

# Pak TV Dramas' Crusade for Liberating Women

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**Abstract**—*Rabid resistance to expansive corporate culture and democracy, which brings hope for providing freedom to women, has been one of the hallmarks of the Pakistan society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But television entertainment narrative has not succumbed to the forces that drive and propagate the long-held feudalistic and patriarchal values as they strove to bring about social change in the medieval mindset. A social order passed down generations after generations strongly believed that men are responsible for the outdoor affairs while women are meant to do the domestic work. The spread of feministic sensibilities and the increasing realization of an equal society have had little impact. This paper tries to focus on the portrayal of female characters in the Pakistani television dramas that aim at liberating women from the clutches of a thinking that treated women as lesser human beings. It attempts to analyse the women characters from dramas like 'Zindagi Gulzar Hai'. The story revolves around Kashaf Murtaza, the female protagonist who struggles throughout her life against the patriarchal society and finally succeeds in living as a respectable member of her family. 'Zakham', another story, deals with complicated relationships, societal pressure and the resulting pain and suffering it brings to people's lives. In a similar vein, 'Mubarak Ho Beti Huyi Hai', questions the norms of patriarchal society. The story portrays a society where daughters are considered a burden on the family and lastly 'Humsafar', portraying the character Khirad who never gives up on her self-respect and continues to struggle against all the difficulties. These dramas hammer home the message of a change that the women in Pakistan crave for. Artistes are the watchers of the society and have tried to mirror aspirations of modern women as reflected in feminist movements.*