

Unethical Electoral Practices

A Citizens' Report on the
Local Government Elections 2005



Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation

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First to acknowledge all the citizens' for undertaking the challenging job of monitoring and recording unethical election practices. Aurat Foundation's staff of Women's Participation in Local Government Elections (WPLGE) and others who took pains taking account of the process as they saw it along with their partners network mentioned above.

Nigar Ahmad
Executive Director

Introduction

The second Local Government Elections under the Devolution of Power Plan were held in four phases between August and December 2005. Aurat Foundation was involved in the mobilisation of women voters and candidates in the Local Government Elections 2005 under its CIDA funded Women's Participation in Local Government Elections Project.

Elections for the first two phases were held on 18th and 25th August 2005 for all the Union Council seats that include seats for Nazims, Naib Nazims, and Councilors (general seats and seats reserved for women, peasants/workers, women peasants/workers and minorities). On 18th August elections were held for the Unions Councils in 53 districts of the country that included 17 districts of the Punjab, 10 districts of Sindh, 12 districts of NWFP and 14 districts of Balochistan. On 25th August elections were held for the Union Councils in the remaining 56 districts that included 18 districts of the Punjab, 12 districts of Sindh, 12 districts of NWFP and 14 districts of Balochistan.

In the third phase, elections were held on 6th October for the seats of District Nazims, Town/Tehsil Nazims, and members of District and Tehsil Councils on reserved seats for Women, Peasants/Workers, and Minorities. In the fourth phase elections were held on 28th December for the posts of District and Tehsil/Town Naib Nazims.

Aurat Foundation has experience of election activities regarding women's participation including registration and mobilization of voters, training of voters, candidates, polling agents and polling staff, and monitoring of elections. On the basis of that experience, during these elections; the Foundation with the coordination of its partner network in the districts established District Coordination Committees, DCCs, for the purpose in all the districts of the country. DCCs assisted women in getting themselves enrolled as voters and mobilized women to take part in the elections as voters and candidates. They also assisted women candidates in filing nomination papers and provided them with training to run election campaigns.

AF teams with the assistance of DCCs also monitored the entire electoral process before, during and after the actual polling. This report has been compiled on the basis of that monitoring. It includes direct monitoring by AF teams and DCCs, indirect information received from other stake holders and media reports.

AF teams consisted of AF staff members who are well versed with the electioneering process and have been involved in the elections process during the last more than half a dozen parliamentary and Local Council elections. AF partners include members of local NGO, CBO, trade unions, associations of lawyers, journalists and other activists. They are also experienced and well versed in the electoral processes.

The initial report prepared by Asad Rahman is in three parts. The first part throws light on the pre-poll rigging; the second on the polling day rigging and the third on post poll

rigging. The original dispatches sent in from the field by the monitoring teams of the Citizens' Campaign are included in section II without editorial changes. This is to give readers a flavour of what actually happened on the ground.

Sajid Mansoor Qaisrani

1. Pre-Poll Rigging

1.1 Delimitation of Districts

Pre-poll rigging started with the delimitation of constituencies. Ostensibly to accommodate the government backed candidates and to split the vote bank of opposition candidates new districts and towns/tehsils and union councils were created

In Sindh the provincial government split Larkana, Jacobabad, Dadu, Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad districts, creating new districts of Kamber, Shahdadkot, Kashmore, Jamshoro, Umerkot and Matiari, Tando Mohammad Khan and Tando Allayar.

A similar exercise took place in Punjab where Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Gujranwala and Multan were upgraded to city governments in June 2005 and three more towns (previously tehsils) were added to Lahore city district, raising the total to nine. Sheikhpura was divided into two districts creating a new district of Nankana Sahib.

The PML-Q coalition government in Balochistan province also created or altered union councils apparently for partisan reasons. In NWFP, six new union councils were created in Bannu, the home district of the Provincial (MMA) Chief Minister Akram Durrani.

As already stated the main aim of this gerrymandering was to divide the vote base of the opposition and hand the resulting enclaves over to government allies. A senior Sindh official while describing this maneuver said: "Sindh districts were divided up to deconcentrate the PPP's support base in order to make electoral manipulation easier for the ruling coalition".

The case of Hyderabad district vividly illustrates these tactics. The Sindh Chief Minister, Arbab Ghulam Rahim, defended the decision in a hurriedly called press conference by claiming "it was administratively difficult to manage the affairs of Hyderabad district since it had a population of three million". This logic flew in the face of ground realities. If the five districts of Karachi, with a population of more than ten million, could be merged to create one city government district, why could Hyderabad not be given the similar status? In Punjab, Multan, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi and Gujranwala were upgraded to city government districts with bigger populations.

The Sindhi regional parties and PPP believe the district redrawing was also calculated to partition the Mohajir and Sindhi populations of the province along ethnic lines. "Hyderabad was divided to create ethnic fiefdoms for the MQM and other pro-government politicians", said Qazi Asad Abid, a former PPP parliamentarian and owner of the Sindhi language Ibrat publications group. These fears were not baseless. In the mohajir-dominated urban centers of Karachi and Hyderabad, which witnessed violent ethnic conflict in the 1990s, local rivalries between the MQM and Sindhi opposition parties have heightened and the province could again be engulfed in bloody Sindhi-Mohajir violence. The MQM, a coalition partner in the PML-Q led provincial government, boycotted local elections in 2001 and was desperate to wrest back control of Hyderabad district and several towns from its archrival, the PPP. The Musharraf

government was happy to oblige since this would strengthen its ally and undermine its opposition.

In Punjab, opposition politicians claimed the changes were to increase patronage opportunities and accommodate more PML nominees as town nazims.

1.2 Bureaucratic Maneuvering

As in the 2002 national elections, the government relied on its bureaucratic machinery to influence the local polls 2005. This included the transfer of police and district administration officials on the eve of the announcement of the election schedule. District Coordination Officers (DCOs), Tehsil Municipal Officers (TMOs), District Police Officers (DPOs) and other officials were transferred to and from sensitive and crucial districts, especially in Sindh, the PPP's stronghold. The night before the first phase of the polls, a district official said that the local administration had received 'loud and clear' instructions from the provincial government to extend full cooperation to those committed to General Musharraf, the MQM and the ruling PML-Q.

In Punjab, some district officials in Lahore, Sargodah and Jhelum confirmed they were instructed to facilitate the election campaigns of Chief Minister, Chaudary Pervaiz Elahi's handpicked candidates. Other officials disclosed that an attempt to resist political interference had elicited 'threats of dire consequences' from provincial authorities. While the code of conduct of LG election 2005 disallowed postings of local government officials after announcement of the election date without prior approval of the CEC, transfers continued well into the campaign process. The CEC did cancel 63 transfers in August 2005 but those related to lower-level officials in the education, revenue and police departments.

1.3 Relocation of polling stations

Pre-poll rigging also included relocation of polling stations from traditional sites (in some cases used since 1970) to areas hostile to opposition candidates or to unpopulated areas to discourage opposition supporters from voting. This occurred in Dadu, Mirpurkhas and Umerkot districts in Sindh as well as several districts of Punjab and Balochistan.

In Hyderabad tehsil, several polling stations for men and women were separated by fifteen to twenty kilometers to discourage women from turning out. A district officer from Jhelum (Punjab) said senior provincial officials had ordered district revenue officers to identify new sites for polling stations to maximize gains for PML-Q candidates.

1.4 Allotment of election symbols

Malpractices were also reported in the allotment of election symbols, particularly important because of the ban on party symbols. Opposition PPP and PML-N backed candidates claimed that pro-government candidates were given preference in the allocation of symbols while derogatory and misleading symbols were issued to them,

thus creating a discriminatory atmosphere which discouraged the voters to cast votes for symbols like snake or donkey.

1.5 Nomination process

The candidates' nomination process was also marred by malpractice. Nomination papers of many opposition-backed candidates in Punjab were rejected because their names did not appear in the voters lists. Others were turned down for unspecified defects in educational certificates. Some grounds for rejection also included the candidate' inability to prove adequate knowledge of Islamic injunctions. While on the other hand, Madrassa (Religious schools) degrees were accepted in NWFP as equivalent to the required general educational qualifications for nazim and naib nazim but rejected in Punjab. In the end the Supreme Court disqualified candidates with madrassa degrees from holding elective office unless they had passed additional examinations in English, Urdu and Pakistan Studies.

1.6 Detention of candidates

In many Sindh and Punjab districts, opposition parties claimed their candidates as well as proposers and seconders were detained by the police or abducted to prevent them from filing papers or to force them to withdraw in favor of government-backed candidates. Those who refused were reportedly implicated in fabricated police cases such as thefts, the aim being to ensure victory without contest.

The level of intimidation was particularly high in the PPP stronghold of rural Sindh where a police official is reported to have said that PML-Q Chief Minister was on a mission to have the PPP routed once and for all. The press reported many instances of PPP backed Awam Dost candidates being kidnapped to prevent them from filling nomination, and in at least one reported case, in Thatta district, a letter of withdrawal from an abducted candidate for union naib nazim was produced. According to PPP office bearers, police threatened Awam Dost candidates for union council nazim and general councilor seats in Jamshoro, Dadu, Mirpurkhas, Thatta, Khairpur and Umerkot districts with prosecution under anti-terrorism laws if they did not withdraw. Some cases were filed against PPP-backed union council nazim and naib nazim candidates in Khairpur, Dadu, Sukkur and Larkana. In Hyderabad, PPP candidates reported receiving death threats from MQM stalwarts, and police detained many. PPP, PML-N and JI candidates claimed that the threat of the MQM was clear: "baitho ya laito" (withdraw or die).

In Dadu district, the PPP claimed a Federal Minister, instructed the police to abduct Awam Dost candidates. Some candidates were recovered from police custody through the courts but many remained illegally detained or in hiding. In Tharparkar, the Chief Minister's home district, intimidation, including abduction of opposition candidates by police and hired criminals, ensured that nazims were elected unopposed from 35 of the 44 union councils who were favorable to the Chief Minister.

In Punjab, the government's strategy focused on co-opting as many nazims and naib nazim candidates as possible through the biradri networks and promise of development

funds. In Gujrat, the home district of President PML-Q, Chaudary Shujaat Hussain, and his cousin, Punjab Chief Minister Chaudary Pervaiz Elahi, many PPP backed candidates for union council nazim and naib nazim were coerced into withdrawing. A case that best illustrates the Punjab governments targeting of opposition candidates is that of the PPP's Nadim Kaira, the former nazim of Tehsil Kharian. He was first jailed on corruption charges and later under anti-terrorism laws to prevent him from contesting elections.

Some candidates who resisted intimidation were accused of violating the LG Election Code of Conduct and booked under charges ranging from illegal display of weapons and use of loudspeakers to threatening rivals. Not surprisingly many union council nazims and naib nazims were elected unopposed as reported in the Daily Times 20 August 2005. The Punjab Local Government Minister justified these uncontested elections on the grounds that the opposition had failed to organize and the people had reposed confidence in the PML-Q.

In Balochistan also, particularly in Bolan and Jafferabad districts, many candidates for union council nazims and general councilors were elected unopposed.

1.7 Disruption of opposition meetings

Opposition meetings were routinely disrupted by police in all the four provinces, especially in Sindh where a number of pro PPP candidates were detained and some were put under house arrest, in order to prevent them from campaigning. In Hyderabad, over 400 PPP leaders and activists were arrested for an Independence Day procession. According to PPP leaders "the Election Commission's Code of Conduct was enforced in letter and spirit but only for opposition candidates".

1.8 Amendments to the Local Government Law

In June 2005, the Government approved sweeping amendments to the Local Government Ordinance 2001, which were duly promulgated by the provincial governments. One of the amendments that was a recipe for rigging involved the one-time powers of the provisional Chief Secretary to appoint government officers as caretakers to perform the functions and exercise the powers of nazims till the newly elected nazims take oath of office. Apparently meant to ensure the neutrality of the transitional process, it suggested that the move was also motivated by the government's need to appease its allies and coalition partners, especially the MQM, which feared that its rival Jamaat-I-Islami district and tehsil nazims in Karachi could impede its electoral campaign.

Subsequently, the provincial governments appointed administrative officials as caretakers to exercise the functions of district and tehsil nazims during the transition period. As these officials were under the direct control of the provincial governments, the step paved the way for government's interference in the electoral process. It created doubts about the whole process of elections.

1.9 Nomination and support of candidates by top State/Government functionaries

The top government leadership including President, the Prime Minister and the provincial Chief Ministers openly nominated and supported PML-Q backed candidates, ignoring 152 (S) of LGO 2005, which disqualifies 'a person from contesting local elections or holding elective office if (s)he has used, directly or indirectly, for the election, the platform, flag, symbol, affiliation and financial or material resources or support of a political, religious, ethnic or sectarian party, formation or organisation'. They visited various districts to express their support and solidarity with the government sponsored candidates and the names of the candidates having the support of the ruling PML (Q) were splashed in the national press.

1.10 Permission to the Ministers and Legislators to contest Local Government elections

The government also allowed federal and provincial ministers and legislators to contest local government elections while retaining their positions and parliament seats. Even though no legal bar exists to this effect, the decision served as a license for the abuse of public office and resources for electoral gains.

1.11 Reduction in the number of Union Council seats

The government also reduced the number of union councilors, who would form the Electoral College for the district and tehsil/town nazims from 21 to 13. This reduction in union council seats undermined the government's oft-stated claim of devolution to the grassroots level since the council is the lowest tier of local government. It also had an adverse impact on representation of the marginalized groups, especially women. The move was justified on financial grounds, to reduce the cost of paying honorarium to 21 councilors. The move, however, maintained the proportional representation of women and minority communities. This move made it easier to bribe and coerce the councilors to vote for government candidates for the post of District and Tehsil Nazims/Naib Nazims.

1.12 Non- party polls

The government also decided to hold the elections on non-party basis. The NRB Chairman claimed that this was done in order not to politicize the local government system, which was focused on service delivery. However, it is well understood that the election process is inherently a political process and not being allowed a political (party-based) election constitutes electoral rigging. The explanation for this move given by the political analysts is that non-party nazims and councilors could be more easily swayed than those subject to party discipline. There are also higher chances of horse-trading in non-party election since technically everyone is an independent candidate and not subject to party discipline. It must be pointed out here that this would particularly facilitate rigging in the indirect third phase of the polls since local representatives, who are the electorate for the nazim, were drawn into the ruling party's camp during the campaign period from 26 August to 6 October. This maneuvering was highly visible during these five weeks.

1.13 Partisan Electioneering

The non-party elections only existed on paper. Federal government officials and provincial establishment officials were openly involved in partisan electioneering. This took various forms, including misuse of public resources, initiation of development schemes during the campaign, ignoring the code of conduct, which barred federal, provincial ministers, state ministers, advisors and other political office holders from “using official vehicles or any other official facility during election campaign of their own or any other candidates”, and stated that “no new development schemes shall be initiated” during the period of campaigning.

Federal and provincial ministers violated the code of conduct by using official resources for partisan campaigning. Punjab Chief Minister openly nominated district nazims, welcomed PML-N defectors and promised development funds in Rawalpindi, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan districts. In NWFP, electric transformers were installed in specific constituencies to woo voters for the government favorite candidates. MMA provincial ministers pledged development projects, promoting a warning from the NWFP Governor. In Karachi and Hyderabad, MQM provincial ministers were active in corner meetings and rallies of Haq Parast candidates. The MQM used government buildings as election offices, hoisted party flags on government vehicles used these vehicles for election campaigning and put up giant billboard of party chief all over Karachi. In Hyderabad, according to local leaders, the MQM used government resources, including development funds, to win votes in opposition strongholds. Addressing a rally of his MQM allies on 17 July 2005, the Prime Minister pledged Rs. 1 billion for clean drinking water. Addressing a PML-Q election rally in Swat, President explicitly asked voters to support PML-Q nominees while announcing development grants worth Rs. 80 million. While the President and Prime Minister blatantly violated the code of conduct, the ECP merely issued verbal reminders on the importance of respecting the law.

2. Election Day Rigging

It was in this background that polling was conducted. A large number of people had doubts that the polling process will be free from maneuvering. They believed that the government machinery will be used to rig the elections in favour of the officially backed candidates. A large number of women contacted AF and its allies to express their concern which was duly conveyed to the Election Authorities. But no firm action was taken to check the irregularities.

AF teams and members of DCCs monitored polling activity on the Election Day. AF was officially asked by the ECP to facilitate in mobilisation of women candidates and monitor the election.

AF teams observed that blatant rigging going on at many polling stations which marred the polling activity and put a big question mark on the credibility of the whole election process. It was also observed that the Election Authorities were slow to react to address the grievances of the candidates and voting public.

It was in this background that in consultation with its district partners AF decided to boycott the third phase of indirect elections on 6 October for nazims, as AF did not want to appear to be a part of the rigged election process and save its own integrity and legitimacy.

2.1 Administrative mismanagement

The AF staff and partner teams observed that the voting process was generally marred by administrative mismanagement. At a number of polling stations it was observed that the polling staff was not properly trained in the polling procedure was inadequate and lacked capacity to control the powerful elements bent upon rigging the elections. At many polling stations visited the staff could not ensure secrecy of the ballot.

2.2 Shortages of ballot papers

At many polling stations there was a shortage of ballot papers. It means the number of ballot papers provided was less than the registered voters at a polling station. This gave rise to fights at many polling stations and at others polling had to be stopped for hours till the arrival of fresh ballot papers.

2.3 Missing electoral symbols

At a number of polling stations it was found that election symbols of one or more candidates were missing from the ballot papers.

2.4 Scarcity of indelible ink

Scarcity of indelible ink was witnessed at many polling stations. It meant the same voter could vote for many voters at various polling stations. The irregularity was compounded by the fact that the condition of providing the Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) was withdrawn at the last moment to allow those voters to vote who did not have CNICs.

2.5 Voters lists

Though the Election Commission had prepared new electoral lists before the elections, on the polling day, in many cases the 2000-01 lists was used, disenfranchising many citizens.

2.6 Widespread use of official machinery

There were government sponsored and private violations of the code of conduct, including widespread use of official cars for canvassing and the use of mobile phones in polling stations.

2.7 Non adherence to voting time

Voting continued in many polling stations even after the prescribed time for the voting, while at others it started very late. In those stations, “where government candidates knew they would lose”, a Federal Minister was quoted as saying, “polling was delayed and minimal polling was allowed”.

2.8 Ballot stuffing

Ballot stuffing was visible as was vote buying and multiple voting. Genuine votes were discounted; names crossed off the voters list arbitrarily, while selective use of indelible ink facilitated multiple voting.

2.9 Women barred from voting

Male local leaders barred women from voting in many Union Councils of NWFP, Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab. The ECP did act in some districts where women were excluded but only as a result of pressure by NGOs, opposition political parties and the international community.

2.10 Intimidation of opposition candidates

The pressure proved far less effective when it came to Election Commission intervention to prevent intimidation of opposition candidates, especially women candidates, by the ruling party and its allies. Nafisa Shah, the former District Nazim of Khairpur district of Sindh, reported that armed gangsters, PML Q workers and the police attacked PPP-backed candidates and then occupied polling stations to stuff ballots. Also she said the polling staff rendered some votes of opposition candidates invalid by marking them with thumb impressions, pen marks or simply tearing them.

2.11 Placement of unauthorized extra ballot boxes

At one women’s polling station, in Gujranwala district of Punjab, AF staff monitoring team was contacted by women candidates to complain about an extra ballot box having been placed without showing it to agents or candidates. The AF team approached the Presiding Officer and requested her to address the complaint. She claimed that the four boxes placed in the morning were full and that she had shown the empty box to agents of candidates but when they challenged her, she claimed that she had called them but no one came to see the box. Ballots were still being put into the previous four boxes. The Chief Secretary happened to come to visit the station just then and the complaint was

conveyed to him. He directed the polling staff that the fifth box be counted last to see if it had been stuffed for a particular candidate. This was not done.

2.12 Disruption of polling by violence

Voting at one Sargodha women's polling station was disrupted amid allegations of rigging by some candidates only to have the police evict all voters. In at least two other women's polling stations in Sargodha district, family members of PML-Q candidates were seen stamping ballot papers for 'old and illiterate' women voters. Despite the high levels of violence, kidnappings and threats to women, the Election Commission remained silent. Open display of arms by candidates and their supporters was very visible at many polling stations.

In Punjab, AF monitoring teams witnessed blatant rigging at some polling stations, including official connivance in favor of PML-Q candidates in a number of districts. An analyst noted that the worst rigging in Punjab was in Gujrat, the home district of PML-Q President, Chaudary Shujaat Hussain and Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi, where rival candidates were arrested and armed thugs freely roamed around the polling sites.

In Karachi, it was reported that the MQM intimidated opposition polling agents, seized polling booths and stuffed ballot boxes. According to the former Nazim of Karachi, Naimatullah Khan of the Jamaat-e-Islami, "the MQM rigged the elections inside under the shadow of the law enforcing agencies that were patrolling outside". On the eve of elections in Hyderabad district of Sindh, opposition politicians accused the government of giving license for rigging elections to the MQM and pro-government factions of the PML.

The worst rigging fears were confirmed in the eleven polling stations of Hyderabad city, tehsil Qasimabad and Latifabad. In these constituencies voting was virtually conducted by the MQM party workers and not the Election Commission. A Presiding Officer disclosed that opposition polling agents had been forcibly evicted and some were denied entry by law enforcing agencies. A visibly distraught Presiding Officer, later manhandled by MQM activists, said, "there is intense pressure on me to get out of the way".

At least 60 people were killed and some 550 injured in election related violence countrywide. On the eve of the elections in Sargodha, PML-Q members of the provincial assembly and government advisors were reported using official vehicles and armed guards to intimidate candidates. In one UC, open display of automatic weapons was reported and firing in the air continued into the night before polling.

In Nowshera district of NWFP, some lives were lost in armed clashes between political rivals.

2.13 Counting irregularities

Counting irregularities marred the final results that were, in many instances, changed after announcements by returning officers, on the instructions of the provincial authorities in several Punjab districts including Rawalpindi, Jehlum and Sargodha,

while in Sindh the same tactic was used in Hyderabad. As one critic put it, “the important thing was not how you voted but how your votes were counted”.

3. Post Polling Rigging

3.1 Delays in the announcement of results

Normally results of the elections are announced as soon as the counting is finished. On the basis of the results of each polling station the candidates and their supporters also count their positions. But during the elections the results of a number of constituencies were delayed for days and finally the announced result when came were totally different from the ones issued by the presiding officers on the polling day.

In some case second and third counting was done in the absence of some candidates and results were allegedly altered during these counting.

3.2 Harassment of the successful UC members

Post poll rigging includes harassment and coaxing of the successful UC members to force them to support the district and Tehsil Nazims and Naib Nazims nominated by the ruling party.

4. Conclusion

The results and deductions made by AF and DCC teams were confirmed by the media stories and reports filed by other civil society organizations monitoring the polls. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), which fielded observers for the elections, condemned the government for making a mockery of the electoral process. It stated that: "The blatant subversion of the local government election process was proof of the lack of official respect for democratic norms. The re-drawing of constituency lines, widespread harassment of opposition candidates in the pre-poll scenario and the poor arrangements on polling day itself all provide evidence of the reluctance to permit any kind of real democracy. It demonstrates a determination to prevent people from participation in the political process".

Most observers and analysts commented that the rigging was an effort to further weaken the mainstream opposition parties and lay the ground for the government's supporters to dominate the forthcoming parliamentary elections. The Musharraf government amended and distorted its own creation, the Devolution Plan, through these rigged elections. This political engineering has increased local divisions at the provincial level, which resulted in more violence during the elections. As already stated at least 60 people died and more than 500 were injured during the Local Government Elections of 2005.

The rigged election process risks worsening relations between the central government and the four provinces, which have already led to a highly dangerous law and order situation in Balochistan, where a low level insurgency over provincial autonomy and resources has been going on for the last three years, and has the potential for escalation.

It is feared that delimitation of districts and redrawing district constituencies along ethnic lines in Karachi risks reviving the violence that nearly destroyed the city for more than a decade in the 1990's. These polls have left the political parties divided and weakened, have reduced political participation of women and worsened local clan and ethnic rivalries. Limiting political space for secular political parties has always boosted the religious extremists groups in Pakistan.

After the first two phases and the blatant rigging in the direct elections to union councils, held on 18th and 25th August in 110 districts, AF in consultation with its district partners decided to withdraw from supporting the third and fourth phases the indirect election process of for District Nazims, Naib Nazims, Tehsil/Town Nazims and Naib Nazims, reserved seats for women, peasants, workers and minorities, as an exercise in futility.

As was evident and a forgone conclusion the 2005 polls produced an overwhelming victory for the ruling PML-Q and its allies and defeat for the two national level opposition parties, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), as well as most regional opposition parties.

With local governments now firmly in hand the ruling coalition is far better placed to control the future general elections to be held in 2007.

Section II: Regional Reports

The Regional Reports are given without any editorial changes

Rigging in LG Elections 2005—the NWFP Scene

A genuine democracy never took roots in Pakistan because of the disruption of the democratic process on a number of occasions. The country people were provided a few opportunities to exercise their right to vote, but even then irregularities were committed that made the whole electoral exercise open to question. The country went to Local Government elections in year 2005 in four phases (August 18 to December 28) to enable the people to elect their representatives at the grassroots level. The union councils elections were held in the first and second phases from August 18 to 25, while the Nazim and Naib Nazims polls in the third and fourth phases (October 6 and December 28). The people in general and the civil society in particular noted with a note of concern and regret that the exercise at the very basic level was not transparent despite the repeated claims made by the rulers and authorities towards that end.

The Aurat Foundation and its partner organizations/District Coordination Committees (DCCs) ran the countrywide drive of WPLGE 2005 in all the districts of the country. In the NWFP, the campaign covered all the districts. The Peshawar AF was responsible for carrying out the activities in 21 districts of the province, even those with potential resistant

As far the NWFP is concerned, there were different types of irregularities, which if analyzed properly, definitely amount to rigging. These anomalies were committed at different levels from government to local tier of the administration.

I) The Peshawar campaign staff could get a copy of the International Crisis Group report on the rigging. No other reports could be obtained.

II) Actual experiences

AF and DCCs

Election schedule

The Local Government elections were held in the country after creating a lot of doubts in the minds of the country people. The talks of the so-called deal of the Musharaf regime with the Benazir-led PPPP created a wave of certainty in the minds of the people. It was widely believed that there would be no LG elections and instead early elections would be called in the country. The poll schedule was not announced in time. The delay in the announcement strengthened the doubts about the polls. So much was the uncertainty that even after the announcement of the schedule, most of the people had apprehensions about the holding of the LG polls.

Non-party-based elections—not at all

Although it was announced that the LG polls would be held on the non-party basis, but in actual that was not the case. All the political parties took an active part in the exercise. The parties struck understanding among themselves to ensure a win for their candidates. They nominated their own candidates for the seats. It was announced in public and the campaigns run openly. There were people who aspired for the seats and wanted to contest, but did not come forward to file papers as they feared that the

parties support would make it impossible for them to make it to the local councils. The women suffered a lot as not all the parties were willing to award tickets or party funds to women to contest the polls against the general Muslim seats. The so-called adjustments of seats blocked the entry of several genuine persons to the LG arena

Use of official machinery with impunity

The use of government machinery in various parts of the NWFP was noticed. It was observed that the ministers were seen supporting their candidates. Some candidates sought votes on the basis that the ministers who were supporting them, in cases, relatives would ensure the development funds for the area. This was the case in Shangla district where, Dr Ibbad, brother of Federal Minister Ameer Muqam, considered to be very close to President Pervez Musharraf, was contesting for the nazim slot. The candidate won the district nazim slot. It was seen that the police was partial in those areas where the government -sponsored candidates were in the run. The arrest of a nazim candidate for City One Union Council Naimat Ali Advocate and his 25 polling agents in Bannu (Home district of Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani) was a case in point. The barring of women from the voting exercise in Buner (home district of NWFP Speaker Bakht Jehan Khan) is a case of misuse of official powers as candidates supported by the speaker and his rival had entered into an agreement to keep women away from the polling exercise.

Amendments before polls

The drastic amendments (87) were made to the Local Government Ordinances 2001 just before the LG polls was in fact a negation of the very spirit of the Devolution Plan. The amendments were made at the center without subjecting these to a proper debate in the legislatures. Among other things these changes left all Local Government institutions from District Councils down to Union Councils at the whims and desires of chief ministers by giving the latter powers to over-rule Local Government decisions and by limiting appeals to bodies subservient to them. While these amendments did not strictly relate to the election system, they had an adverse effect on the democratic nature of the Local Government scheme and claims to women's empowerment. The replacement of separate electorates with joint electorate as the system of franchise was welcome, but failure to remove the word Muslim from general seats deprived non-Muslims in many places of their right to contest election to these seats.

Cut in seats

Under the changes in the LGO, the size of the union council was cut from 21 to 13 and the representation of women brought down from 6 to 4. The civil society organizations rightly believed that it was an attempt at cutting the size of the representation, as it was easier to manipulate and control small-sized union councils compared to the bigger ones. The cut in number of seats for women restricted their entry into councils, thus curbing their participation in the governance and political participation at the local level.

Anomalies

The electoral rolls were not proper as the names of voters were missing and even relationship of women to their other family members had in-correct entries. In Kohat district names of non-Muslims were missing from the rolls. The AF team met rushed to the Election Commission office and found that the office had supplied the old ballot papers to polling stations. The election symbols were missing from the ballot papers. The stationery provided to the polling staff was of poor quality and less than what was needed. The polling schemes were not designed carefully as the women polling stations had been set up away from their homes. Under-staffing at the polling stations, combined polling stations for men and women, man-polling staff at the women polling stations and delay in the dispatch/supply of the election material were some of the anomalies.

III) Election petitions filed by candidates

Expressing their discontent with the results, several contenders for the LG slots turned to Election Commission for have their complaints redressed. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan, Peshawar office, a total of 819 election petitions were filed with the commission after the LG polls, 588 stood settled while the number of pending ones was 231. The gender-segregated data on the petitions was not available with the Peshawar office of the Election Commission.

IV) Exclusion of women

In the LG elections of 2000 and 2001, women were barred from voting while citing the religious grounds as the religious parties; especially the *Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam* had boycotted the polls at that time. But this time the cultural reasons were put forward to keep women away from the voting and contest in several parts of the province. Unlike the last elections (2000-2001), this time most of the agreements were verbal as understandings were affected through Jirgahs called by the contestants comprising notables of the areas and political and religious groups. The same situation was witnessed in most of the areas and even the provincial capital of Peshawar was not spared, but two women disenfranchisement agreements reached in Timergarah (Lower Dir) on July 13, 2005 and other struck in Battagram district on July 23, 2005) brought the issue in the limelight. The AF Peshawar campaign staff and the DCCs concerned raised the issue in the media to have it resolved so much so that the Federal Minister for Women Development Ms Nilofar Bakhtiar had to rush to the areas to change the situation.

V) Infrastructure (situation)

Basic facilities

The polling stations were scarce and could not meet the needs of the growing number of voters. There were cases where the polling stations were going without power supply and drinking water. The less provision of furniture at the polling stations was a common complaint. Delay in the dispatch/supply of the election material due to non-provision of transport for the polling staff and carrying the election material.

Training/capacity

Most of the staff deputed at the polling stations was not properly trained for the duty. There were cases where the presiding officers did not know how to reject the votes. Even the PTC teachers were seen performing duties as presiding officers.

VI) Security and violence issues faced by the region

The AF Peshawar and its networks (DCCs) did not face any security issues neither before the Election Day, nor on the two days of the polling. The campaign staff was very much clear on the assigned role that was facilitating all those taking part in the elections without taking sides. Those in the DCCs carried out the work while keeping in view the local cultural sensitivities. This carried forward the campaign work without any threat of violence.

As far as the security for the voters in general and of women voters in particular is concerned, the security arrangement at the polling stations was not sufficient. Policemen were deputed at the women polling stations. The woman voters would have been at a relative ease if the woman police had been deputed at the women polling stations. It was witnessed that at most of the women polling stations only one policeman was found guarding the gate to the polling stations while the rest were inside the stations. The presence of man candidates on the premises of the women polling stations with their armed guards outside the stations created an atmosphere of harassment for the women voters.

VII) Mobility

There was no mobility problem for the campaign staff while visiting different polling stations. The prior permission to visit the polling stations had been duly acquired from the Election Commission of Pakistan. The joint man and woman teams visited the women polling stations to forestall any objection.

The team observed that mobility of common women was a problem in most of the urban and rural areas i.e. Shaheen Town, Peshawar district, the polling both was shifted to another place that created difficulties. In Pulosay, close to Peshawar University, women had to cross over the nullah to reach the polling both. In Dera Ismail Khan, the administration had set up the women polling both across the river that made it almost impossible for woman voters to reach there and exercise their right to vote.

District Nazim/Naib Nazim elections – the money game

The nazim and district nazim elections in the province proved to be a money game in all the districts. The election rules were thrown to the wind. The political parties and the ruling alliance came forward to openly support their candidates for the top district slots. Overspending was crystal clear. The cost of the billboards for the nazim slots displayed in Peshawar ran into millions. The councilors became a saleable commodity during the nazim and naib nazim elections, casting their ballot for the highest bidders. There was no proof of this vote buying spree, but the winning-over of loyalties was so widespread that it could be felt by all and sundry. This all made people disappointed with the electoral exercise, leading to a loss of trust in system.

The district-wise situation observed by the AF campaign staff and DCCs is as under:

Hangu

- Security arrangement was poor at Polling Station 34 of UC Katch Banda. Most of the women were not familiar with ballot casting method. Basic facilities like electricity, fan and water were not there. At another police station in the same UC, a man candidate was roaming in the limits of the polling station to woo the voters as he was running his campaign on the premises of the polling station.
- Most of the polling stations in the Togh Sarai UC were short of polling staff. The staff faced problem in reaching the places of their duties. There were cases where the polling staff paid from their own pocket to get stationery for the polling stations.
- There were UCs where women were barred from voting. The prominent among these was Kahi UC. Women were neither allowed to file nominations in this UC, nor allowed to caste ballot. Other UCs where women were barred from voting were Doaba, Ralan, Karboi Shareef, Tall Rural, Tall Urban and Darasmand.

Peshawar

- The nazim candidates were seen roaming on the premises of Government Girls High School Abbdara Road (Town 3). The daughter of one candidate was influencing the simpleton women to caste ballot in her father favour.
- In the Nothia UC (Town 1 area), at the Jandar Galli Polling Station, the presiding officer was the cousin of the candidate for the nazim slo. She had grabbed the voter-list and was stamping the ballot.
- In the Nothia UC, at the Government Girls Primary School near Railway Line, Mohallah Gujran, the presiding officer, was stated to be a relative of the nazim candidate, had taken took the voter list of the people who he thought were to vote for his rival candidate.
- In the Aasia Gate, the polling started at 12 noon as the ballot papers for nazim and minority candidates had not been provided to the polling staff in time.
- In another polling station in Town One, the polling started at 10 am because the presiding officer had not reached for the duty in time.
- Mistakes were noticed in the voter-lists.
- The voter-lists were not available in the sessions and lower courts.
- Polling booths for men and women were set up on the same premises. In the UC Khazana even entrance and exist points were the same. This made the women reluctant to go the polling stations and men were not ready to allow their women to go to such polling stations.
- In UCs of Suri Zai, Musa Zai and Urmar the polling stations were set up in the areas, which were at a considerable distance from the voters homes. The women in UC Suri Zai were not allowed to vote due to the decision by the influential and religious elements of the area.
- There was a shortage of staff at most of the women polling booths that slowed the vote casting process.
- The polling staff was not well-trained.

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- The stationery provided was of low quality. Some polling stations in Kachir UC ran short of ballot papers.

Mardan

- There were three civil judges in Takht Bhai Tehsil of Mardan, but despite that 8 out of 17 UCs candidates were asked to file papers in Mardan, leading to a lot of inconvenience.
- The media reported that women faced a bar on voting in 25 UCs. In the Takht Bhai area, women were barred from voting in Govt High School Jehangir abad and Govt Girls High School Jalala. The AF team visited the Govt High School Rustum, High School Gulpara Primary School, Machai women polling stations and Middle School Dagai, Primary School Bari Cham, High school Par Hoti and noted that most of the polling staff at these stations was untrained. Even junior PTC teachers were appointed as presiding officers.
- Women polling stations were set up in the same buildings where there were men polling stations and hence the women were reluctant to vote.
- In some UCs, voting started late as the elections symbols were missing from the ballot papers.
- In the UC Jhanda Aklyani, the ink was of inferior quality.

Nowshera

- At the Govt Girls Primary School, Mughul Baz Kuroona, Sheido, the polling started at 10 am as there was no polling staff. The uneducated women were facing problem in differentiating between the football and ball as election symbols, leading to wrong stamping of ballots.
- The ballot had symbols, which had no contestants.
- Policemen were performing duties at the women polling stations and were rude to women voters.
- The election symbols of the contestants had not been displayed outside the polling station Govt Primary School No 1, Sheidu women polling station and man police was deployed at the women polling stations.
- The woman voters were facing problems at the polling station of Jehangira Dobandi No 1, Jehangira UC, 1 as the PS was not spacious to accommodate the voters.
- In the women PS of Jabai, UC Mandoori, there was one polling booth for 1000 woman voters. The room where the booth was situated was without power supply.

Charsadda

- In the Chrasadda district, there was no women polling in 12 union councils because of local agreements and threats of fines on the violators.
- There were agreements in several UCs of Tangi and Shabqadar Tehsils that barred women from contests and the violators were threatened with burning of their houses. The DCC addressed a press conference and demanded action from the president, ECP, Provincial EC, District Returning Officer and requested them to stay elections in such UCs.
- In the Sarki Titara women polling station, there was no women polling as the candidates for the nazim slots had banned that.

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- The woman candidates were being threatened in the MC area of Tehsil Shabqadar. The UCs where there was no women voting was Nisata UC, Shiekho UC, UC Ghunda Karkana, UC Mera Umarzai, UC Turangzai (Tehsil Charsadda), MC area Panch Gao, in Tehsil Tangi UC Rashodag, UC Harichand, UC Mandani, UC Dhaki and UC MC area.
 - The stationery provided to the polling stations was of low quality.
 - There was under-deployment of police at the polling stations.

Kohat

- At PS High for Boys School No 1, there were six booths for men and 3 for women. The election symbol of the minority candidate was missing from the ballot, leading to disturbance.
- 10 ballot papers were recovered from a woman at the GHS No 3 polling station.
- In the UC Urban II, PS of Government Girls College kohat, Govt primary school Tehsil Gate, men names had been included in the women voter list.
- In the UCs Urban III and Urban IV, the PS of Govt No 3, Chikar Mela, Jangal Khel, Kohat, PS Govt School No 1, Chikar Mela, Jangal Khel, Kohat, fake NICs were used to caste ballot as old NICs were valid for polling votes.
- In the UC Urban V, PS of Govt Degree College Kohat, Govt Primary School Meri Banda, and Govt Comprehensive High School the polling stations had not been provided sufficient furniture.
- In the PS Agriculture office in the UC IV, women were not allowed to vote citing the local tradition. The women polling staff was there but no women voters. There was no woman voting in GMS Merozai, GMS Patti and GPS Mian Gan Colony.
- In the UC Khushhal Garh, PS GPS Dhok Sher Zaman and GMS Khushhal Garh, several votes were rejected because the voters were confused in stamping the ballot because there were more symbols on the ballot papers than the contesting candidates.
- In the UC Togh and Bahadur Kot, in the PS of Govt Hight School Tagh Bala and Govt Politechnic College, Kohat, women were not allowed to vote under an agreement. The area is the constituency of MPA Shaukat Habib. The women polling staff kept waiting for the women voters throughout the day, but in vain.
- In the PS of Government High School for Girls No 3, Govt Primary School Jangal Khel Gate, Kohat city (UC Urban I), there was no symbol for the minority candidate on the ballot paper.

Kohistan

- In UC Jijal, PS GHS Ranolia, there was no woman voting.
- In the Pattan Khas UC, there was no women voting because of an agreement
- In the UC Ranolia, at PS Doga, the security arrangements were very poor and polling had to be suspended time and again because of scuffles on the premises of the polling station.
- There were no women voters at the Bar Kaley PS of Ranolia.

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- In the UCs of Komila, Koz, Jalkot, Kareen, Kandia and Seo the women polling stations were under-staffed , despite that women exercised their right to vote in these UCs.
 - There were security problems in the UCs of Kandia, Sazin, Bar, Jalkot and Bela Madakhyl Abad.

Swat

- In the district women did not vote in 39 UCs.
- Women were barred from voting in UCs of Shahdara, Navey Kaley, Faiz Abad, Amankot, Rang Mohallah, Islampur, Qambar, Odegram, Tandu Daag, Ghaleegay, Brikot and Kotakey under agreements by the contestants. Flaws were seen in the voter lists. There were at least two polling stations where man staff was performing duties at the women police stations.
- There was no woman voting in Badara UC and Matta Kharari UCs under the agreements.
- No women voting in UC ChaparYal. At the Women PS of GMS Shokhdara, in the staff of 13, 9 were men while in the RHC Chapar Yaal in the staff of 14, 9 were men.
- No women polling in UC Bar Thana and UC BahaKey.
- Staff shortage was witnessed at most of the women polling stations in UC Peer Lalay.
- Half UC of Darmay allowed women voting while the rest were disallowed in the name of customs and tradition.
- No women voting in UC Sakhara.
- No women voting under agreements in UCs of Miandum, Fatehpur, Khwazakhela, Shalpeen, Guli Bagh, Char bagh, Manglor, Tiligram and Kishwara.
- No women voting under agreements in UCs of Bara Bandai, Kuza Bandai, Kanju, Hazara, Kuz Abakhel, BarAbakhel, Tutano Bandai, Qalagey, Kala Kaley, Dewalai, Shah Dheri, Tall and Shamozai.
- No women voting under agreements in UCs of Atror and Balakot.

Upper Dir

- No separate women polling stations at UC Darora, UC Jabr, UC Tarpatar and UC Palam.
- No women voting in Barawal UC, Shahi Kot UC.
- No separate PS for women in UC Shringal.
- No women voting in UCs of Kalkot, Gawaldeeh.

Swabi

- In the entire district, there were 21 union councils where women did not vote due to mainly the agreements (unwritten) among the nazim, naib nazim and councilors candidates.
- The polling station in UC Maneri was away from the populated area by 7 km that made the voters access very difficult.
- The women could not vote in the UC Chak Nodeh because of a verbal agreement between the nazim and naib nazim candidates.

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- In UC Swabi Maneri, there were four panels in the run for elections. Three panels agreed on barring women voting.
 - In UC Saleem Khan, the polling remained suspended for two hours as the election symbol of one candidate was missing from the ballot paper.
 - The Jirgah barred women voting in UC Tarlanday while Jirgah barred women voting in UC Taraqai and women candidates were elected unopposed.
 - In Swabi Khas UC, unwritten agreement barred women voting.
 - In UC Yaar Hussain Gharbi, polls were postponed as the election symbol of the general councilor candidate was missing from the ballot paper.
 - In the UC Manki, Ms Tilawat was told that she had won the election, but on August 20, she came to know that she had been declared a loser. The same was the case of Ms Feeroza of Yaqoobi UC.
 - The poor quality election material (stationery) was the complaint in most of the UCs. Stamping due to poor ink led to rejection of several votes.
 - Polls were postponed in the Sara Cheena UC for missing symbol problem.
 - Most of the women did not vote because the polling stations were common and women reluctant to vote for cultural barriers.
 - Most of the women could not exercise vote properly because of lack of education.

Tank

- In UC City II, there were reports of vote selling.
- There were complaint of bogus voting in Tator PS of City II where a woman candidate (Meherunis) was found stamping ballot. Two woman voters (Tamam Bibi and Shireen Jana) had died long before, but their votes were polled. Two 20 year old girls were found casting ballot for Tamam Bibi (55 year) and Shireen Jana (61 year).
- In Garha Budha (UC Jitatar), the candidate Zainullah Jan was found sitting with the staff in the women polling booths, insulting and even slapping the poling agents of the rival. Some women voters complained that the staff was not allowing them to vote despite that their names were in the voter-list. The women complained that the staff had stayed at the house of the candidate Zainullah and that was why that they were issuing ballot papers to his supporters and refusing the same to the rival candidate supporters. There was a scuffle in the PS as the rival poling agent was beaten up.
- There were complaints of bogus voting in Kot Hakeem (UC Dabara) area and the women polling was suspended for some time.
- People complained of bogus voting, but there were no proofs for that.
- The staff biased attitude and scuffles complaints were received from almost 60 per cent of the polling stations.
- The polling staff was not trained and most of them were unaware of their responsibilities.
- There was no proper security arrangement. Most of the policemen were seen sitting inside the polling booths.
- Women were not allowed to vote in UC Sarangzoona and Kaml

Karak

- The local office of the Election Commission used delaying tactics in providing the voter lists to the DCC even Rs 8000 were paid for that.
- There was insufficient security at PS Madal, Chokawa, Ameen Khel, Ahmad Abad and Karak because of which polling was suspended time and again.
- In UC Karak North, there were no ballot papers at the PS Committee Town School.
- Poling remained suspended for one hour at the Chungi No 2 because of lack of discipline.
- The security was insufficient and polling staff was partial.

Chitral

- The arrangements were not sufficient.
- The women voting rate was not encouraging.
- The polling staff complained of under-supply of stationery.

Buner

- In Gagra UC, PS Government Girls High School Kalpani, man staff was appointed at the woman polling station. The staff complained of under-supply and low quality of election material.
- Women could not vote in the GGPS Rega (Rega UC) because of an agreement among the contestants.
- No women voting was done in Gadazai UC because of agreement among the contestants.
- The same was the situation in Pacha Kaley, Malakpur, BiliKhel, Tor Warsak and Ilai. Torwarsak is the area of the Speaker NWFP Assembly Bkhat Jehan Khan (Jamaat-t-Islami), but here too women could not vote because of agreement between the candidates for the nazim slot. The women did not file papers here and hence the seats went vacant.
- The under-supply and low quality of election material was the common complaint. There were places in most cases where the staff bought the material from the market from their own pocket.
- Most of the women polling stations had man staff.
- The number of women polling stations was less than what was needed and the location was not suitable.
- The security system was not sufficient at the woman polling stations.
- The man polling staff at the woman polling station was a common scene.

Malakand

- In the UC Thana BandaJaat, the presiding officer at the Elementary College PS was provided the wrong voter-list. The list prepared for Mohallah Sheikhabad was provided to Haider Khan Colony.
- The polling stations were under-staffed and hence it was a time consuming process while issuing ballots.
- The stationery was under-supplied.
- In Badraga UC, Meher Day Polling Station, the security men did not allow women to vote, telling them that they were not entitled to.

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- The election stationery was not provided to the polling staff at the Warder PS while ballot papers were not supplies in this Dargai area.
 - Women were not allowed to vote in the Sakhakot, Dorey, Totakan and Peer Khel UCs.

Lakki Marwat

- There was no proper arrangement for proper transportation of polling staff and election material.
- There was delay in starting the polling because of non-training of polling staff.
- No proper security was witnessed at the polling stations
- Under-supply of stationery was reported.
- Verbal agreements among the local elders and political groups in some UCs of the district were made to bar women from voting
- In Ghazni Khel, Baistkhel, Mish Masti Khani, Kot Kashmir, Takhti Khel, Mela Shahab Khel, Titar Khel Gulli Jan, Dheraka Suleman Khel, and Bkhal Ahmadzai UCs women polling stations remained closed partially. Women were not allowed to vote or their man family members caste ballots on their behalf by using their national identity cards.
- Most of the Presiding officers did not know the procedure of vote rejection.
- No proper conveyance was available for the polling staff.
- The candidates for the nazim slot resorted to over-spending to get elected.
- The local Election Commission office lacked the required facilities.
- Instead of holding the elections in fair and free manners, the central and provincial governments became a party in getting their supported candidates won the elections.

Bannu

- A Jirgah was convened at the Mandi Bakakhel that was participated by the Baka Khel sub-tribes. The elders placed a ban on the women voting, saying the violator would be fined Rs 500,000. Afterwards, the nazim candidates for the UC Bakakhel, and that of TakhtiKhel announced that women voting was against the Pashtoon traditions and in the last elections bogus voting by women was a problem. They said those calling for women voting were in bid to resort to out bogus voting.
- Woman voting was also banned in the polling stations of UC Sokri.
- The nazim slot candidate for City One, Naimat Ali Advocate and his 25 polling agents were sent to lock-up, allegedly on the orders of the provincial government. The supporters said that the official machinery was used and police was partial in performing the duty.
- The defeated candidate for the UC Sokri Nazim slot alleged that his polling agents were expelled while the votes were being counted at the Government Girls Primary school Sokri Jibbar, adding an underhand dealing led to rival candidate win because of the polling staff partiality.
- Woman voting was banned in three polling stations of UC Sokri.

Dera Ismail Khan

- There were media reports that in UC Keech, Meeran and kari Shamozaï political groups had agreed on not allowing women to contest.

Views/responses on rigging in LG 2005 polls

The WPLGE 2005 campaign reached different political parties to have their opinions on the rigging resorted to in the Local Government elections. Almost all the persons who were approached complained of rigging in polls, but could not provide any proof in support. The political parties depended on newspaper reports and verbal complaints. Some of the responses received have been given below:

Awami National Party

When contacted, Mian Iftikhar Hussain, General Secretary of NWFP chapter of this Pashtoon nationalist party, said that so far they had no data on the specific poll rigging. He said verbal complaints had been received from the party candidates, but the party was pursuing them.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam

Haji Jalil Jan, provincial information secretary, of this -political party when contacted had the identical stand to state.

Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP)

Ayub Shah, City District President of the party, was of the opinion that he had come to know about rigging from the local newspapers. The party candidates, who had suffered because of that practice, had lodged complaints with the Election Commission and had moved courts.

Jamaat-e-Islami

Senator Professor Ibrahim, a central leader of the party, said that the JI did not have any record at the Markaz ul-Islami (Party office), but they had called a party meeting to review the situation and chalk out the future strategy.

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)

No record was available at the PML (N) provincial office when the team visited the place to have some information on rigging.

Shirkat Gah

The Peshawar office of this civil society organization had no record on the rigging.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

The HRCP staff members said they had collected the Press clippings on the rigging and had dispatched the same to the head office. The HRCP was candid in acknowledging that they did not have any solid proof about poll rigging.

Provincial Election Commission

The team visited the provincial office of the Election Commission. The staff said that complaints had been filed by candidates, but the cases were pending with the courts. They said as the matter was *sub-judice*, they could not share any information.

Rigging in LG Elections 2005 Balochistan Perspective

The LG elections held in 2005 all over the country in different phases left certain questions about their legitimacy and credibility in the minds of the general public especially the conscious segments of the society.

It also left an impression that the transparency in our political and democratic system is lacking even at the level of the local government elections that otherwise provides a base to the democracy at the grassroots level.

The AF and its networks/partners have experienced and observed the many anomalies and shortcomings and of course the inadequacy on part of those who were in the helm of the LG elections affairs and the government, who dealt with the holding of the elections, which later led to the doubts about the credibility of the elections.

Certain kinds of the rigging was evident and reported from various quarters especially the networks of the AF including CACs, DCCs who were fully involved in the election process and were playing the role of watchdog in the districts to a greater extent.

The rigging and wrongdoings in the elections were evident at different levels. Some of the observations and experiences we had are being mentioned as follow.

Actual Experiences/Observations

AF & DCCs

Election schedule

The first thing that created doubts and harmed credibility of the elections was the constant changes in the schedule of the elections for one reason or the other. The schedule of the elections was changed time and again that led to misconception about the holding of the elections. And in the end when the election schedule was announced there was so much confusion and misinformation whether the elections would be held on the given schedule or otherwise.

Due to this specific reason, the tempo of the elections could not be developed in Balochistan. Half hearted preparations were witnessed on part of the candidates and the parties.

l) A pure party based elections/Use of govt. machinery

Though the elections were non-party basis, but the parties were fully involved in the elections by issuing tickets, making seat-to-seat adjustments with different parties at different levels as well as running the campaigns of their backed-candidates, in different parts of Balochistan, an example that might also be seen in other parts of the country.

Even the ministers of the ruling coalition parties (PML and MMA) and their other offices bearers were witnessed while canvassing for their respective candidates, which otherwise was contrary to the rules and ethics.

The government machinery was used by the government-sponsored candidates for the election campaigns in different parts of Balochistan.

The use of government vehicles by the ministers of the coalition partner parties was a common thing that was witnessed during the elections.

This fact is also evident from the media coverage. The Chief Minister (PML), the Senior Minister (MMA) and other ministers attended the elections meetings and announced an open support for the candidates backed by their respective parties.

Amendments in the LG elections

The amendments made in the LG elections just before the announcement of the schedule of the elections were considered tantamount to rig the elections mainly because of certain confusions created in them.

Reduction of the seats at UC level

The reduction of the seats from 21 to 13 at the UC level was also taken in bad taste by the civil society organizations and even those who were the part of the LGs after the first elections 2001.

It was termed as a conspiracy against the system that had just started getting flourished in the country and making routes in the political hierarchy.

The CSOs especially the women councilors launched protest moves against the otherwise “one man” decision.

Condition of age limit for candidates

As there was an age limit of 25 years for the aspirants to contest elections in the LG elections 2005, so this blocked the way of some conscious, educated and energetic, but younger ones to make it into the LG system.

The example of the Naushki was there to quote where atleast six educated females could not take part in the elections 2005. This later led the district to the situation that not a single educated female got elected in the elections in the entire district.

II) Specific irregularities

Enlistment of foreigners as voter

In Chaghai, the DCC people pointed out that there were a number of foreign nationals including Iranian and Afghans who had got them registered as voters in the voters lists. Thus they cast their votes in favour of the candidates of their choice influencing on the elections results.

Similarly, another thing that was observed that the residents of Bolan, Mastung and Quetta also cast their votes having dual registration in the voters lists in Chaghai.

Election symbols

There were reports about the missing of the election symbols from the ballots in different parts of the province.

The fate of a winning female candidate was decided on toss because of the missing of the election symbol on the ballot paper, in Naukandi Union Council (Chaghai).

Anomalies in electoral rolls

Chaghai: The electoral rolls of 2001-02 were used in the LG 2005 as a result of which there was a lot of confusion among the voters. There was variation in the electoral rolls of 2001-02 and the amended/revised lists. The entry of some 15-20 percent voters was not in the electoral rolls (2001-02). This deprived them of using their right of franchise in the LG elections 2005.

Naushki: There were also reports from Naushki about the incorrect serial numbers in the electoral rolls which confused the voters a lot.

Barkhan: The people of district Barkhan faced a major problem in casting their votes. The voter's lists were very cleverly transferred from one union council to another to restrict people in casting their votes. Most of the people couldn't cast their votes and the whole polling day went in finding their names in the voter's lists. By the result of that the pro government candidates swept majority of the seats in the district Barkhan.

Pishin: The problem of the two voters lists i.e., older one of 2000-01 and the revised one of 2005 was also reported as the people got confused as to which to follow for using right of franchise. Moreover, another common complaint was about missing of the names in the revised lists. A lot of people were even unaware about the revised lists when they were told that they did not enlist in the revised lists and thus their names are missing from the (revised) lists. This infuriated the people.

So, a number of people were deprived of contesting the elections, besides casting votes.

Sibi: The voters' lists available at various polling stations differed to one another creating great confusions among the voters.

Kalat

Following issues were pointed out by DCC Kalat:

- In UC Nichara's village Kiyoto Khurd, the names of the voters were missing from the voters' lists though they were enlisted in the voters lists prepared in year 2001. Thus more than half eligible voters of the area were deprived of using their right of franchise.
- The entries of the names of the minority people were made few days before the elections in rest of the UC Kalat and UC Sorab, so the minority representatives were elected unopposed in 14 UCs of the district. This was a pre-planned and meant for benefiting a specific group.

Sibi

- Reports regarding casting of double votes and rigging were received from various polling stations.
- Turn out of women voters was high than the men.

Over casting

In UC Faizabad (Pishin), there were reports about mass rigging by an influential candidate of the area. A male voter cast average six to seven votes at a single ID card. This happened right in the presence of Presiding Officer. Though the AF monitoring team singled out the issue, yet no heed was paid towards it.

Killa Abdullah

- There were reports about use of fake ID cards for vote throughout the district.
- Law and order situation remained peaceful and no untoward incident was reported like the last Bye-elections of Balochistan Assembly elections held earlier this year, that had left at least three persons killed and many others injured.
- In view of the law and order situation, the elections were held in Killa Abdullah on August 28, instead August 25 (the date fixed for the second phase LG polls).

III) Petition (election) filed by candidates

No such petition was filed by any candidate regarding elections.

IV) Preparation of CNIC

Zhob: As Zhob is the constituency of the Speaker Assembly of Balochistan Mr. Jamal Shah Kakar and Maulana Sherani, so MMA has strong hold in the district Zhob. While preparation of the CNIC in the 8 union councils, NADRA mobile van was accompanied by the workers of MMA and they only prepared NICs of the pro MMA people. While replying to the questions of the people they clearly said to them that it was a van of MMA only, if other people want they should consult to their party leaders for arrangement of those.

Loralai: Due to the hold of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in Loralai, they mostly tried to prepare the CNICs, Local certificates and voter lists of their favourite people. While the others failed to prepare for their people because like JUI they had no much contacts in the line department.

Pishin: Getting their NICs prepared was a big problem for the people above aged 18 in the district. Though the mobile teams visited the areas to help the eligible persons prepare their NICs, but the facility was just confined to the areas where the government coalition partner (JUI-MMA) was enjoying strong hold. The intending candidates got the NICs of their supporters prepared depriving others (anti-party) people of the facility. It is worth mentioning here that the MMA, one of the ruling coalition partner in the Chief Minister Jam Muhammad Yousaf-led provincial government, reportedly did the uncalled for practice.

It was also reported that the Provincial Ministers Maulana Abdul Wahid Siddiqui (Education), Maulana Mateeullah Agha (Information) and Maulana Abdul Bari Agha (Public Health Engineering) were in the forefronts in the exercise.

It had also been learnt that a number of fake NICs were also prepared in the district just to show their strength in the elections.

Preparation of CNIC, Local and Voter Lists

Due to the hold of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in Loralai, they mostly tried to prepare the CNICs, Local certificates and voter lists of their favourite people. While the others failed to prepare for their people because like JUI they had no much contacts in the line department.

Ballot Papers

The issue of the missing of the election symbols was also faced by the people of Loralai. Only the candidates of the JUI and PML (Q) were had no objections about the missing of election symbols but on the other hand PKMAP's candidates and others were suffered.

V) Infrastructure (situation)

Quality of stationery/shortage

The stationery provided by the ECP was of the poor quality forcing the staff at the polling stations to purchase the stationery from the local bazaars. It was reported that the ball points and stamp pads were of the poor quality. They were outdated and were dry.

The staff used their personal pens.

Chaghai: There were also complains about the insufficiency of the election material/stationery in the Chaghai district.

The same complaints i.e., about poor quality of material and shortage of the material were also received from Naushki.

Pishin: The reports were also received about the poor quality stationary provided to the polling staff in Pishin, but at the same time the election material was provided insufficiently at various polling stations.

The DCC team reported that the Farms No. 14 were supplied to the polling stations in lesser number forcing the Presiding Officers to use plane papers for declaration of the results.

Similarly the stamp pads meant for thumb impression on the ballot papers were also dry and of poor quality.

Improper training/capacity of polling staff

Naushki: The polling staff deputed at the polling stations/booths was ill-trained. They not only consumed considerable time to guide the voters to cast their votes, but they also misguided the candidates at different polling stations as reported by DCC Coordinator from Naushki.

There were also reports from Naushki that female voters complained that their votes had already been cast by some one else.

The counting of the votes especially at the female polling booths/stations remained continued till late night and at a polling station in Naushki, the counting of the votes was completed at 2 AM on the following day.

Pishin: The election symbols were missing from the ballot papers. It was revealed to the candidates at the time of polling.

Though they were allotted the election symbols, yet the same was delayed for the time period varying in different cases from one and half hour to seven hours to the utter confusion to the candidates and their voters.

The female staff arrived around two hours late on the election duty in the UC Bostan, UC Dilsora, UC Hajian Shakarzai and the Polling Station Civil Dispensary.

The DCC's Joint Coordinator also approached the concerned high ups in the district pointing them out the late arrival of the polling staff.

Sibi

- Poor arrangements were made on the polling day. The main problems faced at the polling stations were of the lack of furniture, non-availability of water while there was a scorching heat on the day.
- There were joint polling stations for men and women (voters) in single premises. Women faced problem in casting votes.
- By seeing the untrained election staff, especially their incapability to handle the voters and use ballots, it was observed that they got improper training for the purpose.
- Most of the election staff was absent from various polling stations.

Pishin

- The election symbols of atleast two candidates were missing from the ballot papers. This caused delay in start of the polling process as the affected candidates protested over it.
- In UC Dilsora, the polling process could not be held till 5 PM because the election symbols of two candidates were missing from the ballot papers. The polling was started after 5 PM after the DRO/ARO allotted the election symbols to the candidates. The polling then continued till 8 PM.
- A minority candidate from UC Bostan, Tehsil Karezat, Ram Rakha complained that the minority's brown colour ballot was not issued to the voters while just five ballots were issued to them. 1512 votes of majority (muslim) were cast and just 22 votes of minority were cast. The question is that as to where were remaining 1490 votes of minority.

Jaffarabad

- Untrained female election staff was appointed at UC Dera Allahuar-IV as a result of which voters faced problems in casting votes. It also took considerable time to cast votes and slowed down the polling process. Out of twelve hundred female votes, 687 votes could be cast. The male candidates were present there and there was scuffle between the rival ones. This also effected the polling process. Many female voters returned back to their homes without casting votes due to the situation. Polling was halted between 2.00-2.30 PM, and when informed the Returning Officer visited the polling station and restored the polling process.

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- A general perception was that no proper arrangement was made by the administration for the polling. And there were also reports about the alleged favouritism and partiality on part of the administration.

Quetta

A sort of mismanagement was witnessed at a female polling station established in Government Inter Girls College Satellite Town, where the polling process was an extremely slow. It was learnt that the female polling staff deputed at the polling station was untrained and was not able to deal with the situation.

VI) Security issues

As such the AF Quetta and its networks / partners did not face any security and violence issue, yet law and order problem on the eve of the elections / polling reported from some parts of the province was a problem for all those who matter especially the law enforcement agencies.

Barkhan

- In the union council Dhol Wai, Neharkot, the militants threat the people just one night before the polling day to not cast their votes. The purpose behind that was, to assist the candidate of the PML (Q). The polling day went due to the desire of militants and nobody from that union council cast their votes and the candidate of PML (Q) won the election by getting some votes of his workers.
- There is an enmity of Mazrani tribe with Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, the elder of Khetran tribe the former Provincial Minister Balochistan and husband of a sitting female Balochistan Minister, Mrs. Nasreen Khetran. The tribesmen of Mazrani did not let cast votes to the tribesmen of Khetran and especially those who were from the group of Sardar Khetran at the Polling Station Babartak in UC Sadar Barkhan. Due to the tension created following the situation, polling remained halted for some time. PPP candidates secured votes at the polling station.
- The polling station Do Lowahi is located on the border area of Barkhan and Marri's Kohlu. The area falls in UC Nahar Kot. Marri tribe is settled in the area. The PPP and PML candidates were strong candidates and in the competition run for the LG polls. A day before the elections, Mazzaris asked the people not to cast their votes on the polling day, or else be ready to face the consequences. Following this warning, just 12 votes were cast at the polling station Do Lowahi.

Gandhawa, Jhal Magsi

- As such there was no problem faced in smooth conduct of the LG polls in the district. No rigging complaint was lodged from the area.
- However, four persons including two personnel of Frontier Corps (FC) and even number of tribesmen were killed in an armed clash took place in the district. The bloody incident occurred after completion of the polling process.

Sibi

Polling was halted for sometime at the polling stations in UCs City-I, City-II, City-III and UC Karak due to scuffle between the voters and agents of rival candidates.

Loralai

- There was a problem of law and order at various UCs of the district including Sadar Bori, Oriyagi, Nasirabad and Lahore UC just because the non-availability of the law enforcers at the polling stations established in the UCs.
- There was an environment of harassment and uncertainty in various parts of the district due to the law and order situation.
- One person was killed and two others were injured seriously in an armed tribal clash on the polling day in Sadar Bori UC. The reason obviously was that no sufficient police force was available in the area to avert any untoward incident on the polling day.

Jaffarabad

In UC Durgai, a clash took place between supporters of rival candidates at the polling station of Goth Abdul Sattar Khosa that left five persons injured. The polling remained suspended for around one an hour. The ratio of female voters at the polling station remained low.

Quetta

- There was a fierce clash between rival groups at a polling station in Pushtoonabad area. The armed clash claimed a life of an elderly supporter of a group.
- Scuffles among the rival groups were also reported from various polling stations of the district.

Themes / Issues

Use of Public Offices

Appointment of polling staff

Pishin: No female staff was appointed at any of the combined polling stations/booths established for the elections in Tehsil Karezat. It was learnt that the Returning Officer Karezat allegedly did so on the desire of the government. As a result of which a number of female voters belonging to the anti-government candidates could not cast their votes and feel reluctance in doing so.

In Qila Abdullah, Returning Officer appointed for Qila Abdullah served against the post while based in Pishin, because of certain law and order problems and the tribal disputes between the tribal groups.

So, this forced the candidates to submit their nomination papers by coming to Pishin all the way from Qila Abdullah.

Zhob

- Chief Minister of Balochistan Mr. Jam Mohammad Yousaf announced that he intends to increase the numbers of union councils in the districts. Mr. Jamal Shah Kakar Speaker Assembly of Balochistan and Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel gave proposal to increase 5 union councils in their respective constituencies. But due to the pressure of MMA Chief Minister of Balochistan announced increment of 5 union councils in the constituency of Mr. Jamal Shah Kakar just ten hours before the announcement of the election schedule.

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- The transfer of the District Coordination Officer and District Administrative Officer was the other shape of rigging in the district Zhob. MMA government posted their pro MMA DCO and DAO in the district Zhob just before the Local Government Elections.
 - The newly appointed DCO and DAO posted pro-MMA officials as Polling Officers and they heavily worked for the candidates of MMA.
 - The residents of union council Babu Muhalla Islamiyar reported that the candidate of MMA got 70 votes just 30 minutes after the opening of the polling station, while nobody came there to cast the vote at that time.

Loralai

During the polling in the union councils Mekhtar and Tore Thana the candidates of the JUI and PML (Q) were allowed to distribute the ballot papers outside the polling stations and those people were also allowed to cast their votes more than one time.

The polling staff was also posted according to their wishes. The election officials were totally with the PML (Q) and JUI and they whole heartedly supported their candidates. In the union council Saddar Bori the firing incident was also occurred due to favour of the candidates. The two workers of opposition Pashtoonkhwa Mili Awami Party (PKMAP) were killed and polling was stopped and the candidate of JUI was declared winner.

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Pishin

- Government machinery was used/misused in favour of the government backed candidates.
- Blue-eyed staff was appointed at the polling stations.
- Where there the voters of opponent (opposition) candidates, the polling process was kept slow intentionally by the polling staff, while the polling process was speeded up where there the voters of the government backed candidates were in the competition run and enjoying strong position.
- No female polling staff was appointed at the combined polling stations in as many as eight UCs. As a result of which the women voters faced problems, and seeing the situation (non availability of the female staff) the women voters did not turn up for vote.

Jaffarabad

- In UC Dera Allahyar-III, the police became party in favour of the government backed candidates at female polling stations established in Girls High School and when the things went unnoticed by the police and the administration, people got infuriated and consequently fierce clash was occurred there leaving some 29 persons injures from either side. Then police came into action and did aerial firing and dispersed the furious people. Polling remained suspended between around 12 noon to 4 PM.
- What's wrong was that the female voters went back to their homes seeing the tense situation in the area and thus remained deprived of using their right of franchise. On being informed the high ups by the DCC coordinator and members, the Police Incharge of the area was suspended for his alleged negligence to control the situation.

Polling day impediments

Loralai

- Shortage of polling staff was felt at various polling stations.
- Male staff was posted at the female polling stations. This effected the female voters turn out in the area.
- Combined polling stations were established for the male and female voters.
- Polling was stopped at the female polling station in Sadar Mekhtar UC without any reason since morning. The office of Election Commission was duly informed about the issue, but in vain.
- Delay in dispatch of the election material and staff in some remote areas of the district. This also slowed down the polling process.
- Wrong entries of women's names in the electoral rolls.
- Separate electoral rolls were available with the polling staff and the election candidates.
- There were also reports about the use of fake ID cards and bogus voting, especially at the female polling stations.

Quetta

- Quetta had been declared most sensitive with security point of view. Heavy deployment of the law enforcers was made at various parts of the district, especially at the polling stations in their bid to avert any untoward incident.
- In UC Pushtoonabad, there were reports about rigging by a group. Later, it used its influence and created trouble for the voters and the polling staff. The female polling staff was also manhandled at the polling station set up in the area. The situation caused suspension in the polling process for around five hours with breaks.
- A candidate contesting election of UC Nazim in Patel Bagh alleged that fake ID cards are being used at the polling stations fall in the UC Patel.

Violations of Election Rules and Regulations in LG Elections (District-wise Report Punjab)

Major Observations

Following are the observations taken out from reports sent in by the DCCs in 25 districts under Lahore Office.

1. District Lahore

- In the existing 6 town councils, three more town councils were added namely Samabdad Town, Gulberg Town and Wahga Twon. The union councils were divided in a way as to benefit the government-backed candidates.
- Polling schemes were prepared with the consideration that government backed candidates could take advantage. Similarly the polling staff was also appointed as can benefit the same.
- Cars of MPAs and Ministers were used in the campaign by some candidates. Like for instance the Provincial Minister for Tourism ran the campaign of a candidate.
- Nomination papers were short in supply and the clerks sold nomination papers and the rate was from 200 to 2000.
- Difficulty in obtaining certified copy of vote numbers from office of the District Election Commission.
- Election symbols were allotted to the government backed candidates of their choice and some candidates got their desired election symbols by bribing.
- It was reported that in Union Councils No. 101, 108, 104, 100, 107,115,93, 87 and 106, bogus votes were cast.
- By and large the presiding officers did not provide the singed copy of the results to the polling agents.
- Most buildings selected for polling stations were not suitable to conduct polling.
- Election symbols were missing from the ballot papers or were not printed clearly.
- Stationary and other things provided to the polling staff was substandard.
- Faulty voters' lists were provided. In many cases the lists were not compatible with the list provided to candidates.
- Brawls and firing at Gajju Matta in a school (UC 145), the security people were unable to control them.
- The polling station for UC 134 was set up in UC 135 (in General Hospital), even candidates did not know it.
- In UC 135, the supporters of a candidate for Nazim, forced the presiding officer of polling station (General Hospital) to change the results.
- In UC 136, Community High School's polling station had old voters list, which caused too many problems and several voters were unable to cast votes.
- It is reported that some candidates purchased the ID cards of voter fro 500 to 1000 rupees.
- The polling staff was not given any orientation or training.

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- Results were changed by the returning officer. In almost every Union council, candidates complained that. Heavy amounts were paid to the clerks or RO and or political pressure was used to change the results.

2. District Bahawalnagar

DCC Bahawalnagar monitored 26 polling stations. The observations are as follows:

- Difficulty in obtaining nomination papers.
- Difficulty in obtaining voters' list to file nomination papers.
- The ROs did not have the copies of amendments in election rules.
- Inadequate arrangements of security, a constable or a volunteer was appointed in each polling station. They were unable to control the voters.
- The polling staff was not trained.
- Stationary provided to the polling staff was substandard.
- Confusion over minority voters that as to how many votes would they cast?
- In UC 61 and 1, it was complained that bogus votes were being cast.
- In UC 74, Chak N0. 176/7R, a political worker was murdered. The Rangers and Elite Force reached after the murder. This polling station was declared sensitive but no proper arrangements were made. In UC No. 1, a brawl took place which ended at exchange of fire. Polling had to stop. It was complained by the voters that bogus votes being cast in that polling station.
- The District Returning Officer, following allegations of rigging in UC-72, ordered an enquiry and declared Mr. Akhtar Ali (the Returning Officer) responsible for that. The enquiry report has been sent to the Provincial Election Commissioner.

3. District Bahawalpur

Total No. of polling stations visited: 18 (11 female and 7 male)

- Some returning officers took 100 rupees for nomination papers, which were meant to give free of cost. There was shortage of nomination papers.
- The most difficult thing had been to obtain vote numbers from District Election Commission office.
- The polling staff was untrained and thus it was difficult for them to conduct polling properly.
- Barely one police constable was appointed in each polling station, which was inadequate to control or manage the voters or maintain law and order.
- There was not sufficient furniture available in the polling stations that polling staff can conduct polling process effectively. Even seats were not available for polling agents.
- There was no privacy for the voters to stamp the ballot papers.
- There were two UCs (UC-14 and a UC in Ahmedpur Sharqia) where election symbols of two candidates were missing.

4. District Layyah

DCC Layyah monitored 169 polling stations (111 male and 58 female). The observations are as follows:

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- Some returning officers did not know exactly the amount of fee for each category.
 - There was dearth of nomination papers. Nomination papers were sold.
 - It was heard that votes were purchased by some candidates (the rate was 500 to 1000 rupees).
 - More rigging was witnessed at the women polling stations, where the supporter of a candidate snatched the ballot papers from women voters and stamped for themselves.
 - Voters list were faulty. The list provided to candidates were different from the lists provided to the polling staff.
 - Bogus votes were cast in some polling stations.
 - The polling staff was not trained to conduct the polling properly and as per rules.

5. District Sahiwal

The DCC Monitoring Team visited the 36 polling stations (16 male and 20 female).

- In UC 14, women voters were made to stand outside the polling stations and they could not cast their votes until the DCC monitoring team intervened and they (the women) were allowed to get in and cast their votes.
- In UC 16, supporters of opposing candidates were fighting with each other, the only constable in the polling station was helpless to control them.
- In UC 9, a supporter of a candidate was marking the ballot papers of women voters. On being asked as to why he was doing that? He said that he was the son of DSP.
- In UC 10, a child get killed because of fight among supporters of opposing candidates.
- Following are the UCs (villages) where women were not allowed to cast their votes:
 1. UC 64: Chak # 6/12-L
 2. UC 74: Chak # 14/ 12-L
 3. UC 75: Chak # 101/12/-L

6. District Rahim Yar Khan

Total No. of polling stations visited: 39 (18 urban and 21 rural)

- All polling stations were set up at such locations as can be beneficial to the government-backed candidates.
- Male polling staff was appointed at women polling stations
- There were frequent complains that votes were purchased by the election candidates.
- In some polling stations voters registered in voters' list of 2001 were missing in the voters' list of 2002.
- In Primary School, Manak polling station four people got injured in exchange of fire between two rival candidates.
- Some influential candidates or their supporters took ballot boxes at their 'Deras' where counting of votes was conducted and statement of count was prepared.

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- In Primary School, Adam Arain's polling station, election symbol of a candidate was missing. The polling began late by one hour as a result.
 - In polling station, set up in Jinpur Union Council office, fight took place between supporters of opposing candidates and as a result candidate's son (stood for UC Nazim) got injured and later on expired.
 - A polling station was set up in UC 72, in front of the house of a Govt. backed candidate so that their voters could easily vote while it was far away for the voters of opposing candidates.
 - In UCs 71-B, 72-C, 73-D and 74 City, the candidates, who did not enjoy the support of ruling party, complained that they were not being heard by the ROs, polling staff or district administration.
 - In UC Nil Garh, the cousin of a Provincial Minister, Ch. M. Ejaz Shafi, was contesting. District Administration and election staff was supporting them in many ways while the other opposing candidates were being harassed.
 - Village Mauza Mauri's votes were cast in tehsil Khanpur area, though the village is a part of tehsil Laiqat pur. The polling station was mentioned in the polling scheme.
 - During the course of filing nomination papers, obtaining the vote number and the nomination forms remained a problem, confusion over fee for different categories and delimitations of certain UCs were not defined.
 - There two lists of voters available: 2001 and 2002, which created problemes.
 - The Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, openly intervened in electoral process by announcing support for Government backed candidates. District Administration have been asked to cooperate with the candidates.
 - Maj. (Rtd.) Tanvir Hussain Syed, Secretary Parliament, held larger meetings in UCs 70, 71, 72, 73 and 74 in support of the Govt. backed candidates.
 - The DCO, The DPO and the District Assistant Election Commissioner were transferred soon after the election results were announced.

7. District Narowal

Total No. of polling stations visited by DCC are: 13 (8 urban and 3 rural)

- Faulty voters' lists
- There was no privacy in the polling booths and polling agents of candidates were instructing women voters on whom to vote for. In some cases, polling agents forcibly stamping ballot papers themselves. In UC 16 (Mandranwala) the supporters of a candidates cast bogus votes of women voters.
- In UC 2 (Eisa Nagri) a women of another UC was appointed polling agent, which was against rules, the woman in connivance with the police, forcing women to cast their vote for certain candidate. DCC members intervened and the Presiding officer asked the woman to leave the polling station.

8. District Pakpattan

Total No. polling stations visited: 21 (9 female and 13 male)

- Polling staff was not properly trained

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- Stationary and material was of poor quality.
 - Sale and purchase of votes were reported.
 - Polling staff was favoring certain candidates.
 - Acute problems of transport for polling staff particularly for women polling staff to reach the polling stations to conduct polling.
 - Names of several voters were missing from the lists
 - During the process of filing nomination papers, the ROs did not accept the old ID card in first two days.
 - The aspirants to file nomination papers encountered a lot of difficulties in getting the voters lists.

9. District Nankana Sahib

Total No. of polling stations visited: 16

- Polling station, Mor Khunda, had no boundary wall, ballot papers were lying open, the security people seemed to be helpless to control or manage the voters.
- In UC 33 (Boraala Sharif), bogus votes were cast. A bogus voter was caught by the police. Similarly in UC 5, the police caught three people for casting bogus votes.
- A brawl took place and hot words were exchanged in polling station, Govt. Community Model School, Chak Saini Bar, as it was a combined polling station. Some men entered the building earmarked for women polling station.
- In Govt. Girls High School, Shahkot, polling station, the staff was short. Therefore it was difficult for them to manage the voters.
- Returning officers were not appointed in tehsils, prospective candidates had to come to the district headquarter. Particularly for women it was quite difficult to come all the way from tehsils in hot and sultry weather.
- Difficulty in obtaining voters' lists.

10. District Khanewal

Total No. of polling stations visited: 29

- To maintain law and order in polling stations, inadequate security arrangements were made. Barely two or three sentries were appointed.
- The stationary and material provided to polling staff was substandard.
- Polling staff was untrained.
- Following were UCs where ballot papers of minority seats were provided:
 1. UC 11 (polling station 13)
 2. UCs: 60,58, 57, 49, 39, 38
 3. In UC 7, the Presiding Officer did not provide the ballot papers to polling staff. No vote on minority seat was cast in this polling station.
- At a polling station set up in Govt. Elementary School, Kamboh Nagar, a woman named Munnawar Sultana, snatched the polling bag from the Presiding Officer. The constable tried to prevent her but to no avail. The Returning Officer came and the

woman was arrested. At the same polling station, some supporters were armed and some were carrying batons to harass the opponents.

- In UC 52, Mauza Mauripur, 1652 women are registered as voters, while two women stood for reserved seats, no women was allowed to cast votes including the women election candidates.
- A woman named Bushra Altaf with her aged mother came to the polling station of Sadiq Colony (tehsil Mian Channu) to cast vote. She was arrested for allegedly casting bogus vote. The Returning Officer took her to his official residence where she was kept till 9:00pm and he (the returning officer) harassed her and behaved indecently. She was released on the promise that she would meet him again. The District Session Judge had ordered for the investigation.
- Regarding the filing of nomination papers a number of problems arose:
 1. Along with the nomination papers, form to declare assets were not given, reason being that only winning candidates would submit them later on, but when DCC pointed them out that this is mandatory for each candidate, these forms were provided. The candidates were asked to get the asset forms attested by the Oath Commissioners, which were not required under the law.
 2. Candidates along with both secondary and proposer had been asked to be present at the time of submitting nomination forms. While, as per law, anyone of them can submit the forms.
 3. Head of account to deposit nomination fee was changed which caused a lot of problems to the candidates.

11. District Rajanpur

Total No. of polling stations visited: 17 (10 urban and 7 rural)

- The whole District Administration supported and facilitated unlawfully the candidates backed by Mr. Nasrullah Khan Dreshak (the Finance Minister, Punjhab) and Mr. Shaukat Mazari (the Deputy Speaker, Punjab Assembly). Particularly several officers and inspectors from the Police Department openly supported rather ran campaign of different candidates. Like for instance, DSP, SHO, Kot Mithan and Fazilpur, Sub-Inspector of Noorpur, etc.
- The polling scheme was prepared in a way that Government backed candidates could benefit. The polling scheme was consulted by Mr. Nasrullah Dreshak (the Finance Minister) before announcement.
- Several polling staff were changed on the day of polling.
- Mr. Rana Sanaullah (Deputy DEO, General) was transferred to district Rajanpur by the MNA so that he may be used during the election.
- The polling staff was instructed by the DCO that results of the polling stations should not be given on the prescribed forms.
- Exhibition of weapons was common on the polling day. The supporters harassed the polling staff and stamp the ballot papers themselves in the presence of police.

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- Mr. Ali Raza (the Son of MNA) who is prospective candidate for district Nazim was given the Car of ex-district nazim for campaigning to give the impression that he is going to be the district nazim. He also had a round of polling stations on the same car along with police contingent.
 - Despite the tense situation in some UCs, no army personnel were called to maintain the law and order situation.
 - Following the election at the UC level, the elected candidates are being implicated in false cases. They are being black mailed to get their vote in favour of the Ali Raza for the district Nazim slot.
 - Some women who went to cast their votes at Polling station set up at Boys High School, Rajanpur City, came to know that their votes have already been cast.
 - Pooling booths were changed again and again, discrepancy in voters list, some women's vote was already cast by someone at the polling station of Girls High School, Rajanpur city.
 - At male and female polling stations of Kot Mithan, a severe clashes among the opposing groups took place, bogus votes were cast, empty ballot boxes were not shown to the polling agents. The Army personnel stationed at the Forest Rest House was not called to control the situation.
 - At polling station Jampur city, voters were given only two ballot papers while the supporters of candidates stamped the remaining three ballot papers.

12. District Khushab

Total No. of polling stations visited: 22 (5 urban and 17 rural)

- At Sarki polling station, polling began at 1:00 pm because wrong ballot papers were provided to the polling staff. At the women polling station, ballot papers were short.
- UC 11 (Village Narhi) women were not allowed to cast their votes. It was decided by the tribe of the area. Though polling station was set up and polling staff was present on polling day but no woman came to cast vote. Women of the area confirmed that they have been prevented to cast their votes by the elders of the birardi.
- In Khaliqbaad UC, names of several women voters were missing from the list.
- In UC 26, police persons in connivance with the polling staff were asking women voters to cast their vote to a certain candidate. This was brought to the notice of the presiding officer.
- In UC 42 (polling station Aadhi Kot) a candidate for UC Nazim abducted another candidate and harassed the voters which forced people flee the polling station. An FIR was registered against him by the local police station.

13. District DG Khan

- There were two different voters' lists available. Both lists were provided to only government backed candidates. The voters faced problems in this connection. Serial numbers of the additional voters' lists were incorrect.
- Several polling stations notified in the polling schemes were changed at the eleventh hour.

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- There was a difference in the computerized results of elected candidates and the results given by the presiding officers.
 - Some polling agents were denied for the signed copies of the results by the presiding officers. In some cases, polling agents were not allowed to sit in the polling booths.
 - By and large, the attitude of the polling staff was partisan.
 - Election symbols were missing on the ballot papers of some election candidates.
 - The Code of Ethics issued by the Election Commission was violated openly.
 - Members of National and Provincial assemblies did canvassing for certain candidates.
 - District administration and their resources were used for the election campaign.

14. District Gujranwala

Total No. of polling stations visited: 15 (8 urban and 7 rural)

- UC 112 (Rukh Kikranwali): polling staff came late and the opposing candidate's supporters quarreled again and again. One of the candidates stood for Nazim slot, was under trial for a murder and was in jail.
- UC 113 (Ferozwala): The opposing candidate's supporters threw a hand grenade in a corner meeting of Ms. Sumera Iqbal (the candidate for Nazim slot) and as a result 6 people killed. During the polling the women voters were looking scared. Some voters complained that some supporters of a candidate were forcibly stamping ballot papers themselves.
- UC 110 (Mandiala Sindhwan): The site for the polling station was not appropriate and several names were missing from voters' list.
- UC 105 (Arup): Polling began late, the voters were harassed by an opposing candidate, an attempt was made on an opposing candidate, and he got injured badly. Polling remained suspended for three hours. The SP and the Returning Officer intervened and thus polling began again. Both parties registered cross FIR.
- UC 106 (Wania): The site for polling station was suitable and polling was conducted in amicable manner as per rules. The voters did not make any complain.
- UC 107 (Bhatti Bhangoo): A woman had stood for UC Nazim slot. She complained that the opponents were threatening and harassing her supporters and voters. The polling staff was facilitating the opposing candidate one way or the other. Because of shortage of space, all polling agents were not able to sit inside the polling booths.
- UC 108 (Talwandi Musa Khan): The polling had to be suspended because of brawls among the contesting candidates' supporters. One candidate complained that opposing candidate was stopping his voters to enter the polling station.
- UC 68 (Khiali Shahpur): One person was murdered on polling day. The people took out procession and burnt the van of a magistrate.
- UC 25 (Peoples Colony): Names of voters were missing in the list and bogus votes were cast as per the people of the area.

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- UC 22 (Wahdat Colony): It was complained that women were being stopped from casting their votes. There was not a single police constable performed duty on this polling station.
 - UC 38 (District Council Hall): It was complained that additional ballot boxes had been provided which were not shown to the polling agents before sealing. Lady constables were not appointed.
 - UC 93 (College Road): Exchange of firing between the contesting candidates, bogus votes were cast and names of several voters were missing in the list.
 - UC 91 (Model Town): Supporters of contesting candidates quarreled. The police constable appointed at the polling station was favoring one candidate.
 - UCs 75 (Naushehra Road), 73 (Dera Awan Chak), 166 (Ghummanwala), 172 (Dharwar Tali), 169 (Mari Baidran) , 160 (City Kamonki), 162 (City Kamonki, 150 (Ghania), UC 147 (Kot Nawabdin), UC 146 (Gonapur), UC 145 (Mandiala Tega), UC 1 (City Wazirbaad), UC 3 (Dhonkal), UC 5 (Nat Kalan), UC 6 (Kot Inayat Khan), UC 10 (Bharoki Cheema), UC 14 (Ahmed Nagar), UC 13 (Kalaskay), UC 25 (City Wazirabad), UC 26 (Gakhar Mandi). Following common observations were made in the above mentioned polling stations:
 1. Bogus votes were cast
 2. Police staff was facilitating unfairly to certain candidates
 3. Names were missing from voters' lists.

15. District Multan

Total Polling stations visited: 40 (25 female and 15 male)

- Polling staff was not trained; neither proper orientation was given to them.
- The Government backed candidates were being facilitated by the polling staff.
- UC 25 (Basti Shor Kot) two persons were murdered while several injured by the firing of opposing candidate's supporters. Brawls and clashes were common on polling stations. Proper security arrangements were not made on the polling stations, which caused low turnout at the women polling stations.

16. District Lodhran

- Polling station Govt. Primary School, Bokhariwala: names of voters were missing in the voters' list and wrong entries were made.
- Polling station Govt. Girls Middle School, Rajapur: The polling staff was abducted by the supporters of a candidate to get the desired results. A candidate for Nazim (Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah) took away the ballot boxes.
- Polling station Govt. Primary School, Rukunpur: The polling agents of the candidates were not allowed to sit in the polling booths because of shortage of space where they could observe polling.
- UC 6 (Adam Wahan): Male polling staff was conducting the polling.
- UC 8 (Chhamb Kalyar): Substandard stationary (pen, stamp pad etc.) was provided which made the polling process difficult. Women voters were being influenced to vote for a certain candidate.

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- UC 25 (Railway Station): The police personnel misbehaved with women voters.
 - UC 28 (Gangaywala): the polling staff issued the ballot paper without having the thumb impressions.
 - UC 34 (Dunyapur): A woman journalist, Ms. Fareeha Aziz, was misbehaved by some candidate's supporters.
 - UC 10 (Bhotiji): Women voters were harassed by the opposing candidate, three members of female polling staff were kept in a room to harass them and a bag of votes (containing 349 votes) were stolen from accounts office (treasury).
 - UC 12 (Qureshiwala): Faulty voters' lists
 - UC 18 (Salsadar): The polling staff was harassed by the candidates' supporters.
 - UC 20 (Chak No. 49-M): Men forcibly stamp the ballot papers of women voters.
 - UC 20 (Chak NO. 51-M and 52-M) Ballot boxes were taken away by the supporters and candidates.
 - UC 47 (Chak No. 35-M): Women supporters of a candidate were persuading women voters to vote for their candidate.
 - UC 47 (Chak No. 28-M): Police personnel in plain clothes were forcing people to vote for a candidate who was relative of the police personnel.

17. District Okara

Total No. of polling station visited: 9 (7 female and 2 male)

- UC 106 (Haveli Lakhha): following a brawl between two opposing groups, a person died due to firing.
- UC 19 (Bibipur) four persons injured in exchange of fire.
- UC 6 (Raipur), UC 29 (Chak No. 43/3R), UC Rajawal, UC 92 (Sabri Colony): Exchange of firing among the opposing group. Some people got injured.
- Because of firing and disruption of polling, repelling was ordered in UC 19 and UC 60.

18. District Kasur

Total No. of polling stations visited: 41 (25 female and 16 male)

- UC 5, 4, 10, Bazidpur, Mustafabad, Kotli Rai Abu Bakar, UC Maan, Pattoki Railway station, Ghosia Chowk, Sarare Mughal: police baton charged to disperse and control the people outside the polling station, fight among supporters of opposing candidate, firing in the air by the supporters of candidates in the above mentioned polling stations. Some people were arrested and put in the lock up. Polling remained suspended from one to two hours.
- Process of polling was slow, which caused low turn out. Polling staff was not efficient.

19. District Jhang

- Polling station Govt. Hussainia High School, Jhang city: Supporters were persuading voters to cast their votes for a candidate. Some supporters were taking ballot papers from the voters and inserting in the ballot papers. There was a discrepancy between the no. of ballot papers issued and cast.

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- Polling station DDO (Buildings): The voters complained the bogus votes are being cast. DCC monitoring team was not allowed to enter the polling station despite the permission card was shown to them.
 - Polling station Govt. Islamia High School, Jhang City: Supporters of a candidate were forcibly stamping the ballot papers issued to the voters. The Presiding officer and other polling staff were overlooking.
 - Polling station Govt. Girls High School, Gojra Road: Several men were gathered inside the polling station who were forcing women voters to cast their vote to a certain candidate.
 - Polling station Govt. College for Women, Jhang City: A women lecturer (who is a supporter of an expected Tehsil Nazim) influencing the polling process by asking women voters to cast their vote to their candidate.

20. District TT Singh

Total no. of polling stations visited: 32 (18 female and 14 male)

- In most of the polling stations polling began late.
- In a village of UC # 16, around one hundred women voters could not cast their votes
- In UC 56, Polling Station No. 3, organized rigging reported. Exchange of firing between rival groups also reported.
- In UC 1, Polling Station No. 5, the polling staff was confined in a room by the supporters of a candidate as they were blamed for rigging.
- In UC 17, people blamed the polling staff for alleged rigging.
- The District Administration favoured Govt. backed candidates.

Election Monitoring Report

Islamabad Office

Observations of Polling Process

Four AF teams were set up to monitor the polling process and the situation of women participation and to observe the over all process of Elections. Though Elections were transparent on Government level but Ex-local government officials and local political parties representatives were influencing the election process. In these Elections irregularities was observed by Election commission and non-trained polling staff. Though the elections were on the basis of non party basis, but the political parties and political leaders both from opposition as well as ruling parties openly influenced the Electoral process. Overall analysis of Election process is as follows.

Phase-1

1. Sialkot.

Election process in Sialkot monitored by AF Team comprising Mumtaz Begum ,Zamarud Baloch and Shazia Khalid visited three Urban and four rural polling stations. Some Presiding Officers were trying to support their candidates by hiding the NIC numbers from the list of voters, misguiding and treating the voters harshly. (This was happening in Kotli Behram UC 37/2 (polling station # 434, District Sialkot) where Presiding Officer was hiding one page of list to stop some of the voters from casting their votes but their numbers were written in polling agents list. On asking Presiding Officer told that she is following the voter list that is received by Election Commission and in this situation she can't do any thing. Moreover when Mumtaz Begum asked her name she told Zahida Dar but after some while she has told that her name is Shamim Akhtar. Same problem was in another poling station where 502 and 503 number was not written in list. AF team has given mobile number of Chief Election Commissioner to the voters that in this situation they can complain.

Case Study-1

The case was serious on polling both of Pehlodewta, UC Sundarpur , District Sialkot where polling agents of two parties had side lined the polling staff including Presiding Officer. Presiding Officer was afraid of any clash between two groups if he tried to interfere in the process. He even requested AF Team to call the police as police didn't reached on his call to avoid the occupation of poling station. AF team called the police for help and S.S.P who was on mobile duty himself replied the call and we learnt afterward that he made required arrangements.

Case Studies-2

UC Chewinda in District Sialkot .

During Election campaign Phase I and Phase-II we brought about many issues in the notice of Election Commission. In Phase-I we received report of irregularities during polling against **Ex-lady Nazim Shazia Ellahi Sethi in UC Chewinda in District Sialkot**. Every illegal tactic was used to keep her out of the election process even she

was attacked for murder but she escaped the attack. Two FIR's were registered against their opponents but election commission did not AF Islamabad Office sent a report to Election Commission for Re-polling in that UC.

UC Kingra

In this UC influential groups used show of power to stop their opponents to cast their votes. Arms were openly carried out by one group and barred the voters to cast vote other than their candidate. One police man was on duty there without arms and was witnessing the situation but could not do any thing due to shortage of security personnel's.

2- Haripur

AF team comprising Fakir Hussain, Shazia Ijaz, and Erum Fatima visited four rural and six urban polling stations. The Election process was going on smoothly in majority of the stations. But lack of discipline by Polling staff as well as voters was observed in all the polling stations. Due to confusion of voters about ballot papers and lack of interest of polling staff to guide voters, many ballot papers were scattered in the polling booths. Polling officer did not had complete voters list and people were not guided properly about their polling booths. In Sara-e-Salah polling station polling staff and polling agents were gossiping with each other resulting in the rush of voters. A monitoring team comprising of MS. Rukhsana and Ms. Nancy from donor agency CIDA also visited the polling stations in Haripur, and observed smooth procedure of elections. But in UC Tarbela polling station No 28, a small scale fighting started between contesting people and their supporters and army was called in by the polling staff after which situation was controlled. The problem started when polling staff did not allowed the voters of one candidates who did not have their I.D card No in voters lists, and they demanded to cast vote as their name was in the voter list. The contesting candidate also supported the polling staff and a fighting started between the both groups, which was later on controlled by army personnel's. In this UC polling agents were openly influencing polling staff by compelling voters to stamp on the sign of their candidates.

Phase-2

1- Jhelum

AF Team comprising Shazia Ijaz and Erum Fatima visited the 3 Urban, and four Rural women polling stations .Polling process was going on smoothly and no rigging was observed by the team but lack of discipline was there in all the polling stations .Polling staff was mainly untrained and were unable to handle huge rush. It was noticed by AF team that some of they ballot boxes were defected because they were unable to close them properly. Ballot papers were found scattered in different polling stations .There was no queue and no secrecy of voters and women are casting their votes together. Some polling agents were trying to influence the polling staff on their level but no government involvement was observed by the team and only local parties were disturbing polling process in some of the polling stations.

2- Mandi Baha-ud-din

AF Team comprising Faqir Hussain and Imran Sharif visited different urban and rural polling stations. There were some discrepancies observed in M. Bahaudin. Polling scheme at preceding night of polling day was abruptly changed and polling stations of Kot Ahmed and Roshanpura have been shifted to the polling station primary School Mujahidabad that created a fuss due to small space at that station. As reported by member of DCC only the polling agents of Nazims were allowed to remain in the polling station under the administrative order of the DCO Mandi Bahauddin while polling agents of general and reserved seats councilors were not allowed to sit in the polling booth to observe the polling process. A General councilor was permanently sitting in the polling booth and was convincing the voters to cast their votes in his favour. In some Polling stations influential Polling agents had literally occupied the polling stations compelling the polling staff to work on their commands and instructions.

Case Study UC 2 M.B, Din

Supporters of Mr. Liaquat a candidate of Nazim were influencing the voters and openly marking the ballot papers in favour of their candidate. All these discrepancies were brought into the notice of presiding officer but due to administrative mismanagement she was confused and helpless to manage such a large number of voters. Polling agents of other Nazim candidates except Mr. Liaquat (who was told to be Muslim League Q favorite) were quite dissatisfied and grumbling about the polling process

3- Gujrat

During visit to polling station number 2 UC 50 Gujrat 6, the team reached in last hour of polling every thing was quite smooth and normal but AF team was told by some female polling staff that this smooth state of affairs was a unique and strange example of lull after the storm because in the early hours of polling, there have occurred every sort of harassment such as gun firing, snatching of ballot papers, fixing of stamp on ballot papers which could not be confirmed due to after effects of the events and threats of dire consequences thereof.

In order to get factual information about the election process at Gujrat, AF team gathered data from various sections of society and lastly met with veteran social activist, intellectual and well-known lawyer Ch. Masood Akhter Advocate member DCC Gujrat. A large number of knowledgeable persons and Nazimeen were present in Ch. Masood's Chamber. They were all of the opinion that elections law and order and human rights position at Gujrat was a painful drama. The opposing candidates were kidnapped; their supporters and seconders were locked up, harassment of every kind such as gun firing, registering fake cases against them at police stations, and ruthlessly beating them and what not did the Chauhdries and their lieutenants' use against them.

Case study

Presiding officer Ms. Farzana on a polling station setup in UC 27 Gujrat showed a great courage as resisted the Gondaim and harassment of the ruling party patronized miscreants. She physically manned the situation and did not allow the miscreants to

take away the copies of ballot papers or casting of bogus votes. She was threatened with dire consequences but she remained steadfast and defeated the evil designs and did not allow the curse to prevail.

4- Rawalpindi

AF team comprising Erum Fatima and Shazia Ijaz visited different urban and rural polling stations of Rawalpindi Districts. There were many cases of disturbance and violence in many of the polling stations. Many polling stations where Army was deputed due to sensitive declared polling stations there situation was peaceful and polling process was running smoothly. But some of the polling stations which were declared sensitive but police personnel's were deputed only, who were unable to stop violence when broke out. In Urban polling station even AF Team witnessed gun battle outside a polling station. Team of donor agency CIDA also visited some of the polling stations and there polling process was running smoothly but lack of discipline prevailed everywhere. In one polling station where a women candidate was contesting for the seat of Nazim was pressurized by opponent male candidate and he was convincing inside the polling station against lady candidate. DCC members requested presiding officer to stop him of that practice who was latter on sent outside. But the supporters of that male candidate remained outside the polling station pressurizing voters not to give vote to lady candidate. Many voters complained that their name was not in the voter list thus they were not allowed to cast their vote.

5- Mianwali

AF team comprising Gulbadan and Zamarud Baloch visited different urban and rural polling stations of Mianwali. Though over all electoral process was going on smoothly but team observed lack of discipline and some irregularities in some of the polling stations. AF office Islamabad was informed by DCC Mianwali that an agreement had taken place between local community of UC Paikhail of District Mianwali that no women will be allowed to participate in election process. When AF team visited to monitor the situation and it was witnessed that no women came on polling station. Presiding officer UC Pai khail told AF team that polling was scheduled to be held in Paikhail and women presiding officer was also deputed for women voters but no women came till 12:30 pm so polling booth for women was closed down. AF Office also requested Election Commission for Re-polling in this UC.

In Tehsil Kalabagh an extreme kind of negligence was observed in women polling station where hundred of women were still standing outside the gate of polling stations at 4:30 pm when AF team reached there. When AF team with great difficulty and with the help of police approached inside the polling station they visited miserable condition of women voters and negligent polling staff were unable to run the process smoothly. There were more polling agents inside the polling booth and few voters were struggling to stamp the desired symbol but polling agents of all the parties were confusing voters as well as polling staff thus a slow polling process was causing women to wait hours and hours for any one process in the booth. AF team instructed police to push out all the polling agents out of polling booth and allow voters to come inside the booth so that

hundred of women waiting outside may cast their vote. After a long struggle police officials were able to control the rush of women but polling staff reflected extreme kind of negligence and non professional attitude.

6- Abbottabad

AF team comprising Mumtaz Begum and Shazia Khalid visited 3 Urban and 4 Rural polling stations of District Abbottabad. Over all situation in Abbottabad District was peaceful and there was no disturbance observed in the District. But negligence of polling staff was causing problems for the voters. Polling staff seemed to be untrained and was unable to handle rush of people. Polling agents were exploiting the situation and were freely roaming inside the polling Booths and even some of the agents were continuously standing near the place where voters had to stamp on their desired symbols, but those polling agents were influencing them to stamp on their instructions and polling staff was unable to check them. AF team advised polling staff to keep the polling agents at distance from the place where candidates had to mark the sign. AF Islamabad received report from UC Shinkiari of District Abbottabad that an agreement was signed between local parties that no women will be allowed to participate in election process. Thus DCC members visited UC Shinkiari and found that no women came out to cast their vote and male members were casting vote for female candidates. AF Islamabad office sent the report of that UC to Election Commission and requested for Re-polling.

7- Mansehra

AF team comprising Mumtaz Begum and Shazia Khalid visited 4 Rural and 3 Urban polling stations of District Mansehra. Over all situation of the polling process was normal and peaceful, but in few polling stations there was tension due to the supporters of contesting candidates. Though those polling stations were declared sensitive but there was not suitable security arrangements for sensitive polling stations. Lack of discipline by voters due to the unprofessional attitude of polling staff was causing problems for women coming to cast their vote and they had to wait many hours for their turn. No act of violence was reported from that District.

8- Chakwal

AF team visited different rural and Urban polling stations of Chakwal. Overall situation of the polling process was running smoothly but in few polling stations polling agents were influencing polling staff, and were freely roaming inside the polling booths pressurizing women to stamp on their instructions and polling staff was unable to stop them. Two women were even caught by polling staff in front of AF team who were trying to cast vote on wrong I.D cards. Polling staff did not take any strict action and sent those women out of station.

9- Attock

AF Team visited Urban and Rural polling stations and found peaceful situation in majority of the polling stations. Women were coming in large numbers but polling staff was unable to control the rush of women. In some polling stations which were declared sensitive, there was no extra security and only two policemen were standing there to

control the situation thus allowing influential groups of that area to exploit the situation and they were harassing the voters as well as polling staff.

10- Hafizabad

AF team witness peaceful situation in majority of the Urban and Rural polling stations. Though some irregularities were observed due to the negligence of polling staff, but the overall situation was peaceful and women were coming in large number to cast their vote. Polling agents were causing disturbance for polling staff by misguiding voters of opponent groups. In some of the polling stations even furniture and stationery was provided by local people and polling started late due to this problem. In some of the polling stations a some groups tried to influence polling staff but presiding officers resisted them successfully.

11- Bhukkar

AF team 3 Urban and four Rural polling stations of Bhukkar and most of the stations were peaceful and election process was running peacefully. Polling staff was also organized in Bhukkar and all were well trained and disciplined in Bhukkar. Their attitude with the voters was also satisfactory and people were standing in queues. But mistakes in voters list were causing great problems for voters and voters were going from one booth to other to find their name. Security arrangement in Bhukkar was remarkable and DCC Coordinator told AF team that the peaceful situation in Bhukkar District was the result of effective management of S.S.P Bhukkar who managed to involve all political parties and candidates to sign an agreement to avoid violence in the District and all of the candidate were responsible to implement the agreement, resulting in the peaceful environment.

Right of Vote under Siege (Sindh Report)

Table showing figures of Election Days Monitoring of Sindh

(S. no. 01 to 10 Districts were in first Phase & rest in 2nd Phase)

S. No.	Name of District	No. of Booths Visited		
		Female	Male	Total
01	Karachi	35	16	51
02	Jacobabad	33	31	64
03	Tharparkar @ Mithi	20	02	22
04	Thatta	28	21	49
05	Tando Allahyar	26	25	51
06	Sanghar	22	25	47
07	Mirpur Khas	13	11	24
08	Naushahro Feroze	23	17	40
09	Kashmor @ Kandhkot	13	11	24
10	Umer Kot	-	-	-
11	Badin	49	60	109
12	Jamshoro	66	75	141
13	Tando Muhammad Khan	32	24	56
14	Shahdadkot @ Qambar	28	31	59
15	Larkana	19	07	26
16	Hyderabad	21	10	31
17	Nawab Shah	65	55	120
18	Khairpur Mirs	22	17	39
19	Shikarpur	09	08	17
20	Matyari	14	12	26
21	Sukkur	-	-	-
22	Dadu	-	-	-
	Total	538	458	996
	Ghotki	Election Not Yet held in Ghotki District Due to unrest delimitation of UCs.		

Election Days (August 18-25, 2005)

Brief report of issues during election Days monitoring

- Women were stopped to use the right of vote in union council Ber Sharif (Shahdadkot @ Qambar District), three polling stations of village Ghathar (Tehsil Nasirabad). The tribal chief had stopped women to cast vote. Surprisingly 3 women candidates also could not cast vote. DCC media coordinator had supported all three women to contest in election. They were close relatives of DCC Media coordinator. The polling agents of Awam Dost, Haq parast and Khushhal Pakistan were present in polling stations.

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- Women could not cast vote in some polling stations of following union councils: Khorwah, Kario Ganhwar, Dubi and Rahoki (district Badin), UC Nooh Faqir Hothyani (Matyari district) & in GPS Vangai Maheri Polling Station (Distt. Tando Muhammad Khan) women were not allowed to cast vote on the tribal decision.
 - Polling agents of Awam Dost Nazim candidate were not allowed to sit in union council Kurkli (Sanghar district) by Police. (allegation of PPP leader, AF team also visited the polling stations).
 - Polling agents and candidates of Awam Dost (PPP) and Insan Dost (JUI) were taken out of three polling stations of Mithiani City (District Naushahro Feroze).
 - Presiding officer (double section Girls High School) was issuing only three ballot papers to women voters in Sanghar city girls school polling station. Three women voters were called back for remaining three votes after intervention of AF and DCC team.
 - Stamp Pads were dry (inkless), ball pens, given to polling staff were out of order and furniture was not available in more or less in all districts. (complaints of staff and also observation of AF and DCC teams).
 - There was male staff appointed in most of the women polling stations and in rural districts there were no women police also in women booths. (observation of AF and DCC teams).
 - Ballot papers were found in the area of Gizri (Karachi). (Media Reports).
 - DPO Dadu was taken in custody by Rangers under allegation of Rigging on the directions of DRO Mr. Ameer Ali Thari.
 - Shikarpur District: 3 Ballot Box were not properly sealed in government High School gate no. one polling station. Presiding officer told that some little boys had done that thing. The election symbol (horse) of a candidate was not in ballot papers at the same polling station.
 - Four women voters were casting vote at a time at Qazi Muhalla high school polling station.
 - Girls primary school sanjar Muhalla (UC4) polling station was closed for an hour due to conflict between Nazim candidates. Government supported candidates were involved in alleged rigging.
 - Union Council Garhi Diko (Tehsil Khanpur): male polling agents were sitting at women polling station at agriculture polling station.
 - Hyderabad District: Polling station situated at Zubaida Girls Collage (UC 1 City) experienced closing and opening several times due to unrest conflict among candidates. P S Ghumanabad also faced conflict in same UC.

Over all Problems / observations of AF & DCC monitoring teams

- **Karachi:** In most of the polling stations only one group (i.e. Haq Parast MQM) polling agents were present.
- Two women polling officers were assigned duty at male polling Booth.
- A woman voter was seen casting her vote without NIC.

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- There was only one stamp at two booths for casting votes, that was moving in two rooms at women polling station.
 - People were seen casting vote without NIC with the slip provided by the camps of groups outside PS.
 - Women voters faced very much trouble in finding their concerned booths in merged buildings of schools.
 - There was no secrecy at place of stamping Ballot papers at most of the Polling Stations.
 - Voters were taking in a slip of printed symbols with them which were being given them by the camps outside.
 - At 4.45 p.m. Situation was very tense and firing between groups was continued in Site Town Polling Stating. People told that police and rangers had not taken serious notice and just moved around.
 - Polling stopped at 1.00 noon in PS Saqib Children Academy, (Islamia Colony,) and at PS 2 Ghosia School Islamia Colony Site Town, after a severe dispute and exchange of firing between candidates for Nazim of PML(N) Group and Independent Nazim (Babar Ameer Khan). Babar Ameer got serious injuries. The women staff were beaten by male supporters of both parties for rigging and partiality which later caused tense situation at PS. The contesting parties for Nazim in UC 9 were from PML(Q), PML(N), MQM, ANP and an Independent candidate.
 - PS 2 Ghosia School Islamia Colony was locked inside. Police inside didn't allow AF team to enter in. AF team found an other way beside mosque to enter inside. Only male and female polling staff was present there with police.
 - Male polling staff was assigned at female polling stations in most of places.
 - The material provided by EC was short and not proper.
 - There was no secrecy at place of stamping ballot paper at most of the women polling stations.
 - A Candidate's symbol was not printed in ballot paper at Tehsil Bhiria of Naushahro Feroze District.
 - A number of women were stamping ballot paper simultaneously in many districts.
 - After invention of AF team in Jacobabad, polling booth was placed at proper place.
 - Male candidates were present at the women polling stations, that caused conflict among supporters in Jacobabad.
 - Women booths were made improper in congested place in most of stations.

August 25, 2005

- A large number of Male found standing in front of female polling station creating hindrance(enter/exit) to female voters at various polling station.
- Women booths were made improper and in congested place in most of polling stations.
- There was no secrecy at place of stamping ballot paper at most of the women polling stations.
- The material provided by EC was short and not proper.

- The polling stations were not made keeping number of voters / having not enough space for polling booths.
- At Larkana city one unknown person took away one ballot box. The polling re-started after 02 hours.
- Ms. Shamim Presiding Officer (Nawab Shah) asked voters to stamp ballot paper on her table.
- Lady police was not found at any women polling station.
- Polling staff was found not properly trained at most of the polling stations.
- An under age (Female) polling agent was found in one of the polling booth.
- At one of polling station a polling agent was beaten by a political worker in side the polling station.

1. AF Team (Asia Bano and Riaz Khan) visit of Lyari, Kaimari and Baldia Towns of Karachi City District (First Phase)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P. S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Al-Ahmad Public School, Lyari Town	UC-2, PS 12	02	02	04	
02	Al-Ahmad Public School, Lyari Town	UC-2, PS 13	02	02	04	
03	GP (B) School, Kaimari Town	UC-3	04	00	04	
04	Boys and Girls Elementary School, Kaimari Town	UC-3	02	00	02	During visit ARY media Team came across. An interview on campaign and over view of monitoring was given by Ms. Asia Bano.
05	Govt. Public School, Lyari Town	UC-2	02	02	04	
06	Govt. (B) P School Agra Taj. Lyari Town	UC-1	02	02	04	Minorities Voter List was not Available.
07	Kehkashan GB School, Lyari Town	UC-2	02	02	04	
08	Govt. Degree College, Lyari Town	UC-2	01	01	02	Management was failed to maintain Discipline.

09	Ali Dena Govt. School, Kaimari Town	UC-6 PS 6	01	01	02	
10	K S Ali Dena Govt. School, Kaimari Town	UC-6 PS 7	04	00	04	
11	Ibrahim Ali Bhai School, Baldia Town	UC-6	04	00	04	
12	Govt. Sindh Sakhi Data, School, Baldia Town	UC-4	04	00	04	
13	TCF School, Baldia Town	UC-2	02	02	04	Vote Casting process could not start till 3:00 pm because only one Ballet Paper was provided.
14	Govt. Girls School Younis Abad, Baldia Town	UC-4	01	01	02	Lake of Staff and Serial No. complications in voter List.
15	Ibrahim Ali Bhai School, Baldia Town	UC-4 PS 7	03	00	03	
16	Ibrahim Ali Bhai School, Baldia Town	UC-4 PS 9	01	01	02	

2. Jacobabad District (DCC monitoring)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Forest Office, Soomra Muhalla	Soomra	00	02	02	One Ballot Box was missing at the end of Polling.
02	K.G. School	UC-3	02	02	04	Govt. supported candidate did not allow to sit opponent Polling Agents. Police supported govt. panel.

03	Allah Rakhio Umrani	UC-3	04	00	04	Govt. panel persons restricted voters to cast vote in front of them. P.O. said he had to live here, so could not use powers of a day.
04	Old Municipality	UC-2	02	02	04	Result was not handed over to polling agents of Awam Dost panel.
05	GPS Sheikh Abdul Hakim	Family Lane	02	02	04	DPO Munir Ahmad instructed govt. supported panel persons to carry on & then rigging started, opponent agents boycott the polling process.
06	GPHS Jaferabad	UC-7	02	00	02	Govt. supported persons held heavy rush in front of PS, so women could not cast their votes.

AF Team (M. Aslam Brohi) visit of Jacobabad

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	G. Elementary School Gulan Machhi	UC-1	00	03	03	Sudden change in duties.
02	Allah Bachayo Umrani	UC-3	04	00	04	Congested place.
03	GPS Sofi Gul Bahar	UC-12	01	03	04	None of the minority vote in this UC.
04	GPS Abdul Qadir Shar	UC-Thull	01	01	02	
05	GPS Noor Muhammad Bhatti	UC Thull one	02	02	04	
06	Girls School Grid Station one	UC-19 Thull	04	00	04	Female staff was not available in women Polling Station.
07	Girls School Grid Station two	UC-19 Thull	00	02	02	

08	Govt. Girls High School Thull	UC-11, Thull	02	02	04	
09	Town committee Thull	UC-12, Thull	00	03	03	
10	Health Unit Bachhro	UC-1, Bachhro	02	02	04	
11	GG High School	UC-7, Jacobabad	04	00	04	Poor security arrangements, male persons were seen in Polling Station
12	G. Secondary High School	UC-7, Jacobabad	00	03	03	Poor lighting arrangements, caused problems during stamping the ballots.
13	Suhro Khan Rind	UC-10, Jacobabad	01	02	03	

3. AF & DCC visit of Tharparkar @ Mithi District

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Govt. High School	UC-6, Mithi	04	00	04	
02	Govt. Girls Middle School New Colony	UC-9, Mithi	03	00	03	
03	Girls Primary School Dharmani	UC-10, Mithi	02	00	02	
04	Girls Middle School Lohana	UC-3,	03	00	03	
05	Primary School Kumbhar Colony	UC Mithi	03	00	03	
06	Primary School Siran Colony	UC- 08	02	00	02	
07	Govt. Collage Nagar Parkar	Nagar Parkar	02	02	04	
08	Govt. High Nagar Parkar	Nagar Parkar	01	00	01	

4. Thatta District (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GP (B) School	UC Thatta City	00	03	03	
02	GP (G) School	UC Thatta City	00	03	03	
03	GP (B) School	UC Thatta City	03	00	03	
04	Govt. Degree Collage Makli	UC Makli	03	00	03	Supporters of govt. backed panel tried to cast bogus votes, air firing occurred during resistance, Rangers took control.
05	Girls Model School	UC Makli	02	00	02	Names of voters were missing in voter list.
06	GPS Gujo	UC Gujo	00	02	02	
07	GPS girls Gujo	UC Gujo	02	02	02	
08	SS Hospital Dhabeji	UC Dhabeji	02	02	04	
09	GP (B) School Hussain Goth	UC Dhabeji	02	01	03	
10	GP (B) Gulan	UC Dhabeji	02	00	02	
11	GP (B) School Nagar	UC Sakro	02	02	04	
12	GGPS Mirpur Sakro	UC Sakro	02	02	04	
13	GPS Ghulam Allah	UC Ghulam Allah	02	02	04	
14	GPS Mahram Khusk	UC Khushk	02	00	02	
15	GPS Muhammad Palepoto	UC Keenjhar	02	02	04	

16	Kalri	UC Kalri	02	00	02	Govt. supported candidates cast bogus votes.
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5. AF Team (Hassan Pathan) visit of Tando Allahyar District: 2nd district

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	G. Girls Primary School Saleh Holepoto	PS 07	02	00	02	Male staff was deputed.
02	Chamber Girls School	PS 04	04	00	04	Water was not available for women voters & no sitting arrangements.
03	G. High School Chamber	PS 02	03	00	03	Male staff was deputed.
04	G. Higher Secondary School Chamber	UC Chamber	00	04	04	Woman Najma Ajmal was contesting on General Seat.
05	Govt. S. M. Collage	UC-2	02	00	02	

05. Tando Allahyar District (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	G. Boys High School Pyaro Lund	PS 20	00	03	03	
02	GGs Pyaro Lund	PS 15	03	00	03	
03	G. (B) Primary School Ditto Kalhoro	PS 03	00	04	04	
04	GPS Shah Baig Lund	PS 04	00	02	02	
05	GPS Shah Baig Lund	PS 06	02	00	02	
06	GPS (B) Fazal Chand	PS 25	02	02	04	

07	GGPS Sobho Mastoi	PS 23	02	02	04	
08	GPS (B) Kot Soomra	PS 25	00	04	04	
09	GPS (B) Kot Soomra	PS 32	03	00	03	
10	GPS Meer Abad	PS 16	00	04	04	
11	House Ali Muhammad Rahim Talpur	PS 17	03	00	03	

06. AF & DCC Team (Hassan Pathan & M. Aslam Memon) visit of Sanghar District

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Veterinary Hospital	02	00	04	04	Stamp Paids were dry.
02	Double Section Girls High School	02	03	00	03	1. P.O. was issuing 3 Ballot Papers. 3 women voters were called back for 6 Ballot Papers to vote, after intervention of AF & DCC Team. 2. women were casting votes openly.
03	Union Office of Kurkli	UC Kurkli	00	04	04	Awam Dost Panel's Polling Agents were not present at PS.
04	GPS Haji Zareen Khan	UC Kurkli PS 11	02	02	04	Awam Dost Panel's Polling Agents were not present at P.S. Women voters left Booths after seeing monitoring team, because they were casting votes without NICs.
05	Ilyas Metlo	Sinjhoro	00	04	04	
06	Ali Metlo	PS 26	04	00	04	Polling Agents of both panels were fighting over casting of bogus votes.

07	G. High School Ahmad Burero	PS 19	03	00	03	
08	GPS Ahmad Burero	PS 21	00	03	03	PPP leader Altaf Rind alleged of rigging & told that they were forced to stay away from Polling Stations, their polling agents as well.
09	BHU Landhi	PS 51	02	02	04	Women voters were seen in large number.
10	GPS Jatia	UC Jatia	02	02	04	Names of voters were missing in voter list.
11	UC Office Jatia	PS 73	02	00	02	Names of voters were missing in voter list.
12	GP (M) School	UC 11	00	04	04	
13	GP Sindhi School	Asghar Abad	04	00	04	

07. Mirpur Khas District (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GPS Mirpur Old	Mirpur Old	02	02	04	
02	GPS Panhwar Colony	UC 07	04	00	04	
03	G. Iqra School	UC Baloch Abad	02	02	04	15 to 20 armed men took control of PS, snatched Ballot Papers from staff & stamped on them. (serial No. 643730 to 643800)
04	High School Khhan	UC 07	00	02	02	1. One Ballot Paper Book containing serial No. 319401 to 319500 was found in GPS Jhhudo.
05	G. Wal Kurt PS	UC	02	02	04	

06	Baldia Complex Mirpur Khas	UC Mirpur	02	02	04	2. Incident of firing occurred in UC 06 of Mirpur Khas, where allegedly 292 votes of winning candidate were spoilt by stamping over them.
07	Mangria Goth	UC Balochabad	01	01	02	

08. AF Team visit of Naushahro Feroze District

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Madarsa High School N. Feroze	UC 08	02	02	04	
02	G. High School N. Feroze	UC 08	03	03	06	
03	Municipal Committee N. Feroze	PS 02	04	00	04	
04	High School Padidan	PS 04	02	02	04	
05	Municipal Committee office Kandiaro	UC Ghanghro	04	02	06	PS remained closed atleast two hours after conflict among candidates over bogus voting.
06	Bhiria City	UC-07	02	02	04	
07	G.G. High School Moro	UC-07	03	03	06	
08	Marvi Girls Collage	UC 01	03	03	06	

09 . Kashmir @ Kandhkot District (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GHS Tangwani		02	02	04	Ranger man was beating voters, because his officer has to visit P.S.
02	GHS Kandh Kot	UC 03	02	00	02	

03	GHS Kandh Kot	UC 03	02	02	04	
04	GPS Rasool Bux Chachar	UC Rasool Chachar	02	02	04	Conflict arose among supporters candidates over bogus voting, Rangers took control.
05	GPS Tangwani	UC Tangwani	01	01	02	Polling started at 12:00 noon, because election symbol of candidate was missing. 5 Ballot papers were issued to voters, amazingly the stamp of vote was brought by Mukhtiarkar.
06	GPS Mohabat Dahani	UC Gul wali	01	01	02	
07	GPS Muhammad Hayat Khoso	UC Gul wali	02	02	04	
08	GPS Lashkar Bijarani	UC Gul wali	01	01	02	

10. Umer Kot District (report not received) Note: Husband of coordinator was contesting for Nazim seat so she could not give time for monitoring.

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01						

1. Badin District: (2nd Phase) (DCC Team: M. Khan Samo, Abdullah Turk, Ms. Najma Ansari, Faiz Odhejo, Pir Bux, Suleman Soomro, Juman Soomro, Murtaza Mashori, Ms. Gulnaz Sarwar & Nadeem Mashori) 3 urban of Badin city & 2 urban PS of Matli city were monitored. (05 Urban)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P. S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Abdullah Shah School	77	01	02	03	
02	Allah Dino Soomro	06	01	01	02	
03	Lako Faqir	74	01	01	02	
04	Molvi Hussain Soomro	58	01	02	03	
05	Gul Muhammad Lighari	12	00	02	02	

06	Mubarak Soomro	52	00	03	03	
07	Ibrahim Solangi	48	01	02	03	
08	Bachal Pathan	46	01	02	03	
09	Rahmatullah Soomro	05	01	01	02	
10	Ilyas Soomro	54	00	01	01	
11	Haji Soomar Abro	55	01	02	03	
12	Haji Sikno Soomro		01	02	03	
13	Haji Muhammad Khoso	53	00	02	02	
14	Haji Siddique Umrani	47	00	01	01	
15	Roshan Tara School	18	00	04	04	
16	Irrigation Colony	17	03	00	03	
17	GPS Allah Dino Soomro	24	01	02	03	
18	Girls School Odeja Muhalla	21	02	00	02	
19	OPD City	22	00	04	04	
20	Iqra Girls High School	23	04	00	04	
21	GPS Haji Khan Bhutto	13	03	00	03	
22	GPS Ghulam Muhammad Lighari	12	00	03	03	
23	GPS Gharibabad	14	00	02	02	
24	Girls Primary School Gharibabad	15	01	01	02	
25	Telephone Exchange	19	01	02	03	
26	GGPS Badin (M)	06	03	00	03	

27	GPS Mir Muhalla					Bogus voting in process, so team was not allowed to visit PS.
28	Bero Chandio, Tehsil Tando Bago					Conflict arose among Nazim candidates, so Polling Station remained closed for an hour.
29	A. Hussain Nizamani					Nizamani persons were seen stamping on Ballot papers in closed room of PS.
30	Bahra Memon					A Candidate was seen stamping on Ballot papers

AF Team (M. Aslam Brohi & Malka Khan) visit of Badin

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P. S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GPS Tamachi Junejo	UC Phull	01	02	03	
02	G. High School Matli one	UC-1, Matli	03	00	03	
03	GG Primary School Talhar	UC-2	04	00	04	There was heavy rush.
04	G. Islamia Collage Badin	UC-3	00	04	04	
05	GPS Peer Malook	UC-3	00	02	02	
06	GPS Peer Malook	UC-3	02	00	02	
07	GG School Badin	UC-1	04	00	04	
08	GPS Gharibabad Badin	UC-2	00	02	02	
09	GG collage Badin	UC-3	02	00	02	Numbering errors in some Ballot Papers.

2. Jamshoro District (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Govt. Degree Collage Kotri	UC-1, Kotri City	00	8	8	

02	Gejing Office	UC-1, Kotri City	4	00	4	
03	Govt. Primary School	UC-1, Kotri City	00	6	6	
04	Govt. Boys School	UC-2, Kotri City	00	06	06	
05	Govt. (M) School Khuda Ki Basti	UC-6, Kotri City	04	04	08	
06	TB Hospital	UC-6, Kotri City	04	04	08	
07	Tehsil Hospital Kotri	UC- 2, Kotri	04	04	08	
08	GPS Abdullah D. Baloch	UC- 2, Kotri	04	04	08	
09	Primary School (M) Jamshoro	UC- 10,	03	03	06	
10	Power House Jamshoro Colony	UC-10	04	03	07	
11	Girls School Abdullah Javro	UC-09	04	04	08	Women Staff was not available in 3 women Polling Stations.
12	Higher Secondary School Bola Khan	UC Bola Khan	04	04	08	
13	Primary School Maryam Barejo	UC Loeng	04	04	08	
14	Tehsil Hospital Bola Khan	UC Bola Khan	06	00	06	
15	Main Primary School Manzoor Abad	UC Manzoor Abad	03	03	06	Police was supporting govt. party candidates by stopping opponents candidate's voters.

16	Main Primary School Laka	UC Petaro	03	04	07	Staff incomplete.
17	Town Office Bhaan	UC Bhaan	03	03	06	
18	Boys High School Sehwan	UC 01, Sehwan	04	04	08	Women Staff was not available in 02 women Polling Stations.
19	UC Office Aarab Khan	UC	04	03	07	

District Jamshoro

AF team Asia Bano and Rehan Shafiq visited at Jamshoro Polling Stations

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Govt. Boys School, Kotri	UC-2	00	04	04	
02	Eid Gah (Tent)	PS 8	04	00	04	

3. District Tando Muhammad Khan (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Govt. Girls Collage	UC-3 T.M.Khan	00	04	04	
02	Govt. Girls Primary School	UC-1, TM. Khan	02	00	02	
03	Hajyani Primary School	UC-1,	02	00	02	
04	Alam Khan Talpur School	UC-2	02	02	04	
05	Primary School Khamiso	PS-14	0	03	03	
06	Public School	UC-2	03	00	03	
07	WAPDA Colony	UC-1	01	02	03	

08	Middle School Soomra Muhalla	PS 04	04	04	08	
09	GPS Shokat Colony	UC-2	02	02	04	
10	GPS Bhatti Muhalla	UC-2	03	00	03	
11	Rajo Nizamani	PS-05	03	00	03	
12	GPS Vangai Maheri	PS 33	01	02	03	Khaskheli & Junejo tribes did not allow women to use their right of vote on this Polling Station, so women could not cast vote.
13	GPS Haji Sobho Chandio	PS 31	01	02	03	Polling Staff & Polling Agents were made hostage by Govt. supported panel. RO sealed PS.

A.F. Team M. Aslam & Malka Khan visit of Tando Muhammad Khan

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GPS Tando Muhammad Khan	UC-3 T.M.Khan	03	00	03	
02	Municipal Office	UC-3, TM. Khan	00	03	03	
03	Public Girls School	UC-2, TM. Khan	03	00	03	Ballot paper for minority seat was not available
04	Veterinary Hospital	UC-3, TM. Khan	02	00	02	Building in poor condition

4. DCC Team visit of Shahdad Kot @ Qambar District: 2nd district

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Goghharo	Khairpur Jooso PS 07	01	01	02	
02	Goghharo	Khairpur Jooso PS 08	01	01	02	
03	Chaodero	UC Dera	00	02	02	
04	GGS Chaodero	UC Dera	02	00	02	
05	GPS Tappal	UC Ber	01	01	02	
06	Lashkari Chandio	PS 04	01	01	02	
07	Qambar	UC 02	02	00	02	
08	GPS Qambar	UC 02	02	02	04	
09	G. boys School Qambar	UC 02	00	03	03	
10	GPS Qadri Muhalla	UC 02	00	03	03	
11	GGPS Ghathar	Ber Sharif	01	01	02	Women were not allowed to cast their right of vote due to tribal & religious pressure.
12	BRHC Ghathar	Ber Sharif	01	02	03	
13	Choondia Kalhora	Ber Sharif	01	01	02	
14	GPS Yaro Dero	UC Wagan	02	00	02	
15	Lalo Raenk western	Lalo Raenk	00	02	02	
16	Qaem Khan Mugheri	Lalo Raenk	02	02	04	
17	GPS Jaafrani	UC Wagan	02	00	02	

AF Team (Hassan Pathan & Naheed Sayed) visit of Shahdad Kot @ Qambar District: (2nd District)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GPS Sijawal Junejo	PS 02	01	01	02	
02	Veterinary Hospital	Shahdad Kot	02	00	02	Stamp Paid were dry.
03	House of Doctor	UC 03	00	02	02	
04	G. G. High School Qambar	PS 03	02	00	02	
05	G. High School Qambar	UC 03	00	02	02	
06	GPS Jam Khoso	PS 06	02	01	03	
07	BRHC Ghathar	Ber Sharif	01	02	03	Women were not allowed to use right of vote since 30 years due to tribal & religious pressure, even 3 women candidates could not cast vote.
08	GGPS Ghathar	Ber Sharif	01	01	02	

05. AF Team (Hassan Pathan & Naheed Sayed) visit of Larkana District

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Deeni Madarsa	PS 05	02	00	02	PO told, he was informed of duty in morning of polling day.
02	Municipal Corporation	PS 06	00	02	02	No vote casted till 8:25 am.
03	Municipal Corporation	Larkana	02	00	02	Female staff was present.
04	GGs Lahori Muhalla	PS 04	02	00	02	Pen, ink & other material short.
05	GPS Sachae Bux Jagirani	PS 10	02	00	02	Male staff appointed at women polling station. Table was not available for stamping Ballot Papers.

06	GPS Dhamrah	PS 02	00	03	03	Stamp Paid were not available.
07	G. Girls Primary School Dhamrah	PS 03	03	00	03	Large number of women voters was present, but seating arrangements & water not available.
08	Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto	PS 08	02	00	02	Male staff appointed at women polling station.
09	G. High School Nao Dero city	PS 09	02	00	02	Male staff appointed at women polling station.
10	GPS 3, Nao Dero	PS 31	02	00	02	Male staff appointed at women polling station.
11	G. Degree collage Rato Dero	PS 09	02	02	04	Male staff appointed at women polling station.
12						

6. Hyderabad District

AF Team (Asia Bano and Rehan Shafiq)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Labour Court Building	UC-3	04	00	04	Live Message recorded to Radio FM 105 Election Monitoring by Asia Bano
02	Government Boys School, Qasimabad	PS 15	04	00	04	
03	Govt. Model School, Hyderabad	PS 17	00	03	03	
04	Govt. Model School, Old Campus Hyderabad	UC-9		00	03	Serial no. of Ballot papers were missing and banners of Political Parties were seen.
05	Home State Hall	UC-8	00	02	02	
06	SDO Office Hall	PS 102	02	00	02	
07	SDO Office Hall	PS 101	02	00	02	

6. Hyderabad District (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GPS Latifabad	PS 01, UC 01	02	00	02	150 votes casted in an hour, while there was no rush?
02	Sahrish Nagar	PS14, UC 14	00	03	03	
03	Qasimabad	PS15, UC 01	02	00	02	
04	Zubaida Collage	UC 01	03	00	03	PS experienced closing & opening due to conflict among women supporters of candidates.
05	Ghhuman Abad	PS 01,	00	02	02	Conflict arose among supporters of the candidates, PS was closed.
06	Kaya Abad	UC 15 City	02	00	02	

07. Nawab Shah District (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GPS Islamia Nawab Shah	UC 05	06	00	06	
02	GPS Hyder Shah	UC 05	00	06	06	
03	GPS Gharibabad	UC 02	04	04	08	
04	GPS Latif Panhwar	UC 02	04	04	08	
05	GGHS	UC 4, Daulatpur	02	02	04	
06	GPS Pir Bux	UC 01, Pir Bux	04	04	08	
07	GPS Nisar Ahmad	UC 9, Daulatpur	06	04	10	
08	GPS Mirza Bagh	UC Mirza Bagh	02	04	06	
09	GPS (M) Qazi Ahmad	UC Qazi Ahmad	03	04	07	

10	BHU Qazi Ahmad	UC 01, Qazi Ahmad	02	04	06	
11	GPS Mir Muhammad Tunio	UC 08, Mirza Bagh	03	03	06	
12	GPS Niazi Siyal	UC Niazi Siyal	04	04	08	
13	District Council Hall Nawab Shah	UC 08	04	04	08	
14	G. Boys Collage Nawab Shah	UC 01, N. Shah	04	00	04	
15	GPS Shah Waliullah	UC 06, N. Shah	03	00	03	
16	GPS Ismail Brohi	UC 13	04	04	08	
17	APWA KG School	UC 05, N. Shah	06	00	06	
18	GPS Panga Solangi	UC Daulatpur	03	03	06	
19	GPS Hashim Faqir	UC 15, Qazi Ahmad	01	01	02	

8. AF Team: Hina Tabassum & Faiza Burney & **DCC Team:** (Niaz Hussain Khaskheli, Ms. Zahida, Khadim Hussain Mirani, Ms Zarina Jalbani, Sheikh Habib ur Rehman, & Ms Rafia) visited **Khairpur Mirs District: (one Urban)**

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GPS Walidad Khaskheli	UC Pakka Chaang	02	02	04	Polling Staff was following the instructions of Govt. supported panel candidates.
02	GPS Niaz Abad	UC Pakka Chaang	01	01	02	
03	GHS Mirwah	Mirwah	02	02	04	
04	GPS Mandan	UC Mandan	02	02	04	
05	GPS Veesar	UC Veesar	02	02	04	

06	GPS Hadal Shah	UC Hadal Shah	02	02	04	
07	GHS Ranipur	Ranipur	03	03	06	Urban
08	Government Science College	UC Bhangwani	04	00	04	
09	Government Primary School Mir Mohammad	UC Kingri	02	00	02	
10	GHS High School	UC Kotmir Mohammad	00	03	03	Presiding Officer was not Present.
11	GBS Kot Deji	PS 01	02	00	02	

09. Shikarpur District (DCC Team)

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	GHS Gate # 01	UC Shikarpur	03	00	03	3 Ballot Box were not properly sealed. PO told children had opened Ballot Boxes.
02	GHS Qazi Muhalla	Shikarpur City	02	00	02	04 women were casting vote at a time together.
03	GGPS Sanjar Muhalla	UC 04, Shikarpur	02	02	04	PS remained closed an hour due to conflict among Candidates.
04	UC office Garhi Diko	UC Khanpur	02	02	04	
05	Agriculture Office	UC Shikarpur	00	04	04	

10. Matyari District:

AF Team (Asia Bano and Rehan Shafiq visit of Matyari District:

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01	Govt. Boys School	UC-1	00	04	04	
02	Govt. Boys School	PS-2	00	04	04	

03	Govt. Boys School	PS-7	00	04	04	Serial no. was missing at Ballot Papers
04	Govt. Girls Sec. School Matyari	PS-1	02	00	02	
05	Govt. Girls Sec. School Matyari	PS-2	04	00	04	
06	Govt. Girls Sec. School Matyari	PS-3	04	00	04	Polling agents were not present.
07	Govt. Girls Sec. School Matyari	PS-4	04	00	04	

11. Dadu District (not received) DCC could not get monitoring pass. DRO refused to issue pass.

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01				00	04	

12. Sukkur District (not received) DCC coordinator was changed so new comer could not manage to get pass.

S. No.	Name of Polling Station	P.S. # & UC Name	Polling Booths			Remarks/ Observations
			Female	Male	Total	
01				00	0	

Ghotki

Election not yet held in Ghotki District due to unrest delimitation of UCs.

Both groups are part of Government.