

Citizens' Campaigns  
*for*  
Women's Participation  
*in*  
Local Government Elections  
2001 and 2005

*Backdrop,  
Glimpses of the Campaigns,  
Overall Results*



Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation



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## The Beginning of the End

In response to the continued pressure of the women's rights organisations, the Government of Pakistan reserved 33 per cent seats for women at all tiers of local government for Local Government elections scheduled in 2001, with direct elections to the reserved seats for women at the lowest tier, i.e. at the union council level. Some reservations were expressed by the ruling Party about the actual availability of such a large number of women willing to come forward to stand for direct elections at the level of the union council.

To ensure maximum participation of women, Aurat Foundation (AF), activated and organised its networks to undertake the 'Citizen's Campaign for Women's Representation in Local Government' to mobilise support for women to come forward to contest as candidates in the Local Government elections held in 2001 under the new law. The result was beyond all expectations as over 90 per cent of the seats were occupied after the final count of the ballots was done, and around 32,222 were elected as union councillors.

Before the new councillors had taken oath, Aurat Foundation had been able to elicit financial commitments for a follow up Programme for strengthening women for local level governance. Under this Programme, Resource Centres for women councillors (funded by CIDA) were set up in 70 districts and linked with the groups of voluntary activists in the Citizens' Action Committees network of the Foundation. This involvement with the Resource Centres has enabled women councillors to have access to an actual physical place to interact with their constituents with the freedom and ease they would not have been able to enjoy at home with their family responsibilities. Furthermore, they have found in these Centres the political space to strengthen their capacities to address the demands of the electorate. The experience and immediate assistance of the Citizens Action Committees has also supported the women to play an active role in handling the problems of their constituents, most of whom are women. A documentation of the experience of the first set of women councillors elected under the new system is also being done.

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Aurat Foundation decided that at this stage what was required was not an occasional campaign to support these public representatives directly elected by their constituents, but a sustained process to firmly place these women in the political system, that is, a citizens' movement, and not solitary events. This should also reflect an advanced stage of the struggle for women's political empowerment because our political agenda was no longer just 'representation', but 'leadership' in Local Government. All future Campaigns would, therefore, be a part of the 'Citizens' Movement for Women's Leadership in Local Government'.

In June 2005, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced fresh elections to Local Government. Following the same spirit and aspirations as in 2001, AF and its network in 105 districts, launched another countrywide campaign for 'Women's Participation in Local Government Elections 2005 (WPLGE)' to mainstream women in political structures and decision-making at the lowest tier of governance in Pakistan. The Campaign would mobilise and facilitate women candidates to contest elections to 24,508 seats in 6127 union councils in Pakistan as well as for 33 per cent reserved seats in the tehsil and district councils.

AF set up the Campaign structure as before at the AF headquarters in Lahore and in all five AF regional offices, to plan, coordinate and execute the activities required. At the district level 104 District Coordination Committees were formed along with 27 tehsil/taluka and 20 Town committees from among the existing AF networks of the Citizens Action Committees, etc.

The four Provincial Governments in Pakistan, reluctant to share power and resources with the Local Governments elected in 2001, demanded some fundamental changes in the Local Government Ordinance before the next elections as a pre-condition to accepting the new tier of governance. They pushed for amendments to the LGO that were finally made at the last minute on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005. These major amendments reduced the number of seats in a union council from 21 to 13, increased the powers of provincial chief ministers, and appointed caretaker administrations to replace nazims during the election period, and created a system of electing district and tehsil naib nazims.



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The amendments sparked off a widespread protest across the country, in which AF played a major role and coordinated a countrywide protest by the district level networks, especially against the reduction in seats. In the end, after considerable lobbying by NGOs like AF it was decided to reduce women's seats to 4 rather than 3.

As the electoral process continued in 2005 it undermined the process of devolution itself. The Local Government elections, held on a non-party basis in Pakistan, turned into a sham as political parties actively backed selected candidates. Manipulation of the electoral process and a rigging of the election results took place in many constituencies across the country, as instances of chaos, violence, and disruption in voting were reported at a relatively high number of polling stations, particularly in Sindh and Punjab provinces, by independent observers e.g. the International Crisis Group. The ruling party and the government administration were visible in most of these violations, which brought the autonomy of the Election Commission of Pakistan into question.

This left no room for the socially and politically weak, especially the women, to have any stake in the process. Both the activists and the majority of candidates, particularly women, felt cheated and disheartened. This is despite the fact that the results of women's participation in the 2005 Local Government elections were very encouraging. In the 54 districts where Local Government Elections were held in the first phase, altogether 98.3 percent seats reserved for women in the union councils were filled. The results of the 56 remaining districts in the second phase showed 95.63 of these reserved seats were filled. Some of the major achievements of the project were the mobilization of 156,925 women candidates, the training of 40,178 women candidates, and the 'coaching' of 112,298 persons at facilitation camps. In addition AF helped with the preparation of 38,860 identity cards and the registration of 31,804 voters.

While AF was committed to working actively with the Election Commission and supporting women's participation in the election, it felt morally obligated to condemn the corruption of the election process. A national AF consultation called in Islamabad in September 2005 with the partner networks confirmed large scale tampering with the electoral results.

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It was realised by all present in the Consultation that the local level activists in our networks could not take on the local political elites at this stage of their own evolution as an emerging social force. But since they were determined to distance themselves from the unethical political activities, it was decided to stay out of the third phase elections for the tehsil and district councils. Seminars and public meetings would be held to raise the issue of election rigging.

These seminars and workshops were held but the devastating earthquake on 8<sup>th</sup> October in NWFP and Azad Kashmir shifted the public focus and concern away from the 'unfair and unfree elections.'

This Citizens' Report is not going to capture the 'behind-the-scenes' process of the 2005 Local Government elections. The District Coordination Committees did not have much to report, which meant that there was a familiarity with the new system of elections, a general social acceptance of women's role as candidates because they did not seem to 'rock the boat' as much as was expected by their opponents, (it was, as we said, a 'silent revolution'!), and the full and active participation of the political parties did not leave much political space and scope for the citizens to mobilise and intervene on behalf of the women, except at the time of monitoring on polling day, if that was possible.

This Report gives instead some valuable information of the socio-economic backdrop to the electoral processes in 2001 and 2005 in the form of the district profiles of the 105 districts, some glimpses of the two Campaigns, (for which the material from the Citizens' Report of 2001 was used again,) and the overall results of the Campaigns, a part of which we could take credit for. But much more so in 2001 than in 2005!

Any hope that the new system of Local Government was really going to allow the people to control their own destinies, flickered out even before it could become a flame. The ease with which the provincial governments pushed forward their own agenda through amendments and manipulation of election results, gave a clear signal that these public representatives wanted no sharing of power with any 'local competitors in their backyards'. The National Reconstruction Bureau of the Federal Government whose 'baby' the Local Government Ordinance 2000 was,

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looked on almost indulgently while making the required noises. Any system that could be subverted so easily and so soon, was always designed to be incapable of transferring an atom of power to the people!

The introduction to the First Citizens' Campaign Report was titled 'The Beginning of the Beginning'. It is only appropriate that we title the introduction to the Second Citizen's Campaign Report as 'The Beginning of the End'.

Nigar Ahmad  
Executive Director  
Aurat Foundation

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## Acknowledgements

This report is an output of the Women's Participation in Local Government Elections Campaign 2005. Aurat Foundation acknowledges the support of CIDA for making possible an undertaking of this scale with our network partners in 105 districts of Pakistan. CIDA provided the financial support for the campaign to mobilise and motivate women to run for office in the Local Government Elections 2005.

The Federal and Provincial Election Commissions must be specially mentioned for their prompt and positive response to most problems and issues brought to their notice during the electoral process. The Provincial Ministries of Local Government and District Administration in most cases provided valuable support for the Campaign.

Real credit for the success of the Campaign, information and insights given in this report goes to the community level organisations, citizen's groups, lawyers, media persons and individual activists, who gave freely of their time and commitment to ensure the participation of women in the electoral process in an environment conducive for women to come forward as candidates and voters in the Local Government Elections 2005.

Without the contribution of dedicated Aurat Foundation staff involved in the campaign, backed and supported by many of their colleagues, it would have been impossible to coordinate such a massive undertaking at the national level within such time constraints. It was their personal commitment and not just their professionalism that made the campaign a success once again as in the first Local Government Elections 2001.

Last but not least, none of this would have been possible without the courage and determination of the women in almost every Union Council in Pakistan. They braved many a physical threat, social boycott and familial opposition to lay claim to the political space provided for them by the government. This only proves, and we repeat what we said in the introduction to the last Report, that if governments are willing to take bold affirmative actions, the women of Pakistan have the courage and determination to make their voices heard and positively contribute to the development of a dynamic, progressive and democratic Pakistan.

**Balochistan**



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## Awaran

The earliest history of Awaran is the same as that of Khuzdar and the Southern area of Balochistan. The central position of Awaran is evident from the point of convergence near Bela from the Turbat Gwadar link to Karachi - Quetta RCD highway (Kia to Awaran and Jhal Jhao). It is possible that, during the time of the Arabs when Khuzdar was the chief town of this area, this route was used by them.

The tribes in Awaran are divided into several clans. The main tribes in the district are Bizenjos, Mohammed Hasnis, Sajdis, Mirwanis, Rakhshani, Musianis, Sumalanies and Mengals.

Awaran was notified as a separate district on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1992. The old name of Awaran was Kolwa. The district consists of three tehsils – Mashkai, Awaran, and Jhal Jhao. The geographical area of the district is 29,510 sq kms. Awaran is the most underdeveloped district of Balochistan. No urban area exists in the district. Awaran is the only town in the district which has adopted some urban trends.

The population of District Awaran is 118,173 of which male are 62,114 (52.56 per cent) and female are 56,059 (47.44 per cent).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 57,856, in which male voters are 29,762 and women voters are 28,094.

The area has very limited economic activities. About 75 percent of the people are engaged in agriculture, 20 percent in livestock, 2 percent in government services, and 3 percent in other activities. In the district, no mining, industrial, or fisheries related activity exists.

### Social Organisation

The society of Awaran district is patriarchal, deeply rooted in the tribal system. The people feel secure in their tribes. The chief of each tribe is known as "*Sardar*". His position is unassailable and the particular group to which the Sardar belongs forms a small aristocracy taking special precedence in the tribe.

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The people of Awaran are very co-operative. They take care of each other, especially within their tribes, at different occasions such as marriage and death. They also assist each other in cash and kind.

#### **Religious Beliefs**

The majority of the people of the area are Sunni Muslims. Zikris are also living in the area. Zikris go to Turbat to offer their prayers. The Mullahs are the most influential person in their community. Zikri people pay respect to them and discuss their problems with them.

#### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

Women have nothing to do with the decision making in family affairs. It has been observed that due to poverty, the girls and women are deprived of their rights. However, one salient fact which stands out as a common feature is their lack of decision making compared to men. This is partly due to the persistence of patriarchal traditions.

In most of the socio-economic activities men hold a monopoly of power in the public arena. The burden of tasks associated with reproductive roles and household responsibilities falls squarely on women. All the daily tasks in household maintenance and care of family members are responsibilities of women. Illiteracy, poverty, lack of resources and limited time may seriously hamper a woman's efforts to ensure the well being of her family.

#### **Political Parties**

The major political parties in the area are National Party (NP), Balochistan National Party (Mengal) and Pakistan Muslim League (Q). Women participation in politics was not observed in the district. There is no representation of women in any political party from the area.

In the election of 2002 Pir Abdul Qadir Al-Gillani of PML (Q) won the seat of the National Assembly and Mir Abul Quddus Bizinjo of PML (Q) won the Provincial Assembly seat. The office of District Nazim is headed by Mr. Khair Jan Baloch of National Party.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 100 per cent of women seats were filled, while the LG election 2005 100% women seats were filled.



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## Health

The health status of the women in district Awaran is poor compared to the health condition of men. There is one Civil Hospital in Awaran, 9 dispensaries, 2 Rural Health Care Centers and 7 Basic Health Units.

## Education

In Awaran district, there are 159 boys' primary schools and 49 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 17, 14 for boys and 3 for girls. While the number of Government High School is 14, 12 for Boys and 2 for Girls.

There is only one intermediate college for boys.

## Glimpses of the Campaign

### CCWR 2001

Situated a 14-hour drive from Quetta, Awaran is one of the remotest districts of Balochistan. There are no metalled roads in the whole of the district. The elections in Awaran, held in the fourth phase, were for five union councils situated in an area spreading over a radius of more than 200 kilometres.

When Aurat Foundation tried to form a DCC in the area, no local CBO or other NGO was found to work in the district. Only the Society for Community Support and Primary Education (SCSPE) had opened some girls' primary schools in collaboration with the Education Department. A few active individuals and social workers were identified through personal contacts and asked to form the DCC. Khair Jan Baloch, an ex-student leader, became the DCC Coordinator.

Mobilisation meetings were held throughout the district with the help of the DCC and SCSPE. As a result of this hard work, most of the seats were contested. At the end, the DCC Coordinator decided to run for the seat of district *nazim* against a local sardar and won after run-off elections.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
5	20	29	20	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
5	10	24	10	0	100.0%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
8	16	37	16	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
8	16	19	16	0	100%

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## Barkhan

Barkhan is derived from Baro Khan, the founder of the Barozai family of Pannis, who either ruled this area on behalf of the Governors of Sibi.

There are three main tribes in Barkhan district: Khetran, Marri and Buzdar. The principal tribe is of the Khetrans. The Khetrans' tribal constitution resembles Baloch tribes. District Barkhan was re-notified as district on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1991. Before 1991 district Barkhan was the sub division of Zhob division. District Barkhan is located on the border of Balochistan and Punjab. The district is bounded on the north by District Musa Khail, on the south by District Kohlu, on the east by district Dera Ghazi Khan and on the west by district Loralai.

The total number of registered voters in the district is 56,978 out of which 30,749 are male and 26,229 are female.

The total population of the district Barkhan is 103,545 in which male are 54,365 (52.50%) and female are 49,180 (47.50%).

The major part of the labour force is engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry. Tribal set-up is strong and urbanization and commercialization have not affected the economy of the district. Mining and industry is almost negligible, except petty trades in which very few people are engaged. A very small proportion of the female labour force is engaged in agriculture. Women are also involved in looking after the animals and poultry inside the house.

### Social Organisation

The social organisation in Barkhan is mainly tribal. The tribal set-up is rigid and tribal affiliation is prominent and sectional loyalties are very strong. The people of different tribes have not yet developed any social connection to bring them together. They have no tolerance for one another and try to bring down their opponents at any cost.

The tribal system has a characteristic social pattern, in which each tribe is united and organised under a Sardar, who is the social and administrative leader of the tribe. The Jirga system is the principal system of tribal justice. Rawaj (Customary tradition) is accepted as law.

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Most of the district's populations are poor farmers. The majority of the people is uneducated and follows ancient tribal customs. There are three main tribes in Barkhan district: Khetran, Marri and Buzdar. The principal tribe is of the Khetrans. The Khetrans' tribal constitution resembles Baloch tribes. They have a chief or tumandar and a headman or wadera for each clan or section. Khetrans are divided into three main clans: Dharas, Ispani and Phaliat. The most spoken language is Khetrani.

The dress of most people is simple and made of cotton cloth. However, some persons of the poor classes and most people of middle class dress in superior cotton and artificial silk cloth. The dress of men usually consists of a turban, "patka", shalwar and a shirt or kurta in summer, and in winter waist coat or coat, stockings and cotton or woolen wrapper (chadar). The dress of women usually consists of a dopata, "poti", long shirt and shalwar.

The role of women in decision making is negligible, as decisions are made by men. In small family affairs the women has some say. Their community role is also limited to a great extent as their social interaction outside the immediate household is limited. There are some occasions, like births, death, illness, and marriages etc; which serve as one of the few socially sanctioned forms of mobility available to women. These occasions provide women with a forum for exchange of information and ideas and improvement of social ties and alliances between themselves.

#### **Religious Beliefs**

The inhabitants of Barkhan are Muslims. They belong to the Sunni sect and many of them say their prayers regularly. Syed, Sheikh and Mullahs are respected. The majority of the people has superstitious beliefs and follows old tribal customs which contradict religious teachings, particularly with regard to attitudes towards women.

#### **Role of Women**

In the political domain, local level chiefs and tribal authorities are always men, as are the members of local councils of elders or jirgas. It is rare to find examples of parallel women's groups, from which women leaders may emerge. Men also set the terms of moral and cultural values. Religious authorities are all men and local cultural codes of honor stem

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from male value systems which often have components based on the subordination of women. These include denial of women's rights in matters of property and inheritance. Decision-making is in the hand of men, women have no say.

Most of the household work is done by women and most of the outdoor work is done by men. Women are involved in activities like cooking, cleaning, taking care of the children and other dependent members of the family, producing handicraft articles etc.

The women are of low social status and polygamy still exists. In tribal society, people prefer to have more male children, which burdens women with multiple childbearing, affecting her and her children's health. Women are treated like an asset and are at the mercy of her husband and relatives. She can be divorced or sold at her husband's will or declared "*siahkara*". She has no inheritance rights, except in a few middle class families.

#### **Political Parties / Participation**

Being a strong hold of Political parties Barkhan has always played a unique role in the politics of Balochistan. JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian), PML-N (Muslim League Nawaz Group), PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) and Pashtoon Khuwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) are very active in the area. In the election of 2002 Sardar Yaqoob Khan Nasar of PML (N) won the seat of the National Assembly. Mrs. Nasreen Khethran (PML-Q) (wife of Sardar Abdur Rahman Khetran) won the Provincial Assembly seat. The office of District Nazim is headed by Mir Habibullah Khan of PML (Q).

The role of women in political parties is negligible, due to factors such as low literacy and strong belief in the traditional role of women. Although seats are allocated to women in the local bodies institutions, women's representation is very poor.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001 100% of women seats were filled, and in 2005 also 100% seats.

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### Health

The health status of the women in district Barkhan is poor compared to the health condition of men. There is only one Civil Hospital in Barkhan. Besides this there are 10 dispensaries, and 6 Basic Health Units.

### Education

In Barkhan district, there are 392 boys' primary schools and 158 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 17, 14 for boys and 03 for girls. While the number of Government High School is 13, 11 for Boys and 2 for Girls.

Madrasas do exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

There is one college for boys only.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
8	16	57	16	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
8	16	47	16	0	100%

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## Bolan

### Basic information about District Bolan

District Bolan is one of the important areas of Balochistan. In the past it was known as District “**Kacchi**”, Sibi, and Jhal Magsi were its Tehsils. Now a day it is known as District Bolan. Mach is the Headquarter.

### Area

The total area of district Bolan is 7,499 sq kms.

### Boundries

On the east Bolan is bounder by Sibi, Naseerabad and Jaffarabad, on the west by Quetta, on the north by Ziarat and on the south by Mastung.

### Population

The estimated population of the area in 2004 is 81,850, male 43,632, female 38,218. Local 11,136, Domicile 243, temporary 151, and 64 others (nomads).

### Registered Voters:

Total 125,979, male 68,766 and female 57,213.

### U/Cs and Tehsils

District Bolan has 3 Tehsils, Dhadar, Mach, and Bhag and 14 Union Councils.

### Major Occupations

Livestock, agriculture and labour are the major occupations. It has a hot summer and mild winter. This area consists of 50% mountainous and 50% plains, 35% out of the plain area is cultivated and 15% is barren. The main sources of irrigations are “*karez*” (underground man made canals), tube wells, springs, rainwater, streams, and dams. In district Bolan, there are 59 tube wells and 35 dams. To irrigate the cultivated area primitive methods of irrigation are used.

### Women’s Economic Status

**Livestock:** Female 5,988, male 7,659. **Agriculture:** Female 254, male 6,991. **Govt service:** Female 214, male 2,820. **Labour:** Female 265, male 7,856 **Housewives:** 24,085. As compared to males, females are not economically strong and have no land in their names.

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**Education**

Total boy's schools 234, functional 197, and non-functional are 37. Total girl's schools 60, functional 53, and non-functional are 7. As a result, the ratio of education in the context of women is much more depressing than males.

**Health**

Total Hospitals 4, dispensaries 19, 24 functional health units out of 36 situated in the Tehsil level.

**Social Customs and Traditions**

The district Bolan is the valley of nomadic and settled tribes, consisting of Rind, Lashari, Raisani, Jatoi, Raija, Abro and Jamoot. The commonly spoken languages by the above-mentioned tribes are Balochi, Brahvi and Saraiki.. As we know Balochistan has its own tribal and Sardari system and no one is allowed to interfere in their system, therefore the atmosphere of this District is not favourable for women and especially for their free mobility which has deprived the women not only socially but also politically.

**Political Situation**

The historical record proves that this district has the tribal rivalries between Rind and Raisani tribes who have been influencing the politics of this district. The Sardar of Rind tribe, Sardar Yar Mohammed Rind elected as the member of National Assembly from district Bolan and currently rendering his services as the Federal Minister. On the other hand, his son Sardar Khan Rind is the District Nazim of Bolan. Two provincial seats of the district are divided between Shah Zaman Rind and Mir Asim Kurd Gillo is also the minister of Balochistan Government. The second strong group belongs to Ex Provincial Minister Nawabzada Haji Mir Lashkari Khan Raisani, son of Ex Governor Balochistan late Nawab Ghos Baksh Raisani.



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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
27	54	111	53	1	98%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
27	54	94	54	0	100%

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## Chagai/Noshki

The district derives its name from “Chagai” a village on the western border of the Lora Hamun. The legend attributes the origin of the name to the numerous wells, “*Chahas*” which are said to have formerly existed in the vicinity. After the declaration of Balochistan as a province in 1970, Chagai became a district within Quetta Division. The district is bound on the north by the desert region of Afghanistan (which lies south of the Helmand river), on the east by the Sarlath hilly range and Kalat District, on the south by Kharan District and on the west by Iran.

According to estimates the population in districts Chagai and Noshki are 202,564 in which male are 108,736 (53.68%) and female are 93,828 (46.32%). The Total Number of registered Voters in District Noshki is 108,191, in which male voters are 59,127 and women voters are 49,064. The labour force participation rates for urban and rural areas are 20.6% and 24.7% respectively. The rates for male and female labour are 47.0% and 0.9% respectively.

### Social Organisation

The social organisation in Chagai district is mainly structured along tribal lines. The social structure is patriarchal. In the district there are three major ethnic groups namely Baloch, Brahvi and Pashtoons.

The most characteristic social pattern is the tribal system. Though the hold of Sardars has lessened considerably with the passage of time, yet they retain some powers of the tribal system. The code of honour which has prevailed among the tribesmen for centuries still influences their actions including (a) to avenge blood, (b) to refrain from killing women, (c) to either pardon an offence on the intercession of the women of the offender’s family or to dismiss the women by giving each of them a dress as a token of honour, (d) to punish an adulterer with death and (e) to cease fighting when a Mullah, a Syed or a woman bearing the Holy Quran on his or her head, intervenes between the parties.

### Religious Beliefs

The vast majority of the district population is Muslim belonging to Hanfi School of Sunni sect with a minority of Hindus. Religious functions are a significant force in the lives of all community members. Religious

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authorities have a hold over many aspects of social life and a few political parties are organised along religious lines. The Hindu Population observes "*Devali*" and "*Holi*". The Hindus of Noshki also make an annual pilgrimage to the Jawarkin hill, which is about 22 Km from Noshki, on the occasion of "*Wasakhi*" festival on the 13th of April.

#### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

In most of the social groupings men hold a monopoly of power in the public arena. In the political domain, local level chiefs and tribal authorities are always men, as are the members of local councils of elders or jirgas. The women have no say traditionally, although in Chagai district it is not as intense as in some other parts of the province. Women have no public role in community or political life.

The economic participation of women differs from that of men, as most of the household work is done by women. Women are very good at producing handicrafts, etc. The social status of women is low and the tradition of polygamy and "*lub*" (bride price) keeps them under social pressure to remain illiterate. Women in the district are allowed no share in inheritance, but a person in his life time can bestow on his wife, daughter or sister a portion of his moveable or immovable property.

#### **Political Parties**

There are many political parties and no single party is popular among the masses. The role of political parties like in many other districts in Balochistan is not very strong in Chagai district. Usually it is the personal status of the candidate which matters. The political parties which are in existence at Chagai district are Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI), Balochistan National Party (BNP), National Party (NP) and Pakhtoonkhawa Milli Awami Party (PMAP).

In the election of 2002 Hafiz Hussain Ahmed of JUI (F) won the seat of the National Assembly. Mr. Amanuallah Notezai and Mr. Shabir Ahmed Badini of PML (Q) won the Provincial Assembly seats. The office of District Nazim Noshki is headed by Mr. Bahadur Khan Mengal of PML (Q). The office of District Nazim Chagai is headed by Mr. Muhammad Hashim Notezai of PML (Q).

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Women representation in political parties does not exist. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 96.5% of women seats were filled, while in the LG election of 2005 100% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Chaghi/Noshki is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are two Civil Hospital in Chaghi/Noshki. Besides this there are 19 Dispensaries, 3 Rural Health Care Centers and 23 Basic Health Units.

#### **Education**

In Chaghi and Noshki districts, there are 220 boys' primary schools and 111 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 53, 29 for boys and 24 for girls. While the number of Government High Schools is 31, 21 for Boys and 10 for Girls.

There are two intermediate colleges for boys and girls and one degree college for boys.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

##### **Glimpse 1**

Chagai, bordered by Iran and Afghanistan, was area-wise the largest district in Pakistan. Mengal, Badini, Jamaldini, Mohammad Hasni, Noutazai, Syed, Braich and other tribes coexist. Brahvi and Balochi and are spoken in the district. There is also a large Hindu population.

The different tribes decided to boycott the elections of 2000-01. The DCC held a meeting with Mir Akram Khan Mengal in Noshki and informed him of the decision by feudal leaders to boycott the elections. Mir Akram was highly respected by the large Hindu population. He was asked to intervene to persuade the Hindus to participate in the elections. DCC members and Mir Akram met with Chaudhry Mohan Laal, Bharabdas, Tek Chand and other influentials in the Hindu Community Hall.

Mir Akram and members of the DCC explained to the gathering that instead of boycotting elections, they should participate in politics and use the platform to highlight their problems and demands.

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The Hindus agreed to participate in the upcoming elections. After looking at the precedent set by the Hindu community at Chagai, minorities in district Kharan also decided to participate in the elections. DCC Coordinator Mohammad Saeed Baluch, Kailash Sadana, Rehmatullah Mengal and other members met with minorities in Kharan. In addition, Chaudhry Mohan Laal, Chaudhry Tek Chand, Bharabdas and Kailash Kumar participated in this meeting.

### **Glimpse 2**

Due to the conservative nature of the district it was very tough to run a Campaign to mobilise women. The low population density in Chagai aggravated this situation, as it was impossible to reach all the scattered communities with our meagre resources. The DCC found a way to reach all these communities by including members of union councils from each tehsil in the DCC. This helped us in reaching the grass roots level and involving the people in these areas in the Campaign activities.

We also networked with representatives from various religious and nationalist parties and due to these linkages we did not face too many problems. The Assistant Election Commissioner Chagai, Sultan Bazaid was very helpful and supportive of our Campaign and let us set up an election camp in the premises of his office. Local Government officers gave information and provided guidance about the election process, including filing of nomination papers.

### **WPLGE 2005**

#### **Glimpse 1**

The word of Chagai is originated from the two words of "Cha" and "Gai", "Cha" means "a well" and "Gai" means "a place" means the place of wells. District Chagai is situated on the borders of the neighboring countries of Iran and Afghanistan. Noshki is situated in its East, Iran in the West, Afghanistan in its North while District Kharan in the South.

The District has pride and identity of importance that in May 1998, the first atomic explosion of Pakistan rather Muslim world was exploded in the Raskoh Mountains.

This District is very rich in minerals. Saindak Project in collaboration with China is producing Gold, Silver and Copper. In Racodak with the cooperation and collaboration with Australia, Gold and silver is being explored with progress. Notezai, Muhammad Hassani, Shazai and Sanjrani are the notable tribes of Chagai.

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On July 26, 2005, Coordinator DCC District Chagai Mr. Manzoor Rahi Baloch and Joint Coordinator Mr. Noor Ali Sanjrani along with other DCC members visited the Assistant Election Commissioner Office Chagai. Assistant Election Commissioner requested Mr. Manzoor Rahi Baloch that due to shortage of Election staff, he requires the services of DCC volunteers as they are already working in the field so that the DCC volunteers may assist the election process. Assistant Election Commissioner also requested to establish facilitation camps in the area of Election Office for which the entire voter's lists will be provided by me which will be convenient for you.

DCC Coordinator along with others members established the facilitation camp in election office. They cooperated with the Assistant Election Commissioner and helped the candidates in filling the nomination forms specially women candidates.

Work of DCC was made easier with the credit that DCC was performing activities and helping them impartially without considering, race, colour and creed.

By establishing facilitation camp in Assistant Election Commissioner Office, DCC and Aurat Foundation was appreciated with great credit. During this pleasant environment and situation Mr. Ishfaq Mengal, Programme Officer, Aurat Foundation remained active with zeal and enthusiasm for continuously three days in the camp dynamically resulting encouraging achievements.

### **Glimpse 2**

Local Government elections of District Chagai Balochistan were held in second phase.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005 on polling day Mr. Ishfaq Mengal Programme Officer, Aurat Foundation Quetta along with the Coordinator DCC Chagai Mr. Manzoor Rahi Baloch and Joint Coordinator Mr. Noor Ali Sanjrani with other DCC members monitored polling of different polling stations of Dalbandin Tehsil, they evaluated the conditions. Only one single polling booth was established in several polling stations for women voters, women voters faced a lot of difficulties. Keeping in view the circumstances Mr. Ishfaq Mengal along with DCC members requested the Presiding Officers to arrange more polling booths in the polling stations. On the advice of the DCC members and Mr. Ishfaq, presiding officers appreciated the idea and ordered for arranging two more polling booths in the polling

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stations. With this facility women voters cast votes comfortably with convenience and also time was saved.

### **Glimpse 3**

The main occupation of the inhabitants of the district is Agriculture. This is the reason majority of the population in the area is educated. Due to the high rate of literacy, women play an active role in all the social activities of the area. The tribal and social environment of district Chagai was severely affected by Afghan war. A large number of Afghan refugees migrated in the district. These refugees at the one hand affected the social norms and culture of the area and on the other hand started to propagate their version of Islam. With the passage of time all this resulted in minimizing the role of women in social activities.

On the eve of WPLGE activities 2005, member of DCC Chagai Sadruddin Aine started the process of distribution of AF election material and pasting of election posters in his area. During this process some local residents of the area informed Sadruddin Aine that, in Juma prayer Imam Masjid said any one who is working for women's participation in politics is basically working on American and Jewish agenda. Imam Masjid further declared every one involved in this process as Qafir. He was of the opinion that, by such activities members of DCC Chagai are polluting the Islamic society of the area.

In this situation Sadruddin Aine contacted with Mr. Manzoor Rahi and Mr. Noor Ali Sanjrani Coordinator and Joint Coordinator of DCC for help. Coordinators of DCC Chagai discussed the issue with other members of DCC and evolved a strategy to solve the problem. According to the strategy meetings were held with religious and tribal leaders of District Chagai. Election material of Aurat Foundation was provided to them and detailed discussion was made with them on the importance of women's participation and representation in political process. For carrying forward the process of interaction with community and influentials of the area, a seminar was organised. The purpose of organizing the seminar was to brief the people about the objective of the campaign and activities of DCC in this regard. An influential religious elder of the area was invited in the seminar as Chief Guest. During his speech religious leaders appreciated the efforts of DCC and asked the participants of Seminar to help them in the process of mobilization and facilitation of candidates. The report of the seminar was published in all the regional newspapers of Balochistan. The media coverage of the seminar was used by members of DCC for

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convincing the communities during mobilization meetings. In case of question from community the media clippings were shared with them and they were told the views expressed by Imam Masjid are his personal views, while the other religious elders of the area are in the favor of DCC. This strategy adopted by DCC resulted in minimizing the opposition of Imam Masjid and fears of community towards the activities of DCC. After handling the situation successfully, members of DCC fully concentrated on their campaign and mobilised a large number of women to participate in the elections of local government as candidates.

#### **Glimpse 4**

District Noshki was district head quarter of District Chagai before the general election of 2002. District Chagai was divided in to two districts. District Noshki is the border district of Balochistan. It is situated with the border of neighboring country Afghanistan. District Noshki is very popular in Politics, Education and religious activities in overall Balochistan. Main political Parties are JUI (F), Muslim League (N), Muslim League (Q), Jamat-i-Islami, National Party, BNP and JWP.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005, Mr. Ishfaq Mengal, Programme Officer Aurat Foundation and DCC members filing the nomination paper of candidates, during the filling of papers a candidate visited the camp and told that he does not have fee for receiving the serial number from election commission. The AF staff and DCC members told him that the election commission is giving serial number without any fee. He gave answer that the staff of Election commission is receiving Rs. 100/- per candidate for serial number. The Programme officer and members of DCC immediately discussed with Mr. Younas Khalid, Resident Director AF Quetta and Provincial Election Commissioner about the problem. The Provincial Election Commission took the necessary action.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2005 Assistant Returning Officer, Judicial Magistrate Mr. Zahoor Ahmed Langov displayed a notice on notice board the candidates can submit their nomination paper without serial number. The candidates especially women appreciated the role of AF and DCC.



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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001 (Chagai)

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
19	76	113	72	4	94.7%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
19	38	64	38	0	100.0%

### Election Results 2005 (Chagai)

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
10	20	66	20	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
10	20	66	20	0	100%

### Election Results 2005 (Noshki)

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
10	20	92	20	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
10	20	60	20	0	100%

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## Dera Bugti

Until July 1983 the areas now comprising District Dera Bugti were included in Kohlu Agency.

District Dera Bugti is named after its headquarter town 'Dera Bugti'. "Dera" (a Balochi word) means 'abode' or 'habitat', while 'Bugti' is the name of a Baloch tribe. Thus Dera Bugti means the abode of the Bugtis, the dominant tribe of this Agency.

District Dera Bugti has the distinction of being the first locality in the country where natural gas was harnessed (in 1954) for domestic and industrial use. This gas field is at Sui after which the "Sui Gas Corporation" is named. The gas from Sui is supplied all over the country.

Until 1974, Dera Bugti territory was administered as a part of Sibi district. In 1974, the latter was re-organised to create Nasirabad district and Kohlu Agency. Dera Bugti territory was included in Kohlu Agency from which it was detached in July 1983 to create what is now Dera Bugti Agency.

Its total area is 10,160 square kilometres.

According to estimates the population in district Dera Bugti is 181,310 in which male are 97,316 (53.67%) and female are 83,994 (46.33%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 72,077, in which male voters are 41,128 and women voters are 30,949.

Dera Bugti is bounded in the north by Kohlu Agency, in the south by Jacobabad district, in the east by Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, and Loralai districts, and in the west by Nasirabad and Kachi districts.

### Social Organisation

The Sardari system is fully intact in Dera Bugti. The area is inhabited by the Bugti tribe, which has eight main sections and twenty eight sub-sections. Each sub-section has its own Sardar. Similarly, each of the eight main sections has a Chief or Sardar. Besides, there are notables or "Waderas" in each main section. Actually each level in the tribe has its own names for their heads. Sardari is normally on hereditary basis. The Sardari system evolved over several centuries and doesn't appear to have lost much strength to date.

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### **Religious Beliefs**

All but 1% of the Dera Bugti inhabitants are Muslims of Sunni faith. Rests of them are Hindu, Sikh, and Christian. It is not necessary that a Bugti Baloch has to be Muslim, though all but a few are. Non-Muslims too can join the Bugti tribe and use the surname of Bugti as done by many Hindus in Dera Bugti.

### **Role, Position, and Status of Women**

The role, position and status of women in Dera Bugtti are not different from the Baloch women in other parts of Balochistan. Their role as decision makers in family matters is limited. They have little or no role in decisions concerning investment, acquisition of property etc. Home is considered their proper domain. They enjoy respect at home and outside, but, as stated above, have no status in the sense that in most matters they have no decision making role. There is no concept or tradition of granting right of inheritance to women. Their access to health care and education is often denied.

### **Political Parties**

District Dera Bugti is dominated by Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP). Other political parties, including, PPP, PML, etc., have only nominal existence in the area.

In the election of 2002 Mir Ghulam Haider Bugti (JWP) won the seat of the National Assembly. Mir Juma Khan Bugti won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Mir Kazim Bugti.

The total Number of union Councils in Dear Bugti is 35. Women representation in the union, Tehsil and District council after the Local Government Elections of 2005 is 100%.

### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001 only 8.3% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005 25% women seats were filled.

### **Health**

The health facilities in Dera Bugtti and its other areas are also very limited. The health status of the women in district is poor as compared to men. There are only two Civil Hospitals in Dera Bugti. Besides this there are 25 Dispensaries, 2 Rural Health Care Centers and 23 Basic Health Units.

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### Education

In Dera Bugti, there are 229 boys' primary schools and 50 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 30, 26 for boys and 4 for girls. While the number of Government High School is 20, 19 for Boys and 1 for Girls.

There is one college and one intermediate college for boys.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
12	48	4	4	44	8.3%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
12	24	2	2	22	8.3%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
12	24	6	06	18	25%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
12	24	6	06	18	25%

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## Gwadar

Gwadar district, with its 600 kilometres long coast line and unirrigated tracts of Kulach and Dasht valleys, has always been an important chapter of Makran's history. The coast provides great potential for fisheries. After the division of the Indian subcontinent into two sovereign states, areas except Gwadar and its surroundings joined the Balochistan States Union, as part of Makran state. In 1958, Gwadar and its surrounding area were reverted back from Maskat to Pakistan and were made a tehsil of Makran district.

It is bounded on the north by Kech and Awaran districts, on the east by Awaran and Lasbela districts, on the south by the Arabian Sea, and on the west by Iran. Total area of the district is 15,216 square kilometres. According to estimates the population in district Gwadar is 184,549, in which male are 99,436 (53.60%) and female are 86,062 (46.40%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 73,716, in which male voters are 38,969 and women voters are 34,747. Male and female labour force participation rates are 49.3% and 4.3% respectively. The labour force participation rates for urban and rural areas are 24.3% and 30.4% respectively.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Historically society in Gwadar was divided in three social strata, "*Hakims*", "*Baloch*", and "*Hizmatgars*", locally known as "*Darzadas*" or "*Golams*". Gwadar is transforming into a semi-urban society, socio-cultural change is noticable. Educational expansion has broken down old chains and economic status has become the major determinant of social status.

In Gwadar, marriage rituals significantly differ from those in other areas of Balochistan. Unlike other parts of Balochistan, "*lub*" (bride price) or "*haq mehr*" (dower) received in a marriage contract is owned by the bride herself and she has the full right of spending or dispensing it. "*Haq mehr*" is more prevalent in Gwadar and the parents of the bride do not get any money from the groom's parents. Endogamy is the prevalent style of marriage especially among "*Hakims*". Most of the people are monogamous

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as a second marriage is expensive. The custom of bride exchange is not practised in Gwadar.

In Gwadar district society is structured on kinship basis. Tribal identity has lost its importance and Baloch is a common identity. All decisions are made at household level and no tribal structure is present to make collective decisions. Communal leadership is a function of aged people in the community. Sometimes educated individuals are accepted as community leaders, especially in collective welfare and development. Wealth does play some role in political popularity but the people have elected educated individuals from middle income group as their representatives in the 2002 provincial and national assembly elections. Education and social relationships are also basis of local leadership.

The vestiges of the "*sardari*" system have been eliminated to a great extent. The tribal leaders, "*sardars*", "*nawabs*", and "*kahodas*", are still there but their role has been minimised in politics or decision making. In case of conflict, parties go to court of law instead of any tribal jirga. Political consciousness is wide spread and all political decisions are made individually.

#### **Religious Beliefs**

According to the 1998 census, the Muslims constitute an overwhelming majority of population in Gwadar while the remaining population include Christians, Ahmadis, Hindus, Parsis, Zikris and Sikhs.

In Gwadar, sectarian violence is minimal. The proportion of the Zikris and of the people belonging to Sunni sect of Islam is almost equal. The Sunni Muslims believe in "*Hanfi*" interpretation of "*Shariah*". Generally, these folks have religious attitudes and practice Islam according to its fundamental principles. Inheritance is divided according to the Islamic principles and daughters are given their property rights accordingly. All Islamic festive days are celebrated with zeal and fervour. The Zikri population practice their faith with independence and Muslim-Zikri clashes are very rare.

#### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

Makran has a unique history regarding the status of women. Every woman in Gwadar has complete control over property acquired from her

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husband as dower. And, as the Islamic law of inheritance is followed, she may expect in course of time to inherit a portion of her parents property and will be entitled to a share in her husband's property if he pre-deceases her. Sometimes this ownership of property saves a woman from divorce as in that situation her husband would have to transfer the property which he promised her as "*haq mehr*".

#### **Political Parties / Participation**

Gwadar has always played an important role in the nationalist politics of Balochistan. National Party, BNP Akhtar Mengal Group, JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), JWP (Jamhoori Watan Party), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary) and PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) place active role in the politics of the area. In the election of 2002 Ms. Zubeda Jalal (Federal Minister for Special Education) won the seat of the National Assembly and Mr. Sher Jan Baloch (Minister for Fisheries) won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Mir Ghafoor Kalmati of PML (Q).

None of these parties have proper women wings. However these parties do have a few active women workers and supporters.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001 53.8% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005 98% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Gwadar is poor compared to men. Women-exclusive health facilities are very few and there is severe shortage of female health staff, medical or paramedical. There are only three Civil Hospitals in Gwadar 11 Dispensaries, 3 Rural Health Care Centres, 18 Basic Health Units and 20 Private Clinics.

#### **Education**

There are 145 boys' primary schools and 64 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 16, 11 for boys and 5 for girls, Government High Schools 15, 12 for Boys and 3 for Girls.

There is one college for boys; one intermediate for boys, and no Degree College.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### CCWR 2001

In Balochistan a National Identity Card (NIC) cannot be issued unless the applicant has a Local or Domicile Certificate (depending on his or her ethnic background). In the run up to the elections in the first phase in district Gwadar, people complained that women in their region could not obtain NICs because they needed a Local Certificate, which – contrary to the process in other areas of Balochistan – required a photograph for women as well, which was not acceptable to them. This problem was raised by the DCC with the relevant local authorities, the DC and the District Committee for Local Certificates, and as a result the condition of including the photograph was relaxed for women. A number of women were then issued Local Certificates, and later NICs.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
13	52	40	32	20	61.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
13	26	18	10	16	38.5%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
13	26	80	26	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
13	26	48	25	1	96%



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## Jaffarabad

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### Geographical Location

Situated on the border of Balochistan and Sind and is the second most populated district after Quetta. Its name has derived from the political and social leader of Pakistan Movement “Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali”.

### Area

The total area of district is 2,445 (Sq.km).

### Boundaries

In the east bordered by Jacobabad, south Jhal Magsi, north by Dera Bugti, and west by Naseerabad.

### Population

Total population of the district is 501,000.

### Registered Voters

Total 231,727; male 121,046, female 110,681

### U/Cs and Tehsils

Total U/Cs 46, Tehsils 4 (Jhat Pat, Usta Muhammad, Gandakha, Sohbat Pur)

### Major Occupations

Agriculture and livestock.

### Reasons for Above-Mentioned Occupations

District Jaffarabad is called the “The Green Belt” of Balochistan. The soil of this district is enriched with natural minerals and fertilizers therefore 90% of the population is related to this profession. There are total 271,970 canals, 360 tube wells, 7 government, and 17 private tube wells. The rest of the population is engaged in livestock breeding and in physical labour.

### Women’s Economic Status

As we know that there are different ethnic groups in Jaffarabad, therefore there are different customs and traditions in practice. The females of rural areas help the males in agriculture and their work is unpaid. Some women are home based workers and increase the family income by doing embroidery on cloths and caps. Due to the lack of education and restriction in mobility, they receive very low remuneration and are not economically safe. In urban areas after the arrival of different CSOs the

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females are seen in different sectors and earning satisfactory amount therefore the urban women are economically better off than their rural counterparts.

#### **Education**

Boys' primary schools 536, girls' primary schools 244, boys' middle schools 32, girls' middle schools 13, boys' high schools 28, girls' high school 06, boys intermediate colleges 02, girls' intermediate colleges 02, Degree College for Boys 01.

#### **Health**

Three Civil Hospitals in Dera Allah Yar, Usta Mohammad and Sohbat Pur. There are approximately 100 B.H.U.s in rural areas.

#### **Social Customs and Traditions**

The major ethnic groups of the district are Baloch, Sindhi, Saraiki, and Brauhi and languages spoken by them are Balochi/Brauhi, Sindhi and Saraiki. Here 40% Jagirdara system, 35% tribal, and 20% religious system is practiced. Marriages are usually arranged and bride price is taken. In this area, exchange marriages and honor killing are being practiced. Women's mobility is restricted and has no basic rights.

#### **Political Situation**

There are two major Political Groups in Jaffarabad, "Khoso Group and Jamali Group" and opposed to each other. Jamali group has been in Govt since the district was notified. MPAs, MNAs, Senators, provincial ministers, governor, and even prime minister have been selected from this district. Present District Nazim is also from Jamali group. There are also other political parties like PMLQ, PPP, JWP, JL, and JUI. Among them PMLQ is strongest because Jamali group's affiliation is with this party.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

Hakim Zadi, an illiterate housewife from rural Jaffarabad, approached the DCC for help in completing and filing her nomination papers. During the process, she remained in contact with members of DCC. After her candidature was confirmed, she participated in the training organised by the DCC for women candidates.

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As the result of this training, Hakim Zadi formed a group of females of her family and started door-to-door visits, asking people and especially women to vote for her. As she went from house to house, other females of the area started to join her in her campaign and the group of women increased to about 60. As a result, as they went to any other home it seemed that she was leading a small *jaloos* (procession). This was a novelty never before experienced by the people of the area.

Soon after the event, one of the candidates for the district *nazim* seat was informed about what was happening in the area. He had his own panel of candidates in the different union councils. He immediately called Hakim Zadi to his residence and threatened her with dire consequences if she did not stop. But Hakim Zadi remained unafraid and refused to oblige him, even when he offered to include her in his panel. His main emphasis was that Hakim Zadi should not to go from house to house soliciting votes. The local chief felt threatened by the new emerging trend of campaigning by ordinary people and specially the women of his area.

From the start to the last day, Hakim Zadi ran her campaign in full swing, without accepting any pressure from any side. In her campaign she was fully supported by the DCC. She won the election and is now working as an active member of the CAC, Jaffarabad.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

District Jafferabad politically, socially is a tribal area. It is considered a greenbelt due to its agriculture fertility. Population-wise it is the second biggest district of the Balochistan Province. It is backward in education field, especially the girls education is scare. As the female are not aware, therefore they become the victims of violence and other problems.

In these adverse conditions Ms. Hakim Zadi of Dera Allah Yar, District Jafferabad although less educated is very determined and strong, she rendered valuable services individually in collaboration with CAC, DCC. Her services for the women issues are definitely remarkable. Keeping in view her valuable services people of the area acknowledged with casting a great number of votes in her favor, she succeeded in the election 2001 as a general Councilor.

In the election 2005, she again prepared herself for participating in the election, but during the period the government made amendments by increase in union councils and divided the voter lists also. During nomination forms Ms. Hakim Zadi visited DCC Camp at Dera Allah Yar, she was wonder struck to know that her name was found in the list of

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other union council instead of her own union council. While the names of her family members, relatives and tribe people voters are listed in some other union council.

In this prevailing condition she along with DCC team appeared in the election office for enlisting their names in their constituency. But unfortunately the concerned election officer refused to enter the names in the voters list. As the time was short, she was dynamic, full of determination; she filed the nomination papers for contesting election in the same union council. Despite her struggle and devotion she lost the election by 16 votes.

After losing success in elections, she was disappointed. DCC team had a meeting with her, acknowledged and appreciated her valuable services and motivated to continue struggle, although she was very much frustrated and melancholy. She uttered the words, "political powers and officers planned to strike off my name from the voter list of constituency for stopping me to work for the welfare of women of my area, I could not succeed and my dream to work for women remained incomplete".

In these adverse circumstances DCC team remained in close contact with her, they motivated her for taking part in District Council elections. With the encouraging struggle of DCC she was prepared to take part in the elections, launched election campaign for district council election with esteem and full force. DCC assisted her with all possible ways and guidance. During the campaign she addressed a big gathering of politicians, social society members, tribal notables, religious and elected councilors, after the speech of Ms. Hakim Zadi, former Prime Minister expressed the appreciation words that there is such a strong, courageous women in our district I have come to know today, with the recommendation to cast vote in her favor for her success in the elections. It should be kept in mind that approximately 1500 people were present from the district in the gathering, the DCC people assisted her for addressing the meeting and arranged stage with wise guidance.

With the result Ms. Hakim Zadi was declared successful in district council reserved women seat obtaining 42 votes, her success position in the district was second.

Today she is very active and dynamic in the district forum in solving the problems of the women folk of the district.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
46	92	215	91	1	99%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
46	92	187	89	3	97%

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## Jhal Magsi

### Basic Information

District Jhal Magsi was registered in 2003 and Tehsil Gandhawa is its Headquarter.

### Area

The total area of district is 3,615 sq kms.

### Boundaries

In the west, there are district Khuzdar and Kalat. Northeast district of Sind, Shudad Kot while in the southwest District Bolan and in the east District Naseerabad and Jaffarabad are situated.

### Population

The estimated population of the area in 2004 is 150,000

### Registered Voters

Total 57,272; male 30,575 and female 26,692.

### U/Cs and Tehsils

District Jhal Magsi has 2 Tehsils, Ghandhawa and Jhal Magsi and 9 Union Councils.

### Major Occupations

Livestock and Agriculture. The district is one of the hottest areas of the Indo-Pak Subcontinent. Half of the area is mountainous and remaining is plains. It receives good rainfall per annum therefore cultivation of wheat, rice, fruits, vegetables and fodder is abundant. The main sources of irrigation are canals and tube wells. There are total 21,595 government canals, 200 wells, 1,155 tube wells and 1,000 "Karez" and springs.

### Women's Economic Status

The women help their males in the work of agriculture but receive no share in income and totally depend upon males for all necessities.

### Education

Boys primary schools 155, girls primary schools 73, middle boys schools 18, middle girls schools 03, high schools for boys 11, high schools for girls 02, intermediate college for boys 01. As a result, the ratio of the education between male and female is 20:8.

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## Health

There are only 02 Rural Health Centers, 06 Basic Health Centers, and 15 dispensaries.

## Social Customs and Traditions

District Jhal Magsi is a tribal area like other districts of Balochistan. Major tribes of the area are Baloch and Sindhi. The rural women are heavily burdened with household work and have no right in decision-making. Their mobility is restricted. The female of this area is in a worse condition than other areas because of the “Karo Kari” custom.

## Political Situation

In this district Magsi tribe is dominant and Nawab Magsi family is in politics. The current Nawab of Magsi tribe Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi was elected as the Chief Minister of Balochistan and his brother Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi has been elected as district nazim both times of LGE.

## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

District Jhal Magsi is strictly a tribal and feudal area. In the last Local Government elections of 1999, only 20 per cent of the seats reserved for women were filled. This time the DCC adopted a two-pronged strategy: to convince the tribal leaders to allow women from their area to stand for elections, and to mobilise women to contest elections. In the elections, held in the second phase, 92 per cent of the seats were filled, the highest in any district during the first two phases.

### WPLGE 2005

District Jhal Magsi is a tribal area, situated with the border district of Sindh province Shahdad Kot. District Jhal Magsi has two Tehsils and nine union councils. Its population is 120,000 and the number of registered voters is 67,000 out of which 27,000 are Women.

Before the local government elections of 2000-2001, Women have never participated in any elections as candidates. For the first time in the history of the district, a seminar was organised for Women during CCWR-1 in 2001. This was the first activity of its kind in the district, in which women participated. This seminar was organised by Aurat Foundation in collaboration with DCC Jhal Magsi.

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Sayyeds are among the most influential families of the district. They are respected by all the inhabitants of the area. Their consent in the settlement of any tribal and political affair is given importance by all the tribes of the district. The Women of Sayyed families observe strict pardah, that's why during the local government elections of 2001; they were not allowed to participate in these elections as candidates.

During the local government elections of 2005, members of DCC Jhal Magsi decided to motivate the Women of Sayyed family to participate in the elections as candidates. It was decided to make an example for other people of the area to allow their women to participate in local government elections as candidates. To mobilise the women of Sayyed family, members of DCC evolved a strategy according to which, elders of Sayyed family were invited in the mobilization meetings of DCC as Chief Guest. They were briefed about the objectives of campaign and the need for women's representation in political process. As chief guest of programs, they were provided opportunity to look closely into the activities of DCC and analyze the entire process of campaign. Apart from this members of DCC remained in contact with the Women's of Sayyed family through their female members in order to motivate them to participate in elections.

The strategy adopted by members of DCC Jhal Magsi affected and before the start of nomination process, the elders of Sayyed family allowed their women to participate in the elections of local government as candidates. They allowed their women to participate in elections with a condition that, during the entire process of election i.e, from attaining of nomination papers to running of election campaign, the DCC male and female members will guide their Women family members. The members of DCC warmly welcomed their request and for the first time ensured the participation of female members of Sayyed family in the elections of local government.

This initiative of DCC Jhal magsi on the one hand helped them to attain the credibility of community and also set an example for the other people to create space for their women to participate in political process.



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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
9	18	25	18	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
9	18	25	18	0	100%

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## Kalat

Kalat was notified as a district on February 3, 1954. At that time Khuzdar and Mastung districts were sub-divisions of Kalat. The district draws its name from the ancient city of Kalat. The current district consists of two tehsils i.e. Kalat and Surab. The total area of the present Kalat district is 6,621 sq. km.

In early 1948, Kalat state formally acceded to Pakistan and became part of the Balochistan State Union. In October 1955 with the unification of the provinces of the Punjab, N.W.F.P., Sind and Balochistan, the State of Kalat, along with the other states of the Balochistan States Union were merged into one province while Kalat became a separate district and was placed in the charge of a Deputy Commissioner in 1954.

The boundary of the district meets Mastung district in the north, Khuzdar in the south, and Bolan Pass and district Bolan in the east, and Kharan in the west.

The population in district Kalat is 237,834, in which males are 122,935 (51.69%) and females are 114,899 (48.31%).

The total number of registered voters in the District is 102,410, in which male voters are 56,664 and women voters are 45,746.

The male and female labour force participation ratio is 55.8% and 0.8% respectively. The labour force participation ratio for urban and rural areas was 22.5% and 28.5% respectively. Unfortunately the female population in the rural areas is engaged all the time in domestic activities which are not recorded.

### Social Organisation

The society in Kalat district is tribal and male dominated. Therefore, authority is vested more in men than in women. Consequently, decisions concerning all matters are made by males.

The major tribes residing in Kalat district are Dehwar, Mengal and Mohammad Hassani. Brauhi tribes form 89 percent of the total population.

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The head of each group (Sardar) is respected and treated accordingly. The Ahmadzais, members of the royal family, are the most influential among the tribes. The tribal chiefs and Sardars have full authority in decision making at community and tribal level. Although general awareness among the people about their rights, created by electronic and print media and through the expansion of education, has lessened the influence of Sardars, but still they are the ones who always manage to win seats in parliament.

The women have a very limited role to play at community level. This is partly due to the tribal tradition and partly due to a general lack of education among women.

#### **Religious Beliefs**

The majority of the people of the area are Muslims belonging to the "Sunni" sect. They offer prayers five times a day. Besides Muslims, an important Hindu minority lives in the district. They enjoy full liberty to practice their religion. Holi and Deevali are the two major festivals which the Hindus celebrate with religious fervour. People belonging to various sects of the Muslims and of other religions live in the district with complete tolerance, peace and harmony.

#### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

Kalat is a male dominated tribal society. Economic and social power rests with the men. Chiefs and tribal heads are always men. The role of women in community life is negligible. They are rarely involved in social activities. Their activities revolve around domestic affairs, e.g. raising children, cooking food and managing household activities. The women have a very limited role to play at community level. This is partly due to the tribal tradition and partly due to a general lack of education among women.

#### **Political Parties / Participation**

Kalat plays a unique role in the politics of Balochistan because of a strong political rivalry between tribal leaders, Nationalist Parties of the district and religious parties. Political Parties like JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary), PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam), National Party

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(NP), Balochistan National Party Mengal (BNP), Balochistan National Party Awami are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of JUI (F) won the seat of the National Assembly and Shehzada Faisal Dawood of JUI (F) won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Mir Niamat Ullah Zehri of National Party (NP). Ms. Rubina Irfan of PML-Q is elected as MPA from district Kalat on Women's reserve seat.

Women representation in political parties does not exist, due to social and tribal conventions. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001 83% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005 97% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Kalat is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are three Civil Hospitals in Kalat. Besides this there are 44 Dispensaries, 2 Rural Health Care Centers, and 12 Basic Health Units.

#### **Education**

In Kalat district, there are 243 boys' primary schools and 80 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 29, 18 for boys and 11 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 21, 17 for boys and 4 for girls.

Madrasas do exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

There are three intermediate colleges in Kalat, two for boys and one for girls.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
18	72	85	60	12	83.3%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
18	36	40	29	7	80.6%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
18	36	100	35	1	97%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
18	36	77	36	0	100%

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## Kech

Kech, the land of romantic legends, has always been a place of importance because of its geographical location. It has been, and still is, the centre of Makran region; geographically, socially, and politically. Kech has been very popular for the love story of "Punnu and Sassi". Punnu was a Hoth prince, remnant of who's "Mari" (fort) can still be seen near Turbat, and Sassi was his beloved. Much folklore has been written about this legend in all local languages.

On 1st July 1977, Makran was declared a division and was divided into three districts, named Panjgur, Turbat (renamed Kech) and Gwadar. Turbat was notified as a district on July 1, 1977. In 1994-95, the name of Turbat district was changed to its old name, i.e., Kech. Now the name of the district is Kech while Turbat town is its headquarters. It is bounded on the north by Panjgur district, on the east by Awaran district, on the south by Gwadar district, and on the west by Iran. Total area of the district is 22,539 square kilometres.

The population in district Kech is 413,204 in which males are 216,566 (52.41%) and female are 196,638 (47.59%). The total number of registered voters in the district is 157,019 in which male voters are 76,401 and women voters are 80,618. Male and female labour force participation rates are 78.2% and 1.8% respectively. The labour force participation rates for urban and rural areas were 31.8% and 48.2% respectively.

### Social Organisation

Socio-cultural change is on its way in Kech. Educational expansion has broken down old chains and economic status has become the major determinant of social status. This has improved their socio-economic status. Now they have become a political force under various political parties, playing an effective role in electing representatives to the constituent assemblies and local bodies' institutions.

In Kech district, marriage rituals significantly differ from those in other areas of Balochistan. Unlike other parts of Balochistan, "*lub*" (bride price) or "*haq mehr*" (dower) received in a marriage contract is owned by the bride herself and she has the full right of spending or dispensing it. "*Haq mehr*" is more prevalent in Kech and the parents of the bride do not get

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any money from the groom's parents. Endogamy is the prevalent style of marriage especially among "*Hakims*". Most of the people are monogamous as a second marriage is expensive. The custom of bride exchange is not practised in Kech.

The vestiges of the *sardari* system have been eliminated to a great extent. The tribal leaders, *sardars*, *nawabs*, and *kahodas*, are still there but their role has been minimised in politics or decision making. In case of conflict, parties go to court of law instead of any tribal *Jirga*. Political consciousness is wide spread and all political decisions are made individually.

### **Religious Beliefs**

According to the 1998 census, the Muslims constitute an overwhelming majority of population in Kech while the remaining population include Christians, Ahmadis, Hindus, Parsis, Zikri and Sikhs.

In Kech, sectarian violence is minimal. The proportion of the Zikris and of the people belonging to *Sunni* sect of Islam is almost equal. The *Sunni* Muslims believe in *Hanfi* interpretation of *Shariah*. Generally, these folks have religious attitudes and practice Islam according to its fundamental principles. Inheritance is divided according to the Islamic principles and daughters are given their property rights accordingly. All Islamic festive days are celebrated with zeal and fervour. The Zikri population practice their faith with independence and Muslim-Zikri clashes are very rare.

### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

Every woman in Kech district has entire control over the property acquired from her husband as dower. And, as the Islamic law of inheritance is followed, she may expect in course of time to inherit a portion of her parents property and will be entitled to a share in her husbands property if he pre-decease her. Sometimes this ownership of property saves a woman from divorce as in that situation her husband would have to transfer the property which he promised her as *haq mehr*.

### **Political Parties / Participation**

Kech has always remained a strong hold of national politics of Balochistan. National Party, BNP Akhtar Mengal Group, JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), JWP (Jamhoori Watan

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Party), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary) and PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) place active role in the politics of the area.

In the election of 2002 Ms. Zubeda Jalal (Federal Minister for Special Education) won the seat of the National Assembly. Mr. Jan Muhammad Buledi (National Party) and Mir Muhammad Asghar Rind (PML-Q) won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Abdul Rauf Rind of PML (Q).

Women representation in political parties does not exist. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

The total Number of union Councils in district Kech is 38. Women representation in the union, Tehsil and District council of Kech after the Local Government Elections of 2005 is 100%.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001 54.4% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005 100% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Kech is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are 5 Civil Hospitals in Kech, 39 dispensaries, 4 Rural Health Care Centres, 25 Basic Health Units and 25 private clinics.

#### **Education**

In Kech district, there are 332 boys' primary schools and 169 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 63, 40 for boys and 23 for girls. While the number of government high school is 42, 37 for boys and 5 for girls.

There are four colleges, three for boys and one for girls; three are intermediate and one is Degree College. One intermediate college is for girls, two intermediate colleges for boys while one Degree College is for boys.



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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### CCWR 2001

During the first phase of the elections, 45 per cent of the nomination papers filed by women in district Turbat were rejected. This was mainly due to the wrong papers being filed for a particular category. Women were allowed to contest five categories of seats but since the nomination forms for all categories were white, they were confused about which forms to fill against which category.

Only one RO was based in Turbat, which meant that due to the distances between the union councils and the district headquarters in Turbat (in some cases about 400 kilometres, with no metalled roads and transportation facilities), no appeals against rejection of nomination papers could be filed.

The Provincial Coordinator and staff of the Campaign in Aurat Foundation's Quetta Office spoke about both problems directly with the Election Commission in Islamabad and Quetta and with the Government of Balochistan. After this, not only were the colours of the nomination forms of different categories made different, it was also decided to increase the number of Returning Officers. From the second phase onwards, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) were appointed for no more than eight union councils in Balochistan.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
38	152	153	89	63	58.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
38	76	65	35	41	46.1%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
38	76	154	76	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
38	76	139	76	0	100%

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## Kharan

The ancient name of Kharan was Karan or Qaran. Kharan was notified as a district in 1951 and started functioning on 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1952. The early history of Kharan is obscure. It is mainly a record of the fights and forays in which the chiefs and the inhabitants were continuously engaged.

All tribes residing in Kharan, except the Nausherwanis, designate themselves to outsiders as Kharani Baloch. Most of the Baloch who are indigenous inhabitants of Kharan apply the term Rakhshani to themselves.

The boundaries of Kharan are to the north formed by the Ras-Koh range which separates it from the Gidar Surab, Rodenjo and Dasht-i-Goran valleys in Kalat and Besima in Awaran District. In the south it is bounded by the Siahan range, separating it from the Rakhshan valley and Panjgur district in Makran, in the west and south west its boundaries touch the Iranian border. The geographical area of Kharan is 48,051 square Kilometers.

The population in district Kharan is 206,909, in which male are 107,261 (51.84%) and female are 99,648 (48.16%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 44,491, in which male voters are 21,771 and women voters are 22,720.

The male and female labour force participation ratio was 82.5% and 2.4% respectively. The urban, rural participation ratio was 32% and 48% respectively.

### Social Organisation

The society of Kharan district is patriarchal, and deeply rooted in the tribal system. The tribal set-up is rigid with tribal affiliations prominent. The population can be divided into two main groups, i.e. the Baloch and Bravhi: 70% are Baloch and 20% are Brahvi, while Punjabi, Pashtoon and others are 10%.

Though the hold of Sardars has lessened considerably with the passage of time, they still retain some characteristics of the tribal system. The code of honour which has prevailed among the tribesmen for centuries, still influences their actions including (a) to avenge blood, (b) to refrain from

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killing women, (c) to either pardon an offence on the intercession of the women of the offender's family or to dismiss the women by giving each of them a dress as a token of honour, (d) to punish an adulterer with death and (e) to cease fighting when a Mullah, a Syed or a woman bearing the Holy Quran on his or her head, intervenes between the parties.

In small family affairs women have some say. Their community roles are limited to a significant degree by the latitude they have for social interaction outside the immediate household. There are occasions like births, deaths, illnesses and marriages, which serve as socially sanctioned forms of socializing, available to women and which fulfil important functions in the exchange of information and ideas and as enforcement of social ties and alliances.

### **Religious Beliefs**

The majority of the people of the area are Muslim from the Sunni sect. Zikris are also living in the area. They go to Turbat to offer their prayers as Turbat is the central place for their religious activities. Mullahs are most influential in the community. People pay respect to them and discuss problems with them. Eid-ul-Fitar and Eid-ul-Azha are the main festivals of Muslims celebrated with a lot of fervour.

### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

In most of the socio-economic activities men hold a monopoly of power. In the political domain, local level chiefs and tribal authorities are always men, as are the members of local councils of elders or jirgas.

The burden of tasks associated with the reproductive role falls squarely on women. All daily tasks involving housekeeping and care of family members are the responsibilities of women. It also affects her health, physically and mentally. Women do not have any status, political, social or even in the homes. They are subservient to men in all respects and do not have an individual identity. Women do not have a social or political status and rarely participate in activities outside the home.

### **Political Parties**

The major political parties in the area are National Party (NP), Balochistan National Party (Mengal) and Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Jamhuri Watan Party (JWP) and Jamiat Ulama-E-Islam (F). Women participation in

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politics was not observed in the district. There is no representation of women in any political party from the area.

In the bielection of 2005 Sardar Fateh Muhammad Hassani of PML (Q) won the seat of the National Assembly and Mir Shoaib Noshervani and Mir Habib ur Rehman Muhammad Hassani of PML (Q) won the Provincial Assembly seats. The office of District Nazim is headed by Mir Shaukat Baloch of PML (Q).

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 100% of women seats were filled, while the LG election of 2005, 100% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Kharan is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are two Civil Hospitals in Kharan. Besides this there are 25 dispensaries, 1 Rural Health Care Centers and 30 Basic Health Units.

#### **Education**

In Kharan district, there are 241 boys' primary schools and 74 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 36, 26 for boys and 10 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 17, 15 for boys and 2 for girls.

There is one intermediate college for girls and one Degree College for boys.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

The tribal and religious people are more dominant in district Kharan. Pakistan Muslim League (Q), JUI (F), National Party, Balochistan National Party (Mengal) and JWP are the main political parties. Kalat is situated in its east, Chagai in the west, Nushki in its north while district Washusk in the south.

The first phase of local government election was held in Kharan. On 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2005 DCC organised a nomination and facilitation camp in front of session court Kharan, to facilitate the candidates during submission of their nomination papers.

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Mr. Ishfaq Mengal, Programme Officer Aurat Foundation Quetta visited the monitoring camp, he found the candidates upset. Coordinator DCC Mr. Allauddin Pirakzai and DCC members told him that the Returning Officer is sleeping yet at his home and no one is there to receive their nomination papers. Same time Mr. Ishfaq Mengal and members DCC met Assistant Election Commissioner and explained the problem in detail and also contacted Mr. Younas Khalid, Resident Director, Aurat Foundation Quetta regarding the problem. Mr. Younas Khalid advised AF staff and DCC members to contact Provincial Election Commissioner, in response Programme Officer Aurat Foundation called on Mr. Qamar, Provincial Election Commissioner explained him about the problem. The provincial Election Commissioner took immediate notice of it and called RO. After his phone Returning Officer reached office at 11:30 AM and started receiving the nomination papers from the candidates. All candidates appreciated the role of AF and DCC in this regard.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
16	64	85	64	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
16	32	56	32	0	100.0%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
7	14	70	14	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
7	14	50	14	0	100%

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## Khuzdar

Khuzdar was notified as a separate district on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1974. Previously, it was included in Kalat district. Khuzdar used to be the main city of Jhalawan State.

The district is bounded by Kalat district in the north and north-west, Kachhi, Larkana and Dadu districts in the east, Lasbela district in the south and Awaran district in the south-west and west. The district headquarters is 302 kilometres from Quetta. It lies at an elevation of 1,249 meters above sea level and is situated on the RCD highway connecting it to Iran and Karachi. Its total area is 43,261 square kilometres.

According to estimates the population in district Khuzdar is 417,466, in which males are 220,023 (52.70%) and females are 197,443 (47.30%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 224,918, in which male voters are 118,563 and women voters are 106,355.

### Social Organisation

Khuzdar is a tribal society. Zehri, Mengal, Mohammed Hasni, Bizenjo and Qambrani are the main tribes in Khuzdar district. All these tribes are branches of Brahvis.

The people migrate to urban areas of the province and even out of the province, in search of job opportunities. This phenomenon has affected the whole tribal system and the socio-cultural values of the area are under change. The family pattern is patriarchal and male members have full authority in family affairs. The decision of the family's head is considered final in all domestic affairs.

In the tribal society of Khuzdar every man marries as soon as he is able to meet the expenses of his wedding. In general, the bride is supposed to be four to five years younger than the groom. Polygamy is not a common practice, which may be the result of the high level of the "*lub*" (bride-price). In all tribes women are not given a share in the inheritance. Widows and daughters, however, are entitled to maintenance and daughters can claim a share of their mother's jewellery, if any.

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### Religious Beliefs

The majority of the population is Sunni. The people are devoted in offering their prayers and in keeping fast. The “*moulvis*” (religious leaders) are the most influential persons in the area. The majority of the Hindu population of Khuzdar district lives in Khuzdar and Wadh. The Hindu community is free to celebrate their festivals like “*Diwali*” and “*Holi*”.

### Role, Position and Status of Women

Women's social status and economic roles vary in different groups, according to different social customs, modes of livelihood and level of economic well-being. In the economic domain as well, men usually control resources. Women perform all the daily tasks of household maintenance and care of family members. However, upper class women have an easy life because female servants help them.

In most of the socio-economic activities men hold a monopoly of power in the public area. In the political domain, local level chiefs and tribal authorities are always men, as are the members of local councils or “*jirga*”. Women have no awareness about their rights. This is mainly due to lack of education as the majority of the women is illiterate. Women participate with men in agriculture and livestock activities. But there is no other social or political activity in which women participate. Their role is mainly concentrated in the household.

### Political Parties Participation

Khuzdar has always played an active role in the politics of Balochistan. National Party, BNP Akhtar Mengal Group, JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary) and PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Mr. Rauf Mengal (BNP-Mengal) won the seat of the National Assembly. Mr. Akbar Mengal (BNP-Mengal) and Sardar Sanaullah Zehri (National Party) won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Sardar Naseer Musiani (BNP-Mengal).

None of the political parties have women wings in Khuzdar. Women hardly play any role in political activities. Their political role is limited to casting their votes. The total Number of union Councils in district

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Khuzdar is 35. Women representation in the Union, Tehsil and District council of Khuzdar after the Local Government Elections of 2005 is 100%.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 57.9% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 100% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health facilities in Khuzdar and its adjacent areas are also very limited. The health status of the women is poor as compared to men. There are three Civil Hospitals in Khuzdar. Besides this there are 34 dispensaries, 4 Rural Health Care Centres and 23 Basic Health Units.

#### **Education**

In Khuzdar district, there are 414 boys' primary schools and 99 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 25, 18 for boys and 7 for girls. While the number of government high school is 21, 18 for boys and 3 for girls.

Madrasas exist in very large numbers in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

There are four colleges, one intermediate, one Degree College and one residential college for boys and one intermediate for girls. There is one Engineering University for boys.

### **Overall Results**

#### **Election Results 2001**

<b>General Reserved Seats for Women</b>					
<b>UCs</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
36	144	126	88	56	61.1%
<b>Peasant/Labour Seats for Women</b>					
36	72	60	37	35	51.4%



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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
35	70	207	70	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
35	70	163	70	0	100%

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## Kohlu

Kohlu was given the status of district on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1974 and reshaped in July 1983. At present the district is comprised of three sub-divisions – Kohlu, Mawand and Kahan – with its headquarters at Kohlu.

Kohlu, also known as Marri country, has always been an arena of political insurgency or tribal vendettas. It was a barren area and there was no permanent human settlement before inhabitation of Marri in this area. That is the reason that the history of Kohlu district is primarily a history of the Marri tribe. However, Kohlu town and its surroundings have been predominantly occupied by Zarkoons.

The shrine of Mast Tawakali at Maidan Gari near Kohlu is a place of interest in the district. The total geographical area of the district is 7,610 square kilometres.

The population in district Kohlu is 99,846, in which male are 54,884 (54.97%) and female are 44,962 (45.03%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 43,205 in which male voters are 26,087 and women voters are 17,118.

More than three fourth (78.5%) of the male population and a quite small percentage (1.0%) of the females are part of the labour force.

### Social Organisation

Kohlu is a tribal society based on a kinship. It is the land of the Marri tribe and the *Sardar* of the Marri tribe is a powerful dignitary. He exercises great influence over the people. Although internal dissension has dissolved absolute authority of the *sardar*, he still is the mediator, decision maker and political representative of the people. The *sardar's* family enjoys a superior status also because of its economic prosperity. The tradition of presenting a goat or sheep to the *sardar* is still persistent.

The traditions of giving and taking “*hál*” (news), “*lub*” (bride price), generation-after-generation rivalries, hospitality, and keeping fire arms are still prevalent in Kohlu.

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### Religious Beliefs

According to the 1981 census, the Muslims constitute an overwhelming majority (99.7%) of the population. The observance of Islamic teachings has not been strict amongst the Maris but now the situation has changed. Generally, the people practise Islam according to its fundamental principles. However, many people still believe in superstitions, omens and charms. In Kohlu, sectarian violence is minimal as most of the people belong to the *Sunni* sect of Islam and believe in the *Hanfi* interpretation of *Shariah*. Inheritance is divided among the sons according to the Islamic principles; however, daughters are not given any share in inheritable property. All Islamic festive days are celebrated with zeal and fervour.

### Role, Position and Status of Women

Since 1995, the government has started employing girls who passed middle school as Lady Health Workers (LHW) under the Prime Minister's Programme for Primary Health Care and Family Planning. Through opportunities such as these women strive towards economic independence. However, most women are either deprived of income generating activities or being exploited by being underpaid or not paid at all. The help they offer through grazing livestock and performing agricultural tasks is unaccounted for and is considered of no economic value.

Women mobility is restricted to the limits which suit her husband, father or other male family members. The women in Kohlu are deprived of their property rights. Daughters are not given any share in property of their father. In case of divorce nothing is given to the woman and the widow is allowed to receive just a subsistence allowance. After she gets re-married, the allowance is withdrawn.

### Political Parties

The political affiliations of the people in Kohlu district are mainly determined in the context of tribal relationships. Tribal elders decide about the political party or personality in whose favour voters should cast their vote. It is the personality not the political party who has the vote bank. The results of last 7 elections for the National as well as Provincial Assembly indicate that the tribal elite have been elected irrespective of

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their political affiliation. Therefore it is hard to conclude which of the political parties has dominant positions here.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 82.3% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 100% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Kohlu is poor compared to the health condition of men. There is one Civil Hospital in Kohlu. Besides this there are 32 dispensaries, 2 Rural Health Care Centres, and 21 Basic Health Units in the area.

#### **Education**

In Kohlu district, there are 271 boys' primary schools and 62 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 28, 14 for boys and 4 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 10, 9 for boys and 1 for girls.

There is only one intermediate college for boys in the district.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **CCWR 2001**

Before the Local Government elections, the two districts of Kohlu and Barkhan were merged into a single district Kohlu. The two districts were inhabited by various tribes which had a long history of political and tribal rivalry in pursuit of political power. After the merger of the districts, the situation became worse as major tribes were forced to coexist.

As the Local Government election process started, neither tribe was ready to bring women candidates for the reserved seats, despite a number of meetings of AF and the DCC with the tribal elders. According to tribal custom, women had never contested elections in Kohlu. AF consulted the DCC and together they decided to use another strategy to persuade the warring tribes to bring forth the candidates for the women's seats. The elders of the Kethran tribe were told that since all the members of union council, both male and female, would vote to decide the district *nazim*, the group with fewer councillors would lose the seat of the district *nazim*. The same political implication was pointed out to the elders of the other tribe. The tribal elders decided to inform their sardars about this political argument.

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A delegation of Kethran elders met with their sardar, a seasoned politician, who gave permission that women candidates be brought to contest elections on the reserved seats. Simultaneously, a delegation of other tribesmen met with their elders who ordered their tribesmen to bring the women on the reserved seats. Hence all the women's seats from Kohlu had nominations filed against them!

As a result about 94 per cent of the seats of district Kohlu were filled. (The result was initially 100 per cent but the boundaries of the district were changed later and some other union councils were included that had fewer women representatives.)

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
16	64	85	52	12	81.3%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
16	32	56	27	5	84.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
8	16	0	16	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
8	16	0	16	0	100%

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## Lasbela

Lasbela was notified as a district on 30th June, 1954. In December 1960 Lasbela became a separate district and was placed as a part of Karachi division. Later on it was transferred to Kalat division of Balochistan Province.

The district of Lasbela derives its name from the words “Las” which signifies a plain, the greater part of the area being a flat plain, and “Bela”, the principle town of the district. Uthal is the district headquarters. The geographical area of district Lasbela is 15,153 sq Km.

The population of Lasbela is 312,695 in which male are 167,470 (53.56%) and female are 145,225 (46.44%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 171,190 out of which 92,062 are male and 79,128 are female.

The male and female labour force participation was 59.7% and 2.6% respectively. Female involvement in economic activities is very limited in the area. The main factor behind it is socio-cultural norms and illiteracy.

### Social Organisation

The social organisation in the district is tribal, and the social structure is patriarchal. Being a male dominated society the women are given very limited choice in family and social affairs.

Decision-making is in the hands of the males and the decisions made are binding upon females. Women have no say in the decision-making process, though in some urban families they have the right to give their opinion to some extent.

All the tribes other than Baloch and Brahvi, Med, Khoja and Hindus settled in Lasbela are known as “Lasi”. The Hindus are mainly traders. They have also acquired land, by purchase or mortgage, which is cultivated by their tenants. They are all of the Arora caste.

The people are predominantly dependent on agriculture and livestock. However, some people are engaged in industries, public services, petty trades and the informal sector.

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### **Religious Beliefs**

The majority of the people of the area are Sunni. The people regularly say their prayers. The religious leaders (Mullahs) are the most influential persons in the rural areas.

The shrines of Mai Goudrani and Shah Bilawal are very famous in the area. People visit them with solemnity. The Hindu people of Bela and Uthal also celebrate their festivals like Diwali and Holi. They visit the temples regularly. All the religious sects are on very close terms and they cooperate with each other in social and religious life.

### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

The position of women in district Lasbela is the same as it is in other areas of Balochistan. Men hold a monopoly on economic and social power. Tribal chiefs are always male.

The literacy rate among women is very low. This is due to socio-cultural values in the area. However, in the urban areas an encouraging trend can be seen, in which parents take an interest in their daughters' education. Generally, women observe purdah, but in the rural areas poor women work in the fields without observing it.

Violence against women in the district has been observed, but it is never reported. Women think that men have the right to harass and beat them so they do not seek any legal aid in this respect.

Women are rarely allowed to own productive assets such as land or livestock. And they generally lack control over their labour and its proceeds. Moreover, their economic contribution is discounted in most official statistics. The industries of Hub and Winder employ some women, but they live in Karachi and come daily for their jobs.

### **Political Parties Participation**

Lasbela has always played a significant role in the politics of Balochistan. One former and the present Chief Minister of Balochistan belongs to the same district. National Party, BNP Akhtar Mengal Group, JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary) and PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) are very active in the area.

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In the election of 2002 Pir Abdul Qadir Al-Gillani of PML (Q) won the seat of the National Assembly. Mir Jam Muhammad Yousaf and Mir Aslam Bohtani of PML (Q) won the Provincial Assembly seats. The office of District Nazim is headed by Jam Kamal Khan of PML (Q).

Women representation in political parties does not exist, due to social and tribal conventions. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

The total number of Union Councils in district Lasbella is 13. Women representation in the Union, Tehsil and District council of Lasbella after the Local Government Elections of 2005 is 98%.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 91.3% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 98% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Lasbella is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are only two Civil Hospitals in Lasbella. Besides this there are 21 dispensaries, 4 Rural Health Care Centres and 37 Basic Health Units.

#### **Education**

In Lasbella district, there are 364 boys' primary schools and 125 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 39, 32 for boys and 7 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 20, 16 for boys and 4 for girls.

Madrasas exist in the district but no proper data is available in this regard.

There is one intermediate and one degree college for boys.

### **Overall Results**

#### **Election Results 2001**

<b>General Reserved Seats for Women</b>					
<b>UCs</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
21	84	107	81	3	96.4%
<b>Peasant/Labour Seats for Women</b>					
21	42	44	34	8	81.0%



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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
22	44	99	43	1	98%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
22	44	77	43	1	98%

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## Loralai

The name of the district is derived from the Loralai stream. The district borders Zhob and Killa Saifullah in the north, Pishin and Ziarat in the west, Kohlu and Sibi in the south and on Barkhan and Musakhel districts in the east. It covers an area of 9,933 square kilometres. Loralai town is at an elevation of 1,450 mtrs.

The population in district Loralai is 297,555, in which male are 158,168 (53.16%) and female are 139,387 (46.84%).

The total number of registered voters is 118,971, in which male voters are 65,188 and women voters are 53,783.

The major occupational groups are in agriculture and in animal husbandry, wherein 70% of the labour force is involved; 20% of the labour force is involved in petty trades, transport and government services 28%, while 10% have other occupations.

The female labour force is mostly involved in household activities like cooking, washing, fetching water and wood etc; and very small numbers in agriculture.

### Social Organisation

The social organisation in the district is mainly determined by the tribal system. The social structure is patriarchal, while tribal affiliation is prominent. The system of Jirga, the principle of the tribal responsibility and the acceptance of "Rawaj" as law is in place.

Major tribes of the district are Luni, Tareen, Nasir, Shadozai, Marri, Dumer, Humzazai, Utmankhail, Sarghah, Zakhpal, Jomezai, Jalalzai, Vanechi and Pecchi etc. The language spoken mostly is Pashto.

Marriages take place at a relatively high average age. There are various reasons for this. One is the institution of "vulvar" (bride price) which is paid by the bridegroom before his marriage.

Due to old customs the role of women is very limited. It is generally the father who decides upon the formal terms of marriage. Daughters have no say in the contract of their marriages, while the sons exercise a certain veto

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power over the choice of marriage partner, depending upon the son's economic independence.

### **Religious Beliefs**

The majority of the people are Muslim, with the exception of a few Christians and Hindus. Religion functions as a significant force in the lives of all the community members. Religious authorities rule over many aspects of social life and some strong political parties are based on religious grounds.

### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

Society in the district is patriarchal and male dominated. The decision making is in the hands of men. The women have no say, although in Loralai district it is not as intense as in some other parts of the province. Women also have no role in community and political life, although some elderly women, because of their experiences, do take part in community affairs and sometimes in politics.

The role of women in decision making is negligible, as the majority of the decisions are made by men. In small family affairs the women have some say. Their community role is by the freedom they have for social interaction outside the immediate household. There are some occasions like birth, death, illness, marriage etc; which serve as one of the few socially sanctioned forms of mobility available to women.

The economic participation of women is different from that of men, with most of the household work being done by women. Although the literacy rate in the district is very low among women, the trend in urban areas is encouraging.

### **Political Parties / Participation**

Loralai has always played an active role in the politics of Balochistan. National Party, JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary), PML-N (Muslim League Nawaz Group), Pashtoon Khawa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Awami National Party, Kakar Jamhuri Parti and PML-Q (Muslim League Qaid-E-Azam) are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasar of PML (N) won the seat of the National Assembly and Sardar Masood Luni of

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PML (Q), Sardar Muhammad Azam Khan, Molvi Faizullah JUI (F) and Mrs. Nasreen Rehman Khetran PML (Q) won the Provincial Assembly seats. The office of District Nazim is headed by Sardar Jahanzaib Khan Luni of PML-Q.

There is also a positive trend of casting female votes as each successive election indicates that more female votes are being cast. However, they do not have a decision making role in the political process, their votes being exploited to win elections.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 64.4% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 96% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Loralai is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are 4 Civil Hospitals in Loralai. Besides this there are 48 dispensaries, 2 Rural Health Care Centers, 21 Basic Health Units and 58 private clinics.

#### **Education**

In Loralai district, there are 429 boys' primary schools and 140 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 40, 32 for boys and 8 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 15, 12 for boys and 3 for girls.

Madrasas exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

There are three colleges, two for boys and one for girls; one is an intermediate and two are Degree Colleges. One Degree college is for girls, while one Intermediate and one Degree College is for boys.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

In District Loralai, the word Loralai has been originated from the word "Lora" and "Lai", which is meant for Streams, channels. District Loralai came in to being as a District in 1906. Its total population is 335,000

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people. District Loralai consists on two tehsils and one sub tehsil which consists on Tehsil Duki, Bori and Mekhtar. Majority population is consisting of Pashtoons. They consist of Kakar, Nasir, Tareen and Luni tribes. In the town areas Christians and Hindu minorities inhabit, while Hazara community is also residing in the town. Means of occupations are Agriculture, Livestock and employments. Loralai is important in political aspects. Main political Parties are JUI (F), PKMAP, Muslim League (N), Muslim League (Q), Jamat-i-Islami, ANP and PPPP.

Motivational meetings were held in 20 union councils of district loralai with the collaboration of DCC members, Aurat Foundation facilitated and guided them, civil society members and citizens were activated, and they took guidance from Aurat Foundation and DCC members for presenting as candidates as well as taking part in voting process. Media enhanced their role in political awareness. Women sought enlightenment and knowledge of political rights and put forward their best efforts as an effective group.

Their representation appeared before the political parties also. A combined polling booth was established for men and women in union council Nasirabad, where the women voters faced a lot of difficulties during cast of votes.

Mr. Yaqoob Dilsoz DCC coordinator visited the polling stations in Nasirabad, during monitoring he come to know the difficulties faced by women voters. Mr. Yaqoob Dilsoz immediately contacted election commission Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Uthmankhail and Returning Officer, the officers took immediate notice and arranged another polling booth for women and provided women polling staff from the reserved staff. In this way women comfortably voted and the women were saved from the confusion disturbance and troubles.

At that moment women appreciated and commented the DCC, if the DCC did not volunteer at the spot, they could have been deprived of fundamental right of vote and political right; we would have been deprived of our national responsibility. 270 women voters cast their vote in the said mentioned polling station.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
29	116	106	79	37	68.10%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
29	58	51	37	21	63.80%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
20	40	114	40	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
20	40	110	38	2	95%

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## Mastung

According to locals “Mastung” is made up of two words Mash and Tung. In Brahvi language Mash means mountain and Tung means hole. There are four tehsils: Mastung, Dasht, Kardgap and Khad Kucha. Mastung borders Quetta in the north, Kalat in the south, Bolan Pass in the east and Nushki in the west. The geographical area of district Mastung is 589,600 ha.

The population of district Mastung is 164,645, in which male are 87,334 (53.04%) and female are 77,311 (46.96%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 83,966, in which male voters are 46,364 and women voters are 37,602.

Male and female labour force participation rates are 55.8% and 0.8% respectively. The labour force participation rates for urban and rural areas are 22.5% and 28.5% respectively.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The population in Mastung can clearly be divided into three major groups i.e. Brahvi, Khan and Dehwar. According to the 1998 census Brahvi tribes are 85% of the total population.

In the family, men, particularly elder men, enjoy the power of decision making. Their decision is final and all family members must follow them.

### Religious Beliefs

The majority of the people living in the district are Muslim (Sunni). The people offer prayers at the stated times. They also keep the fast. Only few people pay Zakat. The Molvis are the most influential persons in the area. People pay them respect and seek their guidance at the time of birth and death.

### Role, Position and Status of Women

The lives of the women of the district have not improved at all over the last decades. Their duties are many. All activities within the house cleaning, child rearing, and washing of clothes, taking care of livestock are the sole responsibility of women. They also work in the fields. They have no right to property.

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### Political Parties / Participation

Mastung has always played an active role in the politics of Balochistan. National Party, BNP Akhtar Mengal Group, JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), JWP (Jamhoori Watan Party), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary), PML-N (Muslim League Nawaz Group) and PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of JUI (F) won the seat of the National Assembly and Nawab Aslam Khan Raisani of PPPP won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai of National Party.

Women representation in political parties does not exist, due to social and tribal conventions. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

The total number of Union Councils in district Mastung is 13. Women representation in the Union, Tehsil and District council of Mastung after the Local Government Elections of 2005 is 100%.

### WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)

During the LG election 2001, 96.1% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 100% women seats were filled.

### Health

The health status of the women in district Mastung is poor compared to the health condition of men. There is only one Civil Hospital in Mastung. Besides this there are 7 dispensaries, 2 Rural Health Care Centres, 16 Basic Health Units and 10 private clinics.

### Education

In Mastung district, there are 199 boys' primary schools and 91 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 28, 19 for boys and 9 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 17, 11 for boys and 6 for girls.

Madrasas exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.



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There are two colleges, one for boys and one for girls; one is an intermediate and one is Degree College. Intermediate college is for girls, while Degree College is for boys.

### Glimpses of the Campaigns

#### CCWR 2001

Mastung is an agricultural district where large landholders exercise power in society. Mastung is a tribal district and the tribal code prevails. The district is composed of Mastung, Kardgap and Dasht tehsils and 12 union councils. The main language in the district is Brahvi. The PML, PPP, JUI, JUP and BNP dominate politics. Nawab Mohammad Aslam Raisani and Sardar Bahadur Khan Bangulzai are the two main figures in politics.

AF held a meeting to highlight the importance of mobilising women for the coming elections. The DCC commenced its activities by holding a seminar in which 30 women participated. Zakira Noreen, a female member of the DCC, addressed the women. Syeda Ahsan, a participant, announced that she would contest the elections.

After a few days she called the DCC Coordinator and told him that her brother and other male relatives were opposed to her participation in the elections. Kausar Hussain, the Coordinator, called an emergency meeting of the DCC and they decided to hold a meeting with her husband. Her husband, Ahsan Shah, said that he supported her decision.

When the DCC tried to persuade her brother, her maternal uncles and other relatives, they remained adamant in opposing her. Syeda Ahsan stuck by her decision to contest. Her husband asked the DCC to go ahead with filing her nomination papers. The DCC paid her nomination fee.

When her male relatives found out that she had filed her nomination papers they approached the Department of Health, where Syeda Ahsan was working temporarily as a Lady Health Visitor, and got them to send her a letter asking for her resignation. She resigned just so she could contest the elections.

All members of the DCC participated fully in her election campaign. At this point her male relatives severed all contact with her. In spite of this, she continued with the election campaign.

Election results for this constituency revealed that the *nazim* secured 714 votes while Syeda Ahsan secured 703 votes. These were the most votes anyone secured after the *nazim*.

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## WPLGE 2005

The preparation of Local Government Elections was on peak and all the political parties of the area were engaged in selection of their candidates, especially finding women for the fulfillment of women seats.

We the DCC of District Mastung were also the part of election from Aurat Foundation. When we started the election campaign 2005, women were striving to contest the elections. New candidates were keener than the old individuals. Every woman candidate had wish and dream to become successful and work for their areas. We, the members of DCC had close eye on every aspect of the election.

A case study recorded in union council of District Mastung. Former woman councilor wanted to contest the election. There were two rival panels in the area. The panel from which woman wanted to contest was not willing to accept her while the other was the opposite. After getting no attention from both the panels' woman approached AFRC Office Manager Ms. Rabia Gul and informed about the whole situation. AFRC office manager contacted DCC Coordinator and described the situation. DCC coordinator immediately brought nomination form and paid Rs. 500 fee from DCC for encouragement of woman. All the DCC members helped woman candidate and went to her home and encouraged her family and relatives.

After the filing of nomination papers the stage of getting votes came. The DCC members ran the campaign with woman candidate. The support of DCC was not liked by the people of other panel and they created problems for DCC members and woman candidate during the campaign. But inspite of all problems the campaign was continued.

When the polling time came DCC designated its some members at the polling station to work for woman candidate and to ease the stage of polling for her. After the completion of all the stages when the result was announced, the woman lost by minimal margin of votes. Apart from the result the woman was very happy.

The result was very good for DCC because woman came to DCC office with some other women and thanked DCC. She also said that, she would never contest the election with out support of DCC members. Due to role of DCC other women also got encouragement to contest the next elections and protect their rights.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
13	52	80	52	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
13	26	32	23	3	88.5%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
13	26	77	26	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
13	26	64	26	0	100%

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## Musakhel

Musakhel, all hilly and green, is hard to be traced in the historical descriptions as there is no individual account of the area available. However, by studying the history of Kandahár and northern Balochistan little can be ascertained about Musakhel. According to the early history, this area, being a part of Kandahár province, has been ruled by the Ghaznavids, Maliks of Kurat Dynasty, Amir Timur and his successors.

Musakhel remained a tehsil of Loralai district till 1<sup>st</sup> January 1992 when it was notified as a district as a result of splitting Loralai district into 3 districts, Loralai, Musakhel, and Barkhan. District Musa Khail was merged in district Loralai before the Local Government Elections of 2001. Due to this decision the residents of Musakhel did not participated in the Local Government Election of 2001 as a part of agitation. In 2005, Musakhel was separated from district Loralai and notified as a district. The total geographical area of district Musakhel is 5,728 square kilometres.

The population in district Musakhel is 13, 4056, in which male are 74,139 (55.30%) and female are 59,917 (44.70%).

The total number of registered voters is 76,374, in which male voters are 44,571 and women voters are 31,803.

The female labour force is mostly involved in household activities like cooking, washing, fetching water and wood etc; and very small numbers in agriculture.

### Social Organisation

Musakhel is a tribal society based on a kinship. Once the *sardars* had great influence over the people, but with the passage of time this influence has decreased gradually. However, the *sardars'* families still enjoy a superior status because of their economic prosperity.

The majority of the people draw its formative structure from the Pushtun culture. The Jafars of Drug have a distinct culture, which has traces of the Baloch culture of people in Dera Ghazi Khan. Although educational expansion and media exposure has introduced some changes in society, the majority of the population is following centuries old codes of conduct. The traditions of "*vulvar*" (bride price), generation-after-generation

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rivalries, hospitality, and keeping fire arms are still prevalent in Musakhel.

### **Religious Beliefs**

According to the 1981 census, the Muslims constitute an overwhelming majority (99.6%) of the population. In Musakhel, sectarian violence is minimal as most of the people belong to the *Sunni* sect of Islam and believe in the *Hanfi* interpretation of *Shariah*. Generally, the people practise Islam according to its fundamental principles. Inheritance is divided according to the Islamic principles and daughters are given their property rights accordingly. All Islamic festive days are celebrated with zeal and fervour.

### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

The economic independence of women in Musakhel does not fully translate into social independence. Sometimes her performance is restricted to the limits which suit her husband, father or other male family members. For example, she is free to move around, but just to graze her livestock or to fetch water and collect fuel wood. She makes many of the routine domestic decisions, but decisions regarding major issues, like the children's marriages, are made by the men in the family, while the women may only give their advice. Girls have no say in the decisions about their marriages. She needs to be accompanied by a male family member.

### **Political Parties / Participation**

Musakhel has always played an active role in the politics of Balochistan. JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary), PML-N (Muslim League Nawaz Group), Pashtoon Khawa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Awami National Party, Kakar Jamhori Party and PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) are very active in the area. None of these parties have women's wings in Musakhel. The office of District Nazim is headed by Sardar Asmatullah.

### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

The LG election of 2005 resulted in filling of 96% women seats in the district.

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### Health

The health status of the women in district is poor compared to the health condition of men. There is one Civil Hospital in Musakhel. Besides this there are 15 dispensaries, 1 Rural Health Care Centre and 6 Basic Health units.

### Education

In Loralai district, there are 175 boys' primary schools and 55 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 11, 8 for boys and 3 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 9, 7 for boys and 2 for girls.

Madrasas exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

There are three colleges, two for boys and one for girls; one is an intermediate and two are Degree Colleges. One Degree college is for girls, while one Intermediate and one Degree College is for boys.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
10	20	96	20	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
10	20	72	20	0	100%

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## Naseerabad

District derives its name from great Baloch leader Nasir Khan Noori and is functioning since 1975. Its Headquarter is Dera Murad Jamali. It is a hottest and agricultural district of Balochistan.

### Area

The total area of district is 3,387 sq kms.

### Boundaries

On the North, it is bounded by district Bolan, on the east by Dera Bugti and Jaffarabad, on the south Jaffarabad and on the west by Jhal Magsi district.

### Population

285,000

### Registered Voters

Total 153,293, male 80,906 and female 72,387

### U/Cs and Tehsils

District has 3 Tehsils, Dera Murad Jamali, Tambo, Chattar and 24 Union Councils.

### Major Occupations

Livestock and Agriculture

### Reasons for Above-Mentioned Occupations

The overall climate of the district is extremely hot. The rainfall is inadequate but relatively higher in July and August due to the Monsoon. Seventy five percent of population is employed in agriculture. Main crops are rice, wheat, cotton, different vegetables and fruits therefore small industries of rice and cotton ginning are established. There are total 202,499 canals and 180 tube wells of which 05 are govt and 07 private tube wells.

### Women's Economic Status

The women of rural areas help their males in agriculture and their work is unpaid. Some women are home based workers and increase the family income by doing embroidery on cloths and caps. Due to the lack of education and restriction in mobility, they receive very low wages for their labour. In urban areas after the establishment of different CSOs, the

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women are seen in different sectors and earning satisfactory amount therefore the urban women are economically better off.

#### **Education**

Boys' primary schools 259, girl's primary schools 128, boy's middle schools 15, girl's middle schools 03, boy's high schools 10, girl's high school 01, boy's intermediate college 1.

#### **Health**

There is only 1 hospital in the district, 10 dispensaries, and 15 BHUs.

#### **Social Customs and Traditions**

The major ethnic groups of the district are Baloch, Jamote and Brahvi and languages spoken by them are Balochi, Brahvi, Sindhi and Saraiki. Here 40% feudal system, 35% tribal and 20% religious system is practiced. Marriages are usually arranged and brideprice is practiced. Exchange marriages and honor killing are practiced. Women's mobility is restricted with no basic rights.

#### **Political Situation**

District Naseerabad is credited with different tribes governing it at different times but Jamali tribe is the most dominant of all. Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali the Ex- Prime Minister, Mir Jan Mohammed Jamali ex-Chief Minister and presently Deputy Chairman Senate, Ex- Provincial Ministers including Sardar Fateh Ali Umrani, Mir Saddique Umrani, Senator Rasool Baksh Lehri and Current Provincial Minister for Industries Abdul Ghafoor Lehri belong to this district. Before LGE 2001, the women were not in politics but since 2001, women are actively participating in politics at the grass root level. At first, the reaction of Religious Parties was rigid but now they are also giving permission to their women to participate.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

##### **Glimpse 1**

Naseerabad is part tribal, with strong traditional customs, and incidents of *karo kari* ('honour' killing) are reported quite frequently. Under these conditions, the members of the DCC contacted the elders and social workers to start their work for the Local Government elections.



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The DCC Coordinator Naseer Ahmad Mastoi, the Coordinator of the CAC Agha Niaz Magsi, along with the members of the DCC visited the union councils Manjhoti, Kohna Tambu, and Aliabad. It was observed that the panel of candidates did not include names for the six reserved seats for women. When it was pointed out that the panel was not complete, the people in the area were amazed because they had no concept that women could also participate in elections.

When they refused to let their women contest the elections, the DCC members met the influentials of the union councils. These meetings continued until the nomination papers were to be filed, and finally it was agreed to let the women participate. Some men continued to voice their objections.

It is interesting to note, and it surprised the DCC members to learn, that when the results of the Local Government elections were declared, the women councillors got more votes than the men councillors.

### **Glimpse 2**

District Naseerabad is a tribal area. Political awareness is increasing, but at a slow pace. Jamali, Imrani and Khosa are the main tribes.

A problem arose during the second phase of the elections. In order to obtain a Local or Domicile Certificate, a person had to have a National Identity Card; but in order to have an NIC, the Local or Domicile Certificate was in itself a requirement.

We were in Dera Murad Jamali at the time and the CAC and DCC of Naseerabad informed us of this problem. We immediately informed our office in Quetta, and the Provincial Coordinator requested a meeting with the Balochistan Governor Amir-ul-Mulk Mengal, Provincial Minister for Women's Development Mrs Roshan Khurshid Barocha, and the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, Naseerabad.

As a result of this lobbying, the Government of Balochistan issued a directive for all Deputy Commissioners to immediately issue provisional Local or Domicile Certificates on the attestation of one local notable, so that people could get their NICs and be able to vote.

An additional problem was that given the great distances in Balochistan, it was very difficult for many people to reach the district headquarters from where they lived, to get their Local or Domicile Certificates. The concerned authorities were also requested to delegate the powers to issue provisional Certificates to the Assistant Commissioners and Tehsildars in the sub-divisions. This request was also accepted and

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instructions issued to the sub-division level. Many people were able to file their nomination papers and contest the elections. Many women who had never had an NIC got one made now. In this Herculean task, the late Khalid Mengal, then PRO to the Governor Balochistan and a member of the Provincial Steering Committee, played a pivotal role.

### **Glimpse 3**

The AF team was on a monitoring visit of the facilitation camps established by the members of DCC in their areas for filing nominations. They wanted to meet with the ROs to brief them about the Campaign. While they were waiting for the meeting in the Bar Room, people came to complain that the RO was asking them to bring women candidates for submission of nomination papers and their scrutiny. To do so was very costly for the people living in far flung areas of the district. It was also contrary to the instructions of the Election Commission which had exempted female candidates from appearing for the submission of nomination papers.

During the meeting with the Returning Officer the issue was raised but he stuck to his stand and was rude to the AF team and the members of DCC. It was decided by the AF team and the DCC to bring the matter to the notice of the Election Commission in Islamabad. Younas Khalid, the AF Provincial Coordinator in the Quetta office, conveyed the issue to the AF Head Office in Lahore and to the Election Commission in Islamabad.

Early next morning, the DCC members came to the Rest House where the AF team was staying. They said that the District Election Commissioner wanted to meet them. This official told the AF team that the night before he had received five faxes from the Election Commission in Islamabad about the attitude of the RO towards women candidates. After this he called up the RO and warned him about his attitude. He also directed him strictly not to bind female candidates to come during the process of filing nomination process.

During the conversation of the District Election Commissioner with the RO, his tone remained quite harsh because he was treated in the same way by Election Commission officials in Islamabad, he told the AF team before they left his office.

### **WPLGE 2005**

District Naseerabad is situated at the frontiers of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab province. From East it is surrounded by District Dera Bugti, from West by District Jhal Magsi, from North by District Bolan and from South

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by District Jafferabad and Jacobabad. The area is under tribal administration. There are Jamali, Brahvi, Umrani, Jamot, Bugti and other tribes are settled. Most of the political decisions are made under tribal consultation. During Local Government Elections the political and religious parties went into agreement of seat to seat adjustment. It was decided that no individual woman should be supported instead of party women. So it was hardened for the ordinary women to take part in the election. DCC got information about the situation through former CAC coordinator and leader of National Party Mr. Taj Baloch.

DCC Naseerabad prepared a comprehensive strategy to mobilise women in union council mobilization meetings to file their nomination papers against all odds. Besides that the DCC members held separate meetings with all the political, tribal and religious leaders to create supportive environment for ordinary women to participate in election process. By the result, all the personalities ensured that our seat to seat adjustment would remain the same but no woman should be opposed by their side. Due to domestic agreement and tribal opposition women were frightened to file nomination papers more than one on each seat. After the meetings, people softened their rigid behavior and many women filed their nomination papers on each seat. On 96 seats of 24 union council 224 women candidates submitted their nomination papers.

In previous Local Government Elections only one woman contested on each seat but due to mobilization meetings in Local Government Campaign 2005 extraordinary number of women contested on single seats.

The women candidates said that due to encouragement of DCC and meetings with political, tribal and religious personalities, they were enabled to take part in the election process. Otherwise, it was very difficult for them and their families to take part freely in election due to tribal pressure and difficulties. Most of women and small groups who were not in the agreement appreciated the efforts of DCC.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
53	212	216	157	55	74.1%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
53	106	99	73	33	68.9%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
24	48	119	45	3	94%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
24	48	105	44	4	92%

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## Panjgur

Panjgur was notified as a district on July 1, 1977. There are two predominant etiologic explanations about the word Panjgur. One says that the word is a combination of two Balochi words "*panch*", means five, and "*gor*", means grave. The second perspective is a geographical one. Some people say that Panjgur is land of "*panch*" (five) "*kor*" (stream).

Panjgur, being an integral part of Makran for centuries, has passed through the corridors of history under various regimes.

Two regimes of local rulers, of Buledais and Gichkis, are worth mentioning here. The Buledais gained power with rise of the *Zikri* sect. These rulers are said to be connected with the rulers of Maskat and were called Buledais in reference with the valley of Buleda where they resided.

The population in district Panjgur is 234,051, in which male are 125,648 (53.68%) and female are 108,403 (46.32%).

The total number of registered voters in district Panjgur is 70,702, in which male voters are 35,332 and women voters are 35,370.

About two third (66.5%) of the male population and a small percentage (2.8%) of the females participated in the labour force. The urban and rural labour force participation rates were 35.7% and 40.0% respectively.

### Social Organisation

In Panjgur, society is structured on the base of kinship. Tribal identity has lost its importance and Baloch is a common identity. All decisions are made at household level and no tribal structure is present to make collective decisions. Unlike many other parts of Balochistan, society here is liberal and there is no place at all for authoritarian ethos or leadership. The vestiges of the *sardari* system have been eliminated to a great extent. Political consciousness is widely spread and all political decisions are made individually or at family level.

As the society in Panjgur is transforming into a semi-urban society, socio-cultural change is on its way. Educational expansion has broken down old chains and economic status has become a major determinant of social status. This has affected the whole socio-cultural scenario.

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### Religious Beliefs

According to the 1998 census, the Muslims constitute an overwhelming majority of population in Panjgur while the remaining population include Christians, Ahmadis, Hindus, Parsis, and Sikhs. Zikri, a significant religious faith in Makran, is not mentioned in the 1998 census. The reason is that Zikris claim to be Muslims while the Sunni Muslims denounce them as non-Muslim. The beliefs and rituals practised by Zikris are completely different from those of Islam.

In Panjgur, sectarian violence is minimal as most of the people belong to *Sunni* sect of Islam. They believe in *Hanfi* interpretation of *Shariah*. Generally, folks have religious attitudes and practice Islam according to its fundamental principles. Inheritance is divided according to the Islamic principles and daughters are given their property rights accordingly. All Islamic festive days are celebrated with zeal and fervour.

### Role, Position and Status of Women

Makran has a unique history regarding the status of women. Every woman in Panjgur has full control over the property acquired from her husband as dower and, as the Islamic law of inheritance is followed; she maybe expect in due course of time to inherit a portion of her parents property and will be entitled to a share in her husbands property if he predeceases her. Sometimes this ownership of property saves women from divorce as in the situation her husband would have to transfer the property which he promised her as *haq mehr*. As indicating the pre-eminent position occupied by women, it may be mentioned that it has been customary to attribute the qualities of a son or daughter to the mother and not to the father.

She makes many of the routine domestic decisions but decisions regarding major issues like that of the children's marriages are made by males in the family.

### Political Parties

Panjgur has always remained a strong hold of nationalist politics of Balochistan. National Party, BNP Akhtar Mengal Group, BNP (Awami), JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), JWP (Jamhoori Watan Party), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary)

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and PML-Q (Muslim League Qaid-E-Azam) plays an active role in the politics of the area.

In the election of 2002 Sardar Fateh Muhammad Hassani won the seat of the National Assembly. Mr. Rehmat Baloch and Mr. Kachkol Ali (National Party) won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Mr. Asadullah of BNP (Awami).

Women representation in political parties does not exist. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 83.3% of women seats were filled, while the LG election of 2005 100% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Panjgur is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are two Civil Hospitals in Panjgur. Besides this there are 13 dispensaries, 1 Rural Health Care Center and 15 Basic Health Units.

#### **Education**

In Panjgur district, there are 170 boys' primary schools and 113 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 23, 17 for boys and 6 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 23, 15 for boys and 8 for girls.

There is one intermediate college for girls and one degree college for boys.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

District Panjgur is backward and ancient district situated on Iran border, here people speak Balochi language. Population of Panjgur district is scattered on both sides of river Rakhshan, since 226BC. The word Panjgur means five graves, here used to be grave of five saints. Due to these graves this district got the name of Panjgur, Panjgur district got status of district in 1977. Panjgur comprised on 16,900 Kilometer area, its population about 288,073; Panjgur district possesses two tehsil and two sub tehsil and nine union councils.

Due to its political and religious status it possesses great significance on 25 August 2005 DCC coordinator Kishwar Nazeer Baloch reached to polling station in union council Gar Makhan boys high School, where some female met and informed him that they are not allowing to cast their votes.

They told that DCC member (Mr. Kishwar Nazeer) working for women participation in local Government to solve their problem in this regard. DCC met with Presiding Officer and discussed the issue, After discussion Presiding Officer told that the page where females name were written are missing in the voter list which are with Presiding officer, DCC coordinator showed his voter list where the page of those missing name has exist. Presiding Officer told that he should take photocopy of page and endorse by election commission then he allow female to cast their votes.

DCC coordinator visited Election Commission along with photocopy of the concerned page and discussed that Union Council Gar Makan polling station Presiding Officer has missing concern page from voter list kindly endorse the page, so that female can cast their vote easily. Election commission has endorsed the page and DCC coordinator Kishwar Nazeer provided the page to Presiding Officer, so that female cast their votes. Efforts of DCC coordinator Kiswar Nazeer has applauded by the group, presiding officer, females and other political parties. If DCC coordinator Kiswar Nazeer has not made their efforts on the time women would have deprived to cast their votes.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
16	64	64	52	12	81.2%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
16	32	42	28	4	87.5%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
16	32	97	32	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
16	32	84	32	0	100%



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## Pishin

Pishin is a modernised form of 'Pushang', which is ancient Persian for the Arabic Fushang. Myth attributes the origin of the name to a son of the Emperor Afrasiab and Fushing was the spelling used in the records of the Afghan government.

In 1975, Pishin was separated from Quetta and was given the status of a district. It was separated from Quetta for administrative reasons. In 1993 Pishin was bifurcated into Pishin district and Killa Abdullah district. Now there are three districts Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah which before partition came under one administrative division, known as Quetta Pishin. The total geographical area of the district is 7,819 sq kms

The total number of registered voters in the district is 223,486 out of which 112,536 are male and 110,950 are female.

The total population of the district Pishin is 367,183 in which male are 196,330 (53.47%) and female are 170,853 (46.53%).

The male and female paid labour force is 40.2% and 1.1% respectively. There is no evidence whatsoever, that women are involved in agriculture, pastoralism, mining, industries, retail trade and communication as paid labour in district Pishin.

### Social Organisation

Pishin district is mostly inhabited by Pashtoons. Major tribes include Kakar, Tareen, Syed and Achakzai. The major sources of income are agriculture, trade and commerce. In addition, livestock breeding is also an important source of income. It is interesting to note that a large number of persons originating from the district of Pishin are engaged in business and transportation activities, not only in Pakistan but in other countries as well.

In some cases, tribes are headed by a nawab. Sub-tribes are headed by sardars. Most of the sub-tribes live together in a village. Villages are headed by a malik. It is worth mentioning that with the advancement of education and spread of electronic media, their role and authority is dwindling.

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The role of women at the household level is limited to certain activities such as cooking, washing, managing the house and raising the children. It is sad and unfortunate that at community level their role is negligible or marginal in social as well as in economic activities. Similarly, the women of district Pishin do not play any role whatsoever in politics.

It is interesting to note that in Pishin district Khanozai is a unique area, in the sense that due to a higher literacy rate, the role of women in its social organisation has changed considerably in this area. They are playing a significant role in social development. What is more important is that the spread effect has also penetrated into adjacent villages.

### **Religious Beliefs**

The influence of religion in Pishin district is paramount. The crime rate is very low. Conflicts are normally resolved by the religious elders. Pishin district is mostly represented by religious political parties reflecting the religious attitude of the community. Religious persons are generally respected by the masses. Those persons who do not observe Islamic principles are not valued by the community. Aged persons are respected by all. Residents of district Pishin are unique in the sense that they belong to a common ethnic group, have the same religion and the same religious sect. Therefore, there have never been any religious conflicts.

The Pashtoon society respects the dignity of women and Islam also gives due weight to the rights of women. Therefore, women are honoured and respected.

### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

It is ironical to note that pashtoon society bestows honour and dignity on women, but in reality the position of pashtoon women is not good. When young, a woman is married without her consent and vulvar (brideprice) is received on her behalf. As wife she has to perform many duties. All activities within the house are the sole responsibility of women. These include cleaning, child bearing, washing cloth, taking care of livestock etc. Women have no position or status in society. The women are bound by socio-cultural taboos and religious restrictions. The Pashtoon society is extremely sensitive; respect for women is a part of the code of honour. All

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efforts are made to marry the girls off as soon as possible. Women have no right to property.

#### **Political Parties / Participation**

Being a strong hold of both the religious and nationalist parties Pishin has always played a unique role in the politics of Balochistan. JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary), PML-N (Muslim League Nawaz Group), PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam), ANP (Awami National Party) and Pashtoon Khuwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Haji Gul Muhammad Dummar of JUI (F) won the seat of the National Assembly. Syed Mati Ullah Agha, Molana Abdul Wahid Siddiqui and Molana Abdul Bari of JUI (F) won the Provincial Assembly seats. The office of District Nazim is headed by Molvi Kamal Uddin of JUI (F).

Women representation in political parties does not exist, due to social and tribal conventions. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 85.2% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 99% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Pishin is poor compared to the health condition of men. There is only one Civil Hospital in Pishin. Besides this there are 13 dispensaries, 6 rural health care centers, 28 BHU and 98 private clinics.

#### **Education**

In Pishin district, there are 513 boys' primary schools and 152 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 62, 44 for boys and 18 for girls. While the number of government high school is 31, 25 for boys and 6 for girls. There are six colleges, four for boys and two for girls; five are intermediate and one is Degree College. Three intermediate and one degree college for boys, while two intermediate colleges are for girls.

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Madrasas exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

Pishin is a tribal area which is conservative and religious, and where women are not allowed to go out of their homes. Despite this, they came out to participate in political activities.

In the fourth phase of the Local Government elections, Nur Bibi, a 60 year old widow, showed interest in the programme of AF and the DCC and decided to take part in the elections. She was personally known to a member of the DCC.

When the local sardar came to know that a woman from his area was going to submit her nomination papers without his knowledge and permission, he was furious and contacted her family, ordering them to stop her or face the consequences. Threatened by the sardar, her family tried to stop her. But Nur Bibi was firm in her resolve and submitted her nomination papers. When the sardar heard this, he contacted the DRO and RO and asked them to cancel her nominations.

Nur Bibi approached the AF and DCC for help. They held a meeting and advised her to file a writ petition in the High Court against the cancellation of her nomination. When the sardar got to know about this, he was so angry that he had Nur Bibi beaten up.

However, before the High Court could give a verdict in the Nur Bibi case, the sardar contacted AF and the DCC, requesting them to ask Nur Bibi to withdraw her writ petition. He promised the members that he would let Nur Bibi join his panel in the elections and she would win unopposed. After this assurance, Nur Bibi withdrew her writ petition.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

During the Local Government elections of 2005, the two separate voter lists remained a main source of confusion for both the candidates and general public. The local government and general elections are held under two different electoral lists. These lists are updated time to time before the elections. The electoral lists used for local government elections were

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updated in 2004-2005. The Government organised the local government elections of 2005 under the same updated lists.

When the process of filing of nomination papers for the first phase was started, ordinary public was not aware about the two different electoral lists. The local level Political parties and other groups referred to the electoral lists of general elections for the voter registration numbers of candidates required for the filing of their nomination papers. Those candidates, who approached the facilitation camp of Aurat Foundation for help and guidance, remained safe from the mistake that the other candidates made, while filling and filing their nomination papers. This happened because the appropriate electoral lists required for the local Government election was placed in the facilitation camp of Aurat Foundation.

On the last day of the process of filing of nomination papers, the people and the candidates came to know about the mistake they have made while filing their nomination papers. They were informed about their mistake by the member of DCC, when a member of a Political Party visited the facilitation camp with the electoral list of his own. When the said person tallied his voter list with the voter list placed in the facilitation camp, he noticed the difference between both the lists. As the names of his family members were missing in the electoral list available in facilitation camp. He discussed his observation with the members of DCC, who informed him about the two different electoral lists. The member of political party reconfirmed the matter with the District Office of Election Commission. After confirming the information, he once again visited the facilitation camp for the solution of this problem. This new information at once spread out among the candidates, tribal leaders and local level leadership of Political parties. They all started to approach the members of DCC Pishin for help and further guidance required in this regard.

Feeling the sensitivity of the issue and shortage of time the members of DCC Pishin immediately made contact with Aurat Foundation staff in Quetta. They discussed the issue in detail with Aurat Foundation team and asked for help. Aurat Foundation team brought the issue in the notice of Provincial Election Commissioner and asked him for any possible alternative. In response Provincial Election Commissioner advised Aurat Foundation team to ask all the concerned candidates to refill their nomination papers in the same categories with correct voter registration number of their own, only changing the names of those who are proposing and seconding him.

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The response of the Provincial Election Commissioner was immediately conveyed to the members of DCC Pishin, who further guided the candidates on the same lines.

The in time and good coordination between DCC Pishin, Aurat Foundation and cooperation of Provincial Election Commission office, resulted in provision of another chance to the candidates interested in participating in local government elections.

### **Glimpse 2**

In Balochistan at Pishin District Local Government Election conducted in first Phase. District Coordination Committee has established Awareness Raising Camp during submission of nomination forms for the guidance of candidates in District court, 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

Allauddin Khilji Programme officer Aurat Foundation Quetta has monitored and visited camp to guide candidates. Candidates discussed their problems during the submission of their nomination forms, the great problem was to find out Election commission tell Serial and Book number in the voter list. In District Pishin the office of Election Commission is limited to one room and staffs are also deficient in number, due to having one room Assistant Election Commission told number through window, and closed the door, due to this people were wasting their precious time.

Programme Officer Aurat Foundation Allauddin Khilji and Joint Coordinator of DCC visited Assistant Election Commissioner of Pishin district and discussed issue, Assistant Election Commissioner told if he opens the door the candidates will tear pages from voter list in case of getting their serial and Book number, and he is having very few copies of voter list.

Mr. Allauddin Khilji Programme officer AF suggested that he should keep voter list in photo state shop so that crowd would minimise at him. Assistant Election Commissioner accepts suggestion and kept entire voter list in District court photostat shop, so that candidates will take out voter list of concerned union council easily. Mr. Allauddin Khilji further said they should take one room for election activities from Pishin district administration, Assistant Pishin District Officer told that he discuss with District Coordination Officer but he could not get positive reply, Mr. Allauddin Khilji had suggested that they set up camp adjacent EC office but they refused due to non availability of funds,

Election commission has requested program officer Aurat Foundation that District Coordination committee has established camp in district court and

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DCC member taking photocopy of voter list for guidance of candidate, so it is requested to establish camp in the premises of Election Commission office. Where we take and display voter list of district Pishin from Election Commission. Which is supervised by one member of Election Commission because of non availability of staff and it is also requested from the DCC member, that they should depute the duty of four or three member in the camp so that candidates could not face further problem.

Aurat foundation program officer and DCC member held meeting to ponder over the request of Assistant Election Commissioner. Mr. Allauddin also has phoned to Resident Director of Aurat Foundation and discussed and take permission to set up camp in Pishin district and he got permission on phone.

Programme officer Aurat Foundation Quetta met with Assistant Election Commissioner and told that Aurat Foundation will take expenditure of camp in Pishin district, he further told that he should provide entire voter list of Pishin district and also deputed three and four member in the camp, so the request was approved and four member of District Coordination Committee had deputed in the camp along with member of EC, so that they would work mutually, then Assistant Election Commissioner thanked DCC and Aurat foundation in this regard.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
27	108	119	90	18	83.3%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
27	54	85	48	6	88.9%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
38	76	159	75	1	99%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
38	76	188	76	0	100%

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## Killa Abdullah

Killa Abdullah district lies in the foot hills of the Shela Bagh Mountain range. It is bordered by Pishin district in the east, by district Quetta in the south and by Afghanistan in the west. The geographical area of the district is 5,264 km.

The district Killa Abdullah is named after Sardar Abdullah Khan Achakzai, who was a man of great influence. He was one of the two great leaders of the rebellion at Kabul in 1841, during which the British envoy was killed.

During Afghan War, Afghan refugees came into Pakistan. Roghani Camp at Chaman and Jungal Pir Alizai Camp were the largest camps, inhabited by over hundred thousand Afghan refugees.

The population in district Killa Abdullah is 370,269, in which male are 203,324 (54.91%) and female are 166,945 (45.09%).

The total numbers of registered voters in the district are 247,211, in which male voters are 130,415 and women voters are 116,796.

The population may be divided into six classes by occupation landowners, cultivators, flock owners, traders, labourers and artisans. The other important occupation group for which fresh data is available are government employees. It should be remembered that due to socio-cultural rigidities, females are not involved in any kind of economic activity except education, health and to some extent in handicraft.

### Social Organisation

Killa Abdullah district is basically tribal area and a male dominated society. There is a tendency among the residents to conceal the actual number of females. The statistics are not reliable because, among other things, the birth and death rates are not recorded properly.

District Killa Abdullah is mostly inhabited by Pashtoons. Major tribes include Kakar, Tareen, Syed and Achakzai. Kakars are in the majority in Tehsil Gulistan, while Achakzai dominate Tehsil Chaman.



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Marriages that take place in the area are arranged. Mates or spouses are always selected by parents, both for men and women. “Vulvar” (bride price) is commonly paid to the bride’s family.

Comparatively, the price of vulvar is very high in Tehsil Chaman; ranging from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 400,000. Despite this, early marriages (both for boys and girls) take place. The system of exchange of brides (girls of two families given in marriage to each other instead of bride price) is common among the tribes. This is known as ‘*Sarai*’ in Pashto.

#### **Religious Beliefs**

Residents of district Killa Abdullah are unique in the sense that they belong to a common ethnic group, have a shared religion and belong to the same sect within the religion. Therefore, there have never been any religious conflicts. Religious persons are generally respected by the masses. Those persons who don’t observe Islamic principles are not valued by the community. Elderly persons are respected by all.

#### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

It is ironical to note that, though Pashtoon society formally bestows honour and dignity on women, in reality the position of Pashtoon women is miserable. Still young, she is married without her consent and vulvar is received on her behalf. As a wife she has to perform many duties. All activities within the house are the sole responsibility of women. These include cleaning, child raising, washing cloth, taking care of livestock etc. The role of the women in the decision making process is negligible. On the other hand she has no right to property.

#### **Political Parties / Participation**

Pashtoon Khuwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), ANP (Awami National Party), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian) and PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Mehmood Khan Achakzai of PKMAP won the seat of the National Assembly and Majeed Khan Achakzai of PKMAP won the Provincial Assembly. While the other provincial Assembly seat is Vacant. The office of District Nazim is headed by Adam Khan Achakzai of JUI (F).

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Women representation in political parties does not exist, due to social and tribal norms. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

The total number of union Councils in district Killa Abdullah is 25. Women representation in the union, Tehsil and District council of Killa Abdullah after the Local Government Elections of 2005 is 100%.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 79.7% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 100% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Killa Abdullah is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are 3 Civil Hospitals in Killa Abdullah. Besides this there are 12 dispensaries, 3 Rural Health Care Centers, 25 Basic Health Units and 14 private clinics.

#### **Education**

In Killa Abdullah, there are 342 boys' primary schools and 51 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 25, 18 for boys and 7 for girls. While the number of government high school is 26, 22 for boys and 4 for girls.

Madrasas exist in very large numbers in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

There are two colleges, one for boys and one for girls; one is an intermediate and one is Degree College. Intermediate college is for girls, while Degree College is for boys.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

##### **Glimpse 1**

Chaman is a town located on the border with Afghanistan and the route for the Afghan transit trade. Its district, Killa Abdullah, is dominated by tribal social relations and by conservative religious forces, neither of which accord a high status to women.

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Elections in Chaman were held in the fourth phase. Two political factions dominated the town: the Pashtoon tribal leaders and the maulvis. Under these conditions, the DCC Killa Abdullah contacted women who could possibly contest the seats reserved for women in the union councils, where the electorate directly voted for them.

The DCC met with Rehmat Bibi, principal of a local private school, and encouraged her to contest the seat of the union council *nazim*. Despite great pressure from tribal and religious leaders ("women in our society cannot participate in politics"), she filed her nomination papers. After that she was threatened and her family was asked to force her to withdraw her nomination papers. However she remained firm and did not change her decision.

During the election campaign the DCC continued to help her. They met with religious and tribal leaders and members of her family to convince them to change their stand. They talked of women's role and their positive contribution to society, linking it with their participation in politics. They managed to convince some of the opposing parties to support Rehmat Bibi's decision and approached social workers and local people to enlist their support.

Given her extraordinary situation, she was interviewed on radio by the BBC Pushto Service where she discussed women's rights and the importance of women's participation in politics.

Although she lost the election, she set an example for others, that with courage, confidence and the help of friends, a woman can contest elections in a remote, conservative, religious, tribal constituency.

### **Glimpse 2**

On the final day allowed for filing nominations during the fourth phase, the our team visited the facilitation camp at Chaman in Killa Abdullah and learnt that only one set of the voters' list was available with the authorities and it could not be photocopied because there had been no electricity in the area for the previous two days. Candidates had not been able to get their documents and NICs photocopied for the submission of nomination papers. Due to this, no papers had been filed for most of the male and female seats of the union councils.

We immediately contacted the Election Commission in Islamabad and requested an extension in the period for filing nominations. We also asked the DCC members to directly contact the Election Commission in Islamabad, for which we gave all the relevant contact numbers. Thus the

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matter was brought to the notice of the official concerned. The DCC members were asked to call back after 20 minutes, when they were told that the Election Commission had verified the matter through their sources in the district and had decided to extend the date of submission of nomination papers for two days.

This response of the Election Commission came as a great surprise to the DCC and to the candidates, who had lost all hope of filing their nomination papers.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

District Killa Abdullah is one of the most sensitive districts of Balochistan regarding political and tribal issues. It is located with Afghan border. Every election in this district ends with a new political and tribal conflict, resulting in the loss of many precious lives.

During the local government elections of 2005, the polling day for district Killa Abdullah was planned ten days later than the schedule of the rest of the province. Keeping in view the sensitivity of the area, about ten thousand personnel of Para military forces including regular army were deployed in different areas of the district on polling day.

At the time of the filing of nomination papers, DCC Killa Abdullah planned to organise three facilitation camps in three tehsils of the district. One of these camps was planned in tehsil Chaman. For the effectiveness of the camp, members of DCC decided to hold the facilitation camp in the premises of District Court Chaman. A delegation of the members of DCC visited the office of DCO Killa Abdullah for attaining permission for the holding of facilitation camp. Unfortunately DCO Killa Abdullah was out of the town for attending an official meeting in Quetta. In the absence of DCO the officer in charge refused to allow members of DCC to organise the camp in the premises of district Court. After the refusal the members of DCC decided to hold the camp across the road in front of the district Court.

On the first day of the process of filing of nomination papers, DCO Killa Abdullah came to visit the district Court for holding of meetings with ROs and supervision of the process. While entering the premises of district court DCO noticed the facilitation camp of DCC. As he reached the office of DRO, a Levies personnel was sent to facilitation camp to ask members of DCC to come and meet him.

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The members of DCC held a detailed meeting with DCO. During the meeting he was briefed about the previous and present Local Government election campaign of Aurat Foundation and DCC. The meeting resulted in permission to DCC for organizing their camp in the premises of district Court. In the meanwhile DCO Killa Abdullah personally visited the camp and asked members of DCC for provision of Aurat Foundations election material to him. The DCO appreciated the idea of facilitation camp and assured DCC members for every help.

### **Glimpse 2**

District Killa Abdullah is one of the most sensitive districts of Balochistan, regarding tribal conflicts and political rivalries. District Killa Abdullah comprises of four tehsils and 25 union councils. Achakzais, Kakars, Sayyeds and Tareens are among the prominent tribes of the district. Political affiliations in the area are based on tribal belongings. The Major political forces of district Killa Abdullah are JUI (F), PKMAP, ANP, PML (Q) and PPPP.

Tribal Conflicts in the area has severely damaged the political environment and the situation of law and order in the district. This resulted in developing of a very negative political attitude among the masses of the area. During elections, a large number of Para military forces are deputed in the area to control the situation of law and order in the district. Due to the worse situation of law and order in the district, all the offices of district administration were shifted to tehsil Chaman. While offices of the judiciary were shifted to district Pishin, which is at a distance of 60 kms from district Killa Abdullah.

During the local government elections of 2005, when the process of filling of nomination papers started, members of DCC Killa Abdullah Mr.Hameed Ullah, Mr.Rafi Ullah and Mr.Amir Aman Ullah came to know that, Returning Officer Killa Abdullah is issuing and receiving nomination papers of the candidates of Killa Abdullah district in Pishin. They were informed about the issue by some candidates and especially family members of Women candidates. Members of DCC decided to make contact with election commission office, district administration and Political parties on the issue. Responsibilities were assigned to individual members of DCC. But unfortunately all these contacts and meetings ended without any result. In the next step of the strategy members of DCC decided to hold a press conference and issue statements on the problem to highlight it in the media. The strategy of focusing the media for Advocacy on the

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issue remained very affective. Balochistan High court issued a strict notice on the issue and directed all the relevant Returning Officers to immediately move back their offices to their respective districts and facilitate the candidates at their door step.

The strategy adopted by DCC members took some time and candidates faced serious problems in filling and filing of nomination papers. But at the time of scrutiny of nomination papers all the relevant Returning Officers were present in their offices within the district. This intervention of DCC Killa Abdullah helped to solve a serious problem of the candidates of district Killa Abdullah, especially of Women candidates for whom it was not possible to move from one district to another district.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
23	92	96	74	18	80.4%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
23	46	57	36	10	78.3%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
25	50	131	50	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
25	50	132	50	0	100%

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## Killa Saifullah

Khan Mehterzai is a monumental place in the district where Asia's highest railway station is located.

Killa Saifullah district is bounded on the north-west by Afghanistan, on the north and east by Zhob district, on the west by Pishin district, and on the south by Loralai district. The known geographical area of the district is 10,609 square kilometres.

The population in district Killa Saifullah is 193,553, in which male are 105,174 (54.34%) and female are 88,379 (45.66%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 86,105, in which male voters are 47,886 and women voters are 38,219.

There is no data available for Killa Saifullah district as far as labour force is concerned. The major economic activities are agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing was mentioned by a significant majority (77.4%) of the working population. Agriculture and livestock breeding are the main economic activities.

The main reason behind the invisibility of female labour force is the socio-cultural milieu of the district. Women are not allowed to move around outside their homes. "*Purdah*" is practised by most of the females.

### Social Organisation

The society in Killa Saifullah district is tribal. Once the *nawabs* and *sardars* had great influence over the people but with the passage of time this influence has decreased gradually. However, the *sardar* families still enjoy somewhat superior status due to their economic affluence.

The custom of "*valvar*" (bride price), generation-after-generation rivalries, hospitality and keeping fire arms are still prevalent in Killa Saifullah. Tribal identity is still important and the people use the name of their clan as their last name. The *sardars*, whose political and social power was hereditary in the past, have reshaped their influence which now springs from their economic affluence. Communal leadership is a function of aged people in the community. Sometimes educated individuals are accepted as community leaders, especially in collective welfare and development activities. Political decisions are made on clan basis. If the clan has

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decided to support someone, rarely anybody violates the decision. However, this pattern is changing nowadays.

### **Religious Beliefs**

The Muslims constitute the majority of the population in Killa Saifullah district while the remaining population includes Christians and Hindus. Generally, the people have a religious attitude and practice Islam according to its fundamental principles.

### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

Killa Saifullah is a male dominated society where sons are preferred. Expenditure on female education is considered a waste. In this way women lose their chance to be financially secure and they remain dependant on the men. The only political role women in Killa Saifullah district can play is casting their vote, usually according to the will of their male family members.

Although women are secluded inside the boundary of the house they enjoy a considerable freedom in making routine decisions about household affairs. In most of the cases, women are given their share in inheritance according to the principles of Islam. A few women have joined the formal sector through government jobs, especially in the field of education.

### **Political Parties / Participation**

Killa Saifullah plays a unique role in the politics of Balochistan because of a strong political rivalry between tribal leaders of the district and religious parties. Political Parties like JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), ANP (Awami National Party), Pashtoon Khuwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP). PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary), PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam), and Jamat-e-Islami are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Molana Mohammad Khan Sherani of JUI (F) won the seat of the National Assembly and Molana Abdul Wasea of JUI (F) won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Molvi Anwar-ud-din of JUI (F).

Women representation in political parties does not exist, due to social and tribal conventions; their political role is limited to casting their votes.



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### WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)

During the LG election 2001, 85.5% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 100% women seats were filled.

#### Health

The health status of the women in district Killa Saifullah is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are two Civil Hospitals in Killa Saifullah, 11 dispensaries, 1 Rural Health Care Centre, 16 Basic Health Units and 10 private clinics.

#### Education

In Killa Saifullah district, there are 326 boys' primary schools and 112 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 24, 19 for boys and 5 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 18, 13 for boys and 5 for girls.

Madrasas do exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

There are two colleges for boys; both are intermediate.

### Glimpses of the Campaigns

#### CCWR 2001

Situated to the east of Afghanistan, Killa Saifullah has a mountainous and harsh terrain. Its literacy rate is high compared with other districts of Balochistan. The district is composed of two tehsils, Killa Saifullah and Muslim Bagh, which together have 15 union councils.

The DCC was formed on 25 March 2001, and immediately afterwards a seminar was held for various social organisations of the area. Subcommittees were formed for the local elections.

Local religious and political parties boycotted the elections. In two separate incidences they spoke out against AF, members of the DCC and NGOs in general. During a Friday sermon on 27 April in Killa Saifullah and 4 May in Muslim Bagh, they lashed out at people supporting women's participation in politics. As a result, women belonging to communities with lower literacy rates opted to stay away from the elections since they were facing opposition from within their own families.

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The DCC, along with subcommittee members and NGOs, made eight committees that would work in the most conservative and backward areas of the district. Members of these committees met with various families within these communities and emphasised that women would be able to initiate development projects in their communities as they would have access to funds. They managed to convince people in these communities to allow women to contest and vote in these elections. However, three seats in Muslim Bagh and 11 seats in Killa Saifullah remained vacant.

## **WPLGE 2005**

### **Glimpse 1**

Tehsil Muslimbagh consists of seven union councils. Its former name was Hindu Bagh. Former Chief Minister Sardar Attaullah Mengal and Provincial Minister for Hajj / Auqaf Moulvi Saleh Muhammad (Late) changed the Hindu Bagh name in to Muslimbagh in 1974.

Muslimbagh is the important Tehsil of District Killa Saifullah. Sub tehsil Loi Band is situated in it. Tehsil Muslimbagh is surrounded by Afghanistan in the east west, Pishin in the West, District Loralai in the South and Tehsil Killa Saifullah in the East.

Total population of the Tehsil is 94,829 people, while total numbers of voters are 46,212.

DCC of Tehsil Muslimbagh was busy in election activities, when DCC member Mr. Noor Ali of sub tehsil Loi Band, he was Naib Nazim Loi Band in the election 2001, now he is residing in Muslimbagh town, he narrated that the political and tribal people of Loi Band sub tehsil had unanimously decided that women will not cast vote nor appear as candidates.

Immediately the DCC called the special meeting, all the DCC members were informed about the emergent issue. DCC members were collectively of the opinion that all the party members and notables be invited in a combined meeting and they all be emphasised the importance of women votes and participation in elections.

It was decided that a meeting be conducted in the house of Mr. Noor Ali, who is the resident of Loi band. Mr. Noor Ali cordially invited the political notables in his house on tea. All the DCC members also participated. All the political and notables were given opportunity in the dialogue, they were stressed upon the importance of women votes and the consequences and disadvantages of not participating in elections.

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During the meeting all the political and tribal notables were prepared and motivated that development of the area will be adversely affected if the women folk do not cast votes in the election.

All political and tribal heads unanimously decided that the women of sub tehsil Loi Band will definitely cast their votes as well as contest as candidates.

Result was encouraging that all the seats of women were filled in sub tehsil Loi Band.

### **Glimpse 2**

Killa Saifullah city is the head quarter of Killa Saifullah district. Different Pashtoon tribes are among the residents of the area. The major political parties of the area are JUI (F), PKMAP, ANP and PPP. For the purpose of the monitoring of election process monitoring teams were formed within DCC. Area wise responsibilities were distributed among the members of DCC.

On polling day a team of DCC members visited the polling station of Pata Daulatzai. The said polling station is at a distance of 40 kilo meters from Killa Saifullah. When the members of DCC Killa Saifullah reached the polling station they were informed by the voters that, the Presiding Officer has stopped the process of polling for the last one hour. The members of DCC immediately approached the Presiding Officer and asked him about the issue. Presiding officer told the members of DCC that, due to the unavailability of ballot papers of the category of worker and peasant he has stopped the polling process.

After having the response of Presiding Officer, members of DCC decided to bring the matter into the notice of DRO. Two members of DCC were immediately sent to Killa Saifullah to hold a meeting with DRO on the issue. As the members of DCC were in contact with district administration and DROs during the campaign, DRO Killa Saifullah at once responded to the complaint of DCC members and sent the required ballot papers to the polling station of Pata Daulatzai. DRO Killa Saifullah also asked members of DCC to accompany the government officials to the polling station and ensure immediate start of polling process in the area.

The in time intervention of DCC members and quick response of DRO not only solved the problem, but also ensured the right of voting of the residents of the area.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
15	60	69	50	10	83.30%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
15	30	37	27	3	90.00%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
15	30	63	30	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
15	30	58	30	0	100%

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## Quetta

Quetta is the capital of Baluchistan province. At 5,500 feet above sea level it is one of the most important military locations in Pakistan. The name Quetta originates from the Pashtoo word "Kwatta" which means a fort. In the beginning, the town was situated within the walls of fort "A Mari" which is now used as an arsenal. The district is bounded on the north by district Pishin; on the east by Ziarat; on the south by Mastung and on the west by district Killa Abdullah. With the passage of time, Quetta began to expand and soon it turned into a beautiful small town. The British paid special attention to its cleanliness. However, 31 May, 1935 was a black day in the history of Quetta. An earthquake destroyed Quetta city completely. The Cantonment area survived to a great extent.

Till 1947 Quetta was a small town. People used to call it small London. But rapid population growth in terms of rural urban migration, and influx of Indian refugees increased the population of Quetta. Influx of Afghan refugees during the 1980s turned Quetta into an over-populated city.

The total number of registered voters in the district is 506,485 out of which 289,967 are male and 216,518 are female.

The total population of the district Quetta is 759,941 in which male are 412,064 (54.22%) and female are 347,877 (45.78%). The male and female paid labour force is 39.2% and 1.8% respectively. The major economic activity in the district is service provision, which absorbs 28.3 percent of the working population. This includes civilian government services.

### Social Organisation

Quetta district is ethnically diverse. The district is multilingual in the sense that there are five major ethnic groups and each group has its own cultural values. They are Pashtoons, Baloch, Barahvis, Hazara and Punjabis. Some other minor ethnic groups like Urdu speaking Mahajirs and Sindhis are also living in the city. The major sources of income of the residents are trade, transport, government jobs, agriculture and mining. In addition, the informal sector is also playing a very significant role in generating income, like in other urban centres in Quetta city a large number of shops, street vendors, small garages (auto repair shops) and tailoring shops can be seen.

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In a joint family system, decisions are imposed top-down. Male elders make almost all socio-economic decisions. At macro level, command of authority depends upon the nature of tribal social organisation. With the Brahvis, central authority exists. Decision making flows downwards from the Sardar as the head of the tribe to the Takkari as the Chief of clan or sub-clan. On the other hand Pashtoons lack central authority. Family heads can make many decisions at community level. Mullahs also have an influential role in the decision making process.

Quetta is a multi-cultural area, a variety of dresses can be observed. Both traditional and modern dresses are found in the district. The traditional dress comprising a turban, Shalwar and Kameez is mostly used by the people residing in the rural area. The role of women within the family is significant. They perform many activities such as cooking, washing, managing the home, raising children etc. However, at community level their role is very limited. Culture and social norms restrict women's mobility outside the home. In the urban area of the district, it can be observed that women are playing an important role in the social sectors. NGO's are involving women in different social and economic activities. Some political parties have a separate women's wing that organises women for political activities.

#### **Religious Beliefs**

Religion plays a crucial role in all spheres of life. The vast majority of population is Muslim. Small minorities of Christians, Hindus, Parsis and Bahais are also present in the district. Religious authorities control many aspects of social life and several political parties are organised along religious lines. The mosque is a centre for communal life where collective problems are discussed. Religious schools are respected by the community. Most of the disputes are normally resolved by them. At family level, religion also plays a paramount role. Religious practices such as prayers, fasting and reading of Holy Quran are strictly followed. Relations with non-Muslims are also amicable in the district.

#### **Role of Women**

The role of women among the major ethnic groups of district is very limited. Women are restricted to the traditional social and cultural values. The practice of Purdah is appreciated. Besides, the number of male

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children and social and economic status of the husband determine the position of women in the society. The status of women as compared to men is very low. Generally women's rights in matters of property and inheritance are not recognised.

The number of working women in the social sector, NGO's and in general is very low; however, banking is increasing significantly. The people's attitude towards female education is becoming highly favorable. The government has institutionalised gender development. Donor agencies now focus on gender equity. A large number of women are taking part in social welfare activities. Women are involved in politics and are members of various committees to mainstream women's development. Women choose mainly the education and health sector for employment, due to the conducive working environment. Few women work in the government, the conditions are discouraging due to the lack of promotions and environment, dominated by males. Education among females is spreading very rapidly and more and more girls, even from very traditional households, are stepping in for employment. Women perform all the activities in the house while men perform all outside activities.

#### **Political Parties Participation**

Being a strong hold of both the religious and national parties Quetta has always played a unique role in the politics of Balochistan. PMLQ ((Muslim League Quid-E-Azam)), JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary), PML-N (Muslim League Nawaz Group), ANP (Awami National Party), Balochistan National Party (Mengal), National Party, Jamhuri Watan Party, Nifaz Fiqa-e-Jafaria, Balochistan Shia Conference, Hazara Democratic Party, Tehreek-e-Insaf, Pakistan Workers Party, Pashtoon Quami Tehreek and Pashtoon Khuwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Moulana Noor Muhammad of JUI (F) and Hafiz Hussain Ahmed won the seats of the National Assembly. Shafiq Ahmed Khan of PPPP, M. Younas Changezi of PML (Q), Moulana Hussain Ahmed Sharodi, Molvi Dur Muhammad of JUI (F) and Moulana Abdur Rahim Bazai of JUI (F) won the Provincial Assembly seats. The office of District Nazim is headed by Mir Maqbool Lehri of PML (Q).

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The role of women in the political parties is not significant, mainly due to the social and tribal set-up. Their role is confined to the extent of casting votes. Moreover, only in urban areas women organise political activities for their parties, but this is also limited to mobilizing support (votes) for male candidates during elections. Despite their potential, political parties, dominated by males, do not give women politicians any significant role. Their interest in politics compels them to tail male politicians, a frustrating secondary role for women politicians. The worldly and educated women cannot break the stronghold of men. A women's political forum came into existence, with the objective of fighting the male monopoly in politics.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 82.6% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 96.2% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Quetta is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are only two Civil Hospitals in Quetta, 14 dispensaries, 3 Rural Health Care Centres and 38 Basic Health Units.

#### **Education**

In Quetta district, there are 268 boys' primary schools and 148 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 27 for boys and 29 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 31 for boys and 28 for girls. Madrasas exist in very large numbers in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution. There are six colleges, four for boys and two for girls; five are intermediate and one is Degree College. Two intermediate and two degree colleges are for boys, while five intermediate and two degree colleges are for girls.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **CCWR 2001**

The delimitations of Quetta district had been a problem for local authorities since 1992, to the extent that Local Government elections could not be held in the district in 1992. The problem persisted even with the current elections. After the new delimitation of union councils, the



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voters' lists did not match voters to their actual areas, with the result that people had their names in the wrong area list. To file their nominations, candidates had to ensure that their correct serial number in the list, as well as the serial numbers of their proposers and seconders, were filed. Without this they could not file their nominations.

To solve the problem, the military authorities in collaboration with the District Administration, decided to hold a two-day camp in the District Courts, where lists were placed for the public. Eleven ROs of Quetta, along with military officers, were asked to make the necessary corrections. AF Quetta was requested by the military authorities to help the women voters during the camp. In the end, not just women but also male voters as well as different political groups were given advice by the AF team. This led to the recognition of Aurat Foundation's role and much goodwill from the public.

Aurat Foundation further learnt that because of the incorrect voters' lists during the nomination period, only one set of the complete updated voters' lists would be available with the Election Commission. The AF team obtained the updated set from the Provincial Election Commission and had it photocopied on an urgent basis. They then set up a facilitation camp with the correct voters' lists. People who approached the offices of the Provincial Election Commission for the information were sent to the AF camp to consult the lists.

Due to the rush of candidates, law enforcement agencies had to be requested to make arrangements after midnight, as some of the people tried to snatch the lists and threatened the AF staff. The incident was reported in several national and regional newspapers.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
66	264	327	223	41	84.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
66	132	143	104	28	78.8%

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Election Results 2005					
General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
67	134	404	126	8	94%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
67	134	327	132	2	98.5%

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## Sibi

### Basic Information about District Sibi

Sibi District was established in 1903. In the time of British Rule, it was called “Siwi” (known by the name of Hindu Lady of Sewa Race who is said to be the ruler over this part).

### Area

The total area of district Sibi is 7,796 sq kms.

### Boundaries

In the North there is beautiful Pine valley of Ziarat, in the North East district Loralai, in the East and South East it borders Kohlu district, to the South and South West lies Bolan district and in the North West it borders Mastung and Quetta districts.

### Population

The estimated population of the area in 2004 is 494,894; male 266,836, female 228,058

### Registered Voters

Total 105,039; male 59,634 and female 45,405

### U/Cs and Tehsils

District Sibi has 03 Tehsils; Sibi, Lehri and Harnai and 21 Union Councils.

### Major Occupations

Livestock, agriculture, and forestry are the major commodity producing sectors.

### Reasons for Above-Mentioned Occupations

The district is one of the hottest areas of the (Indo- Pak). Half of the area is mountainous and remaining is plain. It receives a good average rainfall therefore its main crops are wheat, rice, fruits, vegetables and fodder. The main sources of irrigations are canals and tube wells. There are total 14,000 govt canals, 1,680 tube wells and 1,000 “Karez” and springs.

### Women’s Economic Status

The overall economic situation of women in district Sibi is not satisfactory. The Rural women are engaged in agriculture and livestock and are not paid for their services. In urban areas, women are teachers, health workers, and social workers.

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### **Education**

The district has primary schools 223 for boys, girls' primary school 94, boys' middle schools 13; girls middle schools 13, boys' high schools 19, girls' high schools 08. There is only one intermediate college for boys in Sibi and 2-degree colleges for boys and girls.

### **Health**

There are total 03 hospitals, 23 dispensaries, 04 Rural Health Centers, and 20 Basic Health Units.

### **Social Customs and Traditions**

District Sibi is a tribal area rather than religious. There are Pathans, Jamoot and Balochs are the major ethnic groups. Major languages spoken by these groups are Pashto, Sindhi, Saraiki and Balochi. About 65 % of the district's population lives in rural areas and the rest in Sibi and Harnai. The rural women are heavily burdened with household work and have no right in decision-making. Their mobility is restricted. On the other hand, the urban women find themselves in much better position. Their mobility is less restricted; they have greater access to education and participate freely in family's socio-economic decisions.

### **Political Situation**

We find Sibi as the mixture of different political Parties for instance PPPP, PML (Q), PML (N), Pashtoonkhwa, BNP and JWP. Two times in history the sons of great Nationalist leader Nawab Khair Baksh Marri were elected as MPAs and now the Domki tribe is leading the district because the current District Nazim Mir Ali Mardan Domki and his cousin Mir Bakhtiar Khan Domki has elected as MPA. Marghazani Tribe, Khachak and Barozia tribe have also substantial influence in district.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

This is the largest town in the district and the largest in Balochistan after Quetta. Located in a tribal area, it has higher education rates in urban areas, and poor health and education facilities in rural areas. The town is a stronghold of different political parties, like PPP, PML(N), Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) and PML(Q). Sibi has a large Hindu and Christian

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population. Urdu and Punjabi speaking people are also settled here and their support is crucial for people contesting the Provincial or National Assembly seats.

It was, therefore, important that the DCC should be a strong one, reflecting various characteristics that could take advantage of the cultural diversity of the district. After a great deal of discussion and consultation with the AF Regional Office, a DCC was formed in the presence of AF programme staff, Ashfaq Mengal and Fauzia Shaheen. It consisted of 41 people of whom the majority were women, and included people belonging to different professions.

The DCC formed and shared their work plan with representatives of various political parties, tribal leaders, and previous councillors. Various political parties wanted us to further their cause. We remained neutral. We focused on only one point: that seats reserved for women should be filled. We assured them that we would provide support during the nomination process, training of candidates and formation of panels. Upon hearing this, political parties and influentials agreed.

### **Glimpse 2**

DCC Sibi also worked in Bolan, Harnai and Kohlu. We wanted to show that a woman could contest the seat of *nazim* from Balochistan. Therefore we asked Rehana Hamid Khan, a CAC member, to contest the district *nazim* seat. We also prepared Mohammad Sadiq, another CAC member, to contest the district *naib nazim* (deputy mayor) seat. As soon as political and religious elements found out that we were supporting a woman to stand for election, they started targeting us. Rehana Hamid received threats of kidnapping. Even her family members were pressurised. Our opponents offered that if we withdrew Rehana's nomination for *nazim*, they would support six women to become councillors. We refused their offer.

Rehana Hamid Khan received the votes of 657 union councillors in the district, but lost. The fact that she contested in the elections gave much hope and inspiration to women in other parts of the district. As a result many women participated in elections. Rehana took a keen interest in her campaign and even visited the polling booths on election day.

### **WPLGE 2005**

Hussan Bano Baloch belongs to Pashtoon tribe and her husband is a Baloch. Hussan Bano Baloch is a senior member of CAC Sibi. She was elected as a member Union Council in Local Government Election 2000-

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2001. She was very active member of Union Council. Due to her dynamic struggle development works were made in her Union Council. People of Sibi and her Union Council appreciated the works of Hussan Bano Baloch. Community requested her to take part in Local Government Election 2005 as a Councilor. She accepted the request of the community and submitted nomination paper as councilor in Union Council. Members of CAC, DCC and AFRC Sibi supported her in election campaign. She was elected as a councilor in Union Council and she also announced that she will participate in Tehsil Council election. She submitted her nomination paper for the seat of Tehsil Council and won the Tehsil Council election. When she was elected as Tehsil Councilor she left the seat of Union Council. She arranged a meeting with community and nominated another active CAC member Ms. Rubina Domki for the vacant seat of Union Council. The Community people agreed with her and Ms. Rubina Domki was elected in bye-election.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
34	136	158	114	22	83.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
34	68	74	51	17	75.0%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
21	42	118	41	1	98%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
21	42	56	41	1	98%

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## Zhob

The district is named after the river Zhob. It is a Pashto word which means oozing water. River Zhob is the only river in the country that follows a north-eastern course. It springs from the Khan Metarzai range, passes about 4 kilometres from Zhob city. Zhob city was previously called Fort Sandeman, named after Robert Sandeman, the first Agent to the Governor General of Balochistan. The name was changed on July 30 1976. Zhob district is the second oldest existing district of Balochistan, after Quetta. The principal ethnic group in the district is Pathan/Pashtoon.

Zhob district is situated in the extreme north-east of Balochistan. Afghanistan lies to the north-west, while South Waziristan Agency (FATA) lies to the north of Zhob. The eastern boundary is marked by the Suleiman range and D.I.Khan district. Loralai and Musa Khel district border on the south and Killa Saifullah district on the immediate west. The total geographical area of district Zhob is 20,297 square kms.

The total number of registered voters in the district is 69,465 out of which 41,680 are male and 27,785 are female.

The total population of the district Zhob 275,142 in which male are 149,787 (54.44%) and female are 125,355 (45.56%).

There are no proper statistics on male and female labour force participation. Women are actively engaged as labourer in support of household, agricultural, poultry, cattle and construction duties.

### Social Organisation

The society is predominantly a patriarchal one. The power of decision making is solely in the hands of men. The decisions made by men are binding upon women. A woman is regarded as the honour of family and tribe. When a woman goes against the decision of her male family members, she brings shame on the family.

The centuries old system of exchanging girls for marriage is commonly practiced. It is called "*Sarai*". The system is strongly practiced in semi-nomadic and the lower classes of society. In Sarai, a girl is married to a man in exchange for a bride for her brother. The system brings down

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marriage expenses as no vulvar (bride price) has to be paid. Under the system girls are left with no choice.

### **Religious Beliefs**

The absolute majority of the people living in Zhob district belong to the Sunni sect of Islam. A very small number of Shia people live in the district. There are Syeds living in the district but they belong to Sunni sect. There is no "Imam Bara" found in the district.

The populations of Zhob district are religiously very conservative and strict. There is large attendance in mosques, routine prayers, and religious observance.

The role of the "Mullah" (religious leader) is very important in the performance of rituals. The role of Mullahs is still strong in rural areas where literacy is low.

### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

Men decide on politics and the fate of the family and tribe. The rate of literacy amongst women is very low. Politically women are without any say. Previously, women were discouraged to vote. Women play a minor role in decision-making, but they play an important role in the household and agricultural affairs of the district.

Cases of "*Siakari*", or adultery, are very rarely reported. Because of the tribalism and Pashtoon code of honour, such an incident, if it happens is not reported.

### **Political Parties Participation**

Zhob has always played an active role in the politics of Balochistan. JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian), PML-N (Muslim League Nawaz Group), PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam), ANP (Awami National Party) and Pashtoon Khuwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) are very active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Molvi Mohammad Khan Sherani of JUI (F) won the seat of the National Assembly and Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail of PML (Q) won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Molvi Habib-ur-Rehman of JUI (F).



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Women representation in political parties does not exist, due to social and tribal conventions. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

#### **WPLGE Elections 2001 and 2005 (Fact and Figures)**

During the LG election 2001, 83.3% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, 94.6% women seats were filled.

#### **Health**

The health status of the women in district Zhob is poor compared to the health condition of men. There are two Civil Hospitals in Zhob, 31 dispensaries, 4 Rural Health Care Centers and 17 Basic Health Units.

#### **Education**

In Zhob district, there are 373 boys' primary schools and 58 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 25, 20 for boys and 5 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 18, 16 for boys and 2 for girls. There are two colleges, one for boys and one for girls; one is an intermediate and one is Degree College. Intermediate college is for girls, while Degree College is for boys.

Madrasas exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. The Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

##### **Glimpse 1**

The people of Zhob district in Balochistan are conservative, tribal and religious. The main tribes are the Kakar, Mandokhel and Shirani. While religious parties like the JUI have dominated politics, the PML is also a strong party. Keeping all these factors in mind, AF Quetta decided to send two senior members of the AF team to Zhob at the time of filing of nomination papers for prospective candidates.

On the last day of the filing of nomination papers, the Returning Officer informed us that a woman who wished to contest a seat in union council Apozai was denied her right to do so, because the JUI declared that elections would be boycotted.

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The DCC decided that a dialogue should be held with the notables of the area. Such a meeting was held in Apozai, in which Ashfaq Mengal and Rizwan Tahir represented AF Quetta and DCC members and representatives of various CBOs were also present. The AF staff and the DCC emphasised forcefully that women's participation in the coming elections was imperative if the area wished to progress.

The meeting was very successful as we managed to convince the local elite present. A decision was also taken about which women would contest the six reserved seats in the union councils in Apozai. The next day, women filed nomination papers for all six reserved seats.

### **Glimpse 2**

Zhob is a tribal area, conservative and religious. Religious parties like the JUI have dominated politics. The PML is also a strong party in Zhob City. Pashtoons are the major ethnic group. The DCC was set up and Watan Yar Khilji became the DCC Coordinator.

Problems developed in two union councils, Qamardin Karez and Shafalo, located next to the border with Afghanistan, where two dominant political personalities, Sheikh Al-Hadith and Maulana Allah Dad Kakar resided. Sardar Shah Wali Khan Mardan Zai was the tribal chief.

The DCC Coordinator learnt that Maulana Allah Dad Kakar had forbidden the DCC to mobilise women to contest the elections or even vote. Sardar Shah Wali Khan had also agreed that women would not be allowed to contest.

The DCC Coordinator consulted the AF Team who were in Zhob monitoring the filing of nominations. That night the DCC Coordinator and the two AF staff visited the area notables in their homes to discuss the boycott. Three of these notables agreed with us and arranged a meeting with Sardar Shah Wali Khan.

We met the Sardar at a hotel in Zhob City and the meeting went on for an hour and a half. The Sardar expressed his reservations because women would be stepping out into the public sphere in order to contest and this would lead to immorality. The Sardar said that he would think about the matter and let us know in two days.

After two days, the Sardar held a meeting with the DCC Coordinator and informed him that he had held a consultation with notables belonging to the Mardan Zai and Lone tribes, and they had decided that women would not be allowed to fight the elections. However, women had been

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handpicked to stand uncontested for these seats. The DCC Coordinator was asked to help with the nomination process.

Sardar Shah Wali Khan himself became a member of the DCC, to counter the opposition of others, and held a meeting with the Campaign staff of AF and the DCC. On the last day of the filing of nomination papers, women were nominated for both the union councils in tehsil Kakar Kharasan. In this way women's seats were filled.

## **WPLGE 2005**

### **Glimpse 1**

District Zhob of Balochistan province is located near Afghan border. Religiously and tribally the area is very rigid regarding Women's rights and other issues related to their daily life. The bi-elections of district Killa Abdullah for Provincial Assembly remained a bitter experience for Election Commission of Pakistan. During that election Women polling staff were kidnapped and remained in captive with the local tribes for almost four days. After this experience Election Commission of Pakistan decided not to appoint any Women staff in any sensitive district of the Province.

When the election schedule was announced and duties were assigned to polling staff, the members of DCC Zhob came to know that through out the district male polling staff is appointed. On the other hand joint polling stations were established for both men and women voters. In this situation all the political parties, tribal and religious elders unanimously decided and publicly announced that in these circumstances not a single women will be allowed to cast her vote on Election Day. This situation created a serious problem for the members of DCC working tirelessly for mobilizing women and specially men regarding the importance of women's participation in political process as candidate and voter.

The members of DCC Zhob immediately brought the issue in the notice of AF – Quetta office and asked for help. The issue was discussed with the officials of provincial Election Commission office but nothing could be done.

Before the Elections of Local Government 2005, Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Jam Mohammad Yousaf was visiting different districts of Balochistan as the part of election campaign of his respective political party (PMLQ). During his visit to district Zhob a large public meeting was organised for him by the district leadership of PMLQ. As the representative of NGOs network, coordinator of DCC Zhob Mr. Watan Yar Khilji was also invited in the programme to express his views on the needs

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and development of the area. By availing this opportunity, coordinator DCC in his speech brought the issue of joint polling stations (for male and female voters) and appointment of male polling staff in polling stations in the notice of Chief Minister. After the programme in a separate meeting, Coordinator DCC further discussed the matter in detail with the Chief Minister and also briefed him about the Election Campaign of Aurat Foundation and efforts of DCC in this regard.

At the end of the programme Chief Minister Balochistan issued the order of appointing female polling staff and establishing of separate polling stations for women in district Zhob. He also issued a directive to provincial Election Commission office for quick compliance and making of necessary arrangements required.

The in time intervention of DCC Zhob and favor of Chief Minister provided the opportunity to the women of district Zhob to cast their vote in free and friendly environment with their own consent. On Election Day a large number of women visited different polling stations for casting of their votes.

This in time initiative of DCC coordinator help DCC Zhob in attaining a good reputation and credibility among those sections of the society, who believe that NGOs are working against religion and especially against their tribal values and norms.

## **Glimpse 2**

District Zhob is surrounded by beautiful hill valley of south Balochistan and situated on confluence of Panjab, Balochistan and NWFP, it is surrounded by three province, Zhob possesses two Tehsil, Zhob and Qamardin Karaz. Zhob is entirely tribal and religious region; political decision also taken by tribal, total population of Zhob is about 390,000, where people speak 95% Pashto language. In the East of Zhob Dera Ismail Khan is located in West Killa Saifullah, in North Afghanistan and in south Loralai and Musa Khail district.

The inhabitants of tehsil Kamarudin Karaz have complained in District Coordination office that tehsil Kamarudin Karez T.M.O office has demanded utility bill clearance certificate from female's candidates.

Due to these female candidates confronting great embarrassments in this regard, due to tribal set up in Zhob district, utility bill don't have any concern with females, bills are not issued on female name, DCC coordinator and their four member visited T.M.O office in tehsil Kamraudin to discuss issue with clerk. Office clerk told that these bills are significant

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and females have to give the clearance, on this DCC coordinator told and make them understand but he did not agree, and could not submit female candidates documents, after this DCC member decided to meet with tehsil Kamarudin and district Returning officer, after consultation with them, this issue was solved, on the last date of nomination form female candidates in three union council has submitted their forms. Female candidates had thanked DCC member and said if DCC member could not play its role in this regard, Female did not participate in election.

### **Glimpse 3**

Four candidates complained in District Coordination Zhob office that S.D.O WAPDA Abdul Satar Lashari is not willing to issue clearance certificate to us, According to him that dues are remaining at your elders (Father and Uncle) so the same behavior has adopted with other candidates. The present candidates discussed mutually and decided to send four candidates to district coordination office to bring existing issue in DCC notification and requested them to cooperate and support us in this context, DCC Zhob Coordinator Watan Yar Khilji, joint Coordinator Niamat ullah Khan Batani and Finance Manager Shah Baran Mandokhail took immediate action on the complaint of candidates visited Returning Officer tehsil Zhob Shah Irfan Garsheen and discussed issues of clearance certificate.

Returning Officer told DCC team that utility bills belong are personal of candidates and SDO WAPDA is completely wrong. Returning officer visited SDO WAPDA and when team reached WAPDA house more than forty candidates complained same problem regarding clearance bill which was not issued to them, DCC team discussed issue with S.D.O WAPDA and told about the law that it is illegal not to issue clearance certificate to candidates due to remaining dues of their elders.

In this way SDO discussed issue of clearance certificates to high ups and told them about DCC, after this SDO issued clearance certificates to candidates, this issue was solved and candidates appreciated role of DCC Zhob in this context.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
24	96	92	73	23	76.00%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
24	48	61	42	6	87.50%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
28	56	109	52	4	93%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
28	56	122	54	2	96%

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## Ziarat

The district derives its name from Ziarat (shrine) of Baba Kharwari, a highly esteemed saint of the area who lived here in the early eighteenth century. The shrine is located about nine km south of Ziarat town.

Ziarat district is bordered on the north by the districts of Pishin, Loralai and Killa Saifullah, on the south by Sibi district, on the east by Loralai, and to the west by Pishin and Sibi district.

The founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, spent his last days at Ziarat Residency which is now a National Monument. The local people believe that the Quaid-e-Azam had in fact breathed his last here in Ziarat, contrary to the official reports that he expired in Karachi.

The population in district Ziarat is 33,340; in which male are 17,304 (51.90%) and female are 16,036 (48.10%).

The total number of registered voters in the district is 46,715, in which male voters are 23,417 and women voters are 23,298.

Authentic and complete information on the size and composition of the labour force in the district is not available for any year. Official statistics don't take account of women workers although they constitute a large segment of the district's labour force. Women make an important contribution to crop production, livestock and poultry farming, and post harvest management of crops. A large number of women are engaged in sewing and embroidery work as a part or full time earning activity.

### Social Organisation

Pathans are the major ethnic group in the district, accounting for about 90 percent of total population. The remaining ten percent is comprised of mainly Brahvis and Syeds.

Each community has its own headman, called the Killi Malik / Khan (village headman). Similarly each tribe (comprising several clans/communities) has a Malik.

### Religious Beliefs

Almost all inhabitants of Ziarat district are Muslims and practice the Sunni faith. Men as well as women offer prayers five times a day.

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Women strictly observe purdah, and normally stay inside the house. Most of the young boys and girls attend mosques to learn the Holy Quran. The district has about fifteen madrassa's (religious schools) where boys come for religious education.

#### **Role, Position and Status of Women**

The women have a subordinate position mainly because in Pashtoon society women are considered as a code of honour of men.

Women of the relatively well-to-do and also of middle income families attend only to household work. Their participation in farm activities is not reported. Those belonging to low income households are heavily engaged in domestic work and also assist their men in several farming activities, especially livestock care. In the daily matters of life, women have little or no decision making role. They are not given a share in inheritance nor do they claim any although the Islamic law of inheritance allows women a share in property. Even in such a vital matter as marriage, their consent is not taken.

#### **Political Parties Participation**

Ziarat has its own unique political environment. This environment is mainly dominated by Nationalist Parties, Religious parties and tribal affiliations. JUI (F) (Jamiat Ulma-a-Islam Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman Group), PPP (Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentary), Pashtoon Khawa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP), Awami National Party and PML-Q (Muslim League Quid-E-Azam) are active in the area.

In the election of 2002 Haji Gul Muhammad Dummar won the seat of the National Assembly and Molvi Noor Muhamamd won the Provincial Assembly. The office of District Nazim is headed by Dilawar Khan Kakar.

Women representation in political parties does not exist, due to social and tribal conventions. Their political role is limited to casting their votes.

#### **CCWR 2001 / WPLGE Elections 2005**

During the LG election 2001, 100% of women seats were filled, while in LG election 2005, resulted in filling of 98% women seats in the district.



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## Health

The health status of the women in district Ziarat is poor compared to the health condition of men. There is only one Civil Hospital in Ziarat. Besides this there are 8 dispensaries, 3 Rural Health Care Centers and 14 Basic Health Units.

## Education

In Ziarat district, there are 134 boys' primary schools and 83 girls' primary schools. The number of government middle schools is 18, 11 for boys and 7 for girls. While the number of government high schools is 13, 10 for boys and 3 for girls.

Madrasas exist in very large number in rural as well as in urban areas. Madrasas provide religious education and they are run by religious organisations. Their expenses are borne through individual and community contribution.

There is only one intermediate college for boys.

## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

In 2000-01, tehsil Harnai in Sibi district was a part of district Ziarat. Religious and tribal leaders had a hold on this society and women's participation in politics has been minimal. At the time, the JUI had decided to boycott the elections and was threatening those involved in the Campaign.

In the DCC we prepared a strategy. We formed an eleven-member committee consisting of doctors, lawyers, journalists, CBO members, women who had served in the older system as councillors, and representatives of the Election Commission. The Committee met with leaders from the JUI without success. Finally we organised a Conference. We invited the DC Abdul Rauf Baluch, the AF Provincial Campaign Coordinator, government officials and local women to participate in our Conference. This Conference helped raise awareness about women's issues and paved the way for women to participate in the elections.

Learning that both men and women would attend this Conference, the local religious leaders opposed the idea and warned of serious consequences. The DCC members from Sibi and Harnai then held a meeting with these leaders during the night and convinced them with

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assurances that the men and women would sit separately with a thick curtain between them.

At the end of the Conference, Aurat Foundation staff, some notables of the area, and the DCC members continued discussions with the religious leaders to convince them of the importance of women's representation in Local Government. Several questions were raised concerning the implications of women's participation in the political process, like purdah and women's mobility, and mostly answered by local notables who had been previously briefed by Aurat Foundation staff. In the end the religious elements promised to remain neutral about the Campaign.

Many women were unable to even pay their nomination fees and the DCC paid these women's fees. Ultimately all but two seats reserved for women were filled. AF provided us with a lot of support.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

District Ziarat has beautiful and clean environment. It is famous due to Quaid-e-Azam's Residency, historical Juniper forests and apple orchard. It is situated at 128 kms east from Quetta.

District Ziarat is consisted into two Tehsils, Ziarat and Sinjawi. Both Tehsils have five Union Councils each. During DCC mobilization campaign facilitation camps were set in the premises of Returning Officers of Tehsil Ziarat and Tehsil Sinjawi on 18-20 July 2005. On the first day of submission of nomination papers DCC found out that candidates had voter's lists of General Election but on the other hand Returning Officers had voter's lists of Local Government Elections. After acquiring the nomination papers, DCC and political parties filled the nomination papers according to the lists available with the candidates. At the time of submission, the forms were objected and returned by the R.O. claiming that the serial numbers mentioned on the forms differed from the lists available with him.

Many candidates came to us and described the situation. When we went to R.O., he said that the candidates entered the General Elections serial number and we have Local Government Election lists. DCC members requested to R.O. to provide the serial numbers according to the lists he had, but he refused and said that his work would be affected. We returned to our camp and discussed the matter with the members of political parties. After consulting the DCC members it was decided to contact AF office for the solution. AF said to contact the Election Commission Office at Ziarat. We immediately went to Election Commission Ziarat and

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demanded for the voter's lists. The Election Commission said to write an application for it. Before wasting more time we wrote an application in front of Election Commissioner, but he said to write the application from professional application writer and submit it after attesting from Tehsildar. We immediately went to professional application writer and drafted the application from him and when we reached to Tehsildar's office we knew that he left for home. We went to Tehsildar's house and briefed him about the whole situation. He immediately attested the application. Then we went to Election Commission Office and requested them to provide voter's lists immediately because the time was running out and problems were troubling the candidates. They asked for responsibility, then DCC coordinator presented his Identity Card and Election Commission handed over the lists. We brought the lists to photostat shop and assigned duties of DCC members to quickly photostat the lists. After getting photostat the lists were kept in the facilitation camps for convenience of the people. Next day when candidates tried to submit their nomination forms, R.O. demanded to attest every serial number from the Election Commission Office. Looking into the matter we went to R.O. of Tehsil Ziarat and discussed the problem, and then he started to collect the nomination forms with out attestation. But R.O. Tehsil Sinjawi refused to relax the candidates. The DCC members took the nomination papers from Sinjawi to Ziarat Headquarter which is 70 kms away for the attestation and returned to submit the forms at Tehsil Sinjawi on the last day. If DCC members couldn't resolve the issue in time then all the candidates of five Union Councils of Tehsil Sinjawi and 50 percent candidates of Tehsil Ziarat would not have been able to manage and submit their forms and all would be barred to contest the election.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
10	40	54	32	8	80.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
10	20	31	18	2	90.0%

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Election Results 2005					
General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
10	20	67	20	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
10	20	42	19	1	95%

**NWFP**



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## Abbottabad

### Geographical Location

The total area of the District is 1,969 Sq. KM. The District lies between 33° 50' to 34° 23' North latitudes and 72° 35' to 73° 31' East longitudes. It is bounded by District Mansehra on the North, District Haripur on the West and SouthWest, District Muzaffarabad of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on the east, District Rawalpindi on the South and District Islamabad on the SouthEast. To the East the River Jhelum and to the NorthEast the River Kunhar serves as boundary between District Abbottabad and District Muzaffarabad of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

### Total Area

1,967 sq. km

### Population

928,000 male, female

### District Background

The city of Abbottabad was founded in 1853 by Maj. James Abbott, who was the first Deputy Commissioner of Hazara District. Hazara remained a District right upto its conversion into a Division in 1976. In October 1976, Mansehra was given the status of a full fledged District, which consisted of Mansehra and Batagram Tehsils. Subsequently in July 1991, Haripur Tehsil was separated from Abbottabad and made into a District. Thus only the old Tehsil of Abbottabad remained, which was declared as Abbottabad District.

### Population of District Abbottabad

The total population of District Abbottabad was 881,000 according to the Census of 1998. The annual growth rate of population during 1981-1998 was 1.82%. Population density is 447.7 persons per Sq. KM in March 1998.

The ratio of urban and rural population is 18:82. The gender ratio (i.e. the number of males per hundred females) of the District is 100.2, where it is 94.96 in rural areas and 128.08 in urban areas.

### Education

The literacy rate of the District is 56.61. The table below gives the ratio by gender and rural/urban for 1998 Census.

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Literacy ratio by Gender and Rural/Urban Areas, 1998			
Area	Male	Female	Both Genders
Rural	71.33	34.18	51.85
Urban	85.69	64.71	76.73
All Areas	74.52	39.11	56.61

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According to the 1998 Census, out of the total educated persons 31.60% had passed primary, 19.39% middle and 18.45% matriculation. After matriculation the percentage falls to 5.54% for intermediate, 3.21% for graduate and 1.14% for postgraduate.

The economically active population of the Abbottabad District to the total population comprised about 176,000 souls or 19.99%. Out of this 97.72% are males and 2.28% are females.

#### **Culture of District Abbottabad**

##### **Languages**

Hindko is the major language of the District. According to the 1998 Census, 94.26% of the total population speaks Hindko. Other languages spoken in the District are Urdu- 1.05%, Pushto- 2.22% and Punjabi- 2.30%.

##### **Customs and Traditions**

Abbottabad is well-cultured area, modern and ancient cultures are combined here. Although the young generation is found of modern culture but religious bonds are very tight and majority of the population like the Islamic traditions and follow the path of Allah. The Hujra meetings (sitting) are also included in the customs. The Islamic traditions are outstanding in rural area and have high moral values in the society.

##### **Occupations in District Abbottabad**

A large majority of the population - (60%) depends upon agriculture for their subsistence. However, income from agriculture is too meager to support the population. As a result, many of them have found work in other parts of the country or left for abroad. Other minor professions to which people have taken to, include those of cobblers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, weavers, barbers, washermen, labourers etc.



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### **Abbottabad Public Schools**

#### **Army Burn Hall School and College**

Army Burn Hall College is a premier educational institution in the beautiful valley of Abbottabad. It has two campuses- one is Army Burn Hall College for Girls and other is Army Burn Hall College for Boys.

#### **Army Burn Hall College for Girls**

Its educational spectrum spans from Prep to Intermediate.

#### **Army Burn Hall College for Boys**

Army Burn Hall College for Boys is one of the few residential institutions in the country, which takes keen interest in the intellectual and moral growth of the students.

#### **Pak IT Center**

Pak IT Center has been recently established in order to contribute to the national effort on promoting IT activities in the region.

### **Health Institutions in District Abbottabad**

The District Health Officer (DHO) is overall incharge of all health activities in District Abbottabad, excluding District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Abbottabad, Ayub Medical/Teaching Hospital Abbottabad, and Women and Children Hospital Abbottabad.

#### **Ayub Medical Hospital /Medical College**

Ayub Medical Hospital /Medical College is comprised on 1000 beds and equipped with all modern and Diagnostic facilities like laboratory, X-ray and Dental Units are provided.

#### **Civil Hospitals (CHs)**

The Senior Medical Officer and Women Medical Officer are posted in Civil Hospitals. Diagnostic facilities like laboratory, X-ray and Dental Units are provided. Paramedical staff like Medical Technician and Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) support in providing health facilities. Indoor and outdoor treatment facilities are provided. LHVs also give training to Daies.

**List of Civil Hospitals in the District**

<b>Civil Hospital</b>	<b>Nos. of Beds</b>
1. Boi	20

2. Khairagali	8
3. Khanaspur (Ayubia)	20
4. Nathiagali	16
5. Sherwan	8
6. Police Hospital, Abbottabad	28

#### Rural Health Centers (RHCs)

Rural Health Centers provide the same facilities as the Civil Hospital.

##### List of Rural Health Centers in the District

<b>Rural Health Center</b>	<b>Nos. of Beds</b>
7. Havelian	6
8. Kalpani	4
9. Lora	4
10. Moribadan	4

#### Sub-Health Centers (SHCs)

Sub-Health Centers provide basic health facilities and outdoors-patient treatment.

##### List of Sub-Health Centers in the District

1. Sub-Health Center, Jabri.
2. Sub-Health Center, Seer.

#### Basic Health Units (BHUs)

In Basic Health Units only outdoor patient are treated and Health Education is given. There are 52 Basic Health Units in the District.

#### Civil Dispensaries (CDs)

The Civil Dispensaries provide outdoors-patient treatment only. There are 42 Civil Dispensaries in the District.

#### Mother Child Health Center (MCHC)

Mother Child Health Center provides paramedical as well as mother and child healthcare facilities. There is only one Mother Child Health Center functioning in the District, it is located in Nawashehr.

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### Political Situation

Historically Durrannies, Sikhs and British have ruled this area and never faced any resistance from native. Traditionally Abbottabad has different political outlook as compared to the rest of districts of NWFP. Abbottabad always supported the party who is ruling at the centre. If we look into the women participation in local government, we will find that women councilors of Abbottabad are more dynamic as compared to other part of province. Women participate regularly in the meetings of their concern councils and working side by side with men in all walks of life.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
46	184	386	184	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
46	92	157	80	12	87.0%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
51	102	148	97	5	95.09%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
51	102	148	97	5	95.09%

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## Bannu

### Geographical Location

This southern district of the province is bounded on the north by the tribal area, east by Karak district, south by Lakki Marwat district and west by the South Waziristan Agency and tribal areas. The total area is 1,227 sq km with population density of 552 per sq km and having total population of 677,350.

### Economy

Bannu is a backward district. Most of the people are engaged in labour to earn a living. There is insufficient land for farming and no industries. This forces most of the people to abandon their native district and go to other cities for subsistence. About 45 per cent of the district is irrigated through canal and the rest is dependent on rains. There is no forestation. There is one woolen mill, a sugar and flourmills. There is also a small industrial estate in Bannu with 8 factories. The district is famous for delicious dates and spices. The main occupation of the people of the area is agriculture.

### Educational and Health Facilities

The literacy rate is 32.11%, 50.79% males and 12.18% for females. Primary schools for boys are 650 while for girls there are 414 schools. Middle schools are 43 for boys and 32 for girls. The number of high schools is 34 for boys, 6 for girls. The higher secondary schools for boys are 4 and 2 for girls. There are four colleges for boys and two for girls. There are 4 hospitals, 8 Rural Health Centers (RHCs), 45 Basic Health Units (BHUs) and 25 dispensaries.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Tribal customary laws and traditions are manifested in everyday life. Women are confined to the home and if they do step out have to be in 'purdah'. The Nikkah ceremony takes place at the house of the bridegroom, not the bride's. The death news is communicated through the village barber. The women visiting the bereaved family give some money to the eldest female member of the bereaved family.

### Political Situation

Bannu is the stronghold of JUI (F) while the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest group is of the PML (N) and nationalist parties. The family politics factor has also strong

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roots. Taliban factor is also very common here as out of 49 union councils 25 UCs are in the FR Bannu. There are two tehsil councils in the district. Influential contractors basically direct the district politics, which is, also present in religions groups. The National Assembly seat mostly remains with JUI (F) while same is the case with four provincial assembly seats. The only Senator Professor Ibrahim Khan belongs to MMA. There is one woman MP Riffat Jabeen JUI (F) on reserved seats from the district. The district Nazim's Muhammad Azam Durrani political affiliations are with JUI (F). Political figures of the areas are Akram Khan Durrani of JUI (F) and Malik Nasir Khan of PML (N).

### **Women Participation in Politics**

Not much attention is given to the girl education because of lack of awareness and dominance of traditions. For cultural constraints, nearly 90% of the women do not vote. They do not work outside their homes. The customs and traditions are obstacles to their political participation. In 2001 elections 53.8% women reserved seats were filled. In the local government elections 2005 the district was divided into 49 with 196 seats reserved for women while 176 women were elected at the union level bringing the percentage to 89.7. The total number of registered voters in Bannu is 273,965 out of which men are 154,891 and women are 119,074.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

In Bannu religious groups distributed handbills titled "What is Aurat Foundation?". This handbill claimed that in exchange for dollars these people want our honour and faith. It also claimed that a particular group was given Rs 9,800,000 to buy votes and women were being encouraged to be shameless and vulgar by participating in elections. It said that Aurat Foundation was training women to be politically active and its women went from door to door and gave other women, who were illiterate, wrong advice. They tried to convince women to vote and contest elections. They were trying to gain control in the entire district. The handbill claimed that religious parties had reduced their plans to dust.

In this manner, religious parties tried to warn people against AF and other NGOs. All religious leaders/maulvis were requested to use the

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loudspeakers in the mosques to publicise the negative motives of NGOs. People were warned that if they neglected to fight NGOs, Muslims would not have control over the area, rather Jews would govern Bannu. While responding to this negative propaganda, local campaign activists held a dialogue with religious elements. Even though opposition to the election campaign did not entirely end, its intensity lessened. In some areas ulema responded very positively.

### **Glimpse 2**

Women's participation in politics was an experiment for the people of Pakistan. We faced many problems while conducting our Campaign. We encountered severe opposition from political and religious quarters. Religious and political parties decided to boycott the elections and harassed anyone who chose to participate. They said that the government that came into power as a result of these elections would be one dominated by NGOs and their foreign donors. They declared that this system was born out of Jewish and Christian ideologies.

Women candidates and their supporters faced character assassination from political and religious elements. Minarets of mosques were used to broadcast a message of bigotry. Women who stepped out of their homes to campaign were labelled as women who lacked moral character. Candidates and their supporters received threats from these quarters. We even received death threats and women were told that they would be kidnapped if they dared to step out of their homes.

### **WPLGE 2005**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Shama Gul belongs to an educated family. The family considers the employment of women as something bad. Shama Gul was an AFRC manager due to which conflict was present from the beginning. As Shama Gul was already involved in AFRC / DCC activities so she desired to take part in the election. She shared it with DCC members but they advised her to get permission from the family first. Except the parents, all the family members did not give permission; rather threaten her that if she took part in the election, they all will have a social boycott with her. But ignoring them, Shama Gul decided to contest in the election with the help of her parents and DCC members. The DCC and parents of Shama Gul gave confidence to an educated girl from educated family to contest in the election. She used to go to the Courts on her own and submitted the nomination papers herself. She got involved in the election campaign

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through progressing her thoughts and aims. She made pamphlets, banners, used telephone and ran a successful campaign. During all this, there was a complete boycott by the family. The election was held and Shama Gul was elected as a District Councilor, which was a good and successful experience.

When the election for District Nazim was about to be held and the talks about the deal (selling of votes) started, she was first to confront it by making women aware about it that we will not sell our votes at any cost and will use the vote according to our conscience. Now Shama Gul is known as a successful councilor at district level and is capable of talking about the system, in District assembly and is now known in administration as well, so the family is getting closer, and tries to find the ways to get their things done. The major success of Shama Gul is opening of computer laboratory in girls' school of her area, implanting pressure pump in different areas, and providing jobs for two or three persons and proved that women can work along with men. This created a new spirit among women. Shama Gul guides the other district members as a district councilor and desires to participate in MPA election in future.

### **Glimpse 2**

In the 2001 local government's election due to the unawareness of the system, Ramazan, and the Ulema opposition women representation was almost nil. Despite the fact with the efforts of the DCC Bannu on total 240 women reserved seats 126 women were elected and the results were 50 percent. In 2005 the ratio of the women participation was far better. In district Bannu for the first at the union council level two women decided the contest election at union council Nazim and Naib Nazim seats. The mastermind behind this decision was Waheeda Zafar who belongs to an educated family and she knew that in this system there are good chances for women to come forward. She had also a target of raising voice for women rights at the district level. She consulted with her family about this decision but apart of her immediate family members all other confronted her decision. But she was stick to her decision and decided that she would take part in the election in an effective manner. When the DCC control room came to know about Waheeda Zafar they hold a meeting and assured her of their support. Waheeda Zafar and Shamim Zaman submitted their nomination papers for the nazim and Naib nazim seats respectively. When her family members come to know they pressurised

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and threatened her that because of her decision the family vote bank will be divided.

Waheed Zafar told them as you people have remained nazim and always women supported you so its good time that you should give us a chance. They were not listening to her and continued threatening her and were using unfair means. On the other hand DCC members were conducting meetings with the people of the area and were busy in making contacts, which help awakened them and they started talking that they would help an omen to win the election. The DCC formed two committees in Union Council Bazar Ahmad Khan, (having a population of about 16,000 and comprises of 22 Kotkajaat) and through this motivated the local in favor of these women candidates. Waheeda Zafar and Shamim Zaman submitted their nomination papers by themselves. Both candidates prepared banners and pamphlets for campaign but the opponent family members were bent upon teasing them and removing their pamphlets and banners and even the DCC members were being threatened on telephone.

On this the DCC replied we are not against a specific group we raise voice for the women rights and they have a rights to contest elections Now if you are using negative tactics it morally or lawfully a crime. We provide support to all women candidates equally and don't want to become a cause of any loss to any group. On this the opponent group convinced and the remaining campaign was a bit smooth. But on the polling day at different polling stations these women candidates were being harassed. Although the result was not in favors of Waheeda Zafar but she was satisfied that she has proved that women can take part equally as men and women can also become a successful politician. It also gave courage to other women in the district and for the first time in the history of Bannu and women took part in the nazim elections.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
40	160	120	88	72	55.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
40	80	57	41	39	51.2%



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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
49	98	159	90	8	91.83%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
49	98	138	86	12	87.75%

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## Batagram

### Geographical Location

The district has Kohistan on the north, Mansehra in the east, Kala Dhaka tribal area in the south, and Shangla on the west. The headquarters is at Batagram Town at a distance of 75 km from Mansehra on the Silk Highway. The area is 1,507 sq km; population 307,000 and main occupation is farming.

### Economy

The economy is agriculture based. Livestock and forests contribute to the economy. The district has unexplored mineral resources and occurrence of precious and semi-precious stones have been reported by the locals. Marble mines are under exploration. A good number of men work abroad. The major trading centers are at Banna, Thakot, Kuza Banda, Shamlai and Batagram Town.

### Education and Health

Literacy rate is 18.31% (29.40% men Vs 6.48% women). The educational institutional supervision is far from satisfactory. Low enrolment, teacher's absenteeism and misuse of school buildings by the landowners are common problems. The government education and health infrastructure includes one degree college as many higher secondary school, 21 high schools (girls, 1), 34 middle schools (girls, 9), 504 primary schools (girls, 166), 157 Mosque schools, 3 Maktab schools and one JICA Model School. The district has one hospital, 3 Rural Health Centers, 39 Basic Health Units, and 3 leprosy centers. Most of the BHUs and RHCs are without doctors. Private Doctors practice in the area.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Marriages are held within the tribe. Early age and exchange marriages are very common. In case of deaths, the area people serve food to those who come to offer condolence to the aggrieved family. The bride price and Swara customs are practiced in the area

### The Earthquake

In year 2005, a devastating earthquake hit parts of Azad Kashmir and NWFP. Battagram was one of the districts of the province that was hit by the quake that killed estimated 73,000 people and caused huge material

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loss. The relief efforts launched in the area after the disaster helped the people with reconstruction and rehabilitation. The women had the mobility problem in the district and even a great majority of them were without the national identity cards. They got the cards after the October 8 2005 earthquake as these were a requirement for the families that wanted to avail themselves of the post-earthquake relief. Thus a great tragedy that befell the area in the form of the earthquake also became a source of some greater mobility for women.

#### **Political Situation**

The main political parties in the district are JUI (F), JUI (S), PPP, PML (Q), ANP, JI and Tehreek-e-Insaaf. The noted political figures are Yousaf Tarand of PML (Q) and Ayaz Khan of JUI (F). There is one NA seat and two PA seats. All the three seats are with the JUI (F). There is no senator from the area and no woman MPA. The district nazim IhsanUllah Khan is from the MMA (JUI- F). NWFP Minister for Mineral Resources Mr Ayaz Khan is from this district.

#### **Women Participation in Politics**

The district does not have a friendly atmosphere as far as women political participation is concerned. In the LG polls 2001, the number of registered voters was 133,902 ((Men 76,461 and Women: 57,441). There were 20 UCs. The seats reserved for women stood at 120. Only three nomination papers were filed by women of whom one was elected, representing 0.8 per cent success rate. The situation improved in the LG polls 2005 as 77 women filed nomination papers and of them 36 made it to UCs, representing 45 per cent success rate. The number of women in the DC and two the 2 TCs are nil. The voters turn-out was 38 percent. All this was done despite an agreement struck during the LG polls 2005 to disenfranchise women. The civil society put pressure on the government to move into action and Minister for Women Development had rushed to the area to pave the way for women enfranchisement. The presence of the MMA women in the National Assembly and provincial assembly left no reason for the opponents of the women participation in the political process. Extension in the date for nomination papers filing and monitoring of all the development by the Election Commission of Pakistan led to entry of a greater number of women in the local councils this time.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

There are 5 districts in Hazara division. District Batagram is the fourth district of Hazara division, which is located on Shahr-e-Resham. It is 100 kilometers towards north from the divisional headquarter. District Batagram is very backward from literacy point of view. Poverty is at its peak due to lack of business and other economic activities. Mostly people depend on agriculture. Like literacy Batagram is very backward politically. In order to make women's political role effective local social organisations formed a network with the help of Aurat Foundation in the year 2000-2001. The network was named as District Coordination Committee. In the elections of 2001 only one woman was elected unopposed from Union Council Allai, because in District Batagram women were barred to contest and vote. Later on neither the government nor any other organisation provided her funds and Khans and other elders of the area created many problems for her. No one helped her.

In 2005 with the help of Aurat Foundation and untiring efforts of the DCC 77 women from different Union Councils of Tehsil Batagram got ready to contest the elections. Some of these women faced a lot of problems.

Naz Parwara of UC Ajmera came to submit her papers on women peasant and worker seat. The village people got furious over that as it was decided in the Jirga that the said woman would be exiled from the village. Her own house was captured and the woman was exiled from the village. Naz Parwara contacted DCC Batagram. DCC took Naz Parwara to Batagram Police Station, registered FIR and provided her security. Government arranged 2 policemen for her security. She was even barred to ask for votes.

In another case many hurdles were created for Dishad Begum of village Jeesol to prevent her to participate in the elections. People pelted stones at her house. She contacted DCC Batagram for help. The DCC and TCC members called upon a Jirga in the village of Dishad Begum and discussed the matter with the elders. The elders told the DCC members that the Ullema have asked them to do so. The DCC member Fida Hussain Khan met with the Ullema and on listening to him the Ullema issued the judgment that the lady can contest the elections and ask for votes by keeping herself within the boundaries of Islam.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
20	80	2	2	78	2.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
20	40	1	1	39	2.5%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
20	40	33	18	22	45%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
20	40	33	18	22	45%

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## Buner

### Geographical Location

Buner is a Sansikrat word, which means forest. It seems to be true because it is rich in forestry. The total area is 1,865 Sq Km and the population is 506,048 according to the 1998 census report. The district is encircled by hills on all sides. On the north it is bounded by Swat and Shangla, on the west Malakand and Mardan, on the south by Swabi and on the east by River Indus, Haripur and Mansehra Districts.

### Economy

The economy is agro-based. Virginia Tobacco is the cash crop. Most of the people are involved in agriculture and forestry. Women participate actively in the agricultural sector. There are 70 to 80 marble factories. This has provided a source of livelihood to a considerable number of people. Degree holder women prefer to become teachers. A considerable number of people are in the foreign countries, especially in Malaysia and Arab states. The foreign exchange sent by these expatriates has brought about a positive change in the lives of the people.

### Education

Literacy ratio is 22%. The male literacy rate is 38%, while the women literacy rate is 7%. The government runs most of the schools however; there are some private schools. Most of the people are against women education beyond primary level. There is no college for girls in the entire district. There is one college for boys, two higher secondary schools for boys, 37 high schools for boys and 2 for girls, 35 middle schools for boys and 6 for girls, 337 primary schools for boys and 149 for girls, 79 mosque schools for boys and two JICA Model schools for girls. The area has over 100 small and big deeni madaris (seminaries) as well.

### Health

Limited health facilities are available in the district. People prefer to go to other cities like Mingora (Swat) and Peshawar for medical treatment. There is one district headquarters hospital, 3 civil hospitals, 2 Rural Health Centers, 20 Basic Health Units, 8 dispensaries, 1 TB center, 3 leprosy centers, and one drug Addict Center.

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### **Social Customs and Traditions**

The joint family system is intact. Religious conservatism persists. The Maliks and Khans are still powerful. Socially the area is male dominated and woman plays negligible role in decision-making. Today Jirga system is still present but not as effective as before. Swara and Honour Killing are in practice.

### **Political Situation**

Largest political parties are ANP and JI. Culturally religious factor matters and that is why women barring from taking part in election is agreeable for all the political parties. Likewise women casting ratio is very low. The speaker of NWFP Provincial Assembly belongs from Buner (JI). There are three members of Provincial Assembly one from JI i.e. Habib-ur-Rehman, one from JUI i.e. Gorsan Lal, one from PPP (S) i.e. Jamshed Khan and one MNA from PPP (S) i.e. Sher Akbar Khan.

### **Women Political Situation**

Women were not allowed to take part in election or electoral process. In Buner the situation was not favorable for women representation. Religious elements were also active and made agreements to bar women from taking part in the electoral process. In the LG Elections 2000, in Buner total number of UCs are and total number of seats were 162 against which 333 nominations were filed. As a result 151 seats were filled and 11 remained vacant with overall result of 93.2%. In LG Elections 2005 total number of seats were 108 against which 198 nominations papers were filed and 96 were elected as councilors with 12 vacant seats and overall result of 88.88% There are two tehsils named Sware and Daggar .There are 4 councilors in Sware Tehsil and 5 in Daggar Tehsil where as there are 9 District councilors.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Rashida Bibi came from a very backward area, Changli, in district Buner. When the government announced that elections would be held according to the new Local Government system, she decided to contest them. She was the first to submit her nomination papers.

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The majority of the people in this region were unwilling to accept women in politics and they expressed displeasure over her decision by taking out rallies to stop her from contesting the elections. Announcements were made in mosques that no women would be allowed to contest and that women's participation in politics was unacceptable since it was against the traditions and customs of their community. They wrote letters in this regard to the Governor of NWFP and high ranking government officials, but received no response.

However, Rashida Bibi bowed to the pressure and withdrew her nomination papers but she did not lose heart and immersed herself in social work in her community.

When by-elections were held in 2004, the same people who had opposed her previously, approached her and asked her to contest. This change occurred for a number of reasons. In 2002, AF had established district level Resource Centres for women councillors. The *nazims* had visited the Resource Centre in Buner and had realised its benefits as well as the benefits of having women councillors. Secondly, AF had again run a mobilisation campaign for the by-election and motivated women to stand for election. Finally, the male councillors realised that having empty seats in the council meant that they did not have the same access to funds that other councils did. As a result, the district *nazim* himself filed Rashida Bibi's nomination papers and played an active role in her campaign.

### **Glimpse 2**

Buner is one of the less developed districts in northern NWFP. In earlier elections, women had not been allowed to contest in most of the areas of the district. The Campaign activities in the district motivated the people, especially the women, to contest elections. Despite the campaign against women's participation, 93.2 per cent of the seats reserved for women were filled.

Bakhtiana, the 45 year old wife of Naseeb Gul a daily wage earner, hailed from a poor family of village Sunni Gram, union council Rega. She had three sons and two daughters. Bakhtiana worked as domestic help in the houses of Khans and Maliks to supplement the meagre income of her husband.

When the Local Government election schedule was announced, the Campaign was launched in Buner. Bakhtiana attended the activities of the DCC and was motivated to contest the elections when she was told that after being elected as a councillor, she would get funds to work for the



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development of her village and thus have a good opportunity to serve the people. She filed her nomination papers.

She got the information material and the AF produced audio-cassettes about the electoral process from the DCC and handed these to the people in her village. The cassettes had a lot of information and the people listened to them.

This turned religious elements in the village, especially those from the Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi, Ashaat-e-Tauheed and Jamaat-e-Islami against her. They accused her of furthering the NGOs' agenda by bringing their cassettes to the village and spreading obscenity. The people in the *hujras* and mosques also threatened her husband with a social boycott and even wanted to expel the family from their rented house. They feared that she would get other women of the area to follow the NGO.

The hostile attitude of the people influenced her husband who became averse to the idea of her contesting the elections. He told her that she had become an agent of the United States and the Jews, by pocketing large sums of money she had received from the NGO people.

Bakhtiana informed the DCC members about all this. The DCC members met her husband and told him that after election his wife would become a public representative and get honoraria that would help the family financially. The argument worked well.

Bakhtiana made personal contacts with the people by visiting the homes of the voters and even her opponents. She unveiled her agenda before them and told them that she just wanted to work for the development of her village. She used the cassettes that she had distributed to the villagers, containing songs to motivate women to take part in the Local Government elections. She asked them to carefully listen to the songs and judge for themselves whether they furthered the agenda of either the United States or the Jews. Apart from making personal contacts, she had election posters printed and put up at different sites.

But the religious groups refused to budge. They said that the social boycott of her family would be done if she did not withdraw the nomination papers. "Do not come to our houses to mislead our women," they told her rudely. But the unbowed Bakhtiana announced she would contest the polls, without bothering about the treatment she received from them.

On 2 July 2001, election day, she reached the women's polling station along with other women, but the people did not allow her to cast her ballot. They told her that they had tolerated her campaign, but now she had also

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brought other women with her for polling, strengthening their notion that she was an NGO agent. They asked her to go back as this was against their cultural norms, and even threatened her with violence.

The mob also insulted her husband and threatened to kill him along with his wife if he did not stop Bakhtiana from taking part in the polls. They told her husband that after becoming a public representative, Bakhtiana would be under the influence of the westernised NGOs, adding she would move freely outside her home, unaccompanied by him.

The DCC members assured her husband that all this was not correct and that he would be allowed to accompany his wife whenever and wherever he deemed necessary. This dispelled his apprehension and he decided not to succumb to the pressure.

Bakhtiana and the four other women left the polling station, disappointed because they had been unable to exercise their right to vote. But when the polling results were declared, everyone, including Bakhtiana, was shocked because she had got 558 votes, the second highest among the women in the 27 union councils of Buner district. Sabroon of union council Soray polled the highest with 1,149 votes. People came to greet Bakhtiana on her victory.

Her initiative to make personal contacts with the voters by visiting their houses, support from the DCC members who convinced her husband to allow her to contest, and the proper use of the election-related material ensured her success in the polls.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

District Buner is the most backward area of NWFP Province. Its population is approximately 600,000. The education among women is almost nil. The District comprises of two Tehsils and 27 Union Councils. A poor woman belonging to the village "Mini Garaam" of Union Council "Rega" of the District, who works in the homes of the village elites and influential. Her name is Bakhtiana, nick name Junwarey and wife of Bakht Rawaan nickname Naseebi. Her age is 45 year and has 3 sons and 2 daughters. When DCC was to be formed for the Local Government Election Campaign, Bakhtiana came to the first meeting with Naheed, a teacher of the skill center. During the meeting a discussion was done on the political participation of women and stress was given on women's involvement. After the meeting she took the AF's election material and cassettes and distributed these in houses.

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There were people in the village such as "Jamaat-e- Islaami", "Ishaat-e- Tauheed Basta" and "Tehreek-e-Nifaaz-e-Shariat-e-Muhammadi" who were against NGOs so they got against her. The people of that area told her husband that your wife has been given money by the NGO so that is why she is working for women participation in the election. He was asked to stop her or they will have a social boycott with them and they will be disowned from the village. Bakhtiana's husband asked her that people say that you are given money by the NGO so that you prepare women to contest election and you talk about women's vote? Bakhtiana replied that there is no such kind of thing and neither NGOs have paid me nor I am working to unveil/expose women. Bakhtiana contacted DCC members. The DCC Coordinator Hakeem Zada, Syed Qamber Bacha, Fazal Ghani and Naheed met Bakhtiana's husband Bakht Rawaan nickname Naseebi and told him that Government has fixed 6 seats for women at Union Council Level. The women will also participate in the rest of Union Councils of the District, so he should not worry its government work. Her husband agreed to it. Bakhtiana contested in the election and got succeeded. All the political groups in the village participated to elect her.

### **Glimpse 2**

Union council Gagra is of significance in tehsil Wari of District Buner because most of the residents of the area belong to elite section of the society. People are working in government and non-government departments and many are working in agriculture sector.

One of the DCC members, Fida Hussain, motivated a social worker Akbar Bibi daughter of Saeed Jari of village Kalyani to contest the elections. Fida Hussain facilitated process of filling of nomination papers, fees and preparing people to be proposer. When Akbar Bibi reached home after filling the papers she had to face the opposition from her family specially her elder son Mohammed Razzak. He said no body has done this before in our family, and women are not seen with respect. He was of the opinion that women who were elected in previous election were not given respect. Due to these reasons he did not want her to contest the elections. DCC coordinator was informed about this.

DCC meeting was called and a two member committee of Hakimzada and Fida Hussain was formed to meet the family of Akbar Bibi. These members met with the family talked to them telling them that religious parties have also filed their women candidates for the election and there is nothing wrong in this, they also gave the example of Samia Rahil Qazi

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daughter of Qazi Hussain Ahmed who is the member of the National Assembly. They told them that government wants women to come in decision making and women from elite class are also contesting election. The family agreed to support her. Although Akbar Bibi took part in the election but she did not win.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
27	108	199	106	2	98.1%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
27	54	134	52	2	96.3%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
27	54	114	50	4	92.59%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
27	54	76	49	5	90.74%

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## Charsadda

### Geographical Location

Charsadda was the first capital of Gandhara – the name given to northern Punjab, parts of NWFP and eastern Afghanistan. Its ancient name was Pushklavati (The lotus city). The district is bounded by Malakand district on the north, Mardan district on the east, Nowshera and Peshawar districts on the south and Mohmand Agency on the west. Its total area is 996 sq km, with a total population of 1,022,364 people.

### Economy

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. Some feudal lords (Khans) have control over large parcels of land. Industry could not flourish here despite the fact that the district has good communication system and is situated in the vicinity of the major cities like Peshawar and Mardan as well as the tribal areas. Locally made coarse cloth called Khantaah and foot wears (Chappal) is also a source of income.

### Educational and Health Facilities

The literacy rate is not so promising (31%). The male literacy rate is 46% while that of female is 14%. The educational set-up is far from satisfactory. There are only three-degree colleges. Only 30% of the girls, who pass their primary education make it to the high schools and only 10% of those who complete high school education, enter the college.

There are 5 government-run hospitals, 10 dispensaries, 3 Rural Health Centers, 43 Basic Health Units and 2 Mother and Child Health Care Centers. Besides this doctors also do private practice in the area. The people of the district mostly go to Peshawar for medical facilities.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The people of the district are orthodox Pukhtoons, firm followers of Pukhtoon Wali codes, i.e., honour, goodwill, revenge, hospitality and conflict with cousins. Discriminatory customary practices like Swara and bride price are practiced here.

### Political Situation

The main political parties are ANP, PPPP, PPP-Sherpao, JUI (F), JI, PML (Q), PML (N) and Mazdoor Kisan party (Bangash group and Afzal Khamosh group). The renowned political families are Wali Khan and

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Sherpao families. The federal Interior Minister, Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao and ANP chief and Senator Mr. Asfandiyar Wali are from this district.

Two seats are for NA one each held by MMA and PPP-S.

The PA seats are 6. Three by PPP-S, one PML (Q) and two MMA, JUI (F). Zila Nazim Nasser Mohammad Khan is from PML (Q).

### **Women Participation in Politics**

The people of Charsadda are politically more aware than other districts. Women usually cast their vote and contest the polls. Begum Nasim Wali the former president of ANP is from this district. Women participation was encouraging in both the LG polls. Total registered voters in Charsadda are 407,037 out of which 224,119 are men and 182,918 are women. Where as total turn out in the 2005 LG elections was 41.56%.

Total UCs in the district in 2001 LG polls were 49 with total 294 women seats for which 514 total nominations were filed. A total of 287 women were elected as councilors at the UC level in 2001. In comparison to this in 2005 for 49 UCs total seats for women were 196 for which 395 nominations were filed. In 2005 a total of 193 women were elected as Union councilors. The percentage of elected women councilors at UC level in 2001 was 97.6 %, which increased to 98.4 % in 2005. There are 16 women each in both district and tehsil councils.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Charsadda was one of the most politically volatile areas in NWFP. As in Mardan and Swabi, where the religious groups along with local leaders of the PPP, ANP, PML and the Tehrik-e-Insaf (TI), had strongly resisted women's political participation both as voters and candidates in the elections, opposition was expected in Charsadda in the fourth phase of the elections.

Keeping in mind the resistance by the conservative sections of society in Swabi and Mardan, a special strategy was adopted to counter the anticipated resistance. Some individuals, enjoying close ties with the most vocal religious leaders, were inducted into the DCC.

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This not only provided the chance to these leaders to have a better understanding of Campaign activities, but also helped in bridging communication gaps between civil society and religious groups. Through these common friends, the religious circles got accurate information about Campaign activities, leaving little chance for any misunderstanding. At the same time, the Campaign staff was in a position to adapt its strategies in time by getting feedback from the religious groups.

### **Glimpse 2**

People faced opposition from religious groups and ulema in various parts of the province. In some cases fatwas were issued banning women from participating in politics. In Charsadda a fatwa was issued in Jamia Masjid Bigal Baba Ji Sardheri that women's participation in politics was repugnant to the principles of Islam. According to the fatwa, women's participation as contestants, voters and even those who supported women candidates in any way were declared enemies of Islam. People were requested not to extend any kind of support to women candidates.

The DCC members encouraged some close relatives of the religious leaders to contest the elections. This turned out to be a powerful argument in their hands to counter those who opposed the new Local Government or the reservation of 33 per cent seats for women.

### **Glimpse 3**

Farhat Jabeen lives in Mirzagaan village in district Charsadda. Hailing from a family well-known for its political and social work, she had long worked for the welfare of the women of her area but felt she needed a better platform from which she could work more effectively.

In Charsadda it is very difficult for a woman to take part in the political process. When Local Government elections were announced in 2000, Farhat decided to contest one of the seats reserved for women. Her family members strongly opposed her decision on the grounds that she had been diagnosed with cancer and her illness would get worse because of her hectic activities during and after the elections. Despite this, Farhat was determined to contest. Acknowledging her keenness, she was allowed to do so.

During her campaign she met the Charsadda DCC that was working in the district for motivating women to take part in elections. After winning her seat and becoming a member of the union council, Farhat laid the foundation of the Women and Children Development Organisation

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(WCDO) and was elected its chairperson. As chairperson she signed a project with SPO on raising awareness about violence against women. Farhat became very busy in welfare activities which resulted in further deterioration of her health, but she did not let it become an obstacle to the accomplishment of her mission. After being introduced to Aurat Foundation and its activities for women rights, she started visiting the CAC office in Charsadda regularly and became a permanent CAC member. She participated in different seminars and workshops organised by Aurat Foundation. Through those programmes she developed strong linkages at the district level.

By using those linkages she formed the women's wing, comprising 150 women, of the Awami National Party in district Charsadda. It was an impossible task which she made possible due to her personal efforts. She was made the district president of the women's wing by the party. Begum Nasim Wali Khan, then provincial head of ANP, awarded Farhat Jabeen the Pukhtunkhwa Qaumi Award at a party convention in December 2003 for her services to the party. Acknowledging her efforts, she was taken into the Provincial Working Council.

As a councillor, Farhat had four resolutions passed for setting up sewing centres as vocational centres for women. She also had a resolution passed for digging a hand pump and another for constructing water channels in her union council.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

DCC Charsadda in Tehsil Shabqadar has arranged training with the collaboration of Roohjana for MC one and MC two Shabqader women candidates. . The local political and religious parties' leaders and moulveis opposed to it and reacted negatively as in the area it was already decided that the women would not allowed to take part in the elections nor they will have a chance to cast their votes. It was also decided that if somebody violates this decision his house would be burnt and he will pay a fine of Rs. two million and there would be no protection for those women who would take part in the elections. This training was to be monitored by Asad Ali and Qudsia Usman as well but at the neck of the hour we were informed by MC one and MC two union councils focal persons Roohjana that on training the reaction is very negative and women candidates are reluctatnt to come so this training should be called off.



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On this DCC Charsadda Coordinator Sadiq Ullah, Joint Coordinators Farman Ullah, Zahoor Ahmad, other members Zahir Ullah, Nasim Jan, Inam Ullah and Aurat Foundation's Asad Ali and Qudsia Usman after mutual consultation decided that we should hold a press conference against such decisions. DCC Charsadda Coordinator Sadiq Ullah with the help of Press Club Charsadda Haji Faiz Muhammad gathered the journalist at Press Club Charsadda and informed us on telephone to come. After reaching Press Club Charsadda we hold a press conference against such agreements to stop women from casting their votes and their participation in the polls and in reaction burning of their houses or murdering them. We demanded of the NAB, president of Pakistan, chief minister N.W.F.P, federal and provincial election commissioners that election results in such union councils should be stopped where such agreement have been made or polls should not be held in such union councils. After our press conference those people got frightened and they were not coming openly as they were afraid that the elections may be postponed in their union councils or the results may be stopped. But they were busy doing the same behind the curtains. Because of their now not coming openly the DCC Charsadda succeeded in holding of four trainings and there was no reaction and it benefited DCC and all the women reserved seats of Tehsil Shabqader were filled.

## **Glimpse 2**

In district Charsadda the acquisition of attested certificates of vote serial number of the contestants, their proposed/ suggested persons and the names of those who second them, from the office of Assistant Election Commissioner was a very difficult task for the contestant especially the women contestants. Because the load of 49 Union Councils of 3 Tehsils of District Charsadda (Charsadda, Tangi and Shabqadar) lies on the single office of Assistant Election Commissioner which is at district level. Moreover the staff of the Office of Assistant Commissioner used to take Rs. 300 as fee for the attested certificate.

When the Aurat Foundation's team that included Asad Ali and Qudsia Usman visited the camp of District Charsadda (Information camp), the DCC Coordinator Sadiq Ullah told them that the acquiring the attested certificates of vote serial number of the contestants and those who proposed them is a major problem and Rs 300 is asked from each participator. At this Asad Ali of Aurat Foundation said that this does not happen in other districts and you should inquire as why it happens. So the

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DCC Coordinator Sadiq Ullah took along Advocate Hidayat Ullah and Farman Ullah, both were also members of DCC. Talked about the attested certificates of vote serial number of the contestants, their proposed/ suggested persons and the names of those who second them, then Shuaib Khan said what's the need of it, if the contestant/ participator and the person who proposed puts a photo copy of the voter list that has his / her votes.

After meeting with District Returning Officer Shuaib Khan, we three went to the office of Election Assistant Commissioner Charsadda and talked about the attested certificates and their attainment for Rs. 300. He quickly responded saying that we have not asked anyone to get the attested certificate from us and pay for it. Rather they are demanding themselves and are paying money happily. We asked the staff of Election Assistant Commissioner not to take Rs 300 from contestants / participators and told them that if DCC members found out that the staff of Election Assistant Commissioner is taking Rs 300 from people then we will take complaint against you to high ups. When the condition of attested certificate was ended, the people got relaxed and paid thanks to DCC Charsadda that you released us from the problem.

### **Glimpse 3**

The Returning Officers in district Charsadda were demanding NOCs of different departments and banks from the candidates at the time of nomination papers filing. Not only women but men were also disturbed due to that because the staff of those departments and banks was busy in their own work so how could they give attention to those people. Those who had some known person in the department or in the bank they give them the NOCs but most people were much disturbed due to that problem. In the meanwhile 4 women Mst Rukhsana, Mst Sakina Hanif, Mst Saeeda Begum and Mst Gul Raja came to the facilitation camp of Charsadda DCC and told that no electricity or gas meter or telephone is registered with our names nor we have any loan from any bank yet these people (courts) are demanding NOCs from WAPDA, public health, Sui gas department and from all banks.

The DCC coordinator immediately called a meeting with DCC members Farman Ullah, Zahir Ullah, Jan Parvez advocate and Javed Bukhari advocate on that issue and held discussion on what to do. All the members suggested that we should meet the Returning Officer Shoib Khan. The said issue was explained to Shoib Khan in the meeting for

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which Shoib Khan gave a suitable solution and said that not only women but even if men candidates write a stamp paper and admit in that there are no payable arrears of government of semi government department on me and that I am not a defaulter of any schedule bank and sign that stamp paper by the oath commissioner that would be enough and their papers will be accepted.

The DCC coordinator wrote down the solution of that problem on a chart and applied that in the facilitation camp which helped not women but also men.

#### **Glimpse 4**

The Union Council Ghunda Karkana is located at a distance of 10 kilometer in east of District head quarter Charsadda, on Mardan road. This is one of the 49 UC of districts Charsadda. The women here are backward in educational and political aspects. The major reason for this is that there is no education institution higher than primary. The area has patriarchal system therefore women political participation is considered as disgraceful.

On the last day of submission of nomination papers, at around 6 in the evening, Farman Ullah of DCC Charsadda informed that the nominations forms are being received from the court of Civil Judge Manzoor Qadir. On getting information from the Reader it was found out that not a single woman on Woman Kisaan seat has submitted nomination papers from the UC Ghunda Karkana. As the coordinator DCC Charsadda belongs to the same UC, therefore it was a shameful thing for him to let go the seat vacant. Therefore to fill the seat, Sadiq Ullah soon went to his area and met his maternal cousin Qaiser Khan and said why not his wife Farzana contests the election. Also Farzana has the chance of being elected unopposed.

As Qaiser Khan and his wife were educated and were aware of the importance and usefulness of woman councilor, they agreed to it. But since Farzana's mother-in-law was an illiterate and backward woman, she felt bad about women sitting and talking with men, she was against Farzana's participation in election. Therefore the DCC coordinator contacted two women ex-councilors Banata and Noor Jehan and told them to go and make Farzana's mother-in-law to consent and tell her how women are respected in UC meetings and other programs. They are given respect and during the meetings the Nazims and other men councilors do not talk as such that the women feel ashamed of. Farzana is an educated

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lady and knows her well being and she can speak before men, about the betterment and development of the women of the area, so Farzana can be the best suitable contestant.

They assured Farzana's mother-in-law that you don't worry we all are with you. Farzana's mother in law got convinced and permitted Farzana to contest in the Election. Soon after this the DCC Charsadda coordinator took Farzana's husband Qaiser Khan, two others , the one proposed and the one who second him, Sajjad Ahmed and Haji Sabz Ali Khan and came to the facilitation camp in Tehsil Charsadda filled the form for Farzana and helped in submission. No third woman had submitted papers for woman Kissan Councilor seat, UC Ghanda Karkana, till the last moment. In this way Farzana was elected un-opposed on Woman Kissan Councilor seat of UC Ghanda Karkana. The efforts of DCC Charsadda saved the woman kissan councilor seat of UC Ghanda Karkana from remaining vacant and the UC Ghanda Karkana got an educated councilor.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
49	196	324	193	3	98.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
49	98	190	94	4	95.9%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
49	98	197	98	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
49	98	160	94	4	95.9%

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## Chitral

Chitral is the largest geographical district of NWFP. It is bounded on the northwest by Afghanistan, on south by Dir Upper, on the east by Swat and Ghizer District of northern areas. The total area is 14,850 Sq Km. The total population is 319,000.

### Economy

90% population is engaged in agriculture. The chief source of irrigation is mountain streams and channels leading off the mountain stream, aid in irrigation. Some people are engaged in government service. Some are working in other cities and abroad. Women are also engaged in agriculture, government sector and working in local organisations. Geographical and economic condition has badly affected the status of people as Lowari top is the only route to enter the district by road. In the winters when Lowari top is closed down due to snow and flights are cancelled, Chitral is cut off from rest of the country for six months.

### Education and Health

The literacy rate is 40% (men 58%, women 22%). There are 5 colleges (4 for boys and 1 for girls), 1 polytechnic institute, 5 higher secondary school (1 for girls), 46 high school (4 for Girls), 59 middle school (23 for girls), 441 primary schools (153 for girls) and 100 Maktab schools. 1 District Headquarter and 3 Tehsil Headquarter hospitals, 21 Basic Health Units, 3 Rural Health centres, 22 dispensaries and 3 Mother Child Health centres.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Customs and traditions are varying according to different tribes. Most traditions of Sunnis and Ismailis are the same. In Chitral, Kalash is a valley and Kalashi minorities stick to their own traditions and customs. They have international popularity for their unique livelihood. In the area where Ismailis (Upper Chitral) are in majority women are free to move about, get education and work where as in Pukhtoon area (Lower Chitral) women are mostly restricted to their houses. Swara, early marriage, trafficking is practised in the area. Women trafficking have tarnished the image and personalities of Chitrali women. Education rate is less as compared to upper Chitral. More women are working in Upper Chitral area as compare to Lower Chitral.

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### Political Situation

Chitral has sectarian division. It is divided into two parts. In Upper Chitral Ismailies have influence and in Lower Chitral Sunnies are influential. This division is due to AKRSP, which is working in Upper Chitral. To diffuse this division government has launched SRSPs in Lower Chitral. The vote bank is divided between PPPP and JI. PPPP is supported in Upper Chitral whereas JI and other religious parties have support in Lower Chitral. The important personalities of Chitral are Mulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali, Shahzada Mohi-ud-Din and Major Saeed. In General Elections 2002 NA seat belongs to MMA, Mulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali (JI) and Two MPA seats are also won by MMA. Muniba Shamsul Mulk (PPPP) is on Women reserved seat in PA.

### Women Participation in Politics

In Chitral women have no say in selection of suitable candidates while casting votes. In LG Elections 2001 women were motivated to contest the election so that they are able to bring about change in the life of women. In LG Elections 2001 in 24 Union Councils for 144 seats 276 women filed nomination papers and 142 were elected as councillors with two vacant seats, bringing the overall result to 98.6%. In LG Elections 2005 for 96 seats in 24 UCs 200 filed nomination papers and 94 returned as councillors with 2 vacant seats bringing the overall result to 97.91 %.

## Glimpses of the Campaign

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Chitral is an economically backward district, inaccessible by road for six months of the year because of snowed up passes high in the mountains. Sunni Muslims are in the majority and Aga Khanis in minority. Keeping in view the sharp religious divide and sensitivity, a prominent local leader, Rehmat Ghafoor Baig, a member of the District Advisory Committee of the Jamaat-e-Islami, a leading religious party in Pakistan, was elected as District Coordinator, while due representation was given to other communities in the DCC.

In northern districts such as Lower and Upper Dir, the Jamaat-e-Islami strongly opposed to women's participation in Local Government. Rehmat was issued a show-cause notice by his own party. Other local religious

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leaders urged him to stop working with AF. His colleagues tried to convince him about the 'anti-Islamic' nature of the activities of NGOs like AF. The ulema denounced AF, which according to them, was promoting 'vulgarity and obscenity' by preaching women's rights.

One of Baig's strong arguments was that he did not find anything objectionable in the objectives or in the actions of AF staff. The activists of the party closely monitored his activities during the facilitation camps but he resisted all the pressure and continued his activities for the Campaign. He achieved significant results.

Another aspect we had to keep in mind was that due to the presence of a sizeable Aga Khani community receiving development support from the Aga Khan Foundation, the majority Sunni community was very hostile to the Aga Khan Foundation, which was very active for its community. To avoid unnecessary confusion and provocation, the CCWR team deliberately refrained from using the word 'Foundation' in Sunni areas while referring to Aurat Foundation! It was, however, used in the Aga Khani areas for that very reason since it helped create a better rapport with that community.

### **Glimpse 2**

The Aurat Foundation team planned to fly to Chitral, but because of bad weather we were forced to travel by road using private transport through Lowari Top, a mountain pass. After six hours of a long and arduous journey, we reached Panahkot, and saw about 300 people holding placards, in a procession led by leaders from different religious and political groups. They were in an angry mood shouting slogans against NGOs, America, and Aurat Foundation. The AF team included two women, Shireen Javed and Anila Naheed. The driver moved the bus to the side to let the procession pass, and we hid the election materials under the seats and Shireen and Anila hid their faces.

I called a boy who was holding a big stick from among the processionists, and asked him what was going on. He replied, "The NGO Aurat Foundation people have come to entice our women to take part in the elections, but our collective decision is that we will not let this happen. We will take our protest procession to the courts and not only will we beat up and throw out the representatives of the NGO, but we will also tear up the nomination papers of those women who have filed their nominations."

The only answer I could give him was, "Brother, if you see anyone from Aurat Foundation, give them a whack from me too!" My female colleagues

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were keen that we should take a picture of the procession but I was firm on this and asked them to cover their heads and faces and not do anything at all to make the crowd suspicious, because the security risk was too great. When we reached Peshawar at night, we found Aijaz Durrani, one of the AF Campaign team waiting for us; he had heard of the procession and was worried.

### Glimpse 3

Mumtaz was the driver of the vehicle hired for the Aurat Foundation Peshawar Campaign staff in Chitral. He was also the president of the local drivers' union. He sat in the mobilisation meetings held with the various communities, and was so convinced, that he motivated his wife and sister-in-law to contest elections, despite opposition from the family members. Both the women won the elections on peasant/worker seats.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
24	96	173	96	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
24	48	102	46	2	95.8%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
24	48	72	0	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
24	48	72	48	0	100%



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## Dera Ismail Khan

### Geographical Location

It is the southern most district of the province, bounded on the north by Tank and Lakki Marwat districts, east by Mianwali and Bhakkar districts of Punjab, south by Dera Ghazi Khan, and on the west by tribal area adjoining Dera Ismail Khan District (Shirani), South Waziristan Agency and Tank district. It is located along the banks of the Indus River. D. I. Khan's total Area is 7,326 sq km and population is about 853,000. District is divided administratively into 4 Tehsil councils.

### Economy

The district is economically backward and sources of income are navailable in the district. The land is mostly barren as there is a scarcity of water. It is worth mentioning that 80 percent of the people live in villages. There are no industries. The small population that inhabits the city is associated with government jobs. Buffalo, goat, sheep are the main livestock. In the barani areas, however, people are mostly associated with farming. D. I. Khan is famous for mangoes, dates' production in Pakistan. D. I. Khan Halwa is a famous sweat in Pakistan. Handicrafts of D. I. Khan are of good quality and very popular.

### Education

The literacy ratio is 31.28% for males 43.19% while for females 17.86%. The Gomal University was set up in 1974. A medical College has also been set up. Apart from that there are 4 degree colleges for boys and 2 for girls, 1 polytechnic institute, 1 commerce college and 1 law college, 1 elementary college for boys and for girls, 4 higher secondary schools for boys and 2 for girls, 58 high schools for boys and 19 for girls, 59 middle schools for boys and 22 for girls, 774 primary schools for boys and 368 for girls. The urban population educates their daughters. However, in the rural areas no proper attention is given to the girl education

### Health

There are 8 hospitals, 4 Rural Health Centers, 39 Basic Health Units and 24 civil dispensaries.

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### **Social Customs and Traditions/Culture**

The predominant mother tongue of the population of the district is Saraiki which is spoken by 72.47% about 22.02% Pashto speakers and 4.28% are Urdu, Balochi and Sindhi.

Inter-family marriages are common in the district. A girl is engaged by her parents at an early age, generally on payment of money by the suitor or in exchange of the engagement of a girl in the suitor's family with a boy in the girl's family. Music is popular and the people entertain themselves, by playing the flute, thali, ghara, dhol-tabla, harmonium, tamboora and ek-tara. However, flute is more popular. The Pashtoon have their own classical dances, but the Saraiki are fond of jhumer, dario and dharak. Religion dominates cultural patterns of the people of the district. The population of the district is Sunni Muslim but there are large number of people who are Shia Muslim. The Shia Muslim mostly have their own Mohallas but have good relationship with others

### **Political Situation**

Gandapur, Kundi and Miankhel families' dominant the political scene. The JUI (F), PPPP and PPP-Sherpao are the major political forces. The JUI (F) leader and the opposition leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman is from DIK elected from the NA seat. Of the five PA seats, two are with the PPPP, as many with PPP-Sherpao and one with MMA, which is held by Maulana Lutfur Rehman JUI (F). Salma Babar selected on women reserve seat in provincial assembly. The law and order situation has worsened here because of trouble in North Waziristan.

Caretaker Nazim appointed in D.I.Khan from MMA. There are three senators from Dera Ismail Khan from PML (Q).

### **Women Participation in Politics**

Total population of D. I. Khan is about 852,995 Total registered votes in D. I. Khan are 373,947 out of which 207,952 Men and 165,995 are Women. In the LG Polls 2001, 379 women filed their papers for 276 seats. As a result 242 women were elected with the percentage of 87.7. In year 2005, 533 Women filed their papers on UC level and 188 women are elected. Fifteen women were elected in District counsel and 15 women elected on 3 Tehsil level respectively.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

In Dera Ismail Khan, elections were held in the first phase. This was the hometown of Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman, Chief of JUI (F), whose party was strongly opposed to the Devolution Plan and had boycotted the elections. The DCC put in a great deal of effort to neutralise this opposition.

The DCC continued its efforts for the success of its campaign by interacting with various political groups. The political groups included the Mian Khail group and the Alizai group, Ganda Pur and Kundy, and the Makhdom group. The candidates for tehsil *nazim* and the deputy *nazim* were selected from the Mian Khail group, whereas the candidates for *nazim* in tehsil Paharpur was from the Makhdom group and in tehsil Kalachi from the Gandapur group. After several consultations with them, we were able to develop a strategy to deal with them.

During discussions with each of these groups it was emphasised that unless their women participated in the elections and all the seats were filled in the district government elections, their group would not get importance or priority. After many meetings, the DCC was able to convince the political groups to get as many women to contest the seats as possible.

Our activities included media interaction, and interaction with the officials of the Election Commission of Pakistan, the District Administration and local departments. The DCC also held training sessions for candidates.

As a result, despite the all-out efforts to stop people from participating in the polls, a large number of people filed nomination papers. Even in the union council of Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman, 83 nomination papers were filed, out of which 19 were of women – 12 for women's general seats and seven for peasant/worker seats. The overall result was 67.7 per cent seats filled.

#### Glimpse 2

Dera Ismail Khan is in the south of NWFP. The district has a radio station whose broadcasts can be heard in districts Tank, Lakki Marwat and Bannu in NWFP, in South Waziristan Agency and in districts Layyah, Bhakkar and Dera Ghazi Khan in Punjab.

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The DCC of Dera Ismail Khan evolved a good strategy to take the Campaign to the areas where the Campaign activists could not reach physically. There is a brief pause when one programme ends and the other starts on the radio – called a filler in broadcasting jargon – which can be from 10 seconds to two minutes. Rubina Qamar, a DCC member, was also a compere at Radio Pakistan, Dera Ismail Khan. Through her, the DCC got special permission from the Station Director of Radio Pakistan Dera Ismail Khan and different producers of the programmes to use the fillers to mobilise women to cast their ballot and contest the Local Government elections. Whenever the DCC member-cum-radio compere would have any filler, she would utilise that to motivate women to take part in the electoral process. Thus the Campaign message was broadcast to a large number of people without any financial cost.

The DCC also invited potential women candidates to the radio station and arranged discussions for them. The women appeared in different panels to explain why they were contesting and what problems they were facing in the election campaign.

Government officials were also invited to the programmes to explain the new system and respond to the problems raised by the potential candidates, specifically women candidates.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

Union council Ismail Khel is located on D.I.Khan road at a distance of 4 kilometers from Banuu canal. Despite the presence of educated people the Ismail Khel are has remained backward, because in this village there is rule of Khans and Malaks and their orders are obeyed. However according to our information in 2001 elections women of khans and malaks of this area were on all women seats of the UC. Their presence was just nominal and in the council's meeting no type of women would participate. This time the DCC appointed a social worker of the area Shah Niaz as communicator who held 3 to 4 meetings in which participants from different villages of the union council participated and they were given awareness that women seats are not only the right of women of khan and malak's family. But this is the right of every woman who is aware to some extent and who is a little bit educated. On that the participants assured that this time women from us will definitely come forward.

Since all the elected women who came in 2001 elections from Ismail Khel were from malak or khan's family but this time due to DCC efforts in the

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present 2005 elections on 3 women seats of this union council women from ordinary class got elected. Apart from one woman who was the wife of an elder of an honorable family but due to DCC efforts the malaks and khans of that area also felt that every ordinary or reputable person really has the right to participate in the elections.

All these women got elected unopposed in the elections, because when malaks and khans saw the interest of common people they themselves withdrew the nomination papers of their women keeping in view the interest of the people. The second bigger change was that the nominated women came elected in the previous elections, none of those women participated in the councils meeting, whereas in the meeting of this council because of the participation of rest of the women the women of malak and khan family also participate.

### **Glimpse 2**

Population wise Dera Ismail Khan is the second largest city of N.W.F.P. It is an old city. The urban population of the district is about 0.3 million while the total population is about 0.8 million. Sariaki is the local language while Pashtu and Urdu speakers are also there. It is famous for its handicrafts, *sohan halwa*, dates and *Sobat*. The district also stands second in education in the province as the renowned education institutions like Gomal University, Gomal Medical College, Agricultural College and Animal Husbandry are situated here. The city Fruit and Vegetable Market is situated at same place which not only fulfills the needs of Dera but of the surrounding far flung areas as well.

Present local government elections were expected in February 2005 but due to unknown reasons these elections were announced in July. After the announcement the filing of nomination papers started. Like other districts of the country in Dera also in collaboration with Aurat Foundation a District Coordination Committee (DCC) was formed. The purpose was to facilitate women participation in the political process. The problem was shortage of time as it was not possible to spread DCC message in all the union councils. But the DCC members accepted it as a challenge and planned that how in a short span of time spread the message of women political participation.

To achieve the above purpose the DCC members in a meeting discussed different options but none was seemed to be practical. At last consensus were developed that a pamphlet should be published which should be inscribed with the slogans of women representation and it should be

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distributed in the Fruits and Vegetables Market. The market was such a place where people use to come from far-flung areas on daily basis. The pamphlets were published and it was placed in the shops of the Fruits and Vegetables Market as DCC members have already discussed with them. As a result only in two days the DCC messages and address was reached in the 46 union councils of the district. After which people from far-flung areas not only contacted DCC members on telephone but in person visited the DCC control room. It was the result of the DCC efforts that in the 46 union councils 184 women were elected. One woman also contested election for the nazim seat but unfortunately she lost the election.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
46	184	274	172	12	93.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
46	92	105	70	22	76.0%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
47	94	334	94	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
47	94	260	94	0	100%

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## Dir Lower

### Geographical Location

Dir Lower was declared a district on August 13, 1996. It touches Upper Dir on north, Upper Dir and Swat on the east, Malakand on the south and Bajaur Agency and Afghanistan on the west. The total area is 1,583 sqkm; population 717, 650 and main occupations are farming and trade

### Economy

Most of the area is hilly; the economy based on agriculture, forests and trading. Main trade centers are at Timergara, Samarbagh, Munda and Chakdara.

### Education and Health

Literacy rate is 29.90% ( 48.76% men Vs 12.25% women). The government educational and health infrastructure includes three colleges (girls, 1), 8 higher secondary schools (girls, 1), 64 high schools (girls, 13) and 93 middle schools (girls, 38). The number of primary schools for boys is 555, while 362 for girls. The district has a DHQ hospital, 4 Rural Health Centers, 29 Basic Health Units and 18 dispensaries.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The people are traditional, known for their hospitality and Jirga system. Arranged marriages at a young age are a common practice. Divorce rate is negligible. Religious education is given preference to formal education. Hostility against women rights NGOs.

### Political Situation

The district has remained a stronghold of the religio-political party Jamaat-e-Islami. The (PPPP) has also strong presence. The hold of a radical religious organisation Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammady (TNSM) in the neighboring district of Malakand has influenced Lower Dir political situation. The party chief Maulana Sufi Mohammad hails from Lower Dir and the TNSM congregations are held in the district. In the General Elections of 2002, the lone NA seat and all the four provincial assembly seats went to JI. Senator Maulana Gul Naseeb of JUI (F) is from the same district. The district nazim slot is with the PPPP.

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### Women Participation in Politics

The atmosphere has never been favorable to women as far as their political participation is concerned. Agreements are struck and understanding reached on the eve of the polls to keep women away from the voting exercise. In the Local Government election of 2001, the district had 34 union councils with 204 seats reserved for women. Only 12 women had filed nomination papers at that time for the contest, representing a small percentage of 5. Of them 8 were elected, taking the ratio to 4 percent. In the Local Government election 2005, the district was divided into 37 union councils with 148 seats reserved for women. The number of registered voters was 330,115 (Men: 184,485 and women: 145,630). The local chapters of different political parties again agreed on barring women from the contest and voting. The WPLGE 2005 team mobilised the public opinion against the move with the help of local partners and the government to break the agreement. The strategy paid off as 236 women came forward to contest. Percentage-wise, there were 159 women for 100 seats. Of them 76 were elected, hiking the ratio to 32 percent. There are 11 women in the District Council and as many in both the Timergarah and Samar Bagh Tehsils.

In year 2001, the TNSM launched an anti-women representation campaign saying the women aspirants of LG polls and the women rights organisations were furthering the US agenda. The Taliban surrounded district and session courts on the day of the nomination papers and threatened people with fine and burning of houses if they allowed their women to participate in the election. A fatwa was issued that NGOs women were permitted for Nikah, so whoever got them, take them into Nikah.

But the situation changed when the US attacked Afghanistan in last quarter of the 2001. The JI and TNSM motivated masses to join "Jihad". People, especially youth went to Afghanistan for Jihad after selling their properties. The jewelry and cash was donated to the TNSM. When US got hold of Afghanistan, the TNSM chief came back safely but abandoned the Pakistani youths there. This shattered the confidence and faith of the people in religious parties, ultimately weakening the influence of the latter.



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The women from the religious parties have presence in the present National Assembly and provincial assemblies. Most of them are members of the families of the MMA leaders. This has weakened the case of those opposing women representation on the assemblies.

The JI used to oppose women voting in the past. But by-election on NA 35 was held in Malakand and the JI Women Wing actively motivated women to cast their vote in favor of their candidate Mr Bakhtair Mani of the JI. This left no ground for the religious parties to oppose women participation in the LG polls 2005.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

In Lower Dir, the Campaign staff faced stiff resistance because all the political parties, social groups and trade unions were opposed to women contesting elections. But the DCC and AF Campaign staff kept up the struggle. Armed activists of militant groups kept on checking the courts where the nominations were to be filed. They tore up the nomination papers filed for women candidates and beat up their representatives. The District Administration turned a deaf ear to this harassment. Despite this opposition, 12 nomination papers were filed and eight women returned to the union councils.

As a result of this change, today the seats reserved for women in tehsil council Timergarah are all filled, while eight women are members of the district council against the 11 seats reserved for women.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

On July 27, 2005 after the visit of Neelofer Bakhtiar, advisor to Prime Minister, a day was extended for the submission of nomination papers for women reserved seats, in district Dir. On July 28 at 09:30 in the morning, Abdullah Shah member of Tehsil Samar Bagh Coordination informed Akber from Samar Bagh that we have a problem in preparing registered voters for the men proposer and seconder for women contestants in Kambat while the women are ready to come to the court to submit nomination papers themselves. Available friends on the spot, Amirzada Gul, Umerzada and Abraash were informed. When we reached Samar Bagh at 12 o'clock, Naeem Shah was present at the facilitation camp. When we had a talk with him regarding the forms received and the case, it

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was found out that two sisters Niyawata and Hidayat Bibi are ready for nomination papers in Union Council Kambat.

The forms for both were filled for Kisaan Councilor but the problem was that there were no proposer and seconder except for their father Said Mohammad, due to which their nomination papers were incomplete. The solution found for this problem was that among the two sisters, for Niyawat General Council the proposer will be Hidayat Bibi and for Kisaan Councilor Hidayat Bibi, the proposer will be Niyawat and the father Said Mohammad will be the seconder for both. Now the forms were acceptable legally and technically. Afterwards when the women were called at home they regretted to come but then assured of sending their father. After waiting for an hour, when he didn't come, they were contacted again and it was assured that he cannot come. At last we tried to submit the forms.

When we reached the court of Presiding Officer (Civil Judge) of Kambat, Miskini, Samar Bagh, Darangaal and Sad Ber Kaley, he was at home for prayer, came quickly to us. While smiling in the court he raised a legal point that for submission, the presence of contestant, the proposer and the seconder is important. We purposely showed our ignorance from law and asked for the favor. He checked the papers through his reader Mousa Khan and found these to be correct. While submitting fee, he jokingly asked Mousa to smell and tell about the country it smells off. They regretted to provide the receipt but assured of providing it to a legally authorised person till 08:00 at night. No one came till 8 o'clock to receive the receipt yet he made history by accepting the papers.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
34	136	8	6	130	4.4%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
34	68	4	2	66	2.9%

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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
37	74	96	24	50	32.43%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
37	74	96	24	50	32.43%

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## Dir Upper

### Geographical Location

Dir Upper was declared a district in 1969. It is bounded by Chitral on north, south west by Afghanistan, east by Swat, south by lower Dir. The total area is 3,699 sq km; population 575,858 (men 291,582 women 284,276) according to 1998 census.

### Economy

Most of the area is hilly; the economy based on agriculture and forests. Poverty rate is high. People are working in fields on daily wages, trade and some are working in other cities and countries.

### Education and Health

According to 1998 censuses literacy rate is 42.2% (36.15% men Vs 6.15% women). The government educational and health infrastructure includes One degree College, 3 higher secondary schools (girls, 1), 35 high schools and 38 middle schools. The number of primary schools for boys is 493 while 217 for girls. Maktab primary schools are 191. The district has a DHQ hospital, 1 Women hospital, 35 Basic Health Units and 18 dispensaries and 2 health centers

### Social Customs and Traditions

The people are simple, and known for their hospitality. Mostly people are poor. People give respect to Jirgas. Arranged marriages at a young age are a common practice, exchange marriages and Sware also take place. Women are not given share in property. Mostly women are not allowed to receive education. People feel pride in taking revenge to save their honor. Women are not allowed to do business but they are allowed to work as Teachers, LHVs

### Political Situation

The single largest party in the area is Jamat-I- Islami and PPPP position in the area is also strong. The political interests are influenced by the traditions. Being dominated by the religious radical groups people are influenced through the use of mosques to send their messages to the masses, not only religious but also political parties also use this medium. Mr Najumuddin Khan of the PPPP and Sahibzada Tariq Ullah of JI are prominent political figures of the area. Sahibzada Tariq Ullah is also the

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district Nazim. District has 1 MNA from MMA (JI) and 2MPAs are Farid and Inayatullah Khan both are from MMA (JI)

### **Women Participation in Politics**

Women were not allowed to take part in election or electoral process. In Upper Dir the situation was totally against women representation. All political parties and social figures struck agreement not to field women candidates in local bodies' elections. In 2001, armed activists of the Jihadi groups kept surveillance in the courts and around the offices of returning offices to prevent women or there family members from filing nomination papers. Despite all this 42 women filed papers 31 UCs against 186 reserved seats in 2001 and 41 returned to UCs as elected councilors. In 2005 situation was very much improved as compared to the previous LG polls. This time there was contest among candidates in many UCs. This time the main drawback was that murder of the District councilor Zubeide Begum that aggravated the situation as people were of the opinion that she was murdered because she was councilor and she went against the traditions. People were afraid of bringing women into election. DCC had to start their work in low profile to mobilise masses. Political and religious parties talked about women political participation but never took any concrete step. Due to proper planning and involvement of local organisations helped to bring more women into the councils. For the first time nomination camps were set up in the district to facilitate the women candidates in filing of nomination papers. As compared to 2001 in 2005 women seats were 124 and 193 filed nomination papers. This time Parties and elders had reached oral agreements to bar women from voting and these agreements were based on political and social interest of the political and religious parties and elders. Eighty seven returned as elected councilors. Comparative of results of both the elections are 22% in 2001 and 70.1% in 2005.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

We had a meeting with the local leaders in Sundal, a union council in Upper Dir. The Maliks of the villages agreed to the idea but the political party leaders, led by the Jamaat-e-Islami, decided not to field women

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candidates. We gave them press clippings of newspapers carrying the statements of the Jamaat-e-Islami that they had fielded women candidates in a number of other districts, many of whom had won the elections. After much deliberation, the Maliks decided not to listen to their local party leaders. All six seats reserved for women in Sundal were filled.

### **Glimpse 2**

In Upper Dir, the situation was totally against women's representation. Representatives of all the major national political parties and local religious leaders reached an agreement not to field women candidates in the Local Government elections. They also threatened the people with dire consequences if they fielded women candidates. Armed activists of the militant religious groups kept surveillance on the courts and around the offices of Returning Officers.

However, because of the efforts of the DCC and Campaign staff, 42 nomination papers of women candidates were filed. In reaction to this, the Dir-Chitral road was blocked for more than five hours to pressurise the District Administration to reject the papers. Despite this pressure, the families and the candidates refused to withdraw the papers. In one case, a DCC member, Syed Ghulam, gave the nomination papers on behalf of his wife. He faced severe opposition from religious elements, who tore up the nomination papers. Syed Ghulam went to the AC and insisted on having the papers re-submitted.

As a result, 41 women were elected uncontested to the union councils, and one woman won her seat after election. Due to this effort and the strength to resist pressure, there are now 65 elected women in different levels of Local Government in Upper Dir.

### **WPLGE 2005**

Palam is situated at the distance of 45 Km from district headquarter Dir Upper. The mountains surround it. Here majority of women are illiterate and it was a difficult task to motivate women to take part in the elections. When people of the area came to know about the filling of nomination paper by candidate Zahida Bibi, they took out a procession against her and also raised slogans that this is against our customs and traditions. We met with the Maulvi Sahib of the area; he was already in our favor. We had a meeting with the people in the procession. Maulvi Sahib told them that women and men have equal rights. Islam has given them social rights. He gave example of present National and Provincial assembly that members of religious parties have been elected for assemblies and sister

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of Amir Jamiat-Ulma-Islam will take part in elections and we will vote for her so that she can work for the rights of women. People of the procession agreed with the maulvi Sahib.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
31	124	27	27	97	21.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
31	62	15	14	48	22.6%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
28	56	68	44	12	78.57%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
28	56	68	44	12	78.57%

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## Hangu

### Geographical Location

Hangu was given the status of a district in 1996. Prior to that it was a part of the Kohat district. It is a southern district of the province, which is bounded on the north by the Orakzai Agency, on the east and southeast by Kohat district, on the south by Karak district, on the southwest by tribal areas adjoining Bannu district, North Waziristan Agency and Kurram Agency and on the northwest by Kurram Agency. The Total Land Area in Sq km is 1,097 while Population Density is 287 per Sq km with a total population of 314,529.

### Economy

The people are poor, having small land holdings. Most of them earn their living by joining the armed forces and government departments. A sizable number has gone abroad, mostly to the Gulf States for employment and earn and send money back.

The area is rain fed. However, 6 irrigation channels have been constructed. Other sources of irrigation are tubewells and springs. A total of 25% of the total land is under forest. Fruits cultivation gives high return to the farmer. No large-scale industry exists in Hangu. There are three flourmills in Hangu. Hangu is also famous for Mazari work and the N.W.F.P Police Training Center (PTC) is also situated here. The Main Occupation of the people is agriculture and fisheries.

### Educational Facilities

Generally, the area is backward. The literacy rate is 30.5%. The male literacy rate is 53% while the female literacy rate is 9%. There is one-degree College, two higher secondary schools, 17 high schools, 14 middle schools and 204 primary schools. In addition, there are two vocational institutes for boys. For girls, there is only one higher secondary school, two high schools, six middle schools and 94 primary schools.

### Health Facilities

There are two civil hospitals, one each at Hangu and Tall and one Rural Health Center (RHC) at Naryab, two sub-health centers at Torwari and Doaba, in addition to 13 Basic Health Units.



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### **Social Customs and Traditions**

The population is sharply divided into Sunni and Shia sects. Both sects are staunch in their beliefs. In rural areas, Shia-Sunni population lives separately. Marriages are strictly arranged and solemnised with a variety of celebrations. Sectarian intolerance exists here which always leads to law and order situations and also leaves impact nationwide. Honor killings are prevalent; women are not allowed to choose a spouse of their own choice.

### **Political Situation**

The clan factor is dominant in Hangu politics, which is followed by religious values. The candidate who succeeds in getting the sympathies of both the sectarian groups of Shia and Sunnis succeed in polls. The National Assembly seats mostly remain with JUI (F) while at provincial level out of two seats one remains with JUI (F) while other mostly grabbed by ANP. The district Nazim Ghani-ur-Rehman political affiliations are with PPP (S). There is no senator or women MP from Hangu. There are 19 union councils and two tehsil councils i.e. Thall and Hangu. The political figures of the area are Ghani-ur-Rehman PPP (S), Pir Haider (ANP) and Farid Mufakir of PML (N)

### **Women Participation in Politics**

Religious conservatism prevents women from seeking employment outside the home, gaining an education and participating in politics. The Jirga disenfranchised women. However, there are areas where women take active part in the election. These include Hangu city, Ibraheemzai, Raisan, Lodhi Khel, Togh Serai, and the adjoining areas. In these regions women work outside their homes and are in the government and the private jobs, agriculture and livestock. In 2001 elections despite the curfew during the election campaign 45.1% women reserved seats were filled which was landmark in history and became possible through DCC. In 2005 LG polls 76 seats were reserved for women, 69 women were elected at the union level bringing the percentage to 90.7. The total number of registered voters in the district is 151,061 out of which men are 75,772 and women are 75,289.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Hangu was upgraded to the status of a district in 1998. Sharp sectarian differences between the Sunni and Shia communities existed in Hangu and it was one of the areas where there were the most sectarian riots in the country.

The two Coordinators of the DCC were elected from Sunni and Shia communities to ensure equal representation to both the communities. Both the Coordinators dealt separately with their respective communities, while at the same time keeping close liaison with each other.

#### Glimpse 2

Hangu, a very conservative area on many accounts due to its proximity to tribal areas, was one of the hardest areas to work in the Campaign. Women were forbidden to cast votes, except in a few urban areas. The local *jirgas* took the decision to ban women from voting and fixed one million rupees as the fine, accompanied by threats to burn down the houses of those families whose women were found violating the decision. One man explained the seriousness of the social taboo to a Campaign team member: "If any woman casts a vote for any male, it implies that she chooses him as her husband." Advocacy for women's political participation was a massive task under these conditions.

The other major difficulty was the continued curfew in the area. Due to violent sectarian clashes in Hangu in March 2000, a curfew was imposed for 65 days, i.e. for most of the time before the elections. The Campaign team worked in very difficult and extraordinary circumstances.

The curfew was only relaxed daily for two hours – later extended to five – leaving little time for normal mobilisation and advocacy-related activities. During this period the Campaign team personally visited the nearby areas. Otherwise the Campaign team used their personal contacts extensively (via the telephone) for advocacy with local influentials and for mobilising as much of the local networks as possible. Personal contact was possible in most of the union councils. The Campaign team also worked day and night during the filing of nomination papers, holding meetings with candidates for the *nazim's* positions and the local influentials who visited the court in connection with the nominations.

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The two Coordinators and their colleagues were arrested while out campaigning during curfew hours. They had gone to Spin Khawari to meet and convince the family members of Eid Bibi. Not only had they broken the curfew but also defied the ban on motorbike pillion riding. They were later released. Eid Bibi was later elected as District Councillor. Reports from the citizens working in the district indicated that for the 102 reserved seats for women in 17 union councils in Hangu, 98 women were nominated and 64 seats were filled, of which 18 were contested.

## **WPLGE 2005**

### **Glimpse 1**

The population of District Hangu comprises of 320,000 individuals. Hangu is divided into two tehsils, according to administrative aspect; tehsil Hangu and tehsil Tal. In the previous Local government Election the DCC Hangu had opened an Information Camp in District Courts Hangu for the guidance and provision of free legal aid to the people. To get the permission for opening the camp DCC held a meeting with Session Judge Hangu in which Gulzar Bangash Coordinator DCC and Advocate Noor Awaz Legal Aid Advisor represented the DCC.

After the talks Mr. Sharif Ullah of Election Commission and District Returning Officer said that we couldn't allow you legally within the premises of district court nor can we stop you. He further said that people of different parties are asking for permission to open their camps during the days of nomination papers, therefore we won't allow people of specific parties to open camp within the venue of district court. Since you are non-political people and working for the welfare, so if some responsible officer gives you the permission, we will have no objection. Then the DCC group went to DPO Hangu. The DCC presented its aims and objectives to Mr. Mazhar ul Haq Kaka Khel, who not only gave permission for opening camp but also offered to provide security to DCC Hangu. Afterwards the DCC representatives informed the Returning Officer Taj Akber and Woman Returning Officer Ms. Mah Talat about opening of the camp. In this way the DCC Hangu ran the camp from 08:00 in the morning till 11:00 at night during the three days dated 25, 26 and 27 July 2007 and nearly more than 700 men and women took benefit from it.

### **Glimpse 2**

Union Council Khanbari is in the jurisdiction of Hangu City. 3,485 women and 3,669 men are registered voters of this Union council. This area is socially, culturally and economically developed. Some trouble creators in

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Shia and Sunni sect creates problem for the people of the area. Even then people have good relations with each other. Women are free to move but they abide by the traditions and religion.

On Election Day 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2005; DCC members were monitoring the process of voting in different polling stations. DCC legal advisor Noor Awaz Advocate was present in the courts to provide legal aid wherever needed. At 11.00 am Noor Awaz called DCC coordinator Gulzar Bangesh to come to the office of Returning Officer Adil Akbar and Assistant Returning Officer Afzal Akbar Afridi. DCC coordinator reached the office. The Returning officer said we know that you are working for rights of women in this area and we have confidence in you. We want you to take the polling staff to Government Centennial High School Hangu at omen polling station under your protection, because there is shortage of staff. After short while two women staff Naheed Hashmi and Rohina Naz came in a Suzuki van, the returning officers told the driver that Gulzar will accompany you. The staff was safely taken to the presiding officer Khurshid Begum of the said polling station. She thanked the DCC for their help. Although it was a small thing, but confidence of the officers on DCC and Aurat Foundation was commendable.

### **Glimpse 3**

District Hangu consists of two tehsils, tehsil Hangu and tehsil Tal. Tehsil Tal has 9 Union Councils. Tal is fairly developed economically but in educational field it is backward. An army cantonment is also situated in Tal. It has Koh-e-Safad in north, Kurram in west, Waziristan agency is in its south, and district head quarter Hangu is in the east. Many people of this area are living abroad and that's why people are economically well off. Socially these people are very rigid and are very religious minded. Women follow the parda very strictly. In local government elections tehsil Courts received nomination papers from four union councils. These union councils are Darsamanda, Dalan, Tal urban, Tal rural. Here also facilitation camp was set up to help people. People of the area came to facilitation camp for information, women also came for information. This was all due to the efforts of DCC Hangu, DCC Tal and team of Aurat Foundation. All three teams met with the local elites of the area.

Number of women from Union council Tal Urban and Rural took part in the elections and in these Union Councils the atmosphere of competition was seen. On the third day of the nomination papers Coordinator Mohammed Wali coordinator of Tal called DCC coordinator that some elders of the

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area especially religious people are forcing people to take back the nomination papers of women from Returning Officer Adil Mehr, and also told people that they will repay their admission fees. DCC members Gulzar Bangesh and Mohammed Khan contacted former leaders Malik Azam Khan and Mukaram Shah Advocate. Realizing the importance of role of women in development of the area and importance of women participation in political participation decided to play their role. They reached Tehsil courts and talked to religious elite and tried to convince them that this is illegal to stop women, this will increase the problems of as women can only understand the problems of women. People liked this and said that we will respect our religious elites and also safeguard the rights of the women. After mutual understanding they submitted the papers of, four women in each union council. Returning Officer was happy with their decision and congratulated them on solving the problem with mutual understanding. The result of this was that in all union councils women came as councilors.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
17	68	73	48	20	70.60%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
17	34	28	16	18	47.10%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
19	38	46	33	5	86.84%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
19	38	46	33	5	86.84%

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## Haripur

### Geographical Location

The district borders Abbotabad in the north, Mansera in the west, Mianwali in the south and Attock in the east. Haripur was officially declared as a district in 1991. The district consisted of two tehsils namely Haripur and Ghazi. There are 45 union councils of the district. The land area of the district consists of forests, mountains and agricultural lands. A large area of the district has been covered by Tarbela and Khanpur lakes. Due to adequate water in the area, fruits and vegetables are produced on a large scale. The district is well known for its oranges, “loquat” and guava production.

Asia’s largest telephone sets producing factory TIP is located here at Hattar Industrial Estate. Tarbela dam, Barat Hydly Power Station, Khanpur dam, Mang dam, Chatri dam, Ghazi Brotha and Julian dams are also located in this district. Some signs of Ghandhara civilization are also present in the district.

### Total Area

1,725 sq. km

### Population

692,228, rural 609,493; female population: 82,735.

### Registered Voters

400,221; male: 208,030, female: 192,191

### Health Facilities

District Head Quarter Hospital: 1, Civil Hospital: 3, RHC 6, LSMF 2, BHUs 36, Civil Dispensary 5, SHCs 4, MCHs 2, Primary eye-care cell 1.

Hospital facilities of 198 beds are available in the DHQ and civil hospitals. Only 6 X-ray Units, 6 laboratories, 7 ambulances and 6 operation theaters are available in the district, which are insufficient to meet the requirement of the population.

### Education

Total Literacy rate: 53.95%; male: 70.5%, female 37.4%

Total enrolment in colleges/schools: 141,320

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There are a number of Madarrassas in the district teaching Quranic recitation.

#### **Economic Condition**

The important sources of income in this area were traditionally agriculture and cattle farming. The mega hydle power projects of Tarbela, Khanpur and Brotha have badly affected the cultivated area of the district resultantly people have joined the ranks of labour force in factories while some prefer to go overseas to earn their livelihood. The industrial sector of the district could not employ the whole work force hence many people have migrated to other districts. This migration has also been forced by the closure of Tarbela Cotton Mills, Swat Textile Mills, Pak China Fertilizer, Hazara Phosphate, Kawasaki and Rozan factories. Most women of the district are affiliated with agriculture, cattle farming and home-based contract work. A small number of women are working in factories and government and private schools.

#### **Social Conditions**

Despite the lack of educational and health facilities, over 50% population of the area is literate and people are socially aware. Generally the majority of the people of the area are peaceful and well aware with exception of some union councils in the tribal belt.

#### **Political Situation**

Majority of the population of the area is affiliated with Pakistan Muslim League while the remaining belong to Pakistan Peoples Party, Jamati-e-Islami, Tehreek-e-Istaqlal, ANP and Hazara Qumi Mahaz. The district representation revolves only between two major political families: Raja's and Tareen's but since the 90's, other political figures from Qazi, Sardar and Syed families are also surfacing on the political scene. Women were not a part of politics before 90's but now women fully and effectively participate in the political process. Participation of women in the political process has ended the centuries old impression that women cannot participate in political activities. In the general elections of 2002, a woman MNA and a woman senator from the district were elected on reserve seats, which show the changing trends in the political scene.

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## Women in Local Government Election 2001 and 2005

In the local government elections 2001 and 2005, 92% and 98% reserved seats for women were filled.

### Glimpses of the Campaign

#### WPLGE 2005

In the Local Govt. election 2001 and in bye election in spite of utmost efforts the women were stopped from taking part in elections due to the strict tribal customs. On the basis of past experiences the district coordination committee decided that the representation of women will be ensured in both these union councils. One has to travel 11 hours by road to reach there, so selection of active voluntary workers was a must, which could negotiate with these councils. The DCC held regular meetings for this purpose and selected three important and experienced voluntary workers Chan Zaib Awan, Abdul Bari and Sagheer Ahmad. They traveled 6 hours in a launch through Tarbela Lake, and then worked continuously for three days and two nights in the union councils Bait Gali and Nara Amazi. As a result of their efforts for the first time in the history of union council Nara Amazi women filed their nomination papers for three seats and were elected unopposed. Whereas in the union council Bait Gali last time seats were vacant but in the present elections six women filed their nomination papers. There was a tough competition between them.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
44	176	284	170	6	96.6%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
44	88	113	73	15	83.0%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
45	90	197	89	1	98.88%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
45	90	141	87	3	96.66%



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## Karak

### Geographical Location

Karak was upgraded to district status in 1982. Prior to that it was a part of the Kohat sub-division. The district is bounded by Mianwali district of Punjab on southeast, Lakki Marwat in the south, Hangu and Kohat districts on north and Waziristan Agency and Bannu district on the west. The total area in sq km is 3,372 with population density of 128 per sq km having total population of 430,795.

### Economy

Karak district is a rural area with only a few settlements like Karak, Teri and Takht-e-Nasrati. Even these towns carry rural character. There is no industry worth mentioning and the scarcity of water rules out agriculture as a profession for most of the people. People turn to armed forces and civil services to earn a living. Some are also working in the mines situated in the district and elsewhere. They also go to the Middle East for employment. The mineral deposits include rock, salt, gypsum and limestone. All these are present in abundance, but are being mined on a minor scale. The district is also famous for quality production of honey. The main occupation of people is government service.

### Education Facilities

The literacy ratio is 41.9%. For males it is 68.2% and for women 18.1%. There is one postgraduate college for males, three-degree colleges for males, 5 higher secondary schools for males and 2 for females, 46 high schools for males and 10 for females, 38 middle schools for males and 26 for females. The number of primary schools for males stands at 433 and for females it is 295.

### Health Facilities

It has one district headquarters hospital, 4 hospitals, 5 Rural Health Centers, 17 Basic Health Units and three civil dispensaries. Private Doctors also work in the area to offer medical facilities.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Girls' education is considered good. The people strictly adhere to the code of traditions. They are known for their Khattak dance. Marriages are

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usually arranged. Women work in the government departments, especially in the education department. They are also in the private jobs.

### **Political Situation**

Religious groups like JUI (F), JI dominate Karak politics at one National Assembly seat level while at the two provincial assembly seats clan is the most common factor. There is no senator or women MP from the area. The district Nazim Rehmat Salam Khattak's political affiliations are with Pakistan Muslim League (N). The famous political figures of the area are Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak PML (N), Farid Toofan (PPPP), Afrasiab Khattak (ANP), Malik Zafar Azam JUI (F), Nawabzada Mohsin Ali Khan (TI) and Maj<sup>®</sup> Masud Sharif (PPPP).

### **Women Participation in Politics**

Women caste their votes in the district but women's role in politics is negligible. In the past, many women contested general election, as the education rate is high in men and women. In LGE 2001 and 2005 women actively participated in polls and later played active role. There are 21 union councils and three tehsils i.e Karak, Takhti Nasrati and Banda Daud Shah. During the 2001 local government elections 91.3% women reserved seats were filled. In the local government elections 2005, for 84 seats reserved for women, 82 women were elected at the union level bringing the percentage to 98%. The total number of registered voters in the district is 227,139 out of which men are 117,053 and women are 110,086.

## **Glimpses of the Campaign**

### **WPLGE 2005**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Along with the announcement of the election schedule the Election Commissioner also announced that voters who do not have computerised NICs can use their old NICs. But no one had that information. Even NADRA was unaware about that. When before the elections we went to NADRA for a meeting with the manager they said that due to elections there will be more pressure of work on us. I asked that you haven't received the information that this time old NICs can also be used. He said that if it is true then this is a matter of great pleasure. If you have this information in written please give it to me. Then we showed him the information in the Mashal magazine.

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On nomination papers filing day DCC member from Takhte Nusrati informed DCC through telephone that her papers and many women have been rejected due to old NICs. I told him to stay there and we will try to do something. I rang up election commissioner Karak and told him about that event. He said that nomination papers can be filed by presenting old NICs. I and the coordinator went to his office. We took a written notification from him regarding that matter and also requested him to convey the information to the Returning Officers of all the three tehsils that old NOCs can be used, because they may not have that information. After getting the written notification we rushed to tehsil Takhte Nusrati. Tehsil Takhte Nusrati is at about 35 minutes drive from tehsil Karak. Many women whose nomination papers had been rejected were present there. We handed over Election Commissioner's written information to the Returning Officer. On receiving the information they accepted the papers of those women which they had rejected and thus due to our humble effort many capable women got the right of elections.

### **Glimpse 2**

On Election Day we were monitoring 3 tehsils of district Karak, i.e, tehsil Karak, tehsil Takhte Nusrati, tehsil DG Shah. During the monitoring of polling station in union council Chokara of tehsil Takhte Nustrati I received a phone call from a DCC member that the red ballot papers are finished since morning in the town committee high school polling station of union council Shumali. And authorities are not taking the issue seriously because of which women are returning disappointed without casting their votes and because it is very hot. We took an immediate turn from tehsil Takhte Nusrati to tehsil Karak and when we reached the concerned polling station the polling staff was busy in taking their meal. We went straight to the presiding officer when asked the red ballot papers he said that we have sent for red ballot papers but have not reached yet. We asked about red ballot paper that at what time these finished, he told that about an hour ago. We observed that he was not much interested in the issue. Then from there we went to election commission office. Election commissioner was in the office. When he was told about the red ballot paper he answered that he had no knowledge about that. Because no one has contacted us in that regard. We requested him to provide us the relevant ballot paper so that we take this there. He provided us and we carried the red ballot papers there and thus women polling was again done.

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### Glimpse 3

Before the starting of the filling of the nomination papers DCC coordinator and office manager went to monitor the 3-day facilitation camp. I was looking after the office. As a DCC member it was my first experience. On the first day of filling of nomination papers I received the call of Rehman Din resident of Issak Khamari of union council Teri of tehsil B.D.Shah. He said that his mother Tahira Parveen and sister Rabia Jan wants to take part in the elections. Returning Officer is not taking their papers because the names are not in the voters list. I told them that I will call him. I contacted DCC coordinator and told them about the problem. He told me what to do.

I checked the list of Issak Khamari, their name was present on the additional pages of the list, and where as additional pages were not present in the list with Returning Officer. I called the facilitation camp of tehsil B.D.Shah and told the problem of Rehman Din to DCC member Arifullah and told him to give the list present in camp to Rehman Din so that he can show this list to Returning Officer. I called Rehman Din and told him to go to facilitation camp, DCC members will help him. When Returning Officer saw their names on the additional papers he allowed Rabia Jan, Tahira Parveen to take part in the elections.

Rehman Din called and thanked AFRC Karak for their help. Today Tahira Parveen is General councilor where as Rabia Jan won the seat of Peasant worker category.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
21	84	159	79	5	94.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
21	42	66	38	4	90.5%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
21	42	153	41	1	97.61%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
21	42	108	41	1	97.61%

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## Kohat

### Geographical Location

Kohat is a Hindko word, which means the bazaar, situated in the mountains. It is bounded on the north by Orakzai Agency, tribal areas adjoining Kohat and Peshawar and Nowshera districts, on the east by Attock district of Punjab, on the south by the Mianwali district of Punjab and Karak district and on the west by the Hangu district and Orakzai Agency of FATA. The total area in sq km is 2,545 with a population density of 221 per sq km having total population of 562,640.

### Economy

People are economically poor. Only 25% of the total cultivated area is irrigated. The main source of irrigation is the Tanda Dam canal irrigation system. There are also two other small dams-Kandar and Darwezai. Only 2.5% of the total land is under forest. Guava is the major fruit of the area and Kohat is famous for its quality and taste. There are three textile units, one cement unit, one ghee unit, three arms units, three flour mills, one mineral based industry, and one carpet and dal factory. The district also has Kohat Small Industrial Estate, which houses four factories. The main occupation of the people is government service especially in the armed forces and arms manufacturing in FR.

### Educational Facilities

The literacy rate is 44.06% – for males 65.00% and for females 23.48%. There are three colleges for boys and one for girls, five higher secondary schools for boys and one for girls, 45 high schools for boys and 11 for girls, 27 middle schools for boys and 19 for girls, 355 primary schools for boys and 233 for girls and 20 mosque schools for boys. Besides that, Kohat also has a cadet college.

### Health Facilities

There are 6 hospitals, one Combined Military Hospital, 14 civil dispensaries, 4 Rural Health Centers, 20 Basic Health Units, 5 Mother Child Health Centers and one clinic each for fighting leprosy and TB.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The way of life in Kohat is entrenched in religious teachings and the people are deeply motivated by customs and traditions. They prefer to

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live in a joint family. Women in general observe purdah. They go shopping but wear burqa or chaddar (veil). Marriages are strictly arranged affairs where the consent of the would-be spouses is not taken into account. The people in the urban areas consider the girl education good. In the rural areas, however, it is not the case. Those in the government service educate their daughters. Women get a rare chance to work outside their homes.

### **Political Situation**

Khattak and Bangash tribes inhabit Kohat. Awami National Party (ANP) is the single largest party followed by PPPP and JUI (F). There are three provincial assembly seats out of which two are with ANP while one is with PPP (S). The National Assembly seat is most of the time held by religious group of JUI (F). The district Nazim Gohar Saifullah Khan political affiliations are with PML (Q). There is no senator from the area while one woman MP Farah Aaqil Shah was elected on women reserved seats on ANP ticket. The political personalities of the areas are Iftikhar Hussain Gillani (Independent) and Barrister Masud Kousar (PPPP).

### **Women Participation in Politics**

Most of the women caste their votes in all elections. However, there are some areas where women are not allowed to vote. In 2001 and 2005 LG elections women also contested for nazim and naib nazim seats respectively. There are 27 union councils and one tehsil in the district. During the 2001 local government elections 55.6% women reserved seats were filled. During 2005 local government elections 128 seats were reserved for women at union council level out of which 116 were filled bringing the percentage to 90.6%. The total number of registered voters in the district is 285,471 out of which men are 75,772 and women are 752,89.

## **Glimpses of the Campaign**

### **WPLGE 2005**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Urban 4 Jungle Khel is a union council of Kohat. Half of its area is backward whereas comparatively richer area of Kohat i.e. KDA is also a part of this union council. The literacy in the union council is better.

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Four panels were contesting from Kohat urban 4 in the 2005 elections. Out of these one was that of the ex nazim. The ex nazim made one of his daughter and daughter in law elected unopposed on 2 seats of the union council. On the remaining 2 seats another daughter and daughter in law of the ex nazim were contesting against 2 other women. The ex nazim tried his best to make his second daughter and daughter in law elected unopposed. The ex nazim had made her daughter and daughter in law elected unopposed on peasant/ worker seat. While on 2 general seats he had made his daughter and daughter in law candidate, against whom 2 outsider women contested and won the elections. In this regard the ex nazim compelled other women to withdraw from the contest but since both the women were from influential family they did not accept the pressure. CAC and DCC etc provided Aurat Foundation material to both the women. And held several meetings with them and asked them to be firm on their stand. They contested the elections and gave a decisive defeat to the women nominated by the ex nazim. This should also be clear that the ex nazim also lost the elections. His 2 unopposed women have not have not attended even a single meeting till today whereas the other 2 women who have defeated the ex nazim's nominated women continuously attend the meetings. CAC Kohat sufficiently helped the 2 women.

### **Glimpse 2**

The Union Council Bili Tang is the rural area and most of the people do farming. The level of education is extremely low, especially the literacy rate among women is low and the education of girls after grade 10 is very difficult due to absence of college.

A lady Rubina from Union Council Bili Tang contested in the District Council Election, during the Election 2005. She had run an incredible campaign and impressed people to a great extent, during it. During the election Rubina personally visited the members, made posters and gave speeches. She made society aware of her presence through making the problems of illiterate women, the topic of her speeches. Though no one in the family of the lady was educated yet she herself was a graduate and due to us, educated friends, she agreed to contest the election.

Rubina participated in the election with a spirit and it was very much possible that she will win it. Since it was 1<sup>st</sup> Ramadan on the polling day and it was Iftaari time when the result of the election was announced. According to the result, Rubina had received 15 votes so she left home happily. But she had an unofficial result without the signature of Officer on

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it. Yet when she went to court next morning to get the official result she found out that she had 2 votes instead of 15. She got surprised to see the result and asked the Returning Officer about the changes in the result but her voice was unheard.

A case of Rubina's election was filed with the efforts of CAC Kohat and is in process in the Election Tribunal by Advocate Mussarat Shafi

The role of CAC Kohat during the Union Council Election of Election 2005 remained very important and the women contestants got the opportunity of proper assistance and guidance. If proper guidance and trainings had been arranged for the contestants during the District election, the women contestants would not have faced problems and women like Rubina would not have suffered mental stress.

### **Glimpse 3**

District Kohat is surrounded by tribal area on three sides. Jirga dominates the customs and traditions of the area. The people do not like mobilization of women. Rate of honor killing is higher in this district then in any other district of NWFP. Women are not allowed to work and it is impossible for them to contest election. In Kohat army cantonment, ISSB and PAF base is also present in the district.

To motivate women to contest election was a difficult task, because of the previous experience that women councilor are not given any importance, they go to the council on their own expense, no TA is given to them, due to these reason women are not willing to stand for elections. DCC prepared some fresh women for the election and some old councilors were also included. Facilitation camp was set up for filling of nomination papers. DCC asked the focal person at Union council level to fill the papers and bring these women to the court. One problem faced in court was that Returning Officers were not giving the forms, they were asking for the clearance certificate from the office of Electricity, Gas, Water, Tax and Tehsildar. When women come for filling of papers they should bring their ID cards with them. We held meeting with Session Judge for the relaxation of the terms for nomination and filling of papers. We also contacted Aurat foundation. They took up the matter with Election commission and called session judge Kohat. He made relaxation in the terms and conditions for the filling of the nomination papers.

In previous election we had prepared Nuzhat Islam from Shakardara union council to contest the election of Nazim. She successfully carried out her campaign. She delivered speeches in the area. She lost the



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election because our society does not allow women to come forward. We tried but no woman was willing to stand for Nazim and Naib Nazim seat. On the last day I decided that we should keep alive the tradition of motivating women to contest for Nazim and Naib Nazim seat, so that in future women should come forward. I decided to resign from the coordination of DCC and contest for election, and motivate some others to stand with me as Naib Nazim. I discussed this with my colleagues and on the third day I asked Samina Naz Advocate to stand for the seat of Naib Nazim / Nazim.

She said she needs some time as she wants to discuss this with her family. I gave her one hour. She said that her family is not allowing her. I told Samina that she is a married women and she should discuss this with her husband. She telephoned her husband who then came to the courts. I had a meeting with him. He said he does not have the money because for the seat of Nazim Rs 2,000/- is needed. I told him that I would take care of the expenses. At the last moment we submitted our papers. Samina's parents were annoyed with her but her in-laws were supporting her. First I had meeting with my family and Samina's in-laws.

Then I sent my family to her parent's house and had meeting with her brothers, they did not agree but her mother agreed. I told them that she is a lawyer and she is working with men in the courts and now when she wants to help humanity you are leaving her. After long discussion her two brothers agreed whereas her elder brother ran the campaign of our opponents. We ran our campaign till late at night, her husband was with us. We addressed the public meetings of 500-1000 people. Abusive language was used for Samina in public meetings. On the Election Day when the ballot papers were opened the election sign were missing on the ballot paper of minorities. We boycotted the election due this rigging in ballot papers for minorities. We took out procession from polling station to the courts. Samina and I led the procession. At first Session judge said that there will be reelection in the Union council Urban as 1,800 votes of minorities were registered and they had promised to vote for us. At 11 am news was telecast on Geo TV that candidates for Nazim /Naib Nazim and minorities have boycotted the election. Next day news papers reported of rigging proofs in Urban 1 and asked for re – election. Political opponents had used their power that's why we boycotted the election.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
27	108	91	55	53	50.9%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
27	54	31	15	39	27.8%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
32	64	111	61	3	95.31%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
32	64	78	55	9	85.93%

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## Kohistan

### Geographical Location

Kohistan means the land of the mountains. Three mighty ranges of the world flank the narrow Indus Valley in Kohistan district. On the left bank are the offshoots of the Himalayas, on the right bank offshoots of the Karakoram. Reaching the Kandia Valley from the north are the offshoots of the Hindu Kush.

It is bounded on the north and northeast by Ghizer and Diamir districts of the Northern Areas, on the southeast by Mansehra district, on the south by Batagram district and on the west by Shangla and Swat districts. Its area is 7,492 sq km; population 472,570 and occupation of people is agriculture.

### Economy

The economy is agriculture-based. No industry exists in the district. Timber is the major export item. All the food grains are brought from other districts. The trading centers are Dubair, Pattan, Komila and Shatial Bazar.

### Education and Health

Literacy rate is 11.08% (17.23% men Vs 2.95% women). The government education and health infrastructure includes one higher secondary school, 10 high schools, and 60 middle schools (girls, 4). There are 879 primary schools (girls, 147). There is one district headquarters hospital, 4 dispensaries, 2 Rural Health Centers, 37 Basic Health Units and 2 Leprosy Clinics.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Betrothals are made in childhood. Polygamy is rampant. Instances of divorce are rare. Dowry system is not strong. In some areas, even bridal costumes are not prepared properly. Marriages are arranged within the clan to promote fraternity.

### The Earthquake

The district suffered human and material losses in the October 8, 2005 earthquake. The local and foreign NGOs took part in the post quake relief work and won acceptability. The women have always encountered mobility problems. They do not acquire the NICs for the same reason. The

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post-quake situation has won some relief for the women as far as their mobility is concerned. They started getting NICs as it these are required to get relief items and compensation.

### **Political Participation of Women**

In the LG polls 2001, the district was divided into 38 UCs, with 228 seats reserved for women. There were no nominations for women, representing the 0 percentage success rate. The number of registered voters in the district is 225,819 (Men: 141,726 and Women: 84,093). In the LG polls 2005, the situation remained unchanged as no women came forward to contest. The numbers of seats reserved for women in the 38 UCs were 152, all remained vacant. However, women's voting was held in two UCs, which is a small but significant step towards a change.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

In Local Government Elections 2005 three candidates Manzar Khan, Ajoon Khan and Wilayat were contesting election against Nazim seat in Union Council Kanshir Tehsil Palas. Manzar Khan was from the same Union Council i.e. Kanshir while the other two candidates belong to Jalkot valley. As their name were registered in the voters list of UC Kanshir that's why were contesting elections from this Union Council.

A verbal agreement was made between the candidates belonging to Jalkot according to which Ajoon Khan had to withdraw from election in favour of Wilayat Noor. Ajoon Khan committed that in case of violation of the agreement he would divorce his wife. Cold drinks were served to 120 people presented at the occasion. When the residents of Kanshir valley i.e. the supporters of Ajoon Khan got to know about the agreement, they stressed on Ajoon Khan that he would not do so and if he did so then the consequences would be bad as those people had enmity with Wilayat Noor and were against of him. In the meanwhile during scrutiny the court rejected the papers of Manzar Khan who belong to Kanshir valley. Now only 2 candidates were left who were not from this Union Council. At this time Wilayat Noor asked Ajoon Khan to take back his nomination papers but he refused. With this an atmosphere of disagreement created between the contestants and both of them were about to receive threat. A jirga of Shamat Khel from Jalkot took the opinion of both parties to settle the dispute and announced its decision in a different style. According to the

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decision of the jirga, Ajoon Khan would have to pay Rs. 200,000 to make Wilayat Noor to withdraw in his favour. Moreover Ajoon Khan will get her daughter married with the nephew of Wilayat Noor. This was new and different experience in the history of the place.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
36	144	0	0	144	0.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
36	72	0	0	72	0.0%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
38	76	0	0	76	0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
38	76	0	0	76	0%

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## Lakki Marwat

### Geographical Location

Declared a district on July 1, 1992 it was part of the Bannu district. It is bounded on the north by Bannu and Karak districts, east by the Mianwali district of Punjab, southeast by Dera Ismail Khan, southwest by Tank and west by the tribal area adjoining Tank district and South Waziristan Agency. Total Area is 3,164 sq km and population is 490,025. District Lakki Marwat is administratively divided in three Town councils.

### Economy

The district consists of rain-fed areas. They depend on agriculture for subsistence. The rains lead to good wheat and gram crops. People go to different big cities of the country for livelihood. The land is irrigated by Marwat Canal from Baram Dam and Kachkot Canal from the Kurram River. The tube-wells and lift irrigation system also irrigate small portion of the land. There are 7 factories and one cement factory, Lucky Cement Factory.

### Educational Facilities

The literacy rate is 29.7%, for males 50.3% and for females 8.6%. There are two degree colleges, one commerce college and two skill development centers for boys, two higher secondary schools one each for boys and girls, 40 high schools for boys, 7 for girls, 48 middle schools for boys and 17 for girls, 460 primary schools for boys and 250 for girls.

### Health Facilities

There are four hospitals, 4 Rural Health Centers (RHCs), 27 Basic Health Units (BHUs), Mother Child Health Centers 2, civil dispensaries 4 and sub-health centers 3.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Boys and girls are not betrothed until they attain puberty but some times marriages soon follow betrothal. The girls in towns as well as in the villages at the age of 10 to 12 years go about in veil. Girls start observing purdah at very early age. Marriages are celebrated in simple manner.

Few but well to do families spend substantially on the marriage ceremony, the provision of the bowery consisting some golden rings,

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bangles etc. is the only expense at large, which falls on the bride's guardian.

Lakki Marwat is entrenched in religious teachings and the people are deeply motivated by the customs and traditions they prefer to live in a joint family. A special dish "Painda" is served on the third and 40<sup>th</sup> day after the death of a person.

#### **Political Situation**

The PML (N), PML (Q) and JUI (F) are the major political parties. There are two prominent political families in the district – Saifullahs and Marwat Khans. Both have presence in the legislative bodies. The NA seat is with MMA while the three PA seats have been bagged by the PML (N). The District Nazim slot is with PML (Q). Senator Saleem Saifullah, the minister for inter-provincial coordination, is from Lakki Marwat. Anwar Kamal is an important opposition member in the provincial assembly.

#### **Women Participation in Politics**

The women take part in politics in the urban areas and cast votes, but the situation is very abysmal in some villages because they are not allowed to vote there. Kulsoom Saifullah was the first woman in Lakki who made it to the NA in 1985. Registered voter is 218,636 out of which 100,846 women and 117,790 men, total vote caste 103,475 it is about 47.33%.

In year 2000, 242 women filed nomination papers for 198 seats out of which 127 women were elected with percentage of 64.1%. In year 2005, 533 nominations were filled on women seats, 130 women were elected at the UC level with the percentage of 65.65%. At the DC and TC seats of women are filled

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

##### **Glimpse 1**

AF had no formal network in Lakki Marwat. When the AF team first visited the area for identifying the local partners, the people were not ready to hear anything about women's participation in political activities. Referring to the prevailing norms and traditions, everyone, from District Administration to the local activists, ruled out any possibility of women participating in the elections.

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Due to the specific socio-cultural environment of the district, local tribal groups were stronger than the political groups. The main groups were the Saifullah group, the Anwar Kamal and Kabir Khan group and the Pir Zakori group. In the selection of DCC members, the local political structure was kept in mind. People with close links to these groups were inducted into the Committee. Soon AF was able to form a DCC of committed activists and with their active support the Campaign activities were launched.

### **Glimpse 2**

Running the Campaign in Lakki Marwat was like walking on a tightrope for the DCC members, as there was strong public resistance to women's participation in political activities. In most cases the DCC members avoided referring directly to concepts or ideologies related to women's rights or women's empowerment. Instead, in very simple words, they used this argument: Our women face a lot of problems. In some cases they cannot share these problems with male councillors, but with a female councillor they would have no such inhibition. The problems would be communicated and have better chances of being resolved.

### **Glimpse 3**

Without a formal network in Lakki Marwat, the AF team's first task when visiting the area was to identify local partners. However, citing the prevailing norms and traditions, everyone, from District Administration to the local activists, ruled out any possibility of women participating in the elections.

Tribal groupings were stronger than political affiliations. The main groups were the Saifullah group, the Anwar Kamal and Kabir Khan group and the Pir Zakori group. After identifying the leading figures in these groups, the DCC started working with them. The key strategy was to highlight the importance of women councillors' vote for the *nazim's* seat. After realising the significance of women councillors' votes, the local tribal elites became active in fielding their women supporters in the elections.

### **WPLGE 2005**

### **Glimpse 1**

The backward District of Lakki Marwat is situated in the South East of N.W.F.P. The total population of the district is 490,462 with a ratio of 249,791 and 240,671 men and women respectively. One of the Lakki union council Mamma Khel which is situated 40 kilometer away from



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district headquarter and from Tehsil Naurang only two kilometer in the South East. The main source of income of the people is agriculture. Literacy rate is very low but politically people are more aware as compared to other parts of the district and there is political representation of all the major political parties of the country.

On the day of the recent elections 2005 on 25<sup>th</sup> August at about 11 afternoon DCC members Khaliq Noor and Kalsoom Yar during the monitoring were on a visit of UC Shahab Khel's area Dalu Khel's Girls Primary School polling station's women booth. The presiding Officer Muhammad Iqbal told them that because of fighting between women on the intervention of the elders of the village Haji Darray Khan, Aziz Khan, Umar Farooq, ex-nazim Johar Muhammad and Liaqat Khan the Presiding Officer has stopped polling. By that time only 90 votes were polled while the total number of the registered voters in the said primary school was 122 out of which 675 were male and 546 were female voters.

DCC members with a UC level support members Haji Amin Jan contacted the candidate for the naib nazim seat Arif Ullah and women candidates Insaf Bibi, Khan Bibi, Zar Bibi and Saeeda Bibi. They made them understand that if the polling will remain stopped they will receive fewer votes as this polling booth is in their village and here your position is very strong and if there will be no polling at your village women polling booth so you may not win. They advised them that you people should forthwith request the presiding officer to start polling. They were asked that if they had any problem we would support you. They accepted this point.

On the DCC members and their group's elder's advice they approached Presiding Officer and asked him to start polling at the women polling booth. After that Presiding Officer started the polling again and the women succeeded to cast their votes. The voting remained continued till late in the evening and because of the in time intervention 301 women used their right to vote.

### **Glimpse 2**

In the local government elections 2005 in collaboration with Aurat Foundation a core group of local social organisation was formed and it was given the name of District Coordination Committee. The members of this committee Izzat Khan, Asghar Ali and Iqbal Hussain Advocate for mobilization meeting visited this Union Council Mamma Khel. A local social personality Sahibzada Qadrat Ullah told the team that the people of village Shafi Ullah of this union council since long are not taking part in the

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electoral process. The reason is the weak economic and social condition of the tribe and the political influence of the other strong tribes. Due to the reason they are afraid of taking part in the political or social mobilization. The mobilization team members visited the said village and met with the abovementioned tribe (Ahmadi) leaders Israil Ahmad and Ayub Ahmad and informed them about the campaign, participation in the political process and its importance. Mobilization team also informed them about importance of vote and its privileges and asked them to tell them the reason that why don't they participate in the electoral process. The elders of the tribe listened to team members carefully and the discussion was held in a cordial manner.

DCC mobilization team told them that in the present Musharraf government chances have been given to people from all walks of life. So you people should avail this opportunity. In response to the points of the of the team the concerned tribe's elders Israil Ahmad and Ayub Ahmad said that we are aware of the importance of participating in the electoral process but our tribe is politically and socially very weak. The tribes around us are very strong and they don't want us to get forward and they always confirm their success in the election through unfair means. In such a situation the participation of our tribe in the election is just wastage of time and money.

After listening to the logic of tribe elders the team members told them that your point of being weak is wrong if you will be united no political force can beat you because you have power of vote and as per our information your tribe have a large number of registered voters. If you people unanimously nominate a candidate you can get elected at least two members, which may include one man and a woman. The only weakness in you is lack of trust at your own self. If you develop trust in you no power in the world can stop you from taking part in the elections. After the discussion with DCC team they were encouraged and said if we get united we will need not to ask some other tribe for votes as we have enough votes of our own tribe. If we rightly used these votes we can elect one man and a woman from our own tribe. The tribe elders thanked the team members and said they were encouraged very much from this visit. Tonight we will call a meeting of our tribe so as to announce full participation in the local government elections and it would help us to elect our own tribe representatives in the local government elections.

Next day as a follow up when we called Israel Ahmad on telephone about the last night meeting he informed that at night a meeting of their tribe was

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held and the participation in the local government election was thoroughly discussed. All the participants were agreed to take part in the in the electoral process but due to shortage of time the elders decided that this time we are not going to bring forward our own candidate but as voters we will participate in the electoral process and support another tribe candidate. After this unanimous decision no man or woman was nominated for election but supported another tribe Kotka Nawab Khan woman candidate Nazo Bibi wife of Nawab Khan who won the election by securing a heavy mandate of 823 votes. It is to be mentioned here that 295 votes she got from this tribe out of total number of votes. Likewise in male candidates of village Mammakhel this tribe supported Matiullah who secured 345 votes but unfortunately lost the elections.

### **Glimpse 3**

In the local government elections 2005 for the effective representation of women Aurat Foundation Peshawar has started an information program with the collaboration of local social sector organisations. This network was given the name of District Coordination Committee. The purpose was to provide information to the candidates about elections.

In the local government elections 2005 last phase of the filing of nomination papers just before half an hour of the prescribed time a court employee Muhammad Siraj who was a close relative of DCC member Farman Ullah and who was also in close liaison during the campaign and giving us all sort of support. He called in Farman Ullah and told him that that the district council eleven seats have been divided in such a way that Tehsil Lakki will get eight seats and Tehsil Naurang will get three seats. After having an in time knowledge about the distribution of seats and filling of more women candidates papers for only eight Lakki Tehsil seats while for Tehsil Naurang only two candidates have filed nomination papers so keeping in view the situation the DCC Coordinator Izzat Khan after consultation with other members contacted DCC women member Mehrul Nisa and taken her into confidence and filed her nomination papers for the district council seat. Previously Mehrul Nisa was district councilor while now she was tehsil councillorship candidate.

She agreed with the decision of DCC and submitted her papers for tehsil councillorship instead of district councillorship. Next day after the scrutiny her nomination papers were declared correct and as only three candidates have filed papers from Tehsil Naurang so three of them elected unopposed as district councilors. It was made possible due to in time and

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effective strategy of DCC that not only helped an active woman social worker in nomination for the district council but also a vacant seat of the district council.

#### **Glimpse 4**

DCC set up facilitation camp for the candidates to provide them help and information for the filling of nomination papers. On the second of the filling of nomination papers DCC activists were busy in the camp when few candidates came to the camp. They told the DCC that Returning Officer has made it compulsory that the chairman of the education board should attest education certificates; besides this candidates have to get their serial number, voter number, and constituency number on a specific format from election commission with the stamp of Rs 4 /- pasted on it and attested by the Election Officer. Due to these restrictions we are facing problems.

DCC coordinator with legal aid advisor of DCC Iqbal Hussain Advocate and Shakeel Ahmed Advocate visited the office of concerned Returning Officer and discussed with him the problem. It was indicated to him that no such law is in the LG ordinance, that attested by chairman education board or the attested receipt from the election officer is needed. The information about serial number, voter number and constituency can be provided on simple paper with the nomination forms. We request you to take back this decision and reduce the despair of the candidates. Returning Officer said "I have heard all your arguments, give me some time so that I go through the ordinance, then I will decide". Lawyers provided him the copy of the ordinance. Returning officer told the delegation to go and after one hour send one person to my office. After one hour Iqbal Hussain Advocate went to the office of the Returning Officer. He said that you were right. I had received the copy of the ordinance very late and did not study it properly. Notice for the cancellation of the prior order has been pasted on the wall of the court and you can take one copy to your camp so that candidates do not face any problem in submitting the nomination papers. Iqbal Hussain Advocate thanked the Returning Officer. He returned to the camp with notification and gave the good news to all the candidates present in the camp

#### **Glimpse 5**

In order to make effective representation in the local bodies election 2005 the local social organisations set up a network with the help of Aurat Foundation, which was named as District Coordination Committee.

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Members of this network Hazrat Ali and Shakila Inayat monitored the women's polling booth of the polling station of Zaitoon Khel's Girls Middle School in union council Taja Zai at 10 am on the Election Day 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005. The polling staff informed that all the polling stations in the union council are closed for last 2 hours because the election sign of a woman candidate Resham Bibi was missing from the ballot paper and all the candidates the staff were in trouble for that. The DCC monitoring team met with the woman candidate Resham Bibi and after consultation with other candidates and elders contacted the DRO to find immediate solution.

The district returning officer informed that the DRO would reach Taja Zai in a short time. After a short while the DRO reached the notified station. After getting all the information about the situation from the presiding officer present in the polling station the DRO contacted the officials of the Provincial Election Commission. They answered that the tuck driver had mistakenly dropped packets of some ballot papers of your district Laki Marwat in district Karak and now from there these had been dispatched and would reach Laki Marwat soon. After an effort of about hours the voting process in all polling stations could be started and polling lasted till the due time on the polling station. Later on after the announcement of results the woman candidate Resham Bibi got 383 votes but unfortunately she lost the elections. The restarting of the voting was the outcome of the monitoring team's timely action. In the end the woman candidate Resham Bibi thanked the DCC team for its efforts.

#### **Glimpse 6**

On the first day of submission of nomination papers in the Local Government Election 2005, that is on July 25, 2005 the DCC members Izzat Khan, Atta Gillani, Farman Ullah, Iqbal Hussain and other volunteers were busy in sharing / providing information to general public and women contestants, when at around 12 in the noon, few respected peoples and the contestant Haji Abu Khan, Khan Badsha, Shaukat khan and others from UC Darhka Suleman Khel came to our camp. They told us that they had asked about their Electoral list from the Election Office, but they replied in a indecent way that these will be somewhere there and will be found out and we should not waste his time and he can't help us in that. We got disappointed on hearing this and we came to you with the hope that you can solve our problem. After hearing this, the DCC Coordinator Izzat Khan consoled them and said that their problem will be solved

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InshAllah. They sent Atta Gillini and Farman Ullah along with the delegate, to the Election Office so that they can talk with the Election Officer on the issue. When the DCC volunteers reached the Election Office with the delegate, they came to know that there is extreme mismanagement in the Election Office. The Election Officer seems to be unsuccessful in controlling the situation due to rush and there is lack / shortage of staff. The staff present is extremely careless and incapable; among these few workers is getting money for providing information to the people. The electoral lists of whole of the district are locked in a room. Only those contestants, who are paying the workers, are being provided with Electoral lists, the household number of voters' list, serial number and other relevant information. So the contestants with weak economic position and specially women contestants are facing severe problem in this situation.

The DCC members Atta Gillani and Farman Ullah informed the available Election Officer Mohammad Jamil about the whole situation and requested to take proper steps to solve the problems of the people. Getting angry with this, he said that you are defaming my staff for nothing, there is no injustice being done with anyone and everything is going on properly. These are all baseless things and don't tease me, let me work and asked us to come again.

Afterwards the delegate came to the camp and asked us to help them in solving the problem. All the DCC members discussed together and also got view from Mr. Tariq of Aurat Foundation Peshawar Office. In the end, with the suggestion of all friends, the details of the issue were written down and faxed to Aurat Foundation's provincial control room so that they can discuss with the Officials of Provincial Election Commission about the disappearance of Serial blocks of Electoral lists of UC Darka Khel and the mismanagement of local Election office. After receiving the fax from DCC, the provincial coordinator of Aurat Foundation Mr. Aimal Khan informed the Deputy Election Commissioner of Provincial Election Commission through telephone. He said that he is going to talk to the Assistant Election Officer Lakki Marwat on telephone at that moment and the problem will be solved. As definitely some mismanagement would have occurred because all the local offices of whole of the province are being provided packets of 6 Serial blocks of Electoral lists of each of the Union Council.

After the telephone call by the Officials of Provincial Election Commission, the workers of the Local Election Office got alert, unexpectedly and there

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was a sudden change in their attitudes. A copy of Serial blocks of the electoral lists of all the Union Councilors were displayed in the yard of the office for the convenience of contestants and general public, due to which the general people and the contestants got relief. After two hours of this act, a call from local election office was received by DCC that we have found the Electoral list of the mentioned Union Council, send the relevant people to our office for these. Therefore through the effective efforts of DCC, not only the problem of the contestants of UC Darkha Suleman Khel was solved but the contestants and rest of the people got rid of the major problem.

### **Glimpse 7**

In the recent local government elections 2005 in collaboration with Aurat Foundation a core group of local social organisation was formed and it was given the name of District Coordination Committee. Its sole purpose was to provide a friendly atmosphere to candidates in the local government elections. The two members of the committee Atta Ullah Gillani and Farman Ullah Khan as per the earlier decided plan went to Union Council Baist Khel area Azam Baist Khel Girls Primary School in connection with UC level mobilization meeting. They were informed by a social figure of the area and principal of a private school Ghulam Rasool that women are not allowed in the areas to cast their votes since long. The reason, which he shared, was that in 1988 general election at the women polling station of Mohallah Azam Khel Baist Khel Girls Primary School because of the confrontation of two groups two people were killed.

The confrontation was between two different tribes one is known as Sher Khel tribe while other tribe name is Azam Khan Baist Khel who are settled in the old Baist Khel village. As the women polling station is situated in the Mohallah Azam Khel's Girls Primary School so it is the reason that as to avoid any bloodshed Sher Khan tribe refrain to allow their women to cast their votes in the said school. Two of the groups have decided that women polling would not be held in the area. To solve this issue DCC Coordinator formed a committee of two members comprising of Atta Gillani and Farman.

The committee members met with the elders and political figures of the area as a result it was decided that a representative meeting should be held and this problem should be solved with mutual understanding. The meeting should be held at third place where it should be ensured that the representatives of the both groups are present. As a result of these

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individual efforts DCC arranged the meeting in a joint Hujra under the president ship of ex-nazim Malik Nabi Khan.

In the meeting an elder of mohallah Azam Khan Haji Muhammad Rafiq said we are not against the women voting right but we will not allow shifting our mohallah women polling booth to another area. Yes but if an extra polling station can be approved in Kotka Mehmood Baist Khel Girls Primary School we would not have any objection over that. Later on an elder of the Kotka Mehmood Baist Khel Haji Rustam Khan suggested that if in our mohallah women polling station can be established then its ok otherwise Mohallah Azam Khel Girls Primary School's women polling booth should be transferred to another impartial place.

After that Mohallah Kotka Mehmood Baist Khel's another respected elder Haji Ismail said that transferring women polling booth to another place could solve the problem. Another respected elder Ghulam Rasool suggested that with the consensus of all the parties a joint committee should be formed, headed by DCC representative so it would be able to evolve a joint strategy for the solution of this issue sincerely. In the last DCC member Atta Gillani favored the suggestion of Ghulam Rasool that there is a dire need of the formation of a representative and powerful committee and this committee would have consent of all the groups. This decision of committee formation was fully supported by all the members and the DCC member announced the committee. From DCC Atta Gillani, Farman Ullah, Advocate Iqbal Hussain, from Mohallah Azam khel Haji Rafiq Khan, Malik Nabi Khan, Qasmat Ullah while from Kotka Mehmood Baist Khel Haji Ismail and Ghulam Rasool Khan were included into it.

After the committee formation DCC's Atta Gillani asked all the members to reach DCC office, situated at Kachahri Road Lakki Marwat at 9 am so as to evolve a strategy for its solution. Next morning the said committee meeting was held in DCC office. It was decided that the only solution that in Kotka Mehmood Girls Primary School an extra women polling booth permission should be taken. The DCC member drafted an application in the name of district returning officer, which was signed by all the committee members. The delegation went to meet the district returning officer. The DRO assured the delegation that if the problem is genuine it must be solved. He told the delegation that today after 2 pm he is going for the inspection of Union Council Baist Khel polling stations where I will also inspect Kotka Mehmood Baist Khel Girls Primary School. If possible a women polling booth would be included in the polling scheme. After the inspection of the concerned Girls Primary School DRO ordered to



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establish an extra women polling booth. Because of this decision 280 women succeeded to cast their votes. It is to be mentioned here that in the Union Council Baist Khel total number of registered voters is 6,956 out of which male voters are 3,715 and female voters are 3,230. In the present elections of 2005 total number of 2,330 female and 2,416 male used their voting right.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
33	132	162	99	33	75.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
33	66	80	28	38	42.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
33	66	167	64	2	96.96%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
33	66	167	64	2	96.96%

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## Malakand

### Geographical Location

Malakand is situated in the north of NWFP. The total area is 952 sq kms. It is bounded on the north by District Dir Lower, east by District Buner, southeast by District Mardan and Charsadda, northeast by a range of mountains, which separates it from district Swat and on west by another range of mountains. Total population is 452,412 (men 233,058, women 193,564) Malakand is administered under Provincially Administered Tribal Area Rules.

### Economy

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the rural population. There are 3 Marble factories, 1 Ghee mill, and 4 flourmills. The Malakand Protected Area has a big trade center at Batkhela. The Gujjars community composes 20% of the population and depends on livestock to earn their livelihood. Women are involved in livestock and also work as LHV, schoolteachers. Malakand is also famous for its orange orchards.

### Education and Health

Literacy ratio is 39%. The male literacy rate is 55% and the female literacy rate is 22%. Two degree colleges, one inter college, 3 higher secondary schools, 37 high schools for boys, 10 for girls, 23 middle schools for boys, 19 for girls, 343 primary schools for boys and 182 primary schools for girl. There is one Agency Headquarters Hospital, 6 civil hospitals, 2 Rural Health Centers, 21 Basic Health Units, 8 dispensaries and one Mother Child Health Center.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The people are traditional and, known for their hospitality and Jirga system. Arranged marriages at a young age are a common practice, nikkah take place at the house of bridegroom. Swara, early marriage is also the part of the custom, which directly effect women.

### Political Situation

The district has remained a stronghold of the religio-political party Jamaat-e-Islami and JUI (F) graduates from religious schools join religious parties. The Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (S), PPPP, ANP has also strong presence. The hold of a radical religious organisation Tehreek-

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e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TNSM) has influenced political situation. The party chief Maulana Sufi Mohammad hails from Lower Dir and the TNSM congregations are held in the district, which influence the people. Shariat was enforced in the area and judicial courts were named Qazi courts. There is one MNA belonging to MMA (JI), 2 MPAs (1 from MMA (JI), 1 from PPP), and 1 Senator from MMA, JUI (F).

#### **Women Participation in Politics**

The atmosphere has never been favorable to women as far as their political participation is concerned. Agreements are struck and understanding reached on the eve of the polls to keep women away from the voting exercise. In the Local Government election of 2001, women filled papers for the seats but they were not allowed to exercise their vote. In the Local Government election 2005, situation was nearly the same. The number of registered voters was 206,997 (Men: 111,713 and women: 93,284). Previously religious parties did not work with women but a visible change can be seen when JI women wing carried a full fledged campaign to involve women during the Election of Bakhtair Mani who stood for NA 35 bye polls and this trend was also there during LG elections. In majority of UCs women were barred from exercising their right to vote. In 2000, total seats for women were 168 out of which 162 seats were filled whereas 6 were vacant and 96.4% result was achieved. In 2005 seats were 112 and all the seats are filled with 100% result.

There are 2 Tehsils Bathkehlra with 6 elected councilors with 2 vacant seats and in Tehsil Dargai 5 women were elected as tehsil councilors. In district there are 10 councilors with 2 vacant seats

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

Union Council Thana Bandajaat comprises Thana areas' mouza Ganaar, Nal Mohallahjaat Meezara, Chapai, Bakhta, College Colony Ganaar Road, Cham, Muslimabad, Khadimabad, Faqirabad, Abu Khor, and Sheikhabad, having a total population of 19,268. The total number of the registered voters is 8,260 having a ratio of 4,499 male and 3,751 female voters. The ex-union councilor of the same union council Jehan Begum was interested to participate in the 2005 elections but it was not possible for her because

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of her economic condition. Jehan Begum was a regular participant of the Aurat Foundation Resource Center's activities. She was well aware of the women's role in the local government system. She was in knowledge that District Coordination Committee has started working in the district. Jehan Begum contacted DCC member Fazal Manan and told him that she wanted to take part in the elections but the only hurdle is that she is so poor that she don't have money to pay for the nomination papers fee. Her husband was disabled and he couldn't walk and she was compelled to work outside and to make the both ends meet of her children. She requested that if it is possible nomination fees should be arranged for her. Fazal Manan encouraged her and told her that he will talk to someone. Fazzal Manan talked to the candidate for the nazim seat from Thana Bandajaat Haji Fida Muhammad and he put a question that what benefit I will have in return. DCC member told him in case if she wins you will have more supporting members in the union council and there will be no problems for you on budget approval or on other issues. Also when there will be district Nazim and Tehsil Nazim elections the candidate will not directly contact the member's and they will talk to you. It will put more weightage in your importance and the candidates will depend upon you. On this he paid for the nomination fee of Jehan Begum but unfortunately she lost. She was not disappointed with her defeat and participated in the tehsil council elections and aging Haji Fida Muhammad paid for her nomination fee and by the grace of God she was elected member of the Tehsil Council.

### **Glimpse 2**

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005, people of Malakand were casting their vote for the local government election. DCC member Fazle Manan reached union council Thana Bandajat polling station at Elementary College for monitoring purpose. Polling booths for men and women were closed and no polling was taking place. People were very angry that this polling station was assigned for us but our names are not in the voters list. DCC member asked the presiding officer about the problem. He said that the voter's list provided to us does not have the name of these people, that's why we have stopped the polling. DCC member called the Returning Officer from his mobile and told him that polling has been stopped at Thana Bandajat, and as per Presiding Officers voter list does not have the name of the people who are coming to cast their votes. Situation is very grave and people are very angry. The presiding officer also talked to the

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Returning Officer. Returning Officer, Assistant Election representative came to the polling station. Representative of election commission checked the lists and found out that these lists are of other polling station. Relevant voters' lists were provided and polling process started two hours late. To compensate for the time loss more manpower was provided by the Returning Officer. Due to the efforts of DCC the problem of voters list was solved.

### **Glimpse 3**

Union council Selai Patey is comprised of far flung small villages of Malakand with a population of 12,309 people. 27<sup>th</sup> July was the last date of filing nomination papers to contest the local government election in Malakand. Members from tehsil Sam Ranizai

(Dargai) of Malakand's district coordination committee came to know that no woman candidate has filed nomination papers from union council Silai Patey and it was feared that all the four women seats will remain vacant. DCC members hired a vehicle and DCC members Sher Nawab and Mohammad Ishaq visited village Totai and Selai of the union council and tried to convince the persons already known to them on the grounds that women's role in local bodies institutions is very important. Women understand women's problems and can help them in solving these. Therefore their involvement in local bodies' institutions is very necessary. They were also explained that non participation of women in the elections can be a loss to the area and can result in the non provision of funds. Whereas these women can help the local poor and deprived people in getting material help from Bait ul maal nad Zakat funds. By the non involvement in the elections these people will be deprived of their right and perhaps they may not get other rights either.

The timely step of the DCC proved fruitful and their friends permitted their ladies/ females to participate in the elections and to file nomination papers. Following them others also filed the papers. Among them Begum Bibi w/o Aslam Khan of Selai Patey, Naseem Begum w/o Feroz Khan of Totai, Gulzadgai w/o Abdul Malik of Dherai, Shamshi Jehan w/o Badshah Khan of Totai elected as councilors. DCC helped in receiving and filing the papers and provided free transportation facility. Because of DCC efforts the women seats were saved from being left unfilled.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
28	112	237	103	9	92.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
28	56	122	52	4	92.9%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
28	56	93	0	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
28	56	93	56	0	100%

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## Mansehra

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### Geographical Location

The district is bordered by Batagram in the north, east Azad Kashmir, south Abbottabad and Buner in the west. The district has three tehsils namely Ougi, Balakot and Mansehra with 39 union councils. Mansehra has played a very important historical role and is a part of the ancient Gandhara civilization. It is at the junction of the Silk Route and Grand Trunk Road and most invaders of the Subcontinent have traversed through the district leaving behind many historical monuments including inscriptions chiseled into rocks, beautiful valleys and lakes like Saifulmaluk, which even today attract many tourists. The district is a part of the Hazara division, so named because of the Hazara tribes living in the area.

### Total Area

4,579 sq. kms.

### Population

1,652,839; male 783,882 and female 868,957. Approximately 400,000 Afghan refugees also reside in the district and not counted in the population.

### Total Registered Voters

1,049,413; male 558,838, female 489,179.

### Economy

Mansehra is one of the least developed districts and is dependant mainly on agriculture. Some entrepreneurs have set up service delivery businesses in transport, trade and hostelling. Women play no role in the economy as the socio-political scenario is tribal-feudal.

### Education and Health

Women are not encouraged to obtain education generally and only of recent urban girls are able to get basic education. There are 1,048 primary schools for boys and 678 for girls. There are 146 Middle Schools for boys and for girls 69, High Schools for boys 30, for girls 25, Higher Secondary Schools 75 for boys and 15 for girls. There are two colleges for boys and only one postgraduate college for both boys and girls and one separate degree college for women. The Hazara University is also situated in the

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district. Madarrassa schools are 476. Many schools and homes were destroyed in 2005 earthquake

There are no government hospitals in the district. The district headquarter hospital was destroyed in the October 2005 earthquake. Some BHUs and RHUs are still functional. Private clinics are numerous.

#### **Social Customs and Traditions/Culture**

Socially the district is backward and patriarchal tribal customary practices persist. Underdevelopment of rural areas is forcing populations to migrate to urban areas for employment. This has provided an opportunity to women to acquire some education. Mobility is still a problem for women and those that venture out face harassment.

#### **Political Situation**

Political parties do not have grass root level wings in the district and are mostly confined to urban areas. The two main political parties the PPP and both PML factions (PML-Q and PML-N) are strong contenders in the district. There are 2 MNA and 4 MPA seats from the district.

#### **Women's Participation in Politics**

Political participation of women is difficult and women who do participate face social boycott. As is common in most districts of the country the political parties do not have women's wings but women have come onto the local government canvas as councilors from 2001 onwards. In the LG elections 2001 30% seats were vacant while in 2005 all seats were contested and only 5% seats remained vacant.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

It was the morning of 2005, when we were going towards Tehsil Ooki, District Mansahra with the team of DCC. All were silent in the car. There was a strange fear on every one. Because we were going to such a place that women should participate at local Government where it was a custom/traditional thought that women should not come out from within the four walls of their homes. For these women, it would be very difficult to take part in the local government elections. In this area there was a domination of particular/typical religious thoughts.



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In this situation for an ordinary man to take part in election is not impossible but little bit difficult. When we reached the selected places, there were already some women. Then more women came gradually and no family member was with them.

There was fear and disappointment on the faces of the participants. When the programme was started. The work of photographs began. It was said to the women participants that they should hide their face so that their face should not prominent. They inform about the importance of the system not only the women but also the men. It was said in the meeting that women should not take part in the urban systems programme due to the resistant of their male members. Due to which the seats of women were remain vacant last time, we agreed the women of this area as well as the men that women should also participate side by side with men in the age of progress. Because women have such a problem which were hiding from men and only women could take attention on them/those problems. We present the examples of different countries in this context that women come forward there. After joining the Government they would not only successes herself. But also they play important role in the progress of the country. Due to this progress the economic situation of the women gain better situation. We also inform them about the method of paper nomination that how and where they can collect their papers. When the programme was ended there was a satisfaction on the participant faces.

Before the three days of the elections we invited those people to inform them more about the situation. We feel happy to see that women have taking keen interest in competition and a large number of women collect their nomination papers. Now there was no vacant seat. It is very necessary to describe/discuss. In the beginning when we are trying to convince the people. At that time some people were creating this concept that Aurat Foundation spreading vulgarity in the area. But when they join them and listen to us. So this concept was ended. Now the women of this area were working in many fields of life.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
58	232	318	155	77	66.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
58	116	129	60	56	51.7%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
59	118	173	108	10	91.52%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
59	118	173	108	10	91.52%

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## Mardan

### Geographical Location

Mardan is bound on the north by Buner district and Malakand Protected Area, east by Swabi and Buner districts, south by Nowshera district, west by Charsadda district and North West Malakand Protected Area. Its total land area is 1,632 sq. km with a population of 1,460,000 people. Takht Bhai ruins are a historical heritage and are an attraction for tourists interested in archeology.

### Economy

Mardan is an agriculture-based district. There are two sugar and 8 flourmills. Sugar is produced on large scale and supplied to other parts of the country. 80% of the tobacco in Pakistan is produced in Mardan. Women play a vital role in the binding of dried tobacco leaves. There are 77 industrial units of sugar, tobacco, match, furniture, marble, flourmills, steel, and aluminum goods. The trading centers of sugar and tobacco are situated at Rustam, Shahbaz Garhi, Mardan, Takht Bhai, Shergarh and Hathian. Some people are also in business and government service. Women made straw mats are also very famous.

### Educational and Health Facilities

The literacy ratio is 36%. The male literacy rate is 53% while the female literacy rate is 18%. There is one postgraduate college, 6 degree colleges, one commerce college, one vocational institute, 10 higher secondary schools, 87 high schools, 112 middle schools, 1141 primary schools, 10 Community Model Schools and 3 JICA-Model Schools are being run by the government. Apart from that there are a number of private schools that are meeting educational needs of the people.

The government is running 2 civil hospitals, 5 Rural health Centers, 50 Basic Health Units, 2 Sub-Health Units, 13 dispensaries, 2 Mother Child Health Centers and one Leprosy clinic in the district. Besides that a number of private clinics are also functioning in the Mardan city to cater to the needs of the people.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The people of Mardan are firm believers of Pukhtoon Wali codes, i.e., hospitality, revenge, honour, goodwill and conflict with cousins. Being

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adjacent to the Malakand Agency, the people of Mardan are under the influence of strict religious elements. Discriminatory practices like Swara, early child marriages, bride price and selling of minor girls in the name of marriage are found here.

#### **Political Situation**

Main parties are PPPP, ANP, JUI (F), JI, PML (N) and prominent Political figures are Azam Hoti ( ANP ), Khwaja Mohammad Khan Hoti ( PPPP), Mir Afzal Khan ( ex Chief Minister NWFP ) and Fazle Haq ( ex Governor ) were from Mardan. NA seats are 3, JUI (F) 2, JI 1, PA seats are 8: JI: 3, JUI (S) 1, JUI (F) 3, and PPPP 1.

JUI (F) Naeema Kishwar MPA is on reserve seats from Mardan, JUI (F) Ambareen MNA on reserve seats, Nazim Himayatullah Mayar is from ANP.

#### **Women Participation in Politics**

In the urban areas, women cast vote. Begum Zari Sarfaraz a prominent political figure and social figure is from Mardan. Total registered voters in Mardan are 668,524 out of which 381,905 are men and 286,619 are women.

Total UCs in the district in 2001 LG polls were 74 with total 444 women seats for which 358 total nominations were filed. A total of 282 women were elected as councilors at the UC level in 2001. In comparison to this there were 75 UCs in 2005 and total seats for women were 300 for which 524 nominations were filed. In 2005 a total of 291 women were elected as Union councilors. The percentage of elected women councilors at UC level in 2001 was 63.5%, which was increased to 97% in 2005. It is obvious from the figures that there is a reasonable increase in the percentage of women representation, because in 2001 elections Mardan was in the second phase and due to much better results in the first phase the districts in the second phase were not given satisfactory attention. Moreover local leaders of the major political parties made written agreements of barring women from participating in the polls.

In district councils there are 24 women and in 2 tehsil councils there are 25 women (Mardan tehsil 19 and Takht Bhai tehsil 6 women).

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Due to the social, cultural and religious climate that prevailed in NWFP, women's participation in politics was opposed by traditional elements. *Jirgas* were called in many different communities, which denounced women's participation in politics and declared a ban on it. *Jirgas* in Lower Dir, Mardan and Swabi reached a written agreement to ban women's participation. The decision was also well publicised.

In Timergarah, Lower Dir, local leaders of political and religious parties held a meeting on 19 May 2000 regarding Local Government elections. The agreement stated:

"We, the office bearers and representatives of all parties of Upper Dir take an oath that we oppose the allocation of 33 per cent seats for women in Local Government and general seats from which women can contest and we will totally boycott these elections. We will neither nominate women nor will we allow women who choose to participate to do so. Furthermore, if any male member of any political party supports women candidates, a press release will be given declaring the concerned man's expulsion from that political party. If any party refuses to cooperate, a campaign to expose this party will be initiated."

In a *jirga* in Mardan it was declared that women would not be allowed to contest seats or vote and those who refused to abide by the decisions of the *jirga* would be fined Rs 50,000.

In March 2001, a similar agreement was reached in Marghaz, District Swabi. Local leaders belonging to various religious and political parties participated in the *jirga* and decided that women in Marghaz union council would not be allowed to vote and this decision would hold for all elections to come, and that women who got elected to the four seats in the council would not be able to vote for the district *nazim*. The *jirga* also declared that elections would be conducted in a peaceful atmosphere so that a sense of brotherhood would persist.

The media ran a campaign against the decisions taken by *jirgas* in various parts of the province. Local activists held dialogues with leaders of political parties who had participated in the *jirgas*. During these meetings it emerged that even though political leaders had put their signatures on this agreement, they actually opposed to it. The PPP, ANP and even the JI leaders refused to recognise the legitimacy of the decisions taken by the

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*jirgas*. They said that the decision not to support the *jirgas* came from local members of their parties.

The DCC Coordinator of Upper Dir, Amir Zad Gul, along with other members of the DCC, held a press conference in Peshawar and gave press releases in which the undemocratic decisions of the *jirgas* were criticised and brought this issue to the notice of higher authorities. At the behest of Aurat Foundation's Executive Director, regional teams and the National Campaign Coordinator sent letters to provincial and national leaders of NWFP, the Governor NWFP, the Election Commissioner, Provincial Ministers and the President of Pakistan.

As a result, instead of taking open action, which was recorded, against women's participation in politics, these groups resorted to underhand and subtler ways of resistance.

### **Glimpse 2**

In order to conduct the Campaign we formed a core group of both men and women with about 30 members. After this, a focal person was appointed for each of the 74 union councils. With their help a group of women was organised and an AF resource person trained this group. The focal person was also trained in this way.

During the Campaign different issues arose. Religious extremists incited people to riot against NGOs. In the rioting that erupted some offices of NGOs were burnt. Influentials who feared losing their power also opposed elections. Pakhtun culture and purdah also contributed to the difficulty in conducting the Campaign.

Since Mardan is a male-dominated society, in some union councils opposing parties declared that women should not participate in politics. In response we held meetings with the Station House Officers (SHOs) and Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) of various areas like Shahdadpur, Gharyala, Toora, etc. We also involved several religious leaders in our Campaign.

There was little time for people to understand the Local Government system since it was new and complex. The DCC held seminars, workshops, press conferences, information camps, and distributed printed material and videos for voter education.

A few days before the elections, political heavyweights started reaching compromises. This greatly damaged our Campaign. When we wanted the law to intervene, the police was unable to alleviate the situation. We could

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not stop the decision being taken at the lower levels. We were also unable to reach many union councils due to lack of conveyance.

Nomination papers for 96 per cent of the reserved seats were filed. We managed to fill 65 per cent of the seats reserved for women.

### **Glimpse 3**

During the second phase of local government elections in Mardan and Swabi, agreements were signed in some union councils between the candidates for *nazim*, *naib nazim* and councillors' seats and the local political and religious leaders to bar women from the electoral process. It was agreed that women would not be allowed to vote or contest elections. An understanding was also reached that the women who had filed nomination papers would be made to withdraw their nominations. Women elected unopposed would not be allowed to cast their votes for the district and tehsil/town council elections.

After the local DCC had failed in its efforts to cancel the agreements, the AF Campaign staff stepped in and wrote letters to all the concerned authorities to take action. There was very little and ineffective response to this violation of the constitutional rights of the women of the constituency. After elections, Bakht Zareena, wife of Juma Gul, from village Punjpeer, and Mashooq Zari, wife of Naseeb Gul, of village Niyam Khel, both in district Swabi, contacted AF Peshawar to take legal action on their behalf. On 26 April 2001, Aurat Foundation filed a constitutional writ petition under Article 199 of the Constitution of Pakistan through Advocate Qazi Muhammad Jamil. All authorities concerned were made respondents. The writ petition was accepted by the Peshawar High Court, hearings were held and all the male candidates who had been party to the agreements and had since won elections, were asked to appear before the Court.

The judgement of the Court stated:

"There is no cavil with the proposition that every citizen of the country has a right to form or be a member of a political party as enshrined in Article 17(2) of the Constitution, which includes the right to contest and participate in elections. There is also no cavil with the proposition that every citizen who is registered as a voter regardless altogether of gender has an indefeasible right to exercise his or her vote. There is also no cavil with the proposition that this right being inherent in every registered voter can be exercised by him or her alone and thus cannot be foregone and forsaken by an agreement entered into by any person howsoever high he may be, therefore no means or devices including threats of dire

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consequences or agreements amongst the candidates for election to an office can curb, curtail or fetter it.

"As a matter of fact, employment of such means by any person irrespective of his status and stature in society will not only be void and illegal but criminal as well which can well be punished under the law. We strongly deprecate all such means, devices, threats and even agreements aimed at restraining the female registered voters from participating in the electoral process. The judgements cited by the learned counsel for the petitioners at the bar fully illustrate the nature of this right which under no circumstances admits of any inroad or invasion from any quarter whatsoever."

Thus the High Court accepted the inalienable right of women to cast their vote as well as stand for election. However, it dismissed the petitions on the grounds that it could not be proved that the "means and devices including threats and agreements aimed at refraining the registered female voters from participating in the electoral process were in fact employed by the respondents".

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

UC Bagh-e-Aram consists of both rural and urban areas. Mohammed Arif a DCC member and resident of Mohallah Gulshanabad says that people of this area are against the participation of women in political process. When elections of 2005 were announced no women were willing to take part in election because male members of the family were against it. Mohammed Arif raised this issue in the meeting of DCC. DCC coordinator Sakahawat Shah, and joint coordinator Aziz-ur- Rehman suggested to him that if no body is willing, why don't you ask your wife to contest the election. He agreed but said that his wife will not contest the election, if she agrees my father will not allow. They said try and if there is any problem contact DCC. He talked to his wife who agreed, when the family members came to know about this they opposed this specially his father who is a religious minded person.

He contacted DCC and told them that his father is not allowing my wife to stand for the election. He was advised to send his sister and uncle as a jirga to his father. Mohammed Arif contacted his sister who is married in Swabi and convinced his uncle to talk to his father. Father of Mohammed Arif said that it is alright if men participate in politics but for the first time I am hearing about women taking part in politics. Our society and honor



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does not allow this. Jirga (sister and uncle) told him about the importance of women councilor, "we will be known in the area, people will come to our house for their work, and politically our house will go up". Finally his father agreed and asked Mohammed Arif how much will be need for the admission of papers. He was told only Rs.500/- . Mohammed Arif's father gave Rs.1000/- to him and said Rs 500/- is admission fees and rest is your reward. In this way wife of Mohammed Arif got permission to contest the election. Seeing this people of the area got motivated and allowed their wives, sisters, daughters and mothers to contest the elections. In this UC there was strong competition among women and no seat was left vacant due to the efforts of DCC.

### **Glimpse 2**

Local Government Election of 2005 was announced. On the day of filing of the nomination papers DCC Mardan set up facilitation camps to facilitate women in getting forms, filling and submitting. For this purpose DCC Mardan contacted District Election Commission and acquired thousand of forms for women (general, peasant, worker seats), and kept in the camp, so that women can easily get the forms from the camp. There was difference in color in the forms given by the returning officer and forms provided by the election commission office. The forms provided by Election commission office were of lighter color. These forms were given to 70 women. After filling the papers when women went to submit the forms, Returning Officer refused to accept these forms. Women were upset and they came to camp and complaint that we have provided them the wrong forms and Returning Officer has refused to accept these papers.

DCC members Mohammed Khan, Gulzar and Sakahawat Shah who were present in the camp went to Returning Officer and told him that the Election Commission Office provided these forms, but Returning Officer was suspicious. DCC Members contacted Assistant Election Officer Mr. Fazl-e-Hakim, who personally came to Returning Officer and told him that these forms are original and were provided to DCC by Election Commission Office. After this clarification Returning Officer accepted the papers and women were very happy.

### **Glimpse 3**

UC Ghaladheri is situated in the south of Mardan at the border of district Nowshera. In this UC two panels contested for the seat of Nazim, one

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panel belonged to Peoples Party and other was of Jamiat-e-Islam. All councilors were contesting election from one of the panels.

People Party Awam Dost group nominated Zari Bibi wife of Taza Gul resident of Mian Kaley for general seat. She was running her election campaign and Peoples Party was also helping her. Zari Bibi is a poor women and does not have money to run her campaign, she requested the party to print some banners and posters for her . One of the activists of the party printed thousands of banners and posters for her and pasted on the walls of Union Council. The person who had printed the posters, he also printed the photos of Banazir Bhutto and party flag on them. The opposite panel presented these posters in the court and filed the application for the disqualification of Zari Bibi.

Zari Bibi requested DCC to help her. DCC Mardan with help of Jehanzeb Advocate fought her case. DCC proved in the court that Zari Bibi did not print poster with the photographs of Banazir Bhutto and the party flag and some other person has printed the posters and banners. Zari Bibi is innocent so she should be allowed to contest the election. Court accepted the point of view of DCC and case was dismissed and Zari Bibi was allowed to contest the election. Zari Bibi fought the election with new enthusiasm and won her seat as a councilor.

#### **Glimpse 4**

Tehsil Takhtbai is a small tehsil of district Mardan. It is situated 20 kilometer North of Mardan on Malakand-Swat highway. Tehsil Takhtbai comprises of 17 union councils. When the governemt announced date for the submission of the nomination papers of the local government, DCC Mardan established guidance camp outside the Tehsil Courts Takhtbai same like Mardan. The DCC volunteers use to sit there from 8 am to 5 pm to facilitate people in general and women specially like bringing forms for them, photocopying and in helping them in submitting the filled out forms.

The government had fixed a fee of Rs. 500 to be submitted with the nomination papers. Contrary to that the staff of the both of the returning officers was getting Rs. 600 from all the candidates including women while the receipt was being provided for Rs. 500 only. As a result the staff of returning officers was receiving Rs. 100 as tip. When this information reached tehsil court's guidance camp of the DCC, so those present there including DCC Joint Coordinator Aziz-ur-Rehman, Muhammad Shahid and Fazal-i-Raziq contacted the TakhtbaiBar Association President Qamar Zaman Advocate and informed him about the situation. On DCC

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request he met with both of the returning officers and they stopped their staff from taking Rs. 100 extra.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
73	292	293	203	89	69.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
73	146	65	55	91	37.7%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
75	150	237	148	2	98.66%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
75	150	113	143	7	95.3%

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## Nowshera

### Geographical Location

Nowshera is a combination of two Persian words, Now means new and Shera means city, so Nowshera means the new city. It is located along the banks of the Kabul River. The district is bound on the east by Attock (a district of Punjab province), to the west and to the north-west lie districts of Peshawar and Charsadda respectively, whereas on the northern side are the districts of Mardan and Swabi and on the south is Kohat district. Nowshera has a total land of 1,748 sq km with a total population of 874,373 people.

### Economy

The economic condition of the people of Nowshera is relatively better than people of other districts. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture. However, some are government servants while the other are working abroad, bringing prosperity to the area. The agricultural land of the district is fertile and produces good crops like wheat, sugarcane, maize, and sugar beat. The Pabbi circle of the district is regarded as the fruit-producing region. The Manki area is famous for citrus fruits.

### Educational and Health Facilities

The literacy rate is 42%. The male literacy rate is 60% and the female literacy rate is 22%. The education system in the district is satisfactory and people are benefiting from government-run institutions and schools established in the private sector. There are three-degree colleges (one for girls) four inter colleges, one polytechnic Institute, 77 high schools (18 for girls), 81 middle schools (27 for girls), and 745 primary schools (320 for girls).

There are 6 hospitals, 16 dispensaries, 6 Rural Health Centres, 32 Basic Health Units, 2 Sub-basic Health Units, 4 Mother Child Health Centre and one TB clinic apart from the private clinics.

### Social Customs and Traditions

People are traditional and hospitable. Events like marriages, deaths and childbirths are celebrated in a simple traditional way. The shrine of famous saint Kaka Sahib has significance in dispelling supernatural influence on human beings.

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### **Political Situation**

Main political parties are JI, JUI (S), PPPP, ANP, PPP-S, PML (N), PML (Q), JUI (F), TI.

Main Political personalities are Ajmal Khattak, Pervaiz Khattak, Naseerullah Babar, Farhatullah Babar, Qazi Hussain Ahmad and Maulana Samiul Haq,

The famous religious institute Jamia Haqqania is situated in Akora Khattak, 14 km from the district headquarter.

There are 2 NA seats, One JI (Qazi Hussain Ahmad), second Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani, JUI (S) son of Maulana Samiul Haq. MPA Fauzia Farrukh is from here against reserved seat.

PA seats 5, PPPP 2, PPP-S 1, ANP 1, JUI (F) 1.

Senator Samiul Haq is the representative from this district in the Senate. Zila Nazim, Mohammad Daud Khattak is from PPPP.

### **Women Participation in Politics**

In most of the parts of the districts women exercise their right to vote. The only Woman Naib Nazim in the entire province Ms. Naila Naz won the elections from Badreshi UC, Nowshera.

Total registered voters in Nowshera are 378,231 out of which 214,423 are men and 163,808 are women.

Total UCs in the district in 2001 LG polls were 47 with total 282 women seats for which 485 total nominations were filed. A total of 266 women were elected as councilors at the UC level in 2001. In comparison to this there were 48 UCs in 2005 and total seats for women were 192 for which 416 nominations were filed. In 2005 a total of 176 women were elected as Union councillors. The percentage of elected women councilors at UC level in 2001 was 94.3 % which was increased to 91.6 % in 2005.

In both district and in 1 tehsil councils there are 16 women each.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

Zakia Begum wife of Ibrar Moeen, Union Council Akora Khattak was nominated as women peasant/worker councilor in 2001 Local Government Elections. She had played a vital role for the welfare and awareness of the women folk. She was again willing to take part in the 2005 Local Government Elections but the ANP political organisation was opposed to it and due to the reason her own family members were not allowing her participation but she was herself eager to take part in the elections. When the political and family burden further increased at her she contacted DCC Nowshera and informed all the DCC members of the ongoing situation. Kachkol Khan Khattak contacted PPP Akora Khattak Akmal Shah Advocate and Nazia Sher Wali contacted the women family members of Zakia and convinced them. As a result her family members not only allowed her to take part in the elections but also supported Zakia and she was elected with a heavy mandate.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
47	188	316	181	7	96.3%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
47	94	169	85	9	90.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
48	96	228	95	1	98.95%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
48	96	153	93	3	96.8%

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## Peshawar

### Geographical Location

The district with the oldest living city of Pakistan is bounded on the north by Charsadda district, on the east by Nowshera district, on the south by the tribal area adjoining Peshawar and Kohat districts and on the west by Mohmand and Khyber Agencies. The area is 1,257 sq km; population 2,019,000 and main occupation is farming and trade.

### Economy

The economy is based on agriculture, industry and trade. A considerable number of the population is in the government service and business. There are small industrial units and several trade centers in parts of Peshawar city.

### Education and Health Facilities

The literacy rate is 41.79% (55.97% men Vs 25.85% women). The government education and health infrastructure includes four universities, 7 degree colleges (girls, 3), 2 commerce colleges (girls, 1), 2 polytechnic colleges (girls, 1), one vocational institute for women, 17 higher secondary schools (girls, 6), 89 high schools (girls, 24), 689 middle schools (girls, 41) and 1,032 primary schools (girls, 384).

Besides these government-run institutions, there are also a large number of private educational institutions. The girl education is encouraged. There are 13 hospitals in the district (3 major ones). The number of the Rural Health Centers is 3, Basic Health Units 50, TB clinics 4, Mother Child Care centers 19, leprosy clinic one and dispensaries 77.

Besides these, there are several hospitals in the private sector

### Social Customs and Traditions

The population in the district comprises Hindko-speaking Peshawaris and Pashtoons. The Peshawaris have their own traditions and customs such as seeking pardon from one another on the night of Shab-e-Baraat, special dishes (Niaz) to mark occasions and the Khoncha Roti – the food served on marriages. The Pashtoons follow Pushtoonwali. The rudimentary code of Pushtoonwali has four imperatives – hospitality, revenge, honour, and conflict with cousins. The Pashtoons strictly adhere to this code. The invasion of Afghanistan by the erstwhile USSR in 1979 brought a large

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influx of Afghan refugees, approximately 3 million to NWFP. A considerable number of them have stayed in Peshawar even after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops greatly affecting the social and economic life of people of Peshawar and overburdening the civic facilities.

#### **Political Situation**

The PPPP, ANP and PML (N) have remained major parties in the district. However, MMA has emerged as a strong force in the district in the General Elections 2002. The prominent political families are Syed, Bilour and Arbab. The increasing multi-cultural atmosphere in the district has also broadened the canvas of political figures. District Nazim Haji Ghulam Ali is from JUI (F). The MMA has won all the four NA seats and 8 out of 11 PA seats in the general elections 2002. The 2 PA seats are with PPPP and one has been claimed by ANP.

#### **Women Participation in Politics**

The women cast ballot and take part in the political activity. They have no mobility problem in the urban area. In the LG polls 2001, the district was divided into 92 UCs, with 552 women seats. As many as 794 women filed papers and of them 423 got elected representing 76.6% success rate. In the LG Polls 2005, the number of UCs remained unchanged but the number of seats for women was 368. The total number of voters was 835,433 (Men: 492,012 and Women: 343,421). As many as 722 women filed nomination papers and 348 got elected, representing 94.5%. There is one woman vacant seat in the District Council while all seats have been filled in the four town councils. This time too, women were barred from voting in some UCs of the district, highlighting the fact that opposition to their political participation was there even in the district that houses the provincial capital. Begum Rahat Agha and Begum Sardar Jaffer were two prominent women who took active part in the independence movement. The number of woman MPAs on the reserved seats from the district is 11 while 6 woman MNAs are based in Peshawar.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

The problem faced by DCC Peshawar was acquiring place for facilitation camp in district courts. The DCC could not find the place for the camp



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because different political parties (Muslim League, ANP, and Peoples Party) had set up camps for the facilitation of their candidates. The offices of three returning officers were in this court.

DCC Peshawar decided to set up their camp in lower court instead of district courts because majority of Returning Officers were in Lower courts. After long search a suitable place was identified and when DCC was setting up the camp Lawyers told them that you couldn't set up camp here because you don't have the permission.

We contacted Aurat Foundation to share this problem. Rukhshanda Naz Resident Director of Aurat foundation came and went to the office of District returning officer Mr Shahjehan with the members of DCC 1, took permission for the setting up of the camp. He gave the permission to set up camp in one of the room's in the session courts; he did not give any written permission. The place given by the DRO was not suitable for the camp. Rukhshanda Naz and DCC 1 members met Mr. Fida Gul president Peshawar Bar Association to acquire permission for setting up camp in Lower courts.

He was told that DCC wants to set up camp for facilitation in local government elections. After getting verbal permission from him we searched for appropriate place. The place appropriate was of Hamid Khan who was application writer. He refused to give the space. We told him that we have the permission of President Bar Association. But he refused to give the space. At last he agreed on giving the place on RS 1000/ day. On this we got the place to set up the camp for three days. In these three days we facilitated 1,800 men and women. Provided information, provided voters list, free forms, filled the forms and helped in submitting the forms.

The camps were in very appropriate place, important political leaders, news reporters, members of electronic and print media visited the camp.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
92	368	589	309	59	84.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
92	184	205	114	70	62.0%

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Election Results 2005					
General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
92	184	415	179	5	97.2%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
92	184	307	169	15	91.8%

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## Shangla

### Geographical Location

Upgraded to the status of a district on July 1, 1995, Shangla has on the east Batagram district and tribal area of Kala Dhaka along which the Indus River flows for about 75 km, on the west Swat district, on the south Buner district and the tribal area of Kala Dhaka and on the north Kohistan district. The total area of the district is 1,586 sq km; population 434,563 and main occupation is farming.

### Economy

Aside from fertile lands, the natural resources include forests and mines. Soapstones, chromite, marble, emerald and many other precious and semi-precious stones mines are found in this area. Most of the people work as laborers in mines in other parts of the country, to earn a living. Per annum income of a family is less than Rs. 8,000. A number of medicinal plants are also found in the area. There is no industry in the district. Chadars (blankets) are produced in the houses. The biggest trade center in the district is Besham, which is situated at Shah-Rahe Karakum and is full of Chinese goods. The women work outside their houses, though in small number, and are employed in government jobs.

### Education and Health

The literacy rate is 14.75 (25.2% men vs 3.7% women). Girls' education is considered good. The educational setup is far from satisfactory. There are two degree colleges, one intermediate college, 3 higher secondary schools, 28 high schools, 28 middle schools, 599 primary schools and one vocational center at Besham. The health facilities are limited. People are forced to go to Swat and Peshawar for medical treatment. There are 5 hospitals, 15 Basic Health Units, 11 dispensaries and 2 leprosy centers.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The Nikkah ceremony takes place at the house of the bridegroom. On death, the people of the area bear the expenses of the burial and serve the visitors who come to the bereaved family for offering condolence.

### The Earthquake

The October 8, 2005 earthquake had badly affected almost the entire population of the district in one way or the other way. Over 1,000 people

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were killed in the calamity while scores injured. Thousands of houses were either demolished or partially damaged. The NGOs helped the people by launching post-quake relief operations, providing them the space to work to improve water, sanitation and livestock situation. The work provided relief to the people and also had some positive impact on the social status of the women. The restriction on women mobility was eased and they got a chance to get the NICs as these were needed for the affected families claiming compensation.

#### **Political Situation**

The main political parties in the district are PML (Q), ANP, PPPP and MMA, especially the JUI (F) but the last party is the weakest in position as far as support base is concerned. The main political figures in the district are Mr. Ameer Muqam (federal minister) and Zahir Shah of the PML (Q), Fida Hussain of JI and Said Fareen of the ANP. The district has one NA seat which has been won by Mr. Ameer Muqam. The two PA seats are with JI (Peer Mohammad Khan) and PPPP (Hamid Iqbal). Senator from the area is Maulana Rahat Hussain of JUI (F). No woman MPA from the area. District Nazim is Dr Ibaad of the PML (Q) who is younger brother of Mr Ameer Muqam.

#### **Women Participation in Politics**

Traditionally women are not permitted to cast ballot. In the LG polls 2001, the district was divided into 24 UCs with 144 seats reserved for women. As many as 189 women had filed nominations and 111 got elected, representing a success rate of 77.1%. In the LG polls 2005, the number of the registered voters stood at 196,815 (men 106,485 and women 90,330). This time the district was divided into 28 UCs with 112 seats reserved for women. As many as 235 women filed nomination papers of which 108 were elected at the UC level, representing a success rate of 96.42%. The number of women in the District Council is 9 and the tally in the 2 Tehsil Councils is 9.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Shangla is a conservative and backward area. Besides the other mainstream religious political parties, a local organisation, Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi also opposed the new Local Government system and boycotted the elections saying it was unIslamic.

Due to the unfavourable situation, and with consultation of local partners, Shangla was one of those few areas where the AF team kept a very low profile to avoid unnecessary provocation. In one of the Campaign's public meetings, some participants were not ready to hear anything about women's participation in the electoral process. One of them, in a very aggressive mood, considered it against their religion and culture, saying, "Our religion and culture have given more rights and respect to women than any other ideology or system."

In his Friday sermon, one of the prominent ulema of Besham, Shangla, strongly criticised the NGOs, particularly AF, for pursuing a western agenda and promoting vulgarity. Opposing the Local Government system in general, and specifically women's political participation, he asked the congregation why they tolerated AF and had allowed it to hold a meeting the previous day in Besham. The religious leader claimed the NGOs were bent upon destroying family structures by promoting western values. He also hurled threats and warned AF that they would not be allowed to function in these areas in future.

#### Glimpse 2

During the Campaign, we found there was a lot of opposition from political and religious groups to the participation of women in the elections. The ulema of Shangla declared that they would not allow any nomination papers for the women's seats to be filed.

It was decided to have a public discussion with them. A seminar was held by Shangla Development Society in the hall of Government College, Alpuri, on Local Government issues, its advantages and hazards. Habib and Aimal Khan from Aurat Foundation were present. Aimal talked about the inclusion of women's participation for the elections. A lot of protest and arguments started in the hall and many people left. The Chairman of the Shangla Development Society managed to pacify others and got them to sit down in their seats once again.

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Five days were left for filing the nomination papers, and a camp was organised under the supervision of the Shangla Development Society, a few metres from the office of the Sessions Judge. We had met Umer Daraz Khan and his wife frequently and persuaded them, so he came and filed the nomination papers for his wife.

Five representatives from the Maulvis' Committee came to the office of the Sessions Judge and told everyone to give them the nomination papers of all the women. Umer Daraz Khan refused, saying, "I am a true Muslim and my Islam allows it; if your Islam doesn't, so what? I and my wife will do whatever we like and not for any price will we take back the nomination papers." Hearing this, the maulvis used abusive language towards him and then went away.

After this incident no maulvi objected openly. Only in his Friday sermon did one preach that it was unIslamic for women to participate in the elections and also that the elections themselves were against Islam. By filing the nomination papers, Umar Daraz Khan and his wife had made a breakthrough, and other women also offered their names for nomination. All the women's seats in the union council elections were filled.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
24	96	131	76	20	79.2%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
24	48	58	35	13	72.9%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
28	56	95	53	3	94.64%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
28	56	95	53	3	94.64%

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## Swabi

### Geographical Location

It is the central district of NWFP. It is bounded on the north by Buner district, east by Haripur district, south by Attock district and west by Nowshera and Mardan. Total Area is 1,543 Sq.Km. Total population of the area is 1,026,804 (men 565,510 women 510,264) according to 1998 census.

### Economy

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the rural population. People are employed in government sector also. Some are working in other cities or abroad. Women are also engaged in agriculture and government sector. District is rich in natural resources such as: Marble, Sandstone, Gravel, Limestone, and Phylilite.

### Education and Health

The literacy ratio is 36%. The male literacy rate is 54% and the female literacy rate is 18%. There are 975 primary (566 boys, 409 girls), 90 middle (Boys 6,129 boys) 94 high schools (69 boys, 25girls), 6 colleges (three each for boys and girls), Polytechnic and Commerce College, GIK University of Engineering, Science and Technology. There is 1 DHQ, 3 civil hospitals, 2 RHC and 41 BHU

### Social Customs and Traditions

The hujra has a pivotal role in the social life. Men play the role of decision maker in the family. "Khanism" has great effect on the social setup. Women are usually not given share in the property. Swara, early marriages, trafficking is also part of the customs of the district. Women have no say in the decision making in family matters.

### Political Situation

ANP is the single largest party; other parties are also present on the political scenario. Despite being a strong hold of ANP no national level political leader emerged from this area. Voting and contesting trend is mix, traditions influence the political interests and family factors also influence the politics to some extend. The district Nazim is from PML(Q), 1 Senator belongs to PPP(S), 2 MNA From MMA and 6 MPAs ( 2 from MMA , 1 from Swabi Quami Mahaz, 3 from ANP)

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### Women Participation in Politics

Historically women never participated in politics. For the first time in 1985 a woman named Nawa Bibi of Topi took part in elections as independent candidate. These election were non-party basis, she contested for provincial assembly seat but lost the elections. In 2001 elections, written agreements were made to bar women from contesting and voting in elections whereas in 2005 verbal agreements were made to bar women from casting votes on polling day. This time women affiliated with religious parties took part in the election by contesting the elections. In present elections, women filed papers in all the UCs except for 2 UCs (Adina and Bamkhel). Reduction in seats effected the representation of women at UC level. Total Registered voters are: 384,495 (men 196,330, women 188,165)

In 2001 elections number of UCs was 56 and 336 were reserved seats. 229 women filled the nomination papers 173 were declared successful with the percentage of 51.5%. In 2005, 352 women filled papers against 220 seats in 55 UCs, 196 women were successful with 24 seats vacant. The comparative result of both elections is 51.5% in 2001 and 89.09% in 2005. District Swabi has 2 tehsils Tehsil Lahor with 6 councilors and tehsil Swabi with 13 councilors and 18 councilors in the district council.

### Analysis

1. Swabi being progressive and educated district of the province was taken lightly thinking that in a district like Swabi women will definitely contest LG election 2001 in all the UCs, thus DCC and AF campaign team was relaxed.
2. Religious influence also played important role in barring women from participating in the election and Islam Card was used to stop women for contesting and voting. Written agreements were struck to stop the process of women participation. Where as in 2005 elections AF team and DCC worked hard to motivate women to contest the elections.
3. Presence of women belonging to religious parties in NA and PA seats also created a difference.
4. Political and Religious parties also nominated women on the seats as they all were contesting for the district nazim seats.



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Although women were nominated for seats but oral agreements were struck to stop women from exercising their right to vote, but this time Islam card was not used.

## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Due to the social, cultural and religious climate that prevailed in NWFP, women's participation in politics was opposed by traditional elements. *Jirgas* were called in many different communities, which denounced women's participation in politics and declared a ban on it. *Jirgas* in Lower Dir, Mardan and Swabi reached a written agreement to ban women's participation. The decision was also well publicised.

In Timergarah, Lower Dir, local leaders of political and religious parties held a meeting on 19 May 2000 regarding Local Government elections. The agreement stated:

"We, the office bearers and representatives of all parties of Upper Dir take an oath that we oppose the allocation of 33 per cent seats for women in Local Government and general seats from which women can contest and we will totally boycott these elections. We will neither nominate women nor will we allow women who choose to participate to do so. Furthermore, if any male member of any political party supports women candidates, a press release will be given declaring the concerned man's expulsion from that political party. If any party refuses to cooperate, a campaign to expose this party will be initiated."

In a *jirga* in Mardan it was declared that women would not be allowed to contest seats or vote and those who refused to abide by the decisions of the *jirga* would be fined Rs 50,000.

In March 2001, a similar agreement was reached in Marghaz, District Swabi. Local leaders belonging to various religious and political parties participated in the *jirga* and decided that women in Marghaz union council would not be allowed to vote and this decision would hold for all elections to come, and that women who got elected to the four seats in the council would not be able to vote for the district *nazim*. The *jirga* also declared that elections would be conducted in a peaceful atmosphere so that a sense of brotherhood would persist.

The media ran a campaign against the decisions taken by *jirgas* in various parts of the province. Local activists held dialogues with leaders of political

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parties who had participated in the *jirgas*. During these meetings it emerged that even though political leaders had put their signatures on this agreement, they actually opposed to it. The PPP, ANP and even the JI leaders refused to recognise the legitimacy of the decisions taken by the *jirgas*. They said that the decision not to support the *jirgas* came from local members of their parties.

The DCC Coordinator of Upper Dir, Amir Zad Gul, along with other members of the DCC, held a press conference in Peshawar and gave press releases in which the undemocratic decisions of the *jirgas* were criticised and brought this issue to the notice of higher authorities. At the behest of Aurat Foundation's Executive Director, regional teams and the National Campaign Coordinator sent letters to provincial and national leaders of NWFP, the Governor NWFP, the Election Commissioner, Provincial Ministers and the President of Pakistan.

As a result, instead of taking open action, which was recorded, against women's participation in politics, these groups resorted to underhand and subtler ways of resistance.

### **Glimpse 2**

During the Local Government elections 2000-2001, the AF formed the DCC in Swabi in collaboration with the CAC, as was done in other districts of the province. All the DCC members unanimously elected Roohul Amin as the DCC Coordinator.

The JUI, JI and the Islahi Jirga (a welfare organisation) members had launched a campaign in the district against women's representation in the Local Government elections. They had termed the polls as an NGO drama, staged to bring women into disrepute, saying it was a conspiracy by the West to make Muslims rebel against Islamic values. They went to the extent of accusing those supporting women's representation in the polls of getting funds from AF and the anti-Islamic forces and agencies of the West. They further gave the fatwa that Roohul Amin and his companions had gone out of the ambit of Islam and become infidels and hence their *nikah* (marriage vows) stand broken. Anyone keeping contact with the DCC members would become infidel even after their deaths, for it was forbidden to attend even their funeral prayers.

Similar meetings were held in every mosque and Roohul Amin was the main target. There was a meeting in the Murghaz mosque and five men were given the assignment to kill him. Someone who came to know of the plot informed the DC and the Superintendent Police (SP) Swabi. Both the

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officials warned Roohul Amin and asked him to exercise caution outside the home. They also gave him maximum protection.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Islahi Jirga, of which Roohul Amin was a member, was called in Roohul Amin's village. When Roohul Amin reached the venue, there were approximately 250 elders and youths there. When the discussion started, almost everybody agreed with the position of preventing women from voting or standing for election. When he was given permission to speak, Roohul Amin spoke at length on women's role in development work and the significance of their direct election to the councils. He told them that if the six seats of women in their union council went vacant, they would get less development funds than the other union councils where women were elected to the reserved seats.

The DCC Coordinator told them that Dera Ismail Khan was the home district of Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman and there was no opposition to women's participation in polls there, but only here in Swabi. He said that women had roles to play as mothers, sisters, daughters and wives. If the men gave them respect, other people would follow automatically.

Some *jirga* members taunted Roohul Amin that if he considered it so important, why didn't he bring his own family women in the elections. At this Roohul Amin announced that whether the *jirga* supported him or otherwise, he would take the start with his own family and field his family women in the polls. The *jirga* could not reach any verdict. Another date was fixed for convening the next *jirga* at the *hujra* of Roohul Amin himself. Meanwhile, Roohul Amin mobilised the active DCC members. The next day, the *jirga* announced that since Roohul Amin was bringing his own family women to the polls they had no authority and would allow him to do so unopposed.

On the other hand, the clerics, especially those from the JUI, JI and the imam opposed Roohul Amin tooth and nail and used all kinds of tactics to force him to take back his decision. The opponents sent a *jirga* team to his house, which met his brothers and children, but the DCC members and his family stood by him. He fielded his wife, Nighat Farozan, from the union council Swabi Khas and she was elected. Another woman, Gopala Begum, contested the peasant/worker seat and won. Similarly, Razia, the wife of the DCC Joint Coordinator, also contested and won her seat.

### **Glimpse 3**

During the second phase of local government elections in Mardan and Swabi, agreements were signed in some union councils between the

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candidates for *nazim*, *naib nazim* and councillors' seats and the local political and religious leaders to bar women from the electoral process. It was agreed that women would not be allowed to vote or contest elections. An understanding was also reached that the women who had filed nomination papers would be made to withdraw their nominations. Women elected unopposed would not be allowed to cast their votes for the district and tehsil/town council elections.

After the local DCC had failed in its efforts to cancel the agreements, the AF Campaign staff stepped in and wrote letters to all the concerned authorities to take action. There was very little and ineffective response to this violation of the constitutional rights of the women of the constituency. After elections, Bakht Zareena, wife of Juma Gul, from village Punjpeer, and Mashooq Zari, wife of Naseeb Gul, of village Niyam Khel, both in district Swabi, contacted AF Peshawar to take legal action on their behalf. On 26 April 2001, Aurat Foundation filed a constitutional writ petition under Article 199 of the Constitution of Pakistan through Advocate Qazi Muhammad Jamil. All authorities concerned were made respondents. The writ petition was accepted by the Peshawar High Court, hearings were held and all the male candidates who had been party to the agreements and had since won elections, were asked to appear before the Court.

The judgement of the Court stated:

"There is no cavil with the proposition that every citizen of the country has a right to form or be a member of a political party as enshrined in Article 17(2) of the Constitution, which includes the right to contest and participate in elections. There is also no cavil with the proposition that every citizen who is registered as a voter regardless altogether of gender has an indefeasible right to exercise his or her vote. There is also no cavil with the proposition that this right being inherent in every registered voter can be exercised by him or her alone and thus cannot be foregone and forsaken by an agreement entered into by any person howsoever high he may be, therefore no means or devices including threats of dire consequences or agreements amongst the candidates for election to an office can curb, curtail or fetter it.

"As a matter of fact, employment of such means by any person irrespective of his status and stature in society will not only be void and illegal but criminal as well which can well be punished under the law. We strongly deprecate all such means, devices, threats and even agreements aimed at restraining the female registered voters from participating in the electoral process. The judgements cited by the learned counsel for the

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petitioners at the bar fully illustrate the nature of this right which under no circumstances admits of any inroad or invasion from any quarter whatsoever."

Thus the High Court accepted the inalienable right of women to cast their vote as well as stand for election. However, it dismissed the petitions on the grounds that it could not be proved that the "means and devices including threats and agreements aimed at refraining the registered female voters from participating in the electoral process were in fact employed by the respondents".

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Swabi District population is about 1.2 million and it is divided into two Tehsils i.e. Tehsil Swabi and Tehsil Chota Lahore. The number of Union Councils in the district is 55. The inhabitants of the area usually follow traditions and give importance to the "*jirga*" decisions. In the collective decisions "*jirga*" has an important role. Out of these 55 Union Councils there is one Union Council Tarlandi where in a *jirga* it was decided through an unwritten agreement that women would not be allowed to cast their votes. On the polling day a candidate for the Naib Nazim seat Ghulam Safi contacted DCC Swabi. The DCC members were Zahoor Ahmad, Musa Khan and Liaqat Ali and they contacted Asim Malik of Aurat Foundation as he was in Swabi at that time. So he along with DCC members contacted Haji Rehman Ullah, president ANP and he phoned the Naib Nazim candidate and asked him to allow women polling in the area. The said Naib Nazim gathered about 20 women in a house of the Rashakai area for the purpose of casting their votes. But the Rashakai *jirga* members and the candidates gathered and repeated the stance that not to break the *jirga* decision and remain firm on the unwritten agreement that the women would remain deprived of casting their votes. But the *jirga* members and candidates of the Tarlandi Union Council were disappointed on the unwritten agreement. Finally all the political parties of Union Council Tarlandi including ANP, PPP and *jirga* members decided that in future they would not enter into any agreement of barring women from casting their votes.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
56	224	178	135	89	60.3%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
56	112	51	42	70	37.5%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
55	110	189	103	7	93.33%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
55	110	143	97	13	88.18%

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## Swat

### Geographical Location

Known as Udyana (garden in Sanskrit) in the past, Swat has Chitral and Ghizer district of the Northern Areas on north, on the east are Kohistan and Shangla districts, on the south Buner district and Malakand Protected Area and on the west Lower Dir and Upper Dir districts. The total area is 5,337sqkm; population 1,257, 600 and main occupation is farming.

### Economy

Agriculture is the largest economic sector. The hotel industry is the largest and silk industry the oldest in the area. Rich in mineral resources, Swat has plastic, marble factories and flourmills. Sheep and goats are reared and their wool consumed locally and supplied to other areas. The handicrafts are popular and find a good market. New markets with Chinese's items have widely spread in the commercial area of the city.

### Education and Health

The literacy rate is 28% (43% men vs 13% women). The government educational and health infrastructure includes 1,618 primary schools (girls 601), 98 middle schools (girls, 29), 82 high schools (girls, 17), 11 higher secondary schools (girls, 1), 5 colleges (girls 1) and a medical college. There are 8 hospitals, 2 Rural Health Centers, 16 dispensaries and 42 Basic Health Units. Several private clinics are also functioning in Mingora.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The customs of the bride price and Swara are deep-rooted in the district. Because of beauty and poverty, women of the district fall victim to trafficking. The Pashto music CDs and films are mostly produced in scenic areas of the district and find a good market in other parts of the country where Pashto is either spoken or understood.

### Political Situation

Political parties such as JL, JUI (F), PML (Q), PPPP, ANP and PPP-S have support base in the district. The noted political figures are Mian Gul Aurangzeb, Afzal Khan Lala and Shamsheer Ali Khan. In the General elections 2002, both the NA seats and all the 7 PA seats from the district went to MMA. Three seats reserved for women in the PA are also with the

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MMA. Senator Shujaul Mulk of the PPP-S is from Swat while the District Nazim Jamal Nasir is from PML (Q).

### **Women Participation in Politics**

Most women do not exercise right to vote due to socio political constraints. In 2001, the district had 65 UCs with 390 seats reserved for women. There were 503 nominations and 300 women got elected, representing a success rate of 76.1 percent. In the LG polls 2005, the number of registered voters was 585,398 (Men: 325,896 and women: 259,502). A total of 453 women filed nomination papers against the reserved seats at the UC level. The women elected in the UCs stood at 236, representing 90.76 success percentages. In the DC are 21 and in the 2 TCs 21 women (17 in Swat and 4 in Matta). The continued advocacy work by the CAC and the AFRC lifted the success rate. Ms Shaheen Sardar Ali, former provincial health minister and chairperson on the NCSW is from the district. There are three woman MPAs from the district elected against the reserved seats.

## **Glimpses of the Campaign**

### **WPLGE 2005**

District Swat is famous throughout the world for its beautiful natural scenes. It is also known as small Switzerland, yet there is great influence of religious people. The Aurat Foundation, like in other districts, formed a district coordination committee in district Swat, as well. Besides other committees a legal aid committee was also formed in DCC. The free legal aid committee helped the women in the submission of nomination paper.

The DCC opened a camp in District Court Gul Kada. A woman Ms. Bakht Jehan w/o Yaqoob Khan, resident of Tauheed Abad Colony, Faizabad, Tehsil Babozai, wanted to contest for General Muslim seat during the Swat Local Government Election 2005. She submitted her nomination papers before the District Returning Officer / Civil Judge Swat. After checking the nomination papers, Ms. Bakht Jehan's nomination papers were rejected on the basis that her proposed person Riayat Ullah was a defaulter of Bank of Khyber.

The contestant asked DCC to help, so the DCC free legal aid committee filed an appeal in the court of District Returning Officer / District and Session Judge. It was said in the appeal that there is no clause present in Local Government Ordinance 2000 that says the nomination papers of the



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proposed person and the one who seconds him/her will be rejected if he /she is a defaulter. The district returning officer / district and session judge Swat accepted the appeal and Ms. Bakht Jehan was held able for participating in the election. Ms. Bakht Jehan participated as a contestant for general Muslim seat from UC Faizabad.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
65	260	333	204	56	78.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
65	130	170	96	34	73.8%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
65	130	181	111	19	85.38%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
65	130	181	111	19	85.38%

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## Tank

### Geographical Location

Tank is also the southern most district of the province. It was made a district on July 1, 1992. The district headquarters lies at a distance of 70 km from Dera Ismail Khan and 145 km from Wana (headquarters of the South Waziristan Agency). It is bound on the northwest by the tribal areas, on the northeast by Lakki Marwat district, on the south by Dera Ismail Khan District and on the west by South Waziristan Agency. Total population of district is 258,600.

### Economy

The district is backward and the people depend on agriculture. People choose to migrate to find employment since the agricultural sector does not absorb all those looking for means to earn a living. A good number of people are serving in the armed forces as well. Tank is arid land and only small area is under irrigation. The area cultivated depends on rainfalls in winter as well as in summer. Construction of Gomal Zaam dam is a dream of people as they believe that their economic well being is attached with the Gomal Zaam construction.

### Educational Facilities

The literacy rate is 26%. The male literacy rate is 42% while the female literacy rate is 8%. Female education is viewed positively. There is one college for boys and none for girls, two higher secondary schools for boys and one for girls, 21 high schools for boys and 4 for girls, 19 middle schools for boys and 9 for girls, 222 primary schools for boys and 134 for girls, 149 mosque schools for boys and none for girls. There are also two non-formal schools for boys.

### Health Facilities

There are two hospitals, 4 Rural Health Centers, 19 Basic Health Units, 16 dispensaries, 1 Mother Child Health Center and 2 sub-health centers.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Social setup is very much dominated by religion and traditions. People used to live in tribes. Kundi, Betani, Gandapur are major tribes. Traditions and customs in different tribes have varying life styles. Seraiki and Pashto are main languages spoken in the town. Seraiki-speaking people are more

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liberal than Pashtoons. Marriages are celebrated in a traditional manner and are a big liability for economically disadvantaged people.

### **Political Situation**

As Tank is sharing boundaries with South Waziristan and FR Lakki, after 9/11 the political situation became very critical. NGO functioning is very much difficult in the area because most people think that NGOs are working for westernization. Law and order situation in the area has worsened. "Local Taliban" are a new phenomenon in the area. Some unlawful elements use this name for their unlawful activities. They abduct people for ransom. Target killing is common and a few NGO workers have left the district due to life threat.

JUI has a stronghold. There is one National Assembly seat and one provincial assembly seat. MNA belongs to MMA and MPA is independent while district nazim is from ruling PML

### **Political Participation of Women**

Registered voters are 98,954, women 45,166 and men are 53,788. In the LGE 2001 for the first time in history of Tank, 71 women were elected on 96 seats (74%) where as in LGE 2005, 100% seats have been filled. A woman contested on general seat and another contested for Nazim slot.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Tank was one of four districts of NWFP where elections were held in the first phase. Although it is a settled area, it has tribal characteristics. The Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), led by Maulana Fazal-ur-Rahman, had influence over the majority of the population and the party had boycotted the Local Government elections.

In those days, the Campaign against NGOs was at its peak. In such circumstances it was very difficult for the AF Campaign staff to launch the Campaign, but we took the risk. Gul Rehman, an active member of JUI(F) took on the responsibility of coordinating the Campaign in the district. That was a bold step. He carried on his activities and, despite opposition, held meetings and personally visited all the 16 union councils of the districts to hold mobilisation meetings there.

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As a result of the efforts of AF Campaign staff and the DCC, especially the Coordinator Gul Rehman, 74 per cent of the seats reserved for women in the union councils were filled.

### **Glimpse 2**

Tank is one of the most economically backward and conservative tribal areas of the NWFP. Tribal and family affiliations are stronger than political ties. The clergy has a strong hold on the people.

Nearly all the local people we met regarded the idea of women's participation in political activities as ridiculous. They rejected it because they claimed it was against their religious and cultural norms and traditions.

Anti-NGO feelings were strong in the area. Some people sincerely advised us not to undertake any mobilisation of women for Local Government in Tank. The Campaign staff was threatened with dire consequences by some conservative circles, but the team members preferred to hold discussions with them. Thus through dialogue and using personal contacts, we were able to diffuse the tension.

### **Glimpse 3**

An economically backward and conservative tribal area of NWFP, Tank was a district where tribal and family affiliations were stronger than political ties and religious elements had great influence on the people.

The first time AF went to Tank was in connection with the Campaign activities. We had no formal network or local partner there. However, we managed to identify a few individuals to run the Campaign. Though small in number, the DCC worked very tactfully without provoking any untoward action.

Most of the people we met ridiculed the idea of women's participation in political activities, saying it was against their religious and cultural norms and traditions. There was also strong anti-NGO feeling in the area. We were sincerely advised not to undertake any mobilisation of women for Local Government in Tank. We were threatened with dire consequences by some conservative groups, but the team members preferred to hold discussions with them. Thus through dialogue and using personal contacts, we were able to diffuse the tension.

Instead of going for high profile public activities, the local Campaign team held one-to-one meetings with the candidates for the *nazim's* seat and with the influential among different tribal groupings. The local power

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brokers were made aware of the importance of women councillors' votes in the subsequent elections of district *nazim*.

Once the local elites realised the importance of women councillors' votes in the numbers game, they started preparing and fielding women candidates to win the coveted office. During the election for the *nazim*, the potential candidates approached the DCC Coordinator for assistance. Each wanted his support because of the goodwill enjoyed by the Coordinator among the elected representatives as he had developed good ties with most of them during the Campaign.

#### **Glimpse 4**

The motivation Campaign of the activists generated a great deal of interest and attracted many unexpected enthusiasts in this less developed district of NWFP. A local night watchman in a union council approached the DCC and asked them to file the nomination of his daughter on the reserved seats for women. The DCC declined to do so, on the grounds that his daughter was 20 years old and was not eligible to contest elections since the minimum age for candidates was 25. The man said angrily, "You should have educated public representatives. No woman in our area above the age of 20 is educated. You must include my daughter in the candidates." While accepting the truth of this statement, the DCC Coordinator reluctantly refused to oblige him. The night watchman went away very disappointed.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

In the south of N.W.F.P Tank is the smallest district. In its North East Lakki Marwat, South East Dera Ismail Khan and in West South Waziristan are situated. The total population of tank is 258235 while about 40 percent residents belong to South Waziristan, which is a major cause of the law and order situation. The reason is that after a crime these tribal go back and hide in their areas. After Wana operation situation is further deteriorated. Most of the people are linked with agriculture but due to the improper irrigation system most of the lands are barren. The education facilities are almost nil here, as due to the political reasons most the schools remain closed because the politicians use the teaching staff for their political activities. There are no proper health facilities and the only district headquarter hospital is under construction for the past four years and so far only doctors quarters have been constructed. People are compelled to take slightly injured or ill persons to 65 kilometer away Dera Ismail Khan. Despite the fact that it is the stronghold area of Jamiat

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Ulema-i-Islam no constructive work has been done by the MMA. Unfortunately the ex-district nazim was from opposition and due to the reason no developmental funds were issued to the district.

In 2005 Aurat Foundation formed a committee in the name of the District Coordination Committee to ensure women political participation. As in Waziristan the Pakistan military troops had started operation, large number of Taliban shifted to the district and the law and order situation was really worst. In such a situation it was very difficult to run a campaign for the women representation. Keeping in view the situation the DCC adopted a different strategy and arranged a seminar under the topic "Local Government ordinance and new amendments" and invited the religious and political groups. Because after earlier meetings with different religious and political groups the DCC came to know that these groups don't have proper information so by discussing these amendments in the seminar they would not only be aware of the new amendments but they would come to know about DCC and its stance on women representation. On the day of the seminar almost all the religious and political party members including MMA Maulana Hassam-ud-Din, Haji Abdul Haleem, JUI district General Secretary Shabir Shah, Maulana Saif-ud-Din, ANP Fazal Karim, PPPP, Muslim League Q and N representatives attended it. Shabina Ayaz and Saima Munir of Aurat Foundation also participated. They briefed the participants in details about amendments and also talked about women representation in the political process. They informed the participants that this movement is not only for the women but also for the downtrodden people of the society. They went on to say that it would be easy for women as almost same things she do at home i.e. preparing budget, identifying the needs at home, security etc and they are doing it for centuries and they have the abilities to do it at larger level. They were also informed that which party representatives would be elected at union council at larger level they would have an edge over other political parties in the district nazim polls. At the end of the seminar a unanimous resolution was passed that "we support women participation in the political process" and all the parties members signed it.

Due to this strategy not only all the seats were filled in district Tank at union council level but Tank was also the only district in N.W.F.P where one woman contested on general Muslim seat. Apart of that one woman contested for nazim seat although two of them have lost the elections but by this step this impression was clear that women can not contest on general seats.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
16	64	63	52	12	81.3%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
16	32	25	19	13	59.4%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
16	32	118	32	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
16	32	111	32	0	100%





Punjab



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## Attock

### Geographical Location

The district is bordered by Swabi and Haripur in the north, Islamabad/Rawalpindi in the east, Chakwal and Mianwali in the south-east and south, Karak, Kohat and Nowshera in the west.

### Total Area

6,856.7 sq kms with a total of 72 Union Councils.

### Tehsils

Attock, Fateh Jang, Hassanabdal, Hazro, Jand Pindi Gheb

### Population

Total 1,554,867, male 776,056, female 778,811

### Registered Voters

Total: 710,108, male: 378,343, female: 331,765

### Female Labour Force

Attock was established as district in 1904 in British government period and it was known as Campbellpur, later in the decade of 80s the name was changed to Attock. Sixty percent of the population is engaged in agriculture. Most of the male population of Chache is working abroad. Military cantonment area was established in the period of British government.

### Economic Conditions

Attock is backward area; most of the people are engaged in agriculture. Due to arid zone, per acre production is less, therefore its increased poverty ratio. Rest of the population is busy in govt service, business, trade and serving in armed forces and in different occupation. There are two mega defense projects in this area Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra and Pakistan Ordinance Factory, Sanjwal.

There is a factory "Lawrancepur Textile Mill" in the private sector. There are some textile textile mills and glass factory in tehsil Hasenabad. Most of the people of the district are working as labour in these factories due to less education.

Main occupations: Agriculture 50%; Elementary Workers 37.3%; Service workers and shop and market sales workers 6.7%; Professionals 3.5%.

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### Health

There is 1 DHQ with 165 beds, 6 THQs 280 beds, 5 RHCs 40 beds, 57 BHUs 48 beds and 26 Dispensaries.

### Education Conditions

Literacy rate: Total 57%, male 73%, and female 40%.

Tehsils	High Schools	Higher Education	Elementary	Primary	Maktab
Attock	36	07	18	106	03
Fateh Jang	45	06	22	107	02
Pindi Ghaib	25	05	09	81	13
Jand	40	05	15	126	41
Hassanabad	22	04	07	37	4

### Social Condition

Attock is comparatively a peaceful city, people live a simple life. There are number of settlers who have controlled the city business. In rural areas people were against female education and women were bound to their four walls but now girls are getting more education as compared to the boys. In past, the women were only in teaching profession but now they are working in most government departments. In past, women were "Parda" observing but now they wear Chadar. The life style has changed with the passage of time.

There is representation of all ethenic groups and all are enjoying their religious and sectarian freedom. People freely visit holy places of their faith and perform their rituals.

### Political Condition

There are mostly supporters of two mainstream political parties; Muslim League and Pakistan people's party. Locally, there is Sheikh biradri, Khattar biradri and Malik biradri are strong in politics and are allied to these two political party. Sitting Prime Minister Mr. Shaoukat Aziz has won the election from district Attock.

Since the women got opportunity in the practical politics, they are trying that woman get her due status in the society. During 1<sup>st</sup> tenure of local government elections, women couldn't demonstrate their performance but now after getting trainings the women have become more active and fighting for their status and right.

### Glimpses of the Campaign

#### WPLGE 2005

The former name of Attock was Campbelpur and it was changed in 1980 to Attock. There is feudal system in rural area of Attock. It has six Tehsils and in one of the Tehsil's Hazro, feudal system strictly prevails. The women are "purda" observing and living under the control of men. In Election 2001 in Union Council Jalalila, no women came forward and all the six seats remained vacant. It was informed by a woman of Jalalila, Muniba Bibi, that there are two major biradries who had decided that women will neither poll their votes nor contest in the elections. Muniba Bibi who was CAC member, she told that the CAC increased in number of visits in Union Council Jilalia, meetings were conducted regularly and focus was on women should know about their rights. They should also know about their right to vote and importance of vote as the women were afraid that how they would be able to talk to their men about the situation. The members of CAC also started meeting with the male members of the community. Slow but steadily they were able to convince them that the women should contest in the election because it will be in their benefit. In Election 2005 both the groups allowed their women to contest in the elections and four women were elected from Union Council Jalalia. It was great achievement of CAC Attock.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
72	288	582	280	8	97.2%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
72	144	295	138	6	95.8%

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Election Results 2005					
General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
72	144	360	144	0	100 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
72	144	305	143	1	99.4%

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## Bahawalnagar

### Geographical Boundaries

Bahawalnagar is bordered by Okara, Pakpattan and Vehari in the north and in the east by Ferozpur and Ganganagar districts of India. On the south by the Indian state of Bikanir and on west by Bahawalpur while district River Sutlej forms the north-western boundary of the district.

### Population

Total population of the district is 2,061,447 out of which 19.1% are urban and 80.9% are rural. Of the total population 1,067,411 are males and 994,036 are females.

### No. of UCs

Total number of UCs is 118.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 8,878 square kilometres.

### Name and Number of Tehsils

Total number of the tehsils in district is five, Bahawalnagar, Minchanabad, Chishtian, Fort Abbas and Haroonabad.

### Registered Voters

Total registered voters are 1,038,949 of which 560,426 are male and 478,523 are female voters.

### Major Occupation

Most of the people live in villages and engage in agriculture, which is the main source of income. The people living in the city carry on small businesses. There is no industry in the whole of the district except Adam Sugar Mills, in Chishtian. About 50.3 % are skilled agriculture and fishery workers, followed by elementary occupations representing 27.8%, service workers, shop and market sales workers 8.5%, handicraft and related trade workers 4.5 %.

### Women's Economic Status

In the district, out of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.3% while domestic workers are 66.8 percent. Despite being participants in the economically productive process, their efforts remain largely "invisible", and are not represented in

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economic decision-making. This is compounded by discriminatory barriers, which restrict their entry into the formal and modern sectors of the economy. In order to meet their subsistence needs, women in urban areas are being forced to seek economic employment, but due to the lack of their mobility, education, skills, and access to credit facilities, they have limited options. These women are doubly disadvantaged as they face social constraints as well as weak institutional support.

#### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 35.1%. The literacy ratio for males is 45.5% as against 23.8% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 30.8% and in urban areas is 51.9%.

#### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 2,872 educational institutions imparting education in the district. There are 1,103 primary schools for boys and 917 for girls, 125 middle schools for boys and 153 for girls, 107 secondary schools for males and 53 for females and 3 higher secondary schools for males and 3 for females, 5 intermediate and degree colleges for females and 5 for males. A sub-Campus of Islamia University is also located here.

#### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

There are 282 religious institutions in the district.

#### **Health**

There are 5 hospitals, 47 rural and 10 civil dispensaries and 10 Rural Health Centers. Besides this there are 101 basic Health units, 3 T.B Clinics, 34 Sub Health Centers in the district. Seven Mother and Child Health centers are functional.

#### **Social**

Bahawalnagar is divided into three conspicuous parts according to physical features i.e. Uttar, Hithar and Cholistan. Tribal/semi tribal customs and traditions vary from one part to another with minor alterations. Socially the people are orthodox in relation to their customs and traditions specifically for women.

#### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Syed bradri is the most powerful in this district who are settlers, big landholders, have religious influence and dictate social norms. The



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population of the district is predominantly Muslim. The important minorities are Christians and Hindus.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs. Within the limits prescribed by custom, these women influence domestic affairs of their families and play a decisive part in arranging marriages. The women fulfil the demands of hospitality and are engaged mostly in domestic household work.

#### **Political Situation**

The main political parties in the district are Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (Z), Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPPP).

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In the election 2002, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) won the NA majority seats while representatives of Pakistan Peoples Party and Muslim League (Zia ul Haq Shaheed) also won some seats.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

In 2002, only one woman Miss Samina Naveed (PPPP) was elected as Member Provincial Assembly Punjab against reserved for women

#### **Comparison of 2001-04 and 2005 LG Elections**

In LG Election 2001, women representation was 96.6 while women representation in LG Election 2005 was 99.36%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

In the election 2002, Mr. Akhter Khadim Hussain Watto Alias of PML (Q), Syed Nazar Mehmood Shah of NA, Abdullah Waine of PML (Q), Mr. Ghulam Murtaza of PML (Z), Rao Ijaz Ali Khan of PPPP, M. Yar Mummunka of PPPP, Ch. Kashif Mehmood of PML (Q) and Shahid Anjum of (PPPP) won the seats of Provincial Assembly while Syed M. Asgher Shah of PML (Q), Ali Akbar Waine of PML (Q), Tahir Bashir Cheema of PML (Q) and M. Ijaz-ul-Haq of PML (Z) won the seats of National Assembly.

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### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

In tehsil Chishtian in Bahwalnagar district, there was a problem with opposing groups of lawyers. One group that was working with the DCC was providing free legal aid through the facilitation camp. The other group of lawyers went on strike, saying the lawyers who were assisting us had no mandate to provide this information. Eventually the two groups went to the Assistant Commissioner and after negotiations it was decided that the facilitation camp would be moved to a slightly different place.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Tehsil Coordination Committee Haroonabad, organised mobilization seminar on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2005, in Punjab Public Cadet School for creating awareness among women about women's participation in political process. On this occasion, while sharing their views, local women leader said that women folk of this area are confined to their homes and are only bound to only house hold work or domestic work. They have no knowledge or information about election. Women's participation in election is very limited or very poor, we don't know about the election process and what are the constraints have to face in this regard and how one can resolve these problems and handle the difficult situations, we also have lots of difficulties and problems that wont let me proceed ahead to participate in elections. They said that by attending such seminars and meetings organised by DCC and listening the speeches, they had got complete knowledge and now she feel herself able to contest election". In the seminar women candidates told that they are facing problem to local guide women how they caste their votes due to a number of ballot papers and similarity in election symbol. They requested DCC to organise a meeting in their area. On the demand of women candidates, TCC planed to organise the Moc sessions about casting vote during the women

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candidate training workshops and mobilization meetings at union council level. Through these sessions DCC told them that how they caste their votes and how they can differentiate between election symbols. They also told that which color of ballot paper was for Nazim or Naib Nazim and which color of ballot paper was for women general councilor or women Labour councilor. At the end of the Moc session, women candidates, candidates of Nazim and Naib Nazims's seats and general public appreciated them and said that through these sessions, we are able to save our votes to spoil.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
118	472	841	462	10	97.9%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
118	236	411	222	14	94.1%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
118	236	592	236	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
118	236	441	233	3	98.72%

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## Bahawalpur

### Geographical Boundaries

The district is bordered in the north by Lodhran, East by Bahawalnagar, South by India and West by Rahim Yar Khan District.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 2,433,091 of which 27.3% are urban and 72.7% are rural. Males are 1,278,775 and 1,154,316 are females.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 107 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

Bahawalpur has an area of 24,830 sq km.

### Name and Number Tehsils

Total numbers of the tehsils are five named Bahawalpur, Ahmad Pur East, Yazman, Khairpur Tamewali and Hasilpur.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 1,251,182 of which 664,862 are male and 586,320 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 44.7% are engaged in agriculture, 34.8% are elementary occupations, 9.2% are service workers, shopkeepers and market sales workers and 3.5 % are craft and related trade workers.

### Women's Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

The family structures are mainly male oriented and women are economically dependent on their male counter parts. In the district, out of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1% while domestic workers are 66.4%. Economically active female population: 29% are self-employed, 39.1% are government employees, 11.5% are private employees and 0.2% are employers.

### Education

The literacy ratio in the district is 35%. The literacy ratio for males is 44.9% as against 24% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 26.3% and in urban areas is 57.0%.

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### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are a total of 2,033 educational institutions imparting education in the district. There are 935 primary schools for boys and 778 for girls, 80 middle schools for boys and 85 for girls, 77 high schools for boys and 45 for girls and 4 higher secondary schools for boys and 3 for girls, 5 intermediate and degree colleges for females and 5 for males. One Commerce College for boys, 2 Commercial Training Institutes for boys and 1 for girls, 2 Vocational Institutes for boys and 1 for girls, 1 Poly Technic Institute for boys, 2 Elementary Training Colleges for boys and 1 for girls. One Para Medical School for boys and 1 Nursing School for girls are functional in the district. A Medical College and one Islamia University are also located here.

### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

There are 272 Madrassas in the district.

### **Health**

The district has Bahawalpur Victoria Hospital, Jubilee Female Hospital, Mission Hospital, Police Hospital and 5 THQ Hospitals, 12 Rural Health Centers, 83 BHUs, 4 Dispensaries, 32 Homeopathic Clinics, 1 private hospital and 3 T.B. Clinics. There are 2 maternity centers in all the 5 tehsils of the district, which is not sufficient to cater to the needs of the community.

### **Social**

Saraiki and Raistai are the languages of the district. Although the social customs and traditions have now evolved due to migration to cities but the majority still observe the Raistai Zaban and indigenous culture. The Cholistan culture is popular among the inhabitants and they observe very strictly the traditions and customs especially regarding marriage.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Feudals and industrialists have influence in the district. Syeds and Qureshis are powerful in this area. In this district, big landholders and religious groups influence is strong. The population of the district is predominantly Muslim. The important minorities are Hindus and Christians.

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### **Women's Social Status**

Traditions that violate women's basic rights like early marriages continue. Minority women suffer extreme discrimination in the district. The family structures are patriarchal. Women have a limited role in public affairs. They have limited resources as compared to men. Women are not encouraged to participate in socio-cultural activities.

### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPPP), Muthida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N) are the major political groups of the district. Main bradries are Syed, Qureshi, Baloch, Pathan, Rajput, Jat, Gujjar and Arain. Abbassi Gillani, Lodhi, Makhdoom, Chunnar Qureishi, Gardazi, and Syed families have influence in the area.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In the 2002 National elections, representatives of Pakistan Peoples Party, Muthida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) and Pakistan Muslim League (Q) were elected to the legislatures.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Mrs. Perveen Masood Bhatti of PML (N) Syeda Bushra Nawaz Gardazi of PML (Q) and Mrs. Sittara Fayyaz of PML (Q) were elected as Member Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in 2002 against reserved seats for women.

### **Comparison of 2001-04 and 2005 LG Elections**

Women representation in Local Government Election 2001 was 94.5% while in LG Election 2005 was 99.76%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Makhdoom Syed Iftikhar Hassan Gillani of PML (Q), Sahibzada Muzammal-ur-Rashid Abbasi of PML (Q), Malik Khalid Mehmood Waran of PML (Q), Mian Saif Ullah Owaisi of PPPP, Dr. Syed Waseem Akhter of (MMA), Malik M. Iqbal Channer of PML (N), Mian M. Latif Panwar Rajput, Ahmad Nawaz of (NA), Ch. Shoaib Karim of PML (Q) and Dr. M. Afzal of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly while Makhdoom Syed Ali Hassan Gillani of PML (Q), Amir Yar Malik of PPPP (Patriot), M. Farooq Azam Malik of (NA), Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada of (NA) and

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Syed Tasneem Nawaz Gardezi as independent candidate won the seats to the National Assembly.

## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

The DCC had written permission from the Deputy Commissioner to set up a facilitation camp in the city of Bahawalpur. Free legal aid was provided to candidates to help them file nominations, with lawyers sitting from 9:00 in the morning to 5:00 in the evening. Another group of lawyers complained to the Deputy Commissioner that the camp was blocking the right of way on the main street. The real cause of their concern was that they used to charge prospective candidates Rs. 1,000 per nomination form and were now losing income. Charging candidates for helping them fill forms was a traditional way of making money before elections. They convinced a judge that they were right and on the third day the facilitation camp had to be moved to a place slightly further away.

#### Glimpse 2

In Hasilpur tehsil, district Bahawalpur, the DCC also set up a camp. At night we stored the information material, including the voters' lists, in a local shop that provided photocopying services. Next morning when we went to collect our material on the way back to Bahawalpur, the shopkeeper returned everything except the voters' list. After some argument he explained that before the elections, he had made multiple photocopies of parts of the district voters' lists that he planned to sell at inflated prices. Since the Campaign staff had copies of the voters' lists that could be accessed freely by the general public, he had not been able to sell his photocopies and was losing income. This was another of the traditional ways of making money prior to an election. He finally returned our copy of the voters' lists.

#### Glimpse 3

A question raised by the newspapers was how could illiterate women stamp five ballot papers simultaneously. The DCC of Bahawalpur made a documentary video film that explained the five ballot papers in detail. At that time there was an army major in Bahawalpur working for one of the agencies. He took the video cassette to Multan and showed it in different places so people understood the procedure of casting their ballot. This

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was shown in official circles too, and we sent a copy for Aurat Foundation's record so that in future election campaigns we would have audio-video material to explain the procedure.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Maqsood Ilahi is a middle age women, who has no child, but has passion of serving humanity at large, from her early childhood she was taking keen interest in solving the problems of her community. She wanted to contest election. She says: "What if she has no child all the children of her area are her children".

Maqsood Ilahi belongs to rural area Mari Mir Mohammad of Mehrab Goth of union council 35 of Bahawalpur. She went to the office of district coordination committee to get information about election procedure etc. The district coordinator Jamshed Karim asked her "Bibi you have come from a far flung area from whom did you learn the whereabouts of our office? Specially when you belong to a backward rural area who told you that you could get information regarding election from this office? Maqsood Ilahi answered that you are right in saying that we do not get any newspaper in our area people don't care for the information given on T.V. Once I was traveling with my neighbor in a bus, on our front seat a pamphlet was pasted, on which information about women taking part in elections was written and along with it the name of committees given this information was also mentioned.

Two men were sitting on their seats were discussing about this pamphlet and the details of it that government has given the women right to contest elections, now from every union council four women will contest. I inquired from them about the whereabouts of these committees helping in the election process. The man in reply to this gave me the pamphlet. On returning home I showed that pamphlet to my husband and expressed my desire to contest election, my husband promised that in the morning he find out exact location of the office of the above mentioned committee. My husband inquired from the people about this office and got to know that the office in Alfatah school.

Alfatah Development Organisation has also opened a primary school for children and all the teachers of this school are involved in this campaign by the management to help in the mobilization of people living in the rural areas. So I with my husband went to this school and the teacher gave us the address of the office. Then we reached the office and met Jamshed Karim, who very kindly gave us complete information and further added to



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contact him on the phone when ever there is any problem. He also said that he will set a camp in the district court in the near future where information will be given to the ladies for filing of nomination papers and also arrange for the training of women candidates. He also offered his help in the filing of nomination papers. He and his office manager Sumaira gave us the nomination literature regarding elections.

Maqsood Ilahi remained in contact with the coordination committee. At the time of nomination Maqsood Ilahi and her husband along with her supporters came to the information camp. The committee helped her to the utmost and also arrange for the training of polling agents and women candidates in Jamal chawk. In this training the women were informed about different ballot papers. Women appreciated this training.

At present Maqsood Ilahi is an elected councilor and says that in her success the print material of the coordination committee has played a major role and it has changed her life.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
107	428	847	422	6	98.6%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
107	214	340	185	29	86.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
107	214	559	214	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
107	214	422	213	1	99.53%

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## Bhakkar

### Geographical Location

Bhakkar district has very important position. It is one of the border districts of the Punjab. Dera Ismail Khan is to the west of the District. To the South is newly created Layyah District. To the east are Khushab and Jhang Districts and to the north is Mianwali District. The mighty Indus River flows along the western side of the district. This district has an area of 2,005,659 acres which comes to about 3,133 square miles with a population of 1,051,456.

The district Bhakkar derives its name from the district headquarters town probably named after Bhakkar Khan alias Bhako, one of the early settlers. The Bhakkar district was created in 1982 after slicing the area from district Mianwali of which it was a part as sub division. Besides sub division Bhakkar, sub division Kallurkot and Mankera were also established to constitute the new district. Moreover Darya Khan has been carved out as independent Tehsil from Bhakkar sub division w.e.f. 1.7.1995

The Indus, by the time it passes from Kallurkot Tehsil to Bhakkar. Tehsil losses much of the velocity with which the water rushed forth from the gorge at Tehsil Kallurkot and throughtout the Bhakkar Tehsil confined itself to more or less defined course

### Area and Population

This district formed the southern half of Mianwali district covering an area of 2,038,910 acres which comes to about 8,153 square kilometers.

### Total Population

1,051,456, Urban: 168,674 (16%), Rural: 882,782 (84%)

Male: 543,661 (52%), Female: 5,07,795 (48%)

### Total Votes

564416, Male: 300,702, Female: 253,714

### Indus Valley

The Indus Valley is that part of the district which lies between two high banks of the Indus River. The area close to the main stream is called **Kacha** and beyond that is known as **Pacca**. The entire area is generally

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called **Nasheb**. The floods in Indus supply moisture to the cultivated land of **Katcha** area of the district.

#### The Thal

The Thal, the Great Sandy Desert and prairie lies above the high banks of the Indus River. It is further divided in to two natural divisions namely Thal Kalan and Daggar. The Thal Kalan of the Greater Thal Characterises scanty rainfall, tree less and sandy soil and numberless sand dunes and scattered pasturage. This condition of Thal Kalan is gradually changing. Barani cultivation is being supplemented by tube-wells being installed in Mankera, Hyderabad, Dhingana and Khasore area. To the west of the Thal Kalan is the tract known as 'Daggar'. The Thal Canal provides irrigation to the large areas of Daggar, most of which were leveled by the Thal Development Authority. The Thal Canal has transferred this tract from barren land into the green rooling fields.

#### Social and Culture

In Bhakkar Hindu taboos and practices are common; people are living under the influence of feudalism and religious extremism, Some of the worst forms of customs and cultural practices, which perpetuate violence against women and convert them into an inferior status in the district are;

5. "Ghairat Key Namm Par Katal/Tor tora" ( honour Killing)
6. Domestic Violence
7. "Wunny/ Sawara" (giving away of girl/girls in marriages as compensation to settle blood feuds and other disputes).
8. "Watta Satta" ( Exchange of marriages among families)
9. Forced Marriages
10. Child Marriages
11. Jirgas (out of court reconciliation or settlement )

People's belief on "*Peeri Faqiree, Taveez Ganda*" creates domestic turmoil. In rural area women are restricted to work only in their fields and taking care of livestock. Women have no right of inheritance or they are given very less part in property. Lots of Girls remain unmarried and die because are deprived from the right of property. Women have no decision making power, all decisions are made by the elder male members of the family.

Literacy rate in women is very low, 10% of the women are working jobs in different departments. 90% women are just limited to their four falls. In

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2006, there were eight cases of Haddood, nine cases of murder and some cases of women kidnapping were reported and most of the cases are settled down on the basis of Biradrism. Therefore, no case got registered in police record.

#### **Race and Tribe**

The main tribes of the district are Baloch, Pathan, Rajpoot, Syed, Qureshi, Jats and Awan.

#### **Health**

There is only one gynaecologist in Bhakkar, Maternal causes are dealt by untrained birth attendants (Daies). The seats of LHVs are still laying vacant at Basic Health Units of District Bhakkar. Due to unavailability of lady doctor the male doctors have to operate the labour cases. Women dislike that male doctor operate them due to religious, traditional and Veil (Perda) practice.

District Headquarter 1 with 50 beds, Tehsil Headquarters 2 with 40 beds, Rural Health Centres 4, Basic Health Units 40, government dispensaries 13, Private Clinics 35

#### **Education**

Total literacy Rate: 34.17%, male: 49.72%, female: 17.55%.

Urban literacy rate male: 67.65%, urban literacy rate female: 41.54.

Rural literacy rate male: 46.18%, rural literacy rate female: 12.91

Total Educational Institutions in Bhakkar: 673.

Tehsil Darya khan: 359, Tehsil Kallurkot: 357, Tehsil Mankera: 253.

There is one post graduate degree college for boys and one degree college for woman functioning at District Headquarters. One degree college for boys is functioning at Kallurkot and one intermediate college for boys is functioning at Mankera. There are 56 high schools for boys and 20 high schools for girls functioning in the district. These have included three higher secondary schools for boys and three for girls.

#### **Economic Condition**

The economy of the district very much depends on agriculture. The per capital income is 2000 per month. Women economic level is very low;

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generally women are engaged with domestic work or help their males in the field as unpaid workers. Very few educated women are working as teacher, nurse and lady health worker. There is no acknowledgement of women work whether at field or at home, therefore they are forced to work on fewer wages and sell their product at low rate. Child and bonded labour are very common and at work places like bricklines industry.

#### **Industries**

Textile Mill 1, Sugar Mill 1, Cotton Ginning factories 2, Flour Mills 5.

#### **Political Condition**

In district Bhakkar, Navani, Shahani, Uttra, Dhandhla, Masti Khel, Khana Khel, Cheina Group, Hasen Kheli and Hafiz Mumtaz group are dominant on district politics. In general elections of 2002, none of the women contested neither for national nor provincial seat. In local government elections 2001, the maid servants of feudal and the wives of farmers (Mazaras) contested. Even then 35% seats left vacant, which were filled latter in bi-elections. In local government elections 2005, literate women come forward and contested, result was 100%.

Feudal setup overall prevails in district's politics, therefore any political party neither could able to establish properly nor sustain its position in the district. Most of the candidates contest independently in the elections and joined the ruling party to get position in any ministry. In general, the voters and supporters of Pakistan people's part, Muslim League and the alliance of religious parties (MMA) are present in Bhakkar.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Bhakkar is underprivileged district of South Punjab. Feudal system (Vadira Shahi) prevailed in Bhakkar. Local groups dominate politics. Women have no respect. The feudal and Vadira nominates the wives of their servants and farmer who worked in their fields and run their campaign themselves. Awareness has increased and change is now visible due to the mobilization of Aurat Foundation. Due to our intervention educated women had contested in the 2005 local government elections. Still the influence of feudal on the election exists.

When our DCC training team comprised of Ms. Fouzia Shaheen and Ms. Shenaz Gull went to the town "Navani" of Union Council-12 Sial, of Thesil and District Bhakkar which is resident town of MNA, MPA and the District Nazim. The team approached at the house of a women candidate to impart the election campaign training. The family members of the woman candidate informed the training team that they are neither allowed contesting election nor cast their votes on their own will but it is only decided by the influential of the area.

In the meanwhile Jindu Mai came; she was about 50 year old and has four sons. The decision was taken by the District Nazim regarding Jindu Mai to contest in the election. Jindu Mai told the team that last time in election 2001, the Nazim put garland to her, gave sweets and 50 rupees and drum was beaten that you have become councilor. Jindu Mai said that she has no information that how to ask for vote, how to cast vote at the polling station. I have never run my campaign. I have neither been invited nor participated in any council meeting in my last tenure of local government. The training team invited her for training; she replied that she will attend if got permission by her master. On training day the training team requested Jindu Mai to participate in the training. After getting training, Jindu Mai came to know that how to ask for votes, importance and right to vote how the polling agents are trained, how the voters are taken to the polling station, how the vote are polled, how the election campaign is run and what are the rights of elected councilors. Jindu Mai said that the Vadiras don't permit us to participate in the trainings because they have feared of losing their authority. Now I recognised what are my rights and rights of other peoples. I will raise awareness about the local problems to the people, so that the development work can be started in our area.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
42	168	268	163	5	97.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
42	84	74	65	19	77.4%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
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UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
42	84	178	82	0	97.6 %
<b>Peasant/Labour Seats for Women</b>					
42	84	143	82	0	97.6 %

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## Chakwal

### Geographical Location

Chakwal is a part of Northern Punjab, with District Rawalpindi in the north, Jhelum in the East, Mianwali in the west and Khushab in the south. The district was established in 1985. It has four tehsils namely Chakwal, Talagang, Chua Saidu Shah and Kallar Kahar.

### Total Area

6,524 sq. km with a total of 68 Union Councils.

### Population

1,083,725; males 518,249, females 56,5476

### Registered Voters

Male: 383,957 Female: 369,944

### Female Labour Force

Most of the women do either labour at brick kilns or in the fields of peanuts.

### Economic Conditions

Chakwal is a non-irrigated agricultural area, with cultivation mainly depending on rain water storage and irrigation. Peanut is the major crop of this area. Most of the population of this area seeks employment in the armed forces and some are involved in business activities. Most of the women of the area are associated with farming. Women of the area are working in the fields along with men but they are not recognised for it.

Minerals including coal and oil are found in the district and are being mined. There are three textile mills and a cement factory in the district. Poultry farming is another major source of earning for the people. The economy of the area is run by men while the women's responsibility is to either work in fields or at homes. Poverty is badly affecting the status of the women of the area.

### Social Conditions

There is no limitation upon women to perform traditional customs within the family in marriage and death functions. Social mobility is limited and women have to have male escorts. As in other districts of Punjab women's inheritance rights are denied to them.



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## Health

Hospitals have been working at tehsils and district headquarters while basic health units are established at union council level.

## Education

There are 430 girls' primary schools, girls' community model schools 22, girls' middle school 123, girls' high school 61, girls' enrolment elementary 65,695 and secondary 31,542.

A postgraduate college is established at district level and degree colleges for boys and girls at tehsil level. The literacy rate of the district is 56%. There are 141 high schools in total, out of which 95 high schools are for boys and 46 for girls.

## Political Situation

Muslim League is one of the strongest political parties of the area. Major Tariq Iqbal from Muslim League (Q) is a federal minister while Mr. Sardar Faiz Timmin from PPP is the federal parliamentary secretary. Four male and a female MPAs also belong to ruling Muslim League. Local landlords influence the politics of the area.

There were three major influential groups at local government level. The groups include: Sardar Ghulam Abbas Khan District Nazim Group, General Abdul Majeed Malik Group and United Front (including persons from PPP, PML (N) and MMA).

As a whole the women participation in the political process at the district level was quite encouraging. Women participated at each union council in the local government election and 270 women were elected as representatives during elections 2005 and only 2 out of 272 reserved seats for women remained vacant.

## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

In our district, in village Malikwal, women have never been allowed to vote. We went and visited the *numberdar* (headman) of the village and the Imam of the mosque. We explained the purpose of the elections in detail and asked them to help us. Then we took the Imam Sahib with us and talked to the people of the village. During the Campaign I learned that the

DCCs in other districts were facing opposition from religious groups, but our experience was the opposite. We got cooperation from the religious groups, because as soon as we visited a new village, we met the Imam of the mosque first and got his trust. This had another benefit; the women and men would listen to us patiently. Our tactic gave us a 96 per cent success rate in the election results in district Chakwal, with only four seats not filled.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

All seats of female councilors were vacant in 2001 election of district Chakwal. Because they were afraid for the people to taking participation in election. They decided to work efficiently in union council this time. Therefore, DCC as a group had visited ten times in the union council; among them ex Nazim Mr. Yousi Qazi Yasin was very cooperative. All people lumberdar, Imam Masjid and landlord were convinced by this group to take the participation of women as a female candidate. At the end they agreed.

Both of groups had decided that women would not be allowed to poll a vote so another problem was faced. Therefore, DCC's members Dr. Salma Awan and Abdul Rehman Shad tried to convince some groups of three villages Darnal, Gatal and Balwal but they were not successful. Women were polling the votes only in Gatal village till 12:00 clock but as soon as landlord of that area came to know about the whole situation, he strictly stopped the women. Women had elected as a councilor candidate after great effort of DCC in this union council and women were polling their votes till 12'o clock which was the first time in their lives.

### **Overall Results**

#### **Election Results 2001**

<b>General Reserved Seats for Women</b>					
<b>UCs</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
68	272	532	270	2	99.3%
<b>Peasant/Labour Seats for Women</b>					
68	136	274	134	2	98.5%

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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
68	136	285	134	5	98.5 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
68	136	263	134	5	98.5 %

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## Dera Ghazi Khan

### Geographical Boundaries

Dera Ghazi Khan is bounded on the north by Dera Ismail Khan and its adjoining Tribal Area, west by Musa Khel and Barkhan districts, south by Rajanpur and east by Muzaffargarh.

### Population

Total population of the district is 1,643,118 out of which 13.9% are urban and 86.1% are rural. Of the total population 853,782 are males and 789,336 are females.

### No. of UCs

Total numbers of UCs are 59.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 11,922 square kilometers.

### Name and Number of Tehsils

The district comprises two tehsils, Dera Ghazi Khan and Taunsa and tribal area.

### Registered Voters

Registered voters are 786,525 of which 425,077 are male and 361,448 are female voters.

### Major Occupations

Cultivation and livestock breeding are the main pursuits and means of livelihood of rural and urban population. In Pachadh tract livestock breeding is most important. In the plains camel and horse breeding is also an occupation and a good source of income. The other subsidiary means of occupation of the rural population are basket, mat and shoe making. The skilled labour i.e. masons, carpenters, blacksmiths and goldsmiths are generally found in towns. About 63.4% are engaged in agriculture, followed by elementary occupations, service workers and shop and market sales workers representing 19.7% and 7.3% respectively.

### Women's Economic Status

In the district, according to 1998 census, out of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 0.9% while domestic workers are 62.7%. Out of total economically active female population,

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30.6% are self-employed, 38.8% are government employees, 7.4% are private employees and 0.4% are employers. The women folk do not share the work of their men except in Pachadh tract where they work side by side with men in field and also perform household duties.

#### **Education**

Males are more educated and have higher education than females. The literacy ratio in the district is 30.6%. The literacy ratio for males is 42.1% as against 18.1% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 25.0% and in urban areas is 61.8%.

#### **Educational Facilities for Male/Female/College/Schools**

There are 1,685 educational institutions imparting education in the district. There are 1,405 primary schools, 142 middle schools, 99 high schools, 8 higher secondary schools, 5 intermediate and degree colleges, 2 Technology/Polytechnic Institutes, 12 Commercial Training Institutes and 12 Vocational Institutes in the district.

#### **Health**

There are 6 hospitals, 35 dispensaries and 9 Rural Health Centers. Besides this there are 52 Basic Health units, 1 T.B Clinic, 34 Sub Health Centers in the district and 6 Mother and Child Health centers.

#### **Social**

Being a tribal belt, the environment and culture of the district is very conservative and traditional with males exercising more dominance over females. Traditions that violate women's basic rights like exchange marriages (Watta Satta) and early marriages are the norm. The area is mostly ruled by tribal and feudal Sardars and they influence the decisions of the people and exert power over their tenants. Women lack mobility, female education is not viewed positively and women must be heavily veiled while leaving the house. Women are denied their fundamental, civil and human rights.

#### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

The district is predominantly feudal with very little industrial activity. Tribalism is the general social structure of the district in which religion plays an integral part of the patriarchal way of life. The population of the district is predominantly Muslim. The influence of religion on the daily

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life of the people is distinctly felt and their conduct is regulated by the dictates of religion. The important minorities are Christians and Hindus.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Exchange marriages (Watta Satta), honor killing, bride price and early marriages are the social evils that have entangled most of the families due to tribal customary laws and traditions. With feudal background and tribal belt women do not have access to any social, political or economic opportunities. Pardha is observed and they are restricted to their homes and have virtually no mobility and therefore are not socially active.

#### **Political Situation**

The main political parties are Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N) and National Alliance. Most of the population of the district is Baloch belonging to various tribal groups. Leghari, Nutkani, Buzdar and Qaisrani tribes are in overwhelming majority. Other main Bradries like Khitran, Pathan, Syed, Mughal, Jat, Arain, Awan and Rajput are scattered all over the district.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In the election 2002, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) came to power. But representatives of NA and Pakistan Muslim League (N) also got seats.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

In 2002, Mrs. Meena Ehsan Leghari of (NA) was elected as Member National Assembly. Begum Zeenat Khan of PML (Q), Mrs. Lubna Malik of PML (Q) and Mrs. Shahnaz Saleem of PML (N) were elected as Member Provincial Assembly.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In LG Election 2001, women representation was 94.1% while women representation in LG Election 2005 was 100%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Sardar Meer Badshah Khan Qaisarani of PML (Q), Sardar Fateh Muhammad Khan Buzdar of PML (Q), Javaid Akhtar of (NA), Sardar M. Khan Laghari of PML (Q), Syed Abdul Aleem Shah of (NA), M. Mohsin Khan Laghari of (NA) and Sardar M. Yousaf Khan Laghari of (NA) were elected as Members Provincial Assembly while Khawaja Sheraz Mehmood of PML (Q), Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Laghari of (NA) and

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Sardar M. Jaffar Khan Laghari of (NA) were elected as Members National Assembly.

### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

In the first phase of the elections, the DCC Dera Ghazi Khan implemented an innovative initiative by introducing the idea of setting up a facilitation camp for women candidates. We realised the importance of this activity because the system was new and the women filing nominations had had no previous experience of contesting elections. Our camp was very popular and we helped fill out the forms of the women and especially arranged free legal aid for them. After the first phase, we told all the DCCs and Aurat Foundation about it. It was decided at the National Review Meeting to include this into the national Campaign for the coming phases.

### **WPLGE 2005**

District Coordination Committee, Dera Ghazi Khan called a meeting of its member organisations before starting the campaign activities for WPLGE 2005. Suggestions were called from the participants on methods to be adopted for achieving maximum mobilization of women candidates and voters. Many suggestions were given by participants like posters and pamphlets, house to house campaigning, holding corner meetings, dialogue, walks, information dissemination on cable networks, print media, etc.

District Coordinator, Sajjad Naqvi, suggested a unique and new method of mobilising candidates and voters. He said that in the 16.5 million population of D.G. Khan, 70,000 men and women have mobile phones and suggested that we should use this system as a tool.

A heated discussion started. The Committee accepted this new concept and decided that new techniques (tools) should be used. Tanvir Hussain and Nadeem Ahmed were given the responsibility of contacting cellular

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phone companies and PTCL wireless phone offices and convince them about the importance of the campaign and request help in messaging all users. The members selected the following message for mobilization "Choose to select honest, reasonable and responsible people, kindly play your role in election 2005" sent by AF District Resource Center for women councilors, Al-Ansar medical complex, D.G Khan.

This message was sent to 70,000 people through the mobile networks. Tanvir Hussain and Nadeem Ahmed worked 12 hours daily for 25 days. The public especially women appreciated this method/technique. A large number of women contacted the office of DCC to get information and also asked for training for their polling agents.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
59	236	459	230	6	97.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
59	118	203	103	15	87.3%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
59	118	427	118	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
59	118	289	118	Nil	100%



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## Faisalabad

### Geographical Boundaries

Faisalabad is bordered by district Hafizabad, Sheikhpura to the north, Okara in the east and Jhang and Toba Take Singh towards west. River Chenab flows in the south-east. It is the biggest district of Punjab with 289 UCs.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 5,429,547 of which 42.7% are urban and 57.3% are rural. Of the total population 2,826,908 are males and 2,602,639 are females.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 289 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

The district has an area of 5,356 square kilometers.

### Name and Number of Towns

In 2005, Government of Punjab declared Faisalabad a City Government. Tehsils were redesignated into Eight (8) towns; Lyallpur town, Madina town, Iqbal town, Jinnah town, Chak Jhumra town, Jaranwala town, Tandianwala town and Samundri town.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 2,803,072 of which 1,496,866 are male voters and 1,306,206 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Faisalabad has emerged as one of the major trading centers of Pakistan. Agriculture and industrial labour are the main pursuits of the population. There are a large number of industrial workers in the district, who work in textile and other industries concentrated around the city. People are also engaged in the production and sale of milk, butter and ghee in villages on the outskirts of the towns. A small portion of population comprises doctors, hakims, teachers, lawyers, engineers and government employees. Faisalabad is also known for fruit production.

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### **Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women**

In the district, out of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 2.0% while domestic workers are 67.2%. Out of total economically active female population, 27.1% are self-employed, 31.7% are government employees, 9.5% are private employees and 1.2% are employers. In rural areas, Women are generally home based workers, housekeepers and engaged in attending the cattle, extracting butter and ghee from milk, weaving and sewing of family clothes.

### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 51.9 %. The literacy ratio for males is 60.9% as against 42.2% for females. The ratio is much higher in urban areas when compared with rural areas both for male and females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 42.5% and in urban areas is 64.2%.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

Faisalabad has the distinction of hosting the Agricultural University and equally renowned Agricultural Ayub Research Institute. Besides the Punjab Medical College, there are about 24 colleges including Commerce College, Textile College, Superior Science College, and Poly Technical College etc.

There are 3,429 educational institutions imparting education in the district of which 2,491 are primary schools, 489 middle schools, 387 high schools and 19 higher secondary schools. However, it is unclear about the breakdown of the figures in terms of schools for boys or girls. Four intermediate and 17 degree colleges are working at district level, 2 colleges of Technology/Polytechnic Institutes, 10 Commercial Training Institutes and 10 Vocational Institutes are also functional.

### **Health**

The health status of women in the district is better in urban areas but poor in rural areas. There are five government-run hospitals and 8 private hospitals in the district. There are also 220 Rural Health Centers, 332 Basic Health Units and 6 Mother and Child Health Centers.

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## **Social**

Rapid industrialization has led to increasing urbanization. This has opened up many avenues for women in terms of education and employment breaking down tradition and archaic customs.

### **Feudal, Industrial influence, Religious Influence**

The population can broadly be classified into two categories i.e. locals and settlers. The prominent castes amongst the locals are Syed, Kharal, Kathia, Hirai, Sarghana, Gadhi, Sahu, etc. Amongst the settlers Arian and Jat have influence. They are feudal and industrialists. Muslim population is predominant; Christians, Hindu and Qadiani are in minority.

### **Women's Social Status**

Women are socially active in the district. They actively participate in politics and many women are running NGOs. Within the limits prescribed by custom, these women direct substantial domestic affairs of their men and play a large part in arranging marriages and family alliances. The women cook, harvest the crops, and look after cattle, sewing and washing and etc. Women in this district are aware of their rights compared with the woman who live in the tribal belt of the Punjab.

### **Political Situation**

Major political parties of the district are Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) and Jamat-e-Islami. The leading bradries of the district are Jat, Gujjar, Rajput, Mughal, Awan, Malik, Chauhan, Arain and Bhatti. Of all these bradaries Jat and Gujjar are the most influential and own most of the land.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) has influence and is in power but nominal representation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League (N) is present.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

In 2002, Ms Irshad Safdar of PML (Q), Dr. Tasneem Rasheed of PML (Q), Ms Nighat Saleem Khan of PML (Q), Mrs. Noor-un-Nisa Malik of PPP, Ms. Afshaan Farooq of PML (N), Joel Amir Sahuter PML (Q) and Mrs. Khalid Mansoor PML (Q) were elected as Members Provincial Assembly

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on reserved seats of women. Mrs. Riffat Amjad of PML (Q) has been elected as Member National Assembly.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In LG election 2001, Women representation was 96.8% while in LG Election 2005 women representation is 98.96 percent.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

In 2002 Elections, Ch. M. Afzal Sahi of PML (Q), Dr. M. Shafique Choudhry of PML (Q), Pervaiz Rafique of PPPP, Joel Amir Sahutra of PML (Q), Malik Raza Shahid Waseer of PML (Q), Mian Ghulam Haider Bari of PML (Q), Ch. Zaheer-ud-din Khan of PML (Q), Rai Rab Nawaz of PML (Q), Khalid Mehmood Wattoo of PPPP, Ch. Shahid Khalil Noor of PML (Q), Mr. Pervais Rafiq (PPPP) Mr. Patrick Jacob Gill PML (Q) Ch. Arif Mehmood Gill of PML (Q), Ch. Khalid Mehmood of PML (Q), Sardar Dildar Ahmad Cheema of PML (Q), Rai Ahsan Raza of PML (Q), Aftab Ahmad Khan of PPPP, Jahanzeb Imtiaz Gill of PPPP, Raja Riaz Ahmad of PPPP, M. Riaz Shahid of PPPP, Dr. Asad Muazzam of PPPP, Faiz Ullah Kamoka of PPPP, Malik Asgher Ali Qaiser of PPPP, Rana Sanaullah Khan of PML (N), M. Nawaz Malik of PML (N), Sh. Ijaz Ahmad of PML (N) won the seats of Provincial Assembly while Ghulam Rasool Sahi of PML (Q), M. Wasi Zafar of PML (Q), Ch. M. Asim Nazir of PML (Q), Rajab Ali Khan Baloch of PML (Q), M. Safdar Shakir of PML (Q), Rana Asif Tauseef of PML (N), Dr. Nisar Ahmad Jatt Of PPPP (Patriot), Sahibzada Haji M. Fazal Kareem of PML (N), Mushtaq Ali Cheema of PML (Q), Ch. Abid Sher Ali of PML (N), Raja Nadir Pervaiz Khan of PML (N) won the seats of National Assembly.

#### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Shagufta Alam was a resident of Mai di Jhuggi, a slum area on the outskirts of Faisalabad. She belonged to the Awan *baradari* which was predominant in the area. When reserved seats for women were announced under the new Local Government system, she decided to stand for elections. Already involved in social work in her area, she thought that being a councillor would help her continue her social work in a more effective way. Her husband and mother-in-law permitted her to go ahead with elections. Neighbours also supported her candidacy. She finally filed her nomination papers. Since two rival groups were contesting for the union *nazim* seat, she was able to obtain the support of one group. Within a week of filing nomination papers, her brothers, with whom she had not been on speaking terms for some months, came to her house and scolded her for not getting permission from them before standing for elections. They then asked her to withdraw support from the group that was backing her since it was their rival group. She said that she was happy with the group and saw no reason to quit them. At this a hot exchange of words followed between her husband and her brothers and ended in a physical brawl. The brothers thrashed her husband badly and fled the house, threatening them with more serious consequences.

Shagufta's husband received serious bruises on his face and other injuries. She took him to a nearby hospital for treatment. Then she went to lodge an FIR with the police station but they kept delaying it on one pretext or another. She kept pursuing the case and finally on the second day after the incident, the police registered the FIR.

In the meantime, the DCC learnt of the incident and met Shagufta Alam and offered her support. She was disturbed and somewhat insecure because of her brothers' threats. The representatives of DCC gave her reassurance and promised her full support during her election campaign. The AF campaign staff and DCC members visited her three times to show solidarity and to keep her morale high. A big seminar was also organised in her constituency by the DCC. This was meant to provide her with the opportunity to do canvassing and express solidarity. Besides this, the DCC's representatives also participated in her corner meetings and provided her with election material.

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As the date for polling drew near, the members of the DCC met the Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad and asked him to provide her with security on election day. The DC promised that the union council would be declared sensitive and security would be provided to Shagufta Alam. All these measures helped her in conducting her campaign peacefully. Shagufta Alam lost the election by a narrow margin.

### **Glimpse 2**

In Jaranwala, Faisalabad, the local Chaudhrys could not find any women to stand for the elections, so they convinced the 'low caste' women servants in their households to stand for the women's seats. The women filed their nominations reluctantly, but when they met the DCC representatives and took part in the training and orientation programme of the Campaign, they became very motivated to stand for the elections.

The Chaudhrys later realised that these would be important seats for the district level elections, and if they needed support in the union councils they would have to seek these women's support, which they felt was beneath their dignity. They decided to make the women from their own families stand instead, and asked the 'low-caste' women to withdraw their nominations. By this time the women had become involved in their election campaigns and understood the importance of representing the women, so they refused. They also felt strengthened by the support of the DCC and the local activists; so they went on to fight the elections against the women from the Chaudhrys' families and two of the women won.

### **WPLGE 2005**

During the Election Campaign 2005 second phase in Union Council # 267 Liaqatabad, Jinnah Town an awareness meeting was arranged and UC Coordinator Muhammad Saleem was met by a candidate of lady general councilor Mehmooda Begum. She said first of all you should solve my problem, after asking she told that the candidate of UC Nazim Ch. Niaz Ahmad created hurdles to contest the election, he threatened me and my husband and said that I will push you out this area. He threatened the people who were my supporters, when we did not act upon like he wanted than a few days ago he with some vagabonds tore the posters of my campaign.

They entered in my home forcefully and started abusing me after showing me a pistol saying that, "I will kill you, your family and your kids if you contest the election", he said because I have a strong influence in my area so even a child of this area will say "*Aba aa gaya*" he continuously given

me threaten. Mahmooda said that he created hindrance due to my heavy supporters in this constituency. I am in group of his opposing Nazim, he have a fear in his mind that due to my support the opposing Nazim will succeed. He contested the last election but gone astray. His elder brother is in armed forces, he also himself has passed a lot of time abroad. He does unfair business, he also famous as vagabond. She said you help me out in this matter.

Member of CCWR said that we will meet this man and say him, that he will not involve the activities like these, otherwise we take an action against you, any help about election campaign what you required as legal aid we will provide you. Muhammad Saleem met with the opposing Nazim of Mahmooda and forbid him and to avoid the activities like these but in vain and said I will never leave her to contest this election, what she can do against me, I have no fear of any body.

Then the coordinator of CCWR Naveeda Shoaeb moved an application to Election Commissioner against the said candidate, but the respondent did not stop threatening. So she informed DPO Faisalabad about the matter, upon which DPO said that under the law it is the right of every citizen and he provided full security to Mahmooda.

Mahmooda Naseer contested and won the election, she thankful to Naveeda Shoaib, Muhammad Saleem and DCC who supported her and teach her the method and techniques of election campaign.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
289	1156	2552	1140	16	98.6%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
289	578	1104	521	57	90.1%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
289	578	1351	576	2	99.65%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
289	578	1082	568	10	98.26%

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## Gujranwala

### Geographical Boundaries

Gujranwala is located in northern Punjab. It is bound by Gujrat and Mandi Bhaudidin districts on north-west, Sialkot on the east, Sheikhpura on the south and Hafizabad on the west. River Chenab forms the north-western boundary of the district.

### Population

The total population is 3,400,940 of which 50.5% is urban and 49.83% is rural. Of the total population 1,770,255 are males and 1,630,685 are females.

### No. of UCs

The district comprises of 188 Union Councils.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 3,622 Square kilometers.

### Name and Number of Towns

In 2005, Government of Punjab changed the district status to City District Government. Its tehsils were divided into seven (7) towns namely Nandipur Town, Aroop Town, Qila Didar Singh Town, Khiali Town, Wazirabad Town, Nushehran Virkan Town and Kamunki Town.

### Registered Voters

In the district, total registered voters are 1,687,601. Of the total registered voters, male voters are 912,934 and female voters are 774,667.

### Major Occupation

Gujranwal is renowned for production of high quality Basmati rice that is exported all over the world. There are large industrial units of chemicals, food products, textiles and engineering. Major occupations are related to industry and agriculture.

### Women Economic Status/ Labour Force of Women

In Gujranwala, out of the total female population, women formally enrolled in economic activities are 1.3% while domestic workers are 69.0%. Out of total economically active female population is 31.7% in which self-employed are 26.1%, employees in government institutions are 19.1% while women employees in private institutions are 2.0%.



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## Education

The literacy ratio in district is 56.6%. The literacy ratio for males is 63.6% while for women is 48.8%. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 48.7% and in urban areas is 64.0%.

## Educational Facilities for Male/Female/Colleges/Schools

There are 2,146 educational institutions in the district imparting education from primary schools to graduate level. There are 806 and 824 primary schools, 147 and 113 middle schools, 168 and 65 Secondary schools, 04 and 03 higher secondary schools and 08 and 08 colleges both for boys and girls respectively. Total number of private schools is 124. Recently, the University of the Punjab's Gujranwala campus has also started working. Rachna Engineering University Gujranwala now stands fourth best public Engineering University in the country.

## No. of Madrassas

Total number of Madrassas in district is 296.

## Health

The health status of women in district is better in urban areas but poor in rural areas. There are 13 hospitals, 49 dispensaries, 10 RHCs. Besides this there are 92 BHUs, 2 T.B Clinics, 34 Sub Health Centers in the district.

## Social

In Gujranwala, there are people trying to develop a new social environment. Rapid industrialization has led to increasing urbanization. This has opened up many avenues for women in terms of education and employment.

## Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence

In some areas of district, political groups exert influence while *bradri nizam* is strong in rural areas. Jat and Rajput baradis are influential. The influence of religion on the daily life of the people is distinctly felt and their conduct is regulated by dictates of religion.

## Women Social Status

Women have a limited role in public affairs. Patriarchy is strong and women have very little influence. Economically women are completely dependent on males and politically suffer from discrimination. After the Local government system some women have been able to participate in

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political activities but this is still dependent on the sensitivity of males in allowing them political space. Generally speaking women are confined to household chores.

#### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPPP), Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (J), Pakistan Muslim League (N), and Mutihida Majlis-e-Amal Party MMAP are the major political groups at district level. The leading bradries living in the district are Jat, Rajput, Syed, Gujar, Awan and Arain. Of them Jat is by far the most important bradri and owns most of the land.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In election 2002, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and Pakistan Muslim League (N), most candidates won their seats but there is nominal representation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and PML (J).

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level (Figures)**

In 2002, Shagufta Anwar of PML (Q), Joyce Rufin Julius of PML (Q), Shellah Shaid Rathor PML(Q) (late) Zilla Huma Usman of PML (Q) and Nayyar Murtaza of PML (N) were elected as Members Provincial Assembly Punjab on reserved seats for women.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

Women representation in Local Government Election 2001 was 98.1% while in LG 2005 was 99.46 %.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

In election 2002, Ch. Imran Ullah Advocate of PPPP (Patriot), Qazi Hameed Ullah Khan of MMAP, Ch. Shahid Akram Bhinder of PML (Q), Imtiaz Safdar Warriach of PPPP, Rana Umar Nazir Khan of PML (Q), Ch. Bilal Ijaz of PML (Q) and Hamid Nasir Chattha of PML (J) won the seats of National Assembly. Shagufta Anwar of PML (Q), Nayyar Murtaza of PML (N), Ch. M. Ashraf Kamboh of PPPP, Lala Shakeel ur Rehman of PPPP, M. Ashraf Butt of PML (Q), Ch. Zahid Pervaiz of PPPP, Mian Saud Hassan Dar of PPPP, Ch. M. Shabbir Mehr of PPPP, M. Nasir Cheema of PML (Q), Ch. M. Iqbal of PML (Q), Suhail Zafar Cheema of PML (Q), Rana Shamshad Ahmad Khan of PML (Q), Amanat Ali Virk of PML (Q), Haji

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Mudassar Qayyum Nahra of PML (Q), Akmal Saif Chattha of PML (J), Ch. Ijaz Ahmad Samma of PPPP won the seats of Provincial Assembly.

### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

During the Campaign we faced many problems but many of us in the DCC had had some relevant earlier experience functioning with a voluntary group representing diverse interests and sections of society. This was when we started to work with Aurat Foundation as a part of their Citizens' Action Committees (CACs) network in the country. We used to take up some problem that was troubling women or creating difficulties for them. Then we would all put our heads together and design an appropriate strategy to tackle it. In our CAC there were businessmen, labour leaders, lawyers, media professionals, teachers, health professionals, social workers and members of community organisations. There were many women in our CAC, mostly social workers or teachers. So we had many experienced people, who also had good contacts among the government or the MNAs and MPAs. We were able to solve many problems and we were well regarded and respected in Gujranwala.

Just before the elections we had tried out an experiment. In every single one of the 104 wards or constituencies, we set up mini-CACs comprising 10 men and five women. Their role was to go into their ward and research the needs of the residents of that area. They brought this list to the main CAC. We prioritised the needs in each ward and selected the ones that were the easiest to work for and would show results. Then we usually contacted the relevant government department or a local philanthropist to a function as the chief guest and brought up our problem after the event. We nearly always got the required sanctions or resources.

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When we were merged into the DCC for the purpose of these elections, we carried on with some of our earlier work. With our previous experience and repute, we were able to mobilise a large number of women to contest in the elections. However, we soon realised that many of them did not have any ID cards. This was an oversight by us. So we redesigned the strategy to mobilise women who already possessed ID cards and to get ID cards for those who did not have them.

In deciding which women should be mobilised, we focussed on women who were active in NGOs, lady health workers, retired teachers, and social workers. To mobilise them we formed different groups, including both males and females, to meet the local male political and social leaders, as we needed their support. People asked us, "What will women get if they become councillors?" We answered, "Women will gain influence and power in the local communities. Also, the district *nazim* will not only give respect to the women elected but also to their families." This strategy was very successful.

We also reaped the fruit of our ward-level experiment. Many of our mini-CAC members were elected, both male and female. The people had expressed their appreciation by electing them as their public representatives.

### **Glimpse 2**

I was elected in the local elections, first as a union councillor then as a city councillor. My decision to enter politics, contest the elections and finally win was not an easy journey. While I met supportive people, I also encountered opponents.

We are poor as my husband is a rickshaw driver and supports the family on his meagre income. We have four children and I manage the best I can.

My participation in politics was accidental, not having any previous connection. I was the first woman in my family to join politics. This decision was not easy because I did not think I was qualified, but my husband's encouragement and my determination gave me confidence.

Quite by chance I attended an Aurat Foundation seminar with a friend and neighbours, not knowing why or to what purpose. The seminar was about the local elections, the participation of women and how to prepare for it. I decided to join the political process.

When I told my family about my decision, only my husband supported me and no one else. However, he explained to me that politics was not for

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poor people like us and especially not for women. He had complete trust in me so he gave me permission to contest the polls. As a result he had to face a lot of opposition from his family and outsiders too.

I wanted to stand for the seat from the area controlled by an influential family who planned to get the women in their family elected unopposed and my nomination was a stumbling block for them.

I knew nothing about the electoral process but was very keen so my husband and I met Malik Jameel Awan and Haji Abdul Rauf. They were encouraging and offered us every type of help. I lacked sufficient money to file my nomination papers. The local people contributed the fees for it and Malik Jameel of the CAC helped fill and submit them.

The most difficult problem was the pressure from different people, including my relatives, to withdraw my papers. When I refused, they heaped blame and insults on me and spread all sorts of rumours. They even offered me bribes. They threatened my husband and family. This was the worst time for me. My husband was very frightened and requested me to withdraw. I myself was very worried and could not sleep properly at night.

The Aurat Foundation trainers, Salman Bhai and others, gave me strength. They told me that when men's threats do not work, they start attacking the reputation of women. They told us to be firm and face the challenges rather than be scared. The opponents did not allow me to hold meetings for campaigning, so I asked the Committee (DCC) to help me.

The Committee members arranged a meeting for me, where it was announced that my nomination papers had already been accepted and that I had local support. They also helped by giving us Campaign posters which we put up at different sites. The posters gave the message that women's inclusion in politics was very important. The Committee had proved to be a wonderful resource and were like my family members.

I did not have money to run my campaign and even the money contributed by friends was very little, so I decided to sell my jewellery.

My opponents were influential and stronger, but I was confident that my people would not let me down. Still, I was shocked when I won with 1,400 votes and became aware of people garlanding and congratulating me. They took out a procession celebrating my victory shouting 'Zindabad!' I was so proud that I would now be representing women.

This victory turned my life around and I believe that nothing is impossible. The people who had objected to my nomination now cheered. I give the

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credit of my success to my husband, my family, Aurat Foundation and the Committee who advised and helped me.

When women try hard enough, they can get the cooperation of men. I believe that my participation in politics was like the first drop of rain that will make it easier for women in future.

### **Glimpse 3**

Most women candidates were economically dependent on male members of their family. They lacked financial resources to run their election campaigns. The problem was how to publish posters, stickers, and pamphlets without funds. They designed their own strategy with the support of the DCC to disseminate the material printed by AF. They distributed these materials after writing their own names and the union council numbers and election symbols on these. Thus they managed to overcome their financial constraints.

### **Glimpse 4**

The DCC Gujranwala started candidate facilitation camps and some local lawyers, both male and female, were available at these camps to offer free legal aid. A conflict emerged since other lawyers, who were charging Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 from the candidates as legal fees, felt that we were undermining their business by giving free services. We held a meeting with them where we explained to them that offering free legal aid was part of our nationwide Campaign. We highlighted that our motive was to mobilise women and this was a crucial part of our strategy. In this manner we managed to continue our services.

### **Glimpse 5**

During the nomination period we faced another major problem regarding nomination fees. The government had fixed Rs. 500 per candidate but most of the banks were charging women candidates Rs. 1,000. Some candidates and political activists approached us and complained about this issue. We brought this issue before the Local Government officials and formed a four-member committee to seek clarification. We also met the District Election Authority and requested that the RO be directed to receive the correct fees himself. The District Election Authority Office issued a notification in this regard.

We designed posters and distributed these in the district and tehsil *kutcheri* with the names of all the ROs and their contact information. We directed candidates to contact the government officials who had been

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named on these posters. The majority of the candidates appreciated our efforts.

### **Glimpse 6**

Before the election campaign, AF gave formal training to the women candidates from the 34 districts of Punjab about running an election campaign. During the election campaign we designed a candidate-training programme, especially for those contesting in rural areas. But women candidates in rural areas were not ready to attend our training sessions due to family and social pressures, especially by the local male leaders. We designed another strategy for women candidates to participate in our training. We met local political and religious leaders to make them realise the importance of our training for the elections because it included voter education. Initially we had decided to make only one visit per union council but due to the internal conflicts within the communities we visited more than once. After these visits we managed to convince people to allow women to attend our training sessions.

### **WPLGE 2005**

The AF monitoring team met up with DCC Coordinator Jamil Awan and three other DCC members and arrived at Polling Station # 3 for UC # 38 in Gujranwala City at approximately 1:10pm. We entered through a pedestrian gate, guarded by an armed police man who let us in because of our Election Commission passes. There were approximately 80 women standing in line or standing around or sitting by the voting station, some in hijab, and many only wearing a dupatta over their heads. Looking official but approachable, wearing our Election Commission badges and carrying our writing pads but unaccompanied by armed police, a couple of women – Muneeza Dan and Rukhsana, approached us, apparently candidates of opposing parties. They both claimed that the Presiding Officer had opened and then sealed only four boxes for ballots to go in the morning in front of the public and contestants. However, the Presiding Officer had added a fifth ballot box without showing the public that it was empty before it had started being used. Polling agent Almas Kouser Bhatti contradicted these women's stories and said that they had been causing an unnecessary disturbance. Apparently the polling agent was a PML-Q member (ruling party).

Asad Rahman went to the Presiding Officer to re-lodge the women's complaint. The Presiding Officer stated that the fifth box had been added to the four previous boxes because the four other boxes were full. She

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claimed that she had shown the box as empty to the public. Because the other four boxes were still being used to take in votes two hours after the fifth box had apparently been introduced, Asad Rehman and Rafiq Jaffer were inclined not to believe the Presiding Officer's story and in fact believed that their had been some election rigging.

As the monitoring team was about to leave the station, 18 armed elite policemen and women wearing "Anti-Terror No Fear" t-shirts entered accompanying the Chief Secretary of Punjab, the DCO of Gujranwala and Regional Investigation Officer. They entered the room with the Presiding Officer and complainant Muneeza Dan. It was decided that the fifth box would be challenged after the polling ended at 5pm, but no decision was made to discontinue votes being cast in the ballot box for the next three and a half hours.

Nasreen Ishfaq, woman Tehsil Councilor from UC 38/2, who has attended Aurat Foundation workshops for women councilors, and is a member of the MPL-Q, told me that she was acting as a facilitator for voters because polling agents were telling them that their votes couldn't go into the boxes.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
188	752	1535	747	5	99.3%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
188	376	657	360	16	95.7%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
188	376	850	376	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
188	376	690	372	4	98.93%



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## Gujrat

### Geographical Location

The district lies in the between two rivers, Jehlum and Chenab. In the north it is bordered by Azad Kashmir, north-west district Jehlum, in the west by Mandi Bahauddin, south Gujranwala and in the east Sialkot. The district lies in the foot hills of the Himalayas known as Chaj Chamba.

### Total Area

3,192 sq. kms.

### Population

2,048,008; male 1,026,256, female 1,021,752

### Tehsils

3- Kharian, Gujrat and Sarai Alamgir with 117 UCs, 80 rural and 31 urban.

### Economic Conditions

The western area of the district is irrigated by the Jehlum canal while the rest of the district is rain fed and tube well irrigation. The major crops are wheat, barley, sugar cane and vegetables. Most of the inhabitant population is engaged in agriculture but are economically not self-sufficient. Unemployed population is 22%, in agriculture 30%, industrial workers 8%, oil and gas 30%, small businesses 3% and transport 10%. Many locally unemployed are working abroad while military service is the preferred employment.

### Education and Health

There is 1 university, 6 degree colleges for males, 7 degree colleges for females, 6 higher secondary school for boys, 3 higher secondary schools for girls, 148 secondary schools for boys, 60 secondary school for girls, 130 middle schools for boys, 86 middle schools for girls, 576 primary schools for boys and 615 primary schools for girls.

There are 11 hospitals, 29 dispensaries, 8 RHUs, 105 BHUs and 20 maternity and child health care units in the district.

### Social Customs and Traditions/Culture

Patriarchal and tribal customs and traditions are prevalent. Awareness of women's rights is not wide spread. Although women work in the fields with their men folk, socially they are confined to their homes. Mobility is a

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big issue and women are not employed. Honor killings are common place while violence against women is wide spread.

#### **Political Situation**

At the time of election the entire district which is comprised of “Biradries”, involved in election campaign. Due to none participation of political parties, People cast votes to the candidate of their Biradries. In this way the society divided into Biradries which originate an unhealthy society. There are malpractices at administrative level to bring ruling class into power by unjustified manners. Women generally contest on their reserved seats with the consent of their man.

It is worth sharing that in the local government elections 1960 of East and West Pakistan, the first time a women from union council Barrella, district Gujrat was elected. In last general elections a women was elected as member of provincial assembly as her father wasn’t graduate and eligible to contest in the election.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

During the election campaign when the candidates were given election symbols. Then in the city of Gujrat some candidates contesting against labour/farmer seats were allotted symbols of General seats. Moreover candidates of minority class were allotted symbols of Muslims. This created lot of confusion among candidates. Who all got the worried affected candidates went to the office of DCC and lodged theses complaints to the head of the panel of Legal Cell, advocate Masood Akhtar. The Legal Penal entertained these applications and sent these to the district returning Officer saying that due to this mistake the candidates are upset so this should be rectified as early as possible. The District Returning Officer immediately amended the election symbols. So the worried candidates heard a sigh of relief and got busy in their election campaign specially candidates of minority class, who were depressed by the previous condition were encouraged and satisfied by this amendment.

##### **Glimpse 2**

During the monitoring visit to UC 27 Gujrat it was informed that Presiding Officer Ms. Farzana showed a great courage as resisted the gondaism

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and harassment of the ruling party patronised 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.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
117	468	821	464	5	99.1 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
117	234	435	220	14	94.0 %

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
117	234	507	234	0	100 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
117	234	446	233	1	99.6 %

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## Hafizabad

### District Background

The district is situated in central Punjab. District Sargodha is in the west, Jhang and Faisalabad in the south, Sheikhupura in the east and Mandi Bahuddin and Gujranwala in the north. In the north-west of the district is River Chenab.

Hafizabad was declared a district on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1993. The district has two tehsils namely Hafizabad and Pindi Bhatian and Union councils 42 (25 Hafizabad+17 Pindi Bhattain).

Shahinshah Akbar of Mughal Empire conquered this district in the sixteenth century. It is reported that during his occupation he met with a saint named Ghulam Mustafa and inspired by him, decided to build a city named Hafizabad.

Local tribes include Bhatti, Rajput, Kharal, Awan, Tarar, Syed, Kashmiri, Insari, Taili, and Muslim Shiekh.

### Total Area

2,367 sq. km

### Population

832,980; Tehsil Hafizabad: male 252,128, female 233,059, Tehsil Pindi Bhattian: male 181,192 female 166,610

### Registered Voters

426,044; male: 193,449, female: 232,595

### Literacy Rate

Female 28.7%

### Economic Conditions

The district has good fertile lands and the landlords of this area are well off producing export quality Basmati rice. Land is irrigated mostly through canals and tube wells. Power looms and rice mills are established in the urban area. Moreover, Carpet weaving industry has also been set up in the district. Many women are engaged in handicrafts while 60% of the rural and 45% of the urban women participate in agriculture.

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### Health

Health facilities are only available in the cities while the villages lack any facilities.

### Education

Literacy rate of the district is 55%. District has a degree college, 2 higher secondary schools, 35 high school, 13 middle schools and 322 primary schools for boys while a degree college, 3 higher secondary schools, 8 high schools, 26 middle schools and 367 primary schools have been established for girls.

### Social Condition

Most of the marriages are solemnised in the same caste. Dower is a common customary practice and women in the villages are not provided with basic human rights. Women are employed in government and private sectors with the permission of their families. Lawyers, journalist and social activist have set up 54 registered civil society organisations.

### Political Situation

Before the independence of Pakistan, the Tarar tribe was ruling the area with the support of Bhatti, Rajput and Awan tribes. Mehdi Hassan Bhatti is one of the influential politicians of the area who has been elected for the last 20 years, representing the PML (Q). He is being opposed by Tarars from PML (N) and Awans from Pakistan Peoples Party.

## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

The result of our Campaign was that the message reached a woman who wanted to contest the elections but the local MNA put pressure on her not to. When I got to know about this, I spoke to the MNA and said that if he threatened the woman, I would take the case to the press. He apologised to the woman and she was successful in the elections.

In another union council, a poor man's wife stood for a seat against a very influential man's wife. This man put pressure on the poor woman, bribing her up to Rs. 50,000, but she refused the bribe because she was assured of our support. She contested the election and won.

Similarly, in Pindi Bhattian union council, the *nazim* tried to stop a widow from standing for the elections because he wanted to put up one of his

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own family members. We talked to the *nazim* and told him that if he stopped the widow from contesting the elections it would harm his case. He gave up his opposition and the woman won.

While monitoring the election camp in Pindi Bhattian (tehsil headquarter in district Hafizabad), which was set up outside the Tehsil Courts, I saw a woman aged about 50 sitting inside the camp, somewhat embarrassed and nervous. I asked her what brought her there. She answered that she was baking *roti* (flat bread) at her *tandoor* (oven) and that the supporters of a candidate running for union *nazim* of her village brought her there to file her nomination papers as they wanted her to stand for a councillor's seat. I noted that she did not look as if she wanted to run for election, and she responded, "I am not that willing but once I get elected I will tell them what BD (Basic Democracy, a reference to a term used in Ayub Khan's period) is all about."

Towards the end of the last day of filing nomination papers, I came to know that one seat reserved for women, was still vacant in one of the union councils. I rushed to this village and began to search for a woman who could be requested to stand for election. Finally I came across an elderly woman and persuaded her that if she stood for election and got elected, she would enjoy the authority that the government promised to delegate to councillors in the new Local Government system. She agreed because there was no expenditure to be incurred as she did not have to run a campaign. She went all the way from her village to the district courts to file her nomination paper. She got elected unopposed. Early one morning, a month after taking oath, she came to me and enquired, "When will I get those powers that you promised I would have after getting elected?"

### **Glimpse 2**

When we started the election campaign, Aurat Foundation gave us published information material which we distributed to all the people in the district. They were surprised because, previously, no information had been given to them before any elections. The Assistant Director of the Local Government and the Election Officer were also surprised because while they had not yet received the notification for the elections, Aurat Foundation had collected all the information and made it available. Articles and editorials were written in newspapers, and political people and parties came to us because they were also unaware that elections were about to be held.

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### **Glimpse 3**

We gave the local transporters cassettes of the election songs. They played these songs in their buses and wagons and the information reached the furthest villages. To publicise the Campaign we contacted the local cable system and gave a small advertisement which was used repeatedly by the cable network. Our message reached many people.

### **WPLGE 2005**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Shamim Akhtar belongs to a small farmer family of union council Kot Saeed Muhammad # 15, district Hafizabad. During the election campaign of 2005, she saw a sticker of DCC while traveling in a wagon, and then watched a programme of DCC on local TV cable. She eventually decided to participate in election but her family didn't agree. Shamim approached the DCC office and told the Coordinator, Rasheed Bhutta about the whole situation. DCC team sent two members to visit shamim's family. Ms fauzia assured them that if Shamim's husband will compromise they will contact the candidates of each group and will convince them because the candidates of both groups were stopping women to participate in election. The members of DCC also mentioned that if any problem takes place they would be raising voice against it and Government will help them as the result of discussion shamim's family agreed.

On the last day of submission of forms, Shamim submitted her nomination form and DCC members gave her full assistance. When forms were verified Shamim again faced a problem, she was being forced by both of the candidates for Nazim union council (mayor) to step back for the sake of their female candidates. For a second time the DCC team contacted both of the candidates but they put a condition for Shamim that if she wins she had to endow all votes to them. The mutual decision took place that Shamim will join the winning party but at the moment let her stand alone. Shamim Akhtar came on second number and Nazim was elected without any competition for this reason none of the group objected Shamim.

#### **Glimpse 2**

There were two camps placed in to both districts of Hafizabad and Pindi Bhatian, where Aurat Foundation provided with all printed material, information for election fee and eligibility and procedures of election commission of Pakistan.

DCC worked very hard and put all efforts to give female candidate all information and support. The members of DCC team didn't even waited

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for the candidates in election camp, but they made sure to reach them by themselves and asked all female candidates if they face any problem. The women in majority were not educated and advocates and oath commissioners could take advantage of their inexperience. But the DCC members looked throughout the camp and helped all those women with respect and confidence; they brought them in to the camp and submit the papers without any fee. The legal team of AF also helped the candidates even on the third day of election camp till night. It was great pleasure for us to help those women, through all procedures and complications. For them DCC was heaven sent aid and all the women prayed for the team members.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
42	168	329	168	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
42	84	172	82	2	97.6%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
42	84	256	84	0	100 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
42	84	191	84	0	100 %



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## Jhang

### Geographical Boundaries

The district, is bounded on the north by Sargodha and Hafizabad, south by Khanewal, west by Layyah, Bhakkar and Khushab, east by Faisalabad and T.T. Singh and south-west by Muzaffargarh.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 2,834,545 of which 23.4% are urban and 76.6% are rural. Male population is 1,474,099 and female population is 1,360,446.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 128 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

The total area of the district is 8,809 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

It comprises of four tehsils namely Jhang, Shor Kot, Ahmadpur Sial and Chiniot.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Registered voters are 1,441,182 of which 764,970 male and 676,212 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 43.8 % are engaged in agriculture, followed by elementary occupations representing 38.6%, service workers, shop and market workers 6.0% and professionals representing 3.1%.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

Of the total female population, according to 1998 census, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.3% while domestic workers are 68.3%. Out of total economically active female population, 47.6% are self-employed, 26.7% are Government employees, 6.7% are private employees and 1.6% are employers.

### Education

The literacy ratio is 37.1%. The literacy ratio for males is 51.5% as against 21.4% for females. The ratio is much higher in urban areas when

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compared with rural areas both for male and females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 30.7% and in urban areas is 57.5%.

#### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 3,391 educational institutions imparting education in the district. There are 3,014 primary schools, 185 middle schools, and 176 high schools. Besides this, there are 3 professional colleges, 6 intermediate and 7 degree colleges.

#### **Health**

There are 5 hospitals in the district, 13 Rural Health Centers, 43 Sub Health Centers, 93 BHUs, 14 Mother and Child Health Centers, 54 dispensaries, 2 T.B. Clinics and 1 mobile dispensary. There are also a number of private hospitals and clinics in the district.

#### **Social**

In this region feudals share social and political power with the newly emerging industrial class and continue to enforce patriarchy. Women have no say in politics, economic affairs, are discriminated against according to local customary laws and traditions. Mostly confined to the home they have a little say in family and marriage matters.

#### **Feudal, Industrial influence, Religious influence**

Sectarianism is propagated by the religious groups at every level of social, economic and political life in the district. There is hardly any industry in the district and is mainly an agrarian economy. Feudalism is still very strong and feudal families hold sway over most social norms. Pirs have a certain amount of influence in the illiterate people while Syeds are held in high esteem and revered by the middle and upper middle classes.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs and do not partake openly in social activities. Segregation on family social functions is the norm while women have hardly any say in politics or economic matters. Confined to the home most women are restricted to domestic chores. Syeda Abida Hussain and daughter Sugra Imam are very influential political figures of the district although they come from a very traditional feudal and landlord family which has become progressive through the present generation.

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### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) have influence in the area. The principal bradries are Magiana, Khokhar, Jat, Nissowana, Baloch, Gillotar, Lali, Naul, Supra, Thahim, Kathia, Sial, Syed Qureshi and Rajput which have socio-political influence.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) are in power and have influence in the area.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Syeda Sughra Imam of PML (Q) represents the district at the provincial level from the district while Ghulam Bibi Bharwana of PML (Q) and Saima Akhtar Bharwana (IND) represent the district at the national level. All three women were elected against general seats and not reserved seats.

### **Comparison of 2000-01 And 2005 LG Elections**

In 2001, Women representation in LG Elections was 94.8% while in 2005 women representation in LG election was 98.2%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

In 2002 Elections, M. Tahir Shah of PML (Q), Makhdoom Syed Faisal Salah Hayat of PPPP (Patriot), Sheikh Waqqas Akram of PML (Q), Sahibzada M. Mehboob Sultan of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly while Ali Hassan Raza Qazi of PPPP, Syed Hassan Murtaza of PPPP, M. Saqlain Anwar of PML (Q), Meher Khalid Mehmood Sargana of PML (Q), Mian Zahoor Sajid Janjua of NA, M. Qamar Hayat Kathia of PML (Q), Imtiaz Ahmad Lali of PML (Q), Sardar Ghulam Ahmad Khan Gadi of PML (Q), Faisal Hayat Jabboana of PML (Q), Najaf Abbas Sial of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

In Jhang during our Campaign we faced a lot of opposition because people did not view NGOs positively. In tehsil Chiniot we had gone to a meeting in a local school to talk about women's participation in the elections. As we started speaking, some people started shouting at us and accused us of being agents of the Jews and following their profession and

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message. They accused us of plotting against women and said that we should be thrown out.

One man remarked that I had grown a beard but was not wearing the Pakistani national dress, because I was wearing a shirt and trousers. He accused us of being Asma Jehangir's agents. We were shocked and appealed to them to listen but they refused.

In the gathering was a law student who had come with her father. She told the audience that as we had come from outside, the people should listen to us. The educated ones among the crowd agreed to listen to us. We realised that the ones insulting us belonged to a religious group.

We confined our talk to voters' education saying that this was a new system and everyone should cast their vote. We told them that women, too, should be allowed to vote. We said that if women were elected they would address women's needs like girls' schools and female healthcare. We also asked the religious community to allow their women to vote.

The religious groups promised to consider our arguments. Later they contacted us for more information and many allowed their women to contest the polls. We had to work with patience and self-control and were quite successful.

### **Glimpse 2**

The DCC Jhang, in the course of their work, faced an interesting situation. We went to a village called Machhi Sultan to get women interested and active in the elections. We had not visited this village before but we knew that it was very backward and the women had little or no awareness regarding their rights. Purdah was so strict that no woman could be seen. To persuade the women to participate in the elections seemed an impossible task. However, a local educated landlord arranged a meeting so we could address the local men and women.

When we reached Machhi Sultan, the men and women were seated in someone's *dera* (home). The seating arrangement was such that while the men were facing us, the women had their backs to us. Even though they were not wearing burqas or chadars we could not see their faces nor could they see us.

We did not know anyone there and could talk directly only to the men. However, we started to convince them to allow their women to take part in the elections. Among other things, we told them that since the women could take part in the elections only with the support of the men, they

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should understand that if the women became representatives, their men would also gain importance.

Finally we tried another argument in our arsenal and were successful in our strategy. We told them very clearly that the group that had more women contesting in the elections would benefit greatly. So if they did not allow their women to contest, their rival groups would send their own women to sweep the polls for the reserved seats for women. Upon hearing this, the men present there agreed to allow their women to vote and contest the elections.

### **Glimpse 3**

During monitoring of the polling station at village Mat union council, the AF Team from Islamabad questioned a few women about the problems they were encountering. One candidate, Taj Bibi, said that the staff at the station had made the women queue outside under the blazing sun while the men were asked to stand in the veranda. One male *nazim* was canvassing unchecked inside the polling station. The monitoring team lodged a complaint with the staff, police and army personnel present at the station. As a result the *nazim* was asked to leave and the women were given space in the veranda.

### **WPLGE 2005**

District Jhang Consists of four Tehsils named as Jhang, Chiniot, Shor Kot and Ahmad Pur Sayyal. There are 128 Union Councils. According to new political system there are 13 Union Councils in Jhang. From Union Council 90, two women Razia Saif Ullah and Rubina Jaffri announced to contest the election on Nazim seat.

In last tenure, both women were elected as District member on reserved seats for women. Razia Saif Ullah belonged to Nazim group while Rubina Jaffri belonged to Ex-Naib District Nazim Makhdoom Syed Asad Hayyat. Religious groups have their strong influence in Jhang and in every election it comes on its peak. In that area women contested election for Nazim seat was very strange. Rubina Jaffri did Masters in Urdu while Razia Saif Ullah was B.A. Two men Candidates that were Altaf Bukhari and Muhammad Khalid opposed both women. Both candidates had to face opposition from their relatives and citizens. People also raised eyebrows when they go out for their campaign of election. They also faced many hurdles from religious groups, who did not like them. They said that women have no right to contest election.

Rubina Jaffri was the member of CAC so she contacted with Qammar Zaidi. Razia also contacted DCC and told the whole situation. Qammar Zaidi encouraged both women and gave them confidence of full support from DCC. Qammar Zaidi called a meeting of DCC members and discussed their problems. It was suggested that dialogue between DCC and Religious parties and political parties should be organised.

DCC team made a dialogue with the religious groups and political parties and argued that for the development of any state, participation of women in politics is necessary. They also organised mobilization meetings with public. DCC gave training to the polling agents. They also gave printed material related to women participation in election to both women on their demand. DCC also made dialogue with the opponents and convinced them. As a result of that Altaf Bukhari candidate from Sipra Sahaba Party announced before a night of Election Day his withdrawal from election in favor of Razia Saif Ullah and Sipra Sahaba gave their votes to Razia. With the full support of DCC, Razia Saif Ullah was succeeded.

Razia paid a lot of thanks to Qammar Zaidi and said that she did not feel any discrepancy from DCC between her and Rubina, as Rubina was CAC member. Both women candidates had full support from DCC.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
128	512	968	500	12	97.7%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
128	256	380	228	28	89.1%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
128	256	614	256	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
128	256	449	247	9	96.48%

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## Jhelum

### Geographical Location

Originally known as Jalham, a combination of two words “Jhal” and “Ham”, Jhal meaning water and Ham snow i.e. ice-cold water of the river Jhelum. Situated in north-eastern Pakistan is bordered in the north by Rawalpindi district and Mirpur of AJK, east by river Jhelum and Gujrat district, south by district Sargodah and Mandi Bahauddin, west by Chakwal and Khushab. The district has four tehsils namely Jhelum, Dina, Sohawa and Pind Dadan Khan. Places of historic interest are the Rohtas Fort, Tilla Jogian and the Khewra Salt mines.

### Total Area

3,587 sq. kms.

### Population

936,957; male 483,822 and female 493,135.

### Total registered voters

557,548

### Economy

The economy of the district is mainly agriculture, irrigated by the Jhelum River and canals. Some of the important minerals that are mined are limestone at Gharibwal, Taraki and Lilla and used to make cement by National, Dandot and Gharibwal cement Factories. Coal is also found in the district while the biggest salt mines in Asia are situated at Khewra. Other prominent industries of the district are Pakistan Tobacco Co. Ltd., Alliance Textile Mills, Pakistan Chip Board Factory, KDC Chemicals, Board and Plywood Factory, ICI Soda Ash Factory, Rani Ghee Mills. Military service is the preferred employment by males.

### Education and Health

The literacy ratio is 68.9%; for males 77.4% while for females it is 50.5%. Information about educational institutions is not available.

One District Headquarters Hospital, 2 tehsil hospitals, 6 primary rural health centers, 5 Sub-Health centers, 7 primary dispensaries, 8 Mother Child health Centers, 40 BHUs, 1 TB center, 52 dispensaries. 1 Para Medical Training Institute and 19 veterinary hospitals are functioning in

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the district. Fauji Foundation Hospital is also providing medical care to retired army officers and their families.

#### **Social Customs and Traditions/Culture**

Socially the district is backward and patriarchal customary practices persist. Underdevelopment of rural areas is forcing populations to migrate to urban areas for employment. This has provided an opportunity to women to acquire education and employment. Mobility is still a problem as women who venture out face harassment. This harassment has increased in the form of acid-throwing and stove burning. Political participation of women is difficult and women who do participate face kidnapping and violent threats.

#### **Political Situation**

Political parties do not have grass root level wings in the district and are mostly confined to urban areas. The two main political parties the PPP and both PML factions (PML-Q and PML-N) are strong contenders in the district. Nighat Parveen is the woman MPA from the district while there are 2 MNA and 4 MPA seats from the district. The most influential biradarries of the district are Gujjar, Janjua, Rajput, Ghakhar, Khokhar, Jat, Mughal, Awan, Syed and Kashmiris.

#### **Women Participation in Politics**

As is common in most districts of the country the political parties do not have women's wings but women have come onto the local government canvas as councilors from 2001 onwards. Most of these women are from lower social classes and thus far less affective and exploited by the feudal political players.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Returning officer Jhelum rejected Rubina Syed's nomination papers, asserting that the date of birth on I.D card differed with that of her Matriculation certificate.

She was the only candidate for the seat of Nazim for U.C Badlot.

She approached the DCC Jhelum for help. DCC legal aid committee members, Nausheen Dar Advocate, Raja Aamir Abbas and DCC coordinator Malik Shaukat Ali Advocate represented Rubina Syed. They



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urged the RO that since Rubina Syed met every criteria of an eligible candidate according to the LG Ordinance, a minor clerical error regarding the difference in date of birth should be overlooked.

Finally, the RO agreed to accept Rubina Syed's nomination papers.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
53	212	471	212	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
53	106	207	100	6	94.3%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
54	108	227	108	0	100 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
54	108	207	108	1	99.08%

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## Kasur

### Geographical Boundaries

District Kasur was created in 1976 after being detached from Lahore district. The district is located along the Indian Border, 55 kilometers south of Lahore and is bounded on the east and south-east by India, on the south-west by Okara and on the north-west by Sheikhpura districts. The largest manmade forest in Asia, Changa Manga, is situated in district Kasur.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of district is 2,375,875, of which 22.8% are urban and 77.2% are rural. Male population is 12, 43,818 and female population is 1,132,057.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

Kasur comprises of 113 union councils, of which 26 are urban and 87 are rural UCs.

### Total Area of District

The district has an area of 3,995 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

The district comprises of 3 tehsils named Kasur, Chunian and Pattoki

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 1,179,825 of which 630,111 are male voters and 549,714 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of total employed persons, 46.7% are engaged in agricultural and fishery works, 32.2% are in service workers, 8.8% are shop and market sales workers, 4.4% are craft and related trade workers.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

Out of the total female population, according to 1998 census, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.3% while domestic workers are 65.5%. Women are engaged in cattle farming, extracting butter and ghee from milk, weaving and sewing. In addition, they generally help their men-folk on farms, cotton harvesting, transplanting of seedling rice, harvesting, threshing and winnowing of grains.

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## Education

Kasur is ranked among the nine districts with lowest literacy rate in Punjab; ranked 25 out of 35 districts. The literacy ratio in the district is 36.2 %. The literacy ratio for males is 47.6 % as against 23.4% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 32.2% and in urban areas is 49.4 %.

## Educational Facilities for Male/Females/College/Schools

According to District Education Department, 74 primary and 2 middle schools for girls have been reduced to the status of single-teacher schools, while 58 girl's primary schools and one middle school are non-functional due to non-availability of teachers. Many parents therefore are reluctant to send their children to school, particularly girls, due to shortage of teachers and high absenteeism. Figures for schools/colleges are unavailable.

## No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)

Total number of Madrassas is 282 in district.

## Health

One DHQ Hospital, which is currently a 197-bedded hospital, 2 Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals are located in Chunian and Pattoki. There are 12 Rural Health Centers. In a typical RHC, there are 8-9 professionals comprising 1 SMO, 1 MO, 1 WMO, 1 Dental Surgeon, 1 LHV, 1 MT, 1 Lab Assistant and 1 Dispenser allied by other supporting staff.

## Social

Kasur has a glorious past set in spiritual and cultural traditions nurtured by Sufism, musicians and singers. Pirs are held in high esteem and villagers pay quarterly, half yearly or annual visits to their Mureeds. Besides the living Pirs, people have great faith in Pirs who died centuries ago and regularly attend "Urs" at their shrines. The urban and rural population differs in cultural pattern. Traditions that violate women's basic rights like early marriages and Watta Satta continue. Women's mobility is limited since they must be veiled in public. Women are excluded from the public sphere.

## Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence

Bradaris have influence in the district such as Kasuri, Rajput, Arain and Syed and this feudal system is very powerful. Settlers and big landholders

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have great influence. The population of the district is predominantly Muslim while important minorities are Christians and Qadianis.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Traditions and customary practices that violate the woman's basic rights like early marriages and exchange marriages (Watta Satta) continue. The women mostly are involved in domestic work. Women have a limited role in public affairs. Within the limits prescribed by family custom, these women have substantial domestic influence and play a large part in arranging marriages and family alliances.

#### **Political Situation**

Major political groups are Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot). The principal castes residing in Kasur district are Jat, Rajput, Mayo, Arain, Dogar, Ansari, Sheikh and Pathan. The refugees from East Punjab settled in this district also belong largely to those castes. The Rajputs are numerically the largest tribe with 32% population and the most important in the district. The next numerous tribe is Arain consisting about 30 percent of population.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is in local power with nominal representation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

There is no women representation at provincial and national level.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

Women representation in LG Election 2001 was 98.1% while in LG Election 2005 is 99.55%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Ch. M. Ilyas Khan of PML (Q), Sardar Shoukat Ali Dogar of PPPP (Patriot), Syed Muzaffar Hassan Kazmi of PPPP, Malik Ahmad Saeed Khan Advocate of PML (Q), Malik M. Ahmad Khan of PML (Q), Sardar Hassan Akhter Makol of PML (Q), Sheikh Alla-ud-Din of PML (Q), Sibghat Ullah Chaudhry, Advocate of PML (Q), Sardar Pervaiz Hassan Nakai of PML (Q), Rana Sarfraz Ahmad Khan of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly. Sardar Tufail Ahmad Khan of PML (Q), Ch. Manzoor Ahmad of PPPP, Mian Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri of PML (Q),

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Sardar M. Asif Nakai of PML (Q) and Sardar Talib Hassan Nakai of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly.

#### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

In the Local Body Elections 2005, Good Thinkers Organisation got an opportunity to work with Aurat Foundation in District Coordination Committee DCC. Local NGOs, CCBs, Media Representatives, Bar members and other social & political activists from the whole District Kasur also fully participated as District Coordination Committee in the whole work.

First of all, during submission of nomination papers, women candidates were facing many problems, as Lawyers and their clerks in the courts were taking Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 to complete the nomination papers. DCC team pasted banners and distributed handbills among the general public near the District Courts and out side for free assistance in this context. As a result, a large number of women and men started to come in the DCC Information Camp for getting free documentation to submit their nomination papers. Different panels of Nazims appreciated our work and got technical assistance for their own documentation and for their women members. Assistant Election Office staff also recommended different women to get assistance from DCC information Camp.

During the pre-election trainings for women councilors, different male candidates for Nazim and Naib Nazim seats visited us and consulted and requested for their male members training also, which was not the part of our set activities but on the keen interest and request, we did 4 trainings for male members also.

Overall, we got very useful feedback from the local political party members, candidates and even some religious persons also. A well renowned religious scholar in Kasur, Molana Zuhair Shah Humdani, not

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only visited DCC camp but also stayed there for 35 minutes and appreciated the efforts and good work for noble cause. He also got technical assistance for the completion of nomination papers for their own local body election candidates from MMA.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
113	452	908	452	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
113	226	484	213	13	94.2%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
113	226	671	226	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
113	226	191	224	2	99.11%

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## Khanewal

### Geographical Boundaries

District Khanewal was created in 1985. Its boundaries meet districts of Jhang on the North, Sahiwal on the East, Vehari on the South and with Multan on the West.

### Population Male/Female

The district has a population of 2,068,490 of which 17.42% are urban and 82.58% are rural. Of the total population 1,072,492 are males and 995,998 are females.

### No. Of Urban/Rural UC

Total UCs in the district are 100.

### Total Area of District

District is spread over an area of 4,349 square kilometres.

### Name and Number Tehsils

Total numbers of tehsils in district are 4 named Khanewal, Kabirwala, Mian Channu and Jhanian.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters in the district are 1,113,438. Female registered voters are 524,499 and male are 588,939.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

About 43.0% are engaged in agriculture, 36.3% have elementary occupations, followed by service workers, shop and market sales workers representing 8.4 %, handicraft and related trade workers, 3.0%.

### Women's Economic Status

In the district, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.2% while domestic workers are 67.6%. Out of total economically active female population, self-employed are 44.6%, government employees are 30.7%, private employees are 8.3%.

### Education

The literacy ratio in the district is 39.9%. The literacy ratio for males is 53.6% as against 25.1% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 35.4% and in urban areas is 60.8%.

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### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 1,787 educational institutions imparting education from the level of primary up to postgraduate level. There are 599 and 522 primary schools, 78 and 107 middle schools, 106 and 37 secondary schools, 04 and 03 higher secondary schools and 04 and 04 colleges for males and females respectively. Total number of Private Schools is 124.

### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

There are 323 Madrassas in the district.

### **Health**

There are 8 hospitals, 27 dispensaries, 4 Rural Health Centers, 82 basic Health units, 2 T.B Clinics, 2 Sub Health Centers in the district. Eleven Mother and Child Health centers are working at district level.

### **Social**

Traditions that violate women's basic rights like early marriages and Watta Satta are common. Women's mobility is limited since they must be veiled in public. Women are excluded from the public sphere.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

In the district, political groups of Hiraj and Syed have influence. Religious groups are also strong and play important role in political process. In this region feudals share social and political power with the newly emerging industrial class.

### **Women Social Status**

Women have more rights if compared with the woman who live in the tribal belt of the Punjab. But there are such traditions that violate the woman's basic rights like early marriages and Exchange Marriages (Watta Satta). Woman's participation in social and political activities is not viewed positively by society at large. Women who want to participate in social activities face hostile attitude from their communities.

### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPPP) and Pakistan Muslim League (Q) are the major political groups at district level. The district has a variety of tribes, castes and families, including Dahas and Khaggas in Khanewal tehsil, Syeds, Hirajs and Sials in Kabirwala tehsil, Maitlas and Wahlas in Jahanian tehsil and Wynes, Qureshis and Bodlas in Mian Channu tehsil. In



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Kabirwala, Khans, Pandas, Pahors and Sahus have a reputation of being the most ancient tribes in the tehsil.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In election 2002, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) won the seats for the provincial and national legislatures,.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level (figures)**

In 2002, only one woman Dr. Samia Amjad of PML (Q) was elected as member Provincial Assembly Punjab on reserved seats for women.

Women representation in LG Election 2001 was 99.0% while in LG Election 2005 was also 99.0%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

In election 2002, M. Raza Hayyat Hiraj of PPPP (Patriot), Hamid Yar Hiraj of PML (Q), Pir M. Aslam Bodla of PPPP (Patriot), Malik Ghulam Murtaza Maitla of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly. While Makhdoom Syed M. Mukhtar Hussain of PPPP, Hussain Jahania Gardezi of (A), Zahoor Ahmad Khan Daha of PML (Q), M. Yar Hiraj of PML (Q), Pir Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Khagga of PPPP, Zahoor Hussain Qureshi of PPPP, Abdul Razzaq Khan of PML (Q) and Mian Naveed Jahania of PPPP (Patriot) won the seats of Provincial Assembly.

#### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

##### **Glimpse 1**

The men of Moripur in tehsil Kabirwala, Khanewal, thought that the participation of women in the political process might cause indecency and obscenity in the village. Since women were dependent on the male

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section of the society, they thought, it was naturally the right of only the men to contest elections and vote.

The Campaign team initiated a debate among the men which resulted in two schools of thought arising in the village elders: one in favour of women's participation in politics and the other opposing it. The former group was led by the male candidate for the seat of *nazim*, Ghulam Mustafa, whose view was that if the villagers did not allow their women to cast their votes, his opponent, who belonged to a nearby village, would win the election with the women's votes of his village.

At the same time, staff from AF's Legislative Watch programme met with the Governor Punjab and requested him to set up separate election booths for female voters in Moripur, which he agreed to. In Moripur, the *nazim* candidate also succeeded in getting the support of some men to allow the women in their families to use their right to vote.

However, on the day of polling, no male villager in Moripur allowed the women of his family to vote. Even the women from the house of the *nazim* candidate did not come out. The candidate lost the election.

### Glimpse 2

In Moripur, tehsil Kabirwala, district Khanewal, not a single woman had been allowed to cast her vote since the creation of Pakistan. The decision to bar women from casting their votes was taken collectively by the *baradaris* of the area.

A local schoolteacher contacted the DCC, which in turn contacted AF. He had raised this issue previously but so far he had remained unsuccessful. The TCC and DCC of the area held a meeting with local influentials.

We presented many arguments supporting women's role in politics but the local *baradaris* were unwilling to listen to us. On one occasion, a female member of the AF team spoke aggressively, which made one participant draw out his gun in anger. We managed to diffuse the situation and narrowly avoided disaster.

The schoolteacher was threatened by the local influentials. They accused him of collaborating with NGOs to spread immorality among the women of their community. "Have we become so shameless that our women will cast votes?" They also said that he had taken money from the NGOs to spread their message within their community.

After diffusing the tension, we told them that polling stations would be segregated for men and women and the polling staff would be female.

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Some local leaders felt that even if they allowed women to vote, they would face opposition from the local people.

They gave us an option. If we were sincere, we should help start a school for girls, and this would help strengthen our position in their community. They said that this would help prepare the ground for women's participation in politics. Our local partner NGOs promised to open a school for girls.

Since then, a school has been opened. The impact of focussing on female education will be gauged during the next elections.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Mohripur is the part of Hashmat Murali of Union Council No. 52. In the history of this village not a single woman was allowed to cast her vote or participate in politics. DCC Khanewal has planned their strategy well in time before the commencement of election schedule and they started work on it.

A survey was conducted by DCC at different level of society to know about the reasons why women didn't cast their vote in the election. In the light of this survey DCC had started consultation with notable, landlords of area and tried to convince them to change their decisions/point of views about political participation of women of their particular area to meet the requirement of challenges of new era, as well as a DCC has arranged a discussion with common man of the village in which detail discussion held on the benefits of casting of votes of women's, losses of not casting votes and their political participation.

DCC has also arranged a dialogue at Tehsil Head Quarter Kabirwala with the prominent political parties, Bar association and members of Press Club in which they tried to develop a consensus on the political participation of women's as well as DCC requested them to come forward and play their effective and positive roll during election days.

With the cooperation of NADRA, DCC sent a Mobile van to Mohripur for issuance of computerised NIC. Meanwhile DCC remained in touch with DRO and Assistant Commissioner Khanewal for the arrangement of separate booths for casting of 1,652 registered votes of women in Mohripur village.

DCCs has also contacted with DPO Khanewal to provide sufficient security for the protection of women against any type of violence during the time of vote casting. DCC informed DRO Khanewal and National and Regional Offices of Election Commission before time that any one can

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stop forcibly women to caste their votes. In the response of DCC's efforts Returning Officer spent whole day in the village, but unfortunately all efforts of DCC ended in vain because tribe of Olukh-o-Kumbho threaten women and their families if they caste their votes then they will face completely social boycott. The tribe has succeeded in their aim and no single woman reached at polling booth to caste her vote.

One interesting point from this village was that two women Jandain Bibi and Irshad bibi contested against the other villages' women, on polling day they did not caste their own votes but they had declared successful from men polling booths.

DCC has demanded to the Election Commission's to cancel the election results of Union Council 52 due to non participation of women as policy announced by the Election Commission but their demand was not recognised.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
100	400	847	399	1	99.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
100	200	394	195	5	97.5%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
100	200	484	200	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
100	200	377	196	4	98%

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## Khushab

### Geographical Boundaries

The district is bounded on the north by Chakwal, north-east by Pind Dadan Khan, east is river Jhelum and Sargodha, and west by Mianwali and Bhakkar districts.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 905,711 of which 25.3% are urban and 74.7% are rural. Of the total population, male population is 451,439 while female population is 454,272.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 51 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

The district comprises an area of 6,511 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

The district has three tehsils named Khushab, Joharabad and Noorpur.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 498,412 of which 254,375 are male voters and 244,037 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 45.3% are engaged in agriculture, followed by elementary occupations representing 33.1%, and service workers and shop and market sales workers 6.5 %

### Women's Economic Status/ Labour Force of Women

In the district, out of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.3% while domestic workers are 70.0%. Out of total economically active female population, 32.8% are self-employed, 27.8% are government employees, 12.8% are private employees and 0.8% are employers. Despite being participants in the economically productive process, their efforts remain largely unrecognised, and are not represented in economic decision-making.

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### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 40.5%. The literacy ratio for males is 59.8% as against 21.8% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 36.7% and in urban areas is 51.6%.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 1,020 educational institutions in the district imparting education from the level of primary up to graduate level. There are 470 primary schools for boys and 355 for girls, 63 middle schools for boys and 39 for girls, 56 high schools for boys and 20 for girls whereas 4 higher secondary schools for boys and 2 for girls. Two intermediate and degree colleges for males and 1 for females, 1 District Public School, 3 Commerce colleges, 1 Vocational Institute for boys and 1 for girls, 1 Tech. Training Center and 1 Fauji Foundation School in the district.

### **Health**

There is one DHQ hospital and 2 THQ hospitals in the district, 27 dispensaries, 2 Rural Health Centers, 37 Basic Health Units, 4 Sub Health Centers and 6 Mother and Child Health Centers. This indicates the dearth of medical facilities.

### **Social**

The district is part of the tribal belt in the Punjab therefore tribal customs and traditions dominate. People prefer to approach a Jirga for resolving their disputes rather than a court of law. There is a very strong sense of bradri; tribal ties are very strong in Khushab. Honor killing, exchange marriages, early marriages and Vani are the social evils that have entangled most of the families due to illiteracy.

### **Feudal, Industrial influence, Religious Influence**

The district has feudal influence. An overwhelming majority of the population is Muslims. The influence of religion on the daily life of the people is distinctly felt and their conduct is regulated by the dictates of the religion.

### **Women Social Status**

Women lack of mobility; female education is not viewed positively and women must be heavily veiled while leaving the house. Other practices like honor killing, exchange marriages (Watta Satta), trafficking of women,

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early marriages and Vani, where women are exchanged as compensation for a murder, continue.

#### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is the major political group of the district and has influence in the area. There is a very strong sense of bradri and Tiwana is the dominant bradri. The Baloch and the Janjua are two other major bradries and they have influence in the area. Tribes such as Joya, Banghoor, Syed, Suggu, Khera Ahir and Qureshi are also among the landowning tribes and are landlords.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) has influence and is the in power party.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Mrs. Sumera Malik of (National Alliance), Ayela Malik (NA) and Shazadi Umer Zadi Tiwana PML (Q) represent the district as members of National Assembly.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In 2001, Women representation in LG Elections was 91.2% while in 2005 women representation in LG election was 100%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Malik M. Javaid Iqbal Awan of PML (Q), Malik Saleh Muhammad Gunjial of (NA), Malik M. Asif Baha of PML (Q) and M. Waris Kallu of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly. Malik M. Saifullah Tiwana of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly

#### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

Irshad Begum was an active woman, a midwife by profession, and had organised a welfare scheme for women in her community in Qadirabad, district Khushab. It was in fact the women from this scheme who encouraged her to take part in the elections. She became the first woman in her family to ever stand for election. It was a difficult time; not only was she politically inexperienced, she also had nine opponents. She was greatly helped by the DCC, which arranged for her to attend an orientation session. Her work as a midwife also gave her great outreach in the public. These factors enabled her to win the election.

### WPLGE 2005

During the mobilization campaign of WPLGE 2005, Aurat Foundation Resource Center Khushab becomes a hub of election activities. Candidates of general seats and nazims started to contact with DCC Office. Ex-women councilors took a lot of benefits from DCC office because they were already know about AFRC work and remained in contact.

A number of ex-women councilor again showed their interest to take part in election. As compared to last election, a large number of women candidates submitted their nomination papers. DCC set up free information camp in Court. They provided information regarding electoral process and women's participation in election. They also provided printed material related to election to the candidates. Every one was allowed to come in camp and got any information related to elections. All the services of DCC were free of cost. By seeing this, local government and Election Commission recognised the struggles and efforts of DCC. They appreciated the work and achievements of DCC. Women candidates who faced difficulties to fill the form and wanted to get any information from Election Commission always guided them to contact DCC or camp in Court. Local Government also contacted DCC to get upcoming new information related to election.

Election Commission also pasted out the DCC and AF printed material related to election out of the office. When candidates came in Election Commission Office to gain any information then they said to them that DCC office address and their telephone numbers were displayed on the walls of office, note down the address and contact with them.



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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
51	204	307	197	7	96.6%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
51	102	153	82	20	80.4%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
51	102	218	102	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
51	102	178	102	Nil	100%

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## Lahore

### Geographical Boundaries

Lahore is the provincial capital of Punjab and the second most populated city in Pakistan. It is bordered on the north and west by district Sheikupura, on the east by India and in the south by Kasur.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 6,318,745. Males 3,328,745 and 2,990,243 are females.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 150 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

The district has an area of 1,772 sq km.

### Name and Number of Towns

In 2005, Government of Punjab changed the district's status to City District Government. Its tehsils were divided into nine (9) towns; Aziz Bhatti town, Allama Iqbal town, Data Gunj Bukhas town, Gulberg town, Nishter town, Samna Abad town, Shalimar town, Ravi town and Wahga town.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Of the total registered voters 2,963,253; 1,621,954 are male and 1,341,299 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Lahore is the biggest industrial area in Punjab. There are large manufacturing units of cotton, woolen, silk cloths, carpets, textile produce, leather, rubber footwear, metal working machinery, printing, publishing units, canning and preservation of food, wood and glass products and railway equipment, toys, stationery etc. Only 5.7% population is engaged in agriculture, 9.6% in manufacturing, 0.5% employed in electricity, gas and water departments, 30.% in construction, 15.6% are in wholesale, retail, hotel and restaurant business, 5.4% in real estate business. Out of total population 52.6% are self-employed, 14.4% are govt. employees, 27.1% are in private employment, and 2.5% are employers.

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### **Women's Economic Status**

Women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.6% while home-based workers are 70.9%. Women in large numbers are housekeepers in city areas and also engaged in handicraft, agricultural activities, preservation of food, and livestock like attending the cattle, extracting butter and ghee from milk, weaving and sewing.

### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 64.7 %. Literacy ratio for males is 54.6 % as against 40.9 % for females. The literacy rate in urban areas is 50% and in rural areas is 31.3%.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

The world famous and oldest University, Punjab University, University of Engineering and Technology, National College of Arts are located here. Fatimah Jinnah Medical College for women and King Edward Medical University are also situated in the city. There are 447 primary schools for males and 496 for females, 54 middle schools for males and 91 for females and 119 government higher secondary schools for males and 114 for females. Intermediate colleges for males are 4 and 5 for female while degree colleges for males are 14 and for females 22. Besides these, numerous private medical colleges, technical colleges and institutes, schools, colleges and universities are also functional in the city.

### **No. of Madrasas (religious institutions)**

There are 190 Madrasas in the district.

### **Health**

The health status of women in the district is better in urban areas but poor in rural areas. There are 42 government hospitals and 140 dispensaries, 6 HRC, 37 BHU, 6 T.B. Clinics, 11 Sub Health Centers and 117 Mother and Child Health Centers. There are numerous of private hospitals and clinics.

### **Social**

Lahore is the cultural, intellectual and artistic center of the nation. The wide variety of Islamic and British architectural elegance, busy streets and bazaars, make it a city full of cultural atmosphere. The warm and receptive people of Lahore are known for their traditional hospitality. Marriages between same sections of tribe or caste are customary, while

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inter-marriage between people of different tribes and castes in cities and towns is becoming more frequent. The usual age of marriage for boys is 23 to 30 years and that for girls is from 18 to 25 years. In urban areas middle class wear western dress while indigenous dress is worn at home. The male dress consists of the Kurta and Shalwar. Achkan and Sherwani are worn on formal occasions. Women's clothing is very colorful shalwar, kamiz, saris, and depending on class background, jeans are also worn.

Lahore is a very festive city and celebrates many festivals throughout the year, with blending of moghal, western and latest trends. Basant (Spring Festival), National Horse and Cattle Show, World Performing Arts Festival is held every autumn. Musicals, theatre, concerts, dance, solo, mime, puppetry shows and art exhibitions are held around the year. There are a number of historical places which attract tourists from all over the world. Rapid industrialization has led to increasing urbanization, which has opened up many avenues for women in terms of education and employment.

#### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

The population can broadly be classified into two categories i.e. locals and settlers. The prominent castes amongst the locals are Syed, Arian, Jat, Gujjar, Pathan, Mughal, Sheikh, Kashmiri, Rajput and other smaller castes. Predominantly Muslim majority while Christians, Hindus, Qadiani and Sikh minorities also reside in Lahore.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Women are politically active at the local level as well at the provincial and national level. Socially conscious of the discrimination against women in law and society many women are running NGOs based in Lahore, which address women's rights issues. Aware of their political and economic rights they are able to influence family economic and social decision making especially concerning marriages. Well educated and conscious of their surroundings women are generally very active in the economic field and at present large numbers are employed in banks, private businesses, communications and in the travel industry. Professional women in the fields of architecture, engineering, medicine and health are playing a very responsible and active role in raising awareness on women's rights.

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### Political Situation

Major political parties of the district are Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) and Jamat-e-Islami (MMA). There are a number of smaller political groupings which have liberal and leftist leanings such as the Tehrik-e-Insaf, Labour Party, Awami Jamhouri Party, Socialist Party, Mazdoor Kissan Party and Pakistan Communist Party, which are all very active in local and national politics. There are a number of feudal families that are politically active and influence both the provincial and national politics. To name a few, Daultana, Noons, Tiwana, Lalika, Chaudary, Bharwana, Leghari, Kichi, Malik, Mamdot, Kharal, Chatta, Gujjar, Arain, Langha and Awan.

### 2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is in power at the provincial and local government with nominal representation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League (N).

### Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level

In 2002, Naseem Lodhi PML (Q) Shaheen Atiq U Rehman (PMLQ), Farzana Nazir (PMLQ), Qudsia Lodhi (PMLQ), Misbha Kukab (PMLQ), Ghulshan Malik (PMLQ), Farida Rafique (PMLQ), Shaheena Asad (PMLQ), Dr. Anjum Amjad (PMLQ), Saadia Humyun (PMLQ), Robina Nazar (PMLQ), Parveen Sikandar (PMLQ), Kanawal Naseem PML (Q), Tallat Yaqub (PMLQ), Mrs. Faiza Ahmed (PPPP), Memoona Nabeel (PPPP), Saghira Asghar (PPPP), Tallat Yaqub (PPPP), Faiza Ahmed (PPPP), Embesat Khan (PPPP), Durr-e-Shahwar Neealam (NA), Humiara Awais (NA), Saba Sadiq PML(N), Abida Javid PML(N), Tahira Munir (MMA) at punjab level.

Mehnaz Rafi (PMLQ), Hajira Tariq Aziz (PMLQ), Khasmala Tariq (PMLQ), Saira Triq (PMLQ), Attiya Inaytullah (PMLQ), Bushra Rehman (PMLQ), Farzeen Ahmed (PMLQ), Aasiya Azeem (PMLQ), Onaza Ehsan (PMLQ) Bushra Anwar (PMLQ), Dr. Rozina (PPMLQ), Tahira Asif (PMLQ), Shakeela Khanum (PPPP), Yasmeen Rehman (PPPP), Shahnaz Sheikh (PMLQ), Samia Raheel Qazi (MMA), Rehana Aleem (PML-J), PML (Q) represent at national level.

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### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In LG Election 2001, Women representation was 98.1% while in LG Election 2005 women representation is 99.83%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Male representation in provincial assembly, 7 are from PML (Q), 4 from PML (N), 12 from PML (N), and 1 from MMA. In the provincial assembly there are 13 women Parliament Secretaries, 3 Ministers, 5 Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees, and 1 ordinary woman member.

At national level, 4 are from PML (N), 3 from PML (Q), 3 from MMA and 2 from PPP.

### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

AF has its head office and Punjab office in Lahore and has good coordination and linkages with Government line departments, journalist, lawyer's, legislator's, donors, CSO, CBOs and other stakeholders since 1988. AF has a volunteer field coordinator in each of the 9 towns of Lahore.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) was conducting a nationwide campaign against women's participation in the elections. They announced that they would protest the allocation of 33 per cent women's seats outside every Press Club in the country. In response, and in collaboration with the DCCs, we held demonstrations outside every Press Club in almost all the districts of Punjab to support women in politics. If the JI protested in the morning, we protested in the same district during the evening. As a result, the newspapers would carry stories of demonstrations both for and against women's participation the same page.

### **WPLGE 2005**

The DCC team for three day information camp Naila Riaz, Raja Abbas and Anila were providing information to candidates and public to fill nomination papers and also helped in information literature distribution and specially took the addresses and phone numbers of visitors in registers. Therefore, female candidates could be easily approached or

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they could contact the coordination committee for any help and information.

After three day camp female candidate Salma Ashique who is resident of Union Council contacted the Town Coordinator Committee office on labour seat and apprised town coordinator Raja Abbas and Naiyla that her nomination papers were rejected, this made them upset. Salma Ashique told that her nomination papers were rejected because her lawyer filled wrong forms of her nomination papers and took the oath from her side that she is labour in an organisation, but did not attach the verification certificates.

Salma Ashique's lawyer had submitted her papers on yellow form rather than green form on labour councilor seat. In this situation coordinator Raja Abbas contacted Layqat Naseer advocate and Sheikh Muhammad Younas of town legal committee and told them the exact situation.

As per lawyer proposal, team decided to file her appeal in court for her case that her lawyer has filed her nomination papers on a wrong color form. In the reply of other objection the verification certificate should be submitted of this woman regarding her work in the organisation. Sheikh Muhammad Younas filed the appeal for Salma Ashique in the court and requested that she should be eligible to participate in election. Court accepted this appeal of coordinator committee and permitted her to participate in election. In this regard Salma Ashique was thankful to town coordinator committee.

Salma Ashique did not succeed in election but she was so thankful to the committee and is continuously in contact. She fully participated in every activity of town coordinator committee. According to her, these organisations are very useful for women welfare and success. And women should be oriented about these organisations therefore women could step forward in political participation.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
150	600	1717	597	3	99.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
150	300	549	286	14	95.3%

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Election Results 2005					
General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
150	300	1160	300	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
150	300	838	299	1	98.66%



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## Layyah

### Geographical Boundaries

Layyah is bounded on north by Bhakkar, east by Jhang and south Muzaffargarh.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 1,120,951 of which 12.9% are urban and 87.1% are rural. Out of the total population, male population is 579,009 while female population is 541,942.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 44 UCs in the district of which 9 are urban UCs and 35 are rural UCs.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 6,291 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

The district comprises three tehsils named Layyah, Karor and Chobara.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 535,874 of which 287,482 are male and 248,392 female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 45.2% are engaged in agriculture, followed by 31.0% elementary occupations, service workers, shop and market sales workers representing 8.3%.

### Women's Economic Status

Of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 0.8% while domestic workers are 66.0%. Out of total economically active female population, 21.5% are self-employed, 51.2% are government employees, 6.6% are private employees and 1.2% are employers.

### Education

The literacy ratio in the district is 38.7%. The literacy ratio for males is 53.0% as against 23.4% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 34.9% and in urban areas is 62.5%.

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### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

Information not available

### **Health**

There are 4 hospitals in the district, 3 Rural Health Centers, 42 Basic Health Units and 2 Mother and Child Health Centers are working at district level. The population in urban centers has better access to healthcare than rural areas.

### **Social**

The district is part of the tribal belt in the Punjab therefore tribal customs and traditions dominate. People choose to approach a Jirga for resolving their disputes rather than a court of law. There is a very strong sense of bradri; tribal ties are very strong in the district. Honor killing, exchange marriages, early marriages and Vani are the social evils that have entangled most of the families due to illiteracy, socially underdeveloped culture and lack of writ of the State.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

District is predominantly feudal with strong patriarchal and tribal influences. Religion does not exert much influence in the face of tribal customary laws and traditions. There are no industrial enterprises in the district. Local tribal system of justice is preferred over state justice institutions.

### **Women's Social Status**

Women have no role in political and economic activities. Women are deprived of their basic fundamental and human rights by tribal customary laws and traditions. Traditions like exchange marriages (Watta Satta), trafficking of women, early marriages and Vani, where women are exchanged as compensation for a murder, continue. Women are murdered under the pretext of honor killing "Kala Kali". Women lack mobility, female education is not viewed positively and women must be heavily veiled while leaving the house.

### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) are the two major political parties of the district. The main bradries of the district are Jat, Rajput, Baloch, Pathan, Syed, Qureshi, Sheikh, Awan and Arain. Jat,

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Baloch, Syed and Pathan are scattered all over the district and have substantial influence in the area.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

Pakistan Muslim League, Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) are the in power parties and have influence in the area.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National level**

Women's participation in politics is not viewed positively by society at large. In these communities, women are not allowed to vote. Due to this indirect election, feudal and tribal elites ensure that only women who are loyal to them are elected to local bodies. No woman represents the district in the Provincial and National legislatures.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In 2001, Women representation in Local Government Elections was 90.9% while in 2005 women representation in LG election was 99.43%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Ch. Altaf Hussain of PML (Q), Malik Allah Bakhsh Samtia of PML (Q), Ch. Asghar Ali Gujjar of MMA, Meher Ijaz Ahmad Achlana of PML (N) and Meher Ijaz Hussain Sumra of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly while Sardar Bahadur Ahmad Khan Siyar of PML (Q) and Malik Niaz Ahmad Jakhar of PPPP (Patriot) won the seats of National Assembly.

#### **Present Situation of Af Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Miss Raffia Baloch belongs to a deprived family setup from a small town, Basti Shado Khan of union council Haji Shah # 5, District Layyah. She is a graduate. This union council consists of nearly 10,000 of population. The

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major part of the population is related to farming and agriculture labour few of them work in the city as well. Literacy rate is very low and social taboos are very common besides superstitious chaos.

Raffia has participated in the previously held union council local government elections. She succeeded but due to lack of knowledge, complications of new system and financial conditions she could not establish any developmental activity in her area while she made great efforts for the poor, widows and orphans to provide them help from Bait-ul-Mal and Zakat. She took keen interest in politics that is why she was in contact with different organisations and networks.

When elections were announced in 2005, Raffia decided to stand in elections again but her parents didn't support her. They thought it was only wastage of money but Raffia was determined about her decision because she had now knowledge and information about system.

Saif Ullah presented Raffia's case to DCC members and they decided we should help her because she is brilliant social worker and also support her financially. The members projected a team along with the press reporter Meher Muhammed Arshad to visit Rafia's home. In the meeting they discussed about the women's participation in the elections. The team members talked to the parents of Raffia about her participation in coming elections. And Nuzhat Yasmin advocate convinced them against their objections and social pressure. On this her father and brothers felt encouraged and allowed Raffia to take part in the elections. The local communicator Abdul Gafoor Alyani organised two meetings respectively with Abdul Gafoor advocate and many people attended the meeting including Raffia's family. They talked about Raffia's programs and her participation. This motivated the people to support her. The DCC members helped her with 8000/- rupees and printed 30 banners meanwhile Raffia continued with managing training session. After all she won the election with lots of votes. Raffia's parents and community was very thankful to DCC for her victory.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
44	176	291	170	6	96.6%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
44	88	97	70	18	79.5%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
44	88	307	88	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
44	88	199	87	1	98.86%

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## Lodhran

### Geographical Boundaries

The District is located on the northern side of River Sutlej. On its north are the districts of Multan, Khanewal and Vehari while Bahawalpur is on its southern side. On its east lies the districts of Vehari and Bahawalpur while district Multan lies in the west.

### Population Male/Female

Total population is 1,171,800 of which 609,202 are males and 562,598 are females.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

Lodhran comprises of 73 union councils, of which 11 are urban and 62 are rural UCs.

### Total Area of District

The district has an area of 1,790 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

Lodhran comprises of 3 tehsils namely Lodhran, Dunyapur and Kahror Pacca.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 611,647 of which 323,952 are male and 287,695 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Of the total employed persons, 52.5% are engaged in agriculture while 33.5% are in elementary occupations followed by service workers, shop and 6.4% are market sales workers 2.1 % are engaged in handicraft and related trade works.

### Women's Economic Status

In the district, out of the total female population, 0.7% women enrolled formally in economic activity is while domestic workers are 66.1%. Out of total economically active female population, 41.5% are self-employed, 35.7% are government employees, 9.1% are private employees, and 0.4% are employers.

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## **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 29.9%. The literacy ratio for males is 42.7% as against 16.0% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 26.8 percent and in urban areas is 47.7 percent.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 326 primary schools for boys and 414 for girls. There are 15 middle schools for boys and 43 for girls. There are only 4 high schools for girls but 48 high schools for boys. Two colleges for females and 3 for males are also working at district level. There is one Vocational Institute for females. There are a total of 173 registered private schools in the district, about 94% of which are middle or elementary schools. The number of government elementary schools is 96, implying that the private schools of this level are about 1.7 times more than the government schools.

### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

Eleven Maktab schools are working at district level.

## **Health**

One District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ), however proper up-gradation is required for the hospital. The average OPD patients visiting this facility are 300-400 per day. There are two Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals which are nonfunctional due to unavailability of staff and equipment in THQ Hospitals. There are 4 Rural Health Centers. In a typical RHC, there are 8-9 professional comprising 1 SMO, 1 MO, 1 WMO, 1 Dental Surgeon, 1 LHV, 1 MT, 1 Lab Assistant, and 1 Dispenser. Besides the above public sector health institutions, there are 20 private hospitals in the district.

## **Social**

Women are denied their basic human rights. They lack mobility since a women's place is considered to be in the home. Traditions that violate women's basic rights like exchange and early marriages continue.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

The population of the district is predominantly Muslims while Christians, Hindus and Ahmadis are the minorities. A large number of refugees from India mostly belonging to Rajput, Arain and Jat tribes settled in different parts of the district. The old population consisted of Joya, Kanju, Baloch, local Arain, Utter, Ghallu and Pathan. Majority belongs to Baloch and

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Arain. The Kanju, Joya, Noor, Baloch, Awan and Pathan have been prominent on the political front and wield great political influence in the area. Feudal influence has been lessened due to increasing urbanization.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs. Traditions that violate women's basic rights like exchange marriages (Watta Satta) and early marriages continue. The wives of ordinary men do most of the work cooking, harvesting the crops, looking after cattle, sewing and washing and so on. Women in this district have more rights if compared with the women in the tribal belt of the Punjab.

#### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Muslim League (N), Pakistan People Party and Joya, Kanju, Baloch and Local Arain bradries are influential.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 elections, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) came into power.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

There is no woman representation from the district at Province and National levels.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 And 2005 LG Elections**

Women representation in Local Government Election 2001 was 98.6% while in Local Government Election 2005 was 100%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

In 2002 elections, M. Aamir Iqbal Shah of PML (Q), Tahir Hussain Khan Malazai of PML (Q), Malik M. Ajmal Joiya of PML (Q), M. Ijaz Baloch of PML (Q) and Syed M. Rafi-Ud-Din Bukhari of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly while Nawab Aan Ullah Khan of PML (Q) and M. Akhtar Khan Kanju of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly.

#### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community,



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journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### Glimpses of the Campaign

#### WPLGE 2005

In election 2005, DCC Lodhran prepared a CD to create awareness among women and public about the importance of vote casting and women participation in local government election. They used this technique to make effective their mobilization campaign. DCC recorded the messages of District level management like Local Government Department, Political Leaders, Influential and honorable citizen of district regarding how much important for women to take part in local government election. They recorded the success stories of Union, Tehsil and District ex-elected women councilors of Lodhran for encouragement of new women candidates.

This CD run through local cable network in three Tehsils of District, public liked it very much and appreciated. They gave their feedback through telephone. A large number of candidate women and men contact to DCC office. They asked about office timings and wish to come and visit the DCC office. They demand election related information.

After seeing the CD, Uzma Perveen resident of Union Council # 25, near railway station contacted to DCC Office with District Coordinator Mubshir Waseem Lodhi and Office Manager Shazia Perveen. She told that she has come to know through CD that you are providing information and help to women candidates. I am candidate of general councilor from UC # 25. DCC guide me how I run my mobilization campaign. DCC team briefed her about their programme.

DCC provided her full support. She submitted her nomination paper with the help of DCC team member. DCC provide support in making her manifesto. On her request DCC organised the mobilization meeting in her area and training for her polling agents. Before arranging mobilization meeting in her area, Uzma Perveen invited women of her Mohallah and showed them CD. The objective of this activity was that women learnt how to cast the vote. When they showed the CD, they told to Uzma that they are seeing this CD from many days on cable network. When they knew that Uzma has relation to Aurat Foundation and DCC, they promised with her to give their vote. Uzma run her election campaign according to guidance of DCC and won election.

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When she won the election, Mr Peter and Rafiq Jaffar from CIDA came in Lodhran for evaluation of programme, Mubshir Waseem Lodhi organised a meeting of new elected women councilor on request of them. They met with new elected women councilors and asked them about reasons of their success. Uzma Perveen told to team that after seeing the CD of DCC, how she contacted with DCC and got guidance. She said that CD of DCC played an important role in her success and for this I am thankful to Aurat Foundation Resource Center Lodhran and DCC team because they are doing good work to empower and encourage the women.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
73	292	558	291	1	99.7%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
73	146	271	141	5	96.6%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
73	146	416	146	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
73	146	311	146	Nil	100%

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## Mandi Bahauddin

### District Background

Mandi Bahauddin is situated in central Punjab bordered by Jhelum and Gujrat in the north, Hafizabad in the south, Sargodah in the west and Gujranwala in the east. The district is mainly an agricultural district with large land holdings held by feudal landlords.

### Total Area

2,673 sq. km

### Population

1,271,964; male, female

### Registered Voters

male:, female:

### Economic Conditions

Mandi Bahauddin is agriculturally a rich area and 70% of the population depends on agriculture. Per acre field production is reduced due to unavailability of required canal water, rains, fertilizers and pesticides. This caused the higher rate of unemployment which is 63%. Traditionally, most of the women worked in their fields and make domestic chores. Their labour is unpaid and not acknowledged at all. There is no any small or home industry; therefore, the women have to work at bricklines and as field labour. Women get half payment of their work. In spite of their participation in economic activities the women are neither independent nor self-sufficient.

### Health

There is one District Headquarter and one thesil headquarter hospital in the district. Eight rural health centres and fifty basic health units, one eye hospital, five mother and child care centre and fifteen dispensaries. There are 211 beds in all these hospitals.

### Education

In this district the female literacy rate is very low.

Female literacy rate: 35.6%

Male Literacy rate: 58.8%

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Total literacy rate: 53%

There are 57 boy's high school and 18 high schools for girls

### **Social Condition**

Due to low literacy people have been surrounded in old customs and tradition. Women still have no property rights under the prevailing customs. Usually the girl child is given away in form of marriages as compensation to settle blood feuds and other disputes. Women have no say and not consulted in decision making process.

### **Political Situation**

Mandi Bahuddin is an agriculture area; therefore, majority of the people has feudal mindset. Traditional way of thinking reflects in their politics. Mandi Bahuddin is under the influence of there are three big political parties which are Pakistan Muslim League, Pakistan People party and Jamaat-e-Islami. Some particular families controlled the district's politics and used to change their party in larger interest of district. In spite of all, the two major political parties, Pakistan Muslim League and Pakistan People party supported their women candidates like traditional competitor. Though Jamaat-e-Islami nominated educated women and supported them in democratic way. Out of 65 union councils there are 57 rural union councils in district Mandi Bahuddin. Most of the women representatives in local government system belonged to the poor class and they aren't given effective representation in decision making process. Only 12% of the total women representation has say in decision making power.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

Zia-ul-Qamar, wife of Saeed Ahmad, resided in Sufipura. Educated up to Intermediate, she ran her own training centre for producing handicrafts. She became a member of DCC Mandi Bahuddin, and after reading the AF election material, decided to stand for election and filed her nomination papers. There were 12 women contesting the four seats in her council. Zia-ul-Qamar took part in the training for women candidates and got guidance from AF and the DCC. She had never previously thought of taking part in elections, but through this support, was able to win her seat.

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Naseem Akhtar, daughter of Ghulam Qadir Butt, came from village Gudhoo Sultan, Paharianwali. She had completed her matriculation and was teaching in a private school. She was persuaded by a local organisation, Hayyal-al-Falah Welfare Society, to take part in the elections. The DCC Mandi Bahauddin helped her in obtaining the literature published by AF which proved useful in filing her nomination papers. After participating in a training workshop, she organised her campaign so successfully that she defeated all four of her opponents.

Rehmat Bibi, a housewife, was married to Aziz Ahmad, a mechanic. She lived in Bar Musa, tehsil Malikwal. She was the first woman in her family to take part in elections. She received encouragement and help in filing her nomination papers from a local organisation for community development. She was nominated by the DCC Mandi Bahauddin to participate in a training programme and AF literature was an added help in organising her campaign. She credits the local organisation, the DCC and AF for her victory.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

In Tehsil Mandi Bahauddin union council No.22 Kidhar and union council No.24 Participants Nazmeen decided that we will not caste the vote of women. A women candidate Mumtaz Begum at union council No. 22 Kidhar when an assistant election commission and said that in our council to stop the women to caste the vote and an oral agreement was held and it was declared on the loudspeaker that women will not caste their votes. Election Commission said to the Mumtaz Begum, Bibi you should go to the District Returning Officer or to the representative of Aurat Foundation and described them your problem. So that possible solution will be come out. Mumtaz Begum come out to DCC and discussed the entire situation. DCC talked to the Nazmeen candidate of UC 22 Kidhar separately and told them that you will be select due to votes of these women. Not you can stop any women to caste vote or not you can stop any women to participate in election legally. If you do that then the campaign should be finished. They promised with us that day of polling (UC 22 Kidhar) caste their votes. The representative of union council 24 promised but on 25 August women were not caste their votes at several Polling stations.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
65	260	458	257	3	98.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
65	130	272	129	1	99.2%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
65	130	322	130	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
65	130	242	124	6	95.4 %

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## Mianwali

### Geographical Location

The district is bordered by Karak in the north, Lakki Marwat and D.I.Khan in the west, Bhakkar in the south, Khushab and Chakwal in the east.

### Total Area

5,840 sq. km

### Population

1,056,620; male 526,309, female 530,311

### Registered Voters

**Total:** 542104; male: 284680, female: 257424

### Economic Conditions

Major Occupations of district inhabitants

Agriculture, Government Service, Police and Army employees and trading etc

### Women's Economic Status

Women economic status is very low; generally women are engaged with domestic work or help their males in the field as unpaid workers. Very few educated women are working as teacher, nurse and lady health workers.

### Health

Rural Health Centres: 09, Basic Health Units: 35, Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals: 03, District Headquarter Hospital: 01.

District Headquarter Hospital Mianwali is a 251 bed hospital with surgical and medical specialist, E.N.T and eye surgeons, gynecologist, pathologist and dental surgeon. Ambulance service is available round the clock. A 42 bed hospital with ambulance, X-ray and laboratories services is working at Isa Khel and a similar hospital at Kala Bagh.

There are 09 rural health centres, of which eight are equipped with ambulance service. Five rural health centres have been upgraded recently to 20 beds, 35 basic health units are functioning throughout the district.

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A T.B service is operating in T.B centres at Isa Khel and Mianwali in collaboration with welfare societies.

### **Education**

Total literacy rate: 42.8%, male literacy rate; 68.3%, female literacy rate: 22.1%.

#### **Educational Institutions**

Post Graduate College for women: 01	Boys High School: 04
Girls High School: 04	Govt College for Boys (Isa Khel): 01
P.A.F intermediate college: 01	Govt College for Boys (Piplan): 01
Govt College for Girls (Isa Khel): 01	Pakways Computer College
Govt College for Girls (Piplan): 01	Mianwali: 01
British Computer College Mianwali: 01	Primary-Middle- high School
Primary-Middle- high School Isa Khel: 518	Mianwali: 974
Degree College for women: 01	Primary-Middle- high schools
	Piplan: 133

#### **Technical Institutions for Men**

Govt Commercial Training Institute Mianwali 1, Govt Commercial Training Institute Isa khel 1, Govt Technical training Institute Mianwali 1, Technical Training Centre Isa Khel 1.

#### **Technical Institutions for Women**

There are Govt vocational Institute Mianwali 1, Govt vocational Institute Isa Khel 1, Govt Commercial Training Institute Mianwali 1, and Vocational Training Centre Isa Khel 1 for women.

#### **Social Condition**

People live in joint and extended families, feudal system is reflected at some places, and mostly the people live in clan (Biradries). Though the legal, political, economic and religious system and structures at the national level are put forth as obstacles to achieve women rights in the area, yet this subject is more related to the social culture and religious practices and believes.



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Some of the worst forms of customs and cultural practices, which perpetuate violence against women and convert them into an inferior status in the district are;

12. "Ghairat Key Namm Par Katal/ Tor tora" ( honour Killing)
13. Domestic Violence
14. "Vinni/ Sawara" (giving away of girl/ girls in marriages as compensation to settle blood feuds and other disputes).
15. "Valwar" ( buying and selling of bride)
16. "Watta Satta" ( Exchange of marriages among families)
17. Forced Marriages
18. Child Marriages
19. Jirgas (out of court reconciliation or settlement of disputes)

#### **Political Situation**

There are two major political groups in Mianwali; Shadi Khel and Rokhari Khel. These two groups always remain in power and are elected in rotation with the support of different political parties and groups, "Piree and mureedi" (spiritual leader). They also influenced at union and tehsil level. Now the family of Nawab of Kala Bagh is emerging as a strong group in politics of Mianwali.

#### **Women in Politics**

In Mianwali the women are strictly Purdah (Veil) observing. The participation of women in politics is very difficult and the women who are participating in the politics are very bold because they face lots of hurdles and their involvement in politics is almost impossible without the consent of heads of their family.

After the 2000 and 2001 local government elections, though a large numbers of women elected at grass root level and apparently they are councilors but practically and truly they aren't effective representatives at all. They never attend their council's meeting and their men are acting as their proxies.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

#### Glimpse 1

DCC committee gave special attention to the union council of Pai Khel, Mianwali because DCC was aware that Union Council will not allow the women to participate in the election. When Humaira asked the women whether they would vote or not, they replied it depends on their men decision. They call it Dua-e-Kher (opening prayer) among men for the election and if it would take place they cannot vote.

Another member of DCC Shaheen Sadiqui told that two candidates Asmat Khan and Aslam Khan has divided mutually female seats and submitted documents for women according to their will. They use to elect an 80 years old lady, who is paralyzed. Women who elected in this manner don't go to any seminar and no body in the area is aware of their existence. We should mention that family of UC Nazim lives in Islamabad and his children are also studying there, besides those women in Pai Khel who still bind in social and traditional customs.

A DCC tried to make a Nazim understand that women participation in election is legal and political right, but he answered it is against our customs. To cast vote is to burden the women and we don't want them to be bothered.

DCC put uphill struggle to highlight the matter in media and print media as well, but it doesn't affect the Election Commission and management. DCC members and HRCP coordinator contacted Returning Officer to assure women participation in voting and they requested that election would be canceled if women are not allowed. Returning officer showed least concerned attitude. Aurat Foundation Islamabad also wrote to the Election commission of Pakistan. DCC took the notice of whole situation but none of the women in Pai Khel urban cast a single vote. On the Election Day DCC sent Fax to Asma Jehangir of HRCP and Election commission of Pakistan and also contacted AF but there was no response. This time the DCC team of AF gave much awareness to the people and guided them but women didn't come out for vote because they were already threatened by the local bodies to be shot at sight. All the ladies polling booth were empty.

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### **Glimpse 2**

Before submission of nomination papers, three castes (Bature, Kanial and Sheikh) living in Jal Shumali and Jal Junubi, reached an agreement (Duay Khair) that no women would participate in the LG elections. When the DCC Mianwali learnt of this agreement, they met with the elders of Jal Shumali and Jal Junubi to convince them to allow women to become politically active. They distributed pamphlets and other AF material in the communities. The DCC asserted the importance of women's participation in politics, the impact on development and the need for local government in order for a community to develop. These efforts resulted in a change in the attitudes of the male community members and women were allowed to participate in the local government elections. This was the first time that women were allowed to participate in politics in these communities.

### **Glimpse 3**

When AF team reached women polling station of Kalabagh at 4:30 pm, it was a miserable situation for women standing at the outside gate of the Polling Stations, many women literally wept while telling that they were standing at the outside gate since 11:am due to rush inside polling stations. When AF team reached inside polling station it was learnt that there were three booths inside and all of three booths were reflecting lack of management skills of polling staff and they were just sitting gossiping inside and working and few of them were dealing with that huge number of women coming to cast vote, resulting in the waiting queues of hundred of women outside polling station. AF team assisted the polling staff in managing the rush and advised the police officials present inside the polling station to vacate the station by that voters who had already casted the vote, and let the women allowed to enter who are standing outside the gate since 11:00am. By these methods rush was managed and AF team left the polling station at 6:00pm, while dozens of women were still waiting to cast their vote outside polling booth. Polling staff at Kalabagh was very lazy and unskilled and totally failed to manage the rush and AF team was the witness that two women voters fainted due to rush and heat. Police officials present were very harsh towards women voters and did not even caring for older women.

### **Glimpse 4**

It was reported to DCC Mianwali that in DCC that in U.C Paikhail same agreement took place between all the political groups that women will not participate in the LG elections and same practice was going on since

many years. DCC Mianwali mobilise local community and tried their best to convince male community of the Paikhail to allow women in LG elections for their own interests, but local community refused to give permission. But that was not a total failure because the U.C's around Paikhail had same practice since many years but due to the active mobilization of DCC women participated in large number. AF visited U.C Paikhail polling station and witnessed that no women came to the polling notwithstanding that Election Commission arranged polling station for women, but later it was closed due to non participation of women.

#### **Glimpse 5**

In Jal Shumali and Jal Junubi three castes Bature, Kanial and Sheikh are living there. Before submission of nomination papers an agreement took place (Duay Khair) that women belonging to all the three castes will not participate in the elections. When it came in the knowledge of DCC Mianwali, they focused on that area and mobilised local community willing for women participation, distributed pamphlets, and other material of LG Elections in the area and convinced male community that how beneficial is the participation of women in the LG elections for the betterment of the area and also told them about the importance of local representatives to safeguard their interests. These mobilization activities resulted in the change of mind setup of male community and they allowed women to participate in the LG elections. This is a great success for the DCC Mianwali, because in previous elections women were not allowed to participate in the elections, and it was the first time that women participated from the said U.C, and great number of people participated in the LG elections.

### **Overall Results**

#### **Election Results 2001**

<b>General Reserved Seats for Women</b>					
<b>UCs</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Nominations</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
56	224	368	211	13	94.2%
<b>Peasant/Labour Seats for Women</b>					
56	112	145	102	10	91.1%

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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
56	112	181	108	4	96.5 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
56	112	131	102	10	91.9 %

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## Multan

### Geographical Boundaries

Multan is bordered by Khanewal on the north, east by Vehari, and south by Lodhran. The Chenab River passes on its Western side, across which lies Muzafargarh. In 2005, Government of Punjab changed its district status and declared it as a City District Government with its tehsils redesignated as Six towns.

### Population

Total population of the district is 3,116,851: Males 1,635,768s and 1,481,083 are females.

### No. of UCs

There are 129 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

Total area of Multan is 3,721 sq km

### Name and Number Tehsils/Towns

Total numbers of towns are six, named Shah Rukan-e-Alam town, Bosan town, Mumtazabada town, Shujabad town and Jalalpur Pirwala town.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 1,631,549 of which 866,524 are male voters and 765,025 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 51.3% are engaged in agriculture, 26.8% as labour, 17.6% are handicraft and related trade workers while professionals 25%, technician's 5.6 % and 32.6% domestic workers and 20.5% are unemployed.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of women

The family structures are patriarchal and women are economically dependent on males. Women enrolled formally in economic activity are 67.3%. Out of total economically active female population, 20.7% are self-employed, 31.1% are government employees, 28.8% are private employees, 1.3% are employers.

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## **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 43.4%. The literacy rate for males is 53.3% as against 32.3% for females. The literacy rate in rural areas is 29.5 % and in urban areas 60.9 %.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 2,173 educational institutions. There are 590 primary schools for boys and 800 for girls, 101 middle schools for boys and 77 are for girls, 173 secondary schools for boys and 38 for girls whereas 6 higher secondary schools for boys and 2 for girls, 6 intermediate and degree colleges for females and 7 for males, 4 Commerce Colleges for boys, 4 CTI for boys and 4 for girls, 4 Vocational Institutes for boys and 4 for girls, 3 Poly Technical Institute for boys, 3 Elementary Training College for boys and 1 for girls, 1 Para Medical School for boys and 1 Nursing School for girls. Nishtar Medical College is also situated there. Bahaudin Zakria University is also located here. Numerous private schools, colleges and universities are also functioning.

### **No. of Madras's (religious institutions)**

There are 376 Madras's in the district.

## **Health**

The district has 14 hospitals including THQ Hospitals, Mission hospital, CMH, family hospital, Fatima Jinnah Hospital, Children hospital etc. Nishtar Medical College and one Civil hospital, 8 Rural Health Centers, 67 BHUs, 57 Dispensaries, 34 Sub Health Centers, and 3 T.B. Clinics. There are 2 Mother and Care Health Centers.

## **Social**

Most of the people speak the Saraiki language. The Multani peasant generally marries in the local areas and although the social customs and traditions have now evolved due to transition towards cities and migration but the majority still observe the Raistai Zaban i.e. the Saraiki culture. The inhabitants observe the traditions very strictly especially regarding weddings.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious influence**

Multan is famous for customary traditions and Sufism. Main casts that have influence are Gillani, Gardezi, Khakwani, Qureshi, Arain, Ansari,

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Kamboh, Pathan, Baloch, Jat, and Rajput. Feudal and industrialists exert influence in the district. Religious edicts and influences dictate most social behaviors. The population of the district is predominantly Muslim at 99.12%, Christian are 0.62%, Ahmadi are 0.09%.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Customary laws and traditions that violate women's basic rights like early marriages continue. The family structures are patriarchal and women are economically dependent on males. Women have a limited role in public affairs. They have limited resources and are not encouraged to actively participate in social activities.

#### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and Muthida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) are the major political groups of the district. Main bradries are Gillani, Gardezi, Khakwani, Qureshi, Arain, Ansari, Kamboh, Pathan, Baloch, Jat, and Rajput.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 elections, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) representatives were elected and have political influence in the district.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Only two women were elected on reserved seats Shamim Akther (National Alliance) and Zaibun Nisa (MMA). At the national level, three ladies represent the district namely Memona Hashmi PML(N) Beelum Hasnain (PPP) and Mrs. Naseem Akther Chudhary (PPP).

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

Women representation in 2001 in LG Election was 98.7% while in LG Election 2005 was 98.83%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Mirza Furqan Mughal PML(Q), Muhammad Hasnain Bosan PML(Q), Rai Mansab Ali PML(Q), Muhammad Ibrahim Khan PML(Q), Rana Ejaz Noon PML(Q), Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon PML(Q), Moeen-ud-Din Riaz Qurashi (PPP), DR Muhammad Javiad Siddique (PPP), Muhammad Ishaq Buchha PPP, Syed Nazim Hussain Shah (PPP), Malik



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Muhammad Arshad Rana (PPPP), Babu Nafees Ansari PML(N), Syed Mujahid Ali Shah PML(N) from Punjab Assembly and Shah Mehmood Qurashi PPP, Malik Liaqat Dogar PPP, Rana Mehmood ul Hasan PML(N), Sikanadar Hayyat Bosan (Q), Asad Murtaza Gilani(PPPP) and Dewan Syed Jaffer Hussain PML(N) from National Assembly.

#### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

The biggest problem was submission of the nomination papers without having access to the voters' lists. The CAC Multan contacted the DC Multan who cooperated and installed six or seven photocopying machines in his office. In this way we were able to get the photocopies of the voters' lists in large numbers and solved the problem.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

DCC Multan was busy to make participation of women in contesting election in respect of these trying they prepared 3 ladies to contest as a candidate of Nazim, from these ladies Bushra Khatoon ex- Tehsil member belongs to rural Union Council# 86, Muazama Hasnain ex-district member UC # 44, Naheed Hafeez UC # 39 Sher shah town is included. Bushra Khatoon and Muazama Hasnain refused to contest as candidate of Nazim due to some political and different people's pressure, while Naheed Hafeez with help of DCC decided to contest.

Naheed Hafeez is a member of CAC, her husband is a government servant, a lot of pressure was put upon him due to Naheed's election and transferred him to another city and said to him, if you will stop your wife to contest at the seat of Nazim than we will transfer you back in your city.

Naheed Hafeez was a candidate of Nazim and a male member was candidate of Naib Nazim, who was employed in "Pak Arab Fertilizer Company Multan". This Naib Nazim put up a lot of pressure and said that

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if he will not withdraw his nomination papers than he will be removed from this job, and said he is doing a work in slavery of a woman, and he was dismissed.

During all these circumstances Naheed Hafeez coordinating with DCC continuously and DCC also helped her. For the reduction of pressure upon her DCC arranged a press conference, Naheed also issued a lot of press release with the help of DCC. In spite of this the pressure was not reduced. For overcome this pressure DCC arranged corner meetings and negotiate with the well known and influential people of area that they help out Naheed for contesting at this seat and support her for collective interest not individuals.

I present before you an example of opposition's misconduct that through their approach a symbol of Banana was issued as election symbol, and due to this symbol people of this area made mocking of Naheed (remembers it that in UC # 39 just two candidates was contesting as Nazims). Naheed Hafeez moved an application for change the symbol to RO with help of Free Legal Aid Committee of DCC, while RO rejected this application and not made alteration in the election symbol, but Naheed contested election instead of all these unethical, uncivilised and deviating actions. DCC visited a number of polling stations at polling day; several members of DCC's Union Council # 39's team visited all polling stations at the end of the polling time. All these great efforts not fruit full and Naheed lost the election. In outcome of this election the Nazim who won, belonged to Khakwani family, and his age was less than 25 years (minimum age of election) so he decided ineligible, while Naib Nazim who belonged to Ansary family, his certificate of metric was proved forged, so he also declared disqualified this seat and in this way "By election" was announced, in which Naheed again contested as Naib Nazim, but unfortunately again she lost the election.

Naheed Hafeez lost twice election but in light of these elections a number of women encouraged from her step, and next time they prepare themselves to contest as Nazim in this respect they have constantly remain contact with CAC, DCC, and Aurat Foundation.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
126	504	1237	500	4	99.2%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
126	252	547	246	6	97.6%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
129	258	683	258	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
129	258	488	252	6	97.67%

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## Muzaffargarh

### Geographical Boundaries

Muzaffargarh is located in south central Punjab. On the north, district borders Layyah and Jhang districts, east Multan and Bahawalpur, south by Rahim Yar Khan.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 2,635,903 of which 12.9% are urban and 87.1% are rural. Of the total population, male are 1,373,036 and female population is 1,262,867.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 93 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 8, 947 sq km.

### Name and Number Tehsils

There are four tehsils namely Muzaffargarh, Kot Adu, Jatoi and Ali Pur.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters 1,179,270 of which 638,784 are male and 540,486 female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Most of the people are laborers and farmers in the district. Of the total employed persons, 40.0% are engaged in agriculture and fishery business. About 38% have elementary occupations, followed by service workers, shop and market sales workers representing 7.7%, handicraft and related trade workers, 4.8%.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

Of the total female population, according to 1998 census, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.8% while domestic workers are 62.5%. Out of total economically active female population, 29.2% are self-employed, 14.7% are government employees, 3.4% are private employees and 0.3% are employers.

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### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 28.4%. The literacy ratio for males is 40.9% as against 14.8% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 24.1% and in urban areas 55.5%.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 2,319 educational institutions in the district imparting education from the level of primary up to graduate levels. There are 110 primary schools for boys and 793 for girls. There are 68 middle schools for boys and 67 for girls, 79 high Schools for boys and 24 for girls and 4 higher secondary schools in the district, and 4 intermediate and degree colleges for males and 3 for females.

### **Health**

There are 1 district Headquarter Hospital, 4 Tehsil Headquarter Hospitals, 4 Mother and Child Health Centers, 3 Dispensaries, 13 Rural Health Centers and 71 Basic Health Units extending health services throughout the district.

### **Social**

Tribalism dominates in this district. Disputes are rarely taken to a court of law. There is a strong sense of bradri and tribal ties. Female education, political and economic participation is not viewed positively. Honor killing, exchange marriages, early marriages and Vani are the social evils that have entangled most of the families due to tribal customary laws and traditions.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Feudal and big landlords dominate district politics and have influence in the area. The influence of religion on the daily life of the people is distinctly felt and their conduct is regulated by the dictates of the religion. There is a large Hindu and Christian minority population in the district.

### **Women Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs as in most tribal societies. Women must be heavily veiled while leaving the house thus hampering their mobility. Practices that violate women's basic rights like early marriages, trafficking of women, honor killing, Watta Satta and Vani, where women are exchanged as compensation for a murder, continue. In

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the strict patriarchal tribal system women are denied their political, economic and social rights.

#### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and Pakistan Peoples Party are the major political parties of the district and have influence in the area. The main bradries of the area are Khar, Gurmanies, Qureshi, Jatoi, Dasti, Qalandrani, Hinjra, Langrials, Sheikh, Tarragar, Pirhar, Gopang, Bukhari, Gillani, Rajput, Jat and Arain and have influence in the area.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 Elections, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and Pakistan Peoples Party represent the district in the Provincial and National legislatures.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Mrs. Khalida Mohsin Ali Qureshi of (PPPP), Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar of PML (Q) and Tehmina Dasti of PML(Q) represent the district in the National Assembly.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In 2001, women representation in Local Government Elections was 90.7% while in 2005 women representation in LG election was 100%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

M. Shahid Jamil Qureshi of PML (Q), Makhdoomzada Basit Bukhari of PML (Q) and Sardar Ashiq Hussain Gopang of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly. Malik Ahmad Yar Hanjra of PML (Q), Tariq Ahmad Gurmani of PML (Q), Ehsan-ul-Haq Ahsan Noulatia of PPPP, Sardar Abdul Hameed Khan Dasti of PML (Q), Malik Jawad Kamran Khar of PML (Q), Mian Imtiaz Aleem Qureshi of PML (Q), Malik Ahmad Kareem Qaswar Langrial of PML (Q), Syed Haroon Ahmad Sultan Bukhari of PML (Q), Allah Wassaya Khan of PML (Q), Yasir Arafat Khan Jatoi of PML (Q), Syed M. Qaim Ali Shah of PML (Q) are the members of the Provincial Assembly.

#### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community,

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journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### Glimpses of the Campaigns

#### CCWR 2001

In Muzaffargarh, the formation of the District Coordination Committee (DCC) and the Tehsil Coordination Committees (TCCs) faced resistance and opposition of political groups, mainly from Pakistan Muslim League and the Jamaat-e- Islami. Resistance also came from local *biradaries*, specifically Nawabzada's, Baloch's and Jatoi's. In the tehsils of Jatoi, Kot Addu and Alipur, women were being restrained from coming forwards as candidates.

AF held meetings individually and at the group levels. After these meetings AF decided to take many of the members for the DCC and the TCCs from the political parties and the local groups who were opposing women's participation in the elections. This strategy worked as these members, once on board, tried to compete with each other to bring more women to stand for the elections to the seats reserved for women.

#### WPLGE 2005

Saeeda Bano is vice president of Roshan Welfare society in Union Council number 63 Gul Wala of District Muzaffar Garh. During the CCWR campaign local Women organisation participated in mobilization campaign, and held two community dialogues in their area and Saeeda Bano has held two community dialogues in her area. Saeeda Bano has played very vital role in helping the community dialogue. The main object of these dialogues was, to mobilise women about the importance of votes and participation in election. The female candidate's name has appeared who belonged to landlords and sardar's families and nobody was against them.

For this reason Saeeda bano planed to participate in election that general women should appear. During community dialogue Saeeda Bano had decided to participate in election because she wanted to bring general women in election. No doubt she belonged to mediocre family but she did not want to miss any chance to represent the women. So when Saeeda announced as candidate her brother and brother in law were against her. Her husband was pressurised by his family members. Men had decided

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that Saeeda would not go out side for votes and Saeeda's brother in law started campaign against Saeeda.

In these circumstances Saeeda's husband was disappointed and said, he could not allow her to stand in election while his family is against her. Saeeda has talked to members of DCC Azhar Baloch, Zubaida Anjum and Shahid Parveen who was the president of Roshan Rahain organisation and made them aware objections of her husband regarding election. DCC team tried to convince her husband, at last after one week discussion he agreed. DCC Union Council Mobilization Committee has provided all information and instructions to Saeeda regarding Voter Education Material, Posters, Pamphlets, Election symbol of Ballet Paper. Saeeda was facing so many problems that time and she called a meeting to solve all the problems regarding election. According to this situation, they have decided to take services from different areas from where they can access the voters.

Opposition has pointed out one objection that Saeeda's husband is answerable to Revenue Department for taxes. Therefore Saeeda's papers should be rejected. The legal member of DCC Committee Bashir Ahmad Laghari advocate has described on this objection that candidate's husband is answerable not Saeeda and judge has approved her appeal. Saeeda got 800 votes from her family members and companions but unfortunately she did not succeed lack of 50 votes. Saeeda was encouraged by DCC and she was satisfied. Now she wants to provide her services to Citizen's Community Board of her area. Zubaida Anjum helped her for paper preparation of CCB. In respect of Saeeda's services her organisation was contacted to National Commission for Human Development. Saeeda has been contacted to NCHD with helping and introduction by District Resource Center. Now Saeeda Bano is running 15 adult library centers for women with the collaboration of NCHD.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
93	372	592	349	23	93.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
93	186	252	157	29	84.4%



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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
93	186	603	186	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
93	186	405	186	Nil	100%

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## Nankna Sahib

### Geographical Boundaries

Nankana Sahib was formerly a tehsil of Sheikupura but in May 2005, the provincial government decided to raise the status of Nankana Sahib to a District. The district lies south-west of Lahore and Sheikhupura.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 1,272,581.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 68 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

Total area of district is 2,719 sq km.

### Name and Number Tehsils

There are four Tehsils; Nanakna Sahib, Safdar Abad, Sangla Hill and Shah Kot.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 642,422. Males are 344,948 and female voters are 297,474

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Cultivation is the main occupation of the people. Skilled labour and professional classes such as carpenters, blacksmiths, weavers, masons and Hakims help in the work of agriculture directly or indirectly. A large number of people are small businessmen like shop keepers, vendors, traders etc.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

Women are engaged in attending cattle, extracting butter and ghee from milk, weaving and sewing. In addition, they generally help their men-folk on farms in harvesting of cotton, transplanting of seedling rice, threshing and winnowing of grains etc. Despite being participants in the economically productive process, their efforts remain largely unrecognised and are not represented in economic decision-making. This is compounded by discriminatory barriers, which restrict their entry into the formal and modern sectors of the economy. In order to meet their subsistence needs, women in urban areas are being forced to seek

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economic employment, but due to the lack of mobility, education, skills, and access to credit facilities, they have limited options.

#### **Education**

##### **Literacy Rate Male Female/Urban/Rural**

The literacy ratio in the district is 45%. The literacy ratio for males is 50% as against 30% for females.

##### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 1,256 educational institutions imparting education in the district. There are a number of primary, middle and high schools for boys and girls. High schools for girls are 24 while for boys are 51. Higher secondary schools for boys are 6 and 4 for girls. Three degree colleges for girls and 3 degree colleges for boys are working at district level.

##### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

Information not available

#### **Health**

There is 1 DHQ, 10 RHC, 62 BHU's, 27 Dispensaries, 2 Mother and Child Health Centers in the district.

#### **Social**

Marriages, births and deaths are marked in the same manner as all over Punjab. Watta Satta (exchange marriages) and early marriages are common. People are deeply religious and Pirs and Faqirs are revered. There is a large population of Sikhs and Christians who celebrate their religious festivals regularly. Annually some 25,000 Sikh pilgrims visit the town with about 15,000 gathering during the peak season around the birthday celebrations of Guru Nanak. Patriarchy is strong.

##### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Nanakana is the most important place for the Sikh community. It has the Janam Asthan Gurdwara being sacred to the Sikh on the account of its being the birth place of Guru Nanak. Feudalism is prevalent and strong while the sense of bradri is also very strong. The people are predominantly Muslims. Most of them belong to the Sunni sect. There are however some Shias and Ahmadis also. Sikhs, Christians and Hindus are the minorities.

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### **Women's Social Status**

Women's mobility is limited since they must be veiled in public. Unfortunately, women who step into the public sphere have faced sexual harassment. Within the limits prescribed by custom, these women direct substantial domestic affairs of their men and play a large part in arranging marriages and family alliances.

### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is the major political group of the district and has influence in the area. Bhatti Virk, Kharal and Rajput are the main bradries of the district and have political influence.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is in power.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

No woman represents the district at provincial and national level.

### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

Nanakna was delimited as a district only in 2005. Women participation in LG Election 2005 was 90.44%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Agha Ali Hyder PML (Q), Rai Ijaz Ahmed Khan PML (Q), Asif Jillani PML (Q), Zulqernain Dogar PML (Q) Abid Hussain Chattha (PMLQ) and Javid Manzoor Gill PML (Q) are members of Punjab assembly while Rai Mansab PML (Q), Mian Shahim Hyder PML (Q), Bilal Ahmed PML (Q), Khuram Munwar Munjah (PPPP), Naeem Hussain Chattha PML (Q) and Shahid Gill PML (Q) are members of the national assembly.

### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

AF has good coordination with CSOs, journalists, lawyers, women councilors, government functionaries, CBOs and other stakeholders in the district and also formed a DCC for the LG elections in 2005.

## **Glimpses of the Campaign**

### **WPLGE 2005**

District Nankana Sahib, which was the Tehsil of Sheikhpura, announced as a District due to new political system. There are a large number of

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minorities in Nankana Sahib. In Union Council No. 37, total number of voters is 21,740 in which 7,310 voters are minorities.

From this Union Council, Muslim Candidate Ashraf Gujjar for Nazim Seat and non-Muslim/minority candidate Irfan Gul for Naib Nazim decided to participate in election jointly. Both of them belonged to Pakistan Muslim League (N). Moreover, Mian Afzal belonged to Arain Braderi and political party Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and a Non Muslim Hansi Laqraras a non party based candidate are also contested election at the same seats /positions.

To submit their nomination papers, Ashraf Gujjar and Irfan Gul met with the relevant Returning Officer (RO). He rejected their nomination papers that Muslim and Non-Muslim cannot take part in joint elections. They contacted Joint Coordinator of DCC in free information camp organised in Court by the support of Aurat Foundation. Joint Coordinator had new notifications from Election Commission in information camp so that he could guide the candidates. Javaid Akhtar showed them the notification copy of Joint Election. According to that Muslim and Non-Muslim can contest election jointly. Joint Coordinator went with the candidates to the RO and showed him the notification of Election Commission in which joint election was allowed. After that RO allowed them to participate in elections jointly.

After the submission of nomination papers, both candidates and their supporters paid a lot of thanks for this help. Both candidates demanded material for guidance in election from DCC and DCC provided them. Both candidates remained in contact with DCC and organised a mobilization and information camp in their area. DCC also gave training to the candidates of their panel. But unfortunately they could not succeed in election.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
68	136	246	125	11	91.91%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
68	136	178	121	15	99.66%

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## Narowal

### Geographical Boundaries

Narowal district is bounded on the northwest by Sialkot district, north by Jammu State, east by Gurdaspur district (India) south by Amritsar district (India) and Sheikhpura district in the west.

### Population Male/Female

Total population is 1,265,097 of which 12.2% are urban and 87.8% are rural. Of the total population 636,217 are males and 628,880 are females.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 74 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

The total area of the district is approximately 2,337 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

District has two tehsils namely Narowal and Shakargarh.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 649,011 male 343,027 and 305,984 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 41.3 % were skilled agricultural and fishery workers, followed by elementary occupations representing 35.1%, service workers, shop and market workers 8.7% and handicraft and related trade workers representing 4.7 percent. In rural areas skilled agricultural and fishery workers are again in majority while the highest percentage in urban areas is of elementary occupation.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

In the district, out of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 3.6% while domestic workers are 65.9%. Out of total economically active female population, 31.4% are self-employed, 9.6% are government employees, 3.7% are private employees and 0.2% are employers.

### Education

The literacy rate in the district is 52.7%. The literacy ratio for males is 65.6% as against 39.8% for females. The ratio is much higher in urban

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areas when compared with rural areas both for male and females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 50.5% and in urban areas is 67.5%.

#### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 2,319 educational institutions in the district imparting education from the level of mosque/primary up to graduate levels. There are 527 primary schools for boys and 800 for girls, 73 middle schools for boys and 8 for girls, 68 secondary schools for boys and 36 for girls whereas 2 higher secondary schools for boys but there is not a single higher secondary school for girls. Four intermediate and degree colleges for males and 3 for females are functional in the district.

#### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

There are 748 Madrassas in the district.

#### **Health**

There are 3 hospitals in the district, 21 dispensaries, 7 RHCs, 58 BHUs, 1 T.B Clinic, 15 Sub Health Centers and 5 Mother and Child Health Centers. The total bed capacity of all the various medical institutions in the district is 388. This means that there is one-bed for 3,260 persons in Narowal. This indicates the dearth of medical facilities.

#### **Social**

Rapid urbanization has opened up avenues for women in terms of education and employment. Unfortunately, women who step into the public sphere have faced sexual harassment and character assassination. Incidences of stove bursts and acid throwing have increased in the urban centers. Marriages, births and deaths are marked in the same manner as all over the Punjab.

#### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Feudals and Industrialists have influence in the area. The sense of *bradri* is also very strong. The people are predominantly Muslims. Most of them belong to the Sunni sect. There are however some Shias and Ahmadis also. Sunnis have influence in the area. Christians, Hindus and Sikhs are the minorities.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs. Incidences of stove bursts and acid throwing have increased in the area. Upper and middle class women

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observe purdah. Women belonging to lower classes have more mobility than these women.

#### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is the most important political group at district level. The most important bradries are Jat, Arain, Rajput, Gujar, Awan, Pathan, Mughal, Qureshi, Meos, Tarkhan, Kamboh, Kashmiri, Jullaha, Chuhra, Megh and Fakir. Jats are the backbone of the agricultural community and have influence in the area.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 Elections, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) came to power.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Nighat Zahoor of PML (Q) has been elected as Member Provincial Assembly of the Punjab in General Elections, 2002 against one of the seats reserved for women. Riffat Javaid Kahlon of PML (Q) and Donya Aziz of PML (Q) are elected as member of National Assembly.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

Women representation in LG Election 2001 was 100% while in 2005 women participation is 99.32%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Pakistan Muslim League is the major political group of the district. All the political representatives of the district at Provincial and National level are from the PML (Q). Syed Saeed-ul-Hassan, Dr. Tahir Ali Javaid, M. Abbas, Ch. Khizar Ilyas Virk, Shujaut Ahmad Khan and Nighat Zahoor have been elected as member of Provincial Assembly while M. Nasir Khan, Danial Aziz and Riffat Javaid Kahlon elected as member of National Assembly.

#### **Present situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Keeping in view the achievements of CCWR-I, District Coordination Unit members have coordination with AF. District Coordination Units of CCWR-I, which are established at district and tehsil levels, are still working and active. NGOs, CBOs and other stakeholders like lawyer's community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political influentials have close linkages with DCC members and AF.



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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

Mrs Perveen Akhtar is 40 years old and is married to Muhammad Saleem Akhtar who is the President of Social Welfare Society. Union Council Kot Lakha Singh, district Narowal. The couple is blessed with four children's consisting of 2 daughters and 2 sons. All of them are studying in various schools in different grades.

Mrs Perveen Akhtar did not receive any education, but is a social worker and takes active part in developing the community through the Social Welfare Society. Mrs Perveen Akhtar is also working as volunteer worker for a NGO namely Doorstep who's main object is to control population and gives useful information on family planning.

She contested election with more than half dozen candidates many of them were supported by some religious groups, who did not like her because of her involvement with family planning department and created hurdles for her. She contacted with Johnson Bhatti and told him about the whole situation. He encouraged her and said that he will try his best to resolve the dispute. Then Johnson Bhatti called a meeting of DCC members and shared the problem of Mrs Perveen Akhtar. Duty was assigned to Mr Abdullah Joint Coordinator that he will meet with the groups and mobilize them. DCC team also mobilised the community and gave training to her polling agents and provided them information in the form of posters and pamphlets. DCC also provided moral support to her. With the full support of DCC, she was successful. She got 1,270 votes from her Union Council, which was a record and good achievement for her.

Mrs. Perveen Akhtar is very thankful to DCC for helping and providing her the useful information, which helped her to get elected in the local body election. She is also thankful to Aurat Foundation, Lahore-Pakistan for publishing useful material for women awareness especially for an educated woman of Narowal district. She thinks that in the past no government or any political party has used this type of informative material, which helped uneducated women to get aware of the election process.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
74	296	533	296	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
74	148	260	148	0	100.0%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
74	148	364	148	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
74	148	263	146	2	98.64%

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## Okara

### Geographical

Okara is bordered by Faisalabad and Sheikhpura on the north-west, north-east lies Kasur, south Ferozpur (India) and Bahawalnagar, south-west Pakpattan and Sahiwal on the west.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of district is 2,232,992 of which 23.0% are urban and 77.0% are rural. In which male population is 1,167,481 and female population is 1,065,511.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 114 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 4,377 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

The district comprises of three tehsils named Okara, Renala Khurd and Depalpur.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Registered voters 1,180,844 of which 619,999 are male and 560,845 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 33.9% are engaged in agriculture, 40.2% have elementary occupations, followed by service workers, shop and market sales workers representing 6.7%, handicraft and related trade workers, 4.2%.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

In the district, out of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 0.9% while domestic workers are 68.5%. Out of total economically active female population, 44.9% are self-employed, 30.1% are government employees, 17.3% are private employees and 0.5% are employers. Women are engaged in attending the cattle, extracting butter and ghee from milk, weaving and sewing. In addition, they generally help their men-folk on farms like harvesting cotton,

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transplanting of seedling rice, threshing and winnowing of grains etc. some times they also help in harvesting.

### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 37.8%. The literacy ratio for males is 49.3% as against 25.0% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 31.3% and in urban areas is 58.7%.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 1,571 educational institutions in the district imparting education from primary schools to graduate level. There are 681 and 576 primary schools, 71 and 84 middle schools, 110 and 32 Secondary schools, 02 and 03 Higher Secondary schools and 07 and 05 colleges both for boys and girls respectively. There are a number of Christian schools, which are delivering quality education.

### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

There are 469 Madrassas in the district.

### **Health**

There is 1 District Hospital and 3 Tehsil Hospitals, 32 district council dispensaries, 10 Rural Health Centers, 89 Basic Health Units, 1 T.B Clinic, and 11 Mother and Child Health Centers.

### **Social**

Rapid industrialization has led to increasing urbanization. This has opened up many avenues for women in terms of education and employment. However, women who have stepped into the public sphere have faced sexual harassment. Ceremonies performed at marriages, births and deaths are the same as those performed all over the Punjab. The birth of a baby boy is celebrated while the birth of a baby girl is not welcomed.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

In some areas of the district, political groups have influence, while bradri is strong in rural areas. Feudal landlords and families dominate the district. Syeds and Wattos are the most powerful families and exert great influence. Second big majority of the district is Christians. The influence of religion on the daily life of the people is distinctly felt and their conduct is regulated by the dictates of religion.

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### **Women's social status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs. They are denied political, economic and social participation in general. They do have some say in matters pertaining to family, marriages etc. but no real decision making powers. Incidences of stove bursts and acid throwing have increased in the urban areas.

### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party PPPP, Pakistan Muslim League (J), Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) are the major political parties of the district. Main bradries of the district are Kharal (Rajput), Syeds, Wattos, Afghans, Kathias, Baloch, Arains and Kamboh. Kharal, Syeds and Wattos are the most influential in the area.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 Elections, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League (J), Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) are the parties that have been successful in winning seats in the Provincial and National Assemblies.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level (Figures)**

Najmi Salim of PPPP and Anjum Sultana of PML (J) have been elected against the seats reserved for women in 2002 Elections.

### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

Women representation in LG Election 2001 was 96.6% while in LG Election 2005 is 99.96%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Rai M. Aslam Kharal of PML (Q), Rao Sikander Iqbal of PPPP (Patriot), Syed Gulzar Sabtain Shah of PML (Q), Rao M. Ajmal Khan (IND) have won the seats of National Assembly while Rai Farooq Umar Khan Kharal of PML (Q), Javaid Alla-ud-Din Sajid of PML (Q), Syed Raza Ali Gillani of PML (Q), Mian Iftikhar Hussain Chhachhar of PML (J), Mian M. Asghar of MPL (Q), M. Ashraf Khan of PPPP, Mian Yawar Zaman of PML (N), Malik Nazar Farid Khokhar of PML (Q) and Dewan Ikhlq Ahmad of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly.

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### Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks

Interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, motivated AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### Glimpses of the Campaign

#### WPLGE 2005

During the WPLGE 2005 campaign, the training team organised training sessions and invited all of the female candidates through union council workers of coordination committee. The leadership from this area has always been very active in government or the opposition. In union council 91 all three parties, Muslim League (q), PPP, and Muslim League (n) contested for NAZIM seats.

At the sharp time of 10 am female candidates reached along with the wives of Nazims and Naib Nazims candidates. They were raged to see the opponents and told their husbands. This lead to the situation that women of opposing groups refused to take the session and planned to leave but training team members Zarqa Arshad and Robina guided them that we are not here for any specific party or reason. Aurat Foundation is a social organisation and its motive is to spread awareness among women about vote and the procedures of voting system. The team members convinced them to attend the training session without having any grudge, at first they insisted for the separate training for the candidates but after one and half hour discussion they agreed to sit together for training. It was a great achievement for the team members to bring the opposite parties to sit together.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
114	456	952	444	12	97.4%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
114	228	489	217	11	95.2%

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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
114	228	614	228	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
114	228	456	226	2	99.12%

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## **Pakpattan**

### **Geographical Boundaries**

District is bounded on the north-east by Okara district, on the south-east by Bahawalnagar, separating the two districts is the Satluj river, on the south-west Vehari district and on the north-west Sahiwal district.

### **Population Male/Female**

Total population is 1,286,680 with 14.2% urban and 85.8% rural. Of the total population male are 668,164 and females 618,516.

### **No. of urban/rural uc**

There are 63 UCs in the district.

### **Total Area of District**

Total area of the district is 2,724 square kilometers.

### **Name and Number of Tehsils**

The district comprises of two tehsils named Pakpattan and Arifwala.

### **Registered Voters Male/Female**

Total registered voters are 686,759, male 361,961 and female voters 324,798.

### **Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants**

The district ranks amongst the top most districts in terms of agricultural producer in the Punjab. Out of the total employed persons, 45.5% are engaged in agriculture, followed by elementary occupations, 36.7% and service workers, shop and market sales workers representing 7.5%.

### **Women Economic Status/Labour Force of women**

Of the total female population, according to 1998 census, women formally enrolled in economic activities are 1.2% while domestic workers are 67.4%. Out of total economically active female population, 37.6% are self-employed, 20.2% are government employees, 8.9% are private employees and 0.6% are employers.

### **Education**

#### **Literacy Rate Male Female/Urban/Rural**

The literacy ratio in the district is 34.7%. The literacy ratio for males is 47.0% while for women is 21.3%. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 30.8% and in urban areas is 57.6%.



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### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 845 educational institutions in district imparting education from primary schools to graduate level. There are 410 and 308 primary schools, 22 and 33 middle schools, 51 and 13 High Schools and 2 Degree Colleges both for boys and girls respectively. There is only one Intermediate College and 3 Professional and Commercial Training Institutes for boys.

### **Health**

The health status of women in the district is better in urban areas but poor in rural areas. There are 2 hospitals, 6 Rural Health Centers. Besides this there are 74 basic health units, 1 T.B Clinic and 1 Mother and Child Health Centers in the district.

### **Social**

Traditions that violate women's basic rights like exchange marriage and early marriage continue. In this region, feudals share social and political power with the newly emerging industrial class. The customs of bride price persists and patriarchy is as strong now as it was historically suppressing and oppressing women.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Feudal and industrialists have influence in the district. Religious and political groups are very active and exert multiple influences. People of the area are religious by tradition and due to influence of famous Saint Baba Farid whose mausoleum is a great tourist attraction attracting millions of devotees all year round, especially on the annual celebrations of his birth and death anniversary.

### **Women's Social Status**

Women's mobility is limited since a women's place is considered to be in the home. Exchange marriages (Watta Satta) and early marriages are very common in the district. Female child is a matter of happiness in socially low caste families who obtain handsome amount at marriage of daughters from the bridegroom. This custom relegates women to the status of an economic commodity violating all human and fundamental rights of women.

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### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) is the major political group of the district and has influence in the area. Bradries like Jat, Rajput, Hans, Dhudhi, Khachi, Bhatti, Chishti, Noon Pathan, Syed, Arian and Wattos have influence in the district. The caretakers and heirs family of the Saint Baba Farid wields great respect and influence in the district and most elected personalities are related to this family, exception aside.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) won the majority seats in the 2002 national elections and also holds political power in the local government.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Women's participation in politics is not viewed positively. Women were not allowed to vote thus they were not registered voters. No woman has been elected to the Provincial and National Assembly from this district. In 2001 and 2005, women for the first time participated in politics as candidates and voters.

### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

Women representation in local Government Election 2001 was 99.5% while in LG 2005 was 98.0 %.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

In 2002 Elections, Pir M. Shah Khagga of PML (Q), Ahmad Raza Manika of PML (Q) and Dr. Junaid Mumtaz Joya of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly while Mian Atta Muhammad Khan Manika of PML (Q), Ch. Javaid Ahmad of PML (Q), Mumtaz Hussain of PML (Q), Dr. Farrukh Javaid of PML (Q) and Pir Kashif Ali Chishti of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly.

### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Good coordination exists and interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, mobilised AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, established INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyer community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Khadijah Begum lived in village Bahmini, district Pakpattan. Her husband was a shopkeeper and the rest of the family earned their living through daily wages. She was both socially and politically active in the area, having been a polling agent in previous elections. She dreamed that the time would come when she would be able to ask people to vote for her. Now that the time had arrived, she was determined to stand for election, and filed her nomination for a general Muslim women's seat.

At first her family was in favour of her standing. But the local Chaudhrys did not want her to stand because they had decided the women from their own families would stand for those seats. They contacted her husband and his elder brother and bribed them to convince her to withdraw her nomination. She refused, and was beaten and locked in her own house. Her family even tried to starve her to come round, but her husband was very upset and tried to smuggle in some food to her.

Finally, the brother-in-law forcibly put her thumb to a request to withdraw her nomination. After three days she was released because the date for filing nominations was over. But the family did not know that the date had been extended by another two days.

Khadijah managed to sneak out in a burqa and file her nomination. Her family was very angry when they learnt of this and threatened her. She sent a note through a girl in the family to the local TCC. The TCC Coordinator visited her immediately and took her to the police station where she filed an FIR against her male family members. The police visited the men in her family and warned them to behave.

The TCC continued supporting her during the remaining time up to the elections, even receiving her election symbol. In the meantime, the Campaign staff also reached her village and met with her husband, then with Khadijah Begum herself and other family members and held a series of discussions with them.

After this, the TCC held a press conference and the Campaign team videoed an interview with her. With so much support and publicity, most of Khadijah Begum's family decided to support her. They were of the view that now even the government was with her! She won the election.

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### Glimpse 2

We set up an information camp outside the *kutcheri* for the potential women candidates in connection with the elections in Pakpattan. We especially gave a written request for permission from the District and Sessions Judge, but it was refused on the grounds that no unauthorised person could set up camp.

We decided to go ahead and set up our camp but changed the site. We now used the outside of the shops with photocopying machines. The candidates flocked to our camp and we had quite a rush.

The District and Sessions Judge and the Deputy Commissioner passed by and saw the candidates getting information. They wondered who we were and why we were working with the candidates. When they were satisfied with our explanation, the Sessions Judge gave us permission to move our camp back outside the courts. He also arranged a meeting for us with the Returning Officers.

### WPLGE 2005

#### Glimpse 1

On 18 July 2005, eight o'clock at night, the team of District Coordination Committee checked the situation of seats with Returning Officers and they came to know that women farmers /labour seats are empty in UC Mosowal. Same like in Tehsil Pakpattan altogether five seats were empty.

District Coordination committee approached the related union councils and asked them to send women candidates for the empty seats. The Human Rights Committee office was situated at the same place where coordination committee put the "free Information Camp". The team informed its president Mr. Rao Naseem Hashim as well, who is a known social worker and candidate for district mayor. The team also approached the Ex. mayor of union council Bilegunj and Ex. Mayor Feroze pur Chistian, Mr. Ali Imran Hitiana in this regard. They contacted different acquaintances to submit the nomination forms for the women candidates.

At eleven o'clock candidate women reached and we received phone calls of three women, Hajran bibi from Moswal, Amna bibi from Bilegunj and Haneefa bibi from Ferozepur Chistian that they are also coming. The team obtained the voters lists from Assistant Election Commission officer. Thus the nomination forms were submitted for the new candidates. Only one candidate left and the team requested returning officer Muhammad Mushtaq Ojla to spare some more time for one female candidate who was coming. The RO compromised and gave additional 20 minutes, within

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twenty minutes the documents were submitted. The efforts of DCC were highly appreciated. The candidates and supporters were also thankful to DCC.

### **Glimpse 2**

While DCC organised Free Information Camp they came to know about a condition for candidates from RO that every candidate has to attach certificates of supporter and authorised person within the nomination form otherwise DRO would not accept the voters list. The DRO has designed a form to attest from Asst. Election Commissioner. It was a difficult task for women because there was too much rush and women could not enter in to the office even.

DCC members went to the Additional District and Session Judge Pakpattan, Mr. Maqsood Ahmad and gave him awareness about the situation. They told that in any other district there is no condition of this kind and women are facing a lot of problem here, the Asst. Election Commissioner also supported this statement. At this the Additional Judge confirmed, only those who have problems with their names and sir names on form need to attest the forms. As the result of this conversation, it was decided to put this explanation in written form, outside the office of Additional District and Session Judge and also at the office of Asst. Election Commissioner Mr. Mazhar Akhtar. This action brought positive relief for the female candidates as well as the other candidates.

### **Glimpse 3**

On the last day of filing the nomination papers, time was extended to 12 midnight. Like everyday, at 8 pm the DCC collected the information on the situation of women's nominations from different returning officers. It was transpired that four reserved seats of women were still vacant in UCs namely Mohiwlā, Bible Gunj, Chak No. 15/ KB and Ferozpur Chishtian. The District Coordination Committee, Pakpattan at once got in touch with the contact person in the respective UCs and asked them to find out women who could file the nomination papers. Some other influential in the district (particularly prospective candidates for district or tehsil Nazim slots) were also contacted and informed about the situation. The DCC members enticed them that if papers were filed, they (the women) would get elected unopposed. The focal persons of DCC in the UCs had not been able to persuade any woman to file the nomination papers. However, the prospective candidate for district Nazim, asked the candidates for UC Nazims of his group to look for women and send them

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immediately to the court. As a result, three women were able to make to the district courts. The DCC helped in preparing the nomination papers. The papers were filed with the respective returning officers at around 12:20 am. All the three women got elected unopposed. The women for the fourth seats reached the court after 1:00am. All ROs had left by that time. Thus only one seat remained vacant in the district.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
63	252	485	252	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
63	126	270	124	2	98.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
63	126	314	126	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
63	126	208	121	5	96.08%

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## Rahim Yar Khan

### Geographical Boundaries

Rahim Yar Khan is bordered on the north by Muzaffargarh district, east by Bahawalpur south by Jasilmir (India) and Ghotki district (Sindh) and west by Rajanpur district.

### Population

Total population of the district is 3,141,053 of which 1,636,864 are males and 1,504,189 are females.

### No. of UCs

Total number of UCs is 122.

### Total Area of District

The total area of the district is 11,880 square kilometers.

### Name and Number of Tehsils

Total number of the tehsils in district is four, Rahim Yar Khan, Sadiqabad, Khanpur and Liaquatpur.

### Registered Voters

Total registered voters are 1,504,611 of which 812,581 are male voters and 692,030 are female voters.

### Major Occupations

Most of its people live in villages and engage in cultivation, which is the main source of income. The major crops are cotton, sugarcane, and wheat. Most of the orchards are mangoes and citrus. The major industries are textile, cotton ginning and processing, sugar, cottonseed oil, edible oil, soap, beverage making, agricultural implement manufacturing, and fertilizer manufacturing. Cottage industry includes ginning, pottery/clay products, machinery manufacturing, handicrafts, and embroidery.

### Women Economic Status

Women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.3% while domestic workers are 66.8%. Women are not represented in economic decision making. This is compounded by discriminatory barriers, which restrict their entry into the formal and modern sectors of the economy. In order to meet their subsistence needs, women in urban areas are being forced to seek economic employment, but due to the lack of mobility, education,

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skills, and access to credit facilities, they have limited options. These women are doubly disadvantaged as they face social constraints as well as weak institutional support.

### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 33.1%. The literacy ratio for males is 37.4% as against 21.8% for females.

### **Educational Facilities For Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 3,334 educational institutions imparting education in the district. There are 1,979 primary schools for boys and 1,355 for girls, 125 middle schools for boys and 153 for girls, 107 secondary schools for males and 53 for females, 3 higher secondary schools for males and 3 for females and 4 degree colleges for females and 4 for males. There are some private vocational training institutes for male and females at district level.

### **No. of Madras's (religious institutions)**

There are 282 religious institutions at district level.

### **Health**

There is Sheikh Zayd Medical Teaching Hospital, 19 RHC and 104 BHUs providing health services to people. Besides this, there are also 2 T.B Clinics, 1 Eye hospital and 8 Mother and Child Health centers. There are a number of private practitioners, clinics, hakims etc who provide local and homeopathic medical services.

### **Social**

People generally follow the age old customary laws and traditions and "Watta Satta", "Peer Parsti" is common. In desert areas live the Mangool and Thories, gypsy tribes who follow their unique gypsy traditions and laws. Lok nach, bahagra, jhomer are part of their culture. Camel race is the big sport of this district. People have great affiliation with their local and religious customs and at the same time the social rites and customs are binding specifically on women. Women and children trafficking and "Karo Kari" are common here.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Patriarchal and feudal bradri system is very powerful in the district. Bradries like the Makhdoom, Rais, Ghleeja, Joiya, Watto, Daud Pota, Baloch, Syed and Pathan and new settlers Jat, Warich, Arian, Rajput and



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Gujjar are the main power brokers. Influence of influential personalities is greater than political groupings or parties. The Makhdoom baradi is always able to keep its share in the governments at the local and national levels. New settlers are from the industrial and business class and are beginning to challenge the political hold of the feudal families. Religion plays a big role in the socio-cultural makeup of the district. The population of the district is predominantly Muslim. The important minorities are Christians, Ahmedi, Rushdi, Sheduled Hindu Castes which are the largest minority.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs, local politics and economy. Women, children trafficking and Karo Kari are common. Generally speaking women are treated as second class citizens, a notch above the minorities. They are mostly confined to the house and domestic chores. Of recent with the local government system in place, women of the middle and upper middle class have found political and social space. Rural women's exploited status continues in the traditional patriarchal setup.

#### **Political Situation**

The main political parties in the district are Pakistan Muslim League (Q) Pakistan Peoples Party (PPPP) and Pakistan Muslim League (N). Pakistan Muslim League is the party in power. Makhdoom, Arian and Warich groups have influence on locals.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

PML (Q) is in power and Makhdoom and Arian have influence.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

In 2002, only one woman Lubna Tariq PML (Q) was elected as member Punjab Assembly and Begum Ishrat Ashraf elected as member National Assembly against reserved seats for women

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

Women participation in LG Election 2001 was 98.2% while in LG election 2005 was 89.36% .

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Ch Parvez Elahi PML (Q), Muhammad Ejaz Shafi PML (Q), Jam Muhammad Hashim Ghalija, Qazi Ahmed Saeed Advocate PML (Q),

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Muhammad Iqbal Rais PML(Q), Chudhary Mehmood Ahmed PML(Q) , Sardar Muhammad Dariya Fayyaz Khan Gopang PML(Q), Makhdoom Ashfaq Ahmed PPPP (Patriot) , Mian Muhammad Aslam Advocate PPPP, Engr. Javed Akbar Dhillon (PPPP), Javed Hassan Gujjar PPPP, Sheikh Aziz Aslam (PPPP) and Chaudhry Muhammad Shafique Anwar PML(N) were elected.

#### **Present situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Good coordination exists and interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work mobilised AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

##### **Glimpse 1**

Nusrat Ejaz lived in village Sardargarh in district Rahim Yar Khan. The village is backward and the majority of the inhabitants are tenants and small landholders. Despite socio-cultural constraints, Nusrat Ejaz was able to study for her BA. After her marriage, she became involved in social work in the area and established the Anjuman-e-Behbood-e-Khawateen (Women's Welfare Organisation). Her husband supported her in her work and she set up a high school and a college. Though the family had to face opposition from the local landlords, yet they persevered.

When the Local Government elections of 2000-2001 were announced, her husband decided to contest the union *nazim* seat. He encouraged both his wives, Nusrat Ejaz and Kundan Mai, to contest the elections and canvassed along with them. Since he could only take one of them at a time on his motorbike, they campaigned in rotation! During the election campaign, Nusrat Ejaz was supported by the DCC which provided her with election material, training and moral support. Her husband lost the election, whereas both she and Kundan Mai won.

This success motivated her to contest a district council seat. Keeping in mind her leadership skills, the DCC activists supported her decision. Following suit, the second wife also decided to contest a tehsil council seat. Again both won the elections.

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Nusrat Ejaz has been an active member of the CAC and a member of the Resource Group in the district-level Resource Centre for Women Councillors in Rahim Yar Khan. The district *nazim* and member, District Bait-ul-Mal Committee have appointed her coordinator for women's development projects.

### **Glimpse 2**

Shabnam, a young woman with an MA from Bahawalpur University, belonged to a politically active land-owning family in Khanpur, district Rahim Yar Khan. She wanted to stand for election but with no support from her family and without knowing how to file her nomination papers, she was at a standstill.

The Coordinator of the local TCC, Jatoi, had meanwhile come up with a novel way to inform people about the help the TCC could provide in running for elections. He had a pamphlet printed advertising this information and a contact telephone number. From his grocery shop he would slip in a copy of the pamphlet into every customer's shopping bag.

This is how a pamphlet reached Shabnam. She got in touch with the TCC and obtained the information she required. She collected the necessary papers and went to file her nomination at the *kutcheri*. At this point the men in her family realised what she was doing, and also turned up at the *kutcheri*. An argument ensued, in which she was supported by the TCC. Her family members were finally convinced that Shabnam was determined and it would be more damaging to the family's honour if the people learnt that she was not allowed to stand.

While her family did not support her during the election period, her school friends helped her to campaign. When the elections took place, she won. She was so delighted that she phoned Aurat Foundation that night to inform them of her victory.

### **Glimpse 3**

Farzana Hameed was the principal of a private school in Rahim Yar Khan. Her father was a shopkeeper and her brother assisted in the shop. Farzana's family had never participated in politics. She happened to attend one of the seminars organised by the Citizens' Action Committee on women's participation in politics, where representatives of the DCC and the AF Campaign staff motivated her to stand for election.

She came home and sought advice from her father who, with some reluctance, allowed her to take part in the elections. She filed her nomination paper for a union council seat. Farzana Hameed was

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competing with 12 other female candidates. She sought advice from the DCC on how to canvass, in addition to using the AF election material and getting training for her polling agents. She won the election.

#### **Glimpse 4**

The Coordinator of the local TCC, Jatoi, came up with a novel way to inform people about the help the TCC could provide in running for elections. He had a pamphlet printed advertising this information and a contact telephone number. From his grocery shop he would slip in a copy of the pamphlet into every customer's shopping bag. This is how a pamphlet eventually reached Shabnam and inspired her to stand for election, and eventually win.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Nusrat Ijaz is an ex-member District Councilor; she decided to contest the election on Nazims' seat from her Union Council named Sardar Garh. She discussed with DCC Coordinator Umar Ali Khan Baloch that she wanted to contest on Nazim's seat. He encouraged her and did promise to provide her maximum support. DCC Coordinator guided her that she should start the mobilization meeting with women before election. Nusrat Ejaz started meetings in her area. During community meetings, she met with influential and heads of big "*bradries*" and tried her best to mobilise the males to join her panel on the seat of Naib Nazim. When elections were announced two opposition groups appeared against her. In which one was led by her brother-in-law because her in laws were not willing that she contests on Nazim seat.

When Nusrat Ijaz discussed with landlords for Naib Nazim's seat, nobody was willing to contest with her on this seat (Naib Nazim). In these circumstances Nusrat Ijaz approached to DCC therefore they could arrange meetings to educate her community about importance of women participation in political system. In this regard DCC organised the meetings through Union Coordinator Muhammad Ismail and social worker Asma Baloch. They invited the influential and educated people to discuss on importance of women in political participation. After these continuous activities, Dashti Baloch family agreed to support her and nominated one family member Mr Abdul Gafoor on Naib Nazim seat. After this, with the help of Naib Nazim, she made an independent panel. She selected the candidates from different villages.

It was a hard time for her when her Naib Nazim refused to submitted his nomination papers with her. He has changed his decision because people

were mentally torturing him. Actually Nusrat's in laws pushed Naib Nazim to refuse from this seat. Due to this five other members also refused to join her panel. She was much disturbed. She again started struggle to find out a person who wanted to contest on Naib Nazim's seat. With coordination of Union Coordinator, she mobilised one other bradri for Naib Nazim seat. Her husband and DCC encouraged and supported her.

Before three days of nomination papers, her opponents kidnapped her Naib Nazim but earlier by the Union Coordinator's effort he was released. When nomination papers were submitted, opposition filed applications against Naib Nazim that he is under matric and Nusrat Ijaz's husband was involved in corruption. On these reasons, her papers were rejected. Nusrat and her husband contacted with DCC member of Legal Aid Committee Mian Khalil ur Rehman Advocate. He filed her case and proved that all allegations were baseless so their papers were accepted. She was greatly indebted to the DCC and requested them to arrange the trainings for their polling agents and her panel candidates. She couldn't win in election but she was thankful to DCC for their full cooperation and she is still in touch with Aurat Foundation. She said that I had lost the election but I could not forget the DCC coordination. She said that Aurat Foundation is a sign of courage for women, especially for our backward and ignorant areas where big families; Makhdoom and Landlords did not give importance to women and have control on all type of resources where women have no identity.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
122	488	988	487	1	99.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
122	244	453	232	12	95.1%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
122	244	761	242	2	99.18%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
122	244	538	238	6	97.54%

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## Rajanpur

### Geographical Boundaries

The district is bounded on the north by D.G Khan, east by Muzaffargarh and Rahim Yar Khan, south Jaccobabad, west are Dera Bugti and Barkhan of Balochistan.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 1,103,618. Of the total population 580,822 are males and 522,796 are females.

### no. of Urban/Rural UCs

Rajanpur has 44 Union Councils in which 6 union councils are urban and 38 union councils are rural.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the District is 12,318 square kilometers.

### Name and Number of Tehsils

It has three tehsils named Jam Pur, Rajanpur and Rujhan.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Registered voters are 530,309. Female voters are 238,168 and male voters are 292,141.

### Major Occupation of the District's Inhabitant

Out of the total employed persons, 73.9% are engaged in agriculture and fisheries, followed by elementary occupations representing 15.5% and service workers and shop and market sales workers 4.7%.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

Women do not have any economic status in this tribal district. Although women are engaged in many economic activities but they are not recognised as workers. They are engaged in health and educational institutions as nurses, doctors and teachers in the urban areas. In rural areas, women are engaged in agriculture. Of the total female population, according to 1998 census, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 0.8% while domestic workers are 62.3%. Of economically active female population, 34.9% are self-employed, 37.0% are government employees, 6.5% are private employees and 0.1% are the employers.

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### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 20.3%. The literacy ratio for males is 29.0% and 11.3% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 15.5 % and in urban areas is 49.6 %.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Female/Colleges/Schools**

Total number of educational institutions is 1,386 in the district. There are 697 and 430 primary schools, 38 and 26 middle schools, 34 and 16 high schools, 03 and 03 secondary schools and 05 and 02 colleges for boys and girls respectively. Total number of Private Schools is one hundred 124.

### **No. of Madrassas**

There are 19 Madrassas in the district.

### **Health**

The situation of health of women in district Rajanpur is very poor especially in rural areas of the district. In district Rajanpur, 3 government hospitals and 12 private hospitals are working, 1 Mother and Child Health center, 32 Basic Health Units 18 government dispensaries and 150 private dispensaries. The mortality rate of expectant mothers is 20%.

### **Social**

This district is part of the tribal belt of Punjab therefore tribal customs and traditions dominate. People prefer to approach a Jirga for resolving their disputes rather than a court of law. There is a very strong sense of tribal affinities. Women lack mobility, female education is not viewed positively and women must be heavily veiled while leaving the house. Exchange marriages, honor killings and trafficking of women are prevalent in Rajanpur. Women are denied their fundamental human, civil rights.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

District Rajanpur is a tribal, feudal society where tribal customary laws and traditions prevail. There is a very strong sense of bradri and tribal ties are also very strong. The influence of religion on the daily life of the people is distinctly felt and their conduct is regulated by the dictates of the religion.

### **Women Social Status**

Women are bound by regional and local tribal customs and traditions. "Kala Kali", exchange marriages (Watta Satta), child marriages, and early

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marriages are the social norms that deny basic fundamental and human rights of women while the strict patriarchal code of conduct confines women to the home suppressing any desires to become economically or politically active.

#### **Political Situation**

Political groups in Rajanpur are Muslim League, Peoples Party and Millat Party. Mazari, Gorchani, Dreshak, Gopang, Saadat, Jat, Rajput, Qureshi, Arain, Pathan and Mughal. Dreshak and Mazari are the most important bradries/tribes and wield political influence.

#### **2002 Elections and In Power Political Parties**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) and NA won the majority seats in election 2002. Dreshak, Pitafi, Mazari and Leghari tribes rule the political spectrum.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Province and National Level**

Women's participation in politics is not viewed positively by society at large. In these communities, women are not allowed to vote. Due to this indirect election, feudal and tribal elites ensure that only women who are loyal to them are elected to local bodies. No woman represents the district at the provincial and national level.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 Elections**

In 2001, Women representation in LG Elections was 93.6% while in 2005 women representation in LG election was 96.59%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Ghazali Rahim Khan Pitafi of NA, Sardar Hasnain Bahadur Dreshak of PML (Q), Sardar Aman Ullah Dreshak of PML (Q), Sardar Shoukat Hussain Mazari of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly while Sardar M. Jaffar Khan Laghari of NA and Sardar M. Nasrullah Khan Dreshak of PML (Q) won the seats for National Assembly.

#### **Present situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Good coordination exists and interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, mobilised AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district, tehsil levels, established INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC



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members, lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### **Glimpses of the Campaign**

#### **WPLGE 2005**

##### **Glimpse 1**

Qaisra Baloch is a resident of village Parhar in Union Council Jehanpur in District Rajanpur. Qaisra comes from a middle class religious family. Her husband is a full time cleric in a local mosque. After graduating from college she joined an adult literacy center as a teacher. The center was run by a local NGO. While in the school, she participated in several activities organised by NGOs particularly Citizen Action Committee of District Rajanpur on issues related to women's development. She was immensely motivated and became enthused to do something for women of her area. During the Local Government elections in 2000-01, when DCC was looking for women candidates to contest election, a member of DCC who succeeded in bringing her around to stand for election approached her. She promised to discuss the issue with her husband. But she had not been able to persuade her husband nor her in-laws and thus could not run for the elections. The husband was of the view that women should not take part in politics. But she continued to contribute her bits in social work and established a status within the community as a socially active person.

When Local Government election was announced in 2005, she again expressed her wish to contest election, but they (the husband and in-laws) were still reluctant to allow her to contest. Since she was in touch with the local CAC she approached members of the DCC to help her in persuading her husband and in-laws to allow her to contest election. The DCC met her husband and son and persuaded them by giving examples of women in assemblies as representatives of religious parities. Moreover, the DCC offered that if she contested election, she would be given support throughout the campaign in terms of contacting people and literature in addition to training. The husband had to give in against the wife's repeated requests and DCC's moral pressure. She contested election but lost by narrow margin.

##### **Glimpse 2**

In the course of Citizen's Campaign for Women Representation in LG election 2000-01, when DCC members were looking around for potential

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women candidates for the elections at the UC level, they came across Shamim Akhtar in a Mohallah of Kot Mithan. The DCC's members convinced her to compete in the election. She had contested for seats reserved for women in Union Council in Local Government election in 2000-01 and won. Given the tribal set up of the area, it was difficult to do political work on her own. She associated herself with one of the political groups. She was enthusiastic to contribute to the betterment of women's status in the area. After getting elected, she had opportunities to participate in some training workshops organised by government and non-government organisations that helped in broadening her understanding and boost confidence. But overall her experiences as councilor in Union Council did not result in doing anything significant for her community. Despite a hue and cry, she was unable to get any budgetary allocation or development schemes. All in all, her experience as a Councilor was discouraging.

When elections were announced in 2005, she was determined not to contest election this time around. She was not prepared until she came across the mobilization team of DCC, who persuaded her to compete in the election, once again. Initially she was not convinced but she finally agreed as DCC continued to persuade her that she should continue her struggle to create a space for herself. Besides, it is expected that UC would be run better in the second tenure. Given the continued pressure by the DCC, she finally submitted her nomination papers. DCC facilitated her by providing material, information and moral support. She won the election.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
44	176	303	172	4	97.7%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
44	88	125	75	13	85.2%

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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
44	88	222	83	5	94%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
44	88	191	87	1	98.86%

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## Rawalpindi

### Geographical Location

District Rawalpindi takes its name from its Headquarter town "Rawalpindi" which means abode of Rawals, a jogi tribe. This district is situated in the northwestern part of Pakistan. It is bounded on the north by Islamabad Capital territory, Abbotabad and Haripur Districts of NWFP; on the south by Chakwal and Jhelum districts and on the west by Attock district. The total area of the district is 5286 square kilometers. Temperatures range from 2.6°C in month of January to above 38.6°C in June.

### Area

5,282 sq kms

### Population

3,363, 911; 51.2% males and 48.8 females

### Population Density

636.5 persons per sq km

### Annual Population Growth Rate

2.75 per cent

### Urban Ratio

53.2 per cent

### Registered Voters

2013963

### Main Clans

Bhatti, Rawal, Janjua, Chohan, Awan, Mughal, Qureshi, Syed, Dhund and Satti.

### Religion

Muslim 97.72 per cent; Christian 2.11 per cent; Hindu 0.01 per cent; Ahmadi 0.15 per cent; others 0.01 per cent.

### Main Languages

Punjabi 83.9 per cent; Urdu 7.5 per cent; Pushto 5.3 per cent; others 3.2 per cent.

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## Economically Active Population

21.9 per cent

### Main Occupations

Armed forces 36.9 per cent; elementary occupations 21.5 per cent; service workers 12.8 per cent; agriculture 7.6 per cent; craft and related trade workers 6.4 per cent; professionals 5.2 per cent; technicians 3.9 per cent; machine operators 2.8 per cent; clerical 2.4 per cent

Administratively, District Rawalpindi is divided into 6 Tehsils i.e. Rawalpindi, Gujar Khan, Murree, Kahuta, Taxila, Kotli Sattian and Kallar Syedan. It consists of 168 Union Councils including 114 rural and 54 urban ones whose elected representatives formulate Zilla and Tehsil councils. Political constituencies include 7 national seats and 14 provincial seats of legislative assemblies.

The ancient city of Ghandhra civilization Taxila is also situated in Rawalpindi District. This district is well connected to other districts by the Grand Trunk (GT) Road, Silk Road, Motorway and rail network. GT road runs parallel to the main line of Pakistan Railways across the District. Rawalpindi has two military airports as well as Islamabad International Airport.

### Health

The district health service delivery system consists of 22 hospitals, 4 Tehsil Headquarter

Hospitals (THQHs), 10 Rural Health Centers (RHCs), 132 Basic Health Units (BHUs) and 65 dispensaries. In addition there are 3 public sector Tertiary Care Hospitals (which include the DHQH). Pakistan Army also provides specialised Tertiary care through Military Hospital, Combined Military Hospital, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Ophthalmology, Rehabilitation, Dentistry and Blood Transfusion.

### Education

Literacy rate:	74%	female 60%	male 85%
High Schools	1,390	female 192	male 198
Inter/Degree Colleges	82	female 37	male 45

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### **Economic Situation**

Majority of the population living in urban areas is engaged in trade, restaurant and hotel industries and government services. In rural areas, the source of earning of most of people is through agriculture and dairy farming. There are generally two crops in a year. Wheat, Bajra, and Maize are the major crops. There is no proper source of irrigation, no canal system is available. Agriculture depends entirely on rainfall and at some places on the mountain streams.

The District is not famous for industrial goods like other districts. There are at present 1,000 medium and small industrial units operating in the district. The existing industrial units provide employment to about 1.7 percent of the population. There is a Heavy Mechanical Complex with respect of engineering goods in Taxila and Pakistan Ordnance Factory Wah Cantt to meet defence needs of Government of Pakistan.

### **Socio Cultural**

The cultural activities are different in cities than in village life. Birth of the baby boy is welcomed and celebrated. Male usually wear Shalwar Kameez and Chaddar. Female wear colored Shalwar Kameez with dopatta (head cover). The usual ornaments like ear rings, bangles, neckless, are worn by women on festive occasions or marriages. Influence of Pir is quite strong; shrines of Pir Golara Sharif, Dewal Sharif and Mohra Sharif are visited by a large number of devotees at the annual Urs of these saints. The important races and tribes living in the district are Rajput, among whom the important sub-divisions are Bhatti, Rawal, Janjua, Chohan, Awan, Mughal, Qureshi, Syed, Dhunds and Sattis who inhabit the Muree and Kotli Sattian Hills and Ghakkars who are descendants of a fine race of warriors

### **Political Situation**

District Rawalpindi is free from feudal and tribal setup and there is no supremacy of any political family or elite class to control the local politics. Mostly district politics revolve around the major political parties like Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League.

Political situation and alliances are different in local government elections 2005 as compared to the general elections. In local government elections

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different biradri groups backed by ruling party won the majority seats. Common and educated women were nominated and contested in the election by their political parties. In 2005 local government elections 99% women reserved seats were filled. Women also contested for the provincial and national assemblies but so far none of them succeeded. Still there is need for women's political training and capacity building particularly in rural areas.

## **Glimpses of the Campaign**

### **WPLGE 2005**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Local administration cooperated with DCC members in setting up facilitation camps. TMO officers in some districts also provided electricity and water to facilitation camps. AF Islamabad office, informed DCC members to obtain written permission from DCOs of their respective districts in order to set up facilitation camps. However, in districts where DCC Coordinators were lawyers, facilitation camps were set up without obtaining this written permission, examples Jhelum and Abbotabad.

However, in the case of Tehsil Gujar Khan and Tehsil Taxila of Rawalpindi District an embarrassing situation arose because the DCC coordinators neglected to get written permission to set up facilitation camps.

In Taxila the TMO objected to the facilitation camp that was set up in court premises without the permission of DCO and ordered DCC members to shift the camp. The AF team from Islamabad called on the TMO and requested him to leave the camp until permission was granted by DCO. However, after the AF team left Taxila, members of the DCC who were managing the facilitation camp were picked up by some commonly dressed individuals and taken to an undisclosed location. The DCC contacted the DCO Rawalpindi and managed to procure the release of these members. After this the DCC staff used a van as a mobile facilitation camp outside the premises of the court.

#### **Glimpse 2**

The same problem was faced due to the same reason that DCC Rawalpindi didn't get permission from DCO for facilitation camp. Facilitation camp outside court premises was closed by police. Some members along with DCC Coordinator Rawalpindi contacted TMO Gujar Khan and convinced him of the aim providing legal aid for women

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candidates. TMO was suspicious about the attachment of facilitation camp with any political party. DCC members presented the material published by AF to clear his mind about the aim of facilitation camp that it is established just for the convenience of women candidates and general public to facilitate them while submitting nomination papers. Afterward TMO permitted DCC to setup facilitation camp near court premises but camp was re-established on second day and great numbers of women as well as men were benefited by the camp.



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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
170	680	1604	679	1	99.9%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
170	340	676	311	29	91.5%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
175	350	747	338	0	100 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
175	350	655	321	2	99.05 %

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## Sahiwal

### Geographical

On the southeast runs the Nala Sukh Bias separating the district from Pakpattan and Vehari districts. On the northeast, southwest and southeast lie the districts of Okara, Khanewal and Pakpattan respectively.

### Population Male/Female

The district's population is 1,843,194 of which 16.4% is urban and 83.6% is rural. Male population is 953,561 and female population 889,633.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

Total number of UCs is 89 in the district.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 3,201 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

It comprises two tehsils namely Sahiwal and Chichawatni.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 978,266, male voters are 519,981 and female voters are 458,285.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 43.0% are engaged in agriculture, followed by elementary occupations representing 35.4%, service workers, shop and market workers 8.9%.

### Women's Economic Status/Labour Force of women

Women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.0% while domestic workers are 70.2%. Out of economically active females 37.0% are self-employed, 41.9% are government employees, 10.4% are private employees and 0.2% are employers.

### Education

#### Literacy Rate Male Female/Urban/Rural

The literacy ratio in the district is 43.9%. The literacy ratio for males is 54.7% as against 32.3% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 39.4% and in urban areas is 65.8%.

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#### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 1,330 educational institutions in the district imparting education. There are 570 primary schools for boys and 414 for girls, 68 middle schools for boys and 110 for girls, 106 secondary schools for boys and 46 for girls, 8 higher secondary schools for boys and 3 for girls, 3 intermediate and degree colleges for males and 2 for females.

#### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

There are 157 Madrassas in the district.

#### **Health**

There are 9 hospitals, 32 dispensaries, 9 Rural Health Centers. Besides this there are 74 basic health units, 1 T.B Clinics, 15 Sub Health Centers and 9 M.C. Health Centers in the district.

#### **Social**

Rapid urbanization has opened up many avenues for women in terms of education and employment. Unfortunately, women who step into the public sphere have faced sexual harassment. Marriages, births and deaths are marked in the same manner as all over the Punjab.

#### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Main political parties like PPP, PML (Q), PML (N) and smaller regional groups are active and bradries like Rai, Lodhi, and Jatt wield influence in the area. People in the villages are mostly under the influence of their "Pirs" and "Murshids". Particularly Chishtis and Syeds have great influence over the people.

#### **Women's Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs. Incidences of stove bursts and acid throwing have increased in the area. Upper and middle class women observe purdah. Women belonging to lower classes have more mobility than these women. Patriarchal male power makes women's participation in social, political and economic difficult, if not impossible, and they are thus mostly confined to the home in the urban areas. Rural women have much more mobility as they are involved in agricultural work with their men folk.

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### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) are the major political groups of the district. Main bradries are Jat, Rajput, Kharal, Sial, Watto, Khagga, Kathia, Arain, Kamboh, Chishti, Bodlas, Syed, Gujar, Khokhar and Dogar. Khagga, Dogar and Rajput wield great influence over the people.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 Elections, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) and won the provincial and national seats.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Munawar Sagheer of PML (Q) was elected as member Provincial Assembly against the seats reserved for women.

### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In LG Election 2001, women representation was 97.9% while women representation in LG Election 2005 was 98.3%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Ch. Nouraiz Shakoor Khan of PPPP (Patriot), Rana Tariq Javaid of PML (Q), Rai Aziz Ullah Khan of PML (Q), Saeed Ahmad Chaudhry of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly while Walayat Shah Khagga of PML (Q), Aftab Ahmad Khan of PPPP (Patriot), Malik Jalal Din Dhakoo of PML (Q), M. Arshad Khan Lodhi of PML (Q), Ch. Waheed Asghar Dogar of PML (Q), Ch. M. Arshad of PML (Q) and Malik Nauman Ahmad Langrial of (NA) are the members of the Provincial Assembly.

### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

District Coordination Unit members regularly coordinate with AF. District Coordination Committee of CCWR-I, which was established at district and tehsil level, is still working and active. NGOs, CBOs and other stakeholders like lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, and political influential have close linkages with DCC members and AF.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

The chak no 57/5L of union 24 is 16 kilometers away to the east of Sahiwal city .In this chak two groups Maliks and Rais have strong political influence .

On behalf of district coordination committee Sahiwal the members of mobilization committee Mohammed Rafiq, Shagufta Haider and Haider Ali through Sadiq Masih coordinator of Union Council 24 participated in the mobilization meeting held on 24 July 2005 in Chak No 57/ 5-L Qadirabad. This was attended by more than 25 people of the village where the mobilization team emphasised the importance of vote and women taking part in the elections. Shagufta Haider, a member of this team held a meeting with women of the mohalla in the local women coordinator's house. In these meetings it was told that for the last 10 to 15 years only men have been casting votes whereas women were not allowed to vote. Women failed to give any reason for this whereas men said that this was the decision of elders (ancestors) of their baradari

The people who attended the meeting told the members of the team that whatever they have to say regarding elections they should talk to the numberdar of their village Rai Ashraf who is also a candidate for Nazim seat. He is most respectable person of our village and we are all with him. The team along with the supporters visited the house of Rai Ashraf and informed him about their mission .The conversation started with the political situation of the area and ratio of women casting their votes. Rai Ashraf stated that about 15 years back during a fight between two groups in an election it was orally decided that women of both groups will not vote. Only men will cast votes. The team tried to convince him that now time is changed –it is not age of fights and oral agreements. But he was adamant and said that we have respected our agreement for so long and will abide by it, we will not allow our women to take part in election.

The team shared this problem with the District Coordinator, who called the meeting of Coordination Committee in the next two days and informed team about this problem. The members decided to consult Assistant Commissioner about this issue and then inform Rai Ashraf. The District coordinator Anjum Raza Matto and joint coordinator Mohammad Rafiq met Syed Aftab Hussain Shah, Assistant commissioner of Sahiwal and informed him about women not casting votes in Chak 57/5 L Union Council no 24. He flatly refused to help them saying that he had no time

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as he is busy in other important matters. They should go some where else.

After four days DCC members through Siddique Masih asked for appointment with Rai Ashraf. The coordinator Anjum Raza, Farkhanda Jabeen, Malik Arshad, Shazia Parveen, Khalida Arshad, Imran Anjum met Rai Ashraf. At that time some male candidates and the elites were sitting with Rai Ashraf in a meeting. The team talked about the possibility of women taking part in election and told that they had meetings with the people in different chaks and the union council and that in the past years, six women were elected councilors in this union and this time also a large majority of women is contesting elections. When Govt. has given 33% representation to women then why are you wasting the votes? In this way not only the votes will increase but there are more chances of your winning the election. The discussion lasted from one and half to hours on this topic.

As a result of this the people present in the meeting made it clear to the team that they would cancel the agreement and would allow their women to vote. In this way with the efforts of DCC Sahiwal women got the right to vote. According to the local coordinator Sadique Masih, 300 women caste votes.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
89	356	684	355	1	99.7%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
89	178	361	168	10	94.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
89	178	446	178	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
89	178	309	172	6	96.62%

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## Sargodha

### Geographical Boundaries

The district is bordered on the north by district Jhelum, east by Chenab River beyond which lie the districts of Mandi Bahauddin and Hafizabad, south by Jhang and west by Khushab districts.

### Population Male/Female

Total population is 2,665,979. Male population is 1,372,883 and female population is 1,293,096.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 161 Union Councils in the district.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 5,854 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

The district comprise 5 tehsils namely Sargodha, Bhalwal, Sahiwal, Shahpur, Sillanwali.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 1,409,920. Male 751,517 and 658,403 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Of the total employed persons, 43.8% are in elementary occupations, 31.1% are engaged in agriculture while 9.4% are service workers, shop and market sales workers and 5.2 % are engaged in craft and related trade works.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

Women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1% of the total population. Domestic workers are 70.3%. Out of total economically active female population, 33.0% are self-employed, 36.9% are Government employees, 12.7% are private employees, and 2.8% are employers.

### Education

The literacy ratio in the district is 46.3%. Ratio for males is 59.2% as against 32.7% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 39.1% and in urban areas is 64.2%.

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### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 1,122 primary schools for boys and 848 for girls. There are 194 middle schools for boys and 163 for girls, 146 high schools for boys and 77 for girls and 16 higher secondary schools for boys and 9 for girls are working at the district level. Three intermediate colleges for males and 7 for females and 9 degree colleges for males and 10 for females are working in the district.

### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

There are 418 Madrassas in the district.

### **Health**

The exact number of hospitals in Sargodha is unclear. However there is one bed for 13,958 persons. This indicates the inadequacy of health services in Sargodha.

### **Social**

Women are denied their fundamental rights. This is demonstrated by the fact that traditions that violate women's basic rights like exchange marriages (Watta Satta) and early marriages continue. Feudals share social and political power with the newly emerging industrial class. Therefore, women in this district have more rights if compared with the women who live in the tribal belt of the Punjab.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Landholders and industrialists have influence. Big bradries like Qureshi, Baloch, Sayyal, Laghari, Kilyar, Ghuman, Khachi, Gujjar and Lakh have political influence. Political parties like PML (Q), PML (N), religious groups Jamat Islami and its wings and a number of civil society organisations are active. An overwhelming majority of the population is Muslims and Islamic religious trends are observed in the area.

### **Women's Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs. Watta Satta and early marriages etc. are the social evils that have entangled most of the families due to custom and tradition. Women's mobility is severely hampered by the negative perception regarding women's place in the public sphere. Female education is not viewed positively and most rural women must be heavily veiled while leaving the house.



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### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party PPPP and Pakistan Muslim League (N) are the major political groups in the district and have influence in the area. The main bradries are Baloch who are Laghari, Lasharis and Rind, Ranjha who are Jats, Gondals who are Rajput, Harrals, Laks and Nagyanas. Syeds and Qureshi are reputed for their piety and are held in high respect by the other tribes.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 National Elections, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Peoples Party PPPP and Pakistan Muslim League (N) candidates were elected and have influence in the area.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Tanzila Aamir Cheema of PML (Q) represents the district as member of National Assembly and Mrs. Zahida Sarfraz of PM L (Q) and Dr. Nadia Aziz of PPPP represent the district in the Provincial Assembly.

### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In 2001, women's representation in LG Elections was 93.5% while in 2005 and in LG election was 98.4%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (Brief)**

In 2002 Elections, Haroon Ehsan Paracha of PML (Q), Ch. Ghias Ahmad Mela of PML (Q), Tasneem Ahmad Qureshi of PPPP, Ch Anwar Ali Cheema of PML (Q) and Mr. Mazhar Ahmad Qureshi of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly while Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bherth of PML (N), Mehr Rab Nawaz Lak of PML (Q), Ch. Zahid Iqbal Sindhu of PML (Q), Manazir Hussain Ranjha of PML (Q), Ch. Amir Sultan Cheema of PML (Q), M. Afzaal Mirza of PPPP, Ch. Faisal Farooq Cheema of PML (Q), Mian M. Khalid Kalyar of PML (Q) and Asghar Hayyat Kalyar of PML (Q) and M. Munir Qureshi of PML (Q) won the Provincial Assembly seats.

### **Present Situation of Af Linkages and Networks**

Good coordination exists and interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, mobilised AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, established INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC

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members, lawyer community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### Glimpses of the Campaign

#### WPLGE 2005

My name is Aysha Afzal and I am a resident of Sargodha, Union Council # 107, Muhala Istiklalabad. I belong to a poor family. Due to my father's illness for fifteen years, the financial crisis increased at my home and I couldn't continue my studies after F.A. when my father's friend, Mr. Muhammad Anwar Gondal, offered me the job of office manger in the District Resource Center established in Sargodha in collaboration with Aurat Foundation, It was like heaven sent. I started the job with my father's permission. In the beginning it was quite difficult working in an office, but Mr. Anwar Gondal and the other team members guided and encouraged me.

Working in the office I got the chance to speak with lady councillors and organise meeting and training workshops. Then I started attending the union council seminars and helped the women in making national identity cards. During this I got a lot of training from different organisations like SPO, TVO etc besides Aurat Foundation. This improved my knowledge and skills for which I am grateful to AFRC.

In 2005 when the local government elections were announced, Aurat Foundation started the WPLGE campaign 2005. I got the chance to train and inform women about mobilizing and elections. At the announcement of the elections I also felt the desire to stand in district elections. I expressed this desire to DCC members, Anwar Gondal, Hussain Ahmad Gondal and Abd-ur-Rauf Niswana, they not only encouraged but also promised to support me. It was decided that I would stand in the district elections. They assured their complete support. This further strengthened my decision.

I informed my family and they agreed but they showed concern for the expenses needed for the elections. I told them about my fellow women who respected me. I assured them that my office staff would give me the financial support, which satisfied them. The office staff paid my election fees and helped me run the campaign. The women councillors impressed with my work in AFRC voted for me and helped me in my mobilization campaign. In this way I was successful in being elected the Tehsil Councillor. I was fourth in the whole Tehsil getting sixteen (16) votes.

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Being elected as the Tehsil councillor changed not only my life but brought changes to my family. Well known social and political personalities started calling me from the neighborhood as well as from district. To tell you the truth nobody in the family tries but now I started getting proposals from good families. Now by the grace of God I am engaged in to a well-off business family. I'm grateful to DCC team and also Aurat Foundation, both played an important part in transforming my life.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
161	644	1018	621	23	96.4%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
161	322	346	282	40	87.6%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
161	322	739	319	3	99.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
161	322	570	315	7	92.82%

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## Sheikhupura

### Geographical Boundaries

The district is bounded on the north by Gujranwala, north-west by Hafizabad, north-east by Narowal, west by Faisalabad and east by Lahore. Kasur and Okara share its southern boundary.

### Population Male/Female

The total population of district is 3,321,029 of which 26.2% are urban and 73.8% are rural. Male population is 1,729,082 and female population is 1,591,947.

### No. of Urban/Rural UC

There are 101 UCs in the district.

### Total Area of District

The district is spread over an area of 5,960 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

The district comprises 4 tehsils namely Sheikhupura, Murudki, Ferozewala and Shakarpur Sharif.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Registered voters are 1,622,798; male 873,878 and 748,920 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Cultivation is the main occupation of the people. Skilled labour and professional classes such as white collar workers, carpenters, blacksmiths, weavers, and masons are available in the district. Out of the total employed persons, 45.3% have elementary occupations, followed by agriculturist representing 29.7%, service workers, shop and market sales workers, 7.6% and handicraft and related trade workers representing 5.7%.

### Women Economic Status/Labour Force Of Women

According to 1998 census, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 2.2% while domestic workers are 64.0%. Out of total economically active female population, 36.3% are self-employed, 17.0% are government employees, 14.2% are private employees and 2.3% are employers. The

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women folk in the villages lead a very busy life. They do household work and also work in the field.

### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 43.8%. The literacy ratio for males is 53.3% as against 33.3% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 38.8% and in urban areas is 57.6%.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 3,122 educational institutions in the district imparting education, 1,251 primary schools for boys and 829 for girls, 163 middle schools for boys and 154 for girls, 143 secondary schools for boys and 52 for girls, 4 higher secondary schools for boys and 9 for girls, 7 intermediate and degree colleges for males and 5 for females are working at district level.

### **No. of Madrassas (religious institutions)**

There are 505 Madrassas in the district.

### **Health**

There are 11 hospitals in the district, 72 dispensaries, 15 RHC, 123 BHU, 1 T.B Clinic, 32 Sub Health Centers and 22 Mother and Child Health Centers. There is one bed per 2,576 persons of the total population. This reflects the dismal state of healthcare in the region.

### **Social**

Rapid industrialization has led to increased urbanization. This has opened up many avenues for women in terms of education and employment. Incidences of stove bursts and acid throwing have increased in these urban areas. Male dominance continues and women are denied their social, political and economic rights.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Feudalism is giving in to industrial influences as industrialization is spreading, concentrating people in urban areas where access to health, economic and education opportunities are greater. This has helped women in managing to get a very small but important niche in the economic development of the district while political space provided has also helped their cause. Still very patriarchal with religious influences dominating social life the district is developing well.

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### **Women Social Status**

Unfortunately, women who step into the public sphere have faced sexual harassment. This harassment is the result of patriarchal and religious influences dominating in some sections of society. Women still do not have their basic fundamental and human rights ensured and have to struggle against bigotry, suppression, and violence perpetrated by family members and society.

### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Peoples Party PPPP are the main political groups of the district. Due to poor rate of literacy and education, the society being descendant of Hindu culture of castes and classes has not yet completely weaned of the effect of racism. The main bradries of the district are Jat, Khokhar, Pathan, Dogar, Gujar, Rajput, Bhatti, Syed, Arain, Qureshi, Wahga, Maan and Kharal. Dogar, Gujar and Pathan wield strong political influence in the area.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 Elections, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Peoples Party PPPP won seats to the provincial and national assemblies.

### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Rabbia Aliya of PML (Q), Saghira Islam of PPPP, and Azma Zahid Bukhari of PPPP represent the district at Provincial level.

### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In LG Election 2001, women representation was 96.2% while in LG Election 2005 was 98.8%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

M. Ijaz Ahmad Sehole of PML (Q), Mushtaq Ahmad PPPP, Ali Abbas of PML (Q), Jahanzeb Rao PML (N), Afzal Sultan Dogar of PML (N), Mian Khalid Mehmood of PML (Q) and Ch Sajjad Hayder Gujar of PML (N) won the seats of Provincial Assembly while Zulfiqar Ahmad Dhillon of PML (Q), Shahid Manzoor Gill of PML (Q) and M. Saeed Virk of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly.

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### Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks

Good coordination exists and interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, therefore AF developed close linkages with lawyers' community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc and set up District Coordination Committees for the 2001 and 2005 LG elections.

### Glimpses of the Campaigns

#### CCWR 2001

Although there was a separate electorate at the union council level for the councillors, a court ruling had been given that the offices of the *nazim* and *naib nazim* was open to all religious communities. So Charles Masih, a Christian from Youngsonabad, decided to contest the seat for the *nazim* and filed his nomination papers. However, the RO said that he had no notification to this effect from the Provincial Election Commission, and accepted the objection of a local Muslim. Charles Masih hired a lawyer to help him fight his case, but it did not help. At noon on the last day of filing nominations, he rang up Aurat Foundation for help. With some difficulty and great persistence, the Provincial Election Commissioner was located, who obliged by faxing instructions to the Returning Officer. Charles Masih was able to stand for *nazim*, and won.

#### WPLGE 2005

Sakina bibi is from Christian community and she is a resident of a Christian Colony Farooqabad. She is a sweeper and works in houses. She has been an active member of INC since four years, whose group leader is Tahira Azam. Sakina told the Coordinator about the sanitary worker of Corporation, who use to snatch 500/- rupees every month from staff member's salary. The poor people were not in such condition to pay spare toll in vain. The INC team took action against it and met with Mayor. The mayor didn't care about the matter and Sakina's husband was transferred to another area. Sakina took it as a challenge and in next meeting of INC before elections she expressed her wish to stand in election for the cause of corruption in sanitary department.

At this Tahira Azam gave awareness to the women about Coordination Committees, their training programmes, camps in courts and campaigns. Sakina agreed to participate but she was confronted with the problems that she is a non-muslim and only one seat was reserved for minorities for

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which a male candidate was elected last year. The DCC member Azam Malik helped Sakina to give her understanding about the election combat. Sakina informed them about the famous opponent “kaka Saien” who was powerful in the area due to his conjurer tricks, she was afraid that he might cast some spell on her and her family. Azam Malik appreciated her passion and told her that it is all false. If magic can work then Kaka Saien wouldn't be asking people for votes. Further he explained that she can take part on any seat and she can ask for vote to both Muslims and minorities. Sakina asked for help from women and her husband's fellow worker also supported them. She submitted her nomination papers and ran her campaign. She won with 2302 votes. Sakina bibi credits INC and DCC for this achievement for their information and cooperation.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
169	676	1345	668	8	98.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
169	338	649	319	19	94.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
101	202	444	202	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
101	202	338	197	5	97.52%



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## Sialkot

### Geographical Location

Sialkot is located near Indo-Pak border, about 125 kms from Lahore, the capital of Punjab. This city is centuries old. According to tradition, it was constructed by Raja Sul. The land is generally plain and fertile. The average annual rain fall is about 1000 mm. Over 25.82% of the population of the district is urban.

Sialkot is also the birth place of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, commonly known as Allama Iqbal. He was a philosopher and poet, internationally known as the Poet of the East. He contributed substantially to the ideology of Pakistan. His house is now a national museum.

### Area

3,016 sq kms.

### Tehsils

Daska, Pasrur, Sialkot

### Total Union Councils

124    Urban: 30    Rural: 94

### Population

1,802,505

### Total Voters

1,293,856

### Economic Condition

Sialkot is an important industrial city of Pakistan. Leather Garments, Musical Instruments, Sports Goods and Surgical Instruments are major industries of Sialkot. Most of the goods produced are exported. There is a dry port that is run under a trust. This dry port was made by industrialists of the city and Punjab Government helped them. An international airport is also under construction in the city which is again funded by business community of the city.

### Major Industries and Products

Sports Goods, Leather Tanneries, Leather Products, Leather Garments, Rubber Tyres/Tubes, Surgical Instruments, Cutlery, Locks, Hand Tools, Musical Instruments, Ready-made Textile Garments, Hosiery Products,

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Embroidered Badges, Silk and Gilt Cords, Flags, Banners, Pennants, Beverages and Processed Fruit Juices, Ice Cream and Dairy Products, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Sanitary Fittings, Sanitary Ware, Earthen Ware, Flour Mills, Rice Mills, Sugar Mills, Vegetable Ghee/Cooking Oil Mills, Iron and Steel Re-Rolling Mills, Diesel Engines.

The major crops and fruit of district Sialkot are wheat, rice, citrus and guava. A variety of vegetables are also grown in the district.

There are 14 flour mills, 57 rice husking units, one sugar mill, one vegetable ghee unit and one fruit juice unit already working in the district. However, there exist good prospects for rice bran oil, rice husk briquettes, maize products, dal mills, etc.

#### **Main Occupations**

Elementary occupations 32.2%; agriculture 19.5%; craft and related trade 18.9%; service workers 9.5%; professional 4.9%; technicians 2.8%, machine operators 2.6%.

#### **Education**

Literary rate is the highest in Pakistan and per capita income is almost double the national per capita income. Literacy rate: 58.9%, female: 53.84%, male: 72.32%.

Primary Schools: Boys 733, girls 1,215. Middle Schools: Boys 74, girls 127. High Schools: Boys 85, girls 69. Higher Secondary School: Boys 04, girls 10, Colleges: Boys 06, girls: 07.

Educational Institutes: Sialkot College of Commerce, Government Murray College, Government Islamia College, Government Allama Iqbal College, Government College for Women, Government Christian Girls College, Government Poly-Technic Institute, Government Para-Medical Institute.

Masjid Maktub: 515.

#### **Health Condition**

Sardar Begum Memorial Hospital: 134 Beds, Civil Hospital Pasroor: 60 Beds, Civil Hospital Daska: 179 Beds.

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Major Hospitals: Government Allama Iqbal Memorial Hospital, Government Sardar Begum Memorial Hospital, American Mission Hospital, Islam Central Hospital, Sialkot Medical Complex

#### **Social Condition**

Main Clans: Jat, Arain, Rajput, Awan, Gujar, Pathan, Mughal, Qureshi, Syed, Meo

Religion: Muslim 95.2%; Christian 4%, Ahmadi 0.6%; Hindu 0.1%.

Main languages: Punjabi 97.1%; Urdu 1.5%; others 1.4%.

#### **Political Situation**

Pakistan People's Party, Pakistan Muslim League, Communist Mazdoor Kissan Party, Awami Jamhuri Party and Tehreek-e-Insaf are the active political parties in the district. Some minority political groups that are active like Progressive Christian League, Pakistan Aqliatee Rabta Party, Pakistan Minority Inqilabi Tehreek, All Pakistan Maseh Party, Maseh Awami Party, Pakistan United Christian Front etc in the district.

In last general or recent local government elections the national level political and religious party played a significant role but we cannot overlook the influence of political Biradri group that are even stronger than any political party. Common and educated women are very enthusiastic to participate in the mainstream politics but at the same time they feel insecure and have some apprehension about the prevailing political culture controlled by the political elites and men having feudal mindset.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

During the Citizen's Campaign in Sialkot, the AF Campaign team faced problems in the finalization of the District Coordination Committee (DCC) due to the presence of three strong and active citizens' organizations, Society for Advancement of Higher Education, BEDARI, and Community Development Concern. Each organization wanted its control and hold over the DCC. Working with any one of these major organizations and excluding the other two, would have created more problems for AF and

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the local network. Under these circumstances, the AF Programme team discussed all the modalities internally and worked out a strategy. We met individually with all the partners and assured them about AF's neutrality. In these meetings, all the three groups raised their concerns about eliciting cooperation from the other two. After this we ensured that all the major partners were involved in the Election Campaign and shared major responsibilities. Secondly, a Consultative Committee was formed to take joint decisions. The AF team kept its focus on close monitoring of the district and was actively involved in almost all the district planning meetings, especially in identifying the roles and responsibilities of the partners and the Coordination Unit.

### **WPLGE 2005**

#### **Glimpse 1**

Samina Begum lives in the Mohalla Guldán Town of Model Town, one of the union council of Sialkot. For the first time, she was a candidate for the special seat of Muslim women in the Local Government Election 2005. She was very excited.

When the nomination papers were scrutinised she was present in the court of Additional Session Judge and at that time the DCC team was also present to help women candidate with any problem.

When samina's paper were being scrutinised then Additional session judge said Bibi your paper are rejected due to the fact that the person who proposed you has also seconded the next male candidate and one person can not propose and second two candidates.

Samina after seeing the Dr. Naseem Shakeel Joint Coordinator of DCC at once shouted "Hai Baji I am destroyed" just listen to what Judge Sahib is saying? Please come here?

Hearing this Dr. Naseem Shakeel at once got up from her seat and requested judge that sir please see that a man can propose a women candidate and also second another male candidate. It is objectionable/wrong only when one person is proposing or seconding both the candidates. Please consider it once again. Judge opened his record and after seeing that said it is O/C and filed her nomination papers. Samina was overjoyed and embraced Dr. Naseem Shakeel.

#### **Glimpse 2**

The joint Coordinator Dr. Naseem Shakeel of DCC Sialkot narrated that when the nomination papers were collected and filed. During that time two candidates Rahat Sultana and Najma Begum from Union Council

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Muzaffargarh approached them in the election camp where she was sitting with her team advocate Rafiq and Shiraz. They said “Api you are sitting here, where as your presence is needed in the office of Assistant Election Commissioner from where voter lists are needed by us and because of a huge crowd of male members, no body listens to our demand please come with us for our help.

At that very moment Dr. Naseem Shakeel along with these women went to the office of assistant Election Commissioner, where there was a huge crowd of male members and women were standing in a corner. In this crowd I could not enter the office. It suddenly clicked my mind that I should talk to the assistant Commissioner M. Umar on the phone and told him about critical situation and suggested that almost half the day is over, now women should be given the space to come forward to file their papers. Along with it I introduced the work of AF and DCC to him.

He at once ordered his staff to let women come forward and men should give space to women. In this way we all went in his room. He inquired from all women about their areas and the required voter lists were given to them on the intervention of Dr. Naseem Shakeel, who got photo copies of all these voter lists and gave to the women candidates. In this way the anxiety of 60-70 women were removed and were satisfied. I went home thanking the cooperation of DCC.

### **Glimpse 3**

AF team monitored different polling stations in rural and urban Sialkot. During visit to a polling station at Kotli Loharan Masharqi, the team observed that most women were complaining that the polling staff was not allowing women to vote. According to women voters, the polling staff was checking the lists in haste and turning away many women whose names were on the lists. AF team intervened and asked the polling staff to be attentive while checking the lists.

In one instance, a woman approached the AF team and complained that she had visited three polling booths but the polling staff turned her away. Due to intervention of the AF team, the presiding officer re-checked the voters' lists and found the woman's name, allowing her to vote.

The presiding officer instructed the polling staff to be more attentive and many women, who had been turned away previously, were allowed to vote.

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#### Glimpse 4

In some Polling stations influential polling agents had literally occupied the polling stations compelling the polling staff to work on their commands and instructions. The case was serious on polling both of Pehlodewta, UC Sundarpur, District Sialkot where polling agents of two parties had sidelined 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 reach on his call to avoid the occupation of polling 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.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
122	488	922	486	2	99.6%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
122	244	371	218	26	89.3%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
124	248	597	250	5	99.2 %
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
124	248	439	241	5	97.2 %

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## **Toba Tek Singh**

### **Geographical Boundaries**

Toba Tek Singh adjoins the district of Faisalabad on the east, west and north, its boundary touches Jhang district, south and south-eastern side is bounded by river Ravi across which lie districts of Khanewal and Sahiwal.

### **Population Male/Female**

The total population of the district is 1,621,593 of which 18.8% are urban and 81.2% are rural. Male population is 831,602 and 789,991 are females.

### **No. of Urban/Rural UC**

There are 82 UCs in district. 11 UCs are urban while 71 are rural UCs.

### **Total Area of District**

The total area district is 3,259 square kilometers.

### **Name and Number Tehsils**

The district comprises three tehsils namely Toba Tek Singh, Gojra and Kamalia, a town committee Pir Meehal and 539 villages.

### **Registered Voters Male/Female**

Registered voters are 905,772 of which 474,039 are male and 431,733 are female voters.

### **Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants**

Out of the total employed persons, 36.5% are engaged in agricultural activities. Same percent have elementary occupations, 9.1% are engaged in service workers; shop market sales works and 6.3% are handicraft and related trade workers.

### **Women Economic Status/Labour Force of Women**

According to 1998 census, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.8 % while domestic workers are 67.2%. Out of total economically active female population, 40.5% are self-employed, 30.9% are in government departments, 11.8% are in private sector and 1.6% simply employers.

### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 50.5%. The literacy ratio for males is 61.3% as against 39.1% females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 47.5 percent and in urban areas is 63.2 percent.

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### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 1,491 educational institutions in the district imparting education from primary schools to graduate level. There are 721 and 432 primary schools, 53 and 143 middle schools, 81 and 49 high schools, 05 and 03 colleges and 03 and 01 commercial institutes both for boys and girls respectively.

### **Health**

Health status of women in district Toba Tek Singh is very poor. The majority of the population does not have access to healthcare. There is 1 District Headquarter Hospital and 2 THQ Hospitals, 6 rural health centers, 66 basic health units and 25 dispensaries in the district.

### **Social**

Traditions that violate women's basic rights like exchange marriages (Watta Satta), early marriages and Vani (exchange of women as compensation for murder) continue. Women's mobility is limited and they must be veiled in public. In this region feudals share social and political power with the newly emerging industrial class. Therefore women in this district have more rights if compared with the women who live in the tribal belt of the Punjab.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Feudal and industrialists wield influence in the area. Muslims are the predominant population while Christians are the largest minority group. Hindu and Qadiani are the other minorities.

### **Women Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs. Traditions that violate women's basic rights like exchange marriages (Watta Satta), early marriages and Vani (exchange of women as compensation for murder) continue. Socially women are still denied their basic fundamental, political and economic rights. Gender inequalities continue unabated and women suffer the same humiliations here as in other districts.

### **Political Situation**

Major political groups in Toba Tek Singh district are Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan Muslim League (J). The population can broadly be classified into two categories i.e. locals and



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settlers. The prominent castes amongst the locals are Syed, Kharal, Kathia, Hirai, Sarghana, Gadhi, Sahu. Amongst the settlers Arian and Jat wield greatest influence.

#### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In election 2002, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) came into power but representation of Pakistan Muslim League (J), PPPP and Pakistan Muslim League (N) also exist.

#### **Women Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level**

Nishat Afza of PPPP and Aashifa Riaz Fatyana of PML (Q) have been elected as member Provincial Assembly in General Elections 2002 against seats reserved for women.

#### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In LG Election 2001, women participation was 98.0% while in LG Election 2005 was 99.39%.

#### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Ch. Bilal Asghar of PML (J), Ch. Azhar Nadeem of PML (N), Dr. Ashfaq-ur Rehman of PML (Q), Brig (Retd) Javed Akram of PML (Q), Makhdoomzada Syed Hussain Raza Shah of PML (Q) and Liaqat Ali Shoukat of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial seats while Amjad Ali Warriach of PML (J), Mian M. Farhan Latif of PML (Q) and Riaz Khan Fatyana of PML (Q) won the seats of National Assembly.

#### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Good coordination exists and interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, mobilised AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, established INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers). AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyer community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

### **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

#### **CCWR 2001**

The Campaign in district Toba Tek Singh was launched in the third phase of the Local Government elections. Although there was no CAC in the

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district, AF already had contacts in the district because of a number of activities previously organised there.

In 1993, Radio Listening Centres were opened in some of the villages to accompany AF's radio programme on agriculture technologies for rural women. These were later transformed into Information Network Centres (INCs) which continue to operate. Since then, AF had organised district level seminars during the Census Campaign and the Local Bodies Election Campaign in 1998.

When the Campaign was launched in the district, it was the first of its kind in terms of its visibility, magnitude and its focus on women candidates. Clerics and conservative forces felt threatened by the extent to which AF material was being disseminated at meetings and seminars that were well attended by women at both the district and tehsil levels.

The first reaction came in the form of resolutions passed in several mosques of the district during the Friday prayers. The resolutions demanded that the Government ban Aurat Foundation's programmes and the media that promoted women's participation in politics because they were violating Islamic values and destroying societal morals.

In his Friday sermon, Maulana Burqal Tauhidi (lead cleric of the district and leader of the Jamiat-e-Ahl-e-Hadith) condemned AF's activities in the district, saying they were promoting shamelessness and brazenness among women by having them participate in politics. The press covered the resolutions passed during the Friday prayers and it created a tremendous stir among the campaigners in the district.

The DCC called an emergency meeting to counter the situation. It was decided in the meeting that, to prevent further inflaming the issue, no statement would be given to the press to respond to resolutions or to clarify our position. It was also decided to hold meetings at main locations of the district to counter opposition and mobilise support.

Consequently, the DCC's representatives held several meetings in different villages and strategic urban areas. Clerics, village heads, influentials and other eminent persons were invited to the meetings. The main agenda of each meeting was to clarify that the ongoing Campaign was not against Islam (examples were cited of women who participated in politics in Islam) and was not devised to sabotage societal values. Instead, the DCC's efforts were to bring women into local councils as problems solvers for issues directly related to women; their presence in the councils would be an asset to local governance.

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Following these meetings, the local DCC organised a district level seminar in the city of Toba Tek Singh. They invited people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds to attend. The speakers included clerics, politicians, women candidates, social activists and other influential people of the community who spoke in favour of women's participation in politics. The seminar was a success in terms of the number of people who attended to hear positive arguments being given to support women's political participation. The DCC managed to mitigate the effect of most of the clerics' vilification campaign. Their position was strengthened by the fact that some clerics even supported women who were contesting.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

During the monitoring of the women candidates training workshops in Tehsil Kamalia in District TT Singh, members of DCC and AF team found out that same election symbols of general reserved for women had been allotted to women candidates contesting on minority seats. AF team asked the DCC members to immediately contact the District Returning Officer (DRO) to re-allot the election symbols, otherwise election in the Teshil might have to be postponed. Besides, it would seriously affect the campaign of candidates for minority seats, who were propagating the wrong election symbols to the voters in their constituency. The DCC's Coordinator, based in Tehsil Gojra, called up the DRO. He promised to look into the matter. The DCC again called him the same day and he denied that anything like this had happened. Then the DCC Coordinator contacted the Provincial Secretariat and explained the problem and emphasised to pursue the case on urgent basis as DRO was not willing to take up the issue.

Without any delay, the Provincial Secretariat, got in touch with the Secretary Election Commission and brought the issue to his notice. The Secretary sent the instruction to the Provincial Election Commissioner to conduct an inquiry into the matter. The Provincial Commissioner promptly instructed the DRO, TT Singh to report him at the earliest. Following the enquiry, it was established that election symbols form of the reserved seats for Muslim women had been allotted to the minority candidates. All the minority election candidates were called and re-allotted the election symbols.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
82	328	634	327	1	99.7%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
82	164	296	155	9	94.5%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
82	164	410	164	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
82	164	332	162	2	88.97%

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## Vehari

### Geographical

The district borders Bahawalnagar and Bahawalpur in the South, East, Pakpattan, West, Khanewal and Lodhran and North, Sahiwal and Khanewal.

### Population Male/Female

Total population of the district is 2,090,416 of which 16% are urban and 84% are rural. Out of the total population, male population is 1,083,812 and female population is 1,006,604.

### Number of Urban/Rural UC

There are 89 Union Councils in the district.

### Total Area of District

Total area of the district is 4,364 square kilometers.

### Name and Number Tehsils

The district comprises 3 tehsils Vehari, Mailsi and Burewala.

### Registered Voters Male/Female

Total registered voters are 1,076,970 of which 577,598 are male and 499,372 are female voters.

### Major Occupations of Districts Inhabitants

Out of the total employed persons, 42.3% are engaged in agriculture, 35.7% by elementary occupations, 8% are service workers, shop and market workers,

### Women's Economic Status/Labour Force of Women

In the district, out of the total female population, women enrolled formally in economic activity are 1.5% while domestic workers are 66.4%. Out of total economically active female population, 27.7% are self-employed, 16.8% are Government employees, 13.6% are private employees and 2.1% are employers. Despite being participants in the economically productive process, their efforts remain largely "invisible", and are not represented in economic decision-making.

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### **Education**

The literacy ratio in the district is 36.8%. The literacy ratio for males is 49.4% as against 23.2% for females. The literacy ratio in rural areas is 32.9% and in urban areas is 56.7%.

### **Educational Facilities for Male/Females/Colleges/Schools**

There are 1,718 educational institutions working in the district imparting education from the level of mosque/primary up to graduate levels. Exact data on the number of schools for boys and girls is not available. There are 1,454 primary schools, 141 middle schools, 111 high schools and 6 professional colleges and 6 degree colleges are working at district level.

### **Health**

There are 3 hospitals, one each at the district and tehsil headquarters. There are 4 dispensaries, 76 Basic Health Units, 6 Primary Health Centers and 3 Mother and Child Health Centers in the district.

### **Social**

Traditions that violate women's basic rights like early marriages and exchange marriages (Watta Satta) continue. Women's mobility is limited and they must be heavily veiled when they step out in public. People are deeply superstitious and wedded to customary laws and tradition in this district.

### **Feudal, Industrial Influence, Religious Influence**

Feudal class is very strong in the area and has influence but the newly emerging industrial class has challenged the dominance of the feudal class. People in the villages are mostly under the influence of their "Pirs" and "Faqeers".

### **Women's Social Status**

Women have a limited role in public affairs. Women lack mobility, female education is not viewed positively and women must be heavily veiled while leaving the house. Women provide the practical means of implementing the demands of hospitality. Watta Satta and early marriages are the social evils that have entangled most of the families due to illiteracy. Women also lack formal decision-making power.

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### **Political Situation**

Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan Muslim League (J) and Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) are the major political groups of the district and have political influence. The main bradries living in the district are Arain, Khichi, Daultana, Khakwani, Jat, Gujar, Dogar and Rajput with social influence in the area.

### **2002 Elections and in Power Political Parties**

In 2002 Election, Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Pakistan Muslim League (N), Pakistan Muslim League (J) and Pakistan Peoples Party (Patriot) are in power and have influence.

### **Women's Participation and Representation in Provincial and National Level (figures)**

Tehmina Daultana of PML (N) represents the district in the National

### **Comparison of 2000-01 and 2005 LG Elections**

In 2001, Women representation in LG Elections was 98.1% while in 2005 was 98.3%.

### **Detail of Political Representation (brief)**

Ch. Nazir Ahmad Jat of PML (Q), Ishaq Khan Khakwani of PML (Q), Khan Aftab Ahmad Khan Khichi of PML (Q) and Azhar Ahmad Khan Yousaf Zai of PPPP (Patriot) won the seats of National Assembly while Ghulam Muhyudin Chishti of PML (Q), Nazir Ahmad Mithu Dogar of PML (N), M. Ayub Khan Saldera of PML (Q), Khalid Mehmood Chauhan of PML (Q), Tahir Iqbal Chaudhry of PML (N), Javaid Iqbal Khichi of PML (Q), Asif Saeed Khan Manais of PML (J) and Mian Majid Nawaz of PML (Q) won the seats of Provincial Assembly.

### **Present Situation of AF Linkages and Networks**

Good coordination exists and interest shown by local CSOs, CBOs and other stakeholders in AF's work, mobilised AF to form the CAC (Citizen's Action Committee) at the district/tehsil levels, establish INCs and set up AFRC (AF Resource Centers) at the district level. AF has close linkages with CAC members, lawyer community, journalists, local networks, women councilors, political personalities and local government functionaries etc.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

Given the fact that not a single women contested on UC Nazim slot in the previous elections, DCC Vehari decided that at least one woman should contest on UC Nazim seat in district Vehari to set an example that a woman could also be a UC Nazim. A list of prospective women candidates was prepared which included Shamila Aslam (ex-member district council, Zubaida Malik (UC councilor), Shagufta Chaudhary (ex-member district council), Lubna Ehtasham (ex-member district council) and Samina Hanif (ex-member tehsil council). A meeting was called and all the prospective women candidates were invited to finalise names. All these five prospective candidates had been active in CAC or AFRC and quite sensitive to women issues. Among the five short-listed candidates, two namely Shagufta Chaudhary and Shamila Aslam were willing to contest on UC Nazim slot. Shamila Aslam, being member of PML (Q), requested her district President of the party to give her ticket for the UC Nazim and it was accepted. But towards the end, the party backed out and someone else was given ticket. She decided to contest on her own. But the party office bearers persuaded her not to do that in the interest of the party. She had to withdraw. Afterwards, in the third phase, she contested for district council seat and won.

On the other hand, Shagufta Chaudhary, being member of Pakistan Peoples Party, experienced the same attitude on the part of her party colleagues. Despite the fact, it was in the knowledge of the party office bearer that she would contest the election as UC Nazim, some other person was nominated for the position. Even then she did not give in and resolved to contest election on her own. She did file her nomination paper and DCC provided her full support and facilitated her in all possible ways. The campaign led to close competition that it was difficult to predict who would win. She lost by a narrow margin.



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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
89	356	772	356	0	100.0%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
89	178	359	168	10	94.4%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
89	178	457	178	Nil	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
89	178	302	172	6	98.62%



Sindh



## **Badin**

This district is bordered from North by Hyderabad, East Mirpur Khas and Tharparkar districts, Arabian Sea and Rann Kutchh on the South which also forms the international boundary with India and Thatta district in its West. The total area of the district is 6,726 square kilometers. It consists of five Tehsils i.e. Badin, Matli, Tando Bago, Golarchi (Shaheed Fazil Raho) and Talhar with 46 Union Councils. The population is about 1,103,857 (male: 580,576 and female: 523,281). The main occupations are agriculture and fishing. The district being sugarcane, oil and gas producing district, so good number of people are engaged in mills and oil fields.

### **Health Facilities**

There is only one Civil Hospital in Badin city with 3 Tehsil Hospitals, 10 Rural Healthcare Centers, 35 Basic Healthcare Units, 26 government dispensaries, 1 mother and child care unit.

### **Educational Facilities**

The overall literacy rate is 40%. The literacy rate in urban areas is much higher 44% as compared with the literacy rate in rural areas which is 20%. Rural areas have fewer educational institutions. Women also have less access to education due to a shortage of female schools. The male literacy rate in rural areas is 20% while the female literacy rate is 9%; in urban areas the male literacy rate is 56% while the female literacy rate is 31%.

### **Social Customs and Traditions**

The customs of visiting Dargah (Shrines) of saints are common among the Muslims and Hindus. People prefer Panchayat/ Jirgas instead of going in Courts for Justice. The women are deprived from taking part in social activities and process of decision making. The influential tribes are Sayed, Soomra, Machhi/ Solangi, Talpur, Leghari, Memon, Sheedi and Bhurgari. Many races of Baloch and about 20% population of Hindus are also living at the various places of the district.

### **Political Situation**

The Pakistan People's Party, PML Q and Awami Tehreek are the major political parties before the PML-Q. There are two National and five Provincial Assembly seats in the district. The women are politically more active after the local government elections 2000-01, and even better in

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2005, as one pair of UC Nazima were women who contested the election. The total number of women councilors is (UC 184, Tehsil Councils 15 and District Council 15). In the Local Government Elections 2005, overall 100% seats were filled. A woman MNA directly elected is Dr Fahmida Mirza.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
49	196	344	193	3	98.50%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
49	98	142	87	11	88.80%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
46	92	283	92	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
46	92	198	92	0	100%

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## Dadu

The district lies in western Sindh. It is bordered by Balochistan in the west, Larkana in the north, while Naushahro Feroz, Nawab Shah and Hyderabad form its eastern boundary. Jamshoro district is on its South. Total area of the district is 19,070 square kilometers. It consists of 4 Tehsils i.e. Mehar, Khairpur Nathan Shah, Dadu and Johi with 52 Union Councils. Total population is 1,689,000.

Rearing livestock is a vital sector of the economy. Many tribes are involved in livestock rearing. Due to scarcity of water, agriculture is practiced on a small scale. About 20% of the population is employed by the provincial and federal government. There is an absence of industry in the district but limestone, salt, marble, coal, gas and petroleum are mined here and used all over the country. The fish in Manchhur Lake have declined from 3,000 tons per year in 1950 to 100 tons per year in 2004 due to over fishing. This has caused many people to migrate from the district since they can no longer earn a living catching and exporting fish to the rest of the country.

### Health Facilities

There are 6 Hospitals, 8 Rural Health Clinics, 12 government dispensaries and 13 Family Planning Centers with some private clinics.

### Educational Facilities

The overall literacy rate is 40%. There are 2,677 primary schools out of which 499 are for girls. There are 84 secondary schools out of which 4 for girls and 13 are based on co-education. There are two degree colleges one for girls and another for Boys. Girls have less access to education and cannot travel far to attend school due to limited mobility.

### Social Customs and Traditions

One can find many similarities between the inhabitants of Dadu and neighboring Baloch tribes. Women are generally unaware of their fundamental rights. There is a significant Hindu population in Dadu.

### Political Situation

Jatoi group (PML-Q) is prominent political group in Dadu. PPP also has strong hold in the area. Women from privileged class are more active in

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politics but on the whole situation is same. Mr. Karim Ali Jatoi son of federal minister Mr. Liaquat Jatoi is the District Nazim.

### Glimpses of the Campaign

#### WPLGE 2005

##### Glimpse 1

The incidents of Karo Kari like whole Sindh have also been occurring in Dadu district but it had happened first time in the history of Dadu during Local Bodies election that a woman was declared Kari on the basis of political rivalry.

The back ground of issue was that on the Election Day at the Polling Station Taj Muhammad Doltani the polling agent Ms. Safia daughter of Fateh Muhammad Leghari for Nazim candidate Mr. Nusrat Khan alleged women polling agents of opponent panel of rigging. The personnel of polling station and Rangers took women in custody on the complaint of Safia. The supporters of opposition group also reached there and threatened Safia that "we would get you".

The Government supported Nazim Nazeer Ahmed won the election and after some time (three months later) armed men attacked the house of Safia and dragged her out shouting "she was Kari" she was Kari so should be killed. They alleged that she was Kari (had illicit relations) with their political opponent Mr. so and so. The male family members including her father were out of home but the villagers rushed to the spot and armed men managed to escape. The armed men once again attacked the house from back side after few moments. Fortunately once again the villagers reached the scene and saved her. Then Safia with her mother reached Dadu city and contacted DCC via union council focal person Muhammad Sharif.

DCC approached District Police Officer (DPO) Dadu and Media persons to raise the issue. Regional Police Officer (RPO) Hyderabad took notice of the incident on Media report and directed DPO for security of Safia and legal action. The accused could not be arrested due to close relations with government supported influential person and finally local Jirga was held. The "Surpanch" (Chief of Jirga) Ashraf Ali awarded 80 thousand fine on the accused and (Tadda Bakhsh) it means accused would go at the house of Safia for forgiveness with women and local elders. Both groups agreed the Jirga decision and then the father of survivor pardoned them.



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### Glimpse 2

Dadu District is situated on the bank of Indus and had remained the largest District of Province in terms of its territory. The interesting situation was observed during election 2005 that the contesting Panels had submitted their objections on the nominations of male and female candidates.

The female candidates Ms Fatima Solangi of Dadu Itihad, Mst Khatoon Awam Dost and Mst. Muqadas Sultana approached DCC legal aid committee member advocate Ghulam Asghar Memon, Ghulam Mustafa Shahani and Apa Rasheeda Panhawar Advocate in Court premises and asked them for support.

Then legal aid committee filed a petition in the Court of Assistant Returning Officer and on the other hand held meetings with the representatives of both groups Mr. Shafi Muhammad advocate, Ahmed Khan Lund and others.

DCC Finance convener and PPP women wing leader Kulsoom Chandio also attended the meetings. DCC requested them that at least they should withdraw their objections filed against women candidates. The objections on nomination of the women candidates were raised by the both groups on old NIC, Electoral voter list and the names of fathers and husbands of women candidates were different in NIC and voter lists.

Finally they agreed to withdraw the objections on women's nomination forms and submitted such agreement in the Court of ARO and then the nomination forms of women candidates were reinstated and petition was disposed off after two hearings.

Women candidates thanked DCC members.

Mst. Fatima Solangi and Mst. Khatoon won the election but Mst. Muqadas Sultana could not succeed.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
80	320	524	305	15	95.30%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
80	160	247	137	23	85.60%

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Election Results 2005					
General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
52	104	246	103	1	99.03%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
52	104	191	100	4	96.15%

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## Ghotki

Ghotki is located in north- eastern Sindh. It is bordered by India in the east, Punjab in the north, Sukkur in the south and Jacobabad in the west. Total area of the district is 6,083 square kilometers. It consists of 5 Tehsils i.e. Ghotki, Khangarh, Mirpur Mathelo, Ubauro and Daharki. Total population is 970,000. The economy is based on agriculture. Multinational corporations are also present in Ghotki. These include the Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) Kadirpur gas field, Engro-chemical and Fauji Fertilizer Corporation (F.C.C). Besides this there are 22 cotton factories and 9 flour mills.

### Health Facilities

There is one district headquarter hospital, 3 Tehsil hospitals, 4 rural health centers, 22 basic health units, 9 dispensaries and 1 maternity home. There are also 470 lady health workers and five female government doctors in Ghotki.

### Educational Facilities

The total literacy rate is 30%. Female literacy rate is 14% while the male rate is 32%. There is one degree college for girls. There are 178 primary schools for girls and 16 middle schools.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Tribalism determines the culture of the district. Mehar and Lund are the two dominant tribes. Hindus compose 6% of the population. Violence against women is very common in the district; Karo Kari is a routine customary problem. Apart from this exchange marriages and giving girls in the name of dispute setting among different tribes are the crimes committed in the name of old customs. People prefer jirgas rather than courts to settle their problems.

### Political Situation

PPPP, PMLQ and MMA dominate the political landscape. Mr. Ali Gohar Mahar is the district Nazim for second time. In the main stream politics women are unseen, because of feudal system; women are not allowed to take part in politics or decision making process. After the local bodies election women got involved in politics but not in the process of budgeting.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

Hanifa Kalhoro was a housewife in union council Ruk, district Ghotki. She had studied up to class 5. She wanted to file her nomination papers, but her relatives were strongly opposed to this.

Some thought that if a woman stepped out of the house for politics it would jeopardise the honour of the family and they would not be able to face other families. The more religious ones refused to accept a woman who was openly working in politics. They gave speeches in mosques saying that taking part in politics was unislamic, and threatened to boycott her socially if she did not stop.

The more political group in the family went to the sardar, who hoped to stand for the district *nazim* seat, falsely claiming that Fazal Kalhoro, Hanifa's husband, was working against him and that if Hanifa were elected to the union council, she would vote against him.

When this case came to the notice of the DCC, a three-member committee was formed which included Dr Sanaullah Kolachi, Shahjahan Pahnwar and myself. The committee decided that meetings should be held with the locals as well as the sardar who opposed Hanifa standing for election. Later, we conducted meetings independently with all the people who were opposing this woman.

Initially these people were not prepared to listen. Then we assured them that once elected, Hanifa would only represent women, their issues, the education in the village, progressive schemes and try to solve women's problems in her union council sessions. We convinced the candidates for district *nazim* that she would not use her vote against them.

We arranged three meetings between the opposing relatives and Fazal Kalhoro after which the people were satisfied to an extent. The result of this mediation was that four more women from union council Ruk were ready to participate in the elections – among them was the union *nazim* candidate's daughter-in-law, a lady doctor.

### WPLGE 2005

District Coordination Committee Ghotki had established facilitation camp in Mirpur Mathelo during election 2005. Women candidates Mst. Beebul, Mst. Nasima, Mst. Jindo of union council Dangro, Wahid Bux Khoso and Nisar Ahmed Sheikh of union council Mirpur Mathelo reached at our facilitation camp at 2:00 pm.

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They told our TCC members Sajid Channa and Aslam Sheikh that ARO had left his Office while his clerk had refused to accept the nomination forms. He said that "Sahab" had gone so I couldn't receive any nomination.

Then they informed me about the entire situation. I, Badal Malik and Dawarka Das held meeting with Assistant Election Commissioner and knowingly that the time was till 5:00 we according to strategy asked him sir what was the closing time today? AEC Mr. Hajan Abbasi told it was 5:00 and if candidates were present in the premises of Court as long as the nomination forms could be received.

Then we shared with him the issue of Mirpur Mathelo and he talked with DRO. Mr. DRO instructed clerk to receive the nomination forms and about 4:30 pm candidates submitted their nominations. The male and female candidates thanked DCC team.

The rumours were spread in the area that government supported group had tried the forms couldn't be submitted by their opponent group on the last day. So the officials mostly were advised not to remain in their offices.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
35	140	226	135	5	96.4%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
35	70	100	65	5	92.9%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
42	84	222	84	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
42	84	166	83	1	98.80%

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## Hyderabad

The district is located in south-central Sindh. It is surrounded by Nawabshah and Sanghar districts in north, Jamshoro in the west, Mirpurkhas in the east and Badin and Thatta in the south. It consists of 4 Tehsils i.e. Hyderabad city, Latifabad, Hyderabad and Qasimabad with 52 Union Councils. Total area of the district is 5,519 square kilometers. Total population is 1,498,865 (male: 785,634 female: 713,231). The main occupations are agriculture, industrial work, fishing and a large number of people is involved in job sector (private and government).

It is second largest city of the province and Hub of Sindhi Regional Dailies.

### Health Facilities

There are 51 local government dispensaries, 4 mother and child healthcare centers, 59 basic health care units, 13 rural health centers. One big “Lal Bati” (Civil Hospital) in the center of the city.

### Educational Facilities

The overall literacy rate is 40%. There are 3,822 schools in district, 15 degree colleges of which 5 are for girls. Sindh Law Collage is also in the heart of City with ancient Teachers Training College. There are many private schools and colleges in the district.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Hyderabad is a multicultural city where groups of many different ethnicities can be found. Religious minorities like Hindus and Christians also live in the district. The presence of religious minorities has helped foster an open and tolerant atmosphere. It has urban and rural touch of life. The second largest Railway Station is also the identity of the city.

### Political Situation

Women participate actively in politics. The Pakistan People’s Party, MQM, Nationalists and religious groups dominate the political scene in Hyderabad. Mr. Kanwar Naveed from Haq Parast group (MQM) is the district Nazim. Ms. Farheen Mughal and Ms. Nuzhat Pathan present MPA are the prominent figures and women MPA from PPP. Women Councilors have played very effective role since 2001.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Hyderabad is considered to be the nerve centre of Sindhi media, because 11 newspapers are published from Hyderabad along with some Urdu papers too. In Hyderabad district, the DCC set up a Media Committee in which M A Laghari, Riaz Sohail, Lala Hassan Pathan, Faisal Solangi, Parvez Samoon, Razia Shah and Akhtar Malha were included.

The Media Committee decided at its first meeting that all the journalists should be contacted by telephone, after which a Press Conference would be held in Hyderabad at the Press Club. During this time, two members of the Committee, Lala Hassan Pathan (news editor 'Sindh') and Riaz Suhail (sub-editor 'Kavish') contacted the office bearers of the Hyderabad Press Club and senior journalists. Suhail Sangi (editor 'Sindh'), Ali Hasan (BBC Hyderabad), Lala Rahman Samoon (President, Press Club), Aziz Malik, ('Dawn' Hyderabad), Ansari Naqvi ('The News'), Hamid Shaikh ('Awam'), Jai Prakash (news editor 'Ibrat'), Faiz Khoso ('Jang'), Iqbal Mallah (editor 'Pakistan') and others were contacted by telephone and also personally. They were requested to support the effective representation of women in Local Government.

#### Glimpse 2

The positive response from the journalists, and the trust between them and the AF Media Committee, was witnessed when a member in the Hyderabad Press Club accused Aurat Foundation and other NGOs of collecting crores of rupees in the name of campaigns. Suhail Sangi, the editor of the daily 'Sindh', immediately contradicted this statement by printing that this was not true of Aurat Foundation because their work was transparent. Aziz Malik, from the daily 'Dawn', also confirmed this.

### WPLGE 2005

District coordination committee (DCC) Hyderabad established facilitation camp near old commissioner House Hyder chowk in local Bodies Election 2005.

DCC member Qurban Ali, Norin Rajput, Shahida Ansari, Chandan Kumar, Tayaba Ashraf, Mustafa Mallah and Ghulam Ali Talpur when reached at the camp on next day were surprised to see that it was scattered down. They saw some people had established their own camp at the place of DCC camp. When they contacted with them they come to know that the

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people who had thrown out the camp of DCC were the members of Mutahida Qomi Moment (MQM).

Shahida Ansari advocate and Norin Rajput met with camp in-charge person and told him that they belonged to an NGO Aurat Foundation that was facilitating women candidates and had no political purpose. It was totally non partisan, so why the camp was thrown out? Camp in-charge told he belonged to Haq Parast Panel (MQM) and said that they didn't know it was the camp of Aurat Foundation.

He advised them to sit together at the same camp and he also questioned that would you people facilitate our women candidates? Shahida and Norin replied yes why not basically DCC was holding trainings and seminars for facilitation of women candidates of all Parties.

Then they put our facilitation camp back near their camp and around 50 women candidates of that panel got forms filled from our facilitation camp.

The women candidates on the next day got the information material of Aurat Foundation as well.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
102	408	789	403	5	98.80%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
102	204	286	170	34	83.30%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
52	104	350	104	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
52	104	245	102	2	98.07%



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## Jacobabad

Jacobabad is located in northern Sindh. It is bordered in the north by Punjab and Balochistan. Balochistan's district Jaffarabad borders it in the west. Shikarpur and Larkana lie in the south while Ghotki lies in the west. Total area of the district is 5,278 square kilometers. It consists of 3 Tehsils i.e. Jacobabad, Garhi Khairo and Thull with 40 Union Councils. Total population is 741,910 (male: 382,363, females: 359,547). Main occupation is agriculture. People migrate to larger urban centers to seek employment.

### Health Facilities

Healthcare is inadequate like the rest of the province. There is one civil hospital, 4 Tehsil hospitals, 7 rural health centers, 33 Basic Healthcare Units, 10 dispensaries and 4 Mother and Child Healthcare centers.

### Educational Facilities

Total literacy rate is 23%. Male literacy rate is 34% while female literacy rate is 12%. There are 2,421 primary schools, 91 middle schools, 58 high schools, 3 colleges for boys, 1 college for girls, 1 vocational institute and 1 Teacher Training Institute in Jacobabad district.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Large presence of Baloch tribes has heavily influenced the culture of Jacobabad. Customs like Karo Kari (honor killings), Watta Satta (exchange marriages), trafficking of women and dominance of the Jirga persist. Because of strong hold of feudal system women's mobility is controlled at all level, women's role in decision making is unseen. Christian and Hindu communities have also role in the area particularly in city.

### Political Situation

Politics is dominated by local tribes i.e. Khosa, Bijarani, Umrani, Panhwar, Marri, Sarki, Soomra and Jamali families. The district is a strong hold of Pakistan People's Party and PML Q. Ms. Saeeda Soomro from PML-Q is the district Nazima, she is mother of Senate Chairman Mr. Mohammad Mian Soomro.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

On the day of the elections, the DCC and AF Karachi came to Jacobabad to monitor the polling. We reached the Garhi Khero polling station Tajwero at 3:00 p.m. and learned that only nine votes had been cast. The reason given for this was that the people in the village had decided the previous night they would not allow women to vote.

We immediately contacted the candidate for *naib nazim* of the union council and told him that women's votes had not been cast and if he helped them vote, all their votes as councillors would possibly go to him. It would in any case be good for his reputation and political stature. The candidate saw the strength of our argument and visited each house in village Tajodero and told the villagers that if he got only a few votes, it would badly affect his reputation. So the women must be allowed to vote. The women and supporters then cast their votes. More than a hundred women used their right to vote. The Aurat Foundation team was present throughout.

#### Glimpse 2

In the area around Jacobabad, a backward district of Sindh, women work in fields, but working for a political and social programme is like the Forbidden Tree for them. Where women's literacy is less than 10 per cent it is impossible for them to leave their homes for outside activities. No woman was prepared to participate in the elections.

Despite limited time and resources, the DCC involved different organisations and started work at the union council level. It was apparent from the beginning that no woman was willing to take part in the union council elections of Wafadar Sundrani. The DCC took up the challenge.

After some discussion, we set up committees at the district level to inform the people that if there was no representation of women on these seats, their council would be incomplete; with their votes they could contest other seats too, like the *nazim*, etc.

Among the influential politicians was Qudratullah Sundrani, whom we included in the DCC Campaign. On the opposing side was a landlord, who opposed bringing women forward. He told us that their women could not come out of their homes and they would never permit them to take part in any activity that jeopardised their honour.

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The DCC team met the opposition group several times, telling them that after the elections, the council would be incomplete without the inclusion of women. The opposition were assured that the women were not against them.

The female DCC members increased their personal contact with the local women and included them in their training sessions, also training their polling agents in case the women could not attend the sessions.

Because of these efforts, the DCC got the support of not only the local community but the women of the area participated in the elections and were successful.

### **Glimpse 3**

It was the last day to submit nomination papers in the Local Government elections in union council Miranpur, tehsil Garhi Khero, Jacobabad. We were afraid that one of the peasant/worker seats reserved for women would remain vacant. I was from this union council and I held a meeting with the DCC. We decided that permission should be sought for my cousin Ayesha Odhano's nomination papers to be filed.

Ayesha Odhano comes from a religious family of Jacobabad and most of the women in her family take no part in activities outside the home other than family social gatherings. Her father-in-law is a maulvi, the *pesh imam* of a mosque and is respected for his opinion in religious matters.

Our DCC group went to the maulvi to seek permission. He was reluctant because women in politics were not considered respectable. We made efforts to convince him that Islam did not forbid this action. We also tried another approach. We appealed to him that we had come to his house to ask for a favour and hoped that he would not disappoint us. It is the custom in some parts of Sindh that even if an enemy arrives at your doorstep with mediators, he is usually forgiven.

The father-in-law finally agreed but felt that if she lost, it would bring shame on him. The DCC group assured him that we would personally bear all the election expenses. Immediately after the agreement, Ayesha Odhano's nomination papers were filed, but as the deadline for the submission of the papers neared, three more women followed Ayesha's example and filed their papers, so elections had to be held for the two peasant/worker seats reserved for women.

Because of our commitment, the DCC privately picked up her electioneering expenditures amounting to Rs. 7,000. Ayesha won her seat, and when the results were declared, she had secured the highest

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number of votes cast in the union council, even more than the *nazim* of her union council!

Ayesha's father-in-law was pleased and acknowledged that his daughter-in-law had got more votes than the *nazim* because of the DCC and now he could hold up his head in pride.

#### **Glimpse 4**

Surraya Altaf was a housewife in Jacobabad. She had studied up to Intermediate and her husband, Altaf Wagan, was also educated. But their family came from a tribal background and did not approve of women's participation in politics.

When the elections were announced, various associations in civil society became active in the Campaign. Since Jacobabad was included in the first phase, the people were not fully convinced and some were not even aware that elections to Local Government were to be held. The response from the women was disappointing; they were not ready to participate in the elections. At this time the Aurat Foundation DCC began to look for suitable women candidates.

Two local journalists, Parvez Abro and Ghulam Haidar, informed our DCC that Altaf Wagan's wife was educated and interested in participating in the elections. We formed two teams, one to talk to Surraya and the other to her husband, Altaf. My sister Sughra met Surraya. The teams told them that educated people like them should be foremost in the political programme, and should also bring their women to participate in the elections. We also promised to help them in filing their nomination papers. The couple said they needed some time to think it over.

Both the teams had three to five subsequent meetings with Surraya and her husband, after which they agreed. Their clan was highly critical of this decision as politics was not considered respectable work because it required women to move about outside their homes. Altaf and Surraya ignored them and joined the DCC's programme.

Surraya started holding meetings with the women in their homes, as a result of which they became interested, and many became actively involved in the electoral process. During this time, AF's female Campaign staff came from Karachi and met Surraya. They praised her efforts, which increased her self-esteem. Surraya Altaf won her seat.

#### **Glimpse 5**

A vegetable seller approached the DCC for help because his wife was standing for the peasant/worker seat and he had no means to campaign

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for her. The DCC provided him with a bicycle for her election campaign. During the process the man got so motivated that he also decided to file his own nomination. Both he and his wife won their seats.

## **WPLGE 2005**

### **Glimpse 1**

Jacobabad District, founded by John Jacob had remained under the shadows of tribal and religious customs and traditions. The element of extremism had been observed as well. The American's army was residing in Shahbaz Base near the city. The limits of district touch Punjab and Balochistan. The minimum education requirement for Nazim candidate during Local Bodies election 2005 was declared Matric or its equalant certificate by the election commission of Pakistan.

The strange situation was observed when Returning Officer rejected the nomination of Nazim candidate for union cancel Jongal, Molvi Muhammad Ameen Pahore objecting on Madersa "Sanad" (certificate). He told that instructions by Election Commission were not clearly received to them with regard to Madersa "Sanad" so he would not accept the nomination form.

It was the last day for submitting the nomination forms. The Nazim candidate was in trouble so he contacted his party leadership at district level. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) leader Mr. A.G. Ansari suggested him to contact with DCC. He rung me as well and told the entire situation. As the candidate reached at our facilitation camp we contacted Aurat Foundation Karachi office for guide line from provincial election commission.

The issue was taken by Ms Nuzhat Shirin with PEC and then PEC issued clearer instructions to DRO about Madersa certificate. PEC issued instructions that if Madersa was registered then the Sanad would be considered valid other wise nomination form should not be accepted. The Sanad was issued by the registered Madersa of Karachi so the nomination form was accepted by RO.

The Nazim candidate, JUI leader A G Ansari, JUI Thull president Engineer Javed Anwer Channa and others visited the facilitation camp and thanked to DCC (Aurat Foundation) and then their supported panel's candidates including women filled up forms from our Camp. A. G. Ansari wrote his comments that it was good to see that some friends were voluntarily working for the people. It gave some hope that the "dark night" of oppression was about to end.

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## Glimpse 2

Election Commission had issued one nomination form for Nazim couple in Local Bodies Election 2005. There was a clause of "Khatm-e-Nabuwat" PBUH in the end to be filled up by both Candidates. The confusing situation occurred in Jacobabad district where one candidate was Muslim and the other was Hindu but nomination paper was the same for both.

Mr. Ghansham Das and Mr. Nazar Abbas Shah were contesting as independent candidates for Nazim and Naib Nazim from Union Council No.04 Family Line Jacobabad. Both had to sign the column of "Khatm-e-Nabuwat" PBUH but how a Hindu could do that according to his belief.

Ghansham Das basically was a Journalist and knew about the facilitation camp of DCC and reached there. Legal Aid committee member Abdul Jabbar Lashari, M. Aslam Brohi and my self were present at the Camp. The issue was discussed there and then it was decided to meet with Returning Officer. We also contacted provincial election commission through phone for clearer guide lines.

RO told that there were no clear instructions with regard to that particular issue. He contacted PEC and got instructions that separate affidavit would be submitted by non-Muslim candidate with nomination form because the column of "Khatm-e-Nabuwat" PBUH was applicable only to Muslims.

Then PEC issued such instructions to all its offices as well and then ultimately ROs passed instructions to the AROs. Ghansham Das once again visited our camp after submission of nomination and thanked to Aurat Foundation.

The nomination of Ghansham Das though was accepted but he couldn't contest election because his partner, the Nazim candidate withdraws to contest election under alleged political pressure. Actually two groups in elections were with full force one government and other opposition supported so categorically there was very narrow space for independent candidates.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
78	308	383	273	35	88.6%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
78	154	117	92	62	59.7%

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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
40	80	189	76	4	95%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
40	80	143	72	8	90%

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## Jamshoro

Jamshoro is one of the newly created Districts in Sindh which is carved out of Dadu district of defunct Hyderabad division. A series of mountains and hilly tracts spread over a vast area of the district. It is located on the right bank of mighty River Indus. The district has one National Assembly and two Provincial Assembly seats. The area has a mix of urban-rural population in all its Talukas belonging to Sunni (83%) and Shia (10%) sects whereas (5%) Hindus and (2%) are Christians.

The districts total population is 582,094, according to Election Commission statistics. The total geographical area of it is 11,517 Sq. kms. There are four Tehsils (Kotri, Manjhand, Sehwan and Thana Bula Khan) there are 57 revenue Tapas in the district with 175 revenue dehs and 28 Union Councils. Total number of registered voters is 448,342 with male 237,869 and 210,473 female voters.

Seven archaeological sites form part of the district as well. They are Anooth Qaski ka Qilla at Sehwan, Rani Kot Fort, graveyard of Jam Lohar at Taoung, Aamri ka Qilla etc.

### Education

The district is also known as the centre of higher seats of learning with three important universities including University of Jamshoro, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences and Mehran University of Engineering and Technology located here. Besides, there are four colleges, 16 high Schools and six technical and commercial institutions whereas there are 19 middle schools and 784 primary schools for boys and girls.

### Health

Health facilities in Jamshoro district are 19 such facilities including Liaquat University Hospital and Taluka Hospitals. K.B. Feeder is the main source of supply of drinking water to its residents.

### Social Situation

The district is also known for some tribes and various communities which numbered 20 in all. They include Khosos, Shoros, Khaskhelis, Mallahs, Burfats, Syeds, Biharis, Memons, Balochs, Ansaris, Rind, Chandio, Shahanis, Jatoti, Palaris, Ghaencha Chachar, Solangis and Lakhas. People belonging to these communities speak languages like, Urdu, Sindhi,



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Punjabi, Balochi, Pashto and Siraiki. Women have not sufficient mobility except city areas. Domestic violence is prevalent in the area.

#### Political Situation

PPPP, PMLQ, PML-N, MQM, various factions of Jeay Sindh Movement, Sindh Tarraqi Passand Party are the active political and nationalist parties/groups. Power politics is dominated by PPPP in the whole. The native village of nationalist leader GM Sayed is also in this district with its name "Sunn". The district Nazim is Malik Asad Sikander of PPPP for second time.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
28	56	133	56	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
28	56	106	56	0	100%

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## Karachi

Karachi is located in southern Sindh. It is a coastal area. Southern region of Karachi is mountainous, while the eastern region is desert. Karachi is bordered by Thatta in east, Jamshoro in the north while the Arabian Sea lies in its south. It consists of 18 towns with 178 Union councils. Total population is 9,856,318 (male: 5,306,106, female: 4,550,212) Karachi is an industrial center and the largest port of Pakistan. Besides manufacturing, transport and service industry is also a vital sector of the economy. There are 2,000 manufacturing units in Karachi. The port at Karachi is always booming with activity, goods are imported and exported from the country from this point. Many people earn a living by gathering garbage and selling it to recycling plants. 14,854 buses ply the roads of Karachi each day.

This is also the largest city of the country with status of provincial capital and City district government.

### Health Facilities

Most people, especially those belonging to the middle and upper class income groups, are well aware of health issues and strive to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Incidences of water born diseases are high in poorer localities of the city, where living conditions are also unhygienic. There are 2 mega government hospitals and innumerable private hospitals in the city with remarkable SIUT. Besides this there are 192 dispensaries, 18 TB clinics, 34 basic health units and 5 rural health centers in Karachi.

### Educational Facilities

The literacy rate in Karachi city in 1987 was estimated to be 76% in the planned areas and 48% in the slums. The private sector is heavily involved in the education sector positively affecting the literacy rate. There are computer centers in various parts of the city. Many NGOs are also participating and operating adult literacy centers. There are 1,781 primary schools for boys and 546 primary schools for girls. Besides this, there are 279 middle schools for boys and 176 for girls. The number of high schools is 277 for boys and 209 for girls.

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### Social Customs and Traditions

Karachi is a cosmopolitan city. People from many different countries live and work in Karachi. Women are actively involved in all sectors of the formal and informal economy. It is not considered taboo for women to step out into the public sphere. All levels of income group can be found in this huge city. Karachi has a vibrant culture. The city often hosts performers, artists and musicians from all over the world.

### Political Situation

The politics of Karachi is dominated by MQM, JI, PPPP, MMA, PMLN and other religious and ethnic groups. There are so many political parties in different years. Mr. Mustafa Kamal from MQM is the City Nazim; while Mr Naematullah Khan of JI was the City Nazim in the elections of 2001.

## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Despite the fact the Local Government elections were supposed to be non-party based, political parties played a large role in the selection of candidates and supporting them in their campaigning. This was also the case in Soldier Bazar, Karachi, where Jehan Ara lived. She was a Bihari immigrant and had married into a clan of *dhobis* (washermen). Now widowed, she worked as a maid. She had been a member of a political party, but became dissatisfied with how they functioned. She had also had some interaction with a voluntary group of women's activists who provided rehabilitation services to families which had suffered in Karachi's ethnic violence. This is how the AF Karachi team came to know about her, and approached her to stand for a union council seat.

At first Jehan Ara was reluctant, not believing that a poor woman like herself could become a councillor. But with Aurat Foundation's motivation, she agreed to stand for election. When her decision became known, she was also approached by the political party to stand on their platform. They also threatened her if she refused. Agreeing to their demand would not only have been a safer option, it would have meant that she would have the backing of the party machinery and help to ensure her victory.

However, the support of AF staff stiffened her resolve to stand as an independent candidate. The AF Campaign team in Karachi provided her with Campaign material and visited her *mohalla* to speak to the voters

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about the Local Government elections. The local DCC raised Rs. 2,000 to have handbills printed announcing her candidacy. She refused to accept any monetary assistance from them. Though her seat was contested, she won the election.

### **Glimpse 2**

In Orangi Town, Karachi, a local organisation invited the AF team to conduct voter education. Most of the inhabitants were Pathan and had not allowed their women to contest. The President of the organisation said, "We are Pathans and it is against our tradition that any woman should contest the elections, or that her name be taken in public and appear on voters' lists for all men to read." An unsuccessful discussion followed.

Eventually we said that if they did not allow their women to contest, they would lose all the 33 per cent seats reserved for women and would have fewer votes to elect the *nazims* of the town and of Karachi itself, as all the union councillors were the Electoral College for these offices. The next day the process of filing nomination papers began for the women candidates!

During this time, different groups within the same union council invited AF to conduct voter education. We used the same argument to convince these groups to allow their women to contest. As a result all seats reserved for women in Orangi Town were filled.

### **Glimpse 3**

During the election campaign a general misunderstanding prevailed that there was only one seat for non-Muslims at the union council level. Two local leaders, Saleem Khurshid Khokar and Michael Javed, visited Aurat Foundation to confirm whether as members of a religious minority they were eligible to contest the peasant/worker, the *nazim* and the *naib nazim* seats. Once this was confirmed, they decided that the Christian community of Karachi would hold a meeting at St Michaels School, Essa Nagar, for Aurat Foundation to give them the information. After this meeting, they put up their candidates wherever there was a majority of Christians in the community.

Shazia Yusuf, a Christian woman, contested the peasant/worker seat in Liaqatabad union council and won.

Shahzadi Michael, who contested the *nazim's* seat of a union council in Essa Nagar, was expected to win. On polling day the opposing group, with a Muslim candidate, threatened the Christian community and tried to

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prevent them from voting. Many Christian voters were afraid and returned to their homes without casting their votes.

Shahzadi reported the matter immediately to AF Karachi office as well as to the Election Commission. The AF staff immediately informed the Election Commission, as a result of which polling time was extended by two hours. Despite this, she withdrew from the election. She was afraid for her safety and so was the Christian community, and very few of them returned to cast their votes.

#### **Glimpse 4**

Two representatives of a religious party, Tanzeem-e-Islah-e-Muashra, attended the AF voter education workshop. They found the workshop helpful since party workers and voters learnt about the new election procedures. They requested AF to conduct more training for them. AF told them that training could not be conducted for members of only one party, but if they made arrangements and invited AF to speak, AF would do so.

Subsequently, the organisation arranged for training in a local mosque after the evening prayers. The AF team, which included a woman trainer, gave the training not only to people who had been invited, but also to people who were present to offer their prayers.

Leaders of the religious party said that voters should allow their female relatives to contest the elections. They said women could do everything and a woman had entered their mosque and addressed the men gathered there for the first time. At this an argument ensued amongst those gathered and two camps developed among them, with opposite stands on women's participation in politics.

Subsequently the organisation imparted this training to their voters. As a result people came forward and contested the elections.

#### **Glimpse 5**

The PPP Women's Wing central leader, Farzana Raja, attended AF's voter education workshop. After attending the workshop, she requested AF to conduct a workshop for PPP's women candidates so that they would be able to teach their voters how to cast votes. Since AF did not conduct separate training for each party, they could not oblige, but agreed to act as resource persons if the PPP themselves arranged it.

The workshop was arranged in their Provincial Secretariat and was attended by 250 women. These women candidates imparted the information to voters in their own constituencies in different parts of Karachi. AF material was disseminated widely.

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## WPLGE 2005

I was assigned the responsibility to establish facilitation camp in Karachi during election campaign 2005. I held meeting with the president of Karachi Bar Association (KBA) for permission. He said he had no objection but you should negotiate with "them" he remarked while smiling. He was indirectly referring to the party in control which was MQM.

Political parties were directly involved in elections so every where each group had tried to gain all the political benefits. Being the largest party of the city MQM had established camp in court premises and was not ready to allow any other group to have their own camps.

Then I returned back to office and informed my Resident Director and started calling the leadership of that party till late night. Woman member of "Rabta Committee" said on phone that there was no need for other camp you people could sit with your name with our people. I said we had been establishing facilitation camps through out the country and we were totally non partisan. So it was not possible for us sit together with a any group or political party.

I said that your opposition group had been alleging that you were not allowing people to establish camp in or out side the court and this is undemocratic. She said we would talk tomorrow on the issue. Next day they called me and allowed to establish our facilitation camp.

Our team was fully prepared and tried to collect required material for establishing the camp but our one colleague informed that there were no tents available at the decoration shops or they were not ready to give the tents etc. As we display our banner on the wall, the policeman reached there and asked for permission from S P South. Then I, Seema Sheikh and Anis Fatima rushed to the office of S P south and got permission in written. The SP said (Khair Manao) because there was an Aurat foundation behind you!

Finally our colleague brought tents from his friend and we established camp. Whenever crowd had increased at our camp then the political party's advocates rushed to our camp and asked us to send the people to their camp. It was challenging to establish camp and though the turn out was not big as in the past but we succeeded in establishing our camp in such conditions. Our camp remained opened till three days and facilitated people from different Parties.

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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
178	712	1559	701	11	98.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
178	356	555	326	30	91.6%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
178	356	1454	356	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
178	356	1098	356	0	100%

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## Kashmore/Kandhkot

The Kashmore District is a newly created district. It has borders with Balochistan and Punjab provinces of Pakistan. Because of its distinguished geographical location and connection and borders with 3 provinces Kashmore has a different identity. It is known as the gateway to enter Punjab and Balochistan provinces. This district was created on December 13, 2004. It was carved out of Jacobabad districts. Total area of the district is 6,40,459 acres.

It comprises of three Tehsils; Kandhkot, Tangwani and Kashmore spreading over 37 Union Councils and according to 1998 census its total population are 662,400. Total number of registered voters is 221,878 including 182,682 women and 404,560 men. Major source of earning of seventy percent population is agriculture and women have a major contribution in it but resources are controlled by men. There are 25 Rice mills and 14 ice factories.

### Education Facilities

Litracy rate is 23.18 % and men contribute 32.50 % of it. There are three high and a middle schools, a degree college for boys and two primary and a middle schools for girls in newly created district Kashmore.

### Health Facilities

Kashmore has three Taluka (Tehsil) hospitals in each of its Tehsil headquarter and one by WAPDA, Buxapur and Ghouspur hospitals are also serving the people of district. Seventeen doctors are serving for five hundred OPDs.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Kashmore is highly influenced by tribal lords and they have complete control over the social and political activities of the area. Scores of people are killed every year during serious tribal clashes. People still practice the old customs and traditions and Karo Kari is very common here. Hindus are in large numbers in Kandhkot and Kashmore.

Although women are represented in local government system and other governmental institutions but due to low literacy rate they are unable to play an active role in decision making. Especially there is helpless



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situation in health and economic activities and there participation in social and political arena is also quite vulnerable.

### **Political Situation**

Politics is dominated by tribal chiefs in district but inspite of that PPPP is the major political force in the area. Different political parties have their offices in the district but their women wings are inactive except PPPP. Religious parties also enjoy their support to some extent. A member of national assembly comes from PPP and the other is from PML (Q). Three members of provincial assembly belong to PPP, MMA and PML (Q).

## **Glimpses of the Campaign**

### **WPLGE 2005**

#### **Glimpse 1**

The union council Guddu of Kashmore is on the border of Sindh and Punjab provinces. The people of the area speak and understand multiple languages. When DCC held training of women candidates in Guddu, suddenly a dramatic situation occurred. As Resource Person started training in Sindhi, some women said to speak in Urdu because they did not understand Sindhi language.

He started in Urdu the other group of women said they could not understand Urdu; while the discussion was going on that in which language training should be held that all women could easily understand. The issue was not yet resolved that the other group of women suggested, the language of the training should be Siraiki. The things did not stop here some women raised their voices and suggested that they could only understand Balochi language.

The situation caused big chaos and I was worried that it would be difficult to continue the training. We announced ten minutes break for discussion to resolve the issue. We discussed situation thoroughly and finally DCC member Mr. Mehran said that he could deliver training in four languages as demanded by the participants.

The training was started and the whole contents were translated into Sindhi, Urdu, Balochi and Siraiki languages. The participants in the end appreciated the decision and said that they had more understanding about the training contents because they were taught in their own languages.

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## Glimpse 2

Kashmore at Kandhkot is called the border district of Punjab and Balochistan. It was established in 2005 and it was part of district Jacobabad before 2005. The head quarter Kandhkot of the district had been known for the ill tradition of Karo-Kari. The murder incidents of Karo-Kari had been occurring with high ratio in the area. The feudal and tribal customs dominate the district from its very beginning. The area is with low literacy rate. The women could work in fields but could not get education. Mostly women remain in houses or fields.

Aurat Foundation when started its campaign for women representation in local government institutions the process of formation of District Coordination Committees (DCCs) took place in all districts in its first phase. We organised meeting in Kandhkot for DCC formation with the support of focal person because there was no citizens Action Committee (CAC) for women Rights (the district level network of Aurat Foundation) in that district.

We had contacted Mr. Outbuddin via letters and phone calls who had taken the responsibility of conducting the meeting. On the day of meeting as we (me and my colleague Malika Khan) reached the venue we were little bit surprised to see that there was no single woman in Citizen Club Hall only male participants were sitting. The contact person told me as you know it was backward area so women were not allowed to sit with males and I had tried to invite them particularly the former women councilors but due to local customs and traditions no one attended the meeting.

Once or twice women attended programme but they had sit on the other side of curtain and that's why the relatives of women councilors used to attend the sessions of councils. I, then held short meeting with focal person and few others. I told them that AF had been working for women rights since twenty years and in 2000-2001 same type of campaign was launched in the country. It would not be fruitful that we form DCC without women representation. They suggested that we should discuss with male participants who were former Nazims, councilors and workers of political parties. We started meeting with them shared that women were working in all places equal to men. We see women in Assemblies and in local councils and country's biggest party's leader was a woman.

The religious parties had also given representation to women in Assemblies and local councils so why should we hesitate doing that? If women had problem of fare we should try to facilitate them. This is movement of citizens and women are fifty percent of the population so

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they should have the part of campaign and political system too. It was good to see and holding meeting with you people but we couldn't form DCC until women were not part of it. After that conversation the former Naib Nazim Ghulam Abbas in his speech said it would be better if you people could come again here we would try to bring women in next meeting only because of that your organisation was for women and its name was also "Aurat Foundation" he remarked as smiling. He committed to bring at least 10 women participants including former women councilors.

It was the first drop of rain because after his commitment the PPPP representative Shahzad Khan in his speech announced that he would invite women wing and councilors of his party. Some other individuals also made same announcements. Then we returned back and were in close touch with focal person via phone. On the next date after one week as we reached in the same Hall it was interesting and encouraging to see 27 women mostly worn "Burqa" were sitting in meeting Hall. DCC was formed in that meeting with women representation.

Then I'd meeting with the reporter of BBC Radio Ali Hassan and Riaz Suhail BBC Urdu.com and I told them about the meeting and participation of women in Kandhkot. They observed that 27 women sat with men in Kandhkot was a healthy sign of change itself.

According to reports 148 seats of women were filled and only three seats of women remained vacant in Kashmore at Kandhkot district.

### **Glimpse 3**

The political situation in newly created district Kashmore at Kandhkot was dominated by Government and opposition supported panels. The Kashmore Taluka was dominated by Mazari Group and Kandhkot by Bijarani group. The candidates were not seen openly in the areas due to political pressure. Every group had been trying to keep intact their supporter that's why both groups had called the candidates in their "Otaqs" (private meeting place) or other residential places so that their loyalty could be ensured and women candidates were instructed to remain in their houses and not to contact any unknown person.

DCC started its activities in much politicised atmosphere. DCC focal person went to invite women candidates for voter education workshop in a village. Surprisingly the men of that village were not present at that time. The focal person tried to deliver the invitations to women candidates. The women candidates and other thought that he might be the supporter of

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rival group and had come to convince them or to kidnap them for its support.

The women were not also aware of Aurat Foundation and its campaign for women representation in local government institutions. As he reached near to women all of them attacked on him with sticks and kicked him out of village. He tried to tell them about the campaign of Aurat Foundation but they did not hear his explanations. Women beat him and he managed to escape. The nominations of women candidates were also submitted by male members of that area and the mobility of women was restricted even most of them had not seen Kashmore or Kandhkot cities. So they were not aware of NGOs work.

He met with me and told the entire incident with regrets that he would not work for such backward people and will resign from DCC. I asked him please cool down we would talk with males of the area. Then we approached local villagers and told them that DCC was working to avoid rejection of votes so we should only teach them how to cast the vote. We had no political affiliation or purposes and we were non partisan. They said we thought polling could not be held because there were no opposition candidates to contest against "Sardar's" panel so we had stopped women not to meet with any outsider. Then they agreed and invitations were distributed among them.

Whenever we remember that incident he and all other friends laugh it off. One could imagine easily the gravity of the situation that candidates of Mazari Panel (government supported) were declared unopposed on 13 union Councils out of 15 of Taluka Kashmore.

Names are not mentioned because Mr Mazari is the district Nazim of Kashmore district. It could cause problems at local level for DCC friends.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
37	74	179	73	1	98.6%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
37	74	126	73	1	98.64%

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## Khairpur Mirs

Khairpur is located near central and north Sindh. Area-wise, according to the new constituencies, this is the largest district of Sindh. Khairpur is bordered by Sukkur in the north, Sanghar and Nawabshah in the south, India in the east and Larkana and Naushahro Feroz in the west. Total area of the district is 15,910 square kilometers. It consists of 8 Tehsils i.e. Khairpur, Kingri, Sobhodero, Gambat, Kotdiji, Thari Mirwah and Faiz Ganj with 76 Union Councils. Total population is 1,546,587 (male: 810,448, female: 736,139). Main occupation is agriculture and mostly people own the land or are tenant farmers. Fruits orchards of the district are very famous especially date. The cottage industry in the district is well developed. Items produced fabric, sugar, date processing and cotton.

### Health Facilities

There is one civil hospital, 8 Tehsil hospitals, 76 government dispensaries, 46 basic health care units, 1 TB center, 25 maternity homes and one hospital for women.

### Educational Facilities

The total literacy rate is 35%. Male literacy rate is 49% while female literacy rate is 19%. Literacy rate in rural areas is lower than those in urban areas. There are 3,115 primary schools, 165 middle schools of which 48 are for boys and 59 for girls. Besides this there are 11 high schools and 10 colleges and one Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur.

### Political Situation

Pir Pagara (PML F) and PPPP dominate political scene in district. Ms. Nafeesa Shah of Awam Dost Panel (PPPP) was district Nazima in local Bodies elections 2000-2001 but after 2005 polls district Nazim seat is captured by PML F and Mr. Sayed Niaz Hussain Shah is the district Nazim.

### Social Customs and Traditions

There is strong role of feudal and Peeri Mureedi system in district, women have very particular role at house hold level. In the urban areas of the district so women have some privileges like education, mobility and can take part in politics as well. People prefer Jirga rather than courts.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

Two political parties, Pakistan Muslim League (Pir Pagara Group) and the Pakistan Peoples Party dominate politics in Khairpur. AF therefore made sure that they had equal representation in the DCC so as to be able to maintain its non-partisan position.

#### Glimpse 2

The DCC had a large number of female members. When there was reluctance from the public to bring their women forward as candidates, the DCC encouraged its own members to participate in the coming elections to set an example for other women. Five members participated in the elections. Male members of the DCC also convinced their female relatives to contest.

However, according to the code of conduct for the Campaign, information and orientation was also provided to the likely opponents of the candidates connected to the DCC. Thus the DCC maintained a neutral position in this context as well.

#### Glimpse 3

Barkat Ali Qureshi, Coordinator TCC, Khairpur was briefed, my family members, especially my father, opposed my decision to allow my wife to contest from Shikarpur during the first phase of the elections.

According to my father it was unIslamic and against our family traditions. I reasoned with him, using examples from Islam, without any effect. Then I explained to him that since this was a new system, my wife stood a good chance of winning. Entering politics and becoming a political force in the community would greatly benefit our family. This argument worked and he consented. My wife won and the same family members, who had initially opposed us, now came forward to congratulate us.

#### Glimpse 4

Local Radio Khairpur reached Sukkur, Ghotki and Naushero Feroze. We used our contacts and our daily activities were announced on the radio. This helped us gain popularity. The DCC started airing election songs in Sindhi and interviews of women candidates. This gave confidence to many other women and they too came forward to contest the elections.

**Glimpse 1**

Election Day monitoring was an important component of Citizens' Campaign for Women Representation (CCWRIL) launched by Aurat Foundation in Local Bodies Election 2005.

We were assigned monitoring of old state of Mir's and the area of Kotdeji Fort, the district Khairpur Mir's. On the Day of election I and Faiza Burney reached at Polling Station Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Kumb and found that two groups of women were fighting inside the PS and on the other hand we observed that heavy crowd of women was also standing on the door of Polling Booth.

A policeman was there but couldn't do any because according to him if forced women to stay back and touched any woman it could cause big problem. The votes had been cast openly and some women were forcing others to stamp on their favourite candidate's symbol even ballot papers were being torn. The polling staff looked helpless. Some people present on the spot complained that the government supported people were involved in rigging. The women were also in trouble because there was a single polling booth for them.

We were aware of our role as a monitor but being an activist it was not possible to let the things happen as it is. We met with few women who were some how familiar to me because I belonged to that area basically and told them Aurat Foundation has been working for women empowerment with their representation in all spheres of life. Then women started standing in queue.

We met presiding officer by introducing ourselves asked him to establish more polling booths for women. We said him it would not be possible that women could vote till the time allocated for polling due to a single polling booth. He said women were not ready to stay away for some time that we could establish on the other booth for them and we were powerless, so couldn't do any thing.

Then I left Faiza at Polling Station and went at Public Call Office (PCO) to inform PEC and DRO because there was no service of cell phone network. I called DRO and introduced my self and shared the whole situation of the polling station. Then DRO said he was issuing instruction to RO to resolve the problem. I came back to PS but no one reached there and situation was the same.

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I once again called DRO and he assured that RO and Rangers were on the way but as Rangers vehicle reached there we informed them but they did not take any action and went away. I called again twice DRO then RO reached there and contacted us. We showed him the whole scene. He directed PO to establish one more booth for women voters and appoint more police personnel at the booths. The workers of political parties were sent out who were standing in PS premises.

Some of them requested us to stay there till the polling process was ended that the rigging could not happen but we had to move to other Polling Stations so we left that area. As we left the PS an unknown armed men followed our vehicle and stopped it. They asked us to give the proof about the rigging. I said them you people should contact PO, we were just on monitoring by Aurat Foundation and then they went back. We moved to another area for monitoring.

### **Glimpse 2**

Taluka Kingri of Khairpur Mir's District is mostly comprised of Katcha area. It is the native area of spiritual and political leader Peer Pagara. The members of Taluka Coordination Committee (TCC) Habibullah Malah, Qarar Hussain, Manzoora Khatoon and Ameer Abro had established facilitation camp and were facilitating women candidates.

One candidate told TCC that clerk of Returning Officer's office had been receiving nomination forms with bank challan while the bank was about 2 kilo meters away from RO office, resultantly women candidates particularly were facing difficulties.

The clerk allegedly was also collecting 100 rupees extra amount from candidates. TCC team tried to meet RO but he didn't give time and then team met clerk. They asked him about extra amount but he said that they were doing every thing according to the law.

TCC coordinator informed me on phone about the entire situation and on the next day I and legal aid committee member Mr. Habib-ur-Rehman Sheikh advocate held meeting with RO in his chamber. We told him that Aurat Foundation had launched country wide campaign for women representation and our role was non partisan. We had established facilitation camp for women candidates and some candidates had problems with regard to bank challan and charging of extra amount. As you know the bank was away from your office particularly women candidates were facing problems.



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Advocate Habib-ur-Rehman Sheikh suggested him that he could receive cash amount also but RO said we didn't want to take any risk because the safety of cash was the difficult issue. Then Habib-ur-Rehman Sheikh requested him to allow women to pay cash amount with their nominations instead of Bank challan.

RO accepted the second suggestion and instructed his clerk to get cash amount only from women candidates. Then we took up the issue of extra charges and once again requested him that women candidates should not be charged extra amount of 100 rupees. RO once again called his clerk and instructed him that women candidates who were coming through Aurat Foundation's camp would not be charged extra amount of 100 rupees. He told us that there were miscellaneous expenses of our office so we were charging the amount of 100 rupees.

We thanked him and returned back to our camp. 25 women candidates and 88 male candidates submitted their nominations after such orders of RO.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
76	304	503	289	15	95.1%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
76	152	197	125	27	82.2%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
76	152	421	152	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
76	152	331	152	0	100%

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## Larkana

Larkana is located in north-western Sindh. It is bordered by Balochistan in the west, Dadu in the south, Jacobabad and Shikarpur in the north and Khairpur in the east. Total area of the district is 1890.23 square Kilometers. It consists of 4 Tehsils i.e. Larkana, Ratodero, Dokri and Bakrani with 44 Union Councils. Total population is 1,002,772 (male: 516,100- female: 486,672). The main occupation is agricultural work and industrial work. Women are also active in both sectors.

### Health Facilities

Health facilities are inadequate in the district. There are 9 rural health care centers, 43 basic health centers, 8 government dispensaries, one hospital managed by Red Crescent, one Shaikh Zayed women hospital, 4 maternity centers and one children hospital. In addition there are 12 private medical centers.

### Educational Facilities

Total literacy rate is 35%. Literacy rates are higher in urban areas. The male literacy rate is 49% while female literacy rate is 21%. There are 287 primary schools, 124 middle schools, 11 high schools, 13 private colleges, 20 vocational centers, one Z.A. Bhutto Agricultural college, Chandka Medical College and Cadet College Larkana.

### Social Customs and Traditions

People belonging to, any different religion and ethnicities inhabit Larkana. Although women are expected to work in the agricultural fields, they are denied the right to education and rates of domestic violence are high. Women must be veiled while leaving the house. Karo Kari (honor killing) is prevalent. Religious conservatism combines with tribalism to create an environment where most people are denied their fundamental rights.

### Political Situation

Bhutto family has dominated politics in the district for the past 4 decades. This district is a stronghold of the PPP. The ancestral village of Bhutto family is also located in Larkana district. A total of 83,7042 people are registered voters, out of which 446,205 are men and 390,837 are women. There are 1,757 women councilors and 1,338 male councilors in district. It was first time during Local Bodies Election 2005 that PMLQ dominated

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the elections. Mr. Mohammad Bux Arejo from PML-Q is the district Nazim in 2005 election.

## **Glimpses of the Campaigns**

### **CCWR 2001**

#### **Glimpse 1**

The Larkana Citizens' Action Committee had been dealing with serious internal dissensions for some time. To avoid any crisis during the elections, Aurat Foundation decided to induct members into the DCC, who were highly regarded by all, so that the group could work without friction. Also, since precious time had already been lost, it was decided to induct members especially from the media, to make sure that the information about the DCC went out fast.

As a result, the CAC was expanded by selecting people from every prominent organisation of the district. A lawyer, popular among the political and social groups in Sindh, was made the DCC Coordinator, while the Joint Coordinator belonged to the Press Club.

#### **Glimpse 2**

Sarwar, a bullock cart driver, belonged to Shahdad Kot, a tehsil of Larkana, and was well known in the area. He decided to run for the peasant/worker seat. The DCC Larkana had formed a committee in Shahdad Kot, which would conduct training for women candidates. Sarwar contacted the DCC and obtained full information about the election procedure.

When the DCC found out that very few women were contesting from Shahdad Kot, they requested Sarwar to let his wife contest in the coming elections. In this situation, when the seats were lying vacant in the first phase, the DCC promised to assist his wife in her campaign. They said that they would even provide posters and stickers for her campaign. This convinced Sarwar since he realised that this level of publicity would benefit his campaign as well.

Both Sarwar and his wife won in the elections, with Sarwar's wife securing more votes than him!

#### **Glimpse 3**

The media was used effectively by the DCC. After some meetings, the Station Director agreed to broadcast election messages and election songs in Sindhi, which set the mood for the elections. The DCC also used

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its own initiative and used cable television to publicise the Campaign's objectives. Election material and information in Sindhi was distributed widely. Soon both men and women came to the DCC camp in large numbers from various areas and union councils.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Larkana district has the honour of having first woman Prime Minister of Islamic world but in spite of that the situation of women is not better even in 21 century. The people mostly feel ashamed to call women with their names particularly in front of other people. The tribal customs and traditions are strong in the area that's why people didn't allow women pictures on NICs. The names in voter lists also appeared with husband's or father's names like wife of so and so and daughter of so etc.

I and Niaz Jagirani visited printing press for publishing invitations for women candidates training workshops during local Bodies election campaign in 2005. As we reached printing press we saw the pamphlet. The name of woman candidate was written as: vote for general councilor Mrs. Ghulam Rasool Mangi candidate for union council no 11. Her name was not there.

We contacted the manager of press Mr. Sarwar Memon and asked about the pamphlet. He pointed out to a young man standing in the press and told us that he was the son of woman candidate. Then we introduced ourselves and asked him why the name of woman candidate was not written on the pamphlet? He said it was against our customs to publish name of woman and also to call names of women publicly. We tried to explain that there was no issue of honour in publishing or calling the woman's name publicly.

I questioned him that how voters could identify woman candidate without her name? Then he asked us to talk with his father on the issue. He then called his father via cell phone and told him about our conversation. I discussed the issue with him and argued that it was good that you had taken the step of bringing your wife in election process but with her name on pamphlet you people could get more votes.

I am by cast Syed and we don't feel any shame or bad impression over calling the names of women. It would not affect your honor so I would suggest you to put your name together with your wife's name.

Mr. Ghulam Rasool Mangi finally agreed and asked his son and publisher not only to stop the on going publishing of pamphlets but directed them to

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publish fresh pamphlet as follows: vote for Gulshan Aara Begum wife of Ghulam Rasool Mangi.

We also invited him in the workshop and on the next day around forty women including Gulshan Aara Begum participated. Gulshan Aara Begum could not win election but she got her own identity in the area.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
80	320	404	278	42	68.8%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
80	160	136	111	49	69.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
44	88	201	88	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
44	88	148	85	3	96.59%

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## Matyari

Matyari is a newly created district as it is carved out from Hyderabad District and notified on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2005. It is very old and historic city of Pakistan. The oldest name of the city was Matwaalee. It is bound by Nawab Shah in the North, Hyderabad in the South, Sanghar in the East and Jamshoro in the West. It consists of three Tehsils i.e. Matyari, Hala and New Saeedabad spreading over 19 Union Councils. Total area of the district is 1,417 square kilometers. Total population is 525,082. Total Registered voters are 279,979 (female: 133,778 and male: 146,201).

The Kashi 'Traditional Tiles, Jundi (A type of furniture) Ajrak (Traditional Sindhi Chadar) and Sindhi Cap are the main handicrafts of this district and these are also exported to major cities of Pakistan and foreign countries as well. The women are working in the fields and busy in embroidery and sewing work.

### Health Facilities

There is no civil hospital in Matyari. There are 2 Tehsil Headquarter hospitals, 6 Rural Healthcare Centers, 12 Basic Healthcare units, 25 government dispensaries and one Maternal Child Health Center (MCH) in the district.

### Educational Facilities

The overall literacy rate is 45% (female: 15% and male: 30%). The literacy rate in urban areas is much higher as compared with the literacy rate in rural areas. There are 4 boys and 1 girls colleges, 2 Technical Institutions for boys only, 2 Vocational Institutions for women, 3 for boys and 1 for girls higher secondary schools, 21 boys and 9 girls high schools, 23 boys and 14 girls middle schools and 787 boys and 161 girls primary schools in the district. There are 17 Madarsas (Religious Institutions) in the district.

### Social Customs and Traditions

The people of Matyari district are under the influence of many feudal families like Makhdoom of Hala. These families directly or indirectly control the socio-economic and socio-political situation of the district. The women are not socially aware and dominated by their men members. The women are not allowed to take their own decisions due to lack of education and religious influence.

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### Political Situation

The political situation of Matyari district is under the control of some families like Makhdoom of Hala, Jamot (Syeds of Bhatt Shah), Rizvi (Syeds of Nasar Pur, Rahos of New Saeedabad. Over all 82 women were elected as councilors in Union, Tehsil and District Councils.

### Glimpses of the Campaign

#### WPLGE 2005

Hala Taluka of Matyari District has remained under the shadows of "Peeri Mureedi" (spiritualism and follower ship) and male dominance is on its high level. Matyari was the Taluka of Hyderabad district before 2005. The union council Bhanoth particularly the village Wahial Bhanoth of Hala Taluka had experienced religious extremism and customs.

DCC team after planning for voter education meeting with men and women reached in mentioned village that was comprising me Nazneen Hussain, Muhammad Younas, Arbab Leghari and Khatul Faiz told the people that Aurat Foundation was an NGO working for the Political and Social rights of Women. Aurat Foundation with its like minded groups at district level had also been working for effective representation of women at grass roots level as women could face and resolve their problems at their own basis.

Two "Mulla Brotheran" who were present during meeting looked unhappy said NGO's were working with the support and money of America and we consider America as evil for Muslims. We told them our NGO was not funded by America and Aurat Foundation was working for vulnerable sections of Society but they did not agree and said they wouldn't allow us to meet their women. They asked us to leave the village.

We said them there was no restriction by Islam that women could not be the part of political system, that's why the daughters of Religious leaders and Scholars were the members of Assemblies and the councils but they refused and other people remained silent. Then we approached the Nazim Candidate for same union council Syed Peeral Shah in his "Otaq". We told him about the campaign of Aurat Foundation focusing on how to cast the correct vote. We said due to lack of awareness each time many votes went rejected, so we were trying to teach people to cast vote in correct manner.

Syed Peeral Shah who was land lord of the area as well asked his two persons Haji Ismail and Haji Tayab to accompany us. When we reached

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in village and both persons asked "Mulla Brotheran" that Shah Saheb had allowed them to meet with women. "Mulla Brotheran" then said only women could meet with women.

Then, I Nazneen, Khatul Faiz and Zahida Leghari held meeting with women and briefed them about the campaign and the procedure of casting vote.

The women of village Hajani, Sabhagi and Lal Khatoon said we feel confidence and now our votes would not go rejected. "Such people" pointing to "Mulla Brotheran" always had been depriving us from our rights in the name of religion and customs.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
19	38	108	38	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
19	38	97	38	0	100%



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## Mirpur Khas

Mirpur Khas is located in south central Sindh. It is a small district in terms of area, bordered by Sanghar in the north, Umerkot in the east, Hyderabad in the west and Badin in the south. Total area of the district is 2,925 square kilometers. It consists of 6 Tehsils i.e. Mirpurkhas, Kot Ghulam Mohammad, Digri, Sindhri, Jhudo and Hussain Bux Mari with 41 Union councils. Total population is 1,001,484 (male: 521,896, female: 479,588). The economy is based on agriculture with livestock an important sector. A variety of mango "Sindhri" is produced here and exported nationally as well as internationally. Due to a scarcity of water, agricultural yield has suffered greatly. Canals that were dug in 1901 have fallen to disuse due to neglect.

### Health Facilities

Health care facilities are inadequate. There are 64 basic health care units and 35 government run hospitals and dispensaries.

### Educational Facilities

There are 1,310 primary schools, 87 middle schools and 90 high schools, 11 technical schools and 6 colleges. Total literacy rate is 30%. Literacy rates are higher in urban centers. Teacher absenteeism is very high, leading to a decline in the education standard.

### Social Custom and Traditions

In Mirpurkhas ancient Sindhi culture affects culture to this day. Domestic violence is very common and women are rarely asked for their consent before marriage, they lack mobility and awareness.

### Political Situation

Syed, Talpur and Junejo clans dominate politics. PPP and PML (functional) and MQM dominate politics in urban centers while PPP dominates in rural areas. Ms. Sughra Junejo from Functional League is the district Nazima.

## Glimpses of the Campaign

### CCWR 2001

Iqbal Bibi from Mirpur Khas came from a poor rural labour household and had eight children. Her eldest daughter Razia Kausar, a health worker,

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had finished her school education, and was keen for her mother to join politics. She was able to persuade her mother to participate in the union council elections.

Razia Kausar contacted a DCC member, Azhar Abbas, and informed him about her mother's intention. He suggested that it would be easier for her if she approached a political party she liked and contested as one of their panel.

Iqbal Bibi contacted the area representative of the Peoples Party, because the Peoples Party had more influence in the area. The representative enquired about her family background and not only did he refuse her a ticket, but also showed his displeasure at her even applying. Iqbal Bibi felt very insulted and refused to contest the elections.

Razia again approached the DCC requesting them for help. Imtiaz Panhwar of the DCC was given the responsibility of helping Iqbal Bibi get a party ticket so she could contest the elections. He spoke to the PML(F) City Organiser, Zulfiqar Ali Junejo, who got her a party ticket.

After Iqbal Bibi's nomination was filed, the PPP became aware of it. The representative was particularly angry because he had rejected her. He tried to get his party men to get her to withdraw. One of them, later the union council *nazim*, frightened and threatened her family, telling her to withdraw. Iqbal Bibi remained firm in her resolve. Members of the DCC, Abdul Rasheed Shoro and Shahid Mughal, toured the area along with the PML(F) representatives. Iqbal Bibi's morale was strengthened now that she had their support and protection for her safety.

On the day of the elections, the PPP prevented the polling agents of Iqbal Bibi from going to the polling booth, and because of her limited resources she was unable to provide transport for her voters. Although Iqbal Bibi secured 335 votes from her community, she was unsuccessful. This was a moment of reflection for the PPP as their last PPP candidate secured 380 votes.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
64	222	438	220	2	99.10%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
64	128	173	123	5	96.10%

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Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
41	82	221	82	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
41	82	172	82	0	100%

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## Naushehro Feroze

Naushehro Feroze is located in central Sindh. It is bordered by Dadu in the west, Nawabshah in the south, Khairpur in the east and Indus River in the north. Total area of the district is 2,945 square kilometer. It consists of 5 Tehsils i.e. Kandiaro, Naushahro Feroze, Bhiria City, Moro and Mehrabpur newly constituted with 51 Union Councils. Total population is 1,087,571 (male: 568,574, female: 518,997). The economy is based in agriculture. There is 1 Rice mill, 1 flourmill and numerous cotton factories in the district. Tharo Shah has a large fruit and vegetable market. There is more than hundred year old Temple in Halani with the name Darbar.

### Health Facilities

There are Three Civil Hospitals, 11 Rural Health Centers, 45 Basic Health Units, 21 government dispensaries and 2 Mother and Child healthcare centers. There are two private medical centers in city with many private clinics in the district.

### Education Facilities

The total literacy rate is 27%. The male literacy rate is 47% while the female literacy rate is 28%. There are 1,988 primary schools, 118 middle schools, 57 secondary schools, 26 high schools, seven degree colleges and eight higher secondary schools with 110 year old Madersah School. There is old teachers' training collage in Mithiani and same for women in Moro.

### Social Customs and Traditions

98% of the population is Muslim. Naushahro means nine, Feroz means clan, and there were nine clans here who established the city. Many different languages are spoken here. Violence against women is a common issue especially domestic violence. Peeri Mureedi is prevalent while the customs of marriages are observed like in olden days traditions were observed. The renowned singer Chunder and Sona Khan Baloch belong to this district. The religious harmony can be found here.

### Political situation

Syed and Jatui families dominate the politics. PPPP and National Peoples Party (Jatoi group) are the major political parties. There are 5,334,42 registered voters and 62,144 are women voters. The former Prime Minister and deputy speaker of National Assembly belong to this district. This

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district politically is considered aware. The youngest MPA belong to this district. Mr. Aaqib Khan Jatoui of National People's Party is the district Nazim.

## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

#### Glimpse 1

During the Local Government elections 2000-2001, a man came to the office of the DCC saying that even though he had given his wife permission to take part in the elections, he did not have the money for filing the nomination papers, and there were many men like him. At this the DCC formed a committee to search for women who were ready to take part in elections but did not have the fees. We met the men in similar situations in union councils Padidan, Phul, and Naushero Feroze and assured them that we would pay the women's fees.

The DCC paid Rs. 500 each for the fees of Zahida Parveen, Maryam Paryo, Hooran, Shamshad Soomro and Apa Naseem. This, more than most things, showed the people that we were keen to involve women in the elections. All the women were successful and their votes were very important during the elections of the district *nazim* and tehsil *nazim*. The government gave awards to the councillors and also announced development schemes for them.

In this way, trust and rapport developed between the councillors and the civil society activists.

#### Glimpse 2

In Naushero Feroze, the DCC Coordinator went to the *khateeb* of the local mosque and tried to convince him to allow his wife to stand for elections. The rejoinder from the *khateeb* was, "Why don't you ask your own wife to stand?" The Coordinator went home and discussed the situation with his wife and convinced her to stand. He then went back to the *khateeb* and said, "My wife is standing for the elections." As a result the *khateeb* also asked his wife to stand for elections. Both women won.

#### Glimpse 3

On the last day of filing nominations in district Naushero Feroze, the National Campaign Secretariat in Aurat Foundation Lahore received information that the DRO and District and Sessions Judge had stopped accepting the forms at 12 o'clock and gone home.

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Apa Naseem Umrani, one of the candidates, informed the DCC Office of this lapse. The DCC Coordinators, Shakoor Abbasi and Qazi Zulfiqar, and the other DRO reached the office where 29 women candidates and 80 men were waiting to submit their forms. The political groups and the district representatives were also there. They had tried to phone the absent DRO but he refused to return. The AF Campaign team member, Adam Malik, was in Mithiani and reached Naushero Feroze within an hour.

The DCC decided to ask Aurat Foundation's Executive Director, Nigar Ahmad, for advice. She told them to wait while she informed the authorities. She rang the Director General of the Federal Election Commission in Islamabad, who set things in motion. Within half an hour, the official was back on duty and stayed until the evening to collect the nomination papers of the candidates. This incident restored the faith of the political parties in the DCC.

At 8:00 p.m. that night the Executive Director got a telephone call from the local head of the PPP in Naushero Feroze to thank her. He said if she had not done something, they would not have been able to file nominations.

#### **WPLGE 2005**

Naushahro Feroze the district of central Sindh was established in 1989. It had remained under feudal influence but old Madarsa School represented its some how educational background too. The traditional biases against women were also prevalent. It had been considered bad that women sit together with male in any kind of gathering even of marriage ceremonies. Co-education was disliked by the sections of the people.

On the day (18<sup>th</sup> August, 2005) of Local Bodies Election I, Abdul Shakoor and CAC joint coordinator Khan Rajpar were monitoring the process of election as we reached at Polling Station established in GPS Nathur Detha near about 11:00 am, observed that there was only one polling booth for women and three Booths for men voters.

Women were standing in Queue and facing the difficulty. We discussed the situation with Presiding Officer Mr. Aejaz Ali. He admitted that our concern was valid but he couldn't do any thing due shortage of female staff and women did not want to cast vote in presence of male staff. Women present on the spot said they were facing problem and they had to go back to homes. Then we called upon AF Karachi office and issue was discussed with Ms Asia Bano.

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She contacted via phone in the office of RO who was not available then she took up issue with office superintendent Mr. Khalil Ahmad. He assured her that the issue would be resolved. We also contacted with him. He told that he'd contacted with PO and issue would be resolved. Then it was decided that the time duration for women voters would be increased. The ending time was finalised 8:00 pm instead of 5:00 pm. Women voters cast 113 votes approximately during extra time. Mst Sahabzadi, the voter present on the spot said she was very happy and feels proud that the time was increased only because of women. She thanked DCC team.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
51	204	360	203	1	99.5%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
51	102	153	82	20	80.4%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
51	102	290	102	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
51	102	219	101	1	99.01%

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## Nawabshah

Nawab Shah is located in central Sindh. It is bordered by Naushahro Feroze in the north, Hyderabad in the south, Khairpur and Sanghar in the east and Dadu in west. Total area of the district is 4,502 square kilometers. It consists of 4 Tehsils i.e. Sakrand, Nawabshah, Daulatpur and Daur with 51 Union Councils. Total population is 1,072,000. The economy is based on agriculture. Women carry out many different tasks in the agricultural sector. There is a vibrant cottage industry in the district. Women produce all sorts of embroidered items which are sold in large urban centers like Karachi and Lahore.

### Health Facilities

Lower income groups do not have access to adequate health facilities; as a result they suffer from poor health. Overall there are 14 dispensaries, 2 mother and child health centers, 140 doctors, 782 lady health workers and 28 health supervisors in Nawabshah. The large Peoples Medical Hospital is also established in city.

### Educational Facilities

The total literacy rate is 34%. Male literacy rate is 47% and female literacy rate is 19%. There are 1,180 private schools for girls and 730 private schools for boys. A high number of private schools for girls demonstrate the demand for female education has grown and while the government has failed. There are also 4 colleges in the district, 2 each for boys and girls. There is one medical college which is only for women. Besides this there are also 2 high schools for disabled people. There is one teacher training center in the district. Quaid-e- Awam Engineering University is also situated in this district.

### Social Customs and Traditions

This district has urban and rural touch. Women do jobs particularly in government jobs. Women in Nawabshah district are also deprived of economic rights and money they are supposed to receive from husbands at the time of marriage (Haq Mehar). Often young girls are married to old men for economic gain. Men and women mostly are married without their free will. Role of Dargahs is also dominant.



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### Political Situation

Zardari, Syed, Dahri and Brohi families dominate politics. PPP and PML F and MQM in city are the dominant political parties. Ms. Faryal Talpur from PPP is the district Nazima for second time of the district. This district played great role in the movement of MRD and more than 17 people were killed during movement at a time.

### Glimpses of the Campaign

#### WPLGE 2005

Central Sindh's district Nawab Shah is considered the area of politically aware people but local customs and traditions mostly dominate the society. It comprised rural and urban area but rigid tribesmen dominate the social and political values particularly in terms of women issues.

DCC held training workshop for women candidates and their polling agents in newly established Tehsil Doar and TCC member Muhammad Siddique took the responsibility of conducting the workshop because he was basically from that area. He and others distributed invitations among candidates and they assured their participation.

DCC team comprising Mushtaq Pirzado, Ms Rukhsana, Ms Khawer Sultana, Muhammad Siddique and myself reached GPS Doar and saw that there was no woman in the training Hall. We asked why women candidates had not come. They told that women were not allowed to attend such type of meetings by their close relatives i.e. father, brother, husband, son etc who were present to attend training and they would deliver the same to their women.

We opened dialogue with them with argument that when women could work in fields so why could not participate in such workshops? They said it was against our local customs so we couldn't allow them. We said then why you people had brought them as candidate because after being councilor they had to attend the sessions in councils and to attend offices for resolving the problems of their voters. Some of them said we would attend sessions and that had happened in past as well.

We said the district Nazim had been woman and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was the daughter in law of Ex- MNA from this district then why you people were doing such type of illogical things. One of them said training would be delivered at homes but others rejected the suggestions saying that why should our women go to others houses? Finally it was decided that training would be held at the "Haveli" (residence of Peer or

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Syed) of Syed Bagh Ali Shah. The residence had been considered more respectable place in rural areas. He was the Peer of area and also PPPP local leader. Some people refused but mostly accepted the suggestion.

The training was held in the Haveli of Syed Bagh Ali and women sat on "Kaleen and Chadars" on the floor. It is considered a bad omen to sit on the floor in rural areas because mostly people sit down on the floor to mourn one's death or to show off protest but women sat on the ground and participated in workshop. Ms Rukhsana and Khawer Sultana conducted the training because men trainers were not allowed to attend the workshop. The training was attended by 53 women and former councilors remarked that it was great occasion for them because they had been kept away even from sessions of the councils in past. They were only called for voting, Budget or any other important sessions other wise their males used to go in councils. They thanked Aurat Foundation and emphasised that such type of interaction should continue in future.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
51	204	316	185	19	90.7%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
51	102	75	54	48	52.9%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
51	102	294	102	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
51	102	232	102	0	100%

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## Qambar/Shahdadkot

Qambar is 25 kilometers away from Larkana and it has borders with Jacobabad, Larkana, Dadu and Balochistan province. Total population of this district is 930,296 that include 452,820 women and 477,476 men. It consists of seven Tehsils and 40 Union Councils and total area of the district is 1,336,820 acres. Total registered voters of the district are 434,362 including 223,365 male and 210,997 female. Agriculture is main source of earning of district's inhabitants and rice and wheat are two major crops.

### Education Facilities

Total number of educational institutions is 1,616 in which 291 are girls and 1,322 boys' schools. It also has three degree colleges. But despite these figures (of schools and colleges) literacy rate is very low i.e. below 5%.

### Health facilities

There are 4 Tehsil Hospitals, 4 Rural Health Centers, 27 Basic Health Units, 25 dispensaries, 2 maternity homes and one government "Yonani Shafa Khana" with 20 private Medical centers.

### Social Customs and Traditions

A number of NGOs and CBOs are actively working in the district but there is much needs to be done to make the local women aware about their rights. Women involved in political social activities. People visit Shrines.

### Political Situation

PPPP, PML (Q), PML (N), PLM (F), PPP (SB), Jeay Sindh Tehrik-e-Insaf, Sindh National Front, JUI, Faqae Jaferia and Sunni Tahreek are present in this district.

Pakistan People's Party has always remained a popular political party in this part of province but during the recent local government elections District Nazim of PML (Q) won the seat. Political scenario has changed after the local government elections and 4 Tehsils out of 7 have Nazims of PML (Q).

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

The meeting of DCC after its formation was held in Qambar and Nasirabad. DCC member Dr. Muhammad Ayoub informed that women of village Ghathar union council Ber Sharif had no permission to cast vote under the un-written contract of local elders and religious leaders. The committee comprising Mehjabeen, Afshan, Saeeda Junejo, Dr. Ayoub, Parveen and myself was established to look into the matter.

The committee then held meeting with villagers to discuss the issue and we told them during meeting that there was no restriction by religion that women could not cast vote. Even religious leaders had brought women in assemblies and Benazir Bhutto was the chair person of largest party and her native village was in our old district Larkana. The villagers said they would try to bring women for votes. Dr. Ayoub basically was the resident of that village. We contacted people through Dr. Ayoub. During nomination period three women from that village submitted nominations as candidates. These women were close relatives of Dr. Ayoub and he had convinced them to contest.

We thought that now women will also cast votes but on the polling day it was very surprising that not a single woman had cast the vote on polling stations No 5, 6 and 7 till after noon even women candidates did not use the right of vote. I informed Aurat Foundation team member Lala Hassan Pathan who was also on monitoring of Qambar district. He, Naheed Syed and I rushed to the village and reached at 4:30 p.m. It was amazing that polling agents of PPP, PML-Q, MQM and JUI supported panels were present on all three polling stations. We tried to convince them by saying that PPP's chairperson was a woman, JUI, PML-Q, MQM had also given representation to women in Assemblies then why you people were forbidding women to vote. They replied it was locally decided that no one would bring out women for votes; one of them said if other group bring women then I also could bring them.

We tried to meet the women of area and a woman Mst Karima said she and other women were ready to cast vote but male members of their families had stopped them. We offered him support and requested her to cast vote but she replied it would be difficult for him and time had also passed. Then we asked Dr. Ayoub to bring his women for vote casting. He said I'd taken step of bringing women as candidates but couldn't oppose

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local decision because they would throw me out of village. The time of polling ended and no one women could cast vote.

The women candidates Mst Hajani Fatima secured 1196 votes, Tasleem Burero 631 and Shabiran with 1094 votes were declared successful according to the results of election but they couldn't cast their vote as well. We found that lack of coordination and improper follow up resulted in failure other wise we could have succeeded in casting of women votes. We hope in future it wouldn't be difficult to bring women to cast the vote.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
40	80	183	79	1	98.75%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
40	80	155	79	1	98.75%

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## Sanghar

Sanghar is located in eastern Sindh. Indian border is in the east, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad in the south, Nawabshah in the west and Khairpur in the north. Sanghar contains many sites which are important from the archeological perspective. Total area of the district is 10,728 square kilometer. It consists of 6 Tehsils i.e. Sanghar, Sinjoro, Khipro, Shahdadpur, Jam Nawaz Ali and Tando Adam. Total population is 1,324,726 (male: 694,479- female: 630,247). The economy is based on agriculture. Sanghar is a cotton produce district. Besides this they have sugar mills, milk plants, juice factories, flour mills, rice mills, textiles and power looms in the district. Sanghar also contains oil and gas reserves.

### Health Facilities

There are two Civil Hospitals, 7 rural health centers, 7 basic health units and 24 government dispensaries.

### Educational Facilities

The total literacy rate is 19%. There are 3,031 primary schools, out of which 334 are for girls. There are 159 middle schools out of which 44 are for girls. There are 13 secondary schools for girls with 6 colleges in the district and one Cadet College.

### Social Customs and Traditions

In Sanghar women's situation is same like other district, violence against women is one of the major issues in the district. Women's mobility is restricted due to feudal system. Women cover themselves while going out of home; domestic violence is also a routine problem of women in rural areas of the district.

### Political Situation

PPPP, PML F, MQM and JI dominate politics in the district. Pir Pagara and Jam families are prominent political families in the district. Former chief minister Jam Sadiq and traditional Wadera late Shah Nawaz Junejo belonged to this district. Mr. Khuda Bux Rajar from Functional League is the district Nazim.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

Tando Adam Taluka of district Sanghar is the area of multiple parties. So the political activities could be observed on its high peak. When DCC established facilitation camp for women candidates on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005, the Returning Officer ordered to close the camp as they did not have written permission by District Returning Officer but it was required in written.

TCC member Mr. Imdad Lakho rang me and shared the situation. Then I, Ali Hassan Sarewal and Mola Bux Mallah went to the office of DRO and held meeting with Mr. Mir Muhammad Sheikh in his office. We shared the situation and asked him that we had got verbal permission from him for establishing the facilitation camps.

He said yes "I remember but might be your people had supported any one group or some one had objected that's why the camp was closed. We said there might be a little bit miss under standing because Aurat Foundation had been running its campaign since 2000 and there was no question of being partisan. It was supporting only women of all groups so kindly ask RO to allow our friends to establish a camp.

DRO discussed the situation with RO on phone and asked him to meet with us because he had given us verbal permission. Then we covered 60 kilo meters distance and reached at the office of RO Tando Adam. We first of all submitted him material of Aurat Foundation and then told him about Aurat Foundation's Camp.

He said actually we had no instructions of allowing people or any NGO to establish such type of camps and he wanted to be assured that the camp wouldn't be used for political purposes for any party or group.

Finally RO permitted and camp was restarted. During our camp around 650 people including 39 women candidates and 85 men candidates were facilitated.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
59	232	479	229	3	98.70%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
59	118	205	111	7	94.10%

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Election Results 2005					
General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
55	110	264	109	1	99.09%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
55	110	193	106	4	96.36%



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## Shikarpur

Shikarpur is located in northern Sindh. It is bordered by Jacobabad in the north and west, Larkana in the west, Sukkur in the east and Khairpur in the south. Total area of the district is 2,512 square kilometers. It consists of 4 Tehsils i.e. Shikarpur, Khanpur, Garhi Yasin and Lakhi. Total population is 887,338 (male: 460,125- female: 427,213).

The economy is based on agriculture, apart from that Shikarpur is known for pickles which are exported internationally. Women play an active role in the agricultural sector. The cottage industry also thrives due to female labour. Women make various embroidered goods, pottery and pickles. The “Achaar” (Sauce) is the famous product of this district.

### Health Facilities

There is one hospital, one dispensary, one Ganga Bai Hospital and one Christian Hospital. Besides this, each Tehsil has one hospital. Health facilities are inadequate and people here are susceptible to many diseases.

### Educational Facilities

The total literacy rate is 40%. There are 1,235 primary schools out of which 227 are for girls. Besides this, there are 63 middle schools out of which 25 are for girls, 50 secondary schools out of which 10 are for girls. The Schools mostly are dominated by local landlords/Waderas.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Feudal culture persists; local jirgas are approached when disputes arise. People prefer to approach a jirga rather than court of law. Women have limited mobility and are denied access to education. All these factors prevent women from progressing in society. Karo Kari and tribal clashes are also very common in Shikarpur.

### Political Situation

The district has very strong hold of PPP but PMLQ, PML F and religious groups are also active in the politics. Mr. Arif Khan Mahar of PML-Q is the district Nazim for second time.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

It was polling day when I Jawad Ahmed, Jahangir Bhayo and Faiq Pathan during monitoring reached at GPS Khanpur polling station of Shikarpur district at 9:0 am. We observed conflicting situation among candidate-polling agents and polling staff and that situation had blocked the process of polling process. The candidate for Muslim general seat was protesting over the change of his election symbol.

He was shouting and claiming that symbol of Horse was allotted to him and he ran all his campaign under that symbol but Presiding Officer told there was no symbol of Horse in Ballot Book. The PO showed the letter of court in which no symbol of horse was mentioned but the candidate was strict on his claim with out any documentary proof. We tried to convince him and requested not to disturb the process of polling. We said him due to such disturbance people couldn't cast vote that might be your supporters, so let the process be started.

The local influential persons also reached there and discussed the situation with him. Finally it was decided that candidate and his supporters could communicate voters out side the polling station that the symbol was Ladder not the Horse.

The polling process finally started about 10:15 am. Presiding Officer thanked DCC team and influential person.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
47	188	217	163	25	86.7%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
47	94	103	76	18	80.8%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
51	102	222	100	2	98.03%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
51	102	174	100	2	98.03%

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## Sukkur

Sukkur is located in confluence of River Indus, after the Indus is joined by its other tributaries. Sukkur is in northern Sindh. Ghotki is in north, Khairpur is in south, India is in east and Shikarpur is in west. Total area of the district is 5,165 square kilometers. It consists of 5 Tehsils i.e. Sukkur, Rohri, Salehpat, Pano Aqil and New Sukkur. Total population is 901,473 (male: 479,715- female: 421,758).

The main economy is based on industries and agriculture. Livestock is also a big source of income for people in Sukkur. Pano Aakil, a town in Sukkur, is known for its stud farms. The largest date selling market of Asia is in Sukkur. Textile, leather, cement, cigarette, tobacco, paint, pharmaceutical, sugar, oil and rice husking are some of the industries operating in Sukkur. Sukkur also has a flourishing cottage industry where dying and printing of fabrics, making shoes and plastic and weaving carpets from coarse material is carried out.

### Health Facilities

There are six hospitals, twenty five basic health units and seven government dispensaries with private health centers and clinics.

### Educational Facilities

The overall literacy rate is 62%. The female literacy rate is 54% while the male literacy rate is 70%. There are 52 primary schools that are run by the government and seven colleges. There are also 10 technical schools out of which 5 are for girls.

### Social Customs and Traditions

In rural areas of Sukkur women's mobility is restricted and education ratio among women is very low due to feudal system and it is much better in urban areas of Sukkur. Violence against women especially Karo Kari rate is high in the rural areas of the district, apart from that domestic violence, exchange marriages and Jirga system are the main issues in the district.

### Political Situation

PPPP, PML (Functional), PMLQ are the major parties in the district. MQM, J I, JUI also play their active role in the politics. Mr. Nasir Hussain Shah of PMLQ is the district Nazim for second time.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

Liaqat Soomro was the Joint Coordinator of the DCC in Sukkur. In a meeting he was questioned by some women that if DCC members were asking women to participate in the elections, why did they not ask their own wives, sisters and daughters to contest.

Taking up this challenge, Liaqat asked women from his extended family to participate; only his wife Rubina agreed. When she filed her nomination papers for a general women's seat, the whole family, including the educated members, boycotted her and her husband. They asked Rubina to withdraw her nomination, while Rubina and Liaqat continued trying to convince them of the importance and correctness of what she was doing. After a hard time, the family were finally convinced. It was in fact a double victory: Rubina also won her seat.

### WPLGE 2005

I had been observing political activities and elections as a Journalist in past but during Local Bodies election 2005 I became the part of Aurat Foundation's country wide campaign for effective representation of women. We established facilitation Camp for women candidates near the Court and as I was sitting there to facilitate women candidates that the Returning Officer/ Session Judge passed near by the Camp.

He returned back amazingly and asked why you were sitting here on the camp of women? I told him that I was the joint coordinator of DCC that was working with Aurat Foundation and also a Journalist. The female members would join in short time. We were facilitating women candidates. Suddenly DRO changed his mood and said from when you had changed your sex and was sitting in women's Camp? I once again explained him sir men could raise the voice for women as well and men and women were working together in Aurat Foundation. DRO got angrier on my remarks he not only ordered to close down the camp but also to arrest me.

I was shocked and didn't know what to do? The police personnel took me into custody to the building of Court. I called my other colleague Kamran Sheikh on his cell phone while going to Court Building and told him about the situation. Police produced me in the Court of First Judicial Magistrate. He ordered police to capture my cell Phone and other material and observed that why you had worn such a sexy Tea-shirt? It had been

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spreading lewdness in society. He had been threatening to trial me under different sections of law.

DCC coordinator Abdul Jabbar, Media Coordinator Nasim Sheikh, Journalists Lala Asad Pathan, Mumtaz Bukhari and others reached there with Kamran Sheikh. They contacted DRO and Judicial Magistrate as well and some Advocates also approached the DRO and told him that the camp was established to facilitate women candidates and Khalid was a respectable and law abiding person. Then Judicial Magistrate released me before getting my signatures on white papers and ordered not to enter in the premises of court ever and observed that you were guilty.

I experienced three hours mental torture and disturbance and ultimately got disappointed. I thought to resign from DCC because as a journalist I had been going to Court but they had never stopped me. Then I contacted Aurat Foundation's Lala Hassan Pathan, he and other friends encouraged me and showed great support and said such type of incident had been happening during struggles for rights. Lala Hassan also assured that the issue would be taken with higher authorities. Then I once again started my work with same spirit. I am thankful to all friends who supported me a lot in difficult moments.

I would like to suggest that such type of incidents should be taken at high level that in future so that such ugly situation is not created in future.

## Overall Results

### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
46	184	321	177	7	96.2%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
46	92	104	73	19	79.3%

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
46	92	283	91	1	98.91%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
46	92	193	89	3	96.73%

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## Tando Allahyar

District Tando Ahhayar was created on April 4, 2005 separated from District Hyderabad.

It is 25km north East of Hyderabad lying at a strategic location between Mirpurkhas and Hyderabad. It is connected by a road network connecting Hyderabad with Mirpurkhas. New city by-passes and roads are being constructed around Tando Allahyar.

Total population of Tando Allahyar is 468,373 which include 224,920 female and 243,453 male citizens. It comprises of 19 UCs including 4 urban and 15 rural. Total registered voters are 263,720 including 124,986 female and 138,734 male voters. It has three tehsils known as Tando Allahyar, Jhando Mari and Chamber.

Agriculture is the major occupation of district's inhabitants and women contribute 70% of the total labour force.

### Education Facilities

Literacy rate in Tando Allahyar is 58.12%. The total number of Madrsas in the district is eight. There are 710 schools in three Tehsils of district Tando Allahyar comprising of 222 in Tando Allahyar, 248 in Jhando Mari and 240 schools in Chamber. There are total 109 government girl's primary schools.

### Health Facilities

There is a civil hospital in the district and several basic health units in different villages but no special (and functional) medical center is available for women. Even they are deprived of maternity homes at Tehsil level.

### Social Customs and Traditions

A strong feudal system is prevailing in the area and this adversely affects women. Domestic violence against women is very common in the district.

### Political Situation

Pakistan People's Party is the most influential political party in the district and female member of national assembly, Shamshad Sattar Bachani, also came from the same party. Tando Allahyar was a Tehsil of district Hyderabad before 2005. Total 114 women were elected in 2001 local

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government elections. Whereas in 2005 Local Government elections, Magsi group government supported and appeared as a strong alliance in the district and it is important to note that all the 117 women seats were filled in these elections. Dr Raheela Magsi is the district Nazima of Tando Allahyar.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
19	38	107	38	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
19	38	90	38	0	100%

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## **Tando Mohammad Khan**

Geographical location of the district is on right bank of Phuleli canal at distance of 21 miles from Hyderabad. Total population is 683,662 including 322,011 women and 361,651 men and total area of the district is 595.38. It consists of sixteen Union Councils that include six from urban and ten from rural areas. It has three Tehsiles namely, Tando Mohammad Khan, Tando Ghulam Hyder and Bulri Shah Karim. Numbers of registered female and male voters are 220,434 and 121,521 respectively. Agriculture is the major of district's inhabitants and sugar cane on the major crop of the area that is why it is known as 'cane area'. There are four sugar mills in the district and onion, mango, vegetables, wheat, banana and rice are other important crops.

### **Education Facilities**

Literacy rate is 51.38 % and total number of education institutions is around 150.

### **Health Facilities**

There is one civil hospital, 2 Tehsil Hospitals with 02 RHCs and 12 BHUs in the area. There are also some private Medical Centers and clinics in city and rural areas.

### **Social Customs and Traditions**

Women are usually engaged in traditional activities and generally they are not involved in outdoor activities. Their participation in social activities is increasing with the passage of time but still there is more needed to be done.

### **Political Situation**

Politically this district has remained a hub of Pakistan People's Party. Since 1971 PPP was never defeated in this area but in 2002 general elections Sindh Democratic Alliance (SDA) won a seat of provincial assembly and remaining two seats of national and provincial assemblies each were won by PPPP. MMA parties are also present in the district but their activities are very limited.



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## Overall Results

### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
16	32	102	32	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
16	32	61	32	0	100%

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## Tharparkar/Mithi

Tharparkar is located in the south- eastern part of Sindh. It is bordered by India in the east and south, Badin in the west and Mirpurkhas and Umerkot in the north. Total area of the district is 19,638 square kilometers. It consists of 4 Tehsils i.e. Chhachhro, Nagarparkar, Mithi and Diplo. Total population is 914,291 (male: 499,859, female: 414,432). The main occupation of Thari people is cattle and livestock rearing from which about 60% of their living derived.

At present there are about 4.6 million cattle and livestock comprising buffaloes, sheep, goat, camel, donkeys and horses. About 10% household get regular flow income through services in various private and public jobs. The rest of them derive their income through selling handicraft, pottery, shoe mending, tailoring, carpet weaving and other micro-enterprise undertaking. The crops grow on the water of rain.

### Health Facilities

There is only one civil hospital, 2 government hospitals, 3 rural health care centers, 38 dispensaries, and 2 Mother and Child centers.

### Educational Facilities

The overall rate is 20%. There are 2,925 primary schools, 43 secondary schools and 26 high schools. There is also one degree college in the district.

### Social Customs and Traditions

This region has an ancient history. The culture has been dominated by Hindu culture due to majority of the population is Hindu. Women's mobility is restricted because of feudal system and poverty. Many families from peasant class are working as bonded labour for influential Feudals.

### Political Situation

Arbabs, Ranas and PPPP dominate the politics of the area. Women have a minor role in politics. Mr. Arbab Anwar the nephew of CM Sindh Dr Arbab Rahim of PML-Q is the district Nazim.

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## Glimpses of the Campaigns

### CCWR 2001

Thar, located in the desert region of Sindh, has a large population of non-Muslims. The DCC informed the local population that non-Muslims could not only contest the seats reserved for them in the local councils, but also the seats in the peasant/worker category and the posts of *nazim* and *naib nazim*, according to a recent Punjab High Court ruling upholding their right to stand for these seats as well. The DCC encouraged them to contest the above-mentioned seats to ensure their proper representation. These communities were also urged to allow women to contest.

As a result, non-Muslims filed nomination papers for these posts as well, but the Returning Officers of tehsil Muthi refused to accept the new information. They thought that people filing their nomination forms had made a mistake. Hence they changed the nomination papers and moved the names of 22 people, which included seven women, from the list of contestants for peasant/worker seats to the seats reserved for minorities. When the list of candidates was made available, the non-Muslim contestants realised that their names had been removed from the seats that they had wished to contest.

The people approached the DCC in Thar, who contacted the Karachi office of AF. The DCC also contacted the office of the Returning Officer and clarified this issue. In the meantime AF Karachi contacted the Provincial Election Commission and requested them to move quickly. As a result, the mistake of the Returning Officer was rectified and nomination forms were registered for the seats that these people originally wanted to contest.

### WPLGE 2005

Tharparkar at Mithi district is known for its deserted area, simplicity and being a neighbour of India. Its borders touch the Rajistan side. The living pattern of Thari people and Rajistanis was the same. The 39 percent of the population was non Muslims and they had relatives in India. The religious harmony was prevalent in the area.

The Election Commission had announced during local Bodies election 2005 that one seat of minority would be increased in each union council where the population of non Muslims increased to 10 percent but practically it couldn't happen in Thar due to late arrival of such notification. When the member of DCC media committee and a famous Journalist Mr.

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Khhatao Jani had contacted EC office he came to know that notification had not yet been received in district election commission office.

He then informed DCC about the gravity of the issue. I and Shamdas Darzi took the issue with Aurat Foundation Karachi office and on the next day DRO called us and asked why you people had complained provincial election commission? We said him sir we had contacted PEC with connection to notification for minority seats. He said he couldn't do any thing unless notification was received in his office. We then held press conference and issued statements to Media with connection to delay in issuance of notification.

Newspapers and TV Channels covered the issue and local people also contacted us.

The notification couldn't be issued due political and bureaucratic hurdles but it was issued after the expiry of date for submission of nominations with No. GD/MIN/248 dated July 22, 2005. The delay of notification resulted in 37 seats including 17 seats for minorities remained vacant and only three candidates could succeed those who had submitted nomination forms at their own without notification.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
44	150	247	149	1	99.30%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
44	88	159	88	0	100.00%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
44	88	140	86	2	97.72%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
44	88	147	87	1	98.86%

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## Thatta

Thatta is located in southern Sindh. The Arabian Sea lies to its south, it has a large coastline. Karachi, Dadu, Badin and Hyderabad border Thatta. Thatta is bounded by India in the east. Total area of the district is 17,355 square kilometers. It comprises 9 Tehsils i.e. Thatta, Mirpur Sakro, Ketu Bunder, Ghhorabari, Mirpur Bathoro, Sujawal, Jati, Shah Bundar and Kharo Chhan with 55 Union councils.

Total population is 1,113,194 (male 589,341, female 523,853). The economy is based on agriculture. Women work in brick kilns and are active in the teaching, health, law and other government sectors. There is a limited industrial sector operating in the district. This includes textiles, sugar, cement, flour, Jute, salt and car assembly plants. Makli Hills the ancient graveyard is prominent place of this district.

### Health Facilities

There are private and government run hospitals in Thatta. There are 4 rural healthcare centers, 50 basic health units, 1 maternity home, 15 dispensaries and 5 Taluka hospitals.

### Educational Facilities

The male literacy rate is 25% while the female literacy rate is 22%. Approximately 33,189 children attend school while 144,907 children of school-going age do not attend school. There are 2,498 primary schools in the district out of which 285 are for girls.

### Social Customs and Traditions

Landmarks in Thatta like the Makli graveyard attest to the ancient history of the region. The district is conservative in its outlook. Feudal system is operating in different form. Women's mobility is not very much restricted in the district. People have a firm believe on shrines and visit regularly.

### Political Situation

In the past PPP used to be a force in the region, now it has been replaced by the Shirazi group. The total number of registered voters who are Muslim is 545,403 while non-Muslim registered voters are 15,174. There are 847 male councilors and 364 female councilors in local body elections 2005. Ms Sassui Palejo is an only MPA of PPPP directly elected from

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Thatta. Mr. Shafqat Shah Sheerazi of PMLQ is the district Nazim for second time.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2001

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
55	220	368	208	12	94.50%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
55	110	154	98	12	89.10%

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
55	110	242	110	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
55	110	186	107	3	97.27%

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## Umer Kot

Umer Kot is located in south eastern Sindh. It is bordered by India in the northeast, Tharparkar in the south, Sanghar in the northwest and Mirpurkhas in the west. Total area of the district is 5,608 square kilometers. It consists of 4 Tehsils i.e. Samaro, Kunri, Pithoro and Umerkot. Total population is 664,797 (male: 350,601, female: 314,196). The economy is agro- based.

Women, both in rural and urban areas, seek employment in the government departments of health and education. There is a thriving cottage industry with women making goods ranging from children's toys, handicrafts and cosmetics. Women are also active in the agricultural sector. The ancient fort of Umerkot has its own glory.

### Health Facilities

There are 4 Tehsil hospitals, 18 rural healthcare centers, 8 basic health clinics and 54 dispensaries. People are unaware about various diseases.

### Educational Facilities

The overall literacy rate is 30%. In rural areas most people are educated till the primary level whereas in urban areas people are educated up to secondary level. There are 56 schools for boys; this includes primary, middle, high and technical schools. There are 61 schools for girls.

### Social Customs and Traditions

As the other part of Sindh Umerkot has its own traditional way of life. Hindus are in majority of the population and they have very typical life style. Women cover their face and work side by side with their male members. Violence against women is also an issue of the district but Karo Kari ratio is very low as compare to other districts.

### Political Situation

People lack awareness about their political rights. 223,700 men and 76,100 women are registered voters. PPPP and PMLF are the major parties of the district. Mr. Faqir Mughhan Mangrio of PMLF is the district Nazim.

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## Glimpses of the Campaign

### WPLGE 2005

There was lack of information among women and men candidates including voters in Local Bodies election 2005 and on the other hand it was observed within the government Bodies at district and local level due to late delivery of orders or instructions by the higher authorities. Such type of thing was observed in Taluka Samaro of district Umer Kot.

The candidate of Nazim seat Mr. Sofi Aslam reached at facilitation camp of DCC and informed Taluka coordinator Bhart Kumar that RO had issued instructions to submit copy of CNIC with nomination form and those candidates who had no CNIC they should submit nomination form with old NIC including affidavit of 100 Rupees in support.

The stamp venders were providing the affidavit and according to reports some of them had advised RO for affidavit. Then the TCC Team comprising Bhart Kumar and Naresh held meeting with RO in his chamber and requested him that copy of CNIC was not necessary to submit with nomination form and such type of announcements had been made in Newspapers and Channels by EC authorities. So kindly lift the sanction of affidavit because the candidates were bearing extra expenses.

We had been facilitating candidates through our facilitation camp with the support of Aurat Foundation so kindly contact your authorities via phone or as you like? RO then contacted higher authorities and announced that no affidavit, of Rs 100 would be received from candidates on wards.

The candidates thanked us and then about 76 candidates submitted their nominations without the affidavit of 100 Rupees.

### Overall Results

#### Election Results 2005

General Reserved Seats for Women					
UCs	Seats	Nominations	Elected	Vacant	Coverage
27	54	150	54	0	100%
Peasant/Labour Seats for Women					
27	54	151	54	0	100%



# Appendices



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## A. Aurat Foundation Staff Participating in WPLGE

### Balochistan

Abdul Qadir, Abdul Razzaq, Allauddin Khilji, Amir Ali, Fozia Dilawar, Haroon Dawood, Irfan Ahmed, Ishfaq Mengal, M. Younas Khalid, Moazzam Ali, Mudassar Hussain, Munawar Ahmed, Mussarat Khan, Rashid Chohan, Shakeela Raisani, Sumera Jamal, Zafar Iqbal, Zafar Iqbal Qureshi, Zahida Achikzai

### Islamabad

Aslam Shah, Asma Batool, Bilal Warriach, Erum Fatima, Faisal Gorchani, Faqeer Hussain, Fariha Mughal, Gul baden Azam, Imran Khan, Imran Sharif, Javed Iqbal, M.Khalid Nisar, Mohammad Hanif, Mohammad Ishaq, Mohd. Nazir Khan, Mumtaz Begum, Nadeem Akhtar, Naeem Ahmad Mirza, Naureen Zafar, Niamat Hussain, Sadia Mumtaz, Saeed Khan, Sajid Mansoor Qaisrani, Sajid Mehmood, Shazia Ijaz, Shazia Khalid, Zamarud Hussain

### NWFP

Aabida, Aftab Ahmad, Aimal Khan, Arshad Ali, Arshad Khan, Asad Ali, Asim Malik, Faiza, Habib Ahmad, Imran, Khan Gul, Noor Zeba, Noreen, Parveen, Rana, Rukhshanda, Sadaf, Saima Munir, Sajjad, Samina, Sarmad Iqbal, Shabina Ayaz, Shahid, Shakeel, Shakeela Khan, Shirin Javed, Syeda Qudsia, Syeeda Abida, Taniya, Tariq, Uzma Mehboob, Zeb-un-Nisa

### Punjab

Abid Ali, Afreen Fatima, Andleeb Ch., Asad Rahman, Atta-ur-Rehman Sheikh, Farzana Mumtaz, Fayyaz Ahmed, Fayyaz Ali, Hafsa Alvi, Haji M. Yousuf, Hooria Ali, Ifitkhar Ali, Imadud Din Ahmed, Imran Murtaza, Imtiaz-ul-Haq, Jamal Aslam Javed Yousuf, Kalsoom Sumera, Kashif Aslam, M. Arif Sheikh, M. Iftikhar, M. Nazir, M. Saeed, Muhammad Tanwir, M. Younus, M. Zahid, Misbah Tahir, Mohammad Rashid, Mumtaz Mughal, Rabia Ali, Rehana Kausar, Sahar Rehman Khan, Salman Abid, Saleem Bhatti, Samia Tariq, Samina Nawaz, Sarfraz Gill, Shabih Aslam, Surriya Zafar, Ume-Laila Azhar, Uzma Saeed, Zameer Ahmed

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**Sindh**

Ali Azeem, Anis Fatima, Anis Haroon, Asia Bano, Azmat Qazi, Faisal, Faiza Burney, Farooq, Hina Siddiqui, Lala Hassan Pathan, M. Arif, M. Aslam Brohi, Malka Khan, Meezan, Mehar Taj, Naheed Syed, Nuzhat Shirin, Raffat Yasmin, Rasheed, Razzak, Rehan Shafiq, Riaz Khan, Seema Shaikh, Shahid Paul, Shirin Khan, Sunny, Wadood Muhammad, Waqar Munir

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## B. WPLGE Partners by Province and District (Coordinators, Members and Support Organisations)

### Balochistan

#### Awaran

Muhammad Arif, Muhammad Ashraf, Muhammad Qasim , Nazim Baloch, Nazir Ahmed, Shafqat Ali, Shakir Ali, Shoukat Shaheen, Tariq Ali, Zahoor Ahmed

Aashan Development Organisation, Darisky Social Development Society, Gidan Development Organisation, Klwa Social Development Society, Qandeel Development Organisation

#### Barkhan

Amanullah, Behram Khan, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Dr. Hameedullah, Faiz Muhammad, Fateh Mohammad, Inayatullah, Jaffar Shah, Jalal Khan, Jan Mohammad, Khalid Amin, Mohammad Ayaz, Mohammad Javed, Mohammad Ramzan, Mohammad Shafi Khetran, Mohammad Sultan, Mohammad Zafar Khetran, Muhammad Hanif, Mumtaz Ali, Noor Ahmed, Rasool Bakhsh Khetran, Sher Khan, Yar Mohammad, Zafar Muhammad Khetran

Al-Misri Welfare and Development Association, Anjuman-e-Ittehad-e-Naujawanan, Khidmat Welfare Society, Khidmat Welfare Society, Khushhal Development Organisation, Moonlight Welfare Society, Welfare Society Baghao, Young Welfare Organisation, Youth Welfare Organisation

#### Bolan

Akbar Baloch, Asya Bibi, Ch. Muhammad Younas, Habib Mastoi, Liaqat Soomro, Muhammad Rafiq, Perveen Musa, Saadullah, Shahnaz Perveen, Shaqufta

Bhag Welfare Society, Citizen Action Committee, Inter College, Press Club, Social Welfare Office

#### Chagai

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## Jhang

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### Sargodha

Anwar Gondal, Abdul Sattar Gujjar, Abdul Sattar Gujjar, Abdur Raoof Niswana, Afzal Akber, Afzal Akber, Afzal Akber, Ahmed Yar, Ahsan Ullah, Ahsan Ullah, Akther Hashmi, Ch. Abdul Khaliq, Ch. Muh. Afzal Meekan, Dilshad Ahmed, Haji Abdul Aziz, Haji Abdul Aziz, Hamna Bashir, Hannan Chudhry, Hassan Mehmood Khan, Hussain Ahmed Gondal, Hussain Ahmed Gondal, M. Younus Wafa, Malik Muh. Yar, Malik Nazar Muh., Malik Nazar Muh., Mehr Muh. Tufail, Mirza Muh. Akthar, Miss Nadia Khan, Miss Noreen Khan, Muh. Arif Rawana, Muh. Iqbal Adil, Muh. Rafiq Butt, Muh. Sarfraz, Muh. Sarfraz, Muh. Yar Gondal, Muh. Yar Gondal, Muh. Younus Wafa, Muh. Yousaf Khurshid, Muh. Yousaf Khurshid, Muhammad Khalid, Munwar Ahmed Gondal, Musrat Perveen, Musrat Perveen, Nazar Muhammad, Nazar Muhammad, Prof Muhammad Ali, Prof. Ghulam Abbas, Rabia Chudhry, Rafiq But, Raja Shahid Iqbal, Rana Khalid Mehmood, Rana Muh. Mushtaq, Rana Mushtaq Ahmed, Rao Kanwar Yameen, Rukhasa Bhatti, Sajjar Abbas, Shah Nawaz, Shahnaz Khan, Shakeel Ahmed Ansari, Shazia Ghaffar, Sheikh. Abu Zar Ghaffari, Sughra Alam, Sultan Ahmed, Syed Gohar Hussain Shah, Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah, Tahir Quarshi, Tariq Quarshi, Tariq Qurashi, Tufail Ahmed, Ubaid Ullah Tahir

Al-Baqa society, Kiran welfare Society, Kisan Tahreek, Rida Foundation

### Sheikhupura

A. Hameed, A.Hameed, Ajmal Qadir, Ali Abid, Allah Wasaya, Anwar Khoakar, Asif Mirza, Azeem Ahmed Yazdani, Azim Malik, Azra Munir Khokhar, Azra Munir Khokhar, Ch. Shahid Buttar, Fiaz Miran, Fiaz Miran, Ghulam Masih, Ghulam Serwar, Irfan Bhatti, Jhangir Sultana, Karamat Ali Bhatti, Karamat Ali Bhatti, M. Rafique, M. Rafique, Malik Attique Anwar, Malik Muh. Boota, Malik Mumtaz, Malik Taj, Mohsin Irfan, Ms. Khurshid Mehmood, Muh. Akber, Muh. Akber, Muh. Sadique Tahir, Muhammad Anwar, Muhammad Saeed, Muhammad Saeed, Munir Khokhar, Nasir Tufail, Naveed Raza, Nazli Javed, Rasheed Ahmed, Rukhsana Nawaz Bajwa, S.N.Khawar Khan, Saira Bano, Shabaz Khan, Shamim Anwar, Shazia Yaqub, Syed Abid Hussain, Tahira Azam, Tanvir Ahmed, Tariq Cheema, Wajahat Batool, Anjuman-Tajran, Ithad Shamsia

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Public Welfare Society, Social Welfare Organisation, Suffa Welfare Organisation

#### **Sialkot**

Abdul Rauf Goman, Abdul Salam Naqvi, Amanat Sulehri, Arshad Mehmood, Ch. Ashraf, Dr. Parveen, Farida Salim, Farrukh Salim, Haji Zahid, Hina, Ijaz Ahmed, Ijaz Gul, Ishtiaq Butt, M. Noor, M. Salim, M. Shakeel, Malik Rafeeq, Malik Waqas, Mudassir, Munir Butt, Muqadas, Naseem Shakeel, Rana Tahir Afzal, Saeed Waheed Bukhari, Saeeda Farah Azam, Shahzad, Shumaila, Sumaira, Wasim Haider, Zafer Nadeem Dawood

Bedari, Bedari, District Bar Association, FM 104 Radio, FTT, GEO, Roshni, Pasroor Tehsil Bar Association, Roshni, Sufna Foundation, Trade Union, Umang Welfare Organisation, Weekly Good Luck, Women Welfare

#### **Toba Tek Singh**

Abdul Ghaffar, Abida Khanam, Ahsan Bukhari, Azra Naseem, Dr. Anwar Iqbal, Dr. Robina, Farhat Sarfraz, Ghulam Mustafa Tabbsum, Haji M. Akram, Humair Ahmed, Humaira Shaukat, Ijaz Iqbal, Javed Iqbal, Kashif Majeed, Kashif Majid, Lubna Mukhtar, Maqsood Ahmed, Mian M. Akram, Mian M. Arshad, Mian Raghav, Mumtaz Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed Kashfi, Mustafa Paras, Nabila Yasmin, Nasim Akhtar, Nasir Mehmood Salimi, Nasir Mehmood Salimi, Naveed Mangla, Nusrat Parveen, Prof. Abdul Ghaffar, Rizwana Bashir, Salma Baig, Salman Khan, Salman Khan, Samina Fatima, Samiullah, Shabbir Ahmed Dogar, Syed Sahamul Islam, Syed Shamasul Islam, Zafar Kamal

Asghar, Asma Noureen, Istehsil Gull, Shahnaz Karamat, Zafar Iqbal

#### **Vehari**

Abdul Latif, Abdul Raouf, Abdul Raouf Chudhry, Asghar Javid, Azhar Abbas Bukhari, Ch. Abdul Rauf, Ch. Muh. Fiaz, Ch. Muhammad Asalm, Ch. Mustafa, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Dr. Nasir Dilshad Ahmed, Ehsan Bari, Haji Muhammad Mushtaq, Ishaq Javid, Javid Aziz, Kashif Zubair, Lubna Ehtasham, M. Zafar, M. Sadiq Mirza, Mian Abdul Aziz, Mian Ashraf, Mian Tanvir Ahmed, Muh. Latif, Muhammad Fayyaz, Muhammad Saddiq Dewal, Mushtaq Awan, Nadeem Bukhari, Rana Allah Ditta, Rao Zafar Iqbal, Rao Zafar Iqbal, Saima, Saima Batool, Sajida Mubarik, Sajjad

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Saeedi, Saoud Mukthair, Shabir Ahmed Saeedi, Shafiq Bhatti, Shahid Pervaiz, Shazia Manzoor, Sheik Ghulam Mustafa, Sher Khan, Katchi, Sher Muhammad Kehchi, Shugfata Ghor, Shugfta Gohar, Yaqoob Sindho, Zubida Malik  
Khawateen Help Line

## Sindh

### Badin

Abdul Majeed Mallah ,Abdul Qayoom Chana, Abdullah Turk, Agha Aabid, Ali Hassan Mashori ,Amar Ansari ,Faiz Odejo ,Fiaz Hussain Abro, Gulnaz Sarwar, Hameeda Khaskheli, Ms. Afsana Tabassum, Ms. Azmat Holepoto, Ms. Toqeer Fatima, Ms. Zahra Wahid, Muhammad Hassan Mashori, Muhammad Khan Samo, Muhammad Khan Samo, Naraen Lohana, Pir Bux Sheedi, Professor Abdullah Mallah, Rafiq Ahmad, Sawan Khaskheli, Suleman Soomro, Vikio Mal Rajwani, Zafar Khaskheli

Ansari Social welfare Association Badin, Badin Development and Research Organisation BDRO Badin, Badin Rural development Society Badin,Funda Mental Human Rights and Rural Development Association Golarchi, Pakistan Peace and Human Rights Organisation Badin, Pirbhat Social welfare Association Badin, Serwan Social welfare Association Khorwah, Shama Development Association Tando Bago, Sindh Aurat Development Association Badin, Sindh Development and Research Organisation Kadhan, Sindh Graduate Association Badin, Village Development Association, Tando Bago, Village Development Association Moosa Soomro Badin, Young Khaskhali welfare Organisation Badin, Young Sheedi Welfare Organisation Badin

### Dadu

Aabida Jaskani, Abdul Fattah Sheikh, Ahmad Khan Lund, Amanullah Chandio, Arbab Ali Thahim, Dr. Azam Chandio, Dr. Zahid Hussain Jokhio, Farzana Bhatti, Farzana Soomro, Ghulam Asghar Memon, Ghulam Mustafa Shahani, Ghulam Shabir Kalhoro,Gulan Bhand, Irfan Sheikh, Kalsoom Chandio, Mola Bux Lighari, Mola Bux Mastoi, Ms. Vinta Bano, Muhammad Mithal Lighari, Muhammad Siddique Thebo, Nizamuddin Sheikh, Qurban Khushk, Rasheed Lighari, Rasheeda Panhwar, Rukhsana



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Thahim, Shoeb Khan, Wafa Birahmani, Wali Muhammad Chandio, Waseem Khokhar

Abadgar Action Committee Johi, Aisaro Women Development Concern Dadu, Bar Council Dadu, Chandia Welfare Association, Citizens Welfare Association Phulgi Station, Dadu Helping Hands, Dadu Itihad, Dadu Press Club, District NGOs Network Dadu, Goth Sudhar Sangar Hifiz Mir Muhammad Kalhoro, Goth Sudhar Sangat Butara Panhwer, Goth Sudhar Sangat Faridabad, Goth Sudhar Sangat Ibrahim Leghari, Goth Sudhar Sangat Jani Chandio, Goth Sudhar Sangat Taj Muhammad Doltani, Kacho Bachayo Tehreek (KBT), Madadgar Organisation, Madani Welfare Association, Mehran Development Organisation, Memon Welfare Association, MQM Dadu, National Press Club Johi, Peoples Social Welfare Association, PPP Dadu, SCHEDO, Shahbaz Welfare Organisation, Sindh Cultural Association Monder, Sindh Graduate Association (SGA) Khudaabad, Social Welfare Association Din Muhammad Shahani, Social Welfare Department, SPEECH Development Organisation, Sufi Shah Inayat Sangat, Sujag Sansar Organisation, Village Development Organisation, Village Development Organisation Waleed Shaikh, Village Shadabad Association, YLWA Dadu, Young Lawyers Association

#### **Ghotki**

Abdul Malik Mahar, Abdul Rauf, Abdul Razaq Mahar, Afshan Qureshi, Ali Asghar Panhyar, Ashfaq Kolachi, Aslam Rajput, Ayaz Lateef, Badal Malik, Dawarka Das, Dr. Rukhsana Ruk, Dr. Sanaullah Kolachi, Fazal Hussain, Kalhoro, Ghulam Sarwar, Hazar Khan Gadani, Imtiaz Ahmed, Malook Zadi, Mehtab Kolachi, Muhammad Nawaz Mahar, Muhammad Younus, Niaz Channa, Rubina Sheikh, Sajid Aziz Channa, Samina Shaikh, Sattar Ghphoto, Sattar Ghphoto, Shafia Sheikh, Shamim Akhtar, Shoban Baloch, Suria Begum, Zarka Shar, Zubair Dayo

Al Madina Welfare Association, Alam Welfare Association, Bar Council Ghotki, Changlani Welfare Association, Friends Welfare Association, Gul Foundation, Hawa Foundation, Insaf Welfare Association, Lal Shahbaz Welfare Organisation, Mashal Welfare Association, Mehran Samaji Tanzeem, Muhammad Umer Welfare Association, Naujawan Sangar Adilpur, Naujawan Sangat Rural Development Organisation, Sahara Human Development Organisation, Samaji Bhalai Organisation, Samaji

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Bhalai Tarakiyati Tanzeem, Sanwal Welfare Association, Shah Latif Development Organisation, Sindh Graduate Association, Sindh Malik Welfare Association, Sindhan Tarakiyati Tanzeem, Sujana Sartiyoona Tarkiyati Tanzeem, Village Development Welfare Organisation, Young Kolachi Welfare Association

#### Hyderabad

Abdul Hameed, Abdul Wahab, Basharat Memon, Dost Muhammad Channa, Fahmida Riaz, Ghaffar Malik, Ghulam Hussain, Khaskheli, Gulnaz Sheikh, Lala Fazal Memon, Mahboob Jarwar, Ms. Khadija Turab, Ms. Zahida Khaskheli, Noreen Rajput, Parveen Lodhi, Qaisar Azam Soomro, Qurban Umrani, Rana Siddiqui, Raza Muhammad, Rukhsana Shah, Seema Mallah, Shahida Ansari, Shamim Mohsin, Sumera Samo, Tayyba Ashraf

Bhattai Welfare Association, Health and Educational Services Organisation, (HESO), Marie Stop Society, Orangi Charitable Trust (OCT), Paiman Trust, Pak Social Welfare Society (PSWS), PVDP, Sindh Bar Council, Sindh Development Society, Sindh Health Education Development Society (SHEDS), Sorath Samaji Taraqiatee Tanzeem

#### Jacobabad

Abdul Jabbar Lashari, Abdul Sami Soomro, Abdul Sami Soomro, Aqeela Khanam, Bushra Arain, Bushra Arain, Dr. Aziz Hambhi, Firdos Khwaja, Ghulam Rasool, Jamali, GM Noonari, GM Soomro, Guhram Khoso, Hamida Abbasi, Iqbal Ahmed, Liaqat Brohi, Ms. Ghulam Sughra, Ms. Nusrat, Ms. Raheela, Muhammad Jan Odhano, Mumtaz Ali Kanasro, Naheed Soomro, Nazia Sindhu, Nazir Ahmed Bhatti, Qamar Bano, Rabia Solangi, Raza Muhammad Rind, Roshan Ali Panhwar, Sardar Bux Mangrio, Sofia Shahid

Community Development Foundation, District Bar Association, District Union of Journalists (Press Club), Goth Sudhar Tanzeem, Jacobabad Mazdoor Ittihad, Jamiat-e-Ulma-e-Islam, John Jacob Memorial Organisation, Maroora Welfare Association, Mazdoor Shahri Ittihad, Pakistan People's Party, Press Club Bahoo Khoso, Shahbaz Welfare Association, Shaheed Shah Nawaz Memorial Organisation, Sindh Graduates Association, Sindh Rural Development Program, Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party, Women Welfare Organisation

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### **Jamshoro**

Anwar Ali Bilal, Anwar Ali Bilal, Ayaz Hussain, Ayoob Memon, Husna Katyar, Hyder Ali Unnar, Jahangir Sarwar Sehro, Jahangir Sarwar Sehro, Kosar Khan, Lashkari Khan Khoso, Ms Shazia, Ms Zarina, Ms. Fukhrunnisa, Ms. Koonj Khaskheli, Ms. Salma, Noor ul Amin Sipyo, Pathan Burfat, Raja Ashfaq Hussain

Shabana Farid, Shafiq Ali Khaskheli, Shokat Ali Memon, Zualfiqar Bhutto, Aakash Welfare Society, Anjuman Falah-o-Behbood, Haroon Welfare Association, Indus Rural Development, Kamro Bagh Welfare Association, Kohistan Social Service, Mehran Community Development Organisation, Naujawan Itihad, Shah Latif Welfare Association, Sindh Jagarta Society, Sindh Rural Jagarta, SKY Development, SRDO

### **Karachi**

Aabid Ghori, Aamir Ahmad, Abdul Jalil, Abdul Latif, Abdul Rasheed, Aejaz Ahmed, Ahmed Roshan, Amjad Hussain, Anwar Habib, Asif Hussain, Asim Waheed, Azeem Memon, Farhan Ali, Farooq Sheikh, Gul Mohammad, Habib ur Rehman, Haji Ibrahim, Hassan Ali Shah, Iftikhar Hussain Afridi, Imdad Ali Karim, Khalid Ahmad, Khalid Farooq Shah, Khizr Hayat, M. Akram, M. Younis Khaskheli, Masood Warsi, Masood Warsi, Mohammad Ali, Ms Athar Karim, Ms. Aesha Akhtar, Ms. Afshan, Ms. Azhar Karim, Ms. Benazir, Ms. Farida, Ms. Fatima, Ms. Fatima, Ms. Feroza Azmat, Ms. Gul e Rana, Ms. Gul Nisa, Ms. Nuzhat, Ms. Pari Khatoon, Ms. Rukhshanda, Ms. Saba, Ms. Safia Qadir, Ms. Sajida, Ms. Shahida Begum, Ms. Shumaila, Muhammad Anwar, Muhammad Zahid, Munir Ahmed, Munir Shah, Muzamil Shah, Nabi Bux, Naeemuddin, Parveen Lalio, Parvez Sadiq, Raheel Ayaz, Rahim Bux Imam, Rehman Ahmad, Safi Imam, Saleem Paul, Saleh Mohammad, Sardar Ahmad, Sayed Aftab Hussain, Sayed Latif, Shahid Advocate, Shahida Begum, Sher Zaman, Suhail Ahmad Sheikh, Sumera Suleman

### **Kashmore/Kandhkot**

Abdul Fatah, Chandio, Ahmed Bux Channa, Ahmed Bux Channa, Asma Khalid, Bashir Ahmed, Channa, Bashir Ahmed, Samejo, Fiaz Ahmed Khoso, Freeda Memon, Ghulam Yaseen Ogahi, Imdadullah Khoso, Kamran Jamali, Khalida Baloch, Laila Siyal, Mahran Khoso, Mai Sodhi,

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Marvi Sheikh, Mohammad Ali Lashari, Mohammad Qasim, Ms. Khan Zadi, Muhammad Qasim Malik, Munwar Ali Sarki, Nazir Ahmed Soomro, Qutubuddin Khoso, Raheela Khilji, Rani Bhatti, Razia Khilji, Saen Bux, Sahiba Pathan, Shabana Malik, Shahzado Khan, Khoso Shakil Ahmed, Syed Lutuf Ali, Syed Zafar Ali, Wazir Ali Bahalkani, Zulfiqar Tabasum

Amrotee Development Organisation, Anjuman Falah-u-Behbood, District Bar Association Kandhkot, Indus CCB Kandhkot, Jannat Welfare Association, Kandhkot Welfare Association, Kinaat Welfare Association, Mashal Society, Sindh Sujag Tanzeem, Soofi Sachal Sarmast Welfare, Tameer Development Organisation, Village Development Organisation

#### **Khairpur Mirs**

Abdul Jabbar Khaskheli, Aftab Ahmad Shar, Agha Nasrullah, Ali Ansar Sindho, Allah Bachayo, Ameer Abro, Ghulam Abbas Mallah, Gulzar Khatoon, Habibullah Mallah, Habib-ur-Rehman Sheikh, Hadi Bux, Imam Dino Burero, Imam Zadi, Irfan Phulpoto, Javed Hussain, Khadim Hussain Meerani, Khalida Riaz, Lutufullah Sahito, Ms. Manzooran, Ms. Rana Shah, Ms. Zahida Gul Qureshi, Muhammad Ali Sahito, Muhammad Ayoob, Mumtaz Ali Lashari, Nazir Ahmad Ujan, Niaz Hussain Khaskheli, Niaz Rajpar, Nisar Ahmed Bhanbhro, Rafia Panhwar, Raja Panhyar, Shafqat Mahesar, Shahida Lashari, Shahmir Khaskheli, Shamshad Babar, Sughra Majeed Sheikh, Syed Muhib Ali, Wahida Abro, Zarina Akhtar

Al Rashid Welfare Association, Al Shahbaz Welfare Association, APWA, Bhittai Social Welfare Association Sadarji, Confident Disable Welfare Association, Data Welfare Association, District NGOs, Goth Seengar Foundation, STA Tehsil Khairpur, Khairpur Women Association, Khushboo Welfare Association, Kingri Welfare Association, Layari Development Organisation, Marvi Development Organisation, Mehran Social Welfare Association, Nisar Education Society, PEN, Rural Women Development Organisation, Sanneh Samaj Sudhar Sangat, Soonh Welfare Association

#### **Larkana**

Abdul Rehman Bhutto, Allah Buksh Magsi, Ambreen Bhutto, Amina Soomro, Anwar Khokhar, Arshad Shah, Ayaz Sario, Deedar Ali Abbasi, Dr. Sabiha Arshad Mughal, Ghulam Rasool Narejo, Jamal Shah, Jamil

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Gaad, Jamila Mirani, Khalid Chandio, Khalida Sheikh, Maqsood Mirani, Mehtab Baloch, Mrs. Aftab Baloch, Ms. Zulekhan Mangi, Munir Pirzada, Munir Soomro, Nadia Sheikh, Naveed Larak, Niaz Jagirani, Raffia Sangi, Shahida Syed, Shamsunnisa Abbasi, Syed Javed Shah, Talib Shah, Wazir Begum

District Bar Council, Fisher Folk Forum, Indus Development Society, Kainat Social Welfare Association, Khaksar Tehreek, Khidmat-e-Masoom Welfare Trust, Social Welfare Association, Latif Sain Social Welfare Association, Nobel Welfare Association, Red Crescent Society, Shah Baharo Social Welfare Association, Sindh Graduate Association, Sorath Saqafati Sangat, Unique Educational Society, WAPDA Hydro Electric Labour Union

#### **Matyari**

Allah Dino Malookani, Almas Memon, Arbab Ali Lighari Ayaz Hashmani, Babo Khaskheli, Bashir Ahmad Raho, Firdos Abro, Ghulam Nabi Kaka, Gulzar Ali Laghari, Ms. Maryam, Ms. Naznen Hussain, Muhammad Hussain Memon, Naznen Hussain, Rasool Bux Gahoti, Sahar Rizvi, Seema Mirza, Shama Chand, Yasmeen Babi, Younis Chhajro, Younis Chhajro, Zaen Daudpoto, Zaen Daudpoto, Zahida Qambrani

Chand Welfare Association, Indus Development Organisation, Indus Rural Development Organisation, Matyari Action Committee, Paiman Trust, PPP Women Wing, Press Club New Saeedabad, Sindh Graduates Association, (SGA), Tarraqi Passand Nari Tehreek

#### **Mirpur Khas**

Abdul Karim Memon, Abdul Khalid Panhwar, Ahsan Jarwar, Apa Mumtaz Soomro, Ashraf J.W. Mall, Ausaf Arshad, Azhar Abbas, Faiz Malkani, Gul Hussain Lashari, Gulzar Lashari, Irshad Ahmad Siddiqui, Jawaid Kaalro, M. Bux Kapri, Mrs. Grace Manzoor, Mrs. Maqbool Emanuel, Ms. Rafiq-un-nisa, Naraen Das, Noor Jahan Leghari, Qurban Ali Chhajro, Raes Ahmed Khan, Rao Ayoob Khan, Shahid Mughal, Suhail Awan, Tulsi Das, Zaheer Ahmed Qaemkhani

Jagarta Kot Ghulam Muhammad, Lower Sindh Development Association, Mother and Child Welfare Association, Narcotics Control Council, Rotary Club, Sakhi Jan Abdi Samaji Sangat, Sindh Village Development Organisation, Sindhi Memon Panchayat

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**Naushehro Feroze**

Abdul Salam Luhrani, Afshan Memon, Amjad Ali Memon, Amjad Memon, Apa Khurshid Memon, Dr. Wazeer Malik, Fatima Soomro, Ghulam Muhammad Abbasi, Haji Khan Panhwar, Khadim Farooq, Khalid Mashori, Khan Ahmad Rajpar, Muhammad Soomar Keerio, Nusrat Bano, Nusrat Memon, Oan Qamar Jokhio, Qazi Zualfiqar, Rehana Yameen, Shakoor Abbasi, Shazia Faryal, Sultana Khaskheli, Zahid Rajpar

Bhit Shah Declaration Coordinating Council, Community Development Department, Goth Sudhar Sangat, Govt: Teachers Association, Moomal Welfare Association, National Commission for Human Development, Naushahro Feroze Bar Council, Press Club, Primary Teachers Association, Sindh NGO's Fedretion, Sindhi Adabi Sangat, Solangi Welfare Association, Soormin Sath Welfare Association, Women Councilors Ethad, Young Soomra Welfare Association

**Nawabshah**

Ameer Ali Chandio, Ameer Bux Bhatti, Dr. Sikandar Ali Raho, Dr. Tahir Khanzada, Ghulam Muhammad, Ghulam Mustafa Korai, Ikhlaiq Hussain Shar, Ikhtiar Tunio, Javed Ali Mallah, Javed Ali Mallah, Manzoor Ahmad Rajpar, Maqsood Ahmad Soomro, Ms. Farhana, Ms. Rukhsana Pirzada, Ms. Saeqa Parvez, Ms. Sahib Khatoo, Muhammad Iqbal Bhatti, Muhammad Siddique Rind, Mushtaq Ali Pirzada, Nazan Chandio, Nazan Chandio, Nisar Ahmad Brohi, Nusrat Jahan, Rab Nawaz Khoso, Rukhsana Pirzada, Sachal Rind, Sarang Sahito, Shazia Lund, Sikandar Ali Bhatti, Yasmin Soomro, Zaib un Nisa Kamboh

Azad Welfare Association, Bhattai Welfare Association, Goth Sudhar Sangat, Graduate Association Pakistan, Lawyers Forum, Memon Welfare Association, Pakistan Medical Association, People's Lawyers Forum, Primary Teachers Association, Roshni Trust, Shah Latif Welfare Association, Sindh Journalist Forum

**Qambar/Shahdadkot**

Aashiq Ali Chandio, Abdul Jabbar Mangi, Abdul Qadir Hakro, Ahmed Nawaz Kango, Amanullah Chandio, Asghar Ali Khoso, Asmat Memon, Ayooob Burero, Bashir Ahmed Chandio, Ghulam Sakina, Ghulam Umer Chandio, Hafiz Israr Ahmed Tunio, Mahjabeen Junejo, Mansoor Chandio,

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Manzoor Khaskheli, Mehmooda Surhio, Mir Mohd. Burero, Ms. Fareeda Farooqi, Ms. Murk Qazi, Muhammad Ayoob Khanzada, Muhammad Bachal Sheikh, Nawab Khatoon, Niaz Ahmed Khoso, Noor Ahmed Khoso, Raheem Mangi, Rehana Sheikh, Saeeda Junejo, Saeeda Noonari, Shaheen Akhtar, Shokat Chandio, Ume Kulsoom, Zulfiqar Tunio

Burira Welfare Association, Hamdard Development Association, Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam, Liberal Development Association, Pakistan Peoples Party, Rahbar Social Development Organisation, Rural Development Association, SAQWA, Sehkar Development Association, Sifat Development Association, Sindh Development Organisation, Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party, Sindhi Abadi Sangat, Villagers Welfare Association

### **Sanghar**

Aajiz Mangi, Ali Hassan Mangi, Ali Hassan Sarewal, Ameenat Lighari, Anjum Aaftab, Ashfaq Bhatti, Begum Khatoon, Dr. Ali Jurio, Hassan Askari, Khalil Baloch, M. Aslam Memon, M. Aslam Memon, Ms. Nargis, Ms. Zuhra, Nawaz Kumbhar, Ratan Kumar, Saen Bux Nizamani, Sattar Khaskheli, Sharif Masrani, Sheeraz Samo, Shokat Arain, Tahir Iqbal, Tahir Iqbal

Aurat Councillors Itihad, Chotiaryoon Development Organisation, Dharti Dost Sangat, District Bar Association, Explorer, Hunri Taraqi Tanzeem, Mehran Welfare Organisation, National Workers Party, National Youth League, Pannah, Rural Women Welfare Organisation, Sanghar Development Organisation, Sindh Graduate Association (SGA), Sindh Journalist Organisation, Tando Adam Development Organisation, Village Development Association Gul Hassan

### **Shikarpur**

Aejaz Ali Shah, Agha Tariq, Akram Memon, Ali Abid, Amjad Abro, Asghar Mahar, Bibi Subhan, Farzana Soomro, Ibrar Ahmad, Jahangir Bhayo, Jameela Burero, Jawad Ahmed Soomro, Maqsood Ahmed, Ms. Agha Gul Zareen, Ms. Gul Jan, Ms. Nayab Shaheen, Ms. Rozina, Muhammad Alam Sethar, Najma Zafar Mangi, Rasheeda Bhutto, Rehan Soomro, Rehana Bhutto, Roshan Sheikh, Rubina Sheikh, Rufina Sheikh, Saira Mughal, Samreen Kalhoro, Sanaullah Soomro, Shahida Memon, Shazia Memon, Shujat Ali Shah, Zaheer Samo, Zahid Sheikh

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Dhakhan Social Welfare Association, Marvi Welfare Organisation, Mashal Welfare Association, Sajjan Sath Social Welfare Organisation, Sanjrani Social Welfare Organisation

#### **Sukkur**

Abdul Jabbar, Abdul Qadir Mahar, Abdul Rasheed, Abid Chodhry, Chodhri Irshad, Dr. Ayaz Shah, Falak Naz, Ghazala Anjum, Idrees Katpar, Jahangir Khan, Javed Akhtar, Javed Iqbal Soomro, Khalid Banbhan, Khalida Shiekh, Khursheed Bhatti, Ms. Zubaida, Mukesh Kumar, Murtaza Ghanghro, Naseem Sheikh, Nawab Khatoon, Nelofar Agha, Rehana Zaman, Samina Aftab, Sayed Farukh, Shahid Malik

Al-Mehran Welfare Association, Desent Welfare Association, Pano Akil Welfare Forum, Prince social Welfare Association, Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai Welfare Association, Shah Abdul Latif Social Welfare Association, Shah Latif Bhattai Welfare Association, Society for Promotion of Civic Sense, Sujag Social Welfare Association, Sukkur Blood and Drugs Donating Society (SBDDS), Welfare of Mankind and Nation (WOMAN), Young Muslim Social Welfare Association, Young Shaikh Welfare Association

#### **Tando Allahyar**

Ghulam Muhammad Khaskheli, Ghulam Muhammad Nagor, Ghulam Rasool Baloch, Ghulam Sarwar Zardari, Madan Lal, Majid Ali Rind, Ms Hajyani, Ms. Azra Kanwal, Ms. Fatih Khatoon, Ms. Fozia, Ms. Naila, Ms. Nasreen, Ms. Tanzila, Ms. Yasmeen, Raheela Panhwar, Ramzan Shah, Shankar Lal, Shokat Ali, Tofiq Ahmad, Waheeda Feroz, Zubair Ahmad Ahmed Ali Qureshi Education Society (AAQED), Ahsas Foundation, Bheel Welfare Association (BWA), Chambar Town Welfare Association (CTWA), Memon Welfare Association (MWA), NRSP, Sindh Development Society, Village Welfare Association (VWA)

#### **Tando Mohammad Khan**

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Aghaz Welfare Association, Human Development Organisation, Sachai Social Welfare, Samaji Itihad, Sangera Welfare Association, SEDWO, Women Rights Welfare

#### **Tharparkar/Mithi**

A. Rehman Rahmo, Allah Rakhio Khoso, Ayaz Bajer, Ayoob Memon, Bhoro Mal Kolhi, Dileep Kothari, Dr. Rakhial, Farooq Amaz, Gotam Rathi, Gotam Rathi, Haji Huhammad Dal, Kamla Ponam, Khatao Jani, Lal Bajer, Mansoor Leghari, Ms. Qamar-un-nisa, Ms. Susheela, Muhammad Adam, Neit Singh, Qurban Ali, Rajesh Kumar, Saleem Khoso, Shamdas Das Darzi, Vijae Sharma

Bar Association, Marooara Tharparkar Coordination Council, Mithi Education Society, Press Club, Thar Rural Development Programme (TRDP), Thar Saath Chachro, Thar SEWA Diplo, Weenjhar Social Welfare Organisation

#### **Thatta**

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Bar Association, Chandoki Social Welfare Association, Kohistan Welfare Organisation, Malhar Welfare Organisation, Mehran Welfare Association, Naujwan Welfare Association, Paiman Alumnai Trust, Press Club, Qureshi Welfare Association, Roshan Zindagi Welfare Association, Rural Awareness and Development Organisation

#### **Umer Kot**

Abbas Khoso, Ali Akbar Rahmo, Allah Jurio Soomro, Amrat Lal, Bhagwan Das, Bhart Kumar, Dr. Rubi Dharamdas, Dr. Rubi Dharamdas, Faiz Muhammad Shahani, Iqbal Rind, Jae Dev Sharma, Ms. Janki Devi, Ms. Noor Memon, Ms. Radha Bai, Ms. Rami Bai, Ms. Shahida Samo, Mumtaz Arisar, Naresh Kumar, Seth Iqbal, Suresh Piragani, Suresh Sadwani, Tara Chand

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Asian Youth Foundation, Awere, District Bar Association, Marvi Development Organisation, Marvi Village Development Organisation, Rotary Club, Rural Women Development Organisation, Sami Sujag Sangit, Sath Development Organisation, Thar Deep Rural Development Programme (TRDP), TVO, Women Development Organisation

## C. Electoral Results of Candidates on Women's Reserved Seats

The figures in the following tables were obtained from Aurat Foundation's reports on the Campaigns. The women's reserved seats include both the general and the peasant/worker reserved seats.

### Local Government Elections 2000-2001

	No. of Councils	Women's Reserved Seats	Women Nominated	Women Elected	% Seats Filled
<b>Union Councils</b>					
Balochistan	518	3,108	3,437	2,374	76.4%
NWFP	957	5,742	6,817	3,963	69.0%
Punjab	3,453	20,718	40,099	20,007	96.6%
Sindh	1,094	6,564	10,237	5,878	89.5%
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>6,022</b>	<b>36,132</b>	<b>60,590</b>	<b>32,222</b>	<b>89.2%</b>
<b>Tehsil/Town Councils</b>					
Balochistan	77	173	254	151	87.3%
NWFP	54	231	332	205	88.7%
Punjab	127	1,143	2,320	1,124	98.3%
Sindh	104	363	769	356	98.1%
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>3,675</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>96.1%</b>
<b>District Councils</b>					
Balochistan	22	173	207	152	87.9%
NWFP	24	315	488	278	88.3%
Punjab	34	1,139	1,984	1,115	97.9%
Sindh	20	361	602	360	99.7%
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>3,281</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>95.8%</b>
<b>All Councils</b>					
Balochistan	615	3,432	3,848	2,655	77.4%
NWFP	1,033	6,258	7,575	4,416	70.6%
Punjab	3,603	22,950	44,163	22,196	96.7%
Sindh	1,200	7,229	11,391	6,535	90.4%
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>6,484</b>	<b>40,030</b>	<b>67,546</b>	<b>35,963</b>	<b>89.8%</b>

Local Government Elections 2005					
	No. of Councils	Women's Reserved Seats	Women Nominated	Women Elected	% Seats Filled
<b>Union Councils</b>					
Balochistan	567	2,268	5,387	2,194	96.74%
NWFP	968	3,944	6,584	3,328	84.39%
Punjab	3,464	13,856	30,679	13,659	98.58%
Sindh	1,110	4,440	11,106	4,393	98.95%
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>6,109</b>	<b>24,508</b>	<b>53,756</b>	<b>23,574</b>	<b>96.19%</b>
<b>Tehsil/Town Councils</b>					
Balochistan	77	193	445	191	98.97%
NWFP	54	326	578	307	94.18%
Punjab	144	1,151	3,123	1,151	100.00%
Sindh	114	357	643	357	100.00%
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>4,789</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>98.97%</b>
<b>District Councils</b>					
Balochistan	28	193	436	192	99.49%
NWFP	24	326	583	306	93.87%
Punjab	35	1,151	2,429	1,148	99.74%
Sindh	22	357	557	355	99.44%
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>2,001</b>	<b>98.72%</b>
<b>All Councils</b>					
Balochistan	672	2,654	6,268	2,577	97.09%
NWFP	1,046	4,596	7,745	3,941	85.75%
Punjab	3,643	16,158	36,231	15,958	98.77%
Sindh	1,246	5,154	12,306	5,105	99.05%
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>6,607</b>	<b>28,562</b>	<b>62,550</b>	<b>27,581</b>	<b>96.57%</b>