

Review of: "[Commentary] Commentary on Sociocultural Beliefs and Systems Restricting Women's Access to their Marital Property Rights in Pakistan"

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The article begins with a comprehensive review of the contrast between the various legal frameworks that grant women rights to property and inheritance juxtaposed with society's comfort and ease usurping of these rights. For this the writer aptly holds responsible a nexus of societal beliefs and religious ideology on gender, misogyny and empowerment. The article also provides a detailed review of literature on the existing theories and ideas that detail the impact of this nexus. However it fails to provide relevant local data to expound on those ideas. The cited literature is also limited in scope and relevance. For instance, the article's title specifies that it is a commentary on factors that restrict women's marital property rights but it misses the mark in this area. Furthermore, it is a known fact that misogyny alongwith misinterpretation of religion are responsible for hurdles in female empowerment and the article explains that in great detail, however, it does so without citing relevant local studies or data driven examples of such in practice. A key detail missing is lack of access and information to a large majority of women who have never been allowed participation in legal proceedings of any kind. In addition, systematic and legal hurdles such as a woman's inability to open a savings account without permission from a guardian or mandatory signatures on NoC from a spouse to work out of country are not mentioned. Finally, the suggested solution to encourage empowerment through aroused empathy in men is flawed to say the least. Empowerment is achieved through formulation of fair laws based on principles of equity and equality and more importantly through indiscriminate implementation of these laws across all strata of society. Privilege is rarely surrendered voluntarily.