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Blue Veins Vision

Blue Veins has a vision of a world where women lives healthy educated, free and safe lives. Where equality and dignity is a right not a privilege. Where women spend their life creating and thriving, rather than surviving victimization and recovering from atrocities.

Blue Veins Mission

The mission of Blue Veins is to work together in harmony with a higher spirit to improve the quality of life of women and children and establish a people-centered framework for empowerment, sustainable health, and a social development to guide, to build up a culture of cooperation and partnership and to respond to the immediate needs of those who are vulnerable. Blue Veins empowers women to articulate demand and access their rights by enhancing women's leadership and building networks.

BLUE VEINS

September - November 2016

NEWSLETTER Vol. 3

UNDER GENDER EQUITY PROGRAM

Dear Readers,
Greetings!

To measure the progress, quarterly newsletter provides a scale for self-evaluation. Confidently, Blue Veins-Gender Equity Program team will continue striving with enthusiasm and spirit to make easy access to justice a reality. Through quarterly newsletters published under Gender Equity Program by the support of United States Agency for International Development(USAID) in collaboration with Aurat Foundation, we aim to keep you updated about the activities and progress of the Project "Strengthening District Bar Association and Setting Up Facilitation Kiosk in Courts" implementing by Blue Veins. Like our previous newsletter this edition highlights the progress and milestones achieved in the ongoing project. This newsletter cover the details of lawyers capacity building training, meeting with Cabinet of District Bar Association, Peshawar, and details of free legal services provided to female in distress. You can get more information about Blue Veins from our website <http://www.blueveins.org/>, via our Facebook and Twitter accounts @BlueVeinsPak will harness you to the in-depth information about the activities of our organization. In addition, the updates about the activities in progress can be reached through Facebook page "access2justiceKP". We hope this newsletter will keep you informed about Gender Equity Program Cycle-8 during the project cycle.

Kindest regards,

Tahira Kaleem

Project Manager - Gender Equity Program





“We learnt the most needed concepts of gender and gender specific approaches”

It was a wonderful and thought provoking experience. We learnt the most needed concepts of gender and gender specific approaches. We had fruitful sessions on Women related legislations and international obligations etc. The training material and methodologies were excellent. Thank you very much to Blue Veins and USAID for providing us this opportunity to learn and interact.

-Mohsin Ali
Advocate District Bar Association, Peshawar



“I was glad to learn about the profound impact that the international obligation has made on the legislation of our country”

For the last several years, I have been working at the District Court and I have taken part in the legal representation of hundreds of victims of atrocities. But the gender concepts and activity based learning was my exceptional experience in this training. I was glad to learn about the profound impact that the international obligation has made on the legislation of our country and how the women of today's Pakistan is secured by various laws which weren't part of our curriculum at university. I was also impressed by the participation of mature and mid-level professionals whose real-life stories and shared experiences greatly complemented the learning process.

-Bibi Hawa
Advocate District Bar Association, Peshawar



“I found this training, extremely relevant, particularly in terms of laws and international obligations”

A very novel session for lawyers and civil society who are advocates of human rights. It was an eye opener to self-realization about gender sensitivity and how much we believe in the stereotypes related to violence and gender. I found it extremely relevant, particularly in terms of laws and international obligations. I would definitely recommend the training, and would suggest taking the thematic training that follows the core training.

-Amina Rafiq
Advocate, High Court, Peshawar

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE:

Meeting with district bar association:

Under the theme of collectivity and togetherness for speedy access to justice and District Bar upgradation, we, Blue Veins-GEP-Team and Members of Cabinet, District Bar Association gathered in second quarter meeting at District Bar, Peshawar. Primarily the purpose of the meeting was to share the findings of the situational analysis survey carried out with the lawyers of district bar association and litigants at District Courts. Moreover, it was proposed in the meeting by Blue Veins that cabinet should comply with law against sexual harassment at workplace, to which the cabinet of District Bar Association responded with certainty. Furthermore, Project Manager shared the schedule of Capacity Building Training for lawyers of District Bar Association Peshawar and requested to share the list and contacts of lawyers who would be called for training.



Capacity Building Training:

While the strengthening district bar association Peshawar, the much-needed component of capacity enhancement of lawyers cannot be ignored. To involve the service providers and lawyers in the process of access to justice, the project has an objective to help in capacity building and sensitization of Lawyers of District Bar Association and civil society members on the subject of Gender, Women related legislation and International Obligations. For this purpose, overall 16 capacity building trainings will be conducted, from which two trainings were conducted in the second quarter. These trainings were learner centric activity based engaging participants in different tasks to help them learn the sensitive concepts of gender and women related laws. These trainings were proved to be very fruitful and very positive feedback has been given by the participants of trainings. The participants requested to conduct such-like advance level trainings on each subject for the awareness and sensitization of lawyers.



“For law practitioners and civil society actors this course is pre-requisite”

I was really pleased by the quality of the Core Training. The individual benefits attending this training are remarkable, since it provides a substantial set of paths that one can follow during the practice. For law practitioners and civil society actors this course helps in contributing to the overall understanding of gender and gender based approach and a better understanding of legal frameworks distinctive in women contexts. In my experience, there is plenty of room and opportunity for a very open participation and so for true learning, also thanks to simulations, examples, and opinion/fact sharing among participants.

-Fayyaz Khan

Advocate, District Bar Association, Peshawar

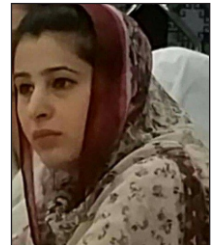


“The concept of survivor centric approach and the relevant simulations has given me insight of my own practice”

I have attended a number of seminars, conferences and training courses in the last few years and none have compared to the breadth and quality of the information provided in various presentations at this training. This was an incredible learning experience. The concept of survivor centric approach and the relevant simulations has given me insight of my own practice and it has caused a great change in my understanding toward gender approach.

-Sana Gulzar

Advocate, District Bar Association, Peshawar



“The training actually managed to bridge the gap between theory of gender and law and the operational experience”

In my opinion, it is a very useful training and it is an excellent chance to have reflections on various topics from gender to legislations and international obligations. The discussions were very rich and we learnt lot from the interactive sessions and audio visual resources. My very positive experience is that this training was not 'just another conference', but that it actually managed to bridge the gap between theory of gender and law and the operational experience.

-Sheheryar Khan

Advocate, High Court, Peshawar





CASE MANAGEMENT

Within the court premises, the culture of male dogmatism prevails where very few female lawyers are seen on desks, which confines female litigants to visit courts. To challenge the mindset and make the female lawyers accessible, a desk is temporarily established in the premises of courts where two female kiosk facilitators under Gender equity program are available for free legal information and assistance. The facilitators have assisted more than two hundred males and females visitors seeking legal information. More than fifteen female litigants oppressed with gender based violence have been provided with free legal aid and pro-bono services by lawyers from panel. Female litigants visit the kiosk daily for seeking guidance regarding their domestic issues, issues at workplace and other forms of violence.

Sania (not real name)

Sania, a survivor of domestic violence, was afraid and unsure of what to do to get out of her abusive relationship. She managed to visit courts where she reached GEP desk. The kiosk facilitators connect her to one of the pro-bono lawyers from the panel. She decided to send a legal notice before filing a case. A legal notice was sent to her in-laws demanding a separate house and her articles, and maintenance. The legal notice pressurized her in-laws and they agreed to provide her maintenance and to fulfill her demands. She has returned happily to her new home with her husband and two year child.

Hira, (not real name)

Hira, a survivor from forced marriage, has been forced into a fake nikah by her paternal cousin, on refusal to go along with the cousin, her cousin family forcefully kept her in his house for four days. Hira was then recovered by her mother after 4 days by the help of police raid. The litigant mother approached kiosk to seek guidance for further safety. Probono lawyer filed a suit for her safety and registered FIR against the other party. The litigant case is under proceeding and she is on the way to recovery and justice.

Note: The real names of litigants are not used in the newsletters for the purpose of confidentiality.

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