
Image of People's Empowerment in Pakistan: A Survey Based Public Opinion, 2007-2013

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Abstract

The modern welfare state aims to provide maximum benefits to its citizens. It has to articulate the interests and fundamental rights of the citizens. Liberalism (government of laws rather than of men) is to protect the citizens from the abuse of power. In Pakistan the People's Empowerment is problematic. Changes at governmental level categorically influence the life of the common people. In 2007, there occurred some positive developments in the form of judicial independence. The dormant and submissive institution of judiciary asserted its role as an independent institution. With the judicial independence, the other two branches of government set new trends within their constitutional jurisdiction. For the first time in the political history of Pakistan, democratic government completed its term. This paper attempts to assess the empowerment of the people within the parameter of the political changes took place in Pakistan during 2007 to 2013. This descriptive analysis of study provides concise results to understand the real empowerment of the people.

Introduction

Montesquieu (1748) the French Political philosopher, stressed on the division of powers between Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. According to him the liberty of people is ensured with the separation of powers. The case of Pakistan seems to some extent different. The political managers of Pakistan could not decide to establish and implement any of the government system. Theoretically, they announced to run the affairs of state under Islamic democracy but, practically they adopted neither democracy nor Islam. They shaped their own system to manage the affairs of state. Powers remained personality cantered instead of functioning through separate institutions. Interestingly, constitutional settings provide the separate role and function of the three institutions, but in practice judiciary remained passive to the executive. Legislation in the

parliament, actions of the executive branch and the legal support from the courts are the tools to empower the people. During the period under study, Judiciary enhanced its role by introducing the *Suo Motu* actions, parliament reset its democratic trends and the executive also tried to act within its constitutional limits. The people's empowerment can be viewed within the performance of three institutions. This article is divided into three sections: the role and function of the judiciary as an independent institution towards empowering the citizens, the role of parliament to empower the people and the role of executive branch of Pakistan to empower the common people. Finally the paper argues that only separation of powers is not necessary for empowerment, because majority of the people are not satisfied with the performance of the judiciary, executive and legislature. People believe in democratic ideals not their rulers.

Empowerment as a Concept

The term empowerment- a postmodern approach, is related to the political development because it brings social and political change. This process of change starts from the powerless condition and leads people to have power over their life and destiny. Powerlessness stems from the inconsistent and malfunctioning system of democracy in the country. Modern democracies with inbuilt checks and balances legitimate and endorse the structured mechanism of empowerment.¹ Eyben (2011) has defined the concept empowerment in the following words: '...When individuals and groups are able to imagine their 'world' differently and to realize that vision by changing the relations of powers that have kept them in poverty, restricted their voice and deprived them of their autonomy that is called Empowerment'.²

Theoretically, the world view concept of empowerment was developed by the Julian Rappaport in 1981. According to him, 'empowerment is a social policy and an approach to the solution of social problems stemming from powerlessness.' The marginalized and oppressed section of the society gained their political, social, legal and economic rights in a state. It is the freedom of choice; it increases and enhances the power, capacity and control of the oppressed over the state resources. It is the means to access the decision making process at government level which affects the very survival of the people in a society. According to English school of thought, empowerment is perceived in the meaning of 'investment with legal power' which means to act for some particular purpose. We can say it is the participation of the people in the democratic process. The growth and development of the democracies in the political system is generally considered the way to empower the citizens.³

Liberals school of thought focuses on the protection of the citizens from the tyranny and abuse of powers by the government. Citizens can be protected from

tyranny and absolutism by adopting two principles: mutual consent and constitutionalism. Liberty is considered an essential political value and natural right for leading an honourable life in the society. People in the liberal society pursue the opportunities of their concern. Their living standards, liking, disliking and performance are changed. Their talents and skills are developed with great potential under the liberal environment.⁴

The Case of People's Empowerment in Pakistan

Since 1947, the policies of government did not reflect the wellbeing and welfare of the common citizens. As a result, ordinary citizen have lack of trust on the performance of the institutions. People perceive the state machinery whether in the form of parliamentarians, government officials or judges, as a corrupt and based on favouritism and nepotisms. Gilani (2015) tried to present the real face of the government, that there was "unlawful appropriation of public property, denial of liberties, harassment of the poor by denying them equal opportunities in business and employment, denial of public goods to the disadvantaged and the weak, and selective application of legal sanctions against the weak while the powerful can escape the law."⁵

Practically, the ruling elites, somehow or the others, managed to make executive branch more powerful than the legislature and judiciary. Throughout history of Pakistan, the unconstitutional steps of executive had been validated by the judiciary. Law of Necessity was first time introduced by the justice Munir not only to validate the Governor General's act of dissolving the constitutional assembly, but also paved the way for subsequent rulers to topple down the governments. According to Niaz (2012), since partition of India (1947), the rulers of Pakistan have been treating the state with support of civil bureaucracy as their personal estate. He further argued that the manners, in which the executive exercised power and authority in Pakistan, have undermined the institutional norms and principles left by the British in the sub-continent.⁶

The 2007 proved to be the eventful year, because it shaped the contour of political development in Pakistan. Since 2005 (the appointment of Iftikhar Chaudhry as chief Justice), Judiciary had been asserting its role as an independent institution by taking *Suo Motu*. President did not expect such vibrant judiciary. Thus he suspended the chief justice on 2007 to stop the judicial activism. As a reaction, a powerful mass movement started to restore the chief justice. The full bench of Supreme Court restored the chief justice on 20th July 2007 by striking down the 'reference' filed by the president against him. This vibrant judiciary restarted the previous trends of taking *suo motu*. During this time, Musharraf was re-elected as a president of Pakistan. This dual authority of Musharraf as a president and Chief of Army staff was challenged. Court declared the military

president as usurper and hence affirmed the 3rd November, 2007 emergency illegal. After it, judiciary became so powerful institution that it convicted sitting Prime Minister (Yousaf Raza Gilani). Another example of its independence visualized when the parliament had to pass 19th amendment considering some reservations of the judiciary on certain clauses related to judges' appointment under the 18th amendment.

These developments in the judiciary paved the way for consolidating the democracy. General elections were held on February 2008 and as consequent thirteenth national assembly of Pakistan (17 March 2008- 16 March 2013), composed of the elected government had completed its five year term on 16 March, 2013. It was first time in political and democratic history of Pakistan that an elected government was successfully changed through the power of the people (election). Three institutions of the state (judiciary, executive and legislature) performed their functions comparatively better than the previous history within their constitutional jurisdictions.

Methodology and Data Collection

The survey was conducted in 2014-2015 from various regions of the country. For convenience, educated community from the four provinces was interviewed. Initially, efforts were made to interview maximum people, but owing to less response even from educated section, the size of sample had to reduce. The total number of interviews conducted throughout the country was 1120. Questions were asked in both Urdu and English. Electronic devices like e-mail were also utilized during survey. Interviews were conducted both by the author and the persons on behalf of the author from the different areas of the four provinces. SPSS software was used to analyze the codified data. Utmost efforts were made to target the population of four provinces of Pakistan. It is equally important to mention here, that getting the response from people was very laborious, as majority of them did not know the 'separation of powers'. The minimum number of respondents for each province was one hundred. Punjab, having the largest province, therefore the respondents taken from this province was comparatively more than the other provinces. The questionnaire was proposed to get the information about the central question that whether or not the people of Pakistan are empowered in the light of changes took place as a result of separation of powers. The questionnaire had three objectives: (a) to check the empowerment of people through parliament. (b) To check the empowerment of people through executive. (c) To check the empowerment of people through judiciary.

Breakup of the Respondent's- Province Wise

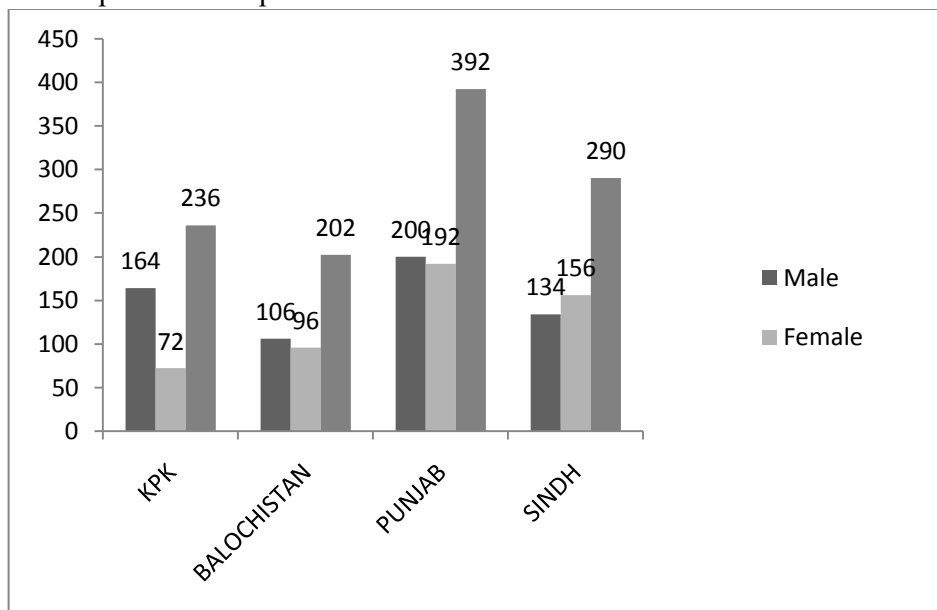


Figure 1

The number of respondents from the Punjab was more than the respondents from the smaller provinces. There were 392 respondents from the Punjab, out of which 51% male and 49% female responded. Similarly, out of 290, 46.2% were male and female (53.8%) were relatively more than male respondents from Sind. Likewise, the respondents from KPK were 236 in total, from which, male were 69.5% and female 30.5%. Baluchistan being the less populated province, the total respondents were 202. Out of which, there were 52.5% male and 47.5% were female respondents.

Education of the Respondents

Initially, the sample was devised to get information from all segments of society, but only the educated community responded. For this, survey was conducted in the offices and the educational institution. Even then, under graduate people did not respond. Thus, out of the 1120 sample, there were 56.4% graduate or above respondents, 33.6% having professional education, while religiously educated were 10.0%.

Education of the Respondents

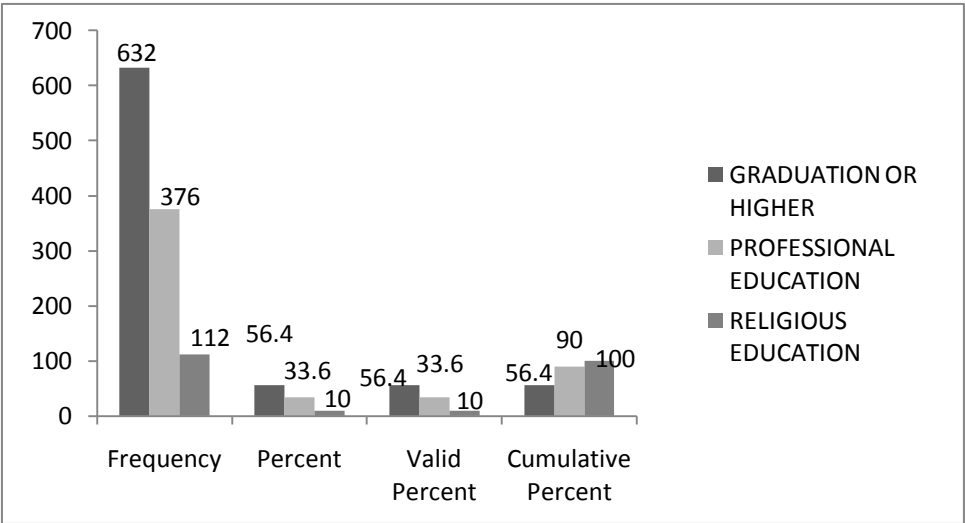


Figure 2

Following pages will discuss the results of these objectives. For convenience, the result is discussed separately of the three institutions.

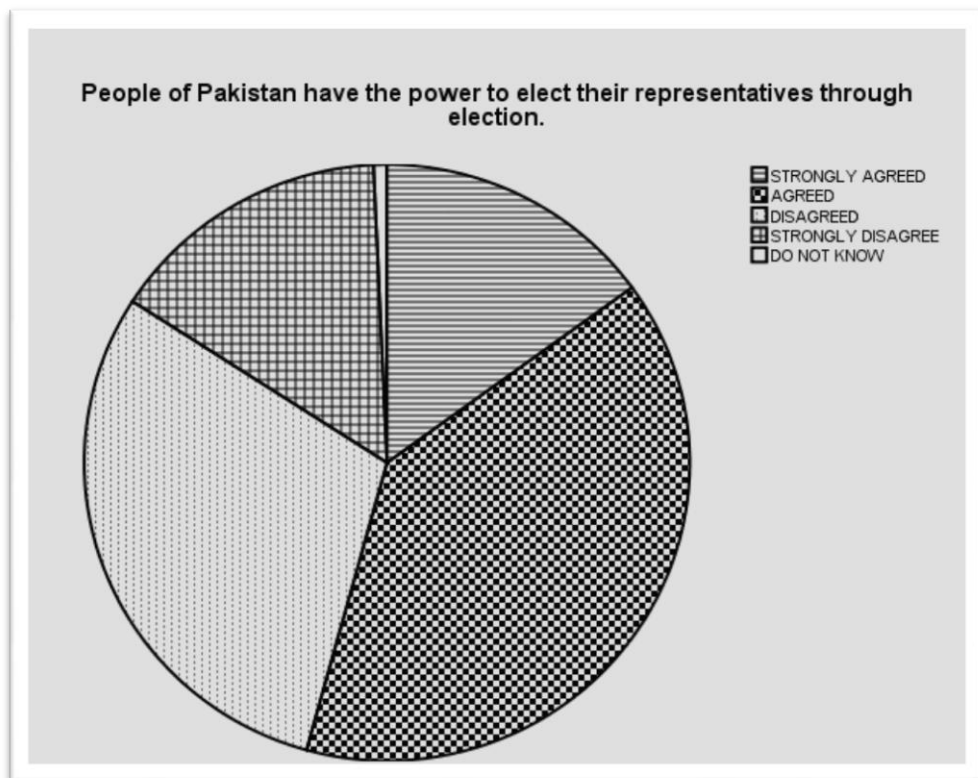
Findings Related to Legislature

Generally, the parliament is considered the forum of people. The participation of the people in the decision making process is gauged through the functioning and performance of the parliament. The laws made in the parliament reflect the interests of the common citizens of the state. The election process, composition of the assembly, the qualifications and behaviour of the members of the parliament and the passing of the bills with the presence of all the political parties are essential components for the people representative institution. The set of questions in this section aimed to evaluate the perception of the people from all over Pakistan about the role and function of the parliament during 2008-2013 towards empowering the citizen.

Q NO.1 People’s Power to Elect Their Representatives through Election

The elected representatives are meant for the representation of the people in parliament. This question was asked to check the views of the general public regarding the developments made in the political system and the right of people in electing their representatives.

Figure 3

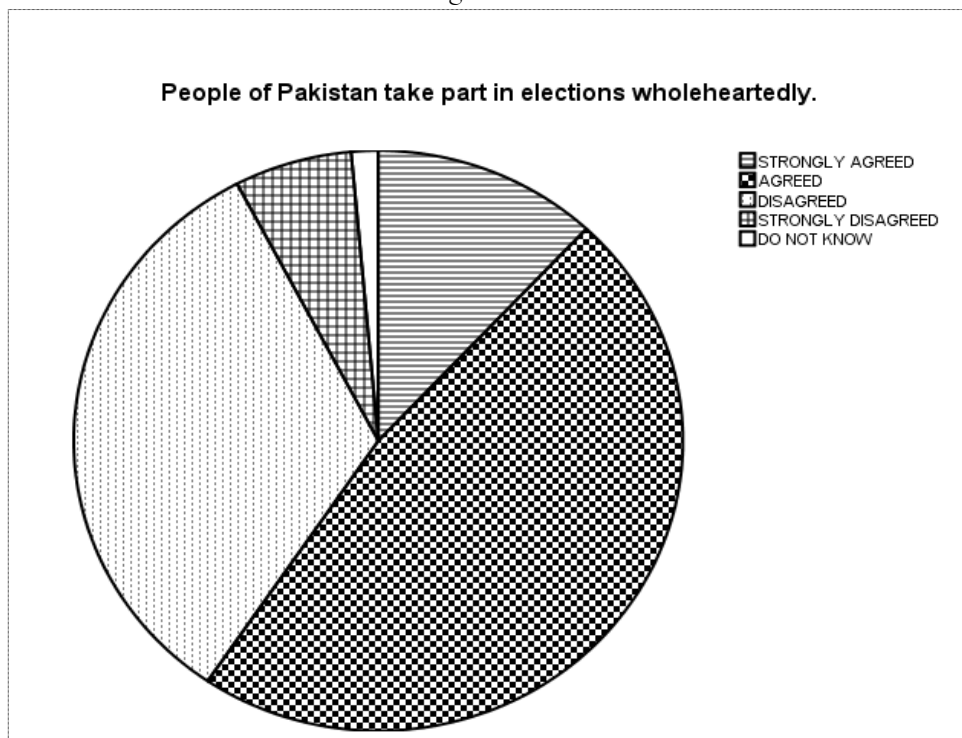


The result shows in figure 3 that large number of respondents (39.9 %) agreed that they have the powers to elect their representatives. However, 29.8% showed their disagreement on the power to elect. There were also 15.2% respondents who were strongly disagreed with the argument. Equally, 15.0% were strongly agreed with the argument. Overall the majority of the respondents were agreed with the point that they have the power to elect their representatives.

Q NO.2 Participation of People in Elections Wholeheartedly

People's power is manifested in elections. Elections meant for change of government. When People believe in the election process, it is the actual empowerment in the democratization. The question was asked to check the opinions of the people about their trust in elections.

Figure 4

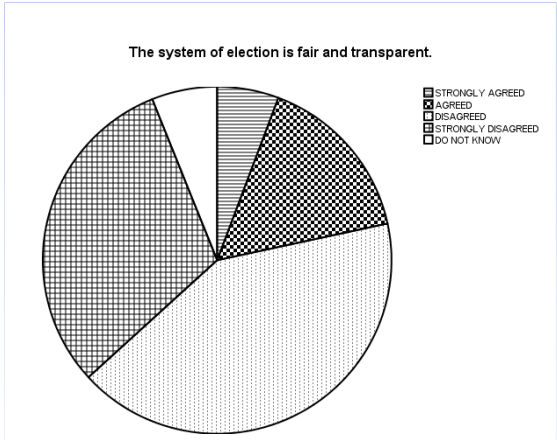


The result shows in figure 4 that majority of the respondents (47.5%) are agreed with the argument. There are 32.9% respondents who disagreed with the argument. Strongly agreed respondents were 12.0%. However, 6.2% respondents were strongly disagreed with the point. Thus overall, the respondents were agreed that people in Pakistan take part in the elections with zeal and zest.

Q NO.3 System of Election is Fair and Transparent

Fair and free elections is the responsibility of the government. With the free and fair elections, power of the vote by the common man is reflected. Unfortunately in Pakistan, the traditions of free and fair elections could not take its roots. The public opinion sought in this question was transparency of the elections, because the rigging in the elections means the manipulation of the people's power.

Figure 5

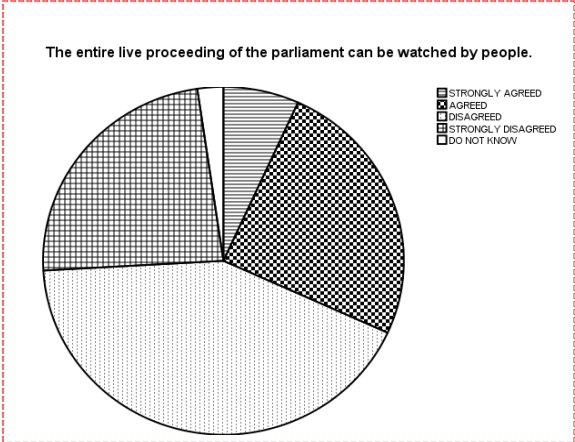


The result shows in figure 5 that majority of the respondents (41.6%) are disagreed with the fair and transparent elections. While 30.7% were strongly disagreed. Only 15.9% were agreed that in Pakistan the elections are fair and transparent. The strongly agreed respondents were 5.7%. Thus, majority of the respondents are not agreed with the election process in Pakistan.

Q NO.4 The Proceeding of the Parliament can be watched by People

The empowerment indicates when general public have access to watch the proceedings of the parliament. The purpose of live proceedings is to openly debate the public issues by the people’s representatives. Most of the people have no access to the electronic media. The response of the various segments of the society is in negative.

Figure 6



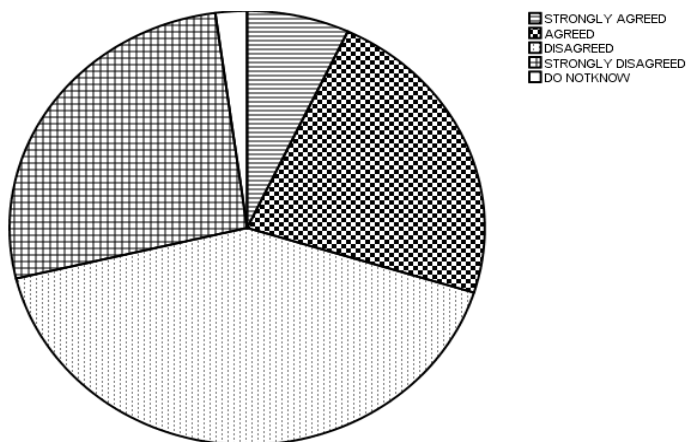
In figure 6, the majority of the respondents (42.3%) do not agree with the opinion that people in Pakistan can watch the live proceedings of the legislature. There were 23.6% respondents who were strongly disagreeing. However, 25.6% were agreed and 6.8% were strongly agreed with the opinion. Thus overall, majority of the respondents were disagreed that people can watch the live proceedings of the parliament.

Q.No.5 Public Representatives (Parliamentarians) Listen and Solve the Problems of People.

People empowerment is manifested when representatives know the problems of the common people. Mostly the candidates meet the masses during elections to get vote, but after the election, they never bother to visit their respective constituencies. People feel empowered when their representatives are within them.

Figure 7

Public representatives (parliamentarians) listen and solve the problems of people.



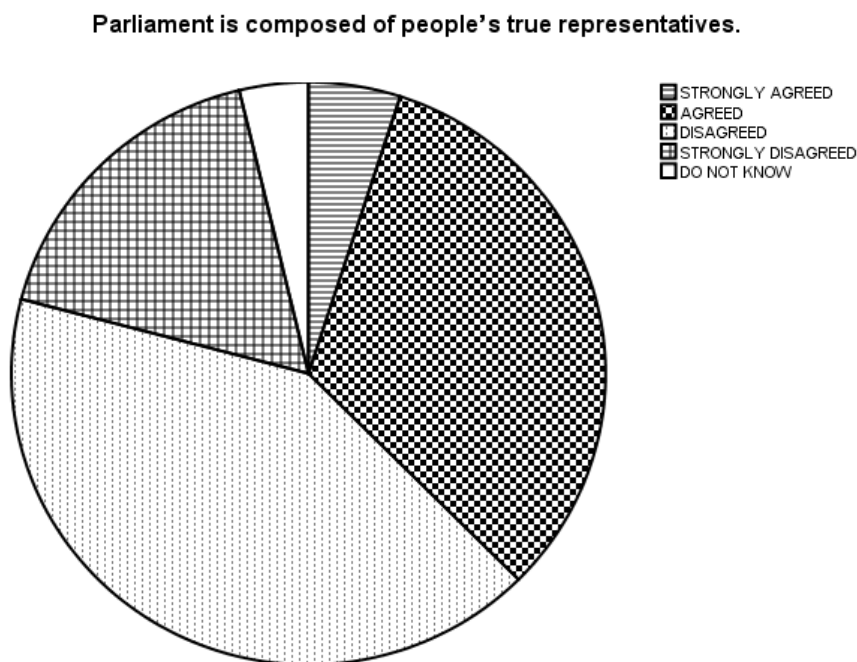
The figure 7 shows that 22.9% respondents who were agreed that the public representatives listen and solve the problems of common people. The respondents strongly agreeing were 7.0%. On the other hand, 41.4% were disagreed and 26.6% were strongly disagreed. Thus the majority of the respondents were not agreeing that the representatives of the people listen and solve the problems of the common people after the end of election.

Q.No.6 Parliament is composed of People's True Representatives.

As already discussed that parliament is the forum of people. Decisions, which are made in the parliament, have direct affect on the life of the people. Law makers keep in view the needs of the masses in general. Empowerment is linked with the laws, rules and regulations. It is unfortunate phenomenon in Pakistan that some representatives buy offices at high costs and thus show no interest to safeguard the wellbeing of the citizens. This is equally undeniable fact that parliamentarians remain busy to garner their status instead of the interests of the masses. Only true representatives have the vision to facilitate the citizens.⁷

To check the opinions of the people about this perception, interviewees were asked whether or not the parliamentarians are the true representatives of the people.

Figure 8

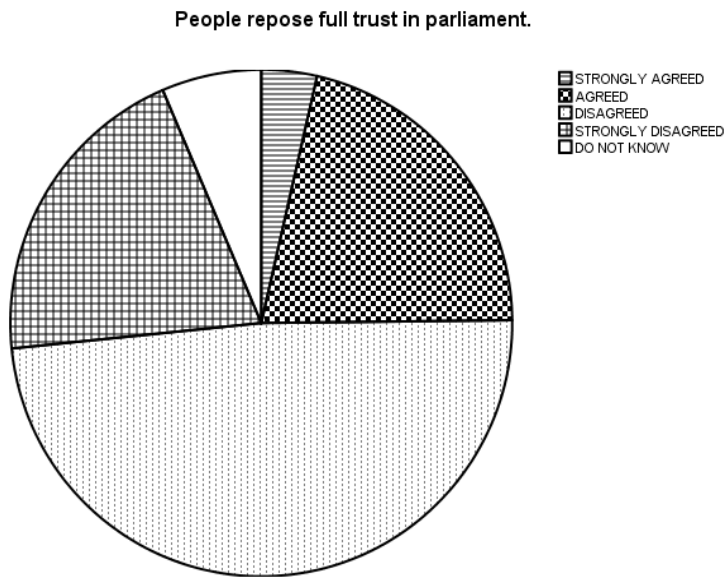


The figure 8 shows that 32.5% were agreed on this perception and only 5% respondents were strongly agreed, while the majority of respondents (41.6%) were disagreed. There were 17.1% respondents who were strongly disagreed on this perception.

Q.No.7 People Repose Full Trust in Parliament.

Trust on the institution only develops when the voice of people is heard. The role of the parliament is to represent the people. General masses sent their representatives in the parliament by electing them. Generally people perceive the parliament is not the institution where the voice of the people is truly present. The representatives belong to the elite class. They have little concern about the problems of the people. Laws and decisions made in the parliament are only in the interests of the ruling class.

Figure 9



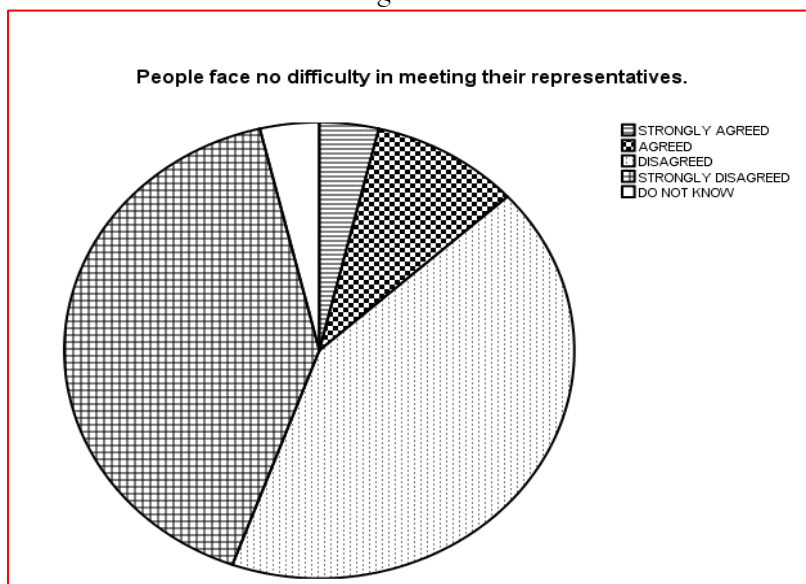
The findings in figure 9 show that majority of the respondents (48.6%) were disagreed with the perception that people have full trust on the laws made in the parliament. There were 20.2% respondents who were strongly disagreed while, 21.2% showed their agreement that people have trust in the parliament. Only 3.6% was strongly agreed that people in Pakistan believe in the parliament. Thus the majority of the respondents were disagreed.

Q.No.8 People face no difficulty in meeting their representatives.

People are empowered in true sense when they have an easy access to their representatives. Generally it is observed that candidates mingle with the common citizens during elections just to get the vote. After winning the election, the

candidates make it quite difficult for the lay man to meet them. To get information from public about this perception, interviewees were asked whether or not they face difficulty in meeting their representatives.

Figure 10



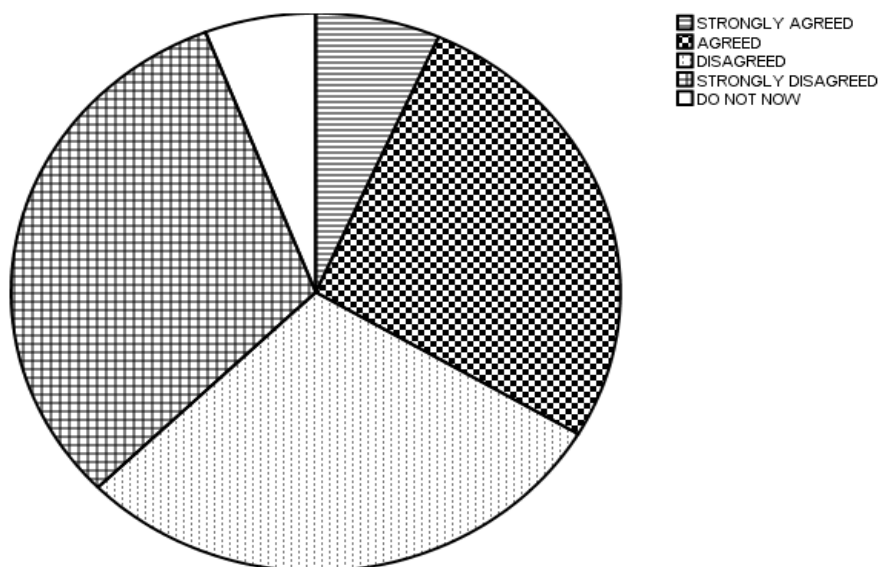
In figure 10, the majority of the respondents (42.3%) were disagreed on the perception that people have no difficulty in meeting their representatives. There were 40.7% respondents who were even strongly disagreed. The number of respondents agreed on that people in Pakistan had no difficulty in meeting their representatives were 9.5%. Thus findings show that majority of the people face difficulty to meet their representatives.

Q.No.9 Common man can contest election and win as a representative for the people.

People are empowered when a lay man can contest and win the election as a representative for the people. The expenditure on electioneering is too huge to be borne by the common man. It seems as if elections in Pakistan are confined to money game. The cost of national assembly/ senate seat has reached up to millions of rupees. This cost of electioneering is not less even at local bodies elections. The recently conducted local bodies' election is the glaring example of this fact. It is reported that Rs.25 millions were spent on the seat of chairman at Lahore.⁸ People were asked to give their opinion about this perception.

Figure 21

In Pakistan, common man can contest election and win as a representative for the people.

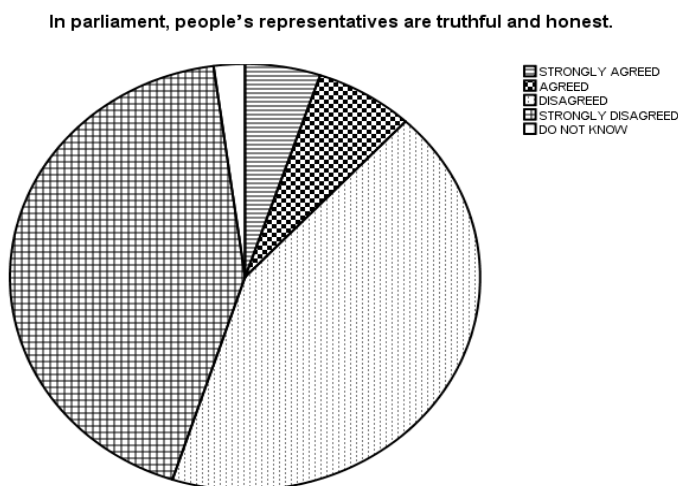


The response came from the interviewees was against the perception. In figure 11, majority of the respondents (31.4%) were strongly disagreed. There were 29.6% respondents who were disagreed, while, 26.9% were agreed that common man in Pakistan can contest and win as a representative. Thus overall, opinions were against the perception. The following figure shows the detail.

Q.No.10 People's Representatives in Parliament are Truthful and Honest.

Only truthful and honest leaders pursue the public policy. They should fulfill the promises and honestly utilized the public exchequer. Rehman (2015) stated the real picture of the representatives in parliament. He says that, "their expertise lies in changing their party labels at the most opportune moment. Dissent with the party leadership's policies is a risk they vigorously reject. Besides they are sitting ducks for the establishment's marksmen who are always present in the wings."⁹ Interviewees were asked to give their opinions about this perception. Following figure will explain the general perception.

Figure 32



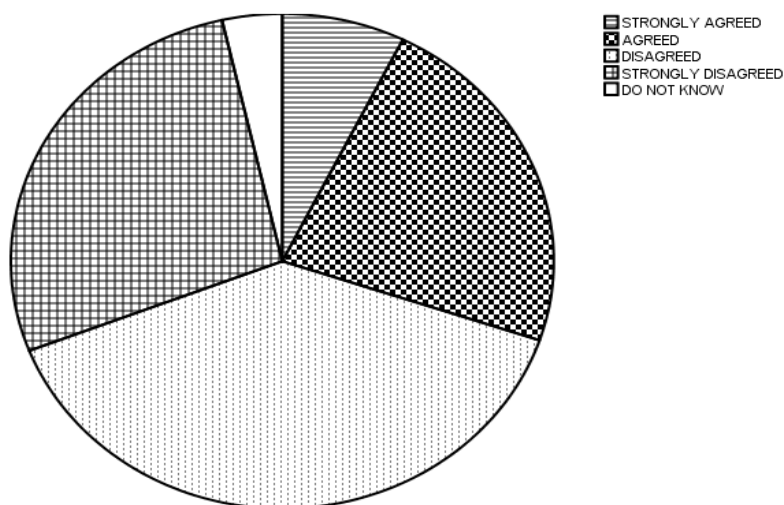
It was very strange that the findings in figure 12 were against this perception. There were 43.0% respondents who were disagreed on the point. Equally, 42.9% respondents were strongly disagreed. There were only 6.8% respondents who were agreed with the view. Thus majority of the respondents perceived that people's representatives in parliament are not truthful and honest.

Q.No.11 People's Participation is kept in view in Decision Making

Finally the public opinions were sought whether or not people's participation is considered in decision making. People are empowered when they participate in the decision making process. In democratic government, the form of people's participation is the parliament. The decisions are made in the parliament with the presence of all the political parties. Issues are debated and with consensus the bills are passed in the assembly. Sometimes the decisions are made without consensus and even the consent of the party members is ignored. This is the form of dictatorship. It is through assessing the public transparency that legislatures consider the outreach activities. It is worldwide recognized duty of the parliament to engage the citizen through different approaches. Assemblies conduct public petitioning and open period for getting input from the masses. Public committee hearings are held to get feedback from the people about the issues under discussion. This procedure stimulates the public interests in the process of legislation. In the modern word, many governments resort to electronic devices to seek and ensure public participation. People use online tools to edit their suggestions on the legislation.¹⁰

Figure 43

People's participation is kept in view in decision making.



The views of the majority of respondents (38.9%) in the interviews were disagreed and strongly disagreed (27.3%). However, 22.9% respondents agreed that the decisions in parliament are made with the participation of public. But, overall findings in figure 13 reveal that people's participation is not kept in view in the parliament of Pakistan.

Findings concerning the Empowerment of people through Executive

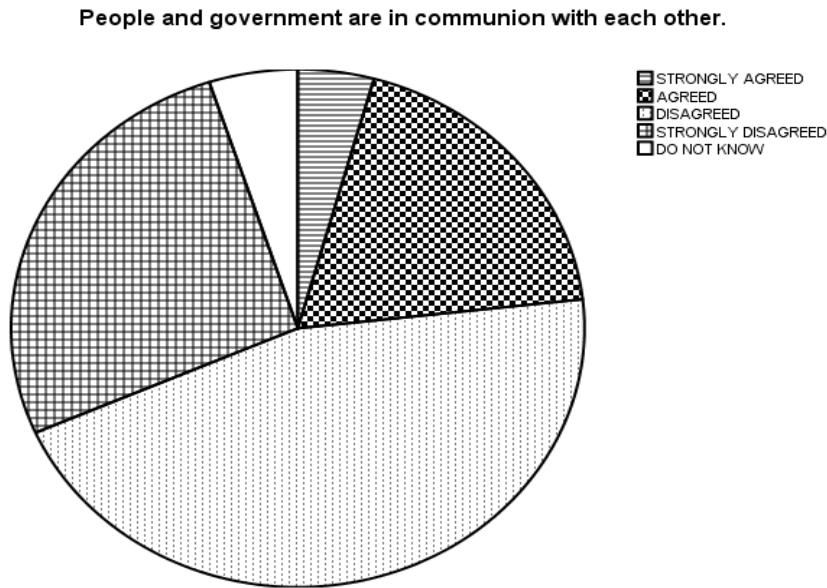
The second objective of the survey was to gather information from the respondents about the empowerment of people through executive. It is important in the sense that common man has to face the executive branch of government in different forms. Police station and bureaucratic structure in Pakistan have direct affect on the life of a common man. In this section the central question was asked whether or not people are empowered through executive. There are secondary questions related to this objective. The secondary questions asked in this section are discussed below.

Q.No.12 People and Government are in Communion with each other

In the democratic government, the connection between the government and the citizens is considered important for the legitimacy and the smooth functioning of the business of the government. Similarly, parliament fosters link with the citizens for getting support other then the government.¹¹

The grievances of the people are addressed when the government officials try to listen and solve. To discover the opinions of the people on this perception, interviewees were asked whether or not officials of the government are in contact with the citizens.

Figure 54

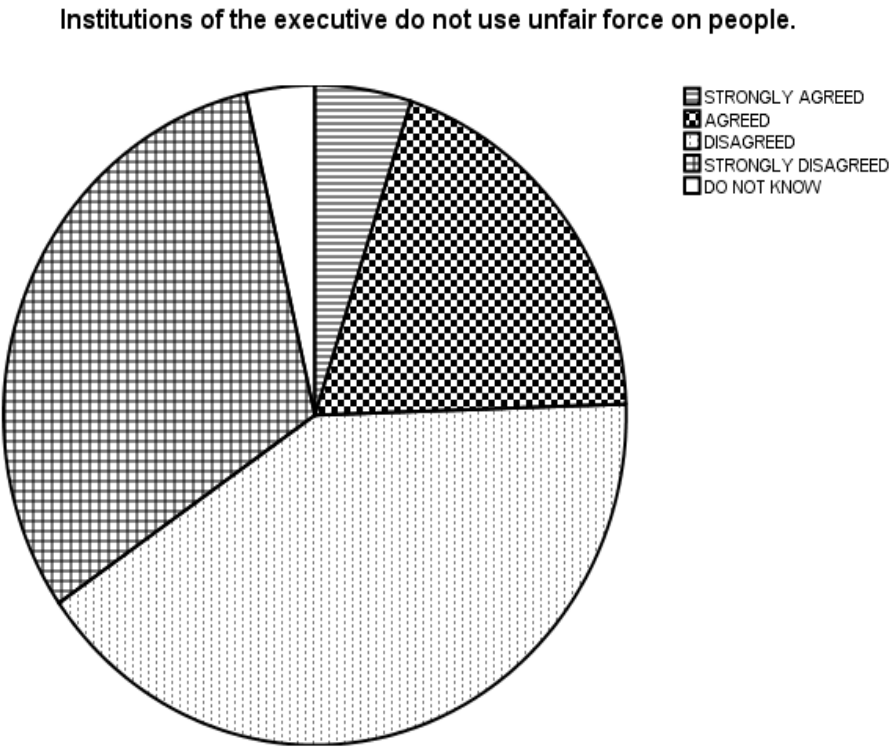


In figure 14, the majority of the respondents (45.2%) were disagreed with this perception. The 26.6% respondents were strongly disagreed with this. The respondents who were agreed with this perception were 18.9%. Thus the findings suggest that there is lack of communication between government and the public at large.

Q.No.13 Institutions of the Executive do not use unfair force on People

This perception is related to the misuse of authority by the officials, where common man faces many troubles. The question was asked to get opinions of the public about the change in the behaviour of the law enforcement agencies and other officials. Opinions were sought whether or not the government officials use unfair force on the people.

Figure 65

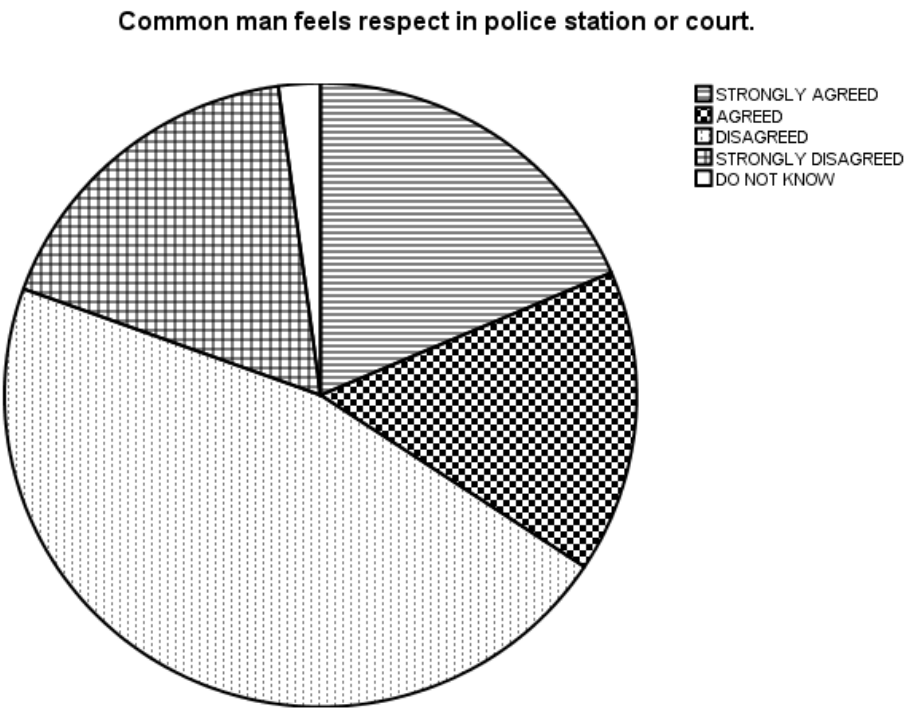


The findings in figure15 suggest that executive misuses authority. The majority of respondents (40.9%) were disagreed with the opinion. The strongly disagreed respondents were 31.1%, while 19.5% were agreed with the statement that executive do not misuse their authority on public. Thus findings reveals that people has to face unfair use of force from the executive branch of the government. The results of the survey are presented below.

Q.No.14 Common Man feels respect in Police Station and in Court

This is also related to the above perception of misuse of authority. Opinions were sought from different segment of the society.

Figure 76

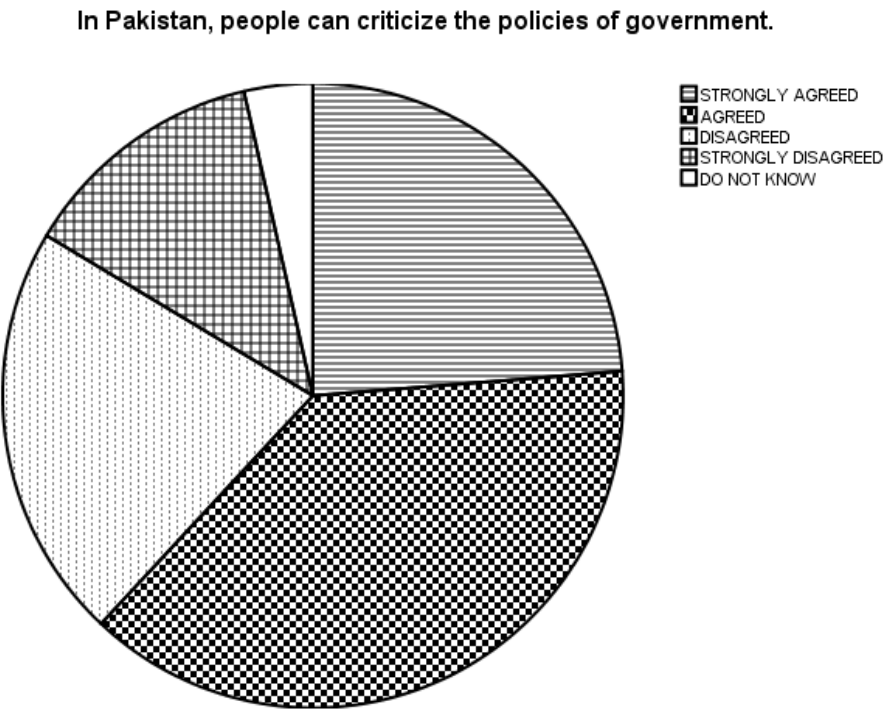


It revealed in figure 16 that majority of the respondents (46.2%) were disagreed with the suggestion. The respondents showed strongly disagreement with the opinion were 17.3%. Those who agreed with the statement were 15.7%, while, 18.6% were strongly agreed. But overall the respondents were disagreed and opined that people in Pakistan are not feel respect in both police station and in the court. The following table highlights the suggestion.

Q.No.15 Criticism on the Policies of Government

Criticism on the policies of government is considered the basic right of the people. Generally, people use this right in the democratic regimes more than under the military regimes. To discover this opinion from public, interviewees was asked whether or not people in Pakistan are empowered enough to criticize the policies and functioning of the government.

Figure 87



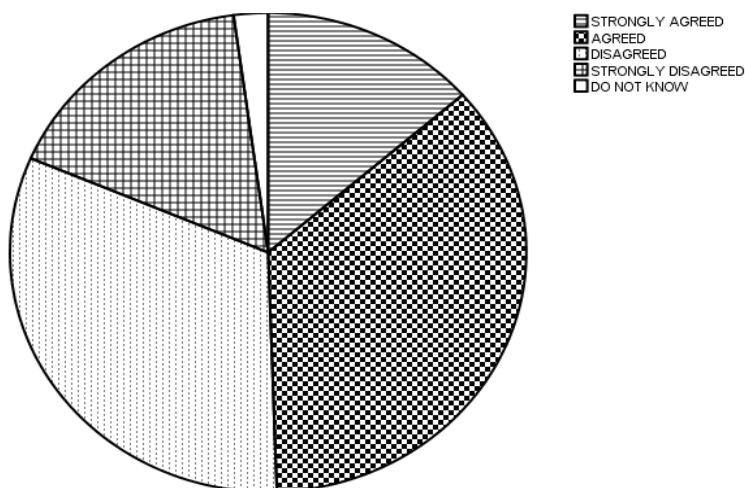
The findings showed in figure 17 that people in Pakistan can criticize the policies of government. There were 38.25% respondents who agreed and 23.8% were strongly agreed with the perception. The 21.6% respondents however, disagreed with the perception. Strongly disagreed respondents were 12.9%. Thus people in Pakistan are empowered in this sense that they can criticize the policies of the government.

Q.No.16 People considered ‘Democracy’ to empower them

People of Pakistan had experienced both military and civilian rules. Interviewees were asked whether people have been empowered through the democracy. The findings show the mix response from the interviewees. However majority of the respondent favoured democracy to empower the people.

Figure 98

In Pakistan, people considered 'democracy' to empower them.



In figure 18, the respondents agreed with the perception were 35.9% while 32.0% were disagree. The mix response shows that democratic government has just completed its five year term. Besides, during the five year term government did not introduce local bodies, which is considered the base to empower the people at grass root level. It is observed that contrary to civilian government, Devolution plan was introduced under the military rule. Anyhow, comparatively majority of the respondents supported the democracy to empower the people.

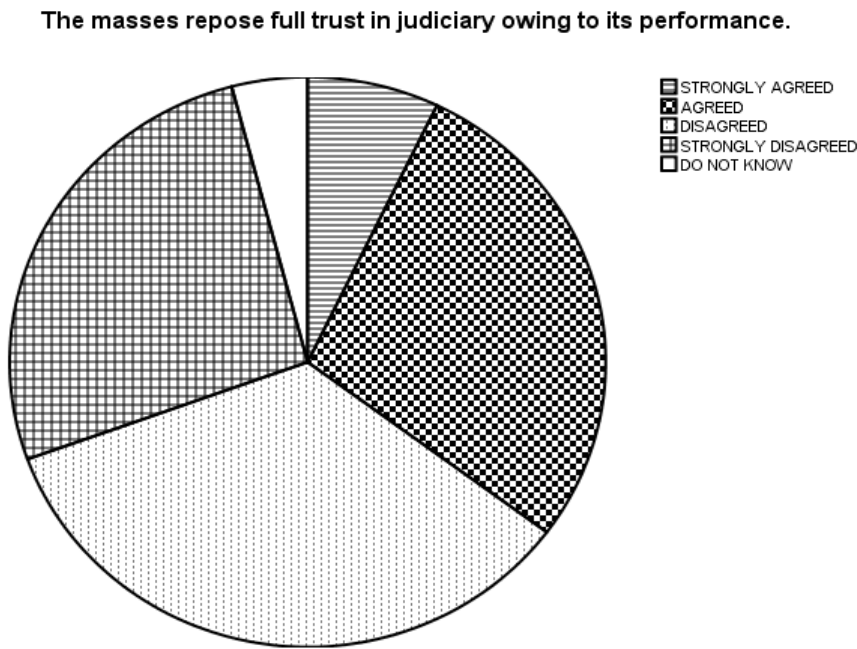
Empowerment pertaining to Judiciary

The litigation in Pakistan is complicated and expensive for the common man. The suo motu actions taken by the judiciary during this period were positive steps to empower the citizens. Here we will check the empowerment up to the grassroots level through judiciary. The remaining four questions are related to seek the third objective of the survey.

Q.No.17 People's trust in Judiciary

People have to contact with the judicial branch of the government some way or the other. Recently, Judiciary had asserted its position as an independent and empowered institution. The performance of judiciary is judged by the opinion of the people. To check this perception, interviewees were asked whether or not the people in Pakistan have trust in the judiciary owing to its performance.

Figure 109

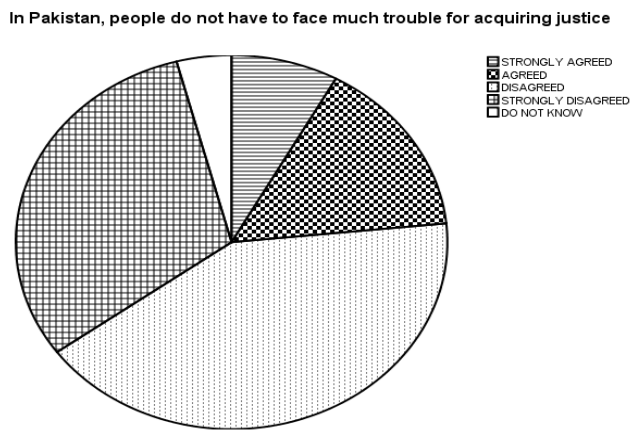


The majority of the respondents (34.3%) in figure 19 were disagreed and 26.4% were strongly agreed with the perception. The respondents who showed agreed were 28%. The strongly agreed respondents were only 7.1%. Thus the majority of the respondents were not agreed with the perception that people repose trust in the judiciary due to its performance.

Q.No.18 People do not have to face much trouble for acquiring Justice

People empowerment is seen when they have easy and speedy justice to their door steps.

Figure 20

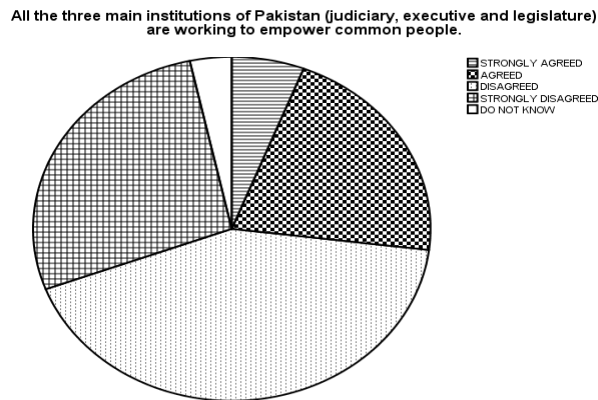


When public were asked about this perception, it was revealed (in figure 20) that majority of respondents (41.6%) were disagreed with the perception. Equally, 30.9% were strongly disagreed. The agreed respondents were 15.4%. Thus majority of respondent show that people in Pakistan are not empowered enough to acquire justice easily at their door step.

Q.No.19 Judiciary, Executive and Legislature are working to Empower common People

When the public opinions were sought regarding the working of three main institutions, it revealed from the response of the respondents that the performance of all the institutions is not up to the expectations of the people.

Figure 21



Majority of the respondents (in figure 21) were disagreed with the perception that the working of the institutions in Pakistan is meant to empower the common people. The respondents' majority (42.2%) was disagreed with the working of the institutions. Even 27.3% were strongly disagreed. The agreed respondents were 21.1%. Thus the findings show that people in Pakistan are not empowered through the major institution.

Q.No.20 People of Pakistan are well aware, Free and Empowered

Finally the overall perception was sought from the public. This is the ultimate aim and objectives of all the activities of the government. To gather the opinions of the public on the perception that after the positive trends in Pakistan regarding the beginning of democratic rules, whether or not people in general empowered. It revealed from the response of the respondents that people in Pakistan are not well aware and empowered.

Figure 22



In figure 22, majority of the respondents (43.0) were disagreed with the perception that people are empowered and well aware. Even 21.1% were strongly disagreed. The agreed respondents were 23.9%, while just 8.0% were strongly agreed. Thus final observation shows that people in Pakistan are not free, well aware and empowered.

Conclusion

We have discussed the empowerment of people through the role and function of the three institutions of the government. The discussion revealed that even though the positive trends to empower people with the vibrant judiciary but overall people empowerment is not happened in Pakistan. The first objective of the questionnaire was to find the response of the people on the empowerment through legislature. Public response shows that people in Pakistan are not empowered. They are not satisfied with the sincerity, audacity, truthfulness, trustworthy and keenness of the parliamentarians. Majority of the common people cannot meet with their representatives. However, there are some indicators like, the power to change the government through elections. One can assume that the people in Pakistan are empowered. But overall people are not empowered enough to take part in the decision making process. The second section of the questionnaire was related to collect opinions of the public about the unrestraint powers of the executive branch of the government. The findings of this portion reveal that the general behaviour of the bureaucrats is not people's friendly. Often, people are not respected in the most visited department, i.e. the police station and the court. Therefore the findings of the survey indicate that people have no access to the executive. The results of the third objective were also remained like the previous one. The empowerment through judiciary could not happen still in Pakistan. The litigation is unaffordable for the citizens. It is therefore suggested that the political elites should be vigilant to protect the liberty of the people. Democracy should be consolidated. People's empowerment is ensured with the propagation of people's inclusion across the board in the political process. It is imperative to promote and strengthen accountability and transparency at the institutions of the government.

Notes and References

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