IWD 2021
ChooseToChallenge
Women right situation in Myanmar

Aung Zay Hlaing
PhD student
University of Siena, Italy 8 March 2021
Country profile

- Myanmar, located between China and India, in the Southeast Asia
- 54.4 million population (2020)
- Women who make up more than half of the country’s total population. (53% share of total population.) 2017
Country profile

- One of the most ethnically diverse countries, with 135 officially recognized ethnic races.
- Highly diverse in terms of geography, language, ethnicity and religion.
- Ethnic women most commonly reside in Myanmar's border areas that are most prone to civil wars and conflict.
Constitutional Right

- Myanmar’s Constitution guarantees all persons equal rights before the law and equal legal protection (Section 347) and does not discriminate against any Myanmar citizen on the basis of sex (Section 348).


- Since then, Myanmar has aimed to achieve gender equality and help women fully enjoy their rights.

- an active member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Committee on Women and the ASEAN Commission on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children, 2010

- Adopted the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013–2022.
Women situation in Myanmar

- **Education**: The equal right to education for men and women is guaranteed by Myanmar’s Constitution.
- Most females do attend primary school, but there is a reduction seen in the number of girls that continue onto secondary school or university.
- The literacy rate for adult women is 86% compared to just over 90% for men.
Women situation in Myanmar

- **Health:** the *average life expectancy* for a woman is 69 years, compared to 60 years for a man. (2017)
- A *high mortality rate* with 250 deaths per 100,000 live births. (2017)
- While *abortion* is illegal in Myanmar, around 10 percent of all maternal deaths are reported to be abortion-related.
- The lack of sex education across the country results in a *high adolescent fertility rate* of 16.9%.
Women situation in Myanmar

- **Marriage and family:** Usually Myanmar women have the **freedom to choose their own husband**, despite the continued presence of matchmaking traditions and parental say in the decision that occasionally still occur.

- There is **not the practice of having a family name**, such as seen in Western cultures.

- A woman will **retain her own given birth name** throughout her life, whether she marries or remains single.
Women situation in Myanmar

- **Marriage and family:** women are allowed to make decisions regarding their households spending without permission from their husbands, although males are considered the heads of the household.

- In respect to the law, women can **jointly or separately hold assets** with her husband.

- In the case of the husband's death the women then inherits the property.

- In of **divorce** the assets are **divided equally** unless the women is dependent on the event her husband, in which case she receives only one-third of the previously joint property.

- With children in divorce it is typical for the male child to remain with the father and the female child with the mother.
Women situation in Myanmar

- Violence against women: **Sexual assault** within communities as well as rape by the military as a weapon of war during civil war.

- Additionally **trafficking of women**, especially in the border regions of Myanmar, as well as **domestic violence** and forced sex in marriage are ongoing problems.

- The lack of national data and discriminatory cultural attitudes that endorse violence against women compound the challenges.
Institutional mechanism

- Myanmar has institutional mechanisms to implement its commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment, led by the **Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement**.
- These include the **Department of Social Welfare**, which is the government focal point on gender equality and women’s rights;
- the **Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs**, an inter-ministerial policy-related mechanism established in 1996 and reestablished in 2012 under the new government to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action;
- the **Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation**, established in 2003 as a government-resourced and staffed nongovernment organization that assists the National Committee for Women’s Affairs to implement CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action nationwide; and
- the **Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association**, which was established in 1991 to promote maternal and child health and well-being in remote areas.
“The more the women get their rights, the higher the standard of human rights of a country”

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
(Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1991)
State Counsellor of Myanmar
Women participation against military coup 2021 February
Women participation against military coup 2021 February
References

- Wikipedia
Women right situation in Pakistan

Rubina Ansari
PhD student
University of Brescia, Italy

“EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN NOT JUST A GOAL IN ITSELF, BUT KEY TO ALL GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS”
Women in Pakistan make up 48.76% of the population according to the 2017 census of Pakistan.

The status of women in Pakistan varies considerably across classes, geographical location (urban/rural), educational status and social status (caste and class).

Women are actively participating in every sector of Pakistan such as in politics, sports, media, army, police, etc.
CONSTITUTION (1973):

Article 9: No person shall be deprived of live or liberty saves in accordance with law.

Article 25: Equality of Citizens
(1) All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law.
(2) There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex.
(3) allow the state to make special provisions for the protection of women and children

Article 34: Ensures full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

Article 26 & 27: provide for equal access to public places and equality of employment in the public and private sector.

Articles 11 & 37 (g): prohibit trafficking in human beings as well as prostitution.

Article 32: special provisions for the representation of women in local Government.

Article 35: asks the state to protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child.

Articles 51 & 106: provide for the reservation of seats for women in the legislatures.
International/National Commitments

INTERNATIONAL

- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Beijing Platform for Action
- Sustainable Development Goals
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

NATIONAL

- National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women
- Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act
- Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the name or pretext of Honour) Act
- Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences Relating to Rape) and a National Plan of Action on Human Rights
- The Gender Reform Action Plan (GRAP) of 2005
## Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/Gender</th>
<th>Literacy (age&gt;=10)</th>
<th>Youth Literacy (age 15-24)</th>
<th>Adult Literacy (age&gt;=15)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pakistan</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
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<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
Marriage and Divorce

- The average age of women for marriage has increased from 16.9 years in 1951 to 22.5 years in 2005.
- Only 37 percent of married women are not related to their spouses before marriage.
- The divorce rate in Pakistan is extremely low due to the social stigma attached to it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background characteristic</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th>Men</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted percent</td>
<td>Weighted number</td>
<td>Unweighted number</td>
<td>Weighted percent</td>
<td>Weighted number</td>
<td>Unweighted number</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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<td>15-19</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<td>20-24</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>152</td>
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<td>4.5</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>25-29</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>194</td>
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<td>30-34</td>
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<td>195</td>
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<td>23.9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>35-39</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>187</td>
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<td>18.9</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>40-44</td>
<td>12.3</td>
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<td>16.6</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>45-49</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>15.1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
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</table>

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Industry</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employs (%)</td>
<td>Avg. monthly wages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</td>
<td>8.20</td>
<td>11806</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>24.44</td>
<td>18687</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>19.62</td>
<td>16422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information &amp; communication</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>31746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific and technical activities</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>34091</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation and food services activities</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>16864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative and support service activities</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>19084</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public administration and defence; compulsory social security</td>
<td>6.69</td>
<td>32510</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>6.58</td>
<td>32502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human health and social work activities</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>31214</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial and insurance activities</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>44973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation and storage</td>
<td>7.08</td>
<td>19278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment and recreation</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>15697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>53984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods &amp; services-producing activities</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>13335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women in Politics

**Benazir Bhutto**
first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan and Muslims country as well

**Fahmida Mirza**
Ex-speaker of National Assembly

**Fatima Jinnah**
(“Mother of the Nation”)

**Hina Rubani**
Ex-Foreign Minister of Pakistan

**Zartaj Gul**
Minister of Climate Change

**Dr. Yasmeen Rashid**
Health Minister
Women in Armed and Air Forces

Major General Nigar Johar

Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan
(Honorary Brigadier)
Pakistan Army Women National Guard
(1949)

Saira Amin (Squadron Leader)
Sword of Honor from Defence Academy of Pakistan

Rizwana Hameed
Head of a male police station

Rafia Qaseem Baig
Explosive ordinance disposal

Ayesha Farooq (Fighter Pilot)
Women Entrepreneurs

Roshaneh Zafar
Pioneer of microfinance in Pakistan women’s economic empowerment

Kaloom Lakhani
founder and CEO of the company, invest2inovate

Sultana Siddiqui
First woman in South Asia to establish a TV station

Jehan Ara
President of “Pakistan Software Houses Association”

Maria Umar
President and founder of an IT solution company “Women’s Digital League (WDL)”
Women in Sports

Maria Toorpakai Wazir
International Squash Player

Rukhsana and Sofia
International Boxer

Naseem Hameed
Gold medalist in Athletics

Minhal Sohail
shooter

Kulsoom Hazara
Martial Artist

Kulsoom Abdullah
weightlifter
Bilquis Edhi
Humanitarian and a social worker
Declared ‘Person of the Decade’
by Impact Hallmarks

Shamshaad Akhtar
Governor of State Bank of Pakistan

Malala Yousafzai
Noble Peace Prize winner

Justice Nasira Javid Iqbal
Lahore High Court

Khalida Rashid Khan (Judge)
Superior Judiciary of Pakistan

Female students from NUST
International ‘Formula Student’ competition
And won Spirit of Formula Student Award

Muniba Mazari
Goodwill Ambassador

Samina Baig
(Mountaineer)
Problem faced by women in Pakistan

- Honor killings
- Domestic violence
- Dowry abuse
- Sexual harassment
- Acid throwing
- Trafficking
- Marriage at young age
Women Welfare Organizations in Pakistan

- Pakistan women’s Association
- Acid Survivors Foundation, Pakistan
- Aurat Foundation
- Kaarvan Foundation
- Sarim Burney WelfareTrust
- Shahina Aftab Foundation (SAF)
- Bedari
## Comparison of some statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender Inequality</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequality Index (GII) Rank (2019)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequality Index (GII) Value (2019)</td>
<td>0.069</td>
<td>0.478</td>
<td>0.538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Violence against girls and women</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence against women ever experienced, intimate partner (% of female population ages 15 and older) 2015 – 2019</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality Ratio (2017) (deaths per 100,000 live births)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent birth ratio (2015 – 2020) (births per 1,000 women ages 15 – 19)</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean years of schooling, females (years) 2018</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%) 2010 - 2018</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>7.62 (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Political</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of seats in parliament (% held by women) 2019</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your attention