Seminar on Minority for “Minority Rights”

CPDI in collaboration with The Asia Foundation (TAF) conducted a Seminar to bring forth a critical and policy oriented discussion of key instruments through community involvement in the channeling of major Minority Rights in Pakistan. The seminar was held at “Shalom Church Centre, Jhelum.

The event was attended by Mr. Fawad Chaudhry (Sr. Media Analyst), and Mr. Khadim Hussain (MNA PMLN), member of Civil Society Organizations, International NGO’s, Government Department Representatives, Academia, Minority Groups, and Parliamentarians. The major issues discussed during the seminar included rights of minorities on freedom of expression, basic civil rights, rights to education and employments, and laws on inheritance, registration of birth, death, and marriage.

“...The presence of minorities in a state not only represents its religious and cultural diversity, but it also casts a great impact on national, ethnic, and religious integrity of the country where the minority as well as majority members may try to promote values of peace and interfaith harmony. While Pakistan grants equal civic and constitutional rights to its minorities, implementation of these rights, most of the times remain an uphill challenge.”

Media Consultation

In addition, to further highlight the issues on Minority Rights, CPDI planned a media consultation, at Islamabad. The main objective of the media consultation was to bring forth the current status and community image of the Minorities. The aim of the seminar was to facilitate an in-depth discussion of the journalists and media representatives, on the basis of which, an informed understanding of minority issues in the 21st century in Pakistan could be developed. The media consultation familiarized the participants with a critical and policy oriented discussion of key instruments, in the channeling of major minority rights in Pakistan.

The seminar was primarily attended by media personnel, including editors, chief editors of newspapers, journalists, columnists, assignment editors of the channels, and the panel was comprised of Mr. Sarwar G. Bari, (National Coordinator PATAN Development Organization), Syed Kausar Abbas (Program Manager CPDI), and Ms. Nadia Tariq Ali (Program Manager The Asia Foundation).
Developing Employability Skills among Educated Youth (DESEY)

Till the reporting period 158 toppers of Skills Development and Civic Education Training from Dist. Multan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalpur and Lodhran were taken to Islamabad for exposure visit in seven groups. They visited the different federal departments/institutions, Embassies and INGOs etc. Students also participated in different events like TV talk shows and International conference on Media Safety hosted by CPDI in Islamabad.

As many as 75 batches of trainees have completed their DESEY Skills Development Training, 33 batches from Multan, 22 batches from Bahawalpur, 11 batches from Lodhran and 9 batches from Muzaffargarh. While training of 2 batches of Dist. Muzaffargarh is ongoing. Within the District exposure visit of 6 batches held to Radio Pakistan Multan and Fatmid Foundation Multan on April 16-17, 2015.

Interactive Session of DESEY Bahawalpur Youth Group on the issues of South Punjab youth held with Mr. Engineer Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman Minister of State (Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training and Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control) in April.

RTI this Month

Four Public Forums on Right to Information were held in Multan, Bahawalpur, Jhelum and Peshawar respectively. Government officials attended the forum and talk about the implementation status of the sections pertaining to designation of Public Information Officers, (PIOs) and proactive disclosure of information. Kaleem Ullah, Information Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa shared his knowledge about RTI laws.

A two days training of CIAF members was conducted in Multan on ‘Using the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 for Public Accountability and improved Service Delivery’. Group was comprised of different segments of society mainly related to agriculture, education, health and environment sectors.

Annual planning & review meeting of CNBA

CPDI aims to work for Budget making process to make it participatory and need-based for public. In this context CPDI organized training cum annual planning & review of 16 organizations working in 25 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the purpose to improve the capacity of CSOs, promote the culture of easy access to the budget and for better implementation of the project and its ultimate objective is to create awareness among the masses through their support.
Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) has formed a cadre of activists who promote right to information at their respective districts through effective advocacy initiatives. Our volunteers are playing a key role in the implementation of RTI law through their innovative, practical and sustained efforts.

For mass awareness on law Community Theater, painting exhibition, awareness really and storytelling events were arranged at District Multan, Sargodha and Jhang.

In efforts for successful implementation on law two interface meeting with Government officials were arranged at District Multan and Lahore. In these meetings implementation status of RTI law and challenges hampering flow of information were discussed in detail.