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Student Name: Ashraf Reza

Supervisor Name: Prof. Ajay Darshan Behera

Department: MMAJ-Academy of International Studies

Topic: The Women's Movement in Pakistan: 1980-2015

Key Words: Feminism, Women's Movement, Marriage, Divorce, Civil Society, Military, Islamisation, *Ulema*, Empowerment, Inheritance, Family, *Hudood*, *Qisas*, *Diyat*, *Chadar*, *Chaar Devari*.

FINDING

The women's movement in Pakistan has been a dynamic force in the historical and political context and has risen to the challenge with each wave. Soon after, however, with the Islamisation process resulting from the military take-over in 1977, the state actively tried to push women into the *Chadar* and *Char Devari* and promulgated several laws and orders that made women more helpless than they had been earlier. During the Zia period (1977-1988), there were attempts to negate any progress made by women and to make women second-class citizens under the guise of Islamic laws. By this time, an increasing number of women had joined the movement from the middle class. After the end of Zia's regime the women's movement's focus from reaction to state legislation to participation in policy-making.

The main objectives of the research work are: (1) To study the status of women in Pakistan (2) To study the extent of awareness about women's rights in Pakistan (3) To study the role of religious fundamentalist parties on women's issues in Pakistan (4) To study women's organizations, NGOs and other groups, this raised the issues of women rights (5) To study the political representation of women in the legislative assemblies and women's political empowerment.

The main hypothesis of the present study have been discussed (1) Women's movement in Pakistan emerged in response to state suppression of women's rights through the Islamisation programme carried out during Gen. Zia-Ul-Haq's period (2) Women's Rights Organizations played a significant role to raise the voice of women rights, and demand for restoration of democracy in Pakistan (3) Towards the end of Gen. Zia-Ul-Haq's rule there was a shift in the Movement's focus from reaction to state legislation to participation in policy-making.