



RESEARCH PUBLICATION AND POLICYWORK

This program will not begin in a full-fledged manner until late 2007. The team is being prepared and a long-term plan is being developed. Research on women's issues will be a priority of the program. It will also work on human rights and diversity issues. Participation in Conferences and contributing papers, participation in policy formulation and doing some research for other programs of Mehergarh has been the focus so far.

Active participation in formulation of the National Youth Policy

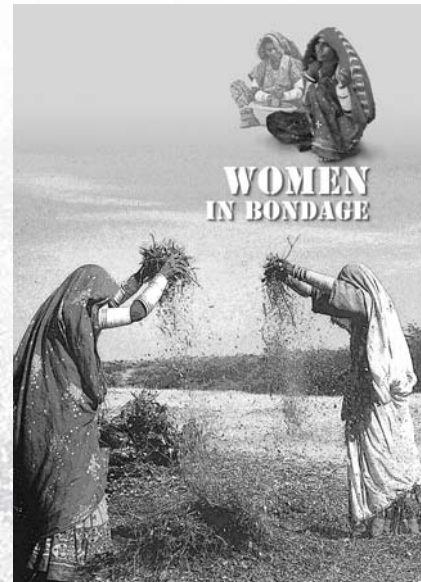
Some members of Mehergarh were quite involved in the national policy formulation exercise for youth by the Government of Pakistan. The whole Mehergarh team gave comments on the draft policy. Dr. Fouzia Saeed, Dr Kamran Ahmad and a few other volunteers of Mehergarh were very involved in giving ideas, facilitating sessions and recommending good groups for partnership for the government to work with in future. This was a long due effort on the part of the government which was welcomed.

Participation at International Conference on Women's rights

Mehergarh was invited to participate in an academic conference on Beijing plus ten at the Syracuse University, USA. The conference was an international event organized from 16th to 19th September 2005. We presented a paper, "Snakes and Ladder, impediments and opportunities for a way forward- Beijing plus ten. The point of view was appreciated, which was a blend of academics and a practitioner. Mehergarh was introduced at an international academic platform, which was a good beginning for its research and publication program.

Women Living in Bondage

A booklet has been prepared for the Bonded Labour program based on research. This is a collection of case studies of women who have lived in slavery and recently have been freed.



CIVIL ACTION PROGRAM

Different initiatives can be taken under this program according to the need of the society. Any social or political issue can be pertinent at a point to be acted upon. Unlike the other programs, which would make more of a long-term impact on the quality of the social movements or the quality of the citizenry in the society, this program deals with direct action on specific issues. Mehergarh engaged in working with issues such as honor killing, bonded labour, violence against women and specifically sexual harassment. Two of our main programs are described here: one on bonded labour and the other on sexual harassment at work place. In the second one Mehergarh hosts the secretariat of an Alliance called AASHA, Alliance Against Sexual Harassment.