

## **Gender-based Violence and Trafficking in Women**

### Significance of the Presentation

Trafficking in human beings is considered as modern-day slavery that constitutes gross violation of political-economic-social-cultural rights. The issue of human trafficking is a gendered phenomenon as the majority of trafficked persons across the world include women and girls. Despite the fact that the issue of women's trafficking in Pakistan is grave and multidimensional as the country is origin, transit, and destination point for trafficking in women, the issue still remains little studied area. Owing to the lack of understanding and capacity of the concerned government agencies, trafficking related cases are not identified/reported properly. As a result, victims of trafficking are further victimized by the law enforcement agencies. This paper--based on interviews with the trafficked women and stakeholders--explained how gender-based inequalities within public and private sphere enhance vulnerability of women to trafficking in Pakistan. It also highlighted the (in)adequacy of existing counter-trafficking legislation and interventions by the stakeholders. The paper also provided a methodological framework to study the challenging issue of human trafficking in Pakistan, especially with reference to collecting the primary data. Based on the analysis of the lived experiences of trafficked women, the paper also suggested a road map to better understand and counter the issue of trafficking in Pakistan.