**Team # 2**

**Public Health**

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

**Problem Overview**

The status of women in Pakistan varies considerably because of the uneven socioeconomic development and the impact of various social formations on women's lives. For this reasonthere is a huge gap in the facilities available to the women belonging to different classes. The most important being the facilities relating to health etc. Some of the problems that are specific to the women in Pakistan are mentioned below

* Althoughglobal attention to maternal health and safe motherhood has grown significantly in the past decade,the situation seems to differ inPakistan wherematernal mortality ratio (MMR) is 260/100,000 live births as compared to 13/100,000 for developed countries[2](UNICEF report 2006-2010).This lack of awareness throws the life of the mother as well as the child in constant danger.Even if both of them survive, they still face problems relating to pediatric and adolescent health care etc.
* Another main issue Pakistani womanis facing for a long time isViolence/Rape that has devastating physical and emotional consequences for women, children and families. Women are everyday targets of both physical and sexual battering by partners and in-laws, as well as strangers. And to report such a case usually there is no effective way at all and one has to go through such complicated and stretched procedures that it may take very long or often the complete life span of the victim, till her voice gets heard.
* Even after a child is conceived, a lot of care is required in his upbringing specially during the first few weeks and there’s no such system to tell the parents about the pediatric needs (vaccination, circumcision etc)

So, a system is required that is capable enough to solve these problems in a best possible way

**Our Solution**

“Women Empowerment”-our proposed solution, is a distributed software system that aims to improve the social, health and educational solutions to the common women in Pakistan. The system comprises of a web-portal & mobile device(s) that collaborate to achieve these objectives. This multi-dimensional system, in general, focuses on eradication of violence against women and to provide them with platform to seek for justice. It further ensures the availability of legal and medical help to ordinary women and makes them aware of the rights they possess.

In our system in response to pregnancy registration the women receives all of the important alerts (weekly or monthly as per desire) of pre and post pregnancy period (regarding each stage of pregnancy), reminders, health tips, exercises suggestions from the experts, details of the nearby maternity hospitals etc. After delivery the women can register her baby to our system and our system will provide the necessary guidance relating to the child’s health by providing them with diet plans, vaccination schedule, alerts as per age of the baby, birthday reminders etc.

The system allows a woman to send a message using the given format to submit some health related query on the discussion forum and any other existing member if has the solution to her problem can freely suggest it via the same forum thus making the system interactive

A woman who is pregnant, is a victim or is in fear can use the system to help her according to her desires. The system as has been described earlier has two parts, mobile device and web portal. The services provided by the web portal are the same as provided through smsfor mobile phones, the user will have the liberty to use whichever part of the system they like.

In case the women is victim of some physical abuse or is in fear, she can use simple sms message to inform our system regarding the details and the system intelligently takes action according to the needs and requirements of the women e.g in case of rape, our system provides the facility to the women to be contacted by the relevant NGO’s or a complaint can be filed through a simple sms.

WE web-portal motivates and facilitates women to start off their own home-based businesses, e.g. handicraft manufacturing. WEweb-portal provides women with capability to effortlessly get orders from around the world and sell their products for the price they worth.

**How our solution is better?**

Though the concept of women emancipation in Pakistan has managed to gain a lot of importance from the government as well as private sector but there is no such system yet which provides preliminary guidance and useful information to the woman about problems relating to above mentioned issues.Given below are some of the reasons that make our system stand out from the already existing solutions (if there are any!!)

* The system is easily accessible to all the women across Pakistan
* It’s an interactive system
* Since the sms rates are extremely cheap in Pakistanso any one can easily afford it.
* The tips and guidance are available in both Urdu and English so as to facilitate those who have problems understanding English

**References:**

[1]http://www.ippf.org/NR/exeres/890D11F2-0CEB-4BAB-97A7-26A0BFA993AD.htm

[2]http://www.indexmundi.com/pakistan/demographics\_profile.html