



8<sup>th</sup>  
March

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**IWD 2021**  
**ChooseToChallenge**



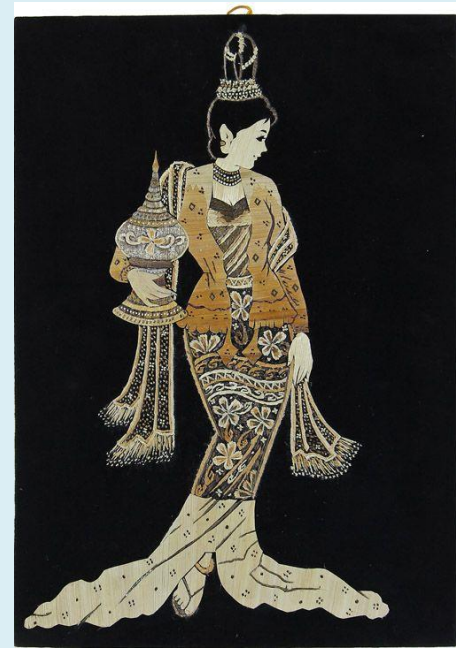
International  
Women's Day

# Women right situation in Myanmar

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# 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).
- ❑ In **1997**, Myanmar acceded and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (**CEDAW**).
- ❑ 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

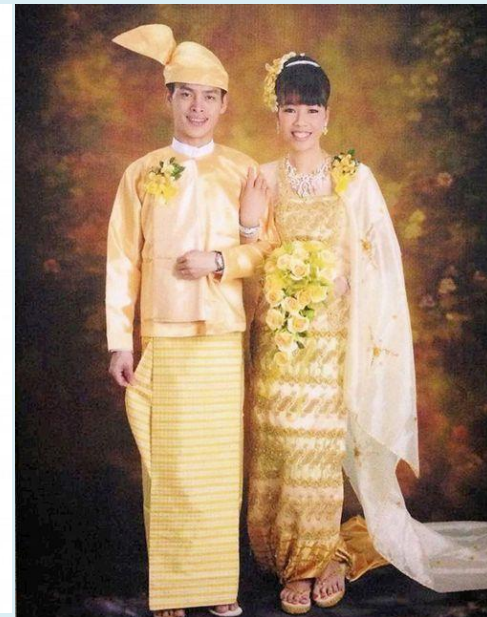
- ❑ **Health:** the **average life expectancy** for a woman is **69 years**, compared to 60 years for a man. (2017)
- ❑ a **high mortality rate** with **250 deaths** per 100,000 live births. (2017)
- ❑ While **abortion** is illegal in Myanmar, around **10 percent** of all maternal deaths are reported 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.



# Myanmar democracy icon



**“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

- ❑ Asian Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Gender equality and women's rights in Myanmar: A situation analysis. Mandaluyong City, Philippines: Asian Development Bank, 2016.
- ❑ Central Statistical Organization (CSO), UNDP and WB (2018) "Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017: Key Indicators Report", Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, Myanmar: Ministry of Planning and Finance, UNDP and WB.
- ❑ United Nations Country Team in Myanmar: "2019 International Women's Day: "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change"", THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR newspaper, 8 March 2019
- ❑ Wikipedia



# Women right situation in Pakistan

Rubina Ansari

PhD student

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**“EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN NOT JUST A GOAL IN ITSELF, BUT KEY TO ALL GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS”**



# Country profile

- ❑ 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





# Constitutional Right

## CONSTITUTION (1973):

<http://www.parliament.am/library/sahmanadrutyunner/pakistan.pdf>

**Article 9:** No person shall be deprived of life 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

- ❑ **1996:** United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (**CEDAW**)
- ❑ 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 Commission on the Status of Women-Pakistan (2000)
- ❑ 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

Region/ Gender	Literacy (age>=10)	Youth Literacy (age 15-24)	Adult Literacy (age>=15)
	2018-19	2018-19	2018-19
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>56</b>
Men	71	79	69
Women	49	64	45
<b>Urban</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>72</b>
Men	80	86	79
Women	67	80	64
<b>Rural</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>47</b>
Men	65	75	62
Women	38	54	33

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

Percent distribution of ever-married women and men age 15-49 by selected background characteristics, Pakistan DHS 2017-18

Background characteristic	Women			Men		
	Weighted percent	Weighted number	Unweighted number	Weighted percent	Weighted number	Unweighted number
<b>Age</b>						
15-19	3.7	37	37	0.5	1	1
20-24	13.7	135	152	4.5	9	10
25-29	21.7	214	194	20.5	43	45
30-34	19.8	195	181	23.9	50	45
35-39	18.7	184	187	18.9	40	37
40-44	12.3	121	134	16.6	35	39
45-49	9.9	97	99	15.1	32	33

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics



# Workforce participation

Major Industry	Men		Women	
	Employs (%)	Avg. monthly wages	Employs (%)	Avg. monthly wages
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	8.20	11806	28.16	6007
Manufacturing	24.44	18687	24.66	6597
Construction	19.62	16422	0.73	13222
Information & communication	1.28	31746	0.28	46335
Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.78	34091	0.07	37852
Accommodation and food services activities	2.55	16864	0.26	17447
Administrative and support service activities	0.88	19084	0.05	29693
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	6.69	32510	1.12	33375
Education	6.58	32502	23.70	21273
Human health and social work activities	2.28	31214	6.61	25345
Financial and insurance activities	1.37	44973	0.41	26887
Transportation and storage	7.08	19278	0.20	23693
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.23	15697	0.08	73786
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.07	53984	0.07	12959
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods & services-producing activities	1.50	13335	11.09	6098

# Women in Politics



**Benazir Bhutto**

first ever 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



**Dr. Yasmeen Rashid**

Health Minister



**Zartaj Gul**

Minister of Climate Change



# Women in Armed and Air Forces



**Major General Nigar Johar**



**Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan**

(Honorary Brigadier)

Pakistan Army Women National Guard  
(1949)



**Rafia Qaseem Baig**

Explosive ordinance disposal



**Saira Amin (Squadron Leader)**

Sword of Honor from

Defence Academy of Pakistan



**Rizwana Hameed**

Head of a male police station



**Ayesha Farooq (Fighter Pilot)**



# Women Entrepreneurs



**Roshaneh Zafar**

Pioneer of microfinance in Pakistan  
women's economic empowerment



**Kalsoom Lakhani**

founder and CEO of the  
company, *invest2innovate*



**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





**Shamshaad Akhtar**  
Governor of State  
Bank of Pakistan



**Malala Yousafzai**  
Noble Peace Prize winner

**Bilquis Edhi**

Humanitarian and a social worker  
Declared '**Person of the Decade**'  
by Impact Hallmarks



**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

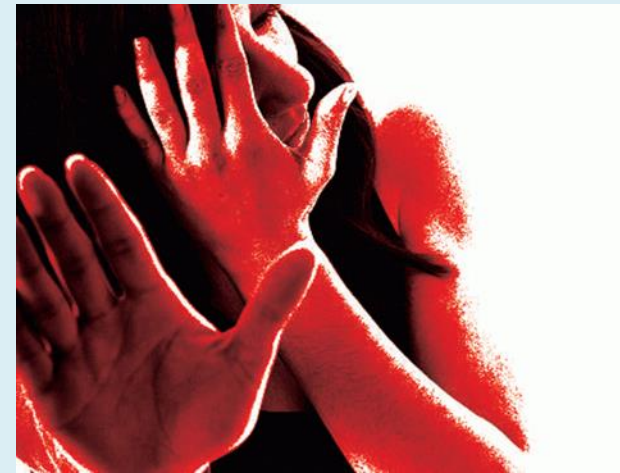


**Samina Baig**  
(Mountaineer)



# 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



Index	Italy	Myanmar	Pakistan
<b>Gender Inequality</b>			
Gender Inequality Index (GII) Rank (2019)	14	118	135
Gender Inequality Index (GII) Value (2019)	0.069	0.478	0.538
<b>Violence against girls and women</b>			
Violence against women ever experienced, intimate partner (% of female population ages 15 and older) 2015 – 2019	19.0	17.3	---
<b>Health</b>			
Maternal Mortality Ratio (2017) (deaths per 100,000 live births)	2	250	140
Adolescent birth ratio (2015 – 2020) (births per 1,000 women ages 15 – 19)	5.2	28.5	38.0



# Comparison of some statistics



Index	Italy	Myanmar	Pakistan
<b>Education</b>			
Mean years of schooling, females (years) 2018	10.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Economic</b>			
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%) 2010 - 2018	23.2	10.2	7.62 (2007)
<b>Political</b>			
Share of seats in parliament (% held by women) 2019	35.3	11.6	20

Source: Gender inequality and the COVID-19 crisis: A Human Development perspective (UNDP)  
Human Development Report 2020

# Thank you for your attention

≡ International Women's Day ≡

