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## Suicide rate soars among Afghan women

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Continued war, insecurity, immigrations and other problems have caused increment in the rate of suicide among Afghan women, advisor to Afghan President on health affairs Faizullah Kakar said on Saturday.

"Based on research, depression is the main reason for committing self-immolation among Afghan women and approximately over 2,400 women commit self-immolation per year," Kakar told a press conference here.

However he said a national survey is needed to find the exact number.

He said that fears and concerns over the continued conflicts, continued instability, forced and under-age marriages, handing over of girl's hand to rival side as compensation to settle a dispute in murder cases are the main factors for women who decide to end their precious lives.

In Afghanistan' tribal areas, often elders give the hand of a girl to the warring side as compensation in order to settle disputes particularly murder case between feuding tribes or families.

Sexual violence, violence in in-laws home and many other social problems have also been regarded as the cause for suicide among women in Afghanistan.

He said that 172 women had committed suicide in Afghanistan's western Herat and the neighboring provinces over the past two years but just 61 of them have survived with serious burns while 111 others had succumbed to their burning and injuries.

In the war-torn country 28 percent of women between 15 to 35 years old suffer from depression and psychological problems.

Although no census has been made in Afghanistan over the past three decades, unofficial statistics put its population around 30 million people.