

A Report on

PERFORMANCE OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS

Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

June, 2013 - February, 2017



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women make up 46% of Balochistan's population while their representation in the Provincial Assembly is 20%. There are 13 women lawmakers in the incumbent Provincial Assembly of Balochistan. A woman lawmaker represents nearly 358,292 women in the Assembly whereas each male lawmaker represents 105,186 men.

These women legislators initiated nearly 16% business of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan during last 44 months. The women sponsored nine percent business independently and seven percent in collaboration with male lawmakers.

All women legislators participated in the proceedings by submitting agenda or speaking on floor of the House. Five out of 13 women submitted agenda as well as took part in discussion while the remaining eight women only participated in discussions. On average, every woman lawmaker contributed five agenda items during the reporting period.

The women lawmakers sponsored 29 out of 199 (15%) resolutions independently and 59 (30%) collaboratively with male lawmakers. The women did not use questions as a tool of executive oversight as frequently as they did Adjournment Motions. They moved nine (36%) Adjournment Motions and asked 34 (6%) questions during the reporting period.

Moreover, women lawmakers also raised 257 (23%) Points of Order and participated in discussions held in the House 173 times by giving their opinion on multiple issues. They discussed the matters related to terrorism, political developments, governance, agriculture, economy, foreign affairs, education and health.

The Balochistan Assembly, as an institution, responded to various women specific issues and passed three government bills and a resolution on such matters during the reporting period. The legislation on women issues was done in wake of the devolution of the department of women development to the provinces under Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment. The legislation addressed breast-feeding, domestic violence and harassment at workplaces.

The Assembly also constituted Women Parliamentary Caucus through a resolution to provide women a platform for making cross-party efforts to address various gender issues.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Women constitute 46 percent of the population in Balochistan but their representation in the Provincial Assembly is not proportionate to their population. They are 20 percent of total membership of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan while they have no representation in the Cabinet. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan mandates the state to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life. In the face of several societal and political barriers hindering women's participation in political sphere, the Constitution reserves 17% seats in the legislatures for women. The political parties nominate women candidates to these seats which are distributed proportionally on the basis of general seats in a legislature.

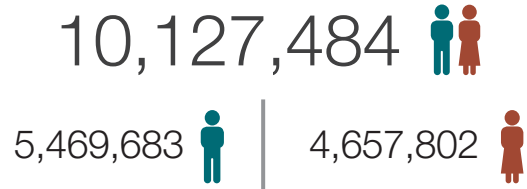
Currently, there are 13 women in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan. One of these women is directly elected on general seat while the remaining women are on reserved seats. A gender comparison of seats and population tells that each woman lawmaker represents 358,292 women in the Assembly whereas each male lawmaker represents 105,186 men. The Speaker of the House is also a woman elected on one of the reserved seats.

The present report attempts to analyse the performance of women lawmakers in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan during the period between June, 2013 and February, 2017.

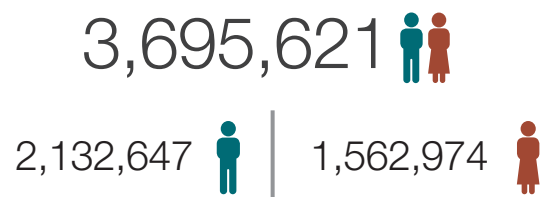
Agenda Contribution and Participation in Debates are the indicators to assess the performance of women lawmakers. The report covers 36 sessions of the incumbent Assembly held during last 44 months. These sessions comprise 178 sittings. The official Assembly documents gathered through direct observation of the Assembly proceedings have been used to analyse women contribution in the Assembly's formal business. The participation of women lawmakers has been assessed using the TDEA-FAFEN's parliamentary database openparliament.pk, which is based on direct observation of the Assembly proceedings.

In addition to the performance of women lawmakers, the report also includes the analysis of the Assembly's output on women related issues through using various parliamentary interventions.

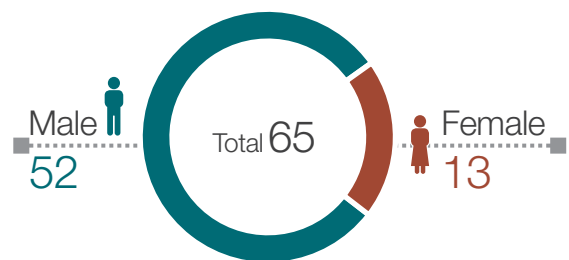
Population of Balochistan



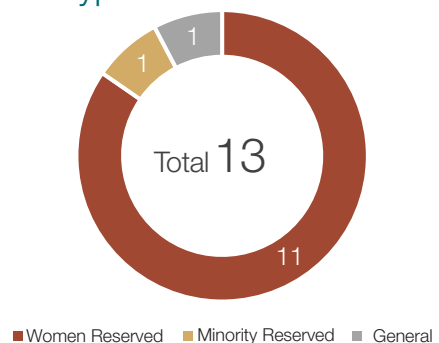
Registered Voters in Balochistan



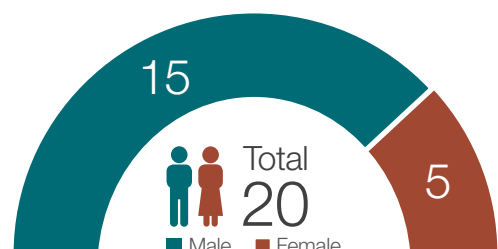
Members of Balochistan Assembly



Seat Type of Women Members

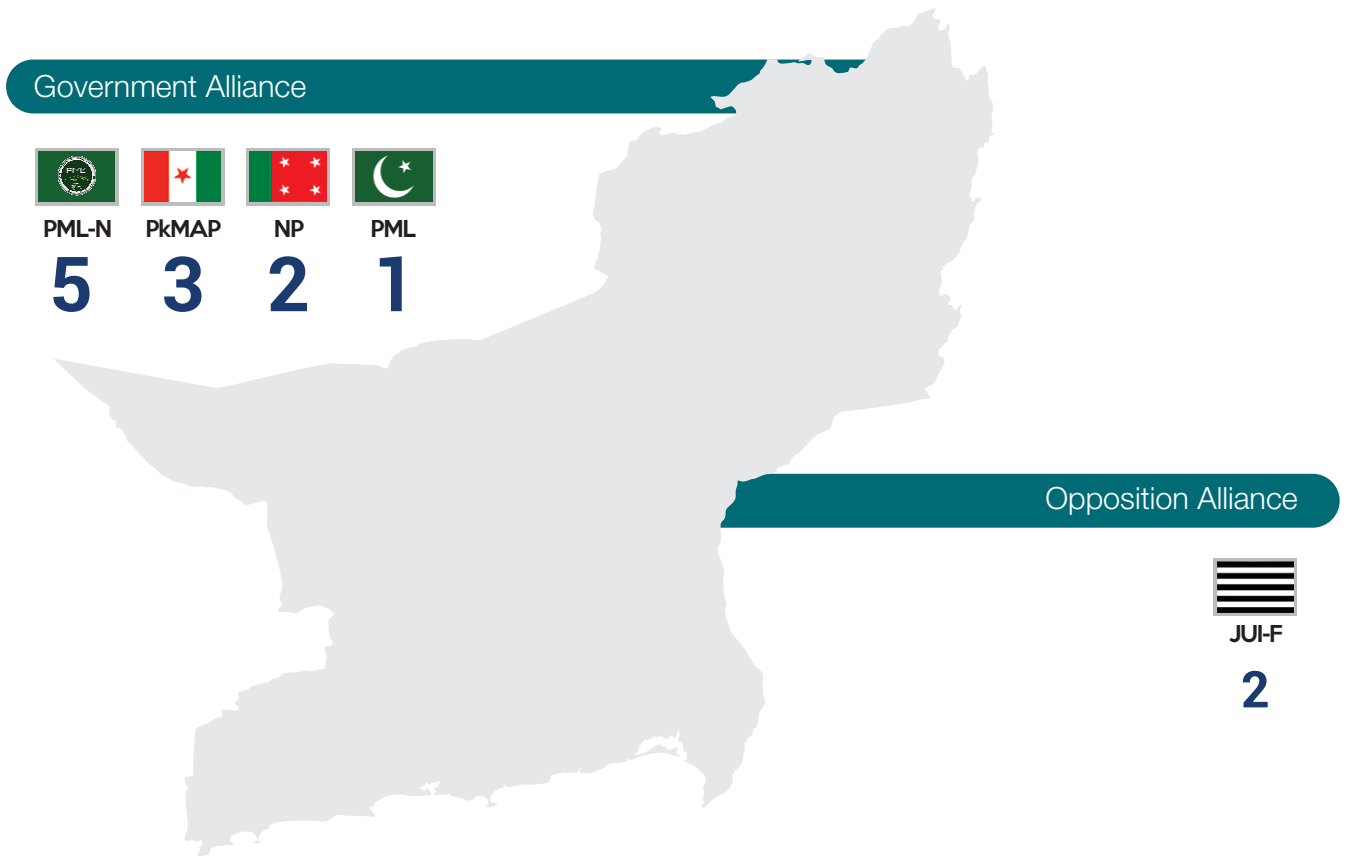


Committee Chairpersons



INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

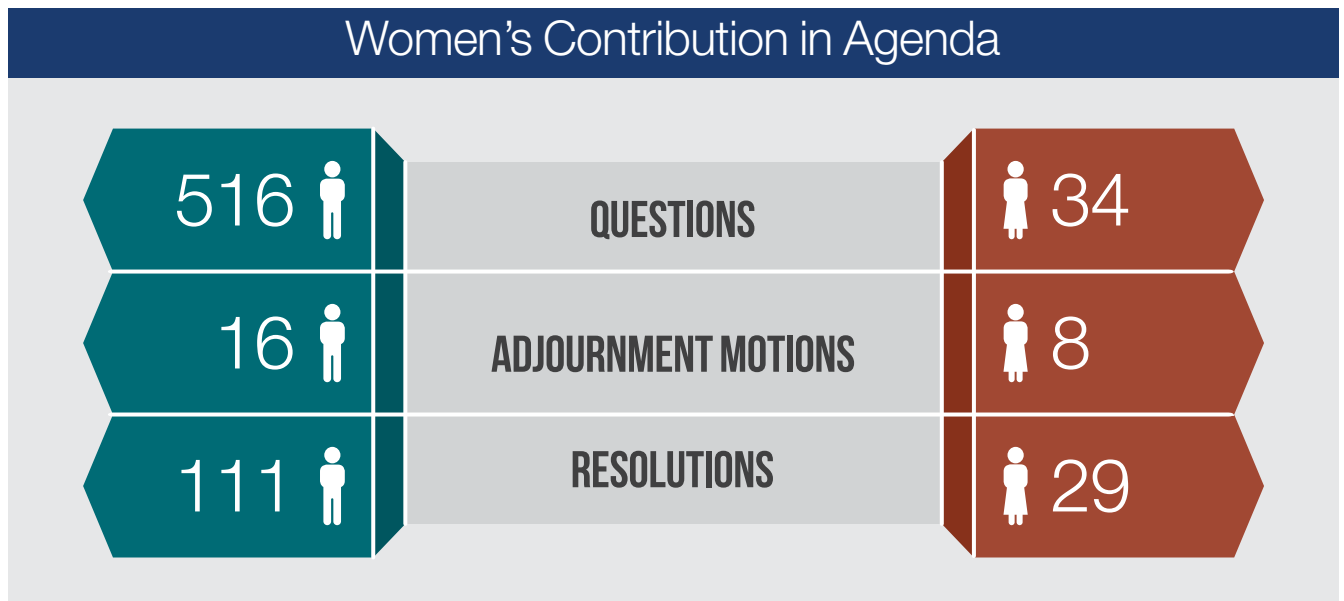
POLITICAL AFFILIATION OF WOMEN MEMBERS



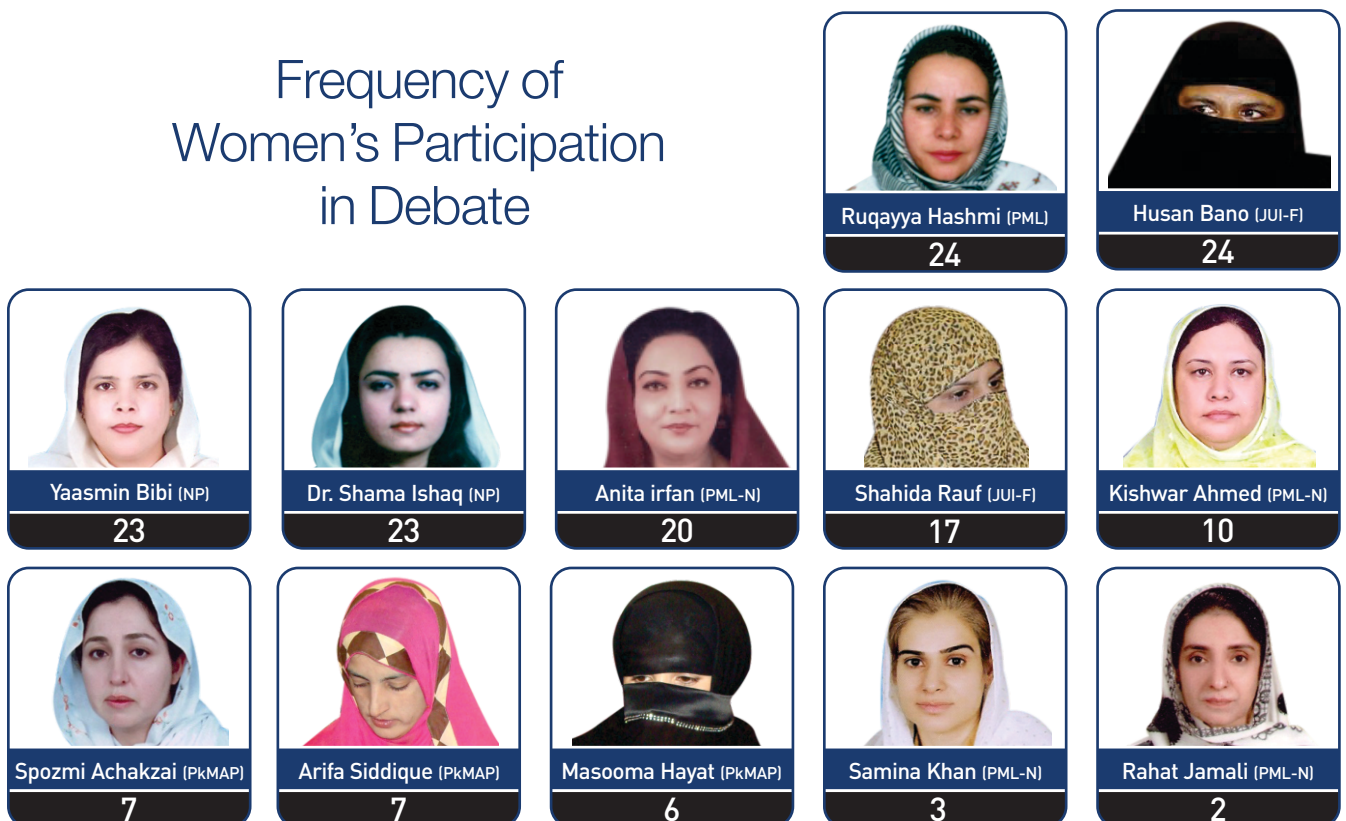
PARTICIPATION IN PROCEEDINGS

The lawmakers participate in the plenary proceedings by contributing to the agenda or taking part in discussions. It is an important indicator to gauge the lawmakers' interest to their parliamentary duties. All women legislators participated in the proceedings by submitting agenda or speaking on floor of the House. Five out of 13 women submitted agenda as well as took part in discussion while remaining eight only participated in discussions.

Following are details of the women's contribution to different parliamentary interventions:



Frequency of Women's Participation in Debate



RESOLUTIONS

Women lawmakers, independently or in collaboration with male lawmakers, sponsored 88 out of 199 resolutions listed on 'Orders of the Day'. The women submitted 29 resolutions independently and 59 in collaboration with male legislators.

These resolutions made recommendations to the government on matters related to education, infrastructure development, electricity load-shedding, employment and governance. Moreover, the women lawmakers also submitted two resolutions concerning the issues of their gender. However, the House passed only one of these resolutions demanding establishment of Women Parliamentary Caucus in the Assembly while the resolution suggesting establishment of diagnosis centers for breast cancer was not addressed

The women lawmakers also participated in discussions on resolutions moved by male lawmakers concerning the matters of security, political development, economy, parliamentary affairs, foreign affairs, tourism, employment, energy and health.



ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

The Adjournment Motion (AM) is an effective oversight and representation tool which Balochistan Assembly lawmakers employ to draw government's attention to the issues of public importance. In the absence of other parliamentary interventions like Calling Attention Notice or Zero Hour, the lawmakers frequently seek adjournments to discuss the public issues.

The women lawmakers moved eight out of 25 AMs during the reporting period while they also collaborated with their male colleagues on one AM.

The women belonging to JUI-F moved six AMs and NP and PkMAP women one each. These AMs related to various governance issues such as closure of a hospital in Quetta, withholding tax issue, parking charges in Quetta, increase in petroleum and electricity charges; killings of children in Qalat, usage of contaminated water for agriculture and unannounced load-shedding in District Pishin. Moreover the joint AM of male and female lawmakers highlighted the issue of Young Doctors' protest.

WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION IN DISCUSSIONS

Discussions on Adjournment Motions

Besides abovementioned AMs, the women also actively contributed to discussions on AMs moved by male lawmakers. The subjects and brief description of these contributions is given below.

CPEC

Women lawmakers expressed their concern four times over change in CPEC route and demanded the federal government to take provincial legislators into confidence on this issue.

Governance

Women lawmakers spoke thrice on the issues of governance. They expressed concerns over demolition of slums in Islamabad and demanded strict scrutiny of domiciles of the candidates applying for jobs on Balochistan's quota. The women lawmakers also discussed the issues of provincial taxation after devolution of certain subjects to provinces under Eighteenth Constitutional Amendment.

Security & Terrorism

Women lawmakers spoke nine times on terrorism and other security-related matters. They demanded to improve the security situation expressing concerns about law and order in the province and stressed on identifying and resolving the root cause of terrorism.

General Discussion

The Balochistan Assembly often holds general discussions on various issues of the province. The women lawmakers participated 18 times during these discussions and expressed their views on affairs concerning law and order, political developments, education and health.

They appreciated the efforts of the government in restoring law and order and suggested to do coordinated efforts for further improvement of security.

The women lawmakers also demanded initiation of development works in Quetta, and improvements in irrigation and water storage systems in the province. Moreover, they suggested the government to provide quality seed and latest machinery to the farmers, increase the number of teachers and provide education in mother tongue.

Budget Discussion

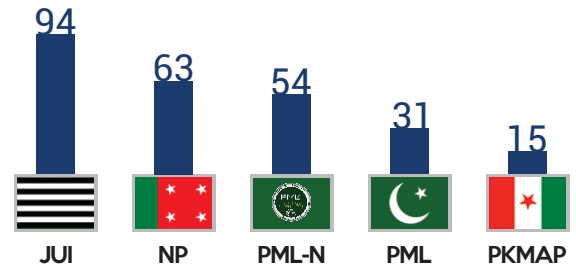
Women lawmakers also actively participated in the debates on Annual Budgets and spoke 26 times during budget sessions. They made several budgetary recommendations to the government during their speeches. They appreciated the allocation of funds for mass transit train and building teachers' colonies and women hostels while demanded upgradation of primary schools and funds to address water scarcity in provincial capital.

POINTS OF ORDER

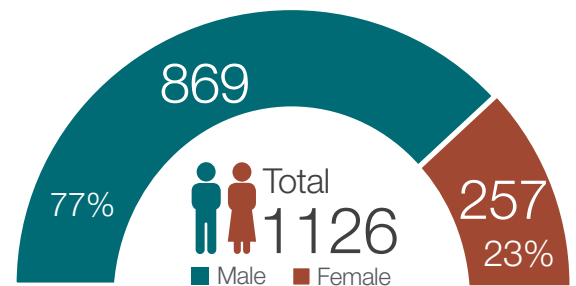
The Points of Order (POs) is a provision in the Rules of Procedure to point out any violation of the rules during the proceedings. But the lawmakers in Balochistan Assembly often use Points of Order to discuss the issues of importance in the House. A major portion of the duration of proceedings is utilized while discussing these POs. During last 44 months, 59 lawmakers, including 11 women lawmakers, spoke in the House using this provision. They raised a total of 1,126 POs during the reporting period. The women lawmakers raised 257 (23%) POs. Women lawmakers belonging to JUI-F raised 94 POs, followed by women of NP (63), PML-N (54), PML (31) and PkMAP (15).

Only 60 of these POs related to the Business of the House whereas remaining were used to highlight constituency related issues and political matters. Thematically, the lawmakers raised 39 POs on governance, 25 on democracy and political development, 19 on education and health, 18 on employment, 15 on terrorism and security situation and 126 on other issues of public importance.

Party wise PO's – Women MPs

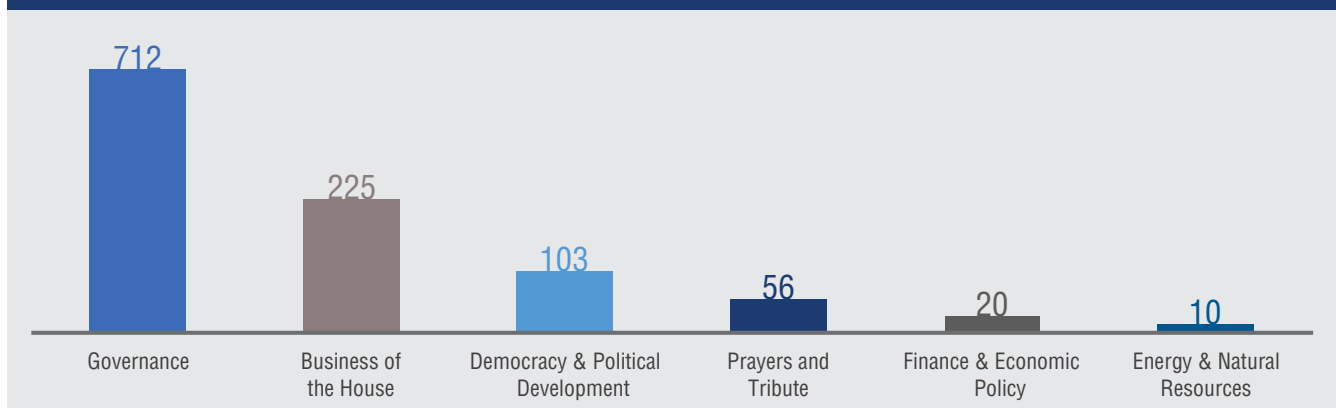


Gender Wise Points of Orders



 Shahida Rauf (JUI-F) 63	 Dr. Shama Ishaq (NP) 39	 Ruqayya Hashmi (PML) 31	 Husan Bano (JUI-F) 31	 Yaasmin Bibi (NP) 24
 Samina Khan (PML-N) 12	 Kishwar Ahmed (PML-N) 9	 Arifa Siddique (PkMAP) 7	 Spozmi Achakzai (PkMAP) 5	 Masooma Hayat (PkMAP) 3

Issues raised through Points of Order



WOMEN-CENTRIC OUTPUTS OF ASSEMBLY

The Balochistan Assembly passed three government bills concerning women during the reporting period. This legislation was done in wake of the devolution of the department of women development to the provinces. Besides the legislation, the House also passed a resolution to establish Women Parliamentary Caucus in the Provincial Assembly.

The Balochistan Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding and Infant Nutrition Bill, 2014

The bill provides for institutional mechanism to encourage breastfeeding of infants and regulate the products used as substitute of mother's milk. The producers and distributors of such substitutes would be bound to place a message on their products encourage the consumers to prefer mother's milk.

The Balochistan Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2014

The law defines the protective measures for women, children and other vulnerable persons against domestic violence. There are provisions made in the law for counselling of victims and protection to them against eviction from household by accused. It authorizes the trial court to pass protection and residence orders on request of the victims and also direct accused to pay monetary relief to victim. The law also provides for establishment of Protection Committees in every Tehsil to spread awareness amongst women about their rights and assist victims of violence during the trial period.

The Balochistan Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2015

The law defines the mechanism to protect women against harassment at workplaces. It binds all organizations to notify an Inquiry Committee to investigate the complaints of harassment and provides for the establishment of a Provincial Ombudsperson. A complaint of harassment may be preferred either to the Ombudsperson or the Inquiry Committee. Under the law, the guilty can be sentenced with minor penalties such as censure or major penalties such as dismissal from service and fine up to 500,000 rupees.

About FAFEN

- FAFEN is one of the most credible networks of civil society organizations working for strengthening citizens' voice and accountability in Pakistan since 2006.
- FAFEN has harnessed information technology for real-time monitoring, facilitation and technical backstopping of partners for effective and result-based program delivery.
- FAFEN is the only civil society group to have been invited by the Judicial Commission to present the evidence of illegalities and irregularities documented through the course of General Elections 2013 Observation. The systemic and procedural issues identified by FAFEN have been acknowledged by the commission in its detailed findings.
- FAFEN's recommendations for electoral reforms have contributed to the work of Parliamentary Committee for Electoral Reforms.
- FAFEN's advocacy for parliamentary transparency, accountability and reforms has shaped public discourse on parliamentary reforms. Improved citizens' access to parliamentary information including daily public release of parliamentarians' attendance records can be directly attributed to FAFEN's work.
- FAFEN deployed 18,000 and 40,000 non-partisan and trained observers for the systematic observation of general election 2008 and 2013, respectively, largest citizens' observation ever undertaken in Pakistan.
- FAFEN's evidence and recommendations for reforms have improved the quality of public and political discourse on elections, its issues and need for reforms. Leading political parties and media houses extensively use FAFEN's election findings and analysis to build a case for reforms.
- With more than 18,000 followers on Twitter and around 100,000 on Facebook, FAFEN is considered one of the most reliable sources of electoral and parliamentary information in the country.

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