

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

Tonja Jerele<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Ljubljana

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article talks about an important issue that women face in Pakistan. Overall its well written, but needs some additional work. My general remark is that it is too general and not specific enough, so much so that in places i wasn't sure if i was reading about Pakistan or some other religious country. I would also suggest a more intersectional approach. Analysis of the institutionalised discrimination, what are the educational opportunities for women, and their economic position in society (and how these factors interplay) should be added. As well as some proofreading, as some parts are a bit unclear.

There are some additional points I think the author should address before the article is ready to be published:

1. Additional evidence to support claims is needed. Elaboration of women's position in Pakistan, the issues they face, the history of how rights were acquired, legal precedent, generational difference (if there are any), and if there are any groups trying to bring this issue to the political stage right now.
2. When talking about the consonance / dissonance I would like this to be backed by more evidence. I am also curious if this holds true in the same way for both men and women - i would argue women feel the discomfort, but due to the lack of power cannot express it or do anything about it.
3. The segment "Role of empathy..." should be expanded. The last section should be turned into a discussion and expanded as well, as the article ends on a very open note. More concrete steps to address this issue should also be added. While empathy is very important, there are systemic reasons to the legislation not being followed that should not be ignored or downplayed.