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BISP leading efforts for women emancipation

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is leading the way in efforts for emancipation of women in Pakistan, said Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Farzana Raja on Monday.



Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Farzana Raja presents a plaque to Rashida Sohail from PTV during a seminar on International Women's Day. Also present is Federal Minister for Human Rights Syed Mumtaz Alam Gilani

Addressing a seminar on International Women's Day, Ms. Farzana Raja said despite sharing a bigger portion of responsibilities in a household, women were mistreated and faced discrimination. She said women are the foundation on which prosperous and

functioning societies are built as she rears and nurtures the young to become responsible and useful members of the society. The women are an institution in themselves.

Ms. Farzana Raja said BISP has brought about a social revolution by empowering the Pakistani women by making them the recipient of all financial assistance being disbursed through the programme. Under BISP only the female heads of registered families could receive cash assistance. This consolidates her position in her household by allowing her to make decision about how best to use that money. Also under Waseela-e-Haq scheme an amount of Rs.300,000 is being granted to the female head of family through a computerized balloting. With this money she could herself or someone from her family could start a small business to enable them to become financially independent.



Federal Minister/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Farzana Raja addresses a seminar on International Women's Day.

Ms. Farzana Raja said there could be no social and economical development without the active participation of womenfolk. Women must be encouraged to play their due role in the society and there should not be any unjust restrictions on them in doing so. She

appreciated the role that working women are playing in the progress and development of the country and saluted their determination and hard work in the face of social and cultural stereotypes that hinder them from leaving their homes to earn a respectful livelihood for themselves and their families. She said BISP will spare no effort to empower the downtrodden women of Pakistan who live below the poverty line and are exploited and mistreated because of their financial dependence on others.

Ms. Farzana Raja said BISP is conducting a nationwide Poverty Survey to identify deserving families for disbursement of financial assistance. She said test phase of the survey has been completed in 16 districts of the country, whereas, survey in Baluchistan will be completed by June 2010. Health Insurance and Vocational Training initiatives will soon be launched in test phase districts and Benazir Cards will be issued as new mechanism of disbursement of cash assistance and also for bringing transparency in the process.