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**PROBLEMS TO FEMALE JOURNALISM EDUCATION IN  
MALAKAND DIVISION OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN**

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**Abstract:**

The aim of the current research was to explore the problems and prospects of female journalism education in Malakand division. The researcher used qualitative research design for the study and unstructured interview was conducted. Three open-ended questions were asked for the purpose to collect details information from female students. The populations of the research study were the students of social sciences departments of Malakand University. Data was collected from the five departments including Sociology, Economics, Law, Social Work and Political Science. The result of study revealed that females in Malakand region were restricted by their family. The finding also explored that culture and religion barrier creates hurdles for female journalism education in Malakand

division. It is recommended to the policy makers to introduced journalism subject on collages level to motivate females for higher studies in the remote areas of the country.

### **Introduction:**

Today in modern world journalism as a profession represent female and male equally. Female journalism education means, individuals who are getting their education at higher level in colleges and universities.

Journalism subject students in higher level like universities face many problems. They are not easily allowed enter into co-education system at universities. Social structure of Pakistani society, inflexible culture, old tradition and norms has imposed restriction on female. Superior position of male in society, misinterpretation, transportation and economic condition of family are other factors that influence girl's co-education. Culture also plays a vital role in education. For uniform development, education is necessary for both women and men. In the erstwhile tribal areas, culture create hurdles for women like gender discrimination and conservatives thinking toward female higher education, similarly these problems are faced by those females, who are interested in journalism education at university level (Iqbal, Hamdan, Altaf & Sadaf, 2014).

Some hurdles like culture effect the girl's education everywhere but most common in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Afghanistan and tribal areas due to Pashtun culture and extremist religious views. Pashtun are against the female higher education because their females are symbol of honor (izzat) of family and they spend whole life within the boundaries of home, they did not like co-education institutions for their females (Jamal, 2016).

Education influence on daughter's education I literate father gives more attention and allow their daughters to higher education than the illiterate. Similarly, some hurdles exist in the way of female education in the region like culture, poverty, lack of female schools and teachers in the institution and transport problems (Khan, 2016).

Transport is an issue, which is affecting the women higher education in Pakistan. The researcher also explored that bad transport, non-availability of transport, insecure transport and expensive transport are hurdles in female higher education (Shahzad, 2017).

Although Islam is not against the female education. Islam gives right to women to get their education within the prescribed limits of Islam. Educated parents support their daughters for higher education and jobs. Educated people know about the importance of Education, they support their family economically and share the family burden and also take care of children. They can help them in their homework, guide them how to become a responsible citizen and thus support whole family in better way. Problems exist everywhere but female can overcome all problems when parents encourage their daughters for their purpose of education. (Ali Jumani & Ejaz, 2015)

Quaid-E-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said in 1940 at Islamia College Peshawar that "I have always maintained that no nation can never be developed if it cannot take its women side by side along with the men. No struggle can ever succeed without women's participation (Huda & Ali, 2005)

### **Importance of Study:**

This study very important it is related to female equal rights in getting their favorite education. The slogan of Journalism is “voice of voiceless people of the society”. When female get journalism education they will be able to work for women’s rights like domestic violence, sexual harassment, education right and gender discrimination in a better way. Journalism educates women informally through different mediums of mass media and empower women.

### **Statements of Problems:**

Journalism is the reflection of society and highlight society’s problems. Pashtun society and culture are rigid as compared to other cultures and female face a lot of problems like women’s representation in society and leadership. That is why female must be part of journalism field, because, female can easily investigate and describe women related issues and can convey it to the government.

### **Objectives:**

- To find out cultural, social and religious factors in the way of female journalism education in Malakand division.
- To investigate the discouragement factors to female students in Malakand division.
- To search out inspirational or encouraging factors for female students in Malakand division.

### **1.1. Research questions:**

**RQ1:** What are the cultural (co-education) problems to your journalism education?  
**RQ2:** How lacks of family support (financial, transport, male oriented subject etc.) become a hurdle for your journalism education?  
**RQ3:** Why and how, religion (Hijab, not allowed to go outside, jointly working with in the field with male etc.) is a problem for your journalism education?

### **Literature Review:**

Educated female can make a positive change in society through media. More women entered in journalism field in the nineteenth century in Europe and America with the development of society. acceptance of women’s civil, political, economic rights changed the society and moved forward women in journalism and raised the rank and status of women in practical field, but in the same time, women faced the perception that Journalism field is for male only and not appropriate for women (Chamber, Steiner & Fleming, 2004). In developed societies, women can enter any profession of life to participate and contribute in the progress of the nations. However, on the other hand in developing countries like Pakistan female are restricted in some circle of professions. Journalism is not acceptable for female due to conservative thinking, religious and cultural taboos. In the mid-20th century in western countries women entered in journalism but Muslims were still against modern education.

Muslims of sub-continent were not aware about future challenges, while in this era Hindus started taking step towards getting education in early 20th century. Raja Ram

Mohan Rai ' started work for development and education of Hindus. He was against some Hindu custom that is why Hindu female entered in journalism earlier as compare to Muslim female. At that time, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and some other famous journalist struggled for the same cause through journalism. Before the creation of Pakistan, different magazines worked for Muslim female "Khatoon-e-Sarhad" published from Peshawar by Sherin Taj in 1936 and some other from different places. Before partition, majority newspapers were run by Hindus, so after independence of Pakistan in 1947, there was more space available for Muslim to start a new era of Muslim journalism. Fatima Begum launched Urdu weekly newspaper 'khatun' in 1948 some others newspaper published 'women pages 'and muslim women started getting education with passage of time. Still in some societies some hurdles like cultural, stereotype attitude of people and religion create problems for female. (Shabbier, Aqdu& Iqbal,2009).

In this society, men are dominated in which all powers are with them and women are considered the subordinate of men. This factor not allowed female to journalism education. Nigeria is a Muslims dominant society and female are restricted to specific dresses and they are not allowed to appear in public which influence female in journalism. In Nigeria, it is considered that Journalism is only for men. Women are considered inferior to the men and treated unequally on gender basis and they have no decision power due to fixed culture stereotypes of the society (Hamman, 2017).

Women have a lot of problems in all aspect of the life not due to their inability, but due to culture barriers, women are considered inferior to the men. Although women suffered a lot in Pashtun society therefore they are now deprived of their own decision-making, studies and some profession like journalism. These hurdle creates difficulties for female in journalism education (Abu-Bakr&Abdulmutallib, 2018) Female are very restricted in the society. About 50% respondent in the study mention Pashtun culture is main factor because Pashtun society is rigid and not allow female to work in the fields like journalism. Others factors of restriction on female are "Peculation (pardha)" some misinterpretation of religion etc. Some people consider teaching and medical field more suitable for female, due to these thinking's they do not give attention to journalism. So non presence of female in journalism is a factor for follower female. If a female gets journalism education and then want to join practical field, they will surely face some hurdles like discrimination on their work place, transport issue, married life and support in organization from bosses and male colleagues create problems for female (Ghulam, 2012). Various factors that make the Journalism field is dangerous for both female and male. In this study data was collected from three different Organization on the base of different Methodology used (Khan, 2016). International Federation for Journalist declared Pakistan as one of the most dangerous country for journalist and Amnesty International declared it a graveyard for journalist. According to Committee to Protect Journalist (CPJ) 68, Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) 70, and Reporters without Borders (RSF) 67 journalist lost their lives from 2002 to 2014 and the numbers is increasing with passages of time. Due to the security issues female fears and avoids journalism education as a profession.

Working female journalists have a positive thinking towards journalism career. Both conducted a research study and selected 37 District in Punjab (Pakistan). Data about the working female journalists including editors, reporter was collected from the Council of Pakistan Press Club (CPPC). In the 27 districts, the strengths of working female journalist are nil while in 10 Districts 753 female journalists are working. All these

females face problem like gender discrimination on working place, male orientation on profession and society stress creates hurdles for female journalists. On the other hand female journalists have persuaded journalism as a profession (Ali and Fehmida, 2017).

The problems in the way of women in journalism, her study finding shows mostly women faced gender discrimination harassment in working place in journalism field. According to female journalist, they are threatened on gender basis not the working ability. Low salaries and soft beats are given to women in field to cover because the dominant male culture thinking female are most suitable for that. Female faced society pressure which affected the working of female journalists. Some female journalist says when they come back from work to home their relatives passed negative comment due to the late night working alone with male colleague (Sakha and Shah, 2019).

Harassment (negative comments staring and smiling without no reason) which creates problems for female to join journalism. Despite all above mentioned hurdles, some female journalists succeeded in journalism because they were supported by families. A survey was conducted in Pakistan on the Women journalist's problems in working field. According to the findings of this Survey, Media Organizations considered female journalists not suitable for better work in field, media organization not want to hire female journalists. Female journalists also face inequality in salaries, promotion and lack of basic health facilities that create hurdles. Media organization not arrange specific activities to build up their skills to improve their fieldwork. After the maternity leaves, media organizations ignored the women journalists. Majority female journalists face the problem of isolated refreshing room and washroom in organization except some well-established Media houses. Female journalists are unaware about the harassment act and remain silent to report the cases. (civic action, n/d) There are various factors which faced by women journalists in the way to reach high position in media organizations and media companies. Woman entered in journalism during the 1992 and rapidly raised of second wave of Feminist movement in Australian. In that time "Kate Toomey" first female which hired by Australian Broadcasting Corporation and some others, Ita Buttrose worked in city newspaper Sydney Michelle Grattan's those female journalists motivates and encourage upcoming women in journalism. The government make several Laws to ensure the equality of gender, nevertheless in organization and work place women treated unequally. The Australian Industry Union and IFJ in 1996 show a brief description about 51.6 % female journalists sexually harassed, in 2009 during the survey new growing female not answered to harassment questions (North, 2013). In 2012 survey, it was founded that women in journalism are still harassed and not part of decision-making activities and paid less salary as compared to male coworker.

The characters and status of women in media. Pakistan is created on the name of Islam (religion based), where all people spend their lives according to the teaching of Islamic Principles. The culture, tradition and point of view of religious scholars is very powerful and well strong rooted. So, from the starting time to till present time, female faced discriminations as well as injustice for their basic rights. Media in Pakistan have affected by distinct groups and political people. In contrast, the Constitution of Pakistan grants the equivalence, same identity, and uniform rights for women. The women in media is used like commodities because media organization purpose is to make more money and view this gender more influential in molding public opinion of toward specific goal. In different advertisements the women are shown in immoral way with objectionable dresses which create negative effect on children as well as society. The media has lost its claim and true

image to serve for public. That is why people consider the journalism field inappropriate for females. The status of working women journalists in Pakistan. “There is a patronizing tone in every printed feature, communicating a feeling of inferiority in women”. Female status and reflection is unsteady, lack of maturity, easily tricked on the name of rights in journalism and media(Huda and Ali (2015).

### Research Method:

Researcher applied qualitative methodology as its purpose was to explain and interpret the whole situation in details. Qualitative methodology is based on the Interpretative approach which explains that the social reality is created by people because all people face same situation within their activities, thus they establish reality and interpret it.

Interviews were conducted to collect data from the respondents through open-ended Questionnaire, because in open-ended questions a choice is available with the respondent to express their thoughts and attitude on issue freely not bound to limited options. Interview are the verbal, proper and face to face conversation between two or more persons with specific aims to collect data and information from the respondents that relates to some issue(Kumar,2016).

The population of this research study was the female students of Social Science Departments of Malakand University. A random sampling method was used by the researcher for the data collection. The data was collected from the five departments of Social Science faculty. Total 25 female students were interviewed. Five students from Sociology, Social Work, Economics, Law and Political Science were interviewed to find out the problem in journalism education.

### Results and Findings:

**Table 5.1 : Cultural problems to female journalism education in Malakand**

S.No	Sociology	Economics	Law	Political Science	Social work
1	*Culture boundaries not allow *Male and female interaction *Less job opportunity	*Culture restriction *journalism male’s subject	*issue in Journalism *not common with in culture	*News gathering problem *Stay out from home is an issue	*Culture restriction
2	*Issue are Discrimination ,exploitation ,male superiority *Male unsocial	*Culture against female journalism *field male oriented	*Culture issue *Family restriction *Ban female move from home	*Pakhtun culture	*Communication un suitable for women *Conservative set up is a issue

	behavior		*Female on media un moral		
3	*More male students in journalism	*Pashtun culture problem *Religion restriction	*Strict Pashtun Culture *Family male resist to co- education	*culture limitation * Tribal people against to co- education	*Culture problem *Family not supportive *Misuse of religion
4	*Pashtun culture restriction	*family restriction	*In media Parda issue *Lack future in field *Lack Family support *Pashtun Culture issue	*Culture and co-education hurdle *Society unfavorable point of view	*Culture problem
5	*Not allowed move from home	* Co- education ,and female field work not accept	*Parda must in rural society *People not like seen female on media	*Pashtun conservative and narrow minded *Pashtun against female journalism	*Not allow go out from home *Restriction work with male

Table 5.1. shows the response of the female students regarding the cultural problems towards joining journalism department. Majority of the students of sociology department were of the view that culture is rigid and against the female co-education. One respondent said our family thinks journalism suitable only for male and there are very less job opportunities in Journalism. Another respondent said in journalism, male and female more interact with each other that's not acceptable to our family. Similarly, other respondent said our family not allowed to go out from home to practical job therefore I did not get admission in journalism. A single student said that there are majority male students therefore as a female I did not get admission in journalism department.

Three female students hailing to economics department stated that there are cultural restrictions on them which restricted female in journalism education, some mentioned other factors like families are unsupportive for female. Three respondents pointed out that journalism is male's-oriented subject. Two respondents said journalism is

male oriented field and female’s work in the field not acceptable to family. According to a few, religious restriction on female also creates hurdles for journalism education.

A female respondent from Law department said that the journalism is new in this area and culture is inflexible for that reason female journalism is not acceptable to society.

Second respondent says there are culture and family restriction, movement of female from home and female work in front of camera is considered immoral in society. Third respondent says Pashtun culture and male family members not allowed female to get journalism education. The opinion of the fourth student of law was that the media not allows female to work in hijab, lack of future in the field of Journalism and culture and family limitation are the hurdles faced by female in journalism education. The Last respondent says in rural society female must wear hijab and people not like to see their women in media.

The first respondent of political science department says female face problem to move from home. Other four respondents mentioned Pashtun culture, conservative and narrow-minded people and social taboos as barrier to female Journalism education.

Among them, three respondent of Social work department pointed out that culture is a problem for female journalism. They also mentioned the misinterpretation of religion a threat to female education. One of them said that their family not support female to get journalism education. Two others respondents say communication field not suitable for female and women are not allowed to go away from home and work with male colleague in the field.

**Table 5.2 : Family support problems to female journalism education in Malakand.**

S.No	Sociology	Economics	Law	Political Science	Social work
1	*Financial support must *Women right issue *Transport issue	*Lack of family support *Family want secures for female *Not like work with male	*family issue * Family Select female education,	*Distance problem *lack family support *Financial issue *Family point of view journalism for male	*Male orientation issue *Transport problem
2	*Success when family support * financial issue	*weak economic status issue	*Family not like	*Lack family support	*Lack family *un availability of equipments *Transport issue



3	*Family discourage *not like come on T.V	*family not supportive *hijab and religion Issue	*Finance problem	*Financial issue *Expensive transport issue *Male oriented subject *Family un supportive	*Male Subject *Less job and higher study
4	*Less Family support	*Transport issue	*Family believe male subject *teaching as respectable job	*Family support need to choose journalism	*Male industry *Transport issue
5	*Gender un equality	*Male subject	*female dependency issue *Family against to male interaction	*Family support required *Financial support need *encouragement from family must need	*Male education *Lack job opportunity

The table 5.2 illustrates that the response of female students regarding family supports toward joining journalism department. The first respondent of sociology departmentsaid that some factors like financial, transport issues and unjust treatment with female are not allowed female to journalism in the area. Similarly, other threerespondents says their families are not supported them to get admission in journalism, while other exposed that our family is not like appearance of female on T.V and also faced financial issues. The last respondent stated family treated female on the base of gender.

The first female respondent of economic department shows her concern on female journalism education. She stated that our family didn't support me for journalism because they think media field is insecure for female. Most of the families against the work of female and male in practical fields in the same place.Second respondent said their weak economic condition of the family is a problem for female journalism education. Third respondent said mostly family support and some religious restrictions on female are the hurdles in the way of journalism education. Other two respondent stated insecure transport is an issue and being considered as male oriented subject, stop female to join journalism education.

Mostof the female of Law department responded that their families are not like the journalism education for their females. First respondent said that family selected the subject for female that's why femalesare not getting admission in journalism department. Second respondent from the said department says,their family not likes journalism education. Third among the respondent claimed that financial issuesareanimmense problem for female journalism education. The fourth one said, our family believes journalism is male subject and the jobs related with journalism not suitable for female,

only teaching is a respectable profession for female. Last respondent from this department said, that female are more dependent on family that is the reason, female cannot oppose their family to select subject of their own interest.

The response of the political science female students said that their families are not supported female to get journalism education. First respondent pointed out that distance of the institutions from homes, unstable family economic status, and family consider journalism male oriented subject. Second respondent say their family not supported to get journalism education on cultural basis. Third respondent told to the interviewer that weak economic status, expensive transport, and lack of family support were problems for them because they believe journalism is male oriented subject. Other two respondents said to opt journalism subject requires family supports need finance from family and family never support them for journalism education.

The first respondent of social work department said expensive and insecure transport is an issue and male oriented nature of journalism stop female to join journalism. Second respondent said journalism profession need expensive equipment to work in the field and family not fulfilled these requirement. Our family thinking journalism is suitable for male so for this reason female are not supported by family to get journalism education. Third and Fifth respondents point of view about journalism was that is a male oriented subject and for job leaving home is must which is not acceptable to their families. They mentioned that in journalism there are less jobs opportunities for female. Fourth one responded that a professional journalist require to move from home and the way female face insecure transport and other issues, Journalism is a suitable subject for male and has no respect for female

**Table 5.3 : Religion problems to female journalism education in Malakand**

S.No	Sociology	Economics	Law	Political Science	Social work
1	*Culture restriction *Hijab not problem *not work with male in Islam *Work front of camera issue	*In Islam hijab must *Culture not allow work with male	*Not religion and hijab , *But society restriction	*Religion not issue *Pakhtun culture issue *Male dominant society	*Not allow move from home *work with male ban
2	*pardha problem	*religion limitation *family against co-education	*Religion not allow female without hijab	*Media not allow hijab *religion restriction on hijab	*Islam not allowed *Elder not allow

3	*Media not allow hijab *Female want wear hijab	*In Media ,T.V and journalism hijab not allow	*Religion not	*Religion not create issue	*Religion allow study *Restriction joint work with male
4	*Religion un acceptance	* Work in Same job with male	*Parda not allow in job	*Hijab issue *working with male issue	*Not allow go out *Not allow work with male
5	*Religion limitation on hijab	* Problem Jointly working with male	*Islam against the journalism *not allowed for job	*Islam against male and female interaction	*Hijab not problem * Work with male is a problem

Table 5.3 demonstrates the response of female students regarding religious problem to female journalism education in Malakand. The first participant of the Sociology department says cultural restrictions effected female journalism education as compared to religious restrictions like hijab. But from the religion side the work of female with male is prohibited. The female not allowed to work in front of camera. Second respondent say veil (Prada) is a problem to female journalism education. Third respondent stated female want to wear hijab for own satisfaction, but electronic media not allow female to work in hijab. Other two respondents' point of view was that the religion unacceptance and compulsion of hijab stop female to enter in journalism. The first respondent of Economic department expresses her concern that Islam teaches female not expose her I front of people and must wear hijab. Culture also not allow the joint work of female and male. Second respondent said religious limitation and family are against the female journalism. In journalism related field especially in T.V, females are not allowed within hijab. The last two respondents say the work in same place with male is a problem for female journalism. The first and third one female students of law department stated that religion is not problem for female journalism education, but social restrictions create hurdles for female journalism. Second student said that religion do not allow female to work without hijab.

Fourth student of the same department said that in journalism related job veil (parda) is not allowed. Last student of law argued that religion is against the female journalism.

The first respondent of Political science department said that not religion but Pashtun culture and conservative society is the hurdle in way of female journalism education. The second respondent stated that in her opinion, media mostly not allow female to perform their work within hijab. And religion consider hijab is compulsory. Second respondent stated that religion is not problem for female journalism education. Fourth respondent argued that society related issue and working with male are the problem for journalism education because society is transforming with the passage of time. The last respondent said that in journalism, female interact with male and our religion is against such interaction.

The first and fourth respondents of Social Work department expressed their thoughts that female are not allowed to move from home and work with male in offices because of religious restrictions. The second respondent stated that our family elders and religion not allow female journalism education. The last respondent said hijab not a problem, but joint work in field with male stops female to join journalism education.

### **Research Questions Findings:**

#### **RQ1. What are the cultural (co-education) problems to your journalism education?**

The results of the study supported that culture is a problem to female journalism education in Malakand. The respondents expressed that culture barriers decrease the entry of female in journalism education. Pashtun culture is against female co-education system in Malakand. Because people are not aware of the importance of female education. Culture do not accept the work and job of female out from home. The people were stereotypically thinking that journalism education is only related to men.

#### **RQ2. How lacks of family support (financial, transport, male oriented subject etc) become a hurdle for your journalism education?**

The results of the study explored that family support is also an important factor to female education in Malakand division. The respondents disclosed that family support is necessary for female education, as well as poor transport and pooreconomic status of the people is a problem in Malakand. The results of the study also explored that Pashtun society is giving more attention to education of male, while neglecting female education. The findings also explored that family member think that the future of female in journalism is not secured. The journalism profession is insecure for women due to outdoor job. Similarly, in journalism department there are more males as compared to females. The instrumental need also stand in the way of female journalism education, because new technological equipment is out of access due to family financial support, the respondents stated.

#### **RQ3. Why and how, religion (Hijab, not allowed to go outside, jointly working with in the field with male etc) is a problem for your journalism education?**

The outcomes of the study shows that religion is a problem for female education not in all but in some cases. The respondents expressed that the religious restrictions on female to work outside the home is a problem. Religion is not allowing the female to work with stranger (Na-Mihran) males in the field. Few respondents' pointed out that media organizations not permit the females to work with hijab (Scarp). Few other respondents stated that the culture as well as family elders are against the female journalism education due to religious mind set.

### **5.2. Conclusion:**

It is concluded that female journalism education is mostly affected in Malakand due to the culture, family and religion factors. The culture is a strong factor which influences the female journalism education. In Pashtun society people are against female's admission in journalism department.

The culture is rigid and not accept the outdoor activities of female. The Pashtun culture has created perception that journalism education is appropriate for male only, and not suitable for women. The culture is totally against the journalism related jobs for

female. The society structure is conservative, rigid and male dominated and female faced that problem of male dominance which restricts female journalism education. The study shows that the narrow-minded families opposed and dislike that female pursues journalism education. The study also identified that females are facing a discrimination everywhere in society, this factor also affects female journalism education. The insecure transportation is also a problem for female journalism education explored from this study.

The study concluded the outcome that religious prohibitions create a big difficulty for female journalism education, because in Islamic society the female must observe hijab and not interact with strange males. The result shows some response of the female participant's students that religion giving the right of education, but culture barrier is not in favor of female journalism education.

### 5.3. Recommendations:

- It is recommended to the females of the Malakand division to join journalism as a profession because they can highlight the issue of the women in the area in a better way as compared to male.
- It is also suggested that female should get admissions in this discipline to encourage new comer girls.
- It is recommended to female students to opt journalism to represent all aspects of life.
- It is also recommended to educational departments to introduce journalism course in higher secondary level because female at college level are unknown about journalism education.

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