

Views & News

Underage Marriage Seen as a Major Cause of Maternal Deaths

Rawish Zafar

May 9, 2014, Daily Dawn

Pregnancy is not a disease, yet a large number of women use their life while giving birth because of multiple factors, all of which are preventable, said health experts. In Pakistan, underage marriages are common in some areas. Underage marriages cause fistula leading weakness or injury to the ligaments, connective tissues and muscles of the pelvis. As a result of that bladder, urethra, small intestine, rectum, uterus or vagina drop down occurs. Due to these health problems, girls become very weak and have vitamin and iron deficiencies. The news referred above highlights a social issue leading to all these problems. The need is to take necessary steps such as awareness raising and laws to control underage marriages.

Love Kills

Maheen Waseem

July 6, 2014, Daily Dawn

Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy describe the story of a women who is the survival of honor killing in her article “Love Kills”. A girl named Saba was tried to kill by her father and uncle just because she choose to marry a man she was in love with.

The article “Love Kills” as indicating the dark side of a Pakistani society where love is considered as a crime or evil act and with the large consequences. Most of the lovers especially women are killed and murdered by their families just because they love someone and wants to marry that person. In Pakistani society the honour of the family relates to the women and it become disrespectful for their families that their women choose a person for her against the family will. It become practice in most of the rural and urban areas of Pakistan to kill a woman for the sake of their family honour neither

our religion nor our law permit honour killing. Although, there is a law against honour killing but it needs to be implemented effectively against this practice which emboldens other to continue the crime.

Free Education for Children may be a Distant Dream

Eaman Kaiser Alavi

April 26, 2014, Daily Dawn

The news is about slow progress for a bill that was tabled in Punjab Assembly in 2013 the bill has not been passed yet therefore it needs priority attention by the government. Government should take serious actions on free education for children from grass root level. Not only bill should be passed in parliament but also education should be made compulsory and free so that our generation would be educated. Civil society should play their major role for free education so that the bill would be in public for an open debate which would be free of controversies and apprehensions.

Lawyer Burnt in Acid Attack

Fozia Safi

February 15, 2014, Daily Dawn

“A lawyer suffered burns after her husband threw acid on her at their home on the Lajpat Road, Shahdara, on Friday. Police says suspected Zeeshan threw acid on his wife Mansoor Shahzadi following a dispute. The woman suffered burns on her shoulders and was shifted to hospital. Shahdara Police registered a case.” In our country there are laws enacted to give rights to women like “Law of Acid Attack” which is enacted in 2010. Women face violence even regardless of their educational background and class, status and position. There are so many reasons behind it like lack of threat management policy, lack of confidence in women, lack of respect in society, unfounded and unreasonable jealousy. Women are unable to get justice due to incompetence and corruption prevailing in the society, discriminatory laws and due to fear if they report the case they will be further violated.

Violence Main Cause of Child Workers Death

Khadija Qarni

January 21, 2014, Daily Dawn

Majority of domestic workers are facing a horrible situation all over Pakistan. There are many children who are facing mental and physical torture. The domestic workers are forced to work due to poor economic situation at home. The constitution of Pakistan also protect children rights but unfortunately there are issues in implementation of the laws related to child labour protection. It is depressing to note that while child labour is still being justified in certain quarters, including by proponents of child rights on the grounds of financial necessity, the ability of the state or the parents to give reasonable standard of living to the same child is made conditional on their economic capacity.

Rawish Zafar, Maheen Waseem, Eaman Kaiser Alavi, Fozia Safi & Khadija Qarni are Students of M.Phil. in Centre of Excellence for Women's Studies, University of Karachi.