In 2018 Shirkat Gah’s interventions continued to change ground realities for many women and girls in Pakistan, bringing new knowledge, skills and linkages to access and assert rights. Shirkat Gah teams brought awareness of the rights of women and girls to more than 80,000 people, mostly women. More than 13,000 women were registered as new voters prior to the general elections in 2018; CNICs were obtained for over 13,000 women, ensuring access to schemes and franchise.

Ending multiple forms of violence against women and girls remained a priority, with a focus on bringing about community-owned changes to end the pernicious cycle of gender based violence, as reflected in some of the stories highlighted in the report. In four districts, 1000 new households pledged to become Violence Free Families, led by male heads of households but joined also by teenage boys and women. Two adolescent-focused projects came to a close, bringing substantial change in four districts across Pakistan with community-owned changes to end child and early-aged marriages. All the girls, boys and mothers engaged in the project shared information on the negative impact of early and child marriages with their friends, relatives, neighbours and schoolmates. The vast majority of the girls and mothers (83% and 84% respectively) intervened to stop such marriages; 27.5% made efforts to delay their own marriages. More than two thirds of the boys engaged (67%) also tried to stop the marriages of female relatives but equally of male relatives; a few delayed their own marriages. They were mostly successful (85.7% - 100%). Only in Balochistan, did girls meet with less success (23%). The very fact that the taboo subject has been broached and girls are speaking up is remarkable. Our reproductive health champions and CSO partners in the field worked to improve access to services and rights, including especially by using government complaint mechanisms.

Our work with women councilors came to a close. Numerous councilors as well as community women stepped into leadership roles. Councilors successfully demanded improved conditions to ensure their own participation, engaged with their constituents in more regular sessions to learn about and then take up women’s priority issues and missing facilities in their areas and many directly intervened in cases of gender-based violence as well as helping women to obtain CNICs and use their franchise. Gender sensitised local media helped to promote a more positive role of women representatives and women in general.

In terms of agenda setting and influencing, Shirkat Gah served on nine different government committees in its priority areas. We are proud that we made significant inputs into the high-level discussions at the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development and was on the drafting committee for the CSO Statement for the Intergovernmental Meeting that followed the Forum.

Shirkat Gah’s nurturing of and interconnecting feminists continued through the feminist hubs being run by its institute graduates. A meeting with activists across 5 South Asia countries enabled new linkages and connections, and rich discussions which culminated in a document Towards A Feminist Change Agenda For South Asia.

A new beginning in 2018 was the start of a project promoting the safety of women human rights defenders and those promoting gender equality across the country. In 2018, the main concern was scoping the nature of threats confronted and actions taken.

I am proud of and grateful for the dedicated commitment of Shirkat Gah colleagues who have made this possible along with our field partners, CSO networks the brave women and girls, but also boys and men as well as responsive duty-bearers who are making possible the needed changes for gender equality and pluralism in the country.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronyms</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASNs</td>
<td>Area Support Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHU</td>
<td>Basic Health Unit</td>
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<td>CAGs</td>
<td>Community Action Groups</td>
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<td>CBOs</td>
<td>Community Based Organizations</td>
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<td>CIP</td>
<td>Costed Implementation Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNICs</td>
<td>Computerized National Identity Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODs</td>
<td>Charter of Demands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDO</td>
<td>Education District Officer</td>
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<td>FIR</td>
<td>First Information Report</td>
</tr>
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<td>ICPD</td>
<td>International Conference on Population and Development</td>
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<td>NCSW</td>
<td>National Commission on the Status of Women</td>
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<td>PCSW</td>
<td>Punjab Commission on the Status of Women</td>
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<td>PSL</td>
<td>Personal Status Law</td>
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<td>RRNs</td>
<td>Rapid Response Networks</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights</td>
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<td>UC</td>
<td>Union Council</td>
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<td>VAWG</td>
<td>Violence Against Women and Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFF</td>
<td>Violence Free Families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

• ABOUT US ..................................................................................................................................................05
• SHIRKAT GAH’S DISTRICT-WISE PRESENCE IN PAKISTAN ..................................................................08
• STRATEGIC PRIORITIES .........................................................................................................................10
• HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018 ...............................................................................................................................12
• CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVED POLICY FRAMEWORKS ......................................................................22
• COMPLIANCE UNDER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS & AGENDA SETTING .................................22
• IEC 2018 PUBLICATIONS .......................................................................................................................23
• INFOGRAPHICS ON EARLY AGE MARRIAGE & GENDER BASE VIOLENCE ........................................28
• ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2018 .................................................................................................................31
Shirkat Gah
Annual Report
2018
About Us

Shirkat Gah - Women’s Resource Centre was established in 1975 and registered under the Societies Act in 1976. We are committed to advancing gender equality in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, adhering to a feminist perspective and upholding religious freedom for everyone. Our Interventions support a culture of peace, democracy & pluralism and promote environment-friendly practices and policies for the sustainable use of natural resources.

Our Vision

- A just, vibrant and democratic society in which:
- Women are fully empowered;
- Human rights and dignity are enjoyed by all equally without discrimination, and
- Where peace prevails and resources and opportunities are ensured on a sustainable and equitable basis.

Our Mission

We strive to:

- Strengthen women as rights holders to claim their rights and redefine existing parameters of State and society
- Advocate and mobilize for gender equality and social justice, promoting equitable policies and practices from the local to the global and back again;
- Hold the State accountable for equal rights, security and dignity of all and the sustainable and equitable use of resources;
- Promote a culture of peace, democracy and pluralism and resist the use of culture and religion by State and non-State actors to deny women’s rights, and
- Flourish as an inclusive, vibrant, pro-active feminist organization.

Our Uniqueness Lies In Our Cyclical Processes To Leverage Sustainable Change

- We think globally, act locally & bring local knowledge to global processes:
- Grounded work informs & enriches interventions in national, regional and international arenas;
- Challenges, concepts & thinking of transnational work are shared with and bolster grassroots work in Pakistan;
- Community work is anchored in empirical research and conceptual understanding, with grounded experiences providing new insights and dimensions to existing discourses and practices. Strong linkages with social movements, media and other actors ensure that our messages reach a wider audience, helping to promote an enabling environment for raising voices for women’s rights.
Shirkat Gah’s District-Wise Presence in Pakistan 2018
Strategic Priorities

All SG actions are designed under the four thematic areas of its strategic plan 2014-18:

Bodily Rights:

To build and enhance women’s conceptual understanding of and ability to exercise their rights in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), violence against women (VAW) and Personal Status Law (PSL), and promote a conducive environment. Women enabled to recognize, understand and claim their bodily rights as well as resist all discriminatory practices.

We believe for a woman to secure her bodily rights, her immediate environment must be enabling. This requires reorienting her community, local duty bearers, service providers and society as a whole. Our interventions have increased the sensitization level and responsiveness of duty bearers. It also ensures effective linkages with community based organizations and local government bodies.

At Shirkat Gah, we believe the state must ensure that women-supportive laws and policies are formulated and implemented effectively so that women can fearlessly claim their bodily rights. As part of a larger social reconciliatory effort, Shirkat Gah also engages with men including youth through various programmes and projects to create acceptance of women’s bodily rights.

Voice:

To strengthen women to raise their individual and collective voices against patriarchy and other obstructive factors, claim their democratic rights and demand social justice, locally, provincially, nationally and even globally. Shirkat Gah believes in developing capacity at the grassroots, and provide opportunities for women and male allies to raise their voices and act collectively for gender equality, peace and pluralism throughout Pakistan, as well as regionally and internationally. Women and male allies – active citizens, champions and leaders – across the country in different communities are pivotal as effective agents of sustainable change.
**Environmental Context:**

Towards a conducive socio-cultural, political, economic and natural environment to achieve women’s empowerment, peace and social justice, Shirkat Gah transfers knowledge and technical skills to community women and men and creates effective links with appropriate State and non-state actors and institutions. Actions seek to both change socio-cultural patterns on the ground and ensure appropriate laws, policies and processes. A culture of peace, democracy, pluralism and sustainable development premised on human rights promoted, and the values of women’s equality and empowerment upheld.

An enabling policy framework and social environment is necessary for women to fully exercise their rights. Upholding women’s rights and ensuring an enabling environment is the primary responsibility of the State. At Shirkat Gah, through our work with marginalized, underserved and underrepresented women, we help hold the State accountable for creating a stable political environment to work and thrive in. Furthermore, since research has proved that women are more vulnerable to the devastating and long-term impacts of climate change in terms of water scarcity and food insecurity, we work with women across communities to create awareness about their natural environmental rights as well, promoting sustainability and efficient use of natural resources.

**Organizational Evolution:**

To mainstream a pro-active feminist, learning and listening culture within staff, supported by appropriate structures, systems and procedures. A robust knowledge management system is reinforced by a vibrant learning culture keeping abreast of new developments in SG’s priority areas, the general socio-political context as well as critical thinking.
Highlights of 2018

In 2018, Shirkat Gah and project partners engaged with 80,027 women and men to better inform them of women rights and improve their access to existing rights and services in 23 districts.

- 80,027 women, men and youth were made aware of women’s rights and existing services through awareness sessions, door to door campaigns, theatre performances and trainings on their legal rights especially relating to marriage, divorce, marriage contract (Nikah Nama), dower (Haq Meher), basic document registrations (birth, death, CNIC, vote), Child Marriage and prevalent laws against child marriages.

- 2,500 women & girls were facilitated to manage risks, access rights and existing services through doctors’ visits, legal camps, obtaining interest free loans and setting up stalls in Jamini Bazaars in 11 districts.

- 13,070 women were facilitated to obtain CNIC cards and register as voters in Hyderabad, Jaffarabad, Vehari and Mardan through CNIC and voter registration drives which also aimed at spreading awareness on the significance of having basic documentation and casting votes. Many community women spread the acquired knowledge and motivated their peers to register as voters.

- 1000 households pledged to be violence-free (VFF) in Hyderabad, Jaffarabad, Vehari and Mardan. The houses have been marked with the purple VFF slogans. VFF caps were given and awards were distributed to community members, who see themselves as leaders/change makers in the community.

- 13 multi-stakeholder groups were established and strengthened including 9 Rapid Response Networks (RRNs) in Jaffarabad, Lahore, Quetta, Vehari, Hyderabad, Karachi, Peshawar and Mardan.
Community Action Group (CAG):

As VAWG persists in part due to the lack of effective implementation of existing laws and access to services, Community Action Groups (CAGs), comprising of active community women and men, were formed in Vehari, Swat, Jaffarabad and Hyderabad. CAGs were linked to elected and executive duty bearers as well as private service providers such as the UC secretary, the SHO, nikah registrars and health practitioners to ensure a timely and adequate response at the local level. CAG’s have a dual-responsibility: a) to mobilize the community to execute local actions and b) to link up the beneficiaries at the local to district-level authorities by representing their issues at the district level and also sharing back feedback and responses of authorities with those present at the local level.

Area Support Network (ASN):

Area Support Networks (ASNs), includes public-sector duty bears and private-sector service providers including medico-legal units, local lawyers, Union Council Secretary and marriage registrars, the government shelter homes of the Social Welfare Department and those belonging to the private sector, along with local police stations and media personnel, all of whom facilitate state responses at the district level. The presence of the most active CAG members in ASNs ensures coherence of actions at the district and UC level.

Women Friendly Spaces WFS:

The Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) established since 2011 to provide safe haven to women and girls in rural areas have enabled accelerated positive change in communities by not only facilitating rights and services, but by also providing platforms for skill development, capacity building, prevention and reduction of VAWG, increased access to healthcare and other basic services and most importantly by allowing women and girls to feel physically and emotionally safe. SG in 2018 strengthened the 4 existing spaces in Shahdadkot, Swat, Jaffarabad and Muzaffargarh as well as established 4 new WFS in Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Sheikhpura and Quetta.

RRNs:

In 2018, 9 multi stakeholder safety and Rapid Response Networks were established in Lahore, Quetta, Jaffarabad, Vehari, Karachi, Hyderabad, Peshawar and Mardan, to both enhance the safety of and reinforce the capacity of W/HRDs to effectively pursue their work for the rights of women and girls. These networks served as avenues and forums for W/HRDs to share experiences and pool resources for more effective actions to promote or defend the human rights of women and girls as well as for the security of W/HRDs. The RRNs include public sector duty bearers, such as police officials, medical officers, Union Council secretaries, those in charge of government-run shelters, helplines etc., as well as private sector service providers such as representatives of private shelter homes but also lawyers, health practitioners and media.
**Women Hold Duty Bearers Accountable**

- Sajida Bibi was 16 years old while her brother, Mohammad Waqas was 7 years old when their parents engaged them in exchange marriages. A member from Area Support Network (ASN) went to police who refused and said they did not have time to solve such issues. ASN members pressured the police through media coverage and then proceeded to file an FIR to seek legal charges against the accused.

- In Jaffarabad, a community leader witnessing the absenteeism of teachers in her college took up the issue with Education District Officer (EDO) who took it into notice. As a result of the action taken by the community leader and the EDO teachers are coming to the college and there is decrease in teacher absenteeism.

- In Mardan, noticing the lack of adequate medicines in the Basic Health Unit (BHU) in her area, a community leader mobilized women around her and collectively met the District Health Officer. She submitted a written application and within 5 days medicines were stocked in the BHU.

- Women Champions from Charsadda have taken the responsibility to regularly monitor the BHU in their area, and to be watchful, if women and girls face any problems in accessing services at the BHU. Whenever any reproductive health related issue or case comes to their notice, champions immediately contact the doctor at the BHU or file a complaint at the government’s district complaint cell.

**Women Become Advocates of Their Own Rights**

- Abida, an eleven year old girl from Vehari, was forced to marry without her consent. Her father, grandfather and all the other elders of the family were organizing the marriage. Members of Area Support Network and Community Action Groups not only pressured them against it, but also informed them of the punishments set by the government on EAMs. When her family was told about the fine and imprisonment, they stopped the wedding and allowed Abida to continue with her studies.

- Dilshad from Jafarabad was a victim of domestic violence. Her husband used to beat her up every day. Even though the house they lived in was given to Dilshad from her father, one day her husband decided to kick Dilshad out of the house and take custody of their children With the help of the coordinator of Women Friendly Space (WFS) and lawyer Ahsan Miski, Dilshad successfully filed for divorce from her husband and gained custody of her children*. She now also gets a monthly maintenance stipend from him for their child.

- A youth champion from district Jafarabad, Ishrat Fatima, attended the Shirkat Gah training on reproductive health. Her family did not approve of her attending the training, rather they got angry. They argued that girls of her age who were unmarried should not be taking part in such training sessions. Her family also stopped her from passing the information she learned to others. Ishrat explained the content of the training to her mother so that she could understand that her marital status is irrelevant to the training material. She even took her mother to one of the training sessions on reproductive health to erase her mother’s doubts. After listening to the session, her mother allowed her to conduct her own training sessions on reproductive health.
Forty-five-year-old Shan Bibi belongs to Ghora Khela village of district Swat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She got married at a very young age. Her husband treated her badly. She tried her best to make things better but nothing worked. Finally, she decided to take divorce from him and came back to her parents’ house.

After a few months, her father got her married to an old man who was already married to someone and also had children. Shan Bibi gave birth to six of his children. After her sons got married, her husband divorced her on a minor dispute.

Bibi is now living with her children. She is an active member of the community. She raises awareness about girls education and stops people from getting their daughters married at an early age. She does awareness sessions with young girls and parents in which she tells them how early age marriage affect the physical and mental health of girls and the whole family. She has stopped at least fifteen early age marriages till date.

She voluntarily gave two rooms of her house to Shirkat Gah to conduct awareness sessions.

Bibi is always the first person in her area who raises her voice against any injustice happening to any girl in the area. She also has the credit for mobilizing women in Swat valley to stand against odds and demand their rights. Dozens of women in her leadership did protest against the shortage of gas supply in the area. It was the first women’s protest in the history of Swat.

**Women Councillors Become A Force Of Change Within Their Districts**

- A councillor from an extremely impoverished village from Mardan was concerned about the lack of a Basic health Unit or any other medical facility in their village. Having met the District Health Officer in the health department during the exposure visits, the councillor forwarded her complaint to him. The DHO explained that their department was underfunded but if someone in the area was able to donate land for the BHU then he would be able to include the area in future schemes. Showing strong commitment and activism, the councillor donated her own land for construction of BHU.

- In Jaffarabad, Parveen Mir managed to secure funds for several initiatives: repairs of the main colony road and the civil hospital road, as well as installation of street lights post-elections.

- An extremely active woman councillor from UC 84 in Hyderabad said that previously women councillors were not included in any decision-making. After trainings on local government and leadership she contacted the UC chairman and with his cooperation helped many women acquire basic documents, including birth and marriage certificates. She has also led a successful CNIC drive, helping 1500-1800 women obtain CNICs. To facilitate women from low income areas, she organized a health camp. She also took up the issue of missing facilities in her area, including the repair of sewerage lines and streets. The exposure visit to the police station overcame her fear of the department and she also lodged complaints for 12 women with the police.

- In Vehari, a councillor shared that she was very shy initially after becoming a councillor and did not attend any union council meetings because the male counterparts did not take her seriously. Training on advocacy and communication skills enabled her to take the lead in council meetings and present her constituents demands in front of the council.
Violence Free Families

Violence Free Family (VFF) campaign was conducted by active community women and men in 4 districts: Vehari, Swat, Hyderabad and Jaffarabad in which families pledged to be violence free. The pledge forms consisted of 5 questions in which men from the families promised to stop violence within their homes. The houses which pledged to be violence free were marked with stickers and purple flags so as to make known within the community that they do not support and perpetrate violence against women and girls.

Under violence free pledge a questionnaire was developed for the males of the family which included questions/undertaking by the male members to facilitate and give due rights to their female family members.

- They will not stop women in the household from obtaining basic legal documentation.
- They will not stop their women from studying, working and casting votes.
- They will include women in decision making.
- They will remove Physical, Mental and Economic Violence.
- They will eliminate cultural violence including EAM, Forced Marriage etc.

In 2018 alone, 1000 families became violence free in the 4 districts where the VFF campaign was conducted through door-to-door visits, radio and cable messages.
Bridging Gap between Duty Bearers and Community Women—Khuli Kechari

Khuli Kacheris are women led public hearings, wherein community women engage in a public policy conversation with public officials. Khuli Kacheris in Swat and Vehari provided women with a platform to demand accountability from elected and executive duty bearers as citizens of Pakistan and bridging the gap between the state and its female citizens. These public conversations were seen as necessary for the translation of needs of women and girls into strategies and laws that aim to improve their quality of life.

In Vehari community women invited representative from Health department, Police department and local government and raised following issues:

- Unavailability of medicine at government hospitals
- Increase in viral diseases due to unsafe drinking water and poor sewerage system
- Women unable to exercise their rights due to lack of CNICs
- Difficult process of obtaining birth registration and marriage registration
- Rise in college fees and cost of books making education inaccessible especially for girls.

In Swat community women raised the following issues infront of the District Nazim, Tehsil Nazim, and representatives of Social Welfare and Education department:

- Lack of waiting area for women at bus terminals
- Girls dropping out of schools due to absence of teachers and school premises being far from villages
- Lack of recreational spaces for women
- Lack of electricity in villages

Shirkat Gah – Women’s Resource Centre
**Open Mics**

Open Mics serve as an opportunity for women to express themselves freely without fear of judgment, an act they seldom have the freedom to do, which has increased their self-confidence manifold. Through Open Mics, women got a chance to explore, discover and express themselves, freely. Open Mics have facilitated community women to form bonds amongst each other and provided them with a safe space where they can come together to share their life experiences.

Community women were encouraged to find their voice in Open Mics through singing songs, and reciting poetry. Open mics offer a creative space to women to have open discussions and express themselves.

**Feminist Hubs**

The hubs were initiated by the active young girls and women who attended a five day TOT on feminism. The hubs function as feminist learning circles and undertake social action initiatives. A total of 9 feminist hubs were created in Lahore, Vehari, Peshawar, Khyber Agency, Karachi, Hyderabad, Quetta, Swat and Nowshera. In these hubs, focus group discussions are held on issues faced by young girls and women in Pakistan and possible ways and measures to address them. They also hold awareness sessions and seminars.

Beenish, a student from a small town in Pakistan became a powerful agent of change in the national movement.

Beenish participated in the workshop and after interacting with women from diverse backgrounds and resource persons she gained a lot of confidence. She was motivated and eager to join Women’s Action Forum (WAF), Pakistan leading platform lobbying and advocating on behalf of women and gender equality. Beenish started attending meetings and was quickly accepted as a member. Since then she has participated in WAF meetings as well as rallies, including a rally for women workers rights held on 1st May 2018. Beenish now plans to initiate a WAF chapter in her hometown, Vehari, to mobilize more women. While Beenish’s leadership journey is far from complete it gives us hope that more and more women from the grassroots will become part of the women’s movement in Pakistan.
Bringing Women Together

National Youth Convention, held in Islamabad, brought together 92 young women and men from across Pakistan where they engaged with high-level policymakers and experts, shared their stories, and presented a unanimous Charter of Demands (CODs). The key topics of CoDs included enrolment and retention of girls in schools, early age marriage, registration of legal documents rights of religious minorities. The CoD was presented to 10 government officials on the convention for a positive change in Pakistan. The CoDs were covered by local media including Radio Pakistan, Khyber TV, The News, Neo TV, Dawn TV, KN News and Dawn News.

National Convention:

National Convention, held in Lahore, brought together 130 active community women leaders, women councillors, and male supporters from Vehari, Hyderabad, Jaffarabad and Mardan. This national event allowed women councillors, active community women and male supporters to directly engage with politicians, and executive duty bearers from both the provincial and national level and present Charter of Demands (CODs).

Furthermore, the women councillors highlighted the demands and concerns of their community women as well as the problems and challenges they face while fulfilling their duties as councillors to the MPAs present at the convention.
**FEMPOWER! South Asia Roundtable**

FEMPOWER! South Asia Roundtable was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was attended by 35 participants from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Feminist Institute graduates from Pakistan. Its objectives were to strengthen links amongst activists in the sub-region and national movements by bringing in new thinking and praxis from diverse contexts and on diverse issues.

The round table concluded with the identification of follow-up activities:

(i) round table participants’ organizations supported to analyze their situations, prioritize issues and articulate this in Charter of Demands from the grassroots to the regional level; and

(ii) a cross regional convening in 2019 bringing together organizations/representatives from South Asia and South East Asia to take forward feminist agenda and draft a vision for Asia.

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**Women Led Bazaars**

5 bazaars, organized by women in Vehari, Hyderabad, and Swat, were visited by more than 45,000 people. Strengthened women put up stalls offering food, fresh fruits, clothes, toys, handicrafts, cosmetics, books etc. Bazaar not only served as a means of expanding livelihood options but also as spaces for cultural expression and venues to receive legal and health counseling on VAWG-related issues.
Feedback Of the Community Women:

Women felt uncomfortable in a market full of men making it more challenging for them to sell their products. However, these Bazaars have given them a better opportunity to sell and publicize their products. Women from Community Action Groups (CAGs) have asked for more interest-free loans so that they can earn through these Bazaars. A few women said that they would want more exposure of the whole sale market to run a better business strategy.

Sixty-five-year-old Naseem Bibi runs a grocery shop inside her house in a village near Hyderabad, Sindh. She opened this shop a year ago after attending Financial Management Training (FMT) organized by Shirkat Gah as part of its project ‘Drivers of Change’.

‘Now, I buy my medicines myself. I do not have to ask my son for my needs. I earn my own money. I also help him in running this house,’ she said with a smile on her face.

Naseem Bibi had helped her husband in running his tobacco shop for several years. After the demise of her husband, she had to close the shop. She started selling clothes. She would buy clothes from Hyderabad city and sell those in nearby villages. It was not profitable.

She, then, opened a grocery shop in her house but it also failed. The local community action group invited her to attend two-day financial management training in August last year. The training covered basic skills needed to start and run a business including bookkeeping and then having the women come up with a business plan that they could implement.

‘Keeping my all fears aside, I decided to start my shop again. I took to start with 6 thousand rupees only. Now, my shop has commodities worth of fifty thousand rupees,’ she told proudly.
CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVED POLICY FRAMEWORKS:

In 2018, Shirkat Gah was appointed as the technical lead for the Quality of Care sub-group and hosted 3 meetings to assess and discuss how the quality of family planning practices under the Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) on Family Planning for Sindh could be improved. Shirkat Gah has also actively provided input on the Sindh Dowry Act, Sindh Acid Crime Bill in 2018.

In 2018, Shirkat Gah served on the following Government committees:

1. National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW),
2. NCSW – lead Election observation committee;
3. Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)- Research Committee
4. PCSW- Gender Management Information System;
5. Sindh Commission on the status of women- Home based workers Act, Acid crime Bill;
6. FP 2020 Task Force;
7. Peshawar District Commission on the Status of Women;
8. Reproductive Health Services Technical Working Group (Government of Sindh);

COMPLIANCE UNDER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS & AGENDA SETTING

Shirkat Gah continued to work with civil society groups, networks and initiatives to strengthen the regional and international agenda for women’s empowerment and gender equality

• Represented Pakistan in the regional meeting for ICPD+25 Report hosted by ARROW in Malaysia to discuss the Pakistan’s youth policy, in particular its component on health and youth. The meeting was also attended by representatives from India, Maldives, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

• SG was a panel member at the International Conference on Family Planning 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda, and presented on quality of care and the importance of advocacy to promote quality services in family planning practices.

• Attended She Decides in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

• SG participated in the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development and was on the drafting committee for the CSO Statement for the Intergovernmental Meeting that followed the Forum.
IEC 2018
PUBLICATIONS
Shirkat Gah developed the following publications in 2018:

Leaving the Youth Behind: The Missing Demographic in Pakistan’s SRHR Policies and Programmes


Ending Child & Early Age Marriages

Lesions of the Young: Intervention Study

A Project Brief

Project Background

Pakistan is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which affirms the rights of children below 18 years and has a legal obligation to ensure that children are protected from exploitation and abuse. However, despite these obligations, millions of children in Pakistan are still subjected to harmful practices such as early marriage. Child marriage is prevalent across the country, particularly in rural areas and among girls from marginalized communities.

The intervention sought to develop a multi-sectoral approach to address the issue of child marriage. The project focused on communities where child marriage was prevalent, with an emphasis on education, awareness raising, and advocacy. The project aimed to provide girls with access to education, healthcare, and legal protection. The project also sought to engage men and boys in the process, recognizing their role in ending child marriage.

Report on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Module on Birth Registration

Policy Brief on Ending Early Age Marriage

Executive Summary Ending Child and Early Age Marriages

Deepen and Enable: Child & Early Age Marriages

Lesions of the Young: Intervention Study

Executive Summary of A Project Brief

Project Background

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, has been ratified by Pakistan. The Convention guarantees the rights of children below 18 years of age and establishes the rights to life, survival, and development. It also provides for the protection of children from all forms of exploitation, abuse, and neglect.

The project sought to address the issue of child marriage through a multi-sectoral approach, involving education, awareness raising, and advocacy. The project focused on communities where child marriage was prevalent, engaging both girls and boys in the process. The project aimed to provide girls with access to education, healthcare, and legal protection, while also changing social norms and attitudes towards child marriage.

The project also sought to engage men and boys in the process, recognizing their role in ending child marriage. The project involved working with community leaders, religious leaders, and other key stakeholders to increase awareness and change attitudes towards child marriage.

Deepen and Enable: Child & Early Age Marriages

Lesions of the Young: Intervention Study

Executive Summary of A Project Brief

Project Background

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Informational Booklet on the Local Government in Sindh

Informational Booklet on the Local Government in Punjab

Picture Book on Muslim Family Laws
Saying No to Violence Against Women

Awareness about Early Age Marriage

Poster On Sexual Harassment on work Places Public Places

Sindh Child Marriage Act 2013

Complaint Mechanisms for Victims of Sexual Harassment
Shirkat Gah developed and published infographs on Women’s Right to Vote, the importance of Elections and information on Voter Registration.
Early Age Marriage

1

In Pakistan, the legal age for marriage is:
- 18 for boys
- 16 for girls

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child declares that any personbelow the age of 18 is a child.

Marriages carried out under traditional norms and/or customs like watt-a-satta, phat likhi, vani, swara, etc., or conflicting federal and provincial laws make child marriage, socially or legally permissible.

EARLY AGE MARRIAGE

2

Contributing Factors

- Poverty
- "Protecting" girls & their "honour"
- Gender discrimination
- Socio-religious teachings
- Lack of importance given to female education
- Limited legal protections against child marriage

EARLY AGE MARRIAGE

3

The Impact

Child marriage impacts physical health of girls:
- Early pregnancies
- Restricted mobility
- High infant & maternal mortality
- Limited access to family planning
- Poor reproductive health
- Vulnerability to sexual and physical abuse

Causes

- Emotional distress
- Depression
- Psychological problems
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety
- Lack of decision making ability
- Economic dependency
- Vulnerability to emotional, psychological, & verbal abuse
Gender Based Violence

The Definition

Gender-based violence means any act of violence, based on gender, and is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering, including threats of such acts, control or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

Types

- Rape
- Sexual Violence
- Domestic Violence
- Human Trafficking
- Son Preference
- Physical Abuse
- Psychological/Emotional Abuse
- Honour Killing
- Acid Attacks
- Dowry Violence
- Forced Prostitution/Perjury
- Inheritance Deprivation
- Forced Marriage
- Polygamy

Causes

- Low levels of education
- Young age (early marriage)
- Low economic status ( groot/ proportionate advantage or power of one group over another
- Cultural beliefs, customs, or traditions
- Law status of women in society
- Normalization of violence in society

Impact

- Physical Impact:
  - Medical conditions resulting from repeated abuse
  - Inability to suffer physical and sexual violence on the basis of gender
  - Restricted mobility
- Social Impact:
  - Inability to be functional members of society
- Psychological Impact:
  - Development of mental disorders such as PTSD
- Economic Impact:
  - Denial or control over finances
  - Restriction of career opportunities

Shirkat Gah – Women’s Resource Centre
Publications 2018

The Nikahnama

Option of Puberty (regarding Early Age Marriage)

Inheritance for Women

Wife’s Entitlement to Maintenance
**Annual Audit Report 2018**

**Shirkat Gah - Women’s Resource Centre**

**Income and Expenditure Account**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2018 (Rupees)</th>
<th>2017 (Rupees)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and Administrative fee</td>
<td>1,449,714</td>
<td>653,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on disposal of donated assets</td>
<td>1,204,250</td>
<td>7,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange gain</td>
<td>8,910,339</td>
<td>4,015,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of deferred income 8</td>
<td>1,648,880</td>
<td>1,280,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit on investment and bank accounts</td>
<td>1,662,944</td>
<td>947,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fee</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>159,380</td>
<td>45,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and other benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation on:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owned assets</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>488,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated assets</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1,540,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fee - legal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrecoverable project expenses / own contribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on disposal of fixed assets - owned</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors remuneration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fee expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government taxes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training centres - rent</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>267,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balances written off / Provision against doubtful balances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shifting expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus / (deficit) for the year before taxation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provision for taxation</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7,542,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The annexed notes 1 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

---

**Executive Director**  
**Member**  
**Member**
# SHIRKAT GAH - WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE
## CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rupees</td>
<td>Rupees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A) CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</td>
<td>7,642,751</td>
<td>(3,397,626)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment for non-cash items:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit on investment</td>
<td>(236,552)</td>
<td>(171,931)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>488,747</td>
<td>552,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on disposal of fixed assets - owned</td>
<td>6,184</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on disposal of donated assets</td>
<td>(1,294,250)</td>
<td>(7,009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balances written off / Provision against doubtful balances</td>
<td>287,003</td>
<td>472,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(881,083)</td>
<td>845,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating cash flow before working capital changes</td>
<td>6,961,668</td>
<td>(2,552,283)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working capital changes:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease / (increase) in current assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances, deposits, prepayments and other receivables</td>
<td>2,275,314</td>
<td>(2,674,029)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Decrease) / increase in current liabilities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors, accrued and other liabilities</td>
<td>4,184,195</td>
<td>(4,948,684)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash generated from / (used in) operating activities</td>
<td>9,459,509</td>
<td>(7,822,713)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13,441,192</td>
<td>(10,175,078)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed capital expenditure</td>
<td>(325,500)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds against disposal of fixed assets</td>
<td>1,294,250</td>
<td>7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceed received from maturity of investments</td>
<td>10,235,000</td>
<td>10,235,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term security deposits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(100,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments made during the year</td>
<td>(9,998,103)</td>
<td>(9,995,603)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash generated from investing activities</td>
<td>1,141,644</td>
<td>147,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds received</td>
<td>110,946,131</td>
<td>149,720,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted funds utilized</td>
<td>(134,196,283)</td>
<td>(86,972,282)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (used in) / generated from financing activities</td>
<td>(23,250,152)</td>
<td>62,748,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents (A+B+C)</td>
<td>(2,938,205)</td>
<td>62,820,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</td>
<td>95,945,109</td>
<td>43,125,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</td>
<td>53,306,873</td>
<td>55,945,169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### SHIRKAT GAH - WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE
#### BALANCE SHEET
#### AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Unrestricted fund</th>
<th>Restricted fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General fund</td>
<td>Projects fund</td>
<td>Medical fund</td>
<td>Rupees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUND</td>
<td>41,728,755</td>
<td>60,294,473</td>
<td>1,740,544</td>
<td>103,772,772</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REPRESENTED BY:**

**NON CURRENT ASSETS**

- Property and equipment: 21,882,001
- Long term security deposits: 752,637

**CURRENT ASSETS**

- Short-term investments: 10,009,457
- Advances, deposits, prepayments and other receivables: 3,958,178
- Cash and bank balances: 31,262,866

**TOTAL ASSETS**

67,865,130

60,294,473

1,740,544

129,708,146

134,862,939

**NON CURRENT LIABILITIES**

- Deferred income - Donated assets: 18,722,527

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

- Creditors, accrued and other liabilities: 7,213,848

**TOTAL LIABILITIES**

25,936,375

21,511,787

**NET ASSETS**

41,728,765

103,772,772

113,351,152

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Unrestricted fund</th>
<th>Restricted funds</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General fund</td>
<td>Projects fund</td>
<td>Medical fund</td>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rupees</td>
<td>Rupees</td>
<td>Rupees</td>
<td>Rupees</td>
<td>Rupees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as at January 01, 2017</td>
<td>37,463,930</td>
<td>13,296,254</td>
<td>3,147,778</td>
<td>16,417,032</td>
<td>53,900,862</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds received during the year</td>
<td>149,720,408</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>149,720,408</td>
<td>149,720,408</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilization</td>
<td>(86,788,676)</td>
<td>(83,816)</td>
<td>(86,872,292)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(86,872,292)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Deficit) for the year</td>
<td>(3,367,926)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(3,367,926)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as at December 31, 2017</td>
<td>34,066,004</td>
<td>70,200,886</td>
<td>3,064,162</td>
<td>79,265,148</td>
<td>113,351,152</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as at January 01, 2018</td>
<td>34,066,004</td>
<td>70,200,886</td>
<td>3,064,162</td>
<td>79,265,148</td>
<td>113,351,152</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds received during the year</td>
<td>116,948,132</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>116,948,132</td>
<td>116,948,132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilization</td>
<td>(132,854,645)</td>
<td>(1,314,818)</td>
<td>(134,169,263)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(134,169,263)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year</td>
<td>7,642,751</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,642,751</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>41,728,755</td>
<td>60,294,473</td>
<td>1,749,544</td>
<td>62,044,017</td>
<td>103,772,772</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Shirkat Gah – Women’s Resource Centre
House No.68-Tipu Block, New Garden Town, Lahore, Pakistan

Telephone: (92) 42-35838815

Website: shirkatgah.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/shirkatgahdotorg/

Twitter: @Shirkat_Gah