene Deutsch, psychiatrist

•Don't iron while the strike is hot.

Women's Equality Day Slogan, 1970

• Man for the field and woman for the heart;
Man for the sword and for the needle she;
Man with the head and woman with the heart;
Man to command and women to obey;
All else confusion.

Lord Tennyson

Dedication

grew
Taller than my father
And my mother won.

poetess Ishrat Aafreen, translation by Rukhsana Ahmad)



10th PTV Annual Awards ceremony was held on 17th march 2001 at the Shalimar Gardens, Lahore And the Best Private Production Award goes

**to
Yes**

It is Tele-Venture, Gender Watch,
the 19-episode innovative, informative and entertaining series by SACHET.

**SACHET extends its greetings to
Ms. Muntiza Hashmi,
the Executive Producer,
"Khawateen Time" for winning the 10th
PTV Award for her splendid show.**

One Thing is Equal to Another

Dr. Tariq Al Suwaidan discovered some verses in the Holy Quran that mention one thing is equal to another, that is, man is equal to woman. The astonishing fact is that the number of times the word man appears in the Quran is 24 and the number of times the word woman appears is also 24, therefore not only is this phrase correct in the grammatical sense but also true mathematically (24=24).

Upon further analysis of various other verses, he discovered that this is consistent throughout the entire Holy Quran. Some results are;
Dunia =115; Aakhrat =115
Life=145; Death=145
Hardship=114; Patience=114
People=50; Messenger=50

Don't skip this

SACHET welcomes & invites all the readers to contribute views, research & news. The theme for the coming issue of AGEHI is 'Population Issue in Pakistan', send your perspective by July 15, 2001

AGEHI being a Resource Center mainly meant for Advocacy through IEC organizes a variety of events to make a meaningful noise and hopefully gain the attention of those who are in the decision making positions.

Following is a snapshot of AGEHI activities since its inception in September 2000.

- **"The DAY of 6 Billion"** was observed on 12th Oct.'2000 by screening of the video "Gender and Family Planning" the 13th episode of SACHET's tele-series Gender Watch.
- **"The Role of Men in Family in Pakistan"** was the subject of the meeting held on 1st Nov.'2000. The meeting was attended by the senior representatives and program implementers of the local NGOs and research institutions. Dr. Evert Ketting, the honorary technical advisor to SACHET, who was then on a visit to Pakistan, gave an interesting & thought provoking presentation which was followed by a heated discussion cum debate.
- **"Advocacy Videos on Gender"**, was a three day event in order to promote gender awareness so that glaring gender gap particularly with respect to health and education, could be realized and subsequently reduced. *You can have your own copy too. Write to us for details or visit our web site.*
- **"Sinf aur Tashadud"** (Gender & Violence-the 11th episode of SACHET's Gender Watch) was watched and discussed by a large number of audience on 12th February 2001, the National Women' Day.
- **"Violence Against Women"** a fact sheet based on the analysis of the data gathered from 7 national news papers was presented on the International Womens` Day. Screening of SACHET's production "Gender & Print Media" and a poster exhibition on gender issues were also included in the program. This fact sheet gained massive coverage and was quoted in the editorials of some leading newspapers.
- **Distribution of research material and dissemination of information** to the young researchers in the relatively remote areas of Pakistan and the media professionals is an ongoing activity of AGEHI.



SACHET SMiLe Project

SACHET Microenterprisor for Life project (SMiLe) extends loans ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000 to skilled and deserving men and women who need initial capital investment to start a business. Entrepreneurial skills and marketing tactics are also taught along with basic record keeping like income statements. SACHET adopts a 3M approach, which consists of Micro-credit, Micro-financing and Marketing supported through training. The distinctive characteristic of this project is that no mark-up is charged and an initial grace period of 6 months is granted. SACHET also assists in the opening of bank accounts. Another feature of this project is that the loan money will serve as a revolving credit and the recovered money will be given to new micro-credit applicants.

Change!

"When I joined SACHET as a Community Health Educator my relatives said to my parents why have you sent your daughter to work outside the home. Now they are sending their own daughters with me to work here. Other villagers reactions have also changed. Now they say these girls are doing good work. They are giving knowledge to our females regarding health concerns".
Suraya Khatoon, 18, joined SACHET as Community Health Educator, Shahdra village, September 2000.

**If we want to move forward,
 We shall have to change the horses:
 We shall have to change
 The standard of our standards.**

Jamiluddin Aali

(Jamiluddin Aali is so well known that he needs little introduction. He is an eminent and popular poet, columnist and writer. Above all he is a patriotic of his own kind).

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Amena a diarrhea affected child, rests on her mother's lap as they wait for treatment in a make-shift emergency room of the international center for diarrhea diseases & research hospital in Dhaka on Sunday April 29, 2001. Infants face the wrath of diarrhea in Bangladesh where at least 100 people, mostly children have died of diarrhea. (CourtesyThe News, Rawalpindi)



The theme of this quarter's newsletter is "population"; population is generally perceived as a subject related only to family planning, although, it is a much broader sector that has wide socio-economic implications.

It is of immense importance for policy planners to recognize the need to incorporate and integrate population related facts especially in designing social sector policies. Whether it is health, education, environment or economic planning, population issues play a crucial role in the planning process.

For developing countries like Pakistan, rapid population growth is among the leading problems that need to be addressed for any sustainable development endeavors. It is an issue, which involves all segments of the society regardless of age, sex, caste or creed. This AGEHI newsletter attempts to look at population issues from various angles and perceptions to highlight the subject in an analytical manner.

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Pakistan

Population	142.5	Million
Rank in the World	7th	
Growth Rate	2.1	Percent
Doubling Time	33	Years
Per Capita Income	429	US\$
Births	8	per Minute
Deaths	2	per Minute
Net Addition	6	per Minute
Total Fertility Rate	4.8	
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	30	Percent
Infant Mortality Rate	85	(Per 1,000 live Births)
Maternal Mortality Rate	350	(Per 100,000 live Births)
Human Development Index	135	Rank in the World
Gender Related Development Index	115	Rank in the World
Population Below Poverty Line	12	Percent

Source: NIPS, July, 2001; Human Development Report, UNDP, 2000

SACHET

Promoting Human Development



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Sponsorship
AERO ASIA

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Editorial

Gender, Population & Pakistan

The International Conference on Population & Development (ICPD) held in Cairo and the chain of events leading up to it can be confidently labeled as a major shift in the agenda on Population policy from reduction in growth rate to realizing the Reproductive Health needs of men, women & adolescents. Family Planning services are an essential part of RH care. Following the global biased approach, men were effectively excluded from the FP Program in Pakistan that is now recognized as the 7th most populous country on this planet. In spite of being a signatory to the ICPD' 94, the commitment to the Cairo Ideals is yet to be reflected in its 40-year old program. Women (and that too only married and in reproductive age) in Pakistan were and still are "targeted" in FP Programs. The male role in the perspective of ICPD' 94 is barely visible in the FP Program. In a workshop conducted by an International Donor Agency in Pakistan, working groups were asked to create a definition of an ideal male partner. The ideal male partner created was that of a man who loves his family, is sharing, caring, honest and faithful and is able to make informed decisions with his partner's inputs. Searching this "Superman" would be a futile exercise in a patriarchal society where traditional gender roles and rules can jeopardize communication between spouses on family planning. The demand of the changing times is to accept and acknowledge the contemporary realities and design strategies accordingly. A point of caution for all government agencies and NGOs is not to become obsessed by the Target Syndrome but to adopt a Need-Oriented approach with a human face in all the actions aimed to control population growth rate in Pakistan.

Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen

Guest Editorial

Psychological Aspect of Population Growth

The population explosion is one single factor, which is going to have major impact on our lives in years to come. Present world population is six billion and increasing at the rate of 2-3 percent annually. Europe and developed countries are facing a problem of all time low population growth while developing countries are not able to harness their growth rate. The United Nation projection for Pakistan is alarming 345 million by the year 2050.

The variables which influences the attitude towards age, gender and reproductive behavior are awareness, education and socio-economic stage of development. The social, moral and religious factors determine the psychological make up and acceptable norms.

The appearance of AIDS has introduced some urgency to address the issues of gender, sex and morality. A comprehensive awareness program to reach the grass root level is much too overdue.

SACHET's undertaking in the field of gender discrimination and planned parent hood is likely to provide a framework for meaningful future activities.

Prof. Dr. S. Haroon Ahmed
Hon. Executive Director
Institute of Behavioral Sciences, Karachi-Pakistan.
(Hon. Member, Board of Directors, SACHET)

Mrs. Zubaida Jalal

The Federal Education Minister

I am delighted to learn that the Society for the Advancement of Community, Health, Education and Training (SACHET) is taking out a Newsletter. I am aware of the fact that SACHET is already doing valuable community services. Publishing a newsletter on a pre-selected theme is not only informative, but will also serve the general purpose of awareness, sensitization and positive attitude formation. I am aware of the achievements of SACHET for service to humanity and promotional endeavors for human development. The activity for creating gender sensitization, especially for the neglected segment of the society, women and children requires appreciation and acknowledgment.

I myself being a strong advocate of gender equality have tried to contribute to the cause of education and health especially for women and children in the remote rural areas of the country. I have advised the Ministry of Education to take into consideration the basic themes of highlighting gender roles and responsibilities, provision of educational facilities to all with special emphasis on girl child and promoting general awareness on basic health and nutritional aspects. This is being done through different endeavours initiated by the Ministry in the areas of curriculum and material development, teacher training and basic literacy programmes. The endeavours of the government because of limited resources always need to be supplemented by organizations such as SACHET. As these days, focus is on effective private public partnership, I look forward to a collaborative effort between the government and service-oriented organizations like SACHET.

I wish every success to SACHET, its energetic and ever willing members especially its President in all its new endeavors.

Dr. Abdul Malik Kasi

The Federal Health Minister

I am pleased to learn that Society for Advancement of Community, Health, Education and Training has taken the initiative of starting AGEHI, an Information Resource Center to advocate for gender sensitization, education and health promotion through dissemination of information.

Islam was the first religion to grant rights to women raising their status. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was himself a beacon for granting equal rights to women, treating them with respect, honor and dignity, in accordance with the teachings of Islam.

In the field of health, we are beset with many challenges including socio-cultural barriers, inadequate access to antenatal and emergency obstetric care and high rate of illiteracy. This leads to high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity.

The present Government has taken a number of important initiatives to further promote health, through its six key programs viz. National Program for Family Planning and Primary Health Care, Expanded Program of Immunization, TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Nutrition Program. The National Health Policy emphasizes promotion of greater gender equity in the health sector. It gives priority to the improvement of Reproductive Health Services including Maternal and Child Health Services.

Government has launched an ADB assisted Women Health Project in 20 districts of four provinces for promotion of Women's Health and Nutrition, Education, Skilled Delivery Care, Emergency Obstetric Care to target 14.9 million rural population, to benefit 2.4 million women of reproductive age.

The thrust of the present Government is on preventive as against curative aspects of health, with more focus on mother and child health and integration of health and population sector programs. We recognize that in these important areas, there is great scope for promoting Public-Private Sector Partnership. Good examples are the best way of furthering this cause.

I wish SACHET and its resource center success in its endeavors to carry forward its laudable agenda.



The first issue "AGEHI" by SACHET is an attractive and informative newsletter on gender, education & health information in Pakistan. The quality of presentation is iridescent and contents are aptly educating & impressive.

As long as it is an "informal" newsletter, it contains enormous potential of its popularity and enhanced circulation. The most conspicuous feature of the Newsletter is the interview of Dr. M. S. Jilani, the living legend of our times in Pakistan. Dr. Jilani's observations on planning, demography and social sector are very thought provocative for young professionals, including mature readers & professionals alike.

The newsletter is a great effort in the right direction. The effort will be acknowledged as being done under the editorial supervision of Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen and under the patronage of Dr. A. Q. Khan (NI & Bar, HI), the benefactor of Muslim Ummah. We wish the editorial staff of "AGEHI" every success in their efforts.

Nawazish Ali Khan Asim

Program Officer-Social

National Trust for Population Welfare (NATPOW).

In the body of time we have started feeling the pulse for importance of man; the term man is usually misinterpreted, it is only taken as male, neglecting the other half of the mass-female.

We need practical steps to accept and feel their worth, as they are dynamic cogs in the machine of life.

In social horizon of Pakistan we can see a new bright star called

SACHET. Channelizing its power to awareness about gender, health, economic information & education rights. This power channelization is tracked by AGEHI, with focus on gender issues. It's a new born resource center with the capability of growing in to a well-framed gender research resource center. This end will soon be met due to the talented & cooperative team at the center. We hope that in near future it will become a role model in itself.

Ms. Faiza

Lecturer of Geography, Islamabad Model College for Girls

F-7/4, Islamabad

August 6, 2001

SACHET deserves appreciation for having accomplished a distinguished initiative by presenting TV program Gender Watch which was first for similar organizations in Pakistan.

Mian Shafiq ur Rehman

Resource & Research Development Unit

Global Development Program, Bannu Cannt, (NWFP)

It would be our great pleasure to have regular copies of AGEHI News letter & other publications by your organization, as a noble gesture of goodwill in the sacred cause of dissemination of Knowledge.

Hussain Amir

Honourary Secretary General

Mohammed Bin Qasim Library

Sujawal, Distt. Thatta

Female Sexuality in Muslim Societies

There is generally a dearth of literature on sexuality in Muslim societies. But in case of female sexuality, it is a rarity. This gap has been filled to an extent by a worthy publication of the Women For Women's Human Rights (WWHR), an NGO from Turkey. *Kadinin Irsan Halklari Projesi* strives mainly for the empowerment of women and women's human rights organizations; creation of consciousness among the public about women's rights and their violation, and mobilisation of opinion in favour of women's rights at the national and international levels. The volume under review, edited by Pinar Ilkkaracan, is the compilation of writings about female sexuality by women from different walks of life in selected muslim countries. It is apparent that the selection has been made, keeping in view the salient aspects of women's life in muslim societies, influence of diverse local conditions, and varying cultures and traditions in different parts of the Muslim World. As such, the compilation sheds light on the condition of women in different milieus amply enforcing the universal tendency of keeping women's sexuality under pressure in order to establish the supremacy of patriarchal system.

The significance of the study lies in the treatment of a highly sensitive subject for muslim societies, objectively and with remarkable candor. This affords the reader a picture of the real situation of women, socially, economically and culturally and the mores and norms by which they are subjugated. Articles included in the book, as such, indicate the norms which exacerbate the maltreatment of women within the family, and in the society. The book presents ample evidence to indicate ingrained prejudice against women's display of sexuality and demand for their rights; these feelings turn into willful neglect and violence against women. Even the seemingly pro-women laws are so twisted or interpreted that they favor men.

The study discusses the problems created by noncognisance of female sexuality and hurdles created on the way to women's empowerment and the helplessness of women in traditional societies. The redeeming feature

of various presentations is the factual description as well as academic and legal discussion of various issues facing women. An area of great concern in the Muslim societies, especially those with low literacy and education, is the distortion of religious canons and commands by the clergy and the local elders. Examples of such high-handedness are strewn in all articles from various countries

Honor killing in most cases targeted at women is a highly discriminatory and irrational custom. It has been discussed in detail, in the perspective of various cultures. Although, the problem is deep-rooted and ancient in origin, learned discourse and awareness of the situation should lead to its eradication. Processing of cases of adultery and rape, likewise, needs drastic changes; the book has illustrated the problem, especially in the content of norms prevalent in Turkish society. This should help create a platform against practices which suppress women's sexuality and human rights.

The study has strived to cover all questions related to sexuality of women and their place in society, like the right to love, marriage, lesbianism, genital mutilation, temporary marriages etc. Their discussion points out that the injustice to women is done due to the attitude of males and the laws framed expressedly to perpetuate patriarchal society. Much of the deviant sexual behavior among women is born out of the suppression of women's freedom even in intimate matters, and the reprimand for the slightest unconventional act committed by women, while the men are not apprehended for far more serious crimes. Likewise, many of the grievous and harmful rituals like genital mutilation, strict confinement in the garb of *parda*, etc. are also imposed by male dominated societies to keep women under continuous pressure.

The study is a valuable addition to literature about female sexuality and the situation of women in Muslim societies, in most respects. The message carried by the book and WWHR needs to be spread for concrete action in all Muslim countries.

SARAH JAVEED

Global Science Panel on Population & Environment

International institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) will convene a Global Science Panel on Population and Environment with the immediate goal of producing scientific input on this issue for the Rio +10 World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in 2002. The Science Panel, under the patronage of Dr. Nafis Sadik and Dr. Maurice Strong, will have a membership of 20-25 distinguished scientists from different disciplines and different parts of the world. Participants will be invited jointly by the organizers, which include IIASA and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). This effort will be undertaken in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA). The secretariat of the Science Panel will be located at IIASA, with Wolfgang Lutz serving as coordinator. Funding has already been secured from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the government of Austria.

The Science Panel's mandate will be to (1) assess the state of our knowledge about the population variable in sustainable development (population-development-environment interactions), (2) develop innovative approaches to overcome the deadlock of old controversies, and (3) create a science-based paradigm for integrating population-related concerns into the sustainable development paradigm, as manifested in the Rio to Rio + 10 processes.

The Science Panel will have a truly international and interdisciplinary basis and will aim to provide direct input to the Rio + 10 and Cairo + 10 UN processes. Given that the Johannesburg Conference will take place during the second half of 2002, the Science Panel will only have an initial duration of one year (with the possibility of extension if deemed appropriate). There will be several meetings, including a broader Science Meeting at IIASA in February/March 2002. After this Meeting, a short synthesis document pointing to promising new directions will be circulated widely for comments. A revised version will serve as substantive input to the international discussion before, at, and after Johannesburg.

(Source: Options, Spring, 2001)

THE FAMILY PLANNING MOVEMENT started as a movement by women for women. Dr. Marie Stopes, who wrote "Wise Parenthood" in 1918 and opened the first clinic in London in March 1921, was not a physician. She had her doctorate in palaeobotany. When Margaret Sanger, her sister Ethel, and a social worker Fania, opened the first clinic in Brooklyn, it was soon raided and the three women got arrested. Released on bail, they reopened the clinic, were rearrested and charged with maintaining a public nuisance.

An excerpt from Dr. Fathalla's Contraception and women's health, published in BMB (1993), VOL 49, No 1, pp 245-251

Population Week Activities by SACHET

'The Role of men in Family Planning' was the theme of three 'Mehfils' organized by Program Unit of SACHET in three of its Community Development Programs. The 'Assembly of Men' was held on 9th, 10th and 12th July 2001 as a part of SACHET's activities to celebrate World Population Day at Shahdra Pinyali and Banigala respectively with audience aged below 30 years. Interesting discussions were the hallmark of these Mehfils which included subjects like Islam and Family Planning, issues concerning pregnancy and childbearing and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Based on medical facts, a woman's plight due to 'too many, too close' pregnancies was highlighted to the audience, focusing on the role and responsibility of a male as head of household in a purely Pakistani context. The adolescent audience fully participated in the day's theme, and the discussion continued much longer than anticipated. The audiences were given the option to bring up any question/problem anonymously but nobody was shy and questions regarding sexuality, STDs, RTIs and Contraceptive methods were asked and discussed without hesitation. The audience were also shown videos on 'Gender and Family Planning' and 'Gender and AIDS from SACHET' award winning Tele Project 'Gender Watch'.

An "Assembly of Women" was also held at Shahdra Community Development Program on 9th July 2001, sensitizing pregnancy and related issues, STDs, RTIs with a particular focus on AIDS/HIV. The discussion was supplemented by exhibition of the video 'Gender and AIDS'.

The educational background of the participants ranged from middle to graduate level with the majority of audience from

Matriculation to Intermediate. The main feature of the audience at all the places was that majority of them were in the adolescent group. Positive feedback was received from the audience.

One of the interesting questions asked by a participant at Pinyali village was regarding the effect of the difference in husband & Wife's age on the health of the newborn.

Another interesting question that was asked by a participant aged 20 years, having intermediate level education, was that 'what would be the chance of contracting HIV infection for man having polygamy (two wives) because he is having multiple sexual relations'.

In these assemblies it was observed that the awareness level regarding different health issues, especially about family planning is very low in the general public. The youth need to know more about reproductive health issues & especially about HIV/AIDS.

(Report by: Dr. Hashim Popalzai & Saleem Ba)

Change!

"I really appreciate the community awareness program of SACHET through female Community Workers. What they tell us during their visits to our homes is very informative & helpful. Earlier, my children used to fall ill frequently but now, after getting information from community workers, I know how to prevent diseases and take care of my children in a better manner"

(Zulekha Bibi, Female 33, exit interview of the patients at SACHET Clinic Shahdra village, Islamabad, April 2001)

SEMINAR ON "POPULATION & ENVIRONMENT-THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS"

The seminar on "Population and Environment: The role of Communications" was organized by AGEHI Resource Center of SACHET to mark the World Population Day on 11th July 2001. A large number of participants, belonging to different walks of life attended the seminar. The seminar had been arranged to display the commitment and concern of SACHET over the issue of population growth. The main objective of the seminar was to focus on the importance of the correlation between population, media and environment in a purely Pakistani context.

Representatives of Print and Electronic Media, NGOs, Service Providers and Research Organizations presented their views. They expressed their views regarding



population and the role of communications, the problems emerging due to population growth and also recommended some solutions to these problems. The speakers included Mr. Abdul Hamid Tabassum, magazine editor- Ausaf, Ms. Tasneem Ahmer, representative of an NGO UKS, Ms. Farkhanda Shaheen, Sr. Producer-PTV World, Dr. Saqib, Associate Professor, Health Services Academy, Nibahat Shireen, Senior Producer, Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Dr. Abdul Hakim, Director NIPS.

Population Growth was discussed in the seminar as one of the major enigmas of Pakistan. It was termed as a menace that gives rise to many problems like government's growing dependence on foreign assistance to cater to the growing number of people, lack of provision of basic facilities like health facilities, education, & tackling the resulting pollution, etc.

The role of electronic media as being one of the most powerful instruments of communication for highlighting important issues like population was acknowledged. The speakers and the participants laid great emphasis on the relationship of the population, media and environment. They recommended that instead of projecting problems, the media should also provide solutions.

It was strongly recommended that people should be sensitized through media that men are responsible for the sex determination of a new born not the women. It was also suggested in the discussion that media should focus on enter-educate programs that combine entertainment with education and information.

(Report by: Saleem Baig & Aamna Khalid)

Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) recently conducted a seminar on "Improving Maternal Health - A Reproductive Health Priority for Balochistan", on 30th July 2001 at Quetta. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Roshan Khurshid Barucha (Minister of Population Welfare, Social Welfare, Social Development and Human Rights) and led by distinguished panel members. It was part of an on going series of seminars to be conducted across major cities of Pakistan. The first two seminars of this series were conducted in Islamabad and Karachi on "Is Pakistan's Population Sustainable?," and "Urban Boom or Urban Decay: Population Pressure on Karachi" respectively. The remaining two seminars will be conducted in Lahore on "Rural to Urban Migration - Fallouts for Pollution and Water Shortages", and in Peshawar on "Afghan Refugees - Additional Population Pressure?" in August and September 2001 respectively. All the events have been catered to the specific situation and interest of the city/province.

Report by: Atif Ikram(Executive Officer, PAP)

Web sites related to Population

[Http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ResFacilities/demographic-list.html](http://coombs.anu.edu.au/ResFacilities/demographic-list.html)

Discussion of demography and demographic techniques

[Http://www.nidi.nl/public/demos/index.html](http://www.nidi.nl/public/demos/index.html)

Bulletin on population and society that disseminates demographic research findings

[Http://www.pop.psu.edu/general/pubs/PAA_Affairs/index.html](http://www.pop.psu.edu/general/pubs/PAA_Affairs/index.html)

Reports, recent research on worldwide population issues

[Http://www.jhuccp.org/popwel.stm](http://www.jhuccp.org/popwel.stm)

Databases of more than 225,000 citations with abstracts on population, family planning and related health issues

[Http://www.popcouncil.org](http://www.popcouncil.org)

Population Council- a research organization that seeks to improve human well being and reproductive health around the world

[Http://www.popcouncil.org/pdr/default.html](http://www.popcouncil.org/pdr/default.html)

The journal population and development review published by Population Council

[Http://popindex.princeton.edu](http://popindex.princeton.edu)

Annotated bibliography of recent books, journal articles, working papers, and other material on population topics

[Http://www.prb.org/prb](http://www.prb.org/prb)

Population Reference Bureau (PRB) investigates demographic dimensions of reproductive health, family planning and related issues

[Http://www.prb.org/prb/bulletin.htm](http://www.prb.org/prb/bulletin.htm)

Population Bulletin published by PRB

[Http://www.prb.org/prb/poptoday.htm](http://www.prb.org/prb/poptoday.htm)

Population Today-published by PRB

[Http://www.unfpa.org/swp/swpmain.htm](http://www.unfpa.org/swp/swpmain.htm)

Annual report highlighting new developments in population

[Http://www.zpg.org](http://www.zpg.org)

ZPG- works to slow population growth and achieve a sustainable balance of people, resources and the environment

www.popact.org

Population Action International

www.popnet.org

Information on Population

www.ippf.org

International Planned Parenthood Federation

www.pap.org.pk

Population Association of Pakistan

www.key.org.pk

Key Social Marketing-Pakistan

Fertility & Education

In most countries particularly those in the process of demographic transition fertility tends to vary very strongly with the level of female education. The strongest educational differentials are observed in Africa. Extreme cases are in Benin & Togo, where women without formal education have on average well above six children, while women with some tertiary education have only 1.3 an average. In Latin America, these average differentials are 7.1 verses 1.8 in Guatemala; 7.1 verses 2.2 in Bolivia; and 5 verses 1.5 in Brazil. Asia & Europe have an intermediate position, and North America shows virtually no educational fertility differentials. (Options, Spring 2001)

An interview with Prof. Dr. Nawab Haider Naqvi, SI

Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi, is an outstanding economist and elucidating intellectual of our times. Dr. Naqvi honored AGEHI by lending his valuable time. He enlightened us with his knowledge, perceptions and opinions on economics, national development, political system, governance, law and religion. Lamenting the role of academic councils in Pakistan he remarked that these were our most conservative institutions. Although he believes that exodus of excellent brains from Pakistan has a direct influence on its economy, he is still hopeful that we would be able to sustain ourselves.

While going through this interview, the readers would certainly notice a combination of heart, mind and soul in the words of Dr. Naqvi, a trait that has become rare in present day Pakistan. Due to space limitations we could not publish the entire text. Readers are requested to visit our web site for the unedited interview of Dr. Naqvi.

GNP versus Human Development:

A unifocal concentration on achieving the highest feasible growth rate of the Gross National Product (GNP) as a proxy for human welfare is the hall-mark of the 'traditional' development paradigm (born in the early Nineteen Fifties). The point is that a high rate of growth of the GNP adjusted for the growth rate of population yields a measure of the potential for raising individual welfare (i.e., an increase in per capita income) on the average. However, it has been understood (though not always grasped by the policymaker, nicknamed by John Maynard Keynes as the "madmen in authority") that raising this potential on the average does not necessarily mean increasing it for all, even most, individuals. Awareness has also increased in the last two decades so that the potential for human welfare that rising per capita income represents can be dissipated if the inequities of human condition (including gender inequities) worsen. The dawning of this knowledge has taken the form of the basic proposition that growing inegalitarianism is inimical to sustaining high growth rates of GNP over the long haul; and it is also definitely inconsistent with economic development, which signifies a wider sharing of the fruits of economic growth. The growth experience of the East Asian 'miracle' economies has convincingly demonstrated that, contrary to received wisdom, egalitarianism and growthmanship can reinforce each other in a virtuous circle, especially when the growth rate of per capita income exceeds 6 percent per annum which, incidentally, means that per capita income doubles every 11 years or so. The lesson here is that a high growth rate, if wisely managed, can be equalizing.

A closely related trend of thought, which has entailed a broadening of the traditional development paradigm, is that achieving human happiness ultimately means not just "commodity fetishism" (a Marxian phrase) but the acquisition of some basic "functionings" (e.g., being healthy, being literate) and the "capabilities" to acquire these by the individuals who, exercising their freedom, make the choices they wish to make. That being the case, economic development really means enlarging people's choices by enabling them to live longer in good health, receive greater (and better) education, and get bigger incomes, all of which adds up to human development. This is the UNDP's research agenda. It means that, rather than concentrating on increments in income alone, human welfare should be measured by a more

capacious Human Development Index (HDI) and/or by a Human Deprivation Index (HPI), both of which are essentially pluralistic conceptions of economic progress. In this respect the UNDP's research has expanded the scope of the traditional concept of economic development. It goes beyond the means to achieve human well-being to focus on the ends of development. True, this wider concept of human well-being is essentially vague and lacks the precision of the GNP indicator; but in matters of such importance for the betterment of humankind it is better to be vaguely right than precisely wrong! However, there is now a widespread consensus around the view that economic development (focusing only on income) and human development (focusing on education, health, and income) tend to reinforce each other, if wisely managed; but that it is not possible to pursue one to the neglect of the other. Once again, the East Asian experience shows that sustaining high rates of growth of income over several decades requires that a higher rate of human development be associated with high social spending; and vice versa. It, therefore, follows that it would be a grave mistake to focus only on the ends (human development) rather than the means (economic development) if such a shift of policy emphasis leads to a neglect of achieving high rates of growth of per capita income.

The Population Issue:

In developing countries it is essential that population growth rate is slowed down to the replacement level, by making a transition from a high-mortality-high-fertility sequence to a low-mortality-low-fertility sequence. This process is known as "Demographic Transition". Experience shows that sustaining high rates of fertility over extended periods is a demographic impossibility. Thus, for instance, if a 3 percent growth rate of population were sustained in Pakistan, then there would be 2 billion Pakistanis by the end of the next century and in 230 years our population would have been multiplied by a factor of 1000 to become 80 billion; and in yet another 230 years we shall be 80 trillion, perhaps inhibiting not only the Planet Earth but the entire galaxy! But Mother Nature will surely cool off our procreative exuberance much earlier, perhaps to leave some room for the non-Pakistanis as well. This has happened several times in human history, by inflicting on demographically irresponsible humans famines, floods, earthquakes, wars something that we should like to avoid in favour of more controllable policy options! Taking a 'peaceful' route to human existence instead means that four things happen simultaneously: (i) The decision-making at the household level assigns a much higher value to having a smaller family size than is the case now. In other words, the demand for

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Following his master's degree from the Yale University in 1961, he earned his doctorate from the Princeton University in 1966. After finishing his post-doctorate research from Harvard University in 1970 he carved a career pathway that is studded with high portfolios, challenging responsibilities and distinguished accomplishments. Besides holding many high level positions, Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi has also been Director, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, and until recently Senior Economic Advisor, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and Rector (Designate), Kausar University of Sciences, Islamabad.

children must decline as a matter of the household's voluntary choice. In this context, an irrational son preference must be abandoned, partly to avoid the tragedy of the "missing women" (i.e., those not allowed to be born), of which there are millions. In China, this number was a colossal 40 million in the mid-1980's; and



Photo by: Saleem Baig

in India 30 million in the same period. Their numbers are very large in Pakistan as well. (ii) The supply of safe family planning devices increases significantly, especially in the rural areas where high fertility rates have tended to aggravate poverty and depress agricultural productivity and wages. (iii) The literacy rates, especially among women, significantly rises. (iv) The rate of economic and social progress is rapid. Fortunately,

the developing countries have been wise enough to reduce their fertility rates to, even below, the replacement level rather quickly. Thus, during 1990-98, the population growth rate in the low-income countries came down from an unsustainable average of 3.4 percent to 2.00 percent, and from 2.8 percent to 1.5 percent in the middle-income countries. In Pakistan too Demographic Transition has finally arrived, though much later than elsewhere. The current population growth rate here is 2.1 percent, which is a vast improvement over the growth rate of 3.1 percent in the 1980's. It is hoped that this process will now gain momentum, if anti-natalist policies are consistently pursued. There are both demographic and economic reasons for achieving success on this score sooner rather than later. The demographic reason is that the rates at which additions to population are made today fix the size and composition of the labour force for the next 20 years ! This is known as Demographic Momentum. The economic compulsion to reduce population growth rates to the replacement level and below is that a lower (higher) rate is associated with a higher (lower) rate of saving, investment, and economic growth.

However, ironically, as most developing countries, including Pakistan, are about to solve the problem of high (and unsustainable) growth rate of population, Nature has already brought to the fore the opposite challenge of "population ageing" as if to ensure that humankind, like Sisyphus, does not run out of the reasons for perennial toiling against heavy odds. This new phenomenon has already severely strained resources of the developed countries, and of the erstwhile developing countries, like Japan. It is no longer a distant possibility for low-and middle-income countries. However, fortunately, these countries are at present recipients of the one-time "demographic gift", before the gathering force of Demographic Transition begins to deplete the working-age pool of labour force. It is that a delayed fertility decline in these countries will for a time stretch the size of the working-age cohort. However, this gift is only an opportunity which, if not fruitfully exploited now, will lead to a decline in these countries' competitiveness in the international markets and a sharp rise in inter-cohort rivalry. The challenge for these countries, including Pakistan, is to make bigger investments in human capital now to produce a highly trained and skilled population in the years to come to meet the challenges of this Age of Globalization. This has come about in the fast-developing countries of East Asia, while others

(including Pakistan) may miss the bus. The lesson of this analysis is that the process of Demographic Transition should be accompanied by sensible economic policies to increase the quantity and quality of human capital and sustain high rates of economic and human development.

State of Pakistan Economy:

At least six major debilitating crises namely, the growth crisis, the resource-mobilization crisis, the balance-of-payments crisis, the external debt crisis, the income distribution crisis, and the poverty crisis have delayed the onset of economic spring by throwing the economy off the self-generating growth course, by greatly weakening its "fundamentals", and by turning Pakistan into an inegalitarian, non-caring society, where the "voice-less millions" remain unheard. The chalice of economic prosperity is now farther from our grasp than at any time in the 52 years of our history. The "mother" of all crises is, however, that an adverse concatenation of economic forces has produced a near-zero growth of per capita income in the 1990's. This is in sharp contrast to Pakistan's own impressive growth record of 3.48 per annum during 1977/78 to 1997/98 and 2.57 per annum during 1988/89 to 1991/92; and this was at a time of a significantly higher growth rate of population of 3 percent plus. If the economy keeps growing at this dismal annual rate (of about 1.5 percent on the average), then it will take 46.6 years to just double our per capita income. However, if we had grown at a rate of about 3.5 percent since 1987/1988 then we would have doubled per capita income in about 10 years from now. No less important are the resource-mobilization, the balance-of-payments, and the debt crises, which have become major internal and external constraints on the efforts to take the economy back to its historical growth path. Thus, a failure to reduce the budgetary deficit 'naturally' (that is, by raising enough tax and non-tax revenues) has meant doing it by cutting down mainly on development expenditure and by reckless internal borrowing; the inability to narrow down the trade deficit by exporting a lot more than we are doing at present has required economising on the vitally needed imports and depleting foreign-exchange reserves, and it has led to unsustainable levels of external indebtedness.

Income distribution is more unequal now than ever before, poverty has risen after falling sharply in the 1980's, human deprivation (especially of women) has become more intense, and the unemployment rate now stands at 6 percent per annum in contrast to the 3 percent rate that prevailed in Pakistan over the preceding three decades.

Similarly, the current government efforts to achieve greater macro-economic stability first i.e., lowering the budgetary and trade deficits, reducing the inflation rate, retiring internal and external debts are more likely to retard, rather than accelerate, the growth rate of the GNP. It is high time, therefore, that we raised the growth rate of per capita income to at least 3 percent per annum (which, at the current rate of population growth of 2.1, implies a modest growth rate of GNP by 5.1 percent), and then gradually increased it to 4.8 percent per annum while the population growth rate is lowered to 1.8 percent (which means that the GNP increases at the rate of 6 percent). It should be possible to achieve this higher growth rate, which would increase per capita income by 160 percent in just 20 years, because Pakistan enjoyed a 6.16 percent growth of GNP for 14

The chalice of economic prosperity is now farther from our grasp than at any time in the 52 years of our history. The "mother" of all crises is, however, that an adverse concatenation of economic forces has produced a near-zero growth of per capita income in the 1990's.

An interview with Prof. Dr. Nawab Haider Naqvi, SI

years (from 1977 to 1992). But the real challenge is to increase per capita income by 6 percent or so for two or three consecutive decades. However, success in this would require hastening the process of "Structural Transformation" (i.e., consistently keeping the share of manufacturing in total GNP significantly higher than that of agriculture); raising the saving and investment rates; increasing the efficiency of investment; achieving a faster rate of employment- promoting industrialization; increasing the share of wages in the GDP; and correcting the existing (feudal) structure of property rights. Once all this is done, the efforts to attain macro-economic stability, reduce poverty, and increase human development are more likely to be crowned with success than in the midst of the prevailing gloom of economic stagnation. True, implementing such a wide-ranging agenda is going to be difficult, even painful, for our free-riding and socially irresponsible elites; but no less is required to sustain high rates of economic and human development, distribute equitably the fruits of economic progress, and improve the lot of the under class in the society.

The Role of Multilateral Donors:

We love our multilateral donors (mainly the IMF) because they lend us the much-needed external resources to finance a higher rate of investment than could be sustained by domestic savings alone, at lower rates of interest and with a significantly longer repayment period than the international financial market can offer. Indeed, the severity of the debt problem has risen in Pakistan during the 1990's partly because we borrowed to our heart's content from the private borrowers as well. But we hate the multilateral donors because of the rather harsh (even sadistically painful) "conditionalities" they make us fulfill. These conditionalities have multiplied with the passage of time so much so that there is little room left now for the domestic policymaker, the rhetoric of "home-grown" policies not withstanding. That by itself would not be a bad thing because domestic policies in Pakistan have been, by and large, ill-informed and have tended to protect the interests of the rich at the expense of those of the poor. The shameful inability to impose an agricultural income tax, carry out land reforms, tax the industry and trade and the rich at high enough rates are just a few examples of a massive governance failure in Pakistan. That being the case, international pressure to make the politically constrained policymaker do the 'right' things should be socially desirable, however 'unpatriotic' this may sound. The problem, however, is that many of the conditionalities, which reflect a one-size-fits-all mindset, have not been in our best interests. Thus, a monocentric emphasis on the pursuit of macro-economic stability and the absolute lack of a trade-off between it and other vital economic and social objectives has meant a slower rate of growth, worse income and wealth distribution, and greater poverty and human deprivation. Yet another instance of this mindset is the recommendation to carry out a no-holds-barred privatization of public enterprises, on the unproven premise that it must lead to greater efficiency because government intervention in the production of goods and services is generally counterproductive. In fact, the studies done on the merits of privatization in the developing countries (including those done in Pakistan) do not bear out such beliefs; instead, they show that privatization has led to massive public corruption, while its efficiency and revenue gains remain questionable, at best. In general, efficient government intervention, which both supplements and supports the markets, is almost always superior to both centrally controlled economic arrangements and unregulated markets. However, the multilateral donors, while appreciating the validity of such arguments, invariably make privatization an integral part of their conditionalities, mainly on ideological grounds. Yet another

example of the multilateral donors' thinking is their unequivocal emphasis on "liberalization" i.e., the lowering of all tariff and non-tariff barriers on trade and capital flows, and a sharp devaluation of the domestic currency. That excessive protectionism is harmful for the countries imposing them as well as for the world economy is a proven fact; what, however, is not established is that even selective protection, especially that with respect to capital flows, is undesirable. Indeed, the East Asian crisis of 1998/1999 has proved that regulation of capital flows is essential to the smooth working of the developing economies and the world economy. Also, too sharp a devaluation increases the inflation rate, and significantly enlarges the size of external debt in terms of the domestic currency, even though its contribution to export growth remains modest at least in the short-to-medium run.

Two points must be noted about our love-hate relationship with the multilateral donors. Firstly, it is not helpful at all to subscribe to the 'conspiracy theories', which would ascribe to the multilateral donors evil motives e.g., That they would not let a developing country grow fast enough. The unalloyed emphasis of the multilateral donors on macroeconomic stability i.e., a near-zero inflation rate, very low budgetary and trade deficits has also been the practice in the OECD countries since 1973, though with similar results: slow growth, widening inequalities of income, high unemployment rates. But this does not make these policies any better, especially for the developing countries. Instead, what we have here is an example of good intentions paving the way to hell! Secondly, the granting of economic aid by the multilateral donors is a certificate of reasonable economic health, without which even the private funds will not be forthcoming. That being the case, the borrowed funds must be efficiently used with a view to getting out of the straitjacket of conditionalities. The South Korean attitude in the wake of the 1998/99 crisis is worth studying and emulating by countries like Pakistan. They accepted such aid as a necessary evil, instead of believing in the 'eventual' beneficiaries of these conditionalities. Thus, while we must fulfill the contracts we agree on, every effort should be made to improve the working of the economy by other means as well by such means as will accelerate the growth rate, improve distributive justice, and reduce poverty and human deprivation.

The Making of a Development Economist:

John Maynard Keynes famously remarked: "The Theory of Economics does not furnish a body of settled conclusions immediately applicable to policy. It is a method rather than a doctrine, an apparatus of the mind, a technique of thinking, which helps its possessor to draw correct conclusions." There are four elements of this homily, which need to be firmly grasped: (i) Doing Economics is not just a repetitive application of "settled conclusions" and infallible laws and doctrines as a key to instant economic prosperity. (ii) Instead, economists have a more difficult job to do namely, it is to take the text-book lessons, which teach him how to "think" systematically and logically, only as a starting point. (iii) Having learned the basic "technique", the next step is to apply it to specific situations. (iv) But a successful application of the received doctrines requires both the ability to draw "correct conclusions" from given premises (by deductive reasoning) and from a detailed study of the essentials of the specific situations (by empirical analysis). All this adds up to the conclusion that, for all his mastery of the basic techniques of economic analysis, a successful economist must resist the temptation to fall for context-free "one-size-fits-all" prescriptions. In other words, economists, not in possession of universal, infallible laws of the economic universe, must improvise in specific situations and societies and times to prove their (marginal) utility to the society. **Contd. on page 11.....**

Demography in Pakistan

A Personal Note

Dr. M. S. Jilani

In 1954, the Pakistan Economics Association held its annual meeting at Peshawar. I participated as president of the Punjab University Economics Society and read a paper on the solution of the impending population problem through migration to Balochistan etc. besides family planning. I was torn to pieces by the participants as everybody thought that I was raising a problem which did not exist. However, the President of the Association, Mr. Zahid Hussain, who was a widely respected



University of Chicago Graduates with Prof. Phillip H. Hauser
Pakistani Scholars, M.S.Jilani, Sultan S. Hashmi & Jameela Naeem are also present in the group

chairman of the (Pak) Planning Board supported this graduate student, at least on the concern for population growth, if not the solutions.

Next year (1955), I got my master's degree and was appointed a University Lecturer in Economics at the Punjab University; one of the courses (papers) for graduate classes that I chose to teach was known as 'Population and Labour Problems'. I changed the content of the course and made it 75 percent demography and population studies. I was totally self-taught and with the exception of Prof. Kingsley Davis' Population of India and Pakistan, Prof. Thompson's textbooks and bits and pieces, I did not have much to bank upon. There was a gentleman at Lahore -- Khalid Hayat Khan -- who was deeply interested in population methodology as he was Chief Statistical Officer/ Director at the Public Health Department, Punjab. He came to me and asked if he could sit in my classes. I, in fact, welcomed him ---- it was good to have a senior person in a class taught by a 22 year old young man. He kindly pointed out my weaknesses after the class, for which I was always grateful. (He never tried to attend my other courses, which dealt with Economics. My first class of 'demographers' carrying M.A degrees in Economics came out in 1956.

That year, I had planned to apply for Rhodes scholarship. I mentioned it to Mr. Khan. He said that there was a new organization known as the Population Council which would get me training in demography rather than economics (under the Rhodes scholarship) so why not apply to the Population Council. He promised to get me a form the next day - - and he did. My teachers insisted on the Rhodes so I applied for both --- But even in Rhodes application I gave population as my main interest. The

Population Council response was quick and positive ' so I became the first Pakistani Population Council fellow (thanks to Dr. Dudley Kirk, Prof. Hauser and Khalid Hayat Khan). As a consequence, I got hell from the Secretary, Pak Rhodes Committee when I went to withdraw my application and collect the transcripts an old British Justice.

In August 1957, I reached Chicago along with my bride of about a year and plunged in my studies with an intellectual eagerness as well as with an aim to finish my Ph.D. in two years. Dr. Kirk and Professor Hauser watched with amusement (due to my aim to get the Ph.D. in 2 years) but also great interest. In the course of events, I looked for a Pakistani that one could talk to. Professor Hauser told me about Sultan Hashmi who was studying for an M.A. in Sociology and specialization in Social Psychology. I found him and over the weeks convinced him to shift to Demography. Since we were five Population Council fellows (including Mercedes Concepcion, Raoul Vargus, Ismail Maung Khin), a group was easy to form. We all studied together, took the examinations together and set a pace which was amazing. Dr. Hashmi used his credits from the Ph.D. to obtain his M.A. and returned to Pakistan I finished my Ph.D. requirements and the viva/defense of my dissertation and returned in January 1960, (ironically, the typing of the thesis took two years as the person who had the script fell sick). After returning, I started the Dept. of Sociology at the University of Karachi and produced demographers and social researchers by the bushel during 1960-67. Dr. Hashmi returned from Chicago and joined PIDE at Karachi in late 1962. Col. Nazir (D.G. Central Statistics Office) and Karol Krotki (PIDE) were major employers of my students and almost all major Pakistani Demographers from Karachi went through their projects.

In 1967, I joined the Planning Commission, ostensibly to look after demographic concerns, and to become what Government servants are meant to be --- i.e. docile creatures who lack big initiatives. I was used as an economist and demographer-in-waiting. Although recruited by the Planning Commission to do population work, by the time I had finished economic planning, I had become too senior to take charge of demography alone. However, Planning Commission became an important place for population policies. NIPS, in fact was also conceived and finalized at the planning commission. The status of the work done by the Population Council, PIDE, NIPS etc. now is before everyone. The future work as I envisage it, is a separate topic which one may write about sometime. However, in about fifty years, the study of population in Pakistan has come of age. Apart from occurring as a research area and planning topic, population has emerged as an intellectual pursuit, with the 'population people' from Pakistan figuring in the World .

Change !

"The short-term computer courses by SACHET, I believe, are very helpful for youth of our village. It will help us to get acquainted with modern ways of acquiring knowledge, & in finding appropriate jobs. We, young people are lucky that we have a good chance to get computer education at our doorsteps"

(Naeem Tahir, 23, Student SACHET Computer Training Center Mohra Noor village, Islamabad, July 2001)

Minhaj ul Haque is 36 years old having expertise in behavioural research. He is presently working in an international research organization, The Population Council since the last 9 years. He is experienced in designing quantitative and qualitative survey tools and statistical analysis of survey data. He is proficient in several packages for the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data with expertise in SPSS. Minhaj has received many trainings, attended a number of workshops, which have enhanced his capacity in conducting research activities. Out of them salient have been course on Analyzing Adolescent risk-taking behaviour from University of Hawaii, USA; and Course in Reproductive Health

Research from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, England. He has also contributed in numerous publications covering various aspects of reproductive health. He has done his M.Sc. in Economics from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and has ambitions to conduct research on Transition to adulthood, education, work and marriage among youth in Pakistan.
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Women Rights & Wrongs

Mainstreaming Gender

All of us know that there is provision of maternity leave for female employees both in public & private sectors in Pakistan. But, the idea of paternity leave sounds new in our society. SACHET has granted its male employees the right to avail paternity leave. One off day in each trimester for medical checkups of their wives and four on the delivery of the newborn. The employees can avail this leave for their first two children only..... Isn't this gender empowerment?and isn't this empowerment of women also?

Out of consideration

Don't kill my daughter in front of me.
All right, all right. Peel off her clothes and throw her with the other girls!
Manto-the master storyteller-translated from Urdu by Khalid Hassan a leading Pakistani journalist and literary translator.

We need every human gift and cannot afford to neglect any gift because of artificial barriers of sex or race or class or national origin.

Margaret Mead (1910-1978)
From "Male and Female"

Woman is shut up in a kitchen or in a boudoir, and astonishment is expressed that her horizon is limited. Her wings are clipped, and it is found deplorable that she cannot fly.

Simon De Beauvoir (1908-1986)
From "The Second Sex"

What makes a successful business woman? (Men are encouraged to read it)

Is it talent? Well, perhaps, although I've known many enormously successful people who were not gifted in any outstanding way, not blessed with particular talent. Is it, then, intelligence?.... What, then, is the mystical ingredient? It's persistence. It's that certain little spirit that compels you to stick it out just when you're at your most tired. It's that quality that forces you to persevere, find the route around the stone wall. It's the immovable stubbornness that will not allow you to cave in when everyone says give up.

Estee Lauder
From "Estee: A Success Story"

Azra Aziz, 38 years old, is experienced in conducting surveys, evaluations & analysis of different type of data. She has been affiliated with research work related to population at National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS) for the last thirteen years. She holds postgraduate degree in sociology/demography from USA & Masters degree in Public Administration from Punjab University, Lahore. Her ambitions are to continue research related to population issues with core research groups in Pakistan & abroad as well.

A Must Read Memo

Every issue will have a specific page in this Newsletter for the introduction of young people who are proficient in their respective fields.

If you are less than 40 years with expertise in research work, send us your bio data with two latest photographs (optional).

The objective of this "projection" is to provide an opportunity to the upcoming researchers and public health scientists to get introduced within the ever growing development circle.

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The field worker's face was glowing. "Madam jee, mein iss ko lei hi ayai akher", (finally I have brought her) she said in a voice overloaded with the twitter of triumph. "Shabash, now work harder for more clients and a raise. Do not miss mohalla meeting today." I accredited her accomplishment. Since I was a trained Family Planning practitioner, I knew tricks of management.

As she left the room I looked attentively at my client who was brought for the tubal ligation. She appeared to me a grief-stricken woman around 50, but her clinical card, was telling that she was only 36.

"So Jannat bibi, after 8 children and 4 abortions you have finally decided to stop your children", I broke the silence with not very suitable words which I instantly realized. She remained quiet but gave me a piece of paper. That was the most important piece of information that she was carrying, the consent of her husband.

"Aha so your husband has become considerate", I filled my voice with the best possible level of ebullience.

She burst into tears. "He is getting married again to have sons, I am a girl-maker; he does not want me to produce more girls for him", she said in a doddering voice. While comforting her I abruptly started planning for attending some more training workshops to handle such highly unexpected situations never mentioned in any of the five-star hotel-based training workshops that I had attended so far. A question arose, somewhere deep inside my heart:

Do our population policy framers know this woman?

Kathshinday

How to ensure a child becomes malnourished

start with the smallest possible mother. This probably means that she was malnourished in her own childhood. Any extra food she may receive during pregnancy will be used to fuel her own metabolism and to make good her own chronic energy deficiency rather than to nourish the child in her womb.

If the diet of the mother-to-be is inadequate and unvaried, and she continues to do heavy work, then this will sharply increase the chances of the baby being born with low birth weight. At this point, the mother's anemia can be almost taken for granted. Frequent illness, malaria, reproductive tract infections, mental and physical abuse, and exposure to smoke from domestic fires and cigarettes will further increase the possibility of premature birth and low birth weight.

When the baby is born, the malnutrition of the mother may reduce the micronutrients in her breast-milk. Delaying the start of breast-feeding for 48 hours will further reduce the supply and also prevent the infant from receiving colostrum, the yellowish fluid which precedes normal breast-milk and protects against infection.

From now on, breast-feeding either infrequently or not at all will deny the child both the best possible food and a source of protection against common infections. If the child is instead fed from an unsterilized bottle using milk powder over diluted with unsafe water, then a self-reinforcing cycle of poor growth and frequent infection will be set up.

Introducing solid foods too early, especially if the food is a watery gruel with little energy value, will further increase the risk of infection and growth faltering. If the child is also kept away from health centres and vaccination points, then this too will increase the likelihood of frequent infection, giving the child little time to recover properly and catch up on growth in between episodes of disease. Measles and diarrheal disease, in particular, are sure to take away the child's appetite and cause growth to falter, especially if it is part of the culture to refuse food to a child who has an infection or withhold fluids from a child who has diarrhea. The process will be accelerated if the child's immediate environment is unhygienic, especially if there is neither safe water nor sanitation.

If the mother continues to eat last and least, she may have insufficient fat reserves to breast-feed adequately and very little energy for looking after her child. If she also has six or seven other children to look after, no help from her husband or partner, and a job outside the home, then this will make it virtually impossible for her to give the kind of care and attention that all small children need if they are to develop properly.

(THE ASIAN ENIGMA, 1996

Vulimiri Ramalingaswami, Urban Jonsson, and John Rohde)

Child Care

In Africa it is accepted that the greatest obligation on a woman is to look after her husband's children and look after them well - an attitude which is noticeable in a thousand small details and even in the different perceptions of beauty and in male definitions of thinness and fatness in women. In South Asia, by contrast, society and tradition oblige a woman to make her husband and mother-in-law the central focus of her responsibilities.

Subordinated in a different way, judgment and self-expression and independence largely denied, millions of women in South Asia have neither the knowledge nor the means nor the freedom to act in their own and their children's best interests. Women are subordinated in both continents, as indeed they are in most regions of the world, but in kind and in degree the subordination of South Asia's women is of a different order. And the quality of child care suffers along with the quality of women's own lives.

(THE ASIAN ENIGMA, 1996

Vulimiri Ramalingaswami, Urban Jonsson, and John Rohde)

.....Contd. From page 8 (Interview of Dr. Naqvi)

It is the essential fallibility of economic laws which prompted yet another famous economist, Paul A. Samuelson to make the following delightful observation: "how treacherous are economic 'laws' in economic life: e.g., Bowley's law of constant relative wage share; Long's law of constant population participation in the labour force; Pareto's law of unchangeable inequality of incomes;.....; Everybody's law of a constant capital/output ratio. If these be laws, Mother Nature is criminal by nature". What is true of economics and economists (now loftily referred to as mainstream, or neo-classical, economists) is even more true of development economics and the development economists, who are even easier prey to the essential criminality of Mother Nature with respect to the economic 'laws'. In that proportion, the latter's job is more difficult than that of the former. But this is by no means a call to take arms against the sea of trouble that neo-classical economics may represent to some (Remember that some great social philosophers have derided economics as a dismal science). It is rather an affirmation of a development economist as an economist par excellence i.e., that he be an economist first and foremost, with a clear understanding of the economic principles and the basic tools of analysis that neo-classical economics teaches us, to be able to offer a menu of disciplined discourse rather than a riot of confusing (and confused) thought. However, following the Keynesian advice, he must reject any claims that what mainstream economics offers is a "doctrine" rather than a "method". Sadly, however, this is what mainstream economics has come to represent: a body of universally valid "settled conclusions," which make the real world conform to the axiomatically derived rules of behaviour. Much worse, it has taken the form of a Scholastic, to be revered for its own sake and its ascetic beauty. In the process of doing these abstract exercises, mainstream economics seems to have forgotten its original motivation i.e., "the Natural Progress of Opulence" as the Adam and Smith of modern economics, Adam Smith, put it as far back as 1776. Instead, what it has offered, though only intermittently and half-heartedly, is a theory of growth which is far removed from policy concerns. Neo-classical economics has undermined the Smithian Revolution in a more fundamental way: it seems to have abandoned attempts to understand the central issue of economics: namely, how decentralized choices interact and eventually get coordinated in favour of a theory according to which an economy is an outcome of the maximization of a representative firm's utility over an infinite time horizon!

Dr. A. Q. Khan (NI & Bar, HI), president SACHET inaugurated the SACHET Computer Laboratory for special persons, one of SACHET's education projects, at National Training Center for Special Persons, G-8 Markaz, Islamabad on April 28, 2001. The center is a collaborative project of SACHET with the Federal Govt. Federal Minister for Women Development, Social Welfare & Special Education, Dr. Attiya Inayatullah was also present on the occasion. SACHET Computer Laboratory is equipped with ten network computers. The center aims to impart computer skills to about 150 special persons a year.

SACHET's Education project, **SACHET Computer Training Center** & Poverty alleviation project, **SACHET Skill Development Center** were inaugurated by Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, Executive Vice President, SACHET on May 22, 2001 at village Banigala, Moza Mohra Noor, Islamabad. SACHET Computer Training Center would benefit an expected number of 100 young boys & 40 young girls in one year. Similarly an expected number of 160 girls would be trained at SACHET Skill Development Center.

Under SACHET's Poverty Alleviation Program, **Sales Corner of the Products made by Special Children** was inaugurated by S. K. Tressler, Federal Minister for Culture, Sports & Minorities, at SACHET Gallery on May 31, 2001.

AGEHI's preliminary report on "**Violence Against Women in Pakistan & Print Media**", a study report, by monitoring & analyzing the reported cases of violence from six National Newspapers was presented in a round table meeting at the Training



room of SACHET on August 13, 2001. The Presentation brought together a sizable number of representatives from various UN agencies, public institutions, NGOs & the Media. Dr. M. S. Jillani, President, Population Association of Pakistan presided over the meeting.

Training Project (Poverty Alleviation cum Income Generation Program) was launched on 14th July, 2001 by holding a one day workshop on **wax painting & wallet making** at SACHET Gallery. Women from Rawalpindi & Islamabad attended this workshop

SACHET held a series of **Free Medical Camps** at Kachi Abadi, I-11, Islamabad to help the affectees of the flood. Over 3000 patients were examined for different kinds of diseases & given free medicine. In this connection SACHET has also launched a campaign to collect donations for the affectees of flood.

Community Survey at Shahdra village

SACHET's first community development program at Shahdra village near Barakaho in Islamabad is operational since October 1999. Projects that are operational at Shahdra village include free SACHET clinic, Computer Training Project, Skill Development Project, Community Literacy Project, & Health Education project.

SACHET conducted a community survey in March 2001 at Shahdra village. 385 household out of a total of 400 were interviewed. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the community perceptions on issues related to health, family size, number of children per family, Knowledge about family planning, family planning practices, awareness about HIV/AIDS etc.

Among other findings, the current survey indicates that 81% of the community is utilizing the free medical services provided by SACHET as compared to the previous findings of 26 percent (March 2000 survey). The awareness level about family planning has also been increased from 90 percent to 94.3%; the national level statistics is 96%, according to the current NIPS report.

In March 2000, the contraceptive users were 29.4%, that increased to 35% in March 2001. The national level contraceptive usage is 30%. These improvements can be attributed to SACHET's intensive community work through community meetings, community health education & above all through SACHET's Free Clinic.

(Report by: Saleem Baig)

AGEHI Resource Center Founded in September 2000, AGEHI (AGEHI is an acronym standing for Advocates of Gender, Education and Health Information. AGEHI itself is an Urdu word bearing meanings like Knowledge, Awareness, Perception and Insight) is the Resource Center of SACHET. It is meant to Advocate for Gender Sensitization, Education and Health promotion by disseminating Information, Networking & Research.

AGEHI Resource Center informs policymakers, educators, the media, the concerned citizens, civil society representatives, Students from remote areas of Pakistan, Young professionals, researchers, and Program Managers working in the areas of Gender, Education & Health throughout the country through a broad range of activities.

AGEHI resource center is working on three types of projects i.e. Communications/IEC (Information, Education & Communication), Advocacy and Service Delivery.

The major activities under IEC are the quarterly newsletter AGEHI, SACHET Calendar & the SACHET web site. AGEHI News Letter is designed to create an exchange platform for information and ideas on diverse issues of the national interest. The ultimate objective of AGEHI News Letter is to promote positive dialogue on policies and programs.

The advocacy projects include Community Literacy Project, Dare to Sensitize Train and Inform (DoSTI) a project to sensitize youth about sexually transmitted diseases, Study on violence against women & national poster competition on HIV/AIDS.

SACHET Computer Training Centers are the service delivery projects of AGEHI Resource Center.

Send your Comments, Research, Reactions & Responses at

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AGEHI

AGEHI Resource Center-SACHET

SACHET is a Multidimensional NGO working for Promoting Human Development in Pakistan

promoting positive dialogue

Advocates of Gender,
Education &
Health Information



AGEHI RESOURCE CENTRE

ENGENDERING
DEVELOPMENT

Editor
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Technical Advisor
Sarah Javeed

Managing Editor
Saleemullah Baig

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This quarter, AGEHI Newsletter mostly focuses on gender issues, emphasizing the need to balance the needs between males and females and providing equal opportunities for females in all spheres of life. There is a growing realization that progressive and effective development cannot be achieved in any country without the active participation of women. But unfortunately, Pakistan still has a long way to go. We lag far behind in providing a conducive personal and professional environment for our women, especially those belonging to low income groups and rural areas of our country. All recent social indicators show that there is a wide gap in the statistics for males and females, whether it is education, health, economic activities or any other sector, women still have a long way to catch up with their male counter-parts.

In Pakistan, women are still mainly perceived as home makers and care takers for the family, not to mention as a source for producing children. Unless and until, we realize that women have a vital role to play in the productivity of the society, our progress as a nation will be as slow as it is today. The solution is not to dole out or seek donor money to get rid of our drawbacks, but to move towards a change in our attitudes and behaviours as people committed towards positive developments to improve our own present and leave behind a better future for our coming generations.

Sarah Javeed

Selected Human Development Indications of South Asian Countries

	PAKISTAN	INDIA	BANGLADESH	SRI LANKA	NEPAL
Human Development Index (Rank)	127	115	132	81	129
Population with access to essential drugs (%)-1999	65	35	65	95	20
Public Expenditure on Health (% of GDP)- 98	0.9	0.6	1.7	1.4	1.3
Life Expectancy at birth -1995-2000	49	62.3	58.1	71.6	57.3
Adult Literacy Rate(%)- 1999	45	56.5	40.8	91.4	40.4
Male Literacy Rate(%)-1999	58.9	67.8	51.7	94.3	58
Female Literacy Rate(%)- 1999	30	44.5	29.3	88.6	22.8
Public Expenditure on Education(as % of GNP) -95-97	2.7	3.2	2.2	3.4	3.2
Gender Related Development Index (Rank)	117	105	121	70	120
Total Fertility Rate (Per woman)-1995-2000	5.5	3.3	3.8	2.1	4.8

Source: Human Development Report 2001, UNDP

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SPECIAL THANKS
to all our Contributors, Friends & Foes without whom this initiative would not have been possible.

editorial

Diversity, Discrimination & Development

Nothing is constant in this world but change. However, since 11th Sep`01, a different type of change has become constant and might last forever. Our region has emerged as the foremost focal point of this change. Mostly inhabited by poor and the powerless, this area has always been characterized by contrasts, conflicts, confrontations and compromises. The new global scenario has added to the already existing enigma and created a new set of issues, frictions and conundrums in addition to the old ones. It goes without saying that the worst victims of such situations are the marginalized groups and disadvantaged communities. In the South Asian context, who could be more discriminated against than the women, especially those belonging to the poor classes.

The tasks before the development pundits today is to identify, define and designate a position for the women in this region in the power structures -which is due to them. All this cannot not be done without accepting their right to development in its true dimensions-respecting diversity and rejecting discrimination. The question is whether we are ready to challenge the stereotypes and wage a war against prejudiced responses, deliberate ignorance with the rights of women, and non-recognition of their state.

By Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen

Reproductive Health And Rights Are Diverse Under Islam

The Taliban's inhumane treatment of women in Afghanistan has led many people to conclude that Islam it self is intolerant of Family Planning and reproductive health services. In reality, Islam plays out differently across cultures, and the acceptability of family Planning varies significantly from country to country, according to "Islam, Women and Family Planning: A primer," by Heather Boonstra, senior public policy associate with the Alan Guttmacher report on public policy, a bimonthly review from AGI's policy analysts.

The article addresses Islamic law as it pertains to reproductive health, and compares & contrast family planning programmes in Four Muslims countries: Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Turkey. Boonstra reports that many national governments in the Muslim world are actively involved in distributing contraceptives and providing reproductive health services through a variety of family planning programmes. Sterilization, how ever, is illegal in some countries and remains the subject of ongoing debate in many Muslim communities. The Koran does not explicitly address abortion, but there is general agreement in Islam that abortion is permitted only for the most serious reasons, and abortion is severely restricted in nearly every Muslim country.

For the full article visit the following link

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/gr040604.html>

Contributed by:

Dr. Evert Ketting (member Technical Advisory Committee SACHET)

Web Sites Related To Gender

- Gender Equity in Islam
www.jannah.org/genderequity
- SACHET
www.sachet.org.pk
- Gender Issues Research Center
www.gendercenter.org
- Institute for Research on Women and Gender
www.stanford.edu
- Gender Development Training Center
www.gender-training.nl
- Gender Equity in Islam
www.iad.org/books/GEI
- Gender Issues: Women's Studies Database, University of Maryland ...
www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/WomensStudies

Message

I extend my sincerest wishes to SACHET on their AGEHI initiative. I am also aware of their valuable work for the special people and marganzized committees of Pakistan. Certainly SACHET is working for all Pakistanis with a tremendous devotion. We need to work together for the betterment of our society. This could not be possible without the promotion and actual adoption of a culture of peace, tolerance and justice. Let us work for a peaceful and stable Pakistan

Col. S.K.Tressler

Minister for
Minorities, Culture, Sports,
Tourism and Youth Affairs.

???????

For a change, I was very happy that day and complimenting myself on meeting nearly 90% of the deadlines and targets. I reassured myself repeatedly that all this was possible because of the hard work of our organization; its efforts at mainstreaming gender issues, finding ways of transforming change for women and creating an enabling environment.

While trying to quantify all these actions, I was interrupted by the office boy who brought a file. Since I am almost obsessed with clearing my desk as early as possible, decided to go through the file immediately. To my extreme surprise (read shock) that with the exception of a few, it appeared that all our female employees had requested at least one-week holidays following the Eid break. The reasons given were more or less similar: they had to attend important weddings or other ceremonies in their SUSRAL; missing those marriages could have an adverse effect on their own marriages. It was obvious that all the applicants were married women. That implied that only unmarried, divorced and widowed did not ask for holidays.

My elated mood changed. I started feeling that all our gains would convert into losses at the end of the year, if I accepted their leave request, as our program would have suffered by their absence. On the other hand, if I rejected their requests these women would suffer. Recalling the emotional fragility of most of those women I gave up the idea of talking to them.

What is still not clear to me and I am struggling to find an answer to is why Pakistani women do not reject a subjugated image and position for themselves? When would they be able to use their education and employment as tools for empowerment and create an environment, which addresses their rights? For how long educated women Pakistan have to hurt their careers due to family situations? For how long Pakistani husbands would tend to forget that women work in the offices in the same way as the men do and they too have to be responsible to their superiors in the office? And why working women are not considered equal partners in supporting the family instead of being treated as casual sidekicks whose jobs were not to be taken seriously, except their pay checks?

Rakhshinda

On Attitude

I will tell you that there have been no failures in my life, don't want to sound like some metaphysical queen, but there have been no failures. There have been some tremendous lessons

Oprah Winfrey

Legal Empowerment Of Women In Pakistan

S. M. Zafar

Chairman Human Rights Society of Pakistan
Former Law Minister, Government of Pakistan

Pakistan was created for its citizen to be free of discrimination and deprivation they had suffered in the past. Citizens included women; and it was stated that they should stand side by side with men as their companions in all spheres of life. This sentiment was reflected in the constitutional proposals subsequently made. (Articles 25 and Article 34).

In practice however the promise of equality has not only been ignored, it has been blatantly violated. In 1995, nearly a half century after the creation of Pakistan, the National Report for the Fourth UN World Conference for Women had to admit that women 'continue to suffer in the face of oppressive patriarchal structures, rigid orthodox norms and stifling socio-cultural customs and traditions'.

Adherence to status quo, political inertia and lack of social will have continued women's historical burden. Legal empowerment of women in Pakistan can only be ensured through creation of forward looking and strong civil society that propel the State to bring positive changes in the constitutional, statutory and customary laws.

Women's Situation In Pakistan

Studies on women and state have shown that the State is not a gender-neutral entity. Political dispensation at the State level can either reinforce female subordination or support female autonomy. The changing attitude of the Pakistan State towards women ranges from half-hearted policy measures at best, to inaction and outright discrimination by enactment of retrogressive law particularly during the military regime 1977-88.

Legal Status Of Women In Pakistani Society

The constitution of Pakistan recognizes the principle of equality of all citizens and the right to equal protection of the law. It specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, and makes provision for measures of affirmative action by the state.

However, the constitution is silent on the critical issues, such as women's reproductive rights, as well as rights to development or the environment, which are equally relevant to women.

The existence of multiple legal systems provides different options for settling contentious issues concerning women's right and usually least favorable to women is implemented. In the application of muslims laws is uneven for instance; the lack of protection under statutory law, of women's religious right to choose a spouse and the absence of effective actions for not giving women their share of inheritance.

Law Hindering The Women's Development In The Society

Discriminatory legislation exists in Pakistan. This will necessitate an ijtihadi quantum to rectify the gap. Enlightened and liberal ulemas should be motivated to undertake research in this area for implementation by the State.

Law regarding sexual crimes against women heavily favors men. The Zina ordinance punishes rape with adultery and places female victims of the former as well as that of the latter at particular risk. If the court is unable to establish rape, and the woman becomes pregnant, her pregnancy is interpreted as evidence of her compliance with illegal acts and, therefore, she is to be punished. Large numbers of women in Pakistan have been falsely and maliciously prosecuted under this law for exercising their rights in freedom of choice of a marriage.

The Law of Evidence (1984) states that the value of the women's testimony should be considered only half of a man's even in criminal matters. The Pakistan Citizenship Act

(1951) guarantees citizenship by descent only through the father. There is a discrepancy in the minimum age of marriage for the girls at sixteen, and for the boys at eighteen. Women do not have an equal right of divorce. Right of divorce given to women through delegation (Tafweez) though permissible in Islam, yet the attitude of majority has led to its disuse. Furthermore, the procedures of women seeking divorce are quite complex. The Muslim family Law Ordinance (1961) brought important reforms by making marriage registration mandatory, introducing a standardized marriage contract form, and laying down a procedure for divorce. However, it did not offer a fair post divorce settlement. Pakistan Law Commission has recently taken up this issue and some reform has been recommended which still needs to be implemented by the Government. There is no legislation on domestic violence and honor killing. These are treated at par with other forms of violence. Cases of violence against women often go unpunished like acid throwing and stove burning. Recently, awareness created by NGOs has resulted in increasing the registration of cases against the perpetrators. Incest has no special status in laws and similarly, there are no laws for sexual harassment at work or public places.

Judicial indifference towards the issue of women's rights and other issues concerning women has worsened the situation. My experience in courts revealed that husband's side finds it easy to convince a male judge against the female litigating for her right by accusing her of awargi (lewdness).

Options For Legal Empowerment Of Women

Four major commissions or committees were organized from time to time in the past to identify areas of discrimination against Pakistani women and suggest remedial measures and changes in the existing laws for the betterment of the tragic plight of women. Although these bodies made various recommendations, in practical terms little was achieved as the government concerned often lacked the will, vision or self confidence to accept most of these reforms. The research work and the recommendations are already in place there is only need to bring these learning in the public view through debates.

Dominated Provincial Legislatures

Local Bodies are a critical tier of government. In the recent Local Bodies election women's participation was ensured by provision of 33% reserved seats for them. Same formula adopted for Provisional and National Assemblies would ensure improved Human Rights environment in the country.

Conclusion


Although there is a gradual and increasing acknowledgment of women's autonomy as a development issue, empirical indicators show that women continue to have a lower quality of life, are dis-empowered and face an inequality of opportunities in all areas of development, relative to men. In the global and South Asian terms, Pakistani men do not fare well either, as the HDI devised by the UNDP clearly affirms. However, women fare even worse. Discriminatory laws and customs play a crucial role in preserving status quo. Serious efforts on the part of the State need to be undertaken to change the situation. State's commitment to bring a positive change in the society could be gauged by its gender-sensitive policy initiative and laws enactment processes. Presence of strong civil society organization could not only monitor initiatives taken by the State but can also keep their pressure on the State apparatuses to bring these changes at its earliest instead of delaying it in the name of other priority issues. Empowerment of women would require a holistic approach in which all sections of society cooperate and state play its constitutional role. The burden must be shared by the political parties, media and Ulemas as each one of this section has failed to give the issue of women's rights the critical importance it deserves.

Continue on page

exclusive

An Interview With Mr. Agha Nasir

Mr. Agha Nasir is one of the pioneers of the Pakistan Television. He started his career in 1955 with Radio Pakistan. Currently he is associated with Rotary Club Islamabad Cosmopolitan as it's president. He is also attached with Family Planning Association of Pakistan as a member of it's national council.



Date of birth	9th February 1937
Education	Masters in History
Marital Status	Married
Honor	President Pride of Performance Award
Major Portfolios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director General Pakistan Broadcasting Corp. • Managing Director Pakistan Television Corp.

Gender Discrimination

Gender discrimination does exist in Pakistan, but that is happening all over the globe. Even those societies, which claim to be the champions of civilization, are not spared from it. The way female gender is dealt with is not a very healthy aspect of even the western societies. Look at the US senate and congress, British House of Lords and House of Commons. How many females are there to represent their respective gender. Their societies are also totally male dominated and female gender is on the receiving end in both professional and domestic life. They have marked difference in their per hour salary for males and females. Women are getting less salary than men and there are similar differences in other areas of life. Females very rarely head a corporate setup or any other lucrative and influential positions in the Western societies. They blame our social structure and religion for discrimination on the basis of gender. But our Islamic societies are more progressive than theirs in many respects. Though some elements are wrongly interpreting Islam in our country for the limited role of women. But as a whole our religion very efficiently and comprehensively protects rights of female gender and defines limits of male-female relationships in a society. As far as my personal life is concerned, I have never foreseen any difference between males and females. Women have every right to stay at an equal status with men, be it at home or in professional life.

Media Role

Role of media in highlighting women issues and creating awareness about their rights is of vital significance. Keeping in view the nature of media in Pakistan, we can safely say that the print media is doing some positive job in creating awareness regarding women issues. English press is much ahead in this regard. However, the Urdu press is lagging behind despite enjoying advantages over the English press because of its access to mass readership. The Urdu press is guilty of scandalizing and sensationalizing women issues. This aspect of Urdu press spoils the cause of awareness, instead of serving it. On the other hand electronic media is in government control. Implementation and bringing changes in the policy of electronic media regarding gender issues is subject to the will of the political set up in the country. That is why we do not find stability and concentration in the policies of government controlled electronic media regarding women issues. Today a Govt. changes the very next day the policies of TV and Radio in Pakistan are changed.

I learned this lesson from my career that broadcasting is a matter of consultation and cooperation. Only an independent media can pursue policies regarding women's issues in a proper and effective way. But in Pakistan we have to depend upon the Govt.

directives, bureaucratic interference and will of the concerned ministry before taking initiative to address any issue on electronic media. In the presence of such bottleneck we cannot expect the government-controlled media to play its due role in highlighting any social issues including women issues and creating awareness about gender discrimination in a more positive and organized way. Coming to print media. The English press is the best but its clientele is very low and therefore is not as effective as it should be. Urdu press is for masses. But it needs to adopt more mature and plausible approach before handling women issues. The temperament of press in general and Urdu press in particular in handling women issues as a source of entertainment, needs to be changed for the sake of development in the society. After such reformation, journalism can be effectively used for highlighting gender issues in a successful way.

Role Of PTV

Change is visible in PTV regarding women issues. Today PTV portrays women in more diverse characters than the stereotyped roles of the past. One positive aspect of this change is the environment of openness, which the PTV is providing now to the participant to speak out their hearts on issues that were considered out of bound in the yester years. I feel that the participants now are given more room to express themselves openly. This has brought positive change in PTV programs, which is exclusively for the cause of social awareness. Women problems are now more openly discussed. Criticism over the government policies regarding women problems and general social issues is also a regular feature of Talk Shows on PTV and are tolerated more liberally than the past. However, still a lot of work has to be done in this regard. I will safely say that the pace of such changes on PTV is very slow. Any vital change on PTV needs concentrated planning and efforts as only one or two programs can not solve the cause of creating awareness in the society. Here I will refer to one very strong element of commercialism, which is emerging as a big handicap in the way of such efforts. The PTV of today is more under the influence of a group which has greatly damaged the social dimension of this vital electronic media just in the name of commercialism. There were days when the PTV dramas earned worldwide fame for their strong and realistic social plots. The culture of Pakistan and its social issues were highlighted in a way that the whole world was all praise for PTV coverage. But, unfortunately, PTV has lost that glorious traditions. Now commercials and those programs, which have no relevance to any social cause, consume 80 percent of its time. The rest of the remaining time is also not properly planned either. The advertisements themselves are damaging the progressive role of women by presenting them just as show pieces. That is one of the reasons that we are finding it hard to change the attitudes of our people about gender issues. PTV as a public organization has the responsibility to create awareness about important social issues particularly gender problems. Private sector should be encouraged and given incentives to invest such programs that can serve social causes.

Role Of Government Institutions

Role of government is pathetic in creating awareness about gender issues. Lack of political will is the main reason for it. Unfortunately our country remained under military rule for most of the time due to which no appropriate planning for awareness about social issues could be initiated. On the other hand, private sector is not that robust and organized to serve the needs of the society. All the resources are in government hands. A lot of bureaucratic hurdles are there to handicap even those fragile efforts, which are being carried out in the private sector. This is one of the reasons that the social sector could not be developed. Unlike dictatorship, in democracy we can expect that awareness about human rights and social problems would be the government priority. But in Pakistan democracy could not function effectively for obvious reasons. Even democratic governments treated social sector differently than the military governments. Resultantly, social problems and gender

exclusive

issues could not be concentrated upon. In the 1973 constitution some basic rights for women were agreed upon and guaranteed for 20 years, however, after the expiry of the time no Govt. bothered to revive the quota. A lot of hue and cry was raised over the women's seats in the assembly but even the democratic Governments of Benazir and Nawaz Sharif dragged their feet on the matter. Amendments regarding issues of personal interests of the rulers were made in few minutes. While matters related with women rights were left undecided. When the matter of honor killings was raised on the floor of the assembly, I was amazed that even the extreme leftist tried to sideline this brutality against women as their cultural matter and indispensable part to keep their values intact. So if the rulers are sincere in creating awareness regarding women issues and there is consistency in policy planning and implementation, the government institutions could be effective. At present, all effective institutions are government controlled and no positive results are visible in this connection. Recently, the Academy of Letters announced their awards which all went to male poets and writers. There is no dearth of female writers or poets worthy of awards. But actually the selection committees lacked women representation to raise the question. I was a member of the committee for the Tamgha-i-Hausni Karkardagi and am a witness to the facts that nominations came from every province and region of the country.

We are teaching the same Rshid -ul- Kahiri's Akbari and Ashghari in our text books which will not solve the purpose of awareness regarding women rights in this progressive era. Thus there is a lack of vision and progressive approach on part of the government, which is mainly responsible for backwardness of women in the society.

Intellectual Bankruptcy

Writers, journalists and intellectual class also have a very strong role to play for the cause of awareness about gender issues. TV plays, books and newspapers, could easily communicate messages regarding gender issues to the masses. But proper timing and consistency is the first requirement. Until now we have observed that the intellectual class is not much organized and motivated to portray women in a more progressive role in their messages. The journalists are the best source for awareness poses. But they also focus more on exploiting women issues by treating them just as a part of entertainment. So in this scenario, we cannot expect any development in elaborating the lot of women in our society. Though development is taking place, but it is very slow. In order to achieve the desired goals in term of women development, the mass awareness is needed to be established on sound footings.

Family Planning

The increase in population is a very vital issue for our country. Since 1950, we have been working on controlling this time bomb. But despite best efforts in 50s and 60s, we could not get the desired results. Some of the problems aroused during 80s when the rulers turned down this issue for getting support of radical circles. Later on even the democratic government concentrated less on highlighting this issue and until now awareness regarding Family Planning could not be created in a desired and required manner. One of the main problems in the way of creating awareness about Family Planning is the absence of unanimity among different shades of opinion in our society. There are some who support it and others who equally disapprove of it. However, one positive thing that happened over a period of time is that a major chunk of the population realizes that Family Planning is required to balance the consumption and production and ensure people's due in an appropriate way. Further improvement in this area depends upon more organized and concentrated efforts to make the people realize that this is an issue requiring urgent attention. Media is not as effective in communicating messages regarding family planning as it can be. The best solution is to conduct mass contact drive and send teams to each and every locality.

Looking back over the era of Ayub Khan, I will say that the measures adopted by his government were exemplary in bringing forth women issues and population problems to the forefront. Thanks to little interference on the part of prudent bureaucracy, a lot of reforms took place during that period. Then came the time of 80s in which the rulers for petty political considerations deprived women of their little say which they earlier enjoyed due to reforms in 60s. The unscrupulous leadership in 1980s even banned family planning commercials and programs. For the rest of eleven years women issues were suppressed for the reasons better known to the then rulers. Instead of combating these problems by waging jihad against it and popularizing the messages for increasing awareness, the then rulers thought it wise just to play down these issues on the electronic media. Resultantly, Ministry of Population Welfare remained. After that no effective changes took place even in the so-called democratic eras except of minor differences.



"This is perfect Watch for Mothers
Every day in thirty six hours"

Continued from page Legal Empowerment of Women in Pakistan

3

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NO COMMENTS

Advocacy is an apology for not doing policies
right.
(KMSR BAKHAI)

portraits

● **Saba Zaidi**, 26 Years old holds seven years of teaching experience. She has been working for Beaconhouse School System & is currently associated with OPF Girls College Islamabad. Besides teaching, her forte includes conducting surveys on social & environmental Projects & producing Reports. Recently she has joined two development sector organizations, AGEHI Resource Center and ABES, as a volunteer. ABES is a Pindi based NGO that deals with UNICEF & UNESCO to hold teacher empowerment courses. Her aims are to help women folk & youth to get social empowerment & freedom of expression.
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● **Wasiq Mahmood Khan**, 24, a postgraduate student of Business Administration with Information Technology Management as a major, has volunteered for AGEHI Resource Center to assist in many of its research projects. Wasiq has a keen interest in utilizing Information Technology in Social Sector. Currently working on a project envisaging a networked, virtual community, this young professional is ambitious enough to transform Info Tech. in to a strategic partner for civil society organizations.
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perspective

● The visit to this very special Resource Center proved fruitful & informative. It is a very helpful point particularly for students to get help in research work related to different gender & social issues.

**Zain ul Abideen & Asjad Rehman,
 C.A. Students, NCBMS, F-8 Markaz.**

● Great...! must congratulate the people behind this untiring effort. We must join the hands to bring about the change & one can see SACHET team already rolling up sleeves.

Tahira Pirzada, Educationist, OPF Girls College.

● Every person at AGEHI Resource Center was cooperative & provided us with best possible information & material related to our research work " Orphans & Orphanages". We are thankful for their help & guidance.

**Behavioral Scientists ,
 Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi.**

● An e mail query in response to SACHET's Gender watch I like your program & watch it regularly. I have a question...How can some body get infected with HIV/AIDS in a country like Pakistan, being an Islamic state?

Raja Fahim ur Rehman, 19, UAE.

A Must Read Memo

Every issue will have a specific page in this Newsletter for the introduction of young people who are proficient in their respective fields. If you are less than 40 years with expertise in research work, send us your bio data with two latest photographs (optional). The objective of this "projection" is to provide an opportunity to the upcoming researchers and public health scientists to get introduced within the ever growing development circle.

world

Menopause & Aging

As the number of women over age 50 will grow rapidly in developing countries over the next three decades (Hill, 1996; Bonita et al., 1996), health issues related to aging are receiving increased attention. Studies in developing countries have found that women carry a heavy burden of gynecological problems through out their reproductive years and into later life, in part due to the limited medical care they receive during labor and delivery (Liskin, 1992). Common problems include Menstrual Disorders, Reproductive Tract Infections, Cervicitis, and Uterine Prolapse. Obstructed labor leads to the most serious complex of problems including Fistulas, Bladder Problems, PID, Amenorrhea, Infertility, and nerve damage. All of which can transform women into social outcasts (Arrowsmith et al., 1996; Wall, 1999).

Women remain fertile until and even beyond menopause, but physical and lifestyle changes dictate different contraceptive choices for older women. Low dose Oral Contraceptives (OCs) may be a good choice for healthy, non-smoking, menopausal women, because OCs may reduce bothersome symptoms associated with the Menopausal Transition, increase bone density, and reduce women's long term risk for Osteoporosis

(Cromer, 1999; Michaelsson et al., 1999). Researchers in Thailand also are testing the use of oral contraceptives as an inexpensive and effective alternative to Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) (Taechakraichana et al., 2000) and vaginal estrogen creams (Chompootawee et al., 1998) for post menopausal women.

As they reach menopause, women may experience Vasomotor, Urogenital, and psychological symptoms, but the prevalence of each symptom varies widely between countries (Barlow et al., 1997; Dennerstein, 1996). Women in developing countries tend to view menopause and its symptoms as a natural process that does not require medical care and know little about health issues related to menopause (Defey et al., 1996; Wastei et al., 1993). Their reluctance to seek treatment has been reinforced by health care systems that focus on fertility issues and marginalize older women (Bavadam, 1999). This situation is beginning to change as doctors encourage older women to consider medical interventions (Chirawatkul et al., 1994; Haines et al., 1995).

After menopause, HRT can reduce some of the health risks associated with aging in women, such as Osteoporosis (Levbinson et al., 1998; Schneider et al, 1997; Ettinger et al., 1996), and may help them maintain their sexuality (Sarrel, 2000). However, recent studies confirm that HRT increases the risks of Endometrial cancer (Jain et al., 2000) and Breast Cancer (Ross et al., 2000; Schairer et al., 2000; Li et al., 2000; Colditz and Rosner, 2000). While adding a Progestin to oppose the Estrogen reduces the risks of Endometrial cancer, it increases the risk of Breast cancer. The increased risk of Breast cancer is not associated with increased mortality, probably because women on HRT receive good medical care so that tumors are detected early (Gajdos et al., 2000). Recent randomized trials are casting doubt on earlier observational data that HRT protects against Coronary Heart Diseases (Estrogen for Heart Disease, 2000; Grady et al., 2000; Hulley et al., 1998; Herrington et al., 2000). It is important that women reaching menopause are fully counseled about the benefits and risks that HRT might hold for them personally (Hammond, 1999; Hammond et al., 2000) When risk factors make HRT a poor choice, women should consider alternative treatments, such as Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators (SERMs) and Bisphosphonates (Lobo, 1999; ARHP, 1999).

Diet and exercise also are important considerations for healthy aging. Adequate exercise and nutrition (especially calcium intake) early in life ensures that women build bone mass. Later in life continued calcium and vitamin D intake and regular physical activity, especially weight bearing exercises, can maintain bone density, prevent fractures, and reduce the risk of heart disease (Burghardt, 1999; Chein et al., 2000; Iqbal, 2000). Health education can encourage older women to make healthy life style choices and to seek regular screening for breast and cervical cancer (McVeigh, 1995; Sulak, 1996).

Reproduced from Reproductive Health Outlook (RHO) Website (www.rho.org) [Current Year], Pakistan

The International Conference on "Dowry: Realities & Strategies for Intervention: South Asian Perspective" was held at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 30-31 January, 2002.

Dr Rakhshinda Perveen was the invited Representative from Pakistan. The complete text of the paper "Dowry: A Socio-Cultural Perspective from Pakistan. The Presentation can be viewed on our web site under News updates

Reproductive Health Of Adolescent Girls In Nepal

Abhendra Karki, Ph.D.

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Nepal's population is characterised by a young age structure. Like in other cultures around the world, adolescence (10 to 19 years of age) is recognised as the transition stage from childhood to adulthood in Nepal. As a result of high fertility in the past, the estimated population of adolescents was 3,762,770 and it consist approximately 21 percent of the total population. The proportion of male adolescents is about 11 percent and that of female is only 10 percent. The young structure will be the main source of a large percentage growth over the next 20-25 years. In view of the size of adolescent population and implications for the future, it is imperative to give due attention to the challenges facing the adolescent population.

There are reports from different regions of the country demonstrating that during adolescent females play a very active role not only in domestic affairs, primarily cooking and food preparation, but also in agriculture work. Females, adolescents and adults, served food after all males in the household have been served. It has also been reported that female adolescents work 10 hours per day but their male siblings work only 8 hours. Despite these harsh realities very little information on the relationship between nutritional status and reproductive health is available on Nepali adolescents. It is very likely that the nutritional vulnerability during infancy and childhood continue in adolescence to adulthood and females will face nutritional changes from before and during child bearing of their own.

Data is only available on nutrition, mortality and morbidity of the under-five population. Information related to health and nutrition status of adolescents and the contributing factors to under-nutrition is extremely important not only to improve the quality of the adolescents' life but also because it provides valuable insights into the factors that have profound impact on future generations. At the same time there currently exists a void in systematic research and empirical studies on the adolescent population of Nepal. Such research and studies may provide the basis for effective dialogues and discussions on the formulation of health and gender policies and programmes for the adolescent population.

It is of paramount importance to have an understanding of adolescent behaviour, including sexual and reproductive health, in the context of the individual's overall life span. Sexual and reproductive health, particularly of females, is influenced by the social, cultural and economic environment so a holistic approach is essential to address the needs of adolescent reproductive health successfully. Wide spread poverty, unemployment, gender and ethnic/caste discrimination are some of the factors that affect the nutrition and health of adolescents. The inequities between male and female that exist within communities are the real constraints to improving the health and nutritional status of female adolescents. The attitudes and behaviour that health programs seek to address arise from socio-economic and cultural systems. Therefore, such programs should be integrated within all aspects of social development.

There is a lack of studies assessing the interrelationships between reproductive health and nutrition among female adolescents in Nepal. Availability of food, seasonal variation

and its impact on nutrition and development of female adolescents has not been documented so far. It is now realised that a life cycle approach is required to address the special health and nutritional needs and behaviour patterns of the particular age groups.

Safe Motherhood programs can be expanded and made more effective in two ways. One, by improving the coverage and quality of services. The involvement of men in Safe Motherhood interventions not only make the men aware of women's health needs and conditions, but also enables them to share responsibilities of parenthood. Two, by addressing the special health needs of adolescents (both boys and girls) with their active participation. This not only helps to enhance their co-operation but also prepares them to become responsible parents in the future.

Largely because of high fertility in the past, approximately 45 percent of the total population of Nepal is under 15, and additional 19 percent is between the ages of 15 and 24. The young structure will be the source of a large percentage of the population growth over the next 20-25 years. In view of its size and implications for the future, it is imperative to give due attention to the challenges facing the adolescent population. At the same time, there currently exists a void in a systematic review and analysis of the available data and literature on the adolescent population of Nepal. Such information may provide the basis for effective public dialogues and discussions on the formulation of policies and programs specifically on the adolescent population.

Women Rights & Wrongs

For Every Woman

By Nancy R. Smith.

- **For every woman who is tired of acting weak when she knows she is strong,**
There's a man who is tired of appearing strong when he feels vulnerable
- **For every woman who feels tired of acting dumb,**
There's a man who is burdened with the constant expectation of "knowing everything".
- **For every woman who is tired of being called an "emotional female",**
There's a man who is denied the right to weep and be gentle.
- **For every woman who feels "tied down" by her children,**
There is a man who is denied the full pleasure of shared parenthood.
- **For every woman who is denied meaningful employment and equal pay,**
There is a man who must bear full financial responsibilities for another human being.
- **For every woman who was not taught the intricacies of an automobile,**
There's a man who was not taught the satisfaction of cooking.
- **For every woman who takes a step towards her own liberation,**
There's a man who finds that the way to freedom has been made a little easier

The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair and helplessness is love. There are many in the World who are dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love

Mother Teresa

news

- SACHET Community Development Program Ghagri village, Sihala, Islamabad was launched on August 17, 2001. Like other SACHET community development projects, it is offering free basic health care services. SACHET Computer Training Center will be added to this program very soon.
- SACHET organized a free medical camp at Neelam Bhoto, Hari Pur Distt in the Margalla hills on October 14, 2001. Comprising 400 scattered households and a population of about 8000, Neelam Bhoto is lacking of any health facilities. 600 patients turned up for treatment at the camp. One of the major health risks that was observed at this camp was that every third person turning up for treatment was suffering from goiter, an easily preventable disorder caused by Iodine deficiency.
- World School Milk day was observed on September 26, 2001 with the launch of AGEHI Resource Center's "Nutrition Initiative for School Children" at F. G. Boys High School Shahdra & F.G. Girls High School, Shahdra simultaneously. On this occasion the Medical check up of the students was carried out & food supplements including milk & bananas were distributed. Doctors gave them health & hygiene related information & anti lice soup was also given to them.
- On September 29, 2001 SACHET added Blood screening facility for Hepatitis B, C and HIV to its Health care Program in collaboration with Pakistan Red Crescent Society (Global Marketing Services). The pilot phase of this facility has been started at SACHET Community Development Program Shahdra village & would be replicated at other SACHET Program areas situated in the rural areas of Rawalpindi & Islamabad in the near future.
- On October 4, 2001 AGEHI Resource Center organized a Panel Discussion in connection with International Elder's Day. Elderly persons and youth participated in the discussion. Problems of seniors, especially economic, medical and psychological issues were discussed.
- "Environmentally friendly Organization" added to SACHET profile on October 18, 2001 because of its environmentally friendly initiatives like smoking free offices & replacement of paper bags with plastic bags at SACHET Gallery.
- AGEHI Resource Center launched its advocacy project "Fight Against Dowry" on November 27, 2001 in connection with International Day Against Violence (Nov. 25) analyzing Dowry practice, being one of the major reasons of domestic violence against women in Pakistan as revealed by a research conducted by this resource center. A sizable number of single youth attended the ceremony & unanimously took oath & signed a statement that they opposed this practice & will not give/take dowry when they will get married. In connection with International AIDS day AGEHI Resource Center organized a full week of activities (Dec. 5 - 12, 2001) related to HIV/AIDS awareness, under its DOSTI (Dare to Sensitize, Train & Inform) project. It held an Assembly of women with 60 youth females at Banigala village & Assemblies of Men at Pinyali village & Ghagri village with local transport drivers & local community respectively.

- On December 12 SACHET calendar 2002 "Let's Work for AIDS free Pakistan" was launched. The calendar contains artwork by adolescents on different themes about HIV/AIDS. The calendar is available at SACHET Gallery for sale. Dr. R. Perveen, EVP SACHET represented Pakistani NGOs at UN-ESCAP meeting (Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, 2001) in Bangkok on CEDAW. The full text is available on www.sachet.org.pk under NEWS Updates.

Agehi's Fight Against Dowry (FAD)

Much talked about social issue in our society is Violence against Women. It is an interesting fact that violence against women is not age specific neither is it dependent on geography. Many of us over look the problem without considering real causes or its implications.

AGEHI Resource Center of SACHET carried out a research on gender-based violence against women in Pakistan. The research analysis revealed that dowry is one of the hidden causes of domestic violence against women. Incidents of physical and psychological abuse targeted against the bride who suffers condemnation for not bringing sufficient dowry with her are an everyday occurrence. Many a women have been cursed, beaten or burnt to death for not complying to the specifications of items in the dowry list demanded by the in-laws. Marriage has thus become for many a trade of valuables in return for the bride's happiness and safety.

Fight Against Dowry, (FAD) a five-year advocacy project of the AGEHI Resource Center was launched on November 27, 2001 in a bid to eliminate the practice of dowry from Pakistan. The Center has devised a series of activities to sensitize young boys and girls to take practical steps to eradicate this social curse. During the pilot phase of this project i.e., six months, the focus of project would be on educational institutions in Rawalpindi and Islamabad district. The campaign will be extended to other major cities across Pakistan in due course of time.



Young men & women are ready to sign the resolution - Fight Against Dowry

SACHET is grieved by the sad demise of Mr. I. A. Bhatti (SI) on January 4, 2002. He was a senior Bureaucrat & a learned man. SACHET had the honor of having him as its first Secretary General. May Allah Bless his Soul. (Ameen)

Send your Comments, Research, Reactions & Responses

at

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The views expressed in the articles published in this news letter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of SACHET



AGEHI



AGEHI RESOURCE CENTER

ENGENDERING DEVELOPMENT

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AGEHI Newsletter Editorial Team feels very proud of the fact that they have successfully managed to come to the end of the first term of this newsletter. However, we confess that we would not have been able to achieve such a positive outcome without encouragement from our readers, who have been a constant source of inspiration.

Our last three quarterlies have focused on Population and Gender issues. This last quarter's issue tries to bring together diverse information on various development issues that need to be addressed by us as Pakistanis.

As a nation we are today standing at a crucial junction of progress, which can take us forward towards an effective and democratic society that believes in social responsibility, individual freedom and rule of law. But to achieve all this, we have to work collectively as people sharing a vision for a sound and just country.

Sarah Javeed

Gender-related Development Index (South Asia)

Gender related Development Index (GDI)	Life expectancy at birth (years) 1999		Adult literacy rate (%15 & above) 1999		Estimated earned income (PPP US\$) 1999		Gender inequality in economic activity Female economic activity rate (age 15 & above) as % of male rate 1999
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
PAKISTAN							
Rank	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
117	59.5	59.8	30.0	58.9	826	2,787	41
INDIA							
105	63.3	62.4	44.5	67.8	1,195	3,236	50
BANGLADESH							
121	59.0	58.9	29.3	51.7	1,076	1,866	76
SRI LANKA							
70	75.0	69.3	88.6	94.3	2,193	4,305	55
NEPAL							
120	57.8	58.3	22.8	58.0	849	1,607	67
MALDIVES							
69	65.3	66.9	96.2	96.3	3,256	5,531	79
BHUTAN							
—	62.8	60.3	—	—	—	—	65

Source: Human Development Report 2001, UNDP

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editorial

Hudood Ordinance, Gender and Pakistan

Zafran Bibi's Case: Taking into consideration the deep ignorance of the biological and rational dimensions of sensitive issues like rape, adultery etc, one can only suggest that the Judiciary needs to be genderized to ensure Gender Justice.

In spite of the fact that the Holy Quran is particularly solicitous about women's well-being and development, women have been the targets of the most serious human rights violation in some Muslim societies. Not Islam but the contrariety that exists between Quranic ideals and practice of a number of women related issues contribute largely to the present status of women. Discriminatory laws and their gender-blind, irrational interpretation has added to the plight of a vast majority of Pakistani women.

Pakistani society is governed by patriarchy, inequity, injustice and selective men-friendly applications of the dominant religion Islam. Amidst the extraordinary, dishonorable and distressing social milieu characterized by power structures and lack of common sense, one is compelled to arrive at the conclusion that activism without addressing substance is not going to bring any change in the lives of those who are even unaware of any thing called "Rights".

Symptomatic treatment would have only cosmetic value. It is the time to go beyond rhetoric and take concrete and pragmatic measures as a remedy. We hope that the President of Pakistan would demonstrate his gender sensitivity by bringing gender justice to female victims and take immediate steps for putting an end to all anti-women laws ensuring the development of a gender-aware policy in all spheres of national development including the judiciary.

By Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen

HONOR KILLINGS

In Joharabad, Punjab Province, her own family because of suspected illicit relations with her neighbor set Ghazala on fire. She is not the only unfortunate one, but there are hundred and thousands of women who are burned, tortured and killed for supposed illicit relationships, for marrying men of their choice, and for divorcing abusive husband. They are even murdered if they are raped, as they are thereby deemed to have brought shame on their families. The truth of suspicion does not matter merely the allegation is enough to bring dishonor to the family and therefore justifying the crime.

In these circumstances, it seems that the right to live for women, in Pakistan, is conditional to their obeying social norms and traditions. Otherwise, there is no one to protect them. Even the state is indifferent to their lives. It is evident when the upper house, Senate rejected a resolution to condemn growing incidents of murder of women in the name of family honour.

Again the Government of Pakistan has failed to train police and judges to be gender neutral and to amend discriminatory laws. It has ignored Article 5 of the 'Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination' against women, which it ratified, that obligates state to 'modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women' to eliminate prejudice and discriminatory traditions.

'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person' (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 5). However, according to the 'Human Rights Commission of Pakistan', only in Punjab, during the year of 2000, there were more than 286 cases of 'honour killing', while 196 cases of 'karo kari' occurred in Sind. But there are many more cases that go unreported and sadly almost all go unpunished.

This is the ugly face of our society, and the two main factors contributing to it are women associated with family honour, and the concept of women as a commodity, not as human beings. So the answer lies in socio-engineering of our society, and more importantly, we need a shift in the attitude of government vis-à-vis women

Saleemullah Baig

* Kashmiri Artisan at work - SACHET Gallery

??????

"Since we have seven girls in our Medicine unit therefore the standard of our tea club would hopefully go up," I still remember these words of our illustrious Professor on our first day of internship. I can still recall the unsaid lack of faith in our professional competency written on the faces of all the registrars and senior doctors escorting us. (Then I was totally unaware of the academic translation of that misplaced and quite a pejorative comment). In spite of feeling not so delighted on such a remark, like the other six, I too could not protest. I just noted down "TEA" in my daily orders diary and felt frightful about my cookery expertise.

Some ten years later I faced another moment of revelation. That was from one of the senior directors of the organization that I happened to head. He asked me to give my "intellectual inputs" on the Sandwiches that he was thinking of serving in the forth-coming meeting of our Board. I was more interested to know the budget that was being prepared for that meeting. To my utter disbelief, the director could not hide his displeasure on the irrelevance of my unnecessary interest in the budgetary affairs. After all that was not a Woman's cup of tea.

Although on the second occasion, I was theoretically and practically an aware & informed person regarding Gender, I admit that I did not raise my voice in protest. I could have censured but suddenly I realized that activism without substance would not help women. We have to demonstrate our capabilities even in those areas considered and perceived as non-woman areas.

Dear folks, here is a small inventory of all those BIG Areas/items/fields where women's entry is Not Recommended by a majority of men and a fair amount of women also:

- Finance/Economy/Budget
- Monitoring/Evaluation
- Field Work
- Sports
- Religion
- Housing/Urban Planning
- Trade/Industry
- Transport/Communication
- Surgery
- Leadership

When would the traditional societies change their mindsets; I do not know. However, I certainly know that if women really want to be empowered, than they should stop expecting concessions for their femaleness and should be ready to give up the convenience of subordination.

Rakhshinda

Federal Shariat Court acquitted Zafran Bibi on 6th of June 2002 who had been awarded stoning to death punishment by the District & Session Judge Kohat, for allegedly having committed adultery.

THE COST OF LIVING

"Even as I write, the monsoon is raging outside my window. It's high noon, but the sky is dark, and my lights are on. I know that the waters of the Sardar Sarovar reservoir are rising every hour. More than ten thousand people face submergence. They have nowhere to go. I have tried very hard to communicate the urgency of what is happening in the valley. But in the cities, peoples' eyes glaze over. 'Yes, it's sad,' we say. But it can't be helped. We need electricity.' The story of the Narmada valley is nothing less than the story of Modern India. Like the tiger in the Belgrade Zoo during the NATO bombing, we've begun to eat our own limbs."

Arundhati Roy, July 1999

Ever Rising Level of Honour Killings

Afqat Munir
KARACHI

Despite government commitments, advocacy by civil society organizations and the fact that there is no honour in killing women as it is only a cowardly act of violence, there has been a rise of 35% in the reported cases of honour killing and Karo Kari during January-April as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Women are killed just to settle scores or put blame on the rival groups in the name of honour. The mentally sick criminals killing women in the name of honour use the plea of "Karo Kari for their own face saving," said Majid Bashir, a senior researcher dealing with such cases.

The sharp rise in this crime against humanity is alarming for us and demands certain preventive measures and specific legislation to check this growing trend. There is a need to include gender equality issues in curriculum and public and private life of people so that women are not discriminated on the count of the so-called honour. There should be a strong legislation, which discourages community at large, particularly the rural communities to take the plea that women are killed in the name of honour.

The superior courts should not accept the plea of honour in such murder cases and overturn such laws, which condemn these kinds of pleas normally taken by the criminals. In this way, the confidence of the lawyers taking such pleas would also be shaken. The superior courts could also provide a guideline for the subordinate courts conducting trials at an early stage of such cases. The killers normally murder women if they are entangled with their rivals in land, water, lease, marriage, other disputes. In some cases, they kill women to safeguard family properties by bypassing their inheritance rights.

According to data compiled by Madadgar, a joint venture of Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA) and UNICEF, as many as 211 women have been reported killed in the name of so-called honour while the tally was 137 during January-April 2001. The figures show that 52 women were killed in January 2002 compared to 43 in January 2001, 48 as compared to 39 in February 54 as compared to 38 and 57 as compared to 17 in April last. During the last year, 758 women including 22 minor girls became victims of barbaric custom of Karo Kari in the country.

It is reported 211 cases during the first quarter of this year, 199 women were reportedly murdered while 12 were severely injured who later succumbed to their injuries. All these cases were displayed in the prominent national and provincial newspapers. According to the findings of the LHRLA's investigation, these innocent women were murdered in different styles; in 28 cases, they were shot to death, in other cases, they were axed to death, in 20 cases, they were strangled and in 163 cases, they were stabbed to death and rest were brutally injured and killed.

According to the data, in many reported cases of murder of women the perpetrators were close relatives. In 74 reported cases, murderers were husbands, in 17 cases brothers, in 17 cases fathers, in 12 cases brothers-in-law and in 12 cases of murder on the pretext of Karo-Kari (honor killing) the perpetrators were Karo. An analysis of data divulged that during the last four months, 123 cases of Karo Kari were reported in Sindh; 59 in Punjab, 17 in Balochistan and 12 such cases in NWFP were reported by the print media.

According to Madadgar research the real number of such killings is vastly greater than the numbers reported in the national print media. Honor killings are no longer reported from remote rural areas but also - though less frequently - from urban areas and cities. The modes of killing vary somewhat. Madadgar research revealed that in Sindh, a Kari (literally a black woman) and a Karo (a black man) are more commonly killed and hacked to pieces, often in view of and with the implicit or explicit sanction of the community. In Punjab, such killings usually take place by

shooting and appear more often based on individual decisions, occurring in an urban context and not always perpetrated in public.

A development journalist opined that, "Kari remain dishonored even after death. Their dead bodies are thrown in rivers or buried in special hidden Kari graveyards. Nobody mourns for them or honors their memory by performing the relevant rites."

This severe act of violence against women is committed either by brothers, fathers, husbands or any other male member of the family or the tribe. This is clear violation of the law of the land and the Constitution of Pakistan which guarantees gender equality and honour. For instance, article 25 says: "All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law" and article 27 states: "There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex alone".

Pakistan has also ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). According to Article 5 of CEDAW; "State Parties shall take all appropriate measures: (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women."

Dr. Jenniffer Bennett

Pakistan is among the few countries where the gap between economic growth and human development is widening. Literacy and health levels are amongst the lowest in the world, while unemployment, under-employment and the associated poverty have reached exorbitant levels. If the country continues to experience and experiment lop-sided development models, poverty will further increase even under conditions of high economic growth. Time and again, various governments turn a blind eye to human development, which is the base-foundation to any further development. Currently about 41 per cent of the population is under the age of 15 years and almost half of the total population comprises that of females. Unfortunately, this large chunk of the population is the most vulnerable and deprived section of the society.

In recent years, the plight of women is being addressed through the establishment of a Women's Ministry. The efforts made are half-hearted and females continue to be marginalized in all aspects of life. Likewise, the youth, which is the future security and prosperity of the country, is nowhere to be seen on government agendas. Where most NGOs are successfully serving the underserved population at the grassroots level, the establishment must take on its responsibility, given the resources at its disposal, and deliver the needful. As a starting point, three immediate and basic initiatives are imperative. First, it should establish a separate youth ministry to address the pressing and various needs of the young population. Secondly, youth and women's empowerment, education and development should be a crosscutting theme in all ministries. Regular follow-up and sharing of information among these ministries would be essential to formulate effective strategies. Thirdly, education, both formal and functional, should be made free and compulsory for people to attain the needed cognitive development and attitudinal change. These prerequisites are essential ingredients for pro-people, participatory development that ensures equal and equitable redistribution of resources and opportunities.

Dr Jennifer Bennett is currently working as the Director of the Population and Environment Communication Center (PECC) housed at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). She is also a Visiting Fellow at the SDPI. Before that she worked at the same Institute as a Senior Research Fellow for six years. Prior to attaining a Masters degree in Social Demography and a PhD in Population, Health and Social Development, from the Australian National University, Canberra, Dr Bennett also worked as a journalist with 'The Muslim', a national daily newspaper, for over three years.

"On the sad demise of Mr. Omar Asghar Khan, SACHET extends its condolences to his family, colleagues & friends. May Allah bless his soul."

exclusive

An Interview with Dr. Rehana Ahmed

Dr. Rehana Ahmed CEO Greenstar Social Marketing is well known nationally and now heading towards international recognition as she has successfully designed and implemented a



Social Franchise program in Pakistan, which is being replicated in other countries. Dr. Rehana headed the Greenstar training division for six years. During that period, in 1998, Johns Hopkins JHPIEGO (International Education & Training in

Reproductive Health) conducted an evaluation of Greenstar training activities. In their concluding remarks, they stated, "Greenstar Social Marketing's team process of need assessment, developing training materials, recruiting and preparing trainers is outstanding and could be used as a model for other training programmes in Pakistan. As a clinical prototype this programme may be able to make a broader contribution towards improving quality of care and quality of clinical training in the Pakistan health care system".

What is the current family planning situation in Pakistan?

The current situation in Pakistan vis-à-vis family planning and reproductive health needs a lot of improvement. For family planning we are in what is called the fertility transition, and according to latest Government of Pakistan data 20.2% of married women are using modern contraceptive methods but the 'unmet need' for family planning is at a very high 33%. This means that 1 in 3 Pakistani women who want to either space or limit their family size are not doing so for various reasons which include the need for social support, access to services/ contraceptives and low quality of services leading to high discontinuation rates.

How do you think Greenstar is bringing about a behaviour change process?

Pakistan has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in Asia. The lifetime risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth for a Pakistani woman is about 1 in 50. To address these problems, low-income people must have access to affordable family planning, and family health products and services. Then there must be trained providers, who can counsel them, and deliver these products and services.

At Greenstar we market a range of family planning and family health products and services that are affordable to low-income Pakistanis. Then we train private sector health providers to administer these products and services.

Greenstar offers low income Pakistanis a range of socially marketed family health products and services. Social marketing uses commercial business and marketing strategies to change people's behavior and improve their health. We use existing commercial networks to distribute our products. With mass media advertising and local outreach, we increase demand for our products and services. We market high quality branded products, priced so that low-income people can afford them. Our mission is to improve the quality of life of low-income Pakistanis. We are making a difference in people's lives.

What makes us different is the level of involvement we have with our trained medical providers. We have a genuine partnership with our private sector providers. The Greenstar franchise. In addition to two condom brands, an oral contraceptive pill (OC), an injection, and an intrauterine device (IUD) for family planning, we market a multivitamin plus iron supplement. In 2002 we plan to launch branded emergency contraceptive pills, sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment kits and safe birthing kits. We also train our providers to provide other services like Voluntary Surgical Contraception (VSC), reproductive tract infection (RTI) and STI treatment and at the prevention side explain the change of objectives from Trustworthy Family Planning to Trustworthy Family Health.

Tell us about your new identity and your new logo?

The Greenstar logo and name have a new look and feel. The design has been updated to be in line with the modern image of Greenstar, keeping the essential element of the Greenstar itself intact. In addition, we have expanded our slogan from 'trustworthy family planning' to having a broader focus on 'trustworthy family health'. This new slogan is in line with the worldwide movement to focus on broader aspects of reproductive health and fits in with our constant efforts to provide an even broader range of family health products and services to Greenstar clients.

When you say family health care, are you diversifying your product range?

More family planning choices

- Condoms Sathi, Touch
- Ocs Nova
- Injection Nova-Ject
- IUD Multiload
- Voluntary Surgical Contraception Leadership
- Emergency Contraception In 2002

Who we aim to help:

Poor families: burden on them

More than a third of Pakistanis live below the poverty line. Their situation is compounded by high birth rates the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is at 5.5 children per married woman of reproductive age through her childbearing years.

Disadvantaged: those without access to information/with high risk behavior

With an adult literacy rate of 44%, the struggle is to get messages of healthy and behaviour to a large illiterate population. Special emphasis is placed on research in this context, as messages need to be tailored to meet the needs of the target population.

What role should men play in family planning?

All the important decisions pertaining to the size of the family are either taken or highly influenced by the husband. As such, the males should be educated and made aware of the important role they play in planning their family. Greenstar is promoting this behaviour among men by keeping a male focus while advertising its products. The effort involves reinforcing the husband's responsibility towards the health and prosperity of wife and the family. Other efforts by Greenstar in this respect include working in the following areas

- Work-place meetings and male mohalla meetings to encourage male involvement
- Sensitising policy makers, program managers, service providers and other key personnel on men as partners in reproductive health
- Orienting male supervisors and workers to the concept of men as partners in reproductive health
- Providing update of knowledge on male contraceptive options



Brains Behind the Lens! Gender Watch Team with Dr. A. Q. Khan (Nov, 2000)

Dr. Rakhshinda Parveen (Idea, Script and Executive Producer), Asif Arbab (Director), Azhar Tirmazi (Camera Work), Mushtaq Khan (Sound Engineer)

Comment

Taxing Right to Live

Muhammad Hussain

Subject Coordinator Pharmaceuticals

government's decision to impose 15 per cent General Sales Tax (GST) on medicines is unjust, exploitative and inequitable. Despite President Musharraf's announcement to exempt life-saving drugs from the GST, the scenario still looks grim, as all medicines are important for the consumers. Drug prices in Pakistan are already very high and any further increase is tantamount to denying the people access to health care.

Access to health care is a fundamental human right that also includes access to medicines. However, the government, instead of protecting the poor, has planned to increase revenue by taxing their right to live and have a healthy life. The decision to impose GST on life saving drugs is not enough as price of all kinds of medicines is a matter of life and death for the patient. Pakistan currently ranks 135th in the world development scale out of 174 countries and its health care system ranks 191st among 191 countries in terms of "over all health system performance".

Looking at the health sector expenditure pattern of the government it is clear that there is an urban bias, 80% of the health budget is spent on the urban-based secondary and tertiary care hospitals while remaining 20% on the primary care hospitals.

Over sixty million people, out of a total population of 133 million, do not have access to healthcare facilities in Pakistan. Up to 80 per cent of the health care is provided by the private sector. A large majority of the medicines are sold through informal channels.

Increasing poverty - 33 million people living under absolute poverty line - rising drug prices and public health care system not being able to meet the health needs of the majority of population, masses' access to essential treatment is further decreasing.

The government has failed to ensure provision of basic health services to the masses. According to an estimate, 50 to 60 per cent of the people in the country do not have access to essential medicines. High prices of drugs, coupled with low literacy levels, pose a serious problem to the common man. Although, the number of people keeps on increasing, the per capita use of drugs has not increased, which is due to the affordability factor. Prices of essential commodities are increasing rapidly, while income of people has remained constant for years.

Over Rs. 4 billion that the government hopes to collect by imposing sales tax on medicines will cost precious lives to people.

The main objective of the National Drug Policy is "to encourage the availability and affordability of drugs in all parts of the country with emphasis on those which are included in the National Essential Drugs List". However, these objectives cannot be achieved by stunting people's access to drugs. On December 10, 2001, the government announced price increase of three percent on controlled and four percent on decontrolled categories of drugs. Apparently, a very benign increase in drug prices has charged consumers up to 40% in a number of cases. Such an increase in medicine prices is due to the faulty policies, and the ultimate sufferers are the poor consumers.

Government spending on health in Pakistan is 0.7 per cent of the GDP, which is far below the global health agreement that ensures at least three percent

expenditure on people's health, out of the GDP. The imposition of GST will also decrease the government's per capita spending in the country. In public sector, up to 40 per cent of recurrent health budget is spent on buying medicines, and 90 per cent of this spending goes to urban-based tertiary and secondary public sector hospitals.

Growing cost of healthcare is a contributing factor in the rise of disease in developing countries. Poverty leads to disease and disease to poverty; it's a vicious cycle and, at times, it is difficult to guess which comes first.

Pakistan ranks 5th among the countries with a high incident rate of Tuberculosis. With the rising resistance to existing anti-TB drugs, there are increasing numbers of Multi Drug Resistant (MDR) TB cases. A course for treatment of MDR TB for two years costs about Rs.250, 000, which is not affordable for the poor people. In developed countries like Sweden and United Kingdom, there is no sales tax charged on prescription drugs. Interestingly, even the developed countries with very strong socio economic indicators charge a small amount in terms of sales tax on medicines. Health coverage in these countries is embedded in different formats like insurance, social security and reimbursements; nothing goes out of the pocket of the sick.

The percentage of sales tax on medicines in different developed countries is as follows.

In Finland, sales tax on all drugs is eight per cent; Greece, eight percent; Belgium, six percent; Netherlands, six per cent; Portugal, five per cent; Spain, four percent; France, 5.5 percent; Switzerland, 2.3 per cent.

The imposition of GST on medicines in Pakistan has evoked a bitter reaction from all sections of the society, specially the poor and downtrodden.



Courtesy
Pakistan Observer

Dated:
24th March, 2002

DOWRY

My eyes are heavy
My thoughts are drowsy
As if they are the perfume of poppy
My hands are tied by the curse of dowry
Descended on me by the descent people of my society
Sabotaged my life through the wheels of my Ferrari
I tried to walk on the clutches of my dowry
Soon they were broken, leaving me in the arms of treason
I turned around the corner
Believing someone called me to return
I was on the wrong corner,
Alone, drowning in the curse of dowry
Sunburns of courage help me break free from these ropes
Because I can see fate has given me hope
To fly on the wings of belief
And breaking the mirror of disbelief
That may be dowry would have sanctified me

Saliha Rasheed Ramay

portraits

Faisal Ghauri, Postgraduate in English Literature working as a journalist since 2001 has very good communication skills and writing expressions. He is very keen in promoting the social sector organizations with an objective to work for Humanity, which is suffering from miseries and is endangered by exploiters. He is also a volunteer member of AGEHI Resource Center.

E-mail: faisalmg@msn.com

A Must Read Memo

Every issue will have a specific page in this Newsletter for the introduction of young people who are proficient in their respective fields. If you are less than 40 years with expertise in research work, send us your bio data with two latest photographs (optional). The objective of this "projection" is to provide an opportunity to the upcoming researchers and public health scientists to get introduced within the ever growing development circle.

world

No Place For Girls

BY MEENAKSHI GANGULY Deoli

Murdering female newborns is illegal, but a way of life in parts of India

PRASHANT PANJIAR / LIVEWIRE IMAGES FOR TIME Lonely:

Chandra Bhati is one of the few girls in her class. Where did all the little girls go? Akhila, a 70-year-old midwife, can tell you. She has assisted at virtually all the births of the past five decades in Deoli, a village in the Indian state of Rajasthan with more than 5,000 residents and very few girls. Plenty of the babies she delivered were females. What happened to them? "Dead, killed," she says bluntly. "As soon as a girl is born they say, 'Old lady, get out.' And after I leave, the mother twists its neck."

Throughout the developing world, boys, who can support parents when they get old, are favored over girls. In India, the enduring dowry system makes the situation worse: poor families can go bankrupt trying to raise the cash or goods needed to get a daughter married. A boy is a better bet on the future: maternity clinics throughout India specialize in aborting female fetuses following amniocentesis and ultrasound exams (although the practice is illegal). Girls are more likely to be malnourished than boys and less likely to be taken to a doctor when sick. That brutal discrimination comes through in the latest Indian census, completed this year, which shows that in the 0-6 age group, there are only 927 females for every 1,000 boys. (Because more human males are born than females, the universal average is 952.) In Punjab state, the figure drops to a woeful 793 girls and, ironically, Punjab is among India's richest regions. In the capital of New Delhi last month parents stuffed a newborn girl into a plastic bag and left her in a ditch, where she was found barely alive being gnawed by stray dogs.

In Deoli, a poor, desert farming village, just seven girls have been born into the warrior Bhati community most prone to killing off their baby daughters in the past decade. "It's in the water," jokes Ram Singh Bhati, an elder in a bright yellow turban. "We Bhati men don't produce daughters." That, of course, is biologically impossible. Most women in the village shrug and refuse to talk about the missing girls, but some matriarchs are more truthful. Nayan Kanwar, a 50-something grandmother of five, says she can't understand the fuss. "I had four girls, but I got rid of them all." Why? "They are a burden," she says, "and best killed off early." How did she do it? "Oh, I just did not feed them. I left them lying in a corner. They cried for a bit, but then they quieted down and eventually died. Only one lasted two whole days." Her pregnant sister-in-law is standing by. "I will only love it if it is a boy," she says. "I will have nothing to do with girls."

The economics of the dowry system are brutal: the average Deoli family with a bride will transfer its modest wealth to the groom's family. "Stop coming here and criticizing us," carps one recently wed male villager. "If you are so concerned, give us a fixed deposit for our daughters' dowries. Then see how many we produce." New laws are unlikely to make a difference: the old ones are simply ignored. It can take the tides of history to wash away the traditions that are killing Deoli's newborns. Until then, average citizens will continue to take the situation and their baby girls' fates into their own hands.

perspective

It was really great to know about the efforts of SACHET and the initiatives taken by its team for the betterment of society.

Humera Hussain, student.

Students can benefit a lot from this Resource Center specially students from social sciences and Development studies. Congratulations for AGEHI team.

Asjad Rehman, student

The staff at SACHET proved a great help and provided the required information in a professional way.

Amena Akhtar, NGO professional

Women related research stuff here, is sufficient enough for the researchers and students alike.

Mariam Sumbal, student

The media relations staff are cooperative and know how to deal with Press guys!!!

Humera, journalist

Power and Civil Society in Pakistan (Book Review)

BY Anita M Weiss and S. Zulfqar Gilani

Oxford Univ., 2001

This book reviewed various articles about power and authority in Pakistani society. Weiss and Gilani have gathered different perceptions about power relations, and noted a shifting pattern of power relationships in social domain. The shifting patterns of authority are because of the instability of political institutions and inefficiency of governments.

Gilani's article traced psychological explanation of existing power structures like male supremacy and paternalism. In order to understand social power in a culture, it is important to identify the psychological underpinnings of power at individual level. Gilani's argument is interestingly divergent since he views desire for social position as inherent rather than acquired. Freudian psychoanalysis has been used to support the argument, and desire of power in the later stage of life is consequent to progressive loss of power during the early stages of development. Individual sense of powerlessness is reflected in a variety of social, political and cultural expressions as they relate themselves to power figures.

Anita Weiss studied the power relations through a gender approach. Weiss argues that public and private spheres of power are interrelated. Women's subordinate position in a family is reiterated at State level. A discriminatory law against women in a society is an extension of acts of violence committed against women within their homes. To Weiss, women's social liberation is dependent to women's empowerment within their families.

Omar Asghar Khan's article states how people's disillusionment with traditional forms of political structure led to the formation of NGOs, which is an expression of cohesion and power for the people. Unfulfilled needs for welfare, relief and provision drive people to seek alternate means that is by organizing in an NGO they ensure the protection of the rights. However, Khan does not perceive NGOs as an alternate of State, because NGOs need the cooperation and patronage of State or elite, else they can not function smoothly.

This book is a distinct and palpable analysis of Pakistani society. A drift from the usual projection of an exotic image, the writers of the articles presented the Pakistani society as what it is in its contemporary state.

Writers from varied social disciplines contributed the articles in the book:

Imran Anwar Ali a professor at LUMS, Farzana Bari of Quaid I Azam university, Shahid Javed Burki of World Bank, Syed Zulfqar Gilani, University of Peshawer, Omar Asghar Khan, an NGO activist and founder of a non-profit organization SANGI, Saba Gul Khattak, SDPI, Omar Noman, UNDP, Mustapha Kamal Pasha, School of International Service at American University, Lynn Renken, Men's Corps International, Hasan Askari Rizvi, Punjab University, Anita M. Weiss, University of Oregon

Economics of Health Sector Reforms in Pakistan (Book Review)

Y Khattak Fazli Hakim

-Rays, 2001

The book reviewed dimensions of shortcoming in health sector regarding lack of financial investment, malfunction in management, and non-collaboration of private sector. In the prevalent conditions curative health preceded preventative health. Consequently, high cost treatment expenditure is incurred where situation was manageable through preventative measures. Further, due to poor investment in health determinants, like the provision of basic health necessities, proper sanitation, and safe environment to all, a preventative approach, therefore, could not have been practicable in isolation.

Khattak Fazli Hakim not only proposed a complete overhauling of health infrastructure in the book, but also suggested a few reforms to be brought in various sectors to facilitate and coordinate in health system reformation. The role of State is to guarantee availability and accessibility of services to promote human development. For public health services, state should properly analyze the needs, cost and environment. Plans should be chalked out on the basis of a realistic analysis. Proper resources then can be allocated and efficient use of resources may be promoted. Further a sustainable health system must also incorporate partnership relations among the state institutions, between public and private sector, and individuals and community organizations. To provide life long quality health care for all, not only diseases be prevented and controlled, but also measures may be taken to combat poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, and unsanitary conditions.

The author, Khattak Fazli Hakim, has a degree in Economics from University of Peshawar, Pakistan. Further he has done his MS in Policy Economics, University Of Illinois, USA.

Women Rights and Wrongs

Interview with Julia King

High -flying woman in the engineering world

How did you first become involved in the field of materials?

My interest in materials started at school where I studied Nuffield A-level chemistry and physics. Both had very strong materials elements in them and at the time involved innovative approaches to science teaching. From there I went on to Cambridge to study Natural Sciences, and having enjoyed the materials elements at A-level I chose to study physics, chemistry and materials in my first year. In my final year at Cambridge I specialized in Metallurgy and stayed on and did a Ph.D. in fatigue and fracture. After completing my Phd I was able to continue my research as a research fellow, sponsored by Rolls-Royce, working on nickel based alloys then went on to take up a lectureship at the University of Nottingham in Materials Science and Metallurgy.

What areas of materials are you currently working on at Roll- Royce?

My current role is as Engineering Director for the Marine business in Rolls Royce. We're not a very strong driver of new materials R&D, tending to pick up developments in other areas. The challenges we face tend to be more about how we model these materials, how we use them as best effectively as possible and how we ensure their integrity, particularly after joining processes such as welding. There are some areas that will become increasingly important in Marine during the next ten years or so, in which materials advances will play a strong part. For example, as ship propulsion moves from being primarily mechanically driven- with a long shaft connecting the prime mover to the propulsor- to an 'electric ship' concept, in which the power is transmitted round the vessel electrically, we will see requirements for developments in magnetic and electrical materials to realize some of the major benefits of the electric concept.

What ambitions do you still have?

My priority! What's important is feeling you make a difference. I've got a real concern about how to sustain engineering and manufacturing in the U.K. We've got to get the message across that it's an important and exciting part of UK culture and life.

How do we encourage more students into materials engineering?

We need to go back into the schools and the homes. One of the challenges is the obvious fact that we are short of good science teachers. Teachers whose training is in biological sciences don't teach a lot of physical science in schools. Almost inevitably the enthusiasm of such teachers will be for the areas of science they specialized in, so getting really good physical scientists, including materials graduates, to go into teaching is critical.

What advice would you offer anyone embarking on a materials career?

We should encourage students to choose a course that is challenging and be prepared to take risks. If opportunities come along in your career that are outside your's comfort zone' then

think about it and go for it, because that's one of the best ways to develop. Don't feel nervous about trying something different.

How has the profession changed since joining it, and how do you anticipate it changing during the next 10 years?

I had hoped to see more women coming into materials and engineering. The numbers were growing steadily

In the 1970s and early 80s, but my perception is that this growth has stopped, despite some excellent initiative such as INSIGHT and WISE. We really do need to find ways to get the talents of this large part of the population involved in moving technology and innovation forward to support our engineering industries.

What exciting technologies are you seeing within the profession?

Rolls Royce is already looking at the 'electric ship' type development in an aerospace context. More generally, materials will have a big role to play in many of the solutions to reducing our environmental impact and, of course, materials in medicine is an important, growing area.

Dr. Julia King is Director, Engineering Technology - Marine for Rolls-Royce, UK.

Courtesy Materials World, March 2002

AGEHI's Fight Against Dowry (FAD)

Pilot Phase: Project Update

Fight Against Dowry (FAD) is a five year Advocacy Project of AGEHI Resource Center, launched on Nov 27,2001 in bid to contribute to the greater cause of elimination of this curse from Pakistani Society. Project Director of FAD is Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, Team leader Mr. Saleemullah Baig, Communication Coordinator Wasiq M Khan and Focal Person Miss Saleha Rasheed.

- "Dowry: Realities and Strategies for Intervention: South Asian Perspective" was the topic for an International Conference held at Dhaka, Bangladesh in January this year. Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, EVP SACHET, the representative from Pakistan, delivered a thought provoking presentation on "Dowry: A Socio-Cultural Perspective from Pakistan".
- SACHET produced a TV Spot in March this year which highlighted the issue of Dowry, and went on air through PTV.
- PTV Lahore was the venue for Khawateen Mela, organized on the eve of International Women's Day where AGEHI Resource Center launched its Advocacy bags printed with slogans against the menace of Dowry. People from all walks of life participated in the fair and appreciated AGEHI's efforts in this regard.
- In May, Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, the Campaign Leader for FAD participated in a discussion on Dowry in Khawateen Time Open House.
(SACHET is grateful to PTV for its cooperation in FAD Project)



Seminar "Dowry and Violence against Women", Lahore.

- SACHET in collaboration with Himmat Society, British Council and UNDP organized a seminar on "Dowry, Violence against Women" in Lahore. Keynote speaker was Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, His Excellency the British high Commissioner Hillary Sinnott also attended the seminar and was later presented SACHET's advocacy bag.

- In its bid to generate the requisite commitment and mobilize the youth against the menace of Dowry, SACHET's presence was significant at a seminar on Dowry held at GAU. Saleemullah Baig, Executive Officer, AGEHI, introduced AGEHI's Signature Campaign among the audience and explained the pioneering role played by SACHET in the drive against Dowry. It would be pertinent to mention that SACHET initiated the idea of bringing this issue in the limelight so as to garner maximum support from various stakeholders and feels happy on the replication of its activities in this regard.
- SACHET Gallery arranged an exhibition of Advocacy bags in June, which attracted a large number of people showing their concern and appreciation for SACHET's efforts.
- Morning Transmission of PTV Islamabad telecast a discussion on Dowry in June, in which FAD campaign Leader Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen presented the details of Fight Against Dowry (FAD) Project.

news

- On Thursday, February 14, 2002 AGEHI Resource Center presented the findings of its Research and Analysis report "Gender Based Violence against Pakistani Women" in a press conference. The event was organized in connection with the International Women's Day.
- On March 3, 2002, SACHET constituted community health committees at Pinyali & Gagri village, where SACHET community development program is operational since February 2000 & August 2002 respectively. Basic objective of formation of these committees is to bridge the gap between target community & SACHET in order to achieve better & sustainable results of the SACHET interventions in health facilities of villages.
- March 7, on the eve of International Women's Day, SACHET organized an exhibition titled "Towards Economic Empowerment" at SACHET Gallery. Mr. Owais Ghani, Federal Minister for Local Govt., Rural Development & Overseas Pakistanis inaugurated the exhibition. The purpose of this exhibition was to promote the skill of disadvantaged communities.
- Asian Study Group's team of 25 members visited SACHET Gallery, a project of SACHET's Poverty Alleviation cum Income Generation Program (PACIG) on March 13, 2002.
- SACHET maintains a network of relations with its sister Non-profit organizations. Prominent for its successful efforts towards human development, SACHET is often invited to seminars, workshops to share its vision and experience. In April, SACHET attended a session by National Commission for Child Welfare and Development. There, SACHET emphasized the need to provide social insurance to mother and child for their economic and social development.
- On April 13, 2002 a visiting team of Rotary Club of South Korea visited SACHET Gallery. The visitors were briefed about SACHET and its PACIG Program.



Signing of MoU between SACHET and FDE

- Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) and SACHET signed an MoU on 25th April which marked the adoption of Four Federal Government Schools at Shahdra and Banigala villages by SACHET for the period of 3 years.
- Under its Education Project, SACHET took the initiative of organizing coaching classes at the four adopted schools of Shahdra. SACHET Volunteer Network is actively involved in managing the affairs of these classes.
- SACHET launched its Annual Report 2001, on May 10, 2002 in a ceremony held at Serena Hotel Islamabad. People from development and Governmental sector attended the launching ceremony.
- SACHET was present at the seminar "Strategies for Strengthening Home based Women Workers in Pakistan" organized by Aurat Foundation at Lahore on April 27. SACHET representative Miss Aaliya Agha briefed the participants on SACHET's Poverty Alleviation Cum Income Generation (PACIG) program and its belief in mobilizing community for the economic uplift. Aaliya also proposed of the emulation of SACHET's PACIG program at public sector level.
- In Connection with International Labor Day, SACHET organized a three days exhibition titled "Meet the Invisible Workers" from May 16 to 18, 2002 at SACHET Gallery under its Skill Promotion Project. Col. (R) S. K. Tressler, Federal Minister for Sports Culture & Tourism inaugurated the exhibition. President SACHET Dr. A. Q. Khan (NI & Bar, HI) also attended the opening ceremony. People from different walks of life thronged SACHET Gallery on the occasion.

- On May 21, 2002 SACHET organized a free Medical camp at Federal Govt. High School for Girls, Shahdra village under its Nutrition Initiative.
- SACHET joined other civil society organizations on June 5 at the Civil Society Consultation on the SAARC Social Charter, sharing its knowledge and expertise in areas of poor, women and children / youth development.
- SACHET's Board of Governors' meeting was held on 25th June in which Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen presented a Strategic Document. This strategy is basically the roadmap for all SACHET'S future programs. The most innovative aspect of this strategy is the allocation of a Gender Fund. The Gender Fund component is the first of its kind in Pakistan.
- SACHET provided many capacity building opportunities to its team members during the year. Dr Mobeena Jabeen, Mr. Ivon Anosh, Miss Aaliya Agha and Mr. Saleemullah Baig attended different training programs.
- Ministry of Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education, hosted a three day National Conference on Child Rights (June 28 - 30). Dr Rakhshinda Perveen was the Resource Person for Health (Nutrition, HIV / AIDS etc.) session.

AGEHI Resource Center Founded in September 2000, AGEHI (AGEHI is an acronym standing for Advocates of Gender, Education and Health Information) AGEHI itself is an Urdu word bearing meanings like Knowledge, Awareness, Perception and Insight) is the Resource Center of SACHET. It is meant to Advocate for Gender Sensitization, Education and Health promotion & disseminating Information, Networking & Research.

AGEHI Resource Center informs policymakers, educators, the media, and concerned citizens, civil society representatives, Students from remote areas of Pakistan, Young professionals, researchers, and Program Managers working in the areas of Gender, Education & Health throughout the country through a broad range of activities.

Calendar of Events

S.No	Event	Quarter
1	"Pakistan Pakistan", TV Program By SACHET (On ARY Digital)	3rd Qtr (July-Sep 02) (14th Aug 2002)
2	Independence Day activity program	3rd Qtr
3	Intl. Literacy Day Advocacy Activities	//
4	Video Festival of NGOs	4th Qtr (Oct-Dec 02)
5	Launching-FAD (Fight Against Dowry)	//
6	Call for Papers-FAD	//
7	Essentials of Gender Training Workshop	//
8	AIDS Day Advocacy Activities	//

For details contact AGEHI Resource Center - SACHET

I Reason, Earth is Short

By Emily Dickinson

I reason, Earth is short
And Anguish- absolute-
And many hurt,
But, what of that?

I reason, we could die-
The best Vitality
Cannot excel Decay,
But, what of that?

I reason, that in Heaven-
Somehow, it will be even-
Some new Equation, given-
But, what of that?

Send your Comments, Research, Reactions & Responses

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