

**Women Participation in Parliament: A Case of Socio-Political Empowerment of Pakistani
Women (2008-2018)**

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Abstract

Parliament plays a crucial role in democracy as it serves as the legislative branch of government responsible for creating and passing laws. It is a platform for debate and discussion on key issues provides a voice for citizens through their elected representatives and serves as a central platform to empower women politically and socially. Moreover, parliament is an important institution for addressing women issues, as it can create policies and laws that protect women rights, promote gender equality, and hold the government accountable for implementing these measures. The Pakistani parliament can also play an important role in promoting women social and political empowerment by increasing their representation at decision-making levels, helping them to raise their voice, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their concerns are addressed as legislation for their protection is made in parliament. Parliament helps to create an environment where women can fully participate for development of society and country. When women are socially and politically empowered, they are better able to participate in both political and civic life, which leads to more inclusive and democratic societies. The core objective of this research study is to analyze the participation of women legislators in National Assembly of Pakistan from 2008 to 2018. A questionnaire tool was developed to collect primary data from women parliamentarian. Through in-depth interviews participants were asked to share their knowledge and experience about participation in parliament, opportunities they have, challenges faced by them and what social and political steps they suggest for women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan. Data was collected from a sample of 39-member parliament from 2008 to 2018 tenures. The sample was measured form simple random sampling from population of 212 women parliamentarians ensuring representation from general elected seats and reserved quota from all provinces and all political parties. Collected data was cleaned and analyzed by using MS Excell. Study findings were discussed in reference to secondary data. Study findings reveal that there is positive relation between women participation in parliament and their socio-political empowerment. There are suggestions including women participation at gross root level politics, decision making positions in party and parliament, positive role of media, collaboration among stakeholders and elimination of social barriers.

List of abbreviations and acronyms

MP	Member of Parliament
IPU	Intern-Parliamentary Union
IV	Independent Variable
DV	Dependent variable
ILO	International Labor Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Funds for Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ML (N)	Muslim League Nawaz
PILDAT	Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency
NCSW	National Commission on the Status of Women
NOW	National Organization for Women
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
CSW	Community on the
IWD	International Women Day

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Chapter 01: Introduction

1. Introduction

This chapter is about the background, context and need of research study. There is importance and need of research on this globally important topic. Background of study is presented globally with the indicators of women social and political empowerment. Importance of parliaments and women participation in legislation through parliament is discussed with references of secondary data sources. Scenario in parliament of Pakistan and women participation in parliament is discussed with historical background. On the base on context and need problem is built that justifies the need of research to be conducted on this topic. Research questions, research hypothesis and significance of the research is defined on the base of all background and need. Theories of women empowerment are discussed and the theory that provides base for this research study is discussed in detail.

1.1. Background of the study

Women political participation is socially, politically and economically beneficial. It promotes democracy and brings about gender equality. Democratic process is a comprehensive process. Having more women in positions of power is an important step toward gender equality and a more representative political system (Hassim, 2006). It encompasses every citizen irrespective of his caste, gender, background and religion. If any groups/ members are excluded, it leads to social imbalance in the state and society (Shortall, 2008). Moreover, it leads to unequal dissemination of resources and unfair dissemination of command between men and women. It can also be regarded as unequal social policies and unfair political processes (Immergut & Schneider 2020).

Parliament is a central political platform, where Members of Parliament actively perform and promote human development through legislation and participation. Women participation in parliament can influence legislative decisions and policies that affect women lives. In this context, the presence of women in parliament can help to bring attention to issues that have historically been neglected, such as women rights, gender-based violence, and the gender pay gap. Meanwhile female parliamentarians can set an example for common women and girls, stirring them to become politically engaged and seek leadership positions. This can contribute to a more diverse and representative political landscape and help to combat gender stereotypes and discrimination.

Therefore, the active participation of women parliamentarians can have a significant influence on the social and political empowerment of women. Women legislators can be

powerful advocates for women problems and securities in parliament. They can speak up for women rights and push for policies and legislation that promote gender equality. Women parliamentarians can help to improve women participation in politics by making more openings for women to get involved in the political process. They can advocate for quotas or confirmatory action measures to increase the representation of women in parliament and additional decision-making bodies.

More women are elected to parliament around the globe than ever, equality is still a dream and current progress is slow. Most parliaments are still male-majority, and some have fewer female MPs. Previous research suggests that women are marginalized from political activity and considered a marginalized group. The problems, challenges and obstacles faced by women can never be fully explained by male politicians in parliament (Chiniaeva, 2021). Women dynamic participation in parliament considered best approach to ensure women social and political empowerment.

However, Women contribution in parliamentarians is crucial for their socio-political empowerment. Women parliamentarians bring real women issues to the attention of policy makers. Although political systems around the world have their own characteristics, one characteristic is common to all: they are uneven and challenging for women participation in politics (Thanikodi & Sugirtha 2007).

In many developed countries, participation of women in socio-political development is not only understood but also valued; hence women can confidently contribute and in turn have a positive impact on society as a whole. With the supportive attitude of the society, women are the significant part of the development of the country. Women social and political empowerment is a worldwide issue, around the globe women are given less chances to contribute to politics and remained far from decision making. Same is the case with history of women participation in parliament who had weak participation in parliament and left women socially and politically vulnerable (Bano, 2009).

Consequently, women presentation in parliament is crucial for promoting social justice and gender equality. By having women voices heard and their perspectives taken into account, parliament can better address concerns that disturb women, such as domestic violence, maternal health, and economic inequality. When women are underrepresented in parliament, these issues may be overlooked or inadequately addressed. Hence, women bring a unique perspective to parliament that may not be represented by their male counterparts. As a result,

women participation in parliament can lead to more diverse perspectives and policy solutions that better mirror the requirements of society as a whole.

Different research has shown that more representation of women in parliament is allied with better governance outcomes. For example, countries with more women in parliament lean towards lower levels of corruption and greater investment in social welfare programs. However, women representation in parliament is also imperative for the overall health of democratic institutions. When women are underrepresented, democracy is incomplete, and the legitimacy of government is undermined. By increasing women representation, parliament can better reflect the will of the people and be more responsive to their needs.

Intra Parliamentary Unit (IPU), 2019 report presented that woman comprised almost half of the world population, they are fewer represented in parliament. If participation is provided according to their numbers, it is certain that they can show an imperative role in Parliament. According to international standards, women should have 33 % representation in parliament, but their representation in parliaments around the world is generally 24.5 percent (IPU, 2019).

As far as Pakistan is concerned, political participation and empowerment of women in Pakistan lags behind established norms and values. Women in Pakistan also make up half of Pakistan's population, but their participation in parliament is about 20 percent. This indicates a culture of under-representation of women, although women are not entirely responsible for this sorry state of affairs. This is not current trend, soon after independence women participation remained low and neglected. Their participation in political activities and representation for women empowerment was not as much as their proportionate in population of country. During the evolution process, many efforts were made; voices were heard for the women participation.

However, it is worth mentioning that one of the most important and chief reforms in the inclusion of women took place under a military ruler. In 2002, General Musharraf took a landmark decision that secured women presentation in the country's political system and reserved 33 % three stages of government: federal, provincial and local (Weiss, 2012). This has been acknowledged in the International Economic Forum, which states that Pakistan is far ahead of its neighbors in terms of women participation in politics.

Thus, through quotas does not mean that women are participating in legislation and decision-making at the party and parliamentary levels. Many challenges and barriers remain to achieving women participation. Pakistani women face a number of challenges trying to

participate in elections or participate in the political process—including overcoming discrimination or cultural beliefs that limit women roles in society, private, family and balancing political life includes securing support for political parties and campaign funding. Therefore, this research deals with these dynamics. In this investigation, researchers attempted to investigate the performance or contribution of women parliamentarian in Pakistan from 2008-2018, and this participation was helpful to identify and resolve the issues of Pakistani women and led them for socio-political empowerment. Laws made for women empowerment were implemented or not and what are the barriers to implement these laws. This will contribute to women empowerment around the country.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Women encompass a slightly more than half of the world population but constitute only 24.5 per cent of all members of parliament worldwide (Chiniaeva 2021). Women have contributed for the socio-economic development of countries, by playing role in society and political activities (Bari 2005). Women are treated as marginalized group in the society, almost fifty percent of the world's countries while more inclined trend is seen in developing countries. Yet, no country either developed or developing country has not given equal opportunity to women for political participation.

Parliament is a central political platform, where members of parliament actively perform and address human issues. Women socio-political empowerment is affected by their increased participation in parliament, which must be understood and learned. Previous research has overlooked this crucial issue of women participation in parliament and its associations for their socio-political empowerment in Pakistan. As a result, the key goal of this investigation is to better understand women participation in Pakistan politics and the consequences for women social and political empowerment. Women presentation in parliament contributes to minimize women issues. For participation is basic requirement to promote democracy. Women may be engaged directly in decision making and ensure accountability to women. It will be a source for good governance and ensure inclusion. Women form half of the population the situation is not different in Pakistan but remained in the minority when it comes to political participation. According to (IPU) report, women representation in Pakistan parliament (National Assembly) is only 20.2 %. The lack of participation has consequences for women socio-political empowerment. Nevertheless, despite these bleak figures, the last two decades have countersigned substantial developments in terms of women participation in parliament in Pakistan. Most significantly, the women participation in politics and representation in parliaments has increased in legislative bodies. Therefore, the central

objective of this study is to understand the political participation of women legislators in Pakistan parliament (National Assembly) and implications for women socio-political empowerment of Pakistani women.

1.3. Objectives of the Research Study

The central objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To examine women participation in parliament in Pakistan,
2. To identify opportunities, issues, and challenges of women participation in parliament in Pakistan
3. To investigate implications of women participation in parliament on the socio-political empowerment of the Pakistani women,
4. And finally, to suggest factors for the promotion of women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan.

1.4. Research Questions

This empirical enquiry centrally focuses on the following research questions:

1. What is the level of women participation in parliament in Pakistan?
2. What are the opportunities, challenges, and issues that women face while participating in parliament in Pakistan?
3. What are the implications of women participation in parliament in Pakistan on women socio-political empowerment?
4. What are the contributing factors to promote women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan?

1.5. Hypothesis of the Study

In light of research objectives and research questions following hypothesis are supposed to be measured from analysis of collected data to explore relation of variables:

H1: Women social empowerment is positively linked with women participation in parliament.

H2: Women political empowerment is positively linked with women participation in parliament.

1.6. Significance of Study

Several reasons accompany the importance of this topic. First of all, women contribution and empowerment are a neglected area in Pakistan. Women have traditionally been

underrepresented in politics, which has resulted in gender inequality in decision-making processes. Different research help identify the aspects that obstruct women participation in parliament and suggest solutions to address gender gaps in politics and parliament.

Moreover, in the framework of Pakistani society, which is patriarchal in nature, the study of women participation in parliament is very important. Many women have traditionally but recently made a name for themselves by participating in parliament. These women represent the majority of women who are either unable to participate in politics due to many obstacles or are disinterested due to the first reason. Identifying these factors and obstacles is the highlight of the challenges facing Pakistan today. Moreover, in the 74 years of its journey, women remain outside of the Pakistani parliament. Understanding those factors would be fascinating findings.

Democracy in Pakistan is under severe pressure. Non-participation of women in political spheres is also a reason for this condition. Political engagement among women has tangible benefits for democracy, such as improved receptiveness to citizen requirements, more cooperation across party and ethnic lines, and a more justifiable future. As a result, the study of women in parliament emphasizes this topic even more.

1.7. Limitations of the Study

Study will be around women participation in legislation process, policy making, decision making and their socio-political empowerment. Any personal data or irrelevant data will not be collected. Respondents will be only present and past members of National Assembly from 2008 to 2018.

During primary and secondary data collection ethical values will be kept in top priority, no harm will be created.

Research gap

Reviewed relevant literature through different books, articles, conference papers and periodicals, no research study is found on women participation in National Assembly and its implications on socio-political empowerment of women along with in-depth discussion on issues faced by women parliamentarian and factors to promote women socio-political empowerment.

During literature review no standard agreed definition of women socio-political development was found, each country has separate standards. In many countries women quota allocation for women political participation is considered enough for their political empowerment.

Meanwhile, no evidence was found in literature review which bounds political systems to encourage and ensure women political participation and empowerment.

1.8. Underlying theory

Anne Phillips is a political theorist known for her work on gender and democracy. In 1995, she published a book titled "The Politics of Presence" interpreting gender, Democracy, and identity which has since become a seminal work in feminist political theory. In this book, Phillips argues that the underrepresentation of women in politics is not only a difficulty of exclusion but also a problem of representation. She suggests that women underrepresentation is not just a matter of numbers but also a matter of the failure to represent women benefits, experiences, and perspectives in the political process.

The theory "*The Politics of Presence*" explains that women participation in parliament is the better source to address the genuine issues of all other women and suggest solutions. Their struggle to approach place at national level political forums may set an example for all other women who are deprived of social and political rights (Wängnerud, 2000).

The underrepresentation of women remains a persistent issue, but it is now widely acknowledged as a problem that needs to be addressed. This shift in perception marks a significant change in public discourse and political awareness. Many political parties have recognized the prominence of surging the proportion of women elected to office and have implemented measures to achieve this goal. These measures can include quotas, reserved seats, or other affirmative action policies aimed at ensuring a rational involvement of women in politics. By adopting such measures, political parties demonstrate their commitment to addressing the gender imbalance in political decision-making.

What is particularly remarkable is the growing support for enabling devices and support systems to boost women involvement in politics. Day schools, as you mentioned, are one example of initiatives aimed at providing women with the necessary tools, knowledge, and skills to pursue political careers. This type of support recognizes and addresses the precise barriers and challenges that women often face in entering and succeeding in politics.

Furthermore, it is noteworthy that not only women advocacy groups but also minority communities are increasingly backing measures that guarantee gender parity in political representation. This indicates a broader recognition of the importance of diversity and equal representation in shaping policies and decisions that impact society as a whole.

While progress has been made, it is essential to sustain these efforts and continue working towards achieving greater gender equality in politics. The ongoing discussion and implementation of measures to increase women representation reflect a positive shift in attitudes and a commitment to creating more inclusive and representative political systems.

According to the descriptive tactic, the structure of parliament ideally reflects the diversity and demographics of society. This means that parliament should include individuals who mirror the population in relations of attributes or characteristics such as ethnic origin, gender, ethnic religion, or class. The idea behind descriptive representation is that having individuals in positions of power who share similar backgrounds or identities with the constituents they represent can lead to better understanding, empathy, and responsiveness to their needs and concerns. When elected officials share common experiences or perspectives with their constituents, they are further likely to effectively support their interests and bring diverse voices to the decision-making process.

For example, having a diverse range of MPs can help ensure that policy decisions consider the perspectives and needs of various social groups, leading to more inclusive and equitable outcomes. If a particular demographic group, such as women or racial or ethnic minorities, is underrepresented in parliament, their unique perspectives and interests may be overlooked or marginalized in the policymaking process.

However, it is imperative to note that the concept of descriptive representation is not without its complexities and critiques. Some argue that shared demographic characteristics alone do not guarantee effective representation or the ability to address broader societal issues. Others contend that individuals can represent constituents effectively even if they do not share the same characteristics, emphasizing the importance of substantive representation (representing the interests and values of constituents) over descriptive representation.

Ultimately, the idea of descriptive representation has gained attention as a means to endorse diversity, presence, and responsiveness in political decision-making. However, achieving a perfect mirror image of society's composition in parliament is challenging, and different approaches and perspectives exist on the best ways to ensure meaningful representation for all members of society.

Skjeie 2000 shared his views through a research paper which expresses that women parliamentarians have a political journey from local or grass root to national level which have company of a common woman and women representatives at multilevel. Author used the

term 'care and career politics' as women politicians may find out significant solutions of many issues which proved barrier for women socio political empowerment.

Anne Phillips' theory of "the politics of presence" has been influential in the study of women political empowerment and participation. Phillips argues that the underrepresentation of certain groups in politics is not only due to structural barriers, but also due to a lack of recognition and validation of the diversity of identities and experiences within those groups. She suggests that increasing the "presence" of marginalized groups in political institutions can lead to greater democratic legitimacy and a more inclusive political culture.

Phillips' theory has been used to understand the ways in which women participation in politics has been historically limited and how this can be addressed. For example, in a study by Jelke Boesten, she argues that Phillips' theory can help explain why women participation in politics is often seen as less legitimate than men's participation, and why there is often a lack of diversity in political institutions. Boesten suggests that increasing women "presence" in politics can be achieved through measures such as gender quotas or other affirmative action policies.

Phillips' work has also been used to understand the challenges faced by women in politics. For example, in a study by Susan Franceschet, she argues that Phillips' theory can help explain why women voices are often marginalized in political debates, and why they may face barriers to advancing within political parties. Franceschet suggests that increasing women "presence" in politics can be achieved through measures such as gender mainstreaming, which involves integrating gender equality concerns into all areas of policy and decision-making.

Overall, Phillips' theory of the politics of existence has been used to understand the ways in which women political empowerment and participation can be augmented. By recognizing and regarding the diversity of women experiences and identities, political institutions can become more inclusive and representative, leading to greater democratic legitimacy and better policy outcomes.

Hence the theory of "Politics of Presence" explains that there essential be equal participation and presentation of women in country level political platform. When women are part of policy making at party and parliament level, there will be more policies frame for women protection. Women are best ambassador for women issues because common women feel comfortable to share real issues and carriers to their development and empowerment.

Reformulating the concept of equal rights from a focus on political office to a broader notion of equal participation in politics does indeed present a more favorable perspective. However, this reframing alone does not provide substantial solutions to the issue at hand. While there is a growing understanding of the importance of achieving rough equality in political participation, there is still work to be done to translate this understanding into actual practice. The fact that we recognize an inequity between genders as a legitimate reason for apprehension signifies progress in acknowledging the need for gender equality in political engagement.

Moreover, Phillips argues that women politicians do not necessarily have to identify as feminists in order to represent women interests in politics. Rather, the more women politicians there are who discuss or share the life imperials of female voters, the more likely it is that policies addressing issues affecting women will be introduced. This is not a conscious decision on the part of representatives, but rather a consequence of their shared social experiences. Phillips compares this mechanism to Adam Smith's concept of the "invisible hand," where the actions of individuals pursuing their own interests lead to a larger societal benefit. In this case, the shared experiences of women politicians lead to policies that benefit women as a group.

Phillips highlighted a crucial aspect of representation and the importance of achieving gender equality in political offices. While equal rights to vote are essential, they are not sufficient to fully address the specific desires, concerns and interests that arise from women experiences. Achieving equality among elected officials is crucial to make sure that these perspectives are sufficiently represented and addressed in the political decision-making process. By having more women elected to office, there is a greater chance of policies and legislation considering the unique challenges and perspectives that women face. Women lived experiences and diverse viewpoints bring valuable insights to discussions on a wide range of issues, including healthcare, education, gender equality, family policies, and more.

The increasing number of females in political sphere helps to bridge the representation gap and ensures that decision-making bodies reflect the diversity of the population they serve. It enhances the chance of policies and initiatives being developed through a more inclusive and comprehensive lens.

It is worth noting that achieving gender equality in elected offices is not about excluding men or suggesting that their perspectives are not valuable. Instead, it is about recognizing the need for balanced and diverse representation to create more effective, inclusive, and equitable

political systems. Efforts to promote gender equality in politics include measures such as affirmative action, gender quotas, and other strategies aimed at increasing the representation of women in elected offices. These initiatives help overcome systemic barriers and biases that have historically limited women access to political power.

Ultimately, achieving equality among elected officials is vital to address the unique interests, needs and concerns that women experience and ensure a more representative and inclusive political system.

Phillips argues that women political participation measure how much they are empowered in decision-making, there empowerment positive positively linked with women social empowerment. Thus, she stressed women parliamentarian ought to encourage in parliamentary business (debates, policy making, and legislation).

Feminist

Feminist theory does not have a single founder as it has emerged and evolved through the contributions of numerous thinkers and activists over time. However, there are several key figures that have made significant contributions to feminist theory and are widely recognized for their influence. It's significant to note that feminist theory is a collective effort built upon the work of many individuals.

One notable figure is Mary Wollstonecraft (2014), an English writer and philosopher who is often considered the pioneer of feminist theory. In her book *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Wollstonecraft argued for women rights to education and political involvement, challenging the prevailing social norms of her time.

Another influential figure is Simone de Beauvoir, a French writer and philosopher whose book *The Second Sex* published in 1949 is regarded as a seminal work in feminist theory. De Beauvoir critically examined the construction of womanhood and the societal limitations placed upon women, advocating for women liberation and emphasizing the importance of women autonomy and agency.

Betty Friedan, an American feminist and activist, played a pivotal character in the second wave of feminism. Her book *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963, highlighted the dissatisfaction and limited roles experienced by many American women in the post-World War II era. Friedan co-founded the National Organization for Women (NOW), which became a leading organization advocating for women rights (Horowitz, 1998).

Feminist theory has evolved over time and emerged through various waves and movements. The roots of feminist theory can be sketched back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries mainly in North America and Europe. It interests on women suffrage (right to vote for women) and political equality. Prominent figures and movements during this time include Mary Wollstonecraft, who advocated for women rights and education, and the suffragette movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which fought for women right to vote (Jayawardena, 2016). However, it is essential to note that feminist ideas and activism can be found throughout history, including in earlier periods.

Another wave called second wave of feminism occurred in the 1960s and continued into the 1980s. It engrossed on a wider range of matters, counting reproductive rights, workplace equality, and gender roles and stereotypes. This wave saw the rise of feminist thinkers such as Simone de Beauvoir, Betty Friedan, and Gloria Steinem, as well as the formation of various feminist movements and organizations (Evan, 2008).

Since then, feminist theory has continued to evolve, giving rise to the third wave of feminism in the 1990s and early 2000s, which addressed intersectionality and a wider range of issues affecting women. More recently, there has been a growing focus on fourth-wave feminism, which encompasses online activism, social media platforms, and intersectional perspectives.

It's significant to note that feminist theory is not a monolithic or singular perspective but rather encompasses a range of theories, approaches, and movements. The ideas and theories within feminism have developed and diversified over time, responding to changing social, cultural, and political contexts (Beasley 1993).

Feminist theory highlights the pervasive gender inequalities present in society, such as unequal distribution and access of resources, power, and opportunities for women. By acknowledging and bringing attention to these disparities, feminism aims to dismantle the structural barriers that limit women social and political rights. Feminist theory encourages a gender-based analysis of social and political issues.

Advocacy for Equal Rights: Feminist theory advocates for the equal rights of women, demanding that protection against gender-based violence, and representation in decision-making positions.

Empowerment and Agency: Feminist theory emphasizes women empowerment and agency, promoting the idea that women should have control over their own lives and decisions. It challenges traditional gender roles and stereotypes that limit women choices and

opportunities, encouraging women to exercise their agency and make choices that align with their own aspirations and goals.

Political Participation: Feminism emphasizes women political participation and representation. It calls for increasing women involvement in political processes, including voting, running for office, and participating in policymaking. Feminist theory recognizes that women perspectives and experiences are essential for achieving inclusive and equitable governance Borchorst & Siim (2008).

Intersectionality: Feminist theory acknowledges the intersecting systems of oppression that affect women differently based on their multiple identities. Atewologun (2018)

Structural Change: Feminist theory advocates for structural changes in society to dismantle patriarchal systems and institutions that perpetuate gender inequalities. It calls for policy reforms, legal protections, and institutional changes that promote gender equity, challenge discriminatory practices, and create an inclusive and supportive environment for women social and political empowerment Gurrieri & others (2022).

Overall, theory of feminist provides a frame for understanding and addressing the social and political barriers that hinder women rights and empowerment. It aims to transform societal norms, systems, and institutions to achieve gender equality and create a more just and equitable world for all.

Theory of Empowerment

Julian Rappaport's theory of empowerment, proposed in 1981, is known as the Psychological Empowerment Theory Rappaport, J. (1987). This theory focuses on the psychological processes and factors that contribute to individual empowerment. Rappaport's theory suggests that empowerment is a process through which individuals gain control over their lives, resources, and environments, leading to increased motivation, self-efficacy, and a sense of mastery.

According to Rappaport, there are four key components of empowerment:

Competence: Competence refers to an individual belief in their own abilities, skills, and knowledge to effectively deal with challenges and achieve desired outcomes. It involves having a sense of self-efficacy and confidence in one's capabilities.

Meaning: Meaning refers to the understanding and perception of one's goals, values, and purpose in life. It involves having a clear sense of direction and purpose, and the ability to align one's actions with personal values and beliefs.

Impact: Impact mentions to an individual perception of their aptitude to influence and make a difference in their environment. It involves having a sense of control and influence over one's surroundings, and the belief that one's actions can create positive change.

Choice: Choice refers to the perception of having a range of options and opportunities available to oneself. It involves having the freedom and autonomy to make decisions, exercise personal agency, and have a say in matters that affect one's life.

While Rappaport's theory suggests that when individuals experience a sense of competence, meaning, impact, and choice, they are more likely to feel empowered and take proactive actions to improve their circumstances. Empowerment, in this context, is seen as a dynamic and ongoing process that can be fostered through interventions and supportive environments.

However, Rappaport's theory has been influential in various fields, including community psychology, social work, and organizational development. It provides a framework for understanding the psychological aspects of empowerment and how individuals can be supported in gaining control, agency, and a sense of empowerment in their lives Cron Dahl & Eklund (2016).

After detailed review of the theories that support our empirical research the most suitable is the “The Political of Presence” by Anne Philips. This theory directly links to women social and political empowerment. Anne theory focused on that women parliament is the central platform of any democratic country where policies are built to accommodate the issues of common ones and for their welfare. Half of the world population comprised on women, so responsibility is on the shoulder of parliamentarian women to address the issues of women by actively participation in the parliament. Furthermore, Anne theory depicts that women parliamentarians can better address women social and political empowerment related issues through their representation, advocacy, and policy-making roles and legislation. Women parliamentarians bring a unique perspective and firsthand experience of women issues to the table. By actively participating in legislative debates, they can raise awareness about the specific challenges faced by women in society. Their presence in parliament helps ensure that women voices and concerns are heard and taken into account when crafting laws and policies. Women parliamentarians can use their platforms to advocate for gender equality and women rights. They can engage in public discourse, media interviews, and community outreach to raise awareness about issues such as gender-based violence, reproductive rights, equal pay, and access to education and healthcare. By being vocal advocates, they can help build support for legislative reforms and policy changes that address these issues.

She argues that women legislators can introduce and support legislation that directly addresses women issues. They can work towards implementing laws that promote gender equality, protect women rights, and tackle discrimination and violence against women. This could include legislation on domestic violence, workplace gender equality, maternal health, childcare, and women political participation. Women parliamentarians can actively participate in committees and decision-making processes to shape policies that impact women live. They can push for gender-responsive budgeting, ensuring that resources are allocated to programs and initiatives that specifically benefit women. They can also contribute to policy discussions on education, healthcare, employment, and social welfare to ensure that the unique needs and challenges faced by women are taken into account.

Organization of the thesis

Following flow chart diagram shows the organization of overall thesis.

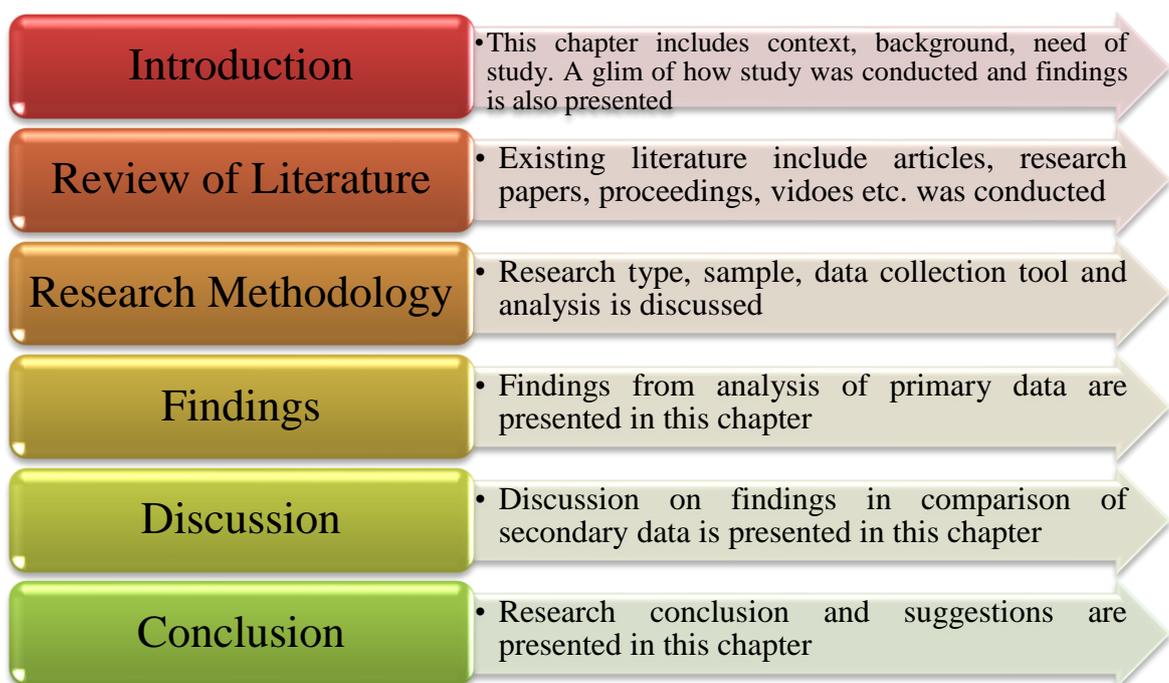


Figure 1: Organization of thesis

Conclusion

In this chapter, the background of the study is discussed. Parliament is the place that provides a platform for women to discuss their issues and may take practical steps for legislation. In developed countries, parliament is considered a common space for the solution of common issues, and women are given opportunities to participate on an equal level. In Pakistan, women

participation in parliament is increased gradually but still there is long way to travel to reach that destination which will have equal opportunities for women. There is need to conduct a research study in Pakistan to know what opportunities women parliamentarian have for their own and other women socio-political empowerment, what are obstacles faced by them, how they cope with barriers and what do they suggest to women participation in parliament to enhance women socio-political empowerment. Four research objectives and research questions were set for study and two hypotheses were set as a base to measure relationship of dependent and independent variables. Research study flow chart is also presented to know the steps taken to complete this research.

Chapter 02: Review of Related Literature and Hypothesis Development

Introduction

This chapter purpose is to describe the participation of women legislators in the parliament historically. Therefore, it is necessary to mention and observe the procedures of parliament including (Legislation, policy making, calling attention notice, resolution submission and attendance etc.). Meanwhile, this chapter illustrates the treaties and agreements recognized in the world for the empowerment of the women, role of UN or UN-Women for women development. Moreover, observed countries emphasizing the women involvement in the parliament in comparison with male parliament members. This research through extensive literature has explored the factors due to which women are empowered socially and politically by the participation of women parliamentarian. Additionally, historical analyzed how many women remain part of the parliament either on reserved seat or elected directly. In the end of this chapter, it is observed that which Pakistan Constitution is related to women empowerment and how they are legally guaranteed for their development.

2. Review of Literature

Literature review is done to achieve objectives including specify area of study, summarizing the secondary data reviewed, analyzing the gathered information to find out research gaps and defining study limitations. It provides areas to conduct further research. Most scholarly literature on the women political empowerment, women participation in parliament and politics had been published through books, articles, reports, newspapers etc. since last two decades. However, not much study has been conducted in recent time to assess the role of women in parliament for their socio-political empowerment.

Khan (2020) highlighted the challenges faced by women parliamentarians in Pakistan in effectively representing women interests and promoting gender-sensitive policies. While the introduction of gender quotas has led to an escalation in the number of women parliamentarians in Pakistan, women remain underrepresented in political decision-making processes. They highlighted in research that woman parliamentarians in Pakistan often face tokenism and marginalization within political parties, which can limit their aptitude to effectively advocate for women rights and interests. While women parliamentarians in Pakistan have successfully introduced some gender-sensitive legislation, the implementation of these laws is often limited due to a lack of political will and institutional capacity. Hence, the study highlights the need for comprehensive measures to support women parliamentarians

in Pakistan, including increasing institutional support and resources, addressing gender-based discrimination and harassment, and promoting gender-sensitive policies and legislation.

Bari (2010) research discusses the challenges and opportunities faced by women who entered politics in Pakistan after the restoration of democracy in 2008. Author mentioned that women participation in politics is still limited, although there has been some progress in recent years, women participation in politics in Pakistan is still limited. Women make up only around 20% of the total number of parliamentarians. While women who enter politics in Pakistan face a range of challenges, including discrimination, harassment, and violence. Many women parliamentarians reported being subjected to verbal abuse and threats, and some even reported physical assaults. Thus, she suggested that to truly empower women in politics, structural changes are needed in Pakistani society. This includes improving women access to education, addressing gender-based violence, and increasing women representation in political parties and in leadership positions.

Varghese (2011) mentioned in research that women empowerment and decision-making are interlinked. Women involvement in legislative and decision-making processes is a proven means of women empowerment. Women empowerment has emerged as an important tool in the international development process. This is reflected in the development strategies of all prominent donor agencies focused on women empowerment, for example, ILO, UNIFEM, UNDP, ADB etc. Ambiguity exists in the definition of empowerment.

Dahlerup (2005) presented the importance of women as women are considered as an important asset of their family, but they are vulnerable at societal level due to lack of political empowerment. Different countries use electoral gender figures to ensure that women participation in politics and to address their participation at different levels. Women are also trained on political processes to ensure their genuine participation without biases. It is projected that increasing women numerical representation will result in political empowerment for women.

Bano (2009) discusses in her research discussed that there were barriers to women for political empowerment but in Pervaiz Musharaf era a specific quota for women presentation in parliament was ensured, in last two decades women got chance to participate in parliament and took practical steps for women empowerment through women participation in parliament and policy making for them, but till there is need to take tremendous steps to enhance women empowerment in society and political activities at all levels.

Rubab (2020) highlighted the historical, cultural, and socio-economic issues that have hindered women political representation in Pakistan and the steps that can be taken to

overcome these barriers. Despite the lawful guarantee of equal political rights, women in Pakistan face multiple barriers to political participation. These barriers include patriarchal attitudes, restricted access to education and assets, and cultural norms that dishearten women from participating in politics. The research paper also highlights some opportunities for enhancing women political contribution in Pakistan, such as the intensification in women representation in the parliament and the provision of reserved seats for women in local government bodies. However, the study suggests that more needs to be done to produce an environment enabling women to participate politically, such as providing access to resources, promoting gender sensitivity, and addressing cultural and social norms that disappoint women from engaging in politics.

Allauddin (2020) points out that the increased representation of women in political affairs in Pakistan in the 21st century, particularly through reserved seats in the legislature, represents a significant step toward gender equality in a traditionally patriarchal and male-dominated society. One of the primary reasons for the increased representation of women in politics is the allocation of reserved seats for women in the national and provincial assemblies. These reserved seats ensure a certain percentage of women participation, allowing for their voices to be heard and their issues to be addressed. Further he mentioned that many of the women who hold these reserved seats have strong political backgrounds or affiliations. This empowerment of politically active women has contributed to their increased presence in the political arena. He further stated that a noteworthy shift in Pakistani politics is the transfer of political power from fathers to daughters. Traditionally, political dynasties were male dominated, with sons inheriting power. However, the emergence of daughters as political heirs signals a positive change in gender dynamics.

Mangi et al (2021) investigated role of parliamentarian in National Assembly of Pakistan (1970-2008), he addressed dominant role of men in parliament as 'Rich Men's Club'. They expressed that there are two leading political parties including Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Muslim League (N) which ruled in the country, both the parties had women parliamentarian either elected or obtained reserved quota from Feudal background and it shows that women from common society were unable to have socio-political empowerment. On the other hand, women successes to reach parliament have symbolic representation.

Jabeen (2021) mentioned in her research that women political involvement in Pakistan can be divided into two broad periods one with limited access to assemblies at the time of independence 1947 to 2000 and the other after the restoration of gender quotas in 2001-02. The increase in women participation in the Pakistani parliament and their political

empowerment through quota systems was a notable development during General Pervez Musharraf's tenure as President of Pakistan. This initiative aimed to address the underrepresentation of women in political decision-making and promote gender equality in the country. During General Musharraf's regime, reserved seats were allocated both at the national and provincial levels. The introduction of reserved seats led to the political empowerment of women from diverse backgrounds. Many women who previously had limited opportunities to enter mainstream politics found a platform to participate actively in legislative affairs.

Beteta 2006 in research "*What is missing in measures of women empowerment?*" argues that women political participation may not be a suitable measure of women empowerment as it may not reflect the true range of women power and influence in society. The paper highlights that the presence of female politicians in parliament might be influenced by political factors and party internal policies rather than cultural characteristics or women empowerment. In other words, women may be elected to office not because of their gender or their ability to advance women issues, but because of their party affiliation, political skills, or other factors. Furthermore, the paper argues that women empowerment is a compound and multifaceted concept that goes beyond just political participation. Women empowerment also involves social, economic, and cultural dimensions that are often overlooked in measures of women empowerment. Thus, the author suggests that a more comprehensive approach to measuring women empowerment should take into account a range of indicators that reflect the various dimensions of women empowerment, including education, economic participation, health, and political representation.

Sadie (2005) described that autonomy and empowerment of women and development of their status in all arenas is a highly significant end in itself. Author justified Women representation in political decision-making structures with three arguments. Primarily, women, representing half the population, must have a share in decision-making to promote democratic practices. Secondly, women presence in such structures is essential for the fortification and elevation of their community's interests. Lastly, women are being marginalized due to traditional patriarchal structures, both socially and politically. Society needs to utilize half of the existing talent that is wasting due to unjust social and political structures.

Shaheed (2010) study *Contested Identities: Gendered Politics, Gendered Religion in Pakistan* sheds light on the gender inequalities and lack of decision-making power faced by women in Pakistan. The study was based on a national survey that revealed that women in Pakistan are not only deprived of their basic rights but also lack decision-making power in

family matters. Author further highlighted that women in Pakistan are not given their due share in property and are often forced into marriages without their consent. This lack of control over their lives and decision-making power is a clear desecration of their fundamental rights. Thus, study emphasizes to the dire need for gender equality and empowerment of women in Pakistan. It calls for policy changes and societal shifts that can enable women to exercise their rights and participate fully in decision-making processes in all spheres of life.

Zakar et al, (2018) women are not socially empowered to participate in direct political system because our society's strong patriarchal framework provides various impediments to women political empowerment. At grassroots level women are not allowed to cast vote as well as some of women are not allowed to context election due to their local cultural, feudalist barriers.

Shidova (2005) identifies three main obstacles to women participation in politics: Structural Barriers: These are barriers related to the political system and the way politics is organized, including laws, regulations, and political parties' practices. Examples include discriminatory laws and regulations that limit women participation, as well as political party practices that omit women from decision-making positions. Sociocultural Barriers are barriers related to social norms, values, and beliefs that limit women participation in politics. Examples include gender stereotypes that associate politics with men, as well as cultural attitudes that discourage women from pursuing political careers. Individual Barriers: These are barriers related to women own experiences and characteristics, such as their education, skills, and personal circumstances. Examples include lack of education, limited political experience, and the challenges of balancing political careers with family responsibilities. Shvedova argues that addressing these barriers requires a comprehensive approach that involves changing laws and regulations, promoting gender equality and women empowerment, and providing support and training to women who want to enter politics.

Wolbrech (2002) in book *FEMALE LEGISLATORS AND THE* highlighted concept of critical mass suggests that women representation in politics needs to reach a certain threshold to have a meaningful impact on policy outcomes. This is because having a significant minority of women in parliament can lead to changes in the political culture and the way politics is done. The book focuses on the impact of female legislators in the U.S. Congress. It explores how the presence of women in Congress has influenced legislative agendas, policy outcomes, and the overall functioning of Congress. The book likely discusses the challenges and opportunities that female legislators face in a predominantly male-dominated political environment and examines how their perspectives and priorities might differ from their male

counterparts. It may also explore the broader implications of increased female representation in Congress for women rights and gender equality in the United States.

NCSW (2012) report highlighted that the involvement of women in political spheres in Pakistan, they were not playing an energetic part in mainstream politics. The report identified several obstacles that prevent women full participation in politics, including discriminatory laws and cultural norms, lack of support from political parties, and limited access to education and resources. One of the key issues to women involvement in politics in Pakistan is cultural norms that limit women movement and involvement in public life. Women are often expected to prioritize their family roles and responsibilities over their political careers. Additionally, women face harassment and violence when they try to participate in politics, which creates a hostile environment for them. Furthermore, political parties in Pakistan have been criticized for not providing equal opportunities to women candidates. Women are often given tickets for seats that are considered unwinnable or for reserved seats rather than for general seats, which limits their chances of being elected. In addition, women candidates often lack financial and organizational support from their parties. The report recommends several measures to address these barriers, including improving women access to education and resources, enforcing laws that guard women rights, providing training and support to women candidates, and promoting women involvement in decision-making processes. However, growth has been slow in implementing these recommendations, and women depiction in politics in Pakistan remains low.

Khattak (2020) discussed in his research *Strengthening Women Political Participation in Pakistan* that Political empowerment denotes to the ability of individuals or groups to participate in the political process and have a voice in decision that affect their lives. This can involve efforts to promote democratic participation, such as voter education and civic engagement, as well as efforts to upsurge representation of marginalized groups in decision-making bodies.

Bayeh (2016) defined term social empowerment in research on role of empowering women and achieving gender equality to the sustainable development that access to resources like education, healthcare, and social assistance that might improve one's value of life is what is meant by "social empowerment". Social empowerment can also involve efforts to promote social inclusion, combat discrimination, and increase awareness of human rights.

Hall (2013) in her *book women and empowerment, strategies for increasing autonomy* explains that women decision have impact on their private and public lives. Empowered women have enough strength to explain their views and ideas independently. Feminism as a

political ideology supports women empowerment and stresses on need of equity without gender-based discrimination, as a result feminism left impact on legislation and societal norms and believes. Women empowerment is complete when women are empowered on individual as well as on collective level and protect women equity at all the levels (Hall, 2013).

Sinha (2007) in her book *Empowerment of Women through Political Participation* studies on Indian democracy explains through research that women do not have a prominent role in the political structure and political decision-making. Her involvement in politics is minimal at best. It is impossible to conceive of a democratic government without the engagement of the women segment of the society, which is why the political contribution of women is on the rise around the world. She explained that the Indian government provides opportunities to women through quotas, but they are far behind in decision-making.

Biswas and Kabir (2004) argue in their book *Measuring women empowerment: Indicators and measurement techniques* that there are several indicators for women social empowerment. These indicators include freedom to mobility, independence in making own and household interviews, owning household productive assets, no gender-based domination, ease to have awareness freedom to participate in political activities, independence to take bread winning decisions, decision regarding reproductive, ease to access information and identification of problems for longer term development.

Naryan 2005 women empowerment is a complicated term, which is one of the reasons why there is a pool of definitions for it. Because of this, it is difficult to explain in a clear manner. In a broad sense, empowerment may be understood to refer to an increase in one's freedom of choice and action, which in turn indicates a greater degree of command and influence over one's own resources. Kabeer 2001 described that empowerment intended to shift unequal power relations by providing chances to make strategic life choices to persons (mainly women) who had been denied the opportunity to do so in the past.

Hong (2013) points out the emancipation of women from the societal problems that are referred to be traditional and cultural practices require the empowerment of women. The marginalization of women occurs over a period of years at a variety of different phases. In addition, women are stereotyped as being weaker, and they are prevented from reaching the forefront of the stage. In this setting, empowerment is essential in order to enhance knowledge and capacity building for the purpose of increasing their participation in decision-making and transformational action.

Schneider (2008) describe that women status in the politics is the degree to which women are treated with equality and freedom in the formation and distribution of power, as well as the importance that is placed by society on the role that women.

According to Kate Young (1993) If empowerment aim is to transforms the society, then it should not lead to taking over the authority held by men, and it should not continue the same exploitative and hierarchical structure. Instead, it should establish a world of equality and make the greatest use of the potential held by all human beings to develop a more human world”.

Fleschenberg & Bari (2015) research on "*Unmaking Political Patriarchy Through Gender Quotas*" explores the consequences of women quotas in parliament on women political representation and the challenges faced by women parliamentarians in implementing gender-sensitive policies. They highlighted that women quotas in assembly have led to a growth in the number of women parliamentarians in many countries, but simply adding the women representation in political office is not enough to challenge patriarchal power structures or man dominance in politics. Women parliamentarians continue to face significant challenges in promoting gender-sensitive policies and addressing gender-based discrimination. They mentioned that women parliamentarians often face discrimination and harassment from male colleagues and are excluded from decision-making processes.

The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Parliament

The rules and procedure of business in the National Assembly of Pakistan is a set of guidelines that outline the procedures and practices to be followed during parliamentary proceedings. These rules are designed to guarantee the flat functioning of the Parliament, and to provide a framework for the conduct of parliamentary business. The Rules of Procedure cover an extensive range of topics, including the conduct of debates and discussions, the procedures for the introduction and consideration of bills, and the role and responsibilities of parliamentary committees. These rules also are responsible for guidelines for the conduct of Members of Parliament, including rules of decorum and behavior during parliamentary proceedings, and rules relating to the use of parliamentary language and debate (Malik, 2021).

Overall, the Rules of Procedure are intended to encourage transparency, accountability, and effective governance, and to ensure that parliamentary proceedings are conducted in a fair, efficient, and orderly manner.

Day of Sitting

Pakistan Constitution defines a "day of sitting" for the National Assembly as "a day on which the Assembly sits for the transaction of its business." Similarly, under Article 61(2) of the Constitution, a "day of sitting" for the Senate of Pakistan means "a day on which the Senate sits for the transaction of its business." The duration of a day of sitting in the National Assembly and the Senate is not fixed and may vary depending on the agenda of the day and the business to be conducted (Citino, 2022)

Legislation

Legislation refers to the process of creating and enacting laws in a parliament or legislative body. In the context of the Pakistan Parliament, legislation involves the proposal, debate, and adoption of bills that are designed to address a specific issue or concern. The legislative process in Pakistan involves several stages, including the introduction of a bill, its consideration by a standing committee, its discussion and debate in the National Assembly or Senate, and its final approval and signing into law by the President (Buttler, 2008). However, the purpose of legislation is to establish legal norms and regulations that govern the behavior of individuals and institutions in society, and to provide a framework for resolving disputes and enforcing the rule of law.

Bill

In the background of parliamentary procedure, a bill is a proposed law or legislative proposal that is presented to a parliament or legislative body for consideration and approval. A bill may originate from the government or from a member of the parliament, and is typically drafted with the help of legal experts and other relevant stakeholders. In Pakistan, bills are introduced in the senate or National Assembly, are subject to a detailed process of review, debate, and amendment before they can be enacted into law. Bills are usually introduced with a declaration of matters and explanations that explain the purpose and intent of the proposed legislation. The process of passing a bill in the Pakistan Parliament typically involves several stages, including its introduction, consideration by a standing committee, discussion and debate in the relevant house of parliament, and its eventual approval or rejection by a majority vote.

Class of Business

The rule of Pakistan assembly defines the "Classes of Business" that can be transacted in the House. These classes of business are: Government Business, which includes bills, resolutions, motions, and other business initiated by the government. Meanwhile, Private Members Business which includes resolutions, bills, motions, and other business initiated by Members of the National Assembly who are not Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries. Questions, which include questions to Ministers and motions for leave to ask questions. Motions, which include motions for adjournment of the House, motions for leave to introduce bills, motions for leave to move resolutions, and other procedural motions. Petitions, which include petitions from individuals or organizations on matters of public interest (Khan, 2022)

Starred Questions and un-Starred Questions

In parliamentary procedure, questions are a means by which Members of Parliament can seek information from the government or raise matters of public importance. There are two types of questions asked in parliament: Starred Questions and Un-starred Questions. Starred Questions, these are questions that are answered orally during Question Hour session in the parliament. A Member of Parliament must give notice in advance of the question and the question is selected by a process of drawing lots. The Minister responsible for answering the question will give an oral answer to the question in the House. Un-starred Questions, these are questions that are answered in writing. A Member of Parliament must give notice in advance of the question and the question is not selected by lot. The Minister responsible for

answering the question will provide a written answer to the Member of Parliament. The purpose of these questions is to hold the government accountable and to provide an opportunity for Members of Parliament to seek material on matters of public standing (Malik, 202).

Supplementary Questions

In the parliament of Pakistan, supplementary questions are additional questions that can be asked by members of parliament during question hour. These questions are asked following the reply to the original question by the Minister responsible for answering the question. According to the proceedings rule of Pakistan parliament states that a parliamentarian may ask a supplementary question for the purpose of seeking further information or clarification on the reply given by the Minister. The supplementary question must be directly related to the original question and should not introduce any new matter. Supplementary questions are allowed at the discretion of speaker must be asked without any debate or argument. The purpose of supplementary questions is to provide legislators with an opportunity to seek further information on matters of public importance (Nasir, 1998).

Definition of Motions in Parliament

In the Parliament of Pakistan, a motion is a proposal made by a Member of Parliament for the purpose of bringing a matter before the House. According to rule in the national parliament of Pakistan, a motion can be moved on any matter of public importance. Substantive Motions are motions that express a definite opinion or decision of the House on a matter of public importance, and are put to a vote. These are motions that relate to the conduct of business in the House, and are not put to a vote. Examples of procedural motions include motions for adjournment of the House, motions for leave to introduce bills, motions for leave to move resolutions, and motions for the appointment of committees (Hussain. 2013). The purpose of motions is to enable Members of Parliament to bring matters of public importance to the attention of the House and to take decisions on them.

Calling Attention Notice (CAN)

In the Parliament of Pakistan, a Calling Attention Notice is a procedure used by Members of Parliament in order to bring a subject of critical public concern to the interest of the government. To bring a Minister's attention to a matter of urgent public significance and to request an explanation from the Minister, a Member of Parliament may issue a CAN under rule 88 in the national parliament of Pakistan. The notice must be precise and should not raise more than one issue. Once a Calling Attention Notice has been given, the Speaker of the

Assembly may allot a day and time for the matter to be raised. During the session, the Member of Parliament who gave the notice may raise the issue and the Minister concerned will provide an explanation or reply to the House (Shafiq & others, 2017).

The purpose of Calling Attention Notices is to bring urgent matters to the attention of the government and to seek immediate action or clarification on issues of public importance.

Point of Order

In the Parliament of Pakistan, a Point of Order is a procedural device used by Members of Parliament to raise a question about the rules or procedures of the House. According to rule 66 parliamentarians may raise a point in parliament and breach of the rules or to seek clarification on a point of order. The Speaker may then give a ruling on the matter or refer it to the relevant committee for further consideration (Abdul-Nasir, J. 1998). However, A Point of Order can be raised at any time during the proceedings of the House and takes precedence over other business being considered at that time. The purpose of a Point of Order is to ensure that the business of the House is conducted in agreement with the rules and procedures of the Parliament.

Resolution

Resolutions in the context of the Pakistan Parliament are formal statements of opinion or intent that are put forward for debate and adoption by the Members of Parliament. These resolutions may relate to a variety of subjects, including foreign policy, national security, domestic issues, or matters of public interest. A Government Resolution is a resolution that is proposed by a Minister or a member of the ruling party, and is typically designed to express the views or policies of the government. These resolutions often relate to matters of national importance or policy, such as defense, security, or economic development. Similarly, Private Members Resolutions, on the other hand, are resolutions that are proposed by Members of Parliament who do not hold government positions or belong to the ruling party. These resolutions are usually put forward by individual MPs or members of opposition parties, and may relate to a variety of issues that are of concern to their constituents or the public at large (Rashiduzzaman, 1969).

International Treaties, Agreements and Commitments for women Empowerment

International community has recognized the importance of women political involvement and has made commitments to increase women representation in politics. Several other international agreements and frameworks have been developed to encourage women political participation, including:

Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)

The Equal Remuneration Convention, also known as Convention No. 100th (ILO) in 1951.

It necessitates member states to safeguard that men and women get equal compensation for effort of equal worth. The convention is one of the oldest and most widely ratified ILO conventions, and it has played an imperative role in empowering women politically and socially (Betti, 2022).

Tekle (2018) said that one of the ways in which the convention has empowered women is by providing a legal framework for challenging gender-based pay discrimination. The convention necessitates member states to take measures to ensure that pay discrimination based on gender is eliminated, and it provides workers with a mechanism for seeking redress if they believe they have been discriminated against. It has for equal work, contributing to the wider struggle for gender equality.

Arnbjörnsson (2022) elaborated that the convention has also had a broader impact on women social and economic empowerment. By ensuring that women are paid equally for their work, the convention has helped to overcome gender discrimination meanwhile promote gender right in the labor market and reduce the gender wages gap. This has had a positive impact on women economic status, as it has enabled them to earn a fair wage for their work and contribute to their families' and communities' well-being. It has also helped to promote women social and political empowerment, as women who are economically independent are better able to participate in decision-making processes and exercise their rights.

Tekle (2018) said since its adoption, the Equal Remuneration Convention has been ratified by 174 countries, making it one of the most widely ratified ILO conventions. While there is still much work to be done to confirm that women obtain equal pay for equal work, the convention has played an central role in advancing women political and social empowerment.

Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (DEDAW 1967)

The UN also enacted a treaty in 1967 called the DEDAW. In offering an outline for combating prejudice against women while advocating gender equality, the declaration has been crucial in advancing women political and social involvement.

One of the ways in which the declaration has empowered women is by providing a platform for advocacy and awareness-raising around issues of gender discrimination. The declaration explicitly recognizes that discrimination against women is a violation of the rights of human, and it calls on member states to take action to eliminate such discrimination. This has helped to raise awareness of the ways in which women are discriminated against and has provided a basis for advocacy efforts aimed at promoting gender equality (Calin and Sperila, 2012).

Women rights, in particular, have benefited greatly from the declaration's influence on international human rights law. Human rights instruments addressing concerns like violence against women, reproductive rights, and economic and social rights for women were largely based on it. The increased awareness of women rights and the framework for combating the various forms of discrimination they confront are both direct results of this.

First World Conference on Women Mexico (1975)

In 1975, Mexico City played host to the First World Conference on Women, often recognized as the Mexico Conference. It was an unprecedented gathering of women from different parts of the globe to deliberate on the advancement of women everywhere. The global women rights movement owes a great deal to the progress made at this conference, which was a watershed moment in the fight for women political and social equivalence.

Here are some ways in which the First World Conference on Women contributed to the promotion of women political and social empowerment (Burke, 2015):

Putting Women Rights on the Global Agenda was the first global event to focus specifically on women rights and gender equality. It put women rights on the global agenda and raised awareness about the importance of addressing women related issues.

Promoting Women Participation: The conference emphasized the significance of women contribution in decision-making processes at all levels, counting political, economic, and social. It called for the elimination of barriers that prevented women from participating fully in public life and encouraged the growth of policies and programs to promote women participation.

Advocating for Women Health and Education

The conference recognized that women health and education were essential for stimulating women empowerment socially and politically. It called for greater access to healthcare and education for women and girls, and highlighted the importance of addressing issues such as maternal mortality, family planning, and reproductive health.

Encouraging International Cooperation

The conference encouraged international cooperation for the promotion of women rights and gender equality. It called for the development of programs and initiatives to support women empowerment and emphasized the need for greater cooperation between governments, civil society organizations, and international organizations.

Setting the Stage for Future Conferences

The 1st conferences and initiatives aimed at promoting women rights and gender equality. It led to the establishment of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) and provided a platform for ongoing advocacy and activism on behalf of women rights.

Overall, the First World Conference on Women was a landmark event that contributed significantly to the promotion of women political and social empowerment. It put women rights on the global agenda, advocated for greater women participation, emphasized the importance of women health and education, encouraged international cooperation, and set the stage for future initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality and women empowerment.

(INSTRAW)

The INSTRAW was a specialized agency of the UN that was established in 1975 in Mexico through ECOSOC to support the advancement of women globally through research, training, and knowledge management. In 2011 INSTRAW was merged into UN and started mission to promote gender equality and women empowerment by providing technical assistance, training, and research on women issues (Blatte, 2010).

INSTRAW played an important role in promoting women empowerment by conducting research and providing technical assistance on critical issues affecting women. This platform effectively performed for women economic empowerment and conducted research and provided technical assistance on issues such as women access to credit and finance, women entrepreneurship, and gender-responsive budgeting. Meanwhile INSTRAW supported women political participation by providing training and technical assistance on issues such as women leadership, political campaigning, and electoral systems. Additionally through this platform conducted different researches and provided technical assistance on issues related to

harassment, domestic violence and trafficking of girls and women. Despite its important contributions to the field of gender equality and women empowerment, INSTRAW was closed in 2010 due to funding cuts. Its work has since been taken over by other UN agencies and programs, including UN Women (Menon, 2015).

CEDAW

CEDAW is a worldwide treaty accepted and adopted by the UN assembly in December 19, 1979. All UN 189 member states bound to adopt and apply CEDAW treaties with true spirit. It aims to eradicate discrimination against women and promote gender equality. CEDAW does not provide an explicit, comprehensive definition of sex-based discrimination, while article 1 of the convention broadly describes discrimination against girls and women.

The convention emphasizes the importance of eliminating discrimination against women in various spheres of life, including social, cultural, political, and economic rights. It recognizes that discrimination against women can be both intentional and unintentional, and that it may occur in various forms, such as legal, social, and customary practices.

CEDAW obligate to take suitable steps to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality in their respective countries. It calls for the adoption of administrative, legislative and other steps to address discriminatory practices and ensure equal rights and chances for girls and women in all spheres of life (Rehof, 1993). However, there is still much work to be done to eliminate discrimination against women and promote their full participation in society.

World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women Denmark 1980

Copenhagen, Denmark played host to a global assembly of people in 1980 where 45 member countries gathered for the second World Conference of the UN which ran from 1976 to 1985, was commemorated with this summit to mark its midpoint. The conference's overarching goal was to improve women access to education, employment, and political representation around the globe, hence the topic of "Equality, Development, and Peace." (Ghodsee. 2010)

There were many important outcomes from the session and it allowed women all across the world to have their opinions heard. Women in positions of power and activism as well as grassroots organizers from all over the world gathered for this conference to exchange ideas and experiences. The declaration was a complete plan to promote women rights and empowerment, was adopted as a result of the conference. The proclamation demanded more funding for women education, healthcare, and other social services and more women

representation at all levels of government. It helped to raise responsiveness of women issues and mobilize support for women empowerment. The conference received extensive media coverage and generated significant public attention, which helped to bring women issues to the front of the global agenda. Thus, the conference was a pivotal moment in the women right history. It helped to galvanize support for women empowerment and paved the way for further progress in the years and decades that followed (Bunch, 2012).

Here are some ways in which the conference contributed to the promotion of women social and political empowerment: The conference asserted the principles of the (CEDAW) and emphasized the need to encourage and defend women human rights and called for an end to all forms of discernment against girls and women. Meanwhile, the conference addressed a series of key problems related to women political and social empowerment, including education, health, employment and women participation in decision making. It recognized the importance of addressing these issues in order to overcome gender discrimination and enhance women empowerment. Meanwhile, the conference emphasized the importance of women participation in at all level of society and access to resources equally. It called for greater participation of women in social and political spheres and emphasized the need to remove barriers that prevented women from participating fully. Moreover, the conference highlighted the women role and contributions that make to society and the economy. It recognized the importance of valuing women work, both paid and unpaid, and called for greater recognition of women contributions to development.

In the end of conference all participated countries emphasized the need for global cooperation to strengthen women socially and politically. It called for increased support for women organizations and the establishment of international networks to share knowledge and best practices. However, the conference was a significant event that contributed to the advancement of women social and political empowerment. It affirmed women rights, addressed key issues related to women empowerment, encouraged women participation, highlighted women contributions to society, and strengthened international cooperation on women issues.

Nairobi (1985)

The third conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1985. The conference was part of the UN Decade for Women, which aimed to ensure women empowerment and gender equality with the support of international community and member states (Bonfiglioli, 2016).

The conference contributed to the promotion of women social and political empowerment. Women participation in economic, political and social decision-making was highlighted as a key area for improvement at this conference. It urged action to guarantee women participation all sphere of life and representation at all levels of politics. The importance of women economic empowerment in achieving gender parity was highlighted at the conference. Equal wages or pay for equal work was also a priority, along with expanding women access to vocational training and higher education. Meanwhile, the conference focused on ending violence against women through discussing the subject and recommending solutions to the problem. It acknowledged that violence against women constituted an injustice that impeded their ability to achieve equality.

The importance of health was underlined, and steps were urged for to increase women access to healthcare and services on reproductive health. The all members of conference recognized the connection between women health and the economy. Hence, the conference urged greater international cooperation on women concerns and highlighted the need of exchanging information and ideas. It acknowledged the need for concerted international effort to advance women rights and gender parity. Moreover, the conference was landmark gathering that advanced the cause of women emancipation in many spheres, including the political and social. Women rights, economic independence, the betterment of women health, and increased international collaboration were all stressed.

Cairo (1994)

The ICPD was held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, and was attended by representatives of 179 countries. The conference focused on the linkages between population, development, and women empowerment, and produced a landmark Programme of Action that recognized the importance of women empowerment as a key factor in achieving sustainable development (Van Enk, 1994).

ICPD proceeding was land mark, countries representatives highlighted many women issues and suggested suitable factors to overcome women issues in society meanwhile committed to provide equal opportunities to women in all spheres of society. Conference proceeding was also focused on reproductive health and rights were identified by the ICPD as crucial to women empowerment. The right of women to make decisions their own health was recognized in the Programme of Action, which advocated for access to services of reproductive health, family planning and reproductive health services. Moreover, the ICPD recognized the role of education in advancing gender equality and asked for more

opportunities for girls and women to pursue higher education and vocational training. The Programme of Action recognized the importance of education in achieving equality in gender and empowering the girls and women in all spheres of society, including the political, economic, and social spheres.

The conference participants highlighted the value of women economic empowerment in attaining sustainable development. Since the Programme of Action acknowledged that women economic empowerment was crucial to their full involvement in society, it called for steps to promote women access to finance, land, and other resources. The ICPD member states advocated for the elimination of discrimination and violence against women on the basis of gender. Education, jobs, and political engagement were just a few of the areas where the action plan stressed the importance of promoting gender equality. Meanwhile the ICPD members advocated for more global collaboration on population and development concerns and highlighted the value of exchanging information and expertise. The plan of action acknowledged the need for coordinated global effort to sustainable growth for women.

Thus, the ICPD as a whole was a pivotal gathering that aided in the advancement of women rights. It highlighted the significance of education, economic empowerment, gender equality, international collaboration, and women reproductive health and rights in attaining sustainable development and ensuring women empowerment.

Beijing (1995)

The conference was held in Beijing, China in 1995, and was joined by representatives of 189 states. The conference plan, which is considered one of the most inclusive international for women empowerment (Pavlic, 2000).

The conference attributed to women, especially the rights of women were acknowledged as human rights, and forum strongly demanded an end to all forms of violence and discrimination against women. Women economic, social, and political engagement, education, health, and human rights are only some of the key areas of concern mentioned in the forum for the empowerment of women. The conference members urged minimizing the gender gap in education and increasing educational services for women. The Platform acknowledged that education was crucial to women empowerment, and it pushed for the eradication of gender norms and the promotion of gender-sensitive teaching methods. Meanwhile the conference emphasized the importance of women economic empowerment and called for policies to increase women access to capital, credit, and markets. The Platform also demanded equal access to jobs and social protections for women and acknowledged

women unpaid work. The conference members highlighted the importance of women political empowerment for attaining gender equality and urged for the encouragement of women participation at all level of political spheres. The Platform advocated for steps to be taken to boost the participation of women in across all spheres of society and the economy.

International collaboration to advance women empowerment and gender equality was deemed crucial in the Beijing Platform for Action. The conference member states agreed in international collaboration to enhance women empowerment and reduce gender gap at local and regional level. All the members acknowledged the importance of global alliances and solidarity across women groups and networks. Overall, the conference was a watershed moment in history that greatly aided the cause of women social and political empowerment. Global efforts to advance women rights and empower women have been guided by the Beijing agreement, which provided a broad strategy framework for doing so.

Beijing + 5 (2000)

The Beijing +5 was a significant session of the UN assembly that was held in 2000 to appraisal progress made since the forth conference of Beijing in 1995 (Pavlic, 2000).

Beijing +5 contributed to women social and political empowerment: as Beijing +5 summit was a chance to evaluate the progress and how far the plan have come since its inception. In order to accelerate up the process of achieving gender equality, the session offered solutions to the problems that have arisen throughout the Platform for Action's implementation. The conference promoting gender equality was seen as crucial to ensuring sustainable development, and the commitment to women human rights was reaffirmed at Beijing +5. The session pushed for women social, economic and political emancipation and the end of any discrimination against them.

Meanwhile promoting women participation in all social and political level was a central theme of Beijing +5, which acknowledged that women political empowerment was crucial to achieving gender equality. The seminar discussed how to encourage more women to take up leadership roles in public, nonprofit, and private organizations. Additionally, Beijing +5 underlined the importance of ending all forms of violence against girls and women. Legal and regulatory reforms, support services for survivors were all mentioned throughout the session as ways to combat and end violence. The conference members committed to gender mainstream and necessity of including girls and women in all facets of policy and practice was highlighted during Beijing +5. In order to ensure that gender analysis and gender impact

assessment are conducted in all fields, the session advocated methods to incorporate gender views into all policies, programs, and projects.

Overall, the Beijing +5 summit was a watershed moment in the movement toward greater social and political equality for women. The event was a chance to assess how far we have come in achieving gender parity since the declaration adopted, and to discuss how to speed up the process.

Millennium Development Goals (2000)

The MDGs were set lives of people around the world (Ogato, 2013). While the MDGs did not specifically address women empowerment, achieving the goals had a positive impact on women social and political empowerment in several ways:

The second Millennium Development Goal was to provide primary school education to all children. This goal greatly influenced the educational opportunities available to girls and the degree to which girls and boys were treated equally in schools. Increasing women access to education is crucial to empowering them as learners and as economic participants. Goal 5 of the MDG focused on enhancing maternal health by decreasing the rate of maternal death. Women health and well-being were directly impacted by this objective, as it increased access to maternal health services and decreased the risk of maternal mortality. Promoting women social and economic empowerment requires addressing many issues, one of which is maternal health. Meanwhile, MDG 3's focus on advancing gender parity and enabling women was intentional. This objective provides a framework for reducing gender gaps in areas such as access to school, employment, and political engagement.

The first Millennium Development Goal (MDG) was to end world hunger and extreme poverty. Because poverty disproportionately affects women and hinders their access to school and employment, this objective helped to increase women economic chances. However, the MDGs promoted gender equality, enhanced access to education and maternity health services, and expanded economic possibilities for women, all of which contributed to greater social and political empowerment of women. The MDGs provided a crucial foundation for boosting women empowerment and supporting sustainable development; thus more work has to be done to attain gender equality.

(SDGs) 2015

The SDGs were adopted by the UN in 2015 as a set of 17 worldwide goals aimed at ending poverty, promoting sustainable development, and protecting the planet. Women

empowerment and gender equality are integrated across all 17 goals, recognizing the crucial role of women in achieving sustainable development (Reshi and Sudha, 2022).

The SDGs specifically address women social and political empowerment in several ways including goal 5 is to achieve parity between the sexes and the empowerment of girls and women. This objective seeks to ensure that every girl and women have access to basic rights and services like education, healthcare, and legal protection, and to remove all forms of discrimination against women. Meanwhile, goal 10 agreed that we will work to lessen disparities between and within nations. This objective seeks to decrease gaps in access to resources and opportunities for marginalized groups, especially women, and acknowledges the interconnectedness of gender with other kinds of discrimination such as race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic position. Additionally, goal 16 focused on sustainable development in peaceful and inclusive society. This objective acknowledges the value of women leadership in creating peaceful and inclusive communities. It encourages women and girls to have an active role in society and politics, and it demands an end to all types of violence against them.

However, by providing a framework for advancing gender equality and tackling the core causes of gender-based discrimination and inequality, the SDGs have the potential to significantly contribute to women social and political empowerment. However, the SDGs can only be realized with robust political will, sufficient resources, and women active engagement.

United Nations (UN-Women)

Its promote and empower the women worldwide. UN-Women is the UN entity and works with governments, Social organizations, and other partners to support initiatives that advance women rights and gender equality (Women, 2014).

UN-Women advocates at the global, regional, and national levels. They work with governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to develop and implement policies and legislation that promote women's empowerment. Meanwhile, UN-Women focuses on promoting women economic empowerment by supporting women's entrepreneurship, access to finance and markets, and promoting equal opportunities for women in the workforce. They work towards reducing the gender wage gap and improving women's access to decent work and economic resources. Similarly, UN-Women lead global efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. They work with governments, civil society organizations, and communities to develop and implement comprehensive strategies to address gender-based violence, support survivors, and promote

legal and policy reforms. Furthermore, UN-Women support women political participation and leadership at all levels. They advocate for increased women's representation in decision-making bodies, support capacity-building programs for women in politics, and promote women's involvement in peace building and conflict resolution processes.

UN-Women also playing a vital role in promoting gender mainstreaming which involves integrating a gender perspective into all policies and programs. They work to ensure that gender considerations are taken into account in various sectors, such as education, health, and the environment. Additionally, UN-Women support the collection and analysis of gender data to inform evidence-based policymaking. Additionally, UN-Women work in collaboration with other UN agencies, governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. They facilitate partnerships, coordinate efforts, and mobilize resources to support gender-responsive programming and initiatives. Overall, UN-Women serves as a global champion for women's rights and empowerment, working towards creating a more equitable and inclusive world for women and girls.

(CSW)

CSW was emerged in 1946 to advance global gender parity and women rights; the CSW is an official UN agency. The Beijing agreement adopted by the United Nations in 1995 that lays out a comprehensive agenda for the empowerment of women, the CSW is responsible for monitoring the implementation of this agreement. Each year, the CSW gathers to report on their findings and provide recommendations for furthering gender equality (Bent, 2013).

(IWD)

To honor women in all walks of life and to promote gender equality in the workplace, in politics, in the arts, and in everyday life. Since 1975, International Women Day has been an official United Nations celebration thanks to the UN's efforts to promote it (Granirer, 2016). International Women Day has its roots in the labor and women's rights movements of the early 20th century. It emerged as a result of women demands for better working conditions, suffrage, and equal rights. First time this day observed in New York (1909), when American socialist party protested again poor working condition of women garment workers.

International Women Day serves as a platform to highlight and address gender inequalities that persist worldwide. It raises awareness about the need for gender parity in various spheres of life, including politics, education, employment, healthcare, and more. It calls for action to address issues such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and the gender pay gap. Meanwhile, this day is an occasion to celebrate the social, political, economic and cultural

attainments of women. It recognizes the contributions of women in various fields, including science, arts, sports, politics, business, and community leadership. It provides an opportunity to honor the inspiring women who have paved the way for progress and to showcase role models for future generations. Moreover, this day is a platform for advocating for women's rights and equality. It brings attention to the challenges and barriers that women face, promotes women's empowerment, and highlights the importance of equal opportunities and treatment for women and girls. It encourages individuals, organizations, and governments to take action towards achieving gender equality. Meanwhile this universal day is a day of global solidarity, bringing together people from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds to stand united for gender equality. It fosters international cooperation and collaboration to address gender disparities, create inclusive societies, and promote women's rights worldwide. While progress has been made in advancing women's rights and gender equality, significant challenges remain. International Women Day serves as a reminder that the fight for gender equality is ongoing. It inspires individuals and organizations to continue working towards creating a world where women and girls can enjoy equal rights, opportunities, and freedoms. Hence, this international is a significant global observance that raises awareness, celebrates achievements, advocates for gender equality, and mobilizes action towards creating a more inclusive and equitable world for all.

Table: World Top 10 Countries Representaiaon in Parliament

Rank	Country	Lower or Single House				Upper Chamber			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W	Electio n	Sea ts	Women	% W
1	Rwanda	09.2018	80	49	61.3	09.201 9	26	9	34.6
2	Cuba	03.2018	586	313	53.4	-	-	-	-
3	Nicaragus	11.2021	91	47	51.7	-	-	-	-
4	New Zealand	10.2020	119	60	50.4	-	-	-	-
5	Mexico	06.2021	500	250	50.0	07.201 8	128	63	49.2
6	U.A.E	10.2019	40	20	50.0	-	-	-	-
7	Iceland	09.2021	63	30	47.6	-	-	-	-
8	Costa Rica	02.2022	57	27	47.4	-	-	-	-
9	South Africa	05.2019	400	184	46.5	05.201 9	54	20	37.0
10	Andorra	04.2019	28	46.4	-	-	-	-	-

Sourece: IPU of December, 2022

Rwanda

Rwanda located in East Africa and has implemented various measures to empower women in parliament and increase their representation and participation in politics. Rwanda has a legal quota system that requires political parties to ensure that women hold at least 30% of their nominations for parliamentary seats. This has been effective in increasing women representation in parliament since it was first implemented in 2003 (Powley, 2005). Meanwhile, Rwanda has established women caucuses in both the lower and upper houses of parliament. These caucuses provide a platform for women parliamentarians to discuss issues affecting women and to coordinate efforts to promote gender equality. The government of Rwanda has provided training and support to women parliamentarians to help them develop

their skills and knowledge of parliamentary procedures. This includes training on public speaking, negotiation, and advocacy.

Outreach: Rwanda has also undertaken outreach programs to encourage women to participate in politics and to vote. These programs have included awareness campaigns and education on women rights and the importance of women participation in decision-making. These measures have contributed to the high level of women representation in Rwanda parliament. As of December 2022, women held 61.3% of seats in the lower house of parliament (IPU, 2022).

Cuba

It is located south of the US and east of Mexico Yucatan Peninsula. To its north lies the Atlantic Ocean, and to its south lies the Caribbean Sea.

Cuba has implemented various measures to empower women socially, economically and politically in parliament and increase their representation and participation in politics (Nenitez et al., 2020). The Cuban government has implemented quotas for women representation in parliament. The (NAPP) has a target of 50% female representation, and as of 2022, women held 53.4% of the seats in the ANPP (Bell, 2022). Additionally, Cuba has a strong education system that has contributed to increasing women participation in politics. The country has high literacy rates, and women are well-represented in higher education. Moreover, the Cuban Women Federation (FMC) is a national organization that represents the interests of women in Cuba. The FMC has played a significant role in increasing women participation in politics and supporting women who hold elected positions. Moreover, Cuba has implemented policies to promote women employment, including equal pay for equal work, maternity leave, and flexible work arrangements. These policies have helped to create a more gender-equal society and have contributed to women representation in parliament.

Nicaragua

Nicaragua located in Central America and has implemented various measures to empower women in parliament and increase their representation and participation in politics. Some of these measures are:

Nicaragua has implemented a quota system for women representation in parliament. The country's electoral law requires that at least 50% of party candidates for national and municipal elections must be women (Hinojosa and Gurdian, 2012). Additionally, Nicaragua has a strong network of women organizations that support women participation in politics.

These organizations provide training and support to women candidates and elected officials (Chinchilla, 1990). Nicaragua has made significant investments in education, including the development of women in kind of health, their infrastructures and education, contributed a lot to develop theory girls (Gitter and Barham, 2008). Furthermore, Nicaragua has implemented measures to address violence against women, including the establishment of special courts to prosecute cases of violence against women. These measures have helped to create a safer environment for women to participate in politics (Grose and Grabe, 2014). Consequently, these measures have contributed to the high level of women representation in Nicaragua's parliament. As per IPU ranking December 2022, women held 51.7% of the seats in the Lower House.

New Zealand

New Zealand consisting of two main islands, North and South (Southwestern) Pacific Ocean, Australia is approximately 1,500 kilometers (930 miles) east of Australia across the Tasman Sea. New Zealand government has implemented various measures to enable women in parliament and increase their representation and participation in politics. New Zealand political parties have voluntarily implemented quotas for women representation in parliament. As per IPU report 2022, women held 50.4% of the seats in the country's parliament (Casey et al., 2011).

New Zealand has implemented policies to support working parents, including parental leave and flexible work arrangements. These policies have helped to create a more family-friendly work environment and have encouraged women participation in politics. Furthermore, state has taken steps to address gender pay inequality, including the establishment of the Gender Pay Principles and the implementation of pay equity settlements in the public sector. These measures have helped to create a more gender-equal society and have contributed to women representation in parliament. Meanwhile, New Zealand has a strong network of women organizations that support women participation in politics. These organizations provide training and support to women candidates and elected officials.

Mexico

Mexico is located near bordered of North America and to the south and west by the Pacific Ocean. Mexico has taken several steps to empower women and increase their participation in political assemblies. The Mexico parliament passed a gender parity law in 2014, which requires that women make up at least 50% of candidates for both federal and local elections.

This law aims to increase the representation of women in politics and decision-making (Baldez, 2004).

Political parties in Mexico stress to provide maximum women participation in political system and they ensure their candidates women in country election. This has led to an increase in the number of women running for office and being elected (Piscopo, 2016). Meanwhile, Mexico has a National Women Institute (INMUJERES), which is responsible for promoting women empowerment in decision making and access to resources equally. The institute provides training and support for women who want to run for office and works to increase the participation of women in political assemblies. Furthermore, the Mexican government has a Women Political Participation Program, which provides technical assistance, training, and financial support to women who want to run for office (Klesner, 2007). Similarly, Mexico has also taken steps to address violence against women in politics. The government has implemented a protocol for addressing gender-based violence in politics and has established a hotline for women who have experienced political violence (Pick et al., 2006) as per IPU ranking December 2022, Mexico women held 50 percent seats of the seats in the New Zealand parliament (lower house).

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The UAE is located bordering of Persian and Oman Gulf in the Middle East. The UAE has made significant progress in empowering women and increasing their participation in the assembly. The UAE has set a goal of having women comprise 50% of the Federal National Council (FNC) by 2021. As of 2019, women held 22.5% of the seats in the FNC, up from just 1.5% in 2006. The government has also appointed women to key positions, including the Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing and the Minister of State for Advanced Sciences (Carvalho, 2019).

The UAE has made significant progress in promoting women economic participation. The country has introduced several initiatives to support women entrepreneurs, including the launch of the Dubai Businesswomen Council and the Abu Dhabi Businesswomen Council. In addition, the UAE government has introduced legislation to support working women, including paid maternity leave and anti-discrimination laws. As of December 2022, IPU ranking women held 50% of the seats in the country's parliament (lower house) (Al Khayyal et al., 2020).

Meanwhile, the UAE government has made significant progress in promoting education for girls and women. Today, women make up the majority of university graduates in the UAE,

and the government has invested heavily in promoting STEM education for girls. In addition, the country has introduced a number of initiatives to support working mothers, including the establishment of nurseries in the workplace (Madsen and Cook, 2010).

Iceland

Iceland is located in the North Atlantic Ocean, northwest of the UK and southeast of Greenland. Iceland is considered most gender balanced country in the world and has taken significant steps to enable women and increase their participation in politics and decision-making processes. In 2008, Iceland government passed a gender quota law that requires public and private companies with 25 or more employees to have at least 40% women on their boards. Consequently, this law has helped to increase women representation in corporate leadership and has had a spill-over effect on women representation in politics (Arnardottir and Sigurjonsson, 2017). Moreover, the state has also taken significant steps to ensure equal pay for women. The Land of Ice equal pay every three years. Iceland has a long tradition of women participation in politics, and currently, women hold 41% of seats in Iceland's parliament. Iceland was also the first country in the world to elect a female president, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir (Vigdís Finnbogadóttir), in 1980 (Koester, 1995). Meanwhile, Iceland has taken a strong stance against gender-based violence, and in 2018, passed a law that makes it illegal to pay women less than men for the same job. The country has also implemented a number of initiatives to support victims of gender-based violence, including a 24-hour hotline for victims of domestic abuse (Jonsdottir, 2020). Consequently, of these significant steps taken by state, the country ranking in IPU has increased and as of December 2022, women held 47.6% of seats in the lower house of parliament.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica is located in Central America and has a long tradition of women political representation and was the first country in Latin America to have a female president, Laura Chinchilla, who served from 2010 to 2014. As per IPU ranking December 2022, women held 47.4% of the seats in the Lower House (Sagot, 2010). Costa Rica has implemented a number of policies to promote gender equality, including a national policy on gender equality and a national action plan on gender-based violence. The country has also introduced legislation to protect women from discrimination and violence. Meanwhile, government of the Costa Rica has implemented a number of initiatives to support women economic empowerment, including the establishment of a national network of women business centers and the introduction of tax incentives for companies that promote gender equality in the workplace.

South Africa

South Africa has taken significant steps to empower women and increase their participation in politics and decision-making processes. South Africa has constitutions that discourage gender discrimination and enhance women representation in politics. The country has a quota system that requires political parties to have at least 50% women on their candidate lists for elections. As per IPU ranking December 2022, women held 46.5% of the seats in the Lower House (Goetz, 1998). Moreover, South Africa has implemented a number of initiatives to address gender-based violence, including the establishment of specialized courts to deal with gender-based violence cases and the introduction of legislation to protect women rights. Meanwhile, South Africa has implemented a number of initiatives to support women economic empowerment, including the establishment of a national fund to support women entrepreneurs and the introduction of tax incentives for companies that promote gender equality in the workplace.

Andorra

Andorra is a small country located between the mountains of France and Spain. The Andorran parliament, known as the General Council, has a unicameral structure and consists of 28 members. However, women participation in the Andorran parliament has historically been low. According to the IPU data (as of December 2021), women hold only 13 out of the 28 seats in the Andorran parliament, representing 46.4% of the total seats, however this is a significant increase from the 2009 election, when no women were elected to the parliament (Heath-Brown, 2015).

Pakistan

Pakistan stands 112 ranking in term women representation, Lower 20.5 percent and upper house 19 percent. According (IPU) data as of December 2022, women hold 70 out of the 342 seats in the upper house of Pakistan, representation 20.5% of the total seats (Bano, 2009). This marks a slight increase from the previous parliamentary term, where women held 69 seats in the National Assembly. However, there is still a significant gender gap in the representation of women in the Pakistani parliament. Pakistan has implemented some initiatives to address this issue, including the introduction of a quota system in 2002 that reserves a certain number of seats for women in the parliament and local government bodies. However, these measures have faced some challenges in practice, including opposition from conservative and patriarchal elements.

Conclusion

Various countries have implemented different strategies to enhance women participation in their respective parliaments. Many countries have introduced gender quotas or reserved seats for women in parliament. Quotas can be either voluntary party quotas, where political parties commit to nominating a certain percentage of female candidates, or legislated quotas, where laws mandate a specific number or percentage of seats to be reserved for women. These measures aim to increase women representation and overcome barriers to their entry into politics. Similarly, some countries have introduced electoral reforms that support women representation, such as proportional representation systems or preferential voting. These systems often lead to more diverse and inclusive parliaments. While countries may also adopt gender-sensitive legislation that promotes women rights and addresses gender disparities in various spheres, encouraging women to participate in political life.

Meanwhile, political parties play a crucial role in candidate selection. Providing support and training for female candidates within political parties can help in increasing the number of women running for office and improve their chances of being elected.

Women participation in Parliament: A Historical overview

1st Constituent Assembly 1947-1954

In Pakistan, the first constituent assembly was formed in 1947, following the India independence from British colonial rule. While there were no women members elected to the Constituent Assembly, there were a few women who were appointed to serve as advisers and advocates for women rights. The assembly was comprised of 69 parliament members, of whom only two women (Shaista Suhrawardy & Jahanara Shahnawaz) served from 1947-1954 (MN Shahzad, 2022)

Begum Shaista Suhrawardy was a prominent Pakistani politician and diplomat who played a significant role in the early years of Pakistan political landscape. She was born on 1915, in Calcutta, British India (now Kolkata, India), and passed away on December 11, 2000, in Islamabad, Pakistan. (Pirbhai, 2016) Shaista hailed from a distinguished family of scholars and intellectuals, she did PhD from University of London and she was first Pakistani who earned PhD from UOL, meanwhile she was author of three books. Her married with Sir Muhammad Ikramullah, was a renowned educationist and scholar. Shaista political career began in the pre-partition era when she joined the AIML the political party that played a crucial role in the making of Pakistan. She actively participated in the Pakistan Movement and worked alongside notable leaders such as Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan.

During this time, she also worked as a secretary for the All-India Muslim Women Conference.

Since the creation of Pakistan 1947, she became a member of the assembly of Pakistan, which was tasked with framing the country constitution. She played an instrumental role in advocating for women rights and strongly opposed discrimination among gender in the assembly. Her efforts led to the inclusion of several provisions in the constitution that safeguarded women rights and promoted their social and political empowerment. In 1953, she was appointed Pakistan's delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, becoming the first Pakistani woman to hold a diplomatic position (Adami, 2022) during her tenure at the UN, she passionately advocated for decolonization, women rights, and peace.

Begum Shaista Ikramullah remained active in politics throughout her life, she was ambassador for Morocco from 1964 to 1967, moreover she mobilized women in the 1960s and 1970s (Awan, 2020). She was known for her unwavering commitment to women rights, education, and social welfare. She actively championed causes related to gender equality, literacy, and healthcare. Her contributions to women empowerment in Pakistan were significant, and she was considered a trailblazer for future generations of women in politics. In recognition of her services, Shaista Ikramullah was awarded the prestigious Nishan-e-Imtiaz by Benazir Bhutto former Prime Minister of Pakistan in 1988. She also received numerous other accolades and honors during her lifetime. Begum Shaista political biography showcases her pioneering role as a female politician in Pakistan and her tireless efforts to promote gender equality and women rights. Her legacy continues to inspire women in Pakistan and serves as a testament to the transformative power of political engagement and social activism.

Another member of 2nd constituent assembly Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz was an active member of the AIML and played a significant role in the Pakistan movement. She was known for her advocacy of women rights and social welfare issues. Shahnawaz also actively participated in the drafting of the Pakistani constitution and worked towards the inclusion of women rights in the country's legal framework. During her tenure in the Legislative Assembly, Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz worked on various legislative matters, including women empowerment, education, and health. She was a vocal advocate for women suffrage and worked towards improving the status and rights of women in Pakistani society. Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz contributions to the early years of Pakistan's political landscape were significant, particularly in championing women rights and advocating for social welfare reforms (Ali, 2008). However, there were no women members elected to the first Constituent

Assembly of Pakistan, there were still women who played important roles in advocating for women rights and representation. Their contributions helped to pave the way for future generations of women to enter politics and make their voices heard in the Assembly and beyond.

2nd Constituent Assembly: 1955-1958

The second Constituent Assembly of Pakistan was formed in 1955, after the country's first Constituent Assembly was dissolved. This Assembly also had no women participation.

3rd National Assembly of Pakistan: 1962-1964

Women participation in the 3rd assembly of Pakistan in 1962-1964 was limited but significant. Two women were elected to the national parliament during this period, they were Begum Shamsun Nahar, Begum Hamida and six women were the part of parliament on reserved seats.

Begum Shamsun Nahar Mahmood was a prominent political figure in Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) during the early years of its formation. Born on 1908, in Kolkata, British India (now Kolkata, India), she played an active role in the political and social movements that shaped the region. She became a member of National Assembly after election of 1962.

During the partition of India in 1947, East Bengal (which later became East Pakistan and eventually Bangladesh) faced immense challenges due to the influx of refugees and political tensions. Begum Shamsun Nahar Mahmood actively participated in addressing these challenges, working alongside her husband to provide relief and support to the affected population.

After the establishment of Pakistan, Shamsun Nahar Mahmood continued her involvement in politics and social welfare activities. She played a significant role in the formation of the East Pakistan Women Association, which aimed to promote women rights and empowerment. The association worked towards ensuring better healthcare, education, and economic opportunities for women in East Pakistan.

Begum Shamsun Nahar Mahmood's political career was cut short by her untimely death in 1964. Her contributions to the political and social advancement of women in East Pakistan were significant, and she remains an inspiration for subsequent generations of women politicians in Bangladesh.

Another elected member of 3rd assembly Begum Hamida was a prominent political figure in Pakistan during the early years of its history. She served as a member of the Pakistan

assembly in 1962, representing her constituency and actively participating in legislative activities.

Begum Hamida political career began during a crucial period in Pakistan's history. In 1962, the country was under the rule of General Ayub Khan, who had implemented a new constitution and established a presidential system of government.

As a member of parliament, she played a crucial role in representing the interests and concerns of her constituents and participated in the parliamentary debates and decision-making processes. Begum Hamida Mohammad Ali would have been involved in discussions on various issues, including socio-political matters, economic policies, and development initiatives.

4th Assembly 1965-1969

The 4th national parliament of Pakistan was in session from 1965 to 1969. During this period, there were six women were elected on reserved seats and participated in the assembly, but their representation was very limited (Jabeen, 2021).

Begum Mariam Hashimuddin Ahmed was a member of parliament in 1965; she has focused on women empowerment and social welfare initiatives. She has advocated for policies that aimed to uplift marginalized communities and improve access to education and healthcare (Shahzad & others, 2022) Meanwhile, Begum Razia Faiz could have played a significant role in advocating for women rights, even she was elected on reserved seat but she contributed towards gender equality, bringing attention to issues such as women education, employment, and social empowerment (Khanom & Selim, 2022).

Another member of parliament, Begum Dolly Azad contribution might have been in the realm of social welfare, particularly in the areas of poverty alleviation, healthcare, and community development. She worked on initiatives to improve the living conditions of underprivileged communities. Begum Mujeeb-un-nisa Mohammad Akram contribution may have focused on education and women rights. She has pushed for policies that aimed to increase access to education, particularly for girls and women, and worked towards empowering women in various aspects of society. Begum Khadija Khan background as a member of the T.Pk. (Tehreek-i-Pakistan) suggests that her contribution centered around the political ideology and goals of the party. She has worked towards promoting the party agenda, which could have included issues such as national unity, economic development, and social justice. Begum Zari Sarfraz has focused on social welfare and community development. She initiated projects aimed at improving healthcare facilities, infrastructure,

and other areas that contributed to the overall well-being of her constituents where she belongs, even she was a member of parliament on reserved seats.

Despite their limited representation, these women legislators played significant role Pakistan parliament proceedings and contributed to the national political and social development. They were pioneers in breaking the gender barrier in Pakistani politics and paved the way for other women to participate in the country's democratic process.

1969 LFO by General Yahya Khan

(LFO) introduced by General Yahya in 1969, 13 seats were reserved for women in national assembly; these seats were filled in parliament through subsidiary elections (Syed, 2015). These women played an important role in advocating for women rights and promoting policies related to education, healthcare, and social welfare. It is worth noting that the reserved seats system faced criticism for limiting women political participation and reinforcing patriarchal attitudes and power structures. Women were often viewed as "token" representatives, and their ability to influence policy was limited by their lack of access to other seats in the National Assembly (Khan, 2017).

Despite these limitations, the reserved seats system did provide some opportunities for women to participate in politics and make their voices heard. It paved the way for further progress in women political rights in Pakistan, including the eventual establishment of direct elections for women to the National Assembly.

5th National Assembly of Pakistan: 1972-1977

The 5th National Assembly of Pakistan was in session from 1972 to 1977. This was the first assembly after the separation of East Pakistan (Bengal), in which women were given reserved seats to ensure their participation in the democratic process. During this period, six women elected on reserved seats and additionally one woman (Mrs. Najma Andrews) became part of assembly on minority seat and contributed to the country's political and social development. (Hussain, 2022)

6th National Assembly of Pakistan (28 March 1977 to 5 July 1977)

On 6th ten women members were became a part of National Assembly, while Begum Naseem Abdul Wali and Begum were won on direct general seats in 1977. This assembly period was very limited; assembly did functional from March to July 1977. Begum Naseem was the first women who have been elected from NWFP however opposition parties boycott she could not oath as member of National Assembly.

7th Assembly 1985-1988

The 7th assembly of Pakistan was convened in 1985 and dissolved in 1988. The Assembly was composed of 237 members, of which 21 women were on reserved seats and two women were elected on general seats. It is worth noting that the 7th National Assembly was convened under the military regime of General Zia and its proceedings were subject to restrictions and censorship. Nevertheless, the participation of 21 women in the Assembly was a significant increase from the previous Assembly and represented a growing recognition of women role in politics (Begum, I., & Jamal, S. 2021).

During the period from 1985 to 1988 in Pakistan, women political participation in parliament remained limited, and women faced significant challenges in advocating for women rights and promoting policies related to gender equality. In 1985, a non-party caretaker government was established in Pakistan, which paved the way for general elections the following year. However, women representation in the National Assembly remained limited, with only a small number of women elected to the general seats and no reserved seats for women.

Despite the limited representation of women in parliament during this period, some women parliamentarians continued to work for women rights and empowerment. For example, in 1986, Benazir Bhutto, who later became the Prime Minister of Pakistan, introduced the Women Protection Bill, which sought to improve legal protections for women and strengthen punishments for crimes such as rape and domestic violence (Mumtaz, 2009).

However, the Women Protection Bill faced significant opposition from conservative elements within Pakistani society and was ultimately defeated in parliament. Women parliamentarians who spoke out on women issues during this period often faced harassment and intimidation, both within and outside of parliament (Zaidi, 2018). However, some progress was made during this period in terms of women political participation and advocacy for women rights, significant barriers to women full and equal participation in politics remained in place.

8th Assembly 1988-1990

The 8th assembly of Pakistan was convened in 1988 and dissolved in 1990. The Assembly was composed of 237 members, of which 20 were women the part of parliament on reserved seats and four women elected through direct election. In the 1988 elections, women were given reserved seats in the National Assembly for the first time, and a total of 24 women were the part of parliament including dynamic personality and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto. (Haider, S. K., & Ali, S. S. 2018).

Benazir Bhutto was a prominent Pakistani politician and the first female PM of Pakistan. She was born into a political family, with her father, Zulfikar Bhutto, being a former PM of Pakistan. Benazir Bhutto's political career began in the late 1970s when she actively participated in her father's political party (PPP). She joined student protests against the military regime and advocated for democracy and human rights. After her father's execution in 1979, Benazir Bhutto became the leader of the PPP and played a significant role in mobilizing support for the party. Despite periods of house arrest and exile, she emerged as a prominent opposition leader and voice for democracy in Pakistan.

She served as the Prime Minister of Pakistan twice. Her first term was from 1988 to 1990, following the end of military rule. Her second term began in 1993 and was cut short by her dismissal in 1996. As Prime Minister, she worked towards socioeconomic reforms, improving education and healthcare, and empowering women. Bhutto's political career faced numerous challenges, including accusations of corruption and charges brought against her and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari. She went into self-imposed exile in 1999 and returned to Pakistan in 2007 to participate in the general elections. Tragically, on December 27, 2007, Bhutto was assassinated in a suicide attack while campaigning in Rawalpindi. Her assassination sent shockwaves throughout the nation and had a significant impact on Pakistani politics.

However, Benazir Bhutto was a strong advocate for women rights and their participation in politics. She actively promoted gender equality, sought to increase women representation in government, and worked towards removing barriers that hindered women's progress in Pakistani society. Bhutto was a vocal advocate for democracy and human rights in Pakistan. She fought against military dictatorship, pushed for the restoration of democracy, and worked towards establishing civil liberties, freedom of the press, and the rule of law. Bhutto aimed to improve the social conditions of the Pakistani people, especially for women. Her policies focused on poverty reduction, education reforms, healthcare accessibility, and infrastructure development.

One significant achievement during this period was the passage of the Women Protection Bill in 1989, which sought to improve legal protections for women and strengthen punishments for crimes such as rape and domestic violence. The bill was introduced by Benazir Bhutto and was passed by the National Assembly. In addition to advocating for women rights, women parliamentarians during this period also worked on issues related to social welfare and poverty reduction. For example, Naheed Khan, a member of the parliament, introduced

the Social Welfare Bill, which sought to provide support to vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly.

Thus, after the end of the military regime of General Zia-ul-Haq the period from 1988 to 1990 saw significant progress in terms of women political participation and advocacy for women rights in Pakistan, with women parliamentarians playing a key role in advancing these issues.

9th Assembly 1990-1993

The 9th Pakistan's parliament was convened in 1990 and dissolved in 1993. Benazir and Begum Nusrat were only two women who elected as member of National Assembly from general seats. Due to constitutional clause no women were elected on reserved seat, because reserved seats provision had terminated after three cycles of election (Syed & others 2015).

10th Assembly 1993-1996

The 10th national parliament was convened in 1993 and dissolved in 1996. Four women were elected as general seats including the two-time Prime Minister of Pakistan. (Begum, I., & Jamal, S. 2021). Benazir made history by becoming the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan. Her election marked a significant milestone for women empowerment and political representation in the country. Bhutto government focused on democratic reforms and aimed to strengthen democratic institutions. During her second tenure, she worked towards improving civil liberties, human rights, and the rule of law. She implemented various social and economic reforms during her tenure. She introduced policies aimed at poverty alleviation, education, healthcare, and women empowerment. Her government also initiated infrastructure development projects to stimulate economic growth. It's important to note that while Bhutto tenure had significant accomplishments, her time in office was also marked by controversies and challenges. The political landscape of that era was complex and involved multiple power struggles and allegations against various political actors.

11th Assembly 1997-1999

In 11th assembly six women were elected on general seats and served as Member of Parliament from 1997-1999 (Muhammad, S., & Shafiq, M. J. K. 2018). Women participation in the 11th National Assembly faced both challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, women continued to be a minority in a male-dominated political system, and faced discrimination and harassment from conservative groups who opposed their participation in politics. On the other hand, women in the Assembly were able to make some notable

contributions to legislation and policymaking. One significant achievement of women in the 11th parliament was the passage of the Hudood Ordinance Repeal Bill in 1997, which aimed to reform Pakistan's controversial Islamic laws relating to rape and adultery. The bill was introduced by a woman legislator, Yasmeen Rehman, and was passed with support from both male and female members of the Assembly (Mirza, N. 2011).

12th Assembly: 2002-2007

The 12th assembly of Pakistan was convened in 2002 and dissolved in 2007. The Assembly was composed of 342 members, of which 74 were women including 13 were elected on general seats (Jabeen 2021). Women participation in the 12th parliament faced both challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, women representation had increased compared to previous assemblies, and women were able to make some significant contributions to legislation and policymaking. On the other hand, women in the Assembly continued to face discrimination and harassment, and their participation in politics was often limited by patriarchal norms and structures. One significant achievement of women in the 12th National Assembly was the passage of the Women Protection Bill in 2006, which aimed to address violence against women and improve the legal framework for prosecuting such cases. The bill was introduced by a woman legislator, Marvi Memon, and was passed with support from both male and female members of the Assembly.

Women in the 12th National Assembly also helped to raise awareness about women issues and contribute to broader debates about social justice and human rights. Women participation in the Assembly helped to challenge patriarchal norms and expectations and paved the way for greater gender equality in politics and society. However, women in the 12th National Assembly also faced significant challenges, including harassment and discrimination from male colleagues and conservative groups. Some women legislators were excluded from decision-making processes and faced limited opportunities to advance their agendas.

Despite these challenges, women participation in the 12th National Assembly helped to establish a precedent for greater gender equality in politics in Pakistan. The Assembly paved the way for future generations of women leaders and helped to create a more inclusive and representative political system. When viewed over the course of five years, the number of interventions made by women lawmakers in the 12th parliament illustrates a steady increase in their level of participation with the passage of each succeeding year.

13th Assembly 2008-2013

The 13th National Assembly of Pakistan was elected in 2008 and dissolved in 2013. The Assembly had 342 members, of which 76 were women (Awan, 2016). This assembly saw an increase in women representation compared to previous assemblies. Women were able to make some significant contributions to legislation and policymaking and were able to challenge patriarchal norms and structures. However, women in the Assembly also faced challenges, including harassment and discrimination from male colleagues and conservative groups.

According to the FAFEN 2013 report 189 bills were submitted by parliamentarians and eighteen were passed during five years of 13th National Assembly. It is significant that majority (83%) bills were submitted by women legislators. This highlights the important role that women play in legislative decision-making and their contribution to addressing public issues. The bills also addressed a wide range of important issues, such as women rights, education, and improving government services. This reflects the diverse needs and concerns of the public that lawmakers must address in their legislative work. Additionally, report mentioned that 31 percent of members who moved resolutions in five years were women members are a positive indication of the increasing participation of women in the legislative process. It is essential that lawmakers work towards ensuring equal representation and opportunities for all members, regardless of gender, to effectively address the needs and concerns of their constituencies.

A comprehensive review of Parliament's performance from 2008-2013 shows that 216 legislators asked 16,056 questions, of which 55 female legislators asked 50.6% (8,138) of these questions and 161 male legislators asked the rest (49.49 %) asked questions. Similarly, out of a total of 94 members who moved motions under Rule 259, 34 of them were women MPs, which is 36 percent of the total. 21 of the 55 Members of Parliament (or 38%) responsible for moving topics of public concern to the Order of the Day were women (FAFEN, 2013). Only 22.5 percent of the seats in the 13th National Assembly were held by women legislators. However, as can be seen from the above data, women MPs have not only outperformed their male counterparts in most indicators of parliamentary performance, but they have also outperformed their male counterparts in various areas of the legislative body's work.

14th Assembly 2013-2018

The 14th National Assembly of Pakistan was elected on May 11, 2013, and dissolved on May 31, 2018. The Assembly had 342 members, of which 70 were women. The 14th National

Assembly of Pakistan saw an increase in women representation compared to previous assemblies, but women still faced significant challenges in terms of their participation and influence. Women in the Assembly were able to make some contributions to legislation and policymaking, but their voices were often marginalized, and they faced harassment and discrimination from male colleagues and conservative groups.

One significant achievement of women in the 14th National Assembly was the passage of the Anti-Rape and Anti-Honor Killing Bill in 2016. The bill aimed to address the rising number of honor killings and sexual violence against women in Pakistan and provided for strict punishments for offenders. Women in the 14th National Assembly also helped to raise awareness about women issues and contribute to broader debates about social justice and human rights. Women participation in the Assembly helped to challenge patriarchal norms and expectations and paved the way for greater gender equality in politics and society.

However, women in the 14th National Assembly also faced significant challenges, including harassment and discrimination from male colleagues and conservative groups. Some women legislators were excluded from decision-making processes and faced limited opportunities to advance their agendas. Despite these challenges, women participation in the 14th National Assembly helped to establish a precedent for greater gender equality in politics in Pakistan. The Assembly paved the way for future generations of women leaders and helped to create a more inclusive and representative political system.

In the 14th National Assembly, female parliamentarians maintained their role in the legislative branch. They participated in the gatherings of the assembly in an energetic and consistent manner. According to the data provided by FAFEN, there are a total of 12 legislators, five of whom are women, who have a record of attendance of 91 percent or higher. There were as many as 35 legislators, including 14 women, who had an attendance rate of between 81 and 90 percent. There were 74 legislators, including 17 women, who had an attendance rate of between 71 and 80 percent. Finally, there were four legislators, including one woman, who attended less than 10 percent of the sittings. In terms of legislation, a majority, or 56 percent (134) of the total 237 private member bills that were tabled were sponsored by women parliamentarians on reserved seats. During this time period, 194 parliamentarians utilized their ability to ask questions on the floor of the House, with 56 women lawmakers and 138 male lawmakers participating. 57 percent of these queries were asked by female legislators, while just 43 percent were asked by male lawmakers (FAFEN, 2019).

15th Assembly 2018 to onwards

The 15th National Assembly of Pakistan was elected on July 25, 2018, and is currently in session. The Assembly has 342 members, of which 69 are women. Women representation in the Assembly has increased compared to previous assemblies, but they continue to face significant challenges in terms of their participation and influence.

However, women in the 15th National Assembly also face significant challenges, including harassment and discrimination from male colleagues and conservative groups. Some women legislators have reported feeling marginalized and excluded from decision-making processes, and there have been reports of sexist and misogynistic comments made by male colleagues.

Despite these challenges, women participation in the 15th National Assembly represents an important step forward for gender equality in Pakistani politics. Women in the Assembly are paving the way for future generations of women leaders and are helping to challenge patriarchal norms and expectations.

Table 1: Women Position in National Assembly in 2018 Elections

Party Percentage	General Seats	Reserved Seats	Total
PTI-48	3	29	32
PPP-16	3	8	11
PML (N)-25	1	16	17
Others-12	1	7	8

Source: FAFEN, 2018

In the general election that took place in 2018, a lower percentage of women than in previous elections were elected to general seats. This was the first general election to be held after the Election Act of 2017, which ensures that women would have access to political power by requiring political parties to provide 5% of their tickets to female candidates. The act garnered widespread praise and admiration from charitable groups and social activists throughout the world. It is generally agreed that the Act lends support to the democratic process (Khan & Naqvi, 2020). The data on women representation demonstrate progressive tendencies, despite the fact that gender discrimination is a barrier to the growth of women empowerment in the political sphere. It reveals that approximately twenty percent of the total members of the legislative assembly were women. The same outcome was observed in the general election that took place in 2018. In the general election held in 2018, women

competed for general seats in addition to the 60 designated seats. They were successful in winning 8 seats (Mufti and Jalazai, 2021).

Senate

Senators are elected to serve for terms of six years, with one-half of their seats up for election every three years. There are currently twenty (20) women senators out of a total of 100 senators. 11 of these officials started their terms in 2015, while the other 9 started their terms in 2018.

Federal Cabinet

In 15th parliament, twenty-seven federal ministers serving in the various ministries of the Pakistani government, and out of those, there are three (3) women functioning in the position of federal minister (Rubab & others 2021). While here are thirty-six (36) parliamentary secretaries now functioning in several ministries and divisions of the Pakistani government and fourteen (14) of these positions are occupied by women.

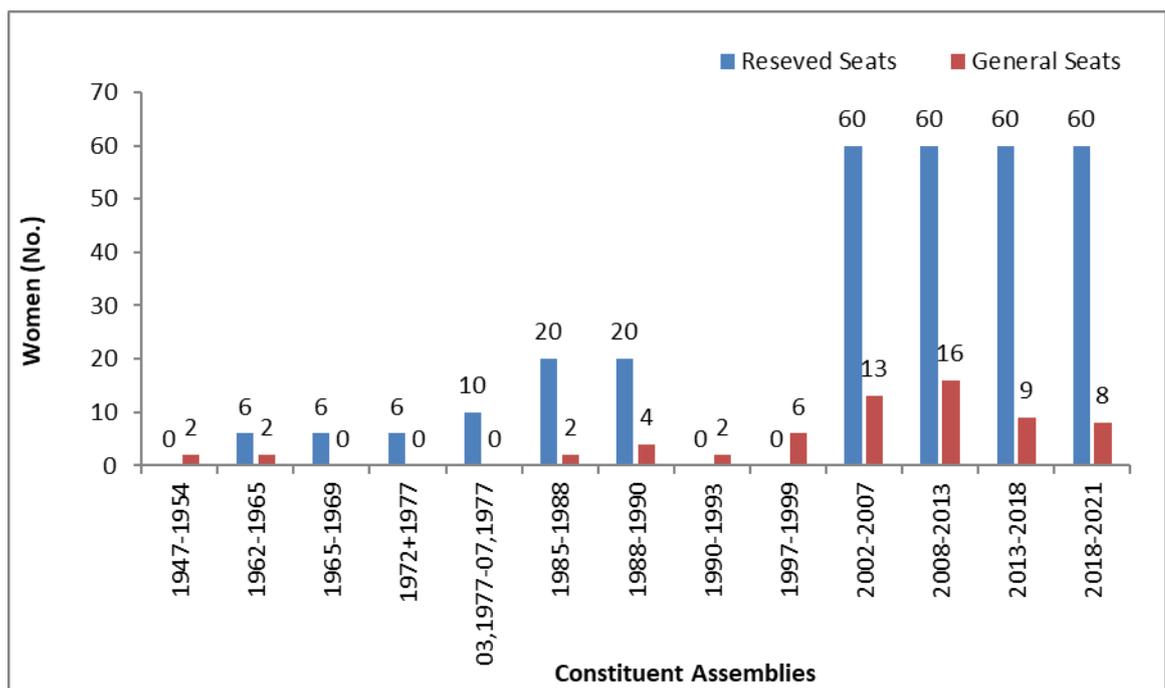


Figure 2: Women parliamentarians on reserved seats and general seats from 1947 to 2018 parliaments.

The above graphs showing that representation of women in the Pakistan National Assembly remained low. During the early years of Pakistan's independence until the late 1980s, women representation in the National Assembly was limited. There were only a few women parliamentarians, and their numbers were significantly lower compared to men. In 1988, a provision was introduced that reserved a certain number of seats for women in the National Assembly. These reserved seats were allocated based on the total number of general seats

won by each political party. The objective was to increase women representation in parliament. However, it's important to note that these reserved seats were indirectly elected through a party list system, rather than being directly elected by the people.

In 2002, a constitutional amendment was passed to introduce a 33% quota for women in the National Assembly. This meant that political parties had to nominate women candidates for at least one-third of the general seats they contested. In addition, women continued to be elected through reserved seats based on the party list system. In 2002, (Musharraf government) significant electoral reforms were implemented, which mandated direct elections for both general and reserved seats. This allowed women to compete directly in constituencies alongside male candidates. The introduction of direct elections resulted in a gradual increase in women representation in the National Assembly.

Over the years, several women have held important positions in the National Assembly, including serving as ministers, speakers, and opposition leaders. Notable figures include Benazir Bhutto, who became the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan, and Fehmida Mirza, the first female Speaker of the National Assembly. Thus, women representation in the National Assembly has seen improvements but still remains lower compared to men. Although the exact numbers may vary depending on the elections and specific parliamentary terms, efforts are being made to increase women political participation and representation.

Role of Political parties to strengthen the women in party politics.

The role of political parties in strengthening women participation in party politics is not limited to a particular country or region. Political parties have a crucial role in strengthening the participation and representation of women in party politics. The representation of women in political parties is not only essential for gender equality but also for effective governance and decision-making. In fact, political parties across the world can play a crucial role in promoting gender equality and increasing women representation in politics.

Role of Political Parties in Pakistan

Pakistan has a number of political parties, each with their own approach to women empowerment in party politics. While some parties have made efforts to encourage women participation in politics, others have been criticized for failing to support women rights and representation (Mushtaq et al., 2018).

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is major political network in Pakistan and has been vocal in its support for women empowerment and participation in party politics.

The party has taken several steps to promote women involvement in politics. One of its key initiatives has been the establishment of a Women Wing, which aims to promote women political participation, provide a platform for women voices, and advocate for gender equality. The Women Wing has organized training and capacity-building workshops for women and has encouraged female party members to participate in political rallies and events. In addition to the Women Wing, the PTI has also introduced a quota system to increase women representation in local councils. Under this system, at least 33% of seats in local councils are reserved for women, which have helped to increase women participation in local governance (Hussain et al., 2021).

The PTI has also emphasized the importance of women education and economic empowerment as a means to promote gender equality. The party has introduced several initiatives aimed at increasing girls' access to education, including providing stipends to female students and establishing schools in underserved areas. The PTI has also launched a program to provide small loans to women entrepreneurs, with the aim of promoting economic empowerment and self-reliance (Yilmaz and Shakil, 2021).

However, some critics have argued that the PTI commitment to women empowerment has been inconsistent, and that more needs to be done to address gender inequalities within the party. There have been concerns about the lack of women in leadership positions within the party, and some have criticized the party for not doing enough to address issues of harassment and discrimination against women.

The party has been committed to promoting women participation in politics and has several prominent women politicians in its ranks. The vibrant member, Shireen Mazari is the Federal Minister for Human Rights in the current government. She has been a prominent human rights activist and a member of PTI since 2011. Additionally, Dr. Sania Nishtar is the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety in the current government. She is a public health expert and has worked with international organizations like the World Health Organization and the UN Development Programme. Firdous Ashiq Awan is a politician and former Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting. She has been a member of PTI since 2019.

Aisha Farooqui is the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the current government. She has previously served as the Consul General of Pakistan in Istanbul, Turkey.

Similarly, Dr. Yasmin Rashid is the Provincial Minister for Health in the Punjab province. She is a medical doctor and has been a member of PTI since 2011. While the PTI has taken steps to promote women empowerment and participation in politics, there is still more work to be done to ensure that women have equal opportunities and representation within the party. The party needs to continue to prioritize women issues and to address gender inequalities within its own ranks, while also advocating for policies that promote gender equality and women empowerment more broadly.

Pakistan Muslim League-N

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) has been major political parties in Pakistan and has had a mixed record when it comes to women empowerment in party politics.

On the one hand, the PMLN has had some notable female politicians within its ranks, including Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who has emerged as a prominent political figure in her own right. The party has also fielded female candidates in elections, with some success.

However, there have been criticisms that the PMLN has not done enough to promote women participation in politics and to address gender inequalities within the party. A study conducted by the Aurat Foundation in 2019 found that women representation in the PMLN remained low, with women holding only 10% of party positions at the local level and 5% at the national level. Despite these criticisms, the PMLN has taken some steps to promote women political participation. For example, the party established a Women Wing in 2012 to promote women involvement in politics and to address their concerns. The Women Wing has organized events and seminars on women issues, and has sought to mobilize women voters (Amin et al., 2022).

Some of women remain in party and politics prominent position, like Kulsoom Nawaz was the wife of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the former President of PML-N. She was an active participant in Pakistan's politics and played a significant role in her husband's political career. She contested the 2017 by-elections for the National Assembly seat in Lahore but was unable to campaign due to her failing health. She passed away in 2018.

Similarly, Marvi Memon is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and was associated with PML-N. She is a social activist, a writer, and a commentator on various political and social issues. She has been involved in various development projects in Pakistan, including the Benazir Income Support Program. Moreover, Tehmina Daultana was ex member of National parliament and remained active member during her parliamentarian

tenure. She also actively participated within party politics and suggested many things for women empowerment related.

Pakistan People Party

One example of a party that has taken steps to empower women in party politics is the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The PPP has implemented a quota system to ensure that women hold at least 33% of party positions at all levels, from local councils to the central executive committee. The party has also established a Women Wing to support women political participation and promote gender equality (Ahmad, 2013). Over the years, the party has had several women leaders who have played significant roles in Pakistan political landscape. Here are some of the prominent women in Pakistan politics associated with PPP: Benazir become first PM of Pakistan and the former Chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party. She played a significant role in the country's political history and is widely regarded as one of the most prominent women in Pakistan's politics. She was assassinated in 2007. Similarly, Faryal Talpur is a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent leader of PPP. She has served as the Minister for Women Development in Sindh and has been actively involved in various development projects in the province. She is also the sister of former President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari. Moreover, Sherry Rehman is a former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States and a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan. She has been associated with PPP for several years and is known for her work on human rights, democracy, and governance issues in Pakistan. Shazia Marri: Shazia Marri is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent leader of PPP. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and empowerment in Pakistan and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. Another prominent politician, Fatima Bhutto is a writer, journalist, and political commentator, and the niece of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. While not a member of PPP, she has been vocal in her criticism of the country political system and has worked to promote social justice and human rights in Pakistan.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement – Pakistan (MQM)

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement – Pakistan (MQM) has taken several steps to encourage women political participation, including the establishment of a Women Wing in 2010. The Women Wing aims to promote women involvement in politics, and to address issues related to gender equality and women rights. The Wing has organized training and capacity-building

workshops for women and has encouraged female party members to participate in political rallies and events (Rubab et al., 2021).

MQM-P has also been a strong advocate for increasing women representation in parliament and local councils. The party has supported the Women Reservation Bill, which seeks to reserve a certain percentage of seats for women in national and provincial assemblies. In addition, the party has introduced a quota system for women representation in local councils, with at least 33% of seats reserved for women (Bano, 2009).

MQM-P has also emphasized the importance of women education and economic empowerment. The party has supported policies aimed at increasing girls' access to education and has called for the provision of free education for girls up to the secondary level. The party has also introduced initiatives to promote women economic empowerment, including a program to provide small loans to women entrepreneurs.

Here are some of the prominent women associated with MQM who have played significant roles in Pakistan's political landscape: Khushbakht Shujaat is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent MQM leader. She has served as the Federal Minister for Education and was the first woman to hold this position in Pakistan. She has also been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. Meanwhile, Nasreen Jalil is a former member of the Senate of Pakistan and a prominent MQM leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. She has also been a vocal advocate for minority rights and has worked towards promoting interfaith harmony in Pakistan. Another famous women politician, Kishwar Zehra is a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent MQM leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards empowering women in Pakistan. She has also been a vocal advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and has worked towards improving their status in the country.

Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA)

The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) is an Islamic political alliance in Pakistan that has been active in promoting women participation in politics. The alliance was formed in 2002 and includes several Islamic political parties. The MMA has taken some steps to promote women participation in politics, including the establishment of a Women Wing within its constituent parties. The Women Wing aims to promote women involvement in politics and to advocate for gender equality and women rights. The Wing has organized training and

capacity-building workshops for women and has encouraged female party members to participate in political rallies and events (Zia, 2009).

However, the MMA's record on women empowerment has been mixed. The alliance has been criticized for its conservative views on women rights, and for opposing policies aimed at promoting gender equality. The alliance has been vocal in its opposition to the Women Reservation Bill, which seeks to reserve a certain percentage of seats for women in national and provincial assemblies.

Some of the prominent women associated with MMA who have played significant roles in Pakistan political landscape; Aasiya Nasir is a prominent MMA leader and a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards empowering women in Pakistan. Moreover, Samina Khawar Hayat is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent MMA leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. Similarly, Attiya Inayatullah is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent MMA leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. She has also been a vocal advocate for education and has worked towards improving the education system in the country. Shahida Akhtar Ali is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent MMA leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. She has also been a vocal advocate for healthcare and has worked towards improving the healthcare system in Pakistan.

In conclusion, while the MMA has taken some steps to promote women participation in politics, its record on women empowerment is mixed. The alliance needs to do more to promote gender equality and to ensure that women have equal opportunities and representation within the alliance. The MMA should prioritize women issues and advocate for policies that promote gender equality and women empowerment, while also addressing any conservative views on women rights.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI)

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) is an Islamic political party in Pakistan that has been active in promoting women participation in politics. The party was founded in 1941 and has been involved in Pakistani politics since the country's creation.

The JI has taken several steps to strengthen women participation in party politics, including the establishment of a Women Wing within the party. The Women Wing aims to promote women involvement in politics and to advocate for gender equality and women rights. The Wing has organized training and capacity-building workshops for women and has encouraged female party members to participate in political rallies and events (Siddiqui, 2010).

The party has also supported policies aimed at increasing women representation in parliament and local councils. The JI has supported the Women Reservation Bill, which seeks to reserve a certain percentage of seats for women in national and provincial assemblies. In addition, the party has introduced a quota system for women representation in local councils, with at least 33% of seats reserved for women (Nayab et al., 2022). The JI has also emphasized the importance of women education and economic empowerment. The party has supported policies aimed at increasing girls' access to education and has called for the provision of free education for girls up to the secondary level. The party has also introduced initiatives to promote women economic empowerment, including a program to provide small loans to women entrepreneurs.

However, there have been criticisms of the JI's conservative views on women rights, particularly in relation to issues such as gender segregation and dress codes. Some critics have argued that the party's conservative views on women rights may limit women participation in politics and their ability to fully realize their potential within the party.

Here are some of the prominent women associated with Jamaat-e-Islami who have played significant roles in Pakistan's political landscape: Asiya Nasir is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent Jamaat-e-Islami leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. Ayesha Syed is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent Jamaat-e-Islami leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country.

In conclusion, while the JI has taken steps to strengthen women participation in party politics, there are still concerns about the party's conservative views on women rights. The party needs to continue to prioritize women issues and to advocate for policies that promote gender equality and women empowerment, while also addressing any conservative views on women rights that may limit women participation in politics.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam – Fazl (JUI-F)

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam – Fazl (JUI-F) is an Islamic political party in Pakistan that has been involved in politics since the 1980s. The party has been criticized for its conservative views on women rights and has been accused of limiting women participation in politics.

However, in recent years, the JUI-F has taken some steps to promote women participation in politics. In 2019, the party launched a Women Wing to promote women involvement in politics and to advocate for gender equality and women rights. The Women Wing has organized training and capacity-building workshops for women and has encouraged female party members to participate in political rallies and events.

In addition, the JUI-F has supported policies aimed at increasing women representation in parliament and local councils. The party has supported the Women Reservation Bill, which seeks to reserve a certain percentage of seats for women in national and provincial assemblies. The party has also introduced a quota system for women representation in local councils, with at least 33% of seats reserved for women.

However, the party's conservative views on women rights continue to be a source of criticism. The party has been accused of opposing policies aimed at promoting gender equality, including the Women Protection Act and the Punjab Women Protection Authority. The party's leaders have also been criticized for making sexist remarks and for promoting patriarchal attitudes towards women.

In conclusion, while the JUI-F has taken some steps to promote women participation in politics and to advocate for gender equality, the party's conservative views on women rights continue to be a source of concern. The party needs to do more to promote women empowerment and to ensure that women have equal opportunities and representation within the party. The JUI-F should prioritize women issues and advocate for policies that promote gender equality and women empowerment, while also addressing any conservative views on women rights.

Pakistan Muslim League (Q)

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is a political party in Pakistan that has taken several steps towards women empowerment in the country. During its tenure in power from 2002 to 2008, PML (Q) introduced a significant increase in reserved seats for women in the National Assembly and provincial assemblies. This move helped to increase women representation in politics and decision-making positions. Meanwhile, PML (Q) has been active in protecting

women rights in Pakistan. The party has been vocal in advocating for women rights and has supported several laws and initiatives aimed at protecting women from violence and discrimination. Moreover, party has actively supported the appointment of women to key positions in the government. During its tenure, the party appointed several women to top positions in the government, including ministerial positions.

Marvi Memon is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent PML (Q) leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. She has also served as the chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme, a social safety net program aimed at providing financial assistance to low-income families in Pakistan. Moreover, Kashmala Tariq is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent PML (Q) leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards empowering women in Pakistan. She has also served as the chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women.

Additionally, Sumaira Malik is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent PML (Q) leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. She has also served as the Minister of Women Development during her tenure in government. Firdous Ashiq Awan is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and a prominent PML (Q) leader. She has been actively involved in promoting women rights and has worked towards improving the status of women in the country. She has also served as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting during her tenure in government.

While these efforts indicate progress, there is still work to be done. Challenges remain, such as entrenched gender biases, cultural barriers, and limited financial resources for women candidates. Political parties can further strengthen and enhance women in their ranks by continuously working towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment, encouraging women leadership development, and ensuring equal opportunities for women at all levels within the party.

Suggestion:

Political parties should increase women representation by giving more women the opportunity to contest elections and hold positions in the party. They should provide a certain percentage of party tickets for women candidates and encourage women to take leadership roles within the party. Meanwhile, Political parties address gender bias within their own

structures by implementing policies and practices that ensure equal opportunities for men and women. They can also address cultural and social barriers that prevent women from participating in politics.

Constitutional and Legislative Measures Regarding Women Representation in Parliament

The Pakistan Constitution of 1956, the first constitution of the country, included several provisions aimed at supporting and empowering women. This Constitution reserved 10 seats for women in the unicameral with five seats each from East and West Pakistan (Pardesi, 2012).

Article 8 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1956 guaranteed the right to equality for all citizens, regardless of gender. This provision laid the foundation for gender equality in Pakistan and prohibited discrimination against women in all areas of life (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1956, Article 8).

Right to education: Article 37 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1956 made it the responsibility of the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 5 and 16. This provision ensured that girls had equal access to education and helped to promote gender equality in the country. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1956, Article 37)

Right to vote: The Pakistan Constitution of 1956 granted women the right to vote in national elections for the first time. This was a significant step towards empowering women and increasing their political participation in the country (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1956, Article 7).

Right to property: Article 23 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1956 guaranteed the right to property for all citizens, regardless of gender. This provision ensured that women had equal rights to own and inherit property, which helped to promote their economic empowerment (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1956, Article 23).

Right to work: Article 11 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1956 guaranteed the right to work for all citizens, regardless of gender. This provision ensured that women had equal access to employment opportunities and helped to promote their economic empowerment (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1956, Article 11).

These are just a few of the ways in which the Pakistan Constitution of 1956 supported and empowered women. While the constitution has been amended several times since its

adoption, these provisions continue to serve as an important foundation for gender equality in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Constitution of 1962 included several provisions aimed at supporting and empowering women. Here are some of the keyways in which the Pakistan Constitution of 1962 supported women, along with relevant references: The Pakistan Constitution of 1962 reserved six seats for women in the National Assembly with three seats each from East and West Pakistan.

Right to equality: Article 22 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1962 guaranteed the right to equality for all citizens, regardless of gender. This provision laid the foundation for gender equality in Pakistan and prohibited discrimination against women in all areas of life. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1962, Article 22)

Right to education: Article 37 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1962 made it the responsibility of the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 5 and 14. This provision ensured that girls had equal access to education and helped to promote gender equality in the country. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1962, Article 37)

Right to vote: The Pakistan Constitution of 1962 granted women the right to vote in national elections, building on the provisions of the previous constitution. This was a significant step towards empowering women and increasing their political participation in the country. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1962, Article 10)

Right to property: Article 6 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1962 guaranteed the right to property for all citizens, regardless of gender. This provision ensured that women had equal rights to own and inherit property, which helped to promote their economic empowerment. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1962, Article 6)

Right to work: Article 14 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1962 guaranteed the right to work for all citizens, regardless of gender. This provision ensured that women had equal access to employment opportunities and helped to promote their economic empowerment. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1962, Article 14)

These are just a few of the ways in which the Pakistan Constitution of 1962 supported and empowered women. While the constitution has since been replaced by other documents, these provisions continue to serve as important building blocks for gender equality in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Constitution of 1973 includes several provisions aimed at supporting and empowering women. Here are some of the keyways in which the Pakistan Constitution of 1973 supports women, along with relevant references:

Right to equality: Article 25 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1973 guarantees the right to equality for all citizens, regardless of gender. This provision prohibits discrimination against women in all areas of life and recognizes the principle of equal pay for equal work. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1973, Article 25)

Right to education: Article 25-A of the Pakistan Constitution of 1973 makes it the responsibility of the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the ages of 5 and 16. This provision ensures that girls have equal access to education and helps to promote gender equality in the country. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1973, Article 25-A)

Right to vote: The Pakistan Constitution of 1973 grants women the right to vote and to contest elections at all levels of government, including in the national assembly and provincial assemblies. This has helped to increase women political participation in the country. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1973, Articles 51, 106, and 218)

Protection against harassment: The Pakistan Constitution of 1973 includes provisions aimed at protecting women from sexual harassment and other forms of violence. Article 14(2) provides for the inviolability of the dignity of all individuals, and Article 25(3) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1973, Articles 14(2) and 25(3))

Right to property: Article 23 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1973 guarantees the right to property for all citizens, regardless of gender. This provision ensures that women have equal rights to own and inherit property, which helps to promote their economic empowerment. (Reference: Pakistan Constitution of 1973, Article 23)

International Commitments, Treaties, and Protocols for women Empowerment

However, international community has recognized the importance of women political participation and has made commitments to increase women representation in politics. Several other international agreements and frameworks have been developed to promote women political participation, including:

Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)

The Equal Remuneration Convention, also known as Convention No. 100th, was adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1951. It requires member states to ensure male and female pay equal remuneration and value. The convention is one of the oldest and most widely ratified ILO conventions, and it has played a significant role in empowering women politically and socially (Betti, 2022).

Tekle (2018) said that one of the ways in which the convention has empowered women is by providing a legal framework for challenging gender-based pay discrimination. The convention requires member states to take measures to ensure that pay discrimination based on gender is eliminated, and it provides workers with a mechanism for seeking redress if they believe they have been discriminated against. This has enabled women to challenge discriminatory pay practices and demand equal pay for equal work, which has contributed to the broader struggle for gender equality.

Arnbjörnsson (2022) elaborated that the convention has also had a broader impact on women social and economic empowerment. By ensuring that women are paid equally for their work, the convention has helped to promote equality between genders and reduce pay gap among. This had a positive impact on women economic status, as it has enabled them to earn a fair wage for their work and contribute to their families' and communities' well-being. It has also helped to promote women social and political empowerment, as women who are economically independent are better able to participate in decision-making processes and exercise their rights.

Tekle (2018) said since its adoption, the Equal Remuneration Convention has been ratified by 174 countries, making it one of the most widely ratified ILO conventions. While there is still much work to be done to ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work, the convention has played an important role in advancing women political and social empowerment.

Declaration (1967)

Another treaty in (1967) has played politically and socially by providing a framework for addressing discrimination against women. The CEDAW is endorsed by 180 states and family relations and shall ensure on a basis of equality of women and men. One of the ways in which the declaration has empowered women is by providing a platform for advocacy and awareness-raising around issues of gender discrimination. The declaration explicitly recognizes that discrimination against women is a violation of human rights, and it calls on member states to take action to eliminate such discrimination. This has helped to raise awareness of the ways in which women are discriminated against and has provided a basis for advocacy efforts aimed at promoting gender equality. (Rehof, 1993)

Furthermore, the declaration has contributed to the empowerment of women through participation all spheres of life and calls on member states to ensure the women access to resources and provide them equal opportunities. However, there is still much work to be done to eliminate discrimination against women and promote their full participation in society (Freeman & others 2012)

Mexico (1975)

The core objective of the session was to bring attention to issues related to women rights on a global scale. The conference was organized by the United Nations and is also known as the World Conference of the International Women Year. It was a significant event in the history of the international women movement.

The primary goal women worldwide, including issues such as discrimination, economic disparity, lack of access to education and healthcare, and limited political representation. Meanwhile, conference sought to advocate for the recognition and protection of women rights as human rights. It aimed to promote gender equality and work towards eliminating discrimination and violence against women. Additionally, policymakers, activists, and delegates from various countries gathered to discuss policy measures and strategies to address gender disparities and empower women economically, socially, and politically. However, the conference provided a platform for representatives from different nations to share experiences, exchange ideas, and foster international cooperation to advance the cause of women rights and gender equality. Participants aimed to develop action plans and recommendations that governments and organizations could implement to improve the status of women and promote their rights.

This document outlined specific steps to be taken by governments and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and women rights globally. Overall, conference was a landmark event that contributed significantly to the promotion of women political and social empowerment. It put women rights on the global agenda, advocated for greater women participation, emphasized the importance of women education and health, encouraged international cooperation, and set the stage for future initiatives and aimed to ensure women empowerment.

(INSTRAW)

The INSTRAW was a specialized agency of the UN that was established in 1976 to support the advancement of women globally through research, training, and knowledge management. INSTRAW's mission was to reduce gender discrimination and ensure women empowerment by providing technical assistance, training, and research on women issues. (Robert, 2016)

INSTRAW played a vital role in promoting women empowerment by conducting research and providing technical assistance on critical issues affecting women. Some of the areas in which INSTRAW focused its work included women political participation by providing training and issues such as women leadership, political campaigning, and electoral systems.

Meanwhile, INSTRAW conducted research and provided technical assistance on trafficking in women. Additionally, INSTRAW conducted research and provided technical assistance on gender mainstreaming, gender analysis, and gender-responsive planning and budgeting.

Despite its important contributions to the field of gender equality and women empowerment, INSTRAW was closed in 2010 due to funding cuts. Its work has since been taken over by other UN agencies and programs, including UN Women. (Reference required)

CEDAW (1979)

CEDAW is a landmark. CEDAW officially formed in 1979 and this treaty adopted by UN assembly for further executes CEDAW's recommendations among member states of UN. CEDAW has played a significant role in promoting women political and social empowerment by setting standards for the elimination of discrimination against women and providing a framework for advancing gender equality (Matinda & others 2019).

CEDAW recognizes that women rights are human rights and sets out a comprehensive framework for the promotion and protection of these rights. It covers a range of issues, including political and public life, education, employment, health, and access to justice. CEDAW advocates for gender equality by calling on States Parties to eliminate

discrimination against women and promote equal opportunities for women in all areas of life. It recognizes that gender inequality is a root cause of discrimination against women and calls for the elimination of all practices that perpetuate gender-based discrimination.

Moreover, CEDAW provides a legal framework for addressing discrimination against women and promoting gender equality. It has been used as a basis for developing national laws and policies that promote women rights and gender equality. Similarly, CEDAW has played a significant role in encouraging international cooperation for the promotion of women rights and gender equality. It has facilitated the sharing of best practices and the development of initiatives and programs aimed at promoting women political and social empowerment. CEDAW recognizes the importance of women participation in decision-making processes at all levels and calls on States Parties to take measures to ensure that women have equal access to political and public life. This has helped to promote women political empowerment and has contributed to the development of policies and programs that address the specific needs and concerns of women.

Overall, CEDAW has been instrumental in promoting women political and social empowerment by recognizing women rights, advocating for gender equality, providing a legal framework for addressing discrimination against women, and encouraging international cooperation for the promotion of women rights and gender equality.

World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women Denmark 1980

The conference was a global gathering that took place in Denmark in 1980. The conference was hosted by the UN and marked the halfway point of the UN Decade for Women, which ran from 1976 to 1985. The conference focused on the theme of "Equality, Development and Peace" and aimed to advance the rights and opportunities of women worldwide.

Conference provided a platform for women voices to be heard on a global stage. Conference brought together women from around the world, including government officials, activists, and grassroots organizers, to share their experiences and ideas. The declaration called for increased investment in education, health, and other social services for women, as well as for greater participation of women in decision-making at all levels.

Overall, conference was a pivotal moment in the history of the women rights movement. It helped to galvanize support for women empowerment and paved the way for further progress in the years and decades that followed.

Second World Conference on Women Copenhagen (1980)

This known as the Copenhagen conference, was held in Denmark. The conference was a follow-up to the first conference held in Mexico City in 1975, and aimed to assess progress made in achieving gender equality and to identify areas where further action was needed (Ghodsee, 2010).

The conference affirmed the principles of (CEDAW) and emphasized the need to promote and protect women human rights and called for an end to all forms of discrimination against women. Meanwhile, the conference addressed a range of key issues related to women social and political empowerment, including education, health, employment, violence against women, and women participation in decision-making. It recognized the importance of addressing these issues in order to promote gender equality and women empowerment. Moreover, conference emphasized the importance of women participation in decision-making processes at all levels. It called for greater participation of women in political, economic, and social life, and emphasized the need to remove barriers that prevented women from participating fully.

Thus, the Second World Conference on Women was a significant event that contributed to the promotion of women social and political empowerment. It affirmed women rights, addressed key issues related to women empowerment, encouraged women participation, highlighted women contributions to society, and strengthened international cooperation on women issues.

Third World Conference on Women Nairobi (1985)

The 3rd international conference was held in Kenya, in 1985. The conference was part of the UN Decade for Women, which aimed to promote gender equality and women empowerment.

The conference recognized the importance of women economic empowerment as a means of promoting women towards social empowerment. It also called for measures to promote women access to education, training, and employment opportunities, and to ensure that women received equal pay for equal work. Moreover, the conference addressed the issue of violence against women and called for measures to prevent and address such violence. It recognized that violence against women was a violation of human rights and a barrier to women empowerment.

Overall, conference was a significant event that contributed to the promotion of women social and political empowerment. It emphasized the importance of women participation, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, promoting women health, and strengthening international cooperation on women issues.

Beijing + 5 (2000)

The Beijing +5 was a session of UN-General Assembly that was held in 2000. Beijing +5 reaffirmed the commitment to women human rights and recognized that the promotion of gender equality was critical for achieving sustainable development. The session called for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and for the promotion of women economic, social, and political empowerment. Hence, Beijing +5 was an important milestone in advancing women social and political empowerment. The session provided a platform to review progress and identify challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and recommended measures to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

Millennium Development Goals (2000)

MDGs were a set of eight goals implemented in 2000 under the supervision of UN. The core aim of the MMG's to reduce global poverty and improve lives of people till 2015.

MDG was focused on achieving universal primary education. This goal had a significant impact on girls' education, as it helped to increase access to education for girls and reduce gender disparities in education. Education is a key factor in promoting women empowerment, as it helps to improve their knowledge, skills, and economic opportunities.

Meanwhile, MDG 5 aimed to improve maternal health by reducing maternal mortality rates. This goal had a direct impact on women health and well-being, as it helped to improve access to maternal health services and reduce the risk of maternal mortality. Improving maternal health is also a key factor in promoting women social and economic empowerment.

Overall, the MDGs had a positive impact on women social and political empowerment by promoting gender equality, improving access to education and maternal health services, and increasing economic opportunities for women.

(SDGs) 2015

SDGs was also landmark for women empowerment and work significantly worldwide

Conclusion:

International treaties and agreements play a crucial role in promoting women empowerment and gender equality around the world. Over the years, various agreements have been made to address issues related to gender inequality, violence against women, discrimination, and economic empowerment. These agreements provide a framework for countries to work together and take action to advance women rights and improve their lives.

CEDAW one of the most significant international agreements related to women empowerment that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 and has been endorsed by 189 countries. CEDAW sets out a comprehensive framework for promoting women rights and gender equality in areas such as employment, health care, education and political participation.

Other notable agreements SDGs include a specific goal (Goal 5) on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The SDGs also include targets related to ending violence against women, promoting women participation in decision-making and ensuring women access to reproductive health care.

In addition to these global agreements, there are also regional agreements and initiatives that focus on women empowerment. For example, the African Union adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in 2003. The Maputo Protocol is a comprehensive legal framework that addresses issues such as women rights to education, health care, and political participation, as well as protection from violence and discrimination.

Overall, international treaties and agreements provide an essential framework for promoting women empowerment and gender equality around the world. While there is still much work to be done to achieve full gender equality, these agreements provide a starting point for countries to work together and take action to improve the lives of women and girls.

Hypothesis of Study

Hypothesis may be defined as a suggested proposition to the solution of a problem (Donald Ary, 2002). It is a relationship between two variables or among more variables, it may also be considered as the prediction related to certain study by explaining relationship among variables. It is of utmost importance from initiation to completion of research (Dayanand, 2018).

In light of research objectives and research questions following hypothesis are supposed to be measured from analysis of collected data to explore relation of variables:

H1: Women social empowerment is positively linked with women participation in parliament.

H2: Women political empowerment is positively linked with women participation in parliament.

Conclusion

The empowerment of women is influenced by various factors, and the major reasons why above countries have been successful in empowering women can include. Countries that have implemented robust legal tend to have better outcomes in empowering women. These frameworks may include laws against discrimination, equal pay legislation, laws addressing domestic violence, and policies promoting women political participation.

Providing quality education and ensuring access to healthcare are vital for women empowerment. Countries that prioritize girls' education and offer equal educational opportunities tend to have higher levels of gender equality. Additionally, access to healthcare, including reproductive healthcare and maternal health services, plays a crucial role in empowering women. Enabling women to participate in the workforce and providing equal economic opportunities are essential for their empowerment. Countries that promote policies such as gender-responsive budgeting, support for women entrepreneurs and flexible work arrangements tend to have higher levels of women empowerment.

Countries that encourage women participation in decision-making processes and have higher levels of women political representation often demonstrate greater gender equality. This includes policies promoting quotas or affirmative action to increase the number of women in political positions. Addressing and challenging traditional gender norms and stereotypes can contribute to women empowerment. Countries that actively work towards changing societal attitudes and promoting gender equality in various spheres, including family dynamics, media representation, and cultural practices, tend to empower women more effectively. Access to support networks; including women organizations, NGOs, and community-based initiatives, can significantly contribute to women empowerment. These networks provide a platform for women to advocate for their rights, access resources, and build solidarity. However, it is important to note that the reasons behind women empowerment can vary across countries, and different factors may be more or less influential depending on the specific context and cultural dynamics of each nation.

Chapter 03: Research Methodology.

This chapter explains the research methodology adopted for this research. A systematic approach was followed to design and execute research for this study. Population was determined by current and former women parliamentarian from last tenures. In this chapter research design, tools, methodology, data collection and data analysis methods were discussed. Study population consisted of 212 women parliamentarians from 2008 to 2018 from all provinces and all political parties of Pakistan. Probability sampling was followed by simple random sampling which had good possibility of all the respondents to be a part of sample. A sample of 39 respondents was calculated. A questionnaire was designed comprising on open and closed ended questions. Data was collected through google based questionnaire and in-depth interviews. Collected data was cleaned to make it ready for analysis. Data was analyzed on MS Excell to make it presentable and to discuss findings and hypothesis.

3.1. Research methodology

C.R. Kothari in his book *Research Methodology Methods & Techniques* (2004) defined research methodology as suggested and recommended series of process steps to that are executed to conduct a research study. According to Peter Checkland (1998) research is systematic set of principle and methods that provides a most appropriate way to conduct research.

It may be considered as designed structure, strategy, and process steps to investigate as per structure. Its aims to see relevancy of research and purpose that aims to target defined issue.

The current study explores the political participation of women in Pakistan and implications for women socio-political empowerment. The study will enable to better understand women political participation in Pakistan and the consequences for women socio-political empowerment. The researcher in this study chose this research methodology to explore distinguishing findings conducted before in relevant field. This chapter has aim to reach objectives of research by following different research methods including qualitative and quantitative research. Mix research method was decided deliberately to find out data around the questions and suggestions for improvement to facilitate other researchers. Research methodology will be explained in this chapter.

In this chapter research methodology will be discussed.

Sources of Data Collection:

a. Primary Data:

In this research primary data is collected to conduct empirical research. Semi structured interviews of women parliamentarian who remained part of National Assembly from 2008 to 2018 were conducted to collect primary data. Through these interviews women empowerment through their participation in parliament was explored. Semi structured questionnaire was designed so to provide chances for better expression of responses against each question as each respondent had liberty to share her own views.

List of women parliamentarians was collected officially from parliament as contact numbers of all women parliamentarian are not available on official website. Updated contact directory was accessed from parliament coordinator which made it possible to contact respondent of research. Interviews were planned as per comfort of respondents.

As women participate in parliament on reserve quota belong to far furlong areas of all the provinces, it was not an easy task to approach them in limited resources. Some women parliament was interviewed during National Assembly sessions as a large number of parliamentarians participate in the sessions.

Debates of National Assembly sessions were important for literature review and develop questionnaire, these debates are made part of archives in scanned form. These scanned copies were obtained online from archive to closely look role of women legislatures in parliamentary business. Women parliamentarian presented bills for women empowerment, debates on those bills and implementation in true spirit was analyzed.

Google form of questionnaire was developed to collect data from respondent could not approach physically due to stay in abroad.

3.2. Material and Methods

Secondary data was collected from published material including books, articles in journals, conference proceedings, newspapers, reports, project periodic reports, constitution of Pakistan, debated of parliament sessions etc. as well as from videos, documentaries and data from internet. This data was consulted to find out existing room for research. Based on the data research gaps were identified and research hypothesis were built as per research objectives. This data was also consulted to provide empirical evidence in pursuing the intended research questions.

Both primary and secondary data are collected to provide empirical evidence in pursuing to the intended research questions. To collect first have data, a semi-structured questionnaire

was developed. Open ended questions were designed for individual interviews. The same tool was developed on Google based software for convenience of respondents.

3.3. Population and Sampling

Generally, population is the large number of people or objects which holds one or more common features that is to be observed, evaluated, and analyzed. For this research study population is women parliament of current and former government of Pakistan.

Sampling design

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary of Collegiate **Invalid source specified.**, “A sample is a finite part of a statistical population whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole.”

Sample may be a representative portion, percentage, or fraction of population. Sample is the part of population and must be a true representative of characteristics of whole population. It is a part of a large population that is used for measurement and present findings. Findings of sample may be generalized for whole population.

Sampling is the process of selecting a subset of true respondents from a population **Invalid source specified.** Sampling includes the action, the procedures, and techniques to select the representative from population with the aim to determine the characteristics of total population.

There is no specific guideline for sampling for mixed method research. A researcher may decide sampling method appropriate to obtain research objective and generalize findings to population. According to **Invalid source specified.** sampling techniques are not strict of forced but it effects how researcher utilize these techniques and how it will influence research objectives, for some research more than one sampling method may be used.

For this study population was 212 women parliamentarians from current and former governments from 2008 to 2018. This population is from all political parties and all provinces of Pakistan.

Simple random sampling technique will be applied on available data lists of current and former women parliamentarian members of National Assembly of Pakistan. To calculate the sample, margin of error and confidence interval was selected because in qualitative research there are more chances for out-liars and response to questions as per context of research. 85% confidence of interval and 15% margin of error were selected for research which led to

collect and analyze optimal data as per research objectives. A sample of 39 women parliamentarians was consulted from a population of 212 women parliamentarians.

Table 2: Following is the sampling table:

Member Parliament	Population	Margin of Error	Confidence Interval	Response Distribution	Sample
Former (2008 & 2013)	143	15	85	45%	21
Current (2018)	69	15	85	45%	18

3.4. Data collection and instrument development

Data was obtained from secondary data sources available in different forms on women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan. Projects progress and evaluation reports on social safety nets programs implemented in research timeline were consulted to find out to see the benefits and challenges for women empowerment.

As there was no specific questionnaire tool available for socio-political studies in Pakistan, questionnaire guidelines were adhered from different research sources and a questionnaire tool was developed to collect primary data from respondents. Questionnaire was consisted of close ended and open-ended questions and provided ease to respondents to express responses. A Google based questionnaire was developed to share with participants if they wanted to submit data through filled questionnaires.

To ensure reliability and validity of questionnaire tool, it was tested by collecting feedback from researchers, respondents from population and research supervisor before data collection from sample respondents. Questionnaire tool was edited as per feedback for research data collection.

3.5. Data analysis

Quantitative and qualitative data was gathered from respondents. Data was cleaned and analyzed by using MS Excel 2018 to find out relation of variables, analyze hypothesis and achieve research findings. Different statistical analysis including data grouping, average and central tendency were applied for analysis of collected data.

Analyzed data was presented through tables and graphs to provide evidence for research hypothesis and presented data more reader friendly to findings may be generalized.

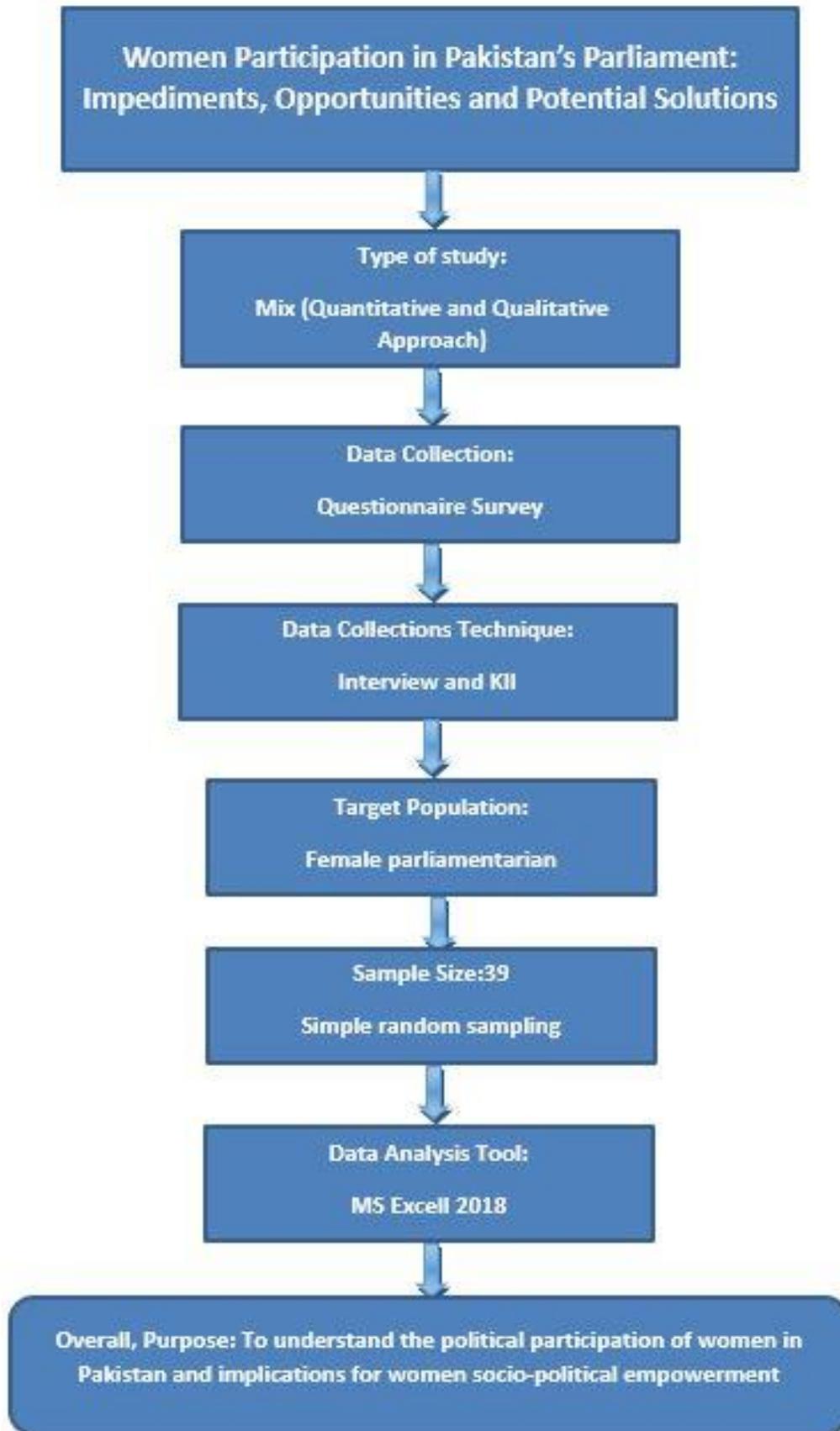


Figure 3: Process of the study a Flow Chart Diagram

Conclusion

This chapter briefly explained research design of study. All the process steps followed to conduct research are discussed in reference to secondary data sources. Population for study is explained and sampling frame is discussed to calculate sample respondents. Study population was consisted of 212 women parliamentarians from 2008 to 2018 from all provinces and all political parties of Pakistan. Probability sampling was followed by simple random sampling which had good possibility of all the respondents to be a part of sample. A sample of 39 respondents was calculated. A questionnaire was designed comprising on open and closed ended questions. Data was collected through google based questionnaire and in-depth interviews. Collected data was cleaned to make it ready for analysis. Data was analyzed on MS Excell to make it presentable and to discuss findings and hypothesis.

Chapter 04

Introduction

In this chapter an analysis of data is presented. Data is collected from women parliamentarian from recent past three governments from 2008 to 2018. Data was collected on a semi structured mix questionnaire consisting of dichotomous and qualitative option questions. This data was collected through email to women parliamentarian and physically conducting interviews to collect primary data as per sample.

Data collection process was completed in 45 calendar days. Primary data for research study was collected following interview method through a questionnaire as per research model explained in chapter 03 that is research methodology. Total 35 women parliamentarians from 2008 to 2018 assemblies were included in respondents as per sample. Respondents were asked from basic to detailed questions about legislation their role, effects of their role and challenges they faced that may lead to solutions or suggestions for women socio political empowerment through women participation in parliament.

Collected data was entered and cleaned to get data sets and analysis of respondents against each question. Questionnaire was comprised on questions to cover all objectives of research including participation of women parliamentarian in legislation, impact of this legislation, reasons for not participating in legislation, barriers and challenges faced by women parliamentarian, opportunities and recommendations for practical and theoretical implication.

Research Findings

4.1. Women participation in parliament and its impact on women empowerment

This part of research will explain findings about following.

- 4.1.1. Women participation in legislation
- 4.1.2. Reasons for not being part of legislative process.
- 4.1.3. Laws in which women participated.
- 4.1.4. Impact of laws on women empowerment
- 4.1.5. Women participation in parliamentary decision making.
- 4.1.6. Women social empowerment due to women participation in parliament
- 4.1.7. Contribution of respondent women parliamentarian to women social empowerment
- 4.1.8. Women political empowerment due to women participation in parliament

4.1.9. Steps taken by women parliamentarian for women political empowerment.

4.1.10. Suggestions for women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan

4.1.1. Women participation in legislation

Respondents were asked that being Member of Parliament do they ever participated in legislation for women.

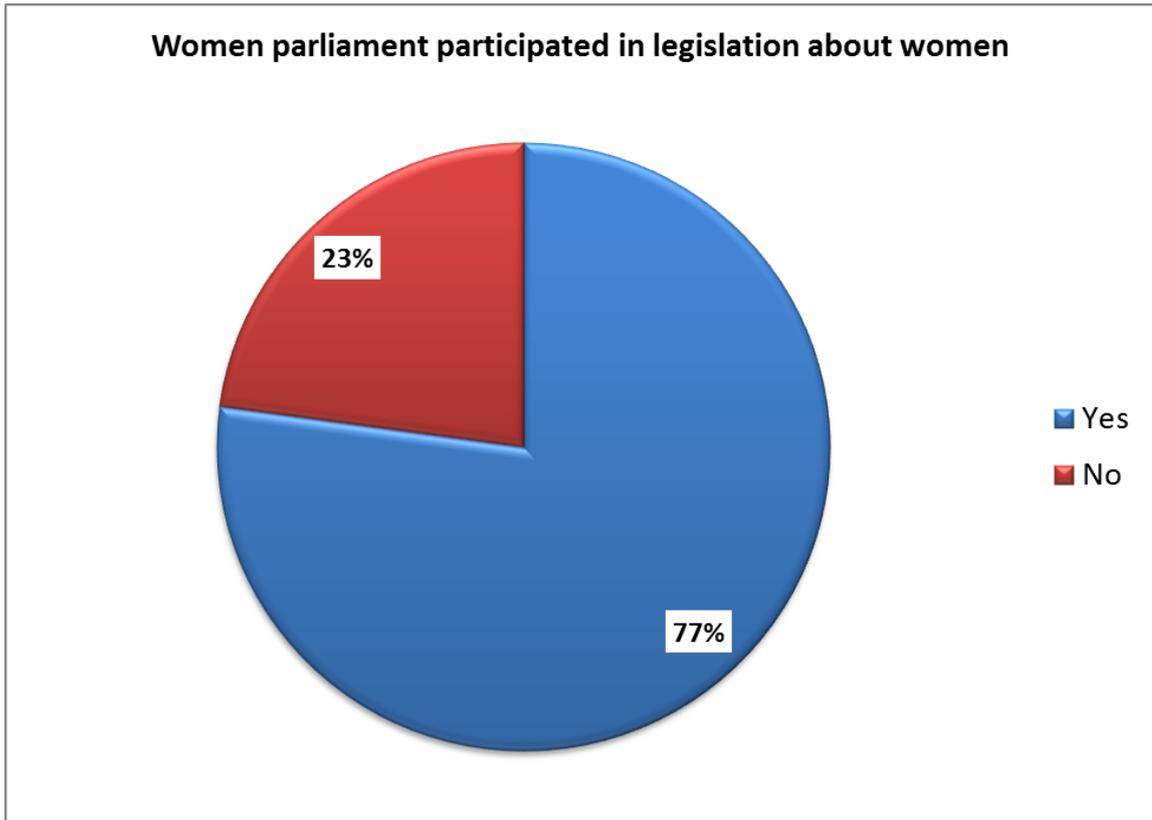


Figure 4: Women parliament participated in legislation about women.

Respondents were asked either they remained part of women related legislation or not. Majority 77% of respondents shared that they remained part of women related legislation in their government. As women participation in parliament is an indicator of women political empowerment it is positive that women representatives in parliamentarian remained part of women related law making at different level. 23% respondents shared that they did not remain part of law making in the tenure of their party.

Following is detail of findings based on data shared by respondents who took part in legislation. These respondents were further explored about government tenure and laws in which they participated.

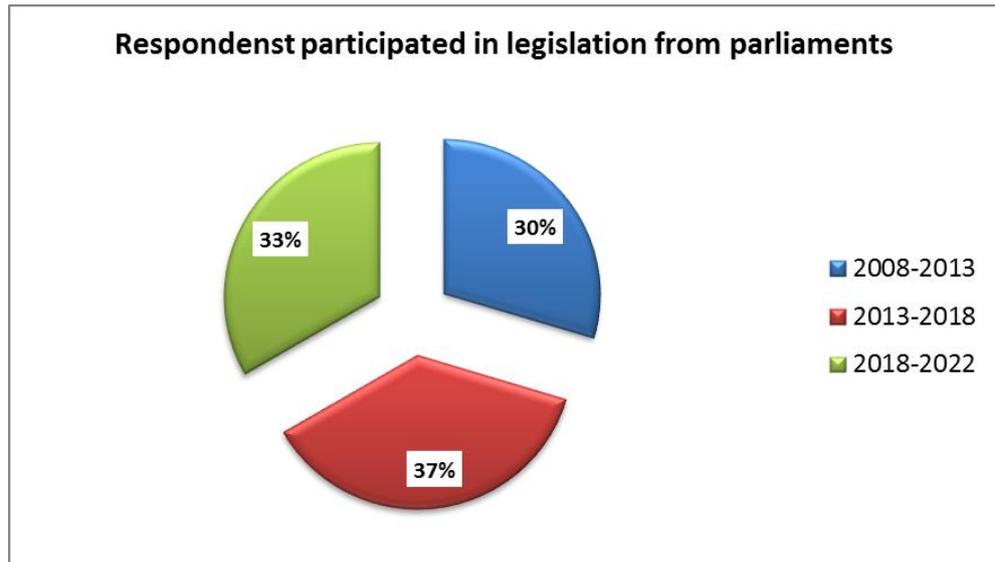


Figure 5: Respondents participated in legislation from parliaments.

As respondents consist of women parliamentarian from last governments from 2008 to 2018, it was needed to find out in which tenure more women participated in women related legislation.

Above figure gives details of participation in women related legislation in 03 governments from 2008 to 2018. From 77% respondents who participated in women related legislation shared further details. 30% of these respondents were in 2008 to 2013 government, 37% were in 2013 to 2018 government and 33% from 2018 to 2022. We may see that there is more than 30% participation of respondents in law making during last three tenures of government.

4.1.2. Reasons for not being part of legislative process.

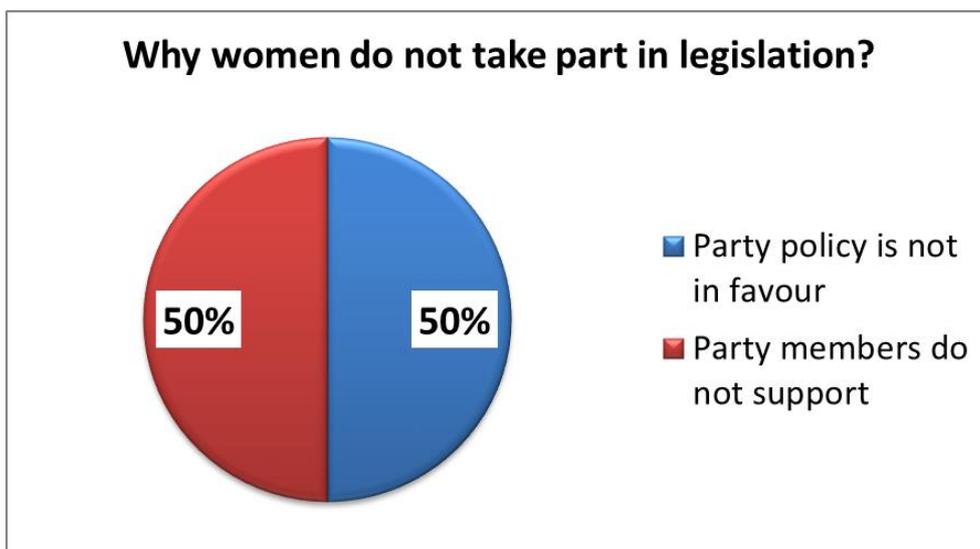


Figure 6: Why women do not take part in legislation?

23% of respondents shared that they did not take part in legislation. They were asked to share the reasons for not participating in legislation. All these respondents equally agreed on two responses. One response is that their political party is not in favor that women participate in legislation and women related legislation. While other reason is that male members from their political parties are dominant for lobbying and legislation. They don't support women parliamentarian from their own political party to participate in legislation.

4.1.3. Laws in which women participated.

To meet research objectives, respondents who took part in legislation were asked to share details of laws in which they participated during last three government tenures in Pakistan.



Figure 7: Respondent participation for women empowerment through legislation (2008-2013)

30% of respondents who participated in women related legislation from 2008 to 2013 participated in Acts that remained successful and bills that remained under discussion. Above mentioned pictures shows that 100% of 30% respondents participated in eight acts passed from parliament during 2008-2013 for women empowerment.

Respondent's contribution in women related legislation for women empowerment (2008-2013)

4.1.3.1. Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010

The Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Bill was presented by Minister for Women Development Sherry Rehman, in the National Assembly of Pakistan by the in 2009. After debates and follow up the bill was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan

in 2010 and became the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010.

This act is aimed to create safe working environment for women, the environment which is safe from bullying, abuse and any kind of harassment. Impact of this bill may be the women enjoy their right to work with dignity in a safe and protected environment. Decent work environment contributes to improved work quality. On an impact level women will be able to perform without discrimination and earn in a fearless environment for their household. Bullying and harassment is greatest barrier to working women perform as per their skills and will bring out their family from poverty line.

This act is a path that covers milestone of women and country development at multiple levels. This Act contributes to ensure the equal opportunities for women, to earn livelihood and get freedom from the circle of poverty. This will ensure a fear free livelihood opportunity for all the women at workplace. On a broader perspective this act contributes to national and international labor standards by discouraging all kind of discrimination at workplace and providing enough arrangements to ensure transparency and accountability. There is also needed to develop coordination mechanism in public and private institutions for successful implementation of act. There is also needed to allocate physical and financial resources for successful implementation and monitoring. Standardized recruitment protocols will be helpful to ensure no discrimination in all process related to staff recruitment and workplace environment.

The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010 proved a landmark piece of legislation that seeks to address discrimination and harassment issue for women at workplace in Pakistan. In this act harassment and all its types are well defined and fortunately it covers both physical and psychological harm and abuses. It provides guidelines for both sectors including public and private.

The Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010 has its vital importance in legislation of Pakistan to protect women from all kinds of harassment at workplace. Need of law was emerged as women faced bullying and harassment at workplace and raise voice to pass act for women protection. This act was passed by Pakistani parliament on 9th of March 2010, President of Pakistan provided assent on 19th March 2010 to be enforced from March 09, 2010.

Objective of this act was to provide safe working environment to women at workplace from all kinds of abuse, harassment and intimidation. Harassment is defined in act as any

unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favor or other verbal or written communication or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It also covers any other unwelcome act, gesture, or conduct, whether directly or by implication, with the intention to harm, insult, or intimidate a woman. This act also explains obligations of employees to provide safe working environment at workplace. There must be an Internal Complaints Committee at organization to receive complaints, investigate case and share recommendations for optimal solution. Meanwhile, act guides to develop and established a Complaint Response Mechanism in organization may be understandable and accessible by all the employees and ensure confidentiality. Complaints may be registered within ninety days of incident and complaint committee must dispose of case with in ninety days after complaint registration.

This Act also implies penalties in case non-compliance and false complaint that may be imprisonment up to ninety days or a fine up to one hundred thousand Pakistani rupees or both as vary case to case. However, there is need to disseminate message to raise awareness among masses especially employees at workplace to encourage gender sensitive workplace with safety from all kinds of abuse and harassment. Before this Act no legislative instruments provide definitions of harassment and protection against harassment at workplace for public and private organizations. This law was immense needed as in many organizations are engaged for work without any agreement and even not protected by labor department and labor courts.

4.1.3.2. Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Act 2010

In July 2008, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was launched. This program is aimed to enhance socio-economic conditions of most vulnerable households. This is one of the premier safety nets that was executed at national level. This program was designed to achieve objective of economic wellbeing of most deprived people and minimizing bad effects of passive economic growth through economic empowerment. Pakistan had extreme inflation during past three decades and social safety programs were much needed. A detailed household survey was conducted to know poverty score of households through poverty score card. Households scores were ranked, and most vulnerable households were given financial support. It's aimed to uplift economy, bring social and economic stability in the country. This program was aligned with Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate poverty, eradicating food and nutrition insecurity and empowering women.

BISP was established by an Act of parliament, this program worked under the executive patronage of Prime Minister of Pakistan and chief patronage of the President of Pakistan.

This program has goals to enhance economic ability of most vulnerable people and their household members and uplift social and economic status of vulnerable women. Program also had objective of promotion of equitable distribution of wealth especially for the low-income group.

In developing programs BISP has one of the largest databases of the households with categorization of economic classes in Pakistan. First door to door survey was conducted on an internationally exercised questionnaire tool to measure poverty score of households. This data was a base for many poverty alleviation programs, social protection programs and policy initiatives. This was the program with maximum outreach nationwide through 385 Tehsil offices, 33 divisional offices, six regional offices and headquarter in Islamabad.

The BISP Act 2010 was introduced in the National Assembly of Pakistan by the Minister for Social Welfare and Special Education, Samina Khalid Ghurki. Ghurki. She was a member of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Member of the National Assembly (MNA) during 2008 to 2013 government. She has played a leading and prominent in establishing the BISP program. This program has proven one of the largest social safety net programs in the history of Pakistan.

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Act 2010 is basically a social safety net program in Pakistan. This program is aimed to providing cash transfers to vulnerable families and individuals, with a focus on women. The program is designed to help alleviate poverty and improve the socioeconomic status of women in particular.

4.1.3.3. Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)

Globally acid violence is the worst form of gender-based violence. In context of Pakistan acid victims are mostly girls and women. Acid violence is the deliberate use of acid to attack another human being. The victims of acid violence are usually women and children, and attackers often are known to the victims. This violence may kill the victims, and survivors have extreme level of physical, psychological and social sufferings. Medical assistance is not easily available, treatment is much costly and time taking. Acid violence survivor's family also bears financial and social challenges. Extensive rehabilitation services are required for recovery of victims.

Acid violence left victims to live with disability through the remaining life. It causes depression and social exclusion and may lead to suicidal efforts. Tailor-made rehabilitation services are needed to facilitate survivors. Legal aid and protection of victim during legal proceeding is also needed to eradicate this violence.

Marvi Member, member of National Assembly of Pakistan the Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Bill 2010 in the National Assembly of Pakistan. She is a renowned social activist and remained member of the National Assembly of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013. She always rose voice for rights of women and also took practical measures to control acid attacks and honor killing in Pakistan.

This law is aimed to address acid attacks issue The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act 2011 is a comprehensive law, this law seeks to address the issue of acid attacks, which disproportionately affect women and girls in Pakistan. The act criminalizes the offense of throwing or using acid to cause harm or disfigurement, with a punishment of up to life imprisonment.

4.1.3.4. Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 2011

The Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act, 2011, commonly known as the Anti-Dowry and Anti-Women Practices Act, was introduced in Pakistan to address various forms of violence and discrimination against women, including dowry-related violence, forced marriages, and other harmful practices.

This Act was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan by Yasmeen Rehman. She is a former member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, and a prominent women rights activist. She presented the bill in 2008 as a private member's bill, which means it was introduced by an individual member of parliament rather than by the government. The bill was later passed by the National Assembly in 2011 and became law in Pakistan as the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act, 2011. The act criminalizes a range of practices that are harmful to women, including giving or taking dowry, forced marriage, and depriving women of inheritance. The act also imposes penalties for violating the law, including imprisonment and fines.

It was foreseen that people will report cases related to demanding dowry and many other offenses. This will facilitate women to report cases of violence and harassment.

4.1.3.5. National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012

Dr. Attiya Inayat member of National Assembly of Pakistan presented National Commission on the Status of Women Act 2012. She is famous human and women rights activist in Pakistan. She has facilitated to kick start many initiatives related to human and women protection in Pakistan. The said Act was presented as a bill and passed through parliament in the same year.

National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) was established as a result of The National Commission on the Status of Women Act 2012. The National Commission on the Status of Women is an independent statutory body. This commission exists for the monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of policies, programs and laws on the women rights and eradicate gender discrimination from the country.

Key functions of NCSW 2012 include following:

- Review and propose necessary amendments in existing law to enhance protection of women right.
- Monitoring and implementation of international agreements, treaties and conventions for protection of women rights
- Conducting research and analysis to disseminate update on women protection and implementation on women safeguarding laws.
- On the base of analysis share policy level recommendations
- Capacity building and advocacy for policy changes and minimize gender inequalities.

4.1.3.6.National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012

The National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012 was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan by the then-Minister for Human Rights, Ms. Mumtaz Alam Gillani, on 9th March 2012. The National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012 is an important piece of legislation in Pakistan that seeks to protect and promote human rights, including women rights. Here are some of the ways in which the act has impacted common women in Pakistan:

Improved Access to Justice: The act has helped to improve access to justice for women who have been victims of human rights violations, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and discrimination. The National Commission for Human Rights is empowered to investigate and take action on complaints related to human rights violations, which can include violations of women rights.

Greater Accountability: The act has helped to increase accountability for human rights violations, including those committed against women. The National Commission for Human Rights is mandated to monitor and report on human rights violations and to hold government agencies accountable for their actions.

Increased Awareness: The National Commission for Human Rights has helped to increase awareness about human rights issues, including those affecting women. This has led to

greater public attention and action on issues such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, and discrimination against women.

Improved Policymaking: The National Commission for Human Rights has played a role in shaping policy on human rights, including women rights. The commission has the power to make recommendations to the government on measures to promote and protect human rights, including those of women.

Overall, the National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012 has had a positive impact on common women in Pakistan by improving access to justice, increasing accountability for human rights violations, raising awareness about human rights issues, and promoting policymaking on human rights, including women rights.

4.1.3.7. Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012 Pakistan was presented by the Minister of Education Ghulam Farid Kathia on 12th of March 2012 in the National Assembly of Pakistan. This Act was presented in the government of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) that was led by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani.

This Act is aimed that every child has fundamental right of education regardless of sex, nationality, race or ethnicity. Children out of school should have free registration in schools and no fee should be charged for quality education. Not only free and quality education but child safety must also be ensured. Children should have recreational activities opportunities in classroom and in play area. Monitoring and evaluation of implementation on Act is required to ensure its implementation in true spirit.

Both Public and Private schools have guidelines for execution of Act. According to this Act government is responsible to establish schools and also encourage non-governmental organizations to establish schools. The federal government and local government where functional may share financial resources to run schools. Establishment of school management committee to ensure quality education and good environment is mandatory as per Act.

4.1.3.8. The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013

The Investigation of Fair Trial Act 2013 aims to ensure impartial and fair investigation of criminal cases through established independent body that is Federal Investigation Agency. This Act was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan. FIA is there to ensure fair investigation as per law of Pakistan.

This Act is to ensure that all investigating agencies use their powers with accountability and transparency without using their powers to influence decisions. There should be improved, systematic and scientific investigation methods to ensure timely decision.

There is also need for protection of evidence during trial and investigation. This Act also provides protection to evidence parties through different departments establish for women protection.

There is room to record the suspicious conduct of any official on the side of applicant and on the side of investigating party and present report if anything found influence the investigation process.

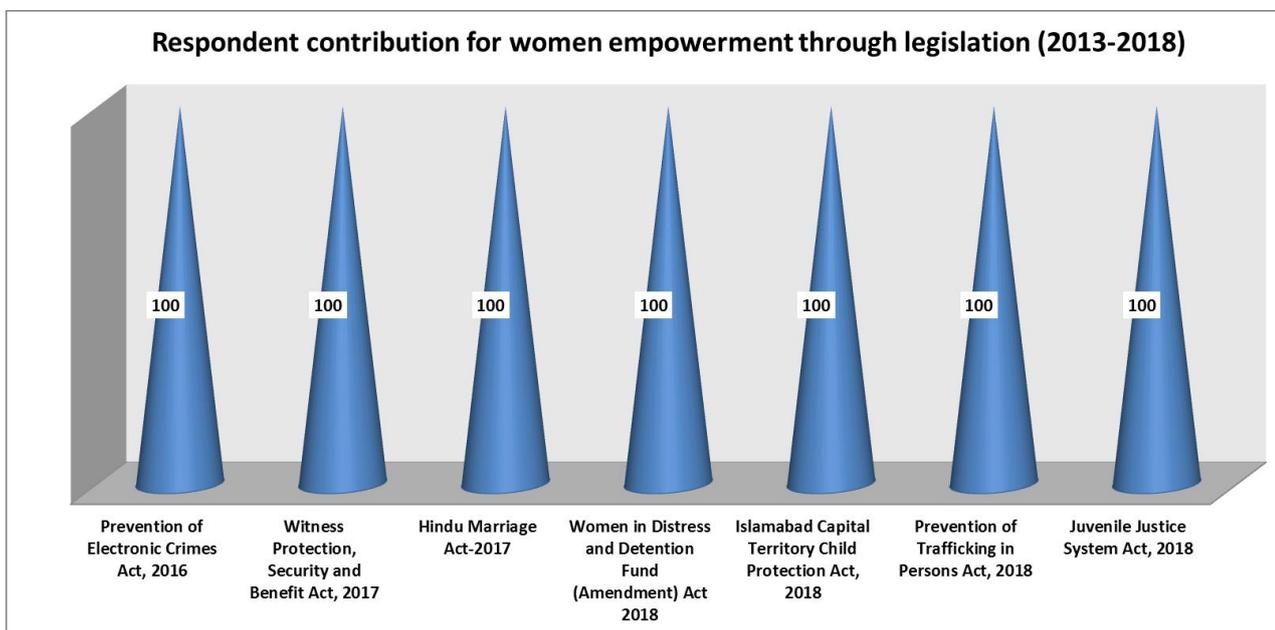


Figure 8: Respondent's contribution in women related legislation for women empowerment (2013-2018)

37% of respondents who participated in women related legislation from 2013 to 2018 participated in Acts that remained successful and bills that remained under discussion. Above mentioned pictures shows that 100% of 37% respondents participated in seven acts passed from parliament during 2013-2018 for women empowerment.

4.1.3.9. Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

The Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018 was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on 22nd February 2018. This Act was approved by President of Pakistan and passed by the parliament of Pakistan. This Act covers many loopholes of Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000, presented earlier. This Act is aimed to ensure protection of children in conflict through a legal framework for their rehabilitation.

The Juvenile Justice System Act 2018 has focus on protection of children rights and rehabilitation and treatment of children involved in the criminal activities. This Act facilitate for rehabilitation of children involved in the crimes and their care for their safe protection, safe trial for investigation and mainstream in a normal life with society.

This Act defines that age of child according to UNCRC. Child is a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years. Criminal offenses are divided in three categories including Minor, Major and Heinous. Minor offense means the offense for which punishment is imprisonment for up to three years with or without fine. The bail may be possible with or without financial penalty. Major offense means the offense for which imprisonment of three to seven years may be given with and without fine. Bail may be granted with or without any surety bonds. Heinous offense means serious, brutal or shocking to public morality, punishment may be death or life imprisonment or more than seven years imprisonment with or without fine. Below sixteen years of age may have bail in such cases but on discrete of courts. All these punishments are announcing under the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), 1860.

First time after this Act every child accused of offense may access legal aid free of cost from state. After custody a juvenile must be told about free legal assistance within 24 hours. Juvenile should be kept in observation home, separate from police station during investigation. Juvenile offenders are to be kept in rehabilitation centers, which are special kind of prisons for juvenile. The convicted child stays here for period of imprisonment or till eighteen years of age. There are arrangements of psycho-socio support, education opportunities and as well vocational and technical skills training. For women there are women crises centers.

Determination of age of accused is very sensitive in these cases. The Act bounds to determine correct date of birth of juvenile from verifiable sources including birth certificate, educational certificates or any other documents. In case documents may not be produced medical examination and report of medical board is mandatory.

Act also bounds to train special police officials to arrest, investigate as well as present juvenile in the courts. There is lack of juvenile courts in Pakistan. Children are tried in other ordinary courts. Juvenile Justice Committees are not established in the country that was to be established under section 12 of the Act.

Enough resources are not allocated to establish observation homes; children have to be kept in ordinary prison without a trained staff.

This Act has main objective to provide protection and rehabilitation to the juvenile in the country. This Act defines those children twelve years of age are considered incapable of being criminal.

4.1.3.10. Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018

The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on 30th May 2018. This law was presented to President of Pakistan. This law was passed to prevent the trafficking in person especially women and children. This Act has objective to promote the national and international cooperation and coordination to combat the international issue of trafficking in persons. This Act was considered a landmark to brighten the image of country as Pakistan's rapport was damaged due to allegation of women and children trafficking.

Human trafficking include recruitment, transfer, transportation, or handing over the human for fraud, abuse, violence, monetary and other in-kind benefits and damaging basic human rights of that person. In short human are exploit by such acts. This trafficking is usually made possible by a network sometime expand to many regions and continents. Most vulnerable countries and their deprived population are potential target for human trafficking. Women and children are vulnerable among other groups due to various biological, social and economic concerns that why their trafficking is higher as compared to other groups.

Human trafficking is mainly done due to following reasons.

- Sexual exploitation
- Forced Labor
- Domestic Servitude
- Organ Harvesting
- Child Soldiering

Sexual exploitation is done for prostitution, pornography and escort work. Consent of victim is not obtained in all such cases. The entire human may be victim of sexual exploitation. Forced labor is usually taken from children that are against basic human rights principles. Like in domestic servitude, human especially women and children are engaged in forced domestic work. Most of the times this forced work is done under harsh restrictions. Organ harvesting mainly kidney and eyes is most brutal and growing kind of criminal activities. Criminals earn high charges, with help of doctors. Due to poor medical facilities the health and life of donor remains at risk during and post-surgery. Children are used for soldiering that

includes forced labor with sexual exploitation which causes physical and psychological damages to them.

All above mentioned kinds of human trafficking are addressed in the Act, organizations are guided to minimize chances of all kinds of violation and ensure punishment as per law. Act guides for recovery, rehabilitation of victims and also ensure safety of victims and witness as both are at risk of life threat. To minimize vulnerability compensation may also be made as per provision in law. Moreover, Act stresses on need of awareness rising to prevent of all kinds of trafficking. There is need to develop coordination among different departments and with international organizations to timely restrict such brutal criminal actions.

Act also has set penalties and punishments for criminals. These punishments include both prison and monetary fine, may or may not be both. Different punishments are defined for minor and adults on both sides that are criminal and victim.

4.1.3.11. Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018

Shireen Mizari, member of National Assembly of Pakistan in 2018 presented Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018 in National Assembly of Pakistan. She raised issue of child and women protection and allocation of resources for prevention and rehabilitation from all kinds of misconduct and mishandling with children and women also for execution of policies.

The ICT Act 2018 is aimed to ensure child protection and child safeguarding. Some of the provisions in law are as following.

- Various terms related to child protection are defined in the Act including child abuse, child in need of care and protection, child offender and other.
- The Act guides to establish a Child Protection Committee with objective to coordinate and monitor child protection activities in Islamabad Capital Territory.
- This Act designates Child Protection Officers with responsibility to enforce and implement child protection measures.
- The child abuse must be reported by individuals and professionals in their capacities immediately.
- There should be separate child protection places, child protection homes, rehabilitation centers, counseling services especially designed for children.
- Psycho-social care and rehabilitation of victim child so effected child may live as a normal child after rehabilitation.

- Special courts for juvenile and allocation of resources for effective and efficient collaboration and coordination among departments

This Act defines factors for determining the best interests of a child include care, protection, safety, and wellbeing of a child along with proper care for physical and emotional needs. Child should have independence for religious and cultural views. Quality education of every child, and family is preferred for care and upbringing of child.

But court may restrict to keep child with family in case environment of home is unsafe or child is at risk. This Act also guides to establish Child Protection Institutions to rescue reported child, analyze the case and present its report with suggested solutions. Childcare plan is to be made with child's family consent as per provisions in law. Girl child must be kept in care in female child protection officers.

4.1.3.12. Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018

This Act was originally enacted in 1996. An amendment was made in 2018. Amendment was needed to make it more effective and enhance its effects for women.

The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) 2018 has aim to provide financial support and services to women in distress. These are the women facing domestic violence, abuse, acid attacks and harassment.

This amendment in Act also guides to provide medical, legal and psychological assistance along rehabilitation support to the women in distress and / or detention.

This Act also outlines to the composition of Women in Distress and Detention Fund Board and functionality of this board is to explore funding operations and also provision of financial assistance to the vulnerable women who are eligible as per criteria. There are multiple representatives in this board consisting of relevant government line departments, civil society organizations and legal aid service providers.

4.1.3.13. Hindu Marriage Act-2017

Hindu Marriage Bill was initially presented by Kamran Michael, who was Human Rights Minister in 2016. This Act was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan in 2016 after that in 2017 Senate of Pakistan passed the bill. This bill was signed by President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain, President of Pakistan and became a law in March 2017.

This Act fixes the age for marriage as 18 years for both girls and boys. This Act also safeguards the rights of minorities. The Act also fixes conditions for Hindu marriage

including consent from both the parties, both the parties not below the age of eighteen years, both the parties should not have spouse at the time of wedding.

The Act bounds to register Hindu marriage within fifteen days after ceremony. The marriage must be registered with verifiable documents. A registrar should be appointed from Government of Pakistan within or nearby of Hindu population areas. This Act also guides for separation of both the parties and children in case of separation. The family courts in all the provinces deal with these cases.

4.1.3.14. Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017

Law Minister Mr. Zahid Hamid presented the Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act 2017 in the Parliament of Pakistan. This Act was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan in July 2017. This Act is aimed to protect, provide security and ensure welfare of the witness of criminal cases. This Act makes it possible for witnesses to engage in case fearlessly and share witness whenever needed.

Women seeking for justice in Pakistan had major issue that their witness also receives threats and high risks. This Act supports victim women to access justice and present witness during trial. In gender-based violence cases protection of victim and witness remained a great challenge for victim in Pakistan. Women were discouraged to report crimes and access justice in gender-violence cases. By provision of protection to victim society is also motivated to participate in proceedings of case. This Act also provides protection to families of victims and witness. When victim and witness are protected, they are able to perform well in justice system without fear of threat. This Act also guides to establish a framework for witness protection with policies and procedure to execute this Act.

Major features of this include.

- To establish a specialized Witness Protection Agency that is responsible to monitor and assess measures of this Act.
- The Act also outlines the protective measures for victim, witness and their families. The protection includes all kinds of protection mental, physical, rehabilitation and maintaining normal life after rehabilitation.
- The Act stresses to ensures confidentiality and non-disclosure of facts and proceeding of case, dignity of victim and witness must not be compromised.
- The Act guides to support witness through some benefits may include financial, medical and legal support along with counseling.

- This Act also bounds witness to cooperate for legal proceedings and avoid any act that is in contradiction to law or deliberately de-track the case.

4.1.3.15. Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

Anusha Rahma Khan, Minister of State for Information Technology and Communication presented the Prevention of Electronic Crimes in 2016. This Act was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan with policy guidelines and bindings to leave a significant impact on the lives of women of Pakistan. This Act is aimed at regulation of electronic coordination and communication to minimize cybercrimes, for protection and safety of the one using electronic devices and cellular networks.

This Act has objective to combat electronic crimes especially cybercrimes. This Act also provided legal framework and mechanism to prevent and investigate the cybercrime cases, ensure prosecution and decide punishment of offenses related to Information and Communication Technology. Some points of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 including following.

- This Act is effective to a wide range of offenses including criminal acts, breaching into gadgets without permission, threatening and harassment, unauthorized access to data and negative use of data, abusive use of children, hate speeches and deliberately change in the data.
- This Act takes services of Federal Investigation Agency, to investigate and prosecute the evidence related to electronic crimes. This agency to deal with the data related to electronic crimes and present data to the court for prosecution of such cases. Special investigation agencies make a transparent investigation possible as per law.
- This Act also binds Internet and Cellular service providers to cooperate and report to the authorities and provide required data as per legal requirements to implement on law.
- Act also defines penalties and punishments for different offenses. These punishments include fines, imprisonment, confiscation of assets. Penalties and punishment vary as per situation of case.
- Cyber harassment is a criminal offense as per Act. Cyber bullying, cyber harassment, and other kind of harassment through electronic means.
- Victim and witness got protection for seeking justice as per law.
- Cooperation and coordination among multiple countries is allowed in this Act.

- One of important component of this Act is that there must be awareness and capacity building along with education to enhance mature use of Information and Communication Technology.



Figure 9: Respondent's contribution in women related legislation for women empowerment (2018-2021)

33% of respondents who participated in women related legislation from 2018 to 2022 participated in Acts that remained successful and bills that remained under discussion. Above mentioned pictures shows that 100% of 33% respondents participated in nine acts passed from parliament during 2018-2022 for women empowerment.

Acts are as following:

4.1.3.16. Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

The Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Ordinance, 2020 is an important step towards addressing the issue of sexual violence in Pakistan. It aims to expedite the investigation and trial of rape cases and provide better protection to victims. The ordinance provides for the establishment of special courts to try rape cases and the appointment of special public prosecutors to handle such cases. It also introduces new provisions for the collection of evidence, including the use of DNA testing, and provides for the protection of victims and witnesses.

The ordinance has been widely welcomed by women rights organizations and activists in Pakistan as a significant step towards addressing the issue of sexual violence in the country. However, some experts have raised concerns about the implementation of the ordinance and the capacity of the justice system to effectively handle rape cases.

4.1.3.17. The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021

The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021 is a legislation enacted in the Islamabad Capital Territory of Pakistan to prohibit the use of corporal punishment against children. The act aims to protect children from physical harm and promote positive discipline approaches. Here is a general overview of the key features and provisions of the Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021:

Prohibition of Corporal Punishment: The act explicitly prohibits the use of corporal punishment against children in all settings, including homes, schools, care institutions, and other relevant spaces within the Islamabad Capital Territory.

Definition of Corporal Punishment: The act provides a definition of corporal punishment, which typically includes physical force or any form of punishment that causes pain or discomfort to a child, intending to correct or control their behavior.

Responsibilities of Parents, Caregivers, and Educators: The act emphasizes the responsibility of parents, caregivers, and educators to use non-violent and positive discipline methods when interacting with children. It promotes the importance of understanding children's rights and ensuring their well-being.

Awareness and Education: The act highlights the importance of creating awareness and providing education regarding positive discipline methods and the harmful effects of corporal punishment. It encourages the dissemination of information, training programs, and workshops to promote understanding and implementation of non-violent disciplinary approaches.

Reporting and Complaint Mechanism: The act may outline mechanisms for reporting incidents of corporal punishment and filing complaints. It may establish procedures for investigating complaints and taking appropriate action against perpetrators.

Penalties and Legal Actions: The act may prescribe penalties and legal actions against individuals who engage in corporal punishment. The specific penalties may vary, but they typically aim to deter and punish offenders, ensuring the enforcement of the prohibition.

Monitoring and Implementation: The act may provide provisions for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the prohibition of corporal punishment. It may involve the

establishment of oversight mechanisms and regular assessments to ensure compliance and address any challenges that arise.

It's important to note that the above description provides a general overview of the key provisions of the Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021. For a comprehensive understanding of the act and its specific provisions, it is advisable to refer to the complete text of the legislation or consult official government sources or legal experts who are familiar with the intricacies of the law.

4.1.3.18. The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021

The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021 is a legislation enacted in Pakistan to amend the National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012. The purpose of this amendment is to enhance the functions and powers of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and strengthen its role in promoting gender equality and women rights. Here is a general overview of the key features and provisions of the National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021:

Composition of the Commission: The amendment may specify changes in the composition of the National Commission on the Status of Women. It may include provisions related to the appointment of members, their qualifications, and the representation of diverse groups and stakeholders.

Functions and Powers: The amendment may expand the functions and powers of the National Commission on the Status of Women. This may include:

Monitoring the implementation of laws, policies, and programs related to gender equality and women empowerment.

Conducting research, studies, and inquiries on issues affecting women rights.

Recommending legislative and policy reforms to address gender-based discrimination and violence against women.

Collaborating with relevant government departments, civil society organizations, and international bodies to promote gender equality.

Advising the government on matters related to gender mainstreaming and women empowerment.

Reporting and Accountability: The amendment may introduce provisions related to the reporting and accountability mechanisms of the National Commission on the Status of

Women. This may include the requirement to submit annual reports on the status of women rights, activities undertaken, and recommendations for improvement.

Institutional Strengthening: The amendment may include provisions to strengthen the institutional capacity of the National Commission on the Status of Women. This may involve measures such as increasing the budgetary allocation, ensuring adequate staffing and resources, and providing training and capacity-building opportunities for the Commission's members and staff.

Engagement with Stakeholders: The amendment may emphasize the importance of engaging with diverse stakeholders, including women rights organizations, civil society groups, and marginalized communities, in the work of the National Commission on the Status of Women. It may encourage the participation and consultation of these stakeholders in the Commission's activities and decision-making processes.

It's important to note that the above description provides a general overview of the key provisions of the National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021. For a comprehensive understanding of the act and its specific provisions, it is advisable to refer to the complete text of the legislation or consult official government sources or legal experts who are familiar with the intricacies of the law.

4.1.3.20. The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020

The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020 is a legislation enacted in Pakistan to establish a system for the rapid response and recovery of missing and abducted children. The act is named after Zainab Ansari, a young girl who was kidnapped and murdered in 2018 and aims to address the issue of child abduction and enhance the protection of children. Here is a general overview of the key features and provisions of the Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020:

Establishment of Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency: The act establishes the Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency, which is responsible for receiving and responding to reports of missing or abducted children. The agency acts as a central authority for coordinating efforts to locate and recover missing children.

Reporting and Response Mechanism: The act outlines a mechanism for reporting cases of missing or abducted children. It establishes a toll-free helpline and an online portal for the public to report such cases. Upon receiving a report, the agency initiates a rapid response and recovery process.

Rapid Response Teams: The act provides for the establishment of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) at the district and provincial levels. These teams comprise representatives from law enforcement agencies, child protection institutions, and relevant stakeholders. RRTs are responsible for the immediate response, investigation, and recovery efforts in cases of missing or abducted children.

Amber Alert System: The act introduces an Amber Alert system, named after Amber Hagerman, a child who was abducted and murdered in the United States in 1996. The system is used to broadcast urgent information about missing or abducted children through various channels, such as electronic media, social media, and public announcements, to aid in their swift recovery.

Child Recovery Units: The act calls for the establishment of specialized Child Recovery Units at police stations, equipped with trained personnel and necessary resources to handle cases related to missing and abducted children. These units work in coordination with the Zainab Alert Response and Recovery Agency and the Rapid Response Teams.

Offenses and Penalties: The act defines various offenses related to child abduction, trafficking, and exploitation, and prescribes penalties for these offenses. It also includes provisions to protect the privacy and identity of the affected child during the legal process.

Public Awareness and Capacity Building: The act emphasizes the importance of public awareness and capacity building initiatives to prevent child abduction and promote child protection. It encourages the dissemination of information, education programs, and training for law enforcement agencies, stakeholders, and the general public.

It's important to note that the above description provides a general overview of the key provisions of the Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020. For a comprehensive understanding of the act and its specific provisions, it is advisable to refer to the complete text of the legislation or consult official government sources or legal experts who are familiar with the intricacies of the law.

4.1.3.21. The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020

The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 is a legislation enacted in Pakistan to establish a legal aid and justice authority. The purpose of this act is to provide legal aid services to individuals who are unable to afford legal representation or access to justice. Here is a general overview of the key features and provisions of the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020:

Establishment of the Authority: The act establishes a legal aid and justice authority at the federal level in Pakistan. The authority is responsible for providing legal aid services, promoting access to justice, and ensuring the provision of free legal assistance to eligible individuals.

Mandate and Functions: The authority is tasked with several functions, including:

Providing legal aid and assistance to individuals who cannot afford legal representation.

Developing and implementing legal aid programs and services.

Conducting awareness campaigns and legal literacy programs to promote awareness of legal rights.

Collaborating with relevant stakeholders to improve access to justice.

Monitoring and evaluating the quality and effectiveness of legal aid services.

Any other functions deemed necessary for the promotion of legal aid and access to justice.

Eligibility for Legal Aid: The act sets out criteria for determining eligibility for legal aid services. It typically considers factors such as income level, social status, vulnerability, and the nature of the legal matter. The specific eligibility criteria may be further detailed in the regulations or guidelines issued by the authority.

Legal Aid Services: The act provides for a range of legal aid services that may be provided by the authority. These services may include legal advice, assistance with court proceedings, mediation, legal representation, and any other forms of legal aid necessary to ensure access to justice.

Funding and Resources: The act outlines provisions for the funding and resources required for the functioning of the authority. It may include allocation of government funds, donations, grants, or any other means of financial support.

Coordination and Collaboration: The act encourages coordination and collaboration with other legal aid providers, legal professionals, civil society organizations, and relevant government agencies to ensure effective delivery of legal aid services.

It's important to note that the above description provides a general overview of the key provisions of the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020. For a comprehensive understanding of the act and its specific provisions, it is advisable to refer to the complete text of the legislation or consult official government sources or legal experts who are familiar with the intricacies of the law.

4.1.3.23. The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020

The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020 is a legislation enacted in Pakistan to streamline and simplify the process of obtaining letters of administration and succession certificates for the settlement of estates and inheritance matters. The act aims to provide a legal framework for the efficient administration of estates and facilitate the distribution of assets among rightful heirs. Here is a general overview of the key features and provisions of The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020:

Definitions: The act may provide definitions for key terms related to the administration of estates and succession matters, such as letters of administration, succession certificates, intestate succession, and legal heirs.

Application Process: The act may outline the application process for obtaining letters of administration or succession certificates. It may specify the requirements, documents, and information that need to be submitted to the relevant authority or court.

Competent Authority: The act may establish the competent authority responsible for issuing letters of administration and succession certificates. It may specify the qualifications, jurisdiction, and procedures that the authority must follow in processing applications.

Eligibility Criteria: The act may define the eligibility criteria for individuals who can apply for letters of administration or succession certificates. This may include provisions related to legal heirs, proof of relationship, and the absence of a valid will.

Rights and Powers of Administrators: The act may outline the rights, duties, and powers of administrators appointed through letters of administration. It may specify the responsibilities and obligations they have in managing and distributing the estate of the deceased.

Validity and Recognition: The act may specify the validity and recognition of letters of administration and succession certificates issued under its provisions. It may define their enforceability and acceptance by banks, financial institutions, government departments, and other relevant entities.

Appeals and Disputes: The act may provide provisions for appeals and dispute resolution mechanisms in case of disagreements or challenges related to the issuance or revocation of letters of administration or succession certificates.

Penalties and Offenses: The act may prescribe penalties and consequences for offenses committed in relation to the application, issuance, or use of letters of administration or

succession certificates. It may discourage fraudulent practices and ensure compliance with the law.

It's important to note that the above description provides a general overview of the key provisions of The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020. For a comprehensive understanding of the act and its specific provisions, it is advisable to refer to the complete text of the legislation or consult official government sources or legal experts who are familiar with the intricacies of the law.

4.1.3.24. The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020 is a legislation enacted in Pakistan to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The Act aims to ensure equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and full participation for individuals with disabilities. Here is a general overview of the key features and provisions of the Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020:

Definition and Recognition of Disability: The Act provides a comprehensive definition of disability, encompassing a wide range of impairments, including physical, sensory, intellectual, and mental disabilities. It recognizes the rights of persons with disabilities to live with dignity, autonomy, and inclusion in society.

Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunities: The legislation prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in various aspects of life, including employment, education, healthcare, transportation, and access to public services. It ensures equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and promotes reasonable accommodations to facilitate their full and effective participation in society.

Accessibility and Barrier-Free Environment: The Act emphasizes the importance of accessibility and the removal of barriers that hinder the participation of persons with disabilities. It mandates the provision of accessible infrastructure, buildings, transportation, communication, and information, ensuring that persons with disabilities can access and use these services independently.

Rights and Entitlements: The legislation enumerates the rights and entitlements of persons with disabilities. These include the right to education, healthcare, employment, social protection, mobility aids, assistive technologies, and rehabilitation services. The Act also recognizes the right to legal capacity and decision-making for persons with disabilities.

Implementation Mechanisms: The Act establishes mechanisms for the implementation and enforcement of disability rights. It mandates the formation of a Disability Rights Commission responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Act and addressing complaints of violations. The legislation also encourages the establishment of advisory committees and consultative forums to ensure the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.

Awareness and Sensitization: The legislation emphasizes the importance of raising awareness and sensitizing the public about disability rights. It encourages the promotion of disability awareness campaigns, educational programs, and training initiatives to foster a more inclusive and accepting society.

It's important to note that the above description provides a general overview of the key provisions of the Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020. For a comprehensive understanding of the Act and its specific provisions, it is advisable to refer to the complete text of the legislation or consult official government sources or legal experts who are familiar with the intricacies of the law.

4.1.4. How the acts contributed to women empowerment?

4.1.4.1. Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010

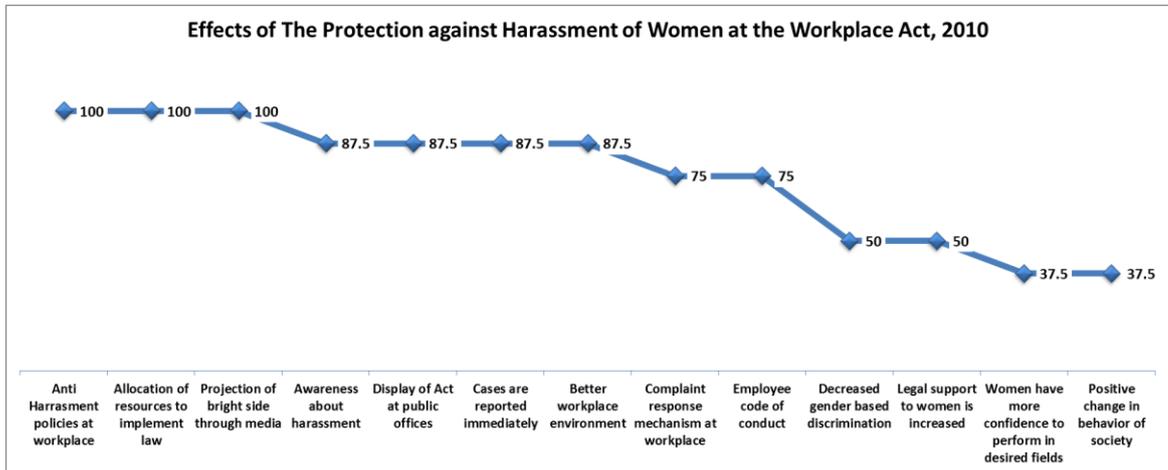


Figure 10: Effects of The Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010

As above picture depicts that 100% respondents shared that this act made possible to ensure anti-harassment policy at workplace for public and private organizations. This policy is signed by each employee while signing agreement or contract for job. This is first step to know and aware for harassment at workplace and contribute a safe and better workplace environment.

100% respondents shared that allocation of human and physical resources for awareness and implementation made it possible to decrease harassment. Due to allocation of resources for capacity building of staff and place necessary measures this act has a significant effect on women at workplace in Pakistan.

100% respondents shared that now people appreciate and share bright side of office and workplace environment and set a good benchmark for women empowerment at workplace through reduction in harassment and discrimination. Women had to face multiple types of harassment including bullying, body shaming and humorous jokes. Women faced widespread harassment and discrimination, which often went unreported and unpunished. The act has helped to increase awareness of the issue and has provided women with legal recourse to address harassment and discrimination.

87.5% respondents shared that now there is more awareness in masses about harassment at workplace and how to have zero tolerance on any type of harassment and abuse. Now, all types of media are contributing, and it has become a common cause.

87.5 % respondents that there is a positive effect of act that it is mandatory for all public organizations to display anti-sexual harassment act 2010 at a prominent workplace and make necessary arrangement to implement on law. This display cause equal awareness for employees and also for visitors and walk-inn.

87.5% respondents shared that now workplace harassment cases are reported immediately with confidence that anti-harassment committee will address and handle matter with ensured confidentiality. This confidence is improving workplace environment protected for all and leaving minimum space for workplace abuse and harassment.

87.5% respondents shared that due to implementation of this act workplace environment is better and safe for all employees. Employees perform with confidence that there will be no room for gender-based violence and discrimination.

75% respondents shared that complaint response mechanism at workplace is placed at prominent places and it is also functional. Public and private organizations are taking it as priority matter and have competent authority and proper mechanism. Complaint numbers, boxes and email are shared without any discrimination, and it is mandatory for all the complaints to be registered and responded timely with ensured confidentiality.

75% respondents shared that now organizations have their code of conduct, which is signed with joining documents and all the employees have to follow this code of conduct. Human

resource department also conduct training of newly inducted team members to make them aware and sensitize on social, moral and financial corruption and its consequences. This code of conduct is signed by employee and punishment may also be given as per signed code of conduct.

50% respondents shared that due to implementation on this act now there is decrease in gender-based discrimination. Women may have basic human rights, work with dignity, avail equal opportunities to get job and chances of promotion. Due to decrease in bullying, harassment and false ideas about women, gender-based discrimination is also decreasing from workplace.

50% respondents shared that legal support to women at workplace is increased. Women may access public solicitor for the matter and suitcase in Wifaqi Mohtasib if organization does not take matter seriously. Government has also provided legal guidelines and support to the victims that is a big hope for women to perform fearlessly in any organization and profession.

37.5% respondents shared that women are now able to perform in the profession of their own choice. Women had stigma that they may join certain fields and some professions due to working hours, location and type of work are not suitable for them, women may not be safe there. But, after this act women found themselves safe to perform in the field and environment of their own choice. Women are also holding country's flag high with proud as they are free to perform best in the field of their choice.

37.5% respondents shared that due to liberty of women to work fearlessly, with discrimination, violence and harassment there is a positive change in overall society. So called taboos are challenged by women and broken by implementation on this act. Mother allow their daughters to choose their education field on track of professional life with confidence. Overall work environment of organizations is improved that's causing improvement in positive change in society.

Since the passage of the act, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of harassment complaints filed by women in the workplace. According to a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), there were 475 complaints of workplace harassment filed with the ombudsperson under the act between January 2011 and December 2017. The report notes that the actual number of cases is likely to be much higher, as many cases go unreported.

The act has also had a broader impact on society, helping to raise awareness of the issue of workplace harassment and discrimination. It has helped to shift attitudes and promote a culture of respect for women rights in the workplace.

There is another factor that is yet highlighted less, that implementation on this act is making women socially as well as economically empowered. Women may contribute to family income, per capita income and gross domestic product of country. Women are economically empowered as a result country's economy has positive contribution.

However, there are still challenges to fully implementing the act, including a lack of awareness and resources, and a reluctance by some employers to comply with its provisions. Additionally, there is a need for greater accountability and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that the act is effectively implemented and that women are protected from harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

4.1.4.2. BISP Act 2010

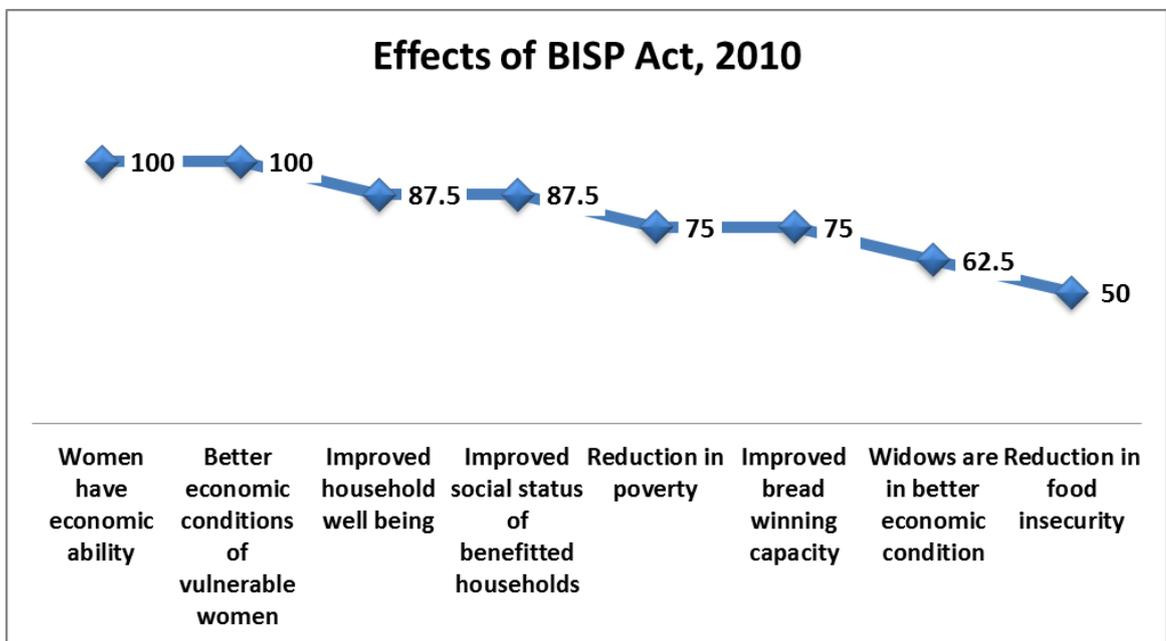


Figure 11: Effects of BISP Act, 2010

Above graph shows that respondents shared overall positive effects of BISP for women empowerment.

100% respondents agreed that BISP has enhanced economic ability and economic status of women. Cash grants were transferred to most vulnerable women which was a bold step to make women economically stronger.

87.5% women respondents shared that BISP act has positively contributed to household wellbeing that has improved social status of benefitted households. Cash grants made it easy for women to meet household expense and also plan to earn money from this cash.

87.5% respondents shared that due to BISP interventions there is improved economic status of benefitted households which has increased social status of these households. As family has access to improved necessities of life including food, health, education and productive resources their social status is improved.

75% respondent shared that due to cash transfer and improved well-being of household of benefitted women there is reduction in poverty. This poverty reduction is not only restricted to the benefitted women, household but also to the economic improvement of the country. This poverty reduction helped country to meet indicators of Millennium Development Goals and after that Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty by 2030.

75% respondents shared that due to BISP household are in capacity to earn more and get better food for household. Households may access adequate food for the family, access to food has been increased. It contributes to women empowerment as reduces their vulnerability.

62.5% respondents shared that BISP contributed in improved socio-economic status to most vulnerable women in Pakistani society who are widows. Widows have no or limited access to financial resources and less opportunity to take part in decision making. In BISP cash grants widows were among benefitted women that uplifted their socio-economic conditions and ease of survival after death of head of household.

50% respondents shared that BISP has contributed to food security of benefitted women and their households. Food is basic survival need, and economic resources are needed for food production, access to food and food consumption. Due to access to enough food, benefitted household also able to avoid health hazards that may be due to food and nutrition insecurity. As a result of food security household need to get medical assistance also decreased which increases family savings.

BISP program has left positive effects on socio-economic status of Pakistani women. This program helped in reducing poverty and enhances economic status of women and their households. World Bank conducted an impact evaluation on BISP and shared that this program has left a positive impact on women of Pakistan. Estimated 1.7 million households' economic status was lifted from 2010 to 2013.

The cash transfer to vulnerable women had a contribution in women empowerment in Pakistan. This cash transfer intervention made women able to participate in productive decisions at household level and their control over assets and resources increased.

The associated factors are positive change in education and health of women and their households. The cash transfer helped women to access improved health services and adequate food for themselves and their families. The improvement in food access caused decrease in burden on health care facilities.

In conclusion, the BISP Act 2010 has had a positive impact on common women in Pakistan by reducing poverty, improving economic wellbeing, and empowering women. The program has helped to increase women decision-making power and control over household resources and has improved access to healthcare and education for women and their children.

According to the official website of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in Pakistan this program has benefitted 5.5 million eligible households with provision of cash transfer all over the Pakistan as of February 2023. As per estimation 34 million most vulnerable individuals primarily women and children are benefitted from BISP.

According to BISP official website statistics approximately 98% cash grants are transferred to women for their socio-economic empowerment and enhanced well-being. The program is designed so alleviate poverty from society and the country.

This program has made vulnerable women able to access financial resources and take financial decisions that are women social and economic empowerment.

4.1.4.3. Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)

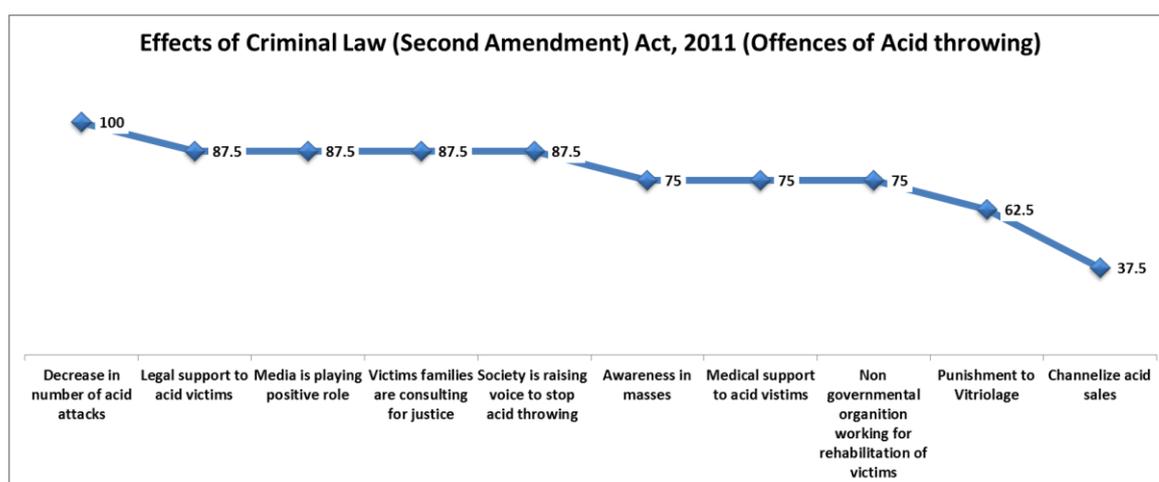


Figure 12: Effects of Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)

100% respondents shared that there is number of acid attack cases as law emphasizes on channelizing sale and purchase of acid and awareness about the law. It is good sign that all the respondents agree that there is decrease in acid throwing cases.

87.5% respondents agree that after implementation on this act now legal support is available to acid violence victims. In Pakistan dealing in legal matters is time taking and need huge financial resources. Legal aid services are an important factor to ensure punishment and discouraging this violence in the society. When family of victim cannot afford legal services, cases remain unreported and unaddressed. Provision of legal support to victims is a step towards women social empowerment and support to eradicate this brutal violence from society.

87.5% respondents shared that after implementation on law, family members of victims approach for legal services. Before this act such reported remained unreported due to expensive legal services. Family of victim did not report such cases and try to solve matters at community level.

87.5% respondents shared society is raising voice to eradicate acid throwing violence. Due to awareness through media now society is raising issue on multiple platforms. People also remain in touch with legal proceeding of acid violence cases and highlight role of law enforcement agencies, judiciary system and society in providing protection to victim, victim's family and witness of case. Society may play vital role in implementation of law and eradicate this violence for women empowerment.

75% respondents agree that there is awareness for acid attack violence in masses. People know about this crime and circumstances of this action. Paid media campaigns on print and social media proved a source for awareness. Acid throwing crime is also part of panel discussion in women empowerment events and fruitful debate is generated on it. Now, public and private organization aware their employees on women protection and this act has prominent place in act related to women protection. Pakistani short documentary on life acid victim women also won first Oscar award for the country. Role of media may be backbone for implementation of law and eradicate this crime.

75% respondents shared that medical support in being provided to acid crime victims. Government has established burn center, although not meeting requirement of population but its existence makes it possible to provided medical facility to victims. Acid burn treatment is very time taking and costly. Sometimes a series of surgeries is needed, and organ transplantation may also require. Free medical facility to victim makes victims and family empowered to pursuit matter.

75% respondents shared that nongovernmental organization are working to aware people on acid throwing crime and rehabilitation of acid burn victims. These organizations are working

in collaboration with other stakeholders especially government organizations to control acid throwing cases. Acid survivors' foundation is working on awareness, capacity building training programs, medical support, psycho-socio support for rehabilitation. This organization also conducts research across the country and present analysis to decision makers at different forms to share enabling factors and barrier in implementation of laws. According to their research reports there is decrease in acid burn cases due to mutual efforts of public and private organizations and society. Smile again is working for rehabilitation of acid victims by providing medical and legal support and also providing technical skills training and livelihood opportunities to acid burn women.

62.5% respondents shared due to implementation on this Act, acid-throwers are punished as per law and protection is provided to victim and family. Society and organizations working to eradicate acid crime from Pakistan keep in touch to legal proceeding and share updates with masses. Due to awareness and social pressure, such cases are reported, and legal proceeding are transparent.

37.5% respondents shared that due to implementation on law, acid sale and purchase is more channelize in Pakistan. Acid sale and purchase is more transparent, law enforcement agencies are working to make it more transparent.

Since the passage of the act, there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of acid attacks in Pakistan. According to a report by the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), there were 74 cases of acid attacks reported in Pakistan in 2019, down from 163 in 2018. The report notes that the actual number of cases is likely to be much higher, as many cases go unreported.

The act has also had a broader impact on society, helping to raise awareness of the issue of acid attacks and promoting a culture of respect for women rights. It has helped to shift attitudes towards the perpetrators of acid attacks, who were previously able to act with impunity. The act has provided victims of acid attacks with legal recourse to seek justice and compensation and has helped to provide them with access to medical treatment and rehabilitation services.

However, there are still challenges to fully implementing the act, including a lack of awareness and resources, and a need for greater accountability and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that perpetrators of acid attacks are brought to justice.

4.1.4.4. Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 2011

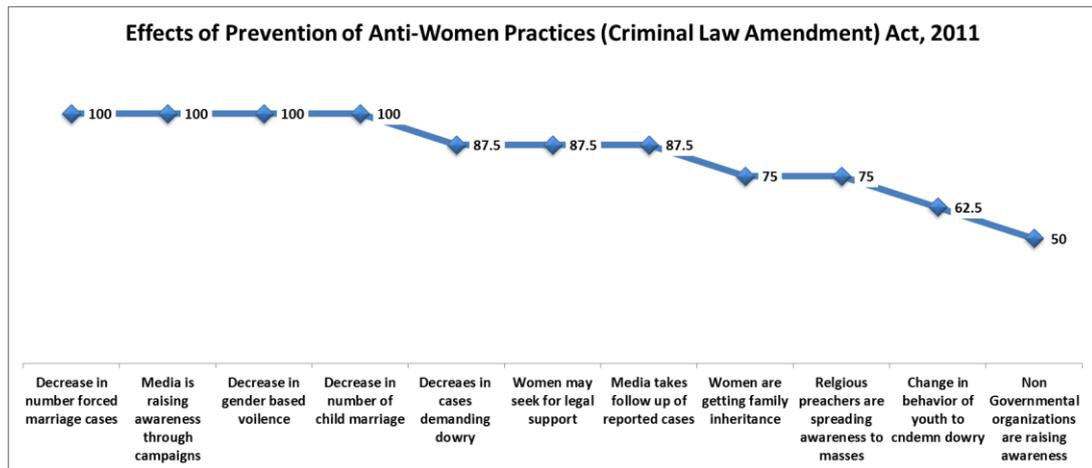


Figure 13: Effects of Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 2011

As above graph shows that 100% respondents shared that due to implementation on law now there is decrease in forced marriage cases. Forced marriage was in practice all around the country and remains unreported.

100% respondents shared that now media is rising is awareness to condemn forced marriage and child marriage. People are also aware on law and punishments for the law. Media is raising awareness through messages, campaigns and day celebration. Media is playing positive role to aware people on forced marriage and child marriage and child and women protection.

100% respondents shared that due to implementation on law there is decrease in gender-based violence. Women at household and workplace are more protected and empowered.

100% respondents respond that due to implementation on law people are more aware and media is playing its positive role to share information with masses. Different campaigns are launched occasionally like on women day, girls' day and like other days. Through these campaigns a huge population is targeted to spread information and sensitize them. Different private organizations working in women empowerment also plan awareness campaigns for people who don't have access to media, especially vulnerable women.

Due to awareness, there is decrease in gender-based violence. 100% respondents shared that all the genders have equal chances to avail opportunities and women are encouraged to apply and serve. Now, women are serving in many fields which were considered only for men and

vice versa. Due to women protection law and policies working environment for women is good enough that they can perform without any fear in the field of their own choice.

100% respondents shared that there is number of child marriage cases. It was practicing that young girls were forced to marry aged men as a result of Brother decision. In most

87.5% respondents share that after implementation on Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act there is decrease in cases to demand dowry from bride's family. Due to awareness girls discourage to accept proposal of families who demand dowry. Religious leaders and parties are also supporting to implement on law and religion Islam also discourages demanding dowry.

87.5% respondents agree that now women may report any case abide by law as law provides them protection. Now, women have more access to social media and awareness about laws and procedure to access justice. The Anti-Women Practices Act has made women able to raise their voice through proper channel and ask for decision as per law.

87.5% respondents said that the reported cases have follow up through media. People put eyes on the legal proceedings of cases and disseminate update regarding these cases timely. People raise awareness through all kinds of media and fair inquiry is ensured by sharing court proceedings through media.

75% respondents shared that now women are getting their right in family inheritance as per provision in law. This Act has impact on lives of women that they are aware of their inheritance rights and procedure to pursue for the right of inheritance.

75% respondents shared that this Act has diversified impacts. Religious leaders are also supporting right of women in family inheritance according to religion laws. Islam gives right of inheritance to women either she is in whatever role, mother, sister or wife. Women had to ask to male family members for inheritance right and many times it caused issues in domestic lives.

62.5% respondents had point of view that now dowry is not demanded by bride and her family. It is change in the views of youth that they condemn the demand for dowry. Awareness to laws and access to justice made it possible for youth. Youth have access to media and awareness though media leaves impact on their minds.

50% respondents said that Non-Governmental Organizations are taking part to raise awareness about this Act and implementation on it. Non-Governmental organizations sensitize masses on importance of this Act and also warn them about penalties as per law.

Impact of this law is that non-governmental organizations along with other relevant stakeholders are promoting prevention of anti-women practices.

The Act made it easier for women and their families to access justice and harsher punishments for the person who commits violence. The punishment may include imprisonment with or without fine, and even death penalty. Awareness about gender-based violence, and women rights have been increased in masses. Government and non-governmental organizations are jointly taking up the agenda of women prevention against violence.

This Act has increased awareness in public on violence and women rights. Public and private sector organizations are jointly designing and implementing awareness campaigns through print and social media. Women may have access to justice and their families are willing to sue cases.

Due to awareness and access to justice there is reduction in gender-based violence cases. It may be observed by different indicators like equal opportunities for education and profession, acid attacks, and domestic harassment.

Overall, the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 2011, has been an essential step towards protecting women rights in Pakistan. However, there is still a long way to go in terms of ending violence against women and ensuring gender equality.

However, there are still challenges in implementing the law effectively. Some women may not be aware of their rights under the law, and others may face barriers in accessing legal support and protection. Additionally, the criminal justice system in Pakistan is often slow and under-resourced, which can make it difficult for women to obtain justice.

In conclusion, the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act has had a positive impact on women in Pakistan by providing legal protection and support for victims of violence and discrimination. However, more work is needed to ensure that women are aware of their rights and can access justice effectively.

4.1.4.5. National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012

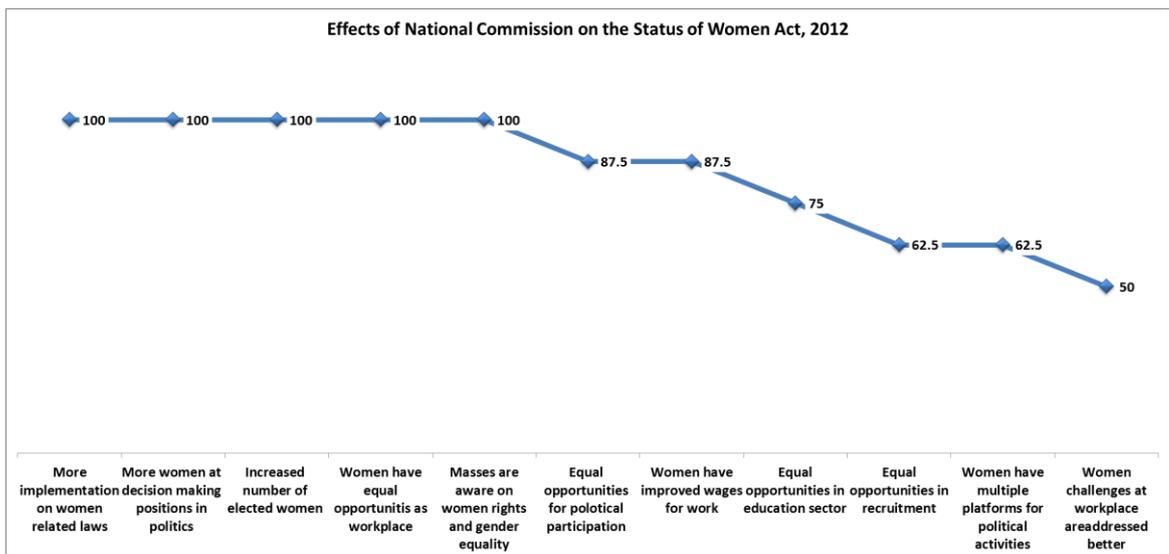


Figure 14: Effects of National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012

National commission on the status of women Act is leaving an impact on the lives of Pakistani women. This commission is proved a support to advocate for women rights and reducing gender inequalities.

Participants were asked to share the effects of National commission on the status of women Act on women empowerment in Pakistan. 100% respondents shared that due to this Act there is more implementation related laws. All the respondents shared that women are politically empowered as more women may take political decisions. 100% respondents shared that there is in increase in number of elected women in Pakistan. They also shared that women have equal opportunities as workplace. They shared that now people are more aware on women rights and how to access these rights. Media has made is easy to understand and implement laws. All these are indicators of women social, economic and political empowerment. Number of women on elected seats has increased and women political sphere is increased.

87.5% respondents shared that due to this commission women have equal opportunities to participate in political activities and women having improved wages for work. Women were

considered less competent as compared to men and they were given low wages for same work. 75% respondents shared that due to this commission women have more access to equal educational facilities. They have equal opportunity to choose educational field of their interest without any myth related to education and gender.

62.5% respondents shared that women equal opportunity to apply and choose profession as per their expertise. This commission has made it possible for women to have equal access to education, profession and perform at different political platforms. The NCSW has also worked to promote women economic empowerment. The Commission has conducted research and analysis on the gender pay gap and other issues related to women employment and has advocated for policies that promote equal pay and opportunities for women in the workforce.

50% respondents that challenges faced by working women related to workplace are reduced. This is also a reason that women are getting equal opportunities and violence against women is reduced.

In addition, this commission designed and executed awareness campaigns and other activities for communities. This was helpful to reduce negative stereotypes associated with gender in society and organizations.

4.1.4.6. National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012

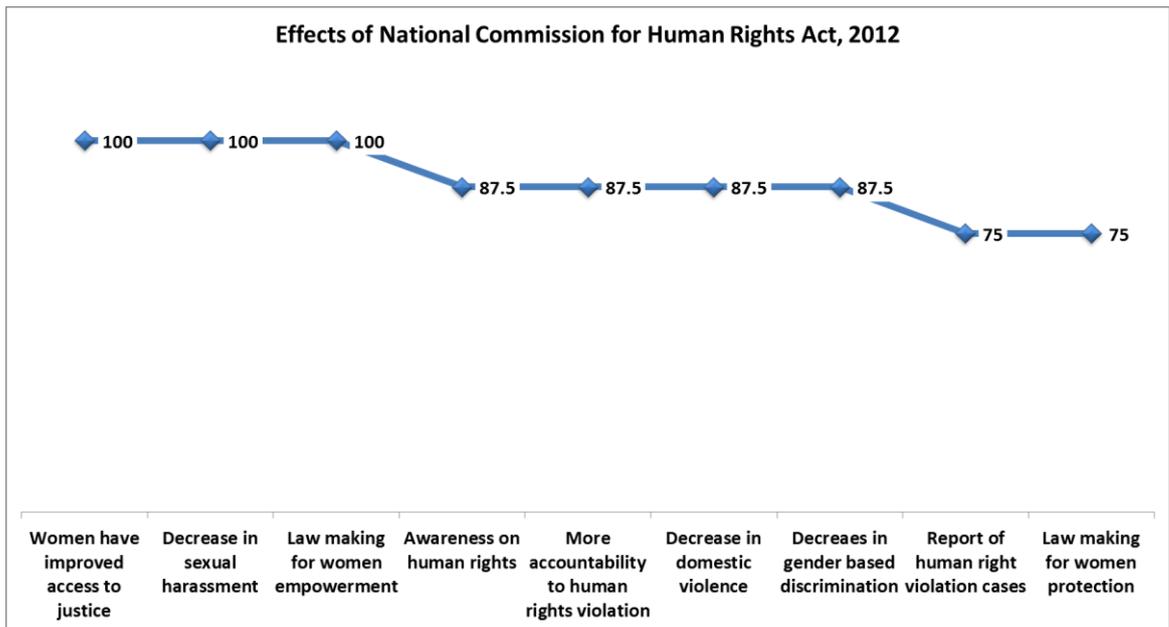


Figure 15: Effects of National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012

Respondents were asked to share their views about effects of National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Act, 2012.

100% respondent shared that due to implementation on NCHR there is improved in access to justice for women. States bounds government departments to support victims for provision of free legal services. Different non-governmental organizations are also working on this mandate to provide free legal aid services to victims.

100% respondents shared that there is decrease in sexual harassment. NCHR condemns all kinds of violence especially gender-based violence that cause reduction in sexual harassment cases across the country.

100% respondents shared due to National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Act, 2012 women related bills are presented in parliament and approved to become part of law. It indicates that due to NCHR more issues related to women were discussed and healthy debates were generated to approve those presented bills. NCHR is an independent and autonomous body, that's why undue influence from external factors is not a barrier. This is an indicator of women political empowerment that women related bills are presented and approved from parliament.

87.5% respondents shared that due to this Act there is more awareness on human rights, more accountability for human rights violation, decrease in domestic violence and decrease in gender-based discrimination. NCHR also has mandate to conduct research studies the

findings of these research are used for advocacy and awareness. This awareness helps in developing human rights policies. All these are indicators of women social and political empowerment.

75% respondents shared that now more cases of violence are reported and there is more law making for women empowerment. Violence cases are reported when victim has access to justice, witnesses are protected, and society is in favor. When victim and victim's family have firm believe that they will have justice they report case. NCHR may investigate and inquire the complaints of human rights violation. Due to this power more evidence may be collected, cases may be examined, and recommendations may be made.

4.1.4.6. Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

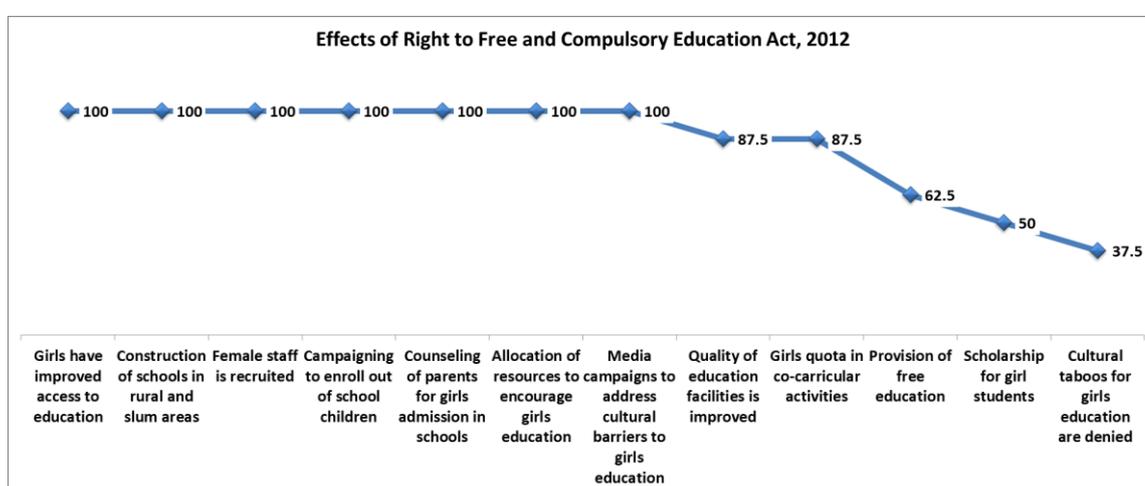


Figure 16: Effects of Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

Respondents were asked about the effects of Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2012 in Pakistan in context of women socio-political empowerment. 100% respondents shared that after implementation on Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act there is improvement in girl's access to education, schools are constructed in rural areas, female staff is recruited in girl's schools, enrollment campaigns are executed, parents and communities are sensitized to get girls enrolled, resources are allocated to make school functional and awareness in raised through media on importance of education especially for girls. Due to the Act unavailability of education facilitation was highlighted on different forums and addressed by solution adaptable by local communities.

87.5% respondents shared that quality of education has been improved and girl's quota in co-curricular activities is increased. When resources are allocated along with awareness the girls student find it easy to get quality education at nearest place.

62.5% respondents shared that free education is being provided in government schools, which is a great step to increase number of schools going schools. People living below poverty line are unable to pay minimum fee for their children's education, or they compromise other necessities of life to pay dues of their children.

37.5% respondents shared that socio-cultural taboos for girl's education are denied because of awareness campaigns and sensitization of parents and community members. It was considered that there is no need to invest in girls as there will be no-return after their marriage; other taboos were associated with the liberty of girls that was considered harmful for society.

4.1.4.7. The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013

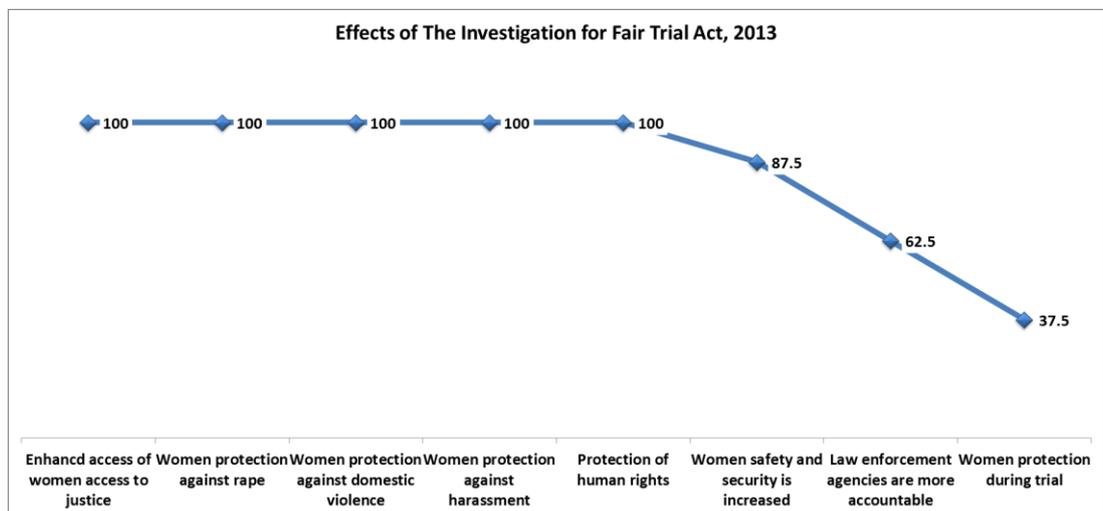


Figure 17: Effects of The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013

As above figure depicts that 100% respondents shared that there is enhanced women access to justice, women protection against rape, women protection against domestic violence and protection of human rights due to implementation on the investigation for fair trial Act 2013.

87.5% respondents shared that there is an increase in safety and security of women, 62.5% respondents shared that now law enforcement agencies are more accountable, and 37.5% respondents shared that there is more protection to women during trial.

4.1.4.8. Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

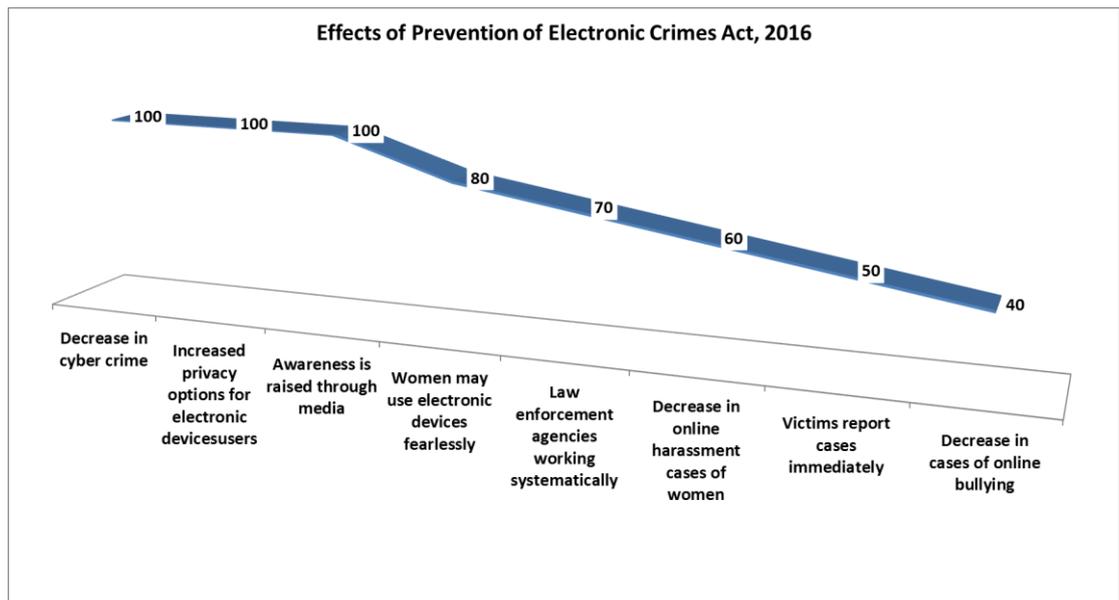


Figure 18: Effects of Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 was presented by Anusha Rahman Ahmad Khan, who was the Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications at the time. The Act passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan has had a significant impact on common women in the country. The act aims to regulate electronic communication, prevent cyber-crimes, and protect the privacy and security of individuals using electronic devices and networks.

Participations were asked to share effects of The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016. 100% respondents shared that due to this Act there is decrease in number of cyber-crime cases. Increased privacy options for electronic device users that creates barriers for criminals. 100% respondents shared that awareness is raised through media including print media and social media.

80% respondents shared one of the most useful impacts that due to the Act women may use electronic devices freely and fearlessly. Women did not use electronic gadgets or were forced to not use electronic devices as user and family may suffer due to harassment.

75% respondents shared that due to implementation on this Act, law enforcement agencies are working systematically to eradicate cyber-crimes from the country. This law bounds law enforcement agencies to make more security options and address complaints efficiently and effectively.

60% respondents shared that there is decrease online harassment cases. This is due to effects of implementation on the law.

50% respondents shared that due to effective and efficient role of all department's victims report cases immediately after incident. Due to confidence on transparency and impartiality victims report cases.

40% respondents shared that there is decrease in online bullying cases, which was a greater barrier for women to use electronic devices even for their educational and professional purpose.

4.1.4.9. Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017

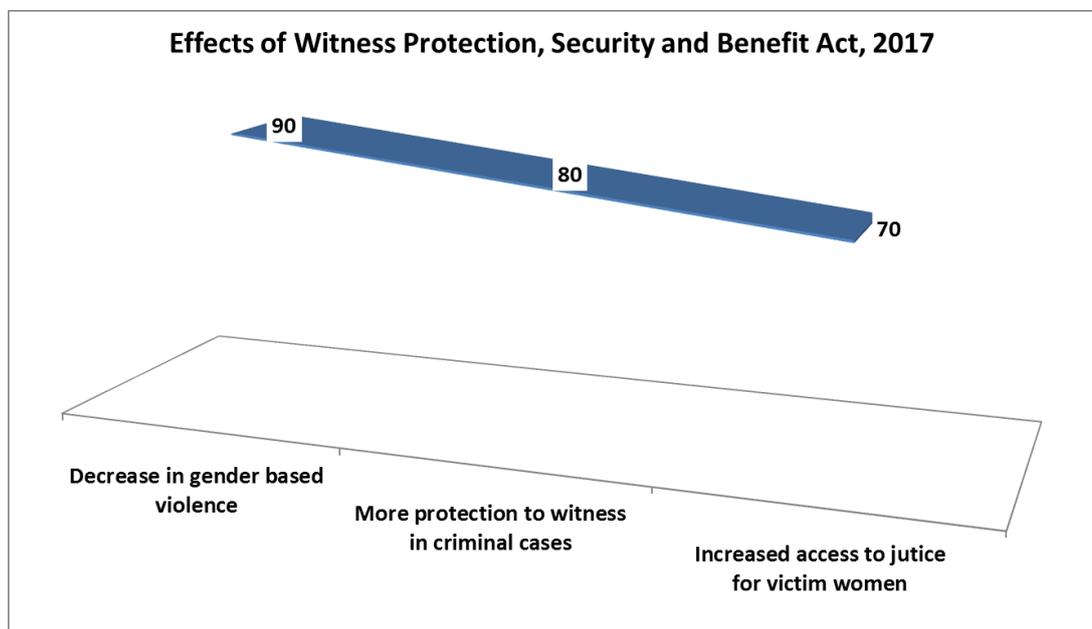


Figure 19: Effects of Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017

Participants were asked about impact of witness protection, security and benefit act 2017. 90% respondents shared that there is decrease in gender-based violence due to implementation on this act. 80% respondents shared that now there is more protection to witness in criminal cases. 70% respondents shared that there is increase in access to justice for victim women.

4.1.4.10. Hindu Marriage Act-2017



Figure 20: Effects of Hindu Marriage Act-2017

The Hindu Marriage Act 2017 was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan by the then-Law Minister Zahid Hamid. The Act was passed in March 2017, and it aims to provide a legal framework for the registration of Hindu marriages in Pakistan. It also recognizes the legal rights of Hindu women in marriages, including the right to inherit property and the right to seek divorce.

Participants were asked about effects of Hindu marriage act 2017 in Pakistan. 100% participants shared that there is an increase in number of Hindu marriage cases, due to this act now Hindu women may exercise right to divorce and Hindu girls have protection from forced marriage.

80% respondents shared that Hindu women may decide their marriage to be registered as a Hindu marriage. 60% respondents shared that more Hindu women have access to inheritance rights. 50% respondents shared that there is awareness in people about the act. People report the cases of forced Hindu marriage immediately.

4.1.4.11. Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018

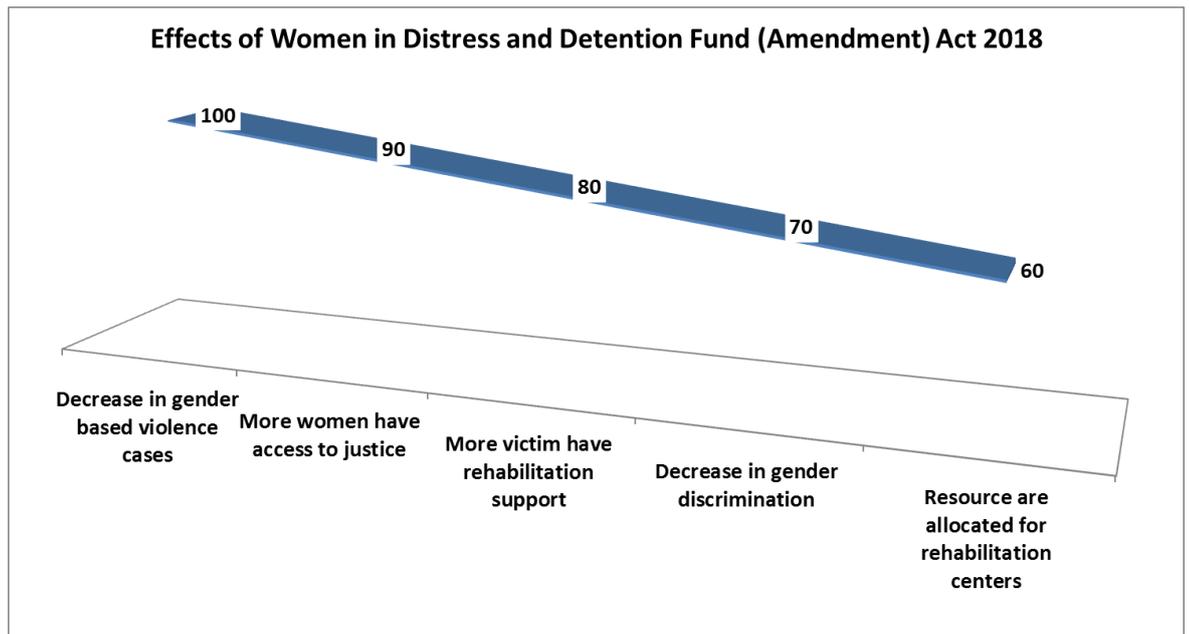


Figure 21: Effects of Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018

Law Minister Zahid Hamid law minister in 2018 presented this bill in the National Assembly of Pakistan. The Act was passed in January 2018. This act aims to provide support and facilitation to women in distress or detention in Pakistan.

Respondents were asked to share effects of this act on women empowerment.

100% respondents shared that due to implementation on this act there is decrease in gender based violence, 90% respondents shared that more women have access to justice, 80% respondents shared that more victims have rehabilitation services, 70% respondents shared that there is decrease in gender discrimination and 60% respondents shared that resources are allocate for legal and rehabilitation services.

4.1.4.12. Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018

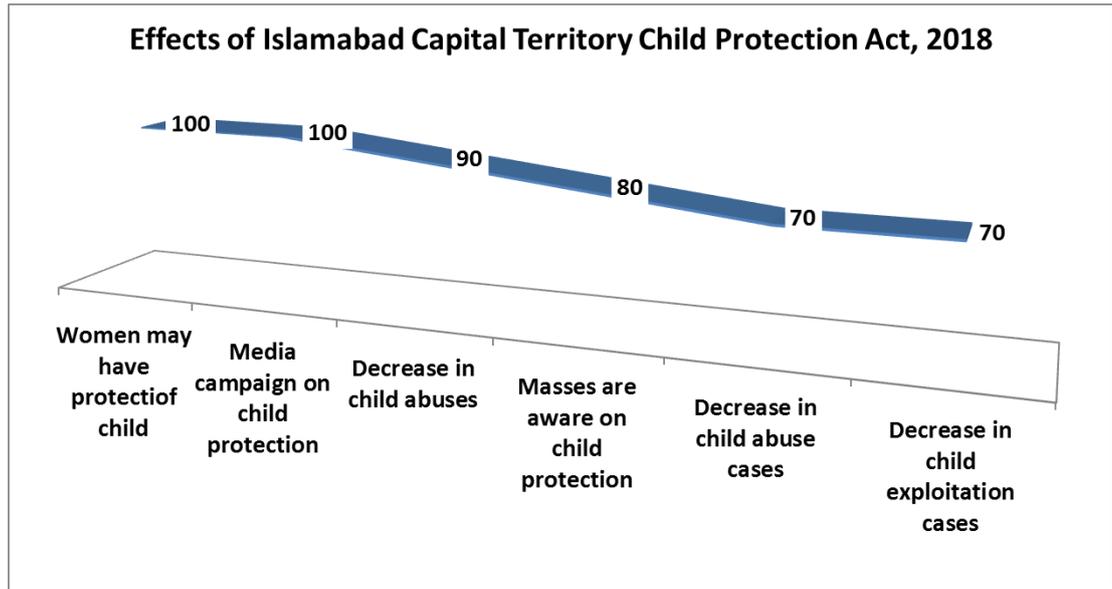


Figure 22: Effects of Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018

The Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018 was presented by law minister Zahid Hamid in the National Assembly of Pakistan. The Act was passed in January 2018. This act aimed to provide greater protection to children in the Islamabad Capital Territory.

Respondents were asked to share their views about effects of Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018 on women empowerment.

100% respondents shared that after implementation on this act women may have protection of their children and people are aware on child protection through media campaigns.

90% respondents shared that due to implementation on this act there is decrease in child abuses, 80% respondents shared that masses are now aware on child protection.

70% respondents shared that there is a decrease in child exploitation cases in the country.

4.1.4.13. Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018

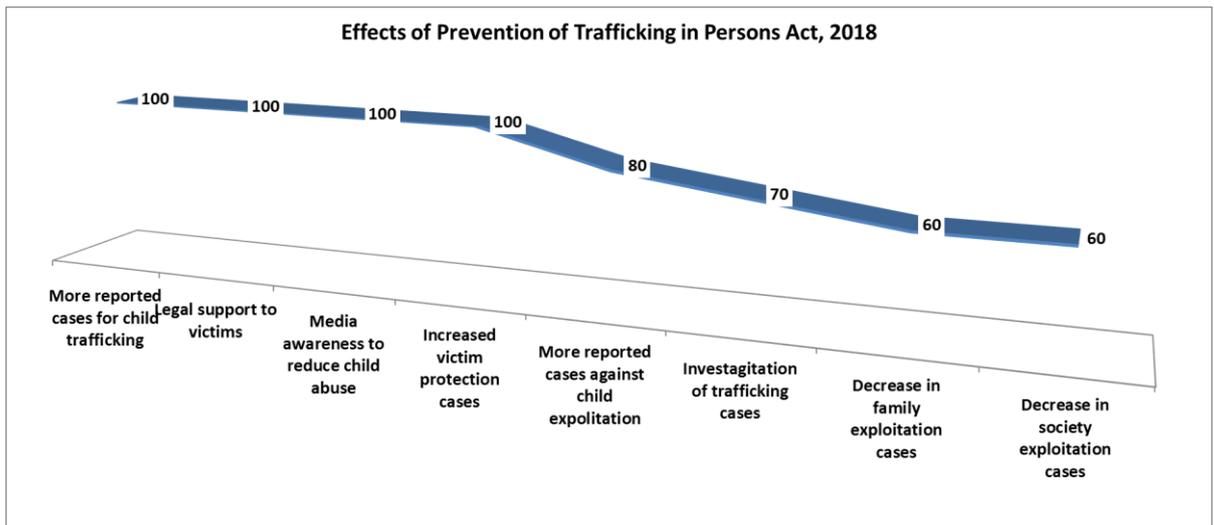


Figure 23: Effects of Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018

This act was presented by law minister Zahid Hamid in the National Assembly of Pakistan. It was passed in March 2018. This act aimed to prevent and combat human trafficking in Pakistan.

Respondents of study were asked to share their views about effects of this act on women empowerment.

100% respondents shared that there is increase in number of reported cases of child trafficking, improved legal support to victims, enhanced protection to victim and media is playing role to raise awareness in people to highlight culprits and protect people from all kinds of human trafficking.

80% respondents shared that after implementation on this act there are more reported cases against child abuse and exploitation in Pakistan.

70% respondents highlighted that is investigation on human trafficking cases. In Pakistan fair trial and protection to victim and witness during trial remained great challenges.

60% respondents shared that there is decrease in family exploitation and social exploitation that was a big cause of human trafficking, as women and girls are most vulnerable to force for cheap labor through human trafficking.

4.1.4.14. Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

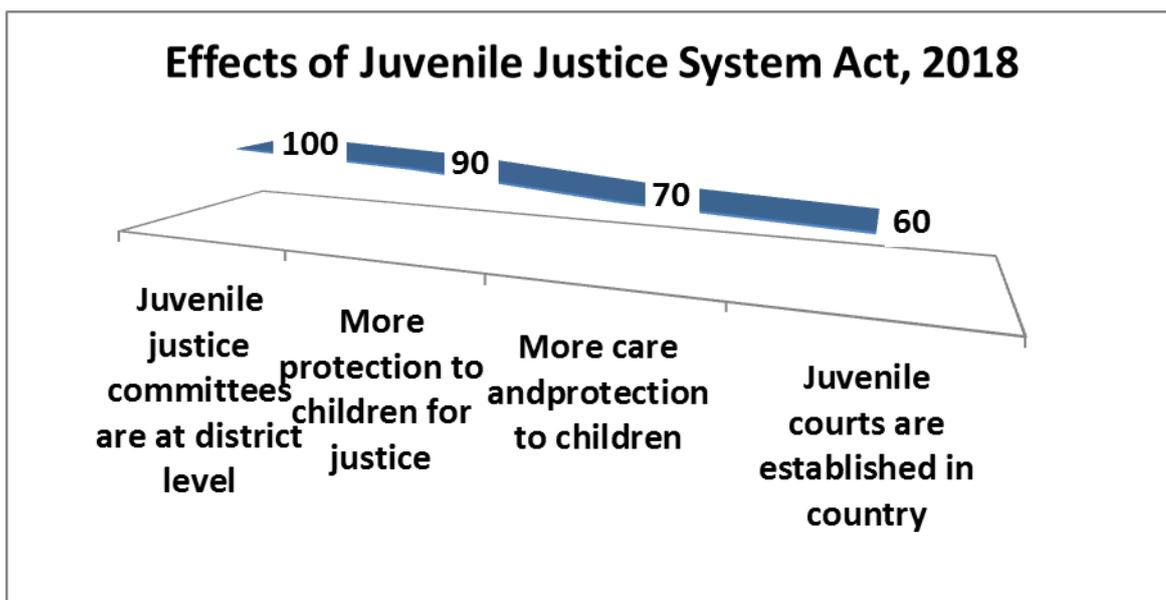


Figure 24: Effects of Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

The Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018 was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan by the then-Law Minister Zahid Hamid. The Act was passed in January 2018, and it aims to provide a more humane and effective juvenile justice system in Pakistan.

Research respondents were asked to share the impact of this act on women empowerment. 100% respondents shared that there are juvenile justice committees in all districts. 90% respondents shared that there is more protection to children, and they have access to justice. 70% respondents shared that care and protection for children has been improved across the country. 60% respondents share juvenile courts are established for juvenile cases.

(2018-2022)

4.1.4.15. The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

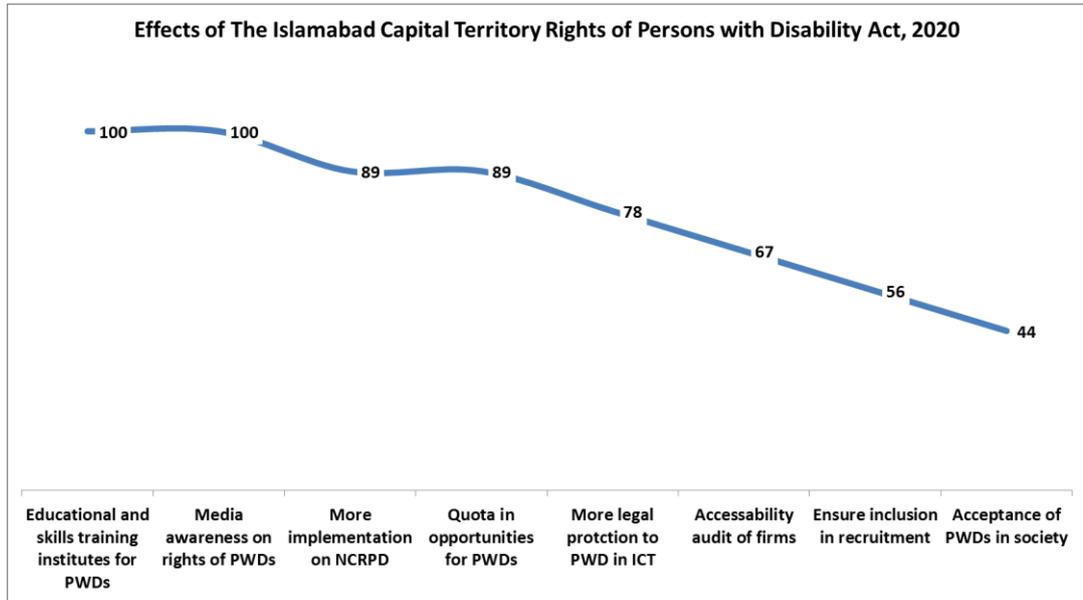


Figure 25: Effects of The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability (PWD) Act, 2020 was presented by Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation in the National Assembly of Pakistan. This Act was passed in January 2020. This act aims to provide legal protection and support to persons with disabilities in the capital territory.

Research respondents were asked about the impact of The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020 on women empowerment.

As above graph depicts that 100% respondents shared that there are education and vocational skills institutes for persons with disabilities and media is creating awareness among masses on rights of person with disabilities.

89% respondents shared that there is more implementation on National Commission on Rights of Person with Disabilities (NCPRD) and there is specific allocated quota for education and profession for PWDs.

78% respondents shared that there is more legal protection to PWDs in ICT. 67% respondents shared that there is accessibility audit of public and private office to make it accessible for PWDs.

56% respondents shared that due to implementation on this act there is inclusion in recruitment in public offices and large non-governmental organizations. 44% respondents

shared that due to implementation on this act there is more awareness on rights of PWDs around the country.

4.1.4.16. The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020

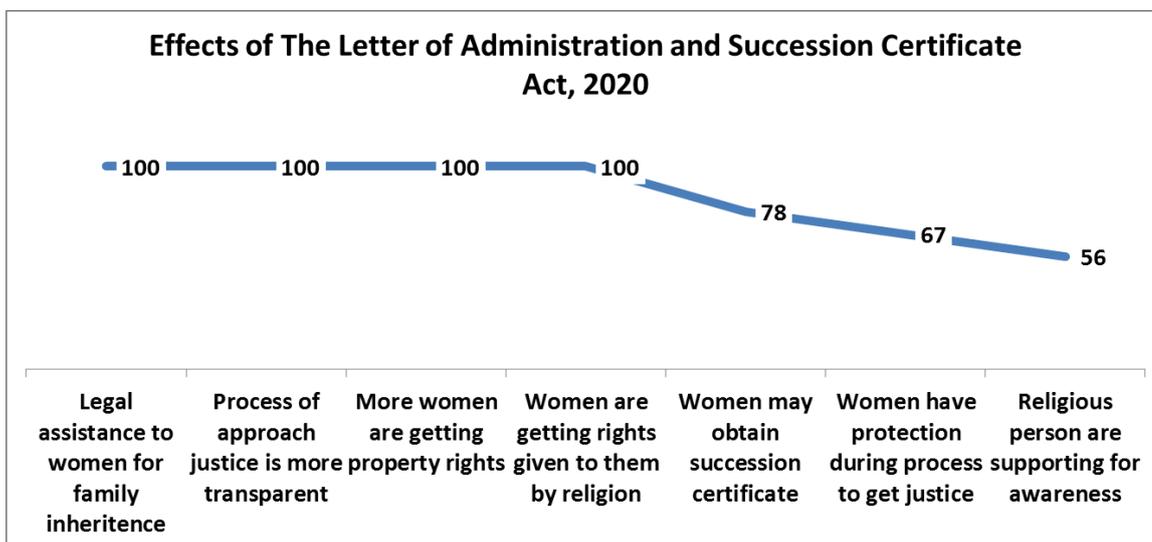


Figure 26: Effects of The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020

The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020 was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan by the then-Attorney General for Pakistan, Anwar Mansoor Khan. This act aimed to simplify and streamline the process of obtaining letters of administration and succession certificates in Pakistan.

Above picture shows responses of research respondents for effects of The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020.

100% respondents shared that legal assistance is there to women for family inheritance, process of approaching justice for women is more transparent, more women are getting property rights, and more women are getting rights given them by their religion.

78% respondents shared that as an effect of this act now women may obtain succession certificate, 67% respondents shared that women have protection during trial and 56% respondents shared that religious preachers are supporting the awareness campaigns and programs.

4.1.4.17. The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020

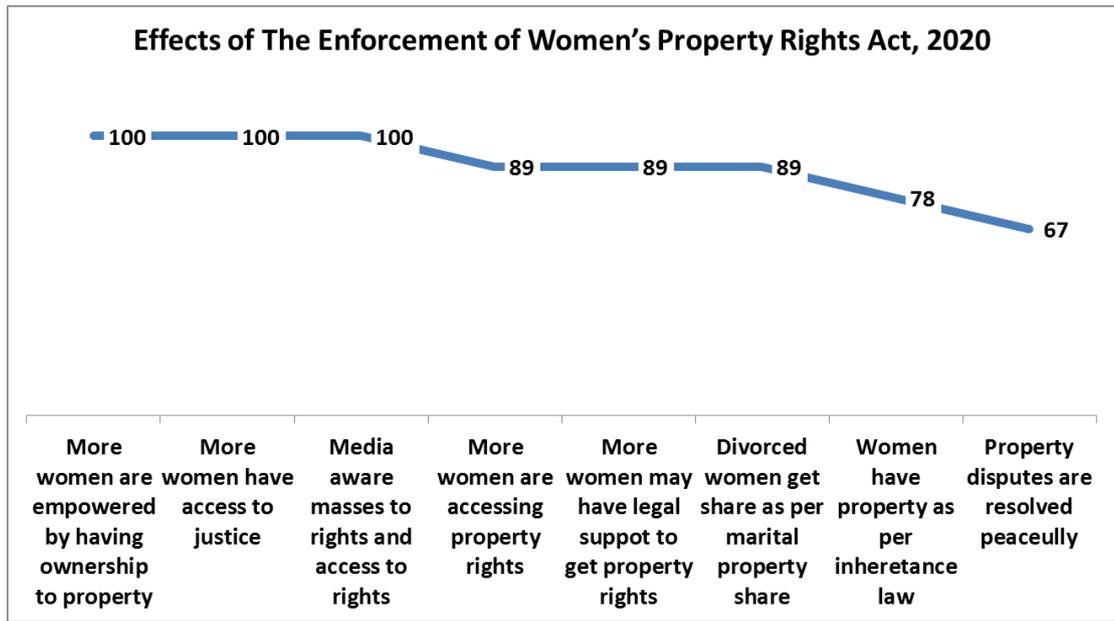


Figure 27: Effects of The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020 was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan by the then-Minister for Law and Justice, Farogh Naseem. The Act was passed in October 2020, and it aimed to protect and enforce the property rights of women in Pakistan.

Respondent shared their views about impact of this on women empowerment. 100% respondents shared that now more women are empowered as they have ownership to property, they have access to justice to get their property rights, media aware people to get property rights.

89% respondents shared as an impact of this act more women are accessing justice for their rights and divorced women are able to get property rights as per law. 78% respondents shared women may have them as per law without any dispute or miss-happening.

4.1.4.18. The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020

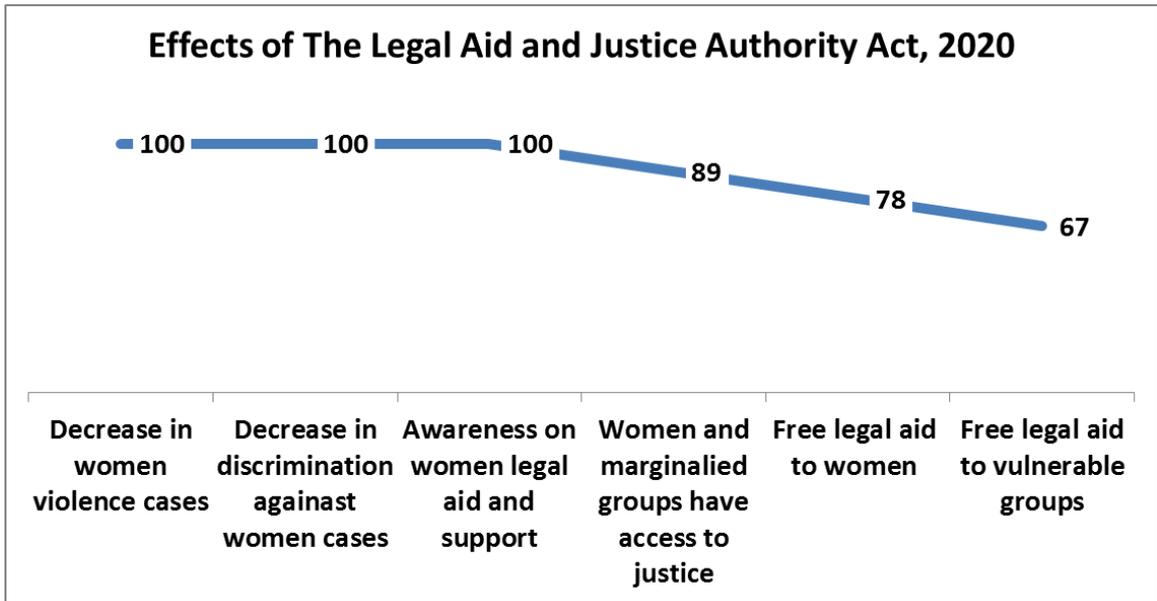


Figure 28: Effects of The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020

The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020 was presented the minister for law justice Farogh Naseem in the National Assembly of Pakistan in September 2020. This law aimed to improve access to legal aid and justice for marginalized groups in Pakistan, including women.

Above graph shows respondents responses against impact of this law on women empowerment.

100% respondents shared that there is decrease in cases of women violence, discrimination in discrimination against women and more awareness on legal aid and support to women across the country.

89% respondents shared that after implementation on this act there is more access to justice for marginalized and neglected groups including women. 78% respondents shared now there is free legal aid service is available for women and vulnerable groups.

4.1.4.19. The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020

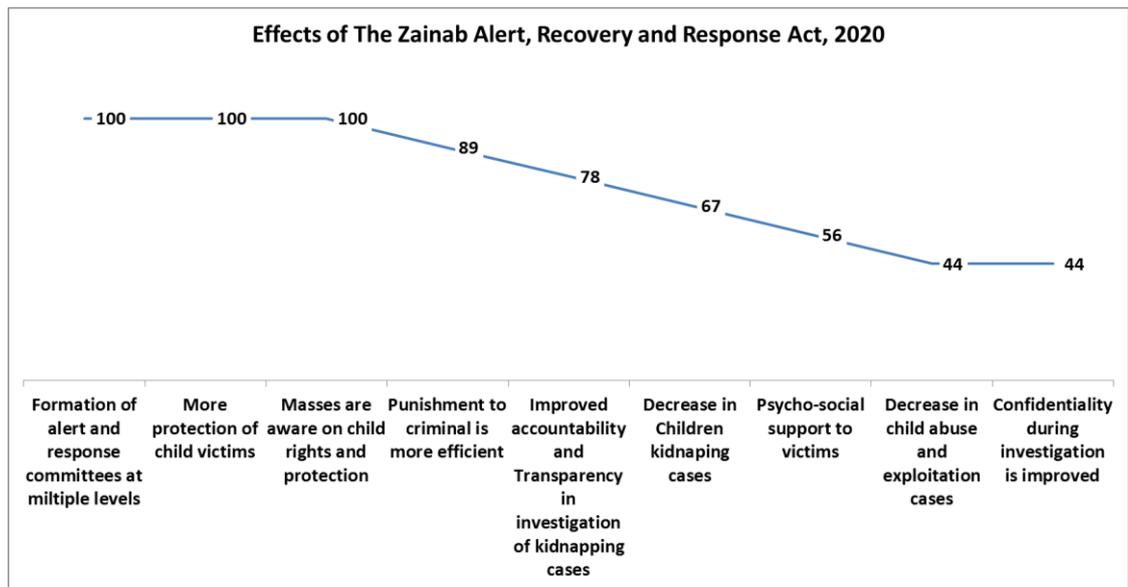


Figure 29: Effects of The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020

The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020 was presented in January 2020 by then Minister for Human Rights, Shireen Mazari. This bill was named due to brutal murder following rape of a seven-year-old girl Zainab Ansari in Kasur in 2018. That incident left whole nation sad and human rights organizations and activist forced law makers to focus this much needed area. This bill aimed to establish a national emergency response system for the recovery of missing and abducted children. This bill for also taking preventive measures and timely investigation of child sexual abuse and exploitation cases.

Research respondents were asked to share their views about impact of this bill for women empowerment in Pakistan. 100% respondents shared that alert and response committees at multiple levels, now there is more protection to children and more people are aware on child rights protection. 89% respondents shared punishment to criminals is more efficient, 78% respondents shared the accountability and transparency in investigation of kidnapping cases.

56% respondents shared that there is more psycho-social support to victims. 44% respondents shared that there is decrease in child abuse in exploitation cases and there is more confidentiality during investigation is improved.

4.1.4.20. The Enforcement of Women Property Rights (Amendment) Act, 2020

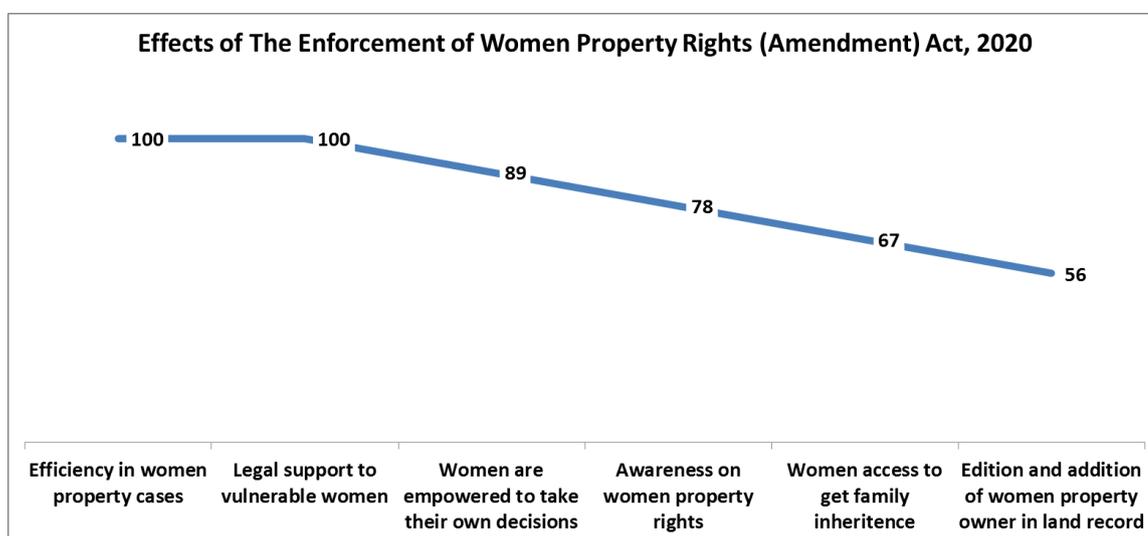


Figure 30: Effects of The Enforcement of Women Property Rights (Amendment) Act, 2020

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020," was passed in November 2020, aimed to strengthen the legal framework for protecting women property rights in Pakistan.

Respondents shared that this act may be a landmark for women empowerment in Pakistan and women are deliberately left behind when it comes for ownership of assets. Ownership of assets is an indicator of women empowerment as they may be able to participate in decision making or take decisions independently.

As above graph depicts, 100% respondents shared that after implementation on this act there is efficiency in women property cases, because there is more legal support to women to pursuit their property cases.

89% respondents shared that after implementation on this act women may take their own decisions without external influence. Meanwhile, 78% respondents shared that awareness on women property rights has been improved. 67% respondents shared women are accessing court for their family inheritance rights. However, 56% respondents shared that after implementation on this act there is suggestion for addition of women name in property ownership in land and revenue department's record.

4.1.4.21. The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021

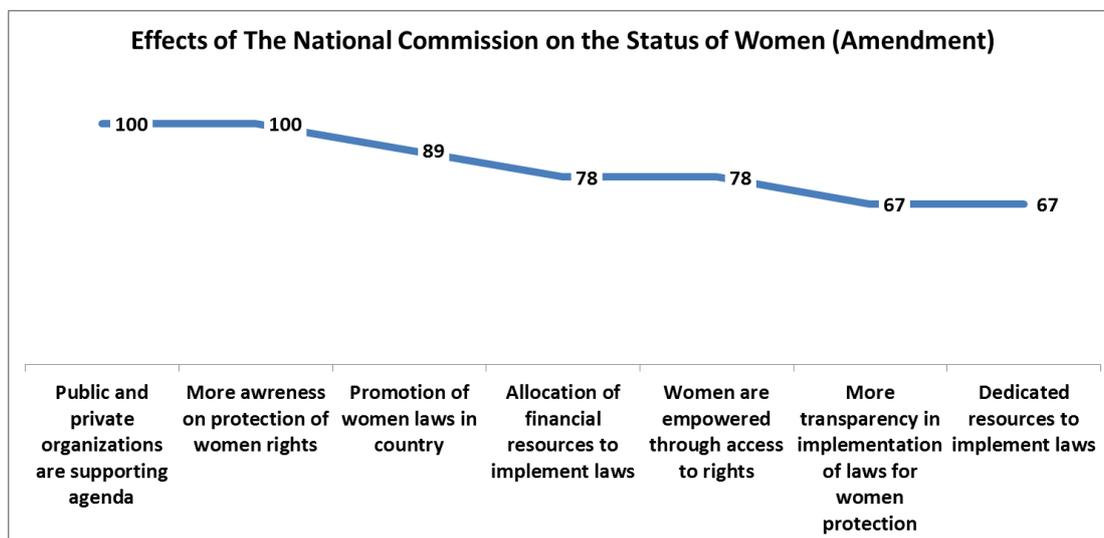


Figure 31: Effects of The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021

The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021 was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan in April 2021 by then Minister for Human Rights, Shireen Mazari. This act is aimed to strengthen the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) by granting it greater autonomy and increasing its resources. Research respondents were asked to share their views about impact of this act on women empowerment.

Above mentioned graph shows responses of respondents. 100% respondents shared that after implementation on this act public and private organizations are supporting agenda of women empowerment. 89% respondents shared after implementation on this law, women laws are being promoted in country. 78% respondents shared that financial resources are being allocated for said agenda and women are accessing their rights. 67% respondents shared that women laws are being implemented by transparency and human resources in multiple organizations are allocated to implement on this law.

4.1.4.22. The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021

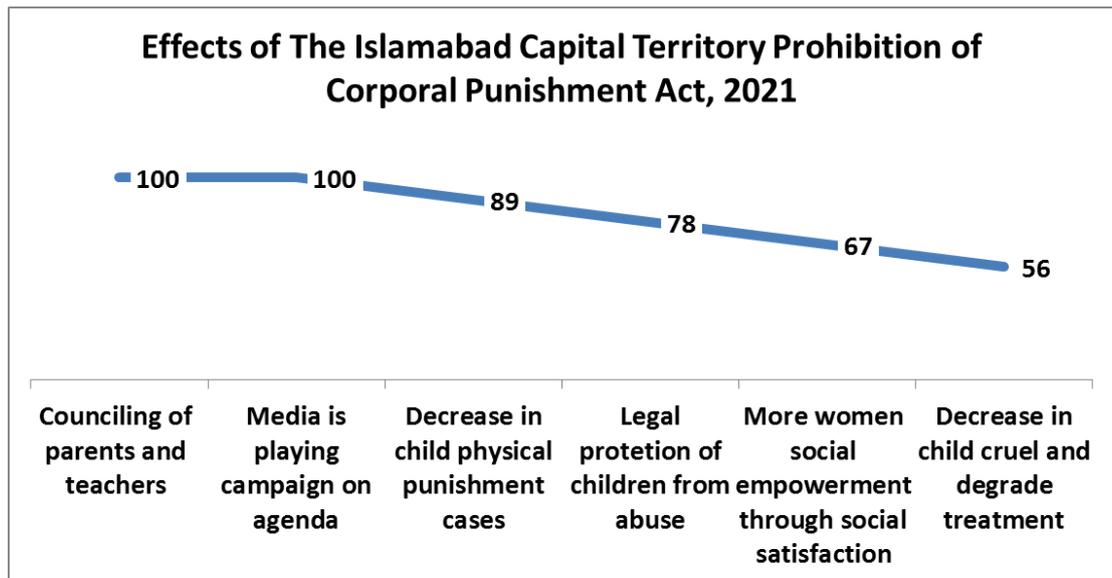


Figure 32: Effects of The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021

"The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021" was presented in the National Assembly of Pakistan.

As graph shows that 100% respondents shared that after implementation on this act there is sensitization of parents and teachers through counseling sessions, media has designed campaigns on this agenda and aware people.

89% respondents shared that after this act there is decrease in physical abuse and punishment of children and women. 78% respondents shared that there is more legal protection to children from abuse. 67% respondents shared that there is more women social empowerment as social protection and social safety nets are being provided to women. 56% respondents shared that there is decrease in cases of treating children brutally for any purpose.

4.1.4.23.

Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

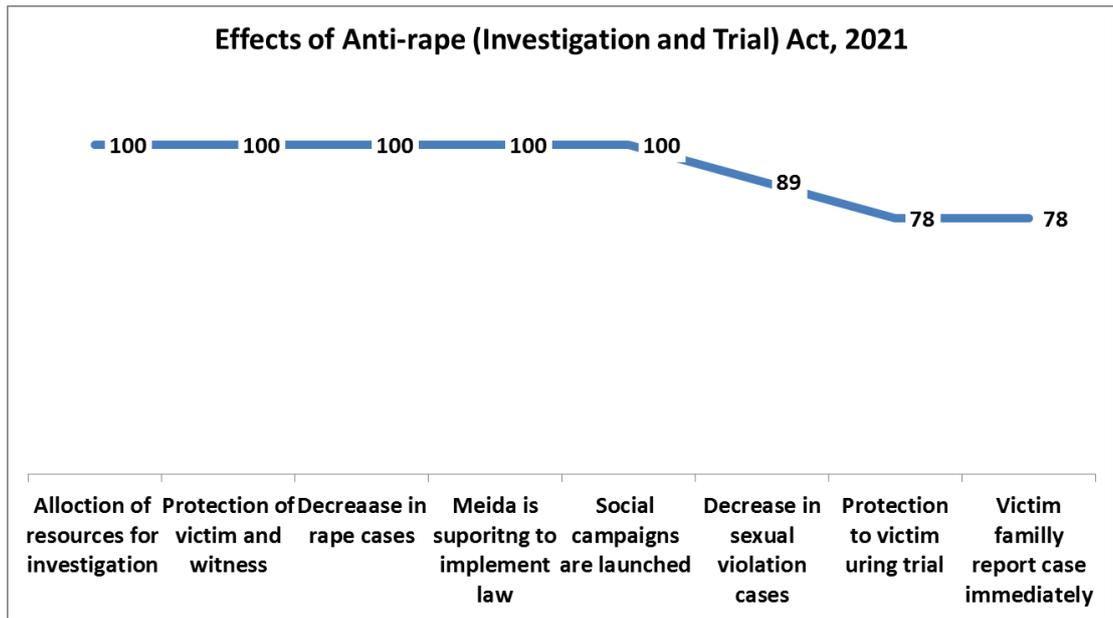


Figure 33: Effects of Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

This act is an important step to address women sexual and physical abuse and exploitation from country. Research respondents were asked to share their views about impact of this law on women empowerment in Pakistan.

As above graph depicts that 100% respondents shared that there is allocation of resources to implement on this law, there is protection of victim and witness during trial, there is decrease in number of rape cases and all media is sensitizing public on importance of this law. However, 89% respondents shared there is decrease in sexual violation cases and 78% respondents shared that there is protection for victim during trial that’s why family of victim report cases immediately.

4.1.5. Women participation in parliamentary decision making.

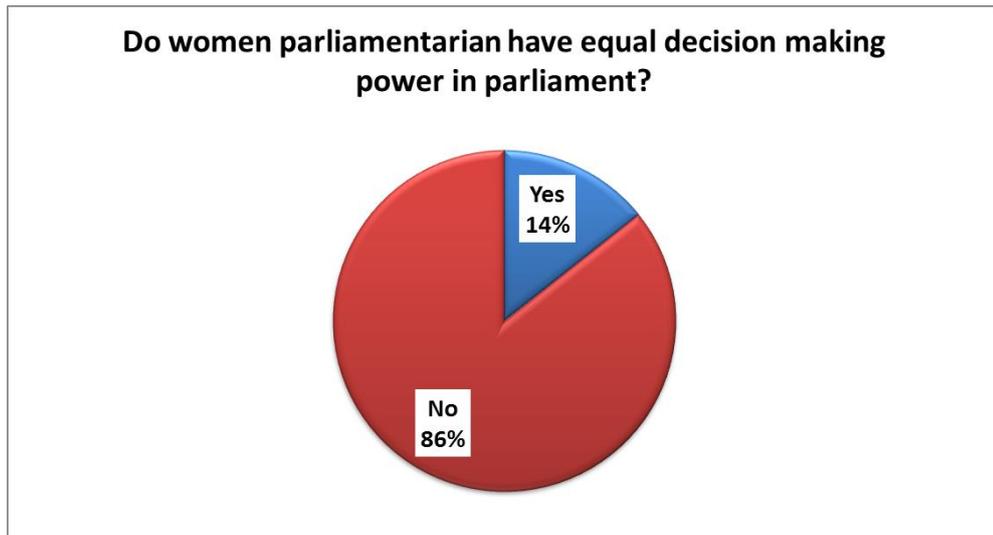


Figure 34: Do women parliamentarian have equal decision-making power in parliament?

Respondents were asked do women parliamentarian have equal decision-making power as compared to men. 14% respondents agree that women parliamentarian have equal decision-making power while 86% respondents shared that women parliamentarian don't have equal decision-making power as compared to men.

4.1.5.1. Enabling factors for women equal decision making in parliament

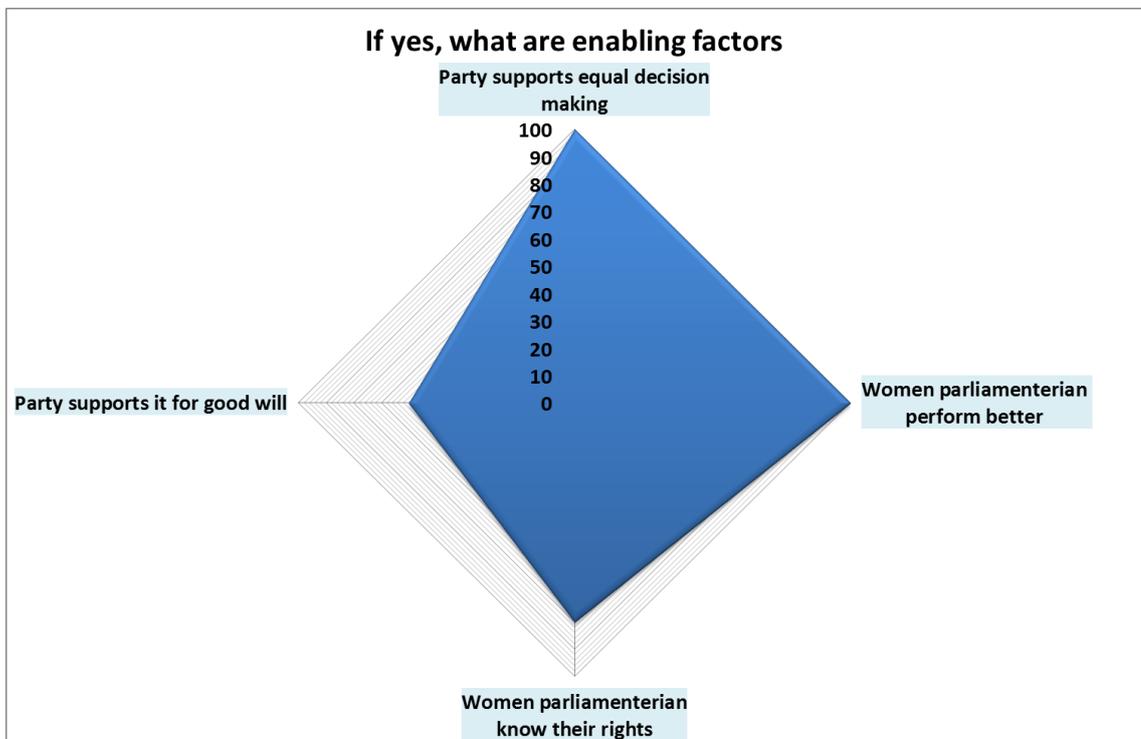


Figure 35: Enabling factors for women equal decision making in parliament.

77% respondents shared they remained part of legislation in their government. Same were asked for the enabling factors which help out to participate in legislation. 100% of these respondents shared that their respective political party support equal decision making, which give them more confidence to perform and also enhance sense of ownership for decisions. 100% respondents shared that according to them now women parliamentarian is performing well and proving themselves as better team member. There self-confidence and owning responsibility is making is feasible for them to take part in legislation. 80% respondents shared that now women parliamentarian is aware for their rights, they ask for their rights in party and in parliament. They take part in legislation as they know how to raise voice for protection of rights and avail equal decision-making opportunities. 66% respondents shared that party use women equal decision making as a tool for party rapport building. They raise flag of women leadership and women empowerment in party, which is used a competitive edge to compete opponents and convincing voters during political campaigns.

4.1.5.2. Reasons why women don't have equal decision-making power in parliament?

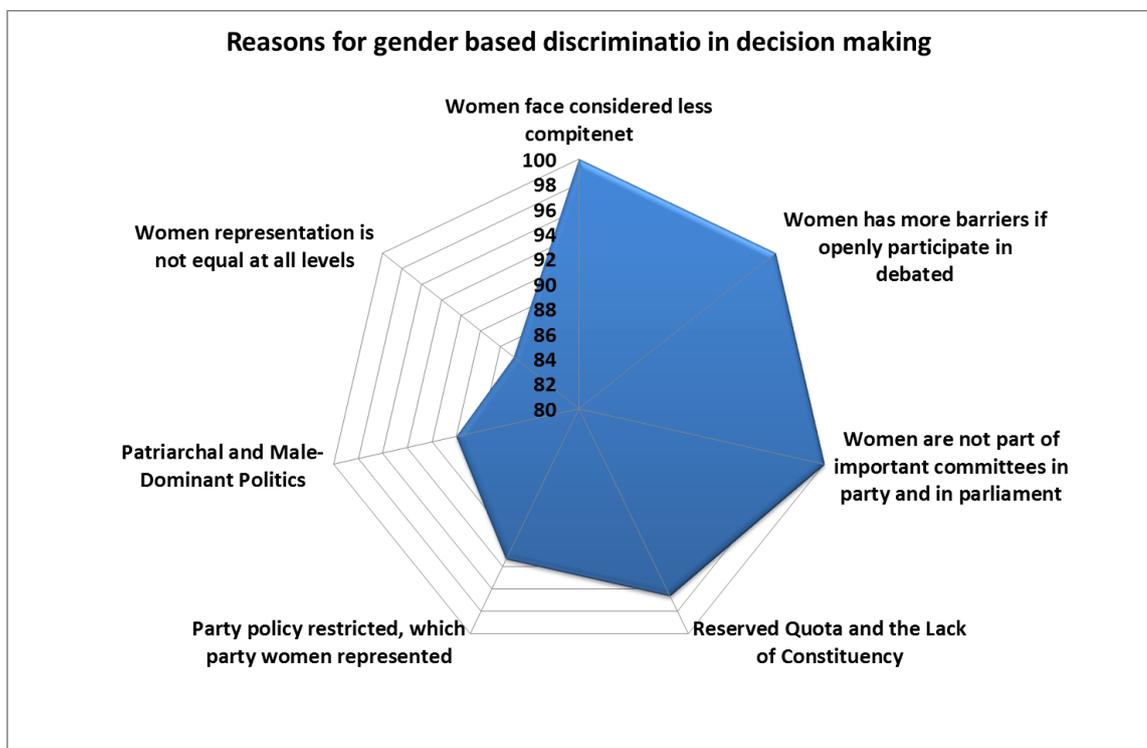


Figure 36: Reasons for gender-based discrimination in decision making.

86% participants who agree that women don't have equal decision-making power in parliament were asked to share the reasons for this unequal decision-making power. 100%

respondents shared that women parliamentarian are considered less competent as compared to men, there are more barriers for women parliamentarian if they openly participate in debates and women are neglected in important committees in party and same in parliament.

97% respondents shared that there is reserved quota for representation in parliament and there is lack of constituency for women empowerment in Pakistan. 95% respondents shared that party policies restrict women from equal participation in parliamentarian decision making. 90% respondents shared that overall politics is patriarchal and male dominant that causes women unequal decision making in parliament. 84% respondents shared that women representation is not equal at levels.

4.1.5.3. What are effects of unequal decision-making powers in parliament on women empowerment?

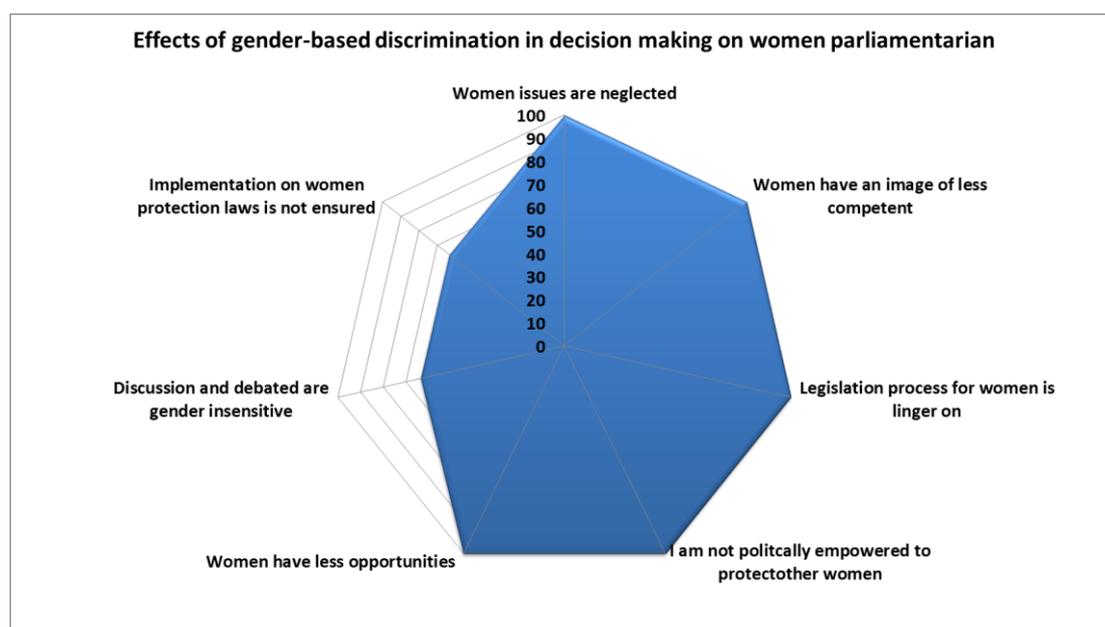


Figure 37: Effects of gender-based discrimination in decision making on women parliamentarian.

Respondents consider this unequal decision-making power as a gender-based discrimination in parliament. Respondents were asked to share their views about effects of this unequal decision-making power in parliament. 100% respondents shared that women issues are not considered important, and these issues are neglected, it is considered that women are less competent as compared to men, deliberately legislation for women got linger on and women don't feel themselves politically empowered to protect agenda of women empowerment in parliament. Due to unequal decision-making power, implementation on women related laws is also not strictly monitored and ensured.

4.1.6. Women Social empowerment due to women participation in parliament

4.1.6.1. Do you think that women participation in parliament may bring institutional and social changes for women empowerment?

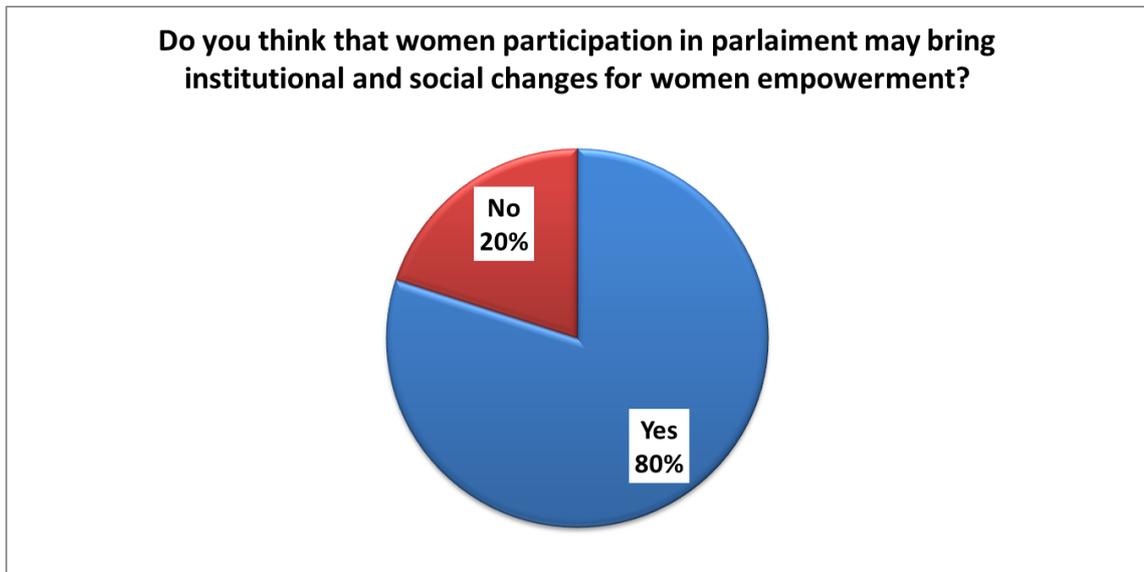


Figure 38: Do you think that women participation in parliament may bring institutional and social changes for women empowerment?

Research respondents were asked to share their views about women social empowerment through women participation in parliament. 80% respondents agree that women participation in parliament brings women social empowerment. 20% respondents had opinion that women participation in parliament may not bring women social empowerment.

4.1.6.2. Social changes bring through women participation in parliament

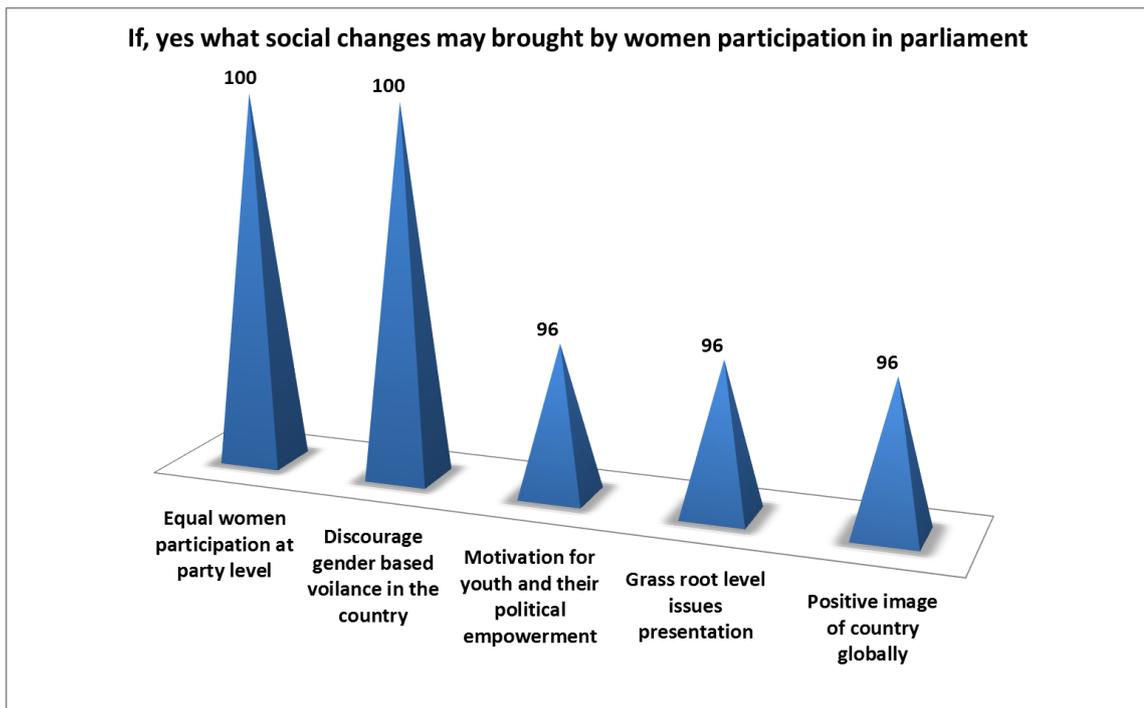


Figure 39: If yes, what social changes may be brought by women participation in parliament.

80% respondents who agree that women social empowerment is possible due to women participation in parliament were asked about these social changes. 100% of these respondents agree that it ensures equal women participation at party level and discourage gender-based violence in the country. 96% respondents shared it motivates youth and young leaders for their political empowerment, it provides a chance to representatives of grass root level of leadership and creates a positive image of country on global map.

4.1.6.3. Contribution of social changes to women empowerment

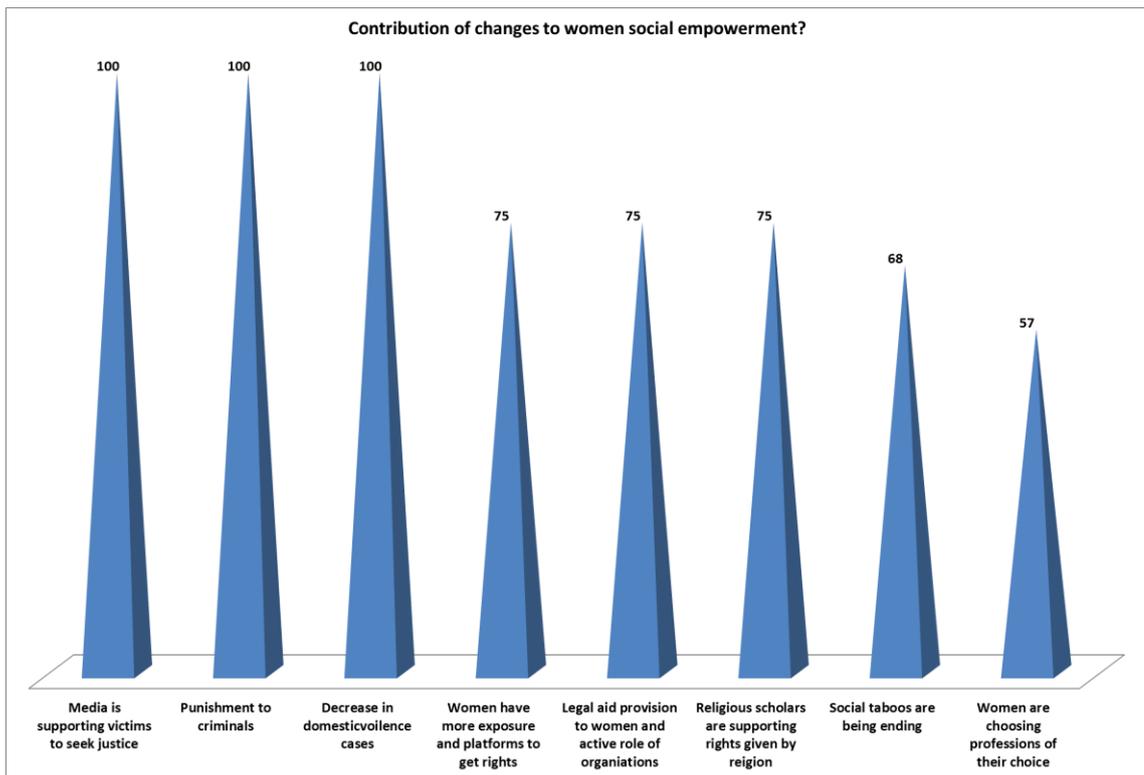


Figure 40: Contribution of social changes to women empowerment

Respondents shared that woman participation in parliament bring women social empowerment which impact may be seen as a change in society. 100% respondents shared that media supports victim in seeking justice and ensures transparency during trial, punishments to criminals and offenders are timely ensured, and due to these changes, there is decrease in cases of domestic violence and abuse.

75% respondents shared that women are socially empowered as they have more exposure and platforms to access justice and their rights, there is provision of free legal aid to women through public and non-governmental organizations and religious scholars are supporting women rights given by their religion.

64% respondents shared due to all these efforts social taboos are meeting their end. 57% respondents shared that there is a visible indicator of women social empowerment, which is women are choosing education and professional fields of their own choice.

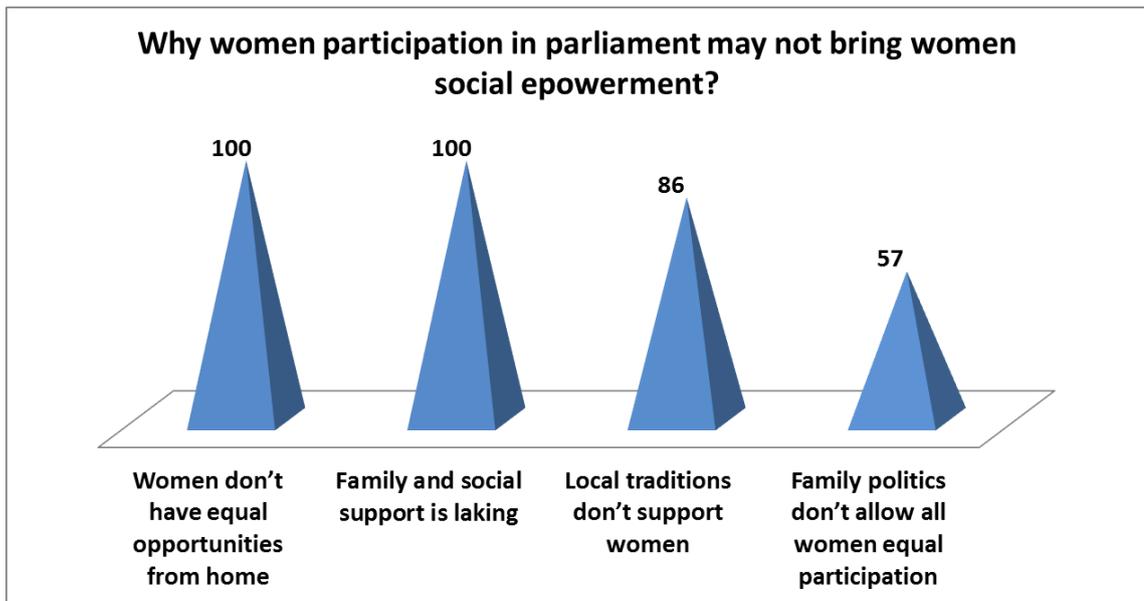
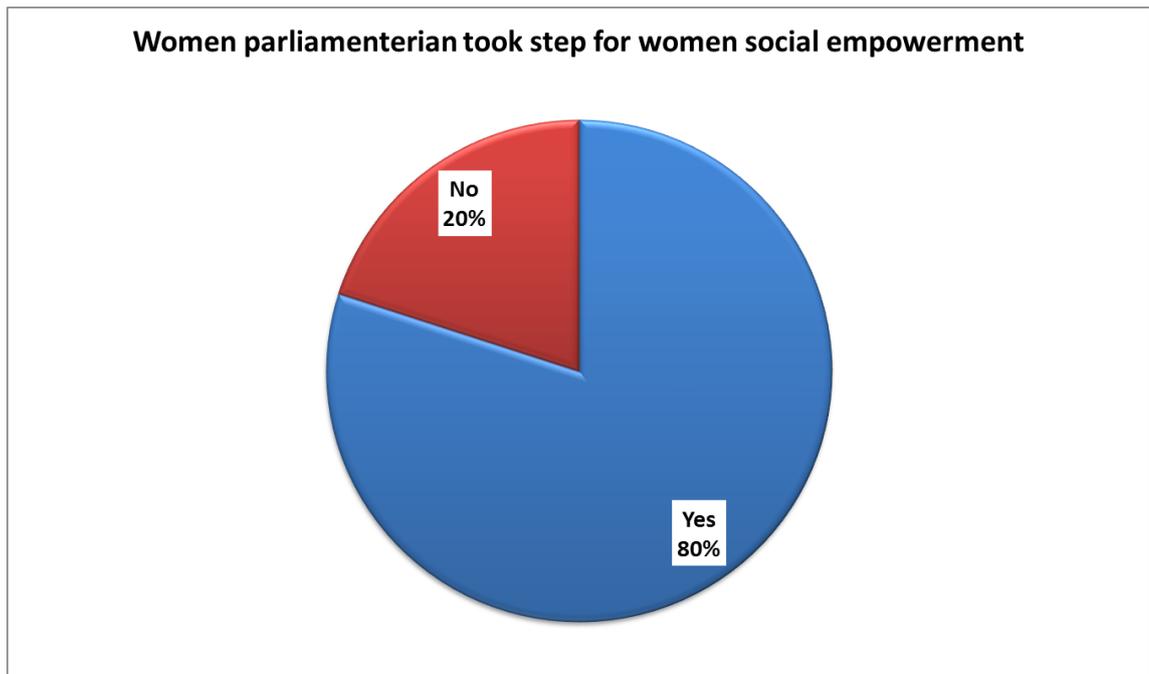


Figure 41: Why women participation in parliament may not bring women social empowerment?

20% respondents who disagree that women participation in parliament may not bring women social empowerment were asked about the reasons of their response. 100% of these respondents shared that according to them women don't equal opportunities from home, and family and social support is lacking for them. 86% respondents thought that local traditions are not supportive to women for their social empowerment. 57% respondents had point of view that domestic don't allow equal participation.



4.1.7. Contribution of respondent women parliamentarian to women social empowerment

Figure 42: Women parliamentarian took steps for women social empowerment.

80% respondents shared that have taken steps to for women social empowerment and 20% respondents shared they have not taken steps for women social empowerment.

4.1.7.1. Steps taken by women parliamentarian to advance women social empowerment.

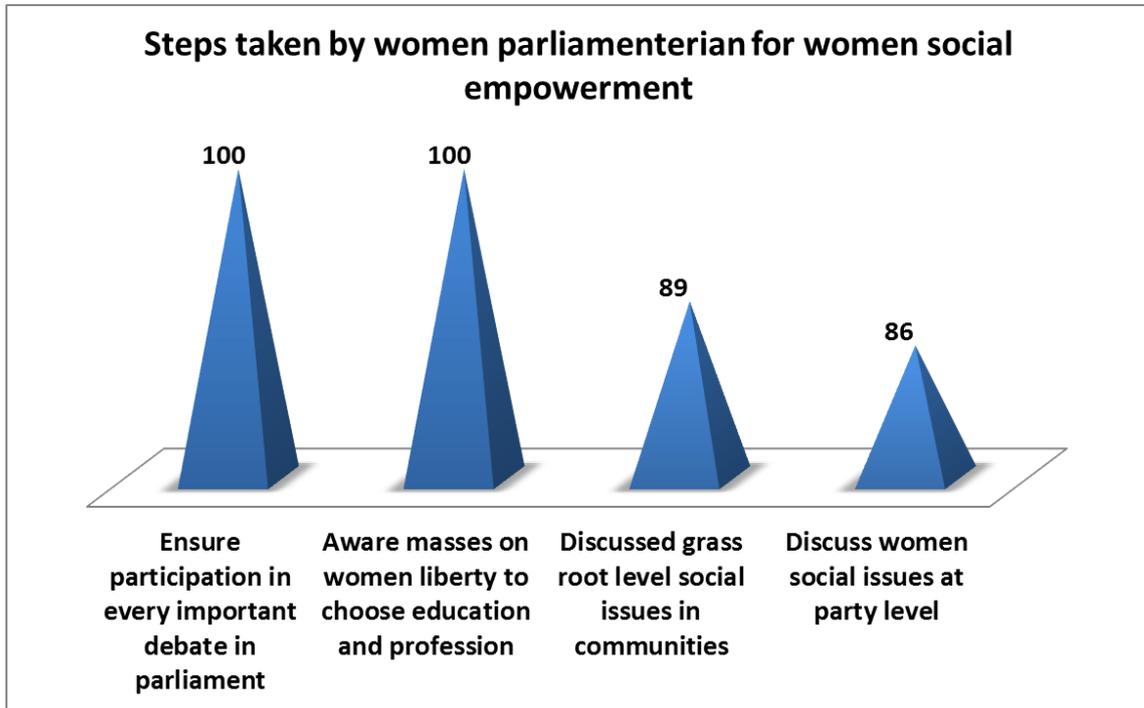


Figure 43: Steps taken by women parliamentarian to advance women social empowerment.

80% respondents who took practical steps to women social empowerment were asked about the concrete steps they have taken. 100% of these respondents shared that they ensure participation in every important debate in parliament especially for women empowerment, they aware people on women liberty to choose education and profession for their future.

89% respondents shared that they have raised voice for grass root level issues in communities. 86% respondents shared that they have discussed women social issues at party level.

4.1.7.2. Contribution of women parliamentarian steps to women social empowerment

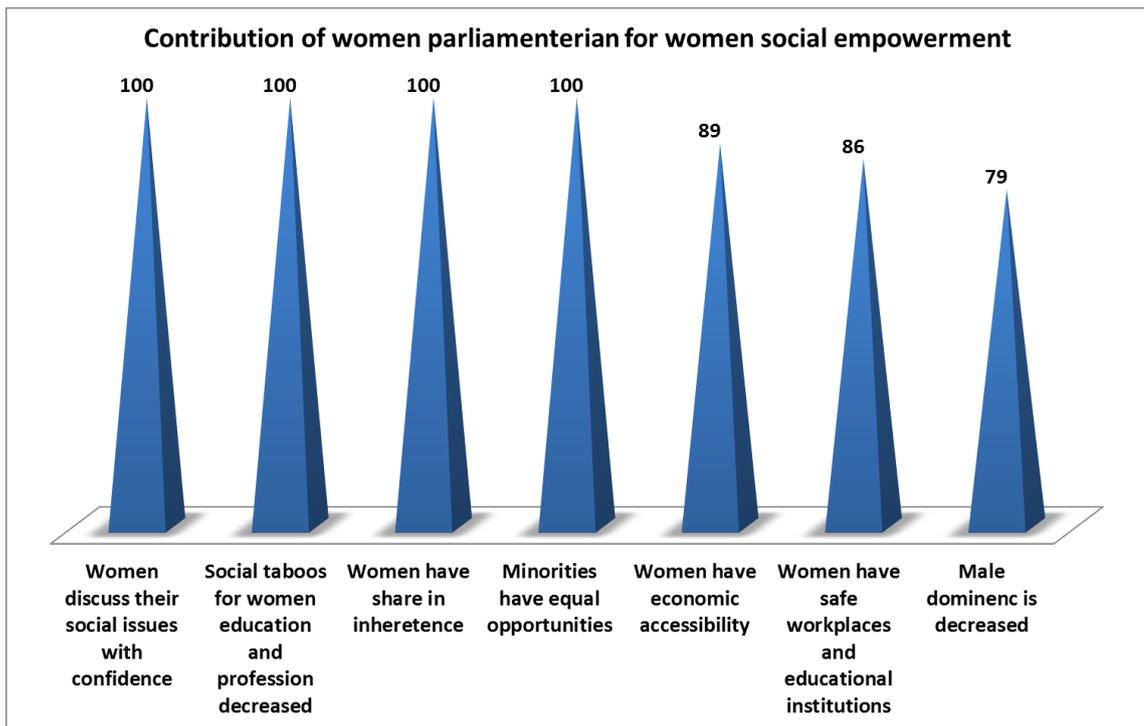


Figure 44: Contribution of women parliamentarian steps to women social empowerment

Respondents who contributed to women social empowerment share their contribution. 100% respondents shared that women discuss their social issues with confidence, social taboos for education and profession decreased, women have their inheritance rights and monitories have equal opportunities.

89% respondents shared women have economic ability and they have control over economic assets and decision making. 86% respondents shared that women have safe workplace and educational institutions as they have protection from abuse and exploitation. 79% respondents shared male dominance is decreased.

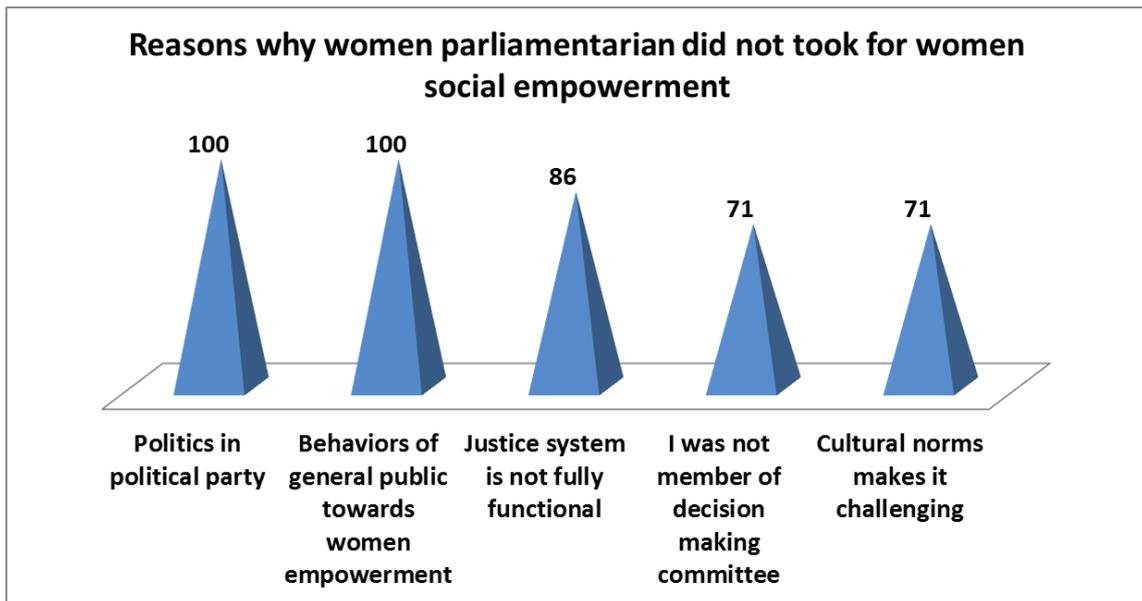


Figure 45: Reasons why parliamentarian did not participate for women social empowerment.

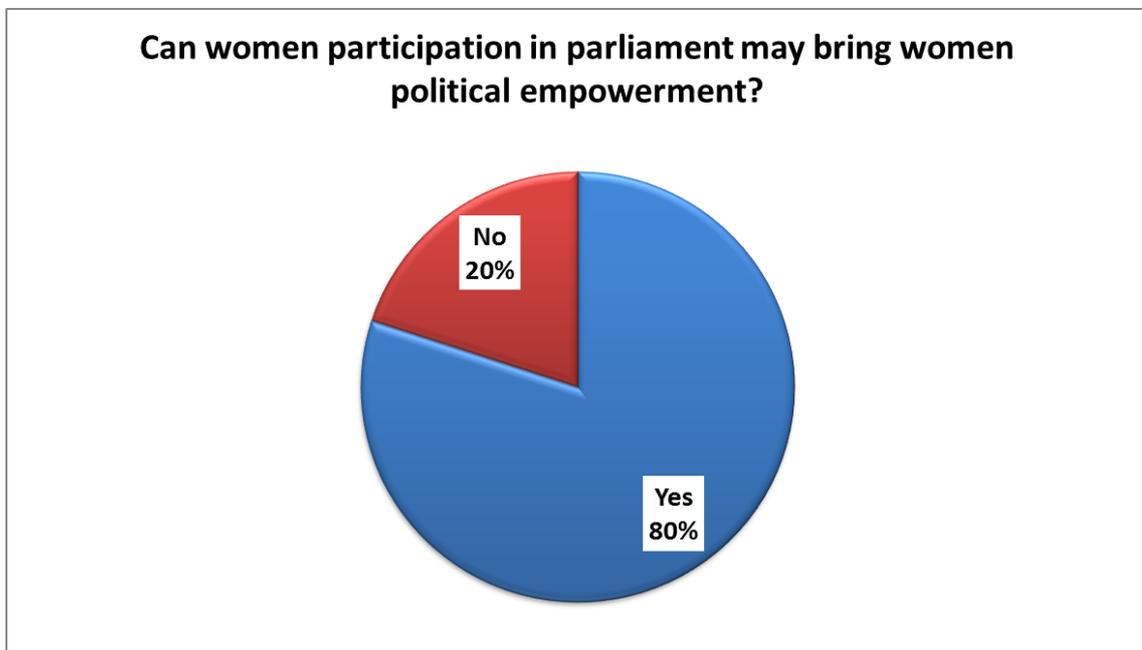
Women parliamentarian who did not participate in women social empowerment share the reason why they were unable to take any concrete step for women social empowerment. 100% of these respondents shared there is politics in their political party that cause discrimination.

4.1.8. Women political empowerment due to women participation in parliament

Respondents were asked what they think that women participation in parliament may bring women political empowerment. 80% respondents agree that women participation in parliament may bring women political empowerment while 20% had opinion that women participation in parliament may not bring women political empowerment.

4.1.8.1. Political changes bring through women participation in parliament.

Figure 46: Can women participation in parliament may bring women political empowerment?



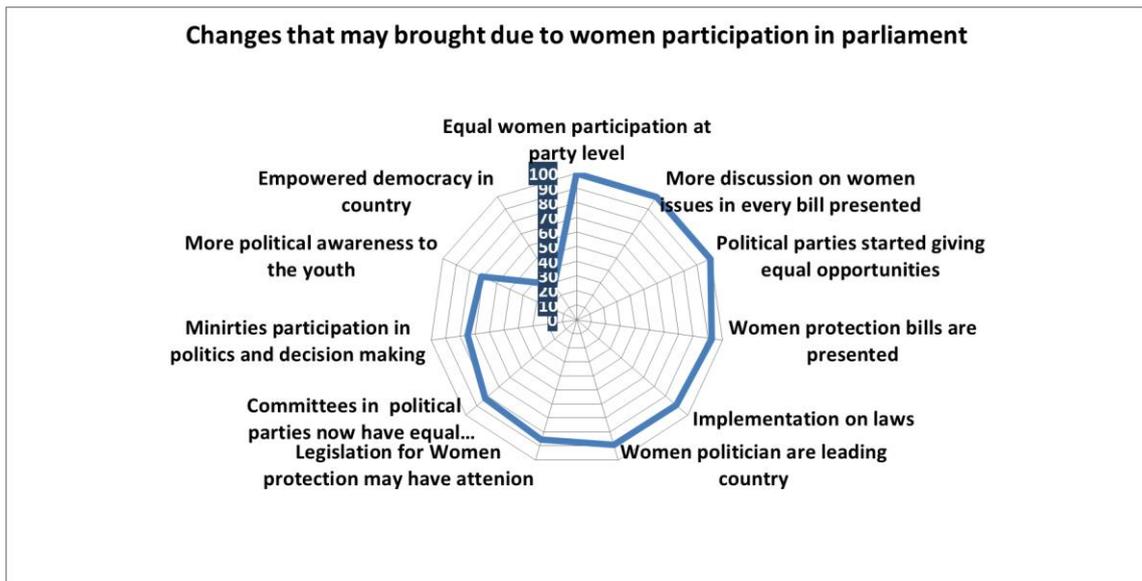


Figure 47: Changes that may brought due to women participation in parliament.

80% respondents who agree that women participation in parliament may bring women political empowerment were asked to share about the changes in women political conditions. 100% respondents shared that due to women participation in parliament there is equal women participation at party level, more discussion is generated on women issues when bills are presented to parliament, and political parties have started providing equal opportunities to women and men.

90% respondents shared that due to women participation in parliament women protection bills are presented to parliament, there is implementation on laws and women politicians are leading the country. Meanwhile 85% respondents shared there is legislation for women protection may have more attention. 80% respondents shared that committees in political parties have equal women participation. However, 70% respondents shared that minorities are participating in political decision making, youth is more politically aware as a result democracy is empowered in the country.

4.1.8.2. Contribution of political changes to women empowerment

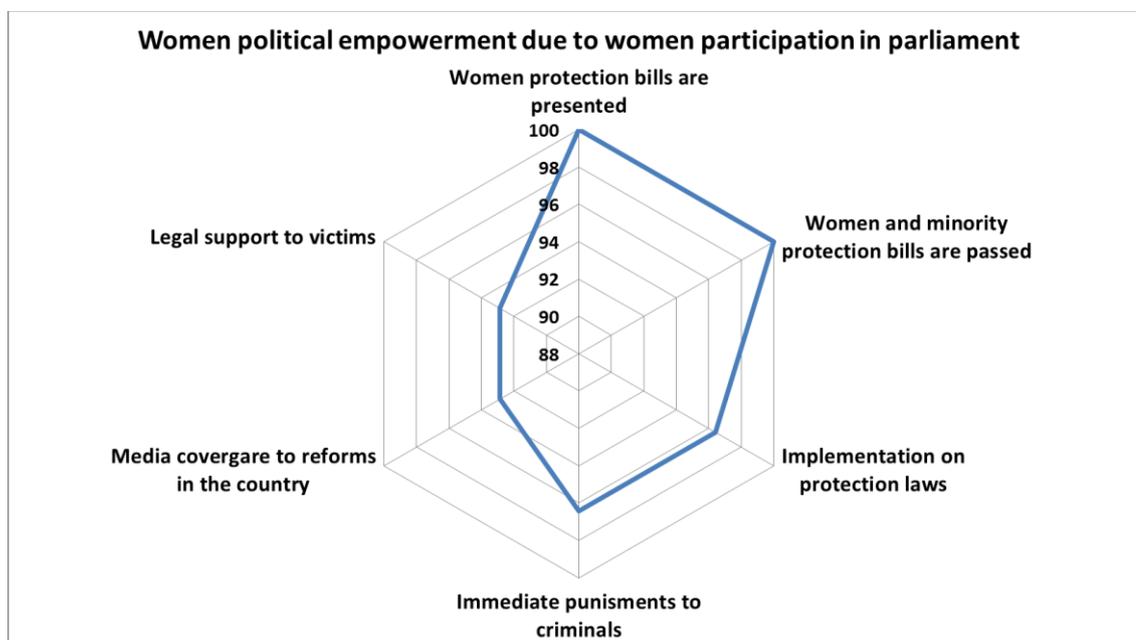


Figure 48: Women political empowerment due to women participation in parliament

Respondents were asked to share their views about contribution of political change on women political empowerment. 100% respondents agree that women protection bill presentation was possible due to women participation and presentation in parliament and protection bills for women rights and minorities are presented. 95% respondents shared that there is implementation on protection laws especially for women, children and minorities and immediate punishment to offenders are ensured that is due to provision of legal aid and protection services to victim, witness and other important entities.

91% respondents shared that there is more media coverage of current reforms in the country and voice is raised to bring more reforms in the country. 90% respondents shared there is more legal support and protection to victims.

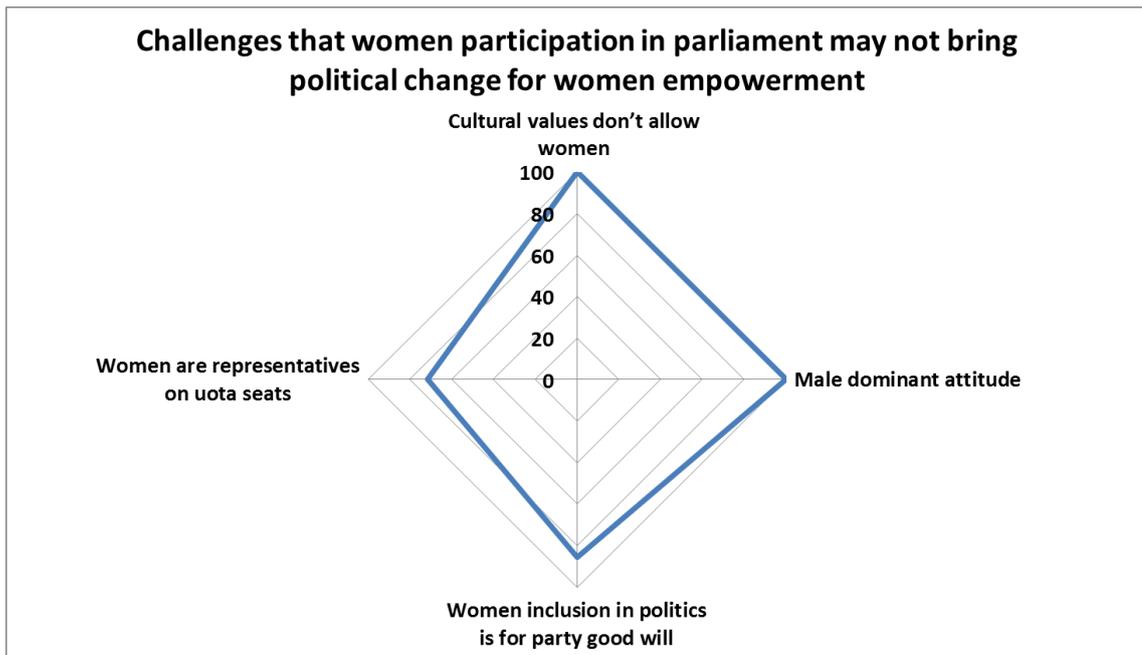


Figure 49: Challenges that women participation in parliament may not bring political change for women empowerment.

20% respondents who shared that woman political empowerment may not possible due to women participation in parliament were asked to share the challenges faced by women in this regard.

100% respondents shared that cultural values and male dominance at household and community level don't allow women to equally participate in politics and bring women political empowerment. 85% respondents shared that women inclusion in political parties is just to enhance and secure party good will, in fact women inclusion and empowerment is never accepted by heart by political parties.

70% respondents shared that women parliamentarian are majority on quota base, these women are considered involved in political base just for symbolic representation and their true participation in decision making is not considered.

4.1.9. Steps taken by women parliamentarian for women political empowerment.

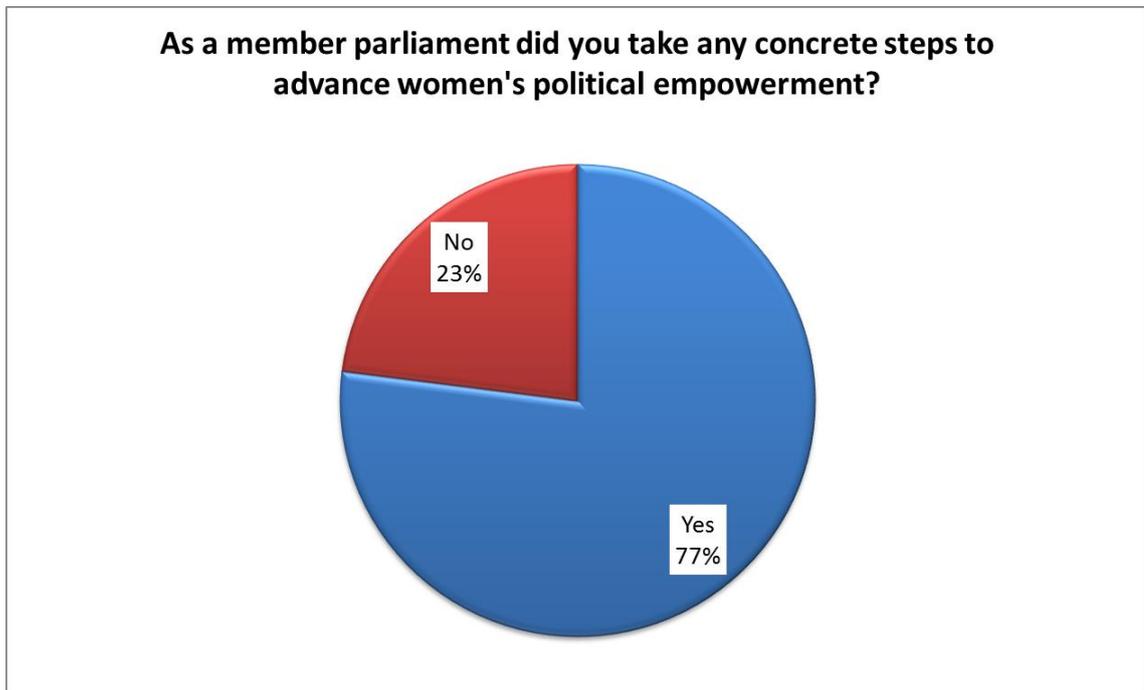


Figure 50: As a member parliament did you take any concrete steps to advance women political empowerment?

Respondents were asked to have they taken concrete step for women political empowerment. 77% respondents shared that they took steps for women political empowerment while 23% respondents shared, they had not taken for women political empowerment.

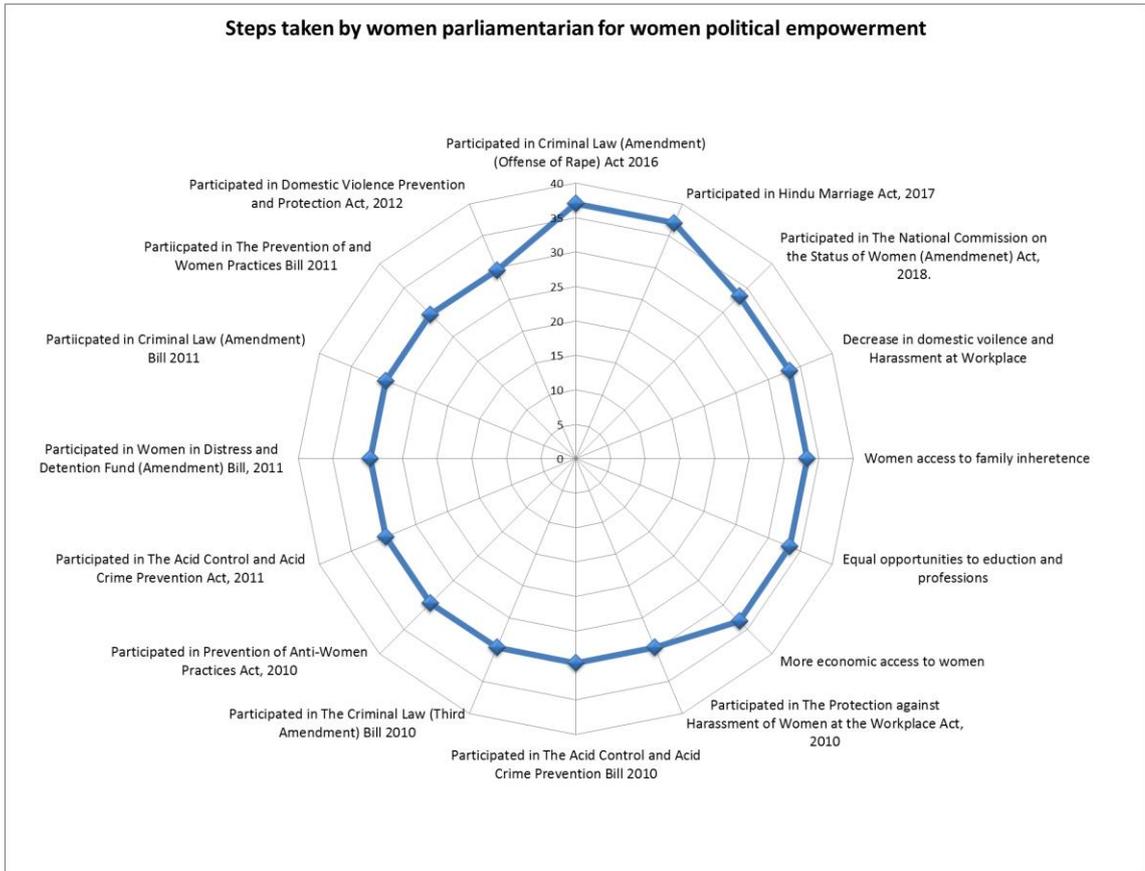


Figure 51: Steps taken by women parliamentarian for women political empowerment.

Above graph shows laws in which parliamentarian participated at different level from grass root level identification, drafting of contents, participation in debate and practically in representation in parliament.

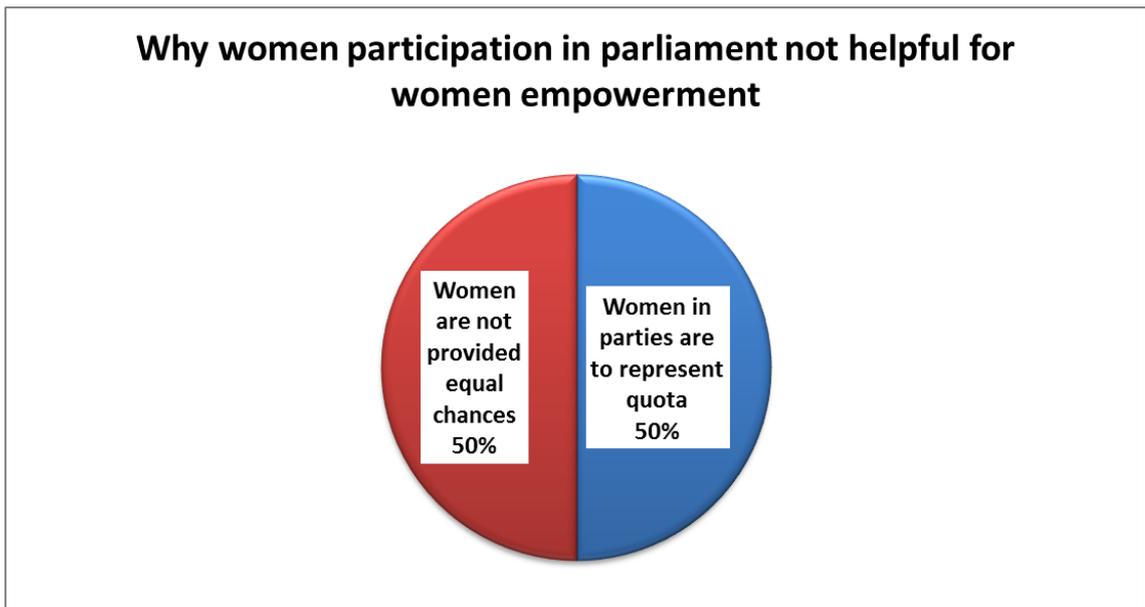
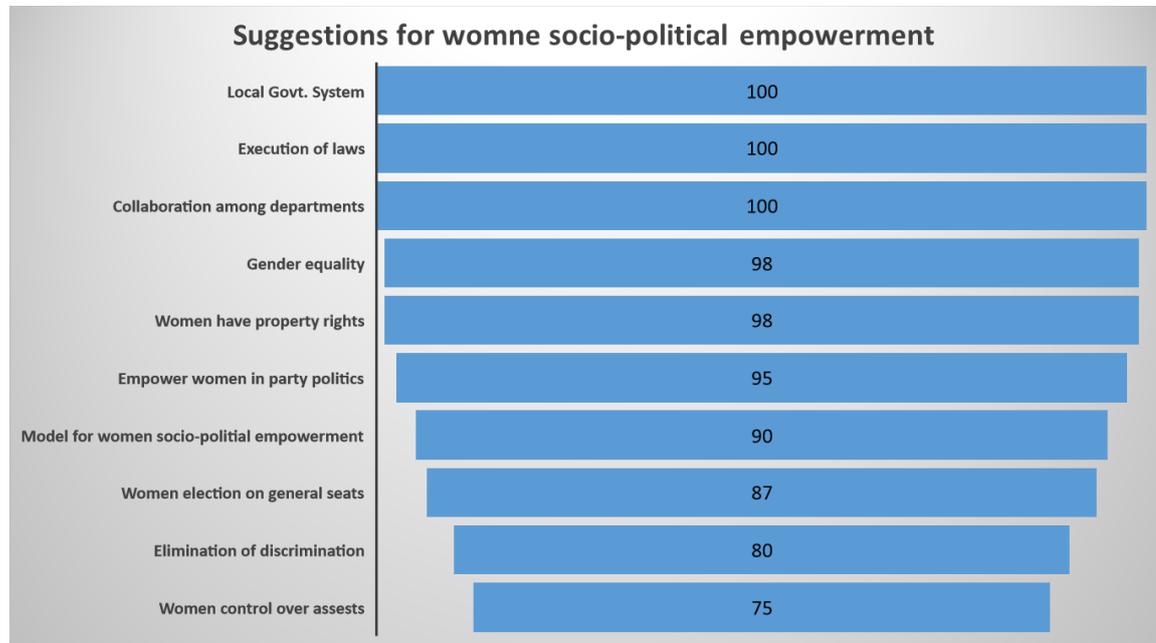


Figure 52: Why women participate in parliament not helpful for women empowerment.

Women parliamentarian who did not take steps for women political empowerment shared the reasons that in their party women are provided equal opportunities and women are considered for symbolic participation at specific quota.

4.1.10. Suggestions for women political empowerment in Pakistan



In this chapter primary data analysis is presented in detail. All the laws passed during 2008 to 2018 were presented in detail with detail of respondent's participation in legislation. Respondents were also asked for reasons for participating in legislation process. Parliamentarians were asked about the impact of laws they know or observe after legislation. Impact of each law with reference to women empowerment is discussed in detail. Respondents shared how women socio-political empowerment is possible through women participation in parliament and what steps are taken by women parliamentarian for women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan. All the respondents shared suggestions for women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan.

Chapter 05: Discussion and Implications of the study

In this chapter all research findings including indicators of socio-political empowerment, variables, legislation made for women socio-political empowerment is discussed in detail with reference for secondary data sources. Challenges faced by women parliamentarian are compared with global challenges. Opportunities for women socio-political empowerment and suggestions to ensure women socio-political empowerments in country are also discussed in detail.

5.1. Impact of laws on women empowerment

Study reveals that a large portion of respondents, 77% of respondents participated in women related legislation in their government. Previous studies prove that women participation in parliament is an indicator of women political empowerment. Diana Z. (2018) explains that women participation in parliament for legislation is a symbol of women political empowerment.

As women participation in parliament is an indicator of women political empowerment it is positive that women representatives in parliamentarian remained part of women related law making at different level. 23% respondents shared that they did not remain part of law making in the tenure of their party.

Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010

Study reveals that after implementation on protection against harassment of women at workplace Act 2010, now it is mandatory for public and private organizations to display anti-sexual harassment policy at a prominent place. Commitment of employer to eliminate gender discrimination is an act towards women empowerment. According to a report developed by International Labor Organization (ILO, 2020), to eliminate gender based violence at workplace the employer must have commitment through developing and implementing anti-harassment policies.

According to study findings more cases of gender-based violence at workplace are reported by both women and men. According to the annual report of Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for protection against harassment (Ombudsman, 2021) report forty cases were reported in 2011 which reached to 1344 in 2020 that is a clear indicator that women are more empowered to have safe and protective environment at workplace. Study findings reveal that there is decrease in gender-based violence at workplace. It is found that women are more independent to choose education and profession of their choice as there is less discrimination and myths

associated to degree programs and professions. According to (Ali, 2021) due to Anti Sexual Harassment Act at Workplace more women are able to get their basic rights including right to get education of their choice and right to choose profession best suitable for them.

BISP Act 2010

Research findings are that vulnerable women are economically stable and socially more acceptable in home and society. According to BISP official website statistics approximately 98% cash grants are transferred to women for their socio-economic empowerment and enhanced well-being. Research reveals that BISP Act made women able to run their own business and improve well-being of households. Due to BISP Act household education and health status is improved as a result household members become able to contribute to economic activities and improve socio-economic status. Widows are most vulnerable and have threats of miss treating as compared to other women of society, BISP Act benefitted widows, and their economic status was improved and had impact on their safety and prosperity. The program has helped to increase women decision-making power and control over household resources and has improved access to healthcare and education for women and their children.

According to impact evaluation report of BISP conducted by Oxford Policy Management (OPM, 2020), there has been an increase in household income which left increase in food consumption by household and education level of children. Financial savings of benefitted households has also been increased during BISP implementation phase that is 2011-2016 from 9% to 13%. Women empowerment has been increased as 55,000 women committees are benefitted. BISP left a long-term impact on women empowerment as their control over household productive assets has been increased. Vulnerable women started livestock rearing as an investment. Due to BISP women empowerment also improved in a sense that women travelled to cities, amount collection centers or financial institutions independently. A social taboo was breached by this initiative and women also started to perform household other tasks independently. This confidence of women transformed to children especially young girls. Most vulnerable women never had an exposure of visiting any office, communicating with officials and presenting documents including CNIC and other reference documents, BISP made them able.

Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)

Study findings reveal that law emphasizes on channelizing sale and purchase of acid and awareness about the law. It is good sign that all the respondents agree that there is decrease in

acid throwing cases. According to (Bandial, 2021) acid is a lethal weapon and don't need special training, techniques or physical power to attack. This weapon is available in many categories as it is used for drains in home. After Act there is some-how monitoring on sales, local and unlicensed production, import, transport, storage and use of acid.

According to research findings legal aid is being provided by government to victim which is an indicator of women empowerment. According to analysis conducted in Pakistan by Acid Survivor Foundation (2015) there were 1231 cases reported in 2007 that number decreased to 61 in 2015. Study has finding that society is raising voice on this issue and stressing concerned department to ensure eradication of acid throwing violence from Pakistan. Pakistan's famous short film making artist Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy in an interview (INSKEEP, 2012) shared that people especially youth is motivated to raise awareness on this issue through media; this may have a multiplier effect.

Research findings reveal that non-governmental organizations are working with people and government organizations to raise awareness, providing health and legal support and rehabilitation of acid burn victims. These organizations are working in collaboration with other stakeholders especially government organizations to control acid throwing cases. Research study conducted on acid attacks against women in Pakistan also reveals that in Pakistan, practically it is not an easy task to combat acid attacks only by government organizations there is need for mutual efforts with synergy (Ismail, 2023).

Respondents in study shared that due to implementation on this Act, acid-throwers are punished as per law and protection is provided to victim and family. As per findings of reviewed data there is still need of a lot of efforts for timely justice.

National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012

Study reveals that National commission on the status of women Act has very prominent impact on the lives of Pakistani women. Study findings are that women have more chances of equal opportunity educational, professional and political decisions. It may be considered as a prominent step towards women empowerment. Consulted data also shows that there is positive impact of NCSW on women empowerment. The Accountability Research Center (ARC) also analyzes NCSW for impact assessment. According to a report by (Khan A. , 2021), NCWS has contributed to reduce gender based discrimination and gender based violence from Pakistan, reported cases of honor killing were 913 in 2012 which reduced to 309 in 2017.

Research findings conclude that challenges faced by working women related to workplace are reduced. Due to decent work environment more women are performing in the field of their choice. Working women have safe and protective working environment with confidence that they may launch complaint against any harassment or violence on an effective and efficient response mechanism (NCSW, 2018).

Media has made it easy to understand and implement laws. According to (Khan A. , 2021) the biggest opportunity to aware people is media, as it is the fastest method and cheaper in Pakistan.

National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012

Study findings reveal that due to National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Act, 2012 there is improvement in equal opportunities for quality education, profession and political participation. According to research report (Nazir, 2023) NCHR Act 2012 has proven more effective Act to human rights especially children and women rights in Pakistan.

Research findings are that government bodies and non-governmental organizations are hand in hand for protection of human rights in Pakistan. According to annual report of NCHR (PPI, 2021) there is immense need for collaborative efforts of government bodies and civil society organizations to explore women issues, draft bill, design policies and procedures and execution through awareness of masses.

Research findings are that people are aware of sexual harassment and there is decrease in cases of sexual harassment. As per report of ministry of human rights there is gradually decrease in rape, violence and sexual harassment cases from 2018 to recent years (Kaleem, 2022).

Study findings reveal that due to NCHR Act 2012, more bills for women empowerment are presented to parliament and approved as Act to be part of law. NCHR Act 2012 is an independent and autonomous body so allocation of resources and addressing women rights issues has no external influence.

Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

Study findings reveal that after this Act there is an improvement in girl's access to education due to construction of schools in rural areas, hiring of female staff in girl's schools, enrollment campaigns, and sensitization of parents and communities get girls enrolled in schools. Financial and human resources are allocated to make school functional and awareness is raised through media on importance of education especially for girls.

Findings from secondary data also state that there is increase in girls education from 60% in 2012 to 77% in 2018 due to implementation on the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2012 (UNESCO, 2022). Secondary data reveals that there is construction of new schools and hiring of enough teachers with education facilities in rural areas is possible due to implementation on this Act (BIBI, 2018)

The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013

Research findings depict that there is increase in women access to justice and their protection and prevention, violence against women in reduced and women have provision of protection during trial as law enforcement agencies play their role.

Secondary data review also reveals that impacts of this Act include that common woman has more protection against crimes including rape, violence, and harassment (Pakistan, 2019). There is a responsible agency named FIA to ensure investigation against crimes and fair access to justice. Accountability of law enforcement agencies has also been increased.

According to (Waseem, 2022) this Act also made it possible that victims and witness are protected during fair trial and law enforcement agencies have collaborative working framework to make this happen. It minimizes chances of further harassment during trial.

Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

Findings of research study are that due to implementation on prevention of electronic crimes act 2016, there is decrease in cyber-crime cases, increased privacy options in electronic device, and more awareness in users through media including print media and social media.

Secondary data review also have findings that due to PECA 2016 people are aware of cyber-crimes, know how to report these crimes and take proper follow up of cyber-crime cases (Khan, 2020).

Study findings are women may use electronic devices freely and fearlessly. Women did not use electronic gadgets or were forced to not use electronic devices as user and family may suffer due to harassment. As per literature review as an impact of act common women are protected against online harassment and cyber-bullying. Online harassment and online crimes are decreased because law bounds organization and agencies for the punishment of offenders. Accountability of online users has been improved and as a result there is more safety and protection for women in Pakistan (Yongmei, 2023).

Study findings show that due to implementation on this Act, law enforcement agencies are working systematically to eradicate cyber-crimes from the country. Literature review also

show that (Rafiq A. , 2019) the act provides protection of the privacy and dignity of women online. There is prohibition of unauthorized access to personal data in any form with consent of owner.

Study findings show that there is effective and efficient role of all relevant department's victims, and the family is enough confident to report cases immediately after incident. Literature review also shows that there is provision of safety and protection to victim and victim's family that is one of the major reasons for timely reporting of cases (Riaz, 2021).

Research findings show that due to impact of this law there is decrease in online bullying cases. Secondary data review also shows that due to implementation on this act online bullying, online harassment and violence is reduced around the country (Rasli, 2019).

Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017

Research findings revealed that due to implementation on this act there is decrease in gender-based violence, more protection is available to witness and access to justice for witness has been increased. Secondary data review shows that due to implementation on this act, victim and their families report cases immediately after incident. Prior to this act there was threat to victim and victim's family that there may be more or different kind of harassment for them (Atif, 2020).

Hindu Marriage Act-2017

Research study findings show that there is an increase in number of registered Hindu marriage, due to this act now Hindu women may exercise right to divorce and Hindu girls have protection from forced marriage. According to (Bureau, 2017) the impact of Hindu marriage act 2017 will be positive on Hindu women, as it provides them a legal recognition as a result Hindu women will be protected and empowered.

Study findings are that now Hindu women may decide their marriage to be registered as a Hindu marriage. According to literature review, now its choice of Hindu women to register their marriage as per Hindu marriage act (Mustafa, 2021).

Research findings reveal that Hindu women have access to inheritance rights as now there is awareness in people about the act. People report the cases of forced Hindu marriage immediately. According to (Raza) major impact of this act on women empowerment is that women may have consent and inheritance protected as per law.

Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018

Research findings reveal that that due to implementation on this act there is decrease in gender-based violence. Secondary data shows that implementation on this act has contributed to women socio-economic empowerment in the country; there is decrease in gender-based violence as more society groups are aware on laws and procedure of execution. All these measures have built confidence in women to report gender-based violence and take actions to prevent from it (ADB, 2022). Study findings are that more women have access to justice. Secondary data review also shows that more women have access to justice and know the process to seek for justice for their rights (Zia, 2022)

As per study findings more resources are allocated so victims may have rehabilitation services and there is decrease in gender discrimination. Due to implementation on this law other relevant departments are working to minimize gender-based violence and provide rehabilitation services to victims for their normal life routine (Sandhu, 2023).

Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018

About the impact of this act research findings are that after implementations on this act woman have more protection of their children and people are aware on child protection through media campaigns, there is decrease in child abuses and exploitation and masses are now aware on child protection.

Findings from secondary data also show that after implementation on this act child protection institutes were established in Islamabad to protect children from violence and any unfair incident (Tribune, 2023). According to (Yasmeen, 2021) government has allocated resources to stop violence against children in capital city of Pakistan, these resources are utilized for awareness raising campaigns, establishment of child protection institutes and provision legal and rehabilitation services to the children and their families.

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018

Research findings reveal that after implementation on this act there is increase in number of reported cases against child abuse and exploitation. According to secondary data (Asif Khan, Neelam Iqbal and Ishaq Ahmad, 2022) there is impact on women empowerment as women are primarily responsible for the caretaker of children.

According to research findings there is investigation on human trafficking cases with fair trial and protection to victim and witness during trial remained great challenges. According to (State, 2021) the implementation on prevention of trafficking in person act 2018 is slow but

overall positive change is observed as there is decrease in number of exploitation cases and victims are provided access to justice and rehabilitation opportunities.

Research findings are that there is decrease in family exploitation and social exploitation that was a big cause of human trafficking, as women and girls are most vulnerable to force for cheap labor through human trafficking. Secondary data findings are that decrease in exploitation for children and women has impact on socio-economic empowerment of women (Adil, 2021).

Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

Research findings are that there is juvenile justice committees in every district, there is more protection to children, and they have access to justice, care and protection for children has been improved across the country and juvenile courts are established for juvenile cases. According to (Malik, 2019) this act has contributed to the lives of minors who are engaged in offence as there are separate courts and rehabilitation centers for juvenile. As per (Zaman, 02) there is opportunity to engage trained staff for juvenile in all concerned departments and agencies.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

Research findings revealed that there are educational and vocational skills training institutes for persons with disabilities and media is creating awareness among masses on rights of person with disabilities, there is more implementation on National Commission on Rights of Person with Disabilities (NCPRD) and there is specific allocated quota for education and profession for PWDs.

Research findings are that there is more legal protection to PWDs in ICT, there is accessibility audit of public and private office to make it accessible for PWDs and due to implementation on this act there is inclusion in recruitment in public offices and large non-governmental organizations.

According to (Kizilbash, 2020) due to implementation on the act, there is more inclusion in the society especially in provision of educational and professional opportunities. There is more understanding on rights of PWDs and access to organization facilitating for rehabilitation of PWDs.

The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020

Research study findings are that there is legal assistance is there to women for family inheritance, process of approaching justice for women is more transparent, more women are

getting property rights, and more women are getting rights given them by their religion. Study findings are now women may obtain succession certificate, women have protection during trial and religious preachers are supporting the awareness campaigns and programs. According to (Minhas, 2023), impact of this act on women empowerment is positive as this Act seeks to simplify and expedite the process of obtaining letters of administration and succession certificates, which can help to ensure that women are able to access their rightful inheritance and property, this Act also includes measures to prevent fraud and ensure that the process is transparent and fair

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020

Research findings are that now more women are empowered as they have ownership to property, they have access to justice to get their property rights, media aware people to get property rights, more women are accessing justice for their rights and divorced women are able to get property rights as per law and women may have their as per law without any dispute or miss-happening. According to (Foundation, 2020) women are entitled to their share in property rights as per country's law and religion guidelines. This act also facilitates women to register property ownership and appointment of trustees to manage property on their behalf.

The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020

Study findings reveal that there is decrease in cases of women violence, discrimination in discrimination against women and more awareness on legal aid and support to women across the country. As per research findings after implementation on this act there is more access to justice for marginalized and neglected groups including women and now there is free legal aid service is available for women and vulnerable groups.

According to secondary data, impact of this law on women empowerment is positive; there is decrease in chances of women exploitation and gender discrimination because awareness is rising at multiple levels due to media engagement (Rafiq W. , 2022).

The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020

Research findings are that alert and response committees at multiple levels, now there is more protection to children and more people are aware on child rights protection, there is punishment to criminals is more efficient, that accountability and transparency in investigation of kidnapping cases.

Study findings reveal that there is more psycho-social support to victims, 44% respondents shared that there is decrease in child abuse in exploitation cases and there is more confidentiality during investigation is improved.

According to (Saqib, 2020) there is decrease in the cases of children abuse and exploitation. Women are more responsible for care and maintenance of children; children safety is women satisfaction and women empowerment.

According to secondary data review, there is more legal support for women and children as there are committees for child protection and legal aid, rehabilitation facilities for children, media is engaging more in trial of such cases to ensure efficient inquiry of cases (Zainab Alert Bill's ambit being expanded all over country, 2023).

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights (Amendment) Act, 2020

Study findings are that after implementation on this act there is efficiency in women property cases, because there is more legal support to women to pursuit their property cases, women may take their own decisions without external influence because awareness on women property rights has been improved.

Study findings show that after implementation on this act women are accessing court for their family inheritance rights, law suggest for addition of women name in property ownership in land and revenue department's record.

As per secondary data findings, women property rights cases should be solved within six months as special courts are established to solve such cases (Zameenblog, 2021).

Women in Pakistan faced barriers to have ownership of property in their name; this law provides opportunity to women to have property ownership rights in their name. This law is contributing to women empowerment in Pakistan (Rubab, 2023).

The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021

Research study findings reveal that public and private organizations are supporting agenda of women empowerment, women laws are being promoted in country, financial resources are being allocated for said agenda and women are accessing their rights. According to Collective for Social Science Research report (Khan A. , 2021) after implementation on this law, there is allocation of resources for women protection and ensure gender equality at district level, women development department is running multiple programs to empower women for their rights.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021

Research study findings reveal that after implementation on this act there is decrease in physical abuse and punishment of children and women, there is more legal protection to children from abuse, there is more women social empowerment as social protection and social safety nets are being provided to women and there is decrease in cases of treating children brutally for any purpose.

Researcher finds that government along UN and other non-governmental organizations struggling hard to ensure implementation on this law. There is more protection for children against physical punishment and degrade them as a punishment is banned. Children have healthier environment as they don't suffer physical and emotional abuse that promotes a confident and productive generation (Abbasi, 2023).

Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

Research study findings are there is allocation of resources to implement on this law, protection of victim and witness during trial, there is decrease in number of rape cases and all media is sensitizing public on importance of this law. Findings also reveal that there is decrease in sexual violation cases and more protection for victim during trial that's why family of victim report cases immediately.

Secondary data reveals that there are committees formed to prevent women sexual abuse and set up a sex offender register. The media awareness is still much needed to practically implement the law throughout the country (Voicepk.net, 2023).

5.2. Barriers in implementation of women related laws.

Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)

Acid is not a weapon that may be noticed by people before attack. It is easy to attack but brutal behavior with victim. With all the efforts of government still there are businesses generating sales from acid business. They don't have other source of income and adopt illegal ways to sale and purchase acid. According to analysis maximum reported cases are from South Punjab Pakistan and reason is most of the time revenge of refusal of proposal. A major barrier is lake of education and awareness.

National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012

There is still need for strong relationship among all concerned stakeholders including government bodies, politician, bureaucracy and people to understand and aware people on importance of NCSW and its implication.

National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012

Annual reports are not developed on regular base to ensure accountability and policy recommendations on annual base to change or develop policies. Delays in timely recruitment of human resources causes delay in policy implementation. There is not enough resources allocation for research, development and awareness which is a function of NCHR.

Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

There are many barriers due to society for girl's education. Still society, cultural norms, believes and priorities to take financial decisions are major barriers for girl's education. Social taboo exists that investment on girl's education will not give any return as they will leave after marriage.

The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013

There is a barrier about implementation of this Act that there have been allegation of torture and abuse by law enforcement agencies during investigation which leaves space for human rights activist to raise questions. There is need to conduct investigations on modern and advance methods without challenging human rights.

Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

Coordination and collaboration among departments and agencies to solve electronic crime cases and ensure prevention from such cases to ensure eradication of harassment and violence from the country.

Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017

Social pressure on victim is a barrier to ensure implementation on this act.

Hindu Marriage Act-2017

Illiteracy and societal taboos are barriers to implement this law.

Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018

There are socio-cultural barriers for women seeking access to justice.

Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018

Human resources are not trained to aware masses on a larger scale in many social classes and groups. There is need to address the issues of children according to the societal groups and their living style.

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018

Poverty is a big reason for human trafficking and implementation on this law. Financially vulnerable households don't report cases to get financial support.

Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

There are social and economic barriers on implementation on this act. People earn money from camel jockey and agents are usually involved in this activity.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

There is need to construct a data base of Person with Disabilities (PWDs) and include them according to disability type. Not all the PWDs are fit for all job types and not all jobs are for every type of disability. There should be training of household members of PWDs to mainstream them in regular life.

The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020

The social pressure on women especially on widow divorced and orphans. Women are exploited by their family members and are considered a good woman when she refuses inheritance. These social barriers are challenging the implementation on this act.

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020

There is issue of awareness and social norms that cause barrier on implementation on this law.

The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020

Social and cultural are berries are there to implement on the law as household of victim are pressurized to keep quiet and never take any legal action. Witnesses deny presenting in court during trial.

The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020

People avoid reporting cases of girls kidnapping and exploitation and try on their own to settle down matters due to fear of their future especially marriage decision. Due to delay in reporting law enforcement agencies face challenges to solve cases and safe recovery of children.

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights (Amendment) Act, 2020

Social factors and pressure of family is a great barrier to have true implementation on this act.

The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021

The implementation on this act slow as allocation of resources are sometimes delayed and in deprived districts women empowerment agenda has a lot of social barriers to face.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021

In remote and poor accessible areas monitoring is weak as a result implementation on law is not in true spirit. Parents and community are less concerned for children psychological and social support. These social habits are barrier to implementation on this law.

Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

Social pressure on victim and victim's family is a barrier to register such cases. If case is registered society socially boycotts that family that is a barrier for fair trial.

5.3. Challenges to implementation on women related laws.

Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010

However, there are still challenges to fully implementing the act, including a lack of awareness and resources, and reluctance by some employers to comply with its provisions. Additionally, there is a need for greater accountability and enforcement mechanisms to ensure that the act is effectively implemented and that women are protected from harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)

Still there is no formal record keeping of acid production, sales and use. Complete control may be possible when its channel will be transparent, and all relevant stakeholders will be in loop. But challenge is that all that there is no active collaboration mechanism among different department and market committees.

National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012

Study findings reveal that there is still need for cent percent gender equality and equal opportunities for all genders. There may be some social, cultural and religious challenges. Another challenge is stability in implementation Act and mainstreaming it in code of conduct of every organization (Khan A. , 2019) explains that their women and political parties working on women rights and gender equality are facing challenge from different group of society and sometimes blamed to get external funds to highlight this agenda. Another challenge is allocation of resources to ensue implementation on NCSW in true spirit; it depends on agenda of political parties to allocate human and financial resources (Awan M. A., 2012)

National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012

Second term commissioners' appointment was two years delayed and NCHR remained non-operational for two years. Timely allocation of resources so all the functions of NCHR may be performed.

Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

There are challenges to ensure that all the children have access to free and quality education across the country. There is need to increase allocation of resources to education in federal and provincial budget.

A 2020 report by Human Rights Watch found that millions of children, especially girls, are out of school in Pakistan due to poverty, discrimination, and violence. The report also highlighted the need for the government to address the quality of education and to provide support for marginalized communities to ensure that the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act is fully implemented.

The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013

Collaboration and agreed framework among multiple organizations and agencies at a time is a challenge for implementation on law. Still there is need for building human and institutional capacities if investigation agencies and judiciary members at key roles.

Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

Allocation of resources is a challenge. There is use of unauthorized electronic devices that is a challenge for implementation on this act.

Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017

There is lack of rehabilitation facilities for victims to ensure fair free trial.

Hindu Marriage Act-2017

Hindu communities are from lower socio-economic class. There say even within Hindu community is not loud. There may be a challenge that this law would not be equally applicable for all socio-economic classes.

Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018

Implementation on this act is not much fast as it was expected to be as there was need to build the capacity of organizations and agencies for optimal utilization of funds and ensure women protection.

Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018

Cultural and social factors may cause challenge in implementation on this act. Training of community level child protection committee members on violence against children and child protection.

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018

In certain people are used to of going illegally to multiple countries for earning. This mafia is empowered due to these people who are paying huge amount to these agents.

Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

Parents in extreme poor areas send children for camel jockey with their permission and consent. This is a challenge for implementation on law.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

Most of the times, household members of Person with Disabilities (PWDs) don't invest on their education and vocational skills training. Governments don't allocate adequate resources to make PWDs able to join profession of their choice. Organizational culture and society do not provide enough space to PWDs to perform in their full abilities.

The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020

Social barriers are challenge. Land record is not yet digitized in Pakistan; even death of landlord is not registered in time. Process to get inheritance is too lengthy and complex.

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020

Lack of awareness on property rights and insufficient religion guidelines are a big challenge in implementing this law. Social pressure on women especially on widows and divorced women is a greater challenge.

The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020

Free legal aid service is not easily approachable by everyone, especially people living in remote areas and who don't have financial resources to approach legal aid offices.

The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020

Parents in rural areas or deprived urban areas don't allow school administration and teachers to train children on child protection; it's against their moral values. As a result, children and parents remain unaware of child protection issues and measures for its prevention. There are

not enough resources for child protection committees to visit all areas and sensitize communities.

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights (Amendment) Act, 2020

Different groups treat this agenda as per their social, cultural and religious values. Women are deliberately left behind when it comes matter of property rights. There is need for sensitization of people on women rights and awareness on laws and offenses.

The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021

Behavior of family members and society for women empowerment are challenged to ensure implementation on this law.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021

Optimal utilization of available resources and allocation of new resources is a challenge to ensure implementation on this law.

Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

Capacity of justice system to understand sensitivity of such cases and ensure fair trial keeping in mind dignity of human being. In cases offender is blood relative family pressurize victim to hide reality and don't register any complaint. Young girls in all social classes are not aware and trained on preventive measures.

5.4. Opportunities to implement women related laws.

Detailed tool kits have been developed by many organizations working on the agenda of combating all kinds of harassment and through capacity building and policy initiatives. United Nation's officer and national organization like AASHA and Mahargarh have developed easy to understand tool kits completely guide about concepts and definitions of all kinds of harassment especially harassment at workplace. These tool kits have details for employee, employer, victims or member of anti-harassment committee. Complaint response and readdress mechanism is elaborated that may be adopted as per the needs of organizations. These tool kits also have pictorial presentation to understand things more easily (Sultana, 2020).

Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)

Public and private organization may eradicate this crime with coordination and collaboration. Government departments with their resources ensure implementation on law while non-governmental organizations like Acid Survivor Foundation (ASF, 2006) and Smile Again

Foundation (Depilex Smileagain, 2007) exclusively working for prevention and rehabilitation of acid throwing crime by raising awareness and providing legal and psycho-social support to victim and family. These two organizations are providing awareness services as well as legal aid and counseling of victims. After rehabilitation these foundations train victims through vocational skills and provide them job to earn with dignity.

Media is a great opportunity to spread message. Sharmeen Obaid presented short film on life of acid victims and won first time Oscar award.

National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012

NCSW's role in Zian Law and banning Jirga and engaging civil society organizations through alliances proved supportive for women empowerment in Pakistan.

There is chance for women to raise their genuine issues and challenges through NCSW because it is most of the times chaired by senior women rights activist who takes lead in advocacy where departments and organizations are reluctant to take necessary measures and actions.

NCSW works in close coordination with Election Commission of Pakistan that may be an opportunity for women electoral to raise voice for solution of women issues.

National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012

Recommendations to the government: The NCHR has the authority to make recommendations to the government on issues related to human rights. These recommendations can cover a wide range of areas, including legislative reforms, policy changes, and institutional improvements. By providing guidance to the government, the NCHR plays a significant role in shaping human rights-related laws and policies in Pakistan.

Strengthening human rights institutions: The NCHR Act, 2012 has helped in strengthening the institutional framework for human rights in Pakistan. By establishing a dedicated national commission, the Act has provided a permanent structure to address human rights concerns and coordinate efforts with other national and international human rights institutions.

Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

There is support of UN organizations working for education and specifically girls' education in terms of educational facilities and financial support to vulnerable households. Government may increase budget for free education through public and private partnership. Ghost schools may be established through revamping instead of establishing new infrastructure.

The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013

There is a great opportunity that a designated agency FIA for fair investigation also has authority in the country. Law bounds organizations and agencies for fair trial with maximum protection that is an opportunity for implementation of law.

Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

FIA is an independent investigation agency to bind other relevant departments to solve such cases.

Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017

Victim and their families have more confidence on organizations and justice system. Case studies and success stories of rehabilitated victims may be shared with those victims who are reluctant to report their cases.

Hindu Marriage Act-2017

Non-governmental organizations, international organizations and media may be a great opportunity when perform in synergy. This agenda is mandate of many human rights organizations and human right activist are its ambassador.

Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018

There is an opportunity of Women in Distress and Detention Fund that is to be used to provide financial assistance and free legal aid to women in distress or detention. There is also an opportunity to establish women rehabilitation centers for victim women.

Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018

There are allocated funds and designated human resources for awareness and child protection against any kind of violence. There is opportunity to extend its impact throughout the country.

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018

There are international laws and agencies to support government in implementing this law. Victim may have free access to justice and protection during trial as law bounds other relevant departments and agencies to do so.

Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

There are allocated resources for juvenile courts, and child protection centers. Trained human resources for this purpose are an opportunity to implement on this act.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

There are government organizations working for public welfare and social welfare having agenda of PWDs on top priority. United Nations offices and different non-governmental organizations are working with government organizations and departments to raise voice on rights of PWDs and intervene for their rehabilitation.

The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020

Women have transparent access to justice to get rights given by religion. There is no need for women to beg for the rights which have already been given by religion and law of country.

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020

There are multiple organization including civil society organizations, law firms, religious organizations and not for profit organizations working on this agenda. This may be a great opportunity when coordinated efforts will be put to implement this law.

The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020

Media engagement is an opportunity to prevent and minimize such cases across the country.

The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020

Use of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) for child protection is a big opportunity for implementation on this law. There is option to develop user friendly applications for children, parents and teachers to monitor children's activities and take necessary action in case of emergency. Rescue departments and police station may also be link with this application. Media is also biggest opportunity for awareness on larger level.

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights (Amendment) Act, 2020

There is an opportunity to modify land and revenue record and ensure women ownership in property rights as per law.

The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021

According to act there is opportunity of committees for women protection at district level. Women may ask for protection and legal services as per law. Coordination of law enforcement department is a great opportunity to implement this law.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021

There is well established infrastructure of government and human resources are dedicated to ensuring quality education. With capacity building of existing human resources implementation on this law may be ensured.

Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

There is opportunity to conduct tests of victim on advance base including DNA testing facility. There are committees and sub-committees to take record of offenders and share this record to prevent such cases in future. Media may be an opportunity. Government has support of multiple organizations working on women rights in term of financial and technical assistance.

5.5. Recommendations for implementation on women related laws.

Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)

There must be strict monitoring on non-licensed or illegal business of acid. There should be complete ban on unlicensed production of acid used for any purpose. Still there is immense need to enhance awareness of masses on this issue and reporting such cases at earliest. While, channelizing sale and purchase of acid, there is also need of effective and efficient reporting and investigation mechanism. The best facilitation for victim may contribute to minimize acid throwing cases from country.

Legal system should be much sensitized to put these cases on top priority with protection of victim, witness and family and bound relevant department to support victim to live as a normal human being after rehabilitation. Government may provide financial support to victim till complete rehabilitation. There is also need of religious preachers to raise awareness and sensitize people to have patience and tolerance. Preventive measures may be taught to young girls and community women to minimize damages of acid attacks. Students should be engaged through co-curricular activities. Media must be engaged to sensitize masses.

National Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2012

There should be strong relationship among all stakeholders at provincial level to penetrate impact of NCSW at grass root level. Awareness programs should be designed by multiple ways and in multiple languages keeping in mind local culture and values.

National Commission for Human Rights Act, 2012

There is an opportunity of Paris Principles, NCHR should be in line with Paris Principles to perform independent and never influenced by political interference. They must be enough

financial resources allocation to ensure all the operations of NCHR as per its mandate. There should not be delay in recruitment the human resource for NCHR so all the functions may continue without interruption. There should be defined SoPs for all kinds of investigation. It would be much effective if yearly reports are developed, and findings are shared with people for awareness. There should not be overlapping interventions among different human right commissions.

Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012

There should be focused sensitization campaigns on behavior change of parents and society for children education. Government should ensure enrollment of all out of school children through free education and financial support to most vulnerable households. There is need to enhance budget on education and vocational and technical skills education. There is need to ensure implementation on right to free and compulsory education Act 2012.

The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013

There should be more awareness of this Act so victim, victim's family and witnesses may seek for justice fearlessly. There should be allocation of human and financial resources to ensure implementation on this Act in any circumstances.

Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

There should be provision of rehabilitation and recovery services for victim to survive as a normal human being in the society. There should be allocation of enough resources for fair trial and timely justice.

Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017

There is an awareness campaign to ensure masses know about the act and support victims to report such cases immediately.

Hindu Marriage Act-2017

There must be immediate implementation on this law. Provincial laws support this law so provincial government and department should be enough empowered to ensure implementation on law. There should be mass awareness campaigns on this act to sensitize society and breach boundary of taboos.

Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018

There should be awareness through media to minimize socio-cultural barriers to women seeking to access justice. There should also be annual assessment of performance and funds utilization for effective planning.

Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection Act, 2018

Underlying social factors must also be addressed in this act. Awareness in different languages and through different means would be more effective. Government and non-governmental organizations may jointly work to identify child protection issues and design intervention for prevention of child violence.

Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018

There should be monitoring and assessment of agents and groups engage in human trafficking, there may financial or livelihood support to vulnerable households to prevent human trafficking.

Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018

There should be mass media awareness on juvenile. At district level there should children rehabilitation centers for psychosocial support of victims and learning centers to enhance their learning and earning skills.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2020

There should be more awareness on rights of PWDs, this may be added to educational courses. There is also needed to build capacity of concerned government institutes and organizations to implement on this law. PWDs issues in accessing departments and services should be considered and addressed. There should be allocation of resources to resolve root issues of PWDs and their access to quality education and vocational and technical skills training.

The Letter of Administration and Succession Certificate Act, 2020

There is need to make land record transparent and accessible to all, so everyone knows about the right and way to access the right.

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights Act, 2020

There should be free legal aid services to transfer ownership to women for their inheritance rights. Land and revenue department should also be facilitated through allocation of resources specific in light of this law.

The Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020

There should free services availability online, so victim and witness face less fatigue. Society must be aware and sensitize on gender-based violence and gender discrimination and must know how to get rid of it.

The Zainab Alert, Recovery and Response Act, 2020

There is still needed to allocate financial and human resources to eradicate children abuse and exploitation. There is need to aware all the children on child protection and optimal response with confidence in case of emergency. Media should aware people with unbiased realities and highlight such issues.

Government should work with the national and international working on agenda of child protection to have synergy and optimal utilization of resources.

The Enforcement of Women Property Rights (Amendment) Act, 2020

There should be record of last statement of landowner in court. There should be equal rights for everyone to have property right as per law besides considering property right in kind of dowry or any other liability.

The National Commission on the Status of Women (Amendment) Act, 2021

There should be training of human resource in all public and private organizations on this law so women may know what preventive protection arrangements they may have as per provisions in law.

The Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2021

There should be training for schoolteachers, administration and community on child abuse and its worst effects on child mental and physical health.

Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021

There is need for extensive awareness on prevention as well as dealing with such cases.

5.6. Limitation of study

Study will be around women participation in legislation process, policy making, decision making and their socio-political empowerment. Any personal data or irrelevant data will not be collected. Respondents will be only present and past members of National Assembly from 2008 to 2018.

During primary and secondary data collection ethical values will be kept in top priority, no harm will be created.

In this chapter impact of all laws passed from 2008 to 2018 are discussed in detail with reference to secondary data sources. Challenges faced to implement these laws and barriers in implementation and evaluation of each law are also discussed in detail. Moreover, suggestions to implement laws and ensure effectiveness of all the laws was also discussed in detail. In the end study limitations are discussed.

Chapter 06: Conclusion

Secondary data review and study findings reveal that women participation in parliament is increasing gradually as concepts of gender equality. The mere presence of women in parliament through quotas or elections does not necessarily guarantee their empowerment in decision-making. Factors such as party dynamics, committee assignments, and seniority within the parliament can significantly impact the level of influence women have in shaping policies and decisions.

There are indicators of women social and political empowerment that are discussed in research study. Women participation in politics and parliament remained less as their contribution in population but during tenure of General Pervaiz Musharraf, number of women reserved seat was increased to sixty in parliament of 342 members. Overall, it was a virtuous step to mainstream women participation in Pakistani politics. On the base of reserved quota, these women parliamentarian highlight women grass root level issues and put efforts for women related legislation. With participation of these parliamentarian women issues are addressed but there is still needed to solve many issues.

During research observed that overall role of women legislators in parliament was remained dynamic during 2008 to 2013 comparatively last three governments. Due to women parliamentarian active participation in parliament legislation for common women was possible in 2008-2013, which left impact on women empowerment. In this tenure 16 women parliamentarian were directly elected from public to become member of parliament, this was a reason for women active participation in parliament. It is observed that women directly elected from public have more impact on women empowerment as compared to women reached parliament on reserved quota.

During research observed that around the world no standard or permanent model for women development or women empowerment to be a basic unit for measurement of women empowerment. Moreover, in Pakistan many laws are made for the women development but implementation and execution on policies and programs to implement those laws is not enough satisfactory. Despite legislation and allocation of resources women and children are still neglected and deprived in country.

Women politician also don't have leading role committees of their respective political party and in parliament committees. Due to lack of exposure, chances and trust women are left behind in taking initiatives and frontline decisions. Meanwhile, different social and political

barriers are also creating hindrance to achieve women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan.

It is observed that various countries around the world have implemented different strategies to enhance women participation in their respective parliaments. Many countries have introduced gender quotas or reserved seats for women in parliament. Quotas can be either voluntary party quotas, where political parties commit to nominating a certain percentage of female candidates, or legislated quotas, where laws mandate a specific number or percentage of seats to be reserved for women. These measures aim to increase women representation and overcome barriers to their entry into politics. Similarly, some countries have introduced electoral reforms that support women representation, such as proportional representation systems or preferential voting. These systems often lead to more diverse and inclusive parliaments. While countries may also adopt gender-sensitive legislation that promotes women rights and addresses gender disparities in various spheres, encouraging women to participate in political life. Meanwhile, political parties play a crucial role in candidate selection. Providing support and training for female candidates within political parties can help in increasing the number of women running for office and improve their chances of being elected.

Political parties in Pakistan have made efforts to strengthen and enhance women participation within their parties. However, it is important to note that progress in this area varies among different parties, and there is still room for improvement. As, several political parties in Pakistan have implemented quotas to ensure women representation within party structures. These quotas reserve a certain percentage of positions, including leadership roles and candidate selection processes, for women. This helps increase women presence and influence within the party. Many political parties have established women wings or caucuses within their party structures. These wings serve as dedicated platforms for women members to collaborate, network, and advocate for their rights within the party. They work towards addressing women concerns and promoting women empowerment both within the party and in the broader political system.

These are just a few of the ways in which the Pakistan Constitution of 1973 supports and empowers women. While challenges remain in implementing these provisions fully, they represent important steps towards promoting gender equality and women rights in Pakistan.

Starting from the Pakistan Constitution of 1956, which laid the foundation for gender equality in the country; subsequent constitutions have built upon these provisions to provide greater

protections and opportunities for women. The Pakistan Constitution of 1973, in particular, includes several key provisions aimed at promoting women rights, such as the right to vote, protection against harassment, and equal access to education and property. While challenges remain in fully implementing these provisions and achieving gender equality in Pakistan, the constitution serves as an important legal framework for promoting women rights and empowering them to participate fully in all aspects of society.

Overall, the constitutions of Pakistan have included provisions aimed at supporting and empowering women. These provisions have helped to promote gender equality and women rights in the country by ensuring equal access to education, political participation, property rights, and protection from discrimination and violence.

International treaties and agreements play a crucial role in promoting women empowerment and gender equality around the world. Over the years, various agreements have been made to address issues related to gender inequality, violence against women, discrimination, and economic empowerment. These agreements provide a framework for countries to work together and take action to advance women rights and improve their lives.

CEDAW one of the most significant international agreements related to women empowerment that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979 and has been endorsed by 189 countries. CEDAW sets out a comprehensive framework for promoting women rights and gender equality in areas such as employment, health care, education and political participation.

Another important agreement is the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The Beijing Declaration is a global policy framework that outlines a set of strategic objectives for achieving gender equality and women empowerment. The platform for action covers areas such as women economic rights, access to education and health care, political participation, and ending violence against women.

Other notable agreements include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The SDGs include a specific goal (Goal 5) on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The SDGs also include targets related to ending violence against women, promoting women participation in decision-making, and ensuring women access to reproductive health care.

In addition to these global agreements, there are also regional agreements and initiatives that focus on women empowerment. For example, the African Union adopted the Protocol to the

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, also known as the Maputo Protocol, in 2003. The Maputo Protocol is a comprehensive legal framework that addresses issues such as women rights to education, health care, and political participation, as well as protection from violence and discrimination.

Overall, international treaties and agreements provide an essential framework for promoting women empowerment and gender equality around the world. While there is still much work to be done to achieve full gender equality, these agreements provide a starting point for countries to work together and take action to improve the lives of women and girls.

There are number of opportunities for women socio-political empowerment in Pakistan. First of all, women may participate in political activities and may approach parliament to raise and solve their issues. There is legislation for women, minorities and children which is a vital step towards women empowerment. Human and financial resources are allocated to implement on women protection laws. All concerned agencies and departments are bound to coordinate and collaborate to ensure execution on laws. One of the greatest opportunities is that media is raising awareness about women rights, women protection and pursuit trial against offenders in such cases. There are Oscar winning awareness films from Pakistan. Women and gender studies are a regular faculty in many universities while public and private organizations are more accountable for gender equality and against any type of discrimination.

There are multiple and multilayered challenges starting from individual to country level. Women who have strong believe in social and cultural taboos never courage to think about their issues and find out solution. Society and cultural values don't allow women and girls to have decisions of their own and live a life of their own choice. Even in some cases property rights are not given to women, honor killing, child marriage to forgive offenders etc. These are brutal acts and even not reported due to social and cultural barriers, as witness may also have threats. There is insufficient capacity of agencies and organizations implementing the policies under laws. There is lack of human and financial resources and also training and capacity building of human resources is not ensured in regular base. There is delay in deputation of human resources and allocation of funds. Education systems don't mainstream women social and political empowerment to educate everyone on rights and obligation. Political parties don't believe on women leadership in party by heart. Most of the time women are kept on leading role due to fame game and reserve quota, that why women don't have equal participation in all decision-making committees and also don't have equal decision-making power.

According to secondary review and research findings there are recommendations for empowering women politically and socially in Pakistan requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the various social, cultural, and political barriers that limit women participation and leadership opportunities.

One of the most effective ways to empower women politically is by increasing their representation in local government, provincial and national assemblies and decision-making positions. This can be done through quotas, reserved seats, and other affirmative action measures, as well as by creating a more inclusive political culture that supports women participation. Discrimination and gender-based violence are major barriers to women empowerment. Pakistan needs to develop and enforce policies that protect women rights and promote gender equality. Educating girls and women is critical to empowering them socially and politically. Pakistan needs to prioritize education for girls and women, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.

Economic empowerment is an important component of women overall empowerment. During research observed that economic empowerment positively link with social empowerment. Pakistan needs to create more job opportunities for women, provide access to training and skills development, and eliminate discriminatory practices in the workplace.

Encouraging women to take leadership roles in politics, business, and civil society is crucial for their social and political empowerment. Pakistan can do this by creating mentorship and leadership development programs, providing opportunities for networking, and highlighting women achievements and contributions. Pakistan needs to raise awareness about women rights and gender equality. This includes providing information about legal rights and resources for women, as well as changing social attitudes and cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequality. Overall, empowering women politically and socially in Pakistan requires a sustained effort from government, civil society, and the private sector to create an environment that is supportive of women empowerment and gender equality.

There are several ways that Pakistani institutions and departments can empower women, specifically in the areas of politics and economics. Women political empowerment can be increased by ensuring their equal representation in decision-making positions. Pakistani institutions can implement affirmative action measures such as quotas and reserved seats for women in local and national assemblies. This will increase women representation and their ability to influence policymaking. Furthermore, institutions can provide training and support to women interested in running for office and promote a culture that encourages women

political participation. Pakistani institutions can also empower women economically by providing them with equal access to education and employment opportunities. The government can invest in programs that provide vocational training and skill development for women, especially those living in rural and marginalized communities. Additionally, institutions can implement policies that promote equal pay for equal work, provide affordable childcare facilities, and reduce gender-based discrimination in the workplace. Women empowerment can also be increased by ensuring that their legal rights are protected. Pakistani institutions can take steps to eliminate discriminatory laws and practices and provide legal aid and support to women who are victims of violence and abuse.

Finally, institutions can empower women by providing institutional support to women-led organizations and initiatives. This includes providing funding, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to women entrepreneurs and women rights organizations.

Education is a crucial factor in empowering women. Pakistani institutions can promote girls' education by providing safe and accessible schools, increasing the number of female teachers, and implementing policies that support female students. Women economic empowerment can be increased by providing them with access to credit, markets, and resources. Pakistani institutions can create programs that provide vocational training, entrepreneurship skills, and financial assistance to women entrepreneurs.

Women empowerment can also be increased by ensuring that their legal rights are protected. Pakistani institutions can take steps to eliminate discriminatory laws and practices and provide legal aid and support to women who are victims of violence and abuse.

Pakistani institutions can promote gender equality by addressing social and cultural norms that perpetuate gender-based discrimination and violence. Institutions can engage communities in discussions about the importance of gender equality, promote positive role models, and raise awareness about women rights.

Institutions can empower women by providing institutional support to women-led organizations and initiatives. This includes providing funding, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to women entrepreneurs and women rights organizations.

By implementing these enabling factors, Pakistani institutions can empower women socially, politically, and economically and create a more equitable and just society for all.

Grassroots mobilization of women can help create a critical mass of women leaders who can push for policy changes and increase their representation in political positions. Women

organizations, civil society groups, and community-based initiatives can play a crucial role in mobilizing women and creating awareness about women rights and political participation.

A robust legal framework that provides equal rights and opportunities for women in politics is crucial. Laws that promote gender equality, provide protection against harassment and discrimination, and ensure equal representation in political positions can help enhance women role in politics. Government should make legal framework to ensure the women access in public spheres.

Education is essential for women empowerment and can play a significant role in enhancing their participation in politics. Education provides women with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage in political discourse and decision-making processes. Thus, the education department and system of education should make fruitful for common women and girls with quality of education.

State should revive Policies that are sensitive to gender issues can help create an enabling environment for women to participate in politics. Such policies can include quotas for women in political parties, training programs for women politicians, and gender mainstreaming in government programs.

A supportive political environment that recognizes and values women contributions to politics can encourage more women to participate. This can include political parties that actively recruit women, political leaders who champion women rights, and media that provide positive coverage of women politicians.

Overall, enhancing women role in Pakistan politics requires a multi-pronged approach that addresses both structural barriers and cultural norms that limit women participation. By creating an enabling environment that values and supports women participation in politics, Pakistan can increase its gender diversity in politics and benefit from the contributions of women leaders.

There are some suggestions that women MNAs (Members of National Assembly) in Pakistan can enhance their participation within parliament. Political parties should actively recruit and nominate women candidates for elections and should also reserve seats for women to ensure their representation in parliament. Women MNAs should be encouraged to speak up and participate actively in parliamentary debates, women issues should be discussed in assembly by separately session. This can be done by creating a safe and inclusive environment within parliament where women can express their opinions and ideas without fear of ridicule or harassment.

Women MNAs should be provided with training and mentorship opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills in areas such as public speaking, policymaking, and leadership. This can help them to become more effective parliamentarians and better represent the interests of their constituents. Parliament should adopt a gender-sensitive approach that considers the different needs and perspectives of men and women. This can be done by incorporating a gender lens into parliamentary processes and by creating gender-sensitive policies that address the specific concerns of women.

The parliament should have supportive leadership that recognizes and values women contributions to politics. This can include appointing women to leadership positions within parliament and ensuring that they have equal access to resources and opportunities. Women organizations can provide valuable insights into the issues affecting women in the community. Parliament should consult with these organizations and incorporate their perspectives into parliamentary debates and policymaking. By implementing these suggestions, women MNAs in Pakistan can enhance their participation within parliament and contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and equitable political system.

As per secondary data, there has been significant progress toward empowering women and achieving gender equality as a result of international treaties and agreements. Inequality between the sexes, violence against women, discrimination, and women ability to advance economically are only few of the challenges that have prompted numerous accords over the years. These treaties lay the groundwork for nations to cooperate and take measures to enhance the status of women around the world. The UN adopted CEDAW in 1979, and 189 nations have since ratified it as one of the most important international agreements pertaining to women empowerment. The CEDAW lays forth an all-encompassing framework for advancing women rights and gender equality in areas such as the workplace, healthcare, education, and politics.

The UN established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. This agreement is very noteworthy. Goal 5 of the SDGs is to ensure that all women and girls have the opportunity to realize their full potential. Goals to prevent violence against women, increase female representation in decision-making, and provide reproductive health services are also part of the SDGs. There are other programs and agreements at the regional level that work toward the same goal of empowering women as their global counterparts. The Maputo Protocol, which adds protections for women to the African Charter on people and human rights, was accepted by the African Union in 2003. The Maputo Protocol is an all-

encompassing legislative framework that guarantees women safety and equal access to resources like healthcare, education, and political representation.

Women's Empowerment: Unveiling Social and Political Challenges

Women's empowerment is an ongoing struggle marked by a complex web of social and political challenges. One significant hurdle lies in educational disparities. Despite strides in global education, girls in many parts of the world still face barriers to accessing quality schooling. Discrimination, cultural norms, and economic constraints often conspire to limit educational opportunities, perpetuating a cycle of disempowerment.

Economic empowerment is intricately linked to social and political standing. The gender pay gap and workplace discrimination persist, hindering women's financial independence. Moreover, women are often relegated to lower-paying jobs and face challenges in career advancement. Addressing these issues requires not only legislative measures but also a cultural shift towards recognizing and valuing women's contributions in the workforce.

Political representation remains a critical arena for women's empowerment. The underrepresentation of women in political offices is a glaring issue globally. Deep-rooted patriarchal structures and gender biases in electoral processes impede women's entry into politics. Implementing affirmative action measures, such as quotas, is a contested but necessary step to break down these barriers and ensure a more inclusive political landscape.

Legal reforms are essential for dismantling systemic challenges. Women continue to face discrimination in legal frameworks, particularly concerning issues like inheritance, marital rights, and access to justice. Robust legal protections against gender-based violence, harassment, and discriminatory practices are paramount to ensuring women's safety and equal standing in society.

Healthcare, particularly reproductive health, is another critical dimension of women's empowerment. Limited access to reproductive healthcare, family planning, and maternal care perpetuates gender disparities. Women's autonomy over their bodies is a fundamental aspect of empowerment, requiring not only medical access but also a cultural shift to destigmatize discussions around women's health.

Media and cultural biases further reinforce gender norms, shaping societal perceptions. Negative portrayals and stereotypes perpetuate harmful biases, affecting women's self-esteem and reinforcing restrictive gender roles. Addressing these challenges necessitates not only

media literacy programs but also a broader cultural transformation that challenges ingrained attitudes towards women.

Lastly, the digital gender gap presents a contemporary challenge. Women's limited access to technology and digital literacy hinders their participation in the digital realm, excluding them from opportunities for information, education, and economic empowerment. Bridging this gap is crucial for ensuring that women can harness the potential of the digital age.

In conclusion, women's empowerment requires a multifaceted approach that addresses these intricate social and political challenges. Legislative reforms, cultural shifts, and targeted interventions are necessary to create an environment where women have equal opportunities, representation, and influence, fostering a society that values and empowers women across all spheres of life.

Suggestions

Empowering women socially and politically is essential for fostering gender equality and creating a more inclusive society. Here are several suggestions, elaborated in long paragraphs, to achieve this goal:

A cornerstone of women's empowerment is access to quality education. Initiatives should focus on eradicating gender disparities in education, ensuring that girls have equal opportunities to pursue education at all levels. Scholarships, mentorship programs, and awareness campaigns can encourage girls to stay in school, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed for active participation in society.

Economic empowerment is a powerful tool for social and political autonomy. Policies that promote equal pay for equal work, eliminate workplace discrimination, and provide support for women entrepreneurs can significantly contribute to economic empowerment. Financial literacy programs, access to credit, and vocational training can further enhance women's economic independence, allowing them to actively engage in decision-making processes.

Achieving gender parity in political representation is crucial for addressing women's concerns at the policy level. Implementing affirmative action measures, such as quotas for women in political positions, can help overcome historical gender imbalances. Additionally, civic education programs and leadership training for women can enhance their confidence and skills, encouraging greater political participation and activism.

Strengthening legal frameworks to protect women's rights is fundamental for social and political empowerment. This includes stringent measures against gender-based violence,

harassment, and discrimination. Reforms in family and inheritance laws, as well as ensuring equal rights in marriage, contribute to dismantling patriarchal structures that hinder women's social and political progress.

Women's health, including access to reproductive healthcare, is intertwined with their overall empowerment. Ensuring access to affordable healthcare services, family planning, and maternal care is critical. Education on reproductive rights and destigmatizing discussions around women's health issues can empower women to make informed choices about their bodies and lives.

The media plays a significant role in shaping societal perceptions. Encouraging diverse and positive portrayals of women in media can challenge stereotypes and promote gender equality. Cultural awareness programs that challenge ingrained biases and foster inclusive mindsets are essential for creating a society that values and respects the contributions of women.

Establishing community-based support networks and safe spaces for women fosters solidarity and empowerment. Initiatives that promote mentorship, networking, and skill-sharing opportunities enable women to leverage collective strength. Community engagement programs can raise awareness about women's rights, providing a platform for open dialogue and societal transformation.

Bridging the digital gender gap is crucial in today's interconnected world. Promoting digital literacy and ensuring women's access to technology empower them with information and connectivity. Digital platforms can also serve as powerful tools for advocacy, enabling women to raise their voices on social and political issues.

In conclusion, a multi-faceted approach that addresses educational, economic, legal, and cultural aspects is necessary to empower women socially and politically. By implementing these suggestions, societies can work towards creating an environment where women have equal opportunities, representation, and influence in shaping the collective future.

Further studies are crucial in advancing women's empowerment across the social, political, and economic domains, paving the way for evidence-based interventions and policy recommendations. Socially, research should delve into the intersectionality of women's experiences, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by women of diverse backgrounds. Understanding how factors like race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and geographic location intersect with gender can inform targeted programs that address the specific needs of marginalized women.

In the realm of political empowerment, research can play a pivotal role in identifying the barriers to women's political participation and effective leadership. Studying the impact of electoral systems, cultural attitudes, and institutional biases on women's representation provides valuable insights. Comparative studies across different political contexts can uncover successful strategies for increasing women's involvement in decision-making processes, offering a blueprint for reforms that enhance gender equity in political spheres.

Economic empowerment research should focus on comprehensive analyses of workplace dynamics, from hiring practices to promotions and equal pay. Understanding the intricate factors contributing to the gender pay gap and the prevalence of occupational segregation is essential for designing effective policies that foster women's economic independence. Research can also explore the impact of entrepreneurship and access to credit on women's economic empowerment, identifying key factors that contribute to successful women-led businesses.

Additionally, longitudinal studies tracking the implementation and impact of legal reforms are crucial. Evaluating the effectiveness of legislation addressing gender-based violence, workplace discrimination, and family laws ensures that legal frameworks evolve to meet the evolving needs of women. Research can shed light on gaps in implementation, areas requiring improvement, and the socio-cultural factors influencing the effectiveness of legal measures.

Health-focused studies should explore not only the accessibility of healthcare but also the quality and cultural sensitivity of services. Investigating the impact of healthcare disparities on women's overall well-being and empowerment can guide the development of inclusive health policies that address the specific needs of diverse populations of women.

Cultural transformation research is paramount for challenging entrenched norms that perpetuate gender inequalities. Studies exploring media representation, educational curricula, and community perceptions can contribute to the design of interventions that promote gender-sensitive attitudes. Longitudinal studies tracking changes in societal attitudes over time provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of awareness campaigns and educational initiatives.

Lastly, in the era of digital advancement, research on closing the digital gender gap is critical. Understanding the barriers to women's access to technology, digital literacy, and online platforms can inform strategies for ensuring that women can harness the opportunities presented by the digital age.

In conclusion, further studies across these domains are essential for informing targeted interventions, policies, and advocacy efforts that will advance women's empowerment globally. A comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach, grounded in rigorous research, is necessary to create a more equitable and inclusive world for women socially, politically, and economically.

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