

8,000 incidents of violence reported in 2010: Report

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ISLAMABAD - Policy Data Monitoring-Violence against Women (PDM-VAW) Programme of Aurat Foundation on Tuesday launched third annual report on violence against women in Pakistan during 2010.

The report indicated that the country faced 8000 incidents of violence during the year 2010. Based on the reported cases in a majority of newspapers of Pakistan, no FIR was registered in a large number of incidents, reflecting the citizens' lack of confidence in police.

Anis Haroon, Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), chaired the seminar titled Violence Against Women in Pakistan: A Qualitative Review of Statistics for 2010 in a hotel. Ehsan Sadiq, Assistant IG Islamabad Police, presided over the session. Dr Rakhshanda

Parveen, founder Director of Creative Anger and the author of the Report, presented the findings of the Report.

5492 cases of violence were reported from Punjab; 1652 from Sindh; 650 from KPK, 79 from Balochistan and 127 from Islamabad, out of a total 8000 incidents. The figures of Islamabad are really alarming given the smaller population and high security maintained in the capital.

Anis Haroon, in her concluding remarks, said that mega violence in Pakistan like terrorism etc is one of the major reasons that are dumping the issue of violence against women under the carpet. She also highlighted the post-18th Amendment scenario of various issues of women's rights, particularly after the devolution of ministry of women development (MoWD). For instance, after the 18th Amendment, the passage of 'Domestic Violence

Bill' has now become a provincial need, would have to be passed by the provincial assemblies. While referring to use of influence in police affairs, she emphasized the need for comprehensive reforms in police department.

Rabeea Hadi, National Coordinator PDM-VAW, gave a welcome note on the annual report. Her note was followed by a presentation on the Statistical Review of Violence against Women, by Dr Rakhshanda Parveen.

Naeem Mirza, Chief Operating Officer Aurat Foundation, while sharing some major features of the report, said the 50 districts of Pakistan are at the top in the list describing rate of violence against women and they are in fact on the same position since 2008. Karachi, a highly populated city of Pakistan, shows less violence compared to other mega cities of the country. He however didn't agree that it meant Karachi

is more women friendly city or a city highly sensitised city reference to women folk.

Ehsan Sadiq, in his presentation, said although the situation of violence against women is not encouraging, however, this is a fact that most of the cases of violence against women are now get registered, which would surely bring sustainable positive change by eliminating violence against women. He applauded the role of civil society organizations, particularly the Aurat Foundation.

He suggested that the government should increase the number of women in police department in order to change the face of police institution and make it more sensitised towards women. He said for sustainable change in police department in this regards, it is necessary to introduce overall reforms in the department.