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COMMITTED TO PROVIDE INEXPENSIVE AND PROMPT JUSTICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SINDH

PROVINCIAL OMBUDSMAN SINDH NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

1.

- ◆ Mid-term Meeting of the IOI Board of Directors
- ◆ Chief minister extended support to the Provincial Ombudsman Secretariat

2.

- ◆ Launching of research study on "Issues of Girls' Education in Sindh".
- ◆ Regional subsidy by IOI for 2021-2022
- ◆ The Public Service Message

3.

- ◆ Redressal of few Public Grievances

4.

- ◆ Glimpses of Khuli Katheries conducted by the Regional Directors
- ◆ Public Service Message on FM88.6 FM 106.

5.

- ◆ FAQ (The Ombudsman Sindh Office)

6.

- ◆ FAQ in Sindhi (Children's Complaints Office)

7.

- ◆ FAQ (Children's Complaints Office)

8.

- ◆ Press Clippings

MID-TERM MEETING OF THE IOI BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2021 BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

The Honourable Ombudsman Sindh and Director IOI (Asia Region), Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan, attended the IOI Board of Directors Mid term meeting. It may be recall that the IOI Board of Directors held its mid-term meeting by electronic means at the premises of the IOI General Secretariat in Vienna (Austria) on 15th November, 2021. IOI President, Mr. Chris Field opened the meeting by welcoming the newly elected Directors and expressed his pleasure that they were able to attend the Mid-Term meeting. All members of the Board of Directors participated in this productive meeting to identifying current issues and reviewed the progress of several IOI projects such as approval of membership applications, established working group for outstanding fee payments, the Board also discussed the proposal to develop the next IOI Best Practices Papers on "Mediation and the Ombudsman". The IOI Executive Committee further approved proposals and allocations of IOI's Regional subsidies programme 2020/2021 submitted by members of different regions to support Ombudsman Offices. The IOI Board also approved Regional Subsidy study project of Provincial Ombudsman Sindh in health sector, the subject study will be started by this Secretariat in the coming months.



Ombudsman Sindh emphasized that matters pertaining to the Human Rights, improved Governance and effective service delivery to stakeholders is of paramount importance and viable strategy should be developed for realization of these goals.



CHIEF MINISTER EXTENDED SUPPORT TO THE PROVINCIAL OMBUDSMAN SECRETARIAT FOR PROVIDING FREE AND SPEEDY ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE TO THEIR DOORSTEPS BY ISSUING THE DIRECTIVES.

The directive was issued by Chief Minister Secretariat in October, 2020 to all the Administrative Secretaries as well as to their lower setup to avoid indifferent /non-responsive attitude to the complaints forwarded by the Investigating Officers (IO) of Provincial Ombudsman Sindh, and ensure their presence before the IO and timely submission of comments/reports to provide timely relief to the complainant. Another directive was issued by Chief Minister on 9th November '21 to the Secretary School Education and literacy Department and all concerned quarters to extend support for the implementation of recommendation of study on the "Issues of Girls Education in Sindh".



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LAUNCHING OF RESEARCH STUDY ON “ISSUES OF GIRLS’ EDUCATION IN SINDH” BY CHIEF MINISTER SINDH.

The research study on “Issues of Girls’ Education in Sindh” conducted by the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), on the initiative of the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh was launched by the Honourable Chief Minister Sindh on 21st October, 2021 at C.M. House. The C.M. Sindh committed to give more resources to promote girls’ education and said to remove all traditional, administrative and financial hurdles. He agreed with recommendations of the Study with special emphasis on mothers to head SMCs. He also directed the Chief Secretary Sindh to include in the ACR about the role of officers in smooth functioning of girls’ education in their jurisdiction.



REGIONAL SUBSIDY BY IOI FOR 2021-2022

The Honourable Ombudsman Sindh decided to use the Regional subsidy of 2021-22 for Health Sector. In this regard, the matter was discussed in detail with officers of Ombudsman Secretariat and with consensus it was decided to carry out the assessment of stunting in nutrition specific program in District Tharparkar and to offer recommendation for Government of Sindh to address the stunting in the province. The Consultant hired for the study will be asked to perform following scope of work.

Scope of work

- i. To Analyze the Nutrition-Specific Programs in the District, especially undertaken by the Government of Sindh, development partners and NGOs with a focus on the last five years
 - a. Holistic analysis of the major completed schemes/projects/initiatives
 - b. Analysis of Malnutrition-related indicators, especially focus on prevalence of stunting in children under 5-years of age (output/outcome/impact)

- ii. Assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) vis-à-vis stunting reduction approach with reference to: services at health facility (staff, supply chain, skills, etc), at community level to assess the knowledge, attitude and practices of outreach workers (LHWs/Community Health Workers) and caregivers.
- iii. Prescriptions for evidence-based decision making to improve provincial nutrition out comes as part of the way forward.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM HONOURABLE OMBUDSMAN SINDH

The Public Service Message from Honourable Ombudsman Sindh, on Panaflex were distributed in the 16 Regional Offices of Provincial Ombudsman Sindh with instructions to display the same at Regional Offices, all Divisional and District Offices of Sindh Government such as Education, Health, Police, etc and other public places like Hospital OPDs, selected Education Institutes etc. Accordingly, the same were displayed at suggested important places some of the images are as under.





Mr. Justice (R) Qazi Khalid, Chairman, Federal Service Tribunal called on Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan Honourable Provincial Ombudsman Sindh in his office and presented the Annual Report-2020 of Federal Service Tribunal.



Honourable Ombudsman Sindh Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan wearing Gold Medal to a student awarded by SBTE, Karachi on intervention of Ombudsman Sindh

REDRESSAL OF FEW PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

- As a consequence of constant persuasion and relentless efforts of the office of Ombudsman, Mst. Saban Bibi an old lady of more than 70 years, R/o. Chak No. Shumail Risala No. 08, District Sargodha, received family pension as well as all other pensionary benefits in respect of her unmarried brother who died on 15.10.2013

- Similarly, Mst. Shagufta Shaheen wd/o. Ali Asghar, Ex-Mali Sindh House, Islamabad, who died during service on 10.11.2005 also received family pension and all her pending dues with efforts of this office. Unfortunately she died on 13.04.2021 but her successors also received the life time arrears of Benevolent Fund of Rs. 234,675/- in November 2021.

- The Assistant Director, District East SBCA on the orders of Hon'ble Provincial Ombudsman Sindh, demolished illegally constructed two rooms of pent house at 5th floor. The complainant through letter dated 11.11.2021 acknowledged that the decision has been implemented.

- On directives of Honourable Ombudsman, Sindh, service benefits & pension awarded to Mst. Nazi W/o Taghiyo by Civil Surgeon Civil Hospital, Jacobabad.

- Outstanding dues paid by SGA&CD to Syed Qasim Ali on the decision of Honourable Provincial Ombudsman Sindh.

- The complainant, Sheikh Arif-ur-Rehman confirmed receipt of allotment order and handing over possession of plot on directives / intervention of Honourable Ombudsman Sindh.

- Mst. Aslam Khatoon, a widow R/o. Tehsil Noshahra, District Khushab, received 50% to 70% increase in pension as announced by Govt. of Sindh in year 2010 and arrears of 0.31 million was also paid to the widow by AG Sindh.



Mr. Masood Ishrat, Registrar Secretariat Provincial Ombudsman Sindh handed over cheque of Rs. 25000/- to a complainant presented by Newport Institute of Communications & Economics on account of refund of tuition fee.



Mr. Masood Ishrat, Registrar Secretariat Provincial Ombudsman Sindh handed over cheque towards service dues to a widow complainant



The Regional Director, Provincial Ombudsman Sindh, Karachi-South visited to verify the repair of road and laying of pipe line in Soldier Bazar No.02 Ghousia chowk, around Zainabia house, Roderick Street, Karachi.

GLIMPSE OF KHULI KATCHERIES CONDUCTED BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS ON DIRECTIVES OF HONOURABLE OMBUDSMAN SINDH



PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE ON FM 88.6 FM 106.

Public service message on the working of Ombudsman Sindh and how to submit complaints is being aired on Radio Police FM 88.6 and FM 106, with courtesy of D.I.G. Traffic Police and Pakistan Broadcasting Authority respectively. Also Syed Farrukh Habib visited Midnight Haris Khan show at FM 88.6 (Traffic Police) to tell the public about the role/working of Provincial Ombudsman Secretariat.



THE OMBUDSMAN SINDH OFFICE

- Q.** What is the objective behind establishing the office of the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh?
- A.** To provide a source of redress to aggrieved parties who have complaints about maladministration within the province.
- Q.** Is the Ombudsman Sindh independent of the Executive?
- A.** Yes, it is independent under its organic law and function according to the Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991 (amended up to date).
- Q.** What types of complaints does the Ombudsman Sindh deal with?
- A.** Complaints pertaining to maladministration in all government departments, except those dealt with by the Federal Ombudsman or specialized Ombudsmen-such as the Tax Ombudsman, Insurance Ombudsman, Banking Ombudsman and Provincial Ombudsman for protection against Harassment of women at work place.
- Q.** Can I lodge a complaint with the Ombudsman?
- A.** Anyone can lodge a signed complaint in this office on a plain piece of paper. Please do not affix any stamp. Anonymous and pseudonymous complaints are not entertained.
- Q.** Will my complaint be admitted by this office?
- A.** Yes, if accompanied with
- a copy of your (the complainant's) Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), and
 - an Affidavit in a printed proforma (available free of cost in our Head Office and Regional Offices Website).
- Q.** Can I file my complaint in Sindhi?
- A.** Yes, of course - in either Sindhi, Urdu or English.
- Q.** What is the cost filing a complaint in the office of the Ombudsman?
- A.** The services offered by this Office are free of cost to the complainants.
- Q.** As a complainant, do I need a lawyer?
- A.** No, you do not.
- Q.** What does this Office promise to me, the complainant?
- A.** Free access to justice, patient hearing, result-oriented intervention, speediness and implementation of the Ombudsman's Decision.
- Q.** What does this Office promise to the executive arm of the government?
- A.** Rule of law, dispensation of inexpensive and speedy administrative justice, protection of legitimate government interests and judicious exercise of discretion.
- Q.** Which complaints are turned away by this office?
- A.** Those complaints which
- have been previously admitted and processed.
 - are subjudice - that is those which have either already been adjudicated upon by a court or are pending adjudicate before a court.
 - fall under the jurisdiction of other Ombudsmen.
 - are time-barred.
- Q.** What is meant by time-barred?
- A.** If a complaint is filed longer than three (3) months after the alleged mal-administration, it is considered time-barred.
- Q.** Are there any exception to time-limit?
- A.** Yes, at the Ombudsman's discretion, certain cases under special circumstances may still be admitted.
- Q.** How long is the procedure of investigation and redress?
- A.** This Office ventures to resolve cases within two (2) to (3) months, but the timeframe is flexible depending on the case.
- Q.** Is the Decision of the Ombudsman binding on the Executive or the administrative machinery of the Province?
- A.** Yes, the Decision of the Ombudsman is binding thereupon.
- Q.** What can I do, if I am unhappy with the Ombudsman Decision?
- A.** Should you feel that the Decision is unjust, you may, within thirty days of the said Decision, make representation to the Hon'ble Governor Sindh, who may direct a review, if he deems fit.
- Q.** By seeking the assistance of the Ombudsman, do I lose my right to approach a Court of Law?
- A.** In the first place, if your case is pending in a court of law, your complaint shall not be entertained in this office. However, if you have sought the assistance of this Office but unsatisfied, you may always go to a Court of Law after withdrawing your complaint from this Office.
- Q.** Must I lodge my complaint in the Head Office, Secretariat Provincial Ombudsman Sindh at Karachi?
- A.** Not necessarily. You may also file complain in one of our Regional Offices. Your case shall be processed wherever you file your complaint.

چلڊرين ڪمپليئنٽس آفيس

سنڌ سرڪار جي ڪنهن به اداري يا ڪارپوريشن سان جيڪڏهن توهان کي ڪا شڪايت آهي ته ادارو محتسب سنڌ کان مدد وٺو. اوهان جي ذهن ۾ محتسب سنڌ جي اداري متعلق پيدا ٿيندڙ سوالن جا جواب اسان هيٺ ڏئي رهيا آهيون ته جيئن توهان کي طريقو ڪار تي عمل ڪرڻ ۾ آساني ٿئي

- س: ٻارن جي شڪايت جي آفيس (CCO) جو صوبائي محتسب سنڌ (POS) ۾ قيام جو مقصد ڇا آهي؟
- ج: (CCO) ٻارن جون شڪايتون وصول ڪرڻ لاءِ صوبائي محتسب جي طرفان يونيسيف جي تعاون سان آفيس قائم ڪئي وئي آهي، ان جو مقصد خاص طور تي صوبي ۾ ٻارن جي حقن مسئلن ۽ انهن سان ٿيندڙ زيادتين جي روڪڻ آهي.
- س: ٻارن جون شڪايتون وصول ڪرڻ جي آفيس ڌار قائم ڪرڻ جي ضرورت پيش ڇو آئي؟
- ج: پاڪستان ٻارن جي حقن جي بابت اقوام متحده جي قرارداد جو اقرار آهي جنهن جي مطابق پاڪستان قانوني طور تي پابند آهي ته ٻارن جي حقن جي متعلق شڪايتون ٻڌڻ ۽ ان جي ازالو جو نظام تشڪيل ڏئي ۽ ٻارن جي حقن جو تحفظ کي بهتر بڻائي.
- س: ٻارن جي شڪايت جي آفيس (CCO) ۾ ڪهڙي قسم جي شڪايت قابل قبول هوندي آهي؟
- ج: سنڌ جي سمورين سرڪاري آفيسن، ادارن، جنهن ۾ پوليس، جيل، تعليمي ادارا، يتيم خانو، ريمانڊ هومز ۽ اسپتالون وغيره شامل آهن جتي ٻارن سان ٿيندڙ زيادتين جي متعلق شڪايتون درج ڪرائي سگهجن ٿيون.
- س: ٻارن جي شڪايت جي آفيس (CCO) ٻارن جي لاءِ ڪهڙي طرح فائديمند آهي؟
- ج: (CCO) ٻارن جي تحفظ جو ماحول قائم ڪرڻ جي لاءِ هڪ اهم ڪردار ادا ڪندي ۽ حقن جي بابت شڪايتن جي ازالو لاءِ تحقيق، وڪالت ۽ ٻارن جي متعلق ٻين ادارن جنهن ۾ غير سرڪاري ادارن (NGOs) سان رابطي جي ذريعي هڪ پليٽ فارم مهيا ڪندي.
- س: ڪير ٻارن جي شڪايتي آفيس (CCO) ۾ شڪايت درج ڪرائي سگهي ٿو.
- ج: ڪوبه ٻار يا ان جي نمائندي طور تي ڪو به بالغ فرد ذاتي طور تي تحريري درخواست شڪايت جمع ڪرائي سگهي ٿو يا فون ذريعي ۽ اي ميل وغيره به موڪلي سگهجي ٿو.
- س: ٻارن جي شڪايتي آفيس (CCO) مون کي بطور شڪايت ڪندڙ ڪهڙي ڳالهه جي يقين دهائي ڪرائيندو؟
- ج: ان ۾ بنا دير انصاف تائين مفت رسائي، تسلي بخش ٻڌڻي ۽ نتيجا خيز ڪارروائي شامل آهي، جيڪا هر ٻار (18 سالن جي عمر تائين) جي لاءِ بنا فرق، مذهب، ذات يا تهذيب جي مدد فراهم ڪئي ويندي.
- س: ڇا ان معاملي ۾ صوبائي محتسب با اختيار آهي؟
- ج: جي ها! صوبي سنڌ جي ايڪٽ مچر 1991 جي تحت قائم ٿيل محتسب سنڌ کي ان معاملي ۾ بنيادي قانون جي تحت ڪارروائي جو اختيار حاصل آهي.
- س: ڇا مان سنڌي زبان ۾ شڪايت درج ڪرائي سگهان ٿو؟
- ج: بلڪل، اوهان سنڌي، اردو يا انگريزي ۾ شڪايت درج ڪرائي سگهو ٿا.
- س: ٻارن جي شڪايتي آفيس (CCO) ۾ شڪايت درج ڪرائڻ جي فيس (fee) ڪيتري آهي؟
- ج: شڪايت درج ڪرائڻ جي ڪابه فيس ناهي ۽ ان جون سڀئي خدمتون بنا معاوضي انجام ڏنيون وينديون آهن.
- س: ڇا مون کي بحريه شڪايت ڪندڙ ڪو وڪيل مقرر ڪرڻ جي ضرورت هوندي؟
- ج: جي نه ان جي ڪابه ضرورت ناهي.
- س: هي آفيس حڪومت جي انتظامي امور ۾ ڪهڙي طرح فائديمند ثابت ٿيندي؟
- ج: قانون جي عملداري، بلا معاوضا ۽ بنا ڪنهن دير جي انتظامي انصاف جي فراهمي حڪومت جي حقيقي مفادن ۽ تحفظ ۽ اختيارن جي جائز استعمال کي يقيني بنائڻ ۾ آفيس پريور ڪوشش ڪندي.
- س: هن آفيس ۾ ڪهڙي قسم جون شڪايتون درج نه ٿينديون؟
- ج: (i) جيڪي پهريان درج ٿي چڪيون آهن ۽ جن تي ڪارروائي ٿي چڪي آهي.
- (ii) جنهن تي ڪنهن عدالت جي طرفان ڪو به فيصلو ٻڌايو ويو هجي يا جيڪو عدالت ۾ هلندڙ هجي.
- (iii) ڪنهن ٻئي محتسب جي حدن يا اختيارن ۾ اينديون هجن.
- س: شڪايت جي چند ڇاڻ ۽ ان جي ازالو جي ڪارروائي ۾ ڪيترو وقت گهربل هوندو آهي؟
- ج: هي آفيس ڪنهن مسئلي کي 2 کان 3 مهينن جي عرصي ۾ حل ڪرڻ جي ڪوشش ڪندي آهي، ان عرصي ۾ گهٽ وڌائي شڪايت جي نوعيت سان ڳانڍاپيل آهي.
- س: ڇا صوبي جي انتظامي مشينري (ڍانچو) ۽ با اختيار ادارا محتسب جي فيصلي جا پابند هوندا؟
- ج: بلڪل، هو محتسب جي فيصلي جا پابند هوندا.
- س: ڇا محتسب جو تعاون حاصل ڪندڙ پوءِ ڪنهن قانوني عدالت سان رجوع ڪرڻ جا حقدار نه هوندا؟
- ج: پهرين ڳالهه اها ته جيڪڏهن اوهان جو ڪيس عدالت ۾ هلي رهيو آهي ته هن آفيس ۾ اوهان جي شڪايت قبول نه ڪئي ويندي، جيڪڏهن اوهان هن آفيس جو تعاون حاصل ڪري ورتو آهي ۽ اوهان ان مان مطمئن نه آهيو ته اوهان هن آفيس کان شڪايت واپس وٺڻ کان بعد ڪنهن به عدالت سان رجوع ڪري سگهو ٿا.
- س: ڇا صرف ڪراچي ۾ محتسب سيڪريٽريٽ جي صدر آفيس ۾ ئي شڪايت داخل ڪرائي سگهان ٿو؟
- ج: اهو ضروري ناهي، اوهان اسان جي ڪنهن به علائقي جي آفيس ۾ شڪايت داخل ڪرائي سگهو ٿا.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CHILDREN'S COMPLAINTS OFFICE

- Q. What is the objective behind establishing the Children's Complaints Office (CCO) at Provincial Ombudsman Sindh (POS)?
- A. The CCO has been established by POS through a partnership with UNICEF to exclusively address Child rights issues relating to maladministration in any Provincial Govt. Agency.
- Q. Why do we need a separate Children's Complaints Office?
- A. Pakistan is a signatory to United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child which makes it legally incumbent upon Pakistan to comply with it and fulfill its responsibilities which include addressing the absence of a Children specific redress system and promotion and protection of Child rights.
- Q. What types of complaints does the CCO entertain?
- A. Complaints pertaining to maladministration regarding Children issue in all Sindh Government Departments / Agencies including Police, Prisons, Educational Institutions, Orphanages, Remand Homes and Hospitals, etc.
- Q. How will the CCO benefit Children?
- A. The CCO will play an important role in creating a child protective environment and provide a platform to address the Child Rights issues through research, advocacy and engagement with children and other stakeholders including NGOs.
- Q. Can I lodge a complaint at the CCO?
- A. Any Child or adult on behalf of a Child can lodge a written complaint either in person or through any mode of communication, including email, and online complaint, etc.
- Q. What does the CCO promise to me, the complainant?
- A. Free access to justice, patient hearing, result oriented intervention and speediness to any individual (till the age of 18) irrespective of his / her ethnicity, religion, cast or culture.
- Q. Is the Ombudsman Sindh independent of executive?
- A. Yes, it is independent under its organic law and functions according to the Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991 (amended up to date).
- Q. Can I file my complaint in Sindhi?
- A. Yes, of course - in Sindhi, Urdu or English.
- Q. What is my cost of filing a complaint in CCO?
- A. The services offered by this office are free of cost to the complainants.
- Q. As a complainant, do I need a lawyer?
- A. No, you do not.
- Q. What does this office promise to the executive arm of the government?
- A. Rule of law, dispensation of inexpensive and speedy administrative justice, protection of legitimate government interests and judicious exercise of discretion.
- Q. Which complaints are turned away by this office?
- A. Those complaints which:
- (i) have been previously admitted and processed.
 - (ii) are subjudice - that is those which have either already been adjudicated upon by a court or are pending adjudication before a court.
 - (iii) fall under the jurisdiction of other Ombudsmen.
- Q. How long is the procedure of investigation and redress?
- A. This office ventures to resolve cases within 90 days but the time frame is flexible depending on nature of the complaint.
- Q. Is the Decision of the Ombudsman binding on the executive or the administrative machinery of the Province?
- A. Yes, the Decision of the Ombudsman is binding thereupon.
- Q. By seeking the assistance of the Ombudsman, do I lose my right to approach a court of law?
- A. In the first place, if your case is pending in a court of law, your complaint shall not be entertained in this office. However, if you have sought the assistance of this office and are unsatisfied, you may always go to a court of law after withdrawing your complaint from this office.
- Q. Can I lodge my complaint in the Head Office, Secretariat Provincial Ombudsman Sindh in Karachi?
- A. Not necessarily. You may also lodge complaint in any Regional Offices of Provincial Ombudsman Sindh



Thursday, October 7, 2021

Jamshoro sub-accountant removed

By Our Staff Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Regional director of provincial ombudsman, Abdul Wahab Memon, on Wednesday ordered removal of Jamshoro sub-accountant over growing complaints against him by retired employees of education department. The regional director said at an open kachehry he chaired at Jamshoro district accounts office that the district accounts officer remove the sub-accountant Khalid Ahmed Memon, take departmental action against the officer within 15 days and submit him a report. He issued directives for payment of pension, General Provident Fund and Leave Preparatory to Retirement (LPR) of government employees.



KARACHI Friday, October 22, 2021

CM pledges more resources to promote girls' education

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that socio-economic and cultural factors were obstructing girls' education and depriving them of opportunities to learn and develop into agents of change in society.

"It is only through education that girls are nourished and groomed as responsible citizens, capable of playing a positive and creative role in social development."

He said while speaking at a launching ceremony of 'Research Study on Issues of Girls' Education in Sindh' conducted by the Sindh Education Foundation on the initiative of provincial ombudsman here at Banquet Hall of CM House.

The CM said that he had planned to allocate more resources for girls' education and that hurdles in girls' education — traditional, administrative and financial — would be removed.

"May it be first women bank, first women police station, women empowerment, or education for girls, it was the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto to take initiative," he added.

"The multiple causes for this situation have been highlighted in the

study," he said and added that girls must have their right to education as enshrined in the constitution and laws.

Murad Ali Shah directed the local administrations at all levels — divisional, district, sub-division and taluka — to give time and attention to ensure proper functioning of girls' schools in their areas.

He asked the chief secretary to incorporate the component of smooth functioning of girls' schools in the performance evaluation of local officers.

Mothers to head SMCs

Supporting the idea of school management committees (SMCs), he said that SMCs should be headed by mothers, and directed the education department to bring necessary changes in the rules to make it mandatory for the girls' schools.

Research report

To investigate the issues relating to girls' education in Sindh, the provincial ombudsman awarded consultancy to the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), to carry out a research study on the subject. The study is funded by International Ombudsman Institute under

Regional Subsidy Programme.

The key objectives of the study are to identify the dynamics of socio-cultural, economic, political, religious and supply-side factors hampering the gains of girls' education in Sindh.

The scope of the research was mainly desk research consisting of secondary data from local and global literature. However, primary data from in-depth semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders in Sindh has also been gathered and analysed.

The report said that the socio-cultural, political and religious norms of the society had a negative impact on women's position and their identity in the society.

"The structure of the society is patriarchal. A narrow-minded approach, rigid norms and traditional practices coupled with patriarchal hegemony have significantly contributed to depriving girls from acquiring education."

The majority of the schoolchildren are still not able to have access to schools and the majority of these children are girls.

Dropout is a chronic issue particularly in the rural areas. According to the report, one of the key factors for low levels of girls in education was dearth of middle, secondary and higher secondary schools in Sindh.



Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Mughal, Regional Director, Provincial Ombudsman's Regional Office, Thatta, visited government hospitals in his jurisdiction.

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