



RESEARCH PAPER**Role of Legislative Institution in Political Awareness: A Case Study of Pakistan**

¹Ammara Farooq, ²Muqadas Rasheed and ³Hina Farooq

1. MS Scholar, Department of Politics and International Relations, Government College Women University, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan
2. MS Scholar, Department of Politics and International Relations, Government College Women University, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan
3. BS, Department of Politics and International Relations, Government College Women University, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan

Corresponding Author: farooqammara683@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Legislative institutions serve to develop awareness about politics among citizens in Pakistan. While such legislative functions can enhance the participation and awareness of citizens towards the political process in Pakistan, the study highlights legislative activities with media coverage and public knowledge regarding political processes to indicate how debates, laws and policy decisions get communicated to the public. It highlights the relationship that exists between legislative function and an informed electorate which is vital to a properly functioning democracy in Pakistan. This study also identifies barriers to political awareness, such as political illiteracy, media bias and inefficiency of legislative institutions. It offers recommendations to improve transparency in legislative processes, make political information more accessible to the public, and strengthen educational institutions in promoting political literacy to create a more informed electorate in Pakistan.

KEYWORDS Awareness, Institution, Media, Barriers, Illiteracy, Transparency, Policy, Law

Introduction

Federations that share to a central authority powers with subnational authority have legislatures. The function of bicameral legislatures represents ensuring and safeguarding representation, balance of power and decision-making efficiency under a variety of complex political scenarios. Citizens having gone through the rigorous assembly process are able to question and invite ministers and other government figures to discuss matters in the public interest. In this sense, the legislative branch, as one of the most crucial institutions of democratic engagement, hold a forum for public discussion and serves as a foundation upon which to raise political awareness. Therefore, the laws it makes, the debates it holds, and the judgments it makes are reflected in how politics and public discussions on most important problems are carved and influenced. Besides ensuring transparency and accountability of the administration towards its activities, it also promotes the democratic process. Legislatures are particularly important in representing and protecting minority communities' interests within the federations. Apart from lawmaking, the legislature also serves as an avenue for bringing the citizens into understandings of political processes, thus enabling the citizens to make informed choices, motivating them towards participation in the system itself.

Pakistan's legislative body is of great importance in deciding the politics of the country and how government is run. The senate and the national assembly make up the legislative branch. Its functions include the making of laws, the approval of the national budget, and the evaluation of the operation and policies of the government. In general,

the senate works toward ensuring proper representation at the regional level and the avoidance of power concentration while the national assembly directly represents the will of the people through elected members. These are the discussions, inquiries and oversight functions done by committees that represent the people. The administration is held accountable to public opinion in fulfilling these mandates. Politicians, through government apparatus, use the process as a mean of political discourse.

However, fields are sad because of low political awareness in Pakistan, especially in rural and marginalized areas, despite the importance of the legislative branch in terms of making laws and policies that would affect people's situations. This is one of the factors that creates a disjointed relationship between legislative actions with public understanding about such decisions, there are so many things like partisan polarization, there are also the lack of civic education, lack of transparency in the legislative process, and biased media. Pakistani citizens may not be adequately informed or active in the policies that directly affect them, thereby creating doubts over their entitlement to participate democratically. So the scope of the study will be on determining how the legislature can increase political awareness that bridges the gap between Pakistani public perception and policy decisions.

Literature Review

It focuses on how national assembly and the Senate, which make up Pakistan's bicameral parliament, are crucial to the creation, modification, and enactment of laws. It talks on the difficulties faced by lawmakers, including political divisiveness, poor party discipline, and low public participation all of which frequently impede the parliament's ability to operate effectively. It analyzes how bureaucracy shapes laws, how committees examine proposed legislation, and how outside influences like the media and public opinion affect the process. An outline of Pakistan's legislative process's advantages and disadvantages is highlighted along with recommendations for changes that would increase the parliament's effectiveness, accountability and transparency for the benefit of the general public (Khan, 2024).

State institutions, particularly the military, parliament, and bureaucracy continue to play a significant and important role in the nation's governance framework and public policy-making process. The socio-political context in which the policies are formed means that they represent the political, social and economic realities of the society that influence every step of the public policy-making process. The power elites in Pakistan have tendency to observe public policy procedures and have consistently supported those that protect their own interests and positions. Unfortunately, official measures in this area have not been as successful as they may be. The 1973 constitution of Pakistan guarantees human development. (Taha, 2012)

Any nation's ability to thrive and prosper depends on its political institutions. Political institutions in Pakistan are rarely established on professional basis. Pakistan's dynasty politics are main cause of this. In Pakistan, media serves as a conduit between the public and political establishment. The ruling class in Pakistan often defends their interests and never tries to participate in the political system. (Ahmad, Eijaz & Rahman, 2014)

In order to represent the federating units and preserve the balance of power within the state, the upper chamber of Pakistani's bicameral legislature is essential. It

emphasize on the Senate's primary responsibilities, which include enacting laws, representing provinces and acting as a check on the National Assembly's choices. It also highlights how political parties and other outside factors, such as military influence, affect how the senate operates. The study also focuses the difficulties the senate faces, such as party politics, representational injustice, and its comparatively limited authority in comparison to the National Assembly. And senate's political dynamics, difficulties and outside influences while outlining possible changes to improve its efficacy in Pakistani government. (Hassan, Alam & Khan, 2023)

In many federations around the world, bicameral legislatures are essential to democratic governance. Legislators hold the executive branch responsible and carry out executive monitoring. This function promotes the democratic process by ensuring transparency and holding the administration responsible for its activities. With two houses with distinct roles and makeup, legislatures offer a platform for discussion, compromise and protecting the interests of minorities. Pakistan's federal system, which has been shaped by its political history, has problem with central legislature's position and the province's lack of representation in the decision- making process (Ali, 2023).

During the two decade from 1988 to 2008, it explores how parliamentarians shaped Pakistan's legislative process. It focuses how women actively engaged in the legislative process and helped shaped important laws and policies in spite of social and political obstacles. It highlights the role of women MPs in both the National Assembly and provincial assemblies, emphasizing on their involvement in debates, lawmaking and advocacy for women's rights and social issues. Parliamentarians especially during eras of democratic governance, managed to influenced legislative agendas and contribute to the formulation of legislation aimed at advancing gender equality and social justice. (Anwar, Faqir & Anwar, 2024)

Governance is defined as the relationship between the state and society. In general, it can also refer to how people currently govern, how the state administers and enforce national politics and affairs, and how all of these things related to public administration and the law. Influence and accountability, political unity, absence of aggression, government effectiveness, absence of authoritarian burden, control of corruption, and rule of law is the six contexts in which good legislature can be viewed. Players like media, lobbyists, international funders, multinational firms may have an impact on state governance. This study mainly focused on Punjab's and Sindh's legislative's role in different aspects of the society. (Razzaq, Sajanka & Shahzad, 2018)

Corruption, inefficiency weakened political institutions, subpar public service delivery and a lack of accountability in the public and commercial sectors are some of these crucial problems.

Corruption is highlighted in this study as one of the structural problems influencing growth and public trust in government institutions. To guarantee that these difficulties are lessened, it has been stressed that democratic institutions and the rule of law should be strengthened, and that legislative should be made more transparent. It emphasizes on the necessity of a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy for legislative reform, encompassing both a cultural shift towards accountability, transparency and public service ethics as well as structural adjustments to government institutions. (Rehman, 2023)

Youth political consciousness is essential to the development of any democratic state like Pakistan. It makes it possible for people to actively engage in politics, make informed decisions, and enhance the welfare of the nation. Various sources, such as campaigns by political parties or political leaders, information shared by peers and family and educational institutions might contribute to this knowledge. By concentrating on all formal process objects, such decision-making procedures, political institutions, or elite including social movements, protests, and informed objects like debates is in fact not a component of political systems but it rather its entirety. (Asma, Rauf, 2024)

Democracy gives people the opportunity to transform from passive subject into active citizens. In any political process, the interests of the people are crucial. Lack of political engagement is one of the many factors that have diverted Pakistan's democratic process. Citizens have the right to participate in politics, but there are numerous social barriers that prevent this from happening. The general populace of Pakistan feels excluded from political process because of this. Voter turnout in Pakistan is extremely low, and a significant portion of the population especially the youth is excluded from the entire political process as a result of politicians' lack of interest. (Mahmood et.al, 2014)

Material and Methods

The research methodology implemented for a study appears to be the most critical aspect as it determines not only the nature of the study but also influences its outcome. The method employed in the proposed search is qualitative. The essential purpose of the research is explanatory in the sense that the study would provide a thorough grasp of the relationship between Pakistan's legislative and political consciousness, as well as important elements influencing public awareness and participation in legislative process. Different secondary sources of documents like books and journals and Internet sources would be used to collect the data for this research.

Results and Discussion

Overview of Legislative Institution in Pakistan

The president of Pakistan and the two houses, the National Assembly and the Senate, make up the Legislature, as stated explicitly in Article 50 of the Pakistani Constitution. The president of

Pakistan serves as the state's leader and symbol of unity. A law must have the presidential assent within ten days after being voted by the parliament in order to deem approved. The lower house of parliament, known as the national assembly and the upper house known as the senate are other names for the two houses. Since the majority of members in the lower house of parliament are chosen directly, it serves as a representation of the will of Pakistani people. Of the 336 seats in the national assembly, 272 are elected directly, with the remaining seats set aside for women and members of religious minorities. The members of this chamber serve five-year terms, following which the nation holds new elections. Making laws in accordance with the federal legislative list is this house's primary duty in relation to the senate. Additionally, through house debates, adjournment motions, standing committees, and question hours during assembly sessions where the executive is a part, the national assembly makes sure that the executive branch operates within the parameters of the constitution and does not overreach its authority. The national assembly is the only body with the authority to examine public spending and keep tabs on government spending through one of its

committees, the Public Accounts Committee. The upper house of the parliament, which has 100 members with six- year terms half of whom retire every three years stands for equal representation from all of Pakistan's provinces. This house's primary goal was to foster national unity by ensuring equal provincial representation, which would allay smaller provinces' concerns about the dominance of larger provinces that already held a majority in the lower house.

Political Awareness in Pakistan:

Political awareness refers to their understanding of constitutional, social and political rights and responsibilities. In order to strengthen society in terms of institutional-making process, political consciousness is necessary. A politically conscious and informed society is closely linked to the basis of state directives. A healthy political system requires an informed society that is aware of political culture, social values and the constitutional parameters of individuals in the context of the fundamental rights. It is important to note that public opinion cannot be shaped if the public is not aware of political socialization. The modern political system must be understood and connected to the subject society.

In Pakistan, political awareness refers to the citizens' comprehension and knowledge of political system, government procedures, policies and even their own rights and responsibilities within the democratic framework. It is about the ability of citizens to engage with political issues, evaluate policies, and actively engage in the political process in order to be heard through public debate, voting and advocacy. Historically, social and cultural factors deeply shape the current political awareness of Pakistan. Trends continually shifting, following dictatorial and democratic regimes with a mixture of military interventions and ever-changing loyalty patterns, dominate political changes in the state. They have created all the variations that have resulted in variations in political literacy at the grassroots level. The nature of political awareness is always higher in urban areas where access to education and media is better, and these citizens are much more aware of following legislative proceedings, understanding party positions, and participating in

talks. However, there are constraints such as low literacy, poverty and limited access regarding adequate political information that could still result in political awareness for rural areas and marginalized groups.

With roughly 63% of the population under 30 in 202, Pakistan has a sizeable youth population that makes up a sizeable portion of the state overall demographic. This youth bulge offers the country both opportunities and challenges, and maximizing the potential of this demographic dividend necessitates investing in their political awareness and promoting their active involvement in determining the future of the nation. Interactive workshops, seminars and political debates help young people express their viewpoint and promote the sharing of ideas. Additionally, social media used to engage people of Pakistan and provide them a forum to express their opinions and take part in political discussions. In light of Pakistan's socioeconomic inequalities, raising political consciousness is important. Numerous young Pakistanis experience unemployment, poor access to high-quality education, and economic hardships, all of which can contribute to sentiments of disenchantment and disengagement from the democratic process. Youth can be inspired to actively engage in politics and strive towards a more inclusive society by addressing these gaps and offering possibilities for upward mobility.

In Pakistan, attempts have been made to boost young political representation, such as reserved seats in local councils and youth parliaments. To empower young leaders and provide a political environment that supports their goals, more work has done. Policymakers, educators and the general public must acknowledge the importance of political awareness in young people and collaborate to enable them to be the catalyst for constructive change in Pakistan (Rehman, 2023).

Mechanisms of Political Awareness within Pakistan's Legislative Institutions:

In the context of legislation, political awareness refers to the methods used to educate lawmakers, political parties and even the general public about the inner workings of the government, policymaking and the legislative process in general. The independence of legislature and their relationships with the public are largely dependent on parliamentary independence and citizen engagement. These factors are also thought to be essential for improving the representation of citizens, oversight of government and overall operation of legislature. However, Pakistan's unique political history from its colonial past to military involvement and the rise of democratic institutions has altered and impacted this process. The political consciousness process in Pakistan's legislative structure is an intricate and diverse procedure that is influenced by several institutional, social, and media-driven factors. The legislative body of Pakistan plays a crucial role in the creation, debate, and application of laws that reflect the political, social, and economic objectives of the people.

Legislative Debates and Public Discussions:

Through impassioned rhetoric and opposing perspective arguments, this complex landscape is revealed in Pakistan for politics and societies both economically. Legislators heat up in

parliament, province assemblies, and many other forums debating about national issues among them, usually to the detriment of the interethnic, regional, and ideological diversities that define Pakistan's society. There are three major ruling parties in the country: the PPP, the PML-N, and the PTI. These are some of the main bodies that hold on to the body politic of Pakistan. Their policies and philosophies regarding governance and economic reforms, security, foreign relations, and even constitutional amendments are not the same but usually contradict each other and take the country into issues of conflict. The quality and content of public debate were usually said to be more partisans than constructive - political actors prefer populist rhetoric, personal attack or obstructionism to bipartisan cooperation. Public debates spill over from the parliament into the media, where analysts, political activists, and journalists talk about everything that a government does and does not do in terms of them. That would include allegations of corruption to militarism, trouble in the economy, and human rights violations. However, such public discussions may also take place within the streets in protests and demonstrations when the sentiments of the people are raised on issues like employment, inflation, or adverse governmental legislation. It touches on the subject of political polarization and eventually provides an obstacle to effective legislative development; however, such debates are relevant issues within the democracy of Pakistan in influencing public opinion, policy decisions, and accountability to the public in government (Asma, Rauf, 2024).

Transparency and Public Access to Legislative Information:

Ensuring public access and transparency of legislation decision-making, information and operation is necessary component of transparency. Modern legislature in parliamentary democracies must strike a balance between efficiency and transparency when it comes to legislation. Acts and other legislative tools can only be genuinely effective if they have widespread public support. Laws and regulations must transparently follow decisions and their implementation. It shows that information is directly and freely accessible to those who will be affected by these rulings and their implementation. When public officials act honorably and inform the public of the decisions they are making, this is known as transparent legislation. Legislation transparency increase public trust in the government. The people can hold the government accountable when they have access to information. Although there maybe laws governing the efficient and transparent allocation of responsibilities in public administration, no changes are likely to take place to ensure that efficiency is the main objective of service delivery and growth unless institutions are prepared to handle such responsibilities. In Pakistan, transparency and the right of citizens to know are essential to good governance and successful anticorruption initiatives. Political activity and politics should be open and transparent. In the realm of politics, transparency is being open and honest with public. The elements of good governance are information accessibility, effectiveness, accountability management and legitimacy all contributes to the transparency of the legislative process. The public's approval of those in positions of power and the observance of accepted customs, norms and processes are both considered aspects of legitimacy. Lawmakers must be transparent in their approach, ready to justify their stance, and answerable to the public of their choices (Batool, Asmat & Muzaffar, 2023).

Educational Outreach Programs by the Legislature:

Educational outreach is legislated in Pakistan to promote public political awareness, though its actual effectiveness and scope depend on the period and government concerned. Such initiatives are specifically intended to inform residents, especially youth and marginalized groups, on the political structures, democratic processes, and their rights and duties as citizens or voters. Federal and provincial legislators often work together with media houses, civil society organizations, and educational institutions in the activities of planning workshops, seminars, or even grassroots campaigns for an informed populace about how the government works, the value of being a voter, and what the legislative process implies. For example, the Election Commission of Pakistan now regularly organizes voter education campaign activities throughout the nation, educating mostly first-time voters about the essence of having free and fair elections, educated voting, and the importance of participating in the democratic process. The law-making bodies also adopted Initiatives which targeted youth empowerment through knowledge regarding the political history, constitution, and parliament as a democratic institution of the country. Because information may not be as available in the villages, other lawmakers and political parties are spearheading grassroots initiatives for politics literacy: participatory workshops, and digital campaigns that reach the grassroots through social media. While these are admirable initiatives, the success remains elusive due to political polarization, illiteracy, institutional mistrust, and limited funding. Some also argue that these programs are not a way of propagating effective political education but rather a politicized instrument. In a positive way, though all those outreach educational initiatives contribute significantly to the impact on the democratic atmosphere of Pakistan, as at least the people would be

better informed about their rights and obligations, even if minimally, along with the political structure governing their lives (Muzaffar et.al, 2020).

The Role of Media in Promoting Political Awareness

The media's function in political decision-making is evolving from that of an observer to an active participant. Government representatives and political leaders now rely on the media to explain and defend their policies. Article 19 of the Pakistani Constitution 1973 declares that "Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by the law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security, or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, commission of or incitement to an offence. As a result, the nation's legal foundations are founded on the principle of freedom of expression and speech. Pakistani media has developed into a potent tool for examining how state institutions operate; rather than provide the government with policy recommendation, it has assumed responsibility for policymaking. Building a bridge between the public and government is the media's job. By confirming that the government is carrying out its mandate, the media acts as a checkpoint. However, the media's duties have also expanded in the wake of globalization. It must contribute to upholding and advancing the state's national interests while emphasizing its viewpoint on international matters. In Pakistan, the media is free and plays a crucial role in educating the public about social, political and economic issues in the country, particularly before and during elections. It also emphasizes the good and bad policies of governments, political elite's corruption, nepotism in politics and the abuse of power. The media also plays a significant role in raising public awareness of social, political and economic affairs of the state and the world. In the past, the government dominated the media and ordered them to take certain in order to emphasize the policies of the parties in power. As a result, the media relied on the government, particularly under President Zia-ul-Haq. But President Musharraf deserves the credit for bringing media freedom. His time gave Pakistani media additional avenues and venues. The Pakistan electronic media regulatory authority (PEMRA) was founded in March 2002. Because, of this, the people may now access a wide variety of TV stations that offer news and entertainment. In Pakistan, there are now over a hundred TV stations which are presenting different cultures through different languages (Siyal, Brohi, 2023).

Challenges to Enhancing Political Awareness in Pakistan*

A number of obstacles impede the legislative body's ability to advance political consciousness in Pakistan.

Lack of education and political literacy:

Low literacy rates are fundamental problem in the nation, and this is particularly evident in rural areas and underserved communities where access to high-quality education is limited. One of biggest barriers to their interaction with the government is Pakistan's persistently high rates of illiteracy among public as well as in disadvantaged communities and segments of communities. Those whose voices are most in need of being heard are least likely to be able to participate if they are unable to read papers, are not allowed to participate in print media, including government building signage, or

participate in community meetings or workshops that employ written language. Several reports show that a significant portion of the population is still uneducated or illiterate, which makes it difficult for them to understand the political process in the nation, governance structure, and their rights as citizen. Instead of using their platform to educate the public about legislative processes, policy debates and the effects of laws, political leaders usually take a stand and declare their positions for populist rhetoric and electoral short-term gains. Political parties and elected officials also typically do not prioritize political education for citizens. This suggests that people rarely think about the long-term consequences of their political decisions and are easily swayed by very emotional appeals and false promise.

In a country where many citizens lack a basic grasp of how democracy functions, poverty, daily struggles and lack of resources take precedence over political literacy. Citizens may grow dissatisfied with a government's performance when it is unable to successfully handle the business of the nation, which can lead to political stability, demonstrations and even bloodshed. People may get depressed and lose faith in the government as a result of governments' incapacity to handle their concerns. People may feel that they have no choice but to demand change in the streets when their governments are unable to satisfy their requirements. These demonstrations have occasionally descended into violence, which has led to a breakdown in law and order as well as more political instability. Therefore, in order to prevent political instability and bloodshed, governments must handle their affairs properly. Second, corruption weakens institutions and erodes public confidence in government, making it more difficult to provide citizens with essential services. Examples of this include bribery and nepotism (Muzaffar, 2016).

Lack of Accountability

Pakistan's legislative bodies, including the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies, are generally seen as disconnected from the people and the issues that affect them on a daily basis because they have failed to actually respond to the needs of their constituents, or more often than not, have fiddled their requests once they are elected. This lack of ongoing systemic accountability of lawmakers to actions and decisions they make in the best interests of the general population has led to political apathy and disillusionment among the populace. The legislative process's failure is responsible for this nation's low level of political awareness, and its effects extend well beyond governance and the democratic process. In order to enrich themselves or their party, as the case maybe, elected officials frequently misuse their positions. Therefore, they are busy in highly imaginative and ingenious way rather than being bound by statutory obligations, as politicians deserves to be. The pervasive hydra of corruption and lack of transparency subverts the majority of the legislative process, demonstrating the futility of the whole political system and eroding public confidence in their representatives. The majority of Pakistani voters are not aware of the several facets of legislative process, how parliamentary committees work, or how laws are created, discussed and enacted. Because of this ignorance, the public is particularly vulnerable to manipulation by media outlets, political parties, and influential elites who exploit the gaps in transparency to further their own goals. No politician should have much motivation to have a productive conversation with the people they serve if they are subject to state accountability, decision-making transparency and being held accountable for their actions. In addition to maintaining a government system that is reactive rather than forward-looking, the absence of accountability in the nation's legislative system hinders the development of politically aware citizens, which has a negative impact on sustainable development and

stability for a state as a whole. Political awareness is the very foundation of life in a healthy democracy, and it suffers greatly when citizens are denied information about their rights and the means to demand accountability from their representatives (Kirk, 2017).

Political Instability and Media Bias

Frequently government changes, power struggles and an absence of policies are some examples of political instability. Such instability causes a ripple effect on the ability of the legislative process to function. The more political parties switch alliances or face constant internal or external pressure, the more it creates disjointed communality within the legislative body to function cohesively and be transparent. Such instability dents public confidence in elected officials and voters witness governmental collapse often, politicians failing in their promises and people become distanced from politics. Hence, the inability of the legislature to develop and implement long-term policies deepens the fragmentation of the state's approach to addressing national issues. General public does not know much about the legislative activities that affect them directly, thereby deepening ignorance and disinterest in the political process.

The partial media can elevate the speeches made by rich political parties and then affect how the public perceives the actions of the legislature. Among the un-reputable reports received, such citizens are left to form a very limited and always distorted view as to what happens inside the legislature, which bars them from making informed choices when such choices come up for voting. As a result, the absence of diversified and balanced reporting makes it more challenging for the voters to comprehensive understand the legislative procedure or to critically assess the work of their elected representatives. So, political awareness remains quite superficial and polarized in Pakistan, with a majority being ignorant about the real impact of legislation on their lives and society at large. Within this framework, political instability and biased media have been cited to enhance the lack of transparency and accountability to strengthen the absence of citizen engagement with the legislative process, leading towards the construction of enlightened democracy (Muzaffar, Chodhary & Afzal, 2019).

Conclusion

The role of legislative utilities in shaping the political awareness in Pakistan is highly commendable for the development of a well-functioning democratic society. In legislative procedure along debate in public or the making of policies, such as institutions are instrumental in educating people about what the political issues are their rights and responsibilities. There is potential, but the legislature in Pakistan has been suffering from challenges such as political instability, lack of transparency and limited public engagement that limit its potential to use its full capacity to enhance political awareness. The tendency of political elites to prioritize personal and party interests above national interest severely limits prospects for meaningful political education. Even with these inadequacies, the media, civil society and increasing number of grassroots movements act countervailing agents in a setting that provides space for political awareness if their strength is derived from an emphasis on transparency, inclusivity and public accountability which can better serve Pakistan. Improving the institutions, enhancing the channels of communication, and ensuring greater inclusiveness could well lead to significantly improving the quality of awareness in the country, thereby contributing to democratic development and governance.

Recommendations

A petition committee should be established to solicit, receive and consider public complaints. All committee activities, with the exception of member discussions, should be openly accessible to the media and other interested parties.

Adopt measure of reforms to enhance political awareness of citizens through education, media and public policy would be initiatives for televised parliamentary sessions, simplified legislative documents for public understanding, or greater efforts in civic education within schools. The Assemblies should allow private television stations to broadcast the Question Hour. If necessary, rules may be amended.

It should emphasize on how a legislature could actually go about enhancing political awareness among the public, by its accountability and transparency outreach programs, it could also ensure the public is kept aware and involved with the democratic processes.

Voting choices should be made public via the Assembly website, and voting records should be updated to reflect individual votes. The public is entitled to know the voting patterns of its representatives.

It is also suggested that a voting system be implemented that uses biometric identification and electronically displays the results of the vote before members can cast their ballots. In order to strengthen efforts to improve technical capacity, professionalism and merit-based personnel selection, Pakistan's assembly should adhere to worldwide best practices.

References

- Ahmad, R. E., Eijaz, A., & Rahman, B. H. (2014). Political institutions, growth and development in Pakistan (2008-2013). *J. Pol. Stud.*, 21, 255.
- Ali, J. (2023). Role of Legislatures in the Federations of Australia, Pakistan, and India: An In- depth Overview. *Pakistan Journal of Multidisciplinary Innovation*, 2(1), 11-23.
- Anwar, K., Faqir, K., & Anwar, S. (2024). The Role Of Women Parliamentarians In Pakistan Legislative Process From 1988-2008. *Competitive Research Journal Archive*, 2(04), 245-260.
- Asma, O., & Rauf, M. B. (2024). Pakistani Youth and Political Awareness: A Review of Pakistani Universities. *Journal of Education And Humanities Research (JEHR), University of Balochistan, Quetta*, 17(1), 183-197.
- Batool, A., Asmat, K., & Muzaffar, M. (2023). Governance and Transparency: A Case of Pakistan. *Annals of Human and Social Sciences*, 4(3), 846-856.
- Hassan, A., Alam, I., & Khan, M. M. A. (2023). The Role and Functioning of Senate in Pakistan: A Comparative and Historical Analysis. *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, 7(1), 627- 639.
- Khan, A., Hasan, M. L., & Policy, M. P. (2024). *Analyzing the Dynamics of the Parliamentary Legislation Process in Pakistan*. PIDE
- Kirk, T. (2017). *Power, politics and programming for social accountability in Pakistan*. Doctoral dissertation, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Mahmood, B., Sohail, M. M., Mushtaq, S. K., & Rizvi, S. A. (2014). Social factors hindering political participation in Pakistan: A review article. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(23), 1933.
- Muzaffar, M. (2016). *Educational Institutions and Political Awareness in Pakistan: A Case Study of Punjab*. Unpublished Ph. D Dissertation, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Muzaffar, M., Hussain, B., Javaid, M. A., Khan, I. U., & Rahim, N. (2020). Political Awareness in Educational Policies of Pakistan: A Historical Review. *J. Pol. Stud.*, 27, 257.
- Muzaffar, M., Chohdhry, S., & Afzal, N. (2019). Social Media and Political Awareness in Pakistan: A Case Study of Youth. *Pakistan Social Sciences Review*, 3(2), 141-153.
- Razzaq, M., Sajanka, A. H., & Shahzad, M. N. (2018). A Quest of Legislative Governance in Pakistan: A Comparative Study of Punjab and Sindh during 2013-2018. *Governance*.
- Siyal, N. A., & Brohi, A. M. (2023). Social Media and Political Awareness. *Benazir Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(1). 64-82
- Taha, S. M. (2012). Public Policy in Multicultural Setting: A Case Study of Pakistan. *Journal of History and Social Sciences*, 3(1), 65-76.

Zia-ur-Rehman, M. (2023). Critical Issues of Governance In Pakistan: Strategies And Solutions. *ISSRA Papers*, 15(1), 77-86.