

Profile

Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR)

Mission Statement

To Support poor people's Causes and Amplify their Voices, Prompt Humanitarian Assistance in Distress, Disaster and Conflict Situations; Sensitize Media, Journalists and People on Development Discourses, Human Security (disasters- response, risk reduction and preparedness and conflicts- response and resolution), Climate Change, People's centric Governance, democratic norms and Human Rights; Build Capacity of media professionals on how to cover human rights and development issues to maximize people's space in media enabling them to secure their rights.

Organization

Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR)- www.jdhr.org is an independent think tank and a pro-people campaigning/policy outreach, capacity building and research organization that strives to set Media's Agenda and to create more Media space for Common People, taking gender as a cross cutting issue. Working since 1998, JDHR was first provisionally registered in 2004 and then was permanently registered in Islamabad, Pakistan vide Registration No: VSWA/ICT/550/2009 under Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Regulations and Control) Ordinance 1961 (XLVI of 1961).

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Organizational structure

A leading journalist, researcher, campaigner, communications specialist and policy analyst Mr. Shafqat Munir (Tel +92-321-5305452 and email: shafmunir@gmail.com) is the President of the organization with academia, civil society activists and journalists on the Board of Governors. While senior television journalist Khalid Jamil (Tel:+923008548884 and email: m.khalid.jamil@gmail.com) is the Executive Director of the organization. Other officer bearers included two vice presidents, joint and finance secretaries. Different coordinators coordinate all centres and forums. The Organization has four provincial coordinators. All office bears and members of the Board of Governors are Media, Social Journalism and Development practitioners, analysts, researchers and human rights activists. JDHR has its offices in Islamabad.

Scope of Work and Experience

Major Campaigns

Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR) has been undertaking the following major campaigns through its various Centers and Forums in collaboration with other partner organizations and donors.

Campaign ‘Child Not Labourer’- Eradication of the worst forms of child labour

During this over five year-long campaign, JDHR has been focusing on elimination of the worst forms of child labour. It creates awareness through various means primarily media to impress upon people that child is a child and not a labourer who can bear the brunt of hectic and hazardous work environment. JDHR has conducted training programmes and ran other programmes against child labour with support of various organisations including ILO. **JDHR had established Media Coalitions in various media hubs in the country with initial support from ILO.** All of them are networking in a googlegroup online. The Media Coalitions’ members share story ideas and their stories online. The **Media Coalition** and the campaign ‘**Child Not Labourer**’ is still continuing beyond ILO support. Now **JDHR** in collaboration with its media partner **Infochange News and Features Network (INFN-www.infochangePakistan.net)** has been able to profile over 50 exclusive stories on the working children. For the first time, **JDHR-INFN profiled stories on the plight of the children working in circus, a new area explored as one of the worst forms of child labour.**

Campaign ‘No more empty plates’- Ensuring Right to Food

Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR) in collaboration with FIAN International, Actionaid, Oxfam Novib, Pakistan Kissan Ittehad and Sustainable Agriculture Action Group (SAAG) is undergoing a campaign pushing for a legal-frame to ensure Right to Food to millions of Pakistanis now at the verge of hunger. Millions more have been added to the tally of the poor and the hungry after the floods in 2010-11. The Campaign ‘**No More Empty Plates**’ gets momentum since the JDHR organized Pakistan’s first National Right to Food Conference in October 2011. Over 120 delegates including women farmers actively participated in the conference. The campaign pushes federal and provincial governments for a new legislation in the spirit of Article 38 of the Constitution of Pakistan to ensure Right to Food and other basic necessities of life for the poor and the marginalized people.

Campaign ‘Nine is mine’- Ensuring 9% budgetary allocations for Education, health and resilience building in line with SDGs

This campaign focuses on mounting public pressure on governments (federal and provincial) to get increase budgetary allocation to 9% for Education, health and resilience building to achieve targets committed in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SAARC Development Goals.

Campaign ‘Flower not Bullet’- De-radicalizing narrative in the interest of peace in line with the objectives of the National Action Plan 2015

This campaign focuses on building a counter narrative among the masses for peace building rejecting the extremism in the name of Islam. It will facilitate dialogue

among various stakeholders through media, social media and public policy seminars and other awareness tools to help people resolve conflict at local level and counter radicalization. We are sensitizing and training journalists and editors on the objectives of National Action Plan 2015, Interfaith Harmony and peace building, inclusive and responsible media creating space for citizens of Pakistan from all faiths.

Capacity Building

Training of Journalists for policy outreach and advocacy on human rights and Media Alliance/Coalition building at national and Asia regional level have been the strength of Journalists for Democracy and Human Right (JDHR), which has conducted several such activities in and outside the country and had trained and networked over 1500 journalists during almost two decades (Eighteen years).

JDHR has built capacity of 130 journalists on physical and digital safety. In the series of such trainings, 80 more journalists are being trained in collaboration with Solidarity Centre. These trainings are helpful for the participants in terms of physical and digital safety challenges being faced by rural and district-level journalists in Pakistan. JDHR has conducted dozens of capacity building workshops for representatives of civil society organisations on Policy Outreach, Advocacy, Media Work, Campaigning, Research Uptake, Lobbying, Communications, Gender Sensitive Reporting and Social Media. JDHR also conducted media training workshops on Reporting and Editing Skills, Media Ethics, Child Rights and Child Labour issues, Women's rights and Gender issue, Economic and Trade Issues and Conflict and Disaster Reporting.

The support for these workshops were provided by the then National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD), Ministry of Women's Development, Ministries of Commerce and Information, Government of Pakistan and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal, Institute for Policy Studies, Sri Lanka, Asia Media Forum, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), UNDP, UNICEF, International Labour Organization (ILO), Solidarity Centre, Oxfam and Actionaid Pakistan.

Currently JDHR is undertaking a training programme for journalists/editors to impart conceptual knowledge around ethical and professional standards of reporting, editorial responsibilities and on media's role in promoting interfaith harmony in the country in line with the objectives of the National Action Plan 2015. In addition to the above short term programmes, JDHR is also implementing a longterm training programme to promote responsible and objective journalism/inclusive media. In this project, JDHR aims to promote media pluralism, especially greater diversity of opinions and beliefs, which in the long run, will increase tolerance, respect and mutual understanding among all faiths in Pakistan in line with the objectives of National Action Plan 2015.

Research

- JDHR being a research partner of the National Centre for Competence in Research (NCCR) North South, Switzerland conducted research surveys to support a PhD level, three Master's level studies. It conducted a livelihood

survey in NWFP. Forestry sector has been focus of research with different livelihood approaches. The PhD research topic is “Analysis of Institution Changes in Forest Management and its Impact on Rural Livelihoods in NWFP, Pakistan”. Master’s level study focused on “Livelihood Survey in the Highland-Lowland Context of the NWFP, Pakistan.

- Conducted a research on influence of media on policy making in forestry sector with the support of NCCR Switzerland.
- JDHR led in Punjab a lead research work on trafficking of women and children initiated by Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA). JDHR has contributed research papers and policy positions on human trafficking and migration and presented them at national and regional level conferences. It has also conducted sessions with media on human trafficking and migration related issues.
- Conducted a field based study on “Child Birth Registration-Post Devolution Plan”
- Conducted a research study on best practices on child labour published in London
- Conducted a research on “Construction of Taliban Image in Pakistan: Discourse Analysis of Editorials of Dawn and The News- Paper” published by London School of Economics, London, <http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/events/MeCCSA/pdf/papers/Malik%20and%20Iqbal%20Paper.pdf>
- Contributed dozens of research based articles published in leading English dailies on gender related issues, development discourses and human rights.
- Conducted a research study on “Media Analysis of Women’s Participation in Politics” under a project of AWAZ/SDPI with the support of DFID.

Publication

JDHR has published a book by Dr Abid Suleri, on “**Social Dimensions of Globalization- the case of Pakistan**” The book is of international standard and quality and has jointly been published by **JDHR** and **NCCR**, North-South Development Study Group, **University of Zurich, Switzerland**.