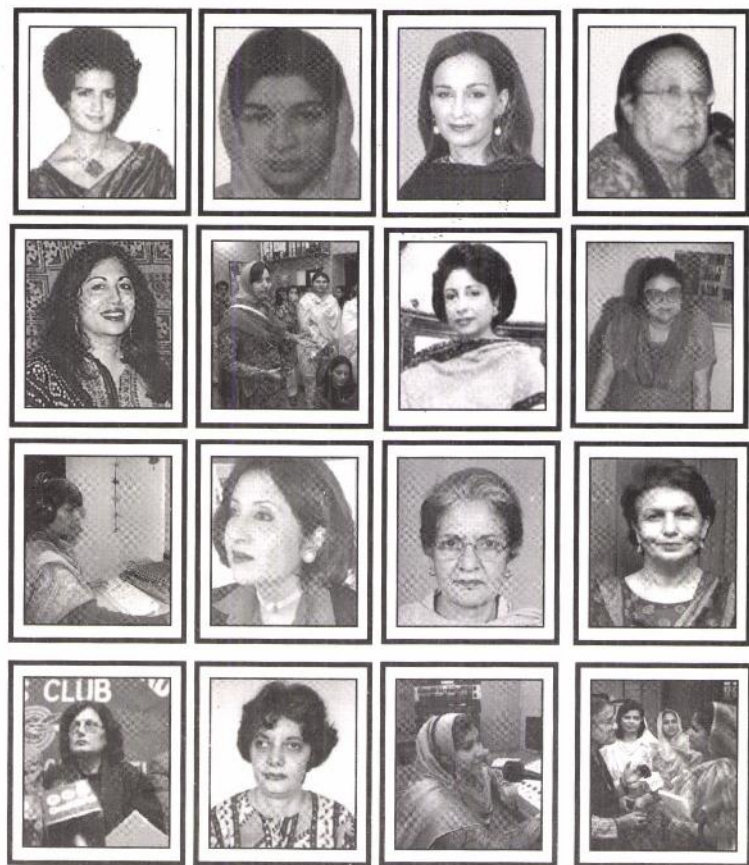


Diary 2009



**WOMEN OF PAKISTAN:
STRIVING FOR VISIBILITY
AND POWER IN THE MEDIA**

Concept and Research	: Tasneem Ahmar
Research Team	: Asma Yasmin Gulrukh Khan Saadia Mahmood Kiran Peter Kashif Rizvi
Sources	: Newspapers, Magazines, Books, Journals and Newsletters
Cover	: Gulrukh Khan
Published by	: Uks- A Research, Resource and Publication Centre on Women and Media
Address	: House 10, Street 71, F-8/3 Islamabad
Tel/Fax	: 92-51- 2850906 92-51- 7111419
e-mail	: uks@dsl.net.pk
Website	: www.ukresearch.com
Date of Publication	: December 2008

Diary 2009

WOMEN OF PAKISTAN: STRIVING FOR VISIBILITY AND POWER IN THE MEDIA



Uks - A Research, Resource &
Publication Centre on Women and Media

PERSONAL DATA

Name.....

N.I.C No.

Address (Office).....

Address (Home).....

Tel. (Office)..... (Home).....

Mobile Fax.....

e-mail.....

Bank Account.....

Blood Group

Telephone Nos.

Hospital (emer.)..... Tel. Complaint

Police Electricity Complaint

Fire Brigade

Those of us who have only been exposed to the mainstream media may find it difficult to believe that in many cities/towns across Pakistan, women are still not given their due place either in news rooms or in news stories. The two factors are directly proportional to each other. Media projection of women in a sensitive and positive manner is important to shift societal attitudes in favour of women working in the field. Regrettably, it is men who decide what news, views and visuals are to be heard, read and seen. This has been the case for several decades and is not Pakistan-specific. The doors to media have more than often had a no-entry sign for women. Although not every one in this male-dominated media scenario in Pakistan alienates women (a few actually encourage and support more women entering this profession) but there are elements that do create hurdles forcing many women to at times give up their ambitions and sometimes even their profession.

Today, when we see many women journalists on our television screens, see their bylines in news publications, or hear them on radio, we may believe that the once-shut doors are open. But that may not be the case. It seems that some doors specifically those leading to the top floor still need a big knock to let women in. No doubt that many news organizations have now a fairly strong female representation in field and desk, but ironically, this growth is more horizontal than vertical, and more urban than rural. While there are more women today in the mainstream media in the capacity of reporters, camera persons, sub-editors, news anchors/producers, it is also true that very few women are reporting from rural districts and small towns. There are more women reporters than analysts or anchorpersons. Many write columns but very few women are editorial writers, there are more producers than directors or editors. Still fewer are those who get an access to the top management level. We think that there must be an invisible 'glass ceiling' or else why would women journalists disappear when it comes to their presence at policy-making positions?

This is an on-going and an all-out struggle for women not only to get an entry point, but to continue their upward growth in this traditionally male-dominated profession. If we look at Pakistan's entire media history, no woman has ever been the editor of an Urdu daily, and Dr. Maleeha Lodhi is the only woman who has been the editor of two English language dailies, *The Muslim* and *The News International*, although there have been some women, like Ayesha

Haroon, Beena Sarwar, Kamla Hyat and Quatrina Hossain who made it as resident editors or editors of different editions of newspapers.

Associated Press of Pakistan, the official wire agency, had women working for it since the 1960s, but has never had a woman Director General. Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation has never had women at the top positions. Pakistan Television had one woman as its Managing Director and one or two women as regional heads. Same is the case with most of the private television and FM radio channels. Then we have the big gap between the number of female students in University Departments of Mass Communication and their visibility in media. All major universities in Pakistan have Mass Communications departments and most have high representation of female students. In some universities they even outnumber male students, yet when it comes to entering the practical field, we find very few women in the media, especially in the news rooms.

There is a need to address the factors behind the under-representation of women in the media and the impact of this under-representation on the development of a gender-just society. There is also a need to address some other crucial but hidden (or not so publicized) issues of sexual harassment at work places and other discrimination (deliberate attempts to give "soft beats" rather than "hard core" news beats, holding back/blocking of promotions, etc).

We at Uks have been strong advocates of bringing forward women in media, as is also evident from our initiative of forming the Pakistani Women Media Network (PWMN). With over 200 countrywide members in just a few months, this network is a platform for women in the media, print and electronic, to exchange as well as share information, resources, and ideas. This is a platform for convergence, where the veterans share their experiences and the young bring in their viewpoints. Committed to raising voices and concerns against gender violence and biases in the media and society, PWMN has a very clear focus. We want women's fair and equal representation in the media organizations both private and state-owned.

We have already taken this message forward through our gender-sensitive Code of Ethics, along with various studies that suggest and recommend the need for affirmative actions at every level, so that women's inclusion in the mainstream as well as at the district and local level media is made possible. It would be great to see the formulation and implementation of such policies that aim at increasing the number

of women journalists as well as introducing training programmes for women journalists to equip them with necessary skills to work in sometimes an all-male and in some places even hostile environment. For this, women journalists will not only have to look for opportunities, but also continue to struggle against the challenges and continue till they reach the top. Indeed an uphill task, but worth striving for.

In the end let me say that this year's desk diary is a tribute to all women journalists in Pakistan, both on a personal and professional level, as they include many of my colleagues and friends. It is a tribute to those who despite enormous hurdles and constraints have continued to be part of the media and proved themselves as working journalists, trade-unionists and thorough professionals. While many women were (and some still are) restricted to fashion, entertainment, cookery and beauty pages in the early years, there were some who went straight to reporting and writing on important issues related to politics, economy, human rights, justice, development and society. Many women journalists in the late 1970s and 80s fought against General Zia-ul-Haq's dictatorial regime with their pens. Their bold writings, whether columns, features or news reports not only provided an insight into the current events; they also highlighted the human side of the news. Today many fearless women journalists are doing just the same, continuing their struggle against oppression, injustice and inequality.

This diary is also a tribute to these young and enthusiastic women whom one sees/hears and reads covering hard core political and economic happenings. They certainly are making their presence felt. They are also growing in numbers. Let's hope that this horizontal growth turns into a vertical one and they shine in the future media scenario. So, even if we missed a name or two, and believe me this omission is not deliberate as we have tried our best to include every one that we could think of, all of you truly are our role models, our heroes!

Wishing you a very happy new year!

Tasneem Ahmar

Editorials

Begum Zaibunnissa Hamidullah

The death of Begum Zaibunnissa Hamidullah in Karachi on Sunday removes from amidst us a pioneer amongst the subcontinent's women journalists. A column writer for English newspapers, including dawn, Zaibunnissa launched Pakistan's first women's weekly in English. Even though a socialite magazines, Mirror could often cause ripples by its strong political editorials critical of the policies and actions of the rulers of the day in a language and style that at times earned her the wrath of the wielders of power. The power of her pen rattled Ayub Khan when she lashed out at him for elevating himself to the rank of Field marshal, and in November, 1957, his predecessor, Iskander Mirza, shut the paper down for six months when Mirror flayed him for dismissing the Suhrawardy ministry. The paper was read as much for its social content as for the biting sarcasm and wit that characterized the writings of its editor.

The daughter of S.Wajid Ali, a presidency magistrate in Calcutta holding the rank of a high court judge and himself a well-known writer in Bengali, Zaibunnissa first came into attention when one of her poems, written for Mirror of London, won a prize in a contest. That unleashed a talent for writing that saw her write columns for Star of India, Calcutta (later Dhaka). "Through a women's Eye", her column in dawn, started in 1949 and ended after differences on policy. This led to the launching in 1951 of her own Mirror, South Asia's first glossy magazine. But the contents of this elitist social register often did not go well with the elite which never missed an opportunity to run it down.

For the paper she worked hard, doing everything herself—from editorial writing to picture editing to proof reading. Liberal in outlook, she was also the first woman to speak at Al-Azhar University. The paper closed down in 1972 after twenty-one years of struggle against authoritarian trends in our politics and bigotry and fanaticism in society, when her husband went on transfer to Ireland. Four years later he died, sapping all her strength. The closure of the paper was, thus a big loss to Pakistani journalism. The sting in her writings earned her quite a few enemies, but even her detractors admired her for the courage of conviction and strength of character she displayed throughout her professional and personal life.

یہ میں اوصاف کی لیڈی رپورٹر کی گرفتاری

ضلعی ناظم ایہ سید غلام حیدر کی ایماء پر ڈی پی او ایہ نظام شاہد نے وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کی آمد کے موقع پر روزنامہ اوصاف ملتان کی لیڈی رپورٹر کلثوم خالق اور ان کے بھائی کو جلسہ گاہ سے اٹھوا کر چار گھنٹے تک تھانہ سٹی ایہ کی حوالات میں بند رکھا۔ انہیں رہائی اس وقت ملی جب وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب جلسے سے خطاب کر کے رخصت ہو چکے تھے۔

"اوصاف" کی ڈسٹرکٹ رپورٹر کلثوم خالق کے پاس ضلع ناظم غلام حیدر تھند کی مبینہ کرپشن کے خلاف ثبوت موجود تھے اور ضلع ناظم کو خطرہ تھا کہ کلثوم اس حوالے سے وزیر سے اعلیٰ کے ساتھ بات کریں گی چنانچہ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کو اندھیرے میں رکھنے کے لئے آزادی صحافت کو پامال کیا گیا اور اس بات کا لحاظ بھی نہ رکھا گیا کہ جسے جلسے سے اٹھوا کر پابند سلاسل کیا جا رہا ہے وہ مرد نہیں خاتون رپورٹر ہے۔ ہم سمجھتے ہیں کہ ضلع ناظم نے بدترین حماقت کی۔ وقتی طور پر آزادی صحافت کا گلہ دبا بھی دیا جائے تو حقائق نہیں چھپتے، سچائی کو بالآخر سامنے آنا ہی ہوتا ہے اور اس معاملے میں بھی ضرور آئے گی۔ امر واقعہ یہ ہے کہ جن حقائق کو چھپانے کے لئے کلثوم کو چار گھنٹے زیر حراست رکھا گیا وہ وزیر اعلیٰ تک پہنچ ہی جائیں گے۔ ظاہر ہے کہ ایک لیڈی رپورٹر کو غیر قانونی طور پر حراست میں رکھنا کوئی معمولی واقعہ تو نہیں جسے وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب نظر انداز کر سکیں۔ وہ یقینی طور پر کلثوم کو جلسہ گاہ سے اٹھوا کر حوالات میں چار گھنٹے تک بند کرنے کا بھی نوٹس لیں گے اور ان حقائق تک پہنچنے میں بھی دلچسپی لیں گے جنہیں اوصاف کی ڈسٹرکٹ رپورٹر ان تک پہنچانا چاہتی تھیں۔ ہم سمجھتے ہیں کہ عدالت عظمیٰ کو بھی اس معاملے کا از خود نوٹس لیتے ہوئے ضلع ناظم اور ڈی پی او کے خلاف ایکشن لینا چاہئے۔

اوصاف: 17 اگست، 2008ء

Zaibunnisa Hamidullah

Zaibunnisa Hamidullah (December 25, 1921 - September 10, 2000) was a pioneer of Pakistani literature and journalism in English, and also a pioneer of women's rights in Pakistan. She was Pakistan's first female columnist (in English), editor and political commentator. Zaibunnisa Street in Karachi was named for her.



Before Independence, she wrote for Indian newspapers, and was the first Muslim woman to have a column in an Indian newspaper. After 1947, she became the first female political commentator in Pakistan, with her column in the *Dawn* newspaper. After she left *Dawn*, she became the founder and editor-publisher of *Mirror*, the first social monthly magazine in South Asia. Due to her status as Pakistan's first female editor, she became the first woman to be included in press delegations sent abroad. On one of these delegations, in 1955, she became the first woman to speak at the prestigious al-Azhar University in Cairo.

After 1947, Zaibunnisa continued to work in the field of journalism, and soon established herself as an outspoken writer in her column 'Thru a Woman's Eyes', in the daily *Dawn* of Karachi. This column began in December 1948. Soon, she rebelled against the limited scope of the feature, declaring that women had the right to comment on every subject, including politics. Mr. Altaf Husain, then editor of the *Dawn*, eventually agreed to give her a wider scope. He recognized the merit of her work by giving her a new assignment - that of a columnist appearing on the editorial page. She thus became the first female political commentator of Pakistan. Her column established her reputation as an honest columnist who was not afraid to voice her opinions. It was also a huge step for the women's rights movement in Pakistan.

In 1951, she left *Dawn*, due to a disagreement with Mr. Altaf Husain's policies, and founded a monthly magazine called the *Mirror*, and was its editor and publisher. She thus became a businesswoman as well. This glossy social pictorial, with its courageous and sincere editorials, was an instant success.

The *Mirror* became very popular, and Zaibunnisa soon became quite famous as a journalist and editor. The Pakistani government included her in numerous press delegations.

In 1957, her outspoken criticism of the harsh regime of Major-General Iskander Mirza and the forced resignation of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy culminated in a six-month government ban on the *Mirror*, issued on 9th November. This ban, she was privately informed, would be withdrawn if she publicly apologized. She refused to do this and, on the advice of the well-known lawyer A.K. Brohi, appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court passed judgement in her favour. Holding the order of the Central Government illegal and unconstitutional, the Supreme Court awarded costs to Zaibunnisa Hamidullah. This case made journalistic history, and gave her the distinction of being the first woman journalist to have won a case in the Supreme Court.

In April 1961, she established her own publishing house: the Mirror Press. Mirror Press, and its subsidiary, Mirror Publications, were charged with printing the *Mirror* from 1961 onwards. They also took on other jobs, but the publishing house remained small.

The *Mirror* became a highly controversial magazine in the '60s, mainly due to Zaibunnisa Hamidullah's editorials, which were highly critical of the military government's authoritarian form of rule. Highly critical of General Ayub Khan and his government, She dropped out of government favour. As such, the *Mirror* lost government advertisements and sales.

During this period, she wrote a series of very critical editorials about General Ayub Khan's style of government, starting with 'Please, Mr. President!', a very emotional open letter in which she called upon General Ayub Khan to stop ordering the police to harm students taking part in demonstrations. After Khan replied to the first editorial with a letter in which he dismissed Zaibunnisa Hamidullah as 'rashly emotional', the tension steadily increased. The *Mirror* came close to being banned many times, and was banned twice. However, this

period of her career came to a climax in the February 1969 edition of the Mirror, in which she published both 'Please, Mr. President!' and a new editorial, 'No, thank you, Sir!'. She claimed that the situation had not improved and that "Pakistanis from Peshawar to Chittagong are crying "out with Ayub!"

General Ayub Khan soon abdicated, ironically doing exactly what she'd advised him to do. However, she continued to write critical editorials whenever she felt the government was in need of a rebuke. Zaibunnisa Hamidullah was Deputy Leader of the Pakistani delegation to the United Nations General Assembly from 1970 to 1971. In 1971, after Bangladesh won its independence, Zaibunnisa sent a telegram congratulating the new government there. Always pro-Bangladeshi independence, she was happy to see it.

In 1971, Zaibunnisa Hamidullah's husband was transferred to Ireland, she closed the magazine, and sold off her publishing house, Mirror Press. For most of the '70s, she and her husband lived in Dublin, Ireland. Zaibunnisa put her career on hold to be with her husband, and visited Pakistan regularly. She returned near the end of the decade and began writing a column entitled 'Thinking Aloud' for the Pakistani weekly magazine MAG, part of the Jang Group.

Zaibunnisa Hamidullah died on 10 September, 2000, at the age of 78, after a brief illness.

An obituary in *Dawn* said "even her detractors admired her for the courage of conviction and the strength of character she displayed throughout her life." Another newspaper obituary said "She will be long remembered for her pioneering role in a certain genre of journalism in Pakistan, and as a powerful and courageous writer."

In the 1960s the government named a major street in the Karachi city centre after her: Zaibunnisa Street.

[Http://en.wikipedia.org/](http://en.wikipedia.org/)

عورت کی ترقی کے بارے میں اکثر مردوں کی سوچ محدود ہے ممتاز صحافی اور سابق سرکاری افسر صفورا الخیری سے "اوصاف" فورم میں گفتگو

ج موجودہ دور میں جہاں خواتین شعبہ ہائے زندگی میں سرگرم ہیں، وہاں شعبہ صحافت کے میدان میں بھی اپنی قابلیت کے جوہر دکھا رہی ہیں۔ ان باہمت جدوجہد کرنے والی خواتین میں سے ایک نام صفورا الخیری کا ہے، جو ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر شعبہ اطلاعات و پبلی کیشنز ریٹائرڈ ہوئیں۔ وہ اب مسلسل تخلیقی اور صحافتی سفر پر گامزن ہیں۔ قارئین "اوصاف" میں ہونے والی گفتگو حاضر ہے۔

اوصاف: سب سے پہلے اپنے علمی ادبی گھرانے کے متعلق کچھ کہیے؟

صفورا الخیری: میرا تعلق برصغیر کے ایک اہم علمی، ادبی گھرانے سے ہے۔ مصور غم علامہ راشد الخیری میرے دادا تھے، جن کے پھوپھا ڈپٹی نذیر احمد تھے، والدہ آمنہ نازی نے تقسیم ہند سے پہلے بھی افسانے، ڈرامے لکھے جو آل انڈیا ریڈیو سے نشر ہوتے رہے۔ ان کے تین مجموعے دو شالہ، ہم اور تم اور ننگے پاؤں کے کئی ایڈیشن شائع ہوئے۔ یہ کتابیں جب نایاب ہو گئیں تو میں نے بڑے مرتب کر کے شائع کر وائے ہیں۔ جنہوں نے خود بھی زمانہ طالب علمی میں خوب صورت افسانے لکھے جو ساقی اور عصمت میں شائع ہوتے رہے اور بعد میں وہ کتابی شکل میں بعنوان "گزرتی شب" شائع ہوئے میرے والد صاحب مولانا رازق الخیری نے کم و بیش پندرہ کتابیں لکھیں، وہ بنیادی طور پر محقق اور مؤرخ تھے، جب کہ میری بہن صائمہ خیری کے گیتوں اور نظموں کا مجموعہ "میری نظمیں میرے گیت" آٹھ دس برس پہلے شائع ہوا۔

اوصاف: آپ نے تعلیم کہاں سے مکمل کی اور شعبہ صحافت کی شروعات کیسے ہوئی؟

صفورا الخیری: ایم اے اردو ادب فرسٹ کلاس جامع کراچی سے کیا، تھری ڈیڑھ میں تھی تو روزنامہ حریت نے آل کالجیٹ مقابلہ کروایا، جس میں میں نے بھی ایک مضمون "ہمارا آسان ادب" کے عنوان سے بھیجا جس پر مجھے پہلا انعام ملا، اس سے قبل میں بچوں کے پرچے بنات خواتین کے رسالے عصمت میں لکھتی رہی تھی۔ 'حریت' کی طرف سے مجھے ملازمت کی پیش کش ہوئی جسے میں نے اپنے والد صاحب سے مشورے کے بعد شروع کیا، جب کہ مجھے کالج میں اپنی گریجویشن بھی مکمل کرنی تھی، بی اے کے بعد یونیورسٹی میں بھی میں 'حریت' سے وابستہ رہی۔

اوصاف: صحافت کے ابتدائی دور میں کام کی نوعیت کیا تھی؟

صفورا الخیری: شروع میں خواتین، بچوں کے صحافت کے علاوہ ٹی وی کے صحافت اور بحیثیت فچر ایڈیٹر فچرز بھی لکھتی رہی یہ 1966ء سے 1971ء کی بات ہے کچھ عرصہ "جنگ" سے منسلک ہو گئی۔ یہاں جمعہ ایڈیشن کے دو صفحات کے فچر بعنوان "کڑوی باتیں" اور عوام کی عدالت میں "لکھتی رہی جس میں مختلف اداروں کی بدعنوانیوں کے بارے میں ثبوت کے ساتھ لکھا جاتا تھا۔ اس کے علاوہ عوامی مسائل پر بہت کچھ لکھا۔ 5 برس بعد "جنگ" سے استعفیٰ دے کر دوبارہ حریت کی آفر کو قبول کیا۔ یہ وہ دور تھا جب حمید ہارون نے 'حریت' خرید لیا تھا، اس کے بعد "نوائے وقت" میں خواتین کے صحافت مرتب کیے۔

اوصاف: ملازمت کے دوران کا کوئی خاص حوالہ جس سے شہرت اور ترقی ملی ہوئی ہو؟

صفورا الخیری: پی پی آئی کے ہفتہ وار میگزین "پچان" میں ادارت کے فرائض سنبھالے، یہاں "سو ہے وہ بھی آدمی" کے عنوان سے شہر کے باہمت گمنام لوگوں کی زندگی پر لکھا، یہ انٹرویو تھے مگر ان کو کہانی کے انداز میں لکھا گیا۔ یہ سلسلہ کم و بیش چار برس پر محیط تھا، بعد میں یہی کالم "شہر ہنرمندان" کے عنوان سے شائع ہوئے۔ یہ کتاب 2002ء میں شائع ہوئی۔

اوصاف: گورنمنٹ ملازمت میں کس طرح آئیں؟

صفورا الخیری: 1983ء میں جب میں "نوائے وقت" کراچی میں کام کر رہی تھی مجھے محکمہ اطلاعات سندھ کی جانب سے افسر اطلاعات کی جانب آفر ہوئی جسے یہ سوچ کر میں نے قبول کر لیا کہ اخبار وقت بہت مانگتا ہے اور سرکاری ملازمت میں اتنا وقت مل جاتا ہے کہ انسان کو لکھنے پڑھنے کی مہلت مل جاتی ہے۔ چنانچہ میں نے "نوائے وقت" چھوڑ کر سرکاری ملازمت کر لی اس طرح علی صحافت میں میرے سترہ اٹھارہ سال مکمل ہوئے۔ لیکن میں محکمہ اطلاعات کے جس شعبے میں آئی وہاں بھی کام لکھنے پڑھنے کا ہی تھا یعنی دستاویز فلموں کے سکرپٹ اور سٹیج ڈراموں کی اسکرپٹیں دس پندرہ برس فلم براؤچ میں کام کرنے کے بعد محکمہ اطلاعات کے شعبہ پبلیکیشن کے ماہنامے "اظہار" کی ادارت کی اور اس طرح 21 اکتوبر 2005ء میں بحیثیت ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر ریٹائرڈ ہوئی۔

اوصاف: ملازمت کے دوران انٹرویو مضامین کس قسم کے لکھے؟

صفورا الخیری: کیوں نہیں! بے شمار کہانیاں، افسانے، بچوں کی کہانیاں، نیچے مضامین اور انٹرویو کیے جس کی صحیح تعداد مجھے یاد نہیں۔ ان میں بہت سی معروف شخصیات کے انٹرویو میں نے کیے جن میں معین اختر، جمشید انصاری، اذہم، نیاز احمد، ثار قادر، بہروز سنواری، ذہین طاہرہ، مہر رضوی، غزالہ رفیق کے علاوہ کئی شخصیات ہیں۔

اوصاف: الیکٹرونک میڈیا نے پرنٹ میڈیا پر کیا اثرات مرتب کیے؟

صفورا الخیری: کوئی شک نہیں کہ موجودہ دور میں الیکٹرانک میڈیا نے بہت تیزی سے اپنی مارکیٹ قائم کی مگر میری نظر میں پرنٹ میڈیا کی اہمیت اپنی جگہ ہے جسے کسی بھی دور میں کم نہیں کیا جاسکتا ہے، کیوں کہ میڈیا تاریخ مرتب کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کرتا ہے۔ ٹھیک ہے الیکٹرانک میڈیا بھی ذہنوں میں کافی عرصہ تک محفوظ رہتا ہے، لیکن شائع شدہ تحریریں آپ کسی بھی وقت اپنے سامنے رکھ سکتے ہیں، وہاں ایک بات ہے، موجودہ دور میں ہمسایہ ملک کے کچھ الیکٹرانک میڈیا چینلز معاشرہ پر خاصا منفی اثر چھوڑ رہے ہیں۔

اوصاف: صحافت کے شعبہ میں کیا مسائل درپیش رہے؟

صفورا الخیری: مجھے ہر مقام پر، کٹھن محنت کرنی پڑی، کیوں کہ خواتین کے بارے میں اکثر مردوں کی سوچ محدود ہے، وہ انہیں چند حوالوں میں محدود کرتے ہیں۔ آگے بڑھتا دیکھنا پسند نہیں کرتے جیسے کہ اکثر خواتین کو، بچوں کا خواتین کا یا اور اس طرح کے کام سونپ دیے جاتے ہیں، بے شک اس وقت خواتین خاصی جدوجہد سے اپنی پہچان بناتی ہیں کیوں کہ خواتین زمانہ جنگ سے لے کر حالیہ امن میں ہر سطح پر کام کرنے کی بہترین صلاحیت رکھتی ہیں۔ مواقع ملنے پر دیکھیے کیسے کیسے کارنامے سرانجام دیتی ہیں۔ یہی خواتین سرحدوں پر بھی جا کر رپورٹنگ کرتی ہیں۔ پھر اس شعبے میں زنانہ مردانہ ڈبے والی بات نہیں چلنی چاہیے، کیوں کہ کام تو کام ہے جسے بھی بہتر مواقع مل جائیں اسی کی کارکردگی اچھی ہوگی۔ باقی میں کہوں گی کہ اس ملک میں قلم کے ذریعے خوشحالی نہیں مل سکتی۔ ہاں جنہوں نے قلم کی حرمت نہیں رکھی وہ ضرور استفادے میں ہیں۔ ورنہ ایماندار کے ساتھ تو ہر شعبے میں زیادتی ہوتی ہے۔

اوصاف: رسالہ "عصمت" کو شائع ہوتے کتنا عرصہ ہو چکا ہے؟

صفور الخیری: "عصمت" رسالے کو سو سال ہونے والے ہیں۔ یہ 1908ء میں علامہ راشد الخیری نے شروع کیا جن کا انتقال 1936ء میں ہوا تو والد مولانا راق الخیری نے اس کی ادارت کے فرائض سنبھالے، پھر والدہ آمنہ نازی اور بہن صائمہ الخیری نے بھی ساتھ ساتھ معاونت کی۔ اس رسالے کا اعزاز ہے کہ نامور شخصیات جیسے بیگم ثنائتہ اکرام، قرائعین حیدر اس کے لیے لکھتی رہیں۔ اور اس وقت جو ہر رسالے اخبارات میں خواتین کے لیے ٹوٹکے اور پکوان ہوتے ہیں، یہ سب سے پہلے میں نے "عصمت" رسالے میں نے شروع کیے۔

غلباً۔ یہی وجہ تھی کہ جنگ جیسے اخبار میں 'بلادی' اور عوام کے مسائل کے حوالے سے شروعات بھی میں نے کی تھیں۔

اوصاف: آخری سوال آپ صحافت کو ایک تخلیقی حوالہ سمجھتی رہی؟

صفور الخیری: نہیں میرے نزدیک ایسا نہیں ہے کیوں کہ خبر تو لوگوں تک بات پہنچانے کا کام ہے۔ عوام کو واقعہ سے آگاہ کرنے کا حوالہ ہے جب کہ تخلیقی جوہر تو بہت آگے کی بات ہے یہ تو عجب کیفیت ہے جسے خدا داد دیت کہنا چاہیے۔

اوصاف: آخر میں کوئی پیغام؟

صفور الخیری: میں پیغام میں یہ شعر کہوں گی

اُن کا جو کام ہے وہ اہل سیاست جانیں

میرا پیغام محبت ہے جہاں تک پہنچے

محمد عرفان: اوصاف، اپریل 12، 2007

نوائے وقت خواتین ایڈیشن کی انچارج رباب عائشہ کے لئے گولڈ میڈل کا اعزاز وزیراعظم شوکت عزیز نے مادر ملت کے 113 ویں یوم ولادت کے موقع پر 56 خواتین کو میڈل دئے

حکومت پاکستان کی طرف سے مختلف شعبہ زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والی 56 خواتین میں مادر ملت کے 113 ویں یوم ولادت کے موقع پر گولڈ، سلور اور چاندی کے میڈل تقسیم کئے گئے۔ روزنامہ نوائے وقت (خواتین ایڈیشن کی انچارج) محترمہ رباب عائشہ کو ان کی صحافتی خدمات پر وزیراعظم شوکت عزیز نے گولڈ میڈل اور توصیفی سرٹیفکیٹ عطا کیا۔ رباب عائشہ نے گورنمنٹ پوسٹ کالج سکسٹھ روڈ راولپنڈی سے اپنی تعلیم مکمل کی۔ بعد ازاں شعبہ صحافت سے منسلک ہو گئیں۔ وہ طویل عرصے سے خواتین بچوں اور دیگر سماجی و انسانی امور سے متعلق مسائل اجاگر کر رہی ہیں۔ اس سے قبل محترمہ رباب عائشہ کو متعدد سماجی، عوامی اور خواتین تنظیموں کی طرف سے کئی شیلڈز ایوارڈز اور تعریفی اسناد بھی مل چکی ہیں۔ دو سال قبل بک فاؤنڈیشن نے ان کی کتاب "مثالی مائیں" کو اہل انعام کا حقدار قرار دیا تھا۔ انہوں نے بچوں کے لئے کہانیوں اور نظموں کی کئی کتابیں لکھی ہیں۔

نوائے وقت: اگست 2، 2006

Farewell, Apajan!

Alys Faiz was far more than just the wife of one of Pakistan's most eminent poets and a pillar of strength for him and their little family during trying times. In her own right, she was a well known journalist, who wrote for the country's first English-language women's magazine 'She', brought out by Zohra Karim in 1963, besides doing a stint at Viewpoint, the respected weekly brought out by Mazhar Ali Khan in the 1980s. She continued writing for other publications after Viewpoint was forced to close down — a sad day in the history of Pakistani journalism.

When asked to contribute a small story to the children's page in The Frontier Post, Lahore, in the early 1990s, she did so without any fuss, delivering the neatly typed story well before the deadline. Her monthly column 'Look Back Gently', in She magazine was the source of inspiration for many young women including one who was not even born when the magazine first started, and is now an assistant editor there. The column was faithfully delivered until 1997, when she could not type any longer.

March

30
Monday

31
Tuesday

Anjum Niaz

Anjum Niaz is the first Pakistani woman to qualify under US Government Immigration as possessing Extraordinary Ability in Journalism. She works as a correspondent for Dawn, has been editor of Dawn Magazine, Managing Editor of The Earth Times, columnist for The Friday Times, Coordinator at Johns Hopkins University and a Board Director The Population Institute in Washington, DC. Anjum Niaz has interviewed a number of Prime Ministers and Presidents of the Subcontinent and is a vast traveler.



Dr. Maleeha Lodhi

Dr. Maleeha Lodhi obtained her Ph.D in Politics from the London School of Economics in 1980, having received her B.Sc (Econ) from the same institution in 1976. She taught Politics and Sociology at the London School of Economics for five years, 1980-85, before returning home to embark on what was to be a remarkable career in journalism. She also briefly taught for a year at the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, in the Department of Public Administration.



Maleeha Lodhi's journalistic career spanned eight years in which she edited two of Pakistan's major English daily newspapers- The News International, which she helped launch, and The Muslim. She became the first woman in all of Asia to be the editor of a daily paper. Her outspoken views and incisive analyses quickly took her to the very top of the profession as an outstanding professional as well as a crusader of democracy.

Dr. Lodhi has served as the high commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom, and twice as ambassador to the United States. She is a Fellow at the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School, Harvard University. She has also been a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament. Dr. Maleeha Lodhi is a Fellow of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics. In February 1994, she was cited for a top journalistic award by APNS (All Pakistan Newspaper Society) for a feature she had coauthored with a fellow Pakistani newsman. Apart from contributing numerous research articles to journals of international repute, Lodhi has published two books of her writings: Pakistan's Encounter with Democracy and The External Dimension Published in Pakistan in 1994. In December 1994 she was selected (the only one from Pakistan) by Time magazine as one of the hundred global pacesetters or young leaders who the magazine said would help define the next century.

Saneeya Hussain

Saneeya Hussain (13 August 1954- 20 April, 2005) was a Pakistani journalist and environmentalist. She married a Brazilian man in 1998 and died tragically young in Brazil in 2005. Saneeya began her career at MNJ advertising Pakistan, working for Javed Jabbar as a copywriter in 1978. In the mid-eighties, Saneeya edited The Star Weekend magazine. The paper was a platform for dissenting views. Banned columnists had to keep changing their names to continue writing, and the banned women's movement found plenty of space in the magazine's pages. She was also a member of the Shirkat Gah Collective, which was the fore runner of the Women's Action Forum (WAF), the group that so fiercely resisted the Zia regime. When "the red scribbles from upstairs" got unbearable, in early 1988, she left.

Saneeya moved on to join the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and was among one of the first Pakistanis to participate in people-to-people contact with Indian environmentalists. She also set up the pioneering Journalist's Resource Centre, that trained and encouraged journalists in environmental reporting. Saneeya's involvement in the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS) included the path-breaking NCS Bulletin (later The Way Ahead magazine), and its Urdu counterpart, Jareeda, edited by Obaidullah Baig.

After going to work with the World Commission on Dams at Cape Town, South Africa in August 1998, Saneeya met Luis P. Ferraz, the Brazilian geographer whom she interviewed for a project. Luis and Saneeya eventually married and moved to Kathmandu after she joined Panos South Asia as Director in 2002. Saneeya and Luis decided to move to Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2004. On April 20, 2005 Saneeya suffered an asthma attack in her Sao Paulo apartment. She was rushed to the hospital but due to heavy traffic did not reach the emergency room in time. Saneeya remained in a coma for about a week, after which she died at the age of 50. Her father, Vasef Husain died two months later in Karachi, Pakistan. Her mother and younger sister reside in Karachi, while Luis lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Muneeza Shamsie

Muneeza Shamsie (nee Habibullah) is a Pakistani writer, critic and freelance journalist. She was born in Lahore, Pakistan into a literary family, and was educated in England. She is the daughter of the writer Jahanara Habibullah. She grew up with a strong social and literary conscience stemming from the political and feminist views of Begum Inam Habibullah, her paternal grandmother.

She lives in Karachi and regularly contributes to the Dawn newspaper and monthly Newsline and She magazines on literary matters. She also writes for the Journal of Commonwealth Literature and The Literary Encyclopaedia. Her writing covers diverse topics, from archaeology to feminism, but literature has always been her main interest.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/>

میڈیا میں کام کرنے والی خواتین کی مساوی نمائندگی یقینی بنائیں گے، تسنیم احمر

خواتین میڈیا نیٹ ورک کا مقصد ان موضوعات کو اجاگر کرتا ہے جس کے نتیجے میں خواتین کو کم نمائندگی حاصل ہوئی اور فیصلہ سازی کی سطح ان کی کمی کو پورا کرنا ہے یہ ہم عکس کی میڈیا مانیٹرنگ ٹیم کا حصہ ہوگی اس کے ذریعے میڈیا میں کام کرنے والی خواتین کی مساوی اور منصفانہ نمائندگی کو یقینی بنایا جائے گا ان خیالات کا اظہار عکس کی ڈائریکٹر تسنیم احمر نے خواتین کی منعقدہ ورکشاپ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا اس موقع پر سینئر صحافی ماریانہ باہر، فریدہ حفیظ، شمیم اکرام سمیت میڈیا میں کام کرنے والی خواتین موجود تھیں سینئر خواتین صحافیوں نے پرنٹ اور الیکٹرانک میڈیا سے تعلق رکھنے والی صحافی خواتین کو اپنے صحافتی تجربات سے آگاہ کیا اس موقع پر نئی آنے والی صحافی خواتین نے بھی اپنے اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کیا تربیتی ورکشاپ میڈیا کو آڈیو ویژوئل سہولتوں نے بھی ایف ایم ریڈیو کے حوالے سے خواتین کو اپنے تجربات سے آگاہ کیا خواتین شرکاء نے کہا کہ میڈیا سے منسلک پاکستانی خواتین کیلئے عکس سینٹر ایک نئے پراجیکٹ کا آغاز کر رہا ہے جو الیکٹرانک و پرنٹ میڈیا میں کام کرنے والی خواتین کو ایک پلیٹ فارم مہیا کرے گا اس کے ذریعے خواتین کو ہر سطح پر ایک مثبت اور مناسب نمائندگی حاصل ہو سکے گی۔ عکس کی ڈائریکٹر تسنیم احمر نے کہا کہ یہ نیٹ ورک ان بہادر و جرات مند خواتین کو بھی خراج تحسین پیش کرتا ہے جو آج ہم میں موجود نہیں جن میں نجمہ باہر، نجمہ احمد، منیر بھی آمنہ اعظم علی، سہیہ حسین شامل ہیں۔

April

5

Sunday

Notes

Najma Saddique is a renowned journalist, human rights activist and is currently working with Shirkat Gah. She is an expert on globalization issues. She has written number of valuable articles and books on the issues of globalization, WTO, organic farming and biodiversity.



Pakistani journalist wins award

Shimaila Matri Dawood of Newslane has been declared the runner-up in the print/online category in the CNN Young Journalist Award, with Indian freelancer Anuj Chopra from Pune declared the winner.

Aaj Tak's Ravinder Sharma won the award in the television category, while Sahara Samay's Amit Kumar Shrivastava was the runner-up. V H Harishbabu of India Vision Channel, Kochi, was the winner in the cameraperson category, says a press release.

Matri Dawood won the runner-up award for her article "Will the Real Pakistani Woman Please Stand Up?" about women's empowerment. Chopra, who won the prize for his story "No Entry, We are the Meat Nazis", portrays how in different parts of Mumbai, housing societies are shunning non-vegetarians.

Dawn; December 20, 2005

Beena Sarwar

Beena Sarwar is a Pakistani artist, journalist and documentary filmmaker, focusing on human rights, gender, media, and peace, with extensive experience with the print media and television in Pakistan and abroad. She was Features Editor of 'The Frontier Post', Lahore, founding editor of weekly 'The News on Sunday', Pakistan (1994-2000), OpEd Editor of daily 'The News' (2004-05) and Contributing Editor in Pakistan for monthly Himal Southasian, Kathmandu (1996-present). Since doing her Masters in Television Documentary (Goldsmiths College, University of London, 2001) she has made several documentaries and worked as a producer with Geo Television news, Pakistan's first 24-hour news channel, in Karachi. She runs a postings list at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/beena-issues>. She was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University (2005-06), and Fellow at Harvard University's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy (2006-07). She is currently based in Karachi working on a book about the struggle for democratic spaces in Pakistan.

[Hhttp://www.opendemocracy.net/](http://www.opendemocracy.net/)

Biased world for Pak women scribes

ASIA NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Women journalists in Pakistan have more to handle than just deadline pressure - not only do they face stiff odds, but they are also discriminated against - in a profession which was till recently believed to be a male dominated one.

In fact, the number of women working in the media is low that sometimes their presence is not even felt, according to a woman journalist writing for the daily The News. But can the media be blamed for the sorry plight of women journalists? No, says Nabila Aslam, who works for an Islamabad newspaper. "What else can you expect when the society itself fails to recognise the fact that a woman can play a major role in any field or profession?" she asks.

Tasneem Ahmar, head of a Non-Governmental Organisation 'Aks' (Reflection), has pinpointed two areas where women generally face problems: One relates to women working in any profession and the second relates to the manner in which the media perceives a woman. She said, "Sometimes, even women are compelled to write stories that present their ilk in stereotypes, as helpless creatures, faithful wives or duty-conscious mothers."

However, nearly all Pakistani newspapers have some women working on the news-desk. Not many Pakistani youth, especially men, have been attracted to this field. But even here women are treated as anything but equals, if one goes by what women journalists have to say.

A woman sub-editor of a national daily lamented that women sub-editors rarely got to edit major stories relating to political and economic issues.

"They are generally told to write stories relating to cultural and social issues, which are carried in the inside pages of the newspapers. Only some women journalists report on politics," she added.

According to another woman journalist, male counterparts regularly harassed them. "If we write a good story, male colleagues resent it. They resort to some unfair means then," she says. The situation is not any better in the case of magazines also, excepting two - Newsline and Herald. These two magazines, the best political journals in Pakistan, are mostly edited and brought out by women. These have even won international awards for their work.

Late Razia Bhatti, founding editor of Newsline, was among the best editors in the country. Even the present editors of Herald and Newsline, Sherry Rehman and Rehana Hakim respectively, have been lauded for their work.

[Http://www.expressindia.com/](http://www.expressindia.com/)

January 16, 1998

SHERRY REHMAN

Sherry Rehman has been a senior journalist for over twenty years. She served as the editor of Pakistan's prestigious news magazine, *Herald*, for ten years. She has wide experience in both print and broadcast media. Rehman's bold and creative journalistic style earned her the reputation of a top journalist of the country. She was hounded by the Jam Sadiq Sindh government for publishing a cover story on the plunder of his Home Minister. She also anchored a television show on current affairs in 1999. Rehman regularly writes for national and international newspapers and news magazines.



On March 6, 2008, she was re-elected as the top PPP candidate from Sindh on the list of reserved seats for women. She has been a Member of Parliament in the National Assembly of Pakistan (2002-2007) and Central Information Secretary as well as President of Policy Planning for the Pakistan Peoples Party. Her interests in the National Assembly include foreign and security policy, women's status and rights legislation, and media policies. Rehman was the first Pakistani to be recognized with an award for independent journalism by the UK House of Lords in its Muslim World Awards Ceremony in the year 2002.

Ministry of Women Development: Government of
Pakistan

Afia Salam

Afia Salam is the senior Copy Editor at Dawn News tv, Pakistan's first English language television channel.

She started her forays into journalism in 1978, with a weekly column on cricket in an English evening paper and an Urdu daily of Karachi, moving on to become Pakistan's first female cricket journalist. Over the years, she entrenched herself in the cricket community by authoring, co-authoring and editing several books and magazines, including the country's only one dedicated to the game, *The Cricketer*. She also collaborated on the autobiography of the country's cricket legend Hanif Mohammad, and was editor of the autobiography of the country's most successful captain, Mushtaq Mohammad.

In between she packed a stint as an air traffic controller, as part of the first batch of female controllers inducted in Pakistan and then went on to edit an aviation and defence magazine. Diversifying her experience, she struck out into the field of advertising, and served as the creative head of three leading agencies: Blazon, Argus and Blitz-DDB. She also undertook several freelance editing, proof reading and event management projects.



[http://www.wvn.com.pk/beta/index.php?option=com_m
anageusers&task=viewprofile&id=526](http://www.wvn.com.pk/beta/index.php?option=com_m
anageusers&task=viewprofile&id=526)

خواتین کا الگ میڈیا سنٹر ہونا چاہیے

برطانیہ میں پہلی ایشیائی خاتون جسٹس آف پیس

صحافت اور سماجی خدمات کے لئے سرگرم عمل مسعودہ احمد سے بات چیت

قیام پاکستان سے لے کر اب تک پاکستان کی ترقی اور تعمیر میں بہت سی خواتین سرگرم عمل رہی ہیں ایسی ہی خواتین میں ایک نام مسعودہ احمد کا ہے جو ایک نامور سماجی کارکن اور صحافی ہیں۔ انہوں نے ملک و ملت کے لئے تاریخی خدمات انجام دینے کے ساتھ بیرون ملک نسلی ہم آہنگی اور مفاہمت کو فروغ دینے میں گرانقدر خدمات سر انجام دیں۔ مسعودہ احمد پہلی ایشیائی خاتون ہیں جنہیں برطانیہ میں جسٹس آف پیس کے لئے منتخب کیا گیا تھا۔ کچی آبادیوں، بستیوں اور دیہات میں عورتوں اور بچیوں کی تعلیم و ترقی اور ہنر کے لئے مختلف ادارے ان کی سرپرستی میں قابل قدر کارنامے سر انجام دے رہے ہیں۔ مسعودہ احمد اے پی این ایس کی ایکریٹو کمیٹی ممبر میڈیا پبلشرز اور جرنلس آرگنائزیشن کی بانی اور تاحیات چیئر پرسن، گلیکسی آف یوتھ کی بانی ونگراں، اپواء (نیٹفل) انفارمیشن اور ریسرچ کی نائب صدر اور پاکستان فیڈریشن آف بزنس اور پرفیشنل ویمن کی ایڈوائزر ہیں۔ گزشتہ دنوں ان کی کارکردگی کے اعتراف میں منسٹری آف ویمن ڈویلپمنٹ سوشل ویلفیئر اینڈ اسپیشل ایجوکیشن حکومت پاکستان کی طرف سے انہیں محترمہ فاطمہ جناح ایوارڈ دیا گیا۔ مسعودہ احمد سے خصوصی بات چیت کی:

خبریں: ایک ایسے زمانے میں جب لڑکیوں کی آزادی معترضہ تھی آپ نے کام کیسے شروع کیا؟

مسعودہ احمد: میری پیدائش روشن خیال گھرانے میں ہوئی، میرے والد لڑکیوں کی تعلیم کے حامی تھے جو بیٹیوں سے بڑھ کر ہم پر توجہ دیتے تھے۔ میں نے ابتدائی تعلیم سیکرڈ ہارٹ میں حاصل کی، قیام پاکستان کے وقت میری عمر 11 سال تھی والد کا تبادلہ لاہور ہوا تو میں نے اس وقت اپنی والدہ اور دیگر خواتین کو تحریک پاکستان میں نمایاں کردار ادا کرتے ہوئے دیکھا۔ میں ان دنوں محترمہ فاطمہ جناح کو بھی انتہائی فعال کردار ادا کرتے ہوئے دیکھتی تھی۔ شاید اسی سبب کا نتیجہ تھا کہ میں سماجی خدمات کے لئے ہمیشہ سرگرم رہی۔ میں نے اے یو ایل کے بعد کونن میری کالج میں داخلہ لیا۔ فرسٹ ایئر ہی میں تھی کہ میری شادی ہو گئی اور میں کراچی آ گئی۔ تین سال کے بعد میرے شوہر انگلینڈ منتقل ہو گئے جہاں میں نے کچھ سماجی امور انجام دینے شروع کر دیئے۔ میں پاکستانی خواتین کے ساتھ مل کر ان کے مسائل معلوم کرتی اور ان کے حل کی کوشش کرتی، ان میں سے اکثریت کا اہم مسئلہ تعلیم تھی جس کی وجہ سے وہ ہچکچاہٹ کا شکار رہتی تھیں۔ میں نے وہاں دیگر کیساتھ مل کر "پاکستان ویمن ایسوسی ایشن" کی بنیاد رکھی ہماری کارکردگی کو دیکھ کر بیگم رعنا لیاقت علی خان نے خاص طور پر اپنی صدر بیگم آغا ہلالی کے ذریعے مجھے مبارک باد کا پیغام بھیجا۔

خبریں: پاکستان آنے کے بعد کس جانب توجہ دی؟

مسعودہ احمد: میں نے اپوا کی جوائنٹ سیکریٹری انٹرنیشنل سیکشن کی حیثیت سے کام کا آغاز کیا لیکن میں اس سے مطمئن نہیں تھی، میں بچوں کے لئے کچھ کرنا چاہتی تھی۔ میں نے بیرون ملک رہ کر یہ بات محسوس کی کہ وہاں کے بچوں کا اپنے وطن سے رابطہ تقریباً ٹوٹ رہا ہے اس لئے میں نے 1970ء "ٹین ایجر میگزین" کے لئے کام کا آغاز کیا، بھٹو صاحب سے ملی جنہوں نے مجھے الطاف گوہر سے ملایا اور طے یہ ہوا کہ یہ میگزین اردو، انگریزی اور بنگالی زبان میں شائع کیا جائے گا لیکن بعد ازاں سیاسی تبدیلیوں کی وجہ سے ہم اسے صرف انگریزی میں شائع کر سکے۔

خبریں: پاکستان میڈیا یونین پبلشر اینڈ جرنلس آرگنائزیشن کے اغراض و مقاصد کیا ہیں؟

مسعودہ احمد: صرف اتنا کہ اس شعبے میں خواتین کو ملازمت کے نئے مواقع ملیں اور خواتین ان شعبوں کو اپنائیں۔ میرا موقف کالجز یہاں تک کہ علیحدہ بسوں کی بات کی جاسکتی ہے تو پھر خواتین کا میڈیا سینٹر کیوں نہیں ہو سکتا اس طرح خواتین زیادہ بہتر کارکردگی دکھائیں گی۔ خبریں: گھر اور کام میں کس طرح توازن برقرار رکھا؟

مسعودہ احمد: سب سے پہلے تو میں یہ کہنا چاہتی ہوں کہ مجھے اپنے سماجی، صحافتی کاموں میں اپنے شوہر کا ہر طرح کا تعاون حاصل رہا تاہم انکی خواہش تھی کہ میں بچوں کو زیادہ توجہ دوں اسی وجہ سے میں نے ملازمت کی میں سماجی کام بچوں کے اسکول ٹائم میں کرتی تھی، میگزین اس وقت نکلا جب بچے کالج جانے لگے۔ اس طرح میں نے گھر اور سماجی کاموں میں توازن رکھا میں اپنی بہنوں سے یہ کہوں گی کہ وہ ملازمت یا دیگر کام ضرور کریں لیکن پہلی ترجیح ان کا گھر ہونا چاہئے جو خواتین ملازمت کرتی ہیں وہ خود کو برتر سمجھنے لگتی ہیں جو غلط ہے۔ آج ہمارے گھروں کی ٹوٹ پھوٹ کا اصل سبب یہ کہ ہم طرز زندگی کی اہمیت سے روگردانی کر رہے ہیں۔ ماں باپ، شوہر، بہن، بھائی، رشتہ داروں اور اولاد کو مشرقی اقدار کے مطابق احترام دیں۔

خبریں: خواتین کی آزادی کی کس حد تک قائل ہیں؟

مسعودہ احمد: میں خواتین کی بے حد و حساب آزادی کی قائل نہیں ہوں۔ میں سمجھتی ہوں کہ عورت کو سوچ سمجھ کر ایک دائرے میں رہتے ہوئے آزادی دی جانی چاہئے۔ اس وقت حکومت نے خواتین کو ان کا صحیح مقام دیا ہوا ہے مجھے امید ہے کہ اسمبلی میں آنے والی خواتین دیگر خواتین کے لئے بہتر مثال قائم کریں گی۔

خبریں: کوئی پیغام دینا چاہیں گی؟

مسعودہ احمد: میں اپنے وطن میں بزرگوں کے احترام کی روایت کو ہمیشہ قائم دیکھنا چاہتی ہوں۔ حکومت کو چاہئے کہ بوڑھے والدین کے لئے اولڈ ایج الائنس، انکم ٹیکس ریلیف، میڈیکل کی سہولیات اور بعض صورتوں میں گھر کی سہولت دی جائے تاکہ کوئی بھی مجبوری ہمیں ہماری روایت کو توڑنے پر مجبور نہ کر سکے۔

شازیہ انوار: خبریں، اکتوبر 9، 2004

Top student from Waziristan wants to be a journalist

Aneela Mahsud, who topped the MA previous examination of journalism and mass communication from the University of Peshawar, wants to become a journalist.

Talking to The News, she said she had been contributing poems and articles to various newspapers and was keen to adopt journalism as profession.

The News: January 26, 2008

Nayyar Mahmood retires from Radio Pakistan today

After rendering nearly thirty-nine years of journalistic and broadcasting service, Nayyar Mahmood retires from the Radio Pakistan on Saturday.

She was the first woman who rose to the highest rank in the Programme Division of the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) as director programmes.

Nayyar Mahmood, wife of former information secretary Anwar Mahmood, had the distinction of launching the digitalisation project of the sound archives of the Radio Pakistan to preserve millions of hours of songs, music and other valuable recordings of the last sixty years. The project is in advance stage of completion.

She joined the Radio Pakistan as programme producer in 1974 and served in



Lahore, Rawalpindi, Karachi and Islamabad centres in various services of Radio Pakistan, including World Service, External Service and Home Service.

After graduating from Lahore College for Women and doing Master's in Journalism from Punjab University and remaining an active member and office-bearer of the two institutions, she had joined daily 'Azad' under editor I.A. Rahman. She later worked in 'Musawat'. Her journalistic mentors included I.A. Rahman, late A.T. Chaudhry, late Zaheer Kashmiri and late Shaukat Siddiqui.

Nayyar Mahmood plans to resume writing in major newspapers and to bring out a literary magazine 'Funpara' to promote quality Urdu prose and poetry.

The News: July 26, 2008

Ayesha Azfar

Ayesha thoroughly enjoys what she does. She's into her work most of the time with the exception of days when she's bored with life and dying to break free but alas, duty calls at SAMW Online where she is an assistant editor. You'll see her buried in mounds of work: whether she's writing an editorial, editing mundane stuff or simply researching. There's something of a perfectionist in her that is not wholly apparent in her workspace, which is oftentimes strewn with newspapers, articles, and files. After her A-levels at Karachi Grammar School, Ayesha found her way to William Smith College in upstate New York, where she majored in Third World Studies, following up her masters in International Relations at the London School of Economics. She must definitely have tons of the last two qualities (in reserve as well) without which she might never have lived to tell the tale of ten long years at Pakistan's largest newspaper Dawn: starting with the Sunday magazine and then, on the foreign desk in the newsroom which taught her how to muster her strength in the face of 'spineless' male colleagues. She says she always knew she wanted to be a journalist: a single-minded career choice without any diversions. There's nothing fancy or shocking when you meet her. She may appear to be quiet and almost 'oh so nice' but the exterior to this woman is deceiving. Behind the soft façade, is a no-nonsense woman who loves collecting cookbooks ('I just like looking at them' she quips), enjoys music (Bach, Pachelbel and Nana Mouskourie), opera and the theatre. She's a sincere friend one can ever wish know with tons of time, energy and enthusiasm. But watch out, because when she's livid, you don't want to be the one on the receiving end. Fortunately, that's a rare occurrence.

S.Suhail Haleem: *Idia, ayesha1@samwonline.com*

Zahida Hina

Zahida Hina is a noted Pakistani Urdu columnist, essayist, short story writer, novelist and dramatist.

Zahida was born on October 5, 1946 in the Sehsram town of Bihar, India. After the partition of India, her father, Muhammad Abul Khair, emigrated to Pakistan and settled in Karachi, where Zahida was brought up and educated. She wrote her first story when she was nine years old. She graduated from University of Karachi, and her first essay was published in the monthly *Insha* in 1962. She chose journalism as a career in mid 1960s. In 1970, she married the well-known poet Jon Elia. Zahida Hina was associated with the daily *Jang* from 1988 until 2005, when she moved to the *Daily Express, Pakistan*. She now lives in Karachi with her children.

Zahida Hina has written more than two thousand journalistic articles. Many of her short stories have been translated into English, Bengali, Hindi and Marathi.

In August 2006, she was nominated for Pakistan's highest award, the Presidential Pride of Performance Award, which she declined as a mark of protest against the military government in Pakistan.

[Hhttp://en.wikipedia.org/](http://en.wikipedia.org/)

Media Women

Khurshid Hyder (Dawn) and Rubina Jabbar (The News) have been elected president and general secretary, respectively, of the Media Women Publishers and Journalists Organization for the 2000-2002 terms.

Other office-bearers are Razia Sultan (Asas), Zeba Burney (Nawa-i-Waqt), Soofia Yazdani (Nawa-i-Waqt), Malka Afroze Rohila (Monthly Aaral), Sehar Hassan (Khabrain), Shaheen Zameer (TV Newscaster), Tahira Muzzafar (Pakistan Vision News), Yasmeen Abbas (freelance), Surraiya Bano, Romana Aslam and chairperson Hidayatullah (director, First Women Bank).

Dawn: April 1, 2000

Mehtab Akbar Rashidi

Mrs. Mehtab Akbar Rashidi hails from a prominent family from Larkana District. She started her career as an educationist and thereafter joined International Relations Department of University of Sindh in 1973 and later completed her masters in international relation from University of Massachusetts U.S.A. She was the Chairperson of International Relation Department of Sindh University and also served as Director Institute of Sindhology and resident director University Grants Commission Jamshoro. She is the first ever woman secretary in the history of Sindh Secretariat where she also served at numerous positions in Govt. of Sindh. As the President of Sindh Graduate Association, Women Branch, she took a number of initiatives in bringing awareness to educated women about their rights, especially in rural areas. She championed the idea of extending micro-credit schemes to deserving and poor women in far flung areas, including Juhi district Dadu where this scheme was highly successful and provided benefit to large number of under privileged women. She has also presented various talk shows on national issues on PTV, which acclaimed tremendous popularity among the viewers. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, she has been conferred with a number of awards including "Pride of Performance" the national award by the President of Pakistan recently.

Dawn staffer honoured

Dawn's assistant editor Zubeida Mustafa has been named as one of the winners of this year's Global Media Awards for Excellence in Population Reporting by the Washington- based World Population Institute.

Mrs. Mustafa received her award at a ceremony earlier this month in Rabat, Morocco. She had also won the World Population Institute's award in the individual reporting category in 1986.

Journalists, media institutions and organizations who have contributed in spreading awareness about population issues are honoured annually in some 15 categories by the 100-year-old institute.

This year's other winners are Rina Jimenez of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Nouzha Skalli, a women's rights activist and member of the Moroccan parliament; the Inter Press Service (IPS); Radio Tanzania; the World Watch Magazine of World Watch Institute; the Poblacion y Salud en Mesoamerica; the Salud Publica de Mexico; the Durango Herald; the Bangladesh Centre for Communication Programmes; the Family Planning Association of Morocco; and Ennakhil pour la Femme et L'enfant of Morocco. The country award went to Morocco.

Gender in Journalism awards announced

Increasing role of women in journalism in the spotlight at awards ceremony

The Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF), in collaboration with the UNESCO, here on Tuesday gave Gender in Journalism awards to journalists and writers for their best articles and reports on gender-based issues in Pakistan.

Ms Razia Fareed (Jang) received the gender sensitivity award while the best female journalist award went to Ms Afshan Subohi (Dawn). Both of them also received Rs 50,000 cash award.

Speaking on the occasion, Fatima Surayya Bajiya, Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister, was of the opinion that though oppression exists in the society, still the role of women was so powerful that they could face all sorts of pressure.

She urged that there should be printed matter about empowerment of women but indecent words or sentences should not be used while expressing views.

Ms Zubaida Mustafa said though the number of women was increasing in journalism, they still were partitioned in specific slots. She felt that in-depth and analytical coverage should be carried out about issues related to women, especially those of rural areas. She suggested devising a code of ethics for print as well as for the electronic media to stop humiliation of women.

Columnist Zahida Hina said that women should cover matters like biased behaviour of police towards women and gender-based violence.

She underscored the need of launching a countrywide campaign regarding increasing female literacy.

Qamar Shahbaz, Sindhi writer, secretary general of PPF Awais Aslam, PPF chairman Fazal Qureshi and UNESCO representative Aisha Durrani also spoke.

Tahir Siddiqi (Dawn), M Masood (Newsline), and Nargis Malik (Jang) were among the other finalists of the gender sensitive category, while the finalists of the best female journalist category were Ms Faiza Ilyas, Ms Irum Ansari, Ms Zoefeen Ibrahim and Ms Sabeena Qazi.

Maisoon's death a great loss

It was distressing to learn about the death of Maisoon Hussein, a highly professional journalist and human rights activist.

Whether it was the mildness of her manner, her inner strength, extreme politeness or her passion for human rights, our conversation immediately turned to the late-distinguished jurist, Justice Dorab F. Patel. I will never forget what she said about him, which was something to the effect that even when Justice Patel was vehement he was not forceful enough!

Coming from such a young person, this comment for a sober and reserved British-trained jurist who very carefully chose his words was not surprising at all. Nevertheless, at that point I knew that this soft-spoken lady with a frail exterior would rise. Not in the worldly sense though, but an ascension as envisaged by the scholar who remarked, "Unless he rises above himself- what a poor thing is Man!" And rise she did.

Perhaps the cancer developed by Maisoon Hussein was in response to the various forms of cancer she encountered in our society daily during the course of her professional life. The first thing that came to my mind on reading about her untimely death was the Greek saying, "Whom the gods love, die young". So let it be said of Maisoon Hussein who traversed greater heights yesterday!

Dr Ghulam Nabi Kazi: Karachi Dawn, March 23, 2003



Eminent author, journalist and women's rights activist Sheen Farrukh:
<http://flicker.com/photos/abro/1769892507/>

Fariha Razak Haroon

Besides being a Member of the Sindh Provincial Assembly, Fariha is an international award winning journalist, also working as Group Director, Jang Group of Newspapers and Director, GEO tv. She has received several international and national awards like the "Annual Muslim Award" by the House of Lords, London, May 2003, the prestigious "Lorenzo Natali 1st prize" jointly by the European Commission and the International Federation of Journalists in Brussels, Belgium 2000 for her articles on human rights violations in underdeveloped countries and the status of women in Pakistan. (She has the honour of being the only Pakistani journalist to win this international award). Also a recipient of "Outstanding Journalist of South Asia 2000" award of ASIA (Asian Society of International Achievers), Hong Kong, for her deep commitment and significant contribution to social and human rights issues.

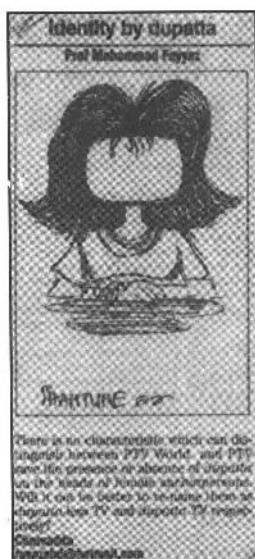
She has been in the media for the last 15 years. This diminutive but dynamic woman just comes across as self-assured. It's the kind of confidence that comes only if you have strong convictions and a passion for what you are doing. Extremely articulate, one doesn't have to worry about asking the next question. Fariha, in a very candid manner leads you along with the conversation. So we just sit back and let things flow.

[Wwww.fact.com.pk/](http://www.fact.com.pk/)

Nargis Baloch

Nargis Baloch, M.A, is the Editor of the Urdu newspaper 'Intekhab' published simultaneously from Balochistan and Sindh. She has been on many foreign tours as a member of Pakistan delegations. She joined the newspaper 13 years back and today she is serving as an editor / columnist for the paper. She stepped into the profession of journalism at a time when very few women from the whole country had dared to venture into this profession. Through her articles and editorials, she brought forward the difficulties existing throughout Balochistan. She took the profession of journalism and full time job and currently she is running the whole institution with immense success.

[Hhttp://en.wikipedia.org/](http://en.wikipedia.org/)



Looking at the space given in many newspapers, the main issue, it seems, is not the under representation of women in the media or the problems faced by them while working there, it is whether or not they are covering their heads especially when they appear on state-television.

Pen, power and perils

And at this time of the year when we all are set to celebrate the International Women's Day, let's talk about the problems of the women we have been ignoring for quite sometime - the women journalists...

With time, women have come a long way and have developed themselves both economically and socially - either through education or vocation. This has even helped them ward off the misconceptions people had in their minds related to working women. And at this time of the year when we all are set to celebrate the International Women's Day, You! talks about the problems of the women we have been ignoring for quite sometime - the women journalists. Yes, it's time to appreciate and encourage the women of the fourth estate.



"During the '60s, it was almost an implausible idea for the women to work in media. In the early nineties, a TV serial was aired on PTV in which women journalists were shown wearing modern clothes, smoking cigarettes and riding on motorbikes with their male colleagues. When I joined the field, my extended family initially looked down upon me for my decision. It was only later that they realised the reality was far from what the people believed," says Shahida Qazi, a prominent journalist and chairperson of Mass Communication Department, Jinnah University.

The myth that a woman can't give her 100 per cent to the profession is the main obstacle in the career growth of a woman. This hampers her career in reporting which is still not considered a woman's cup of tea and newspaper owners are usually reluctant to hire them on these posts. Then other impediments in her way are late night shifts, transportation problems and low number of annual leaves. Where perks are concerned, journalists don't enjoy the same facilities as other professionals. There is no subsidised educational, residential or insurance facility for them and their families. Still, if we see a good number of females in newspaper organisations, it's because they are

more determined to work even at a low wage. All they desire is a little consideration and confidence from their editors so that they can give their best.

"The newspapers have become a commercial entity and the authorities are indifferent to our work. There is no extra allowance for good work or no deduction for bad work. Thus, it's tough for you to progress in the organisation you are working in," shares Mehar, a prominent journalist of an Urdu daily.



In terms of beats (topics for reporting), the female journalists are also being discriminated at their workplace by their male counterparts. They have allocated certain beats to the male reporters such as court and crime reporting which females are not supposed to pick up. Mainly because of the fact that male reporters have their contacts in fixed police stations which they think women can't maintain.

Besides, there are very few facilities like separate washrooms, prayer rooms or day care centres at the newspaper offices. "Some organisations have separate prayer rooms and day care centres for working mothers as they need to spend time with their children too. Unfortunately we don't have any such facility and due to our erratic timings it's difficult to spend quality time with our kids," comments a female journalist, mother of two young kids.

Adding to it, there are not many ladders to climb in journalism and when you are a woman, the steps are more deformed. The male members of the profession try their best to create problems for women so that they don't reach the coveted position of 'editor'. "Men appear to be cooperative and respectful but in reality they are insecure to give women their due position in an organisation. We can attribute it to our chauvinistic society in which men can't bear to take orders from the womenfolk. When it comes to work, women are burdened with it while when it comes to promotion, men take the lead," expresses another female journalist.

When you observe the professional organisations like Press Club

Karachi Union of Journalists (KUJ) or Arts Council, males are appointed as labour union officers. There are only one or two women who are elected as office bearer to fulfil the requirements of the law but these women too have no decision making power.

And then, can we ignore the workplace harassment which is quite common in our society? "In some newspapers the males use abusive language and indulge in loud conversation with each other to incense their female counterparts. Generally, males in the office keep an indifferent attitude towards the women by criticising their work, their appearance and nearly everything they can point their fingers at. In some organisations, owners of newspapers may not even respond to the complaints lodged by the female staff members, even if these are of serious nature," shares another female journalist.

While making a place for themselves amidst all the hurdles and harassment, the women choose to remain in the field due to various reasons. "Nobody has ever raised women issues or informed us of our rights and we have no tool to highlight our problems. The newspapers may have place for different showbiz scandals or political news, but women issues are ignored on account of limited space, especially in Sindhi and Urdu press. But now with more women coming in the field, our issues are being given importance," remarks Sheen Farrukh, a senior journalist and social activist.

At present, we may notice a new breed of women journalists who have studied from elite schools and are well groomed. Hailing from good families, they are confident, well aware and have a flair for writing. They are in a good position to compete with their male counterparts.

Someone has rightly said that once a journalist always a journalist. Maybe, it's a matter of communication and sharing your ideas or simply it is a feeling that someone out there is listening to you and holds your opinion high; all we understand is that you can't just stand on the shore and observe the sea once you have seen the deeper side of it.

Sheher Bano: The News, March 4, 2008

Will the Real Pakistani Woman Please Standup?

Who is the Pakistani woman?

Does she have an identity?

From teacher-preacher, fundamentalist Farhat Hashmi, covered head-to-toe in billows of black, to sassy supermodel, Iraj, clad in just a thong bikini, two images, equally compelling, vie for supremacy in urban Pakistan today. Both tell completely different sides of the Pakistani woman's story. But it is, in fact, these two extremes that capture the very essence of the conflicting realities that govern the life and frame the identity of the Pakistani woman today.

For the daughter of privilege, a select 'liberal' elite, life is one long soiree. Essentially nocturnal by habit, she's seen at all the haunts the 'beautiful people' congregate at - intimate gts, extravaganzas for charity, midnight balls at the beach. Daytime pursuits include 'doing lunch,' at any one of a clutch of trendy city eateries, a few select fashion shows, and if a trip abroad hasn't been on the itinerary, working her way to an actual tan by the pool at home or in a zealously private club. And 'intellectual' forays could mean taking in the Vagina Monologues, giving her and the girlfriends something to talk about for months, a good French subtitled flick on television, or an afternoon with Ms Nair or Arundhati Roy at a local hotel.

Not everyone's life is, of course, utterly devoid of meaning. Many of the young women of this group are working, or aspiring to work, having dutifully earned themselves that ubiquitous 'bachelors' degree at one or another college overseas. Armed with a savvy born of travel and independent living and the security of being someone's daughter, these young women are ready to take on the world.

And following close on their heels are the young women who may not have had all the trappings, but make up for it by nursing even more ambitions to see, do and have it all. This is the child of the upper middle class who has the education, push and drive to get up and go go. And so she does. She works - on television, on stage, in a bank or multinational - and climbs her way up the corporate ladder or earns her wings to fly. This is a new Pakistani woman, but the only identity she has is the fact that she doesn't really have one. Largely unfamiliar - and equally uninterested in her culture, her language, her roots - she could be

Anyone, anywhere. Says journalist Mahreen Khan, "At a dinner party at somebody's house, I was the only one who wasn't drinking or smoking. And I was the one who had moved to Pakistan from England and been raised abroad."

The fact is, this class of Pakistani woman is out there, and in your face. And because she is on billboards, society magazines, even on television, you could be forgiven for thinking this is the new Pakistani woman.

The fact, however, is that she comprises just under two per cent of the female population.

Shimaila Matri Dawood: Newslite, March 2005

The Friday Times writer wins ICRC award

Rina Saeed Khan, Friday Times writer, won the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Award for best English write-up on a humanitarian issue that was published in The Friday Times.

According to an announcement by the ICRC, the winners of 'Award for Journalists 2006' were Rina Saeed Khan, for best English write-up, and Naveed Akram Abbasi, for best Urdu write-up, and were awarded Rs 30,000 and Rs 25,000 respectively. Rina Saeed Khan wrote 'Don't cry for me, Kashmir' in The Friday Times while Naveed Akram Abbasi wrote 'Zinda Zameer Afrad ko Tameere Nau Main Shamil Kiya Jaye' in the Urdu daily Nawa-i-Waqt. ICRC spokesman said that it was difficult to decide the winners as all entries were well articulated and raised humanitarian issues faced by the quake-affected people.

Daily Times: May 08, 2006

Women in the Media work like superwomen

It is an understatement that women are under-represented in the Pakistani media. There are so few women in media that their presence is hardly felt. Those few who are there face all sorts of discrimination.

"The fault is not in the media. Our society is not yet ready to give women a serious role in any field," says Nabila Aslam, who works for a newspaper in Islamabad.

Tasneem Ahmar, who runs an NGO called 'Uks' which recently organised a seminar on the role of women in media, identifies two areas where women face problems. One concerns those women who work in the media, and like women in other fields, face discrimination from their male colleagues. The other is the image of women that the media presents.

Sometimes, she says, even women are compelled to write stories that present women as helpless creatures, faithful wives or duty conscious mothers. There are few stories that show women as responsible members of the society.

Almost every newspaper in Pakistan has a few women working on the news desk. Since Pakistani journalism is not yet a favorite profession of young men, newspapers do not always get the best of the lot.

The problem is more acute at English newspapers where a journalist, whether on the desk or in reporting, has to have a good command over the English language to be able to write or edit. Unfortunately not many men with good English join newspapers. Unlike men, women journalists often come from English medium schools which give them an advantage over their male colleagues.

"But because women are not considered fit for serious work, most women subeditors never get to edit mainstream copies that deal with political or economic issues," says a subeditor working at a national daily.

They are given cultural and social stories that go on inside pages and are considered less important. Only a few women have ventured in political reporting. "Women are harassed at all levels. At times they are not taken seriously and it becomes difficult for them to ascertain their credibility," says a woman reporter.

Another complains: "if you file a better story than your male colleagues they resort to unfair means to pull you down."

But as far as magazines are concerned, there are two notable exceptions

The Newline and the Herald. These are the two best mainstream political journals of Pakistan and have won international awards. They

are almost entirely edited and produced by women. The late editor of the Newsline, Razia Bhatti was among the best editors in the country. Equally important is the current managing editor of the magazine, Sheri Rahman. She has been the driving force behind the magazine.

There are also a few women in newspapers that are not prominent but also enjoy administrative powers. Prominent among them are Maliha Lodhi and Kamila Hayat.

Women editors have given a new vigor and style to the newspapers which is also acknowledged by men.

But at the same time they also represent the fact that women are venturing into areas which were previously male dominated. Sometimes male subordinates do not cooperate. A woman editor has to work like a superwoman in order to establish her authority says a woman editor.

The News: January 12, 1998.

Women do quality work

I can't help but disagree with the views expressed in a news report about women journalists. I admit that women are under-represented in the media but let's not forget that women working in newspapers and magazines do quality work. Their contribution is outstanding.

How could the writer of the report have ignored the names of Zohra Karim, editor of a leading women's magazine, and former editor of the country's two best news magazines. A popular weekly tabloid published from Karachi is edited by a woman. Female reporters and writers often pick up themes that affect the day-to-day lives of the people and as such they work for establishing a new social order.

So who exactly will determine what is mainstream journalism? For all those poor misguided souls who associate mainstream journalism with political reporting, let me clarify that this profession covers a wide spectrum of issues. It is far more important to focus on health, education and social issues which gain primacy in a country like Pakistan.

Marina Lopes: Pakistan Observer, February 19, 2000

PAKISTAN: Broadcast Media Still Reeling from Clampdown

Asma Shirazi is the only female anchor in Pakistan who is banned from appearing on the air.

In a way, Asma Shirazi, special correspondent on the private television channel ARY One World, is relieved that she is not doing her show.

"At least I don't have to compromise to the present dictator's Machiavellian tactics or succumb to power politics," she said, referring to Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf's clampdown on Nov. 3, 2007 given what he cited as a "rising militancy and interference" by the judiciary.

The conflict between Musharraf and the judicial system came to the fore on March 9, 2007 after the former suspended Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry for alleged 'misconduct'.

Chaudhry supporters, though, believe that the suspension was a result of the court's indictment of the government's alleged corrupt activities. The move sparked protests and boycotts by lawyers in major cities in Pakistan, which resulted in violent clashes with the police.

Asma Shirazi is the only female TV anchor to be banned from appearing in any of her programmes. She is one of the six popular anchors from three private channels that remain off the air, although the government has allowed them to resume transmissions after negotiations with their owners.



Zofeen T Ebrahim: Asia Media Forum, 2008-02-08,
<http://www.theasiamediaforum.org/node/797>

Zuhra Karim awarded gold medal

The Soroptimist International of Lahore has awarded it's Women of the year 2000 award to noted journalist of Pakistan Ms Zuhra Karim here on Saturday.

The recipient is a publisher, editor and the founder of 'SHE' magazine which is a progressive magazine for women being published since 1963. The function was held here at Zeenat auditorium of APWA College.

Renowned Pakistani writer and winner of several awards Mrs Afzal Tauseef conferred the award, a gold medal and praised the contribution of Ms Kamal towards raising awareness about social issues and sustaining the image of an independent woman with immense potential for socio-economic contribution.

Chairperson APWA Ms Mariam Habib dilated on the role of women journalists in Pakistan.

"The most ethical use of journalism is surely to urge social justice and peace", she concluded.

APWA's other senior members were also present on the occasion. Soroptimist International Association was founded in 1921 in Oakland, California, USA and has 93,000 members all over the world.

Notes

پی ٹی وی پروڈیوسر شاہدہ شعیب رضوی کے لیے اعزاز

پاکستان ٹیلی ویژن کراچی سینٹر کی پروڈیوسر شاہدہ شعیب رضوی کو حال ہی میں لاہور میں منعقد پی ٹی وی ایوارڈ کی تقریب میں پاکستان کی بہترین اسپورٹس پروڈیوسر کے ایوارڈ کی سے نوازا گیا۔

شاہدہ شعیب کا زمانہ طالب علمی ہی سے کھیلوں سے خصوصی لگاؤ تھا۔ انہوں نے یونیورسٹی کی سطح پر بیڈمنٹن، باسکٹ بال اور مصالحتیں میں نمائندگی کی اور اسپورٹس اور اسپورٹس سائیکالوجی میں ماسٹرز کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ پولیٹیکل سائنس میں بھی ایم اے کیا۔

شاہدہ شعیب رضوی نے پاکستان ٹیلی ویژن کے لیے متعدد بین الاقوامی اور قومی مقابلوں کی مورچہ کی۔ ساتھ ہی مختلف پروگرام، دستاویزی فلمیں اور بحث و مباحثے پر مشتمل پروگراموں کے علاوہ اسکولش کے عظیم کھلاڑی جہانگیر خان اور اسنوکر کے سابق عالمی چیمپین محمد یوسف پر دستاویزی پروگرام تیار کیے۔ انہوں نے 1988ء، 1992ء، 1996ء، 2000ء کے اوپیکس پر تعارفی پروگرام بھی بنائے جو بے حد پسند کیے گئے۔

شاہدہ شعیب رضوی کو 1998ء میں پی ٹی وی کے صوبائی ایوارڈ سے بھی نوازا گیا تھا اب انہیں اپنی کارکردگی پر پاکستان کا بہترین پروڈیوسر قرار دیا گیا ہے۔

Najma Babar

Another woman journalist who had led the way for so many others passed away shortly after Razia Bhatti. Najma Babar had worked as an assistant editor in the evening daily 'The Star' from June 1981 until she moved on within the same publishing group (Dawn) in 1993 to launch Tuesday Review, a mid-week magazine. She continued to work as editor of Tuesday Review until her death on May 26, 1996. Involved in student politics from her days at Karachi University, it was only natural for Najma to become involved in the Women's Action Forum formed in 1981 in response to the discriminatory laws bulldozed through by General Ziaul Haq; laws like the Zina Ordinance of 1979 which criminalised extra-marital sex and made a rape victim open to charges of adultery, punishable by stoning to death. A selection of her articles, under the title of 'The Dispossessed' (Prometheus Publications, Karachi 2000) provides a sampling of her fierce sense of injustice, thoughtful, insightful reporting and analyses about the marginalised sections of society, long before the concept of 'human rights' became common parlance.

Najma found many issues to support, whether it meant marching on the streets of Karachi or pounding away on a rickety old typewriter to produce a newspaper column. She combined the attributes of a reporter and a columnist to produce features that went beyond mere opinions.

"She made sure that her writing not only influenced, but also informed, the reader," wrote Zohra Yusuf, editor of Star Weekend to which Najma frequently contributed, along with her writings and reports for the daily section. Najma's concerns included the cause of trafficked women from Burma and Bengal, the women in the fisheries sector and the nursing profession, besides issues of health and economics, family laws and violence against women. Her sense of humanity and justice is reflected in a brief but moving piece during the ethnic violence that engulfed Karachi, 'The Bonds of Blood', which won the All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) Best Feature Award of 1988. It documented how people from different ethnic backgrounds supported and sustained each



Ms. Fatima Mansuri

Ms. Fatima Mansuri is active in disability advocacy, a member of the Disabled Peoples International Pakistan 1988, and National Council member, Founder and Chairperson DPIP Karachi Sindh. She is visually impaired for the last 15 years. Trained in journalism and home economics, she was the first woman appointed as Controller Programs (Research), Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), a position she retired from in 1989, after 37 years of service with PBC. She has participated in numerous meetings in various cities around the world as delegate, consultant or resource person, on issues related to media, disability, women, home economics, social welfare. In 1999, she participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium Women 2000, Bangkok, as the only woman with disability of 300 women delegates



from the region, to prioritize issues of women with disability. She has also contributed to the inclusion of the concerns of women and girls with disability in the Platform for Action of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing in 1995. She is a member of the International Network of Women with Disability. She has been involved in a number of projects related to women and disabilities in Pakistan and is currently working on the establishment of a "Resource and training center for women and girls with disability", at four semi - urban, low income areas of Karachi.

United Nations ESCAP: October 25-28, 2002

"I see the journalist's role as both reporter and crusader. In a civilization that seems to be regressing into new holocausts, we must seek and speak the truth, for we are the voice of voiceless millions. Having chosen this profession, we cannot be afraid to speak the truth no matter what the cost. And by speaking, I personally believe we can change the world."

- Razia Bhatti (IWMF Courage in Journalism award ceremony, 1994)

Razia Bhatti

Razia Bhatti has been described as a crusader, a torch-bearer, and a symbol of courage. In 1996, the Pakistan Press Foundation called her untimely death at the age of 52 an "end of a golden chapter of journalism in Pakistan." For those who attempted to silence Pakistani press, Razia Bhatti was undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with during her almost thirty-year long journalistic career. Despite constant harassments and threats to her safety, she wrote bravely on issues ranging from women's rights to political corruption. She nurtured two of Pakistan's leading English language publications, as editor of the *Herald* for 12 years and then of *Newsline* for another eight. In 1994, less than just two years before her death, Razia Bhatti was a recipient of the "Courage in Journalism" award from the New York based International Women's Media Foundation.



Razia Bhatti first entered professional journalism in 1967 when she joined *The Illustrated Weekly of Pakistan* after completing her Master's degree in English and Journalism from Karachi University. The lifestyles magazine she joined was later renamed *Herald* and turned into a monthly publication reporting on current events and political issues. In 1970, Razia Bhatti became the assistant editor of *Herald* and then became editor in 1976.

Shortly thereafter, General Zia-ul-Haq took over the country in a military coup in 1977. A period of repression and censorship followed as Zia used religious fundamentalist rhetoric to strengthen his grip on power. Not one to be easily intimidated, Razia continued her valiant

reporting. "General Zia once got so infuriated that he waved a copy of her article at a press conference and said he would not tolerate such journalism," recalls Beena Sarwar in her article, "Razia Bhatti and Najma Babar: Two Champions of Independent Journalism in Pakistan."

Since early in its history, Pakistan has had the misfortune of being run, democratically or undemocratically, by corrupt or self seeking politicians and feudals. Little economic progress has been made and the literacy rate remains among the lowest in the world. The result has been an atmosphere where corruption, bigotry, and intimidation of press and human rights activists are the norm. To speak up against injustice and the ruling elites in such an environment is no small achievement. Razia Bhatti did just that.

When pressured to curb her writing and support the policies of General Zia's regime, Razia resigned from the Herald magazine on an ethical stance. Most of her team of journalists resigned with her and together they established a new current affairs magazine called *Newsline*. In July 1989, the first issue of *Newsline* was published with an editor's note written by Razia which began, "Forty-two years down the road from independence, this nation seems to have bartered away the promise of its birth. To a whole generation of Pakistanis, fear, violence, authoritarianism and deceit represent the norm, for they have known no other."

Newsline which started on a meager budget, under Razia Bhatti's editorialship, soon became a competitor to other well known English language publications like the *Herald* itself. *Newsline* covered a wide range of stories including drug trade, corruption by politicians and financial institutions, religious persecution, and abuse of women's rights.

In December 1994, *Newsline* published a story about then prime minister Benazir Bhutto's inaction in stopping the rampant riots, killings, and looting which became daily occurrences, terrorizing the population of Karachi, one of Pakistan's largest cities. Benazir responded to this criticism by banning *Newsline* from all Pakistan International Airline flights. This action of the government did little to quiet the *Newsline* journalists and in the months that followed, Razia and her staff continued reporting on the flaws of Benazir's government including its foreign policy, the methods government used to finally respond to the Karachi violence, its stringent policies designed to weaken the press, and the taxation system which allowed the richest of

working public carried almost the entire burden of taxation.

Even after she received international recognition, the Pakistani politicians did not stop harassing her when she exposed their misuses of power. In August 1995, police raided Razia Bhatti's home in the early morning hours demanding her appearance at the police station regarding a criminal case filed against her. The case was brought about by then Sindh Governor, Kamal Azfar, in retaliation for a story published about him in *Newsline*. The news of the raid on Razia's house resulted in protests from journalists and human rights activists from across the country, following which Kamal Azfar retreated and completely withdrew all charges against Razia and the journalist who wrote the story.

Through her integrity and dedication, Razia Bhatti contributed much to the Pakistani society. She furthered the cause of women's rights by proving that a woman is as capable of earning a respected spot in serious journalism as the toughest of her male counterparts. She also reinforced the importance of free press and journalistic integrity in a country where honesty and free speech are often overrun by corruption and fundamentalist ideals. The examples she left us through her writing, serve as inspiration to speak up against repression and question the leaders whose actions do not follow their rhetoric and who use public service position for personal gain.

Razia's willingness to question powerful government officials without fear is the reason that respected Pakistani philosopher and author, Iqbal Ahmad, wrote in his tribute to Razia Bhatti, "She was always in official disfavor. She understood better than most of us, that the relationship between power and the press must necessarily be adversarial if the latter is to fulfill its professional and moral obligation to the public." It is a lesson which much of the world's press has yet to learn.

In the first issue of *Newsline* Razia Bhatti wrote, "The press in Pakistan shares the guilt of this nation's state. It has been silent when it should have spoken, dishonest when it should have been forthright, succumbed when it should have stood fast." Had she been alive to witness the state of the world today, one wonders what Razia Bhatti would have to say about the role of the press, not just in Pakistan, but in the largest of the Western nations. The volatile state of world politics today demands that the press of every free nation, in the East and West, must carry out its duty and hold accountable the elected and non-elected leaders and remind them again and again that the people of their

nations want to live and prosper in peace.

In her efforts to speak to the conscience of those she reprimanded in her articles, Razia did not merely rebuke, she also reminded them of their abilities and laudable qualities. In the same *Newsline* editorial as mentioned above, Razia continued, "Yes, like this nation, the press retains the strength to rise above its weakness... We can see reality yet refuse to abandon hope." Perhaps it is this hope which drove her to work passionately for the remainder of her years and which still guides the principles of the magazine she helped form.

Of his first impression of Razia Bhatti, Eqbal Ahmad wrote, "She will crash, I had thought then, or else she will help transform journalism in Pakistan. She did both." Razia Bhatti used her pen to fight oppression and this constant battle eventually took its toll on her. She died of a brain hemorrhage in 1996 leaving behind a husband, two children, and thousands of admirers.

<http://www.jazbah.org/razia.php>

Roshan Dhunjibhoy

Roshan Dhunjibhoy has led an astonishing life by any standards, as a frontline war journalist, a movie-maker for French and German television and one time Broadway actress.

She went to Germany and began working in provincial broadcasting from where she worked her way upwards to national television. She was so meticulous and professionally exacting that the Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser said that he would not agree to the German government's plan to film in Egypt unless Roshan Dhunjibhoy made the movie...

Dhunjibhoy is perhaps the only Buddhist Parsi living in Pakistan. "Buddhists don't believe in a creator", she explains, adding, "Bhudda is only a teacher and not to be worshipped".

Ameera Javeria: Friday Times, April 20-26, 2001

Media Pluralism

LOOKING BACK, STEPPING FORWARD, STRIDING AHEAD: Opportunities and Challenges for Women in Pakistani Media

Panos Pakistan in association with the Pakistan Women's Media Network and the Saneeya Hussain Trust organized a seminar to celebrate women's achievements in media, and to take a fresh look at the challenges they face in realizing their rights and their potential. The seminar titled "Looking Back, Stepping Forward, Striding Ahead" was held at the Karachi Press Club on 11th August 2008. More than 60 women came together to deliberate on 'Opportunities and Challenges for Women in Pakistani Media'.

The event attracted some leading names from the world of media. Celebrities from TV, print and radio were among the speakers and the audience. Zohra Yusuf, a former journalist who began her career at The Star and is now an advertising executive as well as a media analyst took charge of "looking back" by profiling the achievements of women like development writer Ameneh Azam Ali, pioneering magazine editor Razia Bhatti, feminist writer Najma Babar and environmental journalist Saneeya Hussain.

Zubeida Mustafa recounted the challenges and achievements of women in the print media, pointing out that the success of the women's movement had led to women's empowerment and advancement in many professions, including media. She recounted how when she started out at an English daily, she was the only full-time woman journalist at the paper. Times had changed, and now there were 320 women at the same newspaper, many of them in positions of authority. Women had even held positions of editors of leading national dailies.

Sahira Kazmi, renowned TV producer, spoke about the times when TV boldly went where no man had gone before by highlighting the status of women in society and exposing ills such as domestic violence.

Pakistan's favourite TV presenter, Mahtab Rashdi, recalled the days of Islamization when women on TV were required to cover their heads. She bypassed the ban by wearing saris, and when her defiance was 'uncovered' she took a stand and sat out the policy by quitting

media and using her celebrity status to support the cause of environment protection.

The dynamic radio presenter Nosheen Razzaq said radio was a way for women to gain confidence and to project their voices. It was a stepping stone that empowered women to achieve greater heights in media - on TV and in the print media. In itself, radio allowed women's voices to be heard with focus and concentration, and without any distractions.

The need for providing a platform for women to step forward, and to stride ahead having closed ranks, was fulfilled by the establishment of the Pakistan Women's Media Network. This was the message delivered by Tasneem Ahmar, the force behind the PWMN. She introduced the network and invited women in media to become members in order to tackle the under-representation of women in media, to present positive images of women on media, and to raise their voices against gender-based violence, injustice and biases in the media and in society.

The seminar came to a close with a tribute to the career achievements of Zuhra Karim, the long-serving publisher and editor of Pakistan's first and foremost women's magazine, She.

[Hhttp://www.panossouthasia.org/](http://www.panossouthasia.org/)

Women take charge of media in 37 countries

In average, men are seven times more likely than women to reach the highest levels of media management, the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) said in a statement issued here Wednesday.

On International Women's Day, which fell on Wednesday, media groups in 37 different countries gave all editorial responsibility to women for the day as part of a larger UNESCO initiative.

The "Women Make the News" project celebrated the day by urging media groups to ensure that women "make the news".

Drawing attention to the barriers that women continue to face in media, UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura argued that the freedom of media depends on this equity being achieved.

A partner in the UNESCO initiative, the IWMF was founded in 1990 with the goal of strengthening the role of women in the media worldwide on the premise that the media can only be truly free when women have an equal voice.

The Frontier Post: March 09, 2000

A restless soul

My first memories of Nafisa Shah are when she was my English teacher in school. Back then, she was a shy but spirited ajrak draped young woman with a bright genuine smile.

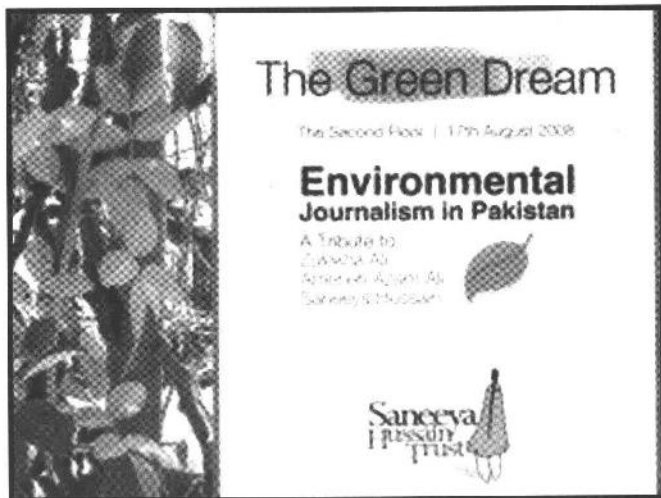
Now, 16 years later, Shah is anything but shy. The fiery journalist is now the Nazima of Khairpur district. On her job she deals with numerous arduous situations on a daily basis, which would have made a lot of men run for cover.

After short lapses of working for different magazines, Shah joined a political magazine and thus began her roller coaster journey into the Pakistani socio-political cauldron that captivated her for quite some time. "It was a small set-up with a family like environment. I admired Razia Bhatti and she was like a mother figure to me. She had the capability of bringing out the best in people."



There, Shah wrote boldly on violence against women, children and animals and her writing on Karo-kari brought her acclaim. "I loved writing about society and culture at the magazine. I had no inhibitions about travelling to remote and backward areas of Karachi and even the farthest corners of Sindh. The Karo-kari issue was something literally untouched by the English press at that time and I don't want to sound presumptuous but my writing on the issue was the first exposé of its kind in the English press. Even today I feel the same stuff is being recycled and nothing new is being added to the subject."

After Bhatti's sudden death, Shah felt her own burn out had occurred and it was perhaps time to move onto a newer milieu. She proceeded to do her Masters in Social Anthropology from Oxford in 1998. She continued to dabble in painting while at Oxford, arranging some live drawing workshops simultaneously with her academic pursuits.



On Sunday, Aug 17, 2008 the Saneeya Hussain Foundation, T2F and Shehri presented **The Green Dream**, *Environmental Journalism in Pakistan: A Tribute to Saneeya Hussain, Ameneh Azam Ali and Zulekha Ali*, at 7.00 pm at The Second Floor (T2F - <http://www.t2f.biz>) in Karachi.

This commemorative meeting and roundtable discussion on environmental issues concluded the Saneeya Hussain Week, August 11-17, 2008. Friends and colleagues of three pioneering environmental journalists gathered to talk about their work and experiences in this field, where environmental journalism in Pakistan stands today and 'the way ahead'.

The concept was born out of a chapter I wrote on environmental journalism in Pakistan for Sage India (working title 'The Green Pen: Essays by Environmental Journalists in South Asia', forthcoming). The draft chapter, titled 'Uphill and downstream in Pakistan' acknowledged Saneeya as the person who first introduced many Pakistani journalists to the concept of 'environmental journalism'.

The evening started with Sabeen Mahmud, director T2F introducing the event. We kicked off the agenda with the documentary film 'Celebrating Saneeya' (ran the 14 min version instead of the 5 min version by accident but no one seemed to mind). Owais Tohid started the Memories section of the evening, talking about the young environmental journalist Zulekha Ali of The News, who distinguished herself at the environmental beat of *The News*, Karachi in 1992 when the paper was launched. She made a name for

herself in environmental journalism in a short career that spanned barely a year. In August 1993, she died while trying to save her friend Fizza who had jumped into the sea after a child who had fallen into the stormy monsoon sea at a rocky Karachi beach. They managed to save the child but both young women drowned. Ironically, Zulekha had only recently highlighted the illegal sand excavations and inadequate beach safety because of which a dozen people had drowned at a similar beach during the previous Eid.

Talat Aslam shared his memories of another pioneering environmental journalist, Ameneh Azam Ali, who contributed to greater awareness about the environment even before the IUCN launched its environmental reporting trainings in the 1980s and 1990s. She was senior assistant editor at the monthly *Herald* and was undoubtedly Pakistan's foremost 'environmental journalist' even before the term was popularised. Ameneh left the *Herald* in 1988 to join the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), doing research, contributing to scholarly journals like *Sage India* as well as the *Herald*. Ameneh lost her battle with cancer in 1993, leaving a void in the field that has never quite been filled.

Sahar Ali talked about Saneeya Hussain and her contribution to environmental journalism with IUCN's path-breaking quarterly *NCS Bulletin* (later the *The Way Ahead* magazine) that she edited and its Urdu counterpart, *Jareeda*, edited by the prominent writer Obaidullah Baig. These were the first publications in Pakistan devoted to the environment. Aware that editors did not set too much store by 'boring' environmental stories, Saneeya showed reporters that there is usually a solid political or economic angle involving juicy corruption as mill owners, builders and industrials try to cut corners, endangering fragile ecologies and people's health. She convinced reporters to explore such investigative stories and paid them for these stories -- a welcome incentive in the days when journalists were not as well paid as today. This reporting in the media further helped gain official support for these causes. At the same time Saneeya also mobilized supporters in the civil society and involved officials.

[Hhttp://www.t2f.biz/](http://www.t2f.biz/)

Threats come at Journalists in Pakistan from all sides

Despite gains in press freedom, news organizations and reporters engage in self-censorship as a strategy to protect themselves and their business.

For a woman in Pakistan, holding a job as a journalist comes with all of the challenges that women reporters everywhere face -- trying to balance responsibilities of the home with those of the newsroom while proving themselves on the job in ways male colleagues do not seem to need to do. This can push one into being sterner than one might like. It needs additional courage to do all of this in the traditionally male-dominated atmosphere that exists most noticeably in local language publications. There the newsroom environment is often hostile to the presence of women Urdu newspapers, for example, persist in using bylines such as "By Our Lady Reporter" despite protests by journalists' organizations. Women in the local language media are also often underpaid, have little or no job security, and no health coverage. For those of us who work in the English language press the situation is relatively better, given the more progressive atmosphere there. However, with the rise of private television stations and newspapers, the number of women journalists is increasing, even in more conservative small towns throughout the country.

Beena Sarwar, a 2006 Nieman Fellow from Pakistan, will return to the United States as a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. She is the former op-ed and features editor of The News International, former editor of the News on Sunday, and a documentary filmmaker.

Beena Sarwar: Nieman Reports, Summer 2006 Issue

Round Table in Pakistan

On March 1, 2006, Uks Research Centre held a roundtable on 'Who Makes the News'. It was an attempt to brainstorm on how to develop the skills of our media in understanding human rights and documenting the experiences of women in situations of disaster using the human rights framework.

The participants also deliberated on how to increase the number of women in media. The recommendations and suggestions from this roundtable would enable Uks to identify the areas as well as those media persons who would contribute more meaningfully in advocating for women's human rights, promoting rights-based reporting as well as their inclusion in media.

It has through the sensitization workshops and on-desk consultations tried to challenge and change the mind sets of the news media, editors, media owners and journalists all across Pakistan and has urged them to show their commitment to this issue by taking substantial and immediate action to ensure that the news media represents women and men in a fair and balanced way.

Sadly though, despite all these efforts, the media continues to be heavily male-dominated. Women are still not given due representation either in the newsrooms or in the news. They who make up 48% of the population in Pakistan only make up a tiny fraction of the country's newsrooms and news story subjects. This male domination of our newsrooms becomes overwhelmingly prominent during news coverage of disasters or crisis. The recent earthquake in Pakistan is just another example of how men decide what news, views and visuals should be heard, read and seen. No wonder then that most of the news coverage was devoid of gender sensitivity, presenting women as mere helpless victims.

Ms. Ahmar said that it is in this perspective that Uks would like to look at the issue of disaster reporting in an attempt to promote justice and the empowerment of women in the region. Uks has initiated a project that looks at these issues through a series of media training workshops focusing on ethical questions that have arisen in the recent media coverage. We would like to facilitate the exchange of information and skills to strengthen media's capacities.

Linking the RT with Who Makes the News, Ms. Ahmar said that WACC (World Association for Christian Communication) has been actively involved in media monitoring across the globe. They are

concerned that women make up 52% of the world's population but only make up a tiny fraction of the world's news story subjects. This prompted them to initiate a campaign in which for one day in 1995 and again in 2000, men and women in 70 countries came together to scrutinise the portrayal of women and men by the world news by monitoring stories in newspapers, TV and radio. The results showed that on one day in 1995, women were 17% of news subjects. In 2000, five years later, women were only 18% of news subjects worldwide. In February 2005, the experience was repeated when WACC supported organisations and individuals in 76 countries around the world to monitor their media for one day under GMMP (Global Media Monitoring Project). It took them almost one year to gather and analyse all the results (12,893 news items on television, radio and in newspapers) from around the world. WACC announced the findings of this 'Global Media Monitoring Project' on February 16, 2006. The results show that women are 21% of news subjects, indicating that they have been able to feature just a little more than 2000.

It may also be added that the one and only media (print) study based on desk was done by Uks through field research in 2001-2002. Titled Changing Images, this remains to be the only media monitoring report so far.

From February 16- March 8, the International Women's Day, WACC also launched the Three Weeks of Action to Challenge News Media worldwide to ensure that both men and women make the news.

She said that this RT is a three in one affair:

1. It is an act of solidarity with the Three Weeks of Action on Gender and Media
2. It is an event to celebrate International Women's Day
3. It is a curtain-raiser for our series of workshops on gender-sensitive disaster reporting

This RT is aimed towards promoting gender equality through and in the media.

It is also aimed at challenging media managers, editors, owners/proprietors and journalists in Pakistan to express their commitment to this issue by taking substantial and immediate action to ensure that the news media represents women and men in a fair and balanced way.

Women journalists urged to meet the challenges

There has always been a debate on whether or not women journalists can do reporting in certain areas like politics, sports and economics. Though it is a fact that women are working in all these specific fields with excellence, still there is a need to create more awareness amongst all in order to create an enabling environment.

Feeling the great need to further encourage women journalists, the Women Media Centre Pakistan (WMC) held a two-day workshop as part of its programme to develop professional expertise and to enhance the knowledge of



political reporting in women journalists. The workshop was attended by a large number of journalists. Senior journalists and academics were guest speakers at the seminar.

The programme was designed to promote political reporting amongst women journalists and also to improve their professional skills in different aspects of reporting, re-writing articles and features. With the help of such training workshops, it is expected that the participants will use their newly acquired skills to implement them in their reporting projects.

This workshop emphasized parliamentary reporting, the challenges faced by the women journalists and the opportunities for them in today's fast growing media, including electronic media. Strategic planning in adverse Pakistani environment for women in general and women journalists in particular is vital to be a successful media woman. It enables women journalists to prioritise goals and to provide clear focus on political news stories.

The deputy chief of Jamat-e-Islami, Professor Ghafoor Ahmed, journalists Mazhar Abbas and Owais Tohid, Ghazala Fasih, Sofia Yazdani and academician Huma Baqai were the guest speakers.

Women Media Centre Pakistan: 2006-2007

Pakistan's Pioneering Women Journalists

In Pakistan, where only 5% of all journalists are women, there is little coverage of women's issues and few women's voices are heard on the air. To address this issue, Internews established Pakistan's first university-based women's broadcast media center and radio station and is producing the nation's first radio program by and about women. Internews' work with women journalists in Pakistan is part of its overall goal to build an open, diverse, and socially responsible broadcast media sector in Pakistan. Here we profile seven women Internews has trained who are changing the face of journalism in Pakistan.

FRESHTA SHIKHANY, RADIO REPORTER AND DJ, PESHAWAR

Freshta Shikhany, aka "DJ Malaika," is a study in determination. She fled Kabul in 1992 at age 9 when "rockets were flying all over the city" and sought refuge in the border town of Peshawar in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.

Freshta got her early education in refugee schools and later joined an unregistered Afghan university to study journalism. A year into the course, Pakistani authorities closed down the school. Undaunted, Freshta and a few other students continued to study with volunteer teachers from the defunct university. Their classes, started in the backyard of a refugee organization, soon grew into a university when more refugee students joined. But two years later, this too closed down. Freshta had family support, but no Pakistani institution would accept her as a student and allow her to finish her degree. Then she learned about the journalism training program run by Internews at the University of Peshawar. She was admitted as a special case due to her refugee status. Freshta went on to complete the radio journalism course offered by Internews. Now, Freshta reports for the Internews-supported program, *Da Pulay Poray* (Urdu translation "On the Borderline"). The weekly program, produced by a team of Pakistani and Afghan radio journalists, covers issues affecting populations along the Pak-Afghan border and airs on 15 radio stations in the cross-border region.

Freshta also has her own Dari language show on Buraq 104-Peshawar's first independent FM station. "The program is about issues pertinent to the large Afghan refugee population settled here," she says.

“With radio, I can give my community a voice.” Freshta believes radio gives her anonymity, yet empowers her to take up issues of relevance to some 3.2 million Afghan refugees still living in Pakistan.

NIGHAT HUNZAI, RADIO PRODUCER, POWER 99, ABBOTTABAD

Born in the remote Skardu Valley in Northern Pakistan, Nighat Hunzai graduated from the Internews-run Peshawar University Broadcast Academy at just the right time. In the aftermath of the October 2005 earthquake centered in Northern Pakistan, which killed 73,000 and displaced 3.5 million, women reporters who were prepared to cover the lives of women devastated by the tragedy were hard to come by in the conservative region. Nighat was the only female graduate who volunteered to join the Internews-initiated Pakistan Emergency Information Program (PEIP). The daily, hour-long program *Jazba-e-Tameer* (“Desire to Rebuild”) highlighted issues necessary to rebuild lives in the earthquake region. “When I first joined, I thought I would not stay long because it is difficult for a woman to work as a reporter, Nighat says.” Now I don't want to do anything but journalism.” Nighat brought to *Jazba-e-Tameer* the much-neglected stories of women affected by the quake. Her coverage highlighted problems faced by women, told in their own voices, and helped improve the disaster response of the humanitarian community. Long after PEIP has concluded, Nighat continues to report for an independent FM radio station set up during the emergency period to broadcast to the earthquake affected areas.

“When I go out in the field, people still remember me from *Jazba*,” she says. “I find women in the remotest areas listening to radio. I realize how much impact the tiny thing has.” She is now one of a handful of women working as journalists for independent radio. She adds, “*Jazba* gave me the confidence to do mainstream reporting”.

RASHIDA KIANI, ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, ISLAMABAD BUREAU, GEONEWS TELEVISION CHANNEL

A year ago, when Rashida Kiani joined *Tasveer Kahani* (“Picture Stories”), Pakistan's first field-based television documentary program focusing on human rights and the rule of law, she had only worked on short news reports at GeoNews, a premier independent cable television channel. A year into working on the program, Rashida has produced in-depth documentaries on issues as varied as medical negligence, honor

Killings, HIV/AIDS, and *vanni*, the tradition of giving away young girls in marriage to settle blood feuds.

Rashida's documentaries have had enormous impact. They have enjoyed multiple reruns during prime time and have attracted government sponsorship. The documentary on *vanni*, for example, helped settle a decade-old violent dispute between two families. The medical negligence documentary resulted in compensation for the victim's family after a decade. Another documentary that aired on the Internews-supported series invoked a Supreme Court action against the practice of human organ trade, ordering the government to enact a law to address the problem. "I learned about research when I started working on the series," says Rashida. "My trainers helped me learn about structure, pacing, layers and in-depth investigation. They would go through each line of my scripts, which helped me improve my scripts. No one had ever done that before." Rashida, who has recently been promoted to associate producer, is one of the few Pakistani women journalists working for television. Her promotion, she says, came about because of her work on the documentary series.

NABEELA ASLAM, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, *MERI AWAZ SUNO*, ISLAMABAD

Nabeela Aslam came to Internews from a print background. Now, she says, all she wants to do is radio.

For Nabeela, doing radio mainly means reporting, producing, training and marketing for *Meri Awaz Suno* ("Hear My Voice"), the Internews supported women's radio production house which produces Pakistan's first syndicated radio program by the same name. Nabeela comes from a farming family in rural Punjab. The fifth of six daughters, she left home early to pursue a reporting career. She worked with a liberal newspaper until it closed down and then as a newsletter editor for a non-profit health organization.

One day she saw an advertisement seeking producers for the weekly *Meri Awaz Suno* radio program, and she was soon hooked. Internews launched *Meri Awaz Suno* in 2003 to give women a profile in Pakistani media. In Pakistan, only about 5% of all journalists are women, which means that even issues affecting women are reported from a male perspective. Nabeela and her team at *Meri Awaz Suno* have been producing a 15-minute radio magazine, which covers mainstream issues from women's perspectives.

Meri Awaz Suno is now broadcast on some 20 FM stations across Pakistan.

In addition to *Meri Awaz Suno*, Nabeela and her team produce two other programs *Shakhsi Khakay* ("Personal Profiles"), in-depth profiles of famous and not-so-famous women in Pakistan, and a radio drama series on women's reproductive health issues.

"Women speaking about issues in their own voices is very powerful. We need more women on air!" says Nabeela.

Meri Awaz Suno has trained 140 women in radio journalism at the Fatima Jinnah Women's University (where it was housed in 2005), Rawalpindi; Kinnaird College, Lahore; and the National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad. "Radio journalism is developing in Pakistan," says Nabeela. "With training, women can produce quality work and be on a par with their male colleagues."

TASNEEM AHMAR, DIRECTOR, UKS, ISLAMABAD

When Internews was planning to set up *Meri Awaz Suno* to strengthen the role of women in Pakistani media, "Uks - Research, Resource and Publication Centre on Women and Media," an Islamabad based nonprofit organisation, was a natural partner. Uks had been monitoring the portrayal of women in Pakistani media and had been training reporters on gender-sensitive reporting techniques since 1997. The *Meri Awaz Suno* radio initiative at Uks was launched with Tasneem Ahmar as executive producer.

SHAZIA GUL, STATION MANAGER, CAMPUS RADIO, PESHAWAR UNIVERSITY, NWFP

Internews put Shazia Gul through a series of radio production and management trainings to run the campus radio station it helped build at the University of Peshawar in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan. She is now the first woman in Pakistan to manage a campus radio station. Shazia's interest in current affairs ensures that the station has a heavy focus on news and information programming.

"It was Internews that polished my skills from producing news bulletins, features, documentaries and specialty programs to managing radio operations and training students," she says. Following her training, Shazia became manager of Peshawar University's radio station, which trains students in practical radio journalism. Peshawar University was the first university in Pakistan to have a broadcast academy and a radio station. Both were built and supported by

Internews. "Students who graduated three years ago did not have the same opportunity," says Shazia. Following a five-week radio journalism course that Internews runs through the university's broadcast academy, students can participate in a two-month long internship at the stations. Shazia estimates that 300 students have passed through the station to occupy important radio industry jobs in the region.

The student-produced programs, broadcast on the campus radio and independent local stations, are heard not just in the vicinity of the university, but also in the tribal areas of NWFP. "Earlier we had to depend on newspapers and government stations to train our students; now it is our students producing programs for them," says Shazia.

SARA FARID, BROADCAST JOURNALIST, ISLAMABAD

When Sara Farid started working with Internews on the women's radio program, Meri Awaz Suno ("Hear My Voice") in August 2003, she hadn't had any experience working with radio. Now she says she has "a great passion for radio". She joined the team as a reporter/producer, then worked her way up to senior producer and then to executive producer of Meri Awaz Suno.

In 2005, Farid participated in a six-day Internews training program on reporting about HIV/AIDS. She made a documentary focusing on the life of Shukria Gul, a woman from Lahore who is living with HIV and working to educate others about AIDS.

Farid has also produced programs on child labor, honor killings and forced marriages. "All men cannot reach women in our society. There are certain women; they don't let men come in their houses. But we have an edge; we can go there . . . so we can come aboard with the story."

The style of Farid's documentary on child labor was unconventional by Pakistani standards- there were no "experts" or analysts interviewed for the program. Rather, the documentary focused on the life of a 16-year-old boy who has been working to support his family since the age of eight. "Our basic idea of a story is to give voice to the unheard that's why we try to get personal stories and then get the social sector's and government's viewpoint," she says.

After the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, Farid helped bring news and information to the hundreds of thousands of earthquake survivors, many of them still residing in IDP camps. Early in 2006, Sara Farid switched from Meri Awaz Suno to Internews Pakistan's TV

documentary series on rights and rules of law issues. She produced three documentaries with Pakistan's Geo News TV channel before leaving Internews to join an upcoming Pakistani TV channel, Dawn TV. Farid credits Internews with contributing to her meteoric rise as a broadcast journalist.

[Http://mediawomen.pk/](http://mediawomen.pk/)

صحافی خواتین کے مسائل پر غور کے لئے کانفرنس منعقد ہوگی، جاوید جبار صحافتی تنظیموں میں خواتین کی نمائندگی ہونی چاہئے، ان کی شکایات کا ازالہ کیا جائیگا

پاکستان میں عنقریب پریس کونسل قائم کر دی جائے گی جس میں حکومت کا عمل دخل کم سے کم ہوگا۔ خواتین صحافیوں کو درپیش مسائل پر غور کے لئے وزارت اطلاعات اکتوبر میں اسلام آباد میں ایک کانفرنس کا انعقاد کیا جائے گا۔ صحافتی تنظیموں میں خواتین کی نمائندگی ہونی چاہئے۔ ان کی شکایات کا ازالہ کیا جائے گا۔ یہ بات جنتی کو وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات اور فروغ ابلاغ جاوید جبار نے خواتین صحافی اور پبلشرز کے ایک گروپ سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پریس کونسل کے قائم کے بعد متاثرہ فریق خواہ عام افراد ہوں، تنظیمیں ہوں یا کوئی ہو، اخبارات میں غلط رپورٹنگ سے ان کی شہرت کو بچھنے والے نقصان کے ازالے اور حصول انصاف کے لئے اس سے رجوع کر سکتے ہیں۔ جاوید جبار نے شام کے اخبارات کے حوالے سے خواتین کے بارے میں توہین آمیز خبروں کی اشاعت کی شکایت کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے امید ظاہر کی کہ مجوزہ کونسل میں ایسی شکایات کے ازالے کے لئے بھی فورم ہوگا۔ پی پی ایٹی کے مطابق انہوں نے کہا کہ میڈیا اینڈ براڈ کاسٹنگ آرڈیننس کے اجراء سے نئے دور کا آغاز ہوگا۔ انہوں نے آزادی صحافت کے بارے میں حکومت کے موقف کا واضح اعلان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اگرچہ آزاد صحافت کبھی بھی حکومت کے اداروں کے لئے سودمند ثابت نہیں ہو سکتی۔ اس کے باوجود حکومت آزادی صحافت پر بھرپور یقین رکھتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اب اے پی این ایس اور اوری پی این ای کے اتفاق رائے سے اس کو کونسل کو قلم کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اس کونسل کے 20 ارکان ہوں گے جن میں حکومت کا صرف ایک نامزد ہوگا۔ اس موقع پر خواتین صحافیوں نے پی ایف یو جے سمیت دیگر پیشہ ورانہ اداروں میں خواتین کی کم نمائندگی کی شکایت کی۔ پی پی ایٹی کے مطابق وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ اکتوبر کی حکومت ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی آن میڈیا اینڈ براڈ کاسٹنگ آرڈیننس (RAMBO) جاری کر دیا جائے گا جس میں ملک میں میڈیا کے ایک نئے دور کا آغاز ہوگا۔ اسی طرح اخبارات کو خود مختار بنانے کے لئے آڈٹ پیرو آف سرکولیشن (ABC) کو بھی جلد نئی شعبے میں زیدیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے اعلان کیا کہ وزارت اطلاعات اکتوبر میں اسلام آباد میں خواتین صحافیوں کو درپیش مسائل پر غور کے لئے ایک کانفرنس انعقاد کر دے گی۔

Training Workshop for Women Journalists Ended in Pakistan

26 women from Pakistan's District of Bahawalpur in Punjab participated recently in a journalism training workshop in the Government Girls High School in the city of Ahmed Pur Sharqia. The training course, which was organized from 27 to 29 June 2002 by the Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) and UNESCO, was financed with a contribution from UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). Ehsan Ahmed Seha, PPF local Coordinator for the workshop, reports for WebWorld from Pakistan.

"Ahmed Pur Sharqia is the suburban town of Dera Nawab Sahib, the erstwhile capital of Bahawalpur State till its merger into Pakistan after independence from Britain in 1947. Dera Nawab Sahib is now a dead city, with its grandiose palaces and impressive fortresses, now lying vacant, decaying due to neglect. Ahmed Pur Sharqia, on the other hand is a lively bustling town of 30,000 people. All local government offices, courts and administrative institutions are located here."

As a necessity a women friendly location for the workshop was selected, which was the Lab Hall of the Government Girls High School. The headmistress of the School Parveen Fatima Siddiqui and deputy headmistress Zareena Rafiq provided their fullest cooperation for the arrangements, including catering and other needs of the participants. Before that formal permission for holding the workshop at the School premises was willingly given by Mushtaq Ahmed Siyal, District Education Officer (Secondary), Bahawalpur who also promised to attend the closing session but could not make it due to other engagements.

The workshop was attended by 26 participants consisting of teachers, doctors, professional women and educated housewives not only from Ahmed Pur Sharqia but also from neighbouring towns. Many requests for participation had to be turned down in order to keep the attendance to a manageable level.

The PPF media instructors team consisting of Fazal Qureshi, Chief Editor Pakistan Press International (PPI), and Samina Ishaque, Director, Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) flew to the nearby city of Bahawalpur from Karachi. From there it was a grueling one and half hour drive on bumpy roads to the city of Ahmed Pur Sharqia in sizzling 45 degree temperatures. There Mr. Ehsan Ahmed Sehar joined in to guide us to the venue of the workshop at the Girls School.

On the opening day, the PPF team was warmly welcomed by the Headmistress of the School, who also enrolled as a participant along with a few of her teachers. The three day workshop started on the morning of July 27 with recitation from the Holy Quran and a brief welcome speech by the headmistress. In her remarks she expressed her deep appreciation for the PPF and UNESCO workshop, which she said would impart highly useful writing skill to local educated women enabling them to project their viewpoint on national issues of their concern through the national media.

The proceedings on day one, Thursday July 27, began with registration of participants. After that there were lectures about definition of news, principles of news writing, the concept of Inverted Pyramid in news writing, the principles of 5 W's and one H. Large sheets were used as aids for display of the vital points of the subjects under discussion. Fazal Qureshi, and Samina Ishaque alternated in delivering lectures while Ehsan Ahmed Sehar also joined in when needed. The session also included a practical exercise on news writing. The participants were dictated basic material and asked to write a news item with a proper news lead. The output of the participants was of reasonably good quality, which reflected their attention and understanding of the subjects.

On day two, July 28, lectures were given on principles of news ethics and values which make news more or less important for their display in newspapers. The participants went through a practical exercise highlighting these factors in news stories.

In the session on article and feature writing, the lecture covered -- how to select a subject, how to write a theme sentence to determine the parameters of the subject, and how to collect and sort out the material. The lecture emphasized the need for professional preparation of a neat and clean manuscript, the importance of photographs and how to market articles and features in the media. PPF also offered the participants a free professional advice service in case any of them wished to send their manuscripts for whetting before being passed on to the newspapers. Director PPF Samina Ishaque in her opening remarks explained the goals of the programme. Fazal Qureshi in his brief speech said that women in Pakistan must come forward to express their view point on all important national issues.

The final item of the programme was a practical exercise in which participants divided in to five groups competed in selecting a subject, writing a headline, intro and the first ten lines of the article.

The third and final day on July 29 started with a lecture on law and the journalist, in which the principles of laws of libel and contempt of court and their possible defence were explained. This was followed by a lecture on importance of maintaining reference records on subjects of interest to the writer. The participants were then asked to fill in evaluation forms giving their assessment of the workshop.

There were three Chief Guests at the closing ceremony. These included President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Bahawalpur, Tahir Jamil, former Chairman Ahmed Pur Sharqia Municipal Committee, Mian Ilyas Ayaz and Director Museum Bahawalpur Hafiz Hussain Ahmed Madani. They delivered brief speeches expressing their deep appreciation of the programme and suggesting that more such training workshops should be held in the area in future. Each of them took their turns to give away the certificates to the participants. A number of participants also made brief speeches praising the workshop for its importance in imparting them knowledge and skill about article writing.”



*Hhttp://portal.unesco.org/
July 15, 2002*

Uttering her voice

You! has started a series of women achievers in various fields of life. First of the series is a voice-over artist Fauzia Khuhro, whose career spans over almost three decades...

In the game called life, Fauzia Khuhro is an all-rounder - a wife, a mother, a grandmother and a development worker. But at the same time she is also a specialist - a voice-over artist so prolific and successful that you would fall short of superlatives in describing her illustrious career.

Previously known as Fauzia Maung, she has been the voice behind countless commercials on radio and television and in recent years has developed unparalleled credentials as a voice for phone systems, becoming one of the signature voices for corporate giants like Citibank and Mobilink



Her career as a voice-over artist spans over almost three decades and has left Fauzia with a polished repertoire of dialects and character voices. She is blessed with a naturally rich and resonant voice and can quickly breathe life into any advertising script or narrative.

In the nineties, Fauzia began a new chapter in her professional life when she signed with American Express, Citibank and other mobile phone services and later recorded thousands of Interactive Voice Responses (IVR) for them.

There is a solid chance that you would have heard her at least three or four times even today while recharging your cell phone credit, taking a flight from any Pakistani airport or simply watching TV.

Fauzia began her career with a 30-minute Radio Pakistan programme devoted to music in 1968 and later read the World Service news there for several years. She was soon aware that she had a knack for voice-

overs and so were the people in the advertising industry.

Over the years, she has lent her voice to thousands of products ranging from the Johnson's baby care stuff (something she loved) and the SAVER Raffle (something she regrets doing because of all the screaming that was a part of the package).

The secret behind Fauzia's success is her loads of energy. She works for the Aga Khan Education Service Pakistan - a 9 to 5 job - and still gets time to work as a voice-over artist for iconic brands, play with her grandson and work out in gym three times a week.

Khalid

Hussain:<http://www.jang.com.pk/thenews/jan2007-weekly/you-23-01-2007/index.html>

Shama Khalid Honoured

Star Girls and Women Foundation has declared eminent short story writer, renowned play wright and senior producer of Radio Pakistan Shama Khalid, as as the Star Woan of the Year 1997 in recognition for her meritorious services in the field of Mass Media.

She will be presented the trophy and certificate of excellence along with Foundations Publication titled 'Star Girls of Women 1997' incorporating her profile, in an impressive ceremony to be held in Sherton Karachi on Saturday 21, March 1998.



The Nation: march 21, 1998

Gender sensitivity awards for journalists

Advisor to Prime Minister on Women Development, Social Welfare and Special Education, Nilofar Bakhtiar on Wednesday said media is the mirror image of a society and its role cannot be sidelined in highlighting the sufferings of women folk in the country.

She was speaking as chief guest at the distribution of 'Gender Sensitivity Award' to the journalists who contributed their efforts for sensitizing the masses on women issues. The programme was organized by Uks, a non governmental organization working for gender issues.

She said women of the country are facing problems, whatever their position may be, nurses, professors or lady councilors. But the media can play an important role in their advancement by properly highlighting their problems.

The advisor said the journalists should come forward to highlight the incidents of violence more boldly. It will not only help in exposing the evil in the society but will also assist government in taking prompt action in this regard.

Nilofar eulogised the role being played by media in projecting the women cause, saying, the efforts by the NGOs and women activists will have remained incomplete without media's active participation.

She said the government was fully committed to uplift the status of women at all levels and also believed in the freedom of press.

Women in the country are facing discrimination, exploitation and hurdles in their careers. The government is concerned about these problems and is committed to resolving them, however the media should also feel its responsibility in creating awareness among the masses over such issues.

She said the journalists also needed to be sensitized over the problems of women and the Women Ministry had planned to hold media awareness workshops which could not material due to some reasons. She offered Uks to join hands with the ministry to arrange awareness courses for the journalists.

The Advisor appreciated the efforts rendered by the award winning journalists and social activists for their contribution in the field of highlighting gender issues.

Musarrat Jabeen, a senior journalist who started working in weekly Akhbar-e-Khwateen and daily Hurriyat in 60s said it all depends on women themselves how to deal with their problems.

She said the women should come forward to join the field of journalism as they would be better able to deeply understand the women's sufferings as compared to their men colleagues.

She said there was no need of setting up any Press Council in the country but a body, which could monitor the activities of the government. She also urged women journalists to broaden their area of work by not confining it just to women issues.

Director Uks, Tasneem Ahmar who has also been working as a journalist since long said the Gender Awards were a symbol of appreciation for the journalists and encouraged them in highlighting the problems faced by women in the society.

Later, Nilofar gave away awards and certificates to the journalists for their contribution in the field of gender sensitization. Those who received the awards included Naziha Saeed Ali (Assistant Editor Newsline), Professor Irfan Ahmad Baid, Sher M. Akhtar and founding member Shirkatgah Najma Sadiq.

The journalists who received certificates are Rana Akbar Khalid, Shahida Perveen (daily Express, NWFP), Raja Asad Hamid (daily Nation, Lahore) and Waseem Ahmad Shah (daily Dawn, Peshawar).

Pakistan Observer: May 27, 2004

راولاکوٹ کی خاتون صحافی پر پولیس تشدد، صحافیوں کا احتجاج

وزیراعظم آزادانہ فرائض کی ادائیگی ممکن بنانے کے لئے اقدامات کریں: یونین آف جرنلسٹس

یونین آف جرنلسٹس ضلع پونچھ نے باغ میں خاتون صحافی اور ایک روزنامہ کے کالم نگار کے خلاف پولیس گردی پر احتجاجی اجلاس کیا اور واقعہ کی شدید مذمت کرتے ہوئے اسے آزادی صحافت پر حملہ قرار دیا ہے۔ یونین آف جرنلسٹس ضلع پونچھ کا اجلاس زیر صدارت ضلعی صدر سردار اشمن ری منعتقد ہوا جبکہ اجلاس میں یونین آف جرنلسٹس آزاد کشمیر کے سیکرٹری جنرل سردار عبدالرزاق بانی صدر پریس کلب سردار نذر محمد، سردار عابد صدیقی، سینئر نائب صدر یونین آف جرنلسٹس پونچھ ملک اعجاز قمر، جنرل سیکرٹری راجہ افضل کیانی، عابد شفاعیت، لیاقت خان، راجہ انور، سردار حیات راجہ عزیز، حفیظ کیانی اور حمید اللہ نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے یونین آف جرنلسٹس ضلع پونچھ کے صدر سردار اشمن ری سیکرٹری جنرل سردار عبدالرزاق اور دیگر نے کہا کہ آزادی کشمیر میں آئے روز صحافیوں پر حملے آزادی صحافت کے خلاف سازش کے مقررین نے کہا کہ باغ میں خاتون صحافی پر پولیس گردی اور رپورٹر کو حراساں کرنا آزادانہ صحافیانہ فرائض کے خلاف ہے۔

She stands alone: Pakistani woman film director, Shireen Pasha

This article describes the activities of film director Shireen Pasha in promoting truth in the mass media in Pakistan. Pasha is described as one who finds it inexcusable in a state-subsidized system that national problems of poverty are not aired openly. Pasha has pursued the goal of exposing the real lives of Pakistanis on film in contrast to the publicly aired segments of "pretty girls in nice drawing rooms." Foreign channels available through satellite communications technology are viewed by Pasha as inappropriate with regard to people's needs and uncreative. Pakistan began with one channel, PTV, which recently refused to air her documentary on living conditions in Pakistan's rural areas "The Travelogue Pakistan." "The Walled City of Lahore" was her film about life in the old city. Both films poetically depicted the honor of humans and their struggle to stay alive. Some of her documentaries are made to show the value of indigenous skills, centuries old know-how, and traditions, regardless of the poverty. Pasha is described as fighting with PTV management over use of resources. Pasha desires to invest in training people to do documentaries or be more field-oriented rather than investing in equipment. Pasha joined PTV in 1975 and left in 1990. Pasha is recognized for her isolation as a woman in the business world, her commitment to exposing remote cultures and truth, and the odds she must confront in attaining her goals. Pasha is committed to doing extensive research, usually conducted during the summer months, in order to construct a credible story line that is produced usually during the winter months. One model of film story line is defined as one where women are portrayed as starting from an indigenous skill or knowledge and shifting to a greater position of power and control over their lives. Pasha believes that people who make films have the responsibility to evoke a reaction in people and to offer solutions. Two acclaimed films, which were supported by USAID and the government, were "Before It's Too Late" and "Only One Way." Both deal with resource issues and the environment. She is currently director of her own film house, The Film Makers, in Lahore. After graduating from the National College of Arts in 1968, she furthered her education in the US in the history of art.

**Mustafa A: *HEALTH FOR THE MILLIONS*
July- Aug 1995, Abstract**

Newsliner

Another Feather in Newline's Cap

We've done it again! Following Newline's sweep of the APNS awards - we bagged the Best Column, Best Investigative Report and Best Special Report awards - the magazine has another feather to add to its cap! This time around, Newline's Senior Editor, Sairah Irshad Khan, took away the UNESCO-supported Pakistan Press Foundation award at its first ever award ceremony held on April 26.

The PPF awards were designed to encourage gender sensitive reporting and recognise outstanding stories covered by women journalists in the print media. Out of 90 entries, only five finalists were shortlisted for each of the two categories. And true to tradition, four members of Newline editorial team made it to the list of 10. While Sairah Irshad Khan walked away with the "award for best reporting by a female journalist," for her article 'Kandahar Chronicle,' Shimaila



Matri, was runner-up for her story, 'Hard Time Hotels' and Sanna Bucha and Naziha Syed Ali were among the finalists for the "excellence in gender sensitive reporting" category with their stories, 'Twice Damned' and 'Vanishing Stations' respectively. The panel of judges comprised eight eminent journalists, media professionals and academics, including Javed Jabbar, Abdul Hamced Chhapra, Dr Shahida Kazi and the distinguished I.A. Rehman.

The win holds special significance for a magazine team comprising mostly women, steadfastly refusing to rest on their laurels. Way to go sisters!

More female journalists needed in investigative reporting

Names of rape victims should not published, Media went overboard in Almani case

Shahida Kazi, professor and former chairperson, Mass Communications Department, University of Karachi, said here on Thursday that many women who have studied journalism are opting for careers in advertising and public relations and are not encouraged to join reporting and journalism.

She said this at a seminar entitled, "The media are not truly free unless women share an equal voice" organized ahead of International Women's Day on March 8. Dr. Kazi said women have the ability to write on issues with more sensitivity. "They are doing a lot of good work and are not getting publicity," she said.

Dr. Kazi, who was the first woman reporter in the city when she joined a leading English newspaper in 1966, said newspaper management fails to encourage women reporters. She said Pakistan has produced some excellent women editors including the late Razia Bhatti, Ambassador Maliha Lodhi and Katrina Hussain, but a majority of women journalists are working at editing desks and are not encouraged to do investigative reporting.

She was critical of media coverage in the Shaista Almani case, which involved too much discussion of the victim's personal life. In other countries, she said, the names of rape victims were never published but the media in Pakistan regrettably identifies them, which causes problems for their families and them. She said some newspapers magazines were only interested in covering fashion, which had nothing to do with common readers.

Zubeida Mustafa, a senior journalist, said a random check of English dailies will reveal only one or two women's bylines, the majority of reports being filed by men. However, women have taken over in magazines, she said. Ms Mustafa was critical of the prejudice and discrimination against women journalists and said Urdu newspapers in particular give them very few bylines. She said many women journalists were keen to move from desk jobs to reporting but were not given the opportunity or encouragement.

•Senior journalist Fazal Qureshi said women's representation in the media was confined only to big cities and the media's role could not be complete unless and until women play their role.

Ayesha Haq, managing director of Daily Times, said society could never be free unless women had a voice. She said the media is a reflection of society and thus needs to be gender sensitive. "The need to gender sensitize is immense, and we need to become more responsible," she remarked.

Abdul Hameed Chhapra, former president of All Pakistan Newspapers Employees Confederation, said the media was meant to educate people but unfortunately it was chained in Pakistan. He said Pakistani media had produced many celebrities including the late Razia Bhatti who received international recognition for her courage. He said when newspaper management fails to pay journalists well it is natural that the latter would not work hard.

Awais Aslam Ali, secretary journal of the Pakistan Press Foundation, said Pakistan was unique in the sense that we blame the country for all our ills. He said our newspapers and magazines need to be made more relevant for the people and rural areas are not adequately covered by the press. "The media is geared towards the male population," he remarked. He said the media in Pakistan was not attracting bright young people who could become good journalists. He said women's representation was very weak in the media.

The seminar was organized by the Pakistan Press Foundation. The seminar was followed by a question-and-answer session.

Daily Times: March 6, 2004

خاتون صحافی کو میگزین بند کرنے کے لئے دھمکیاں

خاتون صحافی اور چیف ایڈیٹر ماہنامہ "وقت" کو مسلسل دھمکیاں موصول ہو رہی ہیں کہ وہ اپنا میگزین بند کر دیں۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق خاتون صحافی کوثر لودھی کے موبائل فون، آفس اور گھر کے نمبروں پر غیر اخلاقی اور دھمکی آمیز کالوں کا نہ ختم ہونے والا سلسلہ شروع ہو گیا ہے یہاں تک کہ نامعلوم افراد ان کے گھر اور آفس دھمکیاں دینے پہنچ گئے اور ان کو دھمکایا کہ عدالتی کارروائی کے نتیجے میں نہ صرف میگزین بلکہ جان سے بھی ہاتھ دھونا پڑیں گے۔ اس صورتحال میں کوثر لودھی نے آئی جی اسلام آباد سے رابطہ قائم کیا جس پر انہوں نے اسلام آباد پولیس کی جانب سے مکمل تعاون کا یقین دلایا۔ اس کے علاوہ خاتون صحافی نے اس سنگین صورتحال کے پیش نظر وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب چوہدری پرویز الہی سے براہ راست مدد کی اپیل کی۔

Lala Rukh:

The Power-tuff girl!

Violence on 9th April in Karachi was two-dimensional. On the one hand it reflected the callousness of some individuals for the sake of their political interests. While, on the other hand it introduced us to the people with high regards for their professional commitments for which they even risked their lives. Lala Rukh, the cameraperson with the television network, Geo News, is one such example. Lala Rukh was on duty and reached the crisis area with her camera few minutes after the violence broke near the City Courts on the dreadful 9th April. "I couldn't believe it was Karachi. Arsonists were burning everything and Tahir Plaza was engulfed in flames. Gunshots were fired at random, vehicles were burnt and mobiles were snatched amid thicket of black smoke," recalled Lala talking about the building which was burnt down while hundreds of people were still stranded within it. Horrendous carnage seized the city; burning vehicles, looting and plundering plagued the streets.



During her assignment, Lala Rukh began shooting the culprits in act. However, she was not lucky enough to have her scoop go on-air as her camera was snatched by a miscreant as soon as she was ready to capture the face of the troublemaker. Lala followed the man and after a lot of struggle she managed to get her camera back. Just as Lala was about to celebrate her victory she was attacked again. Her opponents were five men armed with batons and stones, who harassed her mercilessly. She retaliated but couldn't fight back for long. As a result she lost hold of her camera and even injured her hand. "Though I couldn't defeat them, I'm happy that I gave them a tough time. After all, it was my job and I couldn't have compromised on it," she shared.

Lala Rukh, with her little act of valour, has become an inspiration to all Pakistani women. And, we are proud of her!

The News: April 22, 2008

Uzma's campaign for gender

When the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated a 'women in media' project in Pakistan, Uzma Haroon seemed a natural choice to manage this venture. An accomplished journalist with over a decade of experience in local media, social development and planning, Uzma is working to reduce what she sees as "an enduring prejudice of society". She defines this as "gender disparity, as reflected in the social, economic and political spheres of activity, limiting the types of roles and responsibilities women can undertake.

Uzma describes this disparity as being "perpetuated and aggravated in the portrayal of women in electronic media, particularly television" - which she recognizes as a powerful tool with a far-reaching impact and influence on society.

The Portrayal of Women in Media project has set out to collaborate with Pakistan Television (PTV), the largest domestic electronic media outlet, to facilitate a positive, balanced and diverse image of women in media; the objective being female empowerment in every context. Areas of direct impact include gender sensitization throughout the private and public sector media, and a long run objective of influencing attitudes toward female roles throughout Pakistani society. Uzma envisions a sustained and long-term impact on women's participation in economic activity and social development in Pakistan.

Uzma is empowering women through education and information, providing access to choices and opportunities. Her activities are inspired by the statement proclaimed at the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, which states: "women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace." Uzma describes such an endeavor as being supported by Article 34 of the Constitution of Pakistan, which states: "steps shall be taken to ensure the full participation of women in all spheres of national life."

Managing training and workshops for over three hundred private and public media professionals, Uzma's focus is not only on gender sensitization but also enhancing access to choices. An example of such capacity building can be found in PTV's daily broadcast of

'Khawateen Time' (Women's Time) - a direct result of this Project. This programme has broadcast over one hundred 'profiles of courage, which have brought attention to female small business owners, teachers, doctors, bus conductors, taxi drivers and architects; women who have worked hard for their accomplishments, and serve as positive role models in Pakistani society. 'Khawateen Time' has also aired a thirty-part series on career counseling. Expert advice on professional opportunities and associated pros and cons, has been aired. PTV's five centres have also broadcast regional language programs dealing with issues of gender, as well as female empowerment. For example, PTV Quetta recently telecast 'Hunj' - a program produced by a partner NGO, Conscience Promoters. A series of 21 episodes, 'Hunj' dealt with women's rights and empowerment of women in a culturally relevant context.

Uzma has also worked to establish 'Gender Committees' at all five PTV centers which periodically meet to address concerns at the programming and organizational level. Such meetings have addressed issues of sexual harassment, subsequently investigated by Gender Committees. Positive change in staff attitudes has subsequently been monitored. Other targets have included gender bias at the policy level, i.e. media programming and content developed by all-male media workers. Uzma feels that "in such circumstances, the needs and views of women are often neglected, and biased policies are often implemented." Progress on this front has included the unprecedented appointment of a woman to the PTV Censor Board.

Uzma's work with this 'women in media' initiative includes creating opportunities for women in male-dominated media environments. She explains: "videography - at one point a male dominated profession, now has openings for women as well. Along with our provision of sophisticated equipment, for the first time, three camera women, Shabana, Anjum and Samreen, received a five-week long training course organized by the PTV Academy under the umbrella of the Project."

Actively collaborating with the Government, local media, partner NGOs and educational institutions, Uzma strongly feels that "there is no denying that our work has helped set a trend that is for the better, for empowering women, for raising gender concerns and for enhanced opportunities for female media professionals"

The remarkable courage of a radio producer

Rehana Waqar - a producer at the Radio Pakistan - is one of the lucky people who got support and encourage from the parents with a loving and caring husband, as they always ensured her that she was quite normal.

"Special people are just like the normal ones, when God takes something away He bestows something more than the ordinary people" Rehana said while talking to The Post. That, she added, may be in form of patience, courage or any advance form of physical or mental faculties, Because God is more loving to us so we should never be apprehended about any of the misery coming to us.

She said, "There is always something good enveloped in something bad which we are unable to perceive a courageous"

She was born like a normal child in Faisalabad. She was immunised against polio at the local hospital in the city when she was only two and half years old. The next day of getting her immunized through polio vaccine, the mother of Rehana observed that her daughter's legs and arms are getting lifeless. Her mother immediately rushed her to hospital, where she was told that it was because that the vaccine was expired and was not kept properly in a cold storage. The little carelessness of the hospital staff deprived Rehana permanently from both of her legs as a team of foreign qualified surgeons successfully operated her and restored both of her arms.

"No one from my family including five brothers and sisters has caught by this disease except me," Rehana said.

"Neither it is hereditary nor my parents were relatives but it is just due to the fact that I was given an expired vaccine," she said, adding that she had been getting wondered during her childhood if she was not sent to school like other children.

She said, "My parents made me satisfied with the excuse saying they were not sending me the school as the school is far from our house."

She said being the youngest among her family she got unprecedented care.

She said she continued here studies till the graduation at her house and her brothers and sisters were very cooperative for her.

"Each one of them had taken the responsibility of teaching me. Returning from the school they used to teach me tuition of each subject. My father was a Professor of Islamic Studies at a college. So his cooperation was also withheld me," she said.

She said, "My father had good relations with the school administration as I was enrolled in the school but seldom had I gone to the School only for taking examination," she said, adding, "Thus I reached to the level of graduation. But just when I did my graduation I asked my mother that now I would study as a regular student at the university."

She said, "My mother was hesitant and apprehended about my decision but I remained adherent to my resolve.

Rehana said, "I applied only with the Quaid-i-Azam University and I got admission. My parents were still apprehended. They tried to hold me back as I could face any problem in the campus. My friends in the campus also supported me and asked me not to leave."

"Finally I got my MSc degree in the Pakistan Studies from the university," Rehana said and added, "I was listener of FM channels, and I was curious to know how they function. So one day I planned my trip to the radio and reached there."

"In a sense of wonder I was observing each and everything when just with a coincidence I came across Anwar Mehmood who he is Secretary Information at that time. He asked me to apply for a job as a producer in the Radio. I did accordingly and that's how I am here," she said.

"Initially, I faced few problems to get settle in the working environment as people were not pretty cooperative and some of the man colleagues even did some sort of molestation with me," she added.

"I kept myself calm and now my career is full of success" she added. Talking about her marriage life with Waqar Azeem she revealed with in a shimmering expression on her face that their marriage proved to be quite successful.

Azeem is an employee at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts. Some years ago he made a documentary on special people where worked with Rehana to highlight her spirit of struggle with the intention to give courage to the special people. That moment he decided to establish a long-term relation with the girl he fell in love with.

Azeem went to her father along with the Director General of PNCA to convince him for the marriage. My father was hesitant but he agreed finally, Rehana said.

"This was shocking news for the relatives of Waqar as to why he was getting married with a handicapped girl, Rehana said.

"I remember there were quite a few people present from the relatives of Waqar at the time of our marriage," she said in a deploring accent. She said, "I think these are attitudes that really discourages. People took pity on special people but never try to get them involved in the main stream life she also said. By the grace of God I am well educated, I can even handle some of the technical things I knows computer very well."

"And that is just by the cooperation and encouragement my parents and my family extended to me," she added.

Perhaps, I am the luckiest one among number of other special people who never have any access to their dreams. I am living a pretty satisfied and living a vibrant life. I always keep busy with my two-year-old son Rehana said, adding, "I do my domestic work myself and never ask help from anybody," she said.

However, she said she missed her father who had passed away.

Faisal Kamal Pasha: The Post, July 27, 2007

تصویری خاکے بنا کر معاشرے کی ناہمواریوں کی اصلاح کرتی ہوں
پاکستان میں کارٹونز کو وہ پذیرائی نہیں ملتی جو مغربی ممالک میں اسے حاصل ہے
خاتون کارٹونسٹ نگار نذر کی پاکستان سے گفتگو

نگار نذر پاکستان کی پہلی خاتون کارٹونسٹ ہیں ان کے کئی کارٹون پاکستان کے کئی اخباروں اور رسالوں میں چھپ چکے ہیں خاص کر گوگی پروگرام پاکستان ٹیلی ویژن پر بھی دکھائے گئے ہیں۔ نگار نذر کو ملکی ہی نہیں غیر ملکی سطح پر بھی یکساں مقبولیت حاصل ہے۔ گوگی کارٹون کو ترکی، لیبیا، انگلینڈ، آسٹریلیا اور کرغستان میں پذیرائی ملی ہے اب تک ان کے کارٹون مجموعے کی دو کتابیں شائع ہو چکی ہیں۔ یو سی سیف بریڈ فورڈ انگلینڈ کے حکمہ تعلیم اور امریکہ کی یورینا یونیورسٹی کے مطبوعات کے لئے تصویری خاکے بھی بنا چکی ہیں۔ نگار نذر نے سماجی اصلاح کے پیغامات کو خوبصورت رنگین گوگی کارٹون کی مدد سے راولپنڈی اسلام آباد اور لاہور کی چند بسوں کو مزین کر کے بہتر کیا۔

سیماب سنی: پاکستان 20 اپریل، 2006

Radio legend Munni Baji dies

Perveen Akhtar, popularly known as Munni Baji, who ruled the hearts of children for many years, died of heart failure here on Tuesday. She was 78. "She was like a mother to all of us her siblings. And her departure today is a huge loss for us," Maqsood Bhai, the youngest of Munni Baji's four siblings and a stage artiste, told Dawn. He said Munni Baji had not married and had dedicated her life to raising her two brothers and as many sisters.

She was buried in the Milk Plant graveyard. A number of media personalities attended her burial rituals.

Munni Baji was a gifted artiste who had the best child-type voice ever heard in the business.

She remained associated with the Radio Pakistan for almost 45 years and retired in 1993, but worked on contract till 1998. She never showed interest in PTV despite repeated offers from it, and received many honours including the Nigar Award for her services.

Born in Simla in 1929, she got a job with the All India Radio, Delhi, in the early 1940s for which she would give credit to great poet Behzad Lucknavi, a family friend, who helped her go through the business.

She was just 50 inches tall.

According to many of her admirers, she did not know then that she was going to become a legend in the Radio history of Pakistan. Before partition, she lost her father and assumed the role of a father and mother for her siblings.

She migrated to Pakistan with her family in 1947. Munni Baji lived in Lahore and spent two years in Lahore as a drama artiste with the help of Zia Jullundri, another Radio personality. She further migrated to Karachi in 1955 and shifted to Ratan Talao with her family just behind the Radio Pakistan building.

Radio Pakistan's founding director, Z.A. Bokhari, was a friend of her



grandfather's and gave her a job. She temporarily left Radio to run a canteen at government offices handed over to her by her grandfather but returned to Radio in 1958.

Her voice helped her get offers of child roles in radio plays and she did many serials, including Qaid-i-Havas and Zanjeer Bolti Hai.

She also did children programme Naunehal for more than 30 years whose name was later changed to Bachchon ki Duniya. Bachchon ki Duniya is still remembered by people who enjoyed listening to the radio in the '70s and '80s.

She did just one TV programme, Baron kay liyay, for a private company before she called it a day in 1993 due to her deteriorating health. Yet she kept doing sporadic stints with Radio till 1998 on a contract basis.

“She was not only a great artiste but a whole era that inspired many generations,” artiste Talat Hussain, who proudly called himself one of her protégés, told Dawn.

“We have not lost an artiste but a legend who would remain unforgettable; for me, as for many others, she was a role model,” he said.

Qazi Wajid, one of the few artistes with whom Munni Baji would love to perform, said he had lost a great friend and big supporter. “She was very caring and compassionate like an older sister could be. She was like a shelter for her juniors. Her death is a great loss for all of us,” he said.

Dawn: May 14, 2007

RSF concerned at 'victimization' of Newsline

Reporters Sans Frontier (RSF), an independent organization which works to defend press freedom worldwide, has expressed concern over the reported government intimidation and harassment of Newsline magazine staffers.

In a letter dated October 2 addressed to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, a copy of which was made available to The frontier Post, the General Secretary of Paris based RSF, Robert Menard said: 'According to our information, on 1 October, the English-language magazine Newsline accused the Pakistani government of launching an intimidation campaign against the magazine's office and asked the staff to give the editors home numbers and addresses.' He quoted the editor of Newsline, Rehana Hakim, telling the Reuters news agency: "the Pakistan Muslim League government has launched a campaign to victimise and terrorise Newsline." He said the magazine published several articles alleging corrupt practices among the PML government and the premier's family and quoted Rauf Malik, a ministry of information official, saying: "there is absolutely no harassment" even though he admitted that the government had ordered tax audits of the magazine and its stuff.

"Reporters Sans Frontiers is extremely worried by practice of intimidation. Our organization asks you not to harass the magazine staff and to let them investigate corruption cases in accordance with their professional duty. We remind you that, if government, your family members or you think that you are victims of defamation; Pakistani law allows you to file a judicial case. Finally, we also ask you to clarify whether the tax audit was decided by the government because of some critical articles were published by Newsline. We thank you for your attention to this matter and would welcome your comments," it concluded.

The Frontier Post: October 05, 1998

Ayesha Gazdar emerges as peace activist

Mushtaq Gazdar made history when he bagged the coveted Grand Prix in 1979 at the Tempere International Short Film Festival for his film, They Are Killing in Horse. His untimely death in November 2000 made the democratic and progressive forces poorer in Pakistan since he always stood by the oppressed and the downtrodden.

But its delightful surprise that his young and talented daughter Ayesha Gazdar has made her mark with a 30 minute film on the holocaust of the atomic bombs, which were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 8, 1945, killing 200,000 people instantly. As many as 100,000 people died from lethal effects of radiation during the next two decades. The horror of nuclear bomb could be gauged from that on average 2000 people still die in Japan every year due to effects of radiations.

The film "Roz-e-Qaza: Hipabakusha ki aab beti," a drama based on an interview with Hipabakusha Miyuki Kamezawa, one of the survivors of the atomic bombs, who visited Pakistan to speak of the horrors of nuclear wars in the wake of the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan in 1998. In an interview with the late Mushtaq Gazdar, Miyuki Kamezawa related the events of August 6 and August 8, 1945. Her experience, heartrending and poignant, is depicted through a mix of dramatization and documentary footage. In contrast, the film also shows the actual celebrations that took place in both India and Pakistan after the 1998 test were carried out. The film ends with a message of peace for people on both sides of divide with graphic montage of some landmarks of Karachi. The film partly supported by the Japan foundation.

Ayesha Gazdar started her career as a journalist and worked for Newslite, The Muslim and the star. She did her master's in international relations from Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, in 1991 and also acquired education in the United Kingdom at the institute of Commonwealth after she bagged a British Council scholarship in 2000. She was also trained in film making by her father from 1992 onwards.

Shahid Husain: Daily Times, December 08, 2003

پہلے پروڈکشن زیادہ ہوتی تھی اب کرنٹ افیئر زکا دور ہے
ڈیجیٹل دور نے ریڈیو کو فاسٹ کر دیا
ریڈیو کی سینئر پروڈیوسر کنیر فاطمہ کی "اوصاف" سے گفتگو

کنیر فاطمہ سے "اوصاف" نے گفتگو کا اہتمام کیا جو قارئین کی نذر کی جاتی ہے۔

اوصاف: جب آپ نے ریڈیو جوآن کیا اس وقت ریڈیو کو بہت اہمیت حاصل تھی کیا آپ طے شدہ پروگرام کے تحت ادھر آئیں۔
کنیر فاطمہ: ریڈیو کی جانب میں اتفاقاً آئی ہوں میں نے پہلے ادھر آنے کا کبھی نہیں سوچا تھا۔ ماسٹر کرنے کے بعد پہلی جگہ ملازمت کے لئے درخواست دی جہاں سے مجھے کال آگئی اور مجھے ملازمت مل گئی۔ پاکستان براڈ کاسٹنگ اکیڈمی اسلام آباد میں پانچ ماہ کی ٹریننگ ہوئی اور پھر میری تعیناتی راولپنڈی ریڈیو اسٹیشن پر ہوئی، ٹریننگ کے دوران پتہ چلا کہ یہ سب سلسلہ کیا ہے ورنہ پہلے میں ریڈیو سے سننے کی حد تک آشنا تھی، اس سے زیادہ کچھ نہیں جانتی تھی، بطور پروڈیوسر میری تعیناتی مارچ 1984ء میں ہوئی۔

اوصاف: آپ نے ماسٹر کس مضمون میں کیا، ہمارے ہاں زیادہ تر خواتین ماسٹر کے بعد لیکچر شپ حاصل کرنے کی کوشش کرتی ہیں، آپ نے اس روایت سے ہٹ کر ریڈیو جوآن کیا؟



کنیر فاطمہ: میں نے پنجاب یونیورسٹی سے اردو میں ماسٹر کیا۔ اس وقت لیکچر شپ کی آسامیاں نہیں آتی تھیں کہ میں ریڈیو پر آگئی۔ ادھر آنے کے بعد لیکچر شپ کی آسامیاں آئیں لیکن ریڈیو پر کام کرنا مجھے زیادہ جلیقی محسوس کیا۔ میں سمجھتی تھی کہ یہاں رہ کر آدی کوئی کام کر سکتا ہے اور اپنی صلاحیتوں کے اظہار کے زیادہ مواقع حاصل کر سکتا ہے۔ اس طرح میں نے ریڈیو پر کام کو ترجیح دی۔

اوصاف: آپ نے بے شمار پروگرام کئے ایسے پروگرام جو آپ کو خود اچھے لگے ہوں وہ کون سے ہیں؟

کنیر فاطمہ: میں پروگرام پروڈیوس کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ خود بھی پروگرام کرتی ہوں کمپوزنگ کرتی ہوں اور خود لکھتی بھی ہوں، ویسے تو میں نے تقریباً ہر طرح کے پروگرام کئے ہیں جن میں ڈرامہ، بچوں کے پروگرام اور خواتین کے پروگرام طویل عرصہ کئے، سٹیج شو کئے، اس کے علاوہ قومی سطح کے پروگرام ہیڈ کوارٹر سے کرتی رہی ہوں۔ میری زیادہ دلچسپی حالات حاضرہ کے پروگرام میں رہی ہے جو میں انتہائی شوق سے کرتی ہوں یوتھ پروگرام، بہت عرصہ کیا۔ انٹرویو اور ڈسکشن کے پروگرام کئے۔ میں نے سپورٹس کے بھی بہت سے پروگرام کئے خصوصی

طور پر کرکٹ کے میچز کی کوریج کی، راولپنڈی میں ہونے والے ایک روزہ میچ کو بھی کوریج کرتی رہی ہوں۔ اس سے پہلے کسی خاتون نے کرکٹ میچ کو نہیں کئے۔

مقبول گوہر: اوصاف، 23 اپریل، 2003ء

نوٹ: آج کل کثیر فاطمہ ریڈیو پاکستان راولپنڈی کی اسٹیشن ڈائریکٹر کے طور پر اپنے فرائض انجام دے رہی ہیں۔ وہ ملک کی پہلی خاتون ہیں جو کسی بھی اسٹیشن کی سربراہ ہیں۔

سیدہ عفت جبار

سرحد کی دوسری خاتون پروڈیوسر

پاکستان براڈ کاسٹنگ کارپوریشن (ریڈیو) پشاور کی سینئر پروڈیوسر سیدہ عفت جبار سرحد کی دوسری خاتون پروڈیوسر ہیں چائلڈ سٹار کے طور پر ریڈیو سے متعارف ہوئیں اور ریڈیو میں دلچسپی رکھنے کے باعث پروفیشن کے طور پر بحیثیت پروڈیوسر ریڈیو پشاور میں شمولیت اختیار کر لی۔ عفت نے بین الاقوامی سطح پر ساؤتھ ایشیا ہیلیکیشن کے زیر اہتمام سارک ممالک کی سطح پر منعقدہ پروگرام میں بہترین پروڈیوسر کا ایوارڈ حاصل کیا۔ علاوہ ازیں بین الاقوامی براڈ کاسٹنگ کے ادارے اور ڈبلیو بی ٹی کے زیر اہتمام فیلوشپ پروگرام میں دنیا کے چھ ممالک کا انتخاب کیا گیا جس میں عفت نے پاکستان کی نمائندگی کرنے کا شرف حاصل کیا۔ جنہیں انگلینڈ کے 40 ریڈیو، ٹی وی چینلز کا وزٹ کرائے جانے کے ساتھ ساتھ ان کی ویب سائٹ بھی پوری دنیا میں جاری کی گئی۔ خاتون پروڈیوسر پی بی سی نیٹ ورک پر چلنے والے خواتین کے پروگرام "ہماری دنیا" میں، بہترین کارکردگی کا مظاہرہ کرنے پرنیشل ایکسیلنس ایوارڈ جبکہ میگزین پروگرام پیش کرنے پر بجنل ایوارڈ کے ساتھ ساتھ مختلف اداروں اور تنظیموں کی طرف سے اپنی خدمات کے اعتراف میں ایوارڈز اور تعریفی اسناد بھی حاصل کر چکی ہیں۔ جبکہ سنگاپور اور بنگلہ دیش میں مختلف سیمینارز اور ورکشاپس میں بھی پاکستان کی نمائندگی کر چکی ہیں۔

نسرین جبین: جنگ، 16 اپریل، 2003ء

پی ٹی وی پر تخلیقی کام نہیں ہو رہا ہے، رفعت ہمایوں

ایوارڈ میں پوری ٹیم کا برابر حصہ ہے، میرے لاتعداد پروگرام بیرون ملک میلوں میں گئے

فنکار ریہرسل سے جان چمڑاتے ہیں، ریکارڈنگ کے لئے جدید ٹیکنیکل آلات اور فرنیچر کا فقدان ہے، جنگ کو انٹرویو

’رفعت ہمایوں نے ریڈیو پاکستان کے پروگرام ’بزم طلبہ‘ کے لاتعداد پروگرام کئے۔ 1980ء میں ’بزم طلبہ‘ کے لئے بہترین سکرپٹ رائٹر اور مقرر قرار پا کر پہلا انعام حاصل کیا۔ 1984ء میں پی ٹی وی میں بحیثیت اسٹنٹ پروڈیوسر ملازمت اختیار کر لی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ میں پی ٹی وی کی خوش نصیب پروڈیوسر ہوں جس کی تقریباً 17 انٹرنیشنل انٹریز ہیں۔ جبکہ شعبہ آئی آر ڈی نے میرے پروگرام کئی ملکوں کے بین الاقوامی میلوں میں بھیجے جن میں بچوں کا پروگرام ’ہم بچے خواب اور گلاب‘ انٹرنیشنل مقابلے میں پہلے نمبر اور جرمنی کے گرینڈ پریکس مقابلے میں فائنل میں آیا تھا۔ یہ پروگرام دو ماہ کی ریسرچ کے بعد میں نے خود تحریر کیا تھا۔ ’یہ پانی کی آلودگی‘ پر تھا جبکہ ہوا کی آلودگی کے حوالے سے بچوں کا پروگرام ’پھولوں کو ہنستا رہنے دو‘ جاپان اور ترکی کے فیسٹیول میں بھیجا گیا۔ پروگرام ’روپ سروپ‘ کے کئی پروگرام مختلف فیسٹیولز میں گئے جن میں سے ’عمر ماروی‘ کو فرانس کے فیسٹیول میں بہت پذیرائی ملی اور ’روپ سروپ‘ کے سلسلے کا ایک پروگرام ’لیلا چنیر‘ روس کے میلے میں پہلے نمبر پر آیا اور اس کو ’رادھو کا ایوارڈ‘ ملا اور 1998ء میں موسیقی کے پروگرام ’یہ جہاں‘ پر بہترین میوزک پروڈیوسر کا پی ٹی وی ایوارڈ میرے لئے اعزاز سے کم نہیں۔

جنگ: 11 اکتوبر، 1998ء

عورت کے لئے بقا کی جنگ جیتنا ناممکن نہیں

پی ٹی وی پشاور کی اولین اناؤنسر، شاعرہ، ادیبہ بشریٰ فرخ سے انٹرویو

’خبریں‘ سے ایک ملاقات کے دوران بشریٰ نے بہت سی باتیں کیں۔ زندگی میں اکیلے سفر کے بارے میں انہوں نے کہا کہ اس کی عادت پڑ گئی ہے۔ اب تو بس ایک ہی دھن سوار ہے کہ اپنی بچیوں کو صنف نازک کے بجائے آہنی چٹانیں بنا کر حالات کا مقابلہ کرنا سکھاؤں۔ میرے میاں فرخ سیر پی ٹی وی کے جانے پہچانے پروڈیوسر تھے مگر اللہ کی رضا کہ انہیں برین ٹیومر جیسے موذی مرض نے سات سال قبل ہم سے چھین لیا تھا بس تب سے اکیلے ہی جدوجہد کر رہی ہوں۔ ایک سوال کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ میں نہ صرف پی ٹی وی کی پر فارم ہوں بلکہ ریڈیو کی بھی ’آؤٹ سٹینڈنگ‘ کینگری کی فنکارہ ہوں اور میں یہ بھی فخر سے کہتی ہوں کہ میں پی ٹی وی پشاور کی سب سے پہلی اناؤنسر ہونے کا اعزاز بھی رکھتی ہوں۔

عفت صدیقی: خبریں، 9 اکتوبر، 2004ء

Rise of women journalists in Pakistan

There has been an increase in the number of women journalists in Pakistan in the print media, particularly with the introduction of private TV news channels, a study compiled by the Karachi Union of Journalists (KUJ) reports.

According to the report, in the past two years there has been an increase in the number of women journalists, indicating a social awakening, a realisation of women's equal role and rights in society, and a lessening hold of obscurantist trends our society has been steeped in.

A tribute that the women journalists is that despite being a minority, they hold key assignments in their field, like editors, news editors, magazine editors, in the print media, and anchorpersons, newscasters, editors, and reporters, in the electronic media. This is ample testimony to their talent and efficiency and to the fact that they are as capable of shouldering the responsibilities towards society as their male counterparts.

The recent increase in their numbers is mainly of young, educated girls, who are working in English, Urdu and Sindhi newspapers, and Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV), the private GEO Channel, ARY Gold, INDUS and Kawish Television Network, KTN, among the electronic media. The report findings show they are increasingly comfortable in opting for the profession.

The report findings show that the women are more comfortable working in English dailies rather than Urdu and Sindhi papers, pointing out the difference work environments make to their participation in this work force.

The problems they face include being underpaid, little or no job security and no health cover. Women doing daily reporting are few and exceptional, which while disproving that women do not do daily reporting, also show that there are structural barriers such as working late nights, resisting their integration, and they prefer working in magazine sections.

However, even those women who were ready to work as reporters are not encouraged by their editors or managers. Similarly, there are very few women news photographers in Pakistan.

Women journalists have highlighted issues like Karo-Kari or honour

killings, education, health, sports, show-biz and even on economics, even when not in daily reporting. The report observed that there have been very few complaints against women journalist regarding corruption or black mailing. But the findings suggest they still avoid reporting on general crime and politics.

Women journalists have worked against the tide and become leading analysts, and have covered some sensitive events like Pakistan-India talks, SAARC, interviewed heads of the states and government etc. Some have also joined Non-Governmental Organisations, NGOs, while a few have entered into politics.

The report pays tribute to outstanding deceased women journalists like Razia Bhatti, Aamne Azam Ali, Najma Babar, Zulekha Ali, and Maisoon Hussein, who through their devotion, courage and high standard of professionalism set examples for others.

Razia Bhatti symbolized the voice of truth, refusing to capitulate to pressures and for her principles, resigned as an Editor of a leading English monthly magazine. She went on to found another monthly magazine, Newslite, which not only survived despite all political and government pressures, but just a year after its inception, bagged the most coveted Asia-Pacific prize for journalism. Razia Bhatti went on to collect a whole lot of accolades internationally for bold and objective reporting.

Pakistani women journalists have made a mark with the most august world media like the BBC and the Voice of America (VOA). The departed Aamne Azam Ali, Najma Babar, Maisoon Hussein and Zulekha Ali highlighted the issues like of AIDS, women prisoners, child labour, environment and violence against women.

Once departing from journalism, women have made their marks in other fields as well, like Dr. Maleeha Lodhi originally the editor of the defunct Muslim and later, editor of The News has been one of Pakistan's key diplomats holding the most vital of assignments like Pakistan's envoy in Washington DC and London. Former editor of Herald Sherry Rehman and former reporter of the Newslite Nafisa Shah have also showed exemplary courage in resisting pressures. Rehman did not bow to pressure when Herald exposed alleged criminal activities of the Crime Investigation Centre, CIA and its then chief Samiullah Marwat and then home advisor Irfanullah Marwat. Nafisa Shah was an outstanding reporter, who did several stories on different issues including violence against women. These three have chosen the field of politics to further themselves and contribute to society.

Similarly, in Urdu journalism there were number of women journalists, who have contributed both in magazine and dailies.

Ms. Siddiqua Begum is the editor of a reputed literary Magazine Adab-e-Latif, for the last 20 years. While Miss Fauzia Shaheen brought the only news monthly in Urdu, "Dastak" for the last several years.

Humera Ather, working for an Urdu weekly Akbar-e-Khawateen interviewed former Indian premier Indra Ghandhi. She along with several other women journalists like Fareeda Hafeez, Mehnaz Rehman, Shahnaz Ahad, Shamim Akhter, Salma Raza, Razia Fareed, Beena Sarwar remained active in the Union activities and contributed a lot in journalistic work.

Ms. Fauzia Shahid, journalist based in Islamabad was the only woman activist who becomes the Secretary General of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and is still its Vice-President.

At one time the editors of the English daily The News, Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, were all women. Dr. Maleeha Lodhi was the editor of The News, Rawalpindi, Ms. Kamila Hayat was the editor of The News, Lahore and Ms. Qautrina Hussein was the editor of The News, Karachi. The present editor of The News, Karachi, Humma Ahmed is also a woman. One of its former members, Lalarukh Hussein, even went to jail during the journalists movement in 1978, for the freedom of press.

Well known writer Fahmeeda Riaz, former editor of "Awaz" faces several cases because of her anti-Martial Law articles.

The KUJ called upon the young women to follow the examples of some of these outstanding journalists. The report findings show that more and more women are being attracted to the profession, one indicator being the enrollment ratio in journalism department in Karachi University, from 70-30 in favour of men to being inverted in favor of women.

However, on the negative side most of the women after getting Masters stayed at home particularly after getting married. As a result those working in print or electronic media are not graduates from Mass Communication department.

To encourage greater women's participation, work security is paramount, as is a more respectable wage commensurate with qualifications and hard work required by the profession. The system of contract employment, attitudes of employers and the demeaning of press workers by owners, if allowed to continue, would revert the

trend.

Women's greater participation in the profession would serve journalism in its purpose for building bridges in society and giving people the right to information. It would give fillip to the strength of worker's unions, facilitate a stronger labour movement, integrate women into this male dominated society and make their voices heard.

KUJ calls on newspaper owners and employers to create an environment conducive for women in which they can work, free of intimidation, with equality enshrined in the constitution of Pakistan, in line with the philosophy of human rights.

The Karachi Union of Journalists, KUJ, which represents over 650 journalists has some 60 women as its members, has decided to move an amendment in the constitution of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, PFUJ, to bring journalists working in the private television channels in its fold.

The KUJ also intends to give more representation to women journalists in the organisation both at the Karachi level as well as at the federal level.

Fazil Jamili: General Secretary, Karachi Union of Journalists,

http://www.nwmindia.org/News/Round_up/women_journ_pak.htm

Chronology

1947

- Fatima Begum, the Principal of Islamia College for Women Lahore, became the editor of "*Khatoon*," the first and only daily for women in the subcontinent just after partition. It was published from Lahore.
- Zaibunnisa Hamidullah was the pioneering female Pakistani journalist, columnist, editor and political commentator. She wrote for the daily *Dawn*. She had begun her journalistic career in pre-partition subcontinent as a columnist.

1948

- Humaira Khanum became the editor of the magazine *Mussallama* that was initially brought out by *Anjuman Ishaat-e-Islam Jalandhar*. After partition in 1947 its offices were shifted to Lahore. It was published as a magazine for religious teachings.
- Anis Mirza started her career in journalism for the *Illustrated Weekly of Pakistan*.

1949

- Mussarat Jahan Taimoori was the first and only female officer in the Department of Advertising Films and Publication in the newly independent state of Pakistan.
- Anis Mirza began broadcasting as a newscaster from Radio Pakistan. She also worked as a radio news correspondent.

1950

- Famous Urdu novelist Quratul Ain Haider began her career as a journalist by joining Pakistan's fledgling Ministry of Information as the first female copywriter.
- Jahan Ara Syed was the first English newsreader of Pakistan. She joined Radio Pakistan Karachi in 1950 and continued to read news without a break till 1965.

1951

- Quratul Ain Haider became the first female press attaché in Pakistan's High Commission in London.
- Zaibunnissa Hamidullah began publishing the glossy social magazine, the monthly, *Mirror of the Month*. The *Mirror* became a

very popular magazine and remained in print till 1972. Due to her status as Pakistan's first female editor Zaibunnisa Hamidullah became the first woman to be included in press delegations sent abroad.

- *Rahbar-i-Niswan*, a magazine exclusively for women was launched from Quetta. Latifa Khanum became the first editor. After her marriage she co-authored a literary criticism titled *Rah Wadi-i-Khayal (In the Valley of Thought)* with her husband Malik Muhammad Azceem.

1952

- Safia Ayub took over as the editor of *Rahbar-i-Niswan*. She continued to contribute articles to the daily *Nawa-i-Waqt* and *Mashriq*.

1953

- Quratul Ain Haider joined the prestigious newspaper, the *Daily Telegraph*, London and secured the honour of being the only journalist and reporter from the subcontinent at the Fleet Street London, where she worked for a few years.

1955

- Zaibunnisa Hamidullah became the first woman to speak at the ancient Al-Azhar University in Cairo.
- Mehmooda Sultana became the first regular Urdu columnist in the subcontinent. Her column "*Barq-o-Sharar*" appeared regularly in the daily "*Anjam*" from 1955 till 1960.

1956

- *Woman's World*, a magazine with a progressive outlook published articles on a variety of topics including politics and social issues. Progressive writers like Mujibunnisa Akram, Nasreen Azhar and Naushaba Burney wrote for it.

1957

- In November, Zaibunnissa Hamidullah, the *Mirror's* editor, wrote a blistering editorial in defence of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, whose ministry in East Pakistan had been forced to resign. In retaliation, the central government imposed a six-month ban on the magazine and privately threatened its editor. Begum Hamidullah responded by taking the government to the Supreme Court and with

the help of eminent lawyer A.K. Brohi, managed to win the case. The *Mirror* was awarded the costs of the petition, and the incident made journalistic history in Pakistan.

1958

- Farooq Jahan Taimuri took charge as the first female producer of Radio Pakistan.
- Mariam Asim Malik, a graduate of Lucknow University, published the Urdu weekly, *Khawar (sun)* from Quetta to highlight the issues of the settlement of the refugees in Balochistan.
- Shamim Ejaz joined the Pakistan Broadcasting service on the encouragement of the legendary Director General of Radio, Z. A. Bokhari and had the honour of becoming the first female Urdu newsreader. She devoted the next thirty four years of her life to this medium.

1960

- Anis Mirza joined the daily Dawn. She wrote a regular column on the women's page and also reported the proceedings of the National Assembly.

1961

- Anita Ghulam Ali, a prominent educationist, became a household name as an English newsreader in the 60s. Anita was later awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz.

1962

- Zubaida Mustafa began her career as a research officer in the Institute of International Affairs, Karachi.
- Naushaba Nargis started a women's page for the first time in daily *Imroz*, Multan, and remained associated with it for decades.
- Anis Mirza was awarded the 'best news casting voice' award in South Asia from Indian Listeners' Association.
- Farhat Mumtaz became editor of *Mera Ghar (My Home)*, an illustrated magazine published from Islamabad. She was the local advisor to the Pakistan Girl Guide Association from 1960-62 and a freelance journalist from 1964 to 1980.

1963

- Zuhra Karim launched "*SHE*" magazine. She was the publisher, editor and the founder of the tabloid sized, black and white fortnightly magazine, which cost 50 paisas. *SHE* was a progressive magazine for women, combining glamour, fashion, household tips and some thought provoking features on women's issues.
- Mehmooda Sultana, the Urdu columnist, opposed the family laws enacted by the government of President Ayub Khan and was persecuted for her defiance.

1964

- Kanwal Naseer, daughter of broadcaster Mohni Hameed, made the first announcement at the opening ceremony of Pakistan Television station Lahore.

1965

- Moneeza Hashmi, who is PTV's first woman Director Programmes, began her career as actor and anchor in 1965 and later worked as an executive producer for Pakistan's national television. After the advent of private channels she joined HUM TV as its Executive Director.
- Farida Hafeez joined Urdu daily *Mashriq* and was associated with it for 27 years.

1966

- *Akhbar-e-Khawateen*, a very popular news magazine for women, was launched by the management of *Daily Mashriq*.
- *Akhbar-e-Khawateen* continued to be the most popular magazine for women for the next two decades.
- Musarrat Jabeen was the first editor of *Akhbar-e-Khawateen*. Her column *Khanum ki Diary* was immensely popular among the readers. Other women associated with this magazine included Naushaba Zubairi, Farida Taj and Nuzhat Subhani.
- Shahida Qazi, a gold medallist from department of Journalism, University of Karachi, joined Dawn as its first woman reporter. Ms. Qazi later joined PTV as a news editor. She then moved to teaching journalism at Karachi University and retired as the Chairperson. She is currently heading Mohamad Ali Jinnah University's Women's Studies Centre.

1967

- Shamcem Akhtar began her career as a freelance journalist with the popular weekly *Akhbar-e-Khwateen*. In time she became the editor of the *Akhbar-e-Khwateen*.
- Razia Bhatti entered the field of professional journalism by joining *The Illustrated Weekly of Pakistan* after completing her Master's degree in English and Journalism from Karachi University.

1968

- Shaheen Roohi Bokhari became the chief editor of the daily *Sahil*, Quetta. She was awarded the PFUJ best journalist award, which was presented to her by the President of Pakistan.
- Shamim Ikramulhaq started her career as a free lance journalist for print and radio and joined *Akhbar-e-Khwateen* in 1972. She continued working with Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation to date.

1970

- Jahan Ara Syed rejoined the radio and went on reading international news till 1978. Although never acknowledged for her services in Pakistan, Jahan Ara who had begun her broadcasting career from Radio Deccan at the tender age of 15 was given the Akash Vani award from All India Radio for the quality of her voice.
- Razia Bhatti who has been described as a crusader, a torch-bearer, and a symbol of courage became the assistant editor of *Herald*.
- Shamim Akhtar attended a course on journalism organized by the Thompson Foundation in collaboration with the National Book Foundation of Pakistan. The same year she also attended another course organized by the UNICEF on editing children's books.
- Javedan Minhas began her career as a journalist in the daily *Imroz*. She was the editor of monthly '*Araish*' and the monthly '*Anchal*'.

1971

- Zaibunnisa Hamidullah moved to Ireland with her husband, and her magazine *Mirror* folded the next year. It heralded the end of an era. As one Pakistani journalist put it, "The paper closed down...after twenty-one years of struggle against authoritarian trends in our government and bigotry and fanaticism in

society...the closure of the paper was, thus, a big loss to Pakistani journalism.”

1972

- Nigar Nazar became the first female Pakistani cartoonist. Her character “Gogi” first appeared as a comic strip for “*The Sun*.” Later she was featured on television, in children's art programmes, posters, other newspapers and greeting cards. Gogi still appears in national dailies, highlighting social and political issues.

1973

- Razia Fareed joined the translation bureau of Karachi University after completing masters in journalism from the same institution. Later she joined the daily *Jang* as a journalist.

1974

- Shaista Zaid, Surraya Shahab, Sitara Zaidi, Mahpara Safdar, Taskeen Zafar and Arjumand Shaheen were a few of the TV newscasters, who became well known names during this period.
- Fatima Mansuri became the first and so far only female head of the Radio Pakistan External Service.

1975

- Zubaida Mustafa became the assistant editor, *Dawn*, Karachi. She has been a prolific writer on international relations. The book entitled '*Transfer of Power The Kashmir Question*' contains a chapter on *China-Pakistan Relations in Changing World* written by Zubaida.
- Ismat Sabir became an assistant editor of the daily *Dawn*. In her long journalistic career she worked for the daily *Nawa-i-Waqt*, *Anjam*, *Jang* and *Hurriyet*. She was also commerce editor of monthly *Economic Review*, weekly *Market Reporter*, weekly *Sanat-o-Tijarat*, weekly *Takbeer*, daily *Khaleej Times*, daily *Saudi Gazette* and weekly *Pakistan*. She edited the *Ten Best Years of Pakistan* and the *Gulf Economist*. She has written the Annual Reports of ABAD. Ismat won praise and recognition from the Pakistan Plastic Association and Association of Women Entrepreneurs.

1976

- Razia Bhatti became editor of *Herald*. She acquired the reputation of being a bold and forthright journalist, who could speak up against the injustices in the society perpetrated by the shenanigans of the ruling elite.

1977

- Nafeesa Hoodbhoy started her career as a journalist by writing articles about working women.
- Afia Salam became the Joint Secretary (Girls) in the Karachi University Students Union (KUSU). Afia would later win fame as a leading sports journalist. She reported for prestigious papers/magazines like the *Dawn*, *Star* and *Newsline*. She was editor of '*The Cricketer*' and the '*Defense and Aviation Monthly*.' She was also the editor of Pakistan Cricket Board, Pakistan Tobacco Company annual publication, Wills Cricket Annual, editor/producer of Hanif Mohammed's autobiography, '*Playing for Pakistan*,' editor/producer of *TEAM*, in-house magazine of Lever Brothers Pakistan, editor/producer *Vision*, in-house newsletter of Pakistan State Oil. She also edited *Women's Cricket International*, and appeared on Eastern Television News. She is the editorial consultant for '*Panorama Pakistan*,' an Export Promotion Bureau quarterly. Afia Salam later worked for *Dawn TV* also.

1978

- Atiya Mahmood currently working at the Foreign office as DG America. She began her career as a reporter with the Islamabad based daily *Muslim*. She left journalism to join the CSS Program.
- Safia Yamin, a regular columnist for a number of Urdu dailies, was awarded the Mujahida Award by the Pakistan Air Force Women's Association (PAFWA) Peshawar, for her journalistic talent.

1979

- Rita Nasreen worked as a reporter for the *Muslim*.
- Masooda Ahmed became the publisher and chief editor of *TEENAGER* Magazine. She became the founder editor of the Immigrants' page in English and Urdu of the weekly *Telegraph & Argus*, Bradford. She is also Vice President Anjuman Jiraid-e-Sindh (The Sindh Magazine Society), Karachi.

1980

- Nadira Khanum started writing her weekly column, 'Letter from Bahawalpur' for The Nation. Nadira Naipaul was born Nadira Khannum Alvi in Kenya, and married in Pakistan. She worked as a journalist for the Pakistani newspaper, *The Nation*, for ten years before meeting and later marrying prominent novelist Sir Vidia Sagar Naipaul.
- Nafeesa Hoodbhoy worked as a proof reader in a local newspaper of Boston. She also worked as a staff reporter for *The Guardian*, New York for a couple of years. She covered issues related to health, social welfare and women. She has to her credit thousands of reports published in Pakistan and abroad.
- Malecha Lodhi, who had earlier been the editor of *The Muslim*, the English language newspaper published from Islamabad, became the founding editor of *The News International*. She earned the distinction of being the first woman in Asia to edit a national daily newspaper.
- Fehmida Riaz started the first women's publishing house in Pakistan. She also launched a magazine "Awaz" (the voice), which was highly critical of the government. She was charged with treason by the Zia-ul-Haq regime in the 1980s for her views on co-existence with India and Bangladesh. 14 cases were filed against her, forcing her to go into exile in India, where she lived for several years. Fehmida, a poet, novelist and journalist devoted her entire life to raising feminine issues.

1981

- Women's Action Forum (WAF) was formed. Najma Babar was one of those journalists who became involved with the Forum and agitated against the discriminatory laws passed by the Zia-ul-Haq regime. A selection of her articles published under the title '*The Dispossessed*' (Prometheus Publications, Karachi, 2000) provides a sampling of her fierce sense of indignity at the injustice being meted out to the marginalized sections of the society. Najma had begun her career in journalism as an assistant editor for the daily evening newspaper *Star* until she moved on to the *Dawn*, where she produced the midweek *Tuesday Review* until her death in May 1996.
- Amber Khairi a columnist for the *Herald* and *Newsline* was awarded a scholarship to study comparative literature at Princeton University.

- Zeenat Hissam joined the *Dawn*. She was in charge of the weekend edition. She wrote numerous articles on various subjects. Her main areas of focus were social issues, development, women, computers and travel.

1982

- Zohra Yusuf took over the new *STAR WEEKEND* with a predominantly female team that included Tehmina Hussain, Beena Sarwar, Saniya Hussain, Anjum Niaz, Tazeen Anwar, Sehba Sarwar and Afia Salam.

1984

- Humaira Ather of the daily *Elan* and daily *Anjam* was awarded the Best Journalist Award (The NASA Award).

1985

- Fauzia Minallah a communication artist won praise for her politically subversive cartoons, which were published in the daily *Muslim*. Fauzia was awarded the All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) Award for best editorial cartoonist. She has the distinction of being the first award winning female political cartoonist of Pakistan.
- Anjum Niaz was awarded the Population Institute Global Award for Media Excellence. Anjum regularly writes columns for reputable English language dailies. She was the first Pakistani woman to qualify under US Government Immigration for possessing Extraordinary Ability in Journalism. She has worked as a correspondent for *Dawn*, has been editor of *Dawn Magazine*, Managing Editor of *The Earth Times*, columnist for *The Friday Times*, Coordinator at Johns Hopkins University and a Board Director of The Population Institute in Washington DC.
- Razia Farid, a *Jang* reporter, was declared the best reporter for 1985-86.
- Safia Rashid Khan became the founder editor of *TV Times* in Urdu, magazine that had earlier been published in English only from Karachi.

1986

- *Women's Own*, an English language monthly for women started its publication from Karachi.

1987

- Humaira Ather was awarded Sohni Dharti Youth Council Award. She was awarded the APNS award three times during the fourteen years that she was the senior editor of the *Akhbar-e-Khawateen*. She was the founder editor of the bimonthly *Dastarkhwan*.

1988

- Nasira Zuberi began her journalistic career with daily, the *Business Recorder*. As a reporter, she covered all the significant federal ministries, namely; finance, commerce, privatization commission etc. Besides economic affairs, she also dealt in parliament's upper and lower houses for *Business Recorder*.
- Safia Rashid Khan became the Bureau Chief of the daily *Mussawat*, Lahore.
- Quatrina Hussein, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, USA began her career in journalism as an associate editor at the *Third World International*. She joined the Dawn newsroom in June 1988. She has written a number of articles for the daily *Dawn*, *Star* and *Herald*. Quatrina has also been a correspondent of the PTV and has hosted talk shows on international affairs. Currently she is working for Express TV, Islamabad.

1989

- *Newsline* was launched by a team of women journalists, who left the *Herald* to protest against the editorial policy of not criticising General Zia-ul-Haq's Martial Law. All these journalists, including the editor Razia Bhatti joined hands to launch their own magazine. Rehana Hakim took over *Newsline* after the death of Razia Bhatti.
- Samina Ibrahim one of the founding members and senior editors of the *Newsline* played an influential role in the success of the fledgling magazine, as business director. Saira Ibrahim and Tehmina Ahmed are a few of the other names that constituted the team of *Newsline*.
- Zia Akhtar, popularly known as Begum Baji launched *Anchal aur Parcham*, a monthly publication of *Anjuman-e-Mafad-e-Niswan* (Society for the Interest of Women).
- Samina Jaffry was the editor of the *Glamour* published from Karachi. The term "Lollywood" for the Pakistani film industry was first used in the summer issue of the magazine. This formulation

was picked up by Urooj Samdani, a film journalist, who wrote an article about the Pakistani film industry in *Women's Own*. Samina Jaffri had also been associated with *TV Times*.

1990

- Gul Farzana became the Bureau Chief of the Quetta daily '*Pakistan Akhbar*'. She was the first woman from Balochistan to hold this position.
- Qudssia Akhlaque a reporter from *The News* was selected for Foreign Press Centre Fellowship Programme for South-West Asian and Oceanian Journalists in Japan.

1991

- Aileen Qaiser, a regular columnist of daily *Dawn*, worked on a project for Pakistani Nobel Laureate Professor Abdus Salaam at his International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy, which involved interviewing some 30 visiting scientists at the Centre, and editing and compiling the interview write-ups into a booklet published by ICTP.

1992

- Beena Sarwar worked as the assistant editor at the *Star Weekend*, Karachi. She moved to Lahore and was selected the Senior Joint Secretary, Punjab Union of Journalists, Lahore for two terms. Beena also acted as the Principal Stringer Pakistan, Inter Press Service (IPS) Lahore and continued till 2000. She was the features editor of *The Frontier Post*, Lahore (June 1989-June 1993). She contributes a weekly column '*Personal Political*' to *The News*, Pakistan, as well as *Tehelka* in India and the US-based www.chowk.com.
- Samina Ibrahim was awarded the APNS award for best journalism for her article.
- Qudssia Akhlaque earned the distinction of becoming the first woman journalist from Pakistan to be selected for the prestigious Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship Program in the USA. As part of this program she worked with the *Chicago Tribune* as a reporter on a six-month assignment from June to December 1992. During this period she also covered the American Presidential elections for her newspaper back home.

1993

- Qudssia Akhlaque attended a UNICEF-sponsored workshop held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 'Issues Facing the South-Asian Women and Girl Child'.
- Beena Sarwar took over as the editor of *The News on Sunday Lahore* and continued at the job till Dec 2000.
- A Workshop on Editorial Management for Senior Women Journalists was organised by Singapore-based Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre and the Press Institute of Pakistan in Lahore.
- Rana Sheikh, who had earlier been associated with play productions, created history and took over as the first woman managing director of Pakistan Television.

1994

- *Time* Magazine cited Maleeha Lodhi as one of 100 global pacesetters and leaders who would define the 21st century. She was the only person from Pakistan in the list.
- Razia Bhatti received the "Courage in Journalism" award from the New York based International Women's Media Foundation, less than two years before her death.
- Qudssia Akhlaque represented Pakistan at a workshop for Women Journalists in Nordic and South Asian Countries which was held in Denmark
- Zeba Burney became the senior sub editor of the daily *Nawa-i-Waqt*.

1995

- Abida Abbas started the monthly *Khawateen Magazine* to promote Islamic values and create religious awareness among the womenfolk of Pakistan. It is published from Lahore under the guardianship of Khadija Raza.
- Hilda Saeed, a prominent health journalist and chief editor of *National Health*, was awarded the Population Institute XVI Global Media Award for Excellence in Population Reporting. She was part of the best reporting team. The team included 15 journalists from developing countries, whose reports on reproductive issues affecting women in their countries were published in, 'Private Decisions, Public Debate: Women, Reproduction and Population,' at the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt.

1996

- Beena Sarwar was selected as a member of the Editorial Board of *Himal Southasian*, a Kathmandu-based monthly.
- Razia Bhatti died at the age of 52. The Pakistan Press Foundation called her untimely death an “end of a golden chapter of journalism in Pakistan.” Despite constant harassment and threats to her safety, she wrote bravely on issues ranging from women's rights to political corruption. She nurtured two of Pakistan's leading English language publications, as editor of the *Herald* for 12 years and then of *Newsline* for another eight.
- Qudssia Akhlaque received 'Award for Excellence in Population Communication' by AVSC international. (First Prize in category: English Columns/Articles).

1997

- Aileen Kaiser, a *Dawn* columnist, who was working as a freelancer then, was awarded a trophy and Certificate of Distinction by the Pakistan High Commission in Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of Pakistan's 50th Independence Anniversary celebrations, in recognition for her “outstanding services to Pakistan in the field of journalism”. Aileen had written a number of articles on Pakistan, which had appeared in Brunei's English newspaper *Borneo Bulletin*. One of these titled “New Brunei-Pakistan links” was published on March 4, 1996 coinciding with the visit of the then Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Brunei.
- Qudssia Akhlaque was selected for the Wolfson Press Fellowship Programme at the University of Cambridge in the UK. As a Wolfson Press Fellow she did extensive research on *Development and Donor Aid*. Qudssia was also selected as a member of the Pakistan team for the First Inter-Regional Workshop titled “Men as Partners” organized by AVSC International to encourage male participation in population programmes.
- An Urdu version of *SHE* made its debut.

1999

- Feryal Gauhar, actor, filmmaker and journalist was appointed United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s Goodwill Ambassador for her country. In her work with UNFPA Feryal Gauhar focused on violence and crimes against women, with a special emphasis on “honour killings”.
- Jugnu Mohsin, a member of Women's Action Forum, co-founded,

published and managed the weekly *The Friday Times (TFT)*, along with her husband. *TFT* earned high repute for its candour and bluntness.

- The Committee to Protect Journalists presented its International Press Freedom Award to Najam Sethi and Jugnu Mohsin, to honour the husband and wife team running *TFT*, for their courage and independence in reporting the news.
- Leading sports journalist Fareshteh Gati became famous for exposing cricketing scandals. She was cited in the Malik Abdul Qayyum Report on match fixing for writing in the press that “in a one day match held at Nottingham, UK, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis deliberately bowled so badly that England team scored more than 300 runs, though earlier they had totally demolished the English Team in the Test Series.” Fareshteh was also the first woman sports Editor of *The News*.
- Sherry Rehman anchored a television show on current affairs from PTV.
- Moneeza Hashmi launched the daily *Khawateen Times*, an hour-long programme for women from PTV.

2000

- Nasim Zehra, writer on security affairs served on the President's Advisory Committee on Foreign Policy and National Security from 2000-2002. Nasim Zehra holds a masters degree in International Security Studies from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.
- Fariha Razak Haroon, Member of the Sindh Provincial Assembly and Group Director, Jang Group of Newspapers and Director, GEO TV, received “Outstanding Journalist of South Asia 2000” award of ASIA (Asian Society of International Achievers) Hong Kong for her deep commitment and significant contribution to social and human rights issues. The same year Fariha also won the “Lorenzo prestigious Natali 1st prize” awarded jointly by the European Commission and the International Federation of Journalists Brussels, Belgium for her articles on human rights violations in underdeveloped countries and the status of women in Pakistan. She has the honour of being the only Pakistani journalist to win this prestigious international award.
- Noted journalist Zuhra Karim was awarded the Woman of the Year by the Soroptimist International, Lahore. The award was in recognition of Zuhra's contribution in raising awareness about

social issues and sustaining the image of an independent woman with immense potential for socio-economic contribution.

- Fauzia Shahid, a known journalist was the first women to be elected Secretary General of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists from 2000-2004. She was the first woman senior vice president of PFUJ for 2007-2009. She is also the first woman president of Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists.

2001

- Beena Sarwar earned a master's degree in TV Documentary from Goldsmiths College, London and began her career in TV production with Geo News Department in 2002. She has since then produced and directed several documentaries and news features.
- PTV introduced Leena Moin as cricket's first female commentator. She covered the Sri Lanka-Pakistan, two-match series in Faisalabad and Lahore in September. Her debut performance was widely praised as she was fluent, au courant on technical knowledge and gave apt historical references. She started to write as a freelancer and covered many series for a newspaper in Islamabad, including the 1996 World cup. She got a break as the first female commentator of the region and only the second in the world. During Rana Sheikh's tenure as MD PTV, she was offered to do analysis for international matches live from the studios, which was a great experience for her. The Pakistan Cricket Board also funded a documentary that she made on Yousaf Youhanna.

2002

- Beena Sarwar became a producer of Geo Television News, Karachi in May 2002. During that period she was also the Contributing Editor of *The News*, Karachi.
- Nasira Zuberi, who had joined the electronic media by initially producing and directing *Business World* for PTV, became part of Geo's launching team and was soon elevated to the position of business editor.
- Sherry Rahman was the first Pakistani to be recognized for independent journalism by the UK House of Lords in its Muslim World Awards Ceremony. Sherry has been a professional journalist for twenty years - ten years out of which she has been the editor of the prestigious newsmagazine, *Herald*. She has wide experience in both print and broadcast media. Her bold and creative journalistic style earned her a ranking among the top journalists of the country. Sherry Rehman regularly writes for national and international

newspapers and newsmagazines.

- A gender training workshop, the first of its kind to be run in Pakistan, was jointly organised by the state-run PTV and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project enabled two female staff members to train as camera operators for the first time ever in the history of PTV. Among those who attended the workshop was Musarat Clanchvi, a television and radio drama scriptwriter. With 30 years of experience and more than 200 television and radio drama scripts under her belt, Clanchvi thought the workshops run under the 'Portrayal of Women in the Media' project gave her writing a new lease of life.

2003

- A media based organisation Uks launched "*Meri Awaz Sunno*" (Listen to My Voice) a 15-minute, biweekly women's radio programme in Urdu, the first one of its kind in Pakistan.
- Dr Maleeha Lodhi, journalist, professor and diplomat was awarded the *Hilal-e-Imtiaz* by the Government of Pakistan.
- Fareeha Razak Haroon received the "Annual Muslim Award" from the British House of Lords, London.
- Huma Khawar a journalist and health consultant, representing the *Business Recorder* and *Star* was among 55 delegates who attended the World Bank sponsored workshop on fighting HIV/AIDS through Information and Strategic Communication in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

2004

- PTV producer Nargis Hashmi was part of the team that won the first prize and the special prize for two documentaries ("*Armies and People*" and "*Making the Mark*") presented at the 18th International Military Film Festival in Bracciano near Rome. "*Making the Mark*" was based on the theme of women empowerment in Pakistan.
- Rina Saeed Khan was awarded the Gender in Journalism Award sponsored jointly by the Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) and UNESCO for her articles "*Lambs to the Slaughter*" and "*Where the Women have No Name*" in the *The Friday Times*.
- Syeda Lala Rukh, a photojournalist, joined Geo TV as a camerawoman. She claims to be the first one of her kind in

Pakistan.

- South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA) sent a delegation to visit Held Kashmir in October on a fact finding mission. The delegation included Rehana Hakim and Marianna Babar, reputed journalists and columnists.
- Dr. Shireen Mazari's book *The 1999 Kargil Conflict: Separating Fact from Fiction* was published. Dr. Mazari has been the Chairperson of the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies at the Quaid-i-Azam University and Director-General of the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad. She is also a regular columnist for *The News* and has been hosting current affairs programmes on various TV channels.
- SAFMA Pakistan's National Conference-II was held at Rawalpindi, in December on the theme: 'Right to know and express.' Asma Jehangir, leading human rights activist, came up with critical points on ordinances particularly Press Council Ordinance, PEMRA Ordinance and Defamation Ordinance. She also asked SAFMA to consider an obsolete Act, regulating the theater performances, which violates freedom of expression. Asma suggested a data bank for access to information.
- Nama Sadeque founding member of the Women's Action Forum of Pakistan, Founder and Executive Committee member of Shirkat Gah, the first women's rights-oriented development organisation in Pakistan was awarded the life time achievement award by Uks under its program to recognise women journalists for gender sensitive reports.

2005

- Naseem Zahra was appointed as the President's Special Envoy on UN Reforms. Zahra is a fellow at Harvard University's Asia Center and an Associate Fellow of the Asia Society. She is currently completing her book: *From Kargil to the Coup: 40 Days that Shook Pakistan*. Naseem Zahra, a former Adjunct Professor of South Asia Studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington DC, contributes weekly columns to national and international publications. She also anchors an internationally broadcast news program, "Newsmakers with Naseem Zahra."
- Hilda Saeed, who has been writing regularly on health issues in the *Dawn* and leading health magazine *National Health*, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize June 2005 by the 1,000

Women for the Peace Prize initiative. Hilda was honoured as one of 1,000 women from more than 150 countries nominated by the initiative.

- Shimaila Matri of *Newsline* was declared the runner-up in the print/online category in the CNN Young Journalist Award.
- Fatima Bhutto (daughter of Mir Murtaza and granddaughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto)'s collection of firsthand survivors' accounts from the October 8, 2005 earthquake in Pakistan entitled '*8:50 am*' was published. The proceeds from the book were pledged to child survivors of the quake. Fatima has been regularly writing op-eds in leading national dailies. Her diary from Tehran and her weekly despatches from Lebanon during the Israeli invasion were widely read. Fatima holds a Bachelor's degree in Middle Eastern and Asian Cultures and Languages from Columbia University and a Masters from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in South Asian Government and Politics.
- Qudssia Akhlaque started working as a Special Correspondent for *The News* in Islamabad. She had previously worked for the *daily Dawn* and the American national daily *Chicago Tribune*.
- Arfa Noor became the third woman editor of *The Herald*.
- Within two weeks of the October earthquake, Internews-trained radio reporters deployed a *Jazba-e-Tameer* (Desire to Rebuild) team in the calamity hit area. Operating from a ramshackle studio based in a tent, this brave group included among others Saadia Haq, Bushra Iqbal, Sara Fareed and Shazia Gul. Their hour long program was broadcast daily to provide accurate and impartial information to help the victims make decisions about their lives and their future.
- From radio Asma Shirazi moved to TV and soon came to symbolise the fresh new face of an emancipated woman journalist, who could wear a headscarf and go where no woman journalist had gone before like the war zone in Iraq. Asma excelled in the newly emerging genre of 'breaking news' on 24 hour TV news channels. She worked for PTV, and Geo, before joining ARY. Her Programme '*Parliamentarian cafeteria*' was on top rating. She has also hosted a number of TV talk shows and interviewed a number of celebrities, including the controversial Hindu nationalist Bal Thackeray in Mumbai.

- Noted columnist Zahida Hina declined the prestigious Presidential Award, as a mark of protest against the military government in Pakistan. Zahida has won a host of awards like the Faiz Award, Literary Performance Award, Saghir Siddiqui Adabi Award, K. P. Award, Sindh Speaker Award and the SAARC Literary Award. Many of her short stories have been translated into English, Bengali, Hindi and Marathi.
- Munizae Jahangir, a field based journalist, who has worked in conflict areas like Kashmir and Balochistan for New Dehli TV (NDTV) alleged that she was targeted by intelligence agencies while on her way to meet Nawab Akbar Bugti (shortly before he was killed). Munizae is currently working on the state of girls' schools in the Frontier, which are being targeted by the militants.
- Beena Sarwar produced a 10 minutes movie *Mukhtiar Mai: The Struggle for Justice* for Television Trust for Environment, UK in Urdu and Seraiki with English subtitles. Filmed in Meerwala, Multan and Lahore, Pakistan, the film brings the issue of gender violence into context as part of an overall system in which justice is the exception rather than the norm.
- Razia Fareed of the Jang Group was awarded the Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) and the UNESCO's gender sensitivity award.
- Rina Saeed Khan won the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Award for her article *Don't cry for me, Kashmir* published in *The Friday Times*.
- Afshan Suboohi of the daily *Dawn* won the prestigious Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) and UNESCO's award on Gender in Journalism for her article on gender-based issues in Pakistan.
- Veteran journalist Sheen Farrukh, who has worked for many years with the popular Urdu weekly *Akhbar-e-Khawateen* and is currently associated with the Inter Press Communication was a keynote speaker at a seminar on the theme 'An Alternative Media World is Possible' organised by the World Social Forum in collaboration with IPS.
- Nargis Baloch, the editor of Urdu newspaper *Intekhab* that is published simultaneously from Balochistan and Sindh was awarded the Fatima Jinnah Award by the Government of Pakistan for highlighting the problems of Balochistan at international forums.

- Rabeea Beyg an information and communication technology (ICT)-focused journalist became the Editor of the *Spider Magazine* (a publication of the Dawn Group of Newspapers). She writes a fortnightly column on Information Technology for the BBC website in Urdu named "*Rbeea Ki Diary*."
- Faiza Daud, Uzma Al Karim, Nida Fatima and Asma Chaudhry appeared as newscasters/reporters/anchors for popular TV channels like Geo and ARY.

2007

- Fareshteh Gati-Aslam, a sports journalist from Pakistan, was part of the 97 strong electorate constituted to elect Wisden's five cricketers of the century.
- More than 100 journalists protesting against President Pervez Musharraf's ban on TV and radio news stations were arrested on November 20. Those arrested included female journalists, one of whom was with her one-year-old. The president of Pakistan Federation of Unions of Journalists, painted a bleak picture of the entire situation. Media organizations, including Reporters without Borders and the Coalition of Pakistani Journalists in the United States, condemned the police brutality against the journalists.
- A number of journalists were hurt while covering the political agitation within the country. Those injured in the line of duty included Lala Rukh the TV camerawoman of Geo TV.
- Ayesha 'Tammy' Haq was banned thrice in 2007 and 2008 for broaching subjects disliked by the government. Tammy a corporate lawyer works as a freelance journalist and her articles and columns appear regularly in the *Dawn*, *Herald* and *The Friday Times*. She also conducts a radio program the Youth Soap Box on radio channel FM89 and anchors TV talk shows. Some of her memorable TV interviews with famous national and international personalities have been aired on Business Plus channel, which is owned by her family.
- Feryal Gauhar won the Pitras Bukhari Award (English) for her book '*No Space for Further Burials*.'
- Monceza Hashmi received the President's Pride of Performance award for professional achievement.
- Andleeb Rana, model-turned-fashion editor, launched her own fortnightly fashion magazine, *Xpoze*.
- PBC National Excellence Awards were awarded to, among others, Rukhsana Mirani (best announcer), Yasmeen Saleem (best

Announcer), Umme Salma (best compere), Samina Waqar (best news reader female), Aysha Gilani (best DJ English), Sadaf Rani (best producer sports), Nargis Rashid (best compere), Abdul Hafeez (best compere), Kauser Samreen (best producer world service), Ujala Khurshid (best marketing officer), Farzana Khan (best news reader) and Aneela Shaheen (best drama producer).

- Ayesha Haroon, a highly skilled journalist, proficient in technical and research-based report writing, editing and proofreading was the resident editor of *The Nation* Islamabad and Editor *The News*, Lahore. Her work experience ranges from an Urdu-English/English-Urdu dictionary to user documentation. She is adept at handling complex information, analyzing it, organizing it, and presenting it in a simplified form, with special attention to accuracy and usability. Ayesha has worked for several well known newspapers and has also worked as a freelance journalist. She has also appeared on several TV talk shows.
- Nayyar Mahmood rose to the highest rank of Director Programmes in the Programme Division Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC). Currently she is involved in the digitization project of the sound archives of Radio Pakistan, to preserve millions of hours of songs, music and other valuable recordings broadcast during the past six decades.

2008

- In March 2008, Sherry Rehman was declared re-elected Member of the National Assembly as PPP candidate from the Sindh province on the list for reserved seats for women.
- Uks launched PWMN-Pakistani Women Media Network, an initiative to raise women's voices and profiles in the media.
- Samar Minallah of Ethnomedia produced a 17-minute-long documentary, *Da Bajaur Guloona* (Homeless at Home), highlighting the plight of the people displaced during the fighting in Bajaur.
- Mehreen Jabbar's production *Ramchand Pakistani* won the FIPRESCI Award from the International Federation of Film Critics. The film is a brilliant piece of investigative journalism set to commercial cinema. This is a true story of a Hindu child and his

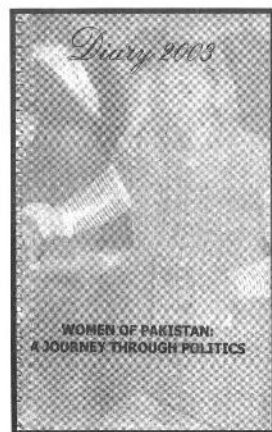
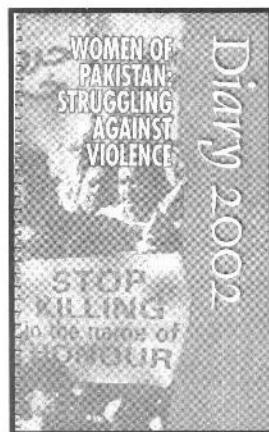
father crossing the LC and being held captive in an Indian prison. A sensitively told story, it succeeds in highlighting the plight of scores of people who've accidentally crossed the border and are, perhaps, still languishing in various jails.

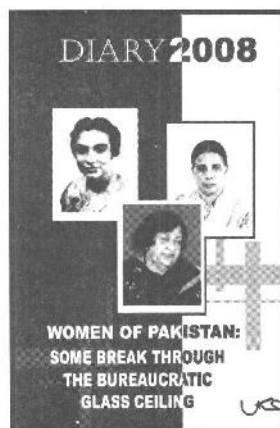
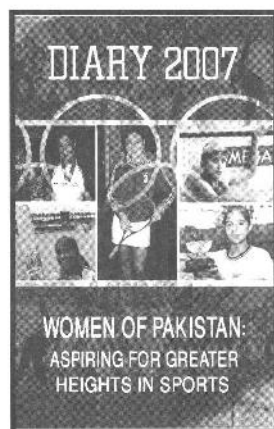
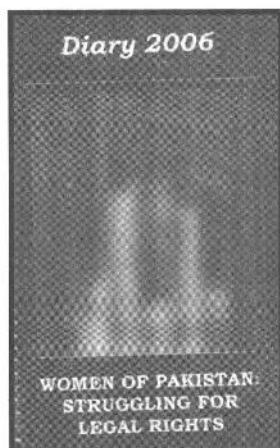
- Beena Sarwar became editorial consultant for Geo TV, Karachi in August 2008.
- Afshan Suboohi, head of Economic and Business Review, section of the *Dawn* was shortlisted for the Developing Asia Award organized by the Asian Development Bank.
- A conference titled 'Beginnings of the SAWM (South Asian Women in Media)' was organised at the South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) headquarters.
- Asma Shirazi was among the female journalists, who covered the 2008 US Presidential Elections from New York for Geo.
- British born Saima Mohsin joined *DAWN News* in Karachi after having worked for BBC before moving to Pakistan.
- Farzana Ali, a TV reporter from Peshawar braved killings, bombings and death threats to send in her reports and prepare a heart rending documentary "*Real Face of the War against Terror*", showing the human cost of the war.
- SAWM awarded Kishwar Naheed for her poem on the Taliban, whose last line was, "What small men are these who are afraid of girls who go to school".
- PWMN and Panos South Asia jointly organised a One-Day Seminar "Women in Media" to pay tribute to women journalists in Pakistan and especially to Saneya Hussain. A life-time achievement award was given out to Ms. Zohra Karim for all her achievements as founder editor of SHE magazine.
- Nargis Hashmi created and is In-charge of the Documentary Department at PTV.
- Farkhanda Shaheen joined PTV as a producer and is currently working as Executive Producer at the PTV headquarters.
- Rina Saeed Khan, won the runner up trophy for her article on the fisherman of Somiani Bay in the 2008 Developing Asia Journalism Awards held in Tokyo.

Some more names, unfortunately we did not have exact dates for their contribution/achievements.

- Sultana Siddiqui was the first female program manager in TV.
- Samina Qureshi was the first Producer/News Editor at Asian Television news service of PTV).
- Mehr Kemal and Gaiti Khalid were the first female reporters of APP (Associated Press of Pakistan).
- PPI (Pakistan Press International) had a few women reporters like Hina Habib and the late Suraiya.
- Shahida Khan was the first female Sports Producer in the country.
- Sheen Farrukh was the first Urdu art critic while she was writing in *Akhbar Jehan*.
- Shireen Khan was the first female producer in PTV who won the award in the PTV's first drama festival (Shalimar Drama Festival).

Uks Diaries Over the Years





CALENDAR 2010

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Uks - A Research, Resource &
Publication Centre on Women and Media

House -10, Street 71, F-8/3, Islamabad.
+92-51-7111419, 2850906 email: uks@dsl.net.pk