

Political & Civic Education for Human Rights

A.) Political Reconstruction by Political Education with Afghan Refugees

Takhleeq Foundation initiated to put political educational discourse for learning & develop the knowledge, skills, and values of democratization through training, interactive discussion, public gathering for building political culture among afghan refugees in Pakistan. Political discussion & rights based educational program as the learning stone for Afghan community living in Pakistan as a status of Refugees through Interactive meeting was conducted in Karachi and Quetta. Main focused on Gender discrimination, Restorations of economic activities, Reconstruction of roads bridges and means of communication, Elimination religious fundamentalism. Participants also discussed the concept of democracy, Accountability of elected representatives, Transparency in government decision, Current Jirga system of Afghanistan, Representative of women in jirga. ***Takhleeq Foundation organized People's Assemblies on Civil Rights in Afghanistan (Right to Live, Right of Expression, Right of Communication & Printing, Right of Properties) and on Good Governance in Afghanistan.*** Takhleeq Foundation organized awareness and capacity building workshop on "Social & Political Right for Political Reconstruction" through capacity building "human basic rights and current situation of Afghans"

B.) Democratic Human Rights Program

DHRP (Democracy and Human Rights Program) was designed, with the understanding that, the democratization of state and society is the basic and foremost task for civil society to realize the ultimate goal of a peaceful and secular society. The program should setup a strong basis for a informed and critical inputs from the citizens in making political parties strong, democratized, develop a critically informed and responsive media and create a strong public demand for elections. The program approach was participatory, drawing on knowledge, ideas and experience of participants with loose structured and expected that such an approach would lead to valuable recommendations for the Role of Media in Strengthening Democracy. Consensus of participants sought on issues is not always easy in multiparty dialogue but almost always contribute, identifying problems, generating ideas projecting evils practices of society & constructive approaches. The event approach was participatory, drawing on knowledge, ideas and experience of participants. It was loosely structured and expected that such an approach would lead to valuable recommendations for the Role of Media in Strengthening Democracy. Consensus of participants sought on issues is not always easy, but almost always contribute constructive approach, shared their perspective and mentioned the hurdles which are confines their freedom and strengthening democracy with participants of Thareek-e-Insaaf, Pakistan Peoples party parliamentarians, Millat Party, Pakistan Muslim league-(N), Sindh Democratic Alliance, Awami National Party & Pakistan Awami Tahreek. In addition to that News section team of Daily Ibarat a leading Sindhi News paper of Pakistan, NGOs and Social activists were also part of the program

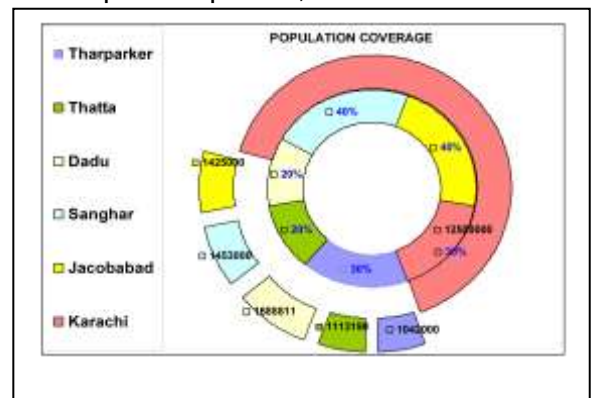
C.) Awareness & Advocacy for Women's Political Participation in Electoral Process (National Election 2002)

Takhleeq Foundation with the support of SDEPP (UNDP) to launch right based approached for women's political participation in electoral process and formed Community Action Support Groups (CASGs) in all the six Districts to interact with community hold meetings, forums & workshops for Q&A sessions. District press clubs taken on board for this initiative and organized series of workshops on social & political journalism. Seven pamphlets two posters and two stickers were published and distributed / placed at all the locations. These initiatives not only catalyze the process of political mobilization in the communities and build the skills of social & political activists but also create a space for advocacy on women's political participation in electoral process in Thatta, Dadu, Karachi, Sanghar, Tharparker (Mithi) & Jacobabad.

- A. Awareness & mass mobilization campaign on Democracy, Good Governance and Women in Politics through meetings with communities on Voter's, education, Voting Rights, Importance of voting, Issues of discipline in electoral process
- B. Advocacy & Gender sensitization workshops with social & political leadership, media & Nazims at district level at district level.
- C. Gender sensitization & Political Reporting workshop with media persons, freelance writers, district reporters and other media activist.
- D. Capacity Building workshops on Voter's, education, Women Voting Rights, Importance of voting, Issues of discipline in election with women political activists.
- E. Interactive Discussion forums, Katchahry /Seminars with political parties, candidates of Provincial & National Assemblies, at their constituencies.
- F. IEC material development for dissemination & awareness building for voter education & enabling environment for women's political participation

Achievements:

Takhleeq Foundation has enhanced political participation of women by conducting intensive awareness and advocacy campaigns for right based political participation in democratizing the society. It has also emphasized on education and training for voters on all aspects of gender exploitation discrimination so as to create a level of consciousness and awareness of effective and responsive internalization to educate the voters. This helped to create a social environment conducive to the recognition/acceptance of the political role and responsibilities in general elections in October 2002.



D.) Awareness & Advocacy for Women's Political Participation in Electoral Process (National Election 2008)

VOTERS' EDUCATION PROGRAM 2008

Takhleeq Foundation implemented “**Voters Education Campaign 2008**” with SNEP (Supporting National Electoral Process by UNDP) & Election commission of Pakistan in 14 towns of Karachi and district of Umerkot. Takhleeq Foundation has started this initiative to work for the greater participation of women in political process and for the enabling environment for this participation and democratization. This initiative was taken through interactive & participatory planning, sharing and discussion to flourish both democracy and social development with people’s active participation in awareness & political rights based education by developing learning skills of advocacy – to speak and exercise their political rights. The set message was conveyed through various means; some of which were unique and innovative such as the donkey cart race, drum beating, decorated float with banners and posters, music shows, quiz competition programs, cricket and football matches in order to attract and capture the attention of the voters. **27,640** people of both the genders participated in 20 different activities and became familiar with the electoral process & Turn out in these fourteen towns of Karachi and district Umerkot was greater than the average percentage of the overall turnout.

E.) Supporting Transparency, Accountability and Electoral Process in Pakistan

Governance is the instrument of political, economic and administrative authorities to manage a nation's affairs. It is the diverse mechanisms, processes, relationships and institutions through which residents of country and groups communicate their benefits, exercise their rights and obligations and arbitrate their differences. Thus Takhleeq Foundation in collaboration with FAFEN funded by The Asia Foundation has initiated another project to address Good Governance, Constituency Relationships and Accountability for ultimate democracy, Free and Fair Elections through mobilization and capacity building with proper assessed data. Takhleeq Foundation initiated two and half year programme in four National Assembly constituencies i.e. NA 200 & 201 of district Ghotki, NA 202 of district Shikarpur and NA 239 of Karachi for supporting transparency, accountability & electoral process in Pakistan.

The major activities under this programme have been grouped into three main categories: election monitoring, voter & civic education and advocacy. Finally the advocacy is being carried out for immediate and long-term electoral and democratic reforms. Approaches include private diplomacy with government institutions and political parties as well as public statements to increase citizens' demand for democratization. Programme's Constituency Relations Project (CRP) is being implemented. Constituency Relations Group (CRG) comprising 25 citizens representing many local perspectives are being established in each constituency. Their goal is to help local citizens stay involved in civic affairs and to help MNAs and MPAs stay informed about the evolving concerns and priorities of their constituencies. CRGs are leading focus group discussions among citizens, facilitating postcard and letter-writing advocacy campaigns, and hosting public forums with MNAs and MPAs as invited guests.

F.) Human Rights Education for Muslim Clerics & Women Social Activist

Takhleeq Foundation with collaboration of EQUITAS, Canada initiated Human Rights Education through the training and capacity building to create awareness for Human Rights Education and indoctrinate that education to grass root level in Hyderabad and Nawabshah with Muslim clerics (Moulvies), social workers and especially women social leaders to further replicate the workshop learning in their society. Takhleeq Foundation would like to initiate the process of Human Rights Education & Training with Muslim Clerics to make human rights education through Muslim clerics at grass root level for life-long process to learn, respect and defend the rights and the dignity of others too. Takhleeq Foundation would like to initiate human rights education with Muslim clerics training and capacity building workshops and interactive discussion dialogue on HR issues at community level. *Education human rights with Muslim Clerics to develop HR communities and culture through interactive means of communication in Sindh.*

Workshops and discussion dialogues had profound effect on participants and helped participants to enhance their intellectual capacity with respect to Human Rights Education. Participants got motivation and courage to work for Human Rights from these workshops. The learnt principles would really help participants to work in an organized manner. For future workshops, the duration of workshop should be more than 2 days with the intention to allocate more time in group activities and discussion in later days of the workshop. Other relevant topics like Socialism, Importance of Education, Health care etc should be the part of workshop outline. A culture was promoted to discuss universal rights, CEDAW priorities areas and CRC that was really interesting. Participants and especially their children became so vocal for discussing their concern. Three children raised their issues and shared it thoroughly in front of audience. It enabled Takhleeq Foundation to deal with different kind of groups with one objective and under one roof. For future strategy Takhleeq Foundation suggested that this type of program should be arranged at broader level. Lawyers, Political Activist, Journalists should also be included for further replication and discussion on Human Rights issues and concerns.