

# Community Awareness of Legal Rights under the Constitution of Pakistan

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## Abstract

**Background:** Understanding citizens' constitutional rights is essential to promoting civic involvement, social justice, and equal access to legal protections in Pakistan. Despite constitutional protections, public awareness of rights under the law is lacking, especially in rural and marginalized communities. This study was designed to evaluate community awareness of the legal rights outlined in the Constitution of Pakistan, identify demographic characteristics that affect awareness of these rights, and gain insights into the barriers to the practice of these rights. A mixed methods design with a convergent parallel strategy was used. Quantitative data were collected from 300 participants using a structured questionnaire, and qualitative data were collected from 25 purposefully selected participants who completed semi-structured interviews. Quantitative data were analyzed descriptively and with chi-square tests, while qualitative data were analyzed using thematic approaches. Approximately 70% of participants demonstrated some awareness of constitutional rights, although awareness was higher among individuals with higher education or those living in urban settings. Barriers to awareness and participation were a lack of awareness, bureaucratic loopholes, corruption, and social pressure from family. The sources of information for participants were educational institutions, social media, and family. Legal awareness and legal literacy remain only partially present, and participants have not been educated, reached, or affected by awareness campaigns, policies, and initiatives for rights recognition through the practice and exercise of their rights.

**Keywords:** *Civic Engagement, Community Education, Constitutional Rights, Legal Awareness, Pakistan.*

## I. Introduction

The Constitution of Pakistan devised a detailed framework of fundamental rights and legal protections for its citizens. The minimum rights assured equality before the law, freedom of expression, and protection against discrimination (Rehman et al., 2021; Hashmi et al., 2024). In the sense of auctioning these constitutional guarantees, understanding these rights is important for promoting social justice, encouraging democracy, and safeguarding the rule of law. Research shows that most citizens are not well informed about their legal rights, limiting their ability to remedy the harms they have suffered or to be engaged citizens (Bhat et al., 2024; Ajmal, 2023). Legal literacy initiatives have been limited especially in rural and marginalized groups. Though assessment reports indicate large and significant knowledge gaps in people's understanding and comprehension of their legal rights and awareness (Munir & Zaidi, 2023). Research indicates that high-quality, targeted legal education and awareness campaigns by trained professionals can be effective at making citizen aware of their legal rights. However, these initiatives are intermittent and have never been replicated enough to adapt to the country on a national scale (Grimes, 2018).

Although Pakistan's constitution itself promises legal rights, awareness of these rights among the people has always remained low. According to all studies, most citizens are unaware of their basic rights, how to seek legal aid, or how to be active civically (Bukhari et al., 2024). Ignorance restricts access to justice, hinders civic life, and fuels social inequalities. When people don't know their rights, they don't assert themselves in the face of discrimination, work-related issues, or civil conflicts, which tend to lead to unresolved or unreported problems (Gondal et al., 2024; Ahmad et al., 2024). Improving public legal literacy is therefore a significant step towards empowering citizens and keeping authorities accountable.

### **Research Objectives**

1. To assess the level of community awareness of legal rights under the Constitution of Pakistan.
2. To identify demographic and social factors affecting awareness of legal rights.
3. To explore the community's perceptions, experiences, and challenges in exercising their legal rights.

### **Research Questions**

1. What is the current level of awareness regarding legal rights under the Constitution of Pakistan?
2. How do education, age, gender, and socio-economic status influence legal rights awareness?
3. What barriers do citizens face in accessing and exercising their legal rights?

The primary purpose of this study was to add to the areas of policy, legal education and outreach by generating empirical information on the awareness level of people regarding their rights (Nouri et al., 2024). Informed governments and NGOs are able to develop precise interventions to increase legal literacy and access to justice, fairly and equitably (Ahmad and Bhatti, 2023). Finally, the research process also aimed to elicit the biggest gaps in public knowledge and make recommendations for curriculum based initiatives, media responses and community workshops (Nawaz & Safdar 2023). This study also hopes to provide lessons in regards to the challenges and opportunities of improving citizens' legal literacy, and supporting the establishment of sustainable legal education projects in order to advance social justice initiatives in Pakistan (Ahmad et al., 2024; Saleem et al., 2023).

## **Literature Review**

Legal rights are claims granted by law and encompass civil, political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of life (Goldewijk et al., 2021). Under this general category, constitutional rights are of particular significance since they are expressly incorporated in a nation's constitution and like the strongest protection from the law (Malik et al., 2022). The supremacy of the constitution makes it a guard against violations of citizens' rights, guarantee of liberties, and dispensed justice. The Constitution of Pakistan supplies the fundamental rights that deliver equality before the law, freedom of expression, access to education, and prohibit discrimination (Hashmi et al., 2024; Nawaz & Safdar, 2023). These rights provide a foundation of social justice and enable citizens' full participation in the democratic process.

There are constraints on enforcing these rights notwithstanding with the rights entrenched in the constitution. Studies have established that weaknesses in the criminal justice system, judicial activism, and gaps in legal reform have weakened the enforcement of rights (Saleem et al., 2023; Gondal et al., 2024; Rehman et al., 2021). Similarly, marginalised groups like women and

transgender people are still deprived of their rights due to both social and legal challenges (Malik et al., 2022; Ahmad & Bhatti, 2023). Research has also found that youth and students do not possess awareness of their rights, which lowers the chances of their claiming protection, or for them to assume the role of active citizen (Ajmal, 2023; Ahmad et al., 2024). These lamentations suggest that although rights exist, they are ineffectual where awareness and enforcement become factors.

Theories of legal awareness and civic engagement emphasize the idea that an informed citizenry is critical for democracy. Without awareness of their rights individuals are subject to greater risks of injustice, exclusion, and exploitation (Grimes, 2018; Nouri et al., 2024). Theories, like the Knowledge-Attitude-Practice (KAP) model, highlight how attitudes and behaviours are conditioned by awareness. Studies in Pakistan have shown that when citizens, especially the youth, develop knowledge and awareness of their rights, they adopt more assertive attitudes towards justice and participate more actively in the civil sphere (Munir & Zaidi, 2023; Bukhari et al., 2024). This demonstrates the larger interrelationship between legal awareness, civic participation, and democratic consolidation.

Therefore, education, civic education programs and public awareness [of civic rights] campaigns are at the heart of the response to the gap between constitutional guarantees and the everyday lives of citizens. For example, studies emphasize the importance of civic education, media, and institutional reforms in developing a culture of accountability and empowerment (Azhar et al., 2022; Ajmal, 2023; Bukhari et al., 2024). A citizen that is aware of their constitutional and legal rights is not only empowered, but also empowered to hold institutions to account, contributing to justice, equality, and a strong democracy (Ahmad et al., 2024; Hashmi et al., 2024).

Many research studies have assessed the level of awareness of legal issues, both in Pakistan and in other countries. Most people in Pakistan, particularly people from rural and disadvantaged groups, lack a proper understanding of their constitutional rights (Gondal et al., 2024). Knowledge of law, however, depends on education, media exposure, culture, and social economics. People with more education or access to newspapers, television, radio, and social media are more likely to be aware of their rights (Bukhari et al., 2024). Furthermore, government awareness campaigns, locally run community-based programs, and campaigns organized by

NGOs contribute to awareness of the law, although they tend to exert limited influence in rural communities (Celestin, 2021).

Similarly, studies in other countries show that legal awareness varies in regard to context based on local conditions, to include, level of income status, urban - rural location, internet access, and proximity to relevant legal entities. Studies have further shown that women, elderly, and individuals with low literacy are lower in legal awareness when compared to men, younger adults, and individuals of greater literacy; and therefore will require programs that are focused and that reach those groups (Grimes, 2018). Legal rights awareness is also closely related to people's ability to access justice, participate in civic life, and protect themselves from exploitation or discrimination. Collectively, these findings highlight the necessity to create educational campaigns targeting disadvantaged populations, implementations through mass media, workshops, and mobile outreach programs in the hope of empowering these populations with a better understanding of their legal rights.

Despite the numerous studies conducted on legal rights in Pakistan, there are still some significant gaps. One of the main gaps is the relatively low application of mixed-method research, which is a mixture of qualitative and quantitative research. Most existing studies focus only on surveys or only on interviews, but not both. Mixed-method studies could give a more complete picture by showing not just what people know about their rights but also why they think the way they do and how this knowledge affects their behavior (Bhat et al., 2024; Creswell & Clark, 2017).

Another gap is the lack of recent and updated data. Much of the available research relies on older findings that do not reflect current realities. Since laws, policies, and public attitudes keep changing, depending on outdated studies may lead to weak conclusions. It is therefore necessary to carry out new surveys and field studies to measure current levels of legal literacy in Pakistan (Ajmal, 2023; Ahmad et al., 2024).

There are also gaps in studies focusing on specific groups. For example, women, youth, rural populations, and marginalized groups like transgender persons face different challenges in understanding and accessing their rights (Ahmad & Bhatti, 2023; Nawaz & Safdar, 2023). Yet, many studies report general findings without looking at how awareness levels vary across

gender, age, education, or location. Without this deeper analysis, it is difficult to design targeted legal awareness programs.

Another limitation is the lack of research on the impact of interventions. While civic education initiatives, legal literacy programs, and awareness campaigns have been introduced, very few studies have evaluated whether these efforts actually improve knowledge or change behavior (Grimes, 2018; Munir & Zaidi, 2023; Bukhari et al., 2024). Understanding the effectiveness of these interventions would help policymakers and educators choose the best strategies for strengthening legal awareness.

Finally, there is a gap in research on institutional reforms and curriculum development. Although some studies highlight the importance of education in shaping civic engagement, very little work has been done on how schools, universities, or community programs in Pakistan can systematically integrate legal rights education (Bukhari et al., 2024; Gondal et al., 2024). More studies in this area could show how to bridge the gap between constitutional promises and people's everyday understanding of their rights.

## **Research Methodology**

The design of this study was mixed methods design using a convergent parallel design. A convergent design was used to simultaneously gather quantitative and qualitative data and then analyse them separately, before integrating them to provide an integrated overview of community awareness of their legal rights. The quantitative component provided breadth, and allowed for generalizability of conclusions to the larger population, while the qualitative interviews provided richness, and allowed for the proper conceptualization and understanding of the participants' perspectives and experience (Creswell & Clark, 2017). Indeed, triangulation of both qualitative and quantitative data offered much of the value of the findings as they relate to validity, statistical trends, and description of lived experiences in a single case.

The study population comprised of Pakistani citizens aged 18 years and older. To provide a survey that would be manageable and representational, a fixed sample size was employed. For the quantitative portion, 300 people were randomly sampled from urban and rural populations that would represent a diversity of the demographics. For the qualitative portion, a purposeful

sample (n=25) was obtained from the sampling frame (age, gender, education, socioeconomic status) for the variation in experiences from which we wanted to understand legal rights. The sampling frame from which the two sources of data were derived enabled completeness and depth of exploration in regard to some key issues (Palinkas et al., 2015).

Quantitative data was collected using a structured questionnaire designed to measure participants' knowledge in relation to constitutional rights, sources of law information and demographic characteristics. The researchers were able to look at trends in awareness statistically by demographic group based on instrument. Qualitative data were collected from semi-structured interviews that asked participants about their opinions about, experiences of, and barriers to and recommendations for awareness of legal rights. This semi-structured approach allowed for open-ended interviews to collect rich, contextual data which explained and expanded on the quantitative data.

The survey instruments consisted of demographic information, legal rights awareness, sources of legal information and legal system interactions. Each section contained open-ended questions that asked about how participants understood, experienced, found challenges, and suggested improvements to increase legal literacy. The survey and interview instruments were designed using the existing literature and were adjusted for the Pakistan legal context to improve relevancy and understanding (Bryman, 2016).

Prior to full-scale data collection, the questionnaire was piloted with a convenience sample to assess what participants understood about specific questions, and ultimately improve the clarity and appropriateness of the questions. A key piece of research is to ensure content validity - the instrument must appropriately sample from the underlying domain of interest. To ensure content validity of the interview guide, I also consulted with legal scholars and social scientists in terms of appropriateness of questions for the interested population and social science applications. These strategies contributed to increased rigor of the measures, decreased potential sources of bias, and increased overall validity and reliability of the research project.

Quantitative data was analyzed using frequencies and percentages in order to identify trends in the respondents' answers. Chi-square and ANOVA inferential statistics tests were used to

analyze for relationships between demographic variables and levels of awareness of legal rights. Qualitative data were analyzed through thematic analysis. Thematic analysis included coding responses, noting patterns, and interpreting the experiences and reasoning as explained by participant answers, with the purpose of making sense of the phenomena being studied. The last stage of the research was synthesis and triangulation of the quantitative and qualitative data into a general understanding of community awareness of constitutional rights. There were ethical procedures throughout the study. Participants provided informed consent prior to participating and were assured that their confidentiality was maintained. Participation in the study was voluntary, and respondents were advised that all data would be secured and used solely for research purposes and not made available outside of research. The adherence to ethical standards maintained the integrity of the study and protected participants' rights (Israel & Hay, 2006).

## Findings

### Quantitative Results

#### Demographic Profile of Participants

*Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Participants*

Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	18–25	80	26.7
	26–35	90	30.0
	36–45	70	23.3
	46–60	45	15.0
	Above 60	15	5.0
Gender	Male	160	53.3
	Female	135	45.0
	Other	5	1.7
Education Level	No formal education	25	8.3
	Primary	40	13.3
	Secondary	70	23.3
	Higher Secondary	50	16.7
	Graduate	90	30.0



	Postgraduate	25	8.3
Area of Residence	Urban	180	60.0
	Rural	120	40.0

Interpretation: The majority of participants were aged 26–35 years (30%) and resided in urban areas (60%). Male participants slightly outnumbered females (53.3% vs. 45%), and the largest educational group comprised graduates (30%). The sample reflects a diverse demographic composition suitable for assessing legal awareness across different population segments.

### Awareness of Legal Rights

*Table 2: Awareness of Constitutional Rights*

Question	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Awareness that the Constitution guarantees rights	Yes	210	70.0
	No	90	30.0
Rights known (multiple responses possible)	Right to vote	180	60.0
	Freedom of speech	150	50.0
	Right to education	120	40.0
	Equality before the law	100	33.3
	Freedom of religion	80	26.7
	Peaceful assembly	60	20.0
	Right to information	50	16.7

*Interpretation:* Approximately 70% of participants were aware that the Constitution guarantees rights, while 30% were unaware. The most commonly known rights were the right to vote (60%) and freedom of speech (50%). Awareness of rights related to information access and assembly was comparatively low, indicating gaps in knowledge about less publicized constitutional provisions.

### Sources of Legal Information

*Table 3: Sources of Awareness about Constitutional Rights*

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
School / University	120	40.0
Television / Radio	90	30.0
Social Media / Internet	100	33.3
Newspapers / Magazines	60	20.0
Friends / Family	70	23.3
NGOs / Awareness Programs	40	13.3

Interpretation: Educational institutions were the primary source of awareness (40%), followed by social media/internet (33.3%) and television/radio (30%). NGOs and awareness programs played a minor role (13.3%), highlighting the need for more structured community outreach initiatives.

### **Confidence in Knowledge of Legal Rights**

*Table 4: Confidence in Knowledge*

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very confident	45	15.0
Somewhat confident	90	30.0
Neutral	75	25.0
Not very confident	60	20.0
Not confident at all	30	10.0

*Interpretation:* Only 15% of participants reported being very confident in their knowledge of constitutional rights. A significant proportion (30%) felt somewhat confident, whereas 30% had low or no confidence, suggesting that awareness does not always translate into self-assured understanding.

### **Exercising Constitutional Rights**

*Table 5: Exercise of Constitutional Rights*

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Have exercised rights	180	60.0

Have not exercised rights	120	40.0
Rights exercised (multiple responses)	Voting	150
	Freedom of speech	70
	Access to information	40
	Right to education	30

*Interpretation:* Sixty percent of participants reported having exercised at least one constitutional right, predominantly voting (50%). Other rights, such as access to information and education, were less frequently exercised, reflecting structural and societal barriers.

### Challenges in Exercising Rights

*Table 6: Challenges Faced*

Challenge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of awareness	130	43.3
Bureaucratic hurdles	100	33.3
Corruption	80	26.7
Social pressure/discrimination	70	23.3
Fear of retaliation	50	16.7

*Interpretation:* The primary challenge in exercising constitutional rights was a lack of awareness (43.3%), followed by bureaucratic hurdles (33.3%) and corruption (26.7%). Social discrimination and fear of retaliation were also notable barriers, particularly affecting marginalized communities.

### Relationship Between Demographics and Awareness

*Table 7: Awareness Levels by Education*

Education Level	Aware	Not Aware	Total
No formal education	10	15	25
Primary	20	20	40
Secondary	45	25	70
Higher Secondary	35	15	50

Graduate	80	10	90
Postgraduate	20	5	25
Chi-square = 35.67, $p < 0.001$			

*Interpretation:* There was a significant relationship between education level and awareness of constitutional rights ( $p < 0.001$ ). Higher educational attainment was associated with greater awareness, indicating that literacy and formal education play a critical role in legal literacy.

## **Qualitative Results**

### **Theme 1: Perceptions of Legal Rights**

Most participants had an awareness of constitutional rights such as freedom of expression, the right to vote, and equality before the law. Many respondents described rights of law, such as constitutional rights, as *"the tools given to us by the Constitution to create fairness and justice,"* asserting their meaning and relevance in the day-to-day. An example includes one participant stating, *"Constitutional rights give us the power to freely express ourselves and vote. Without knowing our rights, we cannot even protect ourselves or other people."* Additionally, while some participants had some understanding of their rights related to access to information, assembly, and rights to social welfare, there were more limited observations showing a robust understanding of those respective areas, suggesting there is still some way to go before comprehensive legal awareness exists.

### **Theme 2: Barriers to Exercising Legal Rights**

The interviews uncovered several barriers to citizens fully exercising their constitutional rights. Common barriers that were discussed included lack of knowledge, bureaucratic barriers, corruption, social pressures, and fear of reprisal. Participants shared that even when they knew their rights, practical barriers often prevented them from exercising these rights. One participant noted, *"I know I have the right to information, but the offices are so complicated, and most people's will is so flimsy, they simply give up."* Rural participants especially noted social and cultural limits on civic participation by women, indicating limitations on the structural as well as social levels.

### **Theme 3: Sources of Legal Information**

Participants reported that they understood their legal rights mostly from schools, families, social media, and infrequent government campaigns. Participants stated that schools and universities offered a minimal understanding of voting and freedom of expression, and that social media access to current legal discussions was good. However, participants had a common concern about the lack of formal legal literacy programs in the community. For instance, one respondent said: *"We learn of our rights on the news or social media, but nobody comes to teach us officially in the village."* NGOs and advocacy campaigns were a good beginning but were incomplete and irregular.

Overall, the qualitative findings indicated a partial awareness of constitutional rights, with respondents generally acknowledging political and civil rights but no other legal safeguards. Respondents were restricted in exercising these rights by structural, social, and information obstacles, particularly among rural and marginalized populations. The stress placed on the requirement for customized legal training, community education campaigns, and government-sponsored campaigns was crucial in meeting the knowledge gaps necessary to establish citizen confidence in the use of their rights.

### **Mixed Methods Integration**

The merging of quantitative and qualitative results resulted in a better comprehensive understanding of legal rights awareness of the community under the Constitution of Pakistan. Quantitative findings show that 70% of the participants were aware that the Constitution provided them with some rights. However, the extent of the individuals' understanding was shallow, particularly on rights associated with access to information and peaceful assembly. The qualitative interviews established that participants were aware of political and civil rights, such as voting and free speech, although they had only partial knowledge of less visible rights. Overall, these converging findings confirm that awareness exists, at least at a shallow level, but a comprehensive understanding is lacking.

The barriers mentioned in the quantitative surveys, such as unawareness (43.3%), bureaucratic issues (33.3%), and corruption (26.7%), were also elaborated on and illustrated in qualitative descriptions. Interviews added important detail to quantitative examples and demonstrated the extent to which social normative pressures, fear of retaliation, and administrative complexity

prevented citizens from knowing or exercising their rights, particularly in rural areas. Interviews provided an example where, although 60% of participants had at least exercised one right, qualitative accounts did much to explain, compared to the quantitative example, why some rights, like access to information, are rarely exercised even if aware of doing so.

In relation to the sources of legal information, the quantitative findings indicated that schools, social media, and television were the primary sources of information, while qualitative accounts detailed the limitations of those sources of information. Members highlighted the lack of community-based programs with continuity or structure and the sporadic volunteer efforts from NGOs. These findings suggest that while access to information is present to some extent, practical difficulties and complexities continue to limit effective understanding and utilization. The mixed-methods approach employed in this study offers a convergent perspective, integrating quantitative results with participants' lived experiences. Quantitative data provided a broad overview of awareness levels and demographic associations, whereas qualitative insights revealed nuanced patterns and contextual details that the numerical data alone could not capture. Collectively, the results indicate that targeted legal literacy initiatives combining structured educational programs, community outreach, and media-driven interventions are essential to improve both awareness and practical application of constitutional rights throughout Pakistan.

## **Discussion**

The results of this study have important implications about the level of community awareness about rights and related entitlements, as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan (Azhar et al., n.d.). In general, the results found general awareness amongst a majority of participants (70.0%) that people may have certain rights to claim from the Constitution. However, this awareness was largely superficial, especially with regard to the lesser highlighted rights (e.g., information, assembly, and welfare). The results corroborate previous studies indicating that there are indications of partial awareness of rights and entitlements in Pakistan, particularly among rural and vulnerable populations (Gondal et al., 2024; Bukhari et al., 2024). This theoretical foundation of community awareness can also be explained through the KAP (Knowledge-Attitude-Practice) theoretical framework, which suggests that the more knowledge is possessed, the more civic behaviour is assumed to occur (Munir & Zaidi, 2023). The results of this study

pointed towards participant awareness of rights and entitlements but not necessarily the pride or confidence in exercising the entitlements or rights. This suggests that a basic level of knowledge and informed legal literacy are not the same bit of knowledge.

### **Implications for Legal Education and Community Outreach**

The study emphasizes the role of educational institutions, media, and NGOs in all dimensions of legal awareness. The schools and universities were made the primary providers of legal awareness. However, the qualitative findings revealed limitations regarding the content of legal education and its extent. Social media and mainstream media provided some level of exposure, but were insufficient to generate an awareness of legal literacy. These results imply that formal, systematic legal literacy courses and neighborhood workshops to improve citizens' awareness and application of their rights are justified. Aside from formal legal literacy courses, what is needed are outreach campaigns by NGOs, and/or government agencies to assist in reaching rural areas and socio-economically marginalized communities.

### **Differences in Awareness across Demographics**

A significant difference in awareness levels between demographics was noticed in the research. Education was strongly correlated with legal knowledge, i.e. more educated respondents identified greater levels of awareness and confidence in the exercise of their rights (Chi-square = 35.67,  $p < 0.001$ ). Urban respondents confirmed they had greater exposure to legal information than their rural counterparts, indicating a measure of disparity in access to information and other resources. More gender differences were observed qualitatively than quantitatively. When discussing women's rights, the qualitative data showed that social and cultural factors, particularly in rural areas, constrained women's involvement in civic activities and limited their ability to exercise their legal rights in a practical way. In sum, these demographic patterns align with global findings that education, social and economic status, and geographic location influenced legal literacy (Grimes, 2018).

### **Barriers and Practical Implications**

The respondents reported many obstructions to using their rights, such as a lack of knowledge, red tape, corruption, social pressure, and fear. According to the studies, legal knowledge is not

the sole factor; structures and societal functions strongly shape the ability of citizens to act. Policies that simplify legal procedures, reduce corruption among administrators, and make civic education easily accessible will empower citizens. The research furthermore indicates the ability of community programs and media campaigns to overcome these barriers, in addition to formal education, to make citizens informed and proactive.

### **Limitations of the Study**

The limitations of the study were as follows. Given the size of the sample used, this diversity is likely not captured in the study. The research limited itself to adults as citizens and did not take into consideration the views of the younger generation, who may benefit if legislation is taught to them at an early age. Also, it is possible that the exercise and reporting of rights and knowledge had a social desirability bias. It's necessary to run a linear study to measure the extent of the change in the awareness level when the intervention is given to the social work community. In short, the research shows that Pakistanis are aware of their fundamental legal rights, but that their understanding of the Constitution and its practice is not up to the mark. Fixing these problems involves mixing the learning and teaching of people, making new laws, and assisting people from the community. When everyone contributes, it is easier for everyone to get help from the police, and everyone will be a part of the community.

## **VI. Conclusion and Recommendations**

### **Summary of Key Findings**

This study investigated the level of community awareness of their legal rights according to the Constitution of Pakistan using a mixed method design. The findings revealed that while approximately 70% of those surveyed were aware that the Constitution offered some kind of rights, there was limited knowledge of specific entitlements, including the right to information, the right to peacefully assemble, and the right to receive social welfare. There was a positive relationship between higher education levels, being educated in urban settings and level of awareness regarding constitutional rights, suggesting sharp demographic inequities. Only a very small percentage of participants (about 15%) expressed strong confidence in their knowledge of legal entitlements. In addition, there were structural barriers to the ability of individuals to utilize these rights effectively including bureaucratic delays, corruption and social pressures. A pattern



also emerged in the qualitative findings suggesting that current community engagement and formalized legal literacy outreach programs were insufficient to provide satisfactory levels of information for the community. Overall, the available evidence suggests that while individuals have some general awareness of their legal rights, comprehensive understanding and application in practice is a significant problem particularly for rural and marginalized communities.

### **Recommendations for Enhancing Public Awareness of Legal Rights**

1. **Improving Legal Education:** Create systematic legal literacy programs in schools and universities presence to cover civil-political and socio-economic rights.
2. **Locally Trained Facilitation:** Conduct locally based workshops facilitated by lawyers to provide practical advice on knowing and using of constitutional rights.
3. **Media Engagement:** Use all available media (television, radio, social, print) to disseminate clear and accessible messages about constitutional rights and the legal process.
4. **Support NGO Activities:** Support NGOs to create and maintain scalable legal awareness programs for rural communities and marginalized populations.
5. **Encouraging Civic Engagement:** Create spaces and opportunities for public conversations and civic engagement that will help individuals gain confidence in using and defending their rights..

### **Policy and Practical Measures**

1. **Government Interventions:** Simplify bureaucratic procedures, enhance transparency, and establish accessible legal aid centers to facilitate justice delivery.
2. **Collaborative Partnerships:** Foster cooperation among government bodies, NGOs, and local communities to design coordinated legal education programs.
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Conduct periodic assessments of awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to evaluate effectiveness and inform improvements.
4. **Targeted Interventions:** Prioritize rural areas, women, and economically disadvantaged groups to bridge gaps in legal knowledge and engagement.

### **Suggestions for Future Research**

- Conduct long term research on the evolving trend in the awareness of the people and the sustainability of the educational programs.
- Examine how digital platforms and social media campaigns can improve legal literacy among different groups.
- Research the obstacles faced by vulnerable populations, such as women, minorities, and rural residents, when they attempt to exercise their rights, to inform targeted policy solutions.
- Broaden studies to include younger citizens and students to evaluate early awareness levels and develop preventative legal education strategies.

In summary, this study points out both the progress made and the existing gaps in public awareness of constitutional rights in Pakistan. Closing these gaps through comprehensive legal education, community outreach, and policy reforms will enable citizens, ensure fair access to justice, and support the development of a knowledgeable, active populace.

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