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The Women's Movement(s) Pakistan... Whose culture, whose issues, whose movement?



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Metal scrap workers

Which women ?

Urban women



Stock Exchange workers Who defines 'womanhood'? 'Culture'? 'authenticity'?

Rural women

Which Issues? What strategies?

Education

Women's Reform Movement – The struggle for 'modern' education



Nazi Fyzee & Atiya Fyzee, 1906 1925 Atiya & Nazli gatecrash & disrupt MEC Conference to ensure women never excluded again



Zohra Fyzee & Atiya Fyzee

Economic Rights: 1935, 1951...2008 Inheritance Property rights

1935 –1937 Muslim Personal (Shariat) Application Act Gives women right to inherit property, never implemented



1951: economic rights: exclusion from Inheritance & Property rights





Personal status rights?

State culture

VS.

Sub-state collective identity = family, clan, ethnicity, religion



SG training - Lahore High Court Women's Bar Room



Collective identity blocks *de jure* rights as 'customs'

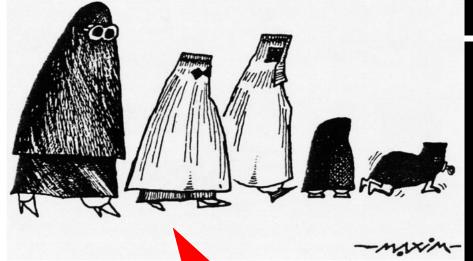
Voting & running for office Employment, Education Whether & who to marry



Women members assembly

1977-1988

Martial law justifying itself as "Islamic"



Criminalises consensual sex, Qisas & diyat – introduces barbaric punishments religious apartheid

Questions + rescinds women's rights Introduces new dress codes



Burning veils – protesting cultural impositions & Control



Religious interpretations Taking the streets Jalsas: songs, poetry & laughter

Women's Action Forum



Protesting new criminal laws

Whose movement?



Vexatious questions

Engage with the state or not State-centred activism vs. ground changes Political or non-political & links with politicians Within framework of Islam or not Feminist vs. women's rights movement WAF limited by class & urban location... still

Defied martial law Rejected "Islamic" laws/policies Put women permanently on national agenda

Alliances with •other women •other groups

Democratisation meant... Inserting women into other movements... Joint Action Committee for People's Rights **Lobby political parties** Labour groups Peasant groups

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ROTEST RACKY AGAIN

08 OCTOBER 2004

ZENS'ACTION GROUP AGI

No single voice for women... **Unity in diversity**

2000-2003



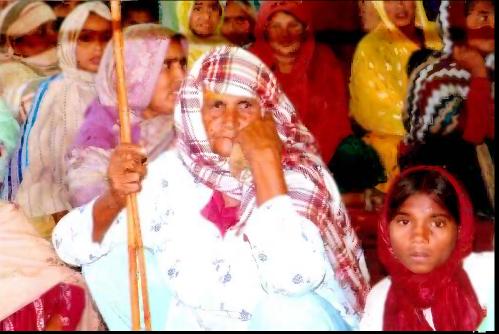
Peasants confronting the state for land





Thappas = Women's threshing sticks

Thappas = protection family & fields Symbol of resistance



Gaining/using knowledge

Legal awareness

Social & political awareness







Movements are about solidarity



Linking across the divides

WLUMLTraining - 2000

Asian Conference – Lahore 1932





Peasant women – Pakistan 2008

Democratic or authoritarian states shape the context & so women's movement(s)

How to integrate & sustain movements



Women's location in social groups shapes their dreams of the possible & strategies for change

Who speaks for the community?

Which oppression is critical & which can be challenged today? What sources of support? What obstacles? Land from government not from brothers



Empowerment can be catalysed by any activity...







but always entails a cycle of reflection, analysis and decision for action: Paolo Freire

Women are the fulcrum of their own empowerment

United we stand, divided we fall

Our culture must become ours to define...

