By the grace of almighty ALLAH, Department of Gender Studies (DGS) of Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan has become a renowned academic department and we have successfully achieved our objectives. We are highly indebted to the Vice Chancellor of Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan for their unconditional trust in making the “Department of Gender Studies (DGS) a role model for others to follow.

Department of Gender studies (DGS) has become an inspirational department by our sheer planning and hard work from looking after to managing each and everything. Our contributions and services are a great responsibility that is why we have managed discipline and regularity from lower staff to senior faculty members. The courteous behavior of our administration with everyone has made them feel like home. This kind of encouragement has created an esprit d-cors of whole staff and this is the success of the Department of Gender studies (DGS), Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan.

I am highly thankful to the Vice chancellor of university who had supported us in enhancing teaching & research capabilities of our academia by his enlightened sprit of knowledge. I also thankful to my supporting staff of the Department of Gender studies (DGS), Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan who has worked hard in transforming my planning into reality. Alhamdulillah we are successfully ahead of achieving our objective that is “Excellence in curricular and co-curricular activities.” We are putting our best efforts to produce marvelous results through our well organized system.

Prof. Dr. Azra Ashgar Ali

My longing comes to my lips as supplication of mine
O ALLAH! May like the candle be the life of mine
May my homeland through me attain elegance
As the garden through flowers attains elegance
May my life like that of the Moth be, O Lord!
May I love the lamp of knowledge, O Lord!
My supportive of the poor may life’s way be
My loving the old, the suffering My way be
O’ ALLAH protect me from the evil ways
Show me the path leading to the good way
(Translated the Poem of Iqbal)

This news letter is issued on quarterly basis to allow enough time for getting some well researched articles and inputs and allow space for meaningful dialogue. The idea behind this News letter was to cover activities of the department and as well of the university. This News Letter mainly focuses on the creativity of the students and provided space to them to start in discourse on the issue of gender in its socio-political, religio-economic perspective. This News Letter is also providing a space for hitherto less heard voice. The new ideas & comments are always more than welcome for us.

Dr.Javed Akhtar Salyana
Pakistan is located in the South and West Asia region, bordering India, Iran, Afghanistan and the Arabian Sea. Total estimated population of Pakistan in 2012 is over 183 million. About two third or 64% people live in rural areas. The ratio of men to women in the Pakistan population is skewed in favor of men, with 108 males per 100 females. This figure indicates gender inequality in society, because it reflects either a high rate of premature deaths of females compared to males, or a cultural preference for male children, or both.

Education is a universal, fundamental human right, recognized as such by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirmed in international human rights conventions. Pakistan has committed to achievement of equality of access to education at the national level and is also a signatory of international declarations and agreements upholding equality in access to education. Literacy is at the heart of basic education, and is essential for eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing rapid growth of population, and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy. While no standard definition exists, literacy can be understood as “a context bound continuum of reading, writing and numeracy skills”. Thus there is not a simple division between “literate” and “illiterate”, but there is instead a range of levels of skills, which differ according to the context. In simple terms, literacy can be defined as the acquisition of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills. In the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement (PSLM) Surveys, literacy is defined as the ability to read a newspaper and to write a simple letter. The different levels of literacy are reflecting the differences in attainment of general & Vocational education that leads to more disparity in gender development. There are smaller gender disparities in urban areas than in rural areas, and some provinces show higher levels of gender parity than others, overall there is significant disparity in access to education between girls and boys in Pakistan.

Pakistan has higher numbers of schools for girls. The primary net enrolment rate for girls is only 52, indicating that around half of Pakistani women will never attend school. Despite improvements in recent years, it is evident that the girls in Pakistan continue to face significant disadvantages in access to education. Achieving gender equality in education requires ensure of learning and acquiring skills. It also needs to have equal opportunities & equitable treatment within school and equal incentives in social setup. The education is the best source by which women can be able to break the stereotype of the society and can move up easily on the lead of social status.

Shahzad Mahmood
MA-Gender Studies

IFTAR DINNER AT CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL MULTAN

The students of Department of Gender Studies (DGS), 3rd semester arranged an Iftar Dinner in the honor of relatives of different patients afflicted with difference diseases and were under treatment of the Civil Hospital of Multan. All the students of Department of Gender Studies contributed financially and spare their time to serve the patients and as well their relatives. This spirit of community service had developed into the students of Gender studies a sense of dedication and self help.
"PROUD TO BE A WOMAN"

I feel hurt when I see people getting depressed on the birth of a daughter and I feel more disheartened when I see mothers feeling the same way and having a burning desire of being blessed with a son. Why? Why a female can’t feel proud of herself. Woman is the best part of the universe. These lines are for that every woman who is unaware of her strength, value and I request my species to be proud of their existence as:

Just imagine what you would do if you woke up the next day being the opposite gender, how would you feel? How would you cope with your new role? Would you do things the way you always dreamed of doing or just go by the book? Would you try to make a difference? I imagined such a scenario and realized that it is not an easy task, when boys are young, they are brought up in a manner to be a protective shield for their mothers and sisters, when they grow up, they take the responsibility of running the household and fulfilling the requirements of the family. They have so much on their minds besides providing food, cloth and shelter. They strive to educate their children, their priority is to send them to good schools which have sky rocketing dues, proper health care, make sure they engage in curricular activities which are vital to polish children’s personalities, look after their aging parents, fulfill the requirements and responsibilities of their unmarried siblings as well as their better half and so on. Men are usually sandwiched between the demands and expectations of their parents and spouse, they are burdened with so much and are not appreciated. On the contrary, women have their own issues in the private sphere. A girl is usually more caring and loving towards her family, she gives up her favorite things, habits, she knows and respects her parent’s likes and dislikes, a girl knows when her father needs a cup of tea, when her mother needs a shoulder rub, when her brother needs help from her sneaking back home without the parents notice or when her other sibling needs some quiet time for study. When she gets married, she adjusts herself according to the new environment. She devotes her entire life to her home and family and strives to raise her children in the best way possible. When she is a mother, she knows exactly what every individual in the home needs and fulfills it accordingly. Again, she is never appreciated of her on-going efforts. A mother is on duty 24/7 but most of the efforts seem to be inconspicuous. If all the men acknowledged the endless and selfless endeavors women made and vice versa, more than half the problems on this planet would vanish. There would be peace, harmony, justice and serenity in the world. Everyone would respect each other’s rights, lend a helping hand wherever required and watch out for each other, precisely, it would be heaven on earth.

Even if I do not have the liberty of going out whenever I want to or cannot make the major decisions, I do not mind that as I feel safe and comfortable in a protected environment and I have my family to buck me up whenever I need it. If I were ever given an option of choosing my gender, I would definitely opt for being what I am right now because I am proud to be a woman!

Saadia Haider
MA-Gender Studies

Establishment of Research Center

The research center is a prominent feature of the contemporary academic institutions. Research centers are important not for specifically but also because they reflect deeper undercurrents on what is happening in the universities. Research centers are entities that arrange human and material resources for research in specific ways that contrast with the rest of their academic environment. Doaba Foundation, it needs no introduction as its hard work and efforts speak for it. Doaba Foundation was kind enough to establish a research center a year ago in the Department of gender studies (DGS) for the students of M.Phil in order to be instrumental for their individual research. It is a well furnished, state of the art research centre which the department is proud to possess.
There is no country that is immune to disaster, though vulnerability to disaster varies. Disasters, whether natural in origin (earthquakes, hurricanes) or man-made (terrorist attacks), require coordinated management and relief efforts by government agencies and non-governmental organizations to alleviate the impact of such events. This is the role of disaster management or emergency management agencies to deal with these issues of disaster with better techniques and efficient means. These organizations lead disaster relief efforts and take measures to prepare communities to better cope with future catastrophes. So to fulfill this need a special training named as Disaster Management Training had been conducted by the Department of Gender Studies (DGS) in a special session of two days workshop with the collaboration of Doaba Foundation, for the awareness of the students. It took place on the 27th & 28th of September 2012. Students from the 3rd semester and M. Phil participated in the workshop. The topic under discussion was “Gender, Disaster and Climate Change”, which set the discourse on different aspect of this theme; engage the perspective of academia, students, researchers and members of the community. There were various activities, discussions, presentations mostly in pedagogical manner for the students to get a knowhow of Disaster Risk Management.

Youth Parliament & Department of Gender Studies (DGS) arranged a two day workshop at Sheza Inn, Multan on the 9th & 10th of October 2012. In which students of M.A., M.Sc. and M.Phil from B.Z.U. from the Departments of Sociology, Psychology and Gender Studies participated. The topic under discussion was Human Rights Education “Know Your Rights”. The program was fully loaded with activities, discussions, presentations and kept all the participants engrossed and mesmerized. Our senior most teachers from the Department of Psychology, Mr. Khalid Saeed joined the workshop and gave the students a few moments of his precious time and shared his views on human rights. The chairperson of the department of Gender Studies, Dr. Azra Asghar Ali was the guest of honor who took the privilege of distributing the certificates to all the participants.

Doaba foundation organized a field visit to Layyah on November 18, 2012 for the students of Department of Gender studies (DGS), 3rd semester. They gave a brief overview of their workings at their office, afterwards they took the students out to the field in order to meet the various women who have been empowered socially and economically by their efforts. Then the students were taken to the agricultural fields where the irrigation system were set up and run by the solar panels. The endless efforts and hard work of Doaba foundation reflected in the fields of Layyah which were no doubt praise worthy.