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Speakers seek legislation on gender issues

OUR STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD - In order to launch scoping desk studies initiated by the Gender Equity Program (GEP), a USAID funded program, Aurat Foundation organized an event "Mainstreaming Research in Gender Interventions" on Tuesday.

These studies identify current status of knowledge and actions under each objective area and post-floods scenario and gaps that need to be addressed. The studies include 'Effects of the 2010 Floods on Women in Pakistan', 'Gender Based Violence in Pakistan', 'Women's Empowerment in Pakistan', 'Capacity of Pakistani Organizations to carry out Gender Equity Initiatives', and 'Gender Equity-Justice and Governance in Pakistan'.

Known experts on gender issues, namely Dr Rubina Saigol, Dr Rakhshinda Perveen, Nazish Brohi and Rafiq Jaffer, carried out these research studies.

Catherine Johnson, Senior Advisor Democracy and Governance, USAID, was the chief guest on the occasion and highlighted how building knowledge and data for advancing and empowering women is essential and central to USAID'S plan. She said, after keenly reading through all the studies, she sees a lot of space for policy discourse and legislation. She was also concerned how the gender-based violence in Pakistan is blocking women progress in socio-political and economic fields.

Naeem Mirza, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Aurat Foundation, said the research on gender issues is even more important work due to the much required policy and legislation.