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Research Article

Sexual Assaults: A Pakistani Women and Sexual Harassments in Universities and Recent Scandal of Islamia University of Bahawalpur

Muhammad Asad Latif

Department of Islamic Studies, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Bahawalpur Pakistan

Email: rockybaba091@gmail.co

Orcid Id: <http://orcid.org/0009-0006-9378-9953>

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Abstract. Without a doubt, human beings are viewed more favorably by educational pedagogy as educated individuals than stupid ones. The educational system makes a distinction between humans and other animals and portrays humans as noble beings. In an Islamic climate where, serious scandals are occurring daily, it has become very challenging. According to Pakistani media, Islamia University, Bahawalpur, Pakistan reported 5500,5400 or maybe 400 obscene video records of dormitory ladies during the time of July 2023. The largest example of sexual exploitation in Pakistan to date is the one involving Islamia University. An earlier event of a such nature at Gomal University in Dera Ismail Khan resulted in the professor's honorable release. According to media reports, the vice chancellor of IUB

was only forced to quit because to this incident. Although the Crime Bureau's assessment claims that there is no origin and not even one, chaos quickly spread throughout Pakistan.

Keywords : Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Gender Equality ; Quality Education

INTRODUCTION

Jamia Abbasia, the original name of the institution, was dropped in favor of Islamia University Bahawalpur in 1975. A representative for the institution claims that a total of 65,000 students are enrolled across all of its campuses and departments, with satellite campuses being located in Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalnagar, and Liaquat Pur. 148 distinct departments make up this institution, which employs more than 5,000 teaching and non-teaching staff members. However, now a day these expressions are becoming common at Islamia University Bahawalpur: "My parents urged me not to go to university. The university's climate is not conducive. The university has been filled with talk and worry the whole day. Staff and students speak in distinct ways. What films and photographs are available on mobile? is a common inquiry. "Even if that's the case, these videos shouldn't be released, and if there are videos, the accused should be held accountable in any event," the speaker asserts. These opinions are from a few Islamia University students who talked to the BBC Urdu (2023) on the condition of anonymity in Bahawalpur, Punjab province, Pakistan. Girls recently made comments on allegedly pornographic movies found on a university official's cellphone. Further action would be taken following the forensic report, according to Bahawalpur police, who allege that "at least 5500, 5400, (The South Press, 2023) or in another source 400 (BBC Urdu, 2023) obscene videos and pictures of girls" had been retrieved from the mobile phone of an official of Islamia University. Three distinct complaints have been filed by the police against three Islamia University administrators thus far for ice possession. All of these accusations, according to the university administration, are false and are the result of "retaliatory action" and a "systematic conspiracy". While the police have detained two additional officials on the same accusation, a professor who was detained two months ago on suspicion of carrying ice was freed on bond. Other than Islamia University, a similar occurrence also occurred in the renowned Gomel University in Dera Ismail Khan, where there were films of several ladies being sexually assaulted in the last few years.

Sexual Assaults and Gomel University

This accident of Gomel University would never have been revealed to the public if the student there had not secretly talked to Syed Iqarul Hasan, the host of the program "Sar e Aam". (Hassan, 2023)The administration of Gomal University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan dismissed 2 professors and 2 staff members from their jobs after allegations of sexual harassment were proved. A statement issued by the office of the deputy registrar of the university said that the decision

was taken against the four employees after the charges were proved. In addition, the Deputy Registrar said in the statement that Assistant Professor Imran Qureshi, Professor Dr. Bakhtiar Khan, Game Supervisor Hikmatullah and Lab Attendant Hafizullah were dismissed from their jobs on March 3 due to allegations of 'sexual harassment'. (Dawn News, 2020) Moreover, when the scholar interviewed the chancellor there, Gomal University Vice-Chancellor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that the dismissed teachers and staff members were 'harassing the students and many of them had submitted written petitions against the employees. After which the university investigated the matter. Mohammad Sarwar also said that the investigation into the alleged sexual harassment by four other senior faculty members is in its final stages and the report will be presented in the university's syndicate meeting soon. It should be noted that private TV conducted a sting operation against Professor Hafiz Salahuddin of Gomal University in the face of allegations of sexual harassment, after which he was forced to resign.

In this regard, the Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the administration had asked Professor Hafiz Salahuddin to resign after reviewing the videos and finding them 'indecent and immoral'. It should be noted that Gomal University has been in the news for the past few months. Last month, police brutality and arrest of students protesting against the administration in Gomal University was strongly condemned by Member of National Assembly and Pashtun Protection Movement (PTM) leader Mohsin Dawar. Mohsin Dawar, in a tweet on the social networking website, termed the police violence against the peaceful protesters in the university and the arrest of activists associated with student organizations as condemnable and shameful. (Geo Tv, 2023) In this regard, sexual harassment has reached such an extent in Pakistan that even if a professional is detained, the responsible people hesitate to take action. A case was also registered against Salahuddin in the court and it was produced in the court as video evidence in which the accused himself had confessed. But even after all the videos were presented as evidence, the professor was honorably acquitted. (Youssaf, 2021)

Islamia University Bahawalpur, and Whole Scenario

When the Bahawalpur police were approached by the BBC, Dawn News, and other well-known Pakistani news organizations on the situation, Umar Saleem, the local police spokesperson, stated that "the police have at least the mobile phone of a senior official of the university." Four reportedly pornographic movies and pictures, thought to be of various university employees and students, have surfaced. The same university employee was allegedly found with narcotics, according to the police, who also stated that the official had been detained, a complaint had been filed, and more investigation was ongoing. Farooq Basheer Advocate, the legal adviser of Bahawalpur Islamia University, on the other hand, describes the police's accusations as "fabricated and false." Speaking to several news outlets, he said that

the police have yet to be able to demonstrate even a single video that has been obtained from the phone of the detained university official. They respond, "There is nothing like that, and the university's media trial should not be conducted." But according to Umar Salim, spokesman for the Bahawalpur police, all videos taken from the university official's phone have been sent for forensic analysis. Once the results are in, further provisions will be added to the case that has already been filed.. (Bol News, 2023)

Police claimed to have recovered sex pills, ice, and obscene videos

On the basis of a police complaint filed on behalf of Bahawalpur Ulysses, a charge has been filed under the Narcotics Act against a top university official. Sub-inspector Muhammad Afzal Nawaz is the claimant in the lawsuit. He claims that while he and other police officers were executing their duties on Baghdad-Jadeed Road in Bahawalpur, a white automobile drove into the wrong side of the road when the police called for it to halt. attempted a fast side turn back. Sub-Inspector Muhammad Afzal's complaint states that there was just one person in the car when the police pulled it over. However, during the search, several black wallets and five sex-related medicines were discovered. According to the court file, a 10-gram bag of crystal ice wrapped in clear wax paper was discovered during the handbag search.

The FIR further claims that "two mobile phones were also recovered from the vehicle, which, when examined on-site, allegedly contained innumerable obscene videos and pictures of women." The accused acknowledged that the purported recordings on his phone were of numerous female students and administrators from the institution while presenting himself as the top security officer of Islamia institution. The accused allegedly admitted in the FIR to using crystal ice and sex drugs for personal purposes as well as taking part in their selling. (Bol News, 2023) The police claim that all of the recovered items, including the cell phone, have been taken to the lab for a forensic examination.

An organized mafia is conspiring against the university?

Islamia University's legal advisor is Farooq Basheer Advocate. He called the situation a "systematic conspiracy" against the institution in an interview with the BBC. He declared, "A record 17,000 students are enrolled at the institution at this time. According to Farooq Bashir, "some time ago, a professor at the university was arrested on the charge of ice, and now this incident has come to light." (Dunya News, 2023) Bashir said that throughout his seven years on the job at the institution, there have been no complaints made against the top security officer or the defendants in this instance. Additionally, he has no criminal histories in the eyes of the authorities. Farooq Bashir Advocate has prepared complaints against the police that he is forwarding to the chief justice of the Lahore High Court and the IG of the Punjab Police. (Dunya News, 2023)

Speaking with several Pakistani news outlets, Bashir said that "classrooms, exports, and departments of our university." There are tens of thousands of CCTV cameras set up everywhere. We request the creation of an independent inquiry team and stand ready to provide them with the complete file. He said that the institution does not allow acts of sexual harassment or drug misuse. "I don't have a record of applications and decisions on harassment for a year, but it is not tolerated in the university, and during seven years there was not a single application against the official who was arrested," he said." Basheer Farooq The counsel stated that because the top executives who were detained work for a large corporation, there may be tapes made based on complaints. He did add that these films could show a student harassing a female student and that the video may have been the source of a complaint. The university's spokesperson Umer Saleem responded to the BBC's inquiry about the Bahawalpur police's viewpoint by saying, "Our position is contained in the registered FIR and the incident is still being investigated." (Dunya News, 2023)

Everyone is asking what videos and photos are in mobile?

The opposing positions taken by the university and the police have complicated the situation rather than resolved it. The reports have caused a wave of anxiety to sweep across the Islamia University student body. A few female university students were approached by BBC under the condition of anonymity. A classmate said that following the event, my parents advised me not to enroll in college. The university's atmosphere is not conducive. But it took a lot of convincing to get me to the university. He said that many of my acquaintances weren't able to attend the university because their parents wouldn't let them. Different faculty members and students speak in divergent ways. There is a statement being made. Everyone is curious about the films and images on the mobile and the reasons they were kept there. This pupil claimed that she is unsure of what to say and how to respond. But if that's the case, in my opinion, the guilty should be punished nonetheless and these films shouldn't be released. (2023)

The Police Claim to arrest the Transport Officer in the University

Additionally, the Bahawalpur police said that they had detained a member of the transport staff of Islamia University Bahawalpur. The individual was accused of having "implanted eight grams of ice" and holding a prominent position at the institution in the case. In response to this third lawsuit brought against the university administration, Farooq Basheer Advocate, the institution's legal counsel, confirmed the arrest and stated that it was not a transport in-charge, etc. Now there has been an arrest. While the Bahawalpur police spokesman claims that his agency is merely working to protect children's futures, and that the police are in possession of "all the evidence," which would be made public when it is appropriate, Ancient universities

are where it is. While Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, the chairman of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission, argues that everyone connected to the fraud should be executed in the public square. (Dunya News, 2023)

Another Angle: Scandal and agenda

An alleged controversy involving Islamia University Bahawalpur was recently making the rounds on social media and in the news media. A phony Vlogger from the Pakistani city of Lodhran prepared a very careless vlog about him and spread some untrue tales and news online. Thousands of offensive images and films, including ones with 5,500 girls, were found on the mobile phones of the handful accused who were caught, according to information that circulated on social media. The idea that these women were students was conveyed. The actualities are very different: The fact that they are all claims comes first. In essence, this is the Punjab Police's historical attitude and the viewpoint of the police. 2: There is still a great deal of research to be done in this. For this matter, the university administration had requested a JIT. The interim chief minister has established a three-person probe committee that consists of the secretary of mines and two DIGs despite the fact that it was rejected. 3: The inquiry committee's report will be significant. It is equally crucial to prove all of these accusations in court. 4: It should be kept in mind that remarks made while under police questioning or the purported confessional video statement have no official legal standing. Of course, if the defendant maintains his in court confessional declaration, then the situation is different. Nevertheless, the academics against whom he leveled these accusations will need to provide proof of them. Khaksar also made an effort to comprehend the situation during the past two days. He read the police's viewpoint and listened to it. FIR, press conference of DPO Bahawalpur, etc., a report of him that was purportedly for CM, also read it, is circulating in numerous journalistic WhatsApp groups. spoke with regional press. I had private conversations with a number of university employees, particularly academics. tried to comprehend the vice chancellor's stance. Ehsan Jat, who is wanted on several criminal offenses, was first taken into custody. Three university workers were detained as part of the difficulties that followed this arrest. The first to be detained was Dr. Abubakar, a professor who is also a treasurer. His arrest occurred before Eid. judicial remand and subsequent release on bail.

According to Amir Hashim Khakwani (The South Press, 2023) "Major Retired Ijaz Ahmad Shah, the university's head security officer, was detained a few days ago. Following the arrest, there was more disturbance as Ijaz Shah was found to be in possession of several films from mobile phones as well as prohibited sex medications, according to the police statement. Later, a member of the university's transportation staff was also taken into custody. The three people were taken into custody in a unique way, as is the police's custom. The accused was driving the automobile, according to the several FIAs. and acknowledged selling. The police

have claimed this recovery and put six grams of ice on one, eight grams on the second, and ten grams on the third. I'm not sure what the true story is, but ever since our days in high school and college, we've heard reports that the cops had busted someone with a cache of marijuana or found a stash of heroin. These days, ice is in, thus ice is the export.

The Bahawalpur police continue to claim anything they want, but sadly, the FIRs are quite feeble, and these appear to be standard police procedures. For a few days, such situations cannot be resolved in court. Furthermore, some influential local politicians are being implicated in the controversy on a local level. A stunning V-log was created by a YouTuber featuring the main suspect Ijaz Shah. He apparently pretended to be an intelligence official, questioned Ijaz Shah while he was being held, and then waited outside the university's entrance. Ijaz Shah's phone, it was claimed in a logged entry, included videos of thousands of female pupils. Police should look into who provided the accused in detention access to Lodhran's V-logger. Social media users viewed the entire incident as a sexual scandal, and there was widespread worry that if a big public university had such issues with thousands of females, they would be systematically coerced to pass. The actions taken are really terrifying.

The two mobile phones of the accused Ijaz Shah have been found to contain inappropriate films, according to the police. The phones have been submitted for forensic analysis, but the results have not yet been released. Nevertheless, among other information, the report that the Bahawalpur police is said to have forwarded to higher authorities contains screenshots of several offensive WhatsApp chats from Abubakar and Ijaz Shah. The number of females engaged is still the same, assuming for the time that those screenshots are correct, and some of the communications appear to indicate that the lady is employed by a school. In light of this, it is obvious that the stunning claim that the university had collected 5500 problematic students' films is untrue and reckless. They don't convey a warning that I will fail if I don't make friends, etc. It should be highlighted that while a student or any other lady being engaged in such a scenario would bring me enormous sadness, astonishment, and concern, the situation would be different compared to the very risky numbers of 5,500 or 7,500. (The South Press, 2023)

It's interesting to note that the police are currently framing the entire case as involving the acquisition and selling of ice. In his news conference, DPO Bahawalpur asserted that we have exclusively targeted drug traffickers and are now apprehending ice distributors. Additionally, he stated in one of his investigations that 131 university students are involved in consuming or selling ice. 64,000 people are now enrolled in Islamia University. Although 113 lads are not even 1%, the police should apprehend them and purge the educational facility of this filth. In light of the fact that the recordings of the girls were found on the phone of a university employee, how can the police claim that the girls are college students? The police's

response was nonetheless suspicious and unprofessional. How is it possible to tell from the face? Only the management of the university has access to its records. The police allegedly did not show any footage to the university administration, according to them. The police's actions are explained. Additionally, when the court requested video evidence on July 24, the police did not have any, therefore the court issued a warning, as indicated in *Figure 1*, that if the proof was not supplied, harsh action would be taken against the offenders.

Figure 1: Explains the actual case reality according to court order of Pakistan.

ORDER/24.07.2023.
Present: Accused Syed Ejaz Hussain Shah is under police custody.
Learned ADPP for the State.
I.O with police record.

I.O submitted the instant request of judicial remand of the accused person for 14-days, contending therein that accused be nominated in this case and arrested on 20.07.2023, already 03-days physical remand obtained and during said period of physical remand, no further psychotropic substance (Ice) be recovered from the accused. Investigation has been completed against the accused. So, accused be sent to judicial lockup.

Accused heard. Record perused.

Perusal of the record, it reveals that accused be nominated in this case and caught red handed at time of arrest. Alleged recovery has been affected from the accused person. Investigation has been completed as per request of I.O. So the reasonable evidence available on record in the shape of psychotropic substance (Ice) as well as Mobile Phone of the accused as per recovery memo available on record. So, the request of I.O is hereby accepted and the accused Syed Ejaz Hussain Shah be sent to judicial lockup and again be produced before the Court on 07.08.2023, along-with report U/S 173 Cr.P.C.

However, it reflects from the record that as per allegation leveled in the FIR, police recovered the Mobile Phone in which the naked videos of the female student and official of various department of the concerned University as per allegation leveled in the FIR were present. Further, it is pertinent to mention here that at the time of first remand dated 21.07.2023, I.O requested for 14-days of physical remand for the purpose of recovery as well as investigation regarding the naked material of women and officials which is present in the Mobile Phone of accused. So, in this regard already 03-days physical remand is hereby granted on 21.07.2023 with direction to I.O to conclude the investigation and again produce the accused on 24.07.2023. On today, astonishingly I.O complete the investigation against the accused but I.O did not conducted the investigation regarding the aspect of naked videos of the female student and official of various department of the concerned University, neither collects any such evidence which are present in the Mobile Phone of the accused as per allegation of FIR as well as request submitted by the I.O on 21.07.2023 nor made the part of file of such evidence. The whole file remains silent on the above said aspect, while I.O complete the investigation without interrogating the above said aspect apparently seems to be defective investigation on the part of I.O which need to be further probe to the extent of role of I.O regarding the investigation of the instant case. So, in this regard, copy of this order be sent to Inspector General of Punjab Police, Punjab who shall investigate the matter regarding the completion of investigation in the instant case on the part of I.O and if the I.O found delinquent, then proceed against the I.O strictly in accordance with law, under intimation to this court.

Announced:-
24.07.2023

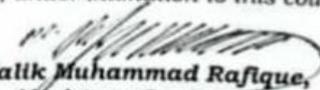

Malik Muhammad Rafique,
Magistrate-Section-30,
Bahawalpur

Figure 1 explaining, When no forensics were performed on the mobile phones, the police should explain why all these erroneous and greatly inflated accusations were released to the media and social media. Why was a video blogger allowed access to the arrested suspect? Why did it become involved in a defamatory campaign against Islamia institution Bahawalpur by creating the idea of a sex scandal and subsequently a drug scandal rather than working with the institution administration? Additionally, when the drugs and the videos—which are allegedly 400 or 5,500—were requested in court, the police lacked any such reference.

Syed Iqrar Ul Hassan and Tariq Bashir Cheema (MNA of Bahawalpur)

All the materials submitted in the past were carefully reviewed by the special news anchor of ARY News, Iqrar Al Hasan. While other media people were discussing the existence or non-existence of these videos, this anchor went to Bahawalpur city for observing whole scenario. On July 26, 2023, he uploaded a video on his YouTube channel and clarified that Chief Security Officer Ijaz Shah had deployed undercover people in Islamia University to videotape any boy or girl sitting alone doing inappropriate things. Later, in this video, the boy was acquitted, and the girl was subjected to sexual abuse in such a way that she was threatened that we have this video of you if you do not do what we asked you to do in the future. If I were to send this video to your family, then that girl would have been forced to do whatever she was asked to do. (Iqrar Ul Hassan, 2023)

Now a new look of Islamia University Chief Security Ijaz Shah can be seen. He used to take every girl to Bahawalpur's MNA's son's farm house for the last 7 years and perform lewd acts. Now meanwhile, Several films of this incident had also been made in mobile phones. When this incident came to the knowledge of MNA Tariq Bashir Cheema, he told the police of Bahawalpur that my son should not be allowed to appear in these videos under any circumstances. So, on 27 July 2023, during the proceedings in the court of Ejaz Shah, the police removed all these videos from the evidence, because the MNA's son himself was involved in these videos. In the meantime, the court also not shown the videos against Ejaz Shah which were wanted to be shown as evidence and the matter was stuck there and the court issued a notification as it was produced before. (Iqrar Ul Hassan, 2023)

This whole incident was narrated by Syed Iqarul Hasan on his official YouTube channel and also confirmed the incident that the videos are allegedly with the police, but they have been covered up because of the MNA of Bahawalpur so that his son Don't get caught in this case. However, in the last seven years, if such incidents are to be recorded, it is not far that there are 5400 videos. When anchor visited this university for investigation so one day later he receives calls for threat of death giving warning that stay away from this case. (Iqrar Ul Hassan, 2023) If there is even 1 video in which any girl student has been treated like this, then it is worthy of

criticism. The number of videos does not matter, but how will a society develop in which someone's child, daughter is treated badly.

CONCLUSION

The information that is becoming public about Bahawalpur is both sad and worrying. Now that a crisis has emerged involving the university administration, the news does not reflect the Bahawalpur region's culture. It represents Islamia University with pride. Additionally, it is necessary to look into the scandalous rumors and allegations that have surfaced regarding the founding of a renowned institution. There are institutions that it would be incorrect to deny, yet independent investigations are required to tell the difference between the truth and falsehoods. The probe should result in a lesson being taught to anybody connected to the affair so that the names of the educational institutions won't be revealed. However, according to girls privacy the scholar anonymized the assaulted girls names.

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