

A way to decrease the number of “Female doctors becoming 'trophy' wives”

We, in Pakistan, have been read/heard that 80-85 per cent of Pakistan’s medical students are women. Why? A major reason behind this are the doctor brides of our country who bred at public/private medical/dental colleges all over the country and go to become wives and mothers but give up being the **DOCTORS** (healthcare practitioners). The solution of this scenario is the not abolishing merit-based admission policy for medical colleges by reserving 50 per cent seats for boys and the other 50 per cent for girls. According to me, one of the practical solutions is presented in the caricature sequence of May 2015 very beautifully.

This story is about Dr. Sarah, one of the combined friends of Dr. Juni , Huny & Buny. She has just started practicing as healthcare professional after completing her house job when , one day, she was told by her mother that she was going be engaged with a gentleman. Being the obedient daughter of her parents (as commonly practiced in our country), she did not raise any objection against this decision and got engaged one day and soon after she got married happily.

Now, after entering in the matrimonial life, she found lots of responsibilities upon her shoulders and she started to cope up with all challenges of her new life to make her marriage successful. She started performing the role of a wife devotedly and sincerely. Then a day came when she was blessed with a beautiful daughter and she became busier in her life. The wheel of time was forwarded a step ahead and her son came to complete her family. Now she became a honey bee, always busy to facilitate her family.

One bright morning, when after sending her husband to his office she happened to go to the store room to search some toy for her daughter and she found her stethoscope in a box. This was not mere a stethoscope, it was a result of her long struggle for being a doctor, a complete degree and a whole profession. Flash back of her memory reminded her what she had got from her country in the form of her healthcare professional degree; what she has learnt and earned. And now, she realized that she was not supposed to earn or learn only because the obligation of **RETURN** is left behind. She got a degree but she could not utilize it. She was doing well in her personal life but she forgot the responsibility that she herself took on her shoulders in the form of her healthcare professional degree. These feelings shattered her and she could not help but sharing it with her husband. Her husband was an educated and cooperative person who not only understood her feelings but gave her permission to rejoin her professional journey from where she gave up. Feeling nervous, she went to the hospital and rejoined again. At first, she was nervous and feeling little bit odd as her friends have moved ahead and working on the senior positions and she was now

their subordinate. However, her friends (senior officers now) welcomed her and encouraged her to restart her job.

Now she is a successful healthcare practitioner as her personal life is doing well with the cooperation of her husband who helps her in the domestic works. She is availing the Day Care facility for her children provided by her hospital administration. She is not wrong if she gives the credit of her successful professional life to her husband who did not let her to become one more 'Trophy wife'.

The story proves the fact that a doctor bride can continue to be a doctor long after she is a bride.