

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

2002-2003

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT
February 2002 - March 2003



South Asia Partnership Pakistan



DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM (DHRP) NARRATIVE REPORT

Summary:

This is the final narrative report for Democracy and Human Rights Program (DHRP) 2002-03 funded by European Commission. The document presents a summary of progress, results achieved, problems faced and action taken to implement the program during the year 2002-03.

The program started in February 2002 aims to support the democratic and electoral process in Pakistan to build a strong public demand for sustainable and genuine democracy in Pakistan. The program is being implemented by a consortium of NGOs, under the leadership of South Asia Partnership Pakistan. The program is contributing to re-establish people's confidence in institutions and electoral processes and increase people awareness and participation in the electoral process. Three target groups have been identified: (i) media and journalists, (ii) political parties and candidates and (iii) minorities. Two cross cutting issues of utmost importance in Pakistan, gender and young people, have been mainstreamed in all activities being undertaken within the context of the project.

Taking place throughout the country, activities include sensitization of political party leaders and members, promotion of public debates, advocacy for the redaction of a political party code of conduct, training of journalists, media monitoring and sensitization of minorities.

The program takes in account benchmarks spelled out in the government's "roadmap to democracy" announced on August 14, 2001. Through its various activities, outreach strategies and networking, the program is contributing to re-establish confidence in democratic institutions and electoral processes and increasing people's participation in the general elections 2002 at provincial and national levels.

The general elections 2002 marked the beginning of a yet another phase of democracy in Pakistan. The analysis done by some independent sources revealed that although a majority of traditional power brokers came in this electoral process yet some signs of new leadership and representation from marginalized and disadvantaged sections were noticed.

The program through its public dialogues, political meetings, media forums and training workshops is trying to raise some crucial issues pertaining to democratic and political rights of the citizens in election areas. A series of public mobilization, people's forums, interactive theatre and other educational activities were organized in 42 districts. Material on basic democratic issues, freedom of expression, role of political parties and a responsive media in setting a strong foundation for democratic order was widely distributed among voters and general public. All these activities helped in raising a general debate on these important issues and conscientizing citizens in favor of a

broader democratic order. Public debates were further argument through enhancing interactive debates and dialogues in theatrical performances.

For the purpose of bringing DHRP positions to the larger public, policy makers, opinion leaders and other stakeholders various district, provincial and national level forums were organized. These forums played significant roles in mobilizing public opinion in favor of program demands and concerns.

Media (local newspapers, radio, cable networks, and national press) used to highlight messages for larger audience.

The program was culminated through a series of five national events:

- National Media conference
- National Minority conference
- National conference of political parties
- A partners self review and assessment workshop for the program
- A national cultural festival

All these events helped in consolidating the work done during the program and present the findings of the program to the larger public. Moreover discussion took place in the district and provincial forums and seminars were also reviewed and finalized in these national events attended by a large number of opinion leaders and different point of views.

In the review workshop of DHRP partners, a detailed assessment of the program, its results and future directions were finalized.

The structure

- **One National Consultative Group (NCG):** The 40-member group acted as the policy making, planning and review body. The group comprised of all implementing partners of the program and some leading political leaders, media personalities, civil society leaders and academicians. The group not only helped SAP-PK and core partners in planning and reviewing program activities but also acted as support groups in their respective districts and provinces.
- **Four Provincial Resource Groups (PRG):** were also formed. The composition of the groups was almost done on the same grounds as in case of NCG. The group also helped in organizing events at provincial level, supported district teams in managing activities. These groups also critically reviewed results of the program, brought up issues in the meetings and helped SAP-Pakistan and implementation teams in improving their strategies.
- **42 District Focal Groups:** These teams comprised of representatives of different civil society groups, political forces, scholars and individuals. The

group was mainly responsible for implementing activities and monitoring progress at the district level.

All the data, information and observations were regularly collected, analyzed and documented at SAP-Pakistan level. The reflections from district teams, provincial groups and national group helped in critically assessing the progress and improving future activities.

Apart from these structures various missions and teams from the office of European commission Islamabad and Brussels also visited SAP-Pakistan. These teams were apprised of the performance of the program and their opinions were also sought to improve the weaker areas.

DHR Program Activities

The following major activities were planned and implemented:

i. Media Activities

Activity 1: Training of journalist:

- a) Identifying target groups and resource persons
- b) Development of resource/training material,
- c) Training workshops/seminars, Publications

Activity 2: Networking and Advocacy

Activity 3: Media monitoring: Monitoring of radio and TV and press campaigns:

ii. Political Parties and Candidates

Activity 1: Sensitization of political parties' members and candidates

Activity 2: Promotion of democratic debates

Activity 3: Facilitation for the redaction of political parties' code of conduct.

iii. Minorities Activities

Activity 1: Training of Trainers

Activity 2: Production of promotional material

Activity 3: Awareness sessions with community leaders in minority groups.

iv. Project Implementation Activities

Activity 1: Project management

Activity 2: Capacity Building of program staff and partners.

Activity 3: Promotion of Project Visibility

Following is the brief description of the above mentioned activities

Media Activities

Under this component of the program, different trainings, orientation workshops, discussion forums with correspondents, editors/sub-editors and owners of newspapers were organized. The media activities aimed at bringing journalists at one platform in order to apprise them of the human rights perspectives of the socio-political issues they had to deal with while doing their professional activities. Many seasoned journalists were invited who narrated in detail the historic context of the issues like discrimination against women and minorities, and freedom of

expression etc. Another objective of these activities was to establish some kind of a loose network between journalists working in main cities with the correspondents working at district level. As a whole, media activities were designed to give journalists background information, enhance their professional skills and knit them in a loose organization.

A summary of media activities is given below:

Activities	Progress
Training of journalists	244 journalists in Punjab, NWFP, Balochistan and Sindh trained
Identifying target groups and resource persons:	In 42 districts of four Provinces 37 groups of journalists and 20 resource persons were engaged.
• Trainings /workshops :	6 training events were organized in Karachi, Sukkar, Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore and Multan
• Media seminars/ forums:	6 seminars organized in Karachi, Sukkar, Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore and Multan
• National media conference:	Organized at Karachi and actively participated by Media persons, Retired judges, Parliamentarians, Senators, civil society representatives and media watchdog group of journalists from Sindh
• Publications • Resource/ training material developed and disseminated	Democracy & freedom of expression (booklet) Democracy & freedom Of expression (poster) Freedom of expression (sticker) Monitoring the Media-press and political parties(election 2002) content analysis (Research study)
Networking and Advocacy	29 district seminars and media groups mobilized

Activity 1: Training of Journalists:

The training programs for journalists were organized with an objective to enhance the understanding of their role in strengthening democracy specifically during the election process. The training also focused on enhancing the quality of reporting of election campaigns of different political parties.

Training programs for journalists were organized at 6 major cities, which are also the main media centers of the country. About 244 journalists, correspondents, editors, senior editors, owners of newspapers from 42 districts of Pakistan were given training.

Themes covered in these training programs were:

- Responsible reporting/media ethics
- Role of media in the promotion of democratic culture
- Journalists as watchdog in the society

- Reporting on women issues in Urdu news papers
- Reporting of human rights in regional language news papers
- Ideal reporting- Academic point of view
- Media and human rights
- New trends in Urdu Journalism
- Media- promoter or destroyer of women’s rights
- Women experience in politics
- Minorities rights in Pakistan
- Failure of Democracy in Pakistan
- Role of media for a healthy society
- Reporting tools and tips
- Objective reporting and qualities of a good reporter

These trained journalists were later organized in small groups at district level. These groups are now functioning as **media watch groups**. They regularly monitor human rights violations at local level and engage with other civil society groups and networks. Information and news stories collected from different sources are then published in local and national newspapers and journals.



Progress of District Media Watch Groups:

The media watch groups formed by trained journalists from 42 districts are now actively working on local political issues. IPC (core partner of DHRP for Media component) has created a network of these groups all across the country. All these trained journalists are asked to contribute regular articles, features, essays, investigative reports on various human rights violations taking place in their districts. So far these groups have worked on the issues of honour killings of women, child labour, domestic violence and political violence on the streets. All these groups mail their published articles to SAP-PK and IPC Karachi who keep a record file of all such news items.

Breakdown of Journalists Trainings:

Training event	Number of participants
Lahore	30
Multan	54
Sukkur	50
Peshawar	35
Quetta	32
Karachi	43
Total	244

2: Resource/Training Material:

The training program for journalists was organized through a media group called, Inter-Press Communication (IPC) Karachi. The organization after conducting survey on the basic needs of the working journalists specially those working in small towns and rural areas devised training contents and designed workshops. This need assessment also became the basis for designing resource material for the trainings. Following resource material was used during training programs:

- Press council Acts
- Journalism and freedom of expression
- Responsive media
- Role of media to promote democratic values
- Democracy and freedom of media
- Linkages between activism and media
- Right to access to information in Pakistan
- Importance of good governance for bright future
- Political parties in Pakistan
- Role of political parties
- Democratic unity of political parties and non governmental forces
- Quaid-e-Azam and minorities
- Minority Rights
- An overview of political reportage in Urdu and regional press
- Media as election observer

i. Training workshops/seminars:

Under the program, Inter Press Communication (IPC) organized 6 training workshops and 6 seminars across the country and provided training to 244 journalists on behalf of SAP-PK. Districts selected for these training in four provinces were:

Province of Sindh: Hyderabad, Mithi, Sanghar, Karachi, Larkana, KhairpurMirs, Ghotki and Sukkar in Sindh.

Province of Punjab: Multan, Lodhran , Bhakkar, Pakpattan, Bahawalpur, RahimyarKhan, Faisalabad, Tobatek Singh, Lahore, Gujranwala, Jhelum, Chakwal, Rawalpindi, Sargodha and Mianwali

Province of NWFP: Bannu, Mardan, Abbotabad, Charsada, Haripur, Sawabi, Dera Ismail Khan and Kurram agency

Province of Balochistan: Kallat, Quetta, Khuzdar, Loralai, Gawader, Turbet, Sibi

After the training these journalists were asked to contribute articles or features in their local newspapers on human rights issues (on issues related to democracy, human rights,

women and minority rights) and violations of such rights and send reports to IPC. They also conducted election monitoring surveys in October 2002 general elections. At the end of each workshop, a core district group of journalists were selected to form a permanent “Media Watchdog Journalists group”

Each workshop was of two-day duration including a seminar in which renowned speakers, media specialists, political leaders, scholars and academics were invited to speak and share their thoughts and ideas.



Publications:

A set of material and handouts was published to highlight issues regarding democracy, freedom of expression, role of media and civil rights. The material was prepared through a consultative process by engaging experts, political thinkers, activists, academicians, researchers and human rights activists.

The publications were:

- i. Freedom of expression (booklet)
- ii. Democracy and freedom of expression (poster)
- iii. Freedom of media (sticker)

National media conference:

A National Media Conference was organized that brought together representatives of media, political parties and civil society organizations at one platform to do a solid and objective analysis of present socio-political scenario. The broader aim of the conference was to forge a minimal alliance and working relation between these important sectors of the society. Strengthening democracy was seen as the common objective of media, civil society and political parties. The question discussed among participants was, “is it possible to create a network, infrastructure, forum or code of conduct under which journalist, political activist and social worker could wage a common struggle for the promotion of democratic values in the society?”

The question of the “stability of democracy” brought with it the issues of the freedom of media, status of political parties and the rights of the civil society. This is natural since democracy is not merely a sum total of certain institutional formations and laws, rather, it manifests certain inalienable constitutional rights and securities to individuals and social groups. Unfortunately, in the present political scenario, the democratic system in itself has become a debatable issue. Especially, in the perspective of proposed “legal framework order”, this question has acquired an additional importance.



The people affiliated with media, civil society organizations and political parties explained that the absence of the civil rights and democratic freedoms not only limit their role and

clout in the society but also harbor extremism, violence and corruption in the society. It widens and deepens the sectarian, religious and ethnic hatred between the citizens. The politics, in turn, becomes a tool to accomplish the animosities and fulfill the petty interests of individuals and groups.

The speakers of the conference put the current socio-political issues in the historical context. It was said that history of Pakistan was replete with pompous crests and disgraceful falls of elected and non elected governments. The foremost lesson of this unfortunate story was that every military dictator or chauvinist civilian leader, in order to hold grip on the power, first of all tried to curb the freedom of expression and difference of opinion, suppressed the right to access to information and presented the politics as the root cause of every ill of the state and society. Ironically, it was done in the name of privacy, decency, national interests or religion. Resultantly, the civil society got weakened and lost the strength to defend its rights and liberties.



The participants gave special attention to the print media that had witnessed the covert and overt state oppression throughout the history of Pakistan. The press was tried to be chained not only during the military regimes of Ayub Khan, Yehya Khan, Zia ul Haq and Pervaz Musharaf but also under the elected governments of Zulifqar Ali Bhutto, Benazir or Nawaz Sharif. None of the governments could display the courage of freeing electronic media or giving people the right to access the information. The press ordinances issued in the different regimes narrated the story of the nature of relationship between state and media.

Activity 2: Networking and Advocacy:

Special efforts were made to highlight people's views and articulate their concerns regarding their political and democratic rights.

In August 2002, the government announced Legal Framework Order, a package for amendments in the constitution. SAP-PK mobilized its district groups to facilitate public discussions, seminars and forums to ascertain their opinion on these proposed amendments. Such seminars were organized in 42 districts and in four provinces. Local as well as central leadership of mainstream political parties were invited to give their opinion on these amendments. All the concerns expressed in these seminars were later recorded and documented. The Copies of the report were sent to President of Pakistan, all major government departments, National Reconstruction Bureau, Election Commission of Pakistan, political parties and media groups.



There was a regular liaison with National reconstruction Bureau, Chief Election Commissioner of Pakistan and Provincial Election Commissioners, Ministry of law and parliamentary affairs, and other relevant departments. Such contacts were maintained in the form of regular visits, meetings, written reports and letters from district partners.

In most of the cases our concerns, grievances and queries were quickly addressed and resolved by these authorities. Most of the concerns and recommendations made by DHRP partners related to the problems in electoral process were documented and presented to government authorities and civil society forces. Maintaining disciplines were not only taken seriously by concerned authorities but quick remedial measures were also taken.

Advocacy events were, organized in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. The events were participated by representatives of district and tehsil teams from 42 districts, members of DHRP core team, representatives from trade union, media, lawyers, intellectuals, political groups, human rights organizations, support organizations, donors, foreign diplomats, Election commission, NRB, Government ministries and foreign journalists.

During national forums, point-of-view of DHRP core partners and local support groups were clearly articulated in front of policy makers and opinion leaders.

Similarly other forums with civil society groups, opinion makers and leaders were also organized in each district. These forums also helped in clearly highlighting our concerns and reservations on the political process undertaken by the present government.

Networking Events:

Events	Numbers	
Consultations with Political Leadership	4events	All major political parties of Pakistan
Participation in Networking forums	6 events	Aurat Foundation, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan And CCHD etc.

Advocacy Events:

The program had a strong advocacy element as all the information and feedback received from district teams was compiled, documented and disseminated to policy makers, government departments and other civil society groups. Four forums and consultations were organized with policy makers and government officials, over 200 attended. Regular briefings with policy makers and officials at provincial and federal levels were organized.

Events	Numbers
Policy Forums	17 at district level, 7 at provincial level and 4 at national level

Exchange programs for media groups	17 events
Seminars/Round table conferences on national issues	4 events
Network Meetings	5 (one in each province and one at the Federal level)
Advocacy Campaigns	5 issue based campaigns

Political workers and Human Rights activists trained at district level

Provinces	Numbers	Total Members
Punjab	17	526
NWFP	9	372
Sindh	8	423
Balochistan	8	139
Total	42	1460

Activity 3: Media monitoring

i. Monitoring of radio and TV and press campaigns:

A regular monitoring of media trends and news/views was conducted. Press clippings of all essential news articles features, had been kept. These clippings and information collected were used in media forums, trainings and public dialogues and trends were critically analyzed. Feedback of such debates was also documented and distributed.

- Media monitoring study of Election content (election commercial advertisements from political parties)
- Media trends and monitoring study

Both these studies were conducted by Journalists Resource Centre (JRC) and were published and disseminated widely.

For the first study on election contents 6 main newspapers 3 English and 3 Urdu language national dailies were selected. The selection was carried out in consultation with people from a variety of background, including senior journalists, writers, academic, members' of the judiciary and representatives of community organizations. A number of factors were considered while selecting the newspapers whose election-related advertisements were to be used as a source of information for the study. Some of the factors were the circulation of the newspaper; the type of readership; the editorial policy; the marketing policy; the general impact of the newspaper on the public opinion; its general popularity and acceptance in the public etc. As a result of exhaustive discussions it was decided to review the election-related commercial content of the Dawn, The News International, The Nation, Jang, Nawa-e-Waqat and Khabrain published during October 1st to October 10th, 2002.

The findings of these studies were discussed in media forums and seminars and later incorporated in the media related activities of the project.

i. Activities related to Political Parties and Candidates

Activity 1: Sensitization of Political Parties Members and Candidates

For **Political Parties, their workers and Candidates**, the program emphasized upon sensitization of different democratic principles such as the importance of peaceful dialogue in conflict resolution, the culture of democracy within parties, the acceptance of young people, women and minorities in party structures etc. Moreover, the program aimed at increasing awareness of party workers and candidates about the role and practices of political parties while in power and/or in opposition. It informed the party workers and candidates about the rules and procedures for the elections.

For the Promotion and elaboration of political parties code of conduct for the general elections and Increasing public understanding of party manifestoes and programs via public debates, SAP-PK had been engaging with political parties (national as well as provincial and sub-regional levels) on various political and social issues: women rights, minority rights, women representation in local, provincial and national government structures. In public forums, leadership from all main parties and groups attended, participated and presented their views.

Forums with political workers:

This was the first activity of its kind in the political culture of Pakistan. DHRP contacted political workers and their leadership and provided them a platform to discuss their common and mutual issues. Irrespective of party affiliations, political workers held the leadership accountable for the plight of their political parties.

This was a unique opportunity to discuss the political history of Pakistan in the perspective of current issues and future directions. The political workers discussed in length the distortion of the democratic culture in state institutions and in political parties as well.

Most of the political workers were of the view that Pakistan was confronted with a very complicated situation where every aspect of individual and collective life faced multiple crises. They held extensive debates about the nature of the political system of the country. Some of the questions discussed were; Who has the right to run the affairs of Pakistan, elected representatives or non elective institutions? Should Pakistan be a secular or a theocratic state? What should be the criteria of citizen's rights and liberties? It was highly encouraging to see that most of the political workers and social activists spoke in favor of true democratic system where every citizen is treated equally irrespective of ones identity of religion, caste or language.



In almost every seminar, regional peace was seen as the prerequisite for political stability in Pakistan. According to dominant opinion, the tension between India and Pakistan forced both the countries to spend heavily on defense. Pakistan was the worst victim of this phenomenon. It had to face frequent martial laws which gave theocratic color to the state policies. Development funds were neglected which contributed towards enhancing poverty, illiteracy and illness among masses.

The political workers and social activists both agreed to the point that no society could create healthy democratic culture without eliminating feudalistic behaviors, institutional imbalance, fundamentalism, state repression, corruption and violation of human rights. Feudal lords have traditionally dominated the political parties. They bring their kith and kin to the parliaments. Political worker, on the other hand, have no role in the decision making processes of the parties. They only give sacrifice and obey orders.

Impacts:

- Political workers got opportunity to share their collective issues
- Current political issues were thoroughly discussed in the perspective of socio-political history of Pakistan.
- Political workers got opportunity to share their opinions with civil society activists, lawyers, teachers and labor leaders
- These seminars helped different sections of the society to create channels and networks for the common struggle against common problems
- These seminars nullified the impression about civil society organizations that they always avoided real political issues and tried to depoliticize the political workers
- These seminars empowered the workers to ask their leadership bitter questions. They virtually held their leadership responsible for the sorry fate of their parties.

Seminars with minority parliamentarians:

The title of the seminars was “problems and rights of Minorities in Pakistan: role of parliamentarians.” It was an effort to bring minority parliamentarians at one platform and discuss with them the entire socio-political scenario related to minorities in Pakistan. Parliamentarians of mainstream political parties were also invited with an objective to develop meaningful working relationship between Muslim and non Muslim parliamentarians for strengthening democratic values in parliament and society. Besides that, social activist, lawyers, journalists, labor leaders, political workers also participated in the seminars.

Since minority organizations throughout the country had done extensive work on the joint charter of demand, this seminar provided opportunity to present this charter to the parliamentarians and devise the strategy for lobbying it in the parliament.

The overall political atmosphere of the elections had been qualitatively changed, due to the restoration of joint electorate, for minorities. In this context, it was necessary for minority parliamentarians to have extensive discussions on the new agenda of joint

struggle. The restoration of joint electorate was seen like a dream come true, a great opportunity to narrow the gap created by social prejudices and political apathy towards minorities.

While speaking about the “problems and rights of the minorities”, majority of the speakers mentioned the obscurantist policies of military dictator Zia-ul-Haq who deliberately divided the nation on the lines of religion, sect, ethnicity and clans. He wanted to establish control over state by destroying democracy through depoliticizing the society. He imposed many discriminatory laws against minorities. The speakers and participants of the seminars expressed their commitment with the democratic system which upholds the supremacy of elected institutions over non elected ones.



It was a consensus opinion that the solution of the minority problems lie in strengthening democracy. The minority parliamentarians should work with mainstream political parties and civil society organizations for the democratization of state and society in Pakistan. The specific discriminatory laws such as blasphemy law, hadood ordinance, law of evidence etc were seen in the context of the extremist tendencies generated by the undemocratic agendas of a military dictator. Minority parliamentarians were urged to work against these discriminatory laws.

Minority parliamentarians in the seminars asked major political parties to forcefully lobby for the representation of minorities in the senate. Property rights for the minority dominated slum areas were also demanded. Moreover, the issue of curriculums, protection of the places of the worship and the electronic media policies of the state were also raised in these seminars.

Seminars with women parliamentarians

The title of the seminars was “The role of women parliamentarians in strengthening democracy” The role of women parliamentarians was one of the basic questions that emerged after October elections. New parliament had unprecedented number of women parliamentarians. It was seen as the great opportunity for women and civil society organizations to convince the parliament about the women issues. For this purpose, it was necessary to work with newly elected women to establish practical coordination between them for the promotion of women rights irrespective of their party affiliations. The presence of social activists, lawyers, journalists, students and other sections of the civil society in the seminar helped the facilitators and organizers to put the issue in the larger context of state and society.

The speakers and participants of the seminars were of the view that the issue of socio-political discrimination against women was directly related to the issue of democracy in Pakistan. Military dictators, especially Zia-ul-Haq, deliberated



weakened the civil society and harbored the forces of obscurantism that strove to limit the role of women in the society. For this purpose, many discriminatory laws against women, such as hadood laws, law of witness etc, were enacted. On the other hand, extremely negative social traditions, such as vanni, karo kari, were indirectly protected and promoted.

Some speakers gave reference to the report of inquiry commission on women by committee headed by Justice (rtd) Nasir Aslam Zahid. This report gave comprehensive recommendations to enhance the status of women. It recommended ending all the discriminatory laws against women including hadood laws. Besides that, it recommended ending parallel judicial system that protected the laws contrary to human rights.

It was a consensus opinion that credit of enhancing the women seats in parliament goes to the civil society organizations that fought selflessly for the women rights for more than two decades. It was their tireless lobbying that slowly but steadily convinced the media, politicians and other important sections of the society that women emancipation was necessary for the democratization of state and society.

Most of the speakers talked about the honor killing and domestic violence as two major issues of the Pakistani women. Two horrendous events of gang rape and vinni (in Muzafar Garh and Mianwalli districts of Punjab) were also discussed in detail. Majority of the speakers agreed that eliminating feudal structures was prerequisite for the change of behavior towards women.

There was a complete consensus among women parliamentarians that they will joint a collective campaign, irrespective of party affiliations, in the parliament, against discriminatory laws especially hadood laws. They vowed to strengthen the democratic system in the country and resist every effort to curtail the powers of the elected institutions of the state. Moreover, they agreed that their practical coordination with civil society organizations was necessary to achieve the above mentioned goals.

Another Seminar on **Role of Parliamentarians in strengthening democracy and Human rights'** was held in Quetta Balochistan. The seminar was attended by more than 20 parliamentarians belong to various political parties and forums. The discussion held during the seminar was focused on problems facing democratic institutions and an action plan to link public forums with parliaments was prepared.

Activities 2: Promotion of Democratic Debates:

District orientation workshops, district forums, issue based seminars, political workers conferences, corner meetings were some of the DHRP activities that tried to increase political awareness. Among others, role of political parties, democratization of state and society, role of media, mainstreaming of minorities and citizens'



involvement in governance were the themes that were frequently discussed and debated in these activities. The most significant issues discussed in this regard were:

- The origin of power and authority
- Exclusionary trends in state structures
- Need for political parties and the political process
- Meaning of people's empowerment
- Minorities, women, peasants and laborers rights
- Political and social influences of feudalism in rural society
- Growing fundamentalism and its repercussions
- Globalization, developing nations and regional cooperation
- Role of political workers to democratize the political parties (Discussion suggestions and recommendations)

Printed material and interactive theatre also reinforced these basic themes. An interactive mode was consciously adopted by all program platforms to simultaneously solicit public feedback in the form of opinions, observations and reservations. The concerns and queries noted in this manner have been compiled and are presented under a subsequent heading entitled 'Peoples Voices.'



For the purposes of engaging civil society forces and citizens, district groups were formed in 42 districts. These groups organized local activities, mobilized public opinion and strengthen local debates.

How to make Pakistan a true Federation?

The seminars invited the participants to ponder over one of the most important issues of the Pakistan's state and society. Most of the speakers belonged to the labor unions, political parties, civil society organizations, lawyers, and other sections of the civil society. Since the topic involved almost every aspect of socio political life, the seminars turned into a platform where people discussed the basic problems of state and society, ranging from ideology to economy.



Normally, the question of federation was discussed in the light of bitter experiences of past history. The questions of just distribution of power and resources have always been the most decisive aspect of the political discourse of Pakistan. That is why most of the speakers recounted the events of initial years after independence to trace the genesis of the problem. The speakers recalled how new born state was made over centralized which resorted to the dissolution of one provincial assembly. Moreover, East Pakistan had to wage campaign to secure the status of national language for Bengali. Later on,

Bengali nation fought the “war of freedom” from Pakistan and country was divided into two parts in 1971.

Most of the speakers mentioned the Dhaka debacle as the proof of the fact that the integrity of the federation depended on the socio-political and economic justice rather than on religious or nationalist sloganeering.

The question of democracy and distribution of power among different institutions of the state were also discussed in this light. The speakers raised the question of dominance of the army over other institutions of the state. Army is consuming more than sixty percent of the budget. Yet it is the most non productive section of the society and it blocks the democratic culture to take roots in Pakistan’s society. It never allowed the civilian governments to work independently and change the internal and external policies of the country.

Some speakers talked about the constitutional history of Pakistan especially in the context of 1973 constitution that was frequently distorted and mutilated by civilian and military dictators. One of speakers talking at the seminar held at Peshawar, “The first national assembly of Mr. Jinnah was dissolved, the one unit was declared in 1956, which generated many protest campaigns, Army rejected 1956 constitution and imposed martial law in 1958 and then General Zia ul Haq also distorted the 1973 constitution.” He mentioned these facts while talking about the different perceptions about the National Finance Commission Award. For example, Sindh wanted the distribution of the resources on the basis of the taxes while Balochistan wanted the distribution of the resources on the basis of area. On the other hand, Punjab insisted on the criteria of population.

On the whole, the seminars held under this topic developed into a platform from where social worker, human rights activists and political leadership discussed the national issues and demanded reforms in the state structure to make it a true federation where most of the powers and resources are rested in the hands of provinces.

Issue based seminars:

Issue based seminars were organized at district and provincial level. Elected members from all political parties of Pakistan, minorities, women, advocates, academicians, Trade unionists, intellectuals and people from all walks of life were invited in these seminars.

The issues of these seminars were:

- Peace and tolerance
- Kurram (An area of NWFP) and peace
- Kurram, democracy, peace and tolerance
- Peace for all
- New labor policy and IRO 2000
- Democracy and women



The major objective of these seminars was to discuss the above mentioned issues with elected parliamentarians and devise the

strategy to deal with them. The speakers focused on the root causes and possible solutions of these issues. For example, in a seminar on “Peace for all” organized in NWFP, a speaker said that lawlessness, disorder and intolerance was promoted by army regimes. He said that the army dictators protected fanatics and religious extremists in the country. He recommended that there must be a close contact between civil society organizations, political parties and Media to highlight such issues.

In a seminar on women and democracy, the causes of the marginalization of women were discussed in length. Democracy could not take roots in Pakistan. The marginalized sections of the society i.e. women, peasants/workers and laborers were never allowed to be the part of political and democratic process in this country. Most of the speakers expressed hope that



women could play a major role in strengthening democratic process in Pakistan after getting enhanced representation in elected institutions. A speaker shared information regarding local bodies that women were not being treated equally in the local bodies institutions in Naseerabad (Balochistan) district assembly. The female members strongly protested against this discrimination and now they were the part of different committees of the assembly. The speaker urged the female workers to assert their right of getting party tickets on general seats. One speaker suggested that there must be a quota for women in employment as well as in different fields of life. Political parties are now realizing the importance of women participation in politics which is a good sign.

In NWFP and Balochistan, the theme of seminar was Labor policy and IRO. Labor leaders defined and explained the new labor policy to audience. Speakers criticized the new labor policy by saying that it was against the spirit of constitution of Pakistan. One speaker said that it was the policy of an undemocratic state and society which was enemy of labor rights. Rallies were also organized



after each seminar. Usually, more than 2000 persons from all walks of life participated in these rallies. These kinds of seminars were organized in four provinces of Pakistan.

Activities	Number of participants/events				Nature of participants
	Punjab	Sindh	NWFP	Balochistan	
Formation of District Focal Groups (DFGs)	17	8	8	9	NGO workers, Journalists, Lawyers, Teachers, Political/social activists, Trade union workers, Candidates, Doctors,

					Students, Women
District orientation Workshops	17	8	8	9	NGO workers, Journalists, Lawyers, Teachers, Political/social activists, Trade union workers, Candidates, Doctors, Students, Women
Membership of district focal Groups (DFGs)	526	372	423	139	
Total number of Meetings of DFGs	58	34	29	27	DFGs members
Corner Meetings	59	36	40	33	Lawyers, Teachers, Political & social workers, Representatives trade union, candidates, Doctors, Journalists, Students, Women, Religious leaders, People from police, Peasants/workers.
District Forums	26	8	8	8	
District Issue based seminars	26	8	8	8	
Theatre Performances	26	11	3	3	
Press Campaigns in Districts	23	13	11	9	Journalists from focal groups.
Political workers conferences	9	Nil	Nil	4	Political workers from all political parties of Pakistan, civil society representatives, media personals, lawyers and common people

ii. Election Observations/Monitoring:

Election monitoring was an integral part of the program. The need to monitor the elections generated from the bitter experiences of the people of Pakistan who saw many elections rigged and manipulated by the governments. It was realized that the constant decrease in the ratio of voter's turnout reflected the fact that the Masses were being disenchanted with the political process because they had constantly been deprived of their right to freely choose their representatives. Moreover, the fact that the elections were being held under a military government that wanted legal covers for its dominance over civilian institutions by bringing an obedient parliament made compulsory for civil society of Pakistan to observe the election and judge of the entire process independent of the state organs.

For this purpose, **(150)** civil society activists from **(72)** districts from four provinces of Pakistan were trained to monitor the election process and polling. About **2000 community groups and civil society networks** were involved which made it a widely

organized act of political vigil by the people at grass roots level. The trained activists were told about rigging patterns in the history of Pakistan. A well thought out Performa was prepared which consisted of the questions that reflected general atmosphere and exclusive discrepancies on the polling day.

The trained activists were assigned to further train (10) people from their district and make a team to monitor **(30) polling stations (180 polling both)** in each district. Thus, the monitoring team swelled to **about 720 persons**. The report based on the data received from 2160 polling stations was compiled, analyzed and documented. An independent report based on these observations was prepared and disseminated widely (a copy of the report is enclosed).



Activity 3: Facilitation for the Redaction of Political Parties Code of Conduct.

Sensitization of political parties members	195 corner meetings & study circles
Promotion of democratic debates	Public Forums & Interactive Theatres in 42 districts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Consultations on Proposed Constitutional amendments. ▪ Consultation on minorities charter of demand ▪ Role of Media, political parties and civil society to strengthen political process in Pakistan 	National roundtable: 3 Provincial forums- 4 District forums- 42
Facilitation for the redaction of political parties code of conduct	18 sessions

Other Program Activities

Activities	Number of events	Participants	Themes covered
District level seminars on 'Proposed constitutional Amendment package'	42	? Representatives of media organizations ? NGOs and other civil society groups ? Political leaders ? Minority leaders	? Proposed constitutional amendments and future of democracy in Pakistan
District Forums	42	? Representatives of media organizations ? NGOs and other civil society groups ? Political leaders ? Minority leaders	? Code of conduct for political parties ? Party manifestos ? Role of minorities in democracy ? Peace and democracy ? Women rights ? Peace for all ? Democracy and youth ? Drought problem
Provincial Forums	27	? Representatives of media organizations ? NGOs and other civil society groups ? Political leaders ? Minority leaders ? Elected parliamentarians	? Party manifestos and election code of conduct ? Legal Framework Order and future of democracy in Pakistan ? Responsible Media ? Press council Act and defamation Ordinance 2002 ? Peace and democracy ? Provincial autonomy

			? Labor policy ? Role of women legislatures to strengthen the democratic process in Pakistan ? Role of minorities legislatures to strengthen the democratic process in Pakistan ?
National Roundtable conferences	5	Political party leaders Representatives of Media organizations and unions Representatives of civil society organizations and minorities leaders	? Proposed constitutional amendment package ? Media, political parties and civil society ? Minorities charter of demand

Interactive Theatre Activities:

The scheduled activities involved the **theatre training workshops** and the **theatre performances**.

Theatre training Workshops:

Interactive Resource Centre (IRC) organized 18 theatre-training workshops during the first phase of the program. Objectives of these theatre workshops include:

To build the capacity of development partners to use Interactive Theatre for people' participation in discussion

- To provide theatre training to the development activists
- To equip the development partners with the tool of Interactive Theatre and to use it for community mobilization
- Transformation of theatrical skills with development activists
- To arrange theatre performances



Training Workshops

Numbers	Groups trained	Participants	Themes
22	17	383	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question of undemocratic culture within political parties and army's influence in political Parties' internal affairs • Selection of Political representatives • Minority Rights

Theatre Performances

Sindh	Punjab	NWFP	Balochistan	Themes
11	26	3	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question of undemocratic culture within political parties and army's influence in political Parties' internal affairs Selection of Political representative Minority Rights

Minorities Activities

Activity 1: Training of Trainers:

After the restoration of joint electorate system in August 2002, the program started engaging minority community as voters and citizens. The selected minority groups were given extensive trainings on thematic issues concerning electoral politics and human rights. Besides that they were to organize and aware the common minority voters. They were later given the task of holding



pubic meetings, forums and dialogues with other citizens. Moreover, a series of public activities, theatre performances, and local discussion forums was organized. Consequently, a large number of minority citizens voted in elections. Many minority candidates contested elections on general seats as well.

Training Event	Participants
Lahore	38
Multan	52
Karachi	42
Hyderabad	35
Peshawar	27
Rawalpindi	38
Total	232

Following resource material provided in above mentioned trainings:

- Minorities, Democracy & Human Rights
- Orientation of the Basic Concepts of Human Rights
- Human Rights Situation in Pakistan
- Situation of Minority Rights in Pakistan
- Political situation of Minorities, Non-Muslims
- Human Rights and Constitution of Pakistan

Activity 2: Production of promotional material:

A series of promotional material for minority rights and their role in politics was published and disseminated. Other than formal publications, small leaflets and write-ups on minority community's role were developed and disseminated.

- Equal Rights of Minorities (poster)
- Democracy and minorities (Booklet)
- Equal Rights of Minorities (sticker)

Activity 3: Awareness sessions:

JPC arranged 2 minority forums at provincial level in order to finalize charter of demand. 'Role of Minorities in Political Process' was taken as the main theme of these forums.



JPC arranged **press** conferences **in** all main cities of Pakistan to highlight their charter of demand through media.

National Minority conference:

The main theme of National Minority Conference, held at Christian Study Centre, Rawalpindi, on March 9, 2003, was "Minority Rights and Future Strategy." It was attended by the representatives of Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Behai religious minorities. Besides that, a sizeable number of human rights activists, labors, lawyers, journalists and other sections of the society also participated the conference.

The crux of the day long discussion was that the minorities of Pakistan should continue their struggle for the right of the equal citizenship. They will have to continue struggling against discriminatory laws, at one hand, and try their best to integrate into the mainstream political process of the society, at the other.

The restoration of joint electorate after twenty one years as taken by the minority representatives as a great opportunity to get back into mainstream electoral process which was according to the consensus opinion of the conference participants, the only way to end the religious intolerance in the society.



National Minority Conference was designed to judge the impacts of the past activities and to devise the future strategies. The joint charter of demands by minorities was once again thoroughly discussed and given a final shape.

Charter of demand:

The charter of demand, jointly prepared by representatives of all the religious minorities of Pakistan, demanded that the government should abolish all the discriminatory laws and make Pakistan a secular and peaceful country. Government should ensure the protection of the lives and property of all the citizens irrespective of their religious identities. The charter also demanded the protection of the places of worship against the attacks of religious fanatics.

The charter demanded that the bias and prejudice incorporated in the syllabi should be changed and it should reflect the minority's role in the Pakistan movement. It also demanded unbiased and balance coverage for the religious minorities on electronic media.

Regarding political parties, the charter demanded that the political parties should integrate the religious minorities into their ranks and files. They should end separate "minority wings" and give party tickets to minorities in the wake of elections. The basic demand from the political parties was that the parties should include minority's issues as their basic demands and their struggle should be devoted to the creation of a tolerant society. They could do this by first creating democratic culture in their ranks and files.

The National Minority Conference fully appreciated the government's decision to repeal the separate electorate. A working group was set-up to work towards disseminating the findings of the program activities for minority rights, charter of demand and develop clear policy guidelines to be sent to the present government. The working group is comprised of representatives of all major religious groups and will function on bringing these issues to the policy debates.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

The project will be implemented in close cooperation with the EC Delegation in Pakistan.

Activity 1: Project management

Formation of National Consultative Group:

A national consultative group (NCG) comprised of politician from significant political parties, Media personals from Print as well as from Electronic Media, intellectuals, representatives of civil society institutions and Minorities from all over the country were engaged in the group. The group helps the program to analyze the political situation and to evolve a comprehensive strategy to pave the way of progress for democratic process in the country.



Four NCG meetings have been organized to bring members in the overall planning and review of the program results and achievements. Other aspects of DHRP program, its program structure and roles and responsibilities of implementing partners were also discussed.

Formation of Provincial Resource Groups (PRGs):

In each province a Provincial Resource Group (PRG) is also formed to help the district teams plan and implement their program activities develop coordination and review the performance on regular basis. In each district representatives of NGOs, Human Rights Groups, social activists, Journalists, lawyers, farmers, women rights workers, teachers, students and other civil society groups have been engaged in the process of local

mobilizations, engaging citizens groups and organizations in political debates, analyses and interactive theatre performances. The groups are:

- Takhleeq Foundation-Karachi
- Bhit Shah Declaration Coordination Council-Sindh (BDCC)
- Development Association of youth-Quetta (DAY)
- Balochistan Coordination Council (BCC)
- Human Resources Management and Development Center-Peshawar (HRM&DC)
- Workers Education Research and Welfare society (WERWS)
- Sarhad Coordinating Councils-NWFP

Meetings of National Consultative Group

Meetings of National Consultative Group	4 meetings held so far. i. July 2002 ii. November 2002 iii. December 2002 iv. February 2003
Provincial Resource Groups (PRGs)	
• Punjab	3 Meetings
• Sindh	4 Meetings to-date
• Balochistan	4 Meetings to-date
• NWFP	6 meetings to-date

These meetings regularly reviewed the performance of the program and suggested future strategies and actions for improvement.

The meetings helped program implementation teams in SAP-Pakistan, IPC, IRC, Justice and Peace Commission, and other provincial resource groups to review and plan their program activities. In such meetings following items were discussed :

- Objectives of the Program: Setting grounds
- Report on the Pre-election phase activities: Comments from members
- Discussion on the issues and challenges emerging from program activities
- Situation analysis and Post-Election situation: Risks, opportunities and challenges.
- Strategies, action and themes for pre and post-election phase
- Formulation of questions and messages for political parties and media
- Communication and reporting requirements, data compilation. Action Planning.

Activity 2: Capacity Building

Team building and human resource development was another important feature in the program. Within SAP-Pakistan and program core partners a team of activists and planners was formed and trained.

Nature of Training	Numbers
Number of people engaged in Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Core team• Provincial core teams• District core teams	4 7 1460
Training events organized for program teams <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National level• Provincial level• District level	3 2 40

Motivational Material

A range of motivational material, booklets, pamphlets, brochures, posters and stickers were printed and disseminated widely. All this material was distributed through district teams, local partners and other civil society networks.

Acknowledging the potential impact of Information, Communication and Education (IEC) techniques on supplementing program goals, issue-specific posters, booklets and fliers were developed through research and compilation of information through primary and secondary sources to enhance awareness of voters and candidates particularly marginalized groups. A range of issue-based posters were displayed at public places expected to have been seen by five million people at least. A series of booklets and pamphlets were produced and disseminated to over 200000 and 300000 people respectively. This printed material was disseminated through relevant program platforms like district forums, corner meetings and candidate trainings.



A dissemination strategy was also prepared to effectively use the printed material and get optimum benefits from these messages.

Theme/Topic	Quantity
Democracy and Importance of Vote (poster)	1,30,000
Freedom of Expression (poster)	2,00,000

Democracy and Minorities (poster)	2,00,000
Human Rights Declarations (Flier)	8,00,000
Democracy and Poor Farmers (Poster)	1,00,000
Peace Democracy and Human Rights (Poster)	85,000
Democracy: Institutional Balance and Stability	85,000
Democracy and its related issues (Booklet)	25,000
Democracy and minorities (booklet)	25,000
Democracy and Human Rights (Handbook)	40,000
Poor Farmers Movement (Handbook)	10,000
Minority rights (Sticker)	1,50,000
Freedom of media (Sticker)	1,75,000
Importance of vote (sticker)	1,75,000

The material dissemination strategy had following features:

- Offices of union councils and other local government bodies
- Election camps of National and provincial assembly candidates
- General bus stands, out side Cinema halls, main markets, Plazas, railway stations, main chowks
- of the cities, Courts, Factory gates
- Schools, colleges and universities



A large amount of material was sent to Election commission of Pakistan and Family planning association of Pakistan.

Problems

- A very short time was given by Election Commission of Pakistan to the candidates for election campaigns. It was difficult for Politicians and political activists to participate in DHRP activities. But due to strong linkages with SAP-PK and our District Focal Groups, this hurdle was overcome.
- Due to strict code of conduct announced by Election Commission of Pakistan, Politicians hesitated to discuss major issues with people because there was a fear of disqualification from EC. The program provided conducive environment through its platforms to the political leaders, candidates and other opinion leaders to openly present their point of view on the crucial issues. Through good facilitation skills of District Focal Groups the debates during public forums and seminars went very well.
- Some fundamentalist forces tried to spread anti NGOs propaganda in some districts i.e. in district Mianwali (Punjab) a lady activist, Rukhsana Bunyad was accused of Blasphemy and had to face imprisonment for a month. Her case was resolved at district level because of civil society pressure and

engagement of state institutions. She was speaking in a DHRP seminar on “Proposed constitutional amendments”. A lot of energy and resources were used in this case by SAP-PK and district Focal Group.

- Some seminars, forums and dialogues turned into heated debates as the participants belonged to the rival political parties. Such type of joint gathering of different political parties was seldom practiced in the past. However due to proper facilitation of District Focal Groups the situation was managed well
- There was a major problem regarding transport and booking of venues to conduct the activities in very close days of elections but alternate arrangements were done by District Focal Groups with some extra efforts and resources.
- As the program was implemented through 3 core partners, 7 provincial partners and about 40 district teams so managing the activities, getting regular feedback and reflections, data collection and managing other activities was a difficult task. The DHRP team in SAP-Pakistan had to work long hours to deal with these activities.
- During election monitoring exercise about 870 activists and trained NGO members were engaged

Outcomes

- DHRP activities filled the political vacuum that was generated by Code of Conduct and other orders by EC to cripple the political party’s rights to run election campaigns freely. Due to these orders, political parties feared disqualification and refrained from discussing important socio political questions in their public gatherings. But DHRP provided them a forum where they could freely express their concerns.
- DHRP helped bridging gap between civil society organizations and political parties that had always been skeptical of “NGOs” role in society. These activities elected unprecedented encouragement and appreciation of CSO’s. Most of the political leaders were of the opinion that Civil Society Organizations could give new vision to leadership and workers of political parties.
- As a result of deep discussion in DHRP activities, the leadership of political parties admitted that there was a need to discuss, in the party forums, the questions to establish democratic systems in party structures and systems. Moreover, they admitted that civil society organizations could help political parties in framing pro people manifestoes and party programs.
- It was probably first time that people at grassroots level, found an organized forum where they could hold their leaders accountable. They asked straight and bitter questions to local provincial and national level party leaders.
- DHRP activities helped people and party workers to establish rare consensus on critical issues like constitution, balance of power, federation etc.
- DHRP activities formed a new nexus of labors, women professional associations, bar councils, journalists, intellectuals and socio-political activists for the joint struggle for the democratization of state and society of Pakistan.

- Most of the participants and speakers asked the DHRP organizers to run political education program at permanent basis.
- DHRP helped minorities bridging gaps and divisions caused by separate electorates. It encouraged minority candidates and workers to be a part of mainstream political culture.
- DHRP helped to create a theatre group network throughout the country to promote the culture of dialogue.

Program impact on target groups

Media:

- 244 journalists of 40 districts were trained in such a way that it greatly enhanced their professional skills.
- Trained journalists and correspondents established media watchdog groups in 37 districts.
- They were helped to be conceptually clear
- Role of responsible journalism in democratic process improved.
- Qualitative and objective reporting was improved.
- Their role in election monitoring strengthened.
- Increased pressure by civil society on government regarding
- Journalist got an opportunity to discuss their collective professional issues.

Minorities:

- 232 social workers were trained regarding the themes of democratic and human rights.
- They were organized as groups in 37 districts.
- Minority candidates and voters became more aware about importance of electoral process after restoration of joint electorate.
- This program helped to motivate the minorities in 80 Tehsils of 37 districts.
- Minority Forums helped to build consensus on political and democratic issues.
- These forums helped to overcome the fears of minority community by giving them awareness about exercising their right to vote
- Media and political parties raised voice for minority rights.
- Seminars and forums proved to be an important platform for minorities to raise voice for their rights.

Political Parties:

The debates initiated from DHRP forums, seminars with the help of resource material contributed towards building a general consensus among political parties on following political issues:

- The people of this country are sovereign
- The elected parliament is superior to any other institution of the state. Only Parliament has right to take policy decision
- Only elected parliament has right to bring amendments in the constitution
- Political process should be strengthened to safeguard against anti democratic forces

- The political consciousness of the people should be enhanced to protect the democratic systems and attitudes such as tolerance and peace
- Army has only one role and that is to defend the geographic borders of the country. It has no role to play in the governance of the country
- Religious minorities should be brought to the political mainstream of the country

Program Partners

South Asia Partnership Pakistan (SAP-PK) served as the national coordinator of the program. It worked as main secretariat and facilitated the activities of the partner organizations at national and provincial level. It produced and disseminated resource material.

Justice and Peace commission (JPC) Multan was responsible for minorities, related activities of the program.

Inter Press Communication (IPC) Karachi was responsible for media related activities

Interactive Resource Centre (IRC) Lahore was responsible for theatre performances in the activities of program

Other than these partners, provincial teams were also formed to implement the program in each province.

The program enabled 12 national core partners to work together on similar objectives while pooling their human, technical and financial resources. The outreach of all these organizations was jointly used for the purposes of this program. The networks of Justice and Peace Commission in minority communities, IPC's relationship with media groups and organizations, journalist unions and electronic media helped a great deal to highlight the debates of public forums, critiques and points of views.

Similarly the large network of community groups and other civil society organizations of SAP-Pakistan were helpful in expanding outreach and making new partners in this program.

Although most of these organizations have been working quite closely with each other for the last many years, but this collaboration helped in improving coordination and working relationship among these partners. They learnt to work jointly on a high risk project like DHRP and take a joint ownership of the cause of democratization of state and the civil society.

Although there was a clear distribution of roles and responsibilities and tasks among partners yet each one tried to extend fullest cooperation and support to the other partners wherever such cooperation was sought. Such unique and unparallel coordination would set an example in Pakistan for other national level organizations to follow the suit.