

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

MPs urged to lobby for gender budget statement



OUR STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Parliamentarians should lobby and recommend to the government to present 'gender budget statement' as part of the budget books, which shall highlight the amounts allocated for women development.

This was realised during a study circle on 'Women's Development Agenda in Next Federal Budget 2015-16 in line with UN MDGs/SDGs' with parliamentarians and civil society representatives. The event was organised by Aurat Foundation on Tuesday. Nohman Ishtiaq, expert/consultant public financial management, delivered a detailed presentation on 'Women's Development Agenda in upcoming Budget 2015 - 2016'. Uzma Zarin, director programmes Aurat Foundation, coordinated the study circle and the question hour session.

Measuring women's development in Pakistan, the Annual Gender Gap Index 2014 report, published by World Economic Forum, shows that Pakistan ranked at 141 out of 142 surveyed countries. The rank measures four key areas: in economic participation and opportunity Pakistan ranks at 141; in education Pakistan ranks at 132; in health and survival it ranks at 119; in political empowerment Pakistan ranks at 85. The figures show that women's economic empowerment, children's schooling and health are the most under-budgeted sectors.