

**Bonded Laborers: Women as Victims
A Curse that Lingers on Author
* Subha Malik **Madiha Nadeem**

The occurrence of bonded labor and slavery in women is a widespread issue despite the fact that it is termed as a Human Rights violation. Slavery may be defined as total control of one person by another person, for economical exploitation as stated by Kevin Bales (1999). The existing forms of slavery, including debt bondage, serfdom, trafficking of women, and child bondage are prohibited as per the laws of the International Labor Organization. Although Pakistan has passed laws against any kind of bondage/slavery almost two decades ago, it is most unfortunate that these laws are not implemented properly. This is an archival research, which aims to explore the sufferings of women victims of bondage specifically of women working in Brick Kilns and Agriculture, with the objective of raising their unheard voices. Bondage is a cycle which remains unending due to illiteracy, poverty and lack of implementation of laws. The *Begaar* (a term used in Urdu) is a traditional form of bondage, which is transferred from generation to generation in a family. The masters of such slaves are usually vicious and pitiless who exploit minority women sexually. The prevalence of Forced Labor exists equally in international as well as national community therefore ¹documentation of the status of bonded labor highlighting its effect on women victims is the need of the hour.

Keywords: Debt Bondage, Capitalism, Brick kilns, Low wages, Human Rights, Illiteracy, Exploitation, Lack of implementation of laws,

Malik S., & Nadeem M. (2016). Bonded Laborers: Women as Victims
A Curse that Lingers on Author Journal of Arts and Social Sciences, 3(1), 27-52.

1

* Subha Malik Assistant Professor Department of Gender and Development Studies
Lahore College for Women University subhamalik@yahoo.com 03004400259

**Madiha Nadeem Teaching Assistant Department of Gender and Development
Studies Lahore College for Women University madiha_nadeem@hotmail.com
03334045609