

March 2010: Church of Pakistan

Women Leadership Training Summit

It was a mega event held in Peshawar for the development and empowerment of the women.

Women Synodical, Church of Pakistan, organised a “Young Women’s Leadership Training Summit”, from 19 – 20 March 2010, hosted by Peshawar Diocese.



It was a regional level programme, the women participants were from Raiwind, Lahore, Sialkot and Peshawar Dioceses. The purpose of this leadership training was, **“To equip women in the church & society”**. The theme of the Summit was, **“Go to my brothers and tell them”**. (John 20:17)

Among the organisers were Ms.Shunila Ruth, the Co-ordinator Women Synodical, Church of Pakistan, and Ms. Reena Patrick, Secretary Women Synodical, and Co-ordinator of the Women Desk, Peshawar Diocese.

Various Sessions and Workshops were held, and led by different resource persons. Rt. Rev. Humphrey S. Peters, the Bishop of Peshawar welcomed the guests and the participants. In the opening session he emphasised on the ‘Empowerment of Women in the Church & Society.’ Mrs. Reena Patrick led the opening devotion, and shared the Word of God regarding the theme of the Programme. Mrs. Beulah Shakir, the Vice President, Women Synodical, welcomed the participants and Ms. Shunila Ruth gave introduction of the programme.

A keynote address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Sarah Safdar, the Director, Institute of Social Development Studies, University of Peshawar. In her address, she suggested 10 simple ideas to empower the women in general; i.e:

1. Value yourself and develop relations/partnerships on the basis of equality.
2. Learn to own your voice and assert your opinions.
3. Identification of words and language, to communicate effectively.
4. Focus on the person instead of appearance.
5. Call attention to the conditions which needs to be focused
6. Learn how to ask and negotiate your requests.
7. Think, plan and prepare yourself for career development.
8. Develop self-reliance and encourage yourself in taking risk towards development.
9. Speak up for your rights positively.
10. Identify your available resources and manage your plans within those.

Following steps were suggested for the spiritual growth of women:

1. Pray for God's direction
2. Prepare a balanced plan
 - a) Start where you are
 - b) Trust God's timing and never move ahead of Him and His provisions
 - c) Use the gifts you have and allow God to provide you the missing pieces.
 - d) Do not make it beyond your reach
3. Seek support from other women in Church.
4. Share your talent in Church.



Ms. Esther Inayat led a session on “Importance of Theological Education”. Ms. Shunila Ruth led another session on “Mentoring our contemporary Mothers, Sisters, their strategies & stories”. Mrs. Reena Patrick facilitated in a session on “**Violence against Women & Child Abuse**”. Mrs. Bimla Yousaf led a session on “Development Skills Workshop”.

Plenary sessions were also held and group work and reports were also presented during the programme.



In the last session, Badges and Certificates were distributed among the participants from the Synodical, Church of Pakistan. Shields were presented to the Speakers/Facilitators. Mrs. S. P. Asghar, the President Women Council, Diocese of Peshawar, presented gifts and 'Souvenirs of Peshawar' to the Co-ordinator and Executive Committee of the Women Synodical, Church of Pakistan.

It was a mega event/activity held in Peshawar for the development and empowerment of the women. All the participants appreciated the programme and said that they learnt a lot, they also emphasised on organising more such activities and leadership training programmes for women, more often.

The participants and the Women Synodical thanked the Peshawar Diocese for hosting this Summit, and for their co-operation with the Women Synodical. They appreciated the arrangements and said that they enjoyed their stay and hospitality shown by Peshawar Diocese.

Although the situation in Peshawar is tense due to terrorism, but the womenfolk felt secure and comfortable during their stay in the Peshawar Diocese.