

Women in Pakistan are not getting their due share from the resources available in the country. Nor are they getting enough employment opportunities

By Mansoor Ahmed

Equal access to education is an important step towards greater gender equality, but it is not the only one. Even if gender disparities in education diminish, other differences persist everywhere — in legal right, labour market opportunities, and the ability to participate in public life and in decision making.

This is the theme of World Bank Development Report 2002 on the subject of gender equality. It states that providing equal education opportunities to girl child is the first step towards women empowerment.

Pakistan's literacy gender parity index is the lowest amongst the four major South Asian countries. It is 1.0 in Sri Lanka meaning that boys and girls have equal opportunity in education. It is 0.8 in India, 0.7 in Bangladesh 0.6 in Pakistan. Adult illiteracy rate in Pakistan is 43 per cent for male over the age of 15 and 72 per cent for women of same age. Youth illiteracy rate (15-24 years) is 29 per cent for male and 58 per cent for females. Expected years of schooling is 5 for males and 3 for women. Females form 28.6 per cent of the total labour force employed in the country. The average monthly income of women in

society

the country is Rs 2,476 compared with Rs 3,686 average for men.

Women in Pakistan are not getting their due share from the resources available in the country. A girl child is fed less than her brother. When it comes to education and health the male child is preferred over the female offspring. Women workers are paid less, while housewives who labour day and night are the ones who are expected to eat less.

Developing countries, particularly those with conservative societies like Pakistan, are hampering their



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hush up the incident. The complaint with the police was, however, lodged on the insistence of the parents of some victims. Investigations revealed that the driver of the bus was involved in the episode. This incidence is reported in the report published by the Human Rights

also subjected to rape. Press reports highlighted the nightmare of Shameem, an 8-year-old domestic servant who told reporters that her baji always hit her with *chimta* (pair of tongs) or knife. She showed some burn spots on her body.

Another incident reported

R N of social problem

News 26.5.02



Equal Farmers

s society towards women workers
 is far from ideal. Male members
 try to dominate female co-
 workers. The tricks used by the
 males in exploiting female
 workers are many and one or a
 combination of these are used
 to lure or force the women
 workers to accede to their
 wishes. They include:

- Obnoxious calls through inter-office lines.
- Highly visible patronising attitude.
- Non-cooperative attitude to force submission.
- Bullying women through intimidation or humiliation.
- Using authority to harness

Market institutions and development

*World Eco:
The News 26.5.02*

Poster

World Development Report 2002

(Building Institutions For Markets)

Prepared: A team lead by

Roumeen Islam

Published: Oxford University Press,

New York Year of Publishing 2002

Pages 249

**By Dr. Malik Aftab
Maqbool Joiya**



World Development Report 2002 (Building Institutions for Markets) is a research document published for the World Bank. It is about building institutions that support markets, which in turn promotes growth and reduces poverty. It analyses the myriad of institutions formal and informal, public and private that people build and use to undertake activities that maximise returns and to manage risks in markets. This report was prepared by a team led by Roumeen Islam.

The team undertook a wide range of consultations in its preparations. During the reports' planning in 2000, a February workshop in Berlin and a July workshop in Washington was held. During the drafting stage in 2001, a consultative meeting on the media was held in April and a consultation meeting on the judicial system was held in May. In addition, the authors also held consultations with a wider community that included non-government organisations, holding meetings in Paris, in London and in Amsterdam. The team also conducted a series of Video Conferences with audiences in

of market players through open information flow and jurisdictions, firms and individuals.

The report acknowledges the contribution and role of agriculture as an institution in poverty reduction. As agricultural productivity improves, farmers leave agriculture for more productive employment in industry and services, promoting the over all growth. The report has dealt with three particular challenges facing policy makers building institutions for agricultural markets. First, agricultural activity is usually geographically dispersed and distant from major urban centers. It creates problems in providing rural credit to the geographically scattered small farmers. So interest rates on formal loans to small farmers, if loans are available at all, tend to be prohibitively high. Similarly, cost of judicial services and marketing of produce are also high because of distance between farms and major towns. Second, farming in many countries has historically