

Brochure

Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights

Mission statement: To sensitize media, journalists and people on democratic norms, development discourses, people's centric governance and human rights and to build capacity of media professionals on how to cover human rights and development issues to maximize people's space in media.

Working since 1988 and registered in 2004 in Islamabad Pakistan under Social Welfare organizations' law, Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR) is working as a public interest media thinktank/research organization that conducts research and sensitizes media, journalists and people on democratic norms, development discourses, people centric governance and human rights, sustainable human development, poverty and livelihood and media developments. It builds capacity of media professionals on how to cover human rights issues in media. The focus is on vulnerable segments of society such as women, children, minorities, farmers and consumers.

JDHR works through its Four Centers and Two Forums

- **JDHR Centre for Democracy and Human Rights**
- **JDHR Centre for Trade, Economics, Environment and Development**
- **South Asia Centre for Economic Journalists (SACEJ)**
- **South Asia Policy Centre**
- **Child Rights Media Forum (CRMF)**
- **Women Journalists Forum (WJF).**

All these centres and forums focus on various level networking among journalists, academia and civil society and deal with human rights and development issues with rights based approach. JDHR, being a countrywide network of media practitioners and journalists, imparts training to journalists thus building their capacity and professional skills and understanding on development discourses, democracy and human rights subjects in a plural society such as Pakistan.

Networking

JDHR, being part of South Asia and Asia level networks of media and civil society, has been undertaking networking activities, policy advocacy work on human trafficking, migration and HIV/AIDS. It also focuses on women and children rights. It sees globalization in socio-economic perspective. JDHR professes that without a just and democratic governance, the goal of pro people development and upholding of human rights can not be achieved in our societies.

JDHR has strategic networking partnerships across South Asia and Asia and is engaged with them on peace, security, tolerance, human trafficking/migration,

trade, development, human rights and other areas of common interest. Among them are South Asia Watch on Trade, Economic and Environment (SAWTEE) and Alliance against trafficking and sexual exploitation of children (ATSEC) and Asia Media Forum (AMF). JDHR has worked as a research partner in Pakistan of the Department of Geography, Zurich University, Switzerland in its NCCR-North South Research project for more than five years.

At national level networking, JDHR has worked with National Commission on Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD), the Ministry of Women Development and came up with a code of conduct for media on covering child issues. This code was adopted by the government as a document and was presented at the United Nations as a step towards protecting child rights in Pakistan. JDHR has also worked with UNICEF, FES Germany, Save the Children UK and Actionaid on rights issues. Other national levels partners included: Aurat Foundation, Sungi Foundation, Pattan, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Sustainable Agriculture Action Group (SAAG).

Organizational structure

A leading journalist, academic and policy analyst Mr. Shafqat Munir (Tel +92-321-5305452 and email: shafmunir@gmail.com), heads the organization with prominent journalists on the Board of Governors. While senior television journalist Khalid Jamil is the secretary general of the organization. Other officer bearers included two vice presidents, joint and finance secretaries. All centres and forums are coordinated by different coordinators. Organization has four provincial heads. All these heads and office bears and members of the Board of Governors are working journalists and researchers.

JDHR has its headquarters in Islamabad (Pakistan) and its provincial links in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta and sub regional links in Multan and Hyderabad. It has regional links in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Bhutan in South Asia and in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar in South East Asia.

Training for Journalists

1. JDHR has conducted training seminar for South Asian Economic Journalists on "Road to Hong Kong" during 11-13 July 2005 at Pokhara in Nepal in collaboration with the South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) (Nepal) and the Centre for Trade and Development (India), an Oxfam GB Initiative. The International Trade and WTO related issues including Agriculture, Non Agriculture Market Access, Trade and Development, Multilateral Trading System, Standards, Services, Trade Facilitation, Intellectual Property Rights, Dispute Settlement and Trade and Environment were covered in the seminar. A special presentation was given on "Role of Media in Mainstreaming Public Interest Concerns in Trade Negotiations". The participants and organizers of this seminar decided to form "South Asia Centre for Economic Journalists

(SCEJ) to be housed at the Journalists for Democracy and Human Rights (JDHR) Pakistan.

2. Similar training seminars were conducted in Pakistan for economic journalists. Television channels were also provided support to conduct discussion programmes on WTO related issues.

3. JDHR has conducted 10 media training on “Reporting and Editing Skills”, “Media Ethics”, “Child Rights and Child Labour” and Women’s rights. The training workshops were held in Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. The support for these workshops were provided by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), International Labour Organization (ILO), AWARD, UNICEF and National Commission for Child Welfare and Development (NCCWD), Ministry of Women’s Development and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Pakistan.

4. JDHR conducted five major media training on trade issues and trade policy in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan and UNDP during 2006-7. During the last four years, focus has been on networking, research and capacity building and during 2008-09, the focus will be on capacity building, research and policy advocacy.

Research

1. 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.

2. Conducted a research on influence of media on policy making in forestry sector with the support of NCCR Switzerland.

3. JDHR has planned six key research studies on media for 2008-9.

4. 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.

Rights based Advocacy: Roundtable with stakeholders of forestry sector

To share the results of these studies, JDHR conducted rights based advocacy and organized a roundtable of all stakeholders of forestry sector in Swat. The crux of the roundtable was that forests could be protected by eliminating political interference in forest department and by increasing the number of posts of forest guards to be appointed from within local communities. This was demanded

through a resolution adopted at the end of a roundtable discussion on “Community Participation in Forest Management” here at a local hotel in Mingora. The participants at the roundtable included officials from forest department, local government, NGOs and CBOs, forest owners and users, lawyers and researchers. Facilitated by JDHR Islamabad and NCCR North South Switzerland, the roundtable provided a chance to all stakeholders to discuss issues relating to forestry and its conservation.

Publication

JDHR has published a book by Dr Abid Suleri, Research Fellow at the SDPI Islamabad. The title of the book is: “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 (National Centre for Competence in Research) North-South Development Study Group, University of Zurich, Switzerland.**

Key plans for 2008-9

JDHR plans to move further from its network, capacity building to more on media research, media monitoring of rights, governance and Millennium Development Goals Watch, alternate media models programmes in addition to policy advocacy on rights issues to increase space in media for people’s rights. Hence it plans policy-media advocacy seminars on media freedoms and people’s right to know, protection of the people’s rights to development and a dignified living as committed under MDGs.

On governance, it plans to monitor all the four pillars of state in people’s rights perspective. The focus would be on bridging gap between media and policy to increase more and more space in media to highlight people’s rights. Research papers, policy briefs on aid and development, consumers’ rights, seminars and media festivals, documentaries and case studies collections would be some of the methodological tools to achieve the goal of creating a pro people media in the era of corporatization of media.

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