

A Report on

# PERFORMANCE OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS

Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

May, 2013 - February, 2017



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women constitute nearly half of the population in the province and are represented in the provincial legislature by 22 women lawmakers. Each woman lawmaker represents 596,652 women in the Assembly whereas each male lawmaker represents 130,064 men. The analysis of the Assembly attendance, agenda and proceedings show that despite their less strength the women made significant contribution to the Assembly business during last 44 months.

According to the official attendance records, women lawmakers were more regular attendees of the proceedings than men. On average, a woman lawmaker attended 167 (76%) sittings whereas a male lawmaker attended 133 (64%) sittings. Majority of the women have more than 70% attendance during the reporting period.

The women lawmakers contributed more than one-fifth of the Assembly's agenda during the reporting period. They submitted 693 (20%) Questions, eight adjournment motions (16%), 47 Calling Attention Notices (17%) demonstrating their interest in the Assembly's core function of overseeing the executive performance.

They also represented public issues and aspirations through resolutions. The women sponsored 46% of the resolutions brought before the House. Similarly, they also contributed to the legislation by sponsoring six out of 17 Private Members' bills.

The Assembly as an institution also responded to some of the women issues by enacting relevant legislation or making recommendations to the government through resolutions. The Lady Health Workers program was regularized while the laws were put in place to protect working women's rights and promote breast-feeding. The Assembly also set up institutional mechanism to provide for welfare of women in general and widowed women in particular.

The Assembly also adopted eight women-specific resolutions including resolutions condemning violence against women and encouraging their participation in political process. The lawmakers sought establishment of Women Parliamentary Caucus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and Women Development Department in the government. They also raised the issue of Dr. Afia Siddiqui's internment in the United States of America and demanded the government to take steps to ensure her return.

# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Women constitute almost half of the population in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but their representation in provincial assembly is not proportionate to their population. They are 17 percent of total membership of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while their representation is also low in the Cabinet and the Assembly Committees. Only one out of 14 Provincial Ministers (7%), seven out of 18 Parliamentary Secretaries (39%) and four out of 38 (11%) Committee Chairpersons are women.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan mandates the state to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life. There have been reserved 17% seats in the legislatures for women under the Constitution. There are 22 women-reserved seats in the Provincial Assembly of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while there is no bar on them to contest election on general seats. Each woman lawmaker represents 596,652 women in the Assembly. On the other hand, each male lawmaker represents 130,064 men. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly is only legislature in the country where no woman was elected on general seats in General Election 2013.

The present report attempts to analyze the performance of women lawmakers in the Provincial Assembly of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the period between May 29, 2013 and February 6, 2017.

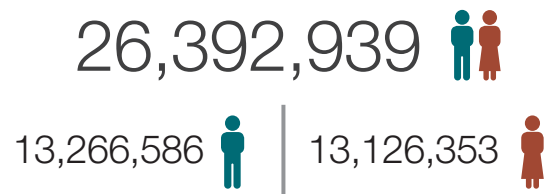
Following indicators of performance have been analyzed in this report:

- Attendance
- Agenda Contribution
- Participation in Debates

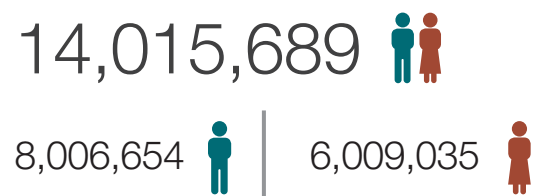
The report covers 22 sessions of the incumbent Assembly held during last 44 months. These sessions comprise 219 sittings. The section on the members' attendance is based on the attendance records available on the website of the Provincial Assembly of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Similarly, the official Assembly documents available on the website and gathered through direct observation of the Assembly proceedings have been used to analyze the women contribution in the Assembly's formal business. The participation of women lawmakers has been assessed using the

## Population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



## Registered Voters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



## Members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly



## Seat Type of Women Members



## Provincial Ministers

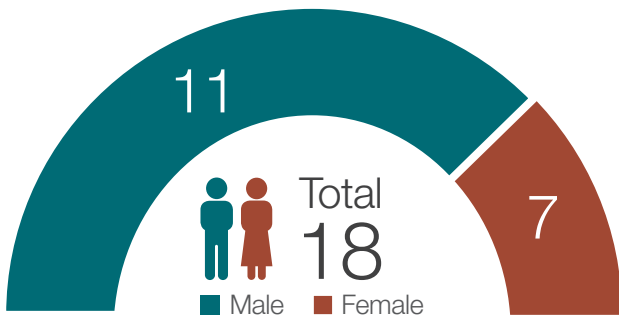


# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

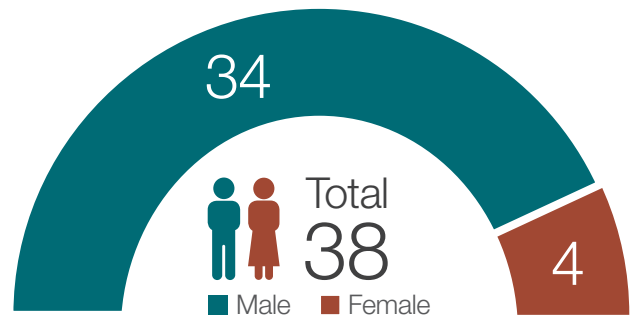
records of TDEA-FAFEN's parliamentary database Openparliament.pk, which is based on direct observation of the Assembly proceedings. These records cover only 158 out of 219 sittings as the Assembly had barred direct observation of its proceedings for 61 sittings of its 15th session.

Besides the woman lawmakers' performance, the report also includes the analysis of the Assembly's output on women related issues. The women-centric legislation and resolutions passed by the Assembly during the reporting period has been analyzed in this section.

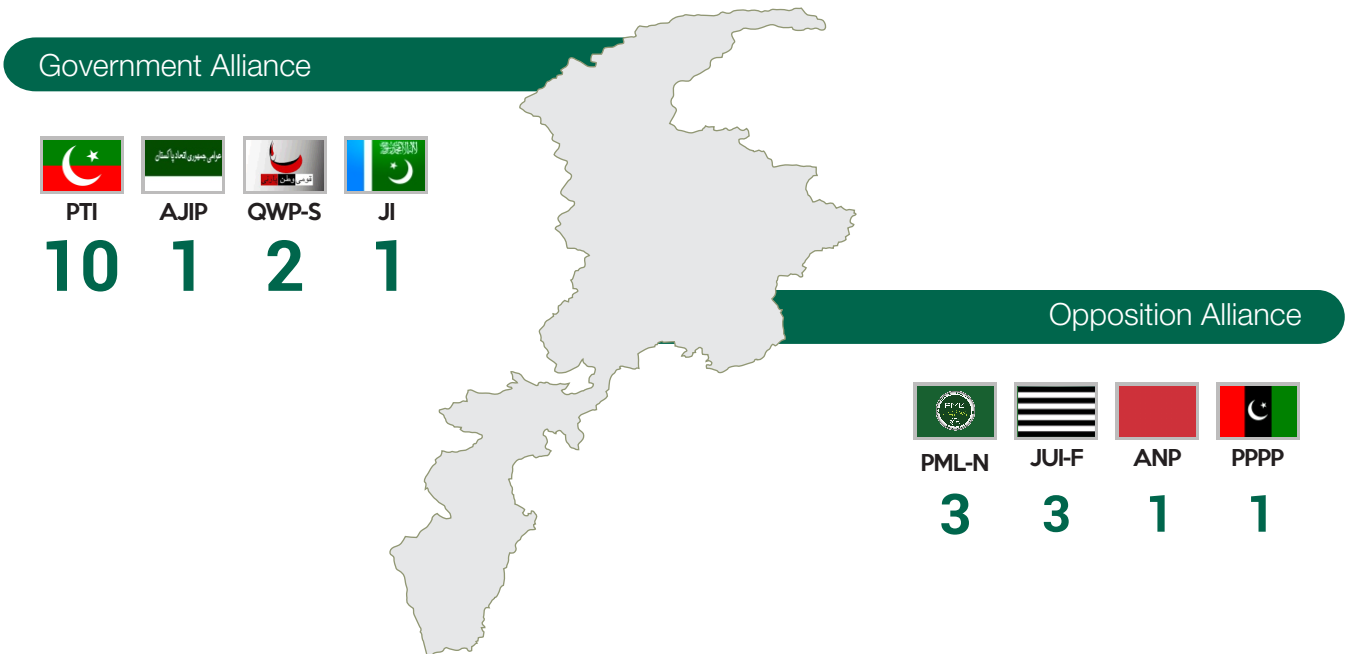
## Parliamentary Secretaries



## Committee Chairpersons



## POLITICAL AFFILIATION OF WOMEN MEMBERS



# ATTENDANCE

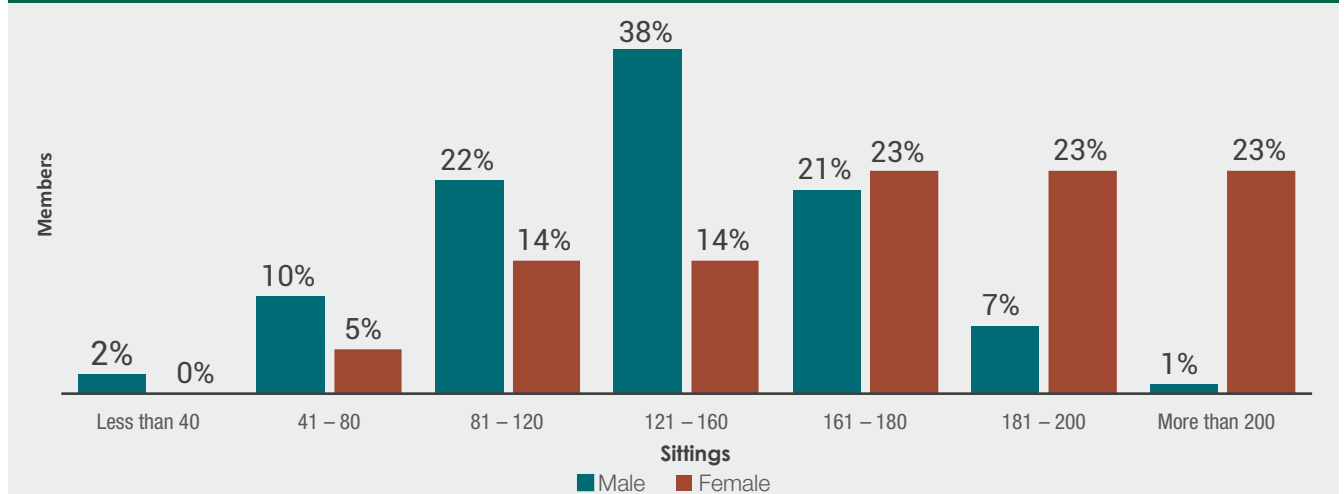
The official attendance records show that women lawmakers were more regular visitors to the Assembly than men. The Assembly has held 22 sessions so far comprising 219 sittings. On average, a woman lawmaker attended 167 (76%) sittings whereas a male lawmaker attended 133 (64%) sittings.

## Overall Average Attendance (1st Session - 22nd Session)



Among seven lawmakers who have more than 90% attendance, six are women. The graph below shows that majority of women lawmakers have more than 70% attendance i.e. they have attended 160 or more sittings.

## Lawmakers' Attendance Patterns by Gender



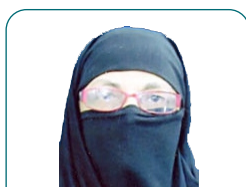
Aisha Naeem (PTI)

Attend: 211/219 90%



Nagina Khan (PTI)

Attend: 207/219 95%



Rashda Riffat (JI)

Attend: 205/219 94%



Meher Taj Roghani (PTI)

Attend: 201/219 92%



Zareen Riaz (PTI)

Attend: 197/219 90%



Najma Shaheen (JUI-F)

Attend: 197/219 90%



Meraj Hamayun (QWP-S)

Attend: 192/219 88%



Aamna Sardar (PML-N)

Attend: 188/219 86%



Ruqia Hina (PML-N)

Attend: 182/219 83%



Uzma Khan (JUI-F)

Attend: 182/219 83%

# ATTENDANCE




Nargas (PTI)  
Attend: **177**/219 81%




Naseem Hayat (PTI)  
Attend: **176**/219 80%




Khatoon Bibi (AJIP)  
Attend: **174**/219 79%




Anisa Tahirkheli (QWP-S)  
Attend: **173**/219 79%



Dina Naz (PTI)  
Attend: **164**/153 75%




Yasmeen Pir Khan (ANP)  
Attend: **160**/153 73%



Bibi Fozia (PTI)  
Attend: **151**/219 69%




Romana Jalil (JUI-F)  
Attend: **141**/219 65%




Nighat Orakzai (PPPP)  
Attend: **117**/219 53%



Sobia Shahid (PML-N)  
Attend: **110**/153 50%



Maliha Tanveer (PTI)  
Attend: **94**/153 43%



Nadia Sher (PTI)  
Attend: **88**/219 40%

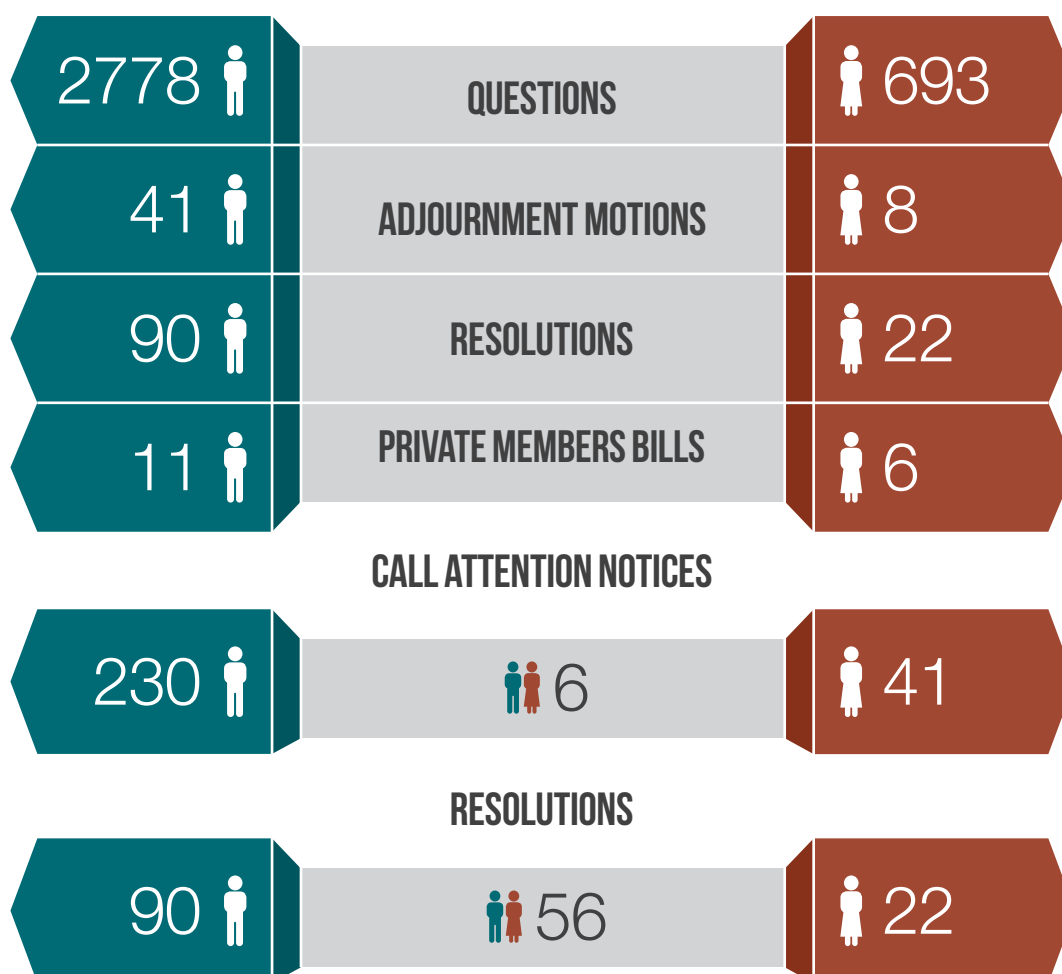
# AGENDA CONTRIBUTION AND PARTICIPATION

In addition to the attendance, another indicator for gauging the lawmakers' commitment towards their duties as members of the Assembly is their participation in the House proceedings. The lawmakers may participate in the proceedings by contributing agenda or taking part in the House discussions.

The women lawmakers contributed more than one-fifth of the Assembly's agenda during the reporting period. They submitted 693 (20%) Questions, eight adjournment motions (16%), 47 Calling Attention Notices (17%) demonstrating their interest in the Assembly's core function of overseeing the executive performance.

They also represented public issues and aspirations through resolutions. The women sponsored 46% of the resolutions brought before the House. Similarly, they also contributed to the legislation by sponsoring six out of 17 Private Members' bills. The details of the women contribution to various Assembly interventions are given below:

## Gender Wise Contribution



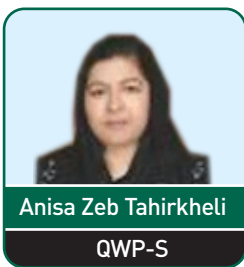
# LEGISLATION

The government legislation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly is predominantly a male domain due to low representation of women in the provincial cabinet. Out of 121 government bills passed by the Assembly so far, only one was introduced by a female minister.

However, women lawmakers actively participated in the private members' legislation. Six out of seventeen (35%) Private Members' bills introduced in the Assembly were sponsored by women. The Assembly has so far passed two women-sponsored bills into laws while one has been rejected and remaining are pending at different stages. The women who sponsored these pieces of legislation belong to PPPP, PML-N, JUI-F and QWP-S. These bills proposed amendments to several laws including KP Local Government Act 2013 and sought regularization of certain government employees.

The status and movers of women-sponsored legislation is given below:

## GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minerals Sector Governance Bill, 2016

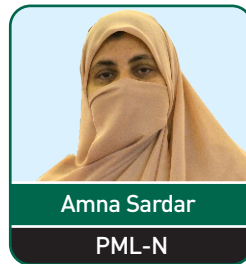
Passed

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' LEGISLATION



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Appointment of Certain Project Employees Bill, 2014

Rejected



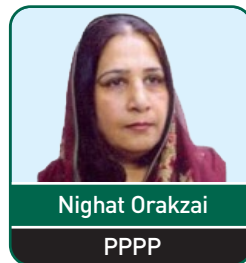
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Galiyat Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2015

Introduced



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Regularization of Services of Teaching Assistant as Lecturers Bill, 2016

Introduced



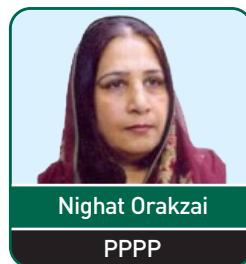
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2015

Passed



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Amendment of Laws) Bill, 2015

Passed



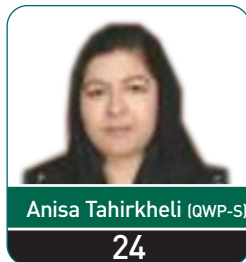
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2015

Introduced

## RESOLUTIONS

Women lawmakers sponsored 78 out of 168 (46%) resolutions on the issues of public importance appearing on the list of business. The women moved 20 resolutions individually and 56 in collaboration with male lawmakers while two were jointly moved by more than one woman lawmakers. These resolutions made recommendations to the government on human rights issues, parliamentary affairs, right of vote to marginalized community, governance, law and order and education sector.

Following are the women who sponsored more than one of passed resolutions:



## QUESTIONS

Questions are considered as an important tool to oversee the performance of government. Ten out of 22 (46%) women lawmakers used the tool of Questions to obtain information from the government on various public issues.

According to the statistics available on the website of KP Assembly, the House admitted 3,471 questions for answers during its first three parliamentary years. One fifth of these questions (693) were submitted by women lawmakers. On average, a woman lawmaker submitted 69 questions whereas a male lawmaker submitted 44 questions.

These questions were addressed to various government ministries and departments with more focus on departments of Education, Health, Communication & Works and Local Government.

Following are given details of five women who asked highest number of questions.



## CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES

Women lawmakers effectively used Calling Attention Notices (CANs) to highlight the governance issues and different matters related to health, employment and education sectors. Out of 277 CANs appearing on the agenda, 47 (17%) CANs (41 individually and six jointly) were moved by women.

Three JUI-F lawmakers sponsored 14 CANs; two PML-N woman lawmakers submitted 13 CANs; a JI woman submitted seven CANs, two QWP women brought seven CANs, a PPPP women sponsored four CANs and two CANs were brought by two PTI women lawmakers.



## ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS

The Adjournment Motion (AM) is a tool for lawmakers to seek adjournment of regular proceedings to discuss urgent matters of public importance. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, the lawmakers sponsored a total of 49 Adjournment Motions of which eight were sponsored by female lawmakers. The women lawmakers highlighted the issues related to economy, governance, education and human rights through it.



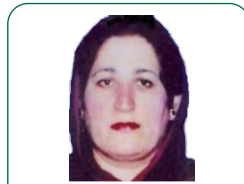
Uzma Khan (JUI-F)

2



Nighat Orakzai (PPPP)

2



Yasmeen Pir Khan (ANP)

1



Zareen Riaz (PTI)

1



Anisa Zeb (QWP-S)

1



Sobia Shahid (PML-N)

1

# WOMEN-CENTRIC OUTPUT OF ASSEMBLY

## LEGISLATION

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly enacted five laws which directly affect female inhabitants of the province. All of these bills were initiated by government. Following is given brief description of these laws:

### [The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Deserving Widows and Special Persons Welfare Foundation Act, 2014](#)

The law puts in place the institutional mechanism for welfare of widowed women.

### [The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Regulation of Lady Health Workers Program and Employees \(Regularization and Standardization\) Act, 2014](#)

The law provides for adoption of National Program for Family Planning and Healthcare as Provincial Lady Health Workers Program and regularization of Lady Health Workers appointed between 2012 and 2014.

### [The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Protection of Breast-Feeding and Child Nutrition Act, 2015](#)

The law provides for promotion of breast-feeding to infants and regulation of sale and advertisement of products used as substitute for mothers' milk.

### [The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Maternity Benefits \(Amendment\) Act, 2015](#)

The law prohibits employers from asking woman employees to do any laborious task during specific periods before and after child's delivery.

### [The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women Bill, 2016](#)

The law provides for establishment of KP Commission on Status of Women which shall work for women protection and empowerment.

## RESOLUTIONS

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly adopted eight resolutions concerning women. The Assembly condemned the violence against women and recommended establishment of Women Development Department of the government and formation of Women Parliamentary Caucus in the House. The lawmakers also passed two resolutions recommending the federal government to take steps for extrication of Dr. Afia Siddiqui. Another resolution moved by a male lawmaker demanded employing women staff at National Database and Registration Authority's Lakki Marwat office. The House also condemned the practice of denying women their right to vote and urged the government to enact legislation to encourage participation of women in political processes.

# 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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