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Workshop on issues of widows, single women concludes

ISLAMABAD
APP

A two-days workshop concluded here on Thursday aiming at creation of synergies and linkages at local, regional and international levels for mainstreaming widows and single women rights in public policy and institutional framework.

The consultative workshop titled 'Mainstreaming Rights of Widows and Single Women in Public Policy and Institutional Frameworks', was organised by Aurat Foundation in collaboration with South Asian Network for Widows' Empowerment in Development (SANWED).

Participants from other countries including, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India attended the South Asian workshop, and discussed the issues and challenges faced by widows and single women in their respective regions. Benazir Income Support Programme Chairman Farzana Raza was the chief guest of the closing session. Farzana Raja while addressing to the participants said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) always tried to address the women issue during its government and BISP is an example of it. Farzana Raja informed that through BISP 3.5 million families across the country were empowered through their females in tribal areas, FATA, rural areas, and 20 million women got their NADRA CNICs to benefit from BISP.

"We tried to support the most vulnerable women, living below the poverty line and 180 million individual data is with Benazir Income Support Programme, and 300,000 widows are getting Benazir Income Support Programme benefits directly on regular basis," she added.

While giving the figures and statistics of BISP, she informed that 4.1 million females were given Rs 100,000 life insurance within 15 days in case of their family heads' death, she told. In addition to this, health insurance, Waseela e Rozgaar are some other initiatives by BISP to reduce poverty of thousands of families by their females members, she said.

Lauding President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani's efforts in this regard, she said that all these initiatives to empower women became possible with their cooperation and efforts. She added that transparency is the hallmark of BISP, due to which it is appreciated and considered a role model comprehensive programme to eliminate poverty among women in third world countries.

At the end of the session, Farzana Raja distributed shields among some of the participants to acknowledge their contributions in raising their voices against women discrimination and gender issues.



ISLAMABAD: BISP Chairperson Farzana Raja talks to journalists during a workshop. STAFF PHOTO