

Abstract

In Pakistan, a traditionally entrenched culture, the representation of women in law enforcement is very low (2%). The literature on women police in traditional cultures illustrates that women police play a major role in responding to gender-based violence, assisting to culture norms where male officers cannot search females, and challenging society by joining the police force. In Pakistan, there have been many reports of gender-based violence, including but not limited to: rape, sexual assault, acid violence, forced marriages, domestic abuse, honor killings, dowry crimes, and etc. This prevalence and increase in gender-based violence requires police attention. Women police in Pakistan could serve better in helping victims of GBV accessing justice and assisting in prevention. Also, in Pakistan, female police officers can serve a better role in reports of gender-based violence. Along with dealing with GBV, female officers can not only handle female victims but also assist in searching female perpetrators. This study aims to describe the history of women in policing (a male-dominated field), employment practices, promotion aspects, the deployment experiences, the challenges in working in a male-dominated environment, their role in dealing with gender-based violence, and other law enforcement activities in Pakistan. This study uses secondary sources, including journal articles and newspaper articles on women policing in Pakistan, examining the obstacles they face in law enforcement. The findings of this study are helpful in illustrating the need for more women police in Pakistan. Studies concerning women in law enforcement are few and far apart; this study contributes to studies of women in law enforcement and their importance in the force.