

The Simorgh Programme – 1985 -2007

Name of Organisation

Simorgh Women's Resource and Publication Centre.

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History and Rationale

A secular, feminist, non-profit organisation, Simorgh was formed 1985 in response to Zia-ul-Haq's military government, the rise of fundamentalism, the promulgation of discriminatory and retrogressive legislation and the subsequent erasure of the rights of women, and the rights to freedom of thought and speech and other social and political freedoms as well as the deliberate marginalisation of religious minorities.

Comprising women who were part of the group that had come together as the Women's Action Forum in 1981, Simorgh members had experienced not only the need to counter state policies and emerging social trends through protest and awareness raising, but had also learnt that in order to do so they needed to produce and disseminate alternative forms of knowledge through research, publications, workshops etc. that could feed into action. Some of the reasons why this was important are given below:

- i. The existing/available information on the issues addressed by WAF e.g. women's status/role in Islam, gender-based segregation and gender-biased laws etc. was often incomplete and generally biased, unacceptable or inaccessible.
- ii. Information, especially with regard to concepts/theory though generally available in the west, could not be used fully or effectively in the third world/Pakistan context due partly to reasons of applicability and appropriateness and largely to resistance from the public. Understandably, Razia Sultana as head of state found a greater resonance here than say Elizabeth I or Margaret Thatcher, in discussions on women's political participation.
- iii. Indigenously produced knowledge/information has more credibility and is less likely to meet with resistance across class etc.

- iv. There was and continues to be the need to counter fundamentalist attacks on women activists, peace initiatives, democratic institutions etc. as products of western machinations and/or iniquity.

From 1985 to 1995 Simorgh operated as voluntary part-time organisation. Its members worked at bread and butter jobs in the morning and at Simorgh in the evenings. The work at Simorgh was purely voluntary and no salaries were drawn. Funds received for projects covered the salary of one part-time typist, office rent, utilities etc. 1995 saw a change in working patterns and Simorgh became a fulltime organisation with a paid staff although the majority of the founder members continued to work on a voluntary basis.

Since the time of its inception in 1985 Simorgh has undertaken a range of projects geared to create awareness for change with regard to women and other marginalised groups in society. Comprising conferences, gender orientation, skill dissemination and conscientisation workshops and research and publication projects on the following areas:

- i. Violence against women:
 - Conferences: ‘In the Court of Women’: An Regional Tribunal on Violence Against Women. Undertaken in collaboration with the Asian Women’s Human Rights Council. 1994
 - Workshops on VAW and related issues with different groups viz. students, journalists, members of the police force, government servants, doctors, lawyers etc.
 - Research and publications. (List of publications/reports attached)
- ii. The rise of fundamentalism as a power strategy etc.:
 - Conferences: (i) ‘Muslim Women’s Workshop’ – an international conference with participation from Canada, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Philippines to discuss the rise of fundamentalism as a political force. 1986
 - (ii) A series of lectures and discussion sessions by Fatima Mernissi. 1987.
 - Research, and publications. (List of publications attached)
- iii. The representation of women in the media and the production of meaning:
 - Research: Simorgh was part of an Asia-Pacific research on representation of women in the media. 1985
 - Workshops: Image, text and women: workshops with journalists, students, lawyers, members of the police force etc.
 - Publications: *Reinventing Women – the Zia Years. 1992.*
- iv. Translation and publication of historical and literary writings by women from English to Urdu and vice a versa:
 - *Inner Courtyard* – a novel by Khadija Mastur translated from Urdu into English.
 - *All Passion Spent* – a novel by Zaheda Hina translated from Urdu into English (in process)

- *Hadood Shikni ke Khwab* – a translation of Fatima Mernissi’s *Dreams of Trespass* into Urdu.
 - *Women’s Histories* – an oral history project in collaboration with and funded by ARENA. (In process)
 - *Politics of Language* – (in press)
 - *Colonial Roots and Post Colonial Realities* – (in press)
- v. Political mainstreaming of women: research, conferences, seminars, and workshops.
 - vi. Rights based school texts for children.
 - vii. Teacher training workshops
 - viii. Skill dissemination and conscientisation workshops
 - ix. Gender-biased laws etc. Ongoing regional project with members of the senior judiciary, prison officers, law and media students.
 - x. Public protests, pickets, press releases, signature campaigns etc.

Organisational Status, Structure and Staff

Status: Simorgh is registered under the Societies Act of 1860. (See Annexure 1)

Organisational Structure and Mode of Operation

The Simorgh Collective comprises:

- i. A core group of the four founding members and three other members who are responsible for overall policy-making and put in time on the basis of need and requisite skills.
- ii. The working group who design, implement and monitor projects
- iii. A resource pool of academics, women’s development/grassroots workers, artists, communications specialists and researchers.

Finance and administrative matters are handled by the Administrative Coordinator in Consultation with the Coordinator who liaises with the core group, administrative staff, project coordinators and project teams as well as oversees and participates in ongoing projects.

All members of the Collective have a voice in the running the organisation and in suggesting/conceptualising projects. The final selection is made collectively in consultation with the core group on the basis of relevance and feasibility.

At any given time, the non-paid members of the Collective outnumber its paid members.

Collective 7 persons

Core Collective 7 persons

Founder members
and policy making group:

i. Ferida Sher (sociologist) MA Social Work, Punjab. MA Sociology, Manchester.

Work Experience: over 25 years as Teacher, Programme Manager in Population Planning and Grassroots Development. Gender Consultant and Resource Person/ Lead Trainer Gender Orientation workshops, training of trainer workshops etc, project analyst etc.

Policy decisions and overall Coordinator: i. Gender and Judiciary Project ii. Community based trainings/organisation etc.

Founder member: Women's Action Forum 1981-

Founder member: Simorgh 1985-

Member Board of Directors, SPO

Gender Trainer and Consultant

ii. Lala Rukh (artist) MFA, Punjab, Chicago. Professor Fine Arts, National College of Art, Lahore.

Policy decisions, resource person for Simorgh, gender orientation workshops, skill-dissemination and advocacy workshops for income generation etc.

Founder member Women's Action Forum 1981

Founder member Joint Action Committee for Citizens Rights Lahore 1989

Founder member Simorgh 1985

iii. Nasrene Shah, educationist. Work Experience: Over twenty-five years.

Founder and principal of Lahore Grammar School system, a group of progressive schools for girls and boys.

Policy decisions, resource person: education and finance for Simorgh.

Founder member Women's Action Forum 1981

Founder member Simorgh 1985

iv. Neelam Hussain: Educationist. MA English, Punjab. MA Leeds. Post-Graduate Research, Sussex.

Over Twenty-five years teaching experience. Faculty, Department of English, Kinnaird College for Women Lahore. 1973-1995

Policy decisions, research, and discourse analysis, resource person: gender orientation workshops, training of trainer workshops. Since 1995 specific responsibilities: projects on violence against women, human rights school texts, publications, and translation of literary texts from Urdu to English etc.

Member: Women's Action Forum. 1982

Founder member Joint Action Committee for Citizens Rights, Lahore 1989

Founder Member Simorgh 1985

Board Member SPO

Board Member SAP

Board Member 'Dastak' Women's Shelter

Overall Coordinator and full time paid worker since 1995.

v. Samina Rahman: Educationist. MA English, Punjab, MA Cantab.

Over twenty-five teaching experience as Faculty Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad and Principal Grammar School, Lahore.

Founder member SAHE

Founder member and Director Lahore Grammar School

Founder member Women's Action Forum 1981

vi. Dr. Ghazala Irfan:

Core Admin. &
Custodial Staff

6 people

Administrative
Coordinator

Mariam Abrar: MA Public Administration, Punjab.

Responsibilities: supervision: filing, documentation, project coordination: staff arrangements, attendance, leave etc. Duties include marketing supervision of material dissemination, input in ongoing projects viz. Human Rights School Texts project and assistance in organising workshops and report writing. Assistant Coordinator Women's Police Training Project

Accounts Officer

Mohammad Afzal: accounts, audits, Salary disbursement and maintenance of bookkeeping and accounting etc.

Office Assistant

Wasim Ghauri: filing, maintaining Leave Register, documentation, typing, mail, supervision office maintenance etc.

Night Watchman **J. Sadik**

Cleaning etc. **Azra bibi**

Gardener **Majid**

Project Coordinators and Staff

1. Publication Unit

Coordinator: **Shahina Hanif:** BFA, National College of Art, Lahore. MA, SOAS
University of London, UK.

Design: Anjana Raza

Layout and Supervision: **Laeque Ahmad**

Printing and Supervision: **Shahid Pervaiz.** (contract basis)

Printing and Supervision: **Tabbasum Salim.** (contract basis)

2. Human Rights School Text Project (Urdu and English)

Coordinator: **Anjana Raza:** BA, Mount Holyoke, USA

Asst. Coordinator, translator: **Naveen Qayyum:** BA, Kinnaird College, Lahore

Editorial Supervision: **Naseem Raza** (volunteer)

Research, stories etc: **Neelam Hussain**

Resource Pool of story writers and artists

3. *Bayan* – a bi-annual socio-legal journal

Editor: **Hina Azfar:** BA, Kinnaird College, Lahore. LLb

Editor: **Samiya Mumtaz:** BA, Kinnaird College, Lahore. BA, Mount Holyoke

Research Assistant: **Zainab Shah:** BA, Kinnaird College, Lahore

4. Lahore Women Police Training Project

Coordinator: Ferida Sher

Assistant Coordinator: Marium Abrar

Rapporteurs: Firdous, Waseem Ghauri

Organisation/logistics: Laeeque Ahmad

Resource People: **Rubina Saigol, Mohammad Waseem, Samiya Mumtaz** etc.

5. Conference and Publication Project

Coordinator: **Nazli Mohsin**

Editors: **Nazli Mohsin, Neelam Hussain, Samina Rahman.**

6. Oral History Project

Overall Objectives:

Through the production, publication and dissemination of material that feeds into our own as well as advocacy work being done by other NGOs and CBOs both nationally and regionally to:

1. Ensure peoples' right to intellectual growth and familiarization with democratic ideas as a basic pre-requisite for an informed civil society, democracy and the growth of democratic institutions through action research, discussions and publications.
2. Enable women's entry into the political mainstream while at the same time equipping them to challenge and critique its boundaries
3. Facilitating regional peace through academic interaction and research on the commonalities of South Asia's shared history.
4. To bring together serious academics/activists primarily from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in a space where independent academic discussions and research can take place leading to future action/research.
5. Read/examine our own history/ies in conjunction with the changes and developments in the political and discursive fields with special reference to literature, religion, law, education, culture and colonial/post-colonial history, the rise of religious fundamentalisms and globalisation etc. with the view to facilitating a move towards a more informed and responsible civil society.

To address, generate and impart information on the following issues:

1. Monovisual and narrowly circumscribed views of history that breed intolerance for dissent or difference of view.
2. The rich diversity of ideas/history that have been wrested from us, in order to restore the pluralism necessary for democratic growth and peoples' rights.
3. Women's role and contribution vis a vis women's rights and social change.

Rationale

1. There is a need to familiarize people with ideas related to fundamental rights, not only of women and children, but of citizens as well, regardless of class, caste, religious and ethnic differences.
2. There is a demand for Simorgh publications and other material from different sections of society mainly schools, colleges, NGOs and CBOs.
3. Simorgh has fifteen years of experience as a research and publication centre with a number of books, posters, booklets, educational material etc. produced with the view to creating understanding and awareness of basic rights issues in the Pakistan/South Asian context. Not only is the organisation well able to handle this work, it has also created enough of a demand for its publications to need to systematize this work for greater continuity and impact. (Publications available on request).

Issues Addressed

1. Fundamentalisms
2. Patriarchy and Violence Against Women
3. Education
4. Women and Law
5. Women in History and Women's Histories. Special focus: Oral History
6. Regional Peace

Summary of Projects and Activities

1. Planning and developing the publication unit.
2. Research
3. Conferences
4. Publications
5. Gender Orientation and Human Rights Workshops with members of the police force, teachers, journalists, student groups etc.
6. Teacher Training Workshops with a focus on participatory teaching and human rights

Project breakdown and summaries attached.

Outline of Evaluation plan: Project evaluation will be based on:

- Assessing increasing project sustainability
- Distribution/Outreach and Demand
- Through questionnaires and workshops based on material produced for this project to assess impact

.

Funding from other organisations:

- i. Action Aid: PKR _____ : project title
- ii. CIDA PKR _____ : Project title: Human Rights School Texts
in Urdu
- iii. DIFID: *Bayan* a biannual socio legal journal

Project Breakdown and Summaries

1. Project Title: Simorgh Publications Unit

Time Frame: 5 years

Budget: PKR 10,809,568

Aims

To formalise Simorgh's publication and information dissemination work for advocacy, education and information dissemination through regular and systematically produced publications.

Simorgh carries out action research as opposed to purely academic research on issues related to women's rights and democracy. Along with publishing and disseminating its findings it also publishes the work of other writers mainly, though not exclusively, from Pakistan.

The value of this work lies in its potential to produce indigenous knowledge and therefore has a greater relevance and invites less resistance vis a vis advocacy work than material produced in the developed countries.

Indicators

- The Simorgh publications team has developed its expertise in this area.
- There is a growing demand for the kind of work we do, both from the general public and organisations/individuals working in the area of advocacy, democratic development and human rights.
- An organised publications unit would enable us to produce material without having to shelve work or issues due to lack of funds or simply because they do not fit in with the donor priorities of the day.

This would also enable us to

- Increase the effectiveness and outreach of our material
- Save on publication costs

Project Description

1. A desktop publication unit to produce and publish material viz. books, pamphlets study aids, posters on issues related to women's social and political rights.

2. Proposed publications. Details in separate summaries with budgets. (attached)

Project Requirements

Publications Team

Project Coordinator/Editor/writer

- 1 Assistant editor/writer
- 2 Research Associates/writers
- 1 Documentation In-Charge
- 1 Computer Assistant/typist – Urdu
- 1 Layout designer
- 1 Outreach/Marketing In-charge
- 1 Accountant

This team will also undertake project evaluation and report writing etc.

Project Requirements*

1. Staff Salaries with annual increments
2. Equipment (Year 1 only)

3 Computers:

(1 specifically suited to desktop publishing requirements

(2 ordinary ones for writing and preparatory stages)

1 Laser printer (colour)

1 Scanner

5 UPS

1 Air conditioner (2 ton)

Utilities

Maintenance

Inflation

* *Budget Overleaf* DELETE

3 A

Publication Projects

Separate Project Summaries with Budgets

1. Education

1.A History books for children – an alternative history project ^{*i}

(Demand from schools on the basis of the Simorgh Human Rights School Texts Project)

Time Frame: 3 years

Budget: PKR 7,215,300

Note: This project does not require research in the formal sense of the word as the material is available in different texts and needs only to be refocused and organised in accordance with the project perspective.

Background and Rationale

Devised as a counter strategy to the mainstream rhetoric of intolerance and religious and national exclusivism reinforced by official versions of history, this project is a spin off from Simorgh's ongoing and self-sustainable project for the production and dissemination of rights based school texts. These texts are now in use in over 24 schools.

1. The success of these books with concerned students and teachers has led to a request from some of the schools for alternative history books designed on similar lines.
2. The teleological approach to knowledge, especially history, reinforces authoritarian regimes and undemocratic practices. History texts, attractively produced, accessible and based on a pluralistic view of history will encourage students to question officially sanctioned truths and encourage the habit of thinking independently.

Objectives

Simorgh's history texts will:

1. Introduce and highlight those aspects/events of history that have been elided in official versions viz. the participation and contributions of women and minorities in politics, education, peasant struggles etc.

2. Inculcate habits of critical analysis of historical events etc. through related exercises and class projects.
3. Contextualise and restore historical time to history as an academic subject.

Output

A series of 10 books highlighting historical pluralism and the contribution of women and minorities to social, economic and political life at different times.

Proposed topics:

- Women in Politics
- Culture, Society, Environment and Peace
- Women in Peasant Movements, Education, Women's Rights etc.

Methodology

- The approach will be holistic and children's engagement with issues related to class, caste, professions, impact of wars/peace, gendered spaces etc. will be ensured through exercises and class projects geared to develop and sharpen awareness and critical skills.

Language

English and Urdu for greater outreach

Outreach

Children and teachers of Urdu and English medium schools.

Indicators

Demand from schoolteachers and principals for such texts to supplement and deepen officially prescribed textbooks as well to develop analytical skills in students.

Project Requirements

Staff

One overall Project Coordinator/Editor/Writer x 3 years
for the entire series.

Staff per book

Editor/Writer x 12 months
Documentation x 12 months
Artist (on contract per illustration)

Material & Printing Costs

Photographs
Supervision
Printing Costs

**See budget for details*

1.B Flipcharts and Manuals

Note: This project does not require research in the formal sense of the word, as most of the material required is already available with Simorgh.

Time Frame: 18 months

Budget: PKR 1,682,000

Rationale

Project planned in response to a felt need for relevant information through visual teaching aids by CBOs and schools.

Output

Flip Chart Topics, detailing point-wise information with graphics if necessary, on the following:

- The women's struggle for their right to education from the early 20th century to the present day.
- Women's franchise and the fight for the right to vote and political participation from the 1930's to the present day.
- The fight against polygamy 1930's to the present day
- Women's inheritance rights and the right to property
- The Patriarchal Family – structure and socio-economic arrangements
- The Political Economy of Violence against Women

Language

As these flip charts are intended for use in communities as well as in schools as supplementary teaching aids, they will be produced in both Urdu and English.

Outreach

Designed for use in gender training and political education workshops, these will reach out to both rural and urban communities through CBOs and NGOs working in this area as well as to school children in both Urdu and English medium schools in the country. Access to schools will be provided through channels created by the Simorgh Human Rights Texts project etc.

Indicators

Demand from CBOs and NGOs engaged in advocacy, political education and gender training work.

Project Requirements and Budget

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor/Writer
Assistant Editor/Writer
Translator
Artist (on contract)

Material

Photographs
Supervision
Printing Costs

2. Women's Legal Rights

2.A Project Title: Gender Equality and the Judiciary: A Bi-annual Legal Journal

Time Frame: Five Years

Budget: PKR 11,982,478

Background and Rationale

A legal journal where issues of human rights are addressed and existing laws/judicial decisions analysed by members of the legal profession, and by academics/activists from the social sciences, is sorely needed. In addition to providing a much needed dimension to legal discourse in the country, it will help to create a space for debate over pertinent

laws and judgments in general as well as, more specifically, provide a platform for the articulation of more rights-oriented and equity-based perspectives in this area.

Objectives

- 1 The production and dissemination of a 100-125 page biannual legal journal comprising articles/papers on socio-legal issues, judicial decisions on cases dealing with personal law as it impacts on women and other rights issues including minority rights and book reviews.
- 2 To set up a mechanism for the internal review of legal practice in Pakistan.
- 3 Create a space for debate over pertinent laws and judgments in general and more specifically to provide a platform for the articulation of a rights oriented and equity based perspective in this area.

Output

- 1 The setting up of an internal editorial committee alongside an editorial board comprising members from the legal profession viz. lawyers, retired judges, social science and rights academics.
- 2 A biannual legal journal to meet the present lacuna vis a vis mechanisms for the internal review of legal practice in Pakistan.
- 3 Address issues directly related to citizens' rights and legal decisions etc.
- 4 Focus on decisions related to women's right to decision-making vis a vis marriage as well as issues related to child custody, maintenance, and property and inheritance rights. Etc.

Outreach

- 1 Members of the legal profession at the national level
- 2 Members of the Asia Pacific Advisory Forum and partner NGOs in the SAARC countries and other women's and rights networks viz. the Asian Women's Human Rights Council, the Permanent Arab Court to Resist Violence Against Women etc.
- 3 Law schools: libraries, students
- 4 Human Rights organisations
- 5 Women's organisations
- 6 Lay public

Activities

- 1 Planning
- 2 Organising including meetings with editorial board

- 3 Initiating research based papers and collecting, collating and editing material
- 4 Publication of journal
- 5 Dissemination

Indicators

- 1 The idea for the journal grew out of discussions with Justice Sabihuddin of the Sindh High Court as part of Simorgh's ongoing regional project on gender equality and the judiciary as a member of The Asia Pacific Forum on Judicial Education on Equality issues.
- 2 The need to provide easily accessible material to members of the legal profession especially those in the lower judiciary where all cases of violence are first reviewed and where the harshest judgments are enacted in violation of the spirit of the law.
- 3 The need for information/critical analyses of legal issues from a rights perspective perceived at workshops with Law students, Jail Officials and Mass Communication students.

Project Requirements

Editor

Co-editor

2 Research Associates

Typist/layout

Travel costs etc for preliminary Meetings of the Editorial Board

Printing costs

2.B The Rome Statute and Women's Rights in The Statute of the International Criminal Court *

User-friendly handbook/flip charts in Urdu and English.

Time Frame: One Year

Budget PKR 1,514,200

Rationale

To meet the growing demand for advocacy and training material on Human rights, violence against women and political rights etc. Simorgh plans easy to access booklets and accompanying flip charts to meet this need and facilitate teaching and learning processes.

The Rome Statute and Women's Rights as delineated in The Statute of the International Criminal Court marks an important moment in the struggle for women's right to safety and personal integrity. The dissemination of this information in easy to access language would be useful at two counts:

- i. It would serve to identify and highlight crimes of violence against women.
- ii. Counter warmongering rhetoric by highlighting the horrific nature of genocide and create public opinion against such propaganda. This is especially relevant in Pakistan with reference to slogans of war in the name of religion.
- iii. Create awareness among the general public that there is a court of appeal against these crimes.
- iv. Highlight the need for peace and non-violence

Output

- i. Approximately a 50-60-page booklet with a brief introduction followed by a simplified breakdown of Women's Rights in the context of The Rome Statute and the ICC with graphics/diagrams for easy access.
- ii. Accompanying flip charts with similar material, appropriately presented for use in workshops etc.

Publication in Urdu and English of a 1000 Booklets and flip charts each.

Outreach

Through the NGO/CBO network plus formal channels viz. shops supplying schools/universities etc.

Indicators

- Demand from CBOs and NGOs plus felt need for such material in schools and by Simorgh's own gender orientation and community building teams.
- Meets overall programme aims for work towards an informed civil society.

Project Requirements and Budget¹

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor/Writer

Assistant Editor/Writer

Translator

Artist (on contract per graphic)

Material

Printing Costs

** This is not a research based project as it requires organisation and collation of already available material*

¹ See Budget for details

2.C CEDAW in Context*

A user-friendly handbook and flipcharts in Urdu and English

Time Frame: One year

Budget: 1,514,200

Rationale

There is dearth of material for use in advocacy and training workshops dealing with Human rights, violence against women and political rights etc. Easy to access booklet and flip charts, locating CEDAW in the context of Pakistan, would meet this need and facilitate teaching and learning processes.

Output

1. Approximately a 60-100-page booklet with a simplified but holistic breakdown of CEDAW in the social, economic and political context of Pakistan with graphics etc. for easy access.
2. Accompanying flip charts with similar material, appropriately presented for use in workshops etc.

Publication in Urdu and English of Booklet and flip charts.

Outreach

Through the NGO/CBO network plus formal channels viz. shops supplying schools/universities etc.

Indicators

- Demand from CBOs and NGOs plus felt need for such material in schools and by Simorgh's own gender orientation and community building teams.
- Meets overall programme aims for work towards an informed civil society.

Project Requirements and Budget²

Staff

² See budget for details

Project Coordinator/Editor/Writer
Assistant Editor/Writer
Translator
Artist (on contract per graphic)

Material

Printing Costs

* This is not a research based project as it requires organisation and collation of already available material

3. Women in History and Women's Histories

3. C A Pictorial History of the Women's Movement and the Zia Years

Time Frame: One Year

Budget: PKR 1,296,000 (minus PKR 90,000 received from HBF)

Objectives

1. Documentation, preservation and dissemination of the pictorial history of Pakistani women's protest against a retrogressive regime.
2. To enable a refocusing on women's issues/rights and their relevance to democratic development at multiple levels.
3. To serve as a reminder that the visibility given to women's issues was won through women's concerted effort.

Output

1. A two hundred-page text (approximate) comprising a pictorial, issue based, chronological history of the women's movement during the Zia years.
2. Contextualised black and white and colour pictures including state, mediatic and public responses, comments and interpretation of issues.

Outreach

1. Women's organisations - national/international
2. NGOs and CBOs - national/international
3. Students: schools, colleges, universities
4. General Public

Indicators

A felt as well as practical need to maintain a record of the women's movement at a time when repression was at its height and women the only group that first challenged the then Military regime.

Project Requirements and Budget³

Staff

³ See budget for details

Project Coordinator/Editor/Writer
Research/Documentation Associate
Artist (on contract per graphic)

Materials etc.

Photographs (black and white and colour)
Posters
Printing costs.

4. Women's Literature and Women in Literature

4. From the Margins to the Mainstream

Time Frame: 3 years

Budget: PKR 1,800,000 (for 4 texts)

Rationale

Globally, one of the major factors responsible for the awakening of women's consciousness regarding their identity as women and their rights as human beings in different societies and cultures lies in the insights and motivation provided by women's writings (novels, poetry, diaries, autobiographies, stories, oral histories, critical theory etc.)

Stories feed into peoples' dreams and redefine the boundaries of their known world. If women are to expand their horizons and enter the social, political and economic mainstream, it is imperative that they discover that it can be done and to discover that there are others who have done so before them. By providing them with access to world literature, Simorgh hopes to enable this process of self awareness that is geared ultimately to changing the parameters of the mainstream which now constrains and inhibits women's development participation in the social, political and economic life of the community and state as equal human beings.

As part of this process, Simorgh plans to publish a number of literary texts in translation from English to Urdu and vice versa. The importance of these publications cannot be under estimated, as they will, as has been already demonstrated, make their impact at more than one level, as they will:

- Play a significant role in empowering women by making them aware of the commonality of their interests and problems despite class and other differences and at the same time link them to the wider community of women in other cultures and countries.
- Help redress the imbalance in the current academic scene where women are heavily under-represented.
- Provide material for Women's Studies Courses.

With this in mind the following texts have been selected for translation:

4.A *Fellow Traveller* the English title of Hameeda Akhtar Husain autobiography *Hum Safar*, including biographical note based on the writer's notes and interviews – from Urdu to English.

Note on the writer and the text

Hameeda Akhtar Husain, the author of *Hum Safar* or *Fellow Traveller* spent her married life very much in the shadow of her husband, Syed Akhtar Husain, a man of letters and an important name in Urdu scholarship.

Hum Safar was written after the death of her husband initially as an attempt to come to terms with her loss and is the story of her life with the public man of letters. Unfettered by the formalities and hyperbole of conventional Urdu prose, Hameeda Begum's language has the spontaneity and immediacy of the spoken word.

The introduction to the main narrative will be based on personal interviews with the writer along with her notes and diaries.

Outreach and distribution

Colleges, schools, Women's Studies Centres, NGOs, women's organisations and commercial channels.

Indicators

1. A growing interest in women's literature globally and nationally.
2. A growing demand for cross-language access to world/post-colonial literature.
3. Within Pakistan, the need to bridge the divide between those who have easy access to Urdu and those who come to it through English, which, for historical reasons, has emerged as a 'link' language in a linguistically diverse country.

Project Requirements and Budget⁴

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor x 3 months

Introduction

Translator

Artist for Cover Title

Typist

Material etc

Supervision

Printing

⁴ See budget for details

4.B *A Discourse of Love* the English title of Zaheda Hina’s Urdu novel, *Na Janoon Raha Na Pari Rahi*

Description of the Text

Na Janoon Raha Na Pari Rahi is a novel based on events triggered off the Partition of India in 1947 into independent nation states that despite claims to separate interests are bound to each other through deep ties of kinship, association and loss. Starting in immediate post ‘47 Karachi it ends about 20 years later in the same city.

Outreach and distribution

Colleges, libraries, schools, Women’s Studies Centres/Courses, NGOs etc. and the general public through commercial channels.

Indicators

4. A growing interest in women’s literature globally and nationally.
5. A growing demand for cross-language access to world/post-colonial literature.
6. Within Pakistan, the need to bridge the divide between those who have easy access to Urdu and those who come to it through English, which, for historical reasons, has emerged as a ‘link’ language in a linguistically diverse country.

Project Requirements and Budget⁵

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor x 3 months

Introduction

Translator

Artist for Cover Title

Typist

Copyright

Material etc

Paper, Supervision, Printing

4.C *Tara Lane* by Shama FutehAlly – from English to Urdu

Rationale

This translation of a novel by an Indian writer, that highlights dilemmas that cut across religious difference and are bound up with issues of class privilege and resultant contradictions, will serve to highlight the commonalities between the two countries.

⁵ See budget for details

Description of the Text

Set in Bombay, *Tara Lane* is a novel of the loss of innocence, disillusionment and a coming to terms with reality at both personal and political levels. Sensitively written it captures the mood of the '60s-70s India it is also about the choices that we make. At the same time it raises issues that continue to be relevant viz. marriage, security, safety and personal integrity.

Outreach and distribution

Colleges, libraries, schools, Women's Studies Centres/Courses, NGOs etc. and the general public through commercial channels.

Indicators

7. A growing interest in women's literature globally and nationally.
8. A growing demand for cross-language access to world/post-colonial literature.
9. Within Pakistan, the need to bridge the divide between those who have easy access to Urdu and those who come to it through English, which, for historical reasons, has emerged as a 'link' language in a linguistically diverse country.

Project Requirements⁶

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor x 3 months

Introduction

Translator

Artist for Cover Title

Typist

Copyright

Material etc

Paper

Supervision

Printing

⁶ See Budget for details

4.D *So Long a Letter* by Mariama Ba – from English to Urdu

Mariama Ba's novel on polygamy needs no introduction, nor is there a need to emphasise its relevance to Pakistani readers as it highlights the pain and humiliation of the wife coming face to face with her husband's impending marriage with their daughter's friend without in anyway compromising her dignity or minimizing her courage.

Outreach and distribution

Colleges, libraries, schools, Women's Studies Centres/Courses, NGOs etc. and the general public through commercial channels.

Indicators

10. A growing interest in women's literature globally and nationally.
11. A growing demand for cross-language access to world/post-colonial literature.

12. Within Pakistan, the need to bridge the divide between those who have easy access to Urdu and those who come to it through English, which, for historical reasons, has emerged as a 'link' language in a linguistically diverse country.

Project Requirements⁷

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor x 3 months

Introduction

Translator

Artist for Cover Title

Typist

Copyright

Paper, Supervision, Printing costs

1. The Need and Requirements for Democracy in Pakistan –

Parameters: 2002-2007

Since 1957 Pakistan has been subjected to military rule interspersed with short periods of tentative and often specious democracy. The draconian press laws in 1957, affected the freedoms of thought, speech and political participation at all levels, especially in educational institutions and the media, and the '70's and 80s' under Zia-ul-Haq whittled away the rights of women, minorities and other marginalised groups through the Hadood Ordinances and the so-called Islamisation of laws. This has resulted in the systemic erosion of democratic institutions and norms at almost every level of social and political life in the country and at the same time has fanned religious extremism and given rise to a self-seeking culture of intolerance

Over the years this has led to the development of a cultural mindset that is comfortable with received ideas and official truths, is intolerant of diversity and difference and yet, at the same time, hankers after democratic norms which are sought, paradoxically and

⁷ see budget for details

unsuccessfully, within the parameters of authoritarian concepts and practices internalized over the past years.

If the new millennium is to bring about definitive change within the body politic of the country, Pakistan will have to discover and utilise its potential as a nation and move towards becoming a more equitable and humane society. This can be achieved only if the people's participation at all levels viz. the family, the community and nationally, is ensured through wider and more meaningful access to decision-making and resources. In this regard, special emphasis needs to be placed on activities/programmes that will lead to the entry of the traditionally marginal and dispossessed groups or classes viz. women, children and minorities, into the cultural, economic and political mainstream.

In order to bring about this change, work needs to be done in two broadly defined though critically interlinked areas:

- i. On the one hand the site has to be cleared of the undemocratic debris that has accumulated since 1957 when the first military government took power under General Ayub Khan, and which is the combined result of traditional patriarchal practices and successive military dictatorships and their attendant discourses.
- ii. On the other, work for the future has to be undertaken so that regardless of class, religious or gender differences, people are involved more closely and purposefully in the multiple levels of political, economic and socio-cultural life.

Simorgh's programme for 2002-2007 entitled "Towards Strengthening Democratic Development and Mainstreaming Women and Minorities" is a step in this direction. It straddles the two areas identified above as it aims to change attitudes and perceptions through:

- i. The production and dissemination of material that challenges undemocratic/patriarchal norms and practices and social institutions.
- ii. The dynamics of action oriented research, workshops etc. to actively involve people in this transformational process.

As democratic processes cannot take place without the equal participation of women and minorities, our primary focus is on the empowerment of these groups through integration at the different levels of economic and political life.

This is not an easy task. In Pakistan, moves towards the integration of women and minorities in the political and economic mainstream of the country have been hampered by that fact that not only is their economic and political potential denied and grossly underused, their low status and vulnerability to violence have maintained their distance from the power circuits.

This exclusion from decision-making and a fair access to resources has been due to the combination of patriarchal practices, a heavily centralised and exclusivist system of governance and the propagation of intolerant class/religion based, gender biased ideologies.

Concomitantly, these factors have isolated those who wield power from the majority. As a result, their perceptions vis a vis what needs to be done reflect their own interests and largely fail to synchronise with ground realities. Therefore not only have democratic institutions not been allowed to grow, over the years an ethos, which is inimical to the very spirit of human rights and democratic practice has taken root and gained strength.

This has not only led to a visible increase in the different forms of violence against women, it is also a major reason for low literacy among women and the failure of local institutions viz. Local Bodies, Separate Electorates etc. and the electoral processes to ensure equitable participation by women and minorities at the grass roots level. This has recently been corroborated by the deliberate exclusion of women from the electoral process as voters and candidates in the Northern areas as well as in pockets of the ostensibly more liberal Punjab.

When taken in conjunction with the limited impact of successive development projects set in place to improve the overall conditions of the people, this shows:

- i. That democratic processes and institutions can themselves become corrupted unless they ensure people's participation at all levels of social, political and economic life regardless of gender, class and differences and occur in an ambience that favours their growth and development.
- ii. That neither state policies nor legislation for the promotion of peoples' rights and democratic development can occur unless they find a resonance within the realm of received ideas that have acquired the status of 'truth'. Tradition, customary practice, social and behavioural norms come within the ambit of this definition.

These are problematic areas, for while they are open to change, they are also the most difficult to challenge as they are least open to scrutiny. What is needed then, if ideas and action that contest the hegemony of already established 'truths' are to take root, is:

- Change within those very areas of tradition and customary belief systems that are most resistant to it.
- This process can be initiated only if, apart from setting up structures for more participatory forms of governance and development, the site is cleared of the ideological accumulations of patriarchy and dictatorship.

Social and political change must, if it is to be effective, be accompanied by change in the realm of ideas. And it is in precisely this area that Simorgh's programme for 2002-2007 plans to operate.

2. Objectives of the project

Simorgh aims to develop its Publication Unit with the view to producing and disseminating information conducive to tolerance, peace, and the propagation of the rights of marginalised groups viz. women, children and religious minorities. The dissemination of material will be through:

- Publications in both Urdu and English for:
 - a) Different groups viz. community workers, students, academics and the lay public.
 - b) Schools, Women's Studies, Literature and Social Science Departments at the college and university level.
 - c) NGOs and CBOs.
 - d) Existing commercial channels (where possible and relevant)
- Teacher training workshops on participatory teaching methodology based on material produced by Simorgh. (funded by AusAid starting September 2001)
- Rights and gender orientation workshops with women in trade unions (funding applied for.)
- Rights and gender orientation workshops with university students from the departments of Law, Mass Communication, Literature and the Social Sciences. (ongoing: funded by CIDA as part of the Gender Judiciary Project)
- Rights and gender orientation workshops with Jail and Police officials and Lawyers. (ongoing. Funded by CIDA as part of the Gender Judiciary Project and Action Aid from October 2002)
- Rights and gender orientation workshops/seminars (national and regional) with members of the legal profession especially the senior judiciary and including lower court's judges (ongoing, funded by CIDA as part of the Gender Judiciary Project)
- Literature in translation from Urdu to English and vice versa for use in Women's Studies and Literature courses plus by the general public.

Strategies and Methodology

Given its main agenda Simorgh has devised a methodology that enables it to connect and maximize the impact of its different work components:

- Research is undertaken with both long term and short-term impact in mind.

The topics selected for research though broad based, are essentially geared to highlighting women's/minorities' participation in history or critiquing customs/norms inimical to peoples' rights with a special emphasis on women and/or minorities.

- Forums for research-based discussion are created to fill the gap left by the end-of –all-debate policies operative in educational institutions especially at the college and university level. Education logically has been one of the major casualties of dictatorship and an uninformed civil society is one of its outcomes.
- Depending on availability of funds, research findings are published in both Urdu and English for wider outreach and an attempt is made to make them user friendly.
- The more academic analyses are re-presented in a simplified form for use in workshops with students and at the grassroots level with the aid of transparencies/flip charts etc. The material is pitched according to the level and context of participants in each case.
- Conversely, issues raised at the grassroots level form bases for academic research and debate.

Sample:

The phenomenon of 'honour' killings and the denial of the woman's right to decision making with regard to marriage prompted academic research in this area leading to:

Academic Research	Advocacy	Workshops
Papers on Honour Killing and the Saima Case presented at Conference and published by Simorgh in its book: <i>Engendering the Nation State</i>	information/narratives in these papers, modified for use in transparencies and flip charts.	used in workshops at diff. levels viz. CBOs, media people, students etc.
Vol. 1. (1997)		

Expected outcomes

Outcomes are difficult to assess in advocacy work dealing with ideas and attitudes, however, the degree of public/mainstream reaction plus ongoing contact with different groups using Simorgh material whether through workshops or related activities with

school and college students help to give some idea of the success and/or failure of given texts and related initiatives.

For instance, interschool seminars on human rights issues, which include though are not limited to the schools using our human rights texts, is one way that enables us to assess the impact of these texts. In another instance, a Judge of the Lahore High Court, who is part of our Gender and Judiciary Project, asked for material on child abuse in the Human Rights context when dealing with a case child abuse. In his own words, he needed this information in order to make a precedent judgment.

Other ways of assessing project outcomes include:

- Participant's evaluation of workshops where we have used our material
- Requests for material by NGOs
- Sale of publications is a useful indicator.

These methods have already been tested, and given the nature of the work undertaken, are encouraging.

For instance the demand for some of our publications that are now out of print reflects continuing relevance and use of a publication.

One major success story is to do with the Human Rights School Texts project, which comprises primers/texts for students ranging from classes 1 to 10.

This project is still in process, and the 4 primers that have been published so far, have been picked up by approximately 24 schools in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad, with the assurance that the rest of the primers/books will be introduced, either as supplementary texts or as Readers as they come from the press, with more schools showing an interest in the books.

Apart from initial funding provided by different funding agencies, this project is now self-sustainable and the first three primers have gone in for a second printing. Orders are received from schools and a little over the requisite number of books is printed. These are supplied direct to schools at a minimum profit, thus keeping the price low and earning Simorgh money that is ploughed back into this project.

3.Programme Title and Description: Towards Strengthening Democratic Processes and Mainstreaming Women and Minorities

Time Frame: 5 years

Consolidated Budget:

Project Title: Simorgh Publications Unit and Proposed Publications

Budget: PKR 10,809,568

Description:

Background and Rationale

Research, publication and information dissemination comprise an important strategy for ideological change. The aim of the Simorgh Publications Unit will be to produce material/books to counter religious fundamentalism and other retrogressive attitudes towards the right of women and minorities to participate at all levels of socio-economic and political life. This will be done through the production of historical, literary and educational texts revealing that:

- i. Women and minorities have always been active in the fields of politics, literature and economics and that the concept of their participation in the multiple realms of experience is not alien either to our history or our culture.
- ii. That this participation is crucial to national progress and development.

This decision is based on the premise that literary and historical texts and visual teaching aids that 'show' people the way things are and can be, as opposed to 'telling' them what they must or must not do, are a more subtle and therefore effective way of changing their perceptions as compared to didactic messages or top down edicts from the state or any other visible source of authority.

As such this material will enable us to:

- i. Minimise our reliance on examples of women from other countries/cultures as role models etc. thereby countering resistance from the general public as well as from participants at training and orientation workshops to women's participation in public life.
- ii. Challenge the false dichotomies that militate against democratic development and deny women and minorities their fundamental right to control and actively participate in their own lives as well as reinforcing pro-democracy policies/programmes initiated at other levels.
- iii. Provide information necessary for the development of an informed civil society with regard to social, legal and political rights including the impact of globalisation, war, conflict situations etc.
- iv. Be of use to people viz. resource people for ToT workshops, grass roots workers, teachers, students, research scholars, the general public not only in providing them with necessary information but in doing so from an alternative perspective.

Simorgh has been engaged in this kind of work since its inception in 1985. Chief among our publications, research ventures, workshops etc. are:

- i. Rape in Pakistan: the first of its kind undertaken in Pakistan, this has been widely used by NGOs (including Simorgh workshops) CBOs, students etc. The English edition of this publication is out of print although the demand for it continues.
- ii. Four booklets comprising essays by the Moroccan scholar Fatima Mernissi: *The Fundamentalist Obsession with Women, Women Saints and Sanctuaries, Women in Muslim History* and *Can a Woman be Head of a Muslim State*. Available in both Urdu and English, these have been used by research scholars and by NGOs (including Simorgh workshops/study circles) and CBOs.
- iii. *Reinventing Women: The Representation of Women in the Media: the Zia Years*. Available in both Urdu and English, this component of an Asia Pacific regional study, has been used by people in the media, students and NGOs including Simorgh workshops.
- iv. ***Engendering the Nation state*** – a 2-volume publication of conference papers on different aspects of the gendered Pakistani state. (Material used in Simorgh workshops)
- v. ***Inner Courtyard*** – the English title of *Aangan* - Khadija Mastur's Partition novel in Urdu.
- vi. An International Muslim Women's Conference held in 1986 to understand and critique the phenomenon of religious fundamentalism. This led to an international network of women scholars and activists in countries in Asia and Africa resulting in further workshops and the publication of the Mernissi booklets.

In over 15 years of its history, Simorgh has mainly carried out action research as opposed to purely academic research, and along with publishing and disseminating its findings has also published the work of other writers mainly, though not exclusively, from Pakistan.

During this time not only has the Simorgh publications team developed its expertise in this area, there is a growing demand for the kind of work we do, both from the general public and organisations/individuals working in the area of advocacy, democratic development and human rights.

It is felt that rather than fritter away our energies on sporadic work – an organised publications unit would enable us to produce material without having to shelve work or issues simply because it does not fit in with the donor priorities of the day.

This would also enable us to

- a) Increase the effectiveness and outreach of our material

b) Save on publication costs

The publication proposals given in the proposed publications section (with separate budgets), as part of this project, will give a clear idea of our work and its relevance to democratic practice and local needs.

Project Requirements⁸

A publication unit comprising core staff and basic equipment for desktop publishing

Publications Team

Project Coordinator/Editor/writer

- 1 Assistant editor/writer
- 2 Research Associates/writers
- 1 Documentation In-Charge
- 1 Computer Assistant/typist – Urdu
- 1 Layout designer
- 1 Outreach/Marketing In-charge
- 1 Accountant

This team will also undertake project evaluation and report writing etc.

Equipment

- 3 computers
- 1 Laser printer (colour)
- 1 Scanner
- 5 UPS
- 1 Air conditioner

2.A Follow up and Programme Sustainability

Programme follow-up activities/procedures will be determined separately by each constituent project or publication. These are appended at the end of each project.

Background and Experience

Unlike most donor-funded programmes/projects, Simorgh's publication programme has the potential to become self-sustainable. This has already been achieved in our Human Rights School Texts project, which began with an initial funding for research and the publication of 500 primers each for classes 1-10. However, due to the continuing demand from schools, the project has generated funds to exceed that mark by threefold at the moment of writing this proposal.

⁸ See budget for financial details

As the number of schools using these primers continues to increase – from the initial sixteen schools in Lahore, to over twenty four including some in Multan, Faisalabad and Karachi, we envisage that the demand for these texts will continue to grow and we will be able to maintain its sustainability and cost effectiveness.

Outreach is partly through the inter-school grapevine, and partly through contacts made by Simorgh project staff – though the latter could be more efficient if we had staff to spare exclusively for this work.

The books are supplied directly to schools by Simorgh thus enabling us to bypass commercial channels. This cuts the sales price of the primers by 50%, thus lessening the burden on parental pockets, yet giving Simorgh a minimal profit that is ploughed back into printing costs – the initial layout etc. costs having been met first time through the funds provided by concerned funding agencies.

Outreach/Sales Methodology/sustainability

- The technique used for our school texts will be applied to our history texts and other educational material including the Legal Journal.
- In so far as fiction and literature in translation publications are concerned, our experience with *Inner Courtyard* etc. has been good and it is envisaged that they will generate enough funds for us to continue with our research and publication work.

So far Simorgh's Annual Diary and now the forthcoming Urdu translation of Fatima Mernissi's *Dreams of Trespass* have been financed by Simorgh on the basis of money earned through publications and supplemented by a proportion of consultancy money earned by Simorgh members during Simorgh time.

Budget (attached)

3.A Publication Projects

3.A 1. Education

3.A 1.A History books for children (demand from schools on the basis of the Human Rights School Texts)

Project Description

3.A 1.A History books for children – an alternative history project.

Time Frame: 3 years

Budget: PKR 7,215,300

Note: This project does not require research in the formal sense of the word as the material is available in different texts and needs only to be refocused and organised in accordance with the project perspective.

Background

Operating on the premise that value systems learnt in the formative years of childhood and early adolescence leave their impress on the individual and play a significant role in forming the adult mind, Simorgh began work on the production and dissemination of school texts English and Urdu medium schools in 1995. Devised as a counter-strategy to the rhetoric of intolerance and exclusivism that has been foregrounded since the late '70s, these texts focus on human rights as identified primarily in the Human Rights Charter and CEDAW in the Pakistani/South Asian context.

Feedback on these publications is positive not only in terms of teacher's and student's comments but in the growing demand for these texts by other schools. The success of this project has justified Simorgh's initial belief that texts that engage the student's imagination and encourage children to think for themselves have greater impact than mainstream texts propagating stereotypical and hackneyed themes.

This position has been validated by the demand from some of the schools using our human rights primers, for history books designed along similar lines.

Rationale

In democratic societies the control of the dominant classes over cultural discourses is countered by the presence of alternative voices leading to the articulation of different perspectives and points of view. This does not happen under dictatorship or in societies where the democratic institutions have been weakened by authoritarian regimes. Given the strategic position occupied by history as a school subject, it is not surprising, that in schools, colleges and even at university level, both the teaching of history as well as historical research have been major casualties in Pakistan.

Following a teleological approach, history teaching and research have operated on a system of elisions glossed over by clichés and officially sanctioned truths and slogans that have served the immediate interests of the dominant group or class. As a result:

- Students viz. future generations, are bored with the subject, which repeats the same material to a lesser or greater degree from class 1 to university level.
- They end up with a dangerously monovisual, biased and ahistorical view of their own history that reinforces the status quo with regards to democratic practice ('democracy cannot function in the Pakistani ethos' was first stated by General Ayub and has been repeated since then in one form or the other), regional peace and the status of women, religious minorities and the smaller provinces.

Through its history texts Simorgh aims to:

4. Introduce and highlight those aspects/events of history that have been elided in official versions viz. women's participation in politics, contribution in the field of education, peasant struggles, the contributions of the Christian community in the field of education etc.
5. To inculcate habits of critical analysis of historical events etc. through related exercises and class projects.
6. To restore a sense of historical time to the study of history.

Project Description

Proposed topics:

Women in Politics

- Razia Sultana who got the people's mandate to validate her accession to the throne.
- The princess Zebunissa who, apart from assisting her father, the Emperor Aurangzeb in adjudicating between warring Shia and Sunni scholars, was a poet, patron of libraries, builder of gardens and a trend setter in women's fashions etc.
- The struggle for women's franchise in the 1930s

- Women in peasant and labour movements

Culture, Society, Environment

- Amir Khusrau, the first Urdu poet, Sufi, statesman and musician who invented the modern sitar.
- Early days of modern education for women
- Contributions of the Indian/Pakistani Christian community to education in South Asia.
- Historical continuity, social change and environment as reflected in the histories of select cities through developments and changes in architecture, city planning, cultural institutions, writers, artists, poets, reformers, myths, legends etc.

Methodology

- The methodology will be largely participatory and children's involvement will be ensured through exercises and class projects geared to develop and sharpen critical skills.
- These will also be geared to encourage students to look for other kinds of historical evidence viz. historical buildings, artifacts, literature, folk tales, songs, newspapers (where necessary and available) etc.
- As with our Human Rights primers, the interest of the children will be captured initially through graphics and the presentation of history in story form.
- Selecting and interpreting historical events on the basis of different points of view on the same topic etc.
- Pre-publication discussions with children from selected schools and different age groups as to their likes, dislikes, views on history etc.
- Pre-publication discussions with teachers from selected schools as to their views on the teaching of history and available history texts.

Language

English and Urdu for greater outreach

Outreach

Publication and distribution through existing and other channels.

Indicators

- Demand from schools for alternative history-cum-research and activity-based texts.

Project Requirements

1. Staff
Overall Project Coordinator/series editor/writer
Staff per book
Assistant Editor/Writer
Typist
Artist (contract basis)
2. Printing costs

Budget See overleaf

3A

1.B Flipcharts and Manualsⁱⁱ

Note: This project does not require research in the formal sense of the word, as most of the material required is already available with Simorgh.

Time Frame: 18 months

Budget: PKR 1,682,000

Rationale

Our experience in Human Rights and Gender Orientation/Training Workshops and related activities has consistently highlighted the need for visual teaching aids other than the facility provided by slide projectors, video films etc. These, though highly effective have limited accessibility viz. dependence on availability of and electricity, etc. Flip charts on the other hand can be used anywhere.

Project Description

Flip Chart Topics, detailing point-wise information with graphics if necessary, on the following:

- The women's struggle for their right to education from the early 20th century to the present day.
- Women's franchise and the fight for the right to vote and political participation from the 1930's to the present day.
- The fight against polygamy 1930's to the present day
- Women's inheritance rights and the right to property
- The Patriarchal Family – structure and socio-economic arrangements
- The Political Economy of Violence against Women

Language

As these flip charts are intended for use in communities as well as in schools as supplementary teaching aids, they will be produced in both Urdu and English.

Outreach

Designed for use in gender training and political education workshops, these will reach out to both rural and urban communities through CBOs and NGOs working in this area as well as to school children in both Urdu and English medium schools in the country. Access to schools will be provided through channels created by the Simorgh Human Rights Texts project etc.

Indicators

Demand from users plus assessment based on the use being made of photocopied Simorgh material.

Project Requirements:

Staff

Editor
1 Research assistant
1 artist on contract

Material

Manuals: 35 pages
Flip charts 20 pages
Publication costs 500 copies in Urdu and English each
Materials/photographs
Paper
Utilities etc.

Budget: see over leaf

3.A

2. Women's Legal Rights

2.A Gender Equality and the Judiciary: A Bi-annual Legal Journal

(Simorgh has also applied for funds for this project to UNIFEM as a component of the second stage of its project: Judicial Education on Equality Issues)

Time Frame: 5 years

Budget: PKR 11,577,935

Background and Rationale

The idea for a regular bi-annual legal journal grew out of discussions with Justice Sabihuddin of the Karachi High Court as part of Simorgh's ongoing regional project as the Pakistan member of The Asia-Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues. It was felt that it would be worthwhile to attempt to fill the gap in the area of legal scholarship on human rights issues that exists in Pakistan through the publication of a journal dedicated to this wide discipline.

A second motivational factor is that there are few mechanisms for the internal review of judicial practice within Pakistan. While in matters of patronage the judiciary is strictly hierarchical, the intended purpose of this hierarchy viz. making the lower judiciary responsible for following the procedures set by the higher courts is not being followed. In practice there is little review of the lower judiciary; hence at the level of the sessions and district courts where all cases of violence are first reviewed, we evidence the writing of the harshest and most unjust judgments and the systematic violation of the spirit of the law.

A legal journal where issues of human rights are addressed and existing laws/judicial decisions analysed by members of the legal profession, and by academics/activists from the social sciences, is sorely needed. In addition to providing a much needed dimension to legal discourse in the country, it will help to create a space for debate over pertinent laws and judgments and at the same time provide a platform for the articulation of more rights-oriented and equity-based perspectives in this area.

Project Description

A bi-annual journal comprising approximately 100-125 pages consisting of:

- i. Articles/papers on socio-legal issues, judicial decisions regarding cases dealing with rights issues such as decision making with regard to marriage, divorce, custody, maintenance, minority rights, separate electorates etc.
- ii. Human Rights Law, CEDAW, the International Criminal Court etc.
- iii. Book reviews.

Indicators:

As a resource and publication centre, Simorgh is equipped for desktop publishing, which ensures quality and saves printing costs.

Outreach

- i. Members of the legal profession at the national level
- ii. Members of the Asia Pacific Advisory Forum and partner NGOs in the SAARC countries and other Rights networks viz. the Permanent Arab Court to Resist Violence against Women and the Asian Women's Human Rights Council
- iii. Law schools: libraries and students
- iv. Human Rights organisations
- v. Women's organisations
- vi. Lay public

Methodology

In consultation with the Advisory Committee, the project editorial board would identify issues and select themes for each issue of the journal prior to contacting relevant members of the legal profession as well as academics from social sciences etc. at both national and international levels, to contribute to the journal.

Distribution would be through the NGO network as well as through normal sales channels such as bookshops, especially those dealing with legal texts etc.

Advisory Editorial Committee

An Advisory Editorial Committee comprising retired and active judges, human rights lawyers and social scientists, to be selected in consultation with relevant members from the legal profession.

The function of this committee would be consultative and consist of identifying contributors and/or vetting material as and when necessary.

Contact with the Committee would comprise bi-annual consultative meetings and through correspondence.

Assistance would also be sought from the Advisory Committee in introducing the journal among legal circles including practising judges and lawyers as well as in law schools etc.

Editorial Staff

Comprising the editor, assistant editor, research assistant, typist, and artist. Working in consultation with the Editorial Advisory Committee, this group would be responsible for the following tasks:

- Identifying theme and issues for each edition of the journal in consultation with the Simorgh Core Collective.
- Contacting contributors for articles, book reviews etc.
- Holding small meetings with relevant members of the Advisory Committee as and when necessary to check out material received.

Project Sustainability

As the project has been conceived and planned in accordance with a felt market need, our aim will be to make the project self-sustainable by the end of the first five years.

Simorgh already has experience of this kind of work through work on the production and dissemination of Rights based school texts. The project was initiated through donor support but since then, with an increasing number of schools using these books either as supplementary texts or even as readers, the project is supporting itself. The books are supplied directly to schools, thus keeping costs down, and each edition is printed on the basis of orders received from schools, thus enabling continuity and increasing outreach.

Budget: see overleaf

2.B The Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court

User-friendly handbook/flip charts in Urdu and English.

Time Frame: One Year

Budget: PKR 1,514,200

Rationale

There is dearth of material for use in advocacy and training workshops dealing with Human rights, violence against women and political rights etc. Easy to access book- and flip charts would meet this need and facilitate teaching and learning processes.

The Rome Statute and Women's Rights as delineated in The Statute of the International Criminal Court mark an important moment in the struggle for women's right to safety and personal integrity. The dissemination of this information in easy to access language would be useful at two counts:

- v. It would serve to identify and highlight crimes of violence against women
- vi. Counter warmongering rhetoric by highlighting the horrific nature of genocide and create public opinion against such propaganda. This is especially relevant in Pakistan with reference to slogans of war in the name of religion.
- vii. Create awareness among the general public that there is a court of appeal against these crimes.
- viii. Highlight the need for peace and non-violence

Project Description

- ix. Approximately a 50-60-page booklet with a brief introduction followed by a simplified breakdown of Women's Rights in the context of The Rome Statute and the ICC with graphics/diagrams for easy access.
- x. Accompanying flip charts with similar material, appropriately presented for use in workshops etc.

Publication in Urdu and English of a 1000 Booklets and flip charts each.

Distribution

Through the NGO/CBO network plus formal channels viz. shops supplying schools/universities etc.

Project Requirements

1 Editor
One research assistant/writer
One translator

Budget on next page

3.A

2.C CEDAW in Context

A user-friendly handbook and flipcharts in Urdu and English

Time Frame: One Year

Budget: PKR 1,514,200

Rationale

There is dearth of material for use in advocacy and training workshops dealing with

Human rights, violence against women and political rights etc. Easy to access booklet and flip charts, locating CEDAW in the context of Pakistan, would meet this need and facilitate teaching and learning processes.

Project Description

- xi. Approximately a 60-100-page booklet with a simplified but holistic breakdown of CEDAW in the social, economic and political context of Pakistan with graphics etc. for easy access.
- xii. Accompanying flip charts with similar material, appropriately presented for use in workshops etc.

Publication in Urdu and English of Booklet and flip charts.

Outreach and distribution

Through the network of women's organisations, other NGOs, schools etc.

Indicators

Demand from partner NGOs and CBOs plus others

Project Requirements

1 Editor, One research assistant/writer' One translator

Budget on next page

3.A

3 Politics and Women in History and Politics:

3. C A Pictorial History of the Women's Movement and the Zia Years

Time Frame: 12 Months

Budget: PKR 1,596,000 (excluding PKR 90,000- received from Heinrich Boll Foundation for paper costs)

Background and Rationale

The 1980s saw the rise of the second wave of the Women's Movement in Pakistan. These were the years when women emerged as the first group to challenge the military government of General Zia-ul-Haq. Coming together under the umbrella of Women's Action Forum, women protested violations of women's rights and demanded the repeal

of sexist laws and changes in institutional practices that ensure and maintain women's oppression and exploitation through time.

A fairly comprehensive pictorial record of this period is available with different women and journalists. These are vibrant photographs depicting (i.) women's resistance to an oppressive regime and (ii.) highlighting issues of poverty, gender based discrimination and violence against women and other disempowered social groups.

While the second wave of the women's movement in Pakistan emerged during the overt repression and violation of women's rights under Zia-ul-Haq, the issues that brought women together are still with us. Since 1988 and despite the recognition of women's issues, Zia's legacy combined with patriarchal prerogatives and the imperatives of globalisation and the aftermath of the Afghan war have led to a deterioration of the conditions of women's lives.

Apart from being a valuable record of the women's movement in Pakistan, a pictorial history of women's protest will serve to:

- i. Refocus public attention on women's issues which are so crucial to national development at multiple levels
- ii. Act as a reminder of the fact that the changes that have occurred in this field were won through a concerted effort on women's part
- iii. Provide back up material for teaching aids for gender orientation workshops etc.

Description

Approximately a two hundred-page text comprising an issue based, chronological history of the women's movement during the Zia years based on black and white photographs and accompanying text. The text will contextualise each issue and provide relevant background on the specificity of each situation including state responses and mediatic and public comments/interpretations. This will also serve to highlight changes and/or reactions vis a vis the status of women in Pakistani society.

Outreach/distribution

Through the women's movement network, NGOs and formal marketing channels.

Indicators

Demand from Women's Action Forum, Women's Studies Centres nationally and regionally etc.

Project Requirements

Project Coordinator/Editor/Writer
2 Research/Documentation Associates

Artist (on contract per graphic)

Materials etc.

Photographs (black and white and colour)

Posters

Paper

Misc.

Budget (attached)

3.A

3B Women's Franchise and Political Participation**

History and current debates

****This is a research based publication project and does not come within the ambit of WFD funding conditions.**

3.C Critical History of the Family Laws Ordinance**

Focus on the APWA women's role in getting the Ordinance passes, the legal and political impediments and the terms and conditions of the Ordinance etc.

****This is a research based publication project and does not come within the ambit of WFD funding conditions.**

3.D A Critical History of Censorship in Pakistan – 1947-1958 **

Starting with the Security Acts and moving on to the take over of the Progressive Papers Ltd. The formation of the National Press Trust and moving on to analyse the media policies with regard to history texts at the school and college levels, the electronic media etc.

****This is a research based publication project and does not come within the ambit of WFD funding conditions.**

3.E. i. *Colonial Roots and Post-Colonial Realities*: a publication based on papers presented at a Regional Simorgh Conference of the same name scheduled for October 2001.

ii. *Partitions: 1947 and 1971*: a publication based on papers to be presented at a

Regional Simorgh Conference of the same name scheduled tentatively for October 2002.

Funds for both Conferences and publications have been provided by Global Fund for Women, California, USA.

3A

4. Women's Literature and Women in Literature – From the Margin to the Mainstream

Time Frame: 3 years

Budget: PKR 1,800,000 (consolidated: for four texts)

Rationale

The seeds of the Women's Movements across the globe lie in the moments when we women have spoken in our own voices about our experience of the world. Women's oppression, on the other hand, is inscribed in our silence. It breeds in the language men devise for us and draws strength our histories that they write. It is now widely accepted that the strength of patriarchy lies in the fact that it is men who have predominantly held the privilege of making meaning and defining the parameters of our world.

Globally, one of the major sources of strength for women's movements, in all their diversity, of the awakening of women's consciousness regarding their identity as women and their rights as human beings in different societies and cultures, has occurred when the insights provided by women's writings (novels, poetry, diaries, autobiographies, stories, oral histories, critical theory etc.) have converged with and made sense of our individual experiences as women, of oppression, resistance and the sheer joy of being alive despite all odds. More than anything else, these texts have brought with them the realisation that if we are to step out from the edges, where patriarchal discourse and practice consign us, we must speak of our experiences and aspirations in our own voices.

It is an accepted fact that the women's movement in Europe is deeply indebted to women's writings and that western feminism has its roots in women's literature. It owes much to women writers who, despite the constraints of literary production, confronted social norms with the hidden reality of women's lives. Similarly in South Asia, it is the woman writer who speaks out for and about women. Whether as a poet, a novelist or historian and/or activist, she gives a name to women's oppression and a shape to their submerged and inarticulate desires amidst the hostile pressures of patriarchy. These

women have brought to light women's contribution to the world around them, while at the same time highlighting their exclusion from decision-making and control over their own lives.

As with her European and African sister, the woman writer of South Asia bears witness to this struggle that takes place both in her personal life in so far as entry into the male world is concerned, and in the emergence of a new metaphor and new developments in poetry and fiction that articulates her experience. It is not chance that some of the major names in world literature today are women or that the developments that have taken place in literary theory owe a heavy debt to feminist theory.

One of the most important achievements of these moments of awareness and of the women's movement itself has been in the areas of literature and research and publication. This activity has made women aware of the roles they have played in history and brought to them the realization that what they experience in the privacy of their hidden and secret lives is part of their identity as women and belongs to the common heritage of the oppression and resistance that informs their lives on so many levels: globally, nationally, and in the minutiae of their daily lives.

Stories feed into peoples' dreams and shift the boundaries of their known world. If women are to expand the horizons that limit their world and enter the social, political and economic mainstream, it is imperative that they discover that it can be done and to discover that there are others who have done so before them. By providing them with access to world literature, Simorgh hopes to enable this process of self awareness that is geared ultimately to changing the parameters of the mainstream which now constrains and inhibits women's development and participation in the social, political and economic life of the community and state as equal human beings.

As part of this process, Simorgh plans to publish a number of literary texts in translation from English to Urdu and vice versa. The importance of these publications cannot be under estimated, as they will, as has been already demonstrated, make their impact at more than one level, as they will:

- Play a significant role in empowering women by making them aware of the commonality of their interests and problems despite class and other differences and at the same time link them to the wider community of women in other cultures and countries.
- Help redress the imbalance in the current academic scene where women are heavily under-represented.
- Provide material for Women's Studies Courses.

With this in mind the following texts have been selected for translation:

4.A *Fellow Traveller* the English title of Hameeda Akhtar Husain autobiography *Hum Safar*, including biographical note based on the writers notes and interviews – from Urdu to English.

Time Frame: 18 months

Budget: PKR 450,000

Description

Note on the writer and the text

Hameeda Akhtar Husain, the author of *Hum Safar* or *Fellow Traveller* spent her married life very much in the shadow of her husband, Syed Akhtar Husain, a man of letters and an important name in Urdu scholarship. Although a gifted raconteur and storyteller for those who had the privilege of spending time with her, she never saw herself beyond the role of a housewife with only a matriculate certificate to her credit.

Hum Safar was written after the death of her husband initially as an attempt to come to terms with her loss and is the story of her life with the public man of letters. It presents an acute, unpretentious, often funny, glimpse into the behind the scenes life with her husband, her family and his friends. Unfettered by the formalities and hyperbole of conventional Urdu prose, Hameeda Begum's language has the spontaneity and immediacy of the spoken word.

The introduction to the main narrative will be based on personal interviews with the writer along with her notes and diaries.

Outreach and distribution

Colleges, schools, Women's Studies Centres, NGOs, women's organisations and commercial channels

Publication

Distribution

Project Requirements

Editor

Translator per page: 300 pages approx.

Typist

Artist for Cover Design etc. (contract)

Copyright to author

Materials:

Paper

Utilities

Printing costs

Budget: attached

4.B A Discourse of Love the English title of Zaheda Hina's Urdu novel, *Na Janoon Raha Na Pari Rahi*

Time Frame: 1 year

Budget: PKR 450,000

Description of the Text

Na Janoon Raha Na Pari Rahi is a novel based on events triggered off the Partition of India in 1947 into independent nation states that despite claims to separate interests are bound to each other through deep ties of kinship, association and loss. Starting in immediate post '47 Karachi it ends about 20 years later in the same city.

Its interest lies in its ironical presentation of events that highlight the interdependency of communities at the very time that communitarian interest had divided the country into two parts. At a time when slogans of communitarian oneness were at their height, the experiences of Birjees, the main protagonist, reveal their hollowness. The other point of interest in this novel lies in its representation of the dwindling Parsee community in Karachi.

Outreach and distribution

Colleges, libraries, schools, Women's Studies Centres/Courses, NGOs etc. and the general public through commercial channels

Project Requirements

Editor

Translator per page: 300 pages approx.

Typist

Artist for Cover Design etc. (contract)

Copyright to author

Materials:

Paper

Utilities

Printing costs

Budget: attached

4.C *Tara Lane* by Shama FutehAlly – from English to Urdu

Time Frame: 1 year

Budget: PKR 450,000

Description of the Text

Set in Bombay, *Tara Lane* is a novel of the loss of innocence, disillusionment and a coming to terms with reality at both personal and political levels. Sensitively written it captures the mood of the '60s-70s India it is also about the choices that we make. At the same time it raises issues that continue to be relevant viz. marriage, security, safety and personal integrity.

Outreach and distribution

Colleges, libraries, schools, Women's Studies Centres/Courses, NGOs etc. and the general public through commercial channels

Project Requirements

Editor
Translator per page: 300 pages approx.
Typist
Artist for Cover Design etc. (contract)
Copyright to author

Materials:
Paper
Utilities

Printing costs

Budget: attached

4.D *So Long a Letter* by Mariama Ba – from English to Urdu

Time Frame: 1 year

Budget: PKR 450,000

Description

Mariama Ba's novel on polygamy needs no introduction, nor is there a need to emphasise its relevance to Pakistani readers as it highlights the pain and humiliation of the wife coming face to face with her husband's impending marriage with their daughter's friend without in anyway compromising her dignity or minimizing her courage.

Outreach and distribution

Colleges, libraries, schools, Women's Studies Centres/Courses, NGOs etc. and the general public through commercial channels

Project Requirements

Editor

Translator per page: 300 pages approx.

Typist

Artist for Cover Design etc. (contract)

Copyright to author

Materials:

Paper

Utilities

Printing costs

Budget: attached

4.Regional peace through networking, projects and exchange-basis publications

1. This is an inter-organisational exchange programme that will initiate a process of accessing cross-border material/publications.

Kali Publications Delhi and Simorgh have agreed to publish those of each others publications for which we feel there is a demand in our respective countries and which fall within the terms of reference of our projects for progressive change.

As a first step, Simorgh has agreed to give Kali the rights for Khadija Mastur's 'Inner Courtyard' in exchange for a text that is still to be decided on. The organisations will exchange camera-ready prints of selected texts for publication, thus saving on overall costs and enabling access to otherwise expensive material.

2. Simorgh is a member of the Asian Pacific Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues. Partner countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, including Fiji and Canada
3. Member Core Group: Asian Women Human Rights Council

5. Project Evaluation Plan

The evaluation plans/strategies for advocacy projects especially those entailing the dissemination of ideas through books and other teaching material have to be devised in accordance with each component of the Publications Unit, which includes the publications planned for the years 2002-2007 as part of this project.

A component-wise breakdown is given below.

ii. The Publications Unit

This is perhaps the only part of Simorgh's Advocacy and Change through Publications Programme that can be quantified.

Evaluation will be done through:

- The amount of publication work done and the books published by the Publication Unit.
- The content of the books, teaching material etc. To see that it is keeping with the professed aims of the organisation and the proposed project.
- To ensure that the funds allocated for this project are not either misused or used for other activities etc. As all Simorgh accounts are audited regularly, this should not be a problem.

iii. Alternative History Texts Project/ Educational booklets and flipcharts

The following strategy, already applied to our HR School Text Project would be useful in this regard.

- Numerical assessment of number of books sold to schools.
- Numerical assessment of number of schools using these books.
- Project/text evaluation forms/questionnaires to be filled in by students, teachers and parents of students of the concerned schools. These forms to be designed in accordance to the age and status of the participants viz. students, teachers and parents. By specifically including the parents we will also ensure greater outreach and interest in the perspective/issues in texts.
- Supplementary activities (this again has been done with the school texts) for school children viz. interschool seminars on issues raised in texts either directly or tangentially viz. a text on Razia Sultana could be used to generate a debate on (i) woman as head of state and (ii) women's participation in politics and other areas of public life etc.
- Inter-school story-writing/poetry and essay competitions on related issues/topics.
- Inter-school Art competitions similar to the story-writing etc. competitions.

The material/reports generated by these activities would also help assess the impact of the project.

- Flipcharts/booklets on CEDAW etc. would be evaluated on the basis of use by other NGOs, CBOs, others.
- A brief evaluation to be appended with each sale or text given without cost (Simorgh does this where it is felt that the person cannot afford to buy the material but will put it to good use or is even genuinely interested). While we would not expect each user to complete and return the form, some will come back and help assess impact/use value of the material. Even an adverse comment, if the information provided serves to nudge the user into responding will be seen as a positive indicator.
- Tested by us in our own workshops with different sectors.

A similar pattern as for the school texts would be followed in this regard also with necessary modification given the nature of the text and its potential readership:

- Sales, use in law schools and colleges.
- Demand from partner NGOs and others working in related fields.
- Comments from lawyers, judges etc.

iv Picture History of Women's Action Forum, Literary and Academic texts, fiction etc.

Evaluation Indicators:

- Sales
- Use as prescribed texts in Women's Studies and other Courses viz. Literature, Social Sciences etc. at the college and university level.
- Book reviews etc.

Two major indicators of the success of a project would be:

- The achievement of self-sustainability by a project. This would not be possible with all the material we publish but it is relevant to school texts etc. In the past there has been a demand for some of our texts currently out of print viz. the booklet on Rape in Pakistan and some of the Mernissi booklets. We have not been able to reprint them due to lack of funds, but hope, that if the Publication Unit begins to function systematically, we will be able to meet this kind of demand from the funds generated by the sale of books.
- Demand for reprints and the publication of second or more editions.

6.Independent Evaluation

Simorgh leaves the selection of a person for independent evaluation to WDF as long as the person undertaking this work is familiar with the nature of our work and its

underlying concepts. With this condition in mind we would request you to consult with us when making this selection.

Project Staff 7 people

Project Coordinators

Anjana Raza: Artist. BFA Mount Holyoke USA

Human Rights School Text Project:

Formulating exercises/activities for the Human rights primers/Teacher's Guides.
Layout, design, desktop publication., illustrations etc.
Resource person: participatory teaching methodology.
Resource person: workshops on child sexual abuse, violence against women etc.

Firdous Arshad: BA Sociology. Allama Iqbal Open University.

Gender Equality & and the Judiciary Project. (The Asia Pacific Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues)

Planning, organising meetings activities.
Documentation and research and analysis: women in shelters, prison and the community.
Resource person: Gender sensitisation workshops.
Community based work: violence against women, reproductive rights etc.

Samiya K. Mumtaz: Development Studies.

BA Kinnaird. BA Mount Holyoke, USA. Interests and experience: alternative theatre as member of Ajoka Theatre Group. Community work, Organic farming.

Conference and publication project.

Resource person teacher training project
Editor publications
Resource person: Human Rights School Texts project

Neelam Hussain:

Publications and Editorial Work

Research, writing, editing and translation: Simorgh publications.
Formulating exercises and storywriter for the Human Rights Texts.
Resource person: gender sensitisation workshops.
Resource person: participatory teaching methodology and human rights concepts.

Samina Choonara: Editor, Journalist. MA Philosophy, Karachi. MA Philosophy, Sorbonne. M.Phil. Social and Political Thought Sussex.

Editor/ Data collection. Responsibilities: report writing, plus input in other projects viz. literary critique, discourse analysis, desktop publication, storywriter for the Human Rights School Text project and storybooks for children etc.

Research Associates

Dr. Rubina Saigol. Sociologist. MA Applied Psychology, Punjab. MA Developmental Psychology, Columbia USA. PhD. Sociology of Education, Rochester USA.

Current project: research and text for book on Domestic Violence (Project: Violence Against Women Research and Publication Series.) Freelance/ contract basis.

Saadia Toor: Sociologist. BA Kinnaird. PhD. Student at Cornell USA, on field research in Pakistan.

Current project: co-searcher with Anjana Raza and Zhila Shah for book plus textual analysis for 'Culture and Violence'. (Project: Violence against Women Research and Publication Series). Part time/contract.

Uzma Saeed: Lawyer. BA. LLB. Punjab

Current project: **Gender Equality & and the Judiciary Project. (The Asia Pacific Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues)**

Research, organising, planning conferences etc
Resource person, research/data collection.
Co-researcher for book on 'Language and Patriarchy'.
Editing/proofreading Urdu publications.

Kauser Sheikh: BA (Hons.) MA English, Punjab.

Educationist/Asst. Prof. English, with over Twenty-five years teaching experience at Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore plus as student counsellor and staff advisor for drama, art and career counselling clubs.

Designed material for human rights texts, teacher-training workshops.
Publications: editing etc. Contract basis.

Publications Section

Translation

Yasmin Hosain: MA English Punjab. MA Cantab.

Translator: *Dreams of Trespass* by Fatima Mernissi into Urdu. Contract.

Shahida Haroon: Translation of material/stories from English to Urdu for the Human Rights School Text project. Contract.

Editing/Critical Comment

Samina Rahman: MA English Punjab. MA Cantab. Literary critic, writer, educationist/teacher. Founder member Women's Action Forum, SAHE (Society for the Advancement of Education) and the Lahore Grammar School System

Volunteer/ contract

Composing/Supervision

Shahid Pervaiz: BA National College of Art, Lahore.

Supervision, printing etc.

Contract. (S.P. has been with us since the time we didn't have the money to pay him.)

Laeque Ahmad: assistant: layout, composition, computer-graphics etc.

Artists/designers

Story writers:

- i. Razia Sadik
- ii. Murad Khan Mumtaz
- iii. Bano Razee
- iv. Sahr Gani} on study leave
- v. Nadeem Basheer} from NCA Currently in
Sydney, Australia.
- vi. Khooban Hasan
- vii. Zoreen
- viii. Beenish.
- ix. Ahmed Ali
- x. Sara Hameed
- xi. Nusra Latif (on study leave from the National College of Art, currently in Australia)
- xii. Maryam Rahman (Currently at the Slade School of Art, UCL, London, UK)
- xiii. Maaheen Ahmed

This group is part of our resource pool of art and literature students, teachers, and artists.

Individuals are paid according to the work done viz. number of illustrations, stories etc.

Volunteers: Amna Shah, Amna Zulfiqar, Zhila Shah, Sadaf Aziz, Attiya Khan, Amna Yakin, Nabiha-Meher Shaikh, Jahanara, Madeeha.

Volunteers come in as and when required or whenever they want to touch base.

Australian Volunteers International

Simorgh has recently established a partner relationship with Australian Volunteers International. Under this arrangement, Kate Bean, who is an experienced and highly qualified community worker and trainer has started work on this programme, among others, for two years beginning in July 2000. (This programme has been cancelled due to the current political situation and Kate, currently in India, will probably return to Australia)

7. Other Current Sources of Income

ActionAid Pakistan	Gender Orientation and Human Rights workshops with Jail and Police officers (six months starting in July 2001)
The Asia Foundation, Islamabad.	Three years Infrastructural Support, ending October 2001.
AusAid, Islamabad	i. Community Based Projects under the Australian Community Assistance Scheme: Simorgh Project for Community Development through Teacher Training: Workshops on Participatory Teaching Methodology and Human Rights Concepts. Starting October 2001.
CIDA, Canada	Regional project: Gender Equality and the Judiciary: The Asia-Pacific Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues. 1996 – to date.
Global Fund for Women, USA	The Simorgh Research, Conference and Publication Project. ‘Colonial Roots and Post Colonial Identities’: 2001 Partitions: 2002
Global Ministries, N.Y. USA	Violence Against Women: research and publication project: ‘Of Deaths Foretold’: Violence in the Name of Culture and Tradition.
Heinrich Boll Foundation	Women in History: a publication project. The Picture History of Women’s Action Forum: The Zia Years. 2001 – Funds for paper only.
International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development, Canada.	Publication Project: Story Books for children and young adults: collecting, compiling, printing and publication of storybooks for children based predominantly on the oral folk tradition. This also includes original stories written specifically for these books.
UNIFEM	Education: Planting the Seeds of Change:

Human Rights School Texts for Children.
(remaining primers only) supplemented by
income earned by the primers.

1985-1994 – Main Sources of Financial Support:

During this period Simorgh was a purely voluntary part-time organisation

Oxfam	Infrastructure
UNICEF	Equipment
CIDA	‘In the Court of Women’: Lahore, International Tribunal on Violence Against Women. The first of a series held in South and South East Asia. A Simorgh/Asian Women’s Human Rights Council initiative.
Match, Canada	Research and Publication: <u>Rape in Pakistan</u> . Urdu and English
Novib	Publications: Booklets on papers by Fatima Mernissi Urdu and English
AusAid	<u>Can a Woman be the head of a Muslim State</u> by Fatima Mernissi Urdu and English
Swiss Norad	Advocacy and Skill Training: Regional Silk Screen Printing Workshop for Grassroots Women

1995 – 2000 – Main Sources of Financial Support:

Since 1995 Simorgh has been a full-time organisation with paid and voluntary staff

CIDA	Infrastructural Support	3 Years
	Participation in Social Summit, pre-Beijing activities etc.	
	Gender and Judiciary Project. ongoing.	
International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development	The Human Rights School Texts (English)	
Konrad Adenaur Stiftung	The Human Rights School Texts (English) Plus teacher training workshops and inter-	

school seminars on Human Rights.

Conference and Publications: 'Engendering the Nation State'.

Royal Netherlands Embassy

The Human Rights School Texts (English)

UNIFEM

The Human Rights School Texts (English) contd.

Participation in UDHR Vienna 1993

UNICEF

Participation: pre-Beijing meetings etc.

Global Fund for Women

Documentation and Infrastructure

The Asia Foundation

Infrastructure 3 Years ending 2001

Gender and Judiciary project (1st National Workshop)

Literature in translation: 'Inner Courtyard' by Khadija Mastur.

Heinrich Boll Foundation

Gender and Judiciary project (1st National Workshop.)

UNDP

Research and Publication: Violence Against Women series: 'The Language of Patriarchy'
Discontinued due to change in UNDP policy.
Project status: on hold.

Applications for assistance to other Organisations:

Action Aid i. 'Stories of Deaths Foretold – Crime in the Name of Honour' – International Conference, publications and linked advocacy/information dissemination initiatives.

Time Frame

Budget

CIDA

Printing and publication and dissemination of Human Rights School Texts and Teacher's Guides in Urdu, for Urdu medium schools.

UNIFEM Second Phase: the Gender and Judiciary Project (CIDA funding for this project ends in October 2001.)

Time frame: 3 Years

Budget: PKR 10.638,330 USD 174,399

Ford Foundation: Infrastructural Support: office premises, core staff, utilities, documentation etc. (current Infrastructural support ends in October 2001.)

Experience/Ongoing Projects:

- **Conferences, Research & Publication Project**

Colonial Roots – Post-Colonial Identities. (Funded. South Asia Regional Conference I scheduled for November 2001)

Partitions: 1947, 1971. (Funded. South Asia Regional Conference II scheduled for November 2002)

- **Violence Against Women Project**

Stories of Deaths Foretold: research and publication on cultural violence against women in Pakistan. (Funded. Nearing completion)

The Veil and Four Walls: research and publication on domestic violence in Pakistan. (partial funding – nearing completion)

The Infection in the Sentence: Violence and the Language of Patriarchy. (partly funded)

- **Advocacy through Literature and Literature in Translation Project**

Haddood Shikni ke Khwab: Urdu translation of Fatima Mernissi's *Dreams of Trespass.* (nearing completion. Translation and publication costs: contributions by Collective members)

- **Advocacy through Education**

Human Rights School Texts for English Medium Schools and related activities. (Ongoing and self-sustainable after initial funding)

Human Rights School Texts for Urdu Medium Schools and related activities (funding promised but the contract has still to be signed)

Stories for Children: forthcoming

- **Legal and Social Rights for Women**

Gender Equality and the Judiciary: A South Asia Regional Project comprising workshops etc. for consciousness raising, advocacy, planning etc. comprising different units for senior judiciary, judges of the lower courts, jail officers and law and media students (Ongoing.)

- **Violence Against Women**

Domestic Violence: what does it mean? A cross class questionnaire/interview Lahore based research and documentation project on mainstream perceptions of what constitutes violence against women. (Ongoing)

9. This is the first time the Simorgh Women's Collective is applying for a grant to WFD.

Signature: _____ **Designation** _____

3. B A Critical History of Personal Laws in Pakistan.ⁱⁱⁱ

Time Frame: 18 months

Rationale

Not only will this study provide information for use in workshops etc. by activists and NGOs engaged in political education and advocacy work, by identifying the beginnings of these demands that led to changes in laws concerning the age of marriage etc. will also highlight the critical part played by women in the legal history of the sub-continent as well as that of the women's movement at a later stage in the socio-legal history of Pakistan.

Project Description

A research and publication project based on the history of the Personal Laws in Pakistan with a special focus on the **Family Laws Ordinance of 1961** including the debates dealing with this issue and the role played by women's organisations with regard to the 1961 Ordinance and issues such as polygamy, inheritance, divorce and custody etc.

Research Methodology

Source material:

- i. Texts of related laws and where possible of ensuing debates.
- ii. Press reports, newspaper clippings etc.
- iii. Interviews with women or family members of women who participated in the movement for the Family Laws Ordinance of 1961 etc.
- iv. The legal dimension – critical analysis of the Ordinance by lawyers/judges etc.

Publication of Text in Urdu and English

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor:

2 research associates:

Translators (on contract)

Honoraria for concerned lawyers/judges

3.C. Women's Franchise and Political Participation: History and current debates^{iv}

Time Frame: 18 months

Rationale

Women's political participation in Pakistan continues to be a fraught issue despite the fact that beginning with the struggle for universal franchise in the 1930s, women have played an active role in national politics. Custom and tradition continue to be used to exclude women from standing for elections and even from voting in many areas of the country.

There is a need to counter these moves by the fundamentalist lobby which finds it easy to exert its influence in an area that feeds into the traditional mind set of large numbers of people who are willing to sacrifice women's right to political representation in the interest of immediate political gain.

One way of doing it is to link women's political participation to the struggle for Independence and the formation of Pakistan as an independent nation state in 1947 as well as to the fact that this struggle had the support of the political leadership of that time. In this regard, this study will provide both information and arguments to counter reactionary debates and at the same time strengthen women in their bid to participate in and access political space.

Project Description

A research and publication project in both Urdu and English, based on contextualised history of women's participation in politics from 1935 onwards, showing the different stages, debates and policy decisions that have ensured or hindered women from participating in the political life of the country.

Research Methodology

Source Material:

- i. Historical material
- ii. Documents relating to policy decisions
- iii. The issue of reserved seats
- iv. Debates etc.
- v. Anecdotes/stories of women in politics etc.
- vi. The role of activists/ political education programmes etc. in encouraging women to take part in the electoral process.
- vii. Strategies etc.

Publication of Text in Urdu and English

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor

2 research assistants

Translators

3.D A Critical History of Censorship in Pakistan – 1947-1958

Rationale

Censorship, the suppression or filtering of speech that is predicated on implicit or explicit coercion, is not simply an act contingent on situation and circumstance. If practiced over a long period of time, it becomes part of a mind set and a way of life that is violative of the most fundamental of human rights vis the freedom of thought, ideas, belief and practice. The issue of censorship cuts across a host of areas beginning with the individual and expanding to include interaction and rights issues in the community, the workplace and state institutions. Censorship laws that deal with the press and the print media etc. have over time created a mindset that not only influences policies concerning school texts, the electronic media and film and. In Pakistan, given its history of military rule, state policy has always erred on the side of repression and silence in the face of official truths. Over the years this has caused much damage in the areas of freedom of speech, thought and belief. Not only can these – all can be counted as the most fundamental of human rights, their violation and at times denial has led to a society that is ill-informed about its rights, it has also created an environment where any challenge to officially sanctioned positions can be read as apostasy or even criminal deviance.

There is

1. Moments of Awakening I: Women’s Histories and Women in History

A research and publication project

Time Frame: 3 years

Rationale

Women’s political marginalisation is closely linked to their marginal place in society and the ways in which they are represented in socio-historical discourse. Despite their active role in the making of history, dominant political practice and academic research are consistent in their neglect of women who are either erased from history or shown as subsidiary figures with powerful men viz. monarchs, statesmen and soldiers being presented as the sole ‘makers’ of history.

This neglect is largely responsible for the perception of women as passive onlookers and negatively informs the current debate on women’s seats in parliament and their right to access to resources, decision-making and political participation at every level. By

focusing almost entirely on the ruling classes, historical discourse reinforces the essentialist myth perpetrated by every military government that democracy is inherently inimical to the Pakistani ethos. By excluding women from the politico-historical mainstream, patriarchal cultures perpetuate the subordination and oppression of women at all levels.

- An oral history project that grants visibility to women while highlighting their contribution to the socio-political and economic life at the multiple levels of the family, community and the state will be a step towards retrieving women from oblivion and by so doing redress the systemic imbalances that maintain their subordinate status in society.
- By giving the lie to mainstream assumptions regarding women's ancillary role in society, this project would challenge the stereotypes that trivialise women's experience. This would add an important dimension to recorded history and at the same time be an enabling enterprise for women who take part in the process of retrieving, rewriting and reading this history.

Project Description

A two-year research and documentation project leading to a text to be published in both Urdu and English. 'Moments of Awakening: Women's Histories and Women in History' is envisaged as text based on a contextualised presentation/analysis of interviews/narratives of women from different walks and class backgrounds focusing on moments of their lives which significantly changed their perception of themselves as individuals and as members of the community.

In keeping with the norms of oral history and narratology this study will be based on collective and individual interviews of women selected from different time frames of the study. This will be done to ensure a broad sweep of history as well as establishing and highlighting the interconnections between different periods to focus on the continuity within the women's movement while at the same time highlighting the shifts with the wider continuum of women's lives.

Breakdown of the text

Background and Context

- a. Stepping out of the zenana
- b. The demand for women's franchise
- c. Women's education
- d. Women's organisations – the polygamy and inheritance debates

Text

1. Women in the Independence Movement
2. Post-Independence Pakistan
3. Women in APWA and Family Laws
4. Left wing women – The Democratic Women’s Association etc.
5. Politics and University Women
6. Left wing women and left wing patriarchy
7. Working Women
8. WAF and the Zia Years
9. The Post Zia Years.

Outreach

This text, which will be published in both Urdu and English will address it self to a heterogeneous reading public comprising university and college students including independent women’s studies organisations/groups, members of women’s organisations, NGOs, CBOs – especially those engaged in gender orientation and political education programmes with the community, women in politics and the general public.

Staff

- 1 Editor /Writer for 12 months
- 1 research associate for documentary research
- 2 research assistants for interviews and data collection

budget to include travel and accommodation costs : Lahore – Karachi, Lahore – Islamabad, Lahore – Peshawar.

2. Multi-Purpose Human Rights and Gender Orientation Teaching Aids: Flip Charts.

Time Frame: 2 years

Rationale

Our experience in Human Rights and Gender Orientation/Training Workshops and related activities has consistently highlighted the need for visual teaching aids other than the facility provided by slide projectors, video films etc. These, though highly effective

do suffer have (i.) limited accessibility viz. dependence on availability of and electricity, etc.

Project Description

- i. Flip Chart Topics, detailing point-wise information on the following:
 - a.) The women's struggle for their right to education from the early 20th century to the present day.
 - b.) Women's franchise and the fight for the right to vote and political participation from the 1930's to the present day.
 - c.) The fight against polygamy 1930's to the present day
 - d.) Women's inheritance rights and the right to property
 - e.) The Patriarchal Family – structure and socio-economic arrangements
 - f.) The Political Economy of Violence against Women

Language

As these flip charts are intended for use in communities as well as in schools as supplementary teaching aids, they will be produced in both Urdu and English.

Outreach

Designed for use in (i.) gender training and political education workshops (ii) as supplementary aids for social science teaching in schools these will reach out to both rural and urban communities through CBOs and NGOs working in this area as well as to school children in both Urdu and English medium schools in the country. Access to schools will be provided through channels created by the Simorgh Human Rights Texts project etc.

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Staff

Editor

1 research assistant/writer per book (to collate material, prepare text etc.)

1 translator

Artist per book (on contract) ¹

Material

1. Making Women Visible: From the Margins to the Mainstream

A research, translation and publication for Women's Studies and consciousness raising project.

Background and Rationale

Research, publication and information dissemination comprise an important strategy for ideological change. The aim of these research projects/texts will be to counter retrogressive attitudes towards women's right to participate in all levels of socio-economic and political life. This will be done through the production of historical and literary texts revealing that:

- iii. women have always been active in the fields of politics, literature and economics and that the concept of women's participation in the multiple realms of experience is not alien neither to our history nor our culture
- iv. that this participation is crucial to national progress and development.

This decision is based on the premise that literary and historical texts and visual teaching aids that 'show' people the way things are and can be, as opposed to 'telling' them what they must or must not do, are more a more

subtle and therefore effective way of changing their perceptions than didactic messages or top down edicts from the state or any other visible source of authority. As such this material will enable us to:

- v. minimise our reliance on examples of women from other countries/cultures as role models etc. thereby countering resistance from the general public as well as from participants at training and orientation workshops to women's participation in public life.
- vi. Challenge the false dichotomies that militate against democratic development and deny women their fundamental right to control and actively participate in their own lives as well as reinforcing pro-democracy policies/programmes initiated at other levels.

Past Experience and Feedback

Simorgh has been engaged in this kind of work since its inception in 1985. Chief among our publications and research ventures are:

- vii. Rape in Pakistan: the first of its kind undertaken in Pakistan, this has been widely used by NGOs, CBOs, students etc. The English edition of this publication is out of print although the demand for it continues.
- viii. ii. Four booklets comprising essays by the Moroccan scholar Fatima Mernissi: 'The Fundamentalist Obsession with Women', 'Women Saints and Sanctuaries', 'Women in Muslim History' and 'Can a Woman be Head of a Muslim State. Available in both Urdu and English, these have been used by research scholars and by NGOs and CBOs.
- ix. 'Reinventing Women: The Representation of Women in the Media under Zia'. Available in both Urdu and English, this component of an Asia Pacific regional study, has been used by people in the media, students and NGOs.

Ongoing research and publication projects: Translation into English of Khadija Mastoor's novel Aangan. In press. Translation into Urdu of Fatima Mernissi's book Dreams of Trespass. In process. Human Rights School Texts for schools: in press. The primers are being picked up by schools as they come from the press thus enabling ongoing feedback and evaluation.

Project Description

The annual research, production and dissemination of 2 texts from 2000-2005 or from the time of receipt of funds.

Year 1.

1.A Critical History of Personal Laws in Pakistan.

Time Frame: 18 months

Project Description

A research and publication project based on the history of the Personal Laws in Pakistan with a special focus on the **Family Laws Ordinance of 1961** including the debates dealing with this issue and the role played by women's organisations with regard to the 1961 Ordinance and issues such as polygamy, inheritance, divorce and custody etc.

Research Methodology

i. source material: texts of related laws and where possible of ensuing debates. ii. press reports, newspaper clippings etc. iii. Interviews with women or family members of women who participated in the movement for the Family Laws Ordinance of 1961 etc.

Publication of Text in Urdu and English

Implementation Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor:
2 research associates:

2. Multi-Purpose Human Rights and Gender Orientation Teaching Aids: Flip Charts, gender orientation/training manual etc.

Time Frame: 2 years

Rationale

Our experience in Human Rights and Gender Orientation/Training Workshops and related activities has consistently highlighted the need for visual teaching aids other than the facility provided by slide projectors, video films etc. These, though highly effective do suffer have (i.) limited accessibility viz. dependence on availability of and electricity, etc.

Project Description

- ii. Flip Chart Topics, detailing point-wise information on the following:
 - g.) The women's struggle for their right to education from the early 20th century to the present day.
 - h.) Women's franchise and the fight for the right to vote and political participation from the 1930's to the present day.
 - i.) The fight against polygamy 1930's to the present day
 - j.) Women's inheritance rights and the right to property
 - k.) The Patriarchal Family – structure and socio-economic arrangements
 - l.) The Political Economy of Violence against Women

Language

As these flip charts are intended for use in communities as well as in schools as supplementary teaching aids, they will be produced in both Urdu and English.

Outreach

Designed for use in gender training and political education workshops, these will reach out to both rural and urban communities through CBOs and NGOs working in this area as well as to school children in both Urdu and English medium schools in the country. Access to schools will be provided through channels created by the Simorgh Human Rights Texts project etc.

3. A Pictorial History of the Women's Movement and the Zia Years

Time frame: 1 year

Background and Rationale

The 1980s saw the rise of the second wave of the Women's Movement in Pakistan. These were the years when women emerged as the first group to challenge the military government of General Zia-ul-Haq. Coming together under the umbrella of Women's Action Forum, women's organisations to protest violations of women's rights and demanded the repeal of sexist laws and changes in institutional practices that ensure and maintain women's oppression and exploitation through time.

A fairly comprehensive pictorial record of this period is available with different women and journalists. These are vibrant photographs depicting (i.) women's resistance to an oppressive regime and (ii.) highlighting issues of poverty, gender based discrimination and violence against women and other dis-empowered social groups.

While the second wave of the women's movement in Pakistan emerged during the overt repression and violation of women's rights under Zia-ul-Haq, the issues that brought women together are still with us. Since 1988 and despite the recognition of women's issues, Zia's legacy combined with patriarchal prerogatives and the imperatives of globalisation and the aftermath of the Afghan war have led to a deterioration of the conditions of women's lives.

Apart from being a valuable record of the women's movement in Pakistan, a pictorial history of women's protest will serve (i.) to refocus public attention on women's issues which are so crucial to national development at multiple levels and (ii.) serve as a reminder of the fact that the changes that have occurred in this field were won through a concerted effort on women's part (iii) provide back up material to teaching aids for gender orientation workshops etc.

Description

Approximately a hundred and fifty-page text comprising an issue based, chronological history of the women's movement during the Zia years based on black and white photographs and accompanying text. The text will contextualise each issue and provide relevant background on the specificity of each situation including state responses and mediatic and public comments/interpretations. This will also serve to highlight changes and/or reactions vis a vis the status of women in Pakistani society.

Staff

Editor 12 months

Research Associates: 2 for 12 months

.democracy as well as to the democratic institutions on which democracy and human rights depend.

Neither people's rights nor democracy can flourish in such an atmosphere. We feel that in order to insure the safety of peoples right to intellectual growth there is a need to create an environment where dissent is not automatically aligned with treason or apostasy, people must learn to freely question the discourses that sustain the status quo, as well as participate in changes within them. In order to win back the rich diversity of ideas and experience that history has wrested from us, we need to question received 'wisdom' and to bring thought to bear upon daily experience. To do this we need:

1. to bring together serious academics in a space where independent academic research can take place.
2. Read/examine our own history/ies in conjunction with the changes and developments in the political and discursive fields, especially with reference with literature, religion, law, education and globalisation.

This would be a crucial step enabling us to break away from the teleological approach to knowledge, which serves the purpose of authoritarianism at all levels of social and political life.

We believe that by thus opening up and critically examining the history of ideas and forms of knowledge we will challenge the sanctity of the official truths that control us at every level of our lives. The route to this knowledge – this way of being – is to examine our own history/ies – not as yet another exercise in reinforcing that which we have already learnt – but as a means to opening up and critically examining the history of the ideas and forms of knowledge and historical events that inform the ways in which we envisage ourselves as individual women and men and as a people.

Project Antecedents and Parameters

Engendering the Nation-State

Sponsored by Konrad Adenaur Stiftung, The Simorgh Conference, “Engendering the Nation-State” took place in October 1997. The papers presented at the conference have been published in book form. Enough interest was generated to provide us with material for two books.

In keeping with our plan to regenerate action research, the participants for this conference were drawn from among established academics engaging in feminist research as well as activists and new entrants in the field. The idea behind this was to initiate research among those with experience in their different fields as well as to draw others, who have the potential but have lacked the opportunity or encouragement to write, into the field of action research.

The conference provided a space for discussions on the above issues and as many of the papers looked at issues of nationalism, social development, the family and media from a feminist perspective, the ensuing discussions approached old problems from new perspectives. Not only did this exercise provide the participants with fresh insights into existing problems; it has also brought about a realisation that further research is needed for a more in-depth understanding of issues related to women’s status, democratic development and governance as a means to realistic planning for the future.

Feedback from participants termed the conference as extremely useful and stimulating as it addressed issues that are very much of the moment with regard to democratic governance, women's status and political participation and economic development at both national and global levels.

The Conference and Publications project has been designed with the impact of the Engendering the Nation-State conference in mind, as well as suggestions from participants who have urged us to see this conference as the first of a series.

Simorgh is planning its next conference one year onward from the receipt of funds so as to allow participants ample time for research and writing. As much of the discussion generated in the 1997 conference harked back to the colonial roots of present day social institutions and attitudes, we plan to explore the emergence of national identities as articulated in post-independence Pakistan, India and Bangladesh in their colonial past.

The title for the first conference in this series will be "Colonial Roots and Post-colonial Identities" and the period that will be explored will lie roughly between the mid 19th and mid 20th centuries. This period has been selected as it saw not only the emergence of indigenous nationalisms but also of debates on "purdah" and women's segregation, polygamy, child marriage etc. It was also the time when colonial interventions in the fields of law and economics and Indian representation in government service etc. had coalesced in modes that still inform patterns of governance and official hierarchies in the post colonial states of the subcontinent.

As with the conference "Engendering the Nation-State" the aim of this conference will be to highlight the connections between the private and the public worlds. By 'catching' the historical moment when along with the emergence of a subaltern culture, the public and the private were being realigned within the matrix of colonial rule, we hope to see the connections between our ways of experiencing the world today and by doing so find guidelines for addressing future problems.

As with our conference "Engendering the Nation-State", we will not be limiting ourselves to official documents or texts alone but will instead focus on the mesh of discourses by examining literary and social texts, oral history, trends in the visual and performing art as well as other forms of popular discourse.

Description

Simorgh plans a three day regional seminar (schedule to be made on receipt of funds) to examine and critique the rhetoric and representation of the concepts discussed above in the light of their impact on socio-economic and legal discourses that have arisen in the post colonial countries of the subcontinent. Fifteen participants from the major cities of Pakistan and five from Bangladesh and India will be asked to write and present papers on given topics.

As we hope to initiate serious and in-depth discussion on the proposed issues, this seminar will be open to a select audience. Participants will consist largely of those presenting papers and others who are engaged in work in different fields.

Each day will be divided into two sessions and ample time will be given for discussion after each presentation.

Day One

Registration

Introductions

Introduction and Rationale: Setting the parameters by Simorgh

All the sessions of Day One will deal with the socio-cultural impact of colonialism on the Indian psyche and the reform movements that emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It will be given over to papers dealing with different aspects of the issue of emerging nationalisms, reform movements and colonial interventions that belong to the mid-nineteenth historical conjuncture in colonial India. The focus will be on:

2. examining the parameters of 19th century debates in order to locate the roots and socio-political frames of reference regarding knowledge systems, identity, culture, nationality etc. as they are operative in late 20th century Pakistan.
3. The communalisation of socio-political discourse, the creation of cultural identities. The development of a new colonial paradigm of feminine

thought through colonial socio-economic arrangements: the institutionalisation of the jagirdari system: gender bias in laws relating to property, inheritance with special reference to the masculinist concerns/mind-set underlying these policy decisions and the reformulation of the public/private divide and women's segregation.

4. The gendered construction of communities and institutions, where class and ideological differences converge to reinforce stereotypical notions of the feminine.

Day Two

Day Two will deal with the impact of the imposition of Eurocentred education in British India. This session will also deal with the different class affiliations that were created in India through the establishment of British education and the erosion of pre-colonial value systems. The focus will be on women's education and the debates on purdah that were an integral part of the colonial conjuncture.

Both modernist and traditionalist responses will be discussed with reference to contemporary texts and ensuing debates. Particular emphasis will be placed on their impact on socio-economic and cultural life of the different communities in British India and in post-independence Pakistan.

Day Three

In the light of the papers presented on Day One and Day Two, Day Three will be given over to the examination of the representation of the family and women's status in both private and public spheres of social life in literary and social texts. Romance, Dastaans, the modern novel, poetry and the visual and performing arts will come within the ambit of these papers. These literary texts and different schools in the world of the visual and performing arts will be used to draw together the different discourses discussed earlier.

Conclusion

The proposed topic for conference II is 'Reading Partitions'. Papers will focus on the three partitions viz. that of India into East and West Pakistan in 1948 and of the Pakistan leading to the formation of Bangladesh in 1970 with the view to examining current debates on regional harmony and peace.

Publication

A two-volume publication based on the papers and presentations at the conference.

Planning for Conference II

Preparatory work for the second conference will begin simultaneously with the production and the publication of the conference papers.

Staff

Project coordinator

Research Associates 2

Human Rights School Texts for Urdu Medium Schools and related activities

Time Frame: 2 years

Background and Rationale

The Simorgh Human Rights Text project for the production and dissemination of multi-purpose rights based texts was initiated in 1995 and has now entered its final stage where these texts are in the process of being introduced and used in schools. Based on the premise that value systems learnt during the formative years of childhood and early adolescence leave their impress on the individual and play a significant role in forming the adult mind, and keeping in mind the strategic role of education in the production of value systems - amply proved by the madrassas in producing Taliban and other extreme right wing groups in South Asia – this project was conceived as a counter strategy to right wing extremism in the country that has proliferated since the Zia era.

Consequently, the project was designed to familiarise school students, at primary, middle and high school levels, with the idea of human rights both as an academic subject as well as a means to help them develop a more humane and rights based perspective on life. It was felt that this project could, if given the room to grow and develop, be one of the long term strategies for counteracting the ethos of intolerance and violence that is being propagated by politically extremist groups.

The English texts, which were produced first due to a greater receptivity in the English medium school sector, are now in the process of being introduced at different schools and we are receiving a positive feed back from the teachers as to their effectiveness as teaching material. Access to these books has also lowered the resistance met earlier in the private Urdu

Medium sector, and there is a growing demand from a number of schools for these texts in Urdu.

Given the wide outreach of this sector, the introduction of these texts in the Urdu medium schools is imperative.

Description

The point of departure of Simorgh's Human Rights School Texts Project lies in a difference of approach both in terms of teaching methodology as well as a shift in focus, which placed the student at centre stage. As teachers/educationists we feel that if textual impact and student participation are to be ensured, it is necessary to produce material that engages student interest as well as familiarises teachers with a more participatory approach to teaching as opposed to the mainstream top down largely rote learning approach that is current in the majority of our academic institutions.

With this aim in mind the project has been designed to include preliminary research involving discussions with school administrative staff, teachers and students from different classes as well as sitting in on classes to observe current teaching methods and patterns of student-teacher interaction.

This procedure has already been observed although in the first phase of the project, more time was spent with schools in the English medium sector. However, as contact has already been established with a selected number of schools in the Urdu medium sector and meetings have been held with the students, teachers and administrative staff of a number of schools in the Kot Lakhpat area. This needs to be developed.

So far the response of both students and teacher's to the Kaleidoscope primers has been very encouraging. 16 schools in the Punjab and Islamabad are already using them and work is continuing to introduce them to other schools. There have also been queries from NGOs who are running government schools through funds provided by the World Bank. All these are positive indicators for the introduction of the human rights texts in Urdu in the Urdu medium school sector.

Textual Content and Methodology

The Urdu texts will be relying on the material that has already been produced for the English texts although some modifications will be made keeping the requirements etc. of the students in mind. This obviates the cost of production that went into the making of the English primers and funds will be required mainly for translation, editing and printing purposes.

As with the English texts, teaching strategies will rely on an integrated approach to learning through stories, folklore and historical anecdote and text related exercises and activities to highlight issues and encourage critical analysis as opposed to the non-productive didacticism that is the norm in our textbooks today. (see enclosed English primers)

Ten Urdu texts, growing progressively more complex in keeping with the age group of the students, will be produced along with detailed teacher's guides.

Supplementary Activities

1. Inter-school seminars on different human rights issues
2. Inter-school essay and story writing competitions on rights related issues
3. Poster making competitions.

Gender Orientation and Participatory Teaching Workshops

Time Frame: 3 years

Rationale

The underlying premise for the work undertaken by Simorgh since it was founded in 1985 has been to forge links between research, information dissemination and action with the view to deep social change addressing class and gender imbalances in the way Pakistani society is organised. Projects for poverty alleviation and sustainable and/or participatory development are doomed to failure – or at best limited to transient success – unless people – both women as well as the economically disadvantaged sections of society can achieve meaningful access to resources and decision-making.

Given the marginalisation of women, minorities and economically disadvantaged sections of society from the centres of power, this is not possible without radical attitudinal changes, not only among the privileged sections of society viz. policy makers etc. but also among key players.

Objectives

To address issues of

- i.** gender based violence
- ii.** women's' political and economic empowerment
- iii.** human rights education and consciousness raising.
- iv.** legal awareness

With the view to bringing about attitudinal and behavioural change vis a vis the above areas of concern among teachers, members of community based organisations and journalists.

Description

To address and impart information on the following issues through a series of workshops.

- v.** gender based violence
- vi.** human rights education, consciousness raising and participatory teaching methodology
- vii.** legal rights education
- viii.** discourse analysis and the representation of women and other marginalised groups viz. minorities etc. in the print and electronic media.
- ix.** Women's' political and economic empowerment

Outputs

The target groups for these workshops will comprise members of the following communities:

- i.** 200 school teachers from English and Urdu medium schools initially in Lahore. On the basis of its Human Rights School Texts project, Simorgh has established contacts with teachers from the English medium private sector and workshops on Rights concepts and participatory as opposed to rote learning teaching methodology have been held in the past. With the introduction of the Human Rights school primers in schools, more systematic and ongoing interaction including workshops with schoolteachers is in demand. (see annexe 1)
- ii.** Students from 20 (minimum) English and Urdu medium schools in Lahore. Using the space created by the Human Rights school texts project, school children will be involved in awareness raising activities viz. seminars. Essay and poster making competitions will be arranged at the national level.
- iii.** Building on existing contacts with CBOs both independently and through partner NGOs viz. SAP, SPO etc. members of community based organisations will be involved in workshops on gender based issues, legal rights education, and violence against women. While it is difficult to give exact numbers at this stage, there is a strong demand from CBOs in Punjab, Sindh and the NWFP for workshops on the above issues to indicate a wide and numerically strong outreach.
- iv.** University and College students from the departments of Law, Mass Communication etc. (the contacts are already there with students from Kinnaird College, Lahore and Punjab University Law College.)
- v.** Journalists primarily from Lahore-based Urdu and English newspapers/magazines. The mediatic production of meaning has been one of Simorgh's ongoing areas of concern including research, discourse analysis and workshops with journalists. Given the crucial role played by the media in the production of meaning especially with regard to gender stereotypes, this is a crucial area of concern requiring systematic and ongoing inputs.

Activities

- x. Five three-day Workshops with 25-50 school teachers each on Human Rights concepts and participatory teaching methodology per year.
- xi. Three seminars with school children from the senior and middle and junior school levels on different human rights issues per year.
One inter-school story writing competition on a rights related issue annually
One poster making competition on rights related issue with a focus on the right to safety, food and education for all.
- xii. Five workshops per year with CBOs on: gender based violence, gendered development, legal rights education etc.
- xiii. Three workshops with twenty journalists on: i. gendered stereotyping, violence and the representation of women in the media etc. per year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be an ongoing process through evaluation questionnaires at the end of each workshop and seminar. The different stages of this project vis a vis content and thrust of workshops etc. will be designed on the basis of participant awareness and feed back.

**Violence Against Women - research and publication series
In hand 2 books.**

Women's Movement: Research

- 1. History of the Family Laws Ordinance**
- 2. Women's Education**
- 3. Women in Politics - the right to political participation**

.the first military government took power under General Ayub Khan and which is the combined result of traditional patriarchal practices and successive military dictatorships and their attendant discourses. On the other, work for the future has to be undertaken so that regardless of class, religious or gender differences, people are involved more closely and purposefully in the multiple levels of political, economic and socio-cultural life.

Westminster Foundation for Democracy Westminster Foundation for Democracy
Simorgh Women's Resource and Publication Centre

Project Proposal 2000-2005

Project Title: "Towards Strengthening Democratic Development and Mainstreaming Women and Minorities"

1. Country Context and Rationale

In Pakistan, over 25 years of military rule interspersed with periods of specious democracy and now, a thinly disguised military government, have led to the erosion of democratic institutions, norms and practice at multiple levels.

More than anything else, the socio-political mayhem of the post-Zia-ul-Haq years bears witness to this fact. Although no social or political institution has escaped the taint of dictatorship, perhaps the worst calamity – precisely because it is less visible and tangible – has been in the area of freedom of thought and speech.

Both the media and the educational institutions have been and continue to be circumscribed by officially sanctioned boundaries. As a part of this process, difference of view and social diversity have been systematically aligned with the illicit and both educational and media policies have been geared to work in ways that have effectively silenced dissent.

While state policy eroded spaces for independent thought during the first military regime of Ayub Khan, the Zia years, when the state consciously collaborated with and facilitated the rise of religious fundamentalists in the country as a power strategy, propagated a misogynist, mono-visual and authoritarian worldview.

Educational institutions and the press, where the parameters of intellectual debate are allowed to develop, have been major calamities in this state-sponsored endeavour. Colleges and Universities, which are predominantly state controlled, have given up any meaningful work in the field of academic research. Over the

past fifty years of Pakistan's history as an independent nation state, the media and educational institutions have propagated the official point of view – whether of history, politics or morality – as statements of fact and incontrovertible truths.

Literalist and simplistic readings of religious and historical texts and traditional methods of rote learning in a political culture that does not take kindly to dissent, have resulted in an older generation that has forgotten how to ask questions – or finds it expedient not to do so – and a younger generation that never learnt to ask them in the first place. This may be an ideal combination for totalitarianism – it is certainly inimical to the growth and development of democracy as well as to the democratic institutions on which democracy and human rights depend.

Neither people's rights nor democracy can flourish in such an atmosphere. We feel that in order to insure the safety of peoples right to intellectual growth there is a need to create an environment where dissent is not automatically aligned with treason or apostasy, people must learn to freely question the discourses that sustain the status quo, as well as participate in changes within them. In order to win back the rich diversity of ideas and experience that history has wrested from us, we need to question received 'wisdom' and to bring thought to bear upon daily experience.

As democratic processes cannot take place without the equal participation of women, our primary focus is on women's empowerment through integration in the different levels of socio-economic and political life.

This is not an easy task. In Pakistan, moves towards the integration of women in the political and economic mainstream of the country have been hampered by that fact that not only is their economic and political potential denied and grossly underused, their low status and vulnerability to violence have maintained their distance from the sources of power. This exclusion from decision-making and a fair access to resources has been due to the combination of patriarchal practices and a heavily centralised and exclusivist system of governance and the propagation of intolerant class based, gender biased ideologies.

Concomitantly, these factors have isolated those who wield power from the majority. As a result, their perception vis a vis what needs to be done reflects their own interests and therefore fails to synchronise with ground realities. Therefore not only have democratic institutions not been allowed to grow, over the years, an ethos which is inimical to the very spirit of human rights and democracy has taken root and gained strength.

This has not only led to a visible increase in the different forms of violence against women, it is also a major reason for low literacy among women and the failure of local institutions to ensure equitable participation by women and men at the grass roots level. This is borne out by the fact that despite the right to vote, women have not been able to exercise this right in successive elections due to an

‘understanding’ between the community and different political parties that has preventing them from voting!

When taken in conjunction with successive development projects it shows that democratic processes and institutions can themselves become corrupted unless they ensure people’s participation at all levels of social, political and economic life regardless of gender and class differences and occur in an ambience that favours their growth and development.

Experience has shown that neither state policies nor legislation for the promotion of peoples’ rights and democratic development can occur unless they find a resonance within the realm of received ideas that have acquired the status of ‘truth’. Tradition, customary practice, social and behavioural norms come within the ambit of this definition.

However, these are difficult areas for while they are open to change, they are also the most difficult to challenge as they are least open to scrutiny. What is needed then, if ideas and action that contest the hegemony of already established ‘truths’ are to take root, is change within those very areas of tradition and customary belief systems that are most resistant to it.

This process, as stated earlier, can be initiated only if, apart from setting up structures for more participatory forms of governance and development, the site is cleared of the ideological accumulations of patriarchy and dictatorship. Socio-political change must, if it is to be effective, be accompanied by change in the realm of ideas. And it is precisely in this area that Simorgh’s programme for 2000-2005 plans to operate.

2. Aims and Objectives

To change attitudes and perceptions through:

- i. the production and dissemination of material that challenges undemocratic/patriarchal norms and practices and social institutions
- ii. the dynamics of action oriented research, workshops etc. to actively involve people in this transformational process.

3. Programme Title:

“Towards Strengthening Democratic Development and Mainstreaming Women and Minorities” 2000 - 2005

Simorgh's programme for the years 2000-2005 comprises different though inter-related and for the most part, potentially self-sustaining projects spaced out over the given time frame.

Projects:

1. Women, Minorities and Legal Rights

- **Gender Equality and the Judiciary: A Bi-annual Legal Journal**

Background and Rationale

The idea for a regular bi-annual legal journal grew out of discussions with Justice Sabihuddin of the Karachi High Court as part of Simorgh's ongoing regional project as the Pakistan member of The Asia-Pacific Advisory Forum on Judicial Education on Equality Issues. (Funded by CIDA – Canada)

There is a felt need to fill the gap in the area of legal scholarship on human rights issues that exists in Pakistan through the publication of a journal dedicated to this discipline.

A second motivational factor is that there are few mechanisms for the internal review of judicial practice within Pakistan. While in matters of patronage the judiciary is strictly hierarchical, the intended purpose of this hierarchy viz. making the lower judiciary responsible for following the procedures set by the higher courts, is not being followed.

In practice there is little review of the lower judiciary; hence at the level of the sessions and district courts where all cases of violence are first reviewed, we evidence the writing of the harshest and most unjust judgements and the systematic violation of the spirit of the law.

A legal journal where issues of human rights are addressed and existing laws/judicial decisions analysed by members of the legal profession, and by academics/activists from the social sciences, is sorely needed. In addition to providing a much needed dimension to legal discourse in the country, it will help to create a space for debate over pertinent laws and judgments in general as well as, more specifically, provide a platform for the articulation of more rights-oriented and equity-based perspectives in this area.

Project Description

A bi-annual journal comprising approximately 100-125 pages consisting of:

- i. Articles/papers on socio-legal issues, judicial decisions regarding on cases dealing with rights issues such as decision making with regard to marriage, divorce, custody, maintenance, minority rights etc.
- ii. Book reviews.

Modalities: As a resource and publication centre, Simorgh is equipped for desktop publishing, which saves printing costs.

Introduction

Since the time of its inception in 1985 Simorgh has undertaken range of projects geared to create awareness for change with regard to women and other marginalised groups in society. Comprising conferences, gender orientation, skill dissemination and conscientisation workshops and research and publication projects on the following areas:

- iii. Violence against women: conferences, workshops, research and publications. (list of publications/reports attached)
- iv. The rise of fundamentalism as a power strategy: conferences, research, publications.
- v. The representation of women in the media and the production of meaning: research, publications, and workshops.)
- vi. Translation and publication of historical and literary writings by women from English to Urdu and vice a versa: publications.
- vii. Political mainstreaming of women: research, conferences, seminars, workshops.
- viii. rights based school texts for children in English (ongoing)
- ix. rights based school texts for children in Urdu (due to start this year)
- x. teacher training workshops
- xi. skill dissemination and conscientisation workshops
- xii. Gender-biased laws etc. Ongoing regional project with members of the senior judiciary
- xiii. Conference Project: 2001-2002. “Colonial Roots and Post Colonial Identities.”

Making Women Visible: From the Margins to the Mainstream: workshops, research, translation and publication for Political Education, Women’s Studies etc. and consciousness raising.

List of Current Donors

1. CIDA (Canada), Islamabad.
2. UNIFEM
3. Global Fund for Women (USA)
4. Global Ministries, New York (USA)
5. International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development (Canada)
6. The Asia Foundation, Islamabad.
7. Heinrich Boll Foundation, Pakistan

Funding sources since 1995

CIDA

MATCH, Canada

1. UNICEF
2. UNDP
3. NORAD
4. NOVIB
5. Royal Netherlands Embassy
6. OXFAM
7. Mama Cash
8. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Islamabad
9. Swiss etc.
10. Church World Services
11. reinventing women?
12. AusAid

Simorgh Programme – 2000-2005

Towards Strengthening Democratic Processes and Mainstreaming Women and Minorities

Introduction and Rationale

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- vii. teacher training workshops
- viii. skill dissemination and conscientisation workshops
- ix. Gender-biased laws etc. Ongoing regional project with members of the senior judiciary

While this is a fairly broad-based agenda, if the new millennium is to bring about definitive change within the body politic of the country, Pakistan will have to discover and utilise its potential as a nation and move towards becoming a more equitable and humane society. This can be achieved only if the people's participation at all levels viz. the family, the community and nationally, is ensured through access to decision making and resources as equitably as is possible. In this regard, special emphasis needs to be placed on activities/programmes that will lead to the entry of the traditionally marginal and dispossessed groups or classes viz. women, children and minorities, into the cultural, economic and political mainstream.

In order to bring about this change, work needs to be done in two broadly defined though critically interlinked areas. On the one hand the site has to be cleared of the undemocratic debris that has accumulated since 1957 when the first military government took power under General Ayub Khan and which is the combined result of traditional patriarchal practices and successive military dictatorships and their attendant discourses. On the other, work for the future has to be undertaken so that regardless of class, religious or gender differences, people are involved more closely and purposefully in the multiple levels of political, economic and socio-cultural life.

Simorgh's programme for 2000-2005 entitled "**Towards Strengthening Democratic Development and Mainstreaming Women and Minorities**" is a step in this direction. It straddles the two areas defined earlier as it aims to (i.) change attitudes and perceptions through the production and dissemination of material that challenges undemocratic/patriarchal norms and practices and social institutions and (ii.) through the dynamics of action oriented research, workshops etc. to actively involve people in this transformational process.

As democratic processes cannot take place without the equal participation of women, our primary focus is on women's empowerment through integration in the different levels of economic and political life.

This is not an easy task. In Pakistan, moves towards the integration of women in the political and economic mainstream of the country have been hampered by that fact that not only is their economic and political potential denied and grossly underused, their low status and vulnerability to violence have maintained their distance from the sources of power. This exclusion from decision making and a fair access to resources has been due to the combination of patriarchal practices and a heavily centralised and exclusivist system of governance and the propagation of intolerant class based, gender biased ideologies.

Concomitantly, these factors have isolated those who wield power from the majority. As a result, their perception vis a vis what needs to be done reflects their own interests and therefore fails to synchronise with ground realities. Therefore not only have democratic institutions not been allowed to grow, over the years, an ethos which is inimical to the very spirit of human rights has taken root and gained strength.

This has not only led to a visible increase in the different forms of violence against women, it is also a major reason for low literacy among women and the failure of local institutions viz. Local Bodies etc. and the electoral processes to ensure equitable participation by women and men at the grass roots level. When taken in conjunction with successive development projects it shows that democratic processes and institutions can themselves become corrupted unless they ensure people's participation at all levels of social, political and economic life regardless of gender and class differences and occur in an ambience that favours their growth and development.

Experience has shown that neither state policies nor legislation for the promotion of peoples' rights and democratic development can occur unless they find a resonance within the realm of received ideas that have acquired the status of 'truth'. Tradition, customary practice, social and behavioural norms come within the ambit of this definition.

However, these are difficult areas for while they are open to change, they are also the most difficult to challenge as they are least open to scrutiny. What is needed then, if ideas and action that contest the hegemony of already established 'truths' are to take root, is change within those very areas of tradition and customary belief systems that are most resistant to it. This process, as stated earlier, can be initiated only if, apart from setting up structures for more participatory forms of governance and development, the site is cleared of the ideological accumulations of patriarchy and dictatorship. Socio-political change must, if it is to be effective, be accompanied by change in the realm of ideas. And it is in precisely this area that Simorgh's programme for 2000-2005 plans to operate.

The Simorgh Programme – 2000-2005: Towards Strengthening Democratic Processes and Mainstreaming Women and Minorities which addresses itself to this ideological dimension comprises the following projects:

Making Women Visible: From the Margins to the Mainstream: workshops, research, translation and publication for Women's Studies and consciousness raising.

Gender Equality and the Judiciary: A Bi-annual Legal Journal: articles, critical analysis of judicial decisions and gender biased laws etc.

Colonial Roots – Post-Colonial Identities: a research, conference and publication project.

Honour Killings and Violence in the Name of Culture and Tradition: an International Conference.

Human Rights School Texts for Urdu Medium Schools and related activities

History books for children (demand from schools)

Moments of Awakening I: Women's Histories and Women in History: a research and publication project

Teacher Training Workshops: participatory teaching methodology

Gender Orientation Workshops: addressing issues of violence, political and economic empowerment

2. Making Women Visible: From the Margins to the Mainstream

A research, translation and publication for Women's Studies and consciousness raising project.

Background and Rationale

Research, publication and information dissemination comprise an important strategy for ideological change. The aim of these research projects/texts will be to counter retrogressive attitudes towards women's right to participate in all levels of socio-economic and political life. This will be done through the production of historical and literary texts revealing that:

- vii. women have always been active in the fields of politics, literature and economics and that the concept of women's participation in the multiple realms of experience is not alien neither to our history nor our culture
- viii. that this participation is crucial to national progress and development.

This decision is based on the premise that literary and historical texts and visual teaching aids that 'show' people the way things are and can be, as opposed to 'telling' them what they must or must not do, are more a more subtle and therefore effective way of changing their perceptions than didactic messages or top down edicts from the state or any other visible source of authority. As such this material will enable us to:

- ix. minimise our reliance on examples of women from other countries/cultures as role models etc. thereby countering resistance from the general public as well as from participants at training and orientation workshops to women's participation in public life.
- x. Challenge the false dichotomies that militate against democratic development and deny women their fundamental right to control and actively participate in their own lives as well as reinforcing pro-democracy policies/programmes initiated at other levels.

Past Experience and Feedback

Simorgh has been engaged in this kind of work since its inception in 1985. Chief among our publications and research ventures are:

- x. Rape in Pakistan: the first of its kind undertaken in Pakistan, this has been widely used by NGOs, CBOs, students etc. The English edition of this publication is out of print although the demand for it continues.
- xi. ii. Four booklets comprising essays by the Moroccan scholar Fatima Mernissi: 'The Fundamentalist Obsession with Women', 'Women Saints and Sanctuaries', 'Women in Muslim History' and 'Can a Woman be Head of a Muslim State. Available in both Urdu and English, these have been used by research scholars and by NGOs and CBOs.
- xii. 'Reinventing Women: The Representation of Women in the Media under Zia'. Available in both Urdu and English, this component of an Asia Pacific regional study, has been used by people in the media, students and NGOs.

Ongoing research and publication projects: Translation into English of Khadija Mastoor's novel Aangan. In press. Translation into Urdu of Fatima Mernissi's book Dreams of Trespass. In process. Human Rights School Texts for schools: in press. The primers are

being picked up by schools as they come from the press thus enabling ongoing feedback and evaluation.

Project Description

The annual research, production and dissemination of 2 texts from 2000-2005 or from the time of receipt of funds.

Year 1.

Implementation Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor:
2 research associates:

2. Multi-Purpose Human Rights and Gender Orientation Teaching Aids: Flip Charts, gender orientation/training manual etc.

Time Frame: 2 years

Rationale

Our experience in Human Rights and Gender Orientation/Training Workshops and related activities has consistently highlighted the need for visual teaching aids other than the facility provided by slide projectors, video films etc. These, though highly effective do suffer have (i.) limited accessibility viz. dependence on availability of and electricity, etc.

Project Description

- iii. Flip Chart Topics, detailing point-wise information on the following:
 - m.) The women's struggle for their right to education from the early 20th century to the present day.
 - n.) Women's franchise and the fight for the right to vote and political participation from the 1930's to the present day.
 - o.) The fight against polygamy 1930's to the present day
 - p.) Women's inheritance rights and the right to property
 - q.) The Patriarchal Family – structure and socio-economic arrangements
 - r.) The Political Economy of Violence against Women

Language

As these flip charts are intended for use in communities as well as in schools as supplementary teaching aids, they will be produced in both Urdu and English.

Outreach

Designed for use in gender training and political education workshops, these will reach out to both rural and urban communities through CBOs and NGOs working in this area as well as to school children in both Urdu and English medium schools in the country. Access to schools will be provided through channels created by the Simorgh Human Rights Texts project etc.

3. A Pictorial History of the Women's Movement and the Zia Years

Time frame: 1 year

Background and Rationale

The 1980s saw the rise of the second wave of the Women's Movement in Pakistan. These were the years when women emerged as the first group to challenge the military government of General Zia-ul-Haq. Coming together under the umbrella of Women's Action Forum, women's organisations to protest violations of women's rights and demanded the repeal of sexist laws and changes in institutional practices that ensure and maintain women's oppression and exploitation through time.

A fairly comprehensive pictorial record of this period is available with different women and journalists. These are vibrant photographs depicting (i.) women's resistance to an oppressive regime and (ii.) highlighting issues of poverty, gender based discrimination and violence against women and other dis-empowered social groups.

While the second wave of the women's movement in Pakistan emerged during the overt repression and violation of women's rights under Zia-ul-Haq, the issues that brought women together are still with us. Since 1988 and despite the recognition of women's issues, Zia's legacy combined with patriarchal prerogatives and the imperatives of globalisation and the aftermath of the Afghan war have led to a deterioration of the conditions of women's lives.

Apart from being a valuable record of the women's movement in Pakistan, a pictorial history of women's protest will serve (i.) to refocus public attention on women's issues which are so crucial to national development at multiple levels and (ii.) serve as a

reminder of the fact that the changes that have occurred in this field were won through a concerted effort on women's part (iii) provide back up material to teaching aids for gender orientation workshops etc.

Description

Approximately a hundred and fifty-page text comprising an issue based, chronological history of the women's movement during the Zia years based on black and white photographs and accompanying text. The text will contextualise each issue and provide relevant background on the specificity of each situation including state responses and mediatic and public comments/interpretations. This will also serve to highlight changes and/or reactions vis a vis the status of women in Pakistani society.

Staff

Editor 12 months

Research Associates: 2 for 12 months

Project Summary

Simorgh Programme – 2000-2005

Towards Strengthening Democratic Processes: Mainstreaming Women and Minorities

Project Title: Critical History of Personal Laws in Pakistan

Objectives

Awareness and opinion building through information on: i. The Family Laws Ordinance 1961 ii. The role of women's organisations in pushing for these laws iii. impact on women's lives and rightwing resistance to these laws.

Output

A research-based publication on the history of personal laws in Pakistan with the main focus on The Family Laws Ordinance of 1961 including debates dealing with the issue and the role played by women's organisations to bring about this change.

Outreach

Activists, lawyers, senior judiciary, students, NGOs and CBOs

Activities

Research team to access material from different documented sources as well as through interviews etc. with activists, lawyers.

Writing, and translation of text for publication in Urdu and English.

Indicators

The ongoing debate on personal laws and women's rights to choice in marriage, property, etc. requires both the knowledge of existing laws, as well as of the context in which they

become operative. This is evidenced in the demand for information by activists and students.

Project Summary
Simorgh Programme – 2000-2005

**Towards Strengthening Democratic Processes:
Mainstreaming Women and Minorities**

Project Title: Moments of Awakening: Women's Histories and Women in History

An oral history research and publication project

Time Frame: 3 years

Objectives

Restore women's visibility in history in politics, as change agents: i. through documentation and publication. ii. create resource base for different research projects by activists, academics etc.

Output

1. A research based publication on the contextual history of women based on individual experiences as they impacted on private and public life within a given period. Special focus: the women's movement in Pakistan.
2. A documented resource base of oral history for further research accessible to social science, history, women's studies students, academics etc.

Activities

1. Interviews of women from pre-partition days to the Zia era.
2. Documentation of material

Indicators

1. The need to give visibility to women's contribution to history at multiple levels to facilitate their entry into the political mainstream today.
2. A team of Simorgh members has been interviewing women informally for the past year or so. This has confirmed the need for this work as not only is this a rich area of experience that needs to be recorded, the multiple levels of women's lives that come into play when they speak of their experiences highlights crucial links between public and private discourse and the impact of this ongoing interaction personally and at the levels of the community and the state.

Project Summary
Simorgh Programme – 2000-2005

**Towards Strengthening Democratic Processes:
Mainstreaming Women and Minorities**

International Conference: Violence in the Name of Honour

Time Frame: 1 year

All Projects that are marked with an asterisk are not research projects as they will be based mainly on information that already exists with Simorgh or is readily available with partner NGOs or other known sources. In all these projects it is more a matter of organizing and presenting existing material rather than setting out on an exercise involving purely academic research.

The only research involved in some projects will be discussions with school children and teachers with regards to the school history texts project. This is useful as it involves them in the pre-publication stages of the project and helps us in knowing the levels at which to pitch the texts for different classes and age groups.

flip charts and manuals

Editor
2 Research assistants
artist on contract
manuals: 50 pages
flip charts 25 pages
publication costs 500 copies in Urdu and English each

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor:

2 research associates:

translators (on contract)

honoraria for concerned lawyers/judges

graphics designer

printing costs – 1000 copies (200 pages) in Urdu and English

Staff

Project Coordinator/Editor:

2 research associates:

translators (on contract)

honoraria for concerned lawyers/judges

graphics designer

printing costs – 1000 copies (200 pages) in Urdu and English

Project Description

A bi-annual journal comprising approximately 100-125 pages consisting of:

- iv. Articles/papers on socio-legal issues, judicial decisions regarding on cases dealing with rights issues such as decision making with regard to marriage, divorce, custody, maintenance, minority rights etc.
- v. Human Rights Law, CEDAW, the International Criminal Court etc.
- vi. Book reviews.

Modalities: As a resource and publication centre, Simorgh is equipped for desktop publishing, which ensures quality and saves printing costs.

Outreach

- vii. Members of the legal profession at the national level
- viii. Members of the Asia Pacific Advisory Forum and partner NGOs in the SAARC countries and other Rights networks viz. the Permanent Arab Court to Resist Violence against Women and the Asian Women's Human Rights Council
- ix. Law schools: libraries and students
- x. Human Rights organisations
- xi. Women's organisations
- xii. Lay public

Methodology

In consultation with the Advisory Committee, the project editorial board would identify issues and select themes for each issue of the journal prior to contacting relevant members of the legal profession as well as academics from social sciences etc. at both national and international levels, to contribute to the journal.

Advisory Editorial Committee

An Advisory Editorial Committee comprising retired and active judges, human rights lawyers and social scientists, to be selected in consultation with relevant members from the legal profession.

The function of this committee would be consultative and consist of identifying contributors and/or vetting material as and when necessary.

Contact with the Committee would comprise bi-annual consultative meetings and through correspondence.

Project Title: Violence Against Women and Human Rights Education: Training and Orientation and Workshops

Duration: 5 years

Rationale

The underlying premise for the work undertaken by Simorgh since it was founded in 1985 has been to forge links between research, information dissemination and action with the view to deep social change addressing class and gender imbalances in the way Pakistani society is organised. Projects for poverty alleviation and sustainable and/or participatory development are doomed to failure – or at best limited to transient success – unless people – both women as well as the economically disadvantaged sections of society can achieve meaningful access to resources and decision-making.

Given the marginalisation of women, minorities and economically disadvantaged sections of society from the centres of power, this is not possible without radical attitudinal changes, not only among the privileged sections of society viz. policy makers etc. but also among key players.

Objectives

Facilitate/enable institutional change through workshops on gender related and rights issues for key players viz. teachers, school/college students, members of community-based organisations and journalists.

To address and impart information on the following issues

- x. gender based violence
- xi. human rights education, consciousness raising and participatory teaching methodology
- xii. legal rights education
- xiii. discourse analysis and the representation of women and other marginalised groups viz. minorities etc. in the print and electronic media.
- xiv. Women's political and economic empowerment

Output

The target groups for these workshops will comprise members of the following communities:

- vi.** 200 school teachers from English and Urdu medium schools initially in Lahore. On the basis of its Human Rights School Texts project, Simorgh has established contacts with teachers from the English medium private sector and workshops on Rights concepts and participatory as opposed to rote learning teaching methodology have been held in the past. With the introduction of the Human Rights school primers in schools, more systematic and ongoing interaction including workshops with school teachers is in demand. (see annexure 1)
- vii.** Students from 20 (minimum) English and Urdu medium schools in Lahore. Using the space created by the Human Rights school texts project, school children will be involved in awareness raising activities viz. seminars. Essay and poster making competitions will be arranged at the national level.
- viii.** Building on existing contacts with CBOs both independently and through partner NGOs viz. SAP, SPO etc. members of community based organisations will be involved in workshops on gender based issues, legal rights education, and violence against women. While it is difficult to give exact numbers at this stage, there is a strong demand from CBOs in Punjab, Sindh and the NWFP for workshops on the above issues to indicate a wide and numerically strong outreach.
- ix.** Journalists primarily from Lahore-based Urdu and English newspapers/magazines. The mediatic production of meaning has been one of Simorgh's ongoing areas of concern including research, discourse analysis and workshops with journalists. Given the crucial role played by the media in the production of meaning especially with regard to gender stereotypes, this is a crucial area of concern requiring systematic and ongoing inputs.

Activities

- i.** Five three-day Workshops with 25-50 school teachers each on Human Rights concepts and participatory teaching methodology per year.
- ii.** Three seminars with school children from the senior and middle and junior school levels on different human rights issues per year.
One inter-school story writing competition on a rights related issue annually
One poster making competition on a rights related issue with a focus on the right to safety, food and education for all.
- iii.** Five workshops per year with CBOs on: gender based violence, gendered development, legal rights education etc.

- iv. Three workshops with twenty journalists on: i. gendered stereotyping, violence and the representation of women in the media etc. per year.
- v. Three workshops with twenty - twenty five law students on gender issues and laws

Indicators

Monitoring and evaluation will be an ongoing process through evaluation questionnaires at the end of each workshop and seminar. The different stages of this project vis a vis content and thrust of workshops etc. will be designed on the basis of participant awareness and feed back.

So far we have held workshops with teachers and law students and the feedback has been positive. The law students - initially resistant - showed a marked change in attitudes albeit superficial at this stage - as well as a definite interest in understanding social issues in relation to legal practice.

All Projects that are marked with an asterisk are not research projects as they will be based mainly on information that already exists with Simorgh or is readily available with partner NGOs or other known sources. In all these projects it is more a matter of organizing and presenting existing material rather than setting out on an exercise involving purely academic research.

The only research involved in some projects will be discussions with school children and teachers with regards to the school history texts project. This is useful as it involves them in the pre-publication stages of the project and helps us in knowing the levels at which to pitch the texts for different classes and age groups.

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flip charts 25 pages

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Modalities: As a resource and publication centre, Simorgh is equipped for desktop publishing, which ensures quality and saves printing costs.

Outreach

- xiii. Members of the legal profession at the national level
- xiv. Members of the Asia Pacific Advisory Forum and partner NGOs in the SAARC countries and other Rights networks viz. the Permanent Arab Court to Resist Violence against Women and the Asian Women's Human Rights Council
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- xvii. Women's organisations
- xviii. Lay public

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Project Title: Violence Against Women and Human Rights Education: Training and Orientation and Workshops

Duration: 5 years

Rationale

The underlying premise for the work undertaken by Simorgh since it was founded in 1985 has been to forge links between research, information dissemination and action with the view to deep social change addressing class and gender imbalances in the way Pakistani society is organised. Projects for poverty alleviation and sustainable and/or participatory development are doomed to failure – or at best limited to transient success – unless people – both women as well as the economically disadvantaged sections of society can achieve meaningful access to resources and decision-making.

Given the marginalisation of women, minorities and economically disadvantaged sections of society from the centres of power, this is not possible without radical attitudinal changes, not only among the privileged sections of society viz. policy makers etc. but also among key players.

Objectives

Facilitate/enable institutional change through workshops on gender related and rights issues for key players viz. teachers, school/college students, members of community-based organisations and journalists.

To address and impart information on the following issues

- xv. gender based violence
- xvi. human rights education, consciousness raising and participatory teaching methodology
- xvii. legal rights education

- xviii. discourse analysis and the representation of women and other marginalised groups viz. minorities etc. in the print and electronic media.
- xix. Women's political and economic empowerment

Output

The target groups for these workshops will comprise members of the following communities:

- x. 200 school teachers from English and Urdu medium schools initially in Lahore. On the basis of its Human Rights School Texts project, Simorgh has established contacts with teachers from the English medium private sector and workshops on Rights concepts and participatory as opposed to rote learning teaching methodology have been held in the past. With the introduction of the Human Rights school primers in schools, more systematic and ongoing interaction including workshops with school teachers is in demand. (see annexure 1)
- xi. Students from 20 (minimum) English and Urdu medium schools in Lahore. Using the space created by the Human Rights school texts project, school children will be involved in awareness raising activities viz. seminars. Essay and poster making competitions will be arranged at the national level.
- xii. Building on existing contacts with CBOs both independently and through partner NGOs viz. SAP, SPO etc. members of community based organisations will be involved in workshops on gender based issues, legal rights education, and violence against women. While it is difficult to give exact numbers at this stage, there is a strong demand from CBOs in Punjab, Sindh and the NWFP for workshops on the above issues to indicate a wide and numerically strong outreach.
- xiii. Journalists primarily from Lahore-based Urdu and English newspapers/magazines. The mediatic production of meaning has been one of Simorgh's ongoing areas of concern including research, discourse analysis and workshops with journalists. Given the crucial role played by the media in the production of meaning especially with regard to gender stereotypes, this is a crucial area of concern requiring systematic and ongoing inputs.

Activities

- vi. Five three-day Workshops with 25-50 school teachers each on Human Rights concepts and participatory teaching methodology per year.
- vii. Three seminars with school children from the senior and middle and junior school levels on different human rights issues per year.
One inter-school story writing competition on a rights related issue annually

One poster making competition on a rights related issue with a focus on the right to safety, food and education for all.

- viii. Five workshops per year with CBOs on: gender based violence, gendered development, legal rights education etc.
- ix. Three workshops with twenty journalists on: i. gendered stereotyping, violence and the representation of women in the media etc. per year.
- x. Three workshops with twenty - twenty five law students on gender issues and laws

Indicators

Monitoring and evaluation will be an ongoing process through evaluation questionnaires at the end of each workshop and seminar. The different stages of this project vis a vis content and thrust of workshops etc. will be designed on the basis of participant awareness and feed back.

So far we have held workshops with teachers and law students and the feedback has been positive. The law students - initially resistant - showed a marked change in attitudes albeit superficial at this stage - as well as a definite interest in understanding social issues in relation to legal practice.

ⁱ All Projects that are marked with an asterisk are not research projects as they will be based mainly on information that already exists with Simorgh or is readily available with partner NGOs or other known sources. In all these projects it is more a matter of organizing and presenting existing material rather than setting out on an exercise involving purely academic research.

The only research involved in some projects will be discussions with school children and teachers with regards to the school history texts project. This is useful as it involves them in the pre-publication stages of the project and helps us in knowing the levels at which to pitch the texts for different classes and age groups.

ⁱⁱ **flip charts and manuals**

Editor

2 Research assistants

artist on contract

manuals: 50 pages

flip charts 25 pages

publication costs 500 copies in Urdu and English each

ⁱⁱⁱ **Staff**

Project Coordinator/Editor:

2 research associates:

translators (on contract)

honoraria for concerned lawyers/judges

graphics designer

printing costs – 1000 copies (200 pages) in Urdu and English

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Project Description

A bi-annual journal comprising approximately 100-125 pages consisting of:

- i. Articles/papers on socio-legal issues, judicial decisions regarding on cases dealing with rights issues such as decision making with regard to marriage, divorce, custody, maintenance, minority rights etc.
- ii. Human Rights Law, CEDAW, the International Criminal Court etc.
- iii. Book reviews.

Modalities: As a resource and publication centre, Simorgh is equipped for desktop publishing, which ensures quality and saves printing costs.

Outreach

- i. Members of the legal profession at the national level
- ii. Members of the Asia Pacific Advisory Forum and partner NGOs in the SAARC countries and other Rights networks viz. the Permanent Arab Court to Resist Violence against Women and the Asian Women's Human Rights Council
- iii. Law schools: libraries and students

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- iv. Human Rights organisations
 - v. Women's organisations
 - vi. Lay public

Methodology

In consultation with the Advisory Committee, the project editorial board would identify issues and select themes for each issue of the journal prior to contacting relevant members of the legal profession as well as academics from social sciences etc. at both national and international levels, to contribute to the journal.

Advisory Editorial Committee

An Advisory Editorial Committee comprising retired and active judges, human rights lawyers and social scientists, to be selected in consultation with relevant members from the legal profession.

The function of this committee would be consultative and consist of identifying contributors and/or vetting material as and when necessary.

Contact with the Committee would comprise bi-annual consultative meetings and through correspondence.

Project Title: Violence Against Women and Human Rights Education: Training and Orientation and Workshops

Duration: 5 years

Rationale

The underlying premise for the work undertaken by Simorgh since it was founded in 1985 has been to forge links between research, information dissemination and action with the view to deep social change addressing class and gender imbalances in the way Pakistani society is organised. Projects for poverty alleviation and sustainable and/or participatory development are doomed to failure – or at best limited to transient success – unless people – both women as well as the economically disadvantaged sections of society can achieve meaningful access to resources and decision-making.

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- ii. human rights education, consciousness raising and participatory teaching methodology
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One poster making competition on a rights related issue with a focus on the right to safety, food and education for all.
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