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 commentary discusses the status of women's property rights in Pakistan and the existing gaps between legal provisions and societal practices. It also explores the influence of cultural and religious beliefs, power dynamics, and the role of empathy in translating positive beliefs into action. It is a very fundamental topic to be discussed and to draw the attention of the community as well as legal authorities towards it. Overall, while the provided commentary offers a comprehensive overview of the issues surrounding women's property rights in Pakistan, further critical analysis and exploration of the underlying factors and potential solutions would enhance the discussion.

Firstly, the commentary has mainly discussed that societal beliefs and practices in Pakistan are deeply rooted in religious ideology, which is reflected in legislation. Whereas in some parts of the country (particularly the KP and Baluchistan province), women are deprived of property rights mainly due to cultural norms. Often, cultural, and social barriers can hinder women from exercising their property rights effectively, and these challenges should be acknowledged. It also mentions that Pakistan's Constitution grants women the absolute right to own, acquire, inherit, and control property, it is suggested to add the reference of specific Article Numbers.

Secondly, it suggests that there is a contradiction between individual beliefs and communal practices regarding women's property rights. While this is an important observation, it would be helpful to delve deeper into the causal factors that contribute to this contradiction. Exploring the cultural, social, and economic dynamics that perpetuate this discrepancy could provide valuable insights into the root causes and potential solutions.

Additionally, the discussion focuses on the role of enculturation in shaping beliefs and attitudes. While this is an interesting perspective, it would be beneficial to also consider the role of other factors, such as education, economic empowerment, and legal literacy. Understanding the interplay between various factors that influence individuals' beliefs and behaviors can provide a more nuanced understanding of the issue.

Furthermore, it discusses the epistemological role of power, misogyny, and patriarchy in shaping societal norms. While these factors undoubtedly play a significant role, exploring potential avenues for challenging and transforming these power structures would be valuable. Examining successful initiatives or movements that have effectively challenged gender norms and empowered women could provide useful insights for addressing the issue at hand. The role of empathy in catalyzing action is emphasized. While empathy is indeed important, it is essential to recognize that addressing systemic issues requires more than individual empathy. Pakistani society is a true example of classical patriarchy, and

mainly men have control over the resources. Empathy can be fostered by emphasizing the importance of property ownership and educating both women and men about their rights, leading to a more enabling environment for women.