



NECDO NEWS LETTER

Let's light a Candle instead of Cursing the Darkness

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Our Vision

We envision a peaceful & prosperous Afghanistan by mobilizing communities through empowerment, capacity building and polishing leadership potential of women and youths in order to have a just society with skilled, professional human resource potential.

Our Objectives

1. To mobilize & raise awareness among Afghans to eliminate differences and work for long term Peace
2. To empowerment women, men, & youths with leadership potential through research, networking and advocacy for elimination of violence against women.
3. To Empower Afghan women and children (including widows, orphans, and disabled) through vocational, capacity building trainings and arrangement of small self-supported projects leading towards self-reliance.
4. To conduct advocacy initiatives on EAW with special focus on sexual harassment & child marriage.

Core Programs:

1. *Peace Building Initiative Program*
2. *Advocacy on Elimination of Violence against Women (Sexual Harassment & Child Marriage)*
3. *Educational activities (formal & informal education, libraries...)*
4. *Capacity building (Short term & long term)*
5. *Research*
6. *Media*

Bringing Finance Information and Assistance Services to Women in Kabul

Conducting Lectures by Imam on Women Financial Rights from Islamic Prospect:

Another main service provided by the project team was information dissemination on women's financial rights based on Islamic jurisprudence: this included Mehr (Duruy), inheritance, income generation, Islamic banking and other rights that women remain unaware of. The purpose of this activity was to empower women to seek their financial rights in the context of religious legitimacy, which is more essential in Afghanistan. Due to insecurity and traditions, NECDO conducted lectures by Imam on women financial rights from Islamic prospect in their office. NECDO invited 3 Imams to present lectures to the participants about the mentioned topics. This event was conducted on Tuesday Feb.06.2018 in the main office of NECDO by participation of 60 women own and are involved in small business and also those who newly want to start a business, they were given information in three panels by the Imams from Islamic perspective. One of the Imam's explained Mehr (Duruy), basic rights of women and income generating rights of women from Islamic prospect. Following his lecture, another Imam, explained the inheritance rights of women and its reasons. He responded the questions of the participants from Islamic prospect, and talked in details about the portion of women in the inheritance. In addition another Imam, explained the Islamic banking and its accounts. Participants were aware of Islamic account such as; Mudarabah (Profit sharing and loss bearing), Wadiah (safekeeping), Musharaka (joint venture), Murabahah (cost plus), and Ijara (leasing). He explained the prohibition of Riba (Interest charged without profit made by the capital) in Islam as well. At the end of the lectures, participants asked several questions about the topics of the lectures, which was responded by lecturers. At the end of the lectures, one of the participants recommended to extend the lectures to other provinces of the country for the aim of increasing financial literacy of women from Islamic prospect. In the same time, another participant of the session indicated few points; increasing the number of lectures, extending the lectures to other provinces, inviting the representative of an Islamic bank to explore their bank accounts and providing microfinance by NECDO in cooperation by ADB.



Who we are?

Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization (NECDO) is a non-governmental, impartial and non-political organization, registered with Ministry of Economy in 2002 with INO.95. NECDO was established in January 2001 by a group of volunteers to help and support needy Afghan women, youth, and children when the Afghan nation was passing through time-tested moments of its history in Peshawar Afghan Refugee Camps. The destructive civil war resulted in material and spiritual losses for the nation. NECDO started its activities with little means, but greatness of purpose, which was based on humanitarian and development assistance. We believe that unity, faith, proper mobilization of youth & empowerment of Afghan communities can reduce the miseries of the Afghan nation. During our social activities in camps, we realized the need for education, capacity building and income generation projects in order to help our nation with sustainable development; especially educating Afghan women, youth, and children were the priorities set forth; with the believe that it is better to light a candle rather than curse the darkness we initiated several projects and implemented them successfully.

Mobilizing Afghan Men, youth, women to Protect Women Rights Workshops

During this month NECDO were contacted one workshop in Kabul. The participants were students, civil society activists, women right activists, local leaders, government employees from gender department, scholars, NGO employees, and other men and women from different areas. This one workshop was held in Ustad Rabani University. The participations were very active and hardworking, they were very successful during the workshop and they were much interested learning what was taught in the workshops. They were very thankful and pleasant from NECDO for conducting such programs. Most of the participations were very active so they were selected as CWG (community working groups) members.

The training agenda are the following:

1. Violence against women in Afghanistan
2. Short review of EVAW law
3. Five core rights of women in Islam
4. Muslim women's responsibilities in family
5. Gender
6. Peace and Conflict management and resolution
7. Democracy
6. Evaluation



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NECDO Photo Gallery



Meeting Minutes of WILPF BD Members

Summary:

On 23rd of March 2018 WILPF Board members gathered in NECDO main office to appoint a representative for the upcoming Ghana conference.

Agenda:

1. Information about Ghana upcoming conference
2. To elect one of the members of Afghanistan WILPF group to Ghana conference

Explanation:

On March 23rd WILPF meeting was held in main office of NECDO. The meeting was attended by Dir. F, Gh. Kakar: Ms. Jamila, Safi Ms. Torpekai Momand Ms. Parween Dooest Mr. Ali Reza Ms. Parina Jahaid Ms. Masooda Waisy. The meeting chaired by Ms. Masooda Waisy and she welcomed the participants and she talked about the criteria for the Ghana conference. She said that WILPF has given Afghanistan WILPF group the opportunity to represent Afghan woman in the program. Then Mr. F. G. H. Kakar talked about WILPF Ghana upcoming conference he provided general information about Ghana conference which is going to be held by WILPF he added that the main issue of discussing in this meeting is to select a member of Afghanistan WILPF group to the Ghana conference which is going to be held by WILPF and one of WILPF board members of Afghanistan group has to participate in conference to expose life and condition of Afghan women to the world and also present WILPF of Afghanistan group activities to the Ghana conference and he mentioned if all members of Afghanistan WILPF group agree we will do the election to elect one of the board members to this conference. All participants voted to elect Ms. Torpakai Momand as the right candidate to represent Afghan woman. Ms. Toorpekai Momand was elected by voting for Ghana conference she did promise who as an Afghan WILPFer to give the word a message of Afghan women in the conference.

She added we are tired of the war and we want an image of life far from war and we want peace to have hope for our future. The member of Afghanistan WILPF group have a great wish her and in the hope of more success of Afghanistan WILPF group.

Decision Made:

All members of Afghanistan WILPF group agreed to do the election to elect one of the board members to this conference. And the participants voted to elect Ms. Torpakai Momand as a right candidate to represent Afghan WILPF group. Ms. Toorpekai Momand was elected by voting for Ghana conference.

Suggestions to Ms. Toorpekai:

All members expect from Ms. Torpakai Momand address the following two points.

- Present full information of Afghanistan WILPF group to the conference participants.
- The message of Afghan woman to be delivered to the world through this conference as an opportunity.



What is Women's Empowerment?

So how do we empower girls and women? And what exactly is women's empowerment?

Surprisingly, there is no common definition of women's empowerment. In fact, the word "empowerment" does not exist in most languages. Although the phrase "women's empowerment" is used pervasively in the Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment space (and beyond), it is generally in the context of issues — economic empowerment, political participation, and girls' education.

Furthermore most of the data that have been collected is on gender equality — or more accurately inequality — counting the number of boys vs. girls, men vs. women. There is dearth of information on women's empowerment, particularly at the global level.

Defining Empowerment & Gathering the Data: First-Ever Global Survey on Women's Empowerment

According to the World Bank:

Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.

Empowerment is a process. Through the process, an individual becomes an agent of change. More simply put, it's the "can do" factor, going from "I can't" to "I can."

So, are girls and women empowered?

4GGL - For Girls GLocal Leadership - simply asked them. As a non-profit and a social change movement with the mission of igniting the next generation of empowered women leaders and change makers around the world, 4GGL launched the first-ever global survey on women's empowerment, targeting today's millennial women.

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, young women (and young men) participated in our online survey. We received the most voices from the Middle East and the United States. Here is a snapshot of our preliminary findings:

- More than ever before, today's young women have more choices and control in their lives. They had the most choices in **education**, the least in career choices.

- What do young women want to change the most in their lives?

Their career and income, followed by personal development (physical, mental and habitual).

- Who contributes the most to creating this change? More than 60% identified themselves. Family and government were distant second and third (18%, 15% respectively.) Friends were the least contributing factor.

Now the critical question: For those young women who became agents of change - empowered - how did this happen? A *staggering 46% replied "self-awareness," a process of "knowing who they are."* This was followed by experience. Education was a distant third.

This is revolutionary. Given that girls' education is the main focus and what is funded in today's girls' empowerment work; it is time to rethink our strategy and action around the world. This is not to say girls' education isn't important or shouldn't be funded. It is to boldly challenge conventional assumptions on what empowers girls and young women. It is also to invite partners in more data collection and to scale this endeavor. Foremost, it is a *call to action* to support girls and young women in self-actualizing their inner power - empower - to truly leapfrog women's empowerment. The next generation of empowered women leaders and change makers will transform our world

Empowering girls and women is powerful. Today, we know it is the key to economic growth, political stability, *and* social transformation. World leaders, experts and scholars alike are giving their voice to this critical endeavor.



(0093) – 0 – 799824570

www.necdo.org.af

Noor_en2001@yahoo.com

www.facebook.com/NECDO

Address:

House No. 4, Butcher Street,
opposite 10th district
municipality office Shar-e-
Naw, Kabul Afghanistan

کابل، شهر نو، کوچه
(قصابی)، عقب ناحیه
دهم شاروالی، خانه
شماره چهار

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