



TWO-DAY INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

**CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING OF PAKISTANI WOMEN: NEGOTIATING
DIFFERENCES AND BUILDING ALLIANCES**

(17-18 DECEMBER 2015)

Two-day Interdisciplinary Conference

Consciousness-Raising of Pakistani Women: Negotiating Differences and Building Alliances

Concept Note

Debates on women's issues have long existed in academic as well as other socio-political and policy-making circles and still continue to have profound relevance for the contemporary societies in the global South as well as the North. Current cultural theories and women's studies have institutionalized the issues related to women and thereby established a fundamental link between academia and grass-root social activism. In this connection, consciousness – raising as a primary tool for civic engagement and active citizenship has had substantial achievements in various parts of the globe mainly in enhancing women's consciousness about their rights and positioning in the society. Consciousness-raising is also regarded as an effective strategy for building alliances among various sections of women for collective struggle and lasting social change.

Pakistani women, despite religious and legal safeguards continue to experience varied forms of marginalization in the domestic, social, academic, political as well as economic fronts. Though there are on-going efforts to ensure the implementation of legislation regarding women's rights in Pakistan, they largely remain unsuccessful since Pakistani women predominantly remain ignorant of their rights and privileges. Besides, lack of appropriate alliance and networking among different sections and organizations of the society working for women's empowerment is a major hindrance in bringing a sustainable change in women's situation in Pakistan.

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to gather researchers, scholars, academics and members of civil society from across Pakistan to explore multi-faceted factors that contribute in discrimination faced by Pakistani women. The conference specifically aims to have extensive deliberations on devising mechanisms to raise women's consciousness regarding their rights and status in the society and to ensure their equitable access to educational opportunities, economic independence, political participation and health care facilities. Besides, one of the primary objectives of the conference is to serve as a platform for interaction among women of various backgrounds to not only develop an insightful understanding of women's issues in Pakistan but also to establish much needed alliances and networks for collective and organized efforts for the elimination of hierarchal gender bias and the establishment of a dignified and equitable status for Pakistani women.

Call for Papers

Scholars, academics and members of civil society are invited to submit their abstracts focusing on any of the following themes.

- Constitution and Legislation in Pakistan to Safeguard Women's Rights
- Consciousness-Raising Pedagogical Models and Women's Education
- Pakistani Women's Consciousness-Raising: Role of Media and Literature
- Women's Right to Health Care: Problems and Solutions

Important Dates

Last date for the submission of abstracts: 30th October 2015

Announcement of the selected abstracts: 20th November 2015

For any queries please contact

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