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An examination of NGO strategies and interventions to address gender-based violence in Pakistan:  
Impacts, successes and challenges

**NARRATIVE**

The AIPS Fellowship support field work in Pakistan that aimed to assess the strategies, methods of intervention and impact of 2 NGO that empower women and seek to delimit gender based violence and discrimination. These organizations implement individual, family and community oriented strategies to empower women and to promote gender equitable norms. My 2 month stay in Pakistan was highly productive and both organizations were receptive to the project. Overall, a total of 78 in-depth interviews were completed. Thirty interviews were conducted with management, staff, survivors and community-based volunteers in an Islamabad-based NGO that offers gender sensitization programs directed to individuals and communities to prevent violence as well as direct mental health services to assist survivors. In Lahore, forty eight in depth interviews were conducted with management, staff and clients at a microfinance plus institution in Lahore that serves women from low income communities. At both organizations there I also experienced countless opportunities for participant observation and visited a dozen satellite offices located in low-income communities, with opportunities to observe group training sessions such as gender justice training to women and their male family members designed to enhance the effects of economic empowerment. The interviews were conducted with the assistance of 2 local Research Assistant/Translators who were students from LUMS hired for this purpose. The audio-recorded interviews will be transcribed and analyzed in the upcoming months to assess the impact of such gender transformative programming on women's empowerment, the ways in which the programs play a role in limiting or preventing gender-based violence as well as the strengths and limitations of these models within the socio-cultural context of Pakistan. The research will form the basis of future scholarly publications, conference presentations and a book proposal. This research builds a much needed knowledge base regarding social welfare practice

and policy in Pakistan and civil society organization's efforts to empower women. It will identify program strengths and promising approaches to address gender violence and gender discrimination which can inform policy and practice.