

Women Empowerment in South Asia: Role of Women in Development of Pakistan

ALI ABBAS , LAIQA MUNEER

University of Management and Technology, Pakistan

**Corresponding Author: ALI ABBAS, University of Management and Technology, Pakistan*

ABSTRACT

Women empowerment is a topic which has been under consideration of almost major government planners and policy makers worldwide. Women empowerment is a procedure by which a power of self-reliance has been developed among them and enables women to realize their ability and power in all sphere of life. The study will explore the condition of women empowerment and the status of women in different countries of South Asia. Due to advancement in socio-economic sector and increasing priorities of education sector, countries of South Asia are now ensuring women participation in political and economic sector. South Asian countries despite facing traditional cultural norms are now securing women rights in their constitution. South Asian communities are now creating opportunities for strengthening women role in society. It is elucidated that, In Pakistan being a second important country of South Asia after India, how women in history have performed their sagacious role in the development of the country. Above all, the role of important social and political women personalities of Pakistan has been explained in a comprehensive way. It will also expound the contemporary women wise participation almost in every sector of society either it is in economic, political and technological field or in the well-being of society, their contribution as a bureaucrat and in legislative and judicative work of the country. Pakistan since last decade, besides creating opportunities for women is also providing such environment for women in the society in which their efforts are appreciable by the community members.

INTRODUCTION

Women are the backbone of the society and society never completes without them. But a structure of the societies always gives second status to the women in the world. It is also true that, in the contemporary world women are coming in the main stream of the developmental work for societies and considers the founders of the societies. There is need on the special focus to provide social, political and economic opportunities to empowering women and enhance their progress for the healthy developments of the society. Empowerment is the key factor to determine status and position of the women in the societies it is a process by which one achieves a power to do something. In the process of empowerment or we can say that, process which enables person to achieve their control on public decision making and on their own. Women empowerment is not a goal in fact it is itself instrumental in encouraging overall social and political development in the society. Women empowerment is a process by which the power of self-realization is promoted among women. Women empowerment is broader concept which includes economic empowerment,

social empowerment and political empowerment. This is access by percentage of women in parliament and legislature, their earning capacity and economic status, their access to information knowledge and skills etc., even crime against women is also an indicator to access the women empowerment. (Nelasco, 2012). These social, economic and political dimensions are interlinked to each other. Economic empowerment indicates better quality of life manage and owned by women, Social empowerment denotes unbiased social status for women in society. Similarly, political empowerment entails effective legal structure through struggle and movements which support effective legal structure. It is necessary to mention that political and social empowerment of women is precondition for their economic empowerment. (Bhuyan, 2006)

LITERATURE REVIEW

Jhon Friedmann

(1993), in his book, 'Empowerment: The Politics of an Alternative Development' he elucidate the concept of empowerment in a detail. Beyond the concept of entrepreneur self-

reliance of individual he gives much more understanding of empowerment by including three different aspects of power to access which includes social, political and psychological. He also explains that in the way of development of society main constraint is poverty and to ensure empowerment in the society how grass root level development is articulate in society.

Savitri Goonesekere

(2004), in her book 'Violence, Law and Women Rights in South Asia' She has stated about the women legal status in three South Asian countries and response of their legal systems in violence against women.

She has given a bird eye view on the commonalities and differences on three legal traditions and their strategies to address the violence against women. Correspondingly she discusses the violence ratio and breach of existing laws by the people for the protection of women.

Sanchita Bhattacharya

(2004), in her article 'Status of Women in Pakistan' present the social status of women, with respect to Islamic values, in Pakistan which provide the up gradation of women position in society.

She discusses that many prevailing old traditional cultural values are hindrance in the way of women to enjoy their liberation. Along with this she presented the government efforts in the light of legal measure taken for women rights and their application despite existing social constraints in the society.

Noor Saba Begum

(1991), in her book 'Tehreek -e-Pakistan aurKhawateen' stated about women social and political role to protect their rights. She mentioned the many women who participated to overcome the initial problems faced by Pakistan. She also discussed many women and their social and political services they provide to the country.

Khursheed Ara Begum

(1982), has stated in his book 'Yehqoum kihianbetia' that how women had played their role in the freedom movement and stood with men. She mentions those women which, after the establishment of Pakistan, provide their value able services in political field. Begum Khursheed has highlighted women constructive role in the social fabric of Pakistan as well.

Muhammad Jalal-ud-Din

(2010), in his article, 'Socio-economic and cultural constraint of women in Pakistan' he analyze the socio-economic and cultural constraints of women in underdeveloped areas of Pakistan. He further evaluates the women status in Pakistan with comparison to other countries of the world. He briefly discusses the limitations in the way of performance of women as an active member of the society.

Dasarathi Bhuyan

(2006), in his book, 'Women Empowerment' defines the concept of women empowerment in a precise way. He identifies that, women empowerment is a process in which women enables to overcome those obstacles which creates problems in the way of their progress. Moreover, he explains that it is a broader concept which also includes social, economic and political empowerment. And he gives detail about how process of globalization impart awareness among people about the women rights and the need of their empowerment.

Mostly researchers and analyst elaborates the concept of women empowerment in many areas. These analysts give a comprehensive view of social economic and political empowerment. Among them few elucidates the status of women empowerment in South Asia and in this region they only discuss the Indian women. Others describe the women social and economic status in South Asia region and cultural constraints facing by the women along with patriarchal structure of society. This study will discuss in detail the status of women empowerment in South Asian countries separately and the efforts of the governments in each South Asian state to strengthen women empowerment. The study will describe the important Pakistani women who due to their broad vision bring the social change in the country and directly or in directly participate in the development. Along with this study also high light the women participation in the development of Pakistan either in different aspect of society and in economic and political level or in the civil services and judicative work of the country. Many women personalities is been discussed who are vibrant in present advancement of the country and in near future.

Statement of Problem

South Asian region has become a center of interests in debates of many social and political thinkers. Issue related to the status of women empowerment has numerous attentions and

South Asian Region cannot escape from it. The study will concentrate on the comparative analysis on the women empowerment in South Asia and in this regards where Pakistan is stands. This study is emphasis on role of women that had been played for the advancement of Pakistan future it will also elaborate the present services and activities of women that are providing for the socio-economic and political development of Pakistan. It will focus on how Pakistan open door of opportunities for women by empowering them in different fields and by effectively implementing the existing policies and reforms.

Significance of the Study

In the current scenario topic of women empowerment has become an immense consideration in all over the world. In such scenario women of South Asia also gain attention. The study will highlight that, women status holds a noteworthy position in South Asia region.

The study will focus on the women empowerment in South Asian countries and the status of their emancipation in the society in separate state. It will reveal the role of Pakistani women in the development of the country along with the current influential women that are providing their services in every walk of life. It will give comprehensive policy option and approach to further strengthen and fortify the women's role at different grounds of the structure of Pakistani society.

Objectives of the Study

- To explore the women empowerment in South Asia.
- To explore the role of women in the development of Pakistan in the light of women empowerment in South Asia.
- To analyze women empowerment and their role in the socio-economic and political development of Pakistan.
- To analyze position of women empowerment in Pakistan in comparison to the other states in South Asia.

Research Questions

- Does women are really empowered and encourage to playing their role in the development of Pakistan?
- What is the role of women in the socio-political and economic development of Pakistan?

- Does status of women empowerment in Pakistan is better than other women of South Asian countries?

Comparative Analysis

Status of Women Empowerment in South Asia

South Asia which is strategically an essential geographic unit is the sub-region of Asian continent which covers the area of about 4.4 million km² that is 10% of the Asian continent or 3.3% of the world's land surface area. (Schmidt, 1995). South Asia is home of about one fifth of the world's population, making it the most densely populated geographical region in the world. South Asian region consists of seven states including Pakistan, India and Bangladesh forms the central region of South Asia from West to East. Mountainous countries of Nepal, Bhutan in North and the island countries of Sri Lanka and Maldives located in the South are includes in this region. South Asia is a region where variety of culture, languages and religions along with customs, value system and different ways of life prevails. According to the World Bank report in 2015, out of total population of South Asia women formed 45.47% of population. In South Asian countries the status of women is primarily linked with family, society and the state structures. In South Asian region, traditional ethical code of the South Asian society restricts women in many ways and women are discriminated, because of son preference traditions of the society dominated by religious beliefs. Women are also suffering from domestic violence, wrong tradition and cultural malpractices. Some awful examples of violence in South Asian countries are: sex selective abortion, wife beating, child marriage, polygamy, rape, sexual violence, trafficking of women & forced prostitution, sexual harassment, killings, and domestic violence, still prevailed. Women in this region suffer prejudices behavior at social and policy level.

ANALYSIS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES

Women Empowerment in India

Indian culture due to their religion verbally admitted the glorification of women as their religious practices glorifies women as a creator or the one who gives them life and worshiped them. Even in their religious book Manu Shastra has mention that god feels joy where women has honored. But in practices in many under developed areas of India this glorifies position

of women in society is not practices and suppression of women is continues in form of sati, female infanticide, devdasi system and child marriages are common. But in the closing decade of twentieth century because of active human rights international organizations and non-governmental organizations and diffusion of education door of opportunities was opened for women. Even the sacramental document of India which is called the constitution of India also decode the protection of women under Article 15 and the clause 3 of Article 15 empowers state law makers to make special provisions to provide protection to women. (The Better India, 2016). Article 16, 23, 39 and 42 clearly talks about the empowerment opportunities of women. Despite all these facts India have only 12% women representation in parliament being a largest state in South Asia which is lower than the global average of 22%. The Women Reservation Bill is still on the table which was presented in the parliament 15 years before which secure 30% women seats in the parliament.

To enable women for self-sufficient and confidence it is necessary to protect their rights and raise their status at social level. For this purpose government of India have new legislations which provides security an safeguard for women like as, 'National Commission for Women Act (1990) which monitor all the matters related to the legal rights for women, 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005)' and 'Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act (2013)'. (Agrawal, 2016). This is all because to raise the awareness about women empowerment and for the elevation of their social status several activities were conducted through workshops, conferences and public meetings. In 1991 feminist's organizations emerged and they started their efforts in Bombay under the name of 'Stree Muktisanghata', in Puna 'Purogaministree Sanghata' and in Dehli 'Socialist Women Group' and 'Stree Sanghata' raised their voices for women. India has produced many examlary women who had contributed in different fields like as, K. Beddi, P.T. Usha, bechandri Pal, Kalpana Chawla, Aroondhaty Roy, Y. Kookhay etc. Government of India had and has created effective frame work to strengthen the women empowerment in the society because their status is viewed as a developmental perspective. Following are the some effective plans that government of India has been taken for the women empowerment are 'Mahila Kosh Yojna',

'Training and Employment Plans for Women' and 'Rashtria Mahila Kosh' these programs are to creates self-employment prospects and build up confidence among the women to accept social and economic change along with it enhance economic productivity by providing finance in various fields to women. Moreover, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Central Social Welfare Board, Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana and Swadhar are such plans which creates empowerment opportunities for women development and self-help groups with financial support to women in the society. (Madankar,2014).

Women Empowerment in Pakistan

Throughout the constitutional history of Pakistan from 1956-1973 the rights of women were under consideration even seats were also reserved for women in the parliament. The constitution of Pakistan gives the basic fundamental rights to the women along with men and also acknowledges equal opportunities of women for their rights. Article 8 to 14 deals with the right to life and liberty, guarantee privacy of homes, prohibited cruel activities that are incompatible with human beings. Article 15 to 19 deals with the right to travel, freedom of speech and expression and right to do business. Right to believes and follow the religious practices and right of education is under the Article 20 to 22. Article 25 to 27 guaranteed the equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex. Status and condition of women is far better in other Muslim countries and in the South Asian countries.

With the advent of the new century government of Pakistan pay attention to address discriminatory law against women. To curb sexual harassment against women a bill was passed under the title "The Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010". As this was the first time in Pakistan through which a women can report any act of violence through helpline or they can access to female protection officers and district protection committees. Certain practices and customs were prevailing in the country that not only against the human dignity but also violating human rights. To prevent them national assembly passed in 2011 two important acts which are the "Anti Women Practices Bill 2008" and to uphold the rights of women "Acid Crime Prevention Bill 2010". In 2012 "Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act" was

passed which shows government serious efforts to control domestic violence. This government pragmatically and technically deals such issues relating to domestic violence. In 2012 National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) Act enacted to monitor the human rights activities in the Pakistan. Similarly, Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was launched under which 26 centers were established in various districts to provide immediate relief to female victim of violence. Another purpose of this program was to increase women empowerment and emancipation in that segment of society where participation of women in socio-economic activities is almost nonexistent. In 2011 Women Distress and Detention Funds Act (WDDF) was amended and operate under the Human Rights ministry. Its main function is to provide financial assistance to the needy and deserving women. Such measures were taken by the government to facilitate the women empowerment in socio-economic development of the country. And present government continues this struggle with the same zeal and vigor. Now the government of Pakistan considers its national duty to provide equal opportunities to women and protect their interests without any discrimination. Beside existing reforms for women government is also planning to take several measures to ensure women participation in all walks of life. To encourage women to set up their own business Prime Minister Youth Loan scheme has been launched and 50% of the scheme has reserved for the women moreover, many women have been benefitting from internship programs and self-employment scheme. Under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif the government is having strong belief that, women participation in socio-economic and political field is essential for sustainable development and to make Pakistan prosper.

Women Empowerment in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is constitute majority Muslim population and country also since independence of pursuing gender equality through various development programs and both government and non-government institutions. As compared it to other South Asian countries Bangladesh is far better in presenting the status of women. Status of women empowerment is clear by the constitution of Bangladesh which ensures women rights. Article 10 clearly safeguards participation of women in all sphere of life and Article 19 guaranteed the equal opportunities and elimination of socio-economic discrimination.

Subsequently, Articles 17, 18, 27, 28 and 29 confirms the protection of fundamental rights for women and Article 65 stated women are free to politically participate and provide reserved seats for women. (Afroz, 2011). Bangladesh government development plan of 2011-2015 committed to transforming Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021 (also known as Vision 2021), considers women's engagement in political and economic activities with women's empowerment as one of the main drivers of transformation. Women participation in economic activities of Bangladesh is helping to fuel the country's economy. Their contribution in agriculture sector is about 65%, in the service sectors is close to 22%, and 13.32% are in industry as a labor. And a major contribution of women is in the garment industry sector where they account for more than 80% of the industry's worker. (Sharif, 2015).

Women Empowerment in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is considered to be one of the most progressive of the south Asian countries in terms of the higher literacy rates of women. Sri Lanka gained world recognition due to its protracted civil conflict and for electing the world's first woman Prime Minister, Ms. Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 1960. Sri Lankan women throughout the history have enjoyed more freedom and independence compared to the other women in the South Asian region. Constitution of Sri Lanka recognized the protection of women and their equality under Article 12 which entitled equal protection of the law, prohibited discrimination on the basis on religion and caste further, ensure special advantages for women and for this arrange affirmative state actions. Article 11 of the constitution provides the freedom from inhuman treatment. Regarding the rights of women Sri Lanka has adopted the Women Charter which is the main policy statement of the state under Article 16. The Charter aim is to achieve gender equality it can be sad that this charter is basically a 'Bill of Right' for women which guarantees political and civil rights, the right to education and training, the right to economic activity and benefits, the right to protection from social discrimination and from gender based violence. (Research Directorate, 1993). And to accomplish these rights government of Sri Lanka is taking certain measures like as, promotion of structural reforms and legislative reforms within the law enforcement machinery to deal with violence against women. Similarly

there are certain state institutions which are working for safeguard women rights and confirm their empowerment for instance, 'Ministry of Child Development and Women Affairs', 'Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka' and 'National Committee on Women'. (Act Now.,2004).

Women Empowerment in Nepal

Nepal is politically instable country due to undemocratic rule for long and people are the followers of superstitious believe and practices. People in this region have lack of awareness and access of quality education which results the gender discrimination and poor status of women in the society. Besides this there are many other factors in Nepal because of which women are being discriminated in the society. It is the fact that status of women in Nepal can be determined by the grass root level efforts as their access to education and social, political and economic opportunities. Literacy rate of women is 30% in Nepal and has 29.5% women representation in parliament. According to the Gender Development Index (GDI), socio-economic conditions for Nepalese women are worse than for other South Asian women. Even constitution of Nepal is also institutes several arrangements to up lift the women's status in the society. Article 38 ensures fundamental rights for women and Article 43 especially deals with the rights of women. Article 84 and 86 ensures 33% of women representation in through legislation in the parliament. Article 243 is also secure women one third seats in local municipalities and cooperative societies. The constitution also visualizes the formation of a National Women Commission under Article-252. (Jha,2009). Government of Nepal has implemented several initiatives to empower women like as establishment of Ministry of Women and Social Welfare (MWSW) and its responsibilities includes advocate and strengthen women role and support them in various ministries. Meanwhile the activities of non-governmental organization have increased especially on women empowerment the most tremendous one the Women Foundation of Nepal (WF) which works to amend those laws that prohibit women involvement in politics. (Mahat,2005).

Women Empowerment in Bhutan

Women in Bhutan, have been deprived of most of the opportunities in society including access to business and industry, profitable employment, skill development training, education etc. They

has been so far neglected, discriminated and exploited. Women in Bhutan do not have access to education, gainful employment, economic resources, political process and decision-making institutions and their representation at the policy making bodies is negligible. The practice of discrimination, gender-inequality and exploitation of women is characteristic of feudal and autocratic society. Bhutan is a feudal society therefore; the presence of discrimination, gender inequality and exploitation of women in one or other form is the main characteristics of feudal society of Bhutan. Over all, the status of women is very low in Bhutan because of prevailing social attitudes, traditional practice against women have contributed to the exploitation of women. Women have least access to higher post in the government even they have never been appointed as Ministers, Judges, Chief District Officers, Ambassadors or to other senior important posts in fact mostly women mostly employed in lower level jobs like, telephone operators, typists, clerks etc. (Organization, 2013).

Women Empowerment in Maldives

The Republic of the Maldives is a nation of small Islands located in the Indian Ocean it consists of 1,190 islands of which less than 200 islands are inhabited. In the Maldives, legal, political, social, economic and cultural factors have great impact on women's ability to participate in the political process. These factors independently affect women's engagement in the political process. Women are successfully competing against men and having equal educational opportunities. Nevertheless, women are still constrained by family pressures in order to achieve their goals. In Maldives, women face little discrimination in basic aspects of life such as education, health, and survival. Regardless of the fact that, women's labor force participation is high but gender inequality still continues to exist in high levels of unequal power distribution where women are faced with greater hardships. Manifestation of gender inequality happens in every sphere of Maldives society. (Affairs, 1990). Women generally expected to play a domestic role while men occupying the public and political domains by keeping in mind the economic needs which provide an important basis to play role in the society. The relative isolation of the country has also protected the country from foreign influences. This has enabled the Maldives to preserve a unique culture, social structure of values and beliefs based on the principle on Islam. Religion is an

important force that has helped shape the culture, traditions and way of life of all Maldivians. (Dayal, 2001).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the emancipation of Human race man and women were created as their counterparts. The creation of Eve with Adam was the symbol of affection and shows that both genders were created with equal status but with different responsibilities. However, this divine share of status was not delivered to the women because of physical hegemony of man. With the passage of time women status was recognized by various civilizations which led to the improved status of today's women. This enhanced status helped women to become politically stronger, socially respectable and economically independent.

The study brief that, In South Asia despite cultural constraints and old traditions prevailing in many areas of this region in almost each country but still governments of South Asia gives consideration to their women. With the advancement of globalization this positive trend of women empowerment made its path to South Asia. Gradually, the deprived women in many South Asian countries become active in bringing this inclination to its peak. Many eminent women of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh delivered their services for the progress of their country. They left no stone unturned for raising the status of women in their respective countries. This struggle gave birth to such a fruitful tree whose branches become their social-political and economic strength. With the efforts of many enthusiastic women, women were granted their constitutional rights but unfortunately, these rights could not pave their way to be enforced in true later and spirit. With the passage of time and continuous efforts at international level it was made sure that all the laws and regulations were to be implemented in full force. The education in women made them more aware and pro-active to fight for their basic fundamental rights which are ensure by the constitution in each South Asian country. The unshaken able motivation by the human rights active organizations and many institutions at the international level working for the women empowerment and protection for their rights further uplifted and strengthen the already rising status of women in South Asia. These determinations for the upraising of women status in South Asia made them ,a gender who was once suppressed, made women a prime minister, a social worker, a successful

entrepreneur and above all an equally worthy human being.

The study further analyze that, Pakistan in South Asia region is a country who by following the global tendency of giving women participation in every walk of life, revive the lost status of women more actively. Women of Pakistan, since its struggle of independence they equally participate. Many women in history of Pakistan provided their value able services and tremendous abilities to bring out country in many political and economic problems. And in South Asia region Pakistan is the active country which is empowering women in its army, judicative and legislative activities and realizing women role in economic and political uplift of country's structure. Women's developmental role can also strengthen indifferent field for better social structure of the country by taking such measures in Pakistan. In this regards a key component in empowerment efforts is increasing literacy and enhancing educational facilities. To deal with the barriers in the way of women participation in the political system rule of law is required. Accountability in existing laws, for the protection of women rights, is needed to deal with discriminatory behavior against women in many backwards areas. Pakistan is identifying women deliverance in many sectors with open doors and giving them multiple opportunities.

REFERENCES

- [1] Bhattacharya, S. (2014). Status of Women in Pakistan. *Journal of Research Society of Pakistan*, 179-182.
- [2] Bhuyan, D. (2006). *Women Empowerment*. New Dehli : Discovery Publishing House.
- [3] Davies, L. (2012). *Wome on Board*. London: Government of United Kingdom.
- [4] Friedmann, J. (1993). *Empowerment: The concept of an Alternative Development*. Newyork: Oxford Publishers.
- [5] Goonesekere, S. (2004). *Violence, Law and Women Rights in Soutrh Asia*. New Dehli: Sage Publications.
- [6] Madankar, N. (2014). The problems, strategy and Women empowerment in India. *International Journal of Developmental Research*, 209-214.
- [7] Nelasco, S. (2012). A Study on Women Empowerment in South-Asian. *Meditarian Journal of Social Sciences*, 35-47.
- [8] Patton, M.Q. (2002). *Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods*. California: Sage Publications.

Women Empowerment in South Asia: Role of Women in Development of Pakistan

- [9] Pandey, V. (2008). Empowering Women in India: Changing Horizons. *Journal of South Asian Women Studies*, 78-85.
- [10] Shah, M. (2009). women being a negligible agent in the society. *Pakistan Journal of life and Social Sciences*, 81-85.
- [11] Srivastava, K. (2015). *Problems faced by women in Indian Society – Who are responsible ?* Bombay: Kundan Srivastava. *Act Now*. (2004, May 23). Retrieved February 13, 2017, from www.actnowsrilanka.org: <http://www.actnowsrilanka.org/en/act-now/constitutions>
- [12] *The Better India*. (2016, March 8). Retrieved February 12, 2017, from [thebetterindia.com](http://www.thebetterindia.com/48773/constitution-of-india-laws-women/): <http://www.thebetterindia.com/48773/constitution-of-india-laws-women/>
- [13] Affairs, O. f. (1990). *Status of Women: Maldives*. Bangkok: UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
- [14] Afroz. (2011, July 18). *Legal Articles and Solutions* . Retrieved February 12, 2017, from legalarticlesbd.blogspot.com: <http://legalarticlesbd.blogspot.com/2011/07/women-rights-ensured-by-constitution-of.html>
- [15] Agrawal. (2016). Women Rights in India: Constitutional Rights and Legal Rights. *Journal of social Sciences*, 45-49.
- [16] Jha, J. (2009). Nepal Constitution has progressive provisions for women. *Nepal Foreign Affairs*, 32-35.
- [17] Mahat, I. (2005). Women's Development in Nepal: The Myth of Empowerment. *The Fletcher Journal of International Development*, 67-72.
- [18] Yameen Organization, B. W. (2013, April 23). *BWCO*. Retrieved February 3, 2017, from www.oocities.org: <http://www.oocities.org/bhutanwomen/statuswomen.html>
- [19] Schmidt, K. J. (1995). *An Atlas and survey of South Asian History*. New York: M.E Sharpe.

Citation: ALI ABBAS , LAIQA MUNEER..” *Women Empowerment in South Asia: Role of Women in Development of Pakistan*”. (2019) *International Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Studies*, 6(2), pp. 42-49

Copyright: © 2019 ALI ABBAS,.. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.