

Gender and ICTs: increasing inequalities and the dark side

A personal journey...



INIT
INTER ISLAMIC NETWORK
ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



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COMSATS Institute of
Information Technology

<http://unwin.wordpress.com>

There are so many gender digital initiatives...

But most have largely failed



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“Digging into Data on the Gender Digital Divide”

- The global Internet user gender gap grew from 11% in 2013 to 12% in 2016
 - The gap remains large in the world's Least Developed Countries (LDCs) — at 31%.
 - the regional gender gap is largest in Africa (23%) and smallest in the Americas (2%).
- Influence of age
 - The digital gender gap increases as age increases, and is more significant in low- and middle-income countries.
- Urban-rural influences
 - In rural areas, the gender gap is higher in high-income countries (9.4%, compared to 7.5% in low- and middle-income countries).
 - This trend is somewhat reversed in urban areas, where the gap is slightly higher (at 6.6%) in low- and middle-income countries, than in high-income countries (6.3%).

<https://webfoundation.org/2016/10/digging-into-data-on-the-gender-digital-divide/>

Work with women and girls in Ethiopia > 15 years ago



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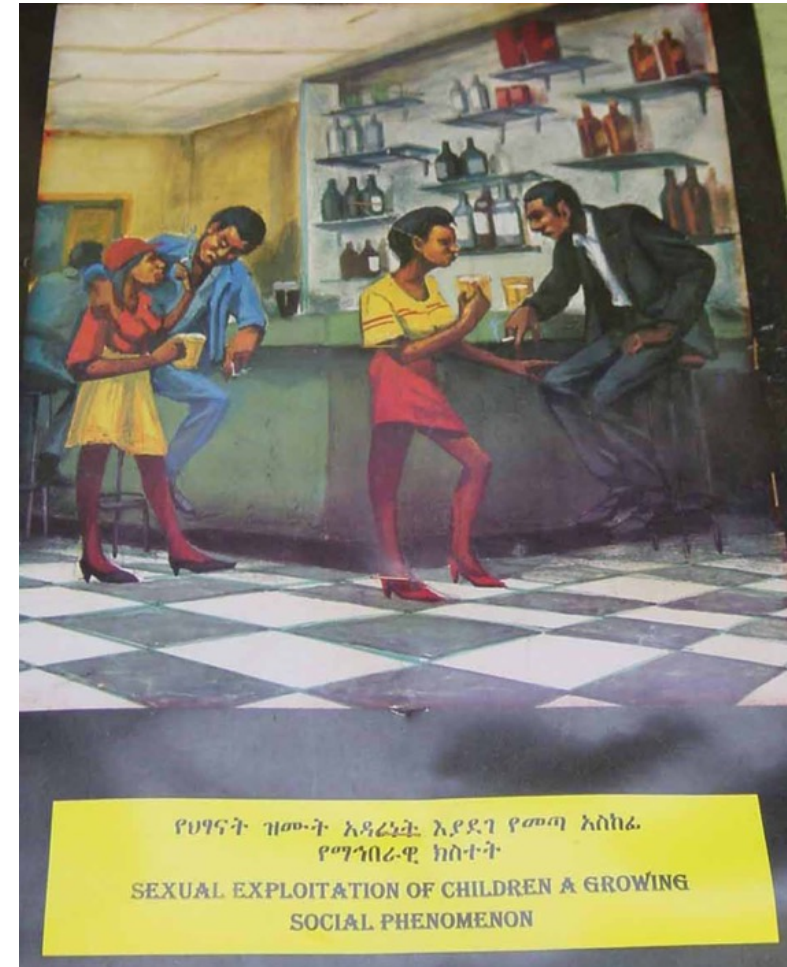
Ethiopia 2002



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Planned TV campaign



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This could
be your
mother

This could
be your
wife

This could
be your
daughter



But there are so many initiatives using ICTs to empower women...

So I focused my work on the even more marginalised...



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Four things that changed my mind...

- Difference between “gender” and “women”
 - If we refer to gender, we need to discuss the full LGBTIQ agenda
 - But the interface between ICTs and women is itself of critical concern
- Harassment of women at international ICT events
- Thinking back to Ethiopia: we have to change men’s attitudes, and so men must be involved
- Discussions with young women in Pakistan about their use of mobiles

Wah, 2016



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EQUALS <http://equals.org>



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[ABOUT US](#)[NEWS](#)[ACTION MAP](#)[AWARDS](#)[GET INVOLVED](#)[RESEARCH](#)[FORUM](#)

Our Focus

EQUALS works to reverse the increasing digital gender divide, and to close the gap by 2030 – supporting UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 by empowering women through their use of information and communication technologies. An action plan of data gathering, knowledge sharing and advocacy strengthening drives the EQUALS network partnership.

To achieve our goals, partners focus on three core issues:



ACCESS

Improve women and girls' digital technology access, connectivity and security



SKILLS

Support development of science, technology, engineering and math skills of women and girls



LEADERSHIP

Promote women in decision-making roles within the ICT field

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Crafting a partnership to make a difference



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Mobile phone use: 81% male; 64% women (ITU)



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THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE > TECHNOLOGY

Pakistan has world's highest gender gap in mobile phone usage

By Ismail Sheikh Published: November 23, 2016

3
SHARES



SHARE



TWEET



EMAIL

In another stark reminder of the patriarchal society we live in, a latest report by a United Nations agency has claimed that men are twice as likely as women to own a mobile phone in Pakistan.

[Measuring the Information Society Report](#), released by the UN's International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on Tuesday, the disaggregation of data on cellular phone usage by gender showed the percentage of male users is higher than that of female users in most countries.

Although the differences are small in most economies (less than four percentage points), Pakistan is among few countries where gender gap is still high with regard to mobile phone usage as well as ownership of cell phones.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1239596/pakistan-worlds-highest-gender-gap-mobile-phone-usage/>

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Gender and mobiles...



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Digital Rights Foundation



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile of the Digital Rights Foundation. The page features a prominent orange banner with the text "CYBER HARASSMENT HELPLINE" and "0800-39393 EVERYDAY 9 AM - 5 PM". The banner also includes a small DRF logo and an illustration of a hand holding a green telephone receiver. Below the banner, there are buttons for "Like", "Follow", "Share", "Call Now", and "Message". The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, About, Reviews, Photos, Events, Livestream, Videos, Posts, and Community. The right sidebar shows the organization's type as "Non-governmental organisation (NGO)" and community statistics: "35,954 people like this" and "36,016 people follow this". A status update section is visible with a prompt to "Write something on this Page..." and a "Reviews" section stating "Digital Rights Foundation has no reviews yet."

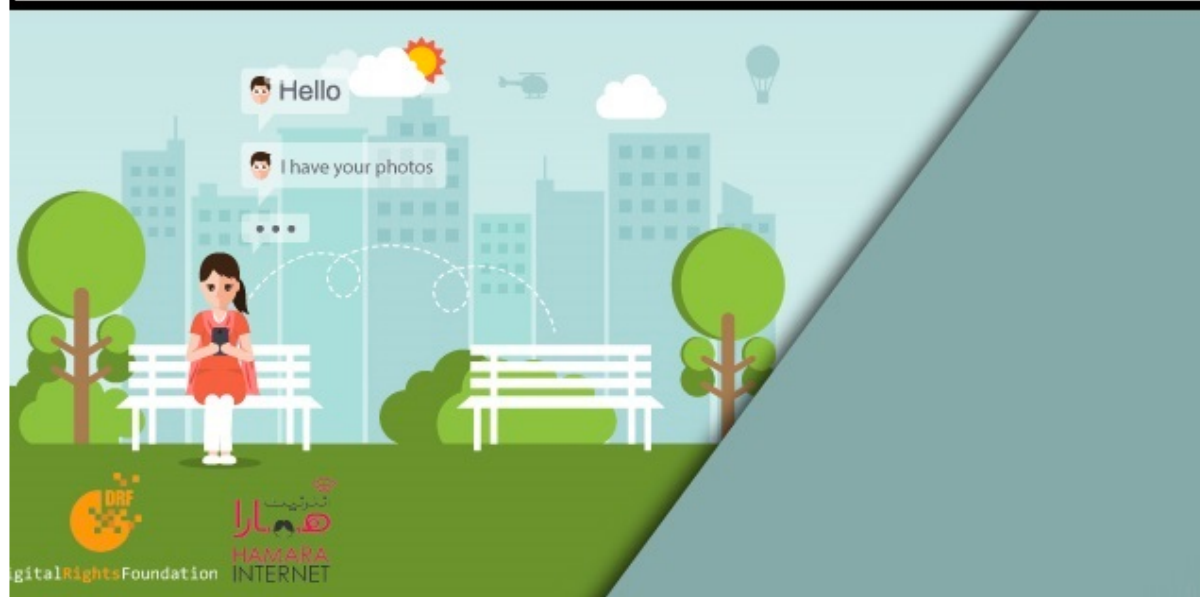


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Now Register Cyber Harassment Complaints at 0800-39393



As recently, **Digital Rights Foundation (DRF)** has launched **Pakistan's** First Cyber Harassment Helpline on December 1st. The cyber-crime victims can call on toll-free number: **0800-39393** and register their complaints.

<https://www.phoneworld.com.pk/how-to-register-complaint-on-cyber-harassment-helpline/>

<http://unwin.wordpress.com>

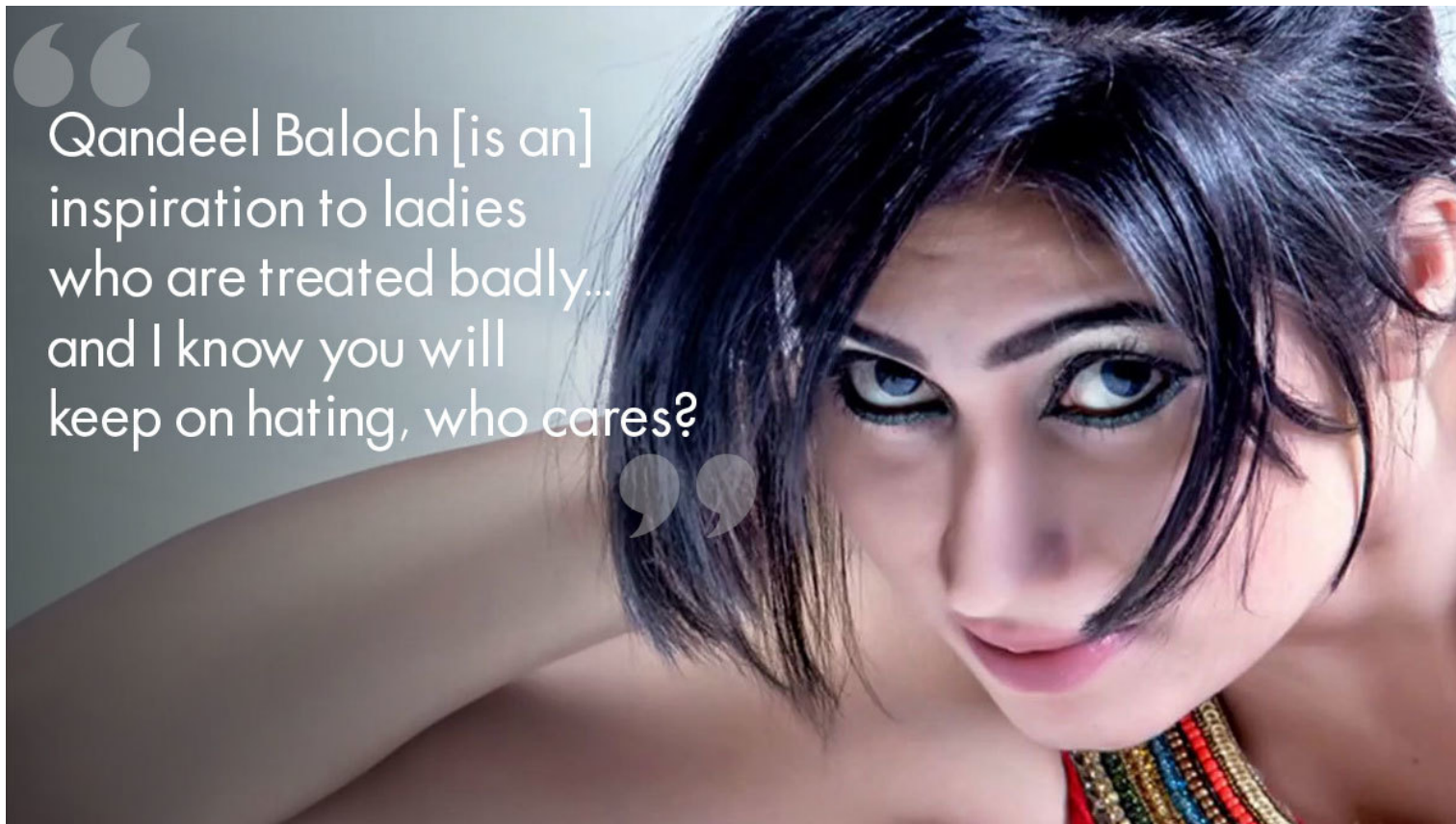
Only the tip of an iceberg...



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Use of mobiles for sexual harassment in Pakistan

- Substantial use for sexual harassment
 - Both traditional uses of mobiles (calls, texts)
 - And also online
- Mainly affects women
 - But also men
- Attribution
 - 54% of people think it is a woman's fault
 - Compared with the only 38% of men
- High levels of suicide and honour killing



Positive examples from Pakistan



Innovative progress is
underway



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Pakistan government commitment to empowering women and girls



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The example of doctHERS



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What We Do?

doctHERs™ is a novel healthcare marketplace that connects female doctors to millions of underserved patients in real-time while leveraging online technology. doctHERs™ circumvents socio-cultural barriers that restrict women to their homes, while correcting two market failures: access to quality healthcare and inclusion in the professional workforce for unemployed, qualified health professionals.

Potential for extension through mobiles

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ASK (Access, Service, Knowledge) on sexual health



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<http://www.youask.pk/>

For You

For Parents



Home

Resources

Myths

Videos

Questions

Dictionary

Need Help or Advice?

Resource

Why ASK with Young People

The objective of the visit was to compile a report which highlights the efforts and initiatives of young people in SRHR domain. This video was shot in the central Amsterdam to inspire other young people and relevant stakeholders of the community regarding their work on SRHR.

 By: Rutgers WPF

Like

Share

6

21 Dec 15 | 11:36am | Read: 108x

READ MORE

Resource

Turning walls into bridges: Cementing Meaningful Youth Participation in achieving SRH Rights

The second Youth ASK Leadership Conclave ended here in Islamabad with the resolve by the young leaders to continue working with the policy makers for the realization of their

About this website

This website is part of the [ASK \(Access, Services and Knowledge\) programme](#), a platform that aims to improve the access of up to date and accurate information for [young Pakistani people](#) on their Sexual and Reproductive Health and available youth friendly services.

ASK is launched by the [Youth Empowerment Alliance](#), a joint initiative of seven international organisations. Within Pakistan [implementing partner organisations](#) service the whole country [geographically](#).

<http://unwin.wordpress.com>

Why is it a pressing concern?

- I hope the above has illustrated some of the reasons
- Women and girls are becoming more marginalised through ICTs
 - Despite all of the existing global “action”
- The moral case:
 - The scale of abuse of women is surely unacceptable
- The economic case
 - Need to empower women economically
 - Some of the Equals activities

Panel discussion



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- LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning)

LGBT rights in Pakistan



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- Being open about sexual orientation is considered taboo
- Pakistan's law prescribes criminal penalties for same-sex sexual acts
- The Supreme Court of Pakistan ruled in favour of the civil rights of transsexual citizens in 2009
- Pakistan does not have civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination or harassment on the basis of sexual orientation.
- Sexual encounters between same-sex partners are easily accessible, especially in big cities such as Karachi and Lahore, and for gay and bisexual men in particular, with it even being socially accepted to demonstrate their affection

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_Pakistan

<http://unwin.wordpress.com>