

Local Councils Association Punjab – A shared forum for Local Councillors

A potential unleashed by LCA outreach workshops in Punjab

Just one year back, a majority of elected Local Government (LG) representatives were not known and even familiar with the name of Local Councils Association of the Punjab (LCAP). But, now LCAP is well recognised across the Punjab due to massive outreach campaign of LCAP under Support Local government (LoGo) program where hundreds of elected local government representatives including Councillors, Chairperson from all tiers and Mayors participated in and oriented about the meaningful role of the Association.



The overall impact of these workshops were evidenced that maximum numbers of elected representatives brought on board and developed their understanding on Association and prepared them for LCA elections. During the workshop, the participants shared their experiences, challenges to local governments and proposed their valuable suggestions on proposed structure of LCA Punjab. Besides the general impact of these workshops, it also influenced and harnessed the individual's potential. This is a case study is one of these individuals that clearly demonstrates the positive impact of these mobilization workshops.

Ms. Hina Arshad Warraich is an elected District Chairpersons of District Council Sialkot and belongs to a political family. Ms. Hina was not known to the Association and its works a just before these workshops. It was first time; she was invited for workshop by LCAP and GIZ. But after participating the workshop, She came to know that a well organised forum is already working for the promotion of Local Governments and providing various kind of support to elected members to address Local Government issues. Having her experiences in workshop, she was introduced to the LCAP. According to her, It was an immense experience of participating LCA orientation workshop that brought her scope up for the promotion of Local Governments in Punjab. This experience gain her more interest in the cause of

LCAP that she took part in several mobilisation events conducted at the divisional level all over Punjab and served as an active ambassador for the LCAP during the LCA outreach workshops.

Ms. Hina is now a firm supporter of the LCAP and one who believes that the role of LCAP is very significant for smooth functioning of the Local Governments. It is an active forum to highlight their local issues, save their legitimate right and power of local governance and it can bridge the gap between the government and elected members of the LG.



These workshops raised her motivation that she frequently started to participate several LCA executive meeting and workshops where she learned to introduce herself, listen to others' opinions, and share the common issue of local government. Observing her keen interest and innovative ideas, LCAP also invited her in several national and international level forum and conferences to participate in. Now being an active member of LCAP, she also contributed in designing lobbying campaigns of LCAP with the best of her ideas. Presently, she is in leading role among others women members of LCAP in organizing forthcoming International Conference on Local Government to be held at Islamabad shortly. Perusing her strong networking among other elected women members she is motivated to contest the LCAP elections and looking forward for member board of Governors (BoG) of LCAP.

Ultimately, outreach mobilisation workshops provided great opportunity to elected Local Government representatives increasing the scope of overall learning and gave deep insight in to the role of LCAP. These orientation sessions has also created a hope and belief among the LG members that the Association can really help them in resolving their routine local governance issues and implementing development plans to serve their community.