



**Internal Research Proposal**  
February, 2017

# Review of National Assembly's Institutional Capacity Building Programs



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*"Manzil Pakistan is a national non-profit think tank dedicated to developing and advocating public policy that contributes to the development of Pakistan. Our aim is to shape Pakistan to a country where policies on decisions of national interest are driven by non-partisan strategic thinking and implemented through consensus in the best interest of the people of Pakistan"*

## **BACKGROUND**

Governance is commonly defined as the exercise of power for the institutional and social well-being of a state. The power exercised by the respective sectors and entities in reference of governance is considered to be for the common good and social development. So much so that a great deal about the concept of governance is efficient and effective utilization of resources. Whilst the concept of governance is extensive with aspects of good and poor governance, we may turn to the indicators provided by World Bank based on the world ranking of governance. According to the World Bank report on governance, the six indicators of governance are: voice and accountability, political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corruption (1). Based on the aggregated indicators, World Bank defines governance as "...the traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised. This includes the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced; the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies; and the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them (2)."

The concept of governance in Pakistan is rather narrow and commonly perceived to revolve around law and order situation in the country. However, the government has been developing and revising its institutions, frameworks and tools for the promotion of good governance. Even though there has been an upward shift in the economical, political as well as social development, Pakistan is still confronted with a variety of governance issues that pose hindrance to political and social stability of the country. The study on global competitiveness conducted and published by World Economic Forum (2016) ranks Pakistan at 122<sup>nd</sup> among 138 countries on the index of competitiveness which is based on 12 pillars pertaining governance: institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labor market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication and innovation(3). The ranking not only highlights, but also portrays a poor governance image of Pakistan on national as well as international levels. Hence, the country is in a dire need of strengthened oversight capacity to regulate issues of governance.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. Review of trainings and capacity building exercises conducted in different countries for the parliamentarians and staff in the respective national and local assemblies;
2. Review the supporting staff structure in the National Assembly of Pakistan;
3. Detail of the committees formed under different subjects / heads; and how many of them active and functional;
4. Identify potential training aspect by review of existing trainings conducted by PIPS and National Assembly for the parliamentarians and support staff.

## **METHODOLOGY**

For the purpose of achieving above mentioned objectives, research team at Manzil Pakistan proposes below mentioned methodologies:

**1. Review of International Parliamentary Capacity Building Programs:**

Research team at Manzil Pakistan will conduct a thorough desk research on international practices for parliamentary capacity building programs.

**2. Review of Supporting Staff Structure in the National Assembly of Pakistan:**

A comprehensive study of National Assembly's website will be conducted to review staff capacity, their roles and activities. For the purpose of detailed analysis, method of interviews and focus group will also be adopted. The research team at Manzil Pakistan will visit relevant staff at the secretariat for the purpose of conducting interviews and focus groups.

**3. Review of Parliamentary Committees and Their Activities:**

Two tools of qualitative research will be adopted for the objective: A thorough desk research will be applied to study the nature, activities and also the type of parliamentary committees. In-depth interviews and focus groups will also be conducted with the respective staff to gather information on the subject and present a detailed analysis with appropriate recommendations.

**4. Review of Existing Capacity Building Programs of Parliament:**

Research team at Manzil Pakistan will review National Assembly's and Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services' website for gathering information on previous and current capacity building programs, its audience and objectives. Focus group and interviews will also be conducted with the audience of the respective programs for further information on the programs, its advantages and current use in their professional practices. Based on the findings, the need for new capacity building program for the parliamentary staff will be formed.

**5. Identification & Recommendation of Capacity Building Programs:**

A comparative study of international practices and Pakistani parliamentary programs will be done. Based on the gaps identified, recommendations for capacity building programs will be made in order to further strength parliamentary oversight and promote good governance

## PROPOSED TIMELINE

Activities	Weeks →	March				April	
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Desk research on international parliamentary capacity building programs		■	■				
Desk research on NA and PIPS' parliamentary capacity building programs		■	■				
Review of National Assembly's support staff		■	■				
Review of committees in Pakistani parliament		■	■				
Interviews/Focus group for detailed review on NA's staff capacity				■			
Interviews/Focus group for information on parliamentary committees				■			
Interviews/Focus group for previous and current capacity building workshops				■			
Reporting and analysis of gathered information through desk research					■	■	
First draft of the research report						■	
Final draft of the research report							■

## THE TEAM

Considering the resource constraints, two resource personnel will work on the study:

1. Manzoor Hussain Memon
2. Aqsa Seth

## **WORKS CITED**

1. **Kauffman, Daniel, Kraay, Aart and Mastruzzi, Massimo.** *Worldwide Governance Indicators, Methodology and Analytical Issues.* s.l. : The World Bank Development Research Group, Macroeconomics and Growth Team, September 2010.
2. **Kauffman, Daniel, Kraay, Aart and Zoido-Lobaton, Pablo.** *Governance Matters.* Washington, D.C : World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No.2196, 1999.
3. **Schwab, Klaus.** *The Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017.* Geneva : World Economic Forum, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1-944835-04-0.
4. *Governance Issues in Pakistan: Suggested Action Strategy.* Islamabad : National Defence University, ISSPR, 2013.