

1. BISP'S INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS TO MAKE BENEFICIARIES SELF-SUFFICIENT: MARVI

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Marvi Memon Tuesday said the BISP's income generating projects would make its beneficiaries self-sufficient.



Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon addressing at International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) HQ Kathmandu Nepal for International Women's Day event 2016. (Dated: March 8, 2016)

Marvi Memon was chief guest at International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) Headquarters Kathmandu, Nepal for International Women's Day event.

She said she was pleased to spend women's day with ICIMOD which represented mountain populations of the Hindukush Himalaya regions of Pakistan, India, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh, according to a message received here from Kathmandu.

Marvi Memon said her message to the participants was that the populations of the mountain area, including lower riparians, were responsible for food security of 4 billion people of the world and had thus immense responsibility for humanity.

She said that the destiny of the region was shared and so was the political vision for the poorest populations.

She shared the BISP achievements with the participants and thanked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Finance Minister for having given her this responsibility of giving dignity empowerment and meaning to the poorest Pakistani women.

She said it was a perfect day spent to plan projects for the poorest populations of these regions, specially BISP beneficiaries on income generating projects which would increase incomes, improve livelihoods, and manage climate change adaptations for BISP women.

(Business Recorder, Frontier Post, Associated Press of Pakistan, Nawarwaqt, Dunya, Naibaat, Khabrain, Jinnah & Pakistan also carried the story and picture)

2. WHAT DOES EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN MEAN?

Published in Pakistan Observer, March 9, 2016

What does empowerment of women mean?

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day was observed on Tuesday to celebrate social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. However, there was a realization about slow progress in many places and in many respects with calls for urgent action to accelerate gender equality. In fact, the very theme of this year's day "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality" was reflective of the concern of the international community about gender equality.

It was satisfying to observe that people of influence from around the world pledged to take concrete action to help accelerate gender equality. These included heads of state and government, head of different organizations and corporations and opinion-makers. In Pakistan too, both the President and the Prime Minister, apart from Chief Ministers of the Provinces, expressed their firm resolve to take measures to empower women and ameliorate their lot. The fact remains that over the years significant progress has been achieved in respect of women empowerment because of focused attention of the successive governments and general awareness among people. Policy measures like increase in job quota for women, Benazir Income Support Programme and ensuring representation of women at different tiers of governance and legislatures have brought about a visible change in the country as far as status and condition of women are concerned. However, the real empowerment cannot come without affording women educational opportunities not only at primary but also at higher, professional and technical levels. No doubt, there is no bar on girls to seek admission in any university as far as the government is concerned but in view of our societal norms there is need for establishment of more and more separate universities for women in different regions. Similarly, despite law on the subject in place, harassment of women continues unabated at work places which require urgent attention to protect honour and self-respect of women.