

# Planet Green

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## 2nd Public Seminar on Women & Children Healthcare 2013

### Law to fix 18 year age for marriage soon: Sindh Minister Robina Qaimkhani



Minister Women Development & Population Welfare Robina Qaim Khani, Dr. Saheb Jan Bader, M. Naeem Qureshi, Dr. Khalil Shaikh, Dr. Rufina Somro, Dr. Shair Shah Syed, Afia Salam, Chef Gulzar Hussain, Dr. Khalil Sheikh, Dr. Shehzad Ali, Ruziya Naem and Yogi Wajahat addressing at the event.

Sindh Minister for Women Development and Social Welfare Robina Qaimkhani has said that early age child marriages will be banned soon as legislation has already been proposed that no girl will get marry before attaining the age of 18 years.

This legislation is drafted by the department of Women Development and Social Welfare and wetted by the Law Department and Sindh Cabinet respectively. Now this draft will be presented in the coming session of Sindh Assembly to be passed. Violators of this law will be fined rupees one lac (100,000) cash and could be imprisoned for two years.

She was speaking in a seminar on mother and child health held here in a local hotel. Seminar was organized by National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) and supported by the Mother and Newborns Care Program, Health Department Sindh.

Dr. Sher Shah Syed, Dr. Rufina Somro, Dr. Kaiser Waheed Chairman National Forum for Environment and Health, President NFEH Naeem Qureshi, Dr. Khalil Shaikh of Rehtuma-Family Planning Association of Pakistan, Afia Salam known chef Gulzar and Yogi Wajahat also spoke on this occasion.

"We are witnessing that younger girls at the age of 13 years admitted in shelter homes complained that their family is forcing them to get marry at this age. We

will have to stop early child marriages as we know that early marriages results in poor health of expecting mothers and their newborns. When here is law that no one can own property or obtain national identity card before age of 18 years than why not this should be applied for marriages," the minister argued.

Director, MNCH Program Sindh, Dr. Sahib Jan Bader informed that government has introduced a new cadre of Community Midwives in health system to improve maternal and newborn indicators in the province.

"More than 1400 such community midwives are under training and being deployed in far flung and rural areas of Sindh. Our target is to deploy 6000 community midwives which can drastically bring down the rate of maternal and infant mortality," she added.

Talking about early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, Dr. Rufina Somro of Liaquat National Hospital Karachi informed the gathering that 30 percent of women under the age of 40 years are at risk of breast cancer and risk is increased with the ageing which is alarming.

"Women at the age of 40 and above must have ultrasound or mammogram scan one a year. Women above 40 years of age should have their breasts examined at least once a month. They can also examine their breasts themselves or can have examined

from trained doctor, nurse or paramedical staff," she advised.

"There is only one mammography machine each in Larkana and Hyderabad apart from Karachi public-sector Atomic Energy Centers. These issues should be addressed and at least screening facilities should be provided at district level," she urged.

Renowned gynecologist and former Secretary Pakistan Medical Association Dr. Sher Shah Syed said that more than 600,000 quacks are playing havoc with the lives of people and pregnant women are also on their apathy most of times in rural areas. "Three delays are often major cause of maternal deaths: when labor pains starts in laws do not allow expecting mother to go to hospital; if she is allowed ambulance stuck in traffic and she starts bleeding; if she is so lucky to reach hospital than there is no trained staff available," he observed.

Dr. Kaiser Waheed highlighted issues of women health & urged minister & government of Sindh to resolve these problems with political commitment.

M. Naeem Qureshi briefed about NFEH activities & objective of awareness seminar, he thanks all speakers, sponsors for their support.

Earlier Minister Women development presented 5 appreciation awards to nurses from various organizations for their long & outstanding services. ■



National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH) and MNCH program Sindh organized Women & Child Health seminar at local hotel. Picture shows Minister Women Development & Population Welfare Rubina Qaim Khani, Director MNCH Program Dr. Saheb Jan Bader, M. Naeem Qureshi, Dr. Khalil Shaikh, Dr. Shehzad Ali, Chef Gulzar, Ruziya Naem and award winning Nurses are seen in the picture.

#### Award Recipients of Women & Children Healthcare 2013

- NASREEN AKHTER GILL**, Chief nursing Superintendent Civil Hospital Karachi,  
**MARGARET MARRY AFZAL** Chief Nursing Superintendent Abbasi Shaheed Hospital Karachi,  
**NASREEN BARKI** Chief Nursing Superintendent Dow University of Health Sciences Ojha Campus  
**RONIA PREOBALA MATRON** Maie Adelaide Leprosy Center Karachi  
**SALIMA LALANI MATRON** LADY Dufferin Hospital Karachi.