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Available Pro-Women Laws in Sindh-Pakistan; Period of Enactment Explored Between 2010 to 2022

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Abstract

After the democratic process reinstatement in Pakistan, since 2008, many pro-women laws have been enacted by National and Provincial Assemblies, and among all, the Sindh Assembly has proven more enlightened in this context. These laws were meant to improve women and girls' conditions in Pakistan but the indicators of women's progress showed not much improvement, particularly for rural women/girls Pakistan persisted in bottom countries in Gender Gap Index even some surveys claimed Pakistan is least protected for its women population. In this situation, these law's execution and challenges in the implementation of these laws are significant subjects to explore so the evidence could be generated to bring improvement in this process. This study is a step to explore and provide updated information on services for women's rights. It examined laws enacted from 2010 to 2022, their implications, and the structures in place for women's protection. The findings reveal that around fifteen laws directly protect girls and women. However, some structures, like rules of business and district-level committees, are not fully operational despite being notified. This hinders the implementation of laws to protect girls due to the absence of rules or lack of interest from relevant departments.

Keywords: Rights, Protection, Women Friendly, Parliament, Laws.

Introduction

Laws are those essential tools that a society needs to follow to bring about a positive social change and maintain equilibrium in society (Eldridge, 2023). The process of evolving Pakistani Society has been underway and the 1973 Constitution provides a base through which the status of each citizen has been constituted. Article 25 of the 1973 Constitution declares that every citizen is protected through this law by ensuring equality among all citizens, irrespective of gender, race, or ethnicity (Bernauer et al., 2014). Furthermore, Article 35 underscores the need for safeguarding marriage, family, women, and children. After the realization of many factors that are hurdles in protecting women and girls' rights, some laws have been formulated in the past decade and still the process of reformation for these laws is continuing. As the process of overcoming implementation challenges and creating mechanisms and structures to ensure the provision of these laws is ongoing therefore it is important to explore resources in place for them and the access to justice for women and girls under these laws varies (Colleen, 2014). The 2017 Census indicates that women constitute 48.76%1 of Pakistan's population (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2017). However, the status of women in

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Pakistan differs based on factors such as social classes, communities, Littlejohn (1972), and the rural/urban divide Aftab (2020), but on the Gender Parity Index Pakistan falls on 151st Number out of 153 Countries as per 2020 Global WEF Index (WEF, 2020). Many interventions have been made to upgrade the women and girls' status in Pakistan especially in areas of economic, health, and education to improve women's rights and enhance their social status and some indicators of education and health indicators have been improved over the period but still Figart & Warnecke (2015), a huge gap is there to reach to the required level of achievement (Center for RR., 2018). Child marriages, corporal punishment, child abuse, domestic violence, rape, forced marriages, and acid-throwing incidents are still going in Demo, Allen & Fine (2000), especially when it comes to rural areas the condition becomes worse (Jabeen, 2016). Media reporting highlights the issues but when it comes to justice cases are pending. No clear database is available to gauge the incidence control mechanism could be visible. A compiled report from Newspaper reporting by SCSW shows a total number of 69 cases have been reported from July to August 2020 under different crimes against women including rape Mary, Oyster & Sloan (2011), sexual assault, honor killing, murder, harassment, domestic violence, property dispute, gender base violence, child marriage and child missing cases (SCSW, 2020).

In the study available laws, mechanisms, and provision of services in the Sindh province of Pakistan which women and girls are entitled as citizens of Pakistan have been explored. There have been several pro-women and girls' laws and policies developed under Pakistan's commitment to International Conventions and Human rights obligations (Alston, 2014). This study aims to identify these laws and how these are protecting the rights of women and girls. Not only to identify gaps but also to highlight best practices which this study has tried to explore (Sindh Human Rights Commission, 2019).

Objectives of the Study

- To find out available laws that protects women's and girls' rights?
- To know the available mechanisms, to approach

Research Methodology

The study employed a qualitative methodology using a descriptive exploratory design. A purposive sampling technique was used, and the data was collected from the officials of the relevant department.

The Following Departments were approached:

- Women Development Department- WDD (Provincial)

- District Social Welfare Department -SW, Women Development Department WDD and Women Protection Cells-WPC
- Sindh Commissions for the Status of Women- SCSW
- Civil society and media representatives of the district were included in the study.
- Deputy Commissioners –DCs of the above-mentioned districts and
- Women Police stations

Data Collection Tools Used in the Study

Qualitative tools were used in the study including Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and In-depth Interviews (IDIs) while guidelines have been developed to collect information. Whereas the matrices have been developed in this study about Law availability in which available laws were explored through the parliament website. After a thorough study of the law, it was put into the matrix in relevant columns about the laws and placed text into relevant columns.

Findings and Discussions about Available Laws for Women and Girls

The following laws have been identified as Pro-women laws which have been passed by Parliament.

Law and what it Says
1- The Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010 The mandate of this legislation is for both private and public entities to implement the Code of Conduct and to develop mechanisms to address complaints/pleas. The objective is to create a secure work environment, free from intimidation and abuse, for all female employees. Additionally, it is required to appoint Federal and Provincial Ombudsman (Senate Secretariat, 2010).
A- Punishment
Insulting or sexually harassing women has been criminalized by the Pakistan Penal Code under section 509. The possible penalties would be up to 3 years imprisonment or a fine of PKR 500,000. Convicted individuals may face consequences such as reprimand, hindrance of promotion, and compensation retrieval. More severe penalties include demotion, mandatory retirement, removal, dismissal, and fines. The Competent Authority must impose penalties within a week, and the Inquiry Committee ensures that recommended actions are implemented. If the complainant is traumatized, counseling and medical support are provided, along with compensation for salary loss or damages

B- Department Jurisdiction
A Provincial Ombudsman has been established in Sindh
C- Rules of Business
Yes
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
Under sub-section (1) of section 3 an Inquiry Committee must be established Provincial Level Committee is mandatory by the Ombudsman to investigate complaints. Every professional and commercial institution in the province is required to establish an Inquiry Committee within 30 days of this Act's enactment to address complaints under this legislation. The Committee, comprising three members, must incorporate at least one female member. These members should be selected from senior management or senior employee representatives, or a senior employee in the absence of a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). If needed, the organization can include members from outside. A Chairperson will be chosen from among them. If the Inquiry Committee is not available or the complainant is not satisfied with their actions, they can contact the provincial or local ombudsman offices or approach the Women Development Department.
E- How Women can Reach to Get Justice Under this Law;
Courts Police station or Women Police Station Women Protection Cell or WDD District Crises Center
This is the mandate of the Provincial Ombudsman to monitor and ensure the Harassment Committee within the organizations in the Province. The inquiry committee in the province needs to be properly monitored and should be documented which is currently not visible.

Law and what it Says
2- Sindh Child Protection Authority Act, 2011 This legislation has established a crucial entity identified as the "Sindh Child Protection Authority." Which is liable to protect the children's rights requiring distinct care, covering those subjected to violence, exploitation, abuse, and damaging circumstances like forced labor, human trafficking, and participation in armed conflicts? The authority strives to tackle these challenges and secure the welfare of vulnerable children (Sindh Assembly, 2011).
A- Punishment
NA

B- Department Jurisdiction
Social welfare, Labour department, and Law department to organize and oversee the child protection-related issues on provincial and district levels;
C- Rules of Business
Yes
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
Authority has been established and members have been notified. The Authority's main office will be in Karachi. It consists of a Chairperson and members. The head of the Social Welfare Department is the Chairperson. The Social Welfare Department Secretary will be the secretary of the Authority and Member. The government can appoint additional members, including two from the Provincial Assembly, two child rights advocates, two from NGOs working for children, and ex-officio members from the Home, Law, and Labour Departments. The Authority can also include representatives from UNICEF or other organizations. The Director General of the Authority serves as the Secretary.
E- District Level Access
District level -A Child Protection officer may be approached in the Social Welfare Department which has been appointed. Child Protection officers are appointed but child-friendly spaces on the district level are not available in any social welfare department except in the Malir district

Law and what it Says
3- The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2011 The Pakistan Penal Code explicitly defines punishment for acid crimes as a form of harm through the amendment of the Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act (2011) (Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, 2011).
A- Punishment
Section 336-B of the Pakistan Penal Code commends life imprisonment and a fine of five hundred thousand rupees minimum for criminals. On the first-time conduct of an unauthorized seller of corrosive substances face one year in prison or a fine of a hundred thousand rupees. While for subsequent convictions two years in prison or a fine of two hundred thousand rupees.
B- Department Jurisdiction
Home and Women Development Department
C- Rules of Business
(this bill is an amendment to the Pakistan Penal Code 1860)
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
(it is a federal level Act implied to all over Pakistan) No committee has been notified under this

E- How Women can Reach to get Justice Under this Law;
Women can access to: Courts Police station or Women Police Station Women Protection Cell or WDD District Crises Center

Law and what it Says
4- Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act, 2011 Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offense of Rape) Act 2016 Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the name or pretext of Honour) Act, 2016 The law and its two amendments forbade fair customs against Pakistani women, including "rape" and "honor killing" under section 310-A of the Pakistan Penal Code as amended in 2016 (Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act, 2011, 2011).
A- Punishment
A 3 to 7-year prison term and/or a 500,000-rupee fine are mandated.Section 498-A penalizes depriving women of inheritance through deceit or illegal means with 5 to 10 years imprisonment a 1,000,000 rupee fine, or both. Section 498-B stipulates 3 to 10 years imprisonment and a 500,000 rupee fine for forced marriages. The punishment under Section 498-C instructs a 3 to 7-year imprisonment and/or a 500,000 rupee fine for Convincing, organizing, or helping a woman's marriage with the Holy Quran Life detention and a fine are the consequences for committing rape, gang rape, or rape against minors or persons with disabilities. Obstructing a police officer or government official results in a 1-year imprisonment (increased from 3 months in the earlier provision). Death or life imprisonment is the penalty for murdering in the name of honor. Despite the victim's family pardoning the accused, the court will still impose life imprisonment for honor killings.
B- Department Jurisdiction
Home- WDD
C- Rules of Business
This act is an amendment to the Pakistan Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code and adds a new chapter to the Pakistan Penal Code to bring the sentences into effect.
D-Committee Notified as Per Law
NA

E- How Women can Reach to get Justice Under this Law;
Courts Police station or Women Police Station Women Protection Cellor WDD District Crises Center

Law and what it Says
5- Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013 The above law was passed in 2014; by the Sindh Assembly. The law forbids the under-age matrimonies of children below the age of eighteen (Sindh Assembly, 2013).
A- Punishment
Engaging in or facilitating child marriage may result in 2 to 3 years of imprisonment and a fine unless it can be proven that there was reason to believe it wasn't a child marriage. Parents, guardians, or those promoting child marriage may face 2 to 3 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine. Child marriage offenses under this Act are non-boilable, not compoundable, and cognizable, irrespective of the Code provisions.
B- Department Jurisdiction
Home and WDD
C- Rules of Business
Yes
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
The provincial committee and District Monitoring committee for child marriage have been notified
E- District Level Access of Women/District-Level Committee
The girl herself or any civil society representative or any well-wisher of the girl can complain about child marriage activity at the Courts Police station or Women Police Station Women Protection Cell or WDD District Crises Center
District-level and Provincial Committee meetings to prevent child marriage protect child on district level meetings are not organized regularly

Law and what it Says
6- Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013 The law is stopping and protecting people from domestic violence. It includes any physical or mental abuse by someone in a relationship with a woman, child, or vulnerable person. The law covers different actions like assault, emotional abuse, harassment, and economic abuse. The goal is to prevent harm and ensure the safety of those facing domestic violence.
A- Punishment
Violations of section 5(f) may incur a minimum of six months imprisonment, a fine of at least ten thousand rupees, or both. Stalking as per section 5(k) could result in a

minimum one-year detention, a fine of a minimum of twenty thousand rupees, or both. Under section 5(l) offenses may lead to imprisonment for at least two years, a compensation of at least fifty thousand rupees, or both. Section 5(m) violations may entail detention for at least one month, a fine, or both. Perpetrators of offenses under section 5(o) are obligated to provide reparation under section 12(1)(a)(Offences listed in section 5 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (i), and (n)}according to the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860). To commence legal proceedings, the victim or their representative can file a petition in the court located where the victim is located, conducts business, or last lived with the defendant. The court will schedule the first hearing within seven days of receiving the petition and issue a notice to the accused, granting them a seven-day response period. The petition should be resolved within ninety days, with any adjournments requiring written justifications from the Court.
C- Department Jurisdiction
Home and WDD
D- Rules of Business
Yes
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
The government will form a Commission comprising a Chairperson and members as specified. The Commission is mandated to: (a) periodically evaluate current domestic violence laws and propose amendments as needed; (b) initiate studies or investigations into particular cases of domestic violence; (c) address complaints and individually address issues related to domestic violence and law non-implementation; and (d) contribute insights and suggestions to make strategy which aimed at ensuring a secure environment devoid of domestic violence (Recorder, 2021).
E- How Women can Reach to get Justice Under this Law;
Women can access to directly Court or Police stations directly or can go through the WPC or Women Protection cell at WDD
New amendments have been proposed by the Women's Commission and it is going to be approved soon regarding the law as well as commission. District-level committees are also not functional although it has been notified

Law and what it Says
7- Reproductive Healthcare Rights Act 2013 **Reproductive Healthcare Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019** It advocates for the reproductive healthcare rights of both women and men, addressing pregnancy and childbirth complications (Sindh Assembly, 2019).
A- Punishment
NA

B- Department Jurisdiction
The Government's Health and Population Departments will oversee and implement this Act through relevant public sector organizations, public-CSO-private partnerships, and private entities.
C- Rules of Business
Act 2013 rules have developed while new laws rules have not developed
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
The Health Department, in consultation with other departments, shall present an annual report on the progress of implementing this Act to the Provincial Assembly.
E- District Level Access of Women/District-Level Committee
The 2013 Act states that in Pakistan, 80 women die daily due to pregnancy-related issues, with many more facing complications. The law aims to improve reproductive healthcare rights, reduce maternal deaths, and expand family planning services. Enhancing access to health services with instructions on privacy and confidentiality through basic health units, rural health centers, and family welfare centers The 2013 Reproductive Health Rights Act was amended in 2019, the new amendment declares reproductive health access a fundamental right, promoting various rights like access to reproductive healthcare information, non-discrimination in services, and strengthening the healthcare system for quality services by providers.
The above Act is unknown to Department of Health personnel, raising questions about its effectiveness. Poor-quality care in public hospitals hinders women from accessing health services. Socioeconomic conditions impact women's use of antenatal care, requiring improved status for better health facility utilization. During the pandemic, public facilities didn't provide proper care for deliveries, leading to mistreatment. There were 233 maternal deaths per 100000 live births in Sindh reported by PDHS in 2019 report.

Law and what it Says
8- Sindh Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2016 The law in Sindh prevents hurting or punishing children in various places like schools, homes, and care centers. Children are protected from physical pain or discomfort, including hitting, slapping, kicking, and other harmful actions by family members, teachers, or anyone else. This applies in schools, childcare institutions, and even in the juvenile justice system (Sindh Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act, 2016).
A- Punishment
Subject to imprisonment for a duration not less than one year but potentially extending up to fifteen years.

B- Department Jurisdiction
Sindh Education Department/Provincial Government
C- Rules of Business
Yes
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
The Provincial Government will have to form an institutional mechanism in collaboration with other related departments to address the complaints of corporal punishment inflicted by children or any other individual. The Provincial Government is liable to devise a thorough system for implementing and overseeing the Act in the private {whether registered or unregistered} institutions.
E- District Level Access of Victim
Yet to devise a procedure where to complain about corporal punishment
There have been reports of the Act not having been properly implemented by the Sindh government (Tribune, 2020) Several reports from child rights organizations have indicated that this law has not been implemented by the Sindh Government

Law and what it Says
9- Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 National Assembly passed the above act known as "PECA" to launch an ample legal framework for the significant electronic crimes and strategies mechanism for investigation, prosecution, and adjudication related to such criminalities.
A- Punishment
By Section 21, the use of electronic means pointing to reputational damage or privacy violation is subject to a penalty of detention for up to 7 years or a fine of up to 5 million rupees, or both. Under Section 22, the offense of creating, dispensing, or transmitting material like pornography depicting underage girls involved in sexually explicit conduct is punishable by detention for up to seven years, a fine of up to 5 million rupees, or both.
B- Department Jurisdiction
FIA
C- Rules of Business
yes
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
NA

E- How Women can Reach to get Justice Under this Law;
Women can directly visit the FIA district offices or register online complaints through the FIA website.

Law and what it Says
10- Sindh Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2017 The legislation aims to prohibit the hiring of children and oversee the engagement of adolescents in specific professions and jobs (The Sindh Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2017, No. Iii Of 2017, 2017).
A- Punishment
Detention for a period which may spread to one year or with punishment which may extend to PKR 20,000 or with both.
B- Department Jurisdiction
Labour Department
C- Rules of Business
Pending
E- Committee Notified as Per Law
The government is responsible for forming a board known as the Coordination Committee on Child Labor Sindh. It will give direction to the government on appropriate legislative, institutional, and other actions to eliminate child labor. The committee will include a chairperson and a minimum of nine additional members, on behalf of the government, workers, civil society, and organizations, and two nominees by the Speakers of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh.
District Level access
Since no rules of business are there so implementation is not possible

Law and what it Says
11- Maternity Benefits Act,2018 The above act instructs 16 weeks of paid maternity leave for new mothers—four weeks before delivery and 12 weeks after childbirth to private, public, and semi-government organizations, For miscarriage, one week of paid leave is granted; for stillbirth, four weeks; and for premature delivery, 16 weeks starting from the day of birth. In case of other medical complications risking the mother or unborn, four weeks of paid leave is provided (Maternity Benefits Act, 2018 SENATE, 2020).
A- Punishment
If any organization does not provide maternity benefits, it will be considered a crime
B- Department Jurisdiction
Labor Department
C- Rules of Business
In Process

D- Committee Notified as Per Law
Women investigation officers must be appointed by the Labour Department to oversee the situation of women in Industries but yet not appointed
E- How Women can Reach to get Justice Under this Law;
Any aggrieved woman may file a case in the court of competent jurisdiction. WDD and WPC

Law and what it Says

12- Home-Based Workers Act, 2018

The above law entitles social, medical, maternity benefits, compensations, and grants to each registered home-based worker and also aligns with the provisions in labor laws such as the Sindh Industrial Relations Act, 2013, and terms of employment (Standing Orders) Act, 2016 of Sindh, and the worker's welfare board of Sindh. The measures include surveying workspaces to address hazards, discouraging child labor, and establishing health counters at the district level, with mobile units of health-giving doorstep health facilities for HBW (Home-based Workers Act, 2018).

A- Punishment
NA
B- Department Jurisdiction
Labour Department Following the Act's commencement, the Government will establish, through official gazette notification, a Fund for Home-Based Workers. The Fund will comprise money contributed by employers as prescribed by the Government, voluntary contributions in cash or assets from various sources, and grants or donations from governments, donors, multilateral organizations, local authorities, individuals, and the general public. Additionally, loan proceeds raised by the Fund's Governing Body will be part of the Fund.
C- Rules of Business
Yes The Fund shall be used for (a) financing projects for home-based workers' welfare; (b) covering management and administration expenses; (c) repaying loans raised by the Governing Body; and (d) investing in government-approved securities.
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
Establish Regional or Divisional Committees with designated functions as per Government notification. Form a Governing Body for the Fund chaired by the Secretary to the Government, Labour Department, and comprising not more than ten members appointed by the Government. Members include officials from the Finance, Social Welfare, and Directorate Labour Welfare departments, with at least three members each from home-based workers, employers or trade unions, and home-based workers' organizations or trade unions.

E- District Level Access for Women
Set up health counters in every district and organize mobile health units to deliver healthcare services to HBW.
The process of registering HBWs has been underway for about three years

Law and what it Says

13- The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2018

The Women in Distress and Detention Fund (WDDF), designed to support women requiring legal aid, is expected to become operational within a month (Pakistan, 2018, 2020).

A- Punishment
NA
B- Department Jurisdiction
Human Rights and Law Department
C- Rules of Business
Yes
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
Per the recent modification to section 6 of Act XV of 1996, in subsection (I), the chairperson of the fund will now be the minister-in-charge of the administrative division, replacing clauses (i) to (viii). Additionally, one woman member from the National Assembly and the Senate will be nominated by their respective speakers, the secretary of the administrative division will serve, and each provincial government will nominate one distinguished woman social worker. An officer in BS-20 or above from the administrative division will hold the position of member-cum-secretary.
E- District Level Access for Women
The funds are at the Provincial Office of Human Rights as per the information provided by the authorities. Districts are unaware of such funds.
Most departments and officials lack awareness about the funds, their location, and their purpose. According to one official representative, these funds are housed in the Human Rights Provincial Office. The fund's intended use was to provide legal assistance to women in detention or distress, including those on trial, convicted, or residing in Darul Aman, for expenses like books, stipend payments, or for women holding teaching positions.

Law and what it Says

14- Hindus Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2018

In 2018, the act was amended to include divorce and remarriage rights and ensure financial security for the wife and children post-divorce (Center for Reproductive Rights, 2018).

CONDITIONS: (1) Marriage under this Act requires: a) Both parties are 18 years or older; b) Both parties can provide consent; c) Both parties give free consent; d)

Parties are not within prohibited kinship; e) Neither party has a living spouse at the time of marriage; and f) At least two witnesses are present during the solemnization and registration of the marriage (Sindh Government Gazette, 2002).
A- Punishment
NA
B- Department Jurisdiction
Local Government
C-Rules of Business
yes
D- Committee Notified as Per Law
NA
E- District Level access?
Marriages are registered under NADRA but not on a local level by the Local Council Office

Findings about available Mechanisms and Structures for Women and Girls

The following structures were identified to be available at the provincial and district levels for exploring these laws.

	Provincial Level	District Level	Findings
Under WDD	Women Development Department- Women Complaint Cell	Women Complaint Cell	Women Complaint cells are established in many districts but not all functional
	Provincial Committee for the Child Marriage	District-level Committee on Child Marriage (supposed to be established in all 29 Districts)	Not functional
	Commission on Domestic Violence (supposed to be established as per the 2013 DV Act)	Domestic Violence Committees	(supposed to be established in all 29 Districts) but not functional
	Crises Center Karachi	Crises Centers in 3 more districts: Hyderabad, Jacobabad, Shaheed Bainazeerabad	Not present in all districts
	Shelter Homes/Darul Aman	Darul Aman Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Bainazeerabad (in Karachi it is under PANAH trust)	These are functional except Mirpurkhas Darul Aman
	Sindh Commission on	-	Functional

	the Status of Women		
	Safe House in Karachi	Under DCs of the districts, Safe houses have been notified	Supposed to be established in all 29 districts. But the majority are not functional- some buildings are there but staff and facilities are not available due to budget constraints
	Establishment of Working Women Hostel in Karachi	-	(Not active)
Under Sindh Police	Women Police Stations	10 police stations on Taluka Level in Sindh: 3 in Karachi, 2 in Hyderabad, 2 in Mirpurkhas, 1 in Shaheed Bainazeerabad and 1 in Larkana	Functional
		Women Protection Cell. Under DIG Police (established in 24 districts, no center in Karachi)	Functional
Under Social Welfare	Child Protection Authority Committee	District Child Protection Committee (supposed to be established in all 29 districts)	Sindh Child Protection Authority has been established
	Child Protection Units	Supposed to be established in all districts of Sindh.	Currently only at Malir in Karachi
Ombudsman	Provincial Ombudsman on Workplace Harassment	Ombudsman local offices are established in Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, Larkana and Hyderabad	Local offices should be visible and prominent. While it should increase in each district

This investigation aims to highlight the loopholes in executing pro-women regulations in Sindh, particularly domestic violence laws (Analysis The Sindh Commission on the Status of Women Annual Report, 2017). It holds importance for a variety of audiences - students, social organizations, media employees, political figures, and other age countries devoted to women's rights, child rights, and addressing gender-based aggression. Moreover, this study offers valuable perspectives for those responsible for policy-making, aiding the effective enactment of laws advocating women's rights in Sindh.

Unveiled facts show that a total of 15 laws have been established for the advancement of women and girls. However, these laws present overlaps in sections and contain legal ambiguities (Salmons & University of Birmingham, 2011). The effective application of these laws demands appropriate training for the related officials and calls for robust mechanisms and structures as their foundation. Numerous laws are still undergoing examination to spot any issues in their practical application. But, many policies and laws remain tucked away on shelves, unknown to many. The enormous volume of crimes against women stands as glaring proof of the trivialization of these laws (Mehdi, 2010). Safe Heavens aren't working optimally due to insufficient district leadership and unsupportive tendencies of district management. The general organization of Monitoring Committees on Child Marriages/Child Protection Authority/Committee on Domestic Violence is essential (Boyden, Pankhurst & Tafere, 2012). A view at the district level reveals that the impact of laws is feeble, and the respective departments and resources aren't well-equipped for proper law implementation. The on-ground structure and systems aligned with these laws aren't up to standard. Therefore, they can't deliver or offer genuine services to women.

Conclusion

It is revealed that all 15 laws have been laid down for the betterment of the women and girls but there has been overlapping of sections in these laws. Law implementation required proper training of relevant officials and required strong mechanisms and structures on which it was based. Many laws are still under review to identify problems when it comes to practice. But many laws and policies are found only on shelves as fewer people know about it. The number of crimes against women is huge evidence for not taking these laws seriously (Marijke & Pan American Health Organization, 2003).Safe houses are not fully functional as Lack of District Leadership/Non –Supportive Behaviors of District management. Monitoring Committees on Child Marriages/Child Protection Authority/Committee on Domestic Violence need to be organized regularly. Analysis on the district level shows that Laws' implication at the district level is weak while relevant departments and resources in them are not sufficient to implement the laws properly. The structure and mechanism on the ground level in alignment with these laws are not up to the mark which could facilitate or provide services to women in a true sense (Richard Alan White, 2004).

Recommendations

States must secure women and girls from violence and inequalitiesand implementation of Pro-women laws would only be possible when the institutional structures and resources are improved and developed properly.

1. The status of women would improve when these laws provisions can be easily accessible to women and by providing all the facilities mentioned in the laws.
2. These laws have no use when it is not implemented with its soul. So, there should be a penalty clause in these laws, for those public officers when they do negligence to implement these in their respective districts.
3. Labor Department inspectors should be appointed to investigate the bonded labour and condition of home-based workers.
4. Women in Distress funds should be released by the Federal Human Rights Ministry to the Provincial Human Rights Department, especially to Women Development and Women Commissions for the victims of violence. Monetary issues are huge roadblocks to women's emancipation and access to justice- These kinds of funds are not only released by the Government but also must be increased.
5. There is a huge need to appoint community organizers at the district level in WDD and SW their job description should be revised.
6. WDD and SW officers should visit communities and conduct awareness sessions about women's rights and pro-women/girls' laws like LHW's.
7. The Provincial Commission on the Status of Women should be a separate body with the provision of proper resources. It should be an independent Monitoring body to take action against any negligence.
8. Further specific studies are required on how to club overlapping sections in these laws.

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