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Legal Researchers

US VISIT REPORT ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE

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1. Permeable:

Pakistan is a developing economy with a substantial legal system characterized with high frequency of litigation, larger but under capacity legal fraternity and insufficient judicial resources, including human resource. The lack of capacity of legal fraternity, judicial staff particularly the law enforcement agencies and absence of coordination among stakeholders further fuels the pendency of litigation due to enormous gaps in the legal procedures. 3 million pending court cases in Pakistan, owing to huge backlog clearly indicates feeble criminal and civil justice system delivery mechanisms. Without more vigorous implementation of existing rules and procedures, say jurists, and extensive judicial reforms, the log jam is unlikely to be settled. Consider these figures. According to data collected from the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, among the 1,954,868 court cases countrywide, 1,274,310 are pending with Punjab's district judiciary, 121,180 with Sindh, 188,561 with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 13,882 with Baluchistan district courts and 31,018 cases remain unresolved with the district judiciary of Islamabad to date. Likewise, the pending cases in the apex Supreme Court (SC) are estimated at 30,970 whereas the pendency in the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) is 661.



Pakistani citizens experience an indirect hindrance in access to justice, particularly the poor and marginalized groups hence their vulnerability is increased. This broken system of law creates room for ad hoc approaches and manipulation that supports corruption to pervade the system and adversely affect the litigants.

The fresh law graduates who enter this domain with high ambitions and compassion to serve the destitute and needy find it difficult to escape this vicious cycle of manipulation and vile competition of client winning approach, which phases out the true spirit of legal advocacy towards grievance redress through legal recourse. Unstable governance, rules, policies and lack of political will are also among the contributing factors.

The legal education system in Pakistan is vastly devoid of practical training for lawyers. The curricula followed by law colleges are outdated and lack important courses like legal research, advocacy & business skills for lawyers. As a result, there is sustained deterioration in the kind of legal skills one can develop in the country and a large number of young lawyers remain unemployed and live barely above the poverty line. For that matter **Legal Researchers** firm has formulated a three-tiered strategy to promote legal empowerment of the individuals and fulfilling the unmet legal needs of moderate and low income litigants in capital territory Islamabad, Pakistan.

Legal Researchers as had arranged the visit of young Legal fraternity (Former Incubator project-Funded by US embassy) and Director of LR to participate in the fifth Access to Justice Conference held at Atlanta, state USA. The primary objectives were to strengthen the legal Network/firms, share the lessons learnt and gaps in the Rule of law.



The proposal advocates about the establishment of a chartered professional body, National Academy for Lawyers, responsible for building institutional capacity of legal fraternity at national and provincial level through the engagement of respective Bar Councils. This establishment of such body would strengthen the legal system in number of ways. It would pave way for standardization of quality of legal practice of legal fraternity, particularly the young lawyers and fresh law graduates through a series of mandatory and elective practical vocational courses that would form a pre-requisite for obtaining professional licenses for District, High and Supreme Court. This body would also offer refresher courses for the legal fraternity to keep themselves updated with on-going development in legal profession. The body would also liaise closely with the legal education providing institutions to closely monitor the content and quality of the legal curriculum and the delivery for qualitative and standardized professional understanding among law students across the country. The engagement of government to constitute this body would ensure the sustainability of this initiative on a long-term basis.

2. Operational Arrangements:

Legal researchers had arranged all the operational arrangement for the US visit facilitated by US cultural department-Islamabad. The firm (LR) had facilitated airfare, accommodation and other arrangement for the conference participates from Pakistan.

3. Travel:

All the panelist team members visited on behalf of Legal researchers for scheduled April 10 to April 27 assisted by Cultural department US embassy Islamabad. The LR team attended Access to Justice Conference and then held meetings with legal incubators New York State.

4. Participation in Conference:

PredominantlySix (6) persons from LR have attended the Access to Justice Conference at Atlanta state university on April 11, where they had met with US law representatives, attorney and professionals from legal fraternity. The conference access to justice was really remarkable in terms of



networking of Legal aspect, participants met with different law professionals, where they exchange their lesson learnedand good practices and conferred about the further improvements to be taken in account for Law enforcement agencies and Justice providing institutes in Pakistan. The Executive Director of Legal Researchers had sighted over the importance of Firm Model in the Conference where it was esteemed appreciated.

5. New York State:

The successful participation in the conference LR team motivated to New York State where the Executive Director has organized meetings with various Law firms, practicing lawyers and business associations. The Program and Executive Director in personal had meetings with the local community i.e., elderly age, women, adolescent girls, youth and overseas American Pakistani group.

The Executive Director and Director of Legal Researchers had attending meetings with the overseas Pakistani, Pashtun community residing there who had openly shared their legal issues and hurdles faced in America being Pakistani.

The exposure visit to the State has vividly explained the approach of people towards legal and human rights issues, it was noticed that overseas people were quite enthusiastic to share the new technology and good ideas for improvement of legal system in Pakistan as they had experienced it. The visit had opened a new ways of understand and adopting marketing skills for young Pakistani lawyers.

6. Meetings/Participations:

The team has been divided into three groups during the stay at New York. It was organized in a way that they visited the local court, observed the court procedures and attorney approaches. The team- visited to attorney's office to sketch down the multi community challenges in term of legal matters. The two main objectives were to learn the existence service offering by the different Firm in respect of legal Insurance to the individuals approach and into companies or family/groups. Alternative prospective was to observe the system for managing the clients into the financial sustainability with in the firm by adopting the legal insurance approach. The groups met with community and established business men and owners settled in New York since decades and contributing the economy of New York, knowing the legal confronts faced by their families since day first of their arrival to New York.



7. Meetings with overseas Entrepreneur:

The founder member of foundation Mr. Zaheer Akhter had arranged some business meetings with the successful entrepreneurs at the New York. Mr. Imran one of the pioneer and owner of bus business exchange his professional work experience with Legal Researchers team to



develop networking, strengthen the private partnership with new strugglers / labors of local community to support them in practical challenges such as legal documentation for business registration, taxation and ensuring the legal rights of overseas who have been ditched and violated owing to lack of appropriate information. The fear to lose their labor work, daily wages that are catering to support their extensive families residing in Pakistan led them to accept any condition weather it's against their self-esteem. The meeting end on the recommended as build the liaison Govt of Pakistan and United states to provide the opportunities for overseas Pakistani young student to appear in the competitive exams such as PMS/ CSS and PCS. The overseas will strengthen the empowerment of youth and women in different filed and given opportunities for lesson learn and expertise

8. Participation in Charity work

Overseas Global Foundation based at New York, working for the streaming the voices of overseas community. The foundation founders are actively participating and contributing the cultural values on different occasion since centuries. The members supported marginalized community in different sectors in their individual capacities time to time.



The overseas have been major role in the charity work, development and peace building. LEGAL RESEARCHERS (LR) is extending management & community development services to its clients from Public, Private and Development sector.

Keeping in mind the ever-changing consulting requirements of community, LR has designated experienced professionals and congregated team to assist clients in diversified thematic areas. The firm has grown-up progressively and established a credible reputation



in various esteemed Governmental, corporate and other development partners. Based on the previous successful work and provision of Legal assistance to vulnerable group

Way forward:

As described since 2016 the firm successfully facilitated with the Support of culture affairs US Embassy Pakistan, the young Lawyers/ Attorney visit upon the completion of their offered courses, covered drafting, research, ethics, sustainability of the clientage and marketing.

The model ultimately promotes to establish the firms in Pakistan to strengthen the solo practice. During the stay it has been strongly recommended by the community met at New York to emphasis to arrange an opportunity to take professionals from America to Pakistan.

Strategy:

- a) To Liaison Govt of Pakistan and US Embassy for table the mentioned recommendations.
- b) As the support of US Embassy and High court bar to provide the opportunity for overseas Pakistani young student to appear in the competitive exams such as PMS/ CSS and PCS.
- c) As the vision of the Imran Khan is very vivid for youth empowerment, we will coordinate for possible upbringing.
- d) Currently 400 individuals attorney are part the firm network who will be converted in the form of franchises for keeping the long sustainability under the same mandate.

Sketch of US Community Needs:

- 1) The observation priorities few challenges facing by the migrated or settle individuals/families at New York.
- 2) The Pakistani and other nationality still facing the stigma of secondary nationality holder ship of US being residing there since long time.
- 3) The cultural interfaith mechanism will needs further strengthen at New York.
- 4) The Overseas Pakistani facing challenges to contribute the charity support to their country of origin, due to security fear implemented by the agencies at New York.

Future Partnerships/ Strategy:

Organization will required to develop the partnership for establishment of referral system of cases.

We will work to strengthen the Humanitarian work for flooring the financial support such as primary operational costs.

The most significant feature needs to be prioritized for the information sharing of America and Pakistan through media and latest technology including some relevant apps.

To promote women empowerment in Pakistan regular identifications of companies, groups, individuals and firms required for financial support.

Recommendations / Suggestions:

- a) We will beraised to exchange the good information material such as researches to diminish the stigma associated with the Pakistan society.
- b) To prioritize the Para-legal hence, the Pakistani communities Attorneys are limited in numbers at US for offering the services.
- c) We will liaison to include the established Businessmen and professionals from other walks of life for the upcoming delegation.
- d) To encourage Lawyers from Pakistan at least they would be able to complete the LLM course from US recognized university.
- e) Pakistan Firm needs to expand its services in the form of franchise at various parts of districts, which will offer the same services for the marginalized community.
- f) Twice a year meetings should be initiated from LR representatives to meet the overseas community for follow up of newly engage individual, companies, firms and organization to support and overcome the challenges faced by the Pakistani community.
- g) To provide the platforms for family, companies and individual visits form US to Pakistan and vice versa for pursing inter faith harmony and peace.