



**PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES**  
DEDICATED TO PARLIAMENTARY EXCELLENCE

ISSN # 2414-8040

# Parliamentary Research Digest

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**VOLUME 5, ISSUE 02**

**FEBRUARY, 2018**

## Editorial

The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), continues to provide its mandated legislative, research, capacity building and outreach services to entire parliamentary fraternity including Honourable Members of Parliament as well as four provincial and two legislative assemblies. The Board of Governors led by the Honourable Speaker/ President BoG met on Feb., 13, 2018 to approve comprehensive set of HR reforms to consolidate the quality-oriented futuristic services as a recognized parliamentary institution.

The February issue touches new themes within broader framework of Human Security. It includes relevant articles on concept of human and state security, a paper on organic farming and status of consumer rights in the country. PIPS is encouraging fellow researchers from parliamentary institutions to contribute in the publication and we are pleased to inform that like last few issues where officers from Senate, Punjab and Gilgit Baltistan Assembly contributed, this Research Digest Feb., 2018 has two absorbing pieces contributed by National Assembly and the SDGs Parliamentary Taskforce. We are also including a new series of introducing recent Acts passed in Assemblies in brief as well as list of legislations related to child rights in Pakistan to assist MPs and their functionaries in seeking implementation to ensure child protection.

For any specific areas of importance that you want PIPS to send your research or briefing papers, contact us at [research@pips.gov.pk](mailto:research@pips.gov.pk).

**Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka**  
D.G (Research and Legislation)



## **PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS**

### **Legislative Update - Acts Passed by the Provincial Assembly of Punjab in 2018**

**Fahad Amin**, Research and Legislation Wing, PIPS

We are commencing a new section in the PIPS Research Digest namely, “Legislative Update,” to briefly introduce objectives of Acts and Laws passed by elected legislatures in recent past. In its 34<sup>th</sup> Session, the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab passed the following Acts:

#### **1. The Punjab Education Initiatives Management Authority Act, 2018 (I of 2018)**

The Punjab Education Initiatives Management Authority Bill, 2017 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of Punjab on February 07, 2018 and received assent from the Governor of the Punjab on February 13, 2018. The Act provides for the establishment of an Authority to devise, implement and manage reformatory and dynamic initiatives in the education sector in partnership with the private sector. Furthermore, the Authority would foster efficient utilization of public sector facilities including capacity building of the existing facilities and formulation of innovative solutions in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Act has repealed the Punjab Education Initiatives Management Authority Ordinance 2017 (XIV of 2017).

#### **2. The Punjab Safe Medical Supplies Authority Act, 2018 (II of 2018)**

The Punjab Safe Medical Supplies Authority Bill, 2017 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on January 31, 2018, and received assent from the Governor of the Punjab on February 15, 2018. Under this Act, an Authority is established for the purposes of procuring quality drugs and medical equipment and for effective administration for prompt and equitable distribution to the public health facilities in the Punjab. The Authority would also prescribe formularies and specifications of equipment for the health facilities. Under the Act, the Authority would also establish a Business and Scientific Board that would make recommendations to the Authority vis-à-vis the standards, products, procedures, processes and guidelines in relation to any technical aspects of procurement.

#### **3. The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2018 (Act III of 2018)**

The Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on February 07, 2018 and received assent from the Governor of the Punjab on February 15, 2018. This Amendment Act prescribes penalty for non-display of security featured number plate or as the case may be, the vanity plate provided to the owner of the vehicle by prescribed or registering authority.

#### **4. The Punjab Zakat and Ushr Act, 2018 (Act IV of 2018)**

The Punjab Zakat and Ushr Bill 2017 was passed by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on February 07, 2018 and received assent from the Governor of the Punjab on February, 15, 2018. The Act makes provisions for assessment, collection and disbursement of Zakat and Ushr in the Punjab. Under the Act, Punjab Zakat and Ushr Council is established to exercise general superintendence and control over matters relating to Zakat and Ushr. The Act also provides for the creation of Zakat and Ushr Committees at District and Local levels. The Act has repealed the Zakat and Ushr Ordinance, 1980.

## OPINION

## State Security Vs Human Security: A Dilemma for Pakistan

Mr. Abdul Rehman,

Editor Debates, National Assembly of Pakistan

**Abstract**

*Traditional notion of security is subscribed as state security which is linked with the protection of the state from existential, external and transnational threats. However, there is shift in the discourse of security during the post-cold war era. There are contending debates among different school of thoughts in political science and international relations which challenged the ontology of security and broadened the perception and practices of security. Barry Buzan was the key exponent of English school of thought who challenged the narrow understanding of security and opened the avenues of non-traditional understanding. His contribution was key new conceptual understanding of security and brought regional, societal and environmental security into consideration. Later, Mehboob-ul-Haq developed the concept of human security in non-traditional paradigm which shifted the focus from state centric to human centric approach. While discussing the theoretical pinning, there is an attempt to historicize the course of security practices in Pakistan. It scrutinizes the military-bureaucratic oligarchy which controlled and managed the discourse of security. However, there is discursive shift from state-centric approaches to citizen's oriented practices.*

**Introduction**

The question of security has remained a key investigation area in the disciplines of political science and international relations. And the traditional understanding of security that the discipline pundits associate with the state has been under extensive debate. The realist school of thought, which was predominant during the World Wars and Cold War explains security as “derivative of power”<sup>1</sup> and reduces its complexity and multifaceted nature to a mere “synonym for power.”<sup>2</sup> Their prism to conceptualize security is affected from the objective conditions of those times, as states were in constant struggle against each other for power. However, in post-cold war scenario, the discourse on security has become multi-layered and complex. Barry Buzan argues that the idea of security was “too narrowly founded.”<sup>3</sup> He proposed a broader framework of security while incorporating political, economic, societal, and environmental sectors that destabilized the traditional notions of security. His holistic approach is a valuable contribution. It helps us understand the transition from traditional to non-traditional security paradigms.

In non-traditional concept of security, human security is the most salient buzzword that ascended to challenge the state-centric paradigms of security. It gave primacy to individuals over existential threats to secure genuine integrity, unity and pluralistic unity of the society. In the post-cold war context, there was a desire that there should be redefinition and broadening of the scope of security to cope new challenges. The concept of human security first emerged in *Human Development Report* of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1994—Dr. Mehbub-ul-Haq and his team authored this report. The report emphasized that common citizens want security from political repression, social conflict, hunger, unemployment, threat of disease, crime,

<sup>1</sup> Buzan Barry, *People, States and Fear: An Agenda For International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era*. (Hertfordshire: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 2008), 8.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 14.

and environmental hazards.<sup>4</sup> UNDP institutionalized the individual coercions in the security discourse. The notion of human security was not confined to theoretical debates, but rather various states incorporated it in their domestic and foreign policies. The purpose to adopt an integrating approach was to cope the threats affecting the populace in donor and aid-recipient countries. Japan was first country which launched human security as a foreign policy agenda in 1998.<sup>5</sup> The case of Pakistan was no different from other developing and aid recipient countries which predominately followed the traditional paradigms of security to overcome existential threats emanating from external enemies. Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah aspired for peaceful relations with neighbors and other countries, but his win-win policy could not continue due to Kashmir issue. Military and bureaucracy emerged as over-developed state structures, thus making an oligarchy, and controlled the process of state formation and nation building. External threat or traditional understating of security has therefore continued to dominate in Pakistan for the past seven decades.

### What are notions of State Security and Human Security?

**State Security:** State security is often characterized in the framework of national security. In discursive practices, it is labelled as traditional security that protects from physical threats to state borders and citizens. Stephan Walt, one of the greatest exponents of realist school of thought, advocates the traditionalist standpoint. He articulates a state-centric position and restricts the application of security to existential threats through military means. He conceptualizes security as peace and considers it the key to prevent conflict through military means. Walt elaborates in his *Renaissance of Security*: "Security may be defined as the study of the threat, use and control of military force."<sup>6</sup>

Cohen and Tuttle, American cold war experts, argue that security is a "protective condition which statesmen either try to acquire, or preserve, to guard the various components of their politics from either external or internal threats."<sup>7</sup>

**Human Security:** Human security is a post-cold war neologism that challenged the traditional understanding of security. It broadened the horizon of non-traditional paradigms and linked human security with individuals and communities. This approach "humanizes"<sup>8</sup> security and equates it with freedom and human development. It refers to citizens as primary a concern. State is not absent in this paradigm but remains pivotal in the framework of state-society relationship.

Haq discusses seven dimensions of human security: economy, health, food, personal, political, community and environment.

**Theoretical Underpinnings: Disciplinary Transitions:** Several scholars have tried to theorize human security with reference to newly emerging challenges. The English School of Thought has conceptualized non-traditional security challenges to states. In his *Security: A New Framework of Analysis*, Buzan identifies new sectors of security transcending military and economic sectors. He classifies five sectors of military, environmental, economic, societal, and political security.<sup>9</sup> Traditionally, military security has dominated the agenda in domestic and foreign policy

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report 1994*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994, 24.

<sup>5</sup> Maria Syed, "Need for a Paradigm Shift in Security: Adopting Human Security in Pakistan." *IPRI Journal* XIV (02): 84.

<sup>6</sup> Stephen M. Walt *The Renaissance of Security Studies*. (New York: Palgrave, 1991), 27.

<sup>7</sup> S. Rubab Haider. "State Security Vs. Human Security: A Security Dilemma for Pakistan." *Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services Research Digest* 1 (7): 6.

<sup>8</sup> Maria Syed, "Need for a Paradigm Shift in Security: Adopting Human Security in Pakistan." 87

<sup>9</sup> Barry Buzan Waever and Wilde, *Security: A New Framework for Analysis* (London: Lynne Rienner, 1997), 34



formulations of states. Classical realist explanations of inter-state interaction remained the dominant methodology of national security policy experts and practitioners. Security of any state was therefore determined by the fact that how much secure it was in defense sector.

Conversely, human and societal security did not gain much attention during the cold war. Buzan and Waiver came forth with their groundbreaking work that included non-traditional security challenges in mainstream scholarship and made the notion of security more open and inclusive. Buzan explained that the traditional concept of security was “too narrowly founded.”<sup>10</sup> His goal was to offer a “broader framework of security”<sup>11</sup> incorporating concepts that were not considered the part of the security puzzle.

Things did not change much in postcolonial and developing nations. Yet the recognition of the notion of human security in developed nations subtly put pressure on them to shift from military based existential question. Human security thus extended the acceptability of non-traditional paradigms. It brought a paradigm shift in security discourse, as it moved beyond narrow militaristic notions and made it inclusive. An important element of this development was that it did not reduce itself to intellectual pursuits or theoretical discussion, yet states adjusted themselves and made modifications.

Haq discusses the fundamentals of human security as:

- i. *Economic Security* means basic income to maintain the standard of living. It also includes employment.
- ii. *Food Security* means sufficient, nutritious, and safe food for all to have a healthy life
- iii. *Health Security* means provision to basic health care and sufficient measures for prevention of infectious diseases.
- iv. *Environmental Security* has a general impact on human population, ecology, productivity, and survival.
- v. *Personal Security* is about personal physical security from the harms and illegal activities.
- vi. *Community Security* is identified with social group. It could be basic unit of family, community, and political or ethnic group.
- vii. *Political Security* ensures basic human right of association and freedom of expression.<sup>12</sup>

While considering these indicators, Pakistan has lagged in adjusting to new realities. The ‘securitization’ of traditional challenges by the state of Pakistan has further degenerated the country’s outlook. An affluent state, believing in participatory democracy and reflecting the collective wisdom of society, should cater the abovementioned needs of people. Mainstreaming only traditional understanding of security and limiting its avenues does not serve the purpose of in the contemporary nation-state system. The institutional monopoly of the military-bureaucratic oligarchy over national security policy of any given state instigates problems. Pakistan represents an example of states in post-colonial societies where participatory politics has been compromised for institution-vested interests.<sup>13</sup> Pakistan has remained unsuccessful to adjust its priorities in accordance with the emerging challenges. Also, it has not been able to strike a balance between strategic necessities and human security expectations.

**Conceptual Apparatus of Security: A Case Study of Pakistan:** Jack Nelson Pallmeyer identifies the characteristics of a state that restricts itself to national security or state security. He argues that in such situations “the military not only guarantees the security of the state” against

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 41

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 42

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Human Development Report 1994*. 37-37.

<sup>13</sup> Saadia Toor, *The State of Islam: Culture and Cold War Politics in Pakistan*. (London: Pluto Press. 2011), 24

all external and internal threats, but it also has sufficient power to regulate the overall course of the society. In a 'security state' [like Pakistan], "the military exercises influence over political, economic as well as military affairs...."<sup>14</sup> The spirit of democracy however relies on the participation of people. Yet the security state has halted the participation of people in several ways. It controls and manages the discourse that instils fears, restricts public sphere, and distorts information. It controls and defines the policies and bypassed Parliament through various clandestine activities and covert channels. The state justifies these authoritarian actions through exercising certain discursive strategies, as it is done for a higher purpose or national interest.<sup>15</sup>

### Historicizing the Security Practices in Pakistan:

Pakistan has constantly been under existential threats, i.e. conventional and non-conventional challenges. Post-partition Pakistan failed to uphold its commitments to emerge as a welfare state because of a few real and self-assumed strategic and security challenges. Since the dawn of 21<sup>st</sup> century, non-traditional security challenges have triumphed traditional national, regional, and international challenges to the nation-states. Pakistan is located at the crossroads of three continents and its security is intertwined with regional states like India, China, and Afghanistan. Traditional security challenges to Pakistan mostly emanate from its archrival India. Traditionally, therefore, Pakistan's security doctrine and policy have remained India-centric. It has fought four wars (1948, 1965, 1971, and 1999), faced two major military stand-offs (2002 and 2008) and confronted unlimited border skirmishes over LoC and working boundary with India. However, after 9/11 and Pakistan's decision to side with America in its expeditions against terrorism mainly stemming from Afghanistan, Islamabad has been trapped in non-traditional security challenges from non-state actors.<sup>16</sup>

At times, the security challenges to Pakistan have been a byproduct of global and regional power politics between major actors in the South Asian theatre. Because of its geo-strategic positioning, Pakistan cannot enjoy the luxury of isolationism and dissociate itself from regional developments. Traditional and non-traditional challenges are intermingled and have complemented each other in the case of Pakistan. With the policy shift in Islamabad, militant groups, which once were considered strategic assets, disillusioned and they distanced themselves from mainstream state apparatus. They started executing and operationalizing their policies independently—against the interests of the state of Pakistan. As a result, Pakistan was encircled in a three-front war, i.e., eastern front, western front, and internal security challenges.<sup>17</sup>

Traditional adversaries of Pakistan joined hands together, forged an alliance and started exploiting non-traditional security layers within its territorial boundaries. This new nexus and unprecedented security challenge made things even more difficult for strategic planners and policymakers in Islamabad. Although traditional security challenges may seem steep and real, Pakistan has balance as it can no longer ignore the huge youth bulge that provides opportunity and challenge for progressive and sustainable future of coming generations. Parliamentary oversight to conduct audit and performance viz a viz spending on security-related expenditures as practiced by democracies world over need to be followed forthwith. Human security of the people of Pakistan, including emancipation of every individual with equal opportunity to respectable living, subsistence, shelter, standard education, health cover and civic liberties can no longer be postponed. Human security as envisioned by father of the Nation Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his famous address on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1947, remains the foremost objective of any state – where life, property and faith of everyone are protected. It has been

<sup>14</sup> Darini Rajasingham Senanayake "From National Security State to Human Security: The Challenge of Winning the Peace in Sri Lanka." *ISAS Working Paper* (72), 5.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Saadia Toor, 26.

<sup>17</sup> Maria Syed, 85.

compromised because of the state's obsession with traditional security calculations that has always diverted its resources and energy to counter traditional challenges and on top of it all, without parliamentary scrutiny by the directly elected representatives of the people as clearly laid out in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Pakistan need to shift focus from traditional conception of security to non-traditional "human security," which is inclusive, and people oriented. Historically Pakistan has been focusing on existential question and undermined the human development. There is vast disparity in core and periphery in spatial terms. There is need to adjust the focus from securitization to sustainable development and human development which could open more avenue for the growing population. However, existential question of security and internal threats are important, but it should not cost the freedom of people.

## ANALYSIS

### **Organic Farming as an Alternative System for Pakistan**

**Ms. Tehseen Khalid**, Deputy Director Research, PIPS SDGs Desk  
& **Ms. Samra Minhaj**, Young Parliamentary Subject Expert, PIPS

#### **1. Introduction:**

With the advent of technology, farmers have started using chemicals for pest management of crops which are generally termed as pesticides. At one hand, pesticides offer the fastest way of pest management and swift control in situations of massive pest outbreak against biological and cultural control practices. But on the other hand, they invariably affect ecosystem, environment and human health. Various studies have revealed that pesticides in food items accumulate in body tissues and cause direct toxic effects on humans and other non-target organisms. A lot of human health issues are directly induced by pesticides such as blisters and muscular pain, cancer, low fertility, suppression of the body's immune system, liver and kidney damage, neurological disorders and respiratory problems.

Besides the impact on human health, continued use of pesticides also results in contamination of surface and ground water supplies, degradation of the cropland soils, destruction of biological species and poisoning of food chain. The current magnitude of translocation of food grown with pesticides is seen as a danger to humankind, even in areas where very little pesticides are used. Over-reliance of farmers, poor knowledge on proper handling of pesticides and lack of training further aggravates the situation. It points to the reality that the pesticide problem is a concern of every person who wants clean and healthy food free of toxins. Therefore the development of ecosystem and environment friendly pesticide, alternatives in farming and agriculture has become a serious concern worldwide.

#### **2. Organic Farming-Understanding the Concept:**

Organic farming is the simplest solution of this problem. It is an alternative agricultural system that relies on fertilizers of organic origin. The concept of organic farming is not a new one. From ages farmers are growing various crops by using organic farming techniques. There is no universally accepted definition. However the term infers the method of growing crops by avoiding the use of harmful and synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, growth regulators, and livestock feed additives thereby protecting soil fertility and preserving environment.

United States Department of Agriculture defines organic agriculture as “the application of a set of cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that support the cycling of on-farm resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. These include maintaining or enhancing soil and water quality; conserving wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife; and avoiding use of synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering.”<sup>1</sup>

It further states that “Organic producers use natural processes and materials when developing farming systems—these contribute to soil, crop and livestock nutrition, pest and weed management, attainment of production goals, and conservation of biological diversity.”<sup>2</sup>

Thus, it is an ecosystem and environment friendly approach which focuses on minimum use of fertilizers, synthetic pesticides and herbicides.

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<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, “Introduction to Organic Practices,” Fact Sheet, Available at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Organic%20Practices%20Factsheet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



### 3. Brief History:

Organic farming dates back to ancient times 7000 BC in Egypt, where wheat and barley were cultivated. In modern times Germany set up farms of organic agriculture in 1924. In 1972, International Federation of Organic Farming (IFOAM) was set up in Versailles, France. Its head office is located in Bonn, Germany. It has 800 affiliates in 100 countries. This is an umbrella which unites variety of stakeholders contributing to organic vision.<sup>3</sup> The early organic certification service was established in America in 1984 by Oregon Tilth.<sup>4</sup> In 1980s the farmers and consumers began pressing their governments for government regulation of organic farming. This led to formulation of legislation and certification standards. Since 1990s the retail market of organic farming is growing with the increasing number of customers.

### 4. Why should we focus on Organic Farming?

The foundation of sustainable agriculture is a healthy, fertile soil, on which the rest of the farm ecosystem depends.<sup>5</sup> Environmentalists have been warning of a threatening ecological damage due to an ever-increasing use of chemicals in agriculture. The experts always recommend organic farming, where the key concept is to feed the soil and keep it healthy and living instead of feeding and treating the plant as the experts believe that the numerous soil organisms and micro-organisms that thrive in living soil do much of the work. Moreover, it is based on fewer inputs, better market demand and relies on local resources and technologies that provide farmer better independence and more control over their means of production.<sup>6</sup> Some major impacts of organic farming on health and environment are improvement of soil biological activity, reduction of soil erosion, improvement of physical characteristics of soil, reduction of nitrate leaching, an environment-friendly alternative to pesticides and improved nutritional benefits of organic food. Although organic production is a complex system but it integrates soil fertility, crop rotation, water management and pest and disease control. It requires a systems approach, but agricultural research has historically tended to focus on narrow, single-issue problems. Organic farming techniques can play an important role for development of low capital less labour intensive, high yield, better quality and healthy agricultural crops thereby reducing the cost of production to minimum to achieve self-sufficiency in all inputs.<sup>7</sup> Organic agriculture, even though has low yield is more profitable than traditional agriculture and has room of expanding globally.<sup>8</sup>

### 5. What is Certified Organic Farming?

Generally the term applies to products produced according to organic standards as certified by one of the certifying bodies. International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) has formulated basic standards to define organic production.<sup>9</sup> Certified organic products are those which have been produced, stored, processed, handled and marketed in accordance with precise technical specifications (standards) and certified as "organic" by a

<sup>3</sup> IFOAM, <https://www.ifoam.bio/en/about-us>.

<sup>4</sup> Musick, Mark. "[WA Tilth Association History](#)". Washington Tilth. Accessed January 30, 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Aman Ullah Chaudhry, "Organic Farming in Pakistan," Pakistan Economist, accessed January 29, 2018, <http://www.pakistaneconomist.com/issue2004/issue45/i&e2.php>

<sup>6</sup> Ms. Farzana Panhwar, "Organic Farming in Pakistan," City Farmer, Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture, accessed January 30, 2018, <http://www.cityfarmer.org/pakistanOrgFarming.html>

<sup>7</sup> Ms. Farzana Panhwar, "Organic Farming in Pakistan," City Farmer, Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture, accessed January 30, 2018, <http://www.cityfarmer.org/pakistanOrgFarming.html>

<sup>8</sup> David W. Crowder and Jahn P. Reganold, "Financial competitiveness of organic agriculture on a global scale," available at: <https://www.scribd.com/document/295628422/PNAS-2015-Crowder-7611-6>

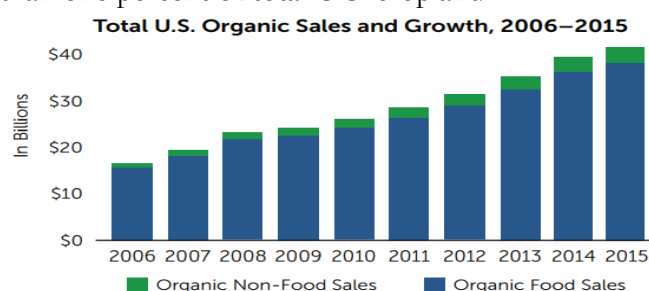
<sup>9</sup> "Organic Standards and Certification," IFOAM, Organic Policy and Guarantee, accessed January 29, 2018, <https://www.ifoam.bio/en/organic-policy-guarantee/organic-standards-and-certification>

certification body. Once conformity with organic standards has been verified by a certification body, the product is afforded a label.<sup>10</sup>

## 6. International Best Practices:

According to The World of Organic Agriculture Report-2017, 50.9 million hectares of land is utilized for organic agriculture worldwide.<sup>11</sup> The number of countries with organic farming practices has also increased from 172 (in 2015) to 179; whereas, the global market for organic food is estimated to be worth 81.6 billion USD. To date only 87 countries are shown to have formally adopted organic farming policies and regulations. In 2015, 2.4 million organic producers were reported in which India has highest number of producers (585,200), followed by Ethiopia (203,602), and Mexico (200,039). According to the report, Australia is the country with the largest organic agricultural area (22.7 million hectares), followed by Argentina (3.1 million hectares), and the United States of America (2 million hectares). Thus, the global market is growing and consumer demand for organic food is increasing day by day.<sup>12</sup>

- a. **United States:** According to Organic Trade Association, the organic sales in US have increased from \$3.6 billion in 1997 to \$43.3 billion in 2015.<sup>13</sup> Organic food sales currently make up nearly five percent of total food sales, while acreage devoted to organic agriculture is less than one percent of total U.S. cropland.



Source: Organic Trade Association<sup>14</sup>

In the United States Organic certification is a federal legal requirement since October 2002, administered and enforced nationwide by the National Organic Program (NOP) of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). National Organic Standards (NOS) are established and implemented by the NOP which regulate the production, handling and processing of organic products.<sup>15</sup> In the United States, an organic farm plan or organic handling plan must be submitted to a United States Department of Agriculture accredited private or state certification program. The plan must explain all current growing and handling methods, and any materials that will be used in the present, and any further plan must be included as well. Records for the last five years must be presented. Moreover, the land must be chemical free for three years prior to harvest, so a conventional farmer cannot receive organic label for transitional years.<sup>16</sup> A survey

<sup>10</sup> "Organic Agriculture Programme," Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, accessed January 30, 2018, <http://www.fao.org/organicag/oa-faq/oa-faq2/en/>

<sup>11</sup> "The World of Organic Agriculture 2017," FiBL Media Kit, released February 09, 2017, accessed January 30, 2018, <https://www.fibl.org/fileadmin/documents/en/news/2017/mr-world-organic-agriculture-2017-english.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Organic Trade Association, "US Organic State of the Industry," accessed January 30, 2018, [https://ota.com/sites/default/files/indexed\\_files/OTA\\_StateofIndustry\\_2016.pdf](https://ota.com/sites/default/files/indexed_files/OTA_StateofIndustry_2016.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> National Organic Program, "National Organic Standards," United States Department of Agriculture, accessed January 30, 2018, <https://www.ams.usda.gov/about-ams/programs-offices/national-organic-program>

<sup>16</sup> Dr. Aman Ullah Chaudhry, "Organic Farming in Pakistan," Pakistan Economist, accessed January 29, 2018, <http://www.pakistaneconomist.com/issue2004/issue45/i&e2.php>

indicates that California has the largest number of certified organic farms in the US amounting to 2,713 (2016).<sup>17</sup>

- b. Europe:** According to International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), Europe holds the second highest organic share in the world after Oceania i.e. 2.5 percent, on an area of 12,716,969 hectares. In European Union, the organic share of the total agricultural land is 6.2 %. The number of producers in the region is 349,261 (2015) with a market for organic food worth 27.1 Billion Euros. In 2015, Switzerland had the highest per capita consumption of organic products (262 Euros) worldwide, followed by Denmark (191 Euros) and Sweden (177 Euros).<sup>18</sup>

In 1989, subsidies were introduced in several European countries, like Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Austria, and Switzerland to encourage conversion to organic farming, which changed 376,000 hectares of land by 10,000 farmers into organic farming.<sup>19</sup> Since 2007, the organic farming in Europe is regulated and certified under the European Union Organic Regulation No. 832/2007 and 834/2007 which is the Council Regulation on Organic Production and Labeling of Organic Products.<sup>20 21</sup> A report by the European Commission states that around 306,500 organic operators (producers, processors and importers) were registered and certified in the European Union in 2015.<sup>22</sup>

- c. India:** In response to \$25 billion global market for organic foods, the Indian Central Government under the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a National Centre of Organic Farming in October 2003.<sup>23</sup> The purpose of this institute is to formulate rules, regulation and certification of organic farm products in conformity with international standards. The major organic products sold in global markets include dried fruits and nuts, coca, spices, herbs, oil crops and derived products. Non-food items include cotton, cut flowers, livestock and potted plants. The institute, set up as part of the National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) has its branches across the country and is appointing certifying agencies for organic farm products for the domestic market. India has the largest number of organic producers in the world, with a sum of 585,200, with almost 1.2 million hectares of land occupied by organic agriculture, which forms 0.7% organic share of the total agricultural land.

India is also one of the countries where the Organic Farming Regulations are fully established and implemented. In India under current government policy, it takes four years for a farm to be certified as organic. The cost of preparing the report is a flat fee of Rs. 5000, and the certificate itself costs another Rs. 5000.<sup>24</sup> While this cost is bearable for the new industrial organic green houses, it is almost equal to or more than an entire year's

<sup>17</sup> "Number of certified organic farms in the United States in 2016," The Statistics Portal, Accessed January 30, 2018, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/677447/certified-organic-farms-in-us-by-state/>

<sup>18</sup> FIBL & IFOAM – Organics International, "The World of Organic Agriculture, Statistics and Emerging Trends 2017," accessed January 30, 2018, <https://shop.fibl.org/CHen/mwdownloads/download/link/id/785/?ref=1>

<sup>19</sup> Ms. Farzana Panhwar, "Organic Farming in Pakistan," City Farmer, Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture, accessed January 30, 2018, <http://www.cityfarmer.org/pakistanOrgFarming.html>

<sup>20</sup> "Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007," Official Journal of the European Union, Accessed January 30, 2018, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF>

<sup>21</sup> "Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008," Official Journal of the European Union, Accessed January 30, 2018, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008R0889>

<sup>22</sup> "Facts and figures on organic agriculture in the European Union," Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission (December, 2016), Accessed January 30, 2018, [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rica/pdf/Organic\\_2016\\_web\\_new.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rica/pdf/Organic_2016_web_new.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> Dr. Aman Ullah Chaudhry, "Organic Farming in Pakistan," Pakistan Economist, accessed January 29, 2018, <http://www.pakistaneconomist.com/issue2004/issue45/i&e2.php>

income for average small farmer, if the costs of travel and inspection are included. The state governments have also been provided financial support for setting up public organic certification bodies and obtaining accreditation.

Government is promoting organic farming through various schemes/ programmes under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/ Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NMOOP), Network Project on Organic Farming of ICAR.<sup>25</sup>

Moreover, in 2016, both federal and state governments of India have taken unprecedented initiatives to support organic farming in the country. The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana is a program recently launched by federal government of India with a budget of around 40 Million Euros to provide training and financial support to all organic agriculture activities.<sup>26</sup> The Sikkim State in India has become the first Indian state to become fully organic by implementing organic practices and principles as per guidelines laid down in National Programme for Organic Production on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land.<sup>27</sup>

Indian Government is promoting organic farming by providing incentives to cultivators of organic food products under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) @ Rs. 10,000/- per hectare for maximum area of four hectare per beneficiary, setting up of vermin compost units @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per beneficiary and organic farming certification @ Rs. 5.00 lakh for group of farmers covering an area of 50 hectare. Assistance for organic food promotion is also available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for projects formulated and approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.<sup>28</sup>

## 7. Organic Farming in Pakistan:

As per the yearly statistics published by IFOAM-The World of Organic Agriculture, the organic agricultural land in Pakistan is 34,209 hectares (2015).<sup>29</sup> The organic share of the total agricultural land is 0.1%, with 111 producers and 26 processors. In this organic covered area, 18,607 hectares is covered by cereal crops, 878 hectares by tropical and subtropical fruit crops and 1504 hectares by oilseeds. It has been stated in the report that the land under organic farming is increasing with the period of time. An estimated 33% of farmers in Pakistan are going organic and this number is projected to double in the next couple of years.<sup>30</sup>

Given the imperatives of protecting the environment and water conservation, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council is providing expertise, bio-fertilizers and indigenous seeds to

<sup>25</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, "Promoting Organic Farming," Press Information Bureau, April 24, 2015. Available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=118622>

<sup>26</sup> "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana," Vikaspedia-Agriculture Policies and Schemes, accessed January 30, 2018, <http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/crops-related/krishi-unnati-yojana/paramparagat-krishi-vikas-yojana>

<sup>27</sup> "Sikkim becomes India's first organic state," *The Hindu*, January 14, 2016, <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Sikkim-becomes-India%E2%80%99s-first-organic-state/article13999445.ece>

<sup>28</sup> Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, "Promoting Organic Farming," Press Information Bureau, April 24, 2015. Available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=118622>

<sup>29</sup> FIBL & IFOAM – Organics International, "The World of Organic Agriculture, Statistics and Emerging Trends 2017," accessed January 30, 2018, <https://shop.fibl.org/CHen/mwdownloads/download/link/id/785/?ref=1>

<sup>30</sup> "Pakistan farmers go organic," *The Third Pole*, Understanding Asia's Water Crisis, accessed January 29, 2018, <https://www.thethirdpole.net/2014/07/02/pakistan-farmers-go-organic/>

farmers to encourage organic farming. A separate directorate is operating since 2008 in organic agriculture at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC). In addition to many other functions, the mandate of Directorate of Organic Farming is to ensure that the technology is disseminated to farming community across Pakistan. Some 5000 farmers and students have been trained in organic practices and a Network of Organic Agriculture in Pakistan (NEOAP) has been launched to register organic farmers and traders.<sup>31</sup> Small farmers are also encouraged to use bio-fertilizers for their crops as this helps sustain the harvest on less water. As awareness increases so does the demand for organic food and Pakistani farmers have been increasing their profit margins by exporting vegetables and dried as well as fresh fruits to the Middle East and Europe.

In Pakistan, an organic farmer has to bear extra cost to train the labor for managing his crops as well as the long term health of his agricultural land. The key steps are to cut production costs by putting family labour, eliminate inorganic fertilizers, pesticide and herbicides and reduce soil erosion. Organic farming has a potential of niche markets for local high valued, non-conventional, local agricultural products like medicinal herbs, traditional agriculture and non-timber tree products.

### 8. Challenges in Effective Implementation of Organic Farming

In a country like Pakistan where the conventional methods of farming are still prevalent at a wide scale, there are a number of challenges and constraints in the effective implementation and growth of organic farming. The key challenges to organic agriculture are listed below:

- i. **Nonexistence of organic farming policies:** The absence of government policies for organic farming methods and organic certification is the major hindrances in the growth of organic farming in the country. Organic agriculture requires time and well trained extension workers. Since organic farming is a new practice it needs competent and reliable management.
- ii. **Absence of Certification Process:** In Pakistan, no certification system has been established or adopted which can be accessed by farmers to have their product labelled as certified. This is one of the major constraints in the development of organic land in the country.
- iii. **Low Market Demand and Absence of Organic Markets:** In a developing country like Pakistan, due to the high prices it is difficult for organic products to make a market because majority of the people of it are not in a condition to afford a high price products. Similarly, the farmers do not have access to sell their organic food because of the non-availability of organic markets, which is indeed a major problem in this aspect. In Pakistan, majority of the farmers are small land holder and they do not tend to take risks. So it is difficult for them to produce a product whose market demand is not sufficient enough to be profitable. Similarly, lack of public awareness regarding the importance of organic food also leads to a lower market demand for organic products.
- iv. **Lack of Resources:** There is a lack of availability of organic farming inputs needed by the farmers for pest control and soil fertility management. Whereas as an organic producer, you must use only approved inputs. For example, the inputs required for biological weed or insect control are not easily available to small farmers which makes it difficult for farmers to produce organic food.
- v. **Lower Yield:** According to United Nations, farming by organic methods gives small yields when compared to conventional farming methods. As the population of the world is increasing day by day, it is necessary to have more production per unit area

<sup>31</sup> M. I. U. Husnain, M. Khan and H. Z. Mahmood, "An assessment of public and private benefits of organic farming in Pakistan," *The Journal of Animal & Plant Sciences*, 27(3): 2017, Page: 996-1004.



to meet the demand of food for the world population. In industrial countries, organic systems decrease yields; the range depends on the intensity of external input use before conversion.<sup>32</sup>

- vi. **Lack of Awareness:** One of the major constraints is the lack of knowledge about organic farming. Majority of farmers in Pakistan do not know about the organic farming and its effects on the ecosystem. So, it is impossible to increase the area under organic farming without training and educating the farmers in this aspect.
- vii. **Costs associated with Organic Food:** Organic farmers do not use pesticides and chemicals to enhance productivity, reduce cost of production and work more efficiently and quickly. Unlike conventional farmers, they use labor to hand-weed the crop and clean polluted water. This adds to their costs, since this extra labor is more expensive than the chemicals used. Organic farmers use animal manure and compost instead of the inexpensive solutions. In addition, they use methods like crop rotation to keep the land fertile and enrich it with nitrogen. All these differences are costly both in terms of time and resources used. This cost is thus passed on to the products that come out of organic farms.

## 9. Policy Options for Legislatures and Policy Makers

- i. **Organic Food Regulation and Certification:** The government should introduce food safety standards and food safety regulations to keep a check on the quality of produce being sold as organic. Certification to international organic standards should be made easy for the small farmers and should subsidize these certification fees enough to make it viable for ordinary farmers. The government authorities should involve all key stakeholders including farmers to discuss any reservations and difficulties so that a solid base is established for the better future of organic farming.<sup>33</sup> Furthermore, a separate public certification authority for organic products labeling.
- ii. **Comprehensive Organic Farming Policy:** Government should devise a comprehensive organic farming policy to introduce organic farming technologies which are cost effective and sustainable both for productivity and soil fertility.
- iii. **Training and Capacity Building of Farmers:** Training institutions should be established in which farmers, students, agricultural workers and women should be provided constant trainings regarding organic farming methods and organic farming education should be included in the syllabi of agricultural institutes. There is also a need to ensure promotion and training programmes to foster export opportunities for organic products.
- iv. **Organic Farming Research and Data Collection Centers:** Research institutions should be setup in all the four provinces of the country where research work can be carried out keeping in mind the local environment and soil conditions. Countrywide surveys also need to be conducted for the collection of data related with organic farming. Moreover, the research centers should also be established in Northern areas, Kashmir and Potohar for the promotion of indigenous plants and herbs.
- v. **Local Production of Organic Farming Inputs:** The production and processing plants should be established to manufacture the necessary inputs of organic farming at a low price which include the compost, natural pesticides,

<sup>32</sup> "Organic Agriculture Programme," Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, accessed January 30, 2018, <http://www.fao.org/organicag/oa-faq/oa-faq7/en/>

<sup>33</sup> Abdul Sattar, "Organic Agriculture in Pakistan," 2011. Accessed on February 02, 2018. Available at: <https://www.scribd.com/document/48687526/Organic-Agriculture-in-Pakistan>

weedicides and fungicides by using the local infrastructure. Controlling authority must be appointed to check the prices along with material.<sup>34</sup>

- vi. **Favorable Trade and Market Policies:** In future, there is a need to check the economic market and policies in which organic products produce and marketed and check in the financial results which fluctuate by the resources, farm business, better management, labour availability. The Government should design better Trade Regulations which are socially fair, ecologically sound and better standards for green and fair trade. Development of viable producer and consumer linkages is also necessary for promotion of organic sales in the country.
- vii. **Curriculum:** Realizing the importance of organic agriculture, its basic knowledge should be incorporated in syllabus/ curriculum of schools.
- viii. **Organic Demonstration Centres:** Government can establish organic demonstration centres at district level to expand the understanding of organic agriculture in local farmers.

## 10. Conclusion

Investing in organic agriculture creates economic growth, reduces poverty levels, and should be seen as a key instrument for stimulating rural economic development. Organic farming, with its profound environmental benefits can contribute a larger share in sustainable feeding of world. Legislatures and policymakers have a role in supporting organic food and farming and bringing economic opportunity to our counties, states, and country by providing key legislations and policies. Pakistan has a great potential for organic farming. It is the need of the hour to develop a comprehensive national plan including the introduction and implementation of organic farming technologies and subsidies for effectively adopting organic farming, other sustainable agricultural techniques, certification process and training techniques.

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<sup>34</sup> Abdul Sattar, "Organic Agriculture in Pakistan," 2011. Accessed on February 02, 2018. Available at: <https://www.scribd.com/document/48687526/Organic-Agriculture-in-Pakistan>

**OPINION****Status of Consumer Rights in Pakistan****Muhammad Rizwan Manzoor**

Research Officer, PIPS Budget and Economy Desk

According to the Business Dictionary<sup>1</sup> the term Consumer Rights include the following four main areas of rights (1) Right to safety: protection from hazardous goods. (2) Right to be informed: availability of information required for weighing alternatives and protection from false and misleading claims in advertising and labeling practices. (3) Right to choose: availability of competing goods and services that offer alternatives in terms of price, quality, service. (4) Right to be heard: assurance that government will take full cognizance of the concerns of consumers, and will act with sympathy and dispatch through statutes and simple and expeditious administrative procedures.

In the disciplines of Business Studies and Social Sciences, it is generally taught that 'Consumer is the King' but it seems that such statement is applied in the developed world only as in an underdeveloped country like Pakistan such statement is not more than a mockery where the consumer is at the mercy of ruthless commercial enterprises and business mafias who take advantage of the ignorance of the consumer and the lax law enforcement environment to exploit the poor and powerless public.

Before going into the legal aspects of the topic let's have a review of the general moral values of the subject. Ethics, honesty, and integrity are the words which are preached in every religion, society, household and organization. However, their practice is at the discretion of those who are at the receiving end of these noble sermons. The degree of civilization of a society may be evaluated by how many of these ethical standards are upheld by the people living in the society. Obviously, the more civilized the society the more law-abiding its citizens and the more accountable its government and vice versa. A law-abiding and civilized society protects its citizens and gives them the right to seek justice against unfair practices of the government and the businessman. If unfortunately, people are not employing these moral standards then the state needs to be jumped in to fix the responsible who is exploiting the consumers. After this general debate, the legal side of the subject may be discussed. The state is responsible for assuring the consumer rights of every individual. To fulfill this obligation the state may enact and implement laws. The seriousness and sophistication of enactment and implementation of such laws determine the status of consumer rights in any country.

Consumer rights and consumer protection law provides a way for individuals to fight back against abusive business practices. These laws are designed to hold sellers of goods and services accountable when they seek to profit by taking advantage of a consumer's lack of information or bargaining power. Some conduct addressed by consumer rights laws is simply unfair, while other conduct can be described as outright fraud. Consumer rights laws may exist at the federal and state level. They are enforced by government agencies, offices of attorneys general, and through individual and class action lawsuits filed by victims<sup>2</sup>. In 1985, the United Nations passed a resolution in favour of consumers, giving them eight basic rights<sup>3</sup>. These include: right of protection, representation, reparation, information, healthy environment, selection, basic

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/consumer-rights.html>, (accessed February 11, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> <http://holidayrussell.com/consumer-rights-law/>, (accessed February 13, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> United Nations General Assembly, <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/39/a39r248.htm>, (accessed February 15, 2018).

necessities and education. Later on realizing the pertinence of the subject United Nations issued guidelines to its member countries in 1999 with following main eight objectives<sup>4</sup>:

- a) To assist countries in achieving or maintaining adequate protection for their population as consumers;
- b) To facilitate production and distribution patterns responsive to the needs and desires of consumers;
- c) To encourage high levels of ethical conduct for those engaged in the production and distribution of goods and services to consumers;
- d) To assist countries in curbing abusive business practices by all enterprises at the national and international levels which adversely affect consumers;
- e) To facilitate the development of independent consumer groups;
- f) To further international cooperation in the field of consumer protection;
- g) To encourage the development of market conditions which provide consumers with greater choice at lower prices;
- h) To promote sustainable consumption

All the United Nations Member States have now made legislations on consumer rights, including Pakistan where the process of legislation started in 1994-95.

In Pakistan, there are five Consumer Protection Laws that are operative i.e. Islamabad Consumer Protection Act 1995, and NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) Consumer Protection Act 1997, Balochistan Consumer Protection Act 2003, Punjab Consumer Protection Act 2005 and Sindh Consumer Protection Act 2014. In Sindh this law was promulgated in 2004 but lapsed as same could not be presented before the provincial assembly<sup>5</sup> and ultimately was enacted in 2015. Unfortunately, the territories falling within federal or provincial administration i.e. FATA and PATA are still without consumer protection laws<sup>6</sup>.

These laws came into existence with establishment of consumer courts which deal with consumer related disputes. Without proper courts / councils these laws cannot function to ensure consumer rights protection. Under Islamabad Consumer Protection Act 1995, it was mandatory upon the federal government to establish a consumer council for the protection of rights and interests of consumers, but unfortunately the dream did not come true even after 21 years of the passage of this act<sup>7</sup>.

In Punjab, 11 consumer courts and consumer councils are functioning, but a huge number of consumers are still being exploited by manufacturers, shopkeepers, distributors and service providers. The consumer courts in the Punjab are operational at divisional level and a single court has to handle cases from more than two districts. Long distance between the court and hometown means the consumer has to bear a higher opportunity cost to get compensation that ultimately discourage him/her to pursue the case.

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<sup>4</sup> *United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection*, (New York: United Nations, 2003), [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/consumption\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/consumption_en.pdf), (accessed February 17, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> The Nation, "Consumer Protection Law and Consumer Courts," March 05, 2017, <https://nation.com.pk/05-Mar-2017/consumer-protection-law-and-consumer-courts>, (accessed February 16, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Sarmad Ali, "Absence of Consumer Protection Laws," *Daily Times*, June 14, 2016, <https://dailytimes.com.pk/75801/absence-of-consumer-protection-laws/>, (accessed February 17, 2018).

<sup>7</sup> Rizwan Ali, "Consumer the Unprotected King," *Pakistan Today*, September 11, 2016, <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2016/09/11/consumer-the-unprotected-king/>, (accessed February 16, 2018).

In 2015, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) government made amendments in Consumer Protection Act, 1997 and increased the number of consumer courts from seven to 15, but two districts still have no courts.

After the enactment of Sindh Consumer Protection Act 2014, Sindh government was supposed to establish consumer courts. But it has been more than three years since the act was passed and yet the government has not established any consumer court in the province<sup>8</sup>.

In Balochistan, Section 12 of the Consumer Protection Act of 2003 requires a consumer court to be presided over by a judge or judicial magistrate; while under section 18 of the Act, the appeal may lie with the session court or the high court but till date there is not a single consumer court is operational in Balochistan<sup>9</sup>.

Thus, there exist consumer protection laws and regulations but these have yet to be translated into an efficient consumer redressal mechanism. All five consumer protection statutes also make provisions for the establishment of consumer councils of which the members are taken from the executive and the proceedings of these councils are exempt from judicial scrutiny. The composition, powers and functions of these councils differ from province to province. Moreover, the scope of rights and liabilities of sellers and buyers also differ. This disparity in the exercise of original and appellate jurisdiction has given rise to nothing except frequent violations of consumer rights in Pakistan.

The independence of judiciary, which is an essential feature of the Constitution, demands that all special courts and tribunals be placed under the control and supervision of the judiciary. Moreover, the National Judicial Policy of 2009, specifically addressed this issue and a clear direction was made to the federal/provincial governments to make necessary amendments to the relevant laws to this effect. Despite that, the domain of consumer justice is still partly under the control of executive authorities<sup>10</sup>. Another problem with our state machinery is that the judges/magistrates of the consumer courts are not specialised in consumerism<sup>11</sup>.

Another factor causing violation of consumer rights is the lack of awareness in consumers about their rights. There are very few people who are aware of their rights, consumer councils and consumer courts. District consumer councils are legally bound to create awareness about the protection of consumer rights, but sadly they have failed to fulfill their responsibility. Though a number of awareness campaigns were launched in this regard, these had very limited influence due to faulty marketing strategy<sup>12</sup>. In the age of print, electronic and social media, the relevant authorities should utilize these mediums to spread the awareness on this very important subject which is closely linked to every individual living in this country. In India, a separate ministry named as Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution is working for the protection and promotion of consumer rights. The ministry is running a campaign on electronic media title "Jago Grahak Jago"<sup>13</sup> to spread awareness among consumers.

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<sup>8</sup> Usman Hanif, "Sindh govt fails to establish consumer courts," *Pakistan Today*, August 28, 2017, <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2017/08/28/695771/>, (accessed February 13, 2018).

<sup>9</sup> Syeda Saima Shabbir, "Disparity in Consumer Protection Laws," *The Express Tribune*, December 28, 2012, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/485867/disparity-in-consumer-protection-laws/>, (accessed February 15, 2018).

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Rizwan Ali, op.cit.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.jagograhakjago.com/>, (accessed February 17, 2018).



**Conclusion and the way forward:**

There is a need to review the whole system and consumer laws to make necessary amendments for the protection and promotion of consumer rights. Similarly it should be attempted to bring ease and uniformity in the Federal and Provincial Consumer Protection Laws to make these matters easily understandable to common citizens. So far the work done by the Federal Government and Provincial Governments do not show satisfactory status to this very important subject. It seems that Pakistan as a state is badly failing to protect its citizenry and left them at the mercy of industrialists, manufacturers, shopkeepers, distributors and service providers. The following measures may help address the miseries of consumers in Pakistan to some extent:

- After the establishment of local government system, the district governments should hold local consumer conventions where the basic consumer rights and responsibilities are debated through the local councilors to the various groups of the locality;
- The Government (s) should also study models of consumer protection development in other similar countries and with the help of the relevant NGOs / CSOs establish various cells and networks to make access of information easy for the public and the organizations;
- All the governments including Federal and Provincial should implement the concept of consumer courts at district level where the consumer complaints are dealt with at the earliest and with utmost transparency. This is the promised forum to address consumer rights violations in the country in all the five legislated bills in this area.
- The most important part in empowering the consumers can play is the role of the media. Radio, TV, newspapers and the social media have to play a pivotal role in relaying the rights of consumers and then highlighting every violation in such a way that it builds up a pressure to achieve the objective of either forcing a decision in favor of the consumers or to act as a deterrent to the manipulative intentions of the wrongdoers.

**CONCEPT****The Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat National Assembly of Pakistan****Ms. Sahrish Kausar**

Coordinator SDGs Secretariat National Assembly of Pakistan

The post 2013 has been an exemplary era for Pakistan when talking about international development commitments called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A major credit for this goes to the vision and leadership of Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan who brought a phenomenal change and inspired the world by integrating the SDGs with the strategic framework of the National Assembly, resulting in Pakistan's Parliament to be first in the democratic world, generating all its energy needs from Solar Power and also providing surplus energy to the national grid.

He recognized the power of the Parliament in the process of development and the need of oversight on the International targets therefore in 2014, he organized the SDGs Taskforce of MNA's under the Convener-ship of the Honorable Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb.

The Parliamentary Taskforce started its business by organizing an effective Parliamentary Conference on MDG's in June 2014 by bringing together a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The timing of the Conference, intentionally, coinciding with the transitioning framework from MDGs to SDGs where countries documented their various successes and priorities for setting new goals. For the first time in her history, the Parliament of Pakistan broke away from relinquishing the development agenda to third party agencies such as civil society, executives and the international development agencies to regulate through monitoring and evaluating the development goals that have been committed by Pakistan to the UN in particular but more importantly to provide a better quality of life to the people of Pakistan.

**The Inauguration of the Secretariat:**

The vacuum in processing the output from the Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs was later identified which was the absence of a platform where all the established goals and valuable insights from the task force could be assembled, analyzed and communicated with the Federal Parliament, Provincial Assemblies, Legislative Assemblies and the key stakeholders such as civil society, development partners, experts and the media. The Parliament Program Management Unit played a dynamic role in this regard and worked parallel with the Taskforces and also assisted partners in engaging Parliamentarians for informed policy making, oversight and evidence based legislation to make SDGs a success story.

On February 16, 2017, the Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Sardar Ayaz Sadiq established an extraordinary benchmark for the international community by inaugurating the first of its kind, State of the art SDGs Secretariat at the National Assembly of Pakistan.

The SDGs Secretariat commencement and inauguration featured Malnutrition as an epidemic to such unmitigated proportions that it warranted to be declared as a national emergency. SDGs Secretariat in collaboration with key stakeholders developed a structured framework articulating annual target, focused work plans with clear targets and accountabilities focusing on priorities



such as Health, Education, Climate Change, Human Rights, and Routine Immunization. With the passage of time the list is obvious to grow.

Satellite offices of Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services in each province are also declared as provincial offices of the National SDGs Secretariat.

### **All-Party and Provincial Representation:**

Another important step was to develop Parliamentary Taskforces in all provinces, driving ownership of the development targets from all four Provincial Assemblies as well as Legislative Assemblies of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK). This task was made particularly important through the introduction of the 18<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment that devolved important subjects such as education, health, climate change and the development sector from a federal mandate to the provinces. In order to enhance representation, an all-party approach, complete regional representation, gender balance and minority representation of Parliamentarians, the SDGs Secretariat has efficiently added memberships at the Federal and Provincial SDGs Taskforces. Currently, SDGs Taskforces are made of 134 members in total including Federal (43), Punjab (30), Sindh (10), Balochistan (20), Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (20), Gilgit Baltistan (06) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (05).

### **Objective of the Secretariat:**

The Secretariat aims to serve as a data hub, effectively and efficiently highlight challenges, share successes and lessons thereby constituting the unprecedented, 134 members Parliamentary Taskforce with robust representation from Federal Parliament and all Provincial and Legislative Assemblies who have volunteered to be the custodians of the international development agenda on SDGs.

### **Technical Assistance for Oversight**

In order to technically equip Parliamentarians in their role, the Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat assists Members in providing an enabling environment for evidence-based legislation, representation and effective oversight. The Secretariat acts as a center of excellence for credible, authentic, and comparable data, and has supported in tracking, monitoring and evaluating social sector reforms critical for informed decision-making by elected representatives.

### **Constituency Engagement-Score Card**

The strategic intent is to develop comparable scorecards for each priority in order to evaluate and monitor the overall development framework of Pakistan. The scorecards will also provide the Parliamentarians with a detailed development profile of their constituency in relation to the various SDGs, enabling them to formulate and push for effective and informed legislation and oversight.

### **Smart strategy**

During the establishment phase of the Secretariat, a process of strategizing an annual plan based on the SDGs and targets prioritized by the SDGs Taskforce members was initiated. This required rounds of consultation with the Project Management Unit (PMU) and members of the SDGs Taskforce. The convener SDGs Taskforce, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, directly oversaw the process of development of the strategy. The process was followed by issue-specific work-plans based on SDGs targets identified by the Taskforce. Under this strategy, evidence based legislation has been ensured through technical assistance to legislators to oversee SDGs indicators, and awareness raising/consultations with Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat members/Provincial SDGs Taskforces. . Evidence –based priority areas have been prioritized

using 'Data Capacity-baseline-representation-analysis-comparison' and the Multi-dimensional poverty index at the district level and incorporated into the strategy that envisages effective oversight through interventions in parliamentary business, integration of SDGs in the 'Order of the Day', and Standing Committees at the National Assembly

### **Archiving of existing Legislative and identification of Gaps**

Through the enabling environment provided by the SDGs Secretariat, legislative analysis & gap identification as well as community engagement and mobilization at constituency level has been possible.

The existing legislation related to SDGs is archived at the secretariat in order to develop a Gap-Analysis so that un-attended areas can be prioritized in the policy making.

### **Development partners and think tanks**

The Secretariat aims to promote Parliamentary Outreach to development partners, civil society organisations, think tanks, experts and academia in order to ensure an all- inclusive and consolidated approach towards the achievement of SDGs targets. The parliament and the civil society are collaborating to cope with the challenges such as malnutrition and health issues. The Secretariat has signed agreements with development partners and other world bodies in the areas of malnutrition, clean drinking water, health, education, climate change, and waste management and the parliamentarians are actively pursuing for SDGs. Under LOAs' and defined work plans the secretariat is working with these partners to support and equip the Taskforce members with most recent data and information.

### **SDGs Outreach and Media engagement**

A communication & outreach component has been embedded in the SDGs Strategy. Further, the Secretariat has designed a quarterly SDGs Secretariat magazine to show case ideas and activities of Members of Parliament from the Federal and Provincial levels. Through an active social media plan success stories and ideas are also constantly shared. The SDGs secretariat would soon be launching its website having pages of the provinces as well to highlight their activities and performance.



There is also a need for creating awareness concerning social and development programmes in the field of SDGs and the media has an important role to play in this regard. Therefore trainings have begun to equip the reporters with the understanding of the development agenda. Under the Leadership of the Honorable Minister of State for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage and the Convener of the SDGs Secretariat Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Pakistan Television will soon be engaged to increase awareness about the activities and performance of the elected legislatures with SDGs in particular.

The formation of the Secretariat is reflective of Pakistan's endeavor for equitable and just development of all its citizens. Through the Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat, public representatives have come together to show their commitment for human development. While institutional strengthening has remained the paramount feature of the incumbent Parliament, most goals defined and strategy development has been based on National Assembly Strategic Plan objectives.



### Successful Parliamentary Interventions & Engagements:

- i. **02-04 June, 2014:** The National Assembly of Pakistan, under the guidance and patronage of its Honourable Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, is held the ***National Conference on Millennium Development Goals*** for parliamentary taskforce at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services. This conference provided an avenue of interaction among MPs and national and international experts, facilitators and speakers participating and sharing their valuable knowledge on various themes of Pakistan's social development reforms agenda. It was a defining moment in Pakistan's endeavour for equitable and just development of all its citizens as for the first time ever public representatives from all provincial and legislative assemblies, came together with their counterparts at the National Parliament to show their commitment and ownership towards development with a cohesive approach to deal with basic human issues such as health, education, poverty reduction, women and children, environmental conservation and other related areas.
- ii. **15<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry, National Climate Change Expert UNDP gave a presentation on Climate Change to SDGs Task Force members.
- iii. **12<sup>th</sup> February, 2015:** A briefing was given by Ms. Baela Raza Jamil, Director Programs, Idara-e Taleem o Agahi on "Orientation to latest version of SDGs, key indicators and roadmap to finalization".
- iv. **23rd June 2015:** A presentation was given on current Climate Change situation in the country by a panel guest from Lead Pakistan.
- v. **9<sup>th</sup> October 2015:** A meeting was organized with UNDP regarding establishment of SDGs Secretariat in National Assembly as a result SDGs Secretariat refurbishment started in the National Assembly which was completed on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.
- vi. **3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2016:** A ***National Parliamentary Meet on Malnutrition (NPMM)*** was planned to be organized on 16-17 February, 2016 for which the Brainstorming Session was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2016 comprising of the participants from PIPS, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for the suggestions incorporated in National Parliamentary Meet on Malnutrition (NPMM) and to share the datasets for the (NPMM) and SDGs Scorecard.
- vii. **15<sup>th</sup> February 2016:** A meeting was held of Parliamentary Task force on SDGs to discuss the National Parliamentary Meet on Malnutrition of mother and child to take all SDGs taskforce members on board for the (NPMM).
- viii. **17-18 February, 2016:** A two days National Parliamentary Meet on Malnutrition (NPMM) was organized on 17-18 February, 2016, having the slogan of "leaving no one behind".
- ix. **17<sup>th</sup> February, 2016:** SDGs Inauguration ceremony was also organized in the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 in which the fully functional SDGs Secretariat was inaugurated by Hon. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq with the collaboration of UNDP which make Pakistan having the First Parliament in the world to have SDGs Secretariat.
- x. **9<sup>th</sup> March 2016:** A meeting was held of Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs with GAVI International high level mission to Pakistan on "***Role of Parliamentarians as Advocates for Routine Immunization (RI) for Children***" at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary services (PIPS), Islamabad.
- xi. **19th April, 2016:** A meeting between Convener SDGs Taskforce, Honorable Minister, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb and Mr. Marc-Andre Franche, Country Director UNDP was held in SDG's Secretariat, Committee Room, National Assembly of Pakistan.
- xii. **3rd May 2016:** a meeting between Convener SDGs Taskforce, Honorable Minister, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, PMU and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN was organized regarding a proposed a multi-stakeholder workshop on natural resource management at federal and provincial levels; to identify priority SDGs by Federal and



- Provincial Taskforces. The meeting would identify potential collaborations between the Secretariat and partners in specific development targets. It was suggested that the briefing should be held in the pre-budget session (May 2016).
- xiii. **4th May, 2016:** A meeting was held between the Convener SDGs Taskforce, Honorable Minister, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb and the UNICEF Pakistan team. During the meeting, the need for formalisation of engagement between UNICEF and the Parliament. A suggestion was made in relation to a need for a holistic communication strategy for immunization and proposed that all major stakeholders must be involved in the process: Parliamentarians/CSOs/Media.
  - xiv. **08th August, 2016:** SDG Secretariat met with UNDP. Convener SDGs Taskforce, Honorable Minister, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb highlighted the need for comparable and authentic data in districts/ constituencies and suggested that a database be developed. It was shared that the UNDP's programme on SDGs would integrate a Parliamentary project as a major component to its National SDGs Programme.
  - xv. **12th August, 2016:** A Parliamentary SDG Taskforce meeting was held to brief members on SDGs Members Technical Assistance, SDGs Secretariat work plan and potential partners, SDGs evidence based priority areas, constituency intervention and Parliamentary business interventions.
  - xvi. **15th August, 2016:** A meeting between SDGs Taskforce Convener and SDPI was held during which Dr Abid Qayyum Sulehri, Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad shared that scorecards for specific constituencies were being prepared. These 35 scorecards were customized for all members of Taskforce for evidence-based prioritization of SDGs.
  - xvii. **7th September, 2016:** A meeting between Hon'ble Speaker of National Assembly Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Micronutrient Initiative was held. Hon'ble Speaker highlighted that the incumbent Parliament has focused on issues of malnutrition in mother & child and early marriages. He said that the establishment of Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat is a first in any parliament around the world and reflective of the Parliament's political will for development.
  - xviii. **8th September, 2016:** Meeting between Convener SDGs Taskforce, Honorable Minister, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb and World Health Organization (WHO)'s Dr Zafar Mirza, Convener of Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) WHO SDG task force took place. Dr Zafar shared that the establishment of first Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat is a milestone for Pakistan, and that the polymer model would be shared with all 22 member countries of the EMRO Taskforce.
  - xix. **27th September, 2016:** A meeting between Convener SDGs Taskforce, Honorable Minister, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb and Oxfam Pakistan held. Mr. Qazalbash shared that amongst other priority areas, Oxfam was focusing on rural development and humanitarian response in disasters, economic empowerment of women/ women access to basic services in Pakistan. He further shared that Oxfam would support for the SDGs Secretariat in oversight of nutrition, peace & justice, urban planning and related issues.
  - xx. **30th September, 2016:** A meeting between SDGs Taskforce Convener and World Bank held. While emphasizing the need for co-financing on nutrition, Mr. Patchamuthu, Country Head, World Bank Pakistan shared that World Bank could support the SDGs Secretariat in data sharing/scorecards development and social media outreach.
  - xxi. **01-02 October, 2016:** PIPS organized two days Roundtable on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Parliamentary Reporters, where keynote speakers on the subjects were invited for deliberations. On this occasion, Honorable State Minister and National Convener SDGs Taskforce, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb emphasized the need to highlight social sector priorities of universal education, overcoming malnutrition prevailing in the country and health issues confronting the poor. The participants of the event were welcomed by Honorable Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

- During an absorbing session Hon'abe Speaker highlighted the role and working of the Parliament including the visions and mission of the SDGs secretariat
- xxii. **18th October, 2016:** A meeting between SDG Task force Convener and Diane Northway, Team Leader, DFID Food Fortification Programme, Mott MacDonald Group was held with the intention to develop coordination with the Parliamentary SDGs secretariat for exploring options and opportunities of joint collaboration and partnership in the area of high level political advocacy at national and provincial level.
  - xxiii. **22nd October, 2016:** Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS.
  - xxiv. **08th March, 2017:** A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed with UNICEF Pakistan to support the Parliamentary SDGs Secretariat in Nutrition, Routine Immunization, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) goals. Under the agreement, UNICEF would ensure the provision of technical assistance and IT support for the Secretariat through multiple interventions.
  - xxv. **17th May, 2017:** PITB team was invited by the SDG Secretariat to present an Overview of SDG 3 (Good Health), and Routine Immunization and the Role of Parliamentary oversight and evidence based legislation for goal 3/ Routine Immunization.
  - xxvi. **14th September, 2017:** Parliament of Pakistan and LEAD Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding for technical assistance and capacity building of Parliamentarians and staff in connection with Sustainable Development Goals.
  - xxvii. **10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017:** The SDGs Taskforce organized an orientation meeting with UNICEF Experts regarding "Successfully using Evaluations in Policy-Making".
  - xxviii. **02-03 November, 2017:** Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services organized a two days National Knowledge Sharing Round Table on Sustainable Development Goals from November 02-03, 2017. The roundtable is aimed at sharing knowledge and initiatives taken by the Parliamentary SDGs taskforces at the National Parliament, provincial assemblies and legislative assemblies.
  - xxix. **January 10- 12, 2018:** Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services in collaboration with the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP), the Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals and the European Union, held a three-day workshop on Sustainable Development Goals for the Honourable Members of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA). The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and the Chairperson Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, Honourable Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb addressed the participants of the workshop and appreciated their continuous efforts with regards to the National Development Agenda and the SDGs.

**READERS FEEDBACK CORNER****Feedback on Research Services and Digest of the  
Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services**

- i. “On asking about Institute’s services from a group of students completing an orientation at PIPS, they acknowledged that they had not experienced such professional research methodology they were taught and saw being practiced at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services.” **Ms. Nafeesa Inayat Ullah Khattak, Member, National Assembly of Pakistan, PIPS Board of Governors meeting on Feb., 13, 2018.**
- ii. “The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association CPA-UK certainly looks forward for future cooperation with the prestigious institution of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services.” **Mr. Jon Davies, after visit to PIPS and meeting with the Executive Director, on January, 23, 2018.**
- iii. Great Ideas!!! Very impressed with the work the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services is doing and looking forward to working with you in the area of migration. **Ms Sedef Dearing, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Vienna, Austria Visitors Book remarks after visit to PIPS and meeting with DG (Research and Legislation) and Director (Admn.) February, 27, 2018.**
- iv. “We are amazed to see how PIPS has evolved in a short span of time to offer so many research products to the Members of Parliament. I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to PIPS and hopefully the MoU signed between PIPS and the King Projadipokh Institute, Bangkok, Thailand, will be mutually beneficial for both Pakistan and Thailand. We compliment the PIPS team for working so closely with the Pakistani Parliament as well as the provincial assemblies to offer numerous services.” **Prof Woothisarn Tanchai, Secretary General, King Projadipokh Institute, Thailand leading six member faculty delegation to Pakistan, to sign MoU at PIPS on Dec., 18, 2017.**
- v. I am really happy to hear about the PIPS services especially the Parliament@70 Research initiative to record the parliamentary proceedings that has compiled an absorbing book of important speeches in the Constituent Assembly/National Parliament from 1947-1958. **Mr Russell Gregor, Asia Desk Resident Director, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Berlin, Germany on visit to PIPS and meeting with the Executive Director, Feb., 28, 2018.**

We encourage our honourable readers to send their feedback and suggestions at: [research@pips.gov.pk](mailto:research@pips.gov.pk)

## **PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS**

### **Protection of the Rights of Child International Conventions and Legislation<sup>1</sup>**

a) The Government of Pakistan has ratified various international conventions for protection of the rights of the child. The details are as under:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) ratified in 1990
- SAARC Convention on Preventing, Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2002
- SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia.

b) The aforesaid international conventions have been incorporated in the following national and provincial legislation:

#### **Federal:**

- National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act, 2017
- The Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2016
- The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2012
- Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, 2002
- Juvenile Justice System Ordinance, 2000
- The Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act, 1992
- The Employment of Children Act, 1991

#### **Punjab**

- The Punjab Restriction on Employment of Children Act, 2016
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 (Amended, 2015)
- Punjab Prohibition of Child Labor at Brick Kilns Ordinance, 2016
- The Punjab Free and Compulsory Education Ordinance, 2014

#### **Sindh**

- Sindh Child Protection Authority Act, 2011
- The Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act, 2013
- The Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2013

#### **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

- KPK Child Protection and Welfare Act, 2010 (Amended 2016)
- Bonded Labour System Abolition Act, 2015
- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Prohibition of Employment of Children Act, 2015
- Promotion Protection and Enforcement of Human Rights Act, 2014

#### **Balochistan**

- Balochistan Child Protection Act, 2016
- The Balochistan Borstal Institutions Act, 2014
- The Balochistan Compulsory Education Act, 2014
- The Balochistan Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2014

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<sup>1</sup> Source: National Assembly Debates



"The republican form of government is not only thoroughly consistent with the spirit of Islam, but has also become a necessity in view of the new forces that are set free in the world of Islam.

The growth of republican spirit, and the gradual formation of legislative assemblies in Muslim lands constitutes a great step in advance. The transfer of the power of Ijtihad from individual representatives of schools to a Muslim legislative assembly which, in view of the growth of opposing sects, is the only possible form *Ijma* can take in modern times, will secure contributions to legal discussion from laymen who happen to possess a keen insight into affairs.

**Allama Muhammad Iqbal**

Excerpts from Reconstruction of Religious Thoughts in Islam  
Lecture: Principle of movement in the structure of Islam



**PAKISTAN INSTITUTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES**  
DEDICATED TO PARLIAMENTARY EXCELLENCE

Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services was established in Dec 2008 through an act of the Parliament to promote research, provide training and to provide facility of information to the Parliamentarians in performance of their duties and for matters connected therewith and ancillary thereto.

PIPS team endeavors to serve the Parliament through its cherished values of :

*Integrity, professionalism, non-partisanship, accessibility and anticipation*

**For feedback feel free to contact Editor at:**

Ataturk Avenue (Service Road), F-5/2, Islamabad

Email: [research@pips.gov.pk](mailto:research@pips.gov.pk)

Web: [www.pips.gov.pk](http://www.pips.gov.pk)

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