SACHET Newsletter
AGEHI AGEHI Resource Center
SACHET is a Multidimensional NGO Promoting Human Development in Pakistan with Gender Perspective
ISSUE 8
Spring - Summer 2004
Promoting positive dialogue

Men's Special

Advocates of Gender, Education & Health Information

INSIDE

2. Comment
3. Comment
4. Exclusive
5. Exclusive
6. Special
7. AGEHI News
8. AGEHI News

Editorial

It takes two

It takes two. For years many family planning programs forgot that. Men represent half the world's population, but account for less than one-third of contraceptive use. The exclusive emphasis on women in family planning programs not only burdened women with the risk and responsibilities of contraception but also discouraged the male responsibilities in planned parenthood. Ignoring this "inevitable gender" (provided one does not take notice of CLONING) also resulted in ignoring the potential offered by the male methods.

Prior to the introduction of oral birth control pills for females in 1960, the methods of contraception were Withdrawal, Condoms and Periodic Abstinence and Diaphragm. These methods mostly required male compliance and cooperation.

The sexual revolution and subsequent development of sophisticated contraceptives led to the female-focused programs often to the extent of "exclusion of men". What is exactly meant by male involvement in Family Planning (FP)? Raising of this question invites more arguments than answers. These days a lot of clatter and clamor is being raised about the terminology for the male role in FP and Reproductive Health (RP) in general. Is it involvement, participation, responsibility, partnership and so on and so forth?

Literature does not provide any concise definition of male involvement in FP yet, but looking at the literature and at the topics that appear to be most relevant, a plausible definition could be like this: Male involvement in FP includes an interest of men in FP issues (indicated by their knowledge about it), a positive attitude toward it (indicated by acceptance or approval), willingness to share responsibility for it (indicated by actual adoption) and a willingness to share the power of decision making (indicated by them being prepared to discuss it with their spouses). Further men, who are also called gatekeepers because of the many powerful societal roles they play, bear an additional responsibility of influencing RH behaviour and decision in general. In their different roles men can control access, health policy, information and services, finances, transport, communications and public opinion.

In Pakistani society where men enjoy supremacy in nearly all the spheres of everyday life, this also pertains to FP. However, the killer assumption of women's supremacy in fertility and contraceptive use has led to a general downplaying and often neglect of men's role in studies of FP and fertility. For an understanding of FP and SRH in Pakistan it is inevitable to understand the knowledge, attitudes, practice and decision-making by the inevitable gender i.e. Men.

Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen

Selected Gender Development Indicators of South Asian Countries

Country	Gender Related Development Index (GDI) (Rank)	Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) (Rank)	Human Development Index (HDI) (Rank)	Human Poverty Index (HPI) (Rank)
Pakistan	120	58	144	65
India	103	-	127	53
Bangladesh	112	68	139	72
Srilanka	80	67	99	34
Nepal	119	-	143	70

Source: Human Development Report 2003

AGEHI RESOURCE CENTER
ENGENDERING Development

Editor
Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen
Managing Editor
Saleemullah Baig
Communication Coordinator
Irum Nawaz Janjua

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It was another conference which I was attending. It was a big and prestigious event. The one indicator defining these two characters(big + prestigious) was the subtle but immense sense of pride among the invitees. Afterall anybody who was somebody qualified the unwritten and unsaid eligibility criteria and was ultimately put on the guests list. The agenda of the conference was matching with its mammoth matchlessness. It encompassed Socio-economic Development, Democracy,Governance and the latest block buster gender issues including Peace.

I like all other civil society colleagues,also, experienced a unique sense of achievement and an undefined but definite sense of pride . The only sense of discomfort,however,was caused by some questions that sizzled through the corridors of my restless mind. I could not answer them then. I do not have any answers even now. But then I could not voice them. Now I am sharing them with all of you.

- What is the objective of converting the converted?
- Is there unintended cultivation and promotion of Civil Elitism? If yes, then why and where it would lead to? If No then why some vital groups who could really make a difference are Excluded from such events?
- Isn`t civil elitism a sophisticated and apparently benign expression of Patriarchy?

January 2004

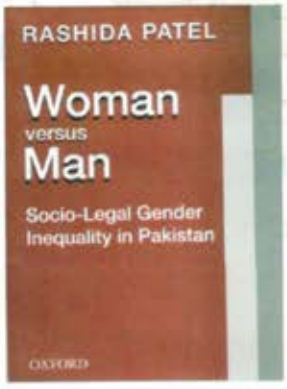
Rathshinday

From the book shelf of the editor

Woman versus Man

Socio-legal Gender Inequality in Pakistan

Rashida Patel



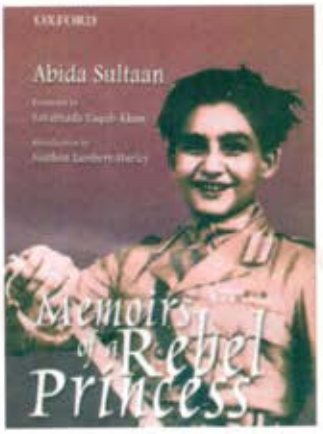
The book is set against a backdrop of the everyday cycle of happiness and sorrow experienced by common people of Pakistan, in particular its women. The laws and legal confrontation between the sexes have been ably portrayed. The author discusses gender disputes, economic disparities, legal and social inequities. The culture of violence and crimes against women is illustrated with real cases. Quotations from the Quran are used to illustrate the just and equitable spirit of Islamic laws, but along with this the author discusses the ways in which these laws have been misinterpreted and distorted. Recommendations and remedies with a road map for change in the economic, social and legal environment of the country add to the value of the book. Eminently readable and containing several case studies and real life examples the book is essential reading for all thinking women in Pakistan.

In my activities as a lawyer and social worker...I have came across several women who have been hurt. Their silent, voiceless suffering of callous injustices aroused my emotions. I felt a strong need to analyse the situation and the manner in which justice and equity, both social and legal, can change women's lives.

I was moved to write this book as I felt I had the advantage of education, knowledge and experience to present the related issues through this book.

Memoirs of a Rebel Princess

Abida Sultaan



Princess Abida Sultaan was a unique and extraordinary personality. Unique because she remains the only ruler or heir of a major Indian princely state to have migrated from India to Pakistan-sacrificing a life of comfort and security in pursuit of her ideals. Extraordinary because she was a woman of remarkable qualities and paradoxes. Her autobiography spans the glittering era of the princely states, in which Bhopal was second only to Hyderabad in importance among Muslim states, the end of the British Raj, and the emergence of Pakistan as a sovereign state. The center piece-of the book is her decision to sacrifice her roots and heritage to migrate to Pakistan where she lived in frugal and straitened circumstances in pursuit of Jinnah's ideals.

The book begins with her austere childhood in Bhopal where her illustrious grandmother, Sultan Jahan Begum, the fourth consecutive ruler of Bhopal, instilled in her the values of Islam and of spotless integrity. Silently, the conservative Begum also encouraged Abida to be independent and to excel over her male cousins and acquaintances in the tradition of Bhopal's famous Begums. As heir apparent, she helped her father in administering the state and also witnessed, first hand, the gradual demise of the princely states as the British Raj ended. Princess Abida also records her agonizing decision to leave her family and roots that stretched back fourteen generations to migrate to Pakistan with her only son, Shaharyar Mohammad Khan.

Life in Pakistan forms the second half of the memoirs. She became Pakistan's ambassador to Brazil, and entered the political arena by supporting Miss Fatima Jinnah's campaign against a military dictatorship. Throughout her life she remained a committed democrat and humanist, and continued her crusade against bigotry and the violation of human and democratic rights. This autobiography challenges the portrayal of Muslim Women as silent, secluded, and oppressed. Princess Abida Sultaan's memoirs will help in removing widespread misconceptions concerning the status of women in Islam.

Movie Review

What Women Want

Directed by: Nancy Meyers
Written by: Josh Goldsmith & Cathy Yuspa.
Ranking: worth watching
Cast: Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt, Marisa Tomei, Lauren Holly & Alan Alda.

Mel Gibson stars as Nick Marshall, an Ad executive who thinks he's next in line for the top job at his Chicago agency. But his boss passes him over for Darcy Maguire (Helen Hunt). Nick declares war against her. When a freak bathtub electrocution endows Nick with the ability to hear women's thoughts, he sets out to employ his new power to unseat his rival by stealing Darcy's best ideas from her mind. It's a dirty trick but he's ambitious and shameless.

He is also a man who needs to listen to women more. We learn he was reared in Las Vegas as the pampered child of a showgirl, and has been doted by admiring females ever since including, recently, Lora (Marisa Tomei), who works in the coffee store he patronizes. At work, two assistants approve categorically of everything he does, but mind reading reveals they never think about this. Many of the other women in the office, he is horrified to learn, pretend to like him but don't. His power to listen what women want makes him the only man on earth, the luckiest man who could understand what exactly women want and make them feel good by using his capabilities positively and this is what Nick does and it works. With his behavior he changes women's opinion about him. And it makes him a wonderful person who starts taking care of every woman's feelings. By reading Darcy's mind, he falls in love with her, now he knows how creative, intelligent and sensitive she is. This makes him feel that she deserved the job which he didn't. It's a wonderful thing to watch a man admitting that.

This movie is full of entertainment, from the first scene till the end. What women want is simple, a man willing to listen when they are speaking to him and just understand them; this is what we learn from this film. This shows, if a man just tries to explore how women feel, think and what exactly women want, he will surely fall in love with her. The director has conveyed this message in a very light, humorous yet an effective way .I would like to quote Nick's dialogue which he delivered at the end of the movie which I think is the core line that **it's not easy to be a woman as it looks, now I know how difficult it is.** No doubt about it, yes it is very difficult to be a woman. A single man who would read women's mind just for few days felt that, wish every single man in this world could too.

By Amina Akram

Her Story

I hail from an educated and literary background implying that I am an "intellectual elite".Contray to my father's desire of earning a degree in English literature and becoming a University teacher I opted to be a medical doctor because not only I was deeply impressed by the spirit of this profession but also I was convinced that the literature would lose nothing and I can keep my interest in art still intact and alive.

I started my practical life as an idealist. I wanted to serve the entire serving humanity without charging even a token penny and continue like that until I breathe my last.However, soon I realized the difference between reality and idealism. That realization made me switched from clinical medicine to community Medicine or Public Health where I can use communication in different artistic expressions. A number of multi-level exposures and experiences enabled me to become a student of life. In spite of being a recipient of loses gained because of gender discrimination, unjust societal norms and systems my dreams are not bruised.

Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen

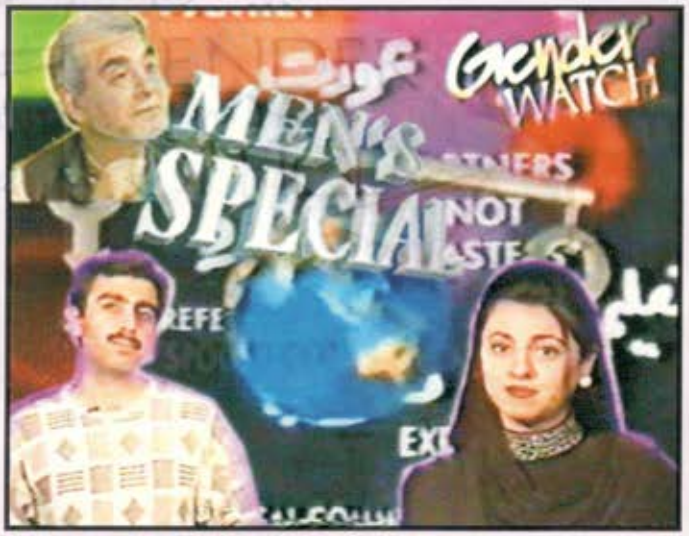
Gender Watch

Men's Special

A 19 episode TV magazine show- First advocacy project under the training program of SACHET initiated in October 1999 was an effort to create awareness among classes on Gender related issues.

"Men's Special" is the fifth episode of Gender Watch which was aired in Nov 1999. It was very interesting, unique and was related to issues spread all around but never talked about. In the history of electronic media, it was the first time that such type of a program went on air.

In a nut shell, it had peculiar concern with difficulties, joys and feelings of men. Where queries such as Are men also the victims of Gender Discrimination? Why are their problems not being discussed? were brought up.



INTERVIEW

Mr. Ali Murtaza - Brand Manager

Post Paid Mobilink
Has been working in the corporate sector for the last six years.

Q.1 What do you think about harassment at work place in your sector?
Ans. I can tell you what ever I have experienced, I have been very fortunate to work with companies which give equal opportunity to their employees whether they are male or female. Here the environment is quite open so I have not really come across any such issue in my career but there are things you hear about and it prevails in a large scale in Pakistan. But I feel that in corporate sector especially in multinational companies its not that powerful, the frequency or ratio would be lesser than what you would experience in some other local organizations.

Q. 2 Why do men harass women?
Ans. One of the reason what I think can be is that life is becoming really fast, you work late hours till 9'o'clock or 10' o' clock. So when you work late hours, it is very difficult to balance your family and office work and frustration tends to build up.

Q. 3 What role can men play in women empowerment?
Ans. Here I would like to give you the example of Lever. In lever the female ratio is higher and they are recruiting more and more, they have specialized programs which are catering women and training them and also identifying their needs e.g. if there is a married woman and has to go for maternity leave the company would grant 6 months and even a year or so in some exceptional cases. In the corporate sector certain policies are designed for women to do with their personal lives.

Q. 4 Any message for the youth.
Ans. They should be focused about what they plan to do, should have clear defined objectives and one of the most important thing one can do to your own self is never ever compromise on values. Live for a cause that what is important.

Mr. Khawaja Kamran - DJ

Has been in the media sector for 5 years and is working at FM 101.

Q.1 What do you think about harassment at work place in your sector?
Ans. In my point of view, any verbal or physical act which irritates the other person is harassment. You can not just blame men for harassment because it's both sided; it is something which happens with mutual consent. Women in media do it purposely it may be to get famous or to get some kind of favour.

Q. 2 Why do men harass women?
Ans. Again I would say the same thing that women can not be completely ruled out. The way they dress, carry themselves, their body language all matters. Without female involvement harassment is not possible. Percentage may be less of those who cover themselves properly. The more liberal you get with your co workers the more they would take you for granted, it is up to you to set your limitations. One of the reasons can be working late night shifts with your male co-workers.

Q.3 What role can men play in women empowerment?
Ans. Men should start from their own home, your sister, mother, wife and daughter, give them their space let them move in the society, give them confidence in themselves and you should have confidence in them. Discuss and share things with them.

Q. 4 Any message for the youth.
Ans. You should carry yourself in the office in a way that when you see yourself in the mirror you think of positive things. Don't sacrifice to other's demands, be focused about your goals and never take short cuts.

ASP Salman Ali Khan - Civil Servant

Joined Civil Services of Pakistan in Police Group in early 2002. He is currently posted as ASP Cantt Abbottbad.

Q.1 What do you think about harassment at work place in your sector?
Ans. In our sector though harassment is prevalent but is less reported and if you ask me about it I think that women usually misuse it for their own ulterior motives. They know that they would be listened and in the end men would be blamed even if they are innocent. We have to be very careful while talking to any women coworkers we have no close door meetings with them. You can not just blame men for it actually both sides are to be blamed. In Police Department actions taken against women are less severe; there are policies for women such as they can get off duty earlier, they can get the car facility easily. Well if you ask me I think that in Cooperate sector the level of harassment is much higher than in any other sector.

Q. 2 Why do men harass women?
Ans. Here again I would say that women are equally to be blamed the way they dress, their body language everything should be taken in to account. The percentage is less in women who observe purdah, though they too are harassed but it's not in a high percentage.

Q. 3 What role can men play in women empowerment?
Ans. Empowerment cannot come in a day or two it's a slow and a gradual process. Education can play a vital role in

women empowerment if we let our women get educated it can be a major step and we can start it from our own homes.

Q. 4 Any message for the youth.
Ans. If you want to bring a change in the society start it from individual effort don't ever give up hope, be strong and focused about your goals and treat women with respect.

Mohsin Kamal - Medical Student

Did his O' & A' Levels from "Aitchison College" Lahore and is currently studying Medicine.

Q. 1 In which sector there is more harassment (Media, Government, Private Sector) and why is it prevalent at such a large scale?
Ans. I think private sector is the one in which women have to face the hardships of harassment. First and the foremost thing is that, in private sector men can't see women on high posts and due to jealousy they harass them. In private sector mostly women are not a dominating factor, so they ought to work under the rules of men; who may be their boss in any department either school, industry, office etc. So in private sector harassment is prevalent at a large scale.

Q. 2 Why do men harass Women?
Ans. women were generally "Characterized" as being "the weaker vessel" and men as their natural guardians/protectors or simply overloads. Thus, when men feel, in some situation that there manlihood -- the social criteria for judging man is threatened; they react to it by being oppressive and domineering. Imagine a woman working in a company, deserving and achieving success through her hard work, I am sure she would be singled out and discriminated by her male co-workers for being better than them. This thinking should be abolished.

Q. 3 What role can men play in women empowerment?
Ans. More than men, it is women who as mothers and sisters must help their sons and brothers to realize that all women and not just relatives are worthy of respect. Husbands and brothers should be more encouraging. Most importantly, it is the fathers who must treat their sons and daughters equally and be there constant moral support.

Q. 4 Any message for the youth.
Ans. As schoolmates, peers, team members or co-workers, youth--- boys, girls, young men and women--- can show that cooperation between the "opposite" sexes is not only possible, but naturally more beneficent compared to all-male or all-female fellowships.

SACHET a Partner in EC/UNFPA's Project RHIYA

The Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIYA) is the Consolidation phase of an earlier programme, called the Reproductive Health Initiative in Asia (RHI). The regional end line evaluation of the RHI has shown the necessity to concentrate further action on more focused targets groups and in particular on young people in the seven countries of the programme (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao, PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam).

The second phase of this programme, or RHIYA, is considered a consolidation of RHI. Three NGO projects, targeting mainly the adolescent/youth ranging between 15 -24 years and interventions designed for Government Health, Population and Education Departments, NGO, CBO and parents, teachers religious and community leaders young people, will be implemented in five RHIYA districts namely Kohat in North West Frontier Province, Killa Saifullah in Baluchistan, Chakwal in Punjab, Jacobabad in Sindh and District Muzaffarabad in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Projects have started implementation as of 1 st April 2004.

SACHET is among three of the Implementing NGO's in Pakistan. SACHET's main forte would be Advocacy in this project.
SACHET would implement this project in Chakwal district with direct intervention in 10 union Councils by opening 20 youth friendly centers, 10 for young boys and 10 for girls.

The RHIYA Programme aims to improve the reproductive health status of young people between 15-24 years of age in- and out-of-school from both urban and rural areas with a special attention to gender equity in the reproductive health education and services activities.

By Saleemmullah Baig
Director Programs SACHET

A visit of Willma Gopel (Middle) (RHIYA Program Coordinator) and Dr. Poonam Mazhar (Left) (RHIYA Pakistan Coordinator) to Chakwal on 21st May '04 organised by SACHET.

UNEDITED

For this very special issue we conducted a perception survey on issues like Dowry, AIDS etc, Some really brave MEN volunteered to disclose their identities as well as Utter Truth nothing but the Truth. We are really thankful to them. *(Editor)*

Facilitator's name: *Muzafar Iqbal*

Dowry

What is your concept about Dowry, is it a bad practice?

M. Ajmal **Age: 24 year**

No, it is an expression of love with the daughter, if the head of the family can afford it he must give dowry to his daughter and if can't then he should not. But it should be seen that this practice should not affect the relationship, happiness and environment of the family. Parents should also analyze their economic status, can they fulfill the needs of the rest of the children. The girls who bring minimum dowry are more dependent upon their husbands and posses low status in their husband's family.

M. Jaffar Ali **Age: 23 year**

Dowry is not a bad practice because our Holy Prophet (PBUH) also gave dowry to Hazrat Fatima to fulfill the basic domestic needs. But this practice should not be misused and not become the matter of Ego e.g. demand for Fridge, T.V should be stopped.

Shehzad Hussain **Age: 23 year**

Parents should give dowry to their daughter according to their economic status. It is the desire of parents that when their daughter goes to a new set up she can fulfill her needs easily and they think that it is a great edge to their daughter regarding her marital life.

M. Zubair **Age: 25 year**

Pakistan is a patriarchal society and man is often viewed as suppressive. Brothers also expect and want property part of their sisters for themselves. When men get married they do not give "Mehar" to their wives that is legal practice. Where as women are always oppressive.

M. Ashfaq **Age: 23 year**

Dowry is a social evil but on practical basis it is a part of our culture. The parents, who can afford, do this practice. Mostly parents think that dowry will provide easiness and comfort to their daughter for her marital life. My parents also gave the part of property to my sisters in the form of dowry.

Majeed Niazi **Age: 24 year**

Dowry is not a bad practice, it should be given to daughter for their financial and domestic support.

M. Amir **Age: 23 year**

This is a social evil. When a girl gets married she must bring huge quantity of dowry, if she is not able to then she has to hear the remarks like "جہیز میں کیا لے کے آئی ہے". We care more as to what would the society say, we don't see what our pocket can afford but what people would say matters to us a lot.

AIDS

What do you know about AIDS?

M. Ajmal **Age: 24 year**

AIDS is a fatal disease due to excessive sexual and unlawful relationship.

M. Jaffar Ali **Age: 23 year**

AIDS is a disease which spreads through illegal practices.

Shehzad Hussain **Age: 23 year**

AIDS is a fatal and dangerous disease and spreads through legal as well as illegal means.

M. Zubair **Age: 25 year**

AIDS is not a natural disease it is created by men. It is the war of germs due to undue laboratory experimentation and inhuman practices.

Majeed Niazi **Age: 24 year**

AIDS is a dangerous disease that spreads through blood transfusion and sexual intercourse.

M. Ashfaq **Age: 23 year**

AIDS is a disease that spreads through sexual relations, untested blood and syringes.

M. Amir **Age: 23 year**

AIDS is a disease which spreads through blood and sexual relationships.

What's New:
Fight Against Dowry (FAD) book is published.
To get a copy please contact AGEHI Resource Center
SACHET, Park Road, F-8 Markaz, Islamabad
Tel # 2851605, 2851608

AGEHI NEWS

Dec. 2003 - May 2004

EDUCATION PROGRAM-SACHET

- Under Adopt a School Project books were distributed among the needy students of the Federal Government Adopted School SCDP Shadrah & Banigala (Lakhwal).
- Computer Certificates Distribution Ceremony was organized on March 30, 2004 under Learn to Earn Project of SACHET Education Program at SCDP Gagri. A total of 65 students (10 female & 55 male) got certificates on completion of different computer courses. About 140 people (male: 96, female: 44) from the community participated in the ceremony.
- Under **Learn to Earn Project**, a total of 13 students 8 males and 5 females got enrolled in different computer courses at SACHET Computer Training Center, SCDP Gagri.
- Four students under **Dr. A. Q. Khan Scholarship Project**, two male (1 from Islamabad, doing Bachelors in Engineering, 1 from Rawalpindi, doing MBA) & 2 females (1 of Class 6 from Bharakahu, & 1 of F.A, from SCDP Shadarah) were provided scholarships during Jan.-March 2004.The duration for which scholarships were provided was 2 years for both male students, 8 months & 2 years for females respectively.
  Email: education@sachet.org.pk

HEALTH PROGRAM-SACHET

- A free Family Planning Camp was organized by Health Program SACHET at Pathar Garh Clinics (Attock) in collaboration with Green Star Social Marketing Pakistan on 1st April'04.
- A Pollen Allergy Camp was organized at Aabpara Islamabad from 22nd March '04 to 26th March '04 by ICT Administration in collaboration with SACHET, PIMS, NIH, FGS Hospital, DHO Islamabad.
- In collaboration with Regional Training Institute (Ministry of Population Welfare) Islamabad in March'04, 1 female Medical Officer of SACHET was trained in Family Planning Methods by Green Star Social Marketing Pakistan.
- From January 1st- March 30th 2004 Health Program SACHET under its Nutrition Initiative project organized 4 free nutrition/medical camps in F.G Schools (Boys/Girls) of Shahdra Village (Islambad) along with awareness session with mothers on nutrition for children and general health care.
- On January 26th '04 Health Program in collaboration with Family Planning Association of Pakistan organized a session on the "Importance of Counseling in Family Planning" for the staff of SACHET Health Program.
- A Family Planning Camp at Pathar Garh Village (Attock) was organized by Health Program-SACHET in January, February, March, April & May '04 in collaboration with Green Star Social Marketing Pakistan.
- In collaboration with Regional Training Institute (Ministry of Population Welfare) Islamabad in January, February'04 2 female Medical Officers of SACHET were trained in Family Planning Methods.
- Health Program organized a free medical camp at Pind Jatlan Village (Islamabad/Rawalpindi) in collaboration with District Health Office Islamabad and Rawalpindi tehsil administration in January '04.
- A **Nutrition Camp** was organized in one of the adopted schools of SCDP Shadrah in collaboration with SACHET Health Program on Jan. 12, 2004.
  Email: health@sachet.org.pk

TRAINING PROGRAM-SACHET

- From 28th -30th May 2004, FAD (Fight Against Dowry) Focal Point from NWFP attended a three day capacity building workshop on Muslim Family Laws Problems and Reform Required at Swat organized by Aurat Foundation.
- From 28th -29th May 2004, Communication Coordinator-AGEHI Resource Center-SACHET attended a two day capacity building workshop on Gender & Governance organized by Mubariza Network.
- From 25th 27th May 2004, Two of SACHET team members attended a 3 day training workshop on Communication Skills by Akhtar Hameed Khan National Center for Rural Development & MA.
- On March 26th 2004, a video screening session was held under in-house Capacity Building Project, on plight of street children for SACHET staff.
- In February 2004, Training Program has recruited 5 interns under its Capacity Building Project for Interns to train them in different areas of administration, finance, research and advocacy.
- Under its promotional activities, SACHET participated in Mela organized by Mubariza Network on March 8th 2004 in connection with international women day by displaying SACHET Gallery products and IEC material (message bags etc).
- From December 6th -7th 2003, SACHET Gallery participated in 2 day exhibition *"All About Lifestyles"* organized by the DAWN group of Newspapers at Convention Center Islamabad. In this exhibition more than 175 National and International organizations including SACHET exhibited their products.
- SACHET participated in Literature Exhibition of SDPI in its 6th Sustainable Development Conference from Dec 11th 13th 2003 at Holiday Inn, Islamabad. SACHET displayed its advocacy material.
  Email: training@sachet.org.pk

FAD (FIGHT AGAINST DOWRY)

- On 30th January '04 a seminar on "Dowry" was conducted in Jacobabad (Sindh) by Mr. Ghuram Ali Khoso (President

Sofi Sachal Sarmast Welfare Association Tangwani) focal person of FAD Advocacy Network. People from different walks of life participated in the seminar, it was the first advocacy seminar on "Dowry" in the history of Jacobabad.

- AGEHI Theatre Group performed a theatre play by using a different and unique technique of Shadow Play with the name of "Hum Dehkain Gein" on National Women's Day' 2004 in the seminar organized by Mubariza Network. The play tried to highlight the spiral of women specific discriminatory laws of our society. More than 300 people participated in the event.
- AGEHI Resource Center, under its 5 year advocacy project FAD-Fight Against Dowry, organized an evening on December 18th, 2003 with Ms. Kishwar Naheed, a renowned women activist, writer and poetess in the form of an interactive session on her new book "Buri Aurat Kay Khatoot Nazaida Beti Kay Naam". The book is in the form of letters which she has written over a span of years to her unborn daughter. In this book she has covered nearly all gender issues like sexual harassment, violence, discriminatory laws, dowry, dowry violence etc. in a very informative yet moving manner. With an enthusiastic audience consisting of civil society, media, govt officials, youth and people from different walks of life, the talk was followed by an interesting question answer session.

Email: fad@sachet.org.pk

POVERTY ALLEVIATION CUM INCOME GENERATION PROGRAM (PACIG)

- From January to March 2004, SACHET Gallery organized two exhibitions, one Slate Work Exhibition by Muhammad Illyas from Mansehra which was the first exhibition of its kind in Islamabad and another was painting exhibition by Aleem Dad Khan from Hunza.
- From January to March 2004, 15 girls received crafts training of three month under Skill Development Project.
- On March 8th 2004 SACHET Gallery participated in Mela organized by Mubariza Network in connection with International Women's Day by displaying its products and IEC material.
- On April 10th 2004, a certificate distribution ceremoney was held under Skill Development Project at SACHET Vocational Training center Pinyali. Certificates were awarded to 57 trainees on completion of three months vocational course.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- National Commission for the Status of Women launched Hudood Ordinance Report on Jan. 24th '04 at Auditorium, National Library, Islamabad.
- A one day meeting on April 14th '04 in Islamabad was organized by Shirkat Gah to further the process of Beijing +10 review framework by sharing an update on the review process and regional /global NGO deliberations proposing Alternative Strategies.
- A Poster on the Case Study on "Teachers Training on HIV/AIDS -Investing in Future", was presented by SACHET at 4th Annual Population Research Conference 2003, held in Faislabad (9-11 Dec'03), organized by Population Association of Pakistan.
- Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen facilitated a session "Role of Interpersonal Communication in Public Health" in a Training of Trainers (Dec 29'2003-January 11'2004) held at Islamabad, organized jointly by SAARC TB Centre Khatmando , Nepal and National TB Control Program Pakistan.
- Bonded Labour Research Forum in collaboration with Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Government of Pakistan & International Labour Organization (ILO) launched a report "Rapid Assessment Studies of Bonded Labour in Different Sectors in Pakistan"2004. The report throws light on the nature and significance of bonded labour in Pakistan.

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Founded in September 2000 by Dr. Rakhshinda Perveen, AGEHI is an acronym standing for Advocates of Gender, Education and Health Information. AGEHI, itself is an Urdu word bearing meanings like Knowledge, Awareness, Perception and Insight. It is meant to Advocate for Gender Sensitization, Education and Health Promotion by disseminating Information, Networking and Research on Gender issues.