

## **“ANALYSIS ON THE REFLECTIONS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT WITH SPECIAL ACCORDANCE TO SOCIAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN PAKISTAN”**

**BASIT HABIB & BURHAN RAFAY**

Research Scholar, Department. Gender Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan

### **ABSTRACT**

Women constitute half of the total population of the world, thus she is considered the most significant part of our social strata, but despite of having equality in population scenario, she still faces a lot of obstacles in achieving their rights and social status. It is the rights of women to take power, social status, economic independence, prestige and equality like their male counterparts. Women should be granted the right jobs because she has skills, quality education, thus should be given her status, security, nutritious health, and also better standards of living etc. Like males. The focus of the current research paper is about empowerment, of women and its strategic development in the uplifting of women’s social status. To empower women of all classes is a historical concept which emerged in the late 17th century. Initially, it has different meanings, but in the 18th century, its meanings have been changed.

**KEYWORDS:** Women empowerment, Gender, Social Status, Gender gap, SPSS, Conventions, legislation, Hudood ordinance

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Women Empowerment in a Muslim Society**

Women empowerment becomes a major concern in the country of globalization because women constitute almost half of the world’s total population and it is very necessary for the prosperity of any country to indulge women in the social and economic structure by empowering her. Either there is a western society or western one, but mainly focused on the empowerment of women also named first world or the other Muslim world, the condition of women regarding her status is almost the same, underprivileged, submissive, inferior and less empowered to men. Thus, the issues and debates regarding her life and status are same everywhere in Muslim and non-Muslim world. Women's issues and empowerment are being discussed at all forums like United Nations front and at national and international level.

#### **Basic Points are highlighted below for the Empowerment of Women by United Nations Global Compact’s Report**

- Equal treatment of men and women at workplace and support women and her interests without any discrimination at all levels
- Ensure the safety, security and well-being of men and women workers at work place
- Promotion of training, education and professional development for women at all levels to ensure participation of women in a philosophical way
- Support the market place programs for the empowerment of women and to indulge women into business sectors like men

- Measure the reports and action to achieve gender equality and to remove gender disparity
- To establish high level, there is immense need to cooperate for the issues of gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels. (Panigrahy, 2006)

In this contemporary world of globalization, the issue of women empowerment is going to its peak because societies are now at their awareness and conscious level about the status and rights of women because many developed worlds have recognized that success cannot be achieved without the cooperation of women. While the United States of America and its closing states have also a claim of delivering women empowerment within their folds thus in September 2012, United States and 12 other countries took giant steps to “**Equal Futures**” regarding girls and women empowerment by incorporating women and girls into professional fields. During the speech of “Equal Futures”, the United Nations and other 12 countries have proposed their own prescribed suggestions and recommendation regarding women empowerment and equality, final commitments were drafted, as follows:

- There is an immense need to enhance and expand opportunity for women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics field because these are not men made fields rather women also have the capability to adopt these subjects
- To expand domestic security for domestic violated victims, especially women and girls because domestic violation was not considered a form of human rights violation
- Immense need to support economic entrepreneur regarding women to indulge women into Business field
- Promotion of civic and public leadership for girls for the improved and qualified social and economic well-being of women. (UNW, 2013)

### **Women in History: an Overview**

History of fights for the rights of women is very old and till 19<sup>th</sup> century women have had no rights regarding education, legal security, no right to vote, hold elective offices, attend colleges or join workplace and even women cannot get their children or demand legal rights in case of divorce because women were nothing in front of men.

First convention, which was conducted in New York for the equal rights of women in 1848 named Seneca Fall Convention under the influential leadership of Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton as many other like-minded personalities and also named Declaration of Sentiments because women put some basic demands to be fulfilled for women. The basic objective of this declaration was to get equal and attainable rights for women in which the right to vote was also included. This declaration document was signed up by 32 men and 68 women while this convention was attended by almost 300 people at that time. Thus, after a long struggle in 1920, after 19<sup>th</sup> amendment women got their right to vote, which affected them economically more than politics and the role of women was changed completely after this amendment. In 1964, according to the Civil Rights Act, women were offered equal opportunity which prohibited sex discrimination at the workplace and provided better opportunities for women at workplace because many women were harassed at their workplace, and they leave their jobs. This act was regarded a success of the movement started by the National Organization for women (NOW), also regarded as the largest women's organization in the united states. In 1970's women participated in both chambers of US Congress and passed some significant laws regarding women empowerment,

these laws are as follows:

- Much and greater freedom of reproductive choice for women by giving importance to women in reproduction of new generation (1973)
- Prohibition of discrimination against pregnant women by the promulgation of new sets of ideas (1978)
- Workers who needed extra time for the care of family and children, employment protection (1993)
- Laws to protect against domestic violence and dowry related issues of women (1994). (Dr. Syed Mussawar Hussain Bukhari, Muhammad Asim, 2013)

After such legislative measures, the women of US became very happy now, but the situation of women is still very different in some Arab states were due to some false and wrong myths, women are still discriminated by male dominated societies in the name of so called religious beliefs, societal limitations and cultural barriers. Such severe and hard restrictions affected the life of Arab’s women regarding judicial, economic, educational or health care difficulties and they forced to restrict the joys of life upon themselves. Before the advent of Islam, the situation was very dangerous, girls were sold by their male counterparts for the sake of money as women have had no legal rights. There are many conflicts regarding the situation of Arab women among many historians as some argue that before the advent of Islam, women in Arab were very liberal as they set an example of Hazrat Khadija (R.A). She was the lady who successfully ran her trading business in Arab. The Prophet (PBUH) at that time worked under her supervision. But it is also argued with them that the proposal of marriage to HazratMohammaad (PBUH) was also sent by Hazrat Khadija, not by the Prophet (PBUH), which clearly shows the freedom of to choose life partners and liberalization of women before the invasion of Islam. But is accepted largely by each and every historian that the situation of Arab women was improved by the advent of Islam as Islam gave women equal status by instituting the rights of property ownership, inheritance, education and divorce.

Pakistan is a country with many wrong beliefs about women and her status as it is the country with a divided society among classes, culture, rural and urban areas; therefore the status of women is different in various places within Pakistan as according to Gender inequality index:

- Pakistan has 115<sup>th</sup> ranked out of 145 and 23.5 percent girls have received secondary education, 21.7 percent women are part of the labor force.
- According to Human Development Report, which is published by the United Nations, mentioned Pakistan as better state than the neighboring India in the condition and status of women.
- Fatima Jinnah, the sister of Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the first well educated lady who worked a lot for the survival and improved status of women.
- The reservation of allotment of women seats in National assembly was 10 percent and 5 percent in Provincial assembly by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and his tenure was considered as a liberal period for the empowerment of women. While on the other hand women struggled a lot during the Zia regime and she was treated badly more than an animal but this era was somewhat more facilitated for women regarding establishment of the women's division in cabinet secretariat and reserved 20 percent seats in the national assembly for the non-Party based elections of 1985. (Khan A. , Women & Gender in Afghanistan, 2013)

Women were treated badly in this period due to false Islamization of religious principles, enactment of Hudood ordinance Qanoon-e-Shahadaah order (law of evidence) and promotion of purdah which banned women of all classes in sports. The first woman elected as the head of any Muslim state was Benazir Bhutto. Many legislative measures were taken during her regime for the enhancement of women as the establishment of separate police stations, women's coats and women's development banks. She failed to legislate any law or act for the rights of women even being a woman. For the dealing with the financial needs of women, the first women bank was established in 1989 and women's studies centers were established in five major areas and universities like Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta under the supervision of ministry of women's development for the enhancement of social status and empowerment of women. The first women's university in Pakistan was established in 1998 called Fatima Jinnah University, during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif. The controversial Hudood ordinance was replaced by women protection Bill during the regime of Pervez Musharraf and quota for women was increased up to 10 percent in center superior services and 5 percent in all government departments which increased employment opportunities for women at many levels. "Protection against harassment of women at workplace Bill 2009" which was signed and agreed by President Asif Ali Zardari after the approval of parliament on January 2010. (Naz, 2013)

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **Cultural Perception of Women Empowerment**

Empowerment includes access to options, information, education and resources equal for women as provided to men ever thus called the term women empowerment. Decision making power, authority, independence to spend life, not in meaning to earn economically rather in terms of independence over own life as social, political or economic independence and control over one's life is the main motto of empowering any gender. It is a fact that men are empowered, socially, culturally, legally and economically, while women are not in any field. Culture of any society plays an important role in the marginalization and uplifting of women because social norms are main taboos which restrict women within its social culture to participate in social affairs of life. (Khan A. , Women and Paid Work in Pakistan. Pathways of Women Empowerment., 2007)

### **There are three Dimensions of Empowerment (Autonomy) I.E.**

- Women's freedom of mobility (in which she is allowed to visit different places by her won which),
- Her access to economic, social, political and legal resources like men and
- Mainly her decision-making authority.

These basic three dimensions help women to get empowered and change her status regarding submissiveness and inferiority. By mobility it builds confidence among women because when she will meet with new people her confidence will grow to a higher level as compare to previous one, and through access to economic and social resources women get employed and contribute to the nation's economy and can add on to household economy to meet their ends up and to fulfill their personal demands and of the family because if she is empowered then it is good for both nation and herself too.

### **Women's Empowerment and Human Development in Pakistan**

Women are the most significant part of our social structure, but despite this fact, they usually face a number of obstacles in their way to avail their rights and to get equal in social strata because they are most neglected part of society. Power, prestige and status should be given to the women with their rights of jobs, skills, education, security, health, better standards of living etc and by given these rights women will consider herself the equal citizen of a state but unfortunately these rights are not given to her. “To Empower” is a historical concept of mid-17th century, especially for women as its legal meaning was considered as “to invest with authority”. Afterwards, its meaning was changed into “to enable or permit” in eighteen centuries. After 1980s, there was created a link among “human development”, “political empowerment”, and “women empowerment” and added women as an entity. During 1990s, it was argued by the economists that the aim of “standardized economy” cannot be achieved by women are placed at the center stage of our global society, thus to achieve the path of women empowerment and equality, the United Nations has anxiety in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and through which are at campaign to gain their rights like men. (Hina Ali, 2015)

### **Women Empowerment in Pakistan**

According to the Census of 2011, the population of Pakistan was 177.10 million at that time, as in opposition to 33.78 million in 1951, out of which 15.61 million, comprised of women, which is almost half of the total population meant to include women into all health resources. Pakistan’s population is reported for 2.57% of the population of the whole world and the gender ratio was 1.14 in 1972 and it has been decreased to 1.07 in 2011. The women literacy rate boosted up to 45%, male-female literacy gap decreased to 24% in 2011 proved to be a good step towards women, a gradual but good improvement regarding women literacy rate. Women empowerment in Pakistan depends on various variables such as age, social status (caste and class), stereotypical norms, educational status and geographical location (urban/rural).

- The following schemes and policies are intended for empowering women and equality of gender in Pakistan and these are as follows:
- Protection of women Against Harassment in the Workplace Act (2010)
- Domestic Violence Bill (2008)
- Hudood Ordinance (1979)
- The Citizens Foundation
- The Kashf Foundation (1996)
- The First Women Bank (1989)
- Pakistan’s Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA).

In spite of such effective implication of all policies, there are considerable differences and differences between policy attainments and concrete performance at economic level because women are not given their due rights regarding the economy in spite of the fact that she has equal right to men in economic or any social sphere. (Hina Ali, 2015)

According to World Economic Forum (2014), the present condition of gender differences is frightening and Pakistan ranks after our neighboring country China, thus making it a country with huge gender differences. The rankings

and scores for Pakistan imply that it has an inferior position in contrast with China in almost all indices of equality in which gender is an alarming situation even after legislation about women in Pakistan. Pakistan lost seven spaces (from 134 ranks in 2012 to 141 ranks in 2014) as a consequence of deficiencies into economic participation and attainment of education due to the result of lesser participation of women.

Both global as well as national level reports have signified that Pakistan will have to take a lengthy time period for obtaining “organization” for females and to get them empowered on social as well as on economic grounds because it is very hard to remove deeply embedded stereotypes and taboos regarding women. (Hina Ali, 2015)

### **Educational Attainments**

For sure, Pakistan got considerable upgrading in female literacy rate up to 45% in 2011 and thus consequently, the men-women literacy hole has been contracted down to 24% in 2011.

#### **In accordance with UNICEF Report 2013:**

- Youth Literacy Rate (for age of 15-24 years) for Males = 79.1%
- Youth Literacy Rate (for age of 15-24 years) for Females = 61.5%
- Pre-primary School Participation for Females = 83.3%
- Pre-primary School Participation for Males = 101.3%
- Participation of Females in primary schooling = 65%
- Participation of Males in primary schooling = 79%
- Participation of Females for secondary schooling = 29.2%
- Participation of males for secondary schooling = 39.7%. (Chaudhary, 2012)

### **Economic Participation and Opportunity**

The participation of females in the labor force is considered like an indicator for reduction in gender inequality and gender disparity and ornamental to women empowerment. In Pakistan, the figures illustrate that in together, rural and urban areas, Labor Force Participation Rate has been increased during 2010-11 in comparison with 2008-09, predominantly for women as Labor Force Survey 2010-11 revealed some facts about the economic participation of Pakistani women. The data reveal that in Pakistan, that the female labor force participation rate has been increased from 18.5% to 19.4% and from 7.6% to 8.1% in rural and urban sectors respectively from 2008-09 to 2010-11 which is a furious change towards empowerment of women in the economic sphere. Thus the final result is that in 2011 the rate of women's labor force participation is 8.1% as against 50.6% for males and the main cause behind low female labor force participation rate is that female work is less-detectable, non-monetary as well as related to survival and household area of production and women involved herself in labor force participation too.

Another significant source of women empowerment can also be “Employment” or job in a public field. Employment and job security provides power, prestige, honor and status of the women and makes them financially

independent which is a prestigious feeling.

### **Pakistan Labor Force Survey 2011: Federal Bureau of Statistics**

The information gained through statistical analysis, elaborates that female employment rate in urban areas is lower than that of men, whereas, in rural areas, it is higher than men’s employment rate because in urban areas women have right to be involved in employment as compared to rural women. It is also analyzed that 75.4% of females have employment in rural areas (as compared to 36.2% of men) of rural areas. Employment by age group differences also exhibits a severe gap of gender among both genders. Because employment is considered to be at peak level in all the age groups for males. In each and every age group, the percentage shows that women’s employment is lower than that of their male counterparts because woman is not allowed to do jobs.

- Women’s access to resources and foods has following main components:
- Knowledge of loan programs.
- Get loans.
- Having a bank saving accounts.
- The freedom of working outside.
- To identify female’s exposure to mass media, there are following key variables:
- Read newspapers every day.
- Listen radio every day.
- Watch T.V. every day.
- Knows about modern contraceptives.

The evidence shows that resource availability to women and their revelation to mass media is comparatively poorer in our country than others.

## **RESEARCH DESIGN**

### **Social Status**

Women empowerment becomes a major concern in the country of globalization because women constitute almost half of the world’s total population and it is very necessary for the prosperity of any country to indulge women in the social and economic structure by empowering her. Either there is a western society or western one, but mainly focused on the empowerment of women also named first world or the other Muslim world, the condition of women regarding her status is almost the same, underprivileged, submissive, inferior and less empowered to men. Thus, the issues and debates regarding her life and status are same everywhere in Muslim and non-Muslim world. Women's issues and empowerment are being discussed at all forums like United Nations front and at national and international level. Therefore, evaluation of women among women is one of the most prominent features and all the countries have forced to draw out their women from parochial culture and trying to utilize as a skilled human resource because they are also equal members of the state thus should be given equal status.

These all questions are designed in a systematic way to know the ideas and thinking of people regarding this research. After collecting data, it has gone through descriptive statistical analysis through a Statistical package of Social Sciences (SPSS). Analysis of findings and detail interpretation of data is given below in the form of tables.

## DATA ANALYSIS

### What is Women Empowerment?

Empowerment includes access of any individual to options, information, education and economic resources equal for women as provided to men ever thus called the term women empowerment. Decision making power, authority, independence to spend life, not in meaning to earn economically rather in terms of independence over own life as social, political or economic independence and control over one's life is the main motto of empowering any gender, but it's a fact that men are empowered socially, culturally, legally and economically, while women are not in any field. Culture is a very important perspective of society because it has always played a significant role in social, economic and political empowerment of women and both genders because it is the culture through which norms of both genders are lined up.

### Distribution of Respondents Regarding Women Empowerment

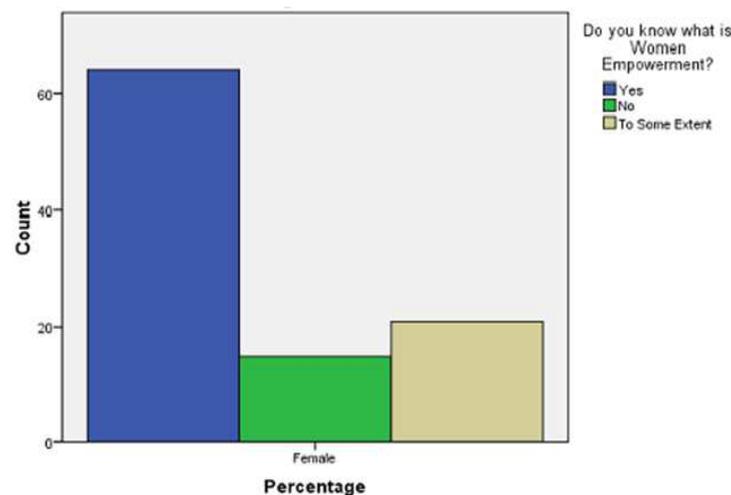


Figure 1

Table 1

Gender	Do you know what is Women Empowerment?			Total
	Yes	No	To Some Extent	
Female	64	15	21	100

Table.1 and Figure.1 depicts the results of respondents being aware about women empowerment. The first question of chapter social status deals with the women empowerment having three options. 64% females chosen 'Yes' option that they know what is women empowerment. It's a good sign for the women of Pakistan that now at the developing stage of the country more than 50% women knows the actual meanings of women empowerment. Where 15% women pick the second option 'No' that means they don't have an idea about the meaning and concept of women empowerment.

Second highest responses to the question were of option three ‘To Some Extent’ as stated earlier Pakistan is going through a developmental stage so it’s a positive factor that maximum women have somehow gone through the concept of women empowerment. Being an Islamic country, it’s necessary to give the status to women, which was given to women by Islam.

**Women Empowerment is**

Women empowerment focused mainly on the cultural perception of women. Because many factors are there which restrict the women to become empowered in which most common are social or cultural factors and these are hindering women? It is a fact that despite making a major contribution in the development process of the country xthe participation of female population is at a much lower level as compared to men. This factor is prevailed specifically in the developing world like Pakistan due to her stereotypical status.

**Distribution of Respondents Regarding Women Empowerment**

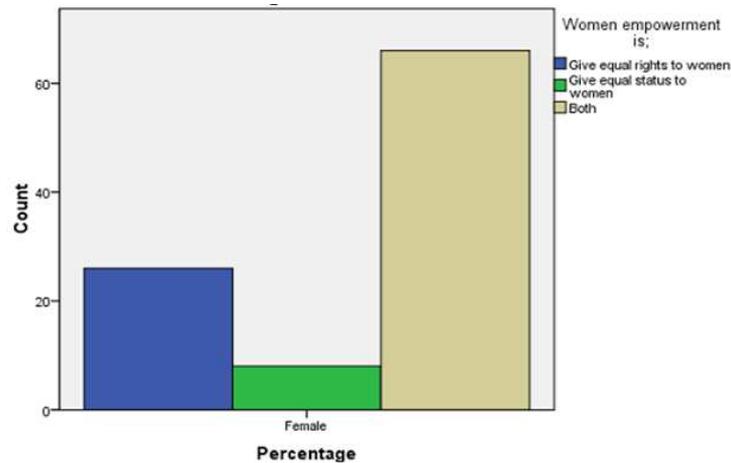


Figure 2

Table 2

Gender	Women empowerment is;			Total
	Give equal rights to women	Give equal status to women	Both	
Female	26	8	66	100

Table.2 and Figure.2 explains the results of respondents about the concept of women empowerment in scenario of asking questions of the chapter social status. There were three options of the discussed question. 26% females chosen the first option ‘Give Equal Rights to Women’ it means a number of women believed that the provision of basic rights of women equal to men is real women empowerment in society which can enhance their social status and bring them in front. Where 8% females select the second option which was ‘Give Equal Status to Women’ it shows that very less woman favors the equal status in concept of women empowerment. The reason of less selection of this option is somehow inferior status of women in society since last many centuries. Third and the last option was ‘Both’ and expectedly maximum respondents chose this option. 66% females believe that the provision of equal rights and considering women equal to the

men in society in shape of providing equal status to women, both are the two wheels of women's empowerment concept.

### Women's Struggle in Pakistan

Pakistan is a country with many wrong beliefs about women and her status as it is the country with a divided society among classes, culture, rural and urban areas; therefore, the status of women is different in various places within Pakistan as according to Gender inequality index:

Pakistan has 115<sup>th</sup> ranked out of 145 and 23.5 percent girls have received secondary education, 21.7 percent women are part of the labor force.

According to Human Development Report, which is published by the United Nations, mentioned Pakistan as better state than the neighboring India in the condition and status of women.

### Distribution of Respondents Regarding Women Struggle in Pakistan

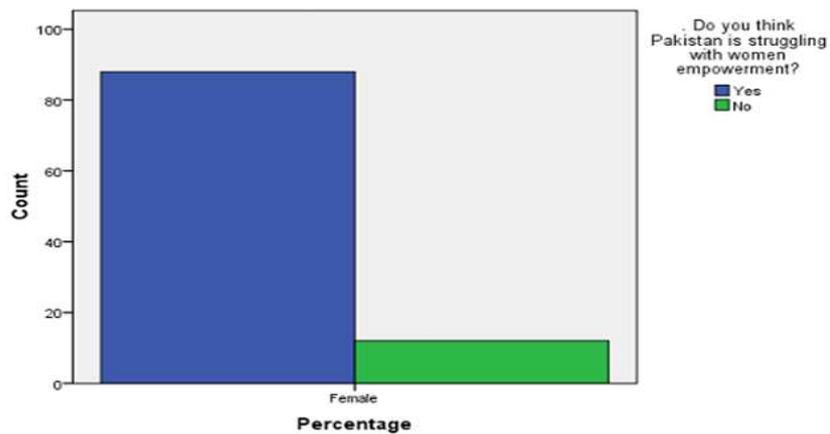


Figure 3

Table 3

Gender	Do you think Pakistan is struggling with women empowerment?		Total
	Yes	No	
Female	88	12	100

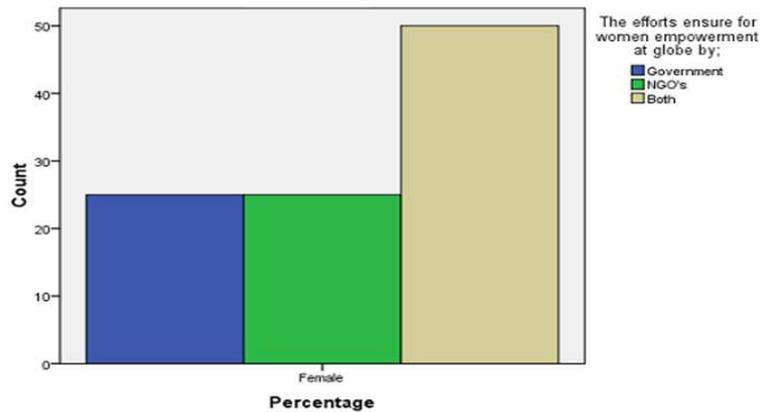
Table.3 and Figure.3 shows the results of respondents about Women struggling in Pakistan. The question about women struggle was asked with closed ended options. 88% women select the first option 'Yes' that means women of Pakistan still believe that they are struggling with women empowerment. Only 12% females chosen option 'No' that they thought today women at least are not struggling in Pakistan. Where facts and figures regarding women's development tells us shocking results that Pakistan is far away to stabilize human development and have to suffer for some more years to achieve women empowerment.

Mostly chosen option yes reflects the real picture of society, what a common woman is going through we can judge by these results.

**Efforts by Globe for Women Empowerment**

First convention was held in New York (1848) named Seneca Fall Convention for the rights of women under the influential umbrella of Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton as many other like-minded personalities and also named Declaration of Sentiments because women put some basic demands to be fulfilled for women. The basic objective of this declaration was to get equal rights for women in which right to cast a vote was initial demand. This declaration document was signed up by 32 men and 68 women while this convention was attended by almost 300 people at that time.

**Distribution of Respondents Regarding Efforts Ensured for Women Empowerment at Globe**



**Figure 4**

**Table 4**

Gender	The efforts ensure for women empowerment at globe by;			Total
	Government	NGO's	Both	
Female	25	25	50	100

Table 4 and Figure 4 explain the results of respondents about the fourth question which was to know that what efforts have been ensured at a globe, or which institutions contributing towards women empowerment in the era of connecting word. In this scenario first option was ‘Government’. 25% of 100 females chosen this option that explains the contribution of government regarding women empowerment have been done by Governments of states. We're also 25% females selected the second option which was ‘NGO’s’. It is surely accepted that NGO’s contributed in a very comprehensive way to empower women at a globe and make a bridge for the women of different countries to share each other’s issues for getting their basic rights in their respective countries. The third option was ‘Both’ selected by 50% females. This was mostly chosen option. There is always seen a strong bond between governments and NGO’s.

**Hindering factors towards Women Empowerment**

Culture of any society depicts the status of both genders within its social perspective. Thus culture has always

played a crucial role in social, economic and political empowerment of women and both genders because it is the culture through which norms of both genders are lined up. It focused on the cultural perception of women empowerment which restricts women from taking part in public activities. The factors which restrict the women to become empowered like social or cultural factors which hinder women.

#### Distribution of Respondents Regarding Hindering Factors towards Women Empowerment

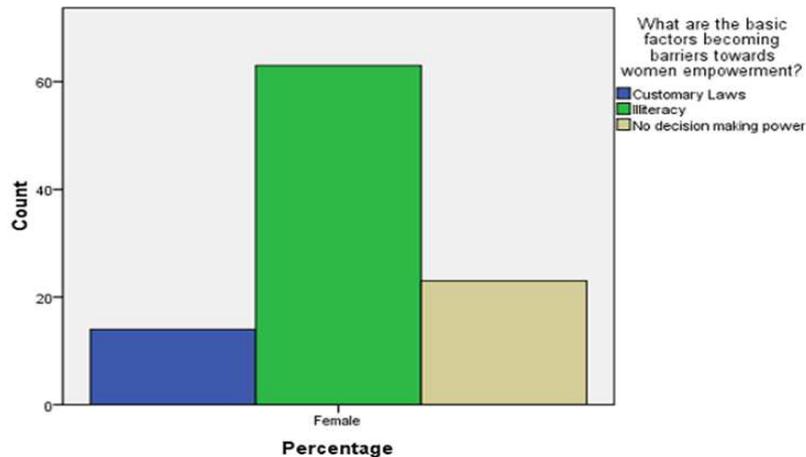


Figure 5

Table 5

Gender	What are the basic factors becoming barriers towards women empowerment?			Total
	Customary Laws	Illiteracy	No decision-making power	
Female	14	63	23	100

Table 5 and Figure 5 depict the results of respondents for the question asked about basic hindering factors towards women empowerment. 14% females selected option first which was ‘Customary Laws’. It has seen in Pakistani society that customary associated norms are very effective in society and major of them resist women to be empowered. The highly chosen option was second, which somehow explains the reason behind of any development issue that is ‘Illiteracy’. 63% females selected this option in accordance of basic factors that becoming barriers towards women empowerment in Pakistan society. The third option was ‘No-decision making Power’ and chosen by 23% females. It is a matter of fact that in Pakistani society women at least have no right of decision making even about their personal lives. Women need permission to get educated, to attain achievements, to get better health status and even in selecting life partners for marriage. In the 21st century, this is quite unacceptable thing that women have no right to gain their basic fundamental rights without the permission of households.

#### Efforts should be done for Pakistani Women

To attain gender balance in politics is the growing and expanding problem of Pakistan, which can be attained through the removal of cultural and structural barriers to the full and equal participation of women in the decision-making process and structures. Strategic development needed for aware women for their equal social and political participation in

decision-making, inclusion in Government at higher posts, capacity building by training of candidates and elected officials. In the case of political participation of women, the focus should not be given to only upon the number of women in legislation or Government sectors, rather attention should be given to effectiveness, transparency, decision-making process, and involvement of women in policy making.

**Distribution of Respondents Regarding the Efforts to Be Done For Pakistani Women**

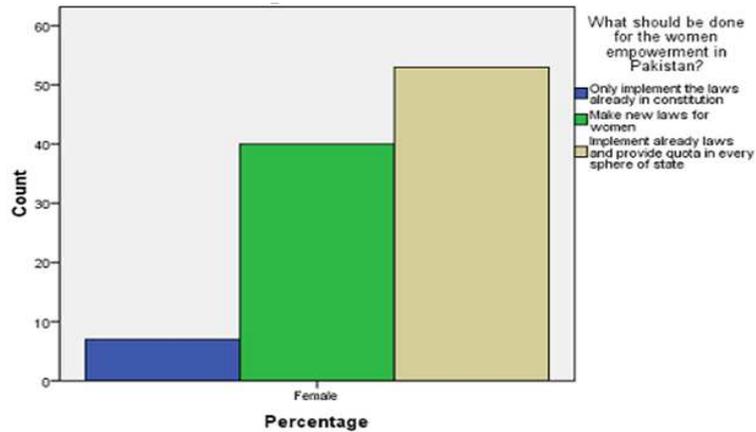


Figure 6

Table 6

Gender	What should be done for the women empowerment in Pakistan?			Total
	Only implement the laws already in constitution	Make new laws for women	Implement already laws and provide quota in every sphere of state	
Female	7	40	53	100

Table 6 and Figure 6 explain the results of respondents about the question asked about efforts should be done to empower Pakistani women. Only 7% females selected the first option which was ‘Only implement the laws already in Constitution’ there are a set of fundamental articles in Pakistani constitution, which provide all basic rights to women from which can live a better life in Pakistani society. Where 40% females go for the second option which was ‘Make New Laws for Women’. It’s observed that today's society is more concerned about new legislation rather than the implementation of previous ones. May be the implementation of already existing legislation is quite difficult to achieve. Where new legislation means a lot because of freedom of NGO’s and media today. The third option was ‘implemented already laws and provide quota in every sphere of state’ maximum chosen option was this. 53% females believe that the provision of quota in every sphere will be helpful for women to come in front and to be empowered in society as men are.

**Safety of Women**

In some families and areas of Pakistan, women is structured by the misinterpretation of false religious beliefs and old cultural myths which subject women to discrimination and violence on daily basis It is not possible for Pakistan to become a prosperous country in the world unless the half proportion of its population which constitute women is given equal opportunities to take part in this process of development.

### Distribution of Respondents Regarding Safety of The Roads

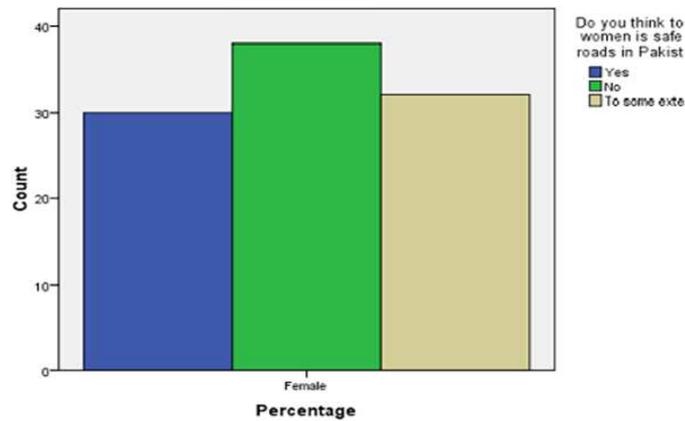


Figure 7

Table 7

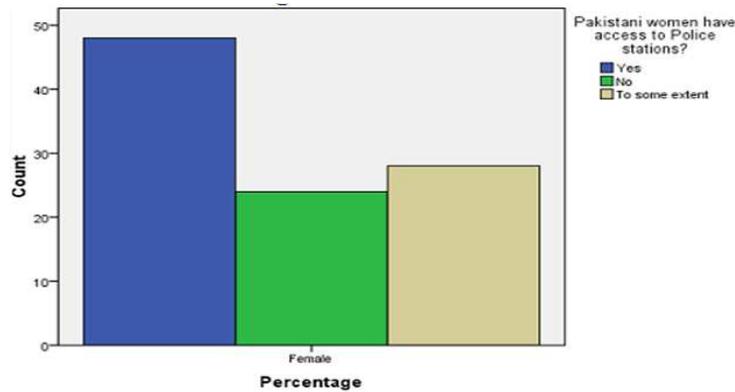
Gender	Do you think today women is safe on roads in Pakistan?			Total
	Yes	No	To some extent	
Female	30	38	32	100

Table 7 and Figure 7 explain about the responses of the respondents asked about the question of safety of Pakistani women on the roads. 30% females have chosen the first option 'Yes' and said that today's women is safe on the roads because today's women is literate, aware about her rights and can handle any tough situation easily due to the confidence which she has granted by the legislative measures of state for her. 32% females go with option 'To some extent' which shows that to some extent these women also think that women are safe on roads, while 38% females have chosen the third option 'No'. It shows that in their perspective of thinking, women are not safe on roads due to prevailing social stigmas and the evils which deteriorate women in all walks of life. Here is an immense need to implement existing laws regarding the status of women because due to lack of implementation, women are still lagging behind men. New legislation is also very important to meet the current needs and demands of society for the safety of women. Women make up almost half of the world's total population and it is very necessary for the state to take initiative efforts to ensure quality of life to women. If women are literate then it is very easy for her to protect herself in public and private life.

### Women Access to Police

No doubt, the police and the media are considered the main driving force for the establishment of norms and values but in case of Pakistan, police and media are not playing their due role regarding the empowerment of women. Pakistani women face difficulties regarding getting justice for their rights. The 'Thana Culture' of Pakistan is a very depriving system, which not allowed even a common man to seek for justice without any references or without bribery. If a woman consults to the Police station for any issue they will have to face harassment, insult. Society will consider that woman in negative terms also.

**Distribution of Respondents Women Access to Police**



**Figure 8**

**Table 8**

Gender	Pakistani women have access to Police stations?			Total
	Yes	No	To some extent	
Female	48	24	28	100

Table 8 and Figure 8 explain the right to women to seek police station for her help. 48% respondents go with option first ‘Yes’ which shows that almost half women believe that women have rights and access to go to the police station. While 28% respondents are not sure about this access because they have chosen ‘to some extent’ which shows that they are fifty about this. 24% respondents go with option ‘No’ which clearly shows that Pakistani women have no access to police stations. These might be rural women because their cultures don’t allow them to go to the police station. There is immense need to change this stereotypical culture that women cannot visit the police station. The police played an important role in the safety of human beings thus it is the need of time to develop discrimination free society and police system. New legislative measures have been taken in this regard by the establishment of front desk system for women, which aimed at helping fragile and inferior women who face any form of violence but not able to go anywhere. According to this new established system, women granted the right to register her complain even against her husband.

**Inheritance in Islam**

Islam is the only religions which provide the right of inheritance for women. In our society women are economically, socially, legally and publicly dependent on their husbands, fathers or brothers and in many areas to much extent they are not free to spend their own income on their own will because of the culture and patriarchal society because society demand them to be sacrificed not spending their own money on their own self

**Distribution of Respondents Regarding Inheritance Rights Provision**

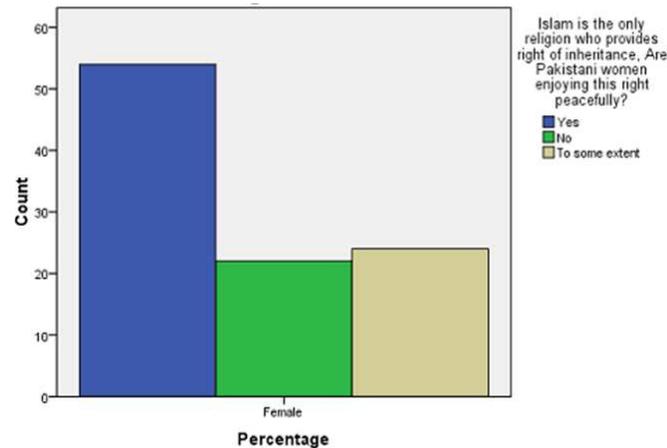


Figure 9

Table 9

Gender	Islam is the only religion who provides right of inheritance, Are Pakistani women enjoying this right peacefully?			Total
	Yes	No	To some extent	
Female	54	22	24	100

Table 9 and Figure 9 explain about their views to inherit property or not. 54% respondents have chosen the first option 'Yes' which shows that they are in favor of history through which it is indicated that Islam is the only religion who granted women right to inherit property first. Then 24% respondents go with 'To some extent' which shows that they are not sure about the provision of this right to women. 22% respondents have chosen option 'No' in which they highlighted that Islam granted women this right 1400 years back, but due to lack of implementing factors, women are not enjoying this right of inheritance. Islam is the only religion which granted the women right to inherent property before any other religion or state. It is the Islam which granted women the right to inherit property 1400 years back. Thus, it is the immense need to implement the laws relating to inheritance rights because due to lack of implementation factors, women have no right to inherit property. Men don't consider women to be able to get this right because they don't want to share the property with male of another family. This thing has to be changed because women also equal members of the state, thus she has also given this right equally..The majority of rural women are economically dependent on their men for income and this economic dependency effect their decision-making power in public and private sphere by making them dependent over their males for each and every reason.

#### **Pakistani Women Economic Freedom:**

Women in Pakistan cannot buy or sale her own properties without the consent of their husbands and fathers. Mostly husbands took the decisions in their family due to societal norms which are purely patriarchal. They got money for their personal needs from their husbands or from other close male relatives of the family because they have no source of income for their owners. The majority of rural women is not participating in decisions and in the decision making process regarding family affairs and other affairs of their life due to economic dependency on their male counterparts.

#### **Distribution of Respondents Regarding Pakistani Women's Economic Freedom**

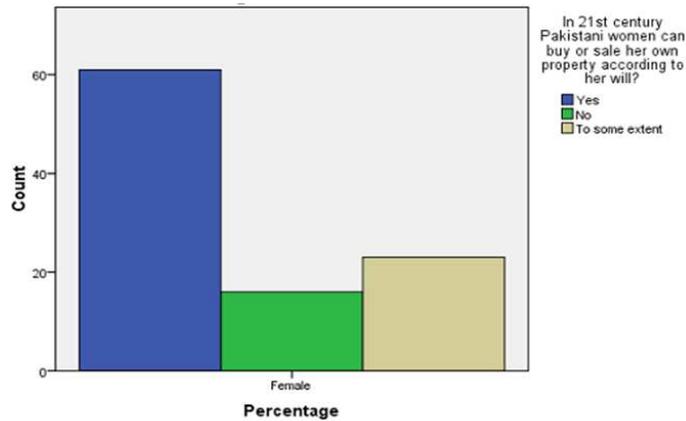


Figure 10

Table: 10

Gender	In 21st century Pakistani women can buy or sale her own property according to her will?			Total
	Yes	No	To some extent	
Female	61	16	23	100

Table 10 and Figure 10 indicated that 61% respondents have chosen option ‘Yes’ which shows that Pakistani women have the right to buy or sale property anywhere anytime. This thing shows a positive trend towards the status of women in Pakistan. While 23% respondents go with option ‘to some extent in which they are not sure whether women can buy or sale her own property according to her own will. They are not confirmed about this thus they have chosen to some extent. 16% respondents go with the third option ‘No’ which shows that by living in this patriarchal structure of Pakistani society, women have no right to buy or sale property according to her own wish because in many rural areas, women are under the obligations of the mall where decision are taken by male family members while women are silent.

**Equal Employment Opportunities:**

A woman is unequal and considered vulnerable in all spheres of life, especially in the employment sector and women is treated in an inhuman manner like animals. If a woman is empowered financially and have stability in her financial conditions can contribute towards women empowerment in society.

**Distribution of Respondents Regarding Equal Employment Opportunities**

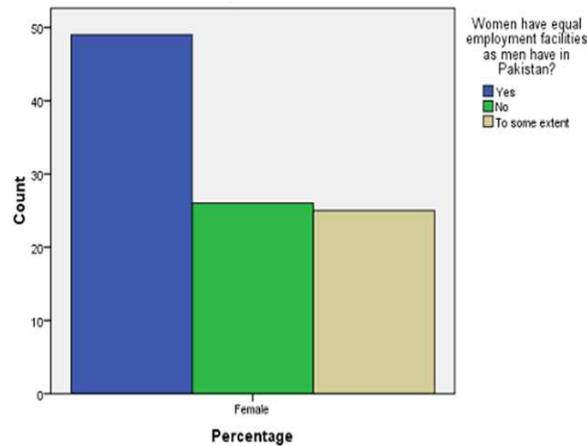


Figure 11

Table: 11

Gender	Women have equal employment facilities as men have in Pakistan?			Total
	Yes	No	To some extent	
Female	49	26	25	100

Table 11 and Figure 11 explain the response of respondents which shows that 49% females have chosen option first 'yes' regarding the equal employment facilities granted to women like men. It means that these women are agreeing with the provision of facilities for women in employment sector. While 26% females go with the second option 'No' which shows that in their perspective, Pakistani women are not granted equal employment opportunities like men. 25% women have chosen to some extent in this regard. If we look into the past, then it is clearly visible that women were not granted equal rights to men because they were not considered equal members of the state. While the situation has been changed a lot in current scenario because now women have right to choose her way of earning in many urban areas, but the situation is similar to past in rural areas because here still women is inferior and subjugated to men.

### Effect of Early Marriages

Women are the most significant part of our social structure, but despite this fact, they usually face a number of obstacles in their way to avail their rights and to get equal in social strata because they are most neglected part of society. Early marriages are the huge barrier for girls to be enjoying their fundamental rights. Between the ages of getting the education that girls have been seen doing childcare. Power, prestige and status should be given to the women with their rights of jobs, skills, education, security, health, better standards of living. Because it is a common practice in many villages those marriages if the girls took place during the phase of education which affect her empowering status a lot. There are laws passed on the status of women, especially early marriage age and defined the age of marriage for girls. The hindering factor towards the empowerment of women is early marriage of girls.

### Distribution of Respondents Regarding Effects of Early Marriages on Girls.

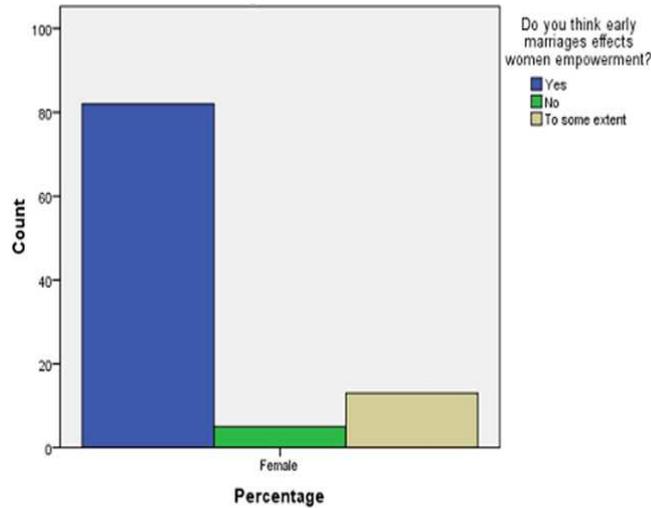


Figure 12

Table 12

Gender	Do you think early marriages effects women empowerment?			Total
	Yes	No	To some extent	
Female	82	5	13	100

Table 12 and Figure 12 show that there is an immense need to articulate laws and implement laws on early marriage of girls in order to empower women. 82% females have chosen first option ‘Yes’ which shows that child and early marriage affect the empowerment status of women at larger extent. While only 5% females go with the second option ‘No’ which meant that marriage during education has very adverse effect on the status of women because it creates hurdles in her professional life. At the end, only 13% respondents go with ‘To Some Extents’ option which shows that they are not sure about the professional status of women during her educational career. Early marriages affect the status of Pakistani women a lot.

**Role of Media in Women Empowerment:**

Media is a source to provide an alternative platform for women in hearing their voice, especially the plight of woman, which she made against various atrocities which she faced at all levels. It is also a pro feminist perspective theory regarding the role of media in the empowerment of women which can create a cult of belief among the grassroots woman to promote and empower them in the society.

**Distribution of Respondents Regarding Role of Media in Women Empowerment**

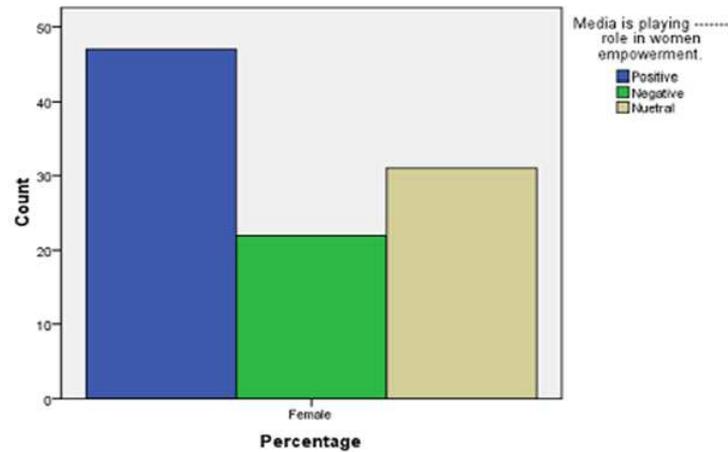


Figure 13

Table 13

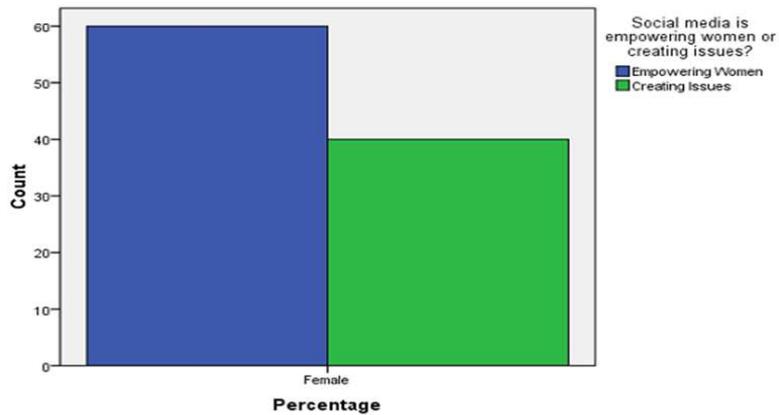
Gender	Media is playing ----- role in women empowerment.			Total
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	
Female	47	22	31	100

Table 13 and Figure 13 depict the results of the question asked by the researcher is which type of role is being played by the media regarding the status of Pakistani women. 47% respondents have chosen the first option which shows that the media is playing a positive role towards the status of women by choosing 'positive'. While 22% respondents go with option 'negative' which shows that Pakistani women are not satisfied with the role of women and they are of the view that the media should change its attitude towards the portrayal of women rights and status. Then 31% respondents go with third option 'Neutral' which means that somehow the media is portraying neutral or good role towards the status of women as not depicting positive neither negative. Media is keenly responsible to play positive or negative role regarding the status of women in Pakistan because it is the media through which we can be in touch with the rest of the world.

#### **Role of Social Media in Women Empowerment:**

It is the responsibility of the media to portray the position of women positively, but unfortunately Pakistani media is not fulfilling its role in true sense. It is a positive thing that almost half of the population of women is satisfied with the role of the media towards the status of women. There should be social shows and the media talks on the social evils prevailed in Pakistani society against women because these issues should be addressed on national and international level. It is the duty of the state to ensure equal provision of rights for both genders and media can play an influential role towards this issue. It is possible to find media, which address the most prevailing social issues of women through reliable internet sources.

**Distribution of Respondents Regarding Role of Social Media in Women Empowerment**



**Figure 14**

**Table 14**

Gender	Social media is empowering women or creating issues?		Total
	Empowering Women	Creating Issues	
Female	60	40	100

Table 14 and Figure 14 depict the responses of asking questions, that whether social media are empowering women are creating issues in achieving status for women. 60% respondents have chosen first option ‘Empowering Women’ which shows that social media is playing a positive role in the empowerment structure of women. If we look into the past, then we can clearly see that social media and the media were not playing their due role regarding women while the condition has been changed nowadays. Now social media are empowering women through talk shows, art, folks, dramas, short stories, social films and advertisements. While the remaining 40% women have chosen second option ‘Creating Issues’ which shows almost half of the population of women are of the view that social media is not playing nits due role towards the portrayal of women's issues rather it is creating problems in the status of women. Media is the main source of women empowerment because media can portray the issues of women in all means and social media is the form of media which also can play a positive role towards the empowerment of women.

**Depiction of Media:**

Such kind of communicating medium which proved to be helpful in the provision of a forum “for the people and by the people” gives a concept of a new reformation. These mediums provide a new concept of society, but the fact is that these types of forums are hardly acknowledged at the larger level. Various programs and policies should be acknowledged which are proved to be influential alternative initiatives to unknown groups and changes should have made to previous made policies.

**Distribution of Respondents Regarding Depiction of Media**

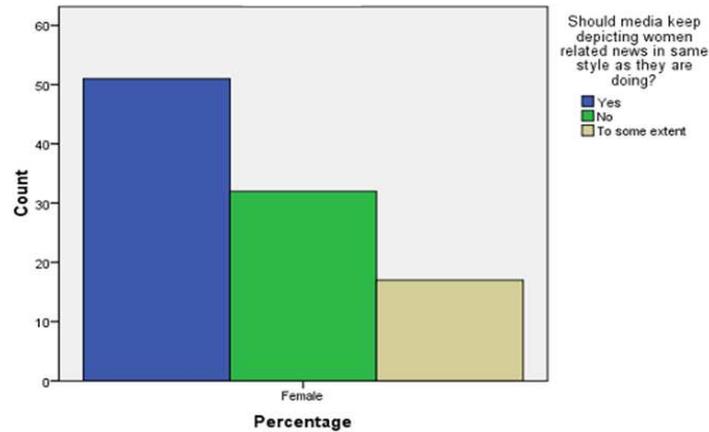


Figure 15

Table 15

Gender	Should media keep depicting women related news in same style as they are doing?			Total
	Yes	No	To some extent	
Female	51	32	17	100

Table 15 and Figure 15 explain the results about the depicting style of news about women and respondents stated that 51% women have chosen that media should not change the depiction style of women's issues and continue the same style, while 32% women have chosen option 2 'No' in which women wanted that depiction of women's issues in the media should be changed. It is recommended by many women that the media should change its style of depiction women's rights because the media is not portraying the issues of women positively and should change the status of women. It is stated in news that a mother of five children eloped with her boyfriend which portrayed a very wrong image of women into social strata and has to be changed. 17% women go with the third option 'to some extent' which depicted that they are unaware about the existing or current portrayal style of women in media.

## CONCLUSIONS

Women empowerment becomes a major concern in the country of globalization because women constitute almost half of the world's total population and it is very necessary for the prosperity of any country to indulge women in the social and economic structure by empowering her. Either there is a western society or western one, but mainly focused on the empowerment of women also named first world or the other Muslim world, the condition of women regarding her status is almost the same, underprivileged, submissive, inferior and less empowered to men. Thus, the issues and debates regarding her life and status are same everywhere in Muslim and non-Muslim world. Women's issues and empowerment are being discussed at all forums like United Nations front and at national and international level. Domesticity is regarded the keen concern of women in her whole life span while men are considered single bread earner of the family. Women are forced to shut within the four walls of the home to look after the home, to nurture children and to fulfill all the domestic responsibilities. Thus, in economic sphere women are invisible and if there are only a small proportion of women are there, then they also not granted equal pay for equal work.

## REFERENCES

1. Abdullah, T. a. (1979). Women’s Reality: Critical Issues in Program Design. *Studies in Family Planning*. 10 (11/12), 344-352.
2. Afshar, H. (1985). The position of women in an Iranian village. 66-82.
3. Alfaro Moreno, R. M. (2009). Making Our Media: global initiatives Toward a Democratic Public Sphere. *National and Global Movements for Democratic Communication, Hampton Press*, 2, 416.
4. Atton, C. (2002). *Alternative Media*, London, Thousand Oaks and New Delhi,.
5. Behal, A. (2011). “Education, women empowerment and related issues. *International Educational E-Journal, Quarterly*. , 1 (1).
6. Bhaskara, D. a. (2005). Women Education and Empowerment. *Discovery Publishing house New Dehli 110002 India, P 32 (2005) 8 , 8*, p32.
7. Chaudhary A. R., C. M. (2011). An Analysis of different Approaches to Women Empowerment: A Case study in Pakistan. *World Applied Sciences Journal*, 16 (7), 971-980.
8. Chaudhary, I. S. (2012). Women Empowerment in Pakistan with special reference to Islamic Viewpoint: An Empirical Study. . *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences*, 32 (1), 171-183.
9. Desai, M. (2010). Hope in Hard Times: Women's Empowerment and Human Development. *Human Development Research Paper*.
10. Devi, L. M. EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ALTERNATIVE MEDIA. *INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERPLAY OF ECONOMICS*.
11. Dr. Syed Mussawar Hussain Bukhari, Muhammad Asim. (2013). Women Empowerment in a Muslim Society: A Practical Observation. *INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY RESEARCH IN BUSINESS*, 5 (1).
12. Hina Ali, R. B. (2015). Women’s Empowerment and Human Development in Pakistan: An Elaborative Study. *Asian Journal of Management Sciences & Education*, 4 (4), 23-30.
13. Kabeer, N. (2012). Women’s Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Growth: Labor Markets and enterprise development. . *London School of Oriental & African Studies. (Centre for Development Policy, Discussion Paper 29/12)*.
14. Khan, A. (2007). Women and Paid Work in Pakistan. Pathways of Women Empowerment. *Karachi: Collective of Social Science Research*. .

15. Khan, A. (2013). *Women & Gender in Afghanistan*.
16. Khan, S. (1990). An assessment of changes in the employment situation of Pakistani Women in the informal sector. *Pakistan Economics and Social Sciences Review*, 28 (2).
17. L. Amer, M. (2003). *Women in the United States Congress: 1917-2001*. New York: Nova Science Publishers.
18. Mukhtar., M. M. (1991). Female Participation in Household Decian Making: An Analysis of Consumer Durables Acquisition of Pakistan. *Pakistan development review.* , 30 (4), 953-962.
19. Mussawar Shah, R. K. (2006). Women Being the Most Neglected Agent in the South Asian Societies. *Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences*, 4 (1-2), 81-85.
20. Naz, A. (2013). Social-Cultural Impediments to Women Political Empowerment in Pakistan. *SAVAP*.
21. Panigrahy, R. (2006). *Women Empowerment*. New Delhi: Discovery Publishing House. .
22. Pastner, C. (1990). A Social Structural and Historical Analysis of Honor, Shame and Purdah in Baluchistan. 247-259.
23. Ravinderan, T. (1993). Users Perspectives on Fertility Regulation Methods. *Economic and Political Weekly. 1993.* , 28 (12), 46-47.
24. Samina Rabbani, Mahwish Zeeshan and Hina Saleem. (2015). CULTURAL PERCEPTION OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN CHAKWAL CITY. *Pakistan Association of Anthropology, Islamabad, Pakistan*, 27 (1), 773-775.
25. Sathar, Z. a. (1990). Women, Work and Reproduction in Karachi. *International*, 16 (2), 66-69.
26. Sidra Pervez, Sidra Pervez, Jawad Javed, Irfan Raza. (2015). Working Women in Pakistan: Analysis of Issues and Problems. *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences (PJSS)*, 35 (2), 997-1011.
27. Sohail, M. (2014). Women Empowerment and Economic Development—an Exploratory Study in Pakistan. *Developing Countries Study*, 4 (9), 163-170.
28. UNW. (2013). *UN Women to Call for Protection of Women's Rights Worldwide during the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly*.