

6/10/23

Q: Discuss the background of the two Oscar-winning Documentaries by Sharmeen Obaid?

## Answer

### 1. Introduction.

"It does not matter where you come from - If you put quality work over there, it will be appreciated."

Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy this quote manifests itself in her professional life and she garnered appreciations from both national and international audiences.

Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy made a history on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012, becoming the first Pakistani to win an Academy Award for her short documentary "Saving Face." And then in 2016 she again won her second Oscar winning Award for the documentary on "A Girl in the River: Price of Forgiveness." Both documentaries highlighted the invisible problem of women in Pakistan. Her first documentary -

was about "acid attacks" of the women in Pakistan and <sup>showed</sup> their past acid attacks. ~~Mikes~~ The second documentary was about "honour killing" in Pakistan. Around 5,000 women died due to honour killing in Pakistan. This documentary also emphasized the weak <sup>laws</sup> behind the punishment of the perpetrators in this case. Moreover, her both documentaries <sup>pressure and</sup> ~~awared~~ educated people and educated them the cultural patriarchal society of Pakistan.

→ **About Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy**

Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy born in Karachi in 1978. She did her master degrees in international policy and communication from Stanford university of America. She is ~~the~~ Pakistani-Canadian journalist and filmmaker. Her work in the films show the gender inequality against women. He won many international and national awards for her marvellous work because that shocked the whole world.

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**Achievements**

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### 3- Achievements of Sharmeen Obaid

- ↳ She is the first non American won the "Livingston Award."
- ↳ She is first Pakistani to achieve the second highest civilian award of Pakistan "Hilal Imtiaz" or "Crescent of Distinction."
- ↳ Sharmeen Obaid also won "Emmy Awards"
- ↳ "World Media Award for Broadcast Journalist of the year" was also taken by her.
- ↳ She is the first Pakistan made "Computer-animated feature-length film" (3 Bahadur)
- ↳ Sharmeen is also the founder of "Citizen Archive of Pakistan" which build critical thinking and sense of pride about the history and identity of the country among the children.

### Background of Saving face

"In Pakistan, at least 100 cases of acid violence are reported each year."

(United Nations)

Sharmeen documentary: Saving Face is about acid attack in Pakistan.

There are many women in the country  
they have been victims of this attack.  
The documentary highlighted the case  
of "Zakia" and "Ruchana".

Zakia's husband, sister-in-law and  
mother-in-law together burnt her in a  
closed room. She survived the incident  
but again living <sup>with</sup> them due to her  
children and poverty in her own  
home. The attack is due to domestic  
violence. She gathered courage and went  
out for justice. Moreover, Ruchana's husband  
was drug addicted. He abused her and  
made her life <sup>miserable</sup> ~~meritable~~ to live with him.  
Therefore, she went to court for divorce.

Due to this her husband threw acid  
in her face which completely changed  
her life. She did not lose courage  
and hired a lawyer and with <sup>the</sup> help  
of court and police she got justice.  
Her husband got double life imprisonment.  
The documentary also showed the  
prestigious role of <sup>Dr.</sup> Muhammad Jawad.

he is the Canadian based doctor.

He did plastic surgery of Ruthsana and many more women in Pakistan.

This documentary was really heart-wrenching and shocked the audiences across the globe. Consequently, <sup>to</sup> Sharmeen this work she got her first Oscar Award 26<sup>th</sup> february 2019.

### 5- Background Of A Girl in the river: Price of forgiveness

“one in three women face abuse and violence in her lifetime. It is the appalling violation of human rights. But it is still the invisible pandemic of our time.” (Nicole Kidman)

Sharmeen Obaid in her second Oscar Award winning documentary showed the people about the “honor killing” of women in Pakistan. The documentary is about “Saba” a 19 years old girl her father and uncle shot her and threw her into the river for the sake of —

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his family ~~hour~~ honour as "Saba"  
married according to her will.  
God saved Saba and <sup>she</sup> told her  
story to the world. When her father  
jailed he narrated, ~~that~~ "I feel proud  
on myself that I shot her and my  
family ~~on~~, relatives and Society feel  
pride on me because I did ~~my~~  
: because of honour and respect."

He did not feel shamed on his  
world but ready to spend whole life  
in <sup>the</sup> cell in the name of so called  
honour. However, ~~due~~ to Society pressure  
and the law ~~the~~ Saba forgive ~~their~~  
her father and uncle. They both  
released from the jail. After that  
Saba said, "If it was in my  
hand I never let them free. I forgive  
them because of the leaders of the  
Society but my heart never  
forgives them."

Women are suffering but there is  
no one <sup>to</sup> give them justice and hope so  
~~to~~ live their lives safe and peaceful.

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## Impacts of documentaries in Pakistan.

- (i) The documentaries highlight the more dangerous issues of the country. It was not known to the people.
- (ii) It pressurized the parliament to pass bill regard both cases in the country.
- (iii) Provide justice to the victim of acid attacks.
- (iv) Appreciated the Services of Doctor Muhammad Jawad.
- (v) She criticised honour killing and acid attack and which is praised by women and became optimistic about their lives.
- (vi) Pakistan's government pledged after watching A girl in the River to make robust law against honour killing.
- (vii) In 2016, She won her second Oscar for A Girl in the River. After her win a previously stalled ee honour killing bill was passed in Pakistan.

## 7. Conclusion

Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy.. won two Oscars Award of her two documentaries: "Saving face and Honour killing, A Girl in the River"

Both documentaries present the <sup>worse</sup> plight of women in Pakistan. They showed the Patriarchal Power of the Pakistani Society.

Moreover, the documentaries also raised question about the delayed and ignored justice of judiciary. They also emphasized that how societal pressure hindered in path of getting justice. Her works

are really commendable and her efforts were <sup>appreciated</sup> by "Rahat Imran"

in her publication: Activist documentary film in Pakistan: The emergence of a Cinema of Accountability. She really deserved and she is the epitome of for every Pakistani women.

