

Conference on Citizens' Oversight on Implementation of 18th Amendment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

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Despite its passage over four years ago, two successive governments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have made no progress on implementation of 18th amendment in letter and spirit. This was discussed during a one-day conference on 'Citizens' Oversight on Implementation of 18th Amendment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa' organized by the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI).

Considered as a pre-requisite for strengthening of the federation through empowering federating units, the 18th amendment faces a number of challenges to its implementation. Some of the challenges highlighted during the conference included lack of capacities of the respective politicians, public officials, and masses at large, confusion on understanding of roles and responsibilities between province and the federal government, and lack of operational framework that may serve as a guiding principle to the much longed for implementation of the amendment.

Given these challenges, speakers and participants of the conference agreed on following measures: Respective policy makers, public officials, journalists, civil society representatives, and citizens should be educated on the contours of 18th constitutional amendment; a formal consultation process should be started where input from respective communities and other stakeholders should be solicited and documented; capacity of the political representative and higher public officials should be built; the federal government should prepare modules and booklets that may serve as reference points for the public officials and policymakers alike; an annual scorecard should be conducted to measure progress on implementation of the respective amendment.

Study of Budget Making Process at District Level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Launched:

CPDI in collaboration of Citizens' Network for Budget Accountability (CNBA) organized a launching ceremony of "Assessment of Budget Making Process at District Level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)". A comprehensive report on the budget making process at district level in KP was developed in collaboration of Citizen Network for Budget Accountability (CNBA) and National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The purpose of report was to oversight the budget making process at district level and to ensure participatory budgeting at district level in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).



Developing Employability Skills among Educated Youth:

A MoU between CPDI and Air University Multan has been signed. From now the university will cooperate with CPDI for the identification of potential trainees from the university and will provide the lists of potential trainees time to time.

Skills Development Training of 16 batches of all four project district (Multan, Muzaffargarh, Lodhran and Bahawalpur) has been completed.

Employability Skills Development and Civic Education Training of 16 new batches of next interval have also been started in all four project districts.

Within the district exposure visits of the DESEY Youth Trainees of Dist. Bahawalpur, Lodhran and Muzaffargarh to various district level government and private departments, private institutions and different companies were arranged and trainings were conducted in November 2014.



District Budget Consultations:

As a next step of launching of district budget analysis, CPDI in collaboration with the partners of Citizens' Network for Budget Accountability conducted district level budget consultations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The district budget consultations were successfully organized in 20 out of 25 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The consultations were attended by district officials, CSOs, media and local government representatives and raised the demand to ensure citizens' participation in the budget making process at district level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Long Term Election Observation and Oversight in Pakistan:

CPDI partner for Long Term Election Observation and Oversight in Pakistan facilitated seven advocacy activities to popularize FAFEN electoral reform recommendations among the important election stakeholders.

CPDI facilitated two consultation meetings with smaller political parties and election candidates in Jhang and Sargodha followed by comprehensive media briefings. One regional conference with multi stakeholders comprises lawyers, students, CSO's and traders were organized in Sargodha District.

Two youth conventions with the students of Government colleges were also facilitated to share electoral process and reforms agenda for the greater legitimacy and transparency of elections, conventions were held in District Rawalpindi and Toba Tek Singh.



Promoting Public Accountability through Right to Information:

Promoting Public Accountability through Right to Information aims for strengthening RTI campaigns at the District Level through CPDI's trained and inspired volunteer groups in the four districts of Punjab.

During the November 2014 for the awareness of general public 9-RTI stalls were organized in the four districts of Punjab.

Another important aspect of project is to strengthen the both demand and supply side of information through facilitating the process of filing information requests, pertaining to issues faced by a common man. 46 Information requests on important issues were filed during the reporting month.

Project has also made possible to reach diverse community groups through 13 RTI meetings to impart knowledge on RTI and its importance for citizens.

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Accessions on our Website:

[List of Public Information Officers for Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013](#)

[Score Sheet of Federal and Provincial Right to Information Laws of Pakistan](#)

[Process of Filing Information Requests under RTI Laws](#)

[Timeline of Right to Information Legislation in Pakistan](#)

[Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship](#)

Legal framework for Electoral Reforms:



By M. Shahid Jatoi
Project Manager
Voter & Civic Education

Pakistan is democratic country that has witnessed intermittent elections due to repeated military takeovers. Due to this, the continuity of political processes, democratic development and institutional building in the country remained a dream. In 2013, country experienced the smooth transfer of power from one democratic regime to another because of hence to supposedly transparent, free, and fair General Elections 2013. Nevertheless, currently Pakistan is witnessing political crisis owing to alleged rigging in May 2013 General Elections invoked by some opposition political parties. The accusations and counter accusations have to be judged by the competent commission. However, the alleged or one can say a possible rigging in elections are mainly due to either non-availability or due to non-implementation of strong and effective legal framework related with electoral processes. The laws related with conduct of elections, political finances, and political parties are name of the few. The democratic development of Pakistan being in transition phase, there is need of electoral reforms that must include the requirement of enactment of new laws for political finance regulations and the steps taken to implement the existing one with letter and spirit.

Media Coverage:

- [Punjab conceals facts while KP provides requested details](#)
- [Training sought for officials making budget at district level](#)
- [Citizens' oversight of the 18th amendment](#)
- [KP govt using helicopters in violation of rules](#)
- [FPSC also has double standards in giving information](#)
- [310 out of 732 Punjab BHUs working sans doctors](#)
- [A right step towards Right to Information](#)
- [Most DCOs continue to jealously guard 'information'](#)
- [Punjab commission for review of laws against right to information](#)
- [Lax approach: Govt takes nine months to answer questions](#)

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI-Pakistan) is an independent, non-partisan and a not-for-profit civil society organization working exclusively on issues of peace and development in Pakistan. It was established in 2003 to inform and influence public policies and civil society projects through research-based advocacy and capacity-building, with the goal of promoting peace and achieving sustainable development. CPDI specializes in five sectors of development: 1. Promotion of Peace and Tolerance, 2. Rule of Law, 3. Transparency and Right to Information, 4. Budget Watch, 5. Legislative Watch and Democratic Development.

Credit: Yasir Abbasi, Shumila Anjum,, Usman Zubair, Ambreen Kanwal, Kausar Abbas, Shahid Jatoi