



FAFEN NEWS ALERT

A FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

JULY 31, 2015

Our Vision

A democratic and just society that guarantees rights, respect and dignity of all individuals.

Our Mission

TDEA-FAFEN strives to strengthen public accountabilities by enhancing capability of citizens' associations to work for civil liberties, improved governance, democracy and peace in Pakistan.

CEO'S MESSAGE

The initiative of launching FAFEN News Alert is commendable as it will not only encourage the staff to contribute generously but will also present the work of FAFEN and its partner organizations before the stakeholders, including the media.

The fortnightly newsletter will provide an equal opportunity for the members of all projects being run by TDEA/FAFEN to highlight their performance. In this way, people will come to know more about TDEA/FAFEN and its ongoing activities. I, therefore, welcome their comments, suggestions or criticism, if any, for improvement.

I encourage all my staff members and those working with our partner organizations to send articles, news reports, quality pictures etc., as this is their publication and must be owned by them as well.

Thank you,

Shahid Fiaz

FAFEN Strives to Promote Democratic Governance in Pakistan

Plans to Train 5,000 Election Observers during year 2015

Kiran Peter

The promotion of democratic governance is the only sustainable way of addressing development challenges anywhere in the world. However, it is worth mentioning that the state of democracy is getting matured in Pakistan due to the enhanced participation of political parties in electoral and parliamentary activities, a development that owes much to the active contribution of civil society organizations and think tanks working in the country.

Likewise, the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability-Free and Fair Election Network (TDEA-FAFEN), through its various projects, is playing a pivotal role in minimizing the gaps between the citizens and the state institutions, a relationship which at times needs to be polished, nurtured and strengthened. The main challenge is to develop institutions and processes that are more responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, including the poor and the marginalized people of the society. The donor community is also helping Pakistan to strengthen its electoral and legislative processes, improve access to justice and public administration and develop a greater capacity to deliver basic services to those in need.

This year, TDEA-FAFEN, through its project 'Citizens' Action for Democratic Governance in Pakistan' (CADGP), plans to train 5,000 male and female election observers to observe Local Government Elections (LGE) in Punjab, Sindh and Islamabad Capital Territory. The Trust has



already observed local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and legislative assembly elections in Gilgit Baltistan. However, the local government elections were not observed in Balochistan due to some technical reasons.

In addition, FAFEN also observed by-elections in Lower Dir, Multan, Mandi-Bahauddin and Gujranwala. The trainings enabled the citizens to observe the election process and report any violations of the election rules and procedures to the TDEA Secretariat for consolidation of report.

The other components of the project are also playing an integral role in upgrading democratic processes in Pakistan with a similar zeal and zest. The proposed action will have increased focus on building more representative citizens' groups for greater community buy-in, ensuring increased participation of women and other socially marginalized sections of society, and creating synergies with organizations working on similar issues. Moreover, to bring the issues of governance to the political mainstream, TDEA-FAFEN intends to further streamline its work with political parties, as they are not only an essential component of democracy but are the vehicles by which citizens come together freely to campaign for public office, express their interests and needs, and define their aspirations for the society.

PROJECTS (IN BRIEF)

EDUCATION FOR ALL- MAKING IT POSSIBLE



The Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability-Free and Fair Election Network (TDEA-FAFEN) is implementing Education for All – Making it Possible with the support of Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI) across Pakistan in order to achieve improved governance in the education sector through enhanced institutional transparency, accountability, efficiency and responsiveness and citizens' participation. The project is aimed at providing public and private sectors with education solutions by identifying effective and replicable Voice and Accountability (V&A) models being implemented by civil society organizations across Pakistan. An effective V&A model is representative of an advocacy process which is evidence-based; enables rights-holders (citizens) to raise their demands with duty-bearers (public and elected



officials and institutions) to elicit a favourable response in terms of administrative, policy or legislative decisions, which in turn result into tangible improvements in education sector governance. These improvements can lead to an enhancement in the quality of services which effect higher enrollment and retention, optimum use of available resources, defined checks and balances for education managers and teachers, conducive learning environment, better facilities for pupils, etc.

ILM POSSIBLE-TAKE A CHILD TO SCHOOL



The British Council in partnership with the Children's Global Network (CGN), School of Leadership (SOLF), Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) and 30 local partners is implementing ILM-Possible:Take a Child to School in 60 districts of all four provinces—Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh—where enrollment and completion rates are the lowest.

ILM-Possible:Take a Child to School has a mission to enroll 135,000 out-of-school boys and girls in primary schools across Pakistan. Approximately 80 percent of the newly enrolled students will stay in school during the course of the project. Under this project, FAFEN developed ILM Information System (IIS) - an indigenous designed online system to keep track of the activities undertaken by the British Council, CGN and SOLF.



Children enrollment in process

New Project

CITIZENS' ACTION FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN PAKISTAN

TDEA-FAFEN proudly announces its new project, Citizens' Action for Democratic Governance in Pakistan (CADGP). The project aims at sustaining and strengthening TDEA-FAFEN's core programmes - Election Oversight and Reforms and Parliament Watch and Reforms - that focus on election-related,

Project Goal:
More inclusive, transparent and responsive democratic institutions and processes in Pakistan.

institutional oversight and citizens' work, knitting together its election and between-elections initiatives and building on its track record of uniquely successful electoral and democratic reform advocacy. The one-year project enables FAFEN to continue to play its role in influencing the current public and political discourse on electoral reforms on the basis of the findings of its extensive election observation of the 2013 General Election and evidence-based recommendations.



NEWS AND ACTIVITIES:

CADGP (STAFF PROFILE)

Welcome to New Staff Members

Rukhsana Shama joined TDEA-FAFEN as Program Manager Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). During the last 8 years, she has served in various international organizations such as ActionAid in Pakistan and Afghanistan and The Asia Foundation, and national NGO Bedari. Her expertise is in the areas of women's rights, advocacy, M&E and proposal development.



Jublee Bano joined TDEA-FAFEN as a new Training Officer. She earned her Master's degree in Economics and has seven years' versatile professional experience in social development. Previously, she has worked with a number of prestigious organizations, including the NRSP and the RSPN.



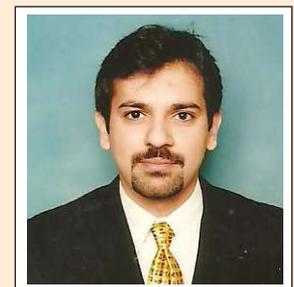
Muhammad Ehsan is a new Partnership Officer. He has completed ACCA from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan and graduated from Oxford Brookes University. He comes with eight years' of cumulative professional experience in the Hospitality, Petroleum and Development sectors.



Qaiser Mehmood Abbasi is our new Data Verification Officer and earned his degree in Business Administration from London Business Academy and an Advanced Diploma in Information Technology from the London School of Management Sciences. Previously, he has worked with several national and international organizations and developed expertise in data preparation and verification.



Mutahir Jamil joined us as Senior Finance Officer with a decade-long working experience of the development sector. He has graduated from Oxford Brookes University and developed his expertise in financial planning and management.



PUBLICATIONS

KP LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

FAFEN observed the largest ever local government elections in KP on May 31, 2015. The network deployed 987 trained citizens (503 male and 484 female) to observe 3,000 polling stations. Each observer was required to observe at least three polling stations to ensure optimum outreach and in-depth assessment of the quality of the electoral process.

As many as 39,079 candidates contested for 23,111 general seats in the neighbourhood and village councils, 7,681 candidates for 6,678 seats reserved for peasants and workers, 15,700 candidates for 3,339 seats reserved for women, 14,224 candidates for 3,339 seats reserved for youth and 349 candidates for 3,339 seats reserved for minorities. A total of 5,480 candidates contested the polls in 978 wards for 24 district councils and 5,907 candidates in 978 wards for 70 tehsils councils.

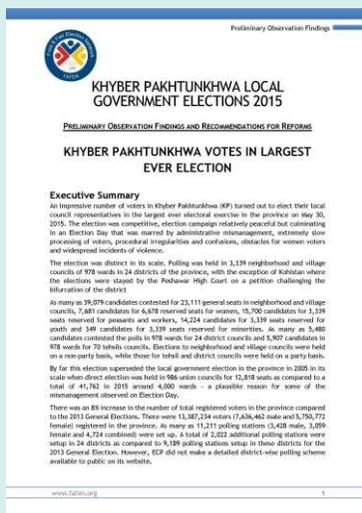


FAFEN's initial findings showed that political parties and contesting candidates, particularly for tehsil and district councils, were freely breaching the electoral laws that bar all sorts of canvassing within 200 meters radius around polling stations. Campaigning of candidates went on freely at party camps

set up close to the polling stations, with no action reported from anywhere to curb these activities. Although the campaign period remained peaceful to a large extent, Election Day was marked by administrative mismanagement, extremely slow processing of voters, procedural irregularities and several reports of violence and bar on women voters.

For detailed report, kindly follow the link:

<http://fafen.org/fafens-preliminary-observation-findings-of-the-kp-local-government-elections-2015/>



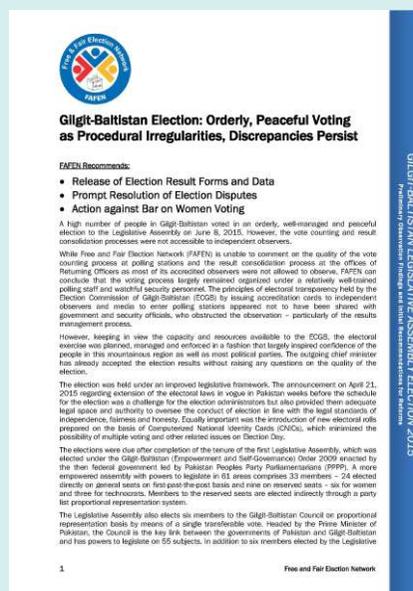
GILGIT BALTISTAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION

FAFEN observed the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly election on June 8, 2015 and deployed 183 trained citizens to observe more than 700 out of 1,151 polling stations.



According to FAFEN's preliminary reports, the GBLA election was quite peaceful, however, FAFEN observers were obstructed from observing the result consolidation process. Despite the adoption of the Representation of People Act 1976, the final list of polling stations was neither gazetted by the respective DROs nor was it published and distributed among the contesting candidates and other election stakeholders.

In many places, presiding officers complained that voters were



not aware of the election symbols allotted to the contesting candidates and that female voters were totally unaware of the voting process. FAFEN observed that the polling staff continued to overlook important steps, such as filling and stamping the counterfoils and marking the back of the ballot with the official stamp and signature which may render a vote objectionable and lead to its rejection during the counting process.

According to the initial findings, women of GB were also barred from voting in different areas. Although the overall quality of elections in Gilgit-Baltistan was better as compared to the election quality in other regions of Pakistan, yet some inconsistencies in the implementation of the voting processes were visible.

For a detailed report, kindly follow this link:

<http://fafen.org/fafens-preliminary-observation-findings-of-gbla-elections-2015/>

ABOUT FAFEN

Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) is a nationwide network of 42 civil society organizations. The network has been working since 2006 to strengthen democratic systems and promote active citizenry and is governed by the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA). With its primary mandate to observe elections and seek reforms to improve the quality of elections in Pakistan, FAFEN managed unprecedented long-term voter education and election observation initiatives that mobilized over 18,000 citizens from every district of the country to observe the general election in 2007-08.

FAFEN deployed more than 40,000 trained, non-partisan long and short-term observers to observe all phases of the general election in 2013. The election observation has yielded valuable insights into the quality of the electoral process and formulated critical recommendations for reforms in the constitutional, legal and procedural frameworks that govern elections in Pakistan.

In addition to its vibrant Electoral Oversight, Research and Reforms Program, FAFEN has developed innovative techniques to observe the functioning of the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies in order to advocate for parliamentary reforms for more accountable, transparent and responsive legislative governance. Under its Parliament Oversight, Research and Reforms Program, FAFEN directly observes and objectively reports on the proceedings of all legislatures in the country. FAFEN's reports are finally disseminated among media persons, members of Parliament/Assemblies, officials, members of civil society and the donor community.

FAFEN mobilizes and facilitates citizens engagement with the elected and public institutions as a prerequisite for strengthening democratic accountabilities as part of its Electoral Governance Oversight, Research and Reforms Program. These activities fit in with the core work of FAFEN's objective of promoting active citizenry—a critical ingredient of a vibrant democratic system.



KP Pre-Election Observation: Meeting in progress with PPPP representatives in Bannu.



Observers are being trained in Mansehra.



Training of observers underway in Charsadda for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa LG Elections.

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