# AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN LIVED IN LASBELA DISTRICT OF BALOCHISTAN

 $Hussain\ Islam^*$   $Dr.\ Nasreen\ Aslam\ Shah^{\dagger}$ 

#### Abstract

The study has chosen the topic about socio-economic conditions and historical background of women lived in Lasbela district of Balochistan, and the idea behind choosing the topic is to understand the lives of women of Baloch tribe. The objective is to observe the role of women in social and economic participation and assess their financial condition. The quantitative method has been selected and 200 women have been chosen as a sample of the study, in this regard, self-administered questionnaire was prepared for the collection of data; it is important to mention that the selection of women includes homemakers who are not in paid work and women who earn through various tasks that includes embroidery, embellish work, stitching and being paid in return of their products. The results and finding disclosed that women live in patriarchal cultures where male head the family and women are unable to participate in decision making. The socio-economic conditions and historical background of women are more prevalent in both rural and urban areas of Balochistan. Low socio-economic conditions and historical background of women is mainly due to low level of education, tribal social structure, religious trends, culture and participation in decision making. Further unveiled that lack of education among women and girls, lack of economic participation, and financially weak. It is recommended that government should facilitate women in educational opportunities, provide micro-small businesses as they can earn through home based work as to improve their financial conditions and enhance the status of women in the district.

**Keywords:** Women, Patriarchy, Traditions, Culture, Socio-economic.

\*PhD Scholar (Women's Studies), Centre of Excellence for Women Studies,

University of Karachi, Pakistan, Email:nasreenaslamshah961@gmail.com <sup>†</sup>Prof. Dr. Nasreen Aslam Shah, Ex. Dean of Social Sciences and director of Centre of Excellence for Women Studies and Social Work department at University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakista

#### INTRODUCTION

The socio-economic condition of women is sad in developing nations, women belong to marginalized groups also faced many challenges and obstacles due to the reason women cannot go outside to perform job but do work from home as home-based workers in informal economy (Ramesh, 2000). According to estimates, Pakistan has total 20 million home-based workers in which 12 millions are purely comprised of women (ILO, 2015). In 2016, the UN Women had released a report on "Women's Economic Participation and Empowerment in Pakistan" which identified that home-based work of women produced about 400 billion dollars and contribute huge chunk to the Pakistan economic growth (Farooqi et al., 2020).

This research study is based on the socio-economic conditions of women who live in Lasbela district of Balochistan (Balochistan is the province of Pakistan) including the historic background of women as a whole. Historically Balochistan is based on patriarchal structure of the society, where women face multiple discriminations; assaults; violence in the name of honor. Women have less space in politics, economy and in culture. The province has the most maternal mortality cases, massive female illiteracy, lack of employment opportunities and gender inequalities in all spheres of life. On the other hand the rural women are hitting worst, as only two percent females are literate while 26 percent of total literate women in the whole province. There is a Makran division which has contained districts including Panigur; Kech; and Gawadar in such area the female literacy is higher in comparison with other districts. The reason behind increasing literacy is opening of more co-education schools in such areas which produces number of quality educated women, due to the reason few of them become educationist, politicians, and working in healthcare system as lady health workers and doctors. Here we have an example of Zubaida Jalal who belongs to poor family of Balochistan in Mand of Kech district and became the first federal educational minister during 2002-2007 (Hassan, 2020).

Due to many other happenings girls' dropout rate has been surged as the religious fundamentalist group questioned and attacked on co-education system which are privately run by private owners in the area. In such circumstances, few parents send their daughters to government schools and keep girls at home in aftermath of militant attack on private schools, this is the reason female literacy is not increasing and seen at stagnant position (UNPO, 2018). The Aurat Foundation, an NGO who works on women's rights and covered huge topics of researches, and identified multiple type of violence against women especially in districts of Balochistan. It is

highlighted that around 192 cases have been observed that includes honor killing, acid throwing, live buried of girls; domestic violence and so many others. However, the report also mentions that number of violence goes under reported, it is also true that Balochistan is the biggest province by land area but constitutes on remote villages. So that report is just little investigation about violence because whoever wanted to cover such news local people used to threaten by journalist or researchers' life. And women who reported cases have also faced persecutions and life threatening (Aurat Foundation, 2017). It is unveiled by the Pakistan Health Demographic Survey that the province has the largest mortality rate of women which is about 785 deaths per 100 thousand women; whereas 272 cases observed around the country. The selected area of the research is facing extreme poverty and this has been associated with the massive illiteracy and growing extremism which increased the woes of women further (Aurat Foundation, 2014).

Women are discriminated at large in country but it is also accountable that province Balochistan neglected by the state as it has no access to opportunities for women to enable themselves through modern techniques with the help of civilized society. Their locales believed that laws and policies are discriminatory which are preventing women from empowerment which affect overall social and economic development in Balochistan as a whole. While we compare inter-provincial gender segregated data under employment sector women are suffering from high levels of unemployment; though other provinces have significant female labor force (UNOP, 2018). It is emphasized that developmental policy needs to ensure the participation of its local people, and the province need social; economic; and political development which may provide good governance in achieving women and gender equality, safe drinking water, electricity connections, delivery of quality education, better healthcare facilities, and construction of roads and infrastructure. However the constitution of Pakistan 1973 has entitled every citizen equal rights to live freely with provision of all basic necessities; not only that international commitments including Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) have given various socio-economic rights which ensure food security, housing security, education social security nets, and healthcare as well but their concrete implications are invisible, never be translated in its true sense (Khan et al., n.d.).In all such circumstances, the least developed district "Lasbela" of Balochistan has been chosen for the research to identify the socio-economic condition of women and their historic background in order to sketch the clear picture of women residing in that province because the development indicators i.e. education, healthcare services, profession and income are found very low so this research highlights the problems faced by women in this area and tries to resolve them through this study.

# **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To find out that patriarchal social structure is the main reason of low socio-economic condition of women in Lasbela.
- To explore the challenges faced by women during socio-economic activities in patriarchal social structure of the Lasbela.
- To analyze that lack of education is the main factor that creates the problems in the socio-economic activities.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

Women are always defined in relationship of men under customary practices, as dimorphic specie (Chamorro-Premuzic, 2015), where western culture had placed heavy constraint on women by associating with Pandora and Eve, as they thought that these characters were responsible for human misfortunes and weaker self-control over lasciviousness (Joseph, 2012). However, the role of women is found dependent over men in the entire history; but exceptional to few cases in the historical societies. On the other hand, women status had been acknowledged on the basis of pregnancy and fertility; and forged relationship under social and economic values (O'Sullivan, 2005). In addition, deprived of political independence, women were known by the sexual temptation because once society and culture prescribed customs and traits that had been adopted by the group of people and enforced; which drew secondary status of women in the society (Palermo, G., 2013). In most of literatures women are being identified by the term "the sex" and sexuality, however the men are head of households, had control of public powers, hold all key positions at various institutions that control women. Later during 15<sup>th</sup> century, Christine de Pizan challenged the prevailed and rocentric idea for defining women, and said that the attribution of evil to women is a men's mind not reality; and the mind sets can be changed if women get education then she may also become virtuous and capable of men in the society (Plain & Sellers, 2007).

Meanwhile, women and girls make about half of population around the globe (United Nations, 2019) yet too far to have equality like men as their voices,

life experiences and contributions are undervalued always to make herself submissive and consider the second sex (Haight, 2020). As they have found underrepresented in politics and economics zones but overrepresented in poverty because they have fewer access to resources, face gender based violence, lack of opportunities in politics and economics however different laws and policies have been framed socially and culturally for women that blocks women to the path of development (Bhardwaj, 2005). Similarly, "The Second Sex" book was written by Simon-de-Beauvoir in 1949 which reflects the second wave of feminism which highlights that argues over "One is not born but rather become a woman" she believed that gender roles are not biologically inherited but imposed by the society where we live (Bruce & Smiths, 2015). In short it explains that we must de-link sex from gender associated roles which is part of our socialization process, that's how oppression against women can be eliminated as a whole from the societies.

Due to inequalities women have very low status in regards of social, political and economic scenarios. Scholars believed that such limitations for women are limiting communities to work for conflict resolutions, to upsurge economies, and to flourish society (Klugman, 2014). It is seen that without involving women who comprise of half of its population we could not achieve the desired growth of our nations. In today's world, the developed nations like United States (US) are working to advance the gender equality and empower women in all spheres of life without having any discrimination under US foreign policy. Major areas include for enhancing the status of women i.e. (1) women involvement in peace and security related matters (Basu et al., 2020) (2) economic empowerment of women (Michaeli, 2022); (3) to end gender-based violence; (4) and also to provide educations and skills to adolescent girls (UNESCO, 2020).

However, certain women are being better off in today's world but still have massive gender gaps found in order to become equal to men. Past decades have brought various changes in women lives as now they can have paid work in the economic sector which was just a dream for grandmothers and of even mothers. Nearly, in 2011 the US workforce was constituted of about half of men and women, including seen in high profile position and as chief executive positions (The Guardian, 2014). Other than that women are breaking the concept of gate keeping and entering into field where only men work in the past years for instance women worked in factories, industries but a Feminist Ruth Pearson highlighted that women work were paid low of the same work as men do. It is also observed that males are stubbornly on the top of the industries, on the same passage Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating

Officer of Face-book said that there are many of places in corporate and economic sector where women do not make top position of it (Baheshti, 2020).

Gender analyses has identified that the condition of labor market where usually women working in informal sectors i.e. selling vegetables as vendors which were grown in their own garden, picking cotton in agriculture field, and used stitch clothes which were receive from neighbors and relatives against small sum of money (Ahmed, 2007). There is another circle of about eight million to 10 million women who have operating their micro small businesses which is far fewer than men; however women owned businesses are slowly growing and establishing as compared to men's businesses. It is also reality that many of regions are in the world whose major economies are informal rather formal. Here we have example of South Asia where more than 80 percent of men and women working in the informal sector of the economy, and in Sub-Saharan Africa 74 percent of women and 61 percent of men are working in informal sector (The World Bank, 2022).

It is also noteworthy to mention that women's educational levels are increasing and women at present are on 40 percent of formal employment globally, whereas 43 percent in agriculture labor tasks but these facts are varying from country to country and region to region (UN Women, 2022). Let's discuss the facts of Middle East and North Africa where only 21 percent of women uphold jobs in formal sector during 2010, 71 percent East Asia and the Pacific (The World Bank, 2010). In all such scenarios men employment is more secured and have better income as compared to women in all above mentioned regions.

Previously, the Grant Thornton conducted research globally where they found that women hold 24 percent senior management positions that ratio is quite moving up, similarly around 16 percent of women found in board members in developed countries like G-7 economies however Bric economies that includes Brazil; Russia; India and China had 26 board members; and around 38 percent women found in Baltic region. The reason behind reaching that position is associated with the extended families where family member take care of children and now a day's women become nannies and opened up baby sittings where women leave their children and go to workplace easily (Lagerberg, 2013).

Pashtun society has been less inclined towards education and equal opportunities (women and men). Women in Balochistan are economically, socially, educationally backward in every respect. It is assumed that women

are the best for domestic work and therefore they should stay within the four walls. The overall female literacy rate in Pakistan is around 52% while in Balochistan only 33.5% of women are literate. Due to cultural barriers and non-availability of schools near homes, women are unable to get an education. As far as female labor force in Balochistan is concerned, compared to other evidence, it is the lowest in the country and it is also the lowest in the world (Dawn Newspaper, 2021). The World Bank presented a different and lamenting picture of the scenario of Balochistan's working females. The average value of Baloshistan from 1999 to 2017 was 10 percent hitting a minimum of 9.5% in 1995 and a maximum of 11.93% in 2017(Sami Ullah Kakar, 2022). On the other hand, many sections of the Pashtun community do not believe in patriarchy but like to see women play their role in society and appreciate their reliable companionship in many aspects of life. Now women are contributing equally to men.

## METHODOLOGY

The research examined the socio-economic status of *Balochi* women, in this regard 200 women have been selected from *Lasbela* district of *Balochistan*, however specifically seven *tehsils* of Lasbela i.e. *Hub*, *Dureji*, *Lakhra*, *Sonmiani*, *Uthal*, *Bela* and *Kanraj* have been selected as a population of the study. The reason behind this universe selection is that area has slow pace in regards of socio-economic development however followed by tribes, in such scenario it is considered that women have less regarded in these systems, due to the reason this study has been chosen whereas none of study of this kind had been done in the past. This will help in identifying problems and causes which is hindering women's empowerment process, and with the help of government and non-governmental organizations women's issues will be resolved and ultimately this will upgrade their status in the society.

# RESULTS AND FINDINGS

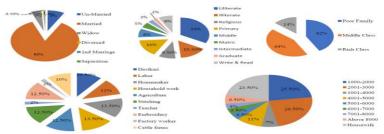


Figure 1: Demographic Characteristic of the Respondents Source: Author's own data

One of demographic profile question is about marital status, in which majority of about 86 percent women respondents are married, 8 percent unmarried, 5 percent widow, 0.5 percent divorced and second marriage of only 0.5 percent respondent. While conducting research, it is unveiled that early marriages are common in Balochitsan due to the reason most of them are married and faced multi challenges in married life (fig 1).

As discussed in literature that the province has lowest rate of education among all other provinces, in such condition around 33 percent of women are illiterate cannot read and write, did not receive any religious studies in their entire life. Only 16 percent women respondents replied that they have completed their primary education, however 15.5 percent women said that they are not illiterate, they have learnt manners, behaviors, can write their names and have basic knowledge about daily routines. Including 9.5 percent peoples are those in the sample who have just taken religious studies in their childhood in Madrassas (religious schools). And very disturbing to share that only eight percent who have studied till Middle class, five percent till Matric, and just two percent women are graduated in the Lasbela district of Balochistan. In addition, eight percent stated that they do not go to school but could read and write basic things. It is a big dilemma that what would be the future of women in this district, women are not receiving proper education, in this situation their children are also suffering especially girls because they do not know the importance of education in their lives (fig 1).

The whole province's economic activities is based on agriculture or farming cattle, no industrial zones because of its geography in such situation people have limited economic opportunities, thus women works are just home-based where they perform stitching and embroidery work usually in which their earnings are less due to the reason majority of respondents about 44 percent of women belong to middle class families, 42 percent are mentioned themselves into poor family category. However only 14 percent have said that they belong to rich class, as these women's counterpart are rich and landlords in the province (fig 1).

The sample comprised of women respondents for the study found to be busy in household chores or in managing households (13.5 percent and 13.5 percent respectively), other than that they have specific working professions rather domestic responsibilities; around 12.5 percent women being involved in *Kashida Kari* (embroidery), 12.5 percent in *Kashtkari* (agriculture work) and 12.5 percent in *Silai Karhai* (stitching) it observed that women are usually being taught all such work while they are in their teen ages as part of household work or have own interest to learn stitching and embroidery work

in leisure. However, few respondents are here which are involved in labor work (11 percent), managing cattle's (10 percent) and just two percent are doing jobs as factory workers in the Lasbela district of Balochistan (fig 1).

As mentioned above that the majority of women were involved in embroidery, stitching and agriculture work so it do not pay much majority of sample has fewer salaries however about one fourth are worked as homemakers in the household. About 26.5 percent of women are earning from 2001 to 3000 rupees (PKR), 25.5 percent earnings are ranging between 1000 to 2000 rupees (PKR), 11 percent earned 4001 to 5000 rupees (PKR), seven percent earned 3001 to 4000 rupees (PKR) and only six percent whose income is more than 8000 rupees (PKR). The income in these price hike and inflation are not enough to bear the expenses but just a little support to household. However the government has fixed minimum 20, 000 rupees salary on monthly basis but due to less recognition of women's work in the economy they have been earning less and nobody raised voice for having equal pay for equal work (fig 1).

Table 1: Frequency distribution of financial status is satisfactory or unsatisfactory

Financial Status	Frequency	%
Satisfactory		
Due to income	34	17%
Brow from relatives	12	6%
Brow from shopkeeper	21	10.5%
Total	67	33.5%
Unsatisfactory		
Not enough earnings	32	16%
Don't work regularly	07	3.5%
Due to inflation	59	29.5%
Due to more expanses	22	11%
Re-payment of borrowed money	13	6.5%
Total	133	66.5%

About one fourth of respondents have informed that their financial status is satisfactory, as 17 percent attributed this satisfaction with their income, 10.5 percent feel satisfactory as they borrow household commodities on credit from shopkeepers and six percent borrow from relatives when money needed. It is weird that women who fulfill their needs by borrowing money is stating they feel satisfactory; because according to them monthly expenses

must be bear in any condition, as children must have two times meals, have clean clothes, and shelter to live, it is enough to feel satisfactory. However, majority one third feels unsatisfactory, about 29.5 percent said that due to inflationary pressures they are living hand to mouth, 16 percent stated that their limited earnings made their financial position down, and remaining are repaying their borrowed money and associated unsatisfactory condition with the increased expenses a well.

# **Socio-Economic Conditions of the Respondents**

Table 2: Women get Treatment while get ill

Treatment	Frequency	%
Yes		
Female doctor	121	60.5%
Hakeem	17	8.5%
Total	138	69%
No		
Relative do not like it	1	0.5%
Counterparts does not allow	3	1.5%
Economic condition does not allow	58	29%
Total	62	31%

To many of them it may be a weird question that to whom women get treatment while get ill, but women existence in patriarchal societies there are so many restrictions and boundaries around which hinder women to move forward even in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, in the district majority of women around 60.5 percent consult with the female doctors only because relatives and male counterparts do not allow women to consult male doctors because it considered shameful due to the reason health indicators are sad including maternal and child mortality rate is higher in the province. Timely medical facilities to women and children may reduce the vulnerability of health sector and reduce mortality rate in the district and province. Other than that another group of 29 percent disclosed that their financial and economic capacity do not allow them to consult doctors due to the reason they treat themselves from home remedies.

Inflation	Frequency	%
Do not have nutritious food	31	15.5%
Basic necessities do not full filled	76	38%
All family members earn	26	13%
Elders do more than one job	31	15.5%
Additional tasks perform at home	36	18%
Total	200	100%

**Table 3: Inflation affects on Women Life** 

In Pakistan, the price hike and inflation over every little and big things have heavy pressure on middle class and poor families while dealing with daily expenses, in this regard 38 percent of women responded that their families are unable to fulfill their basic regular necessities and needs, about 18 percent said that additional tasks have been performed at home by women like stitch clothes at home, manage cleanliness, never buy extra food or commodities, in order to cope up with limited monthly budget. Other groups of women also shared that elder people have to perform more than one job to earn extra money for bearing inflated prices of commodities even under all hardships many of families do not have nutritional food for their children and family.

Table 4: Women adopt profession by choice in the Baloch tradition

Profession	Frequency	%
Yes		
Women are skilled	16	8%
Women are professional	12	6%
Women take vocational training	14	7%
women always search opportunities	8	4%
Total	50	25%
No		
Do not have power to take decision	33	16.5%
Women must live in four walls	55	27.5%
Women perform only domestic work	36	18%
Women take care of all family members	26	12%
Total	150	<b>75%</b>

Majority of respondents have unveiled that women cannot choose her profession by choice as with having many reasons i.e. around 27.5 percent of women informed that they have been compelled to live in four walls of house rather indulge into profession or get into paid work outside the home,

about 18 percent responded that women are only liable to perform domestic chores of household, 16.5 percent briefly explain that women do not have powers to take her decisions or live their according to their own choice. There are few who have responded positively and these are the women who have little education or professionally trained in one of skills and it is informed by few that women are always in search of opportunities, have skills to perform tasks and can join profession of their choice. It is observed the Lasbela district is operating under high male supremacy where women have been controlled by male counterparts and being lived under unstable condition of finance, as majority of women do not allow to work outside the house.

Table 4: Problems that degrades the status of *Baloch* women in society

Social problems	Frequency	%
Norms	77	38.5%
Status	48	24%
Specific tribe	22	11%
Gender division of labor	52	26.5%
Total	200	100%

It is true that there are so many social problems which are hindering women to participate in mainstream development at national level, because 38.5 percent of women informed that social evils i.e. customs, rituals and norms are limiting women to do anything in the society and that customs are early marriages, degrade the status of women who work in the economy, childbearing dedicated to women only, and family responsibilities. However 26.5 percent stated that another social problem is associated to women is gender division of labor that demarcates women into private life and men into public life and massive segregation at workplace. It clearly identifies that paid work is attributed to men and unpaid to women that makes women dependent over men due to financial dominancy, and that condition is also responsible for the sub-ordination of women; such situation makes women status low in the society as a whole.

Problems	Frequency	%
Lack of health facilities	67	33.5%
Women don't have access to social circles	43	21.5%
Women lacks in economic opportunities	34	17%
Lack of mobility due to traditional norms	56	28%
TOTAL	200	100%

Table 5: Problems of women living in Lasbela

The study has investigated about the basic problems women faced in the district, in this regard around 33.5 percent of women expressed that lack of health facilities are the most hindering factor for women as the province has the highest rate of mortality rate during pregnancy or at the time of delivery due to lack of skilled personnel of female midwives in the hospitals. Second basic problem, about 28 percent of women stated that they have mobility issues as they cannot move far from houses without male counterpart according to their traditional norms even when there are in emergency women are not allowed to move on. Around 21.5 percent said that women do not have access to social circles where they can get aware about their due rights from the one who are educated and aware about social policies. According to 17 percent of women their basic problem is about lack of economic opportunities, which may be responsible for the inferior status of women and make them submissive in the society.

Table 6: Economic independence can make women able to take part in decision making

Independence	Frequency	%
Yes		
Increases the financial status of women	53	26.5%
Increases respect of women in society	33	16.5%
Economically wellbeing makes women confident	17	8.5%
Women get economic recognition	22	11%
Total	125	25%
No		
It does not bring any change	18	9%
Women not allowed to participate economically	11	5.5.5%
Women do not participate in decision making	23	11.5%
Economic participation is not for women	23	11.5%
Total	75	75%

Mix responses have been achieved in which 26.5 percent of women responded that their financial status will increase if they become economically independent, 16.5 stated that they will have more respect on the society, another 11 percent said that women get economic recognition and also economic wellbeing makes women confident, the changes will definitely come in the status of women but nobody said that they will be able to take part in decision making at all levels, however 11.5 percent go with no as they thought if women become economically independent still she is unable to participate decision making and another group of 11 percent responded that women even not allowed to work in the economy then it is far more away to take part in decision making. Basically such answers are drawing the status of women in the society that some areas are quite firm while interact them about education or employment opportunities for women that it may bring change; according to women sample of the study responded negatively that nothing could bring change in traditional norms because it has to be followed the same as follows by thousands of years.

Table 7: Skilled women are involved in economic activities

Skilled	Frequency	%
Yes		
From training center	11	5.5%
From factories	10	5%
From workshop/seminars	13	6.5%
From relatives and neighbors	37	18.5%
Total	71	35.5%
No		
Women were already skilled	32	16%
Women learn herself during work	66	33%
Women perform tasks not professional	15	7.5%
Other family members assist women	16	8%
Total	129	75%

Around 33 percent of respondents stated that women who are involved in economic activities are not properly skilled or trained by any institution; however they all have learnt by themselves during work, 18.5 percent were skilled which have been learnt by the relatives and neighbors in their early ages. About 16 percent of women who are at their jobs were already skilled before joining that current job, eight percent of sample also contain such women who worked at their homes and finish their tasks with the help of family members. Other than that there are such women who are not involved

in professional work that required skills, however it could be done by any lay man. Very few who were professionally trained by attending seminars, workshops and also from factories while they worked as employee in specific organizations.

Raise voice	Frequency	%
Through government	8	4%
Through similar habitat people	8	4%
No	184	92%
TOTAL	200	100%

**Table 8: Women raise voice about their problems** 

The frequency distribution has shown that majority of women have unveiled that they cannot raise voice over problems they faced in their daily lives because it is considered shameful when women talk about their problems as male dominancy and discrimination of rights are supposed to be pass on by their cultures which never be questioned by anyone, unfortunately. Other than that, very few women have shared that by the assistance of government this silent mode or mute position of women against oppression can be resolved in society. Few women also support to pressure groups that similar habitat people or women can make their groups and raise voice about problems they faced, but always have fear of society.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The research has been conducted in Lasbela district of Balochistan, where majority of population belongs to Baloch community which has distinct culture and traditions to be followed by masses of the province; this tribe strictly follow the patriarchal system and has customs where men head the family and control over women completely in such situation women do not have control over their lives. Native women of the district never speak against the discriminatory behavior they faced in their daily lives, because the customs and norms have to be followed religiously otherwise that women do not supposed to be "good woman". Women socio-economic conditions are vulnerable in the district because many of times serious health issues occur with women while they are going to deliver babies, unskilled personnel and midwives mishandle the case due to the reason Balochistan province has the highest mortality rate. Even lack of education among girls and women observed, and there are no economic opportunities for women as most of women are just involved in domestic chores and remaining are engaged in homebased work that includes stitching, embroidery and embellishment work. The situation needs to be improved with the inclusion of government and community based organizations for rehabilitation of women's condition of the district.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Electronic and print media can be counterproductive in campaigning against the discriminatory tribal norms, exactly not to target the tribe but to bring attention over women related matters which creates awareness regarding women's.
- The government of Pakistan should allocate handsome amount in fiscal year budget for the purpose of women's equality in the district of Lasbela.
- There must be separate allocation for girl's schools under Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) and strict implication over sending every girl child to schools.
- The Ministry of Health, Government of Pakistan that to establish nearer dispensaries and hospitals with increased numbers of female doctors in the district.
- The provincial government must establish vocational centers for Information Technology (IT), Computer courses, compilation of database, advanced trainings related to textiles, stitching and embroidery through machines, midwives proper course.

### REFERENCES

- Ahmad, M., Nawab, K., Zaib, U., & Khan, I. (2007). Role of women in beget able production: a case study of flour selected villages of district Abbottabad, *Sarhad J. Agric*. Vol. 23, No. 4, p. 1174.
- Aurat Foundation. (2017). Sustainable Development Goal 4: A Legislative and Policy Gap Analysis for Balochistan, Aurat Foundation Publication, Islamabad.
- Baheshti, Naz. (2020). Facebok's Sheryl Sandberg says employers must "lean In" to protect women's workforce gains, The Forbes, retrieve from https://www.forbes.com/sites/nazbeheshti/2020/10/06/facebooks-sheryl-sandberg-says-employers-must-lean-in-to-protect -womens-workforce-gains/?sh=34e0e85061e3 on May 1, 2022.

- Basu, Soumita, Kirby, Paul & Shapherd, Laura. (2020). *New direction in women, peace and security,* Bristol University press, Britain, p. 45.
- Bhardwaj, P. (2005). *Gender Discrimination: The Politics of women empowerment*, Anamica Publishers, India, p. (n).
- Bruce, Susan & Smiths, Katherine. (2015). Feminist moments: Reading Feminist Texts, Bloomsbury academic, New York, P. (n).
- Chamorro-Premuzic, Tomas, Stumm, Sophie & Fumham. (2015). *The Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Individual Differences*, Wiley Balckwell, UK, p. 386.
- Consultation on National Policy for Home-based Workers in Pakistan. (2015). Women's Employment Concerns and Working Conditions in Pakistan, Islamabad, p. XXV
- Faruqi, F., Nizami, I. & Sarfaraz, H. (2020). End-term project evaluation: Economic Empowerment of Women Home-Based Workers and Excluded Groups in Pakistan, UNWomen Publication, Islamabad, p. 12.
- Haight, W., Taylor, E., & Soffer-Elnekave, R. (2020). *Human behavior for social work practice: a developmental-ecological framework*, Oxford University Press, USA, p. 400.
- Hassan, Nizam. (2020). Why is the female literacy rate in Balochistan the lowest in the world? Global Village Space publisher, Pakistan, p. (n).
- International Labor Organization. (2015). Recognizing and supporting home-based workers: South Asian Regional
- Joseph, Anthony. (2012). *Opening the Pandora's Box of Religion: An Essay*, p. 93.
- Khan, S. & Mazari, Imaan. (n.d.). *Pakistan's International Human Rights Obligations: Training Module for Capacity Building*, the research society of international law, Pakistan, p. 18.
- Klugman, J., Hanmer, L., & Twigg, S. (2014). *Voice and Agency: Empowering women and girls for shared prosperity*, World Bank Publication, Washington, p. 15
- Lagerberg, Francesca. (2013). Women in senior management, International Business report by Grant Thornton. Retrieve from

- https://www.grantthornton.global/en/insights/articles/women-in-business-2013/ on May 1, 2022.
- Michaeli, Inna. (2022). Women's Economic Empowerment: Feminism, Neoliberalism and the
- O'Sullivan, Catherine. (2005). Reshaping herbal medicine: Knowledge, education and professional culture, Elsevier, USA, p. 92.
- Palermo, G. & Farkas, M. (2013). *The Dilemma of the Sexual Offender*, Charles Thomas Publisher, USA,p. 38.
- Plain, Gill & Sellers, Susan. (2007). *A history of feminist literary criticism*, Cambridge university Press, New York, p. 105.
- Rai, Shirin & Waylen, Georgina. (2013). *New Frontier in Feminist Political Economy*, Routledge, New York, p. 22
- State, Springer International Publishing, USA, p. (n).
- The Guardian. (September 14, 2014). Women are better off today, but still far from being equal with men. Retrieve from https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/sep/29/women-better-off-far-from-equal-men on May 1, 2022.
- The World Bank. (2010). Middle East and North Africa: Women in the workforce. Retrieve from https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2010/03/10/middle-east-and-north-africa-women-in-the-workforce on May 1, 2022.
- The World Bank. (2022). Female entrepreneurship resource point introduction and module 1: why hgender matters. Retrieve from https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/gender/publication/female-entrepreneurship-resource-point-introduction-and-module-1-whygender-matters on May 1, 2022.
- United Nations. (2019). World Population prospects 2019: Highlights, United Nations Publication, Geneva, p. (n).
- UNOP. (2018). Balochistan: Girls drop out of school at alarming rate, Underrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization Publication, retrieve from https://unpo.org/article/20554#:~:text=The%20 literacy%20rate%20of%20Baloch,or%20after%20getting%20prim ary%20education on May 10, 2022.

- UNOP. (2018). Balochistan: The Struggle of Educated Women to Find Jobs, Underrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization Publication, retrieve from https://unpo.org/article/21171 o nMay 12, 2022.
- UNWomen. (2022). Facts and Figures, United Nation Publication, retrieve from https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures on May 1, 2022.
- Dawn Newspaper. (13 june, 2021). Women in Balichistan,, retrieve from https://www.dawn.com/news/1629102 on December 25, 2022.
- Sami Ullah Kakar. (2022). Women Empowerment in Balochistan, retrieved from https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/09/17/women-empowerment-inbalochistan/ on January 1, 2023