

## Information Seeking Behavior and Needs of Women Parliamentarians of Pakistan: A Case Study

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*ABSTRACT: This study probes into the information needs and seeking behavior of women parliamentarians in the 12<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of Pakistan during 2002 through 2007. It attempts to answer some of the questions raised on women's political participation in the parliament and their information habits and needs by analyzing their preferred sources used in preparing for speeches, resolutions, bills, and laws. It also measures their information and communication technology skills. The study gauges their dependence and perception about the National Assembly Library and other sources of information available and suggests possible means by which information services to parliamentarians can be further enhanced. The findings of this study may present aspects which have never before been considered by researchers in trying to meet women parliamentarians' information needs.*

### I. Introduction

Culturally and historically, women in Pakistan have been deprived of opportunities to participate in politics.

As a result of 2002 election, the women made up 17 percent of the National Assembly, Senate, and four provincial assemblies on the reserved seats allocated to them through Legal Framework Order (LFO) (LFO, 2002). The Parliament House consists of 342 members, of which 74 were women in the 12th National Assembly, including both general seats and reserved seats as a result of the 2002 election (Mirza and Wagha, 2009).

The role of women parliamentarians in Pakistan is considered important not only in terms of highlighting and raising the issues relating to women in the national legislature bodies but it is vital to ensure that women gain equal access to resources, knowledge, and institutions. Their information seeking needs and habits can make an impact in law-making and approval of budgets. Their participation in discussions on specific issues can directly influence policies and programs. Women parliamentarians in the 12th National Assembly (2002-2007) demonstrated a great deal of their presence in the House. The majority of the women parliamentarians were elected for the first time. They showed a great interest in learning and applying the rules. When the National Assembly completed its five-year term in 2007, they set an exemplary record compared to their male counterparts in key areas of legislative proceedings. For example, they raised 2,724 questions (27% of the total), sent 99 calling attention notices (30% of the total), presented 101 private members bills (42% of the total), and submitted 14 resolutions (24% of the total). (PILDAT, 2009)

To support their political activities in the House and to make vital decisions during the proceedings of the National Assembly and the Senate of Pakistan, women parliamentarians needed timely, authoritative, and current information on topics under discussion in both houses. The current paper is based on data gathered through a survey questionnaire for women parliamentarians about their information needs and seeking habits and the gender analysis of parliamentary proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of Pakistan during years 2002 through 2007.

### *1. Overview of Women Representation in Pakistani Legislatures*

The 12<sup>th</sup> National Assembly had the biggest ever proportion of women’s representation in Pakistan’s legislative history, with 74 women (21.64%, 14 elected and 60 nominated) in the House of 342 members.

The table below details the overall participation of women in Pakistani legislatures:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Women’s Seats</b>	<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>Percent</b>
National Assembly of Pakistan	74	342	21.64%
Senate	18	100	18%
Punjab Provincial Assembly	66	371	17.8%
Sindh Provincial Assembly	29	168	17.3%
North Western Frontier Province (NWFP)	22	124	17.7%
Balochistan Provincial Assembly	11	65	16.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>1170</b>	<b>18.8%</b>

Source: PILDAT (2004)

### *2. Information Needs of Women Parliamentarians*

The women parliamentarians in the 12<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of Pakistan needed relevant information in order to prepare for the following functions and activities:

1. Questions
2. Calling attention notices
3. Point of order
4. Bills/Legislation
5. Resolutions
6. Privilege and adjournment motions
7. Committee meetings

They usually sought relevant information from the following sources of information:

1. Legal information
2. News
3. Periodical literature
4. Reports

They usually consulted the following facilities to acquire the relevant information:

1. Parliamentarians Resource Center funded by USAID
2. National Assembly Library
3. Senate Library
4. National Library of Pakistan
5. Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) Library

Women parliamentarians needed to learn the rules of business in order to perform their functions properly. With the information obtained, they performed the following functions in the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly (2002-2005).

There were altogether 3004 interventions by 58 women legislators during those five years as detailed in the table below:

<b>Activities</b>	<b># by Women</b>	<b>Total #</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Questions	2724	10092	27%
Calling attention notices	99	329	30%
Private members' bills	101	240	42%
Resolutions	11	46	24%
Adjournment and privilege motions	69	864	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3004</b>	<b>11571</b>	<b>26%</b>

Source: Mirza and Wagha (2009)

All the above functions heavily depended on the authenticity and reliability of the information they obtained from various sources. This research investigated their information needs and seeking behavior in the light of the above performance.

## II. Literature Review

There exist four parliamentary libraries in the provinces and two libraries at Federal level for the Senate of Pakistan and the National Assembly of Pakistan. In addition, the Parliamentarians' Resources Center established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also hosts well-organized resources and provides services to the parliamentarians. While there is much research conducted on the functions, performance, and roles of women parliamentarians in Pakistan, none has been done on their information needs and information seeking habits.

There were many studies on the information behaviors during the last four decades. However, searches in commercial and non-commercial online databases did not return any articles about women parliamentarians' information seeking habits.

The following studies have probed into the information seeking behavior in different fields.

Perrault (2007) studied biology teachers' information seeking behaviors through web surveys. Bruce, Jones, and Dumais (2004) explored how professionals deal with information through observation and interviews; Carlisle (2007) studied young people's use of music libraries. Hedemark, Hedman, and Sundin (2005) studied the information seeking patterns of users in public libraries.

Savolainen (2005) defined everyday life information seeking (ELIS) as "the process of acquisition of various informational (both cognitive and expressive) elements, which people employ to orient themselves in daily life or to solve problems not directly connected with the performance of professional tasks or full-time study". Case (2006) noted that information behavior is a field which deals with information and people.

The studies of Ellis (1989), Kuhlthau (1993), and Wilson (1997) highlight different models of information seeking behaviors. Their studies related the information seeking process with the problem solving concepts and suggested that information seeking exists within the context.

Foster (2004) studied the activities, strategies, contexts, and behaviors used and perceived by the interdisciplinary information seekers and presented a new nonlinear model of information seeking behaviors.

Bari (2010) showed the demographic status of women parliamentarians of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of Pakistan. She noted that the majority of them were highly qualified with a minimum of 16 years education. Having a graduation degree from a university was a prerequisite for candidates in the General Election of 2002.

Karam (1998) pointed out that women parliamentarians had limited access to different sources of information. They lacked the knowledge and skills to use the information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Thapisa (1996) conducted a survey to gauge the information needs of the parliamentarians of Botswana. His study adopted a survey instrument to investigate the information seeking behaviors and attitudes of the parliamentarians of Botswana legislative assembly.

### **III. Objectives of the Study**

This research aimed to probe into the information needs and seeking behavior of women parliamentarians in the 12<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of Pakistan. It attempts to answer some of the questions raised on women's political participation in the Parliament and their information habits and needs by analyzing their preferred sources used in preparing for speeches, resolutions, bills and laws. It also measures their information and communication technology skills. The study gauges their dependence and perception about the National Assembly Library and other sources of information available.

The rationale for choosing this population for study of information seeking behaviors is that the women parliamentarians in Pakistan have never been investigated as a distinct group of users. The findings of this study may present aspects which have never before been considered by researchers in trying to meet their information needs.

This research attempts to understand:

1. What is women parliamentarians' perception of information?
2. What are the perceived barriers to their information seeking behavior?
3. Why do they seek information?
4. When do they need information?
5. How do they seek information?
6. Where do they obtain information?

### **IV. Research Methodology**

A closed-ended questionnaire comprising 22 questions was sent to all seventy-three (with one seat vacated) women parliamentarians of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of Pakistan to seek data related to their information needs, perception, sources, and attitudes. The Likert scale was used to prepare for the questions with choices about their information seeking patterns. The data gathering was a big challenge in this study. The researchers had to follow up with them numerous times. Despite the efforts, only 41 (56%) women parliamentarians had sent back their completed questionnaires. In most cases, it was their associated staff that had been contacted to collect the feedback.

### **V. Data Analysis and Discussion**

#### *1. Personal Demographics*

Table 1: Age distribution of the respondents

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 30	0	0%
31-40	15	37%
41-50	16	39%
51-60	10	24%
61-70	0	0%
More than 70	0	0%

All 41 respondents were between 31 and 60 years old. 26 respondents (63%) were in the age groups of 41-60 years old. 15 (37%) were in their early career stage between ages of 31-40 years old.

Table 2: Party affiliation of the respondents

<b>Party</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q)	23	56%
Muthidda Quami Movement (MQM)	7	17%
Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N)	5	12%
Pakistan Peoples’ Party Parliamentarians (PPPP)	4	10%
Awami National Party (ANP)	3	7%

The majority of the respondents (23) belonged to the Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-i-Azam group), the majority party in the House. This was the first government that introduced a reserved seat quota system (74 members) for the women in the House.

Table 3: Qualification of the respondents

<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
B.A.	22	54%
M.A.	17	41%
Mphil	0	0%
PhD	0	0%

Among all the respondents (41), 22 have Bachelor’s degree (14 years’ education). It was precondition for becoming the member of the Assembly that he/she should have a minimum of the Bachelor’s degree. 17 women parliamentarians have a Master’s degree. This is the group that has moderate knowledge of the ICTs.

2. *ICT Skills:*

Table 4: Computer skills of the respondents

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Adequately expert	13	32%
Moderately expert	9	22%
Inadequately expert	7	17%
Very expert	6	15%
Very inadequately expert	6	15%

The respondents who have Master’s degree can use the computer technology. Only 9 (22%) said that they can use the computer moderately well. 13 (32%) have adequate computer skills in their research work. 13 (32%) range between inadequate and very inadequate in their knowledge about the use of computers, which means that they have to depend on their research staff or approach to the librarian for their research assignments.

Table 5: ICTs skills of the respondents

<b>ICT Category</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Email (Gmail., Yahoo mail, Outlook, etc.)	26	29%
Word Processing	25	28%
Internet Browsing	22	24%
Social Networking (Facebook, Blogs, etc.)	17	19%

Most respondents can use email, create a document in computer, find information on the Internet, and use the social networking software. This leads to the assumption that they can communicate with their peers by email and social networking platforms such as Facebook.

Table 6: Subscription to various listings

<b>Category</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
News	15	36%
Professional	15	36%
Blogs	12	29%

Not all but a good number of the women parliamentarians (15, 36%) have subscribed to the news groups, professional listservs, and blogs. This group has the ability to stay updated through the automated delivery of news in their email.

### 3. Perceptions of Information:

Table 7: Respondents' perception of information

Statement	Yes	No.
All published and unpublished knowledge on any given topic	100% (41)	0
All news items in newspapers, radio, television and computer	100% (41)	0
All items in government publication, circulars, reports and pamphlets	100% (41)	0
All discussions at a meeting, seminar, workshop or conference	100% (41)	0
All Parliamentary, cabinet or committee proceedings	100% (41)	0

All the respondents (41) perceived any published or unpublished knowledge, content in newspapers, radio, television and computer, all government publications, meeting notes, lectures in workshops and conferences, and the proceedings of the parliament and related bodies as information.

Table 8: Circumstances when they need information

Statement	Scale				
	1	2	3	4	5
When preparing for parliamentary speeches debates and questions	66% (27)	15% (6)	10% (4)	5% (2)	5% (2)
When doing statistical or data analyses	51% (21)	17% (7)	15% (6)	2% (1)	15% (6)
When planning or making decision	66% (27)	15% (5)	12% (5)	2% (1)	5% (2)
When preparing answers for enquires from the constituents	66% (27)	12% (5)	12% (5)	5% (2)	5% (2)
When making background briefing	66% (27)	12% (5)	12% (5)	5% (1)	5% (2)

Note: 1=High preference, 5= Least preference

The respondents were asked when they need information. They prioritized their needs in a scale of 1-5 (from high to lowest). 27 (66%) women parliamentarians seemed very active in the House.

#### 4. Sources of Information:

Table 9: Sources of information of the respondents

Source Type	Count	Percent
Newspaper	38	22%
Government documents	38	22%
Periodicals	37	21%
Books	31	18%
Internet resources	17	10%
Blogs	12	7%



The respondents were asked what sources they usually rely upon for seeking information. The majority pointed towards printed sources of information. Due to their limited technology skills, only 17 (10%) sought information on the Internet, and 12 (7%) consulted blog posts.

Table 10: Frequency of the sources of information used

<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Very often</b>	<b>Often</b>	<b>Occasionally</b>	<b>Hardly</b>
Government departments	27 (69%)	3 (8%)	4 (10%)	5 (13%)
Local public libraries in Islamabad	4 (11%)	4 (11%)	9 (24%)	21 (55%)
University libraries in Islamabad	3 (8%)	1 (3%)	6 (16%)	28 (74%)
National Library of Pakistan	4 (11)	2 (5%)	7 (18%)	25 (66%)
Foreign Mission libraries	9 (23%)	5 (13%)	5 (13%)	20 (51%)
Office correspondence/files	27 (68%)	6 (15%)	3 (8%)	4 (10%)
Parliamentary Committee Staff	30 (73%)	5 (12%)	3 (7%)	3 (7%)
Personal contacts	18 (46%)	4 (10%)	4 (10%)	13 (33%)
National Archives of Pakistan	5 (13%)	1 (3%)	11 (29%)	21 (55%)
Parliamentarians' Resource Center	20 (50%)	5 (13%)	5 (13%)	10 (25%)

The majority of women parliamentarians relied on the information easily accessible. Their preferred first point of consultation is government documents (69%), official documents (68%), and parliamentary staff (73%). The majority (55%) hardly go to public libraries in Islamabad. This reflects that their information seeking efforts are limited to resources within parliamentary sphere.

Table 11: Preferred information sources of the respondents

<b>Information Source</b>	<b>Scale</b>				
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Government departments	30 (75%)	5 (13%)	1 (3%)	2 (5%)	2 (5%)
Local public libraries in Islamabad	3 (8%)	1 (3%)	2 (5%)	1 (3%)	31 (82%)
National Archives of Pakistan	2 (5%)	2 (5%)	2 (5%)	1 (3%)	31 (82%)
Parliamentarians' Resource Center	15 (38%)	3 (8%)	4 (10%)	2 (5%)	16 (40%)
University libraries in Islamabad	2 (5%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	2 (5%)	32 (84%)
National Library of Pakistan	3 (8%)	1 (3%)	3 (8%)	1 (3%)	31 (80%)
National Assembly Library	24 (59%)	4 (10%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	12 (29%)
Foreign Mission libraries/centers	4 (10%)	2 (5%)	5 (13%)	3 (8%)	25 (64%)
Parliamentary Committee Staff	28 (70%)	4 (10%)	1 (3%)	2 (5%)	5 (13%)
Personal contacts	19 (49%)	3 (8%)	0 (0%)	2 (5%)	15 (39%)
Office correspondences/files	27 (68%)	4 (10%)	1 (3%)	2 (5%)	6 (15%)

Note: 1=High preference, 5= Least preference

When asked to rank their preferred information sources, the respondents indicated their significant preference for the government departments, National Assembly Library, and office correspondences (75%, 59%, and 68%) respectively.

Table 12: Subject categories on which the respondents seek information frequently

Subject	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
Agriculture	5 (14%)	1 (3%)	3 (9%)	4 (11%)	22 (63%)
Human Rights/Minority rights	27 (69%)	2 (5%)	3 (8%)	1 (3%)	6 (15%)
Environment	7 (20%)	0 (0%)	3 (9%)	4 (11%)	21 (60%)
Energy and Power	14 (39%)	2 (7%)	2 (6%)	4 (11%)	14 (39%)
Women issues/rights	32 (78%)	0 (0%)	2 (5%)	3 (7%)	4 (10%)
Rural development	9 (26%)	0 (0%)	2 (6%)	5 (14%)	19 (54%)
Commerce and industry	9 (27%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	4 (12%)	18 (53%)
Foreign affairs	29 (76%)	1 (3%)	4 (11%)	1 (3%)	3 (8%)
Science and technology	7 (20%)	0 (0%)	3 (9%)	5 (14%)	20 (57%)
Law and Justice	15 (43%)	1 (3%)	4 (11%)	2 (6%)	13 (37%)
Military/wars/peace/terrorism	23 (64%)	1 (3%)	4 (11%)	2 (6%)	6 (17%)
Culture	5 (14%)	0 (0%)	3 (9%)	5 (14%)	22 (63%)
Finance and accountability	9 (27%)	0 (0%)	2 (6%)	4 (12%)	19 (56%)

Note: 1=High preference, 5= Least preference

When asked on what subject they frequently seek for information, the majority (32, 78%) respondents said that they searched for material on “women issues/rights.” Most of the legislation on women empowerment was done by this parliament. Other most preferred topics of their interest were “human rights/minority rights” (69%), “foreign affairs” (76%), and “military/wars/peace/terrorism” (64%).

Table 13: Information usage pattern of the respondents

Statement	Rank				
	1	2	3	4	5
Information for parliamentary work	10 (24%)	4 (10%)	6 (15%)	2 (5%)	19 (46%)
Information for your electoral works	13 (32%)	4 (10%)	7 (17%)	2 (5%)	15 (37%)
Your general information needs	11 (27%)	5 (12%)	6 (15%)	2 (5%)	17 (42%)
For speeches/debates	10 (24%)	4 (10%)	6 (15%)	4 (10%)	17 (42%)
For statistical analysis and data	16 (39%)	5 (12%)	6 (15%)	2 (5%)	12 (29%)
For responding to inquiries	11 (27%)	4 (10%)	8 (20%)	2 (5%)	16 (39%)

Note: 5=High preference, 1= Least preference

For the majority of the women parliamentarians (59%), the National Assembly Library was their preferred source of information. They (47%) needed the information for their parliamentary work. Most of them (39%) did not use the information sources for statistical purpose or data analysis. The response rate to other use of information remained from low to moderate.

5. *National Assembly Library:*

Table 14: Respondent’s perception of staff cooperation at National Assembly Library

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Helpful	19	46%
Very helpful	16	39%
Moderately helpful	4	10%
Sometimes helpful	2	5%
Unhelpful	0	0%

Their views on the cooperation of staff at the National Assembly Library in fulfilling their information needs remained positive. 35 (85%) found them to be helpful or very helpful when they needed information.

Table 15: Respondent’ perception of the collection at National Assembly Library

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Adequately stocked	16	39%
Very adequately stocked	14	34%
Moderately stocked	9	22%
Inadequately stocked	2	5%
Very inadequately stocked	0	0%

30 respondents (73%) were satisfied with the collection size of the National Assembly Library. Only 2 (5%) said the Library was inadequately stocked.

Table 16: Respondents’ perception of staff quantity at National Assembly Library

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very adequately staffed	17	42%
Adequately staffed	15	37%
Moderately staffed	8	20%
Inadequately staffed	1	2%
Very inadequately staffed	0	0%

32 respondents (79%) said that the Library had sufficient number of staff to cater to the information needs of the parliamentarians.

Table 17: Respondents’ perception of quality of service at National Assembly Library

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very good	16	39%
Good	12	29%
Fair	13	32%
Bad	0	0%
Very bad	0	0%

Views about the quality of service at the National Assembly Library were distributed. 16 respondents (39%) rated the service as very good, 12 (29%) as good, and 13 (32%) as fair.

Table 18: In what format the respondents like to receive information

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Summarized for you	13	32%
Analyzed for you	12	29%
Synthesized for you	12	29%
Explained to you	4	10%

The respondents preferred to receive information packaged according to their needs. 13 (32%) needed information summarized for them, 12 (29%) analyzed for them, 12 (29%) synthesized for them, and 4 (10%) explained to them. In all those instances, they had dependency on the researcher or librarian.

## VI. Findings

The responses from the women parliamentarians in the 12th National Assembly of Pakistan revealed that they perceive as information any written or electronic text related to parliamentary, cabinet, and committee proceedings and/or any published as well as unpublished knowledge. They viewed the information received from different sources as important for their parliamentary work.

The women parliamentarians depended mostly on government departments, personal contacts, committee staff, and official documents. Their most favored contact for seeking information appeared to be the parliamentary research staff.

Their most favored subjects on which they frequently seek information are women issues/rights, human/minority rights, foreign affairs, and issues related to war, peace and terrorism. Those women parliamentarians introduced bills on most of these topics. The women’s rights remained a prime concern to them, resulting in most of the legislations on women issues.

The level of information use by those women parliamentarians ranged between low to moderate. The majority of them used information obtained for their parliamentary work such as debates, speeches, responding to inquiries, etc.

The National Assembly Library was their preferred source of information. They seemed satisfied with the library staff and found them cooperative and helpful. Their perceptions of the adequacy of library collections were between moderate to high, depicting their satisfaction with the collections of the library in general. Similarly, their perception of the strength of library staff and the quality of service varied from good to moderate. All these reveal that they relied heavily on the National Assembly Library.

Overall, the women parliamentarians had positive views of the library staff and the collection at the National Assembly Library. Still, they seemed to depend on parliament research staff as well.

The majority of the women parliamentarians liked to receive information summarized or synthesized for them. That showed their dependency on the National Assembly Library and the parliamentary research staff.

## **VII. Conclusion**

Most women parliamentarians in the 12th National Assembly of Pakistan were not computer and Internet savvy and preferred printed resources to the online information. A more in-depth research is needed to learn about their attitudes towards the Internet as well as computer use. There is a need to introduce short training courses to improve their ICT skills.

The National Assembly Library of Pakistan should develop user profiles for the women parliamentarians in order to better understand their information needs. In addition, an automated system for the delivery of information on the topics of interest to them should be developed. As they prefer to receive information in some packaged form, such as summarized, synthesized or explained, and analyzed for them, the staff at the National Assembly Library need to develop skills to package information in their desired formats.

The findings of this study cannot be generalized due to the small size of the sample as well as the moderate response rate to the questionnaire.

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## **Appendix A**

### **Letter Accompanied with the Questionnaire**

Dear MNA,

We are sending you the following questionnaire to collect your responses on your information seeking behavior and gauge your information needs. Your answers to these questions would help me to conclude the findings that will help me to probe the role of libraries in access to knowledge for democracy.

This questionnaire seeks to discover the information needs of parliamentarians in Pakistan. The questionnaire aims to investigate how parliamentary libraries and research services provide access to parliamentarians to knowledge to perform their job efficiently; what kinds of support do parliamentary libraries and research services provide to parliamentarians to strengthen democratic processes; and how libraries in general provide access to knowledge that supports democracy.

Thank you very much for considering to fill-in this questionnaire. Please return this questionnaire in the self-addressed reply envelopes enclosed herewith.

We look forward to getting your timely feedback.

Regards,



## **Appendix B**

### **Questionnaire**

#### **A. PERSONAL DATA**

1. Name:.....

2. Your age:

- Less than 30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- More than 70

3. Your Party:

- (1) Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP)
- (2) Pakistan Muslim League (N)
- (3) Pakistan Muslim League (Q)
- (4) ANP
- (5) MQM
- (6) Other

4. Your position (Minister, Cabinet Member, Committee Member).....

5. Your highest level of education:

- (1) BA
- (2) MA
- (3) PhD

#### **B. INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SKILLS**

6. Can you operate the computer?

- (1) Very expert
- (2) Adequately expert
- (3) Moderately expert
- (4) Inadequately expert
- (5) Very inadequately expert

7. Do you have adequate information communication technology skills listed below?

- (1) Word Processing
- (2) Internet Browsing
- (3) Email savvy
- (4) Social networking e.g. Facebook, blogs, etc.

8. Do you subscribe to the listservs on some of the following topics?

- (1) News
- (2) Blogs
- (3) Professional

**C. PERCEPTIONS OF INFORMATION**

9. How do you perceive information?

	YES	NO
All published and unpublished knowledge on any given topic	.....	.....
All news items in newspapers, radio, television and computer	.....	.....
All items in government publication, circulars, reports and pamphlets	.....	.....
All discussions at a meeting, seminar, workshop or conference	.....	.....
All Parliamentary, cabinet or committee proceedings	.....	.....

10. To what extent do you require? (Please tick one option only, 1 denotes for highest value, 5 denotes lowest value)

When preparing for parliamentary speeches debates and questions?	(1 2 3 4 5)
When doing statistical or data analyses?	(1 2 3 4 5)
When planning or making decision?	(1 2 3 4 5)
When preparing answers for enquires from the constituents?	(1 2 3 4 5)
When making background briefing?	(1 2 3 4 5)

**D. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

11. Which information sources do you rely upon most? Please tick one

- (1) Newspapers
- (2) Periodicals
- (3) Books
- (4) Government documents
- (5) Blogs
- (6) Internet

### E. INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOR

12. How often do you refer to the following when seeking information for use in your work as MNA or any other legislature role e.g. committee member, etc?

	Very Often	Often	Occasionally	Hardly	Priority (1-5)
(1) Government departments					
(2) Local public libraries in Islamabad					
(3) The University libraries in Islamabad					
(4) The National library of Pakistan					
(5) The National Assembly Library					
(6) Foreign Mission libraries/Resource Centers					
(7) Parliamentarians					
(8) Parliamentary Committee staff					
(9) Personal contacts					
(10) Office files					
(11) The National archives					
(12) Parliamentarians' Resource Center					

13. Of the above information sources, which are most important to your work? Rank them 1 to 12 under PRIORITY in the above table.

How often do you seek following type of information? (Please tick one option only, 1 denotes for highest value, 5 denotes lowest value)

(1) Agriculture Information	(1	2	3	4	5)
(2) Rural Development Information	(1	2	3	4	5)
(3) Information on Commerce and Industry	(1	2	3	4	5)
(4) Information on Foreign Affairs	(1	2	3	4	5)
(5) Information on Science and Technology	(1	2	3	4	5)
(6) Information on Law and Justice	(1	2	3	4	5)
(7) Military Information	(1	2	3	4	5)
(8) Social and Cultural Information	(1	2	3	4	5)
(9) Financial and accountability information	(1	2	3	4	5)
(10) Human and Minority rights information	(1	2	3	4	5)
(11) Information about the environment	(1	2	3	4	5)

- (12) Information on energy and power (1 2 3 4 5)
- (13) Information on women issues (1 2 3 4 5)

14. When seeking information from Government Department libraries, do you normally need help to retrieve it?

**YES**  
**NO**

If YES who helps you?

- 1. Librarian
- 2. Research staff
- 3. Yourself

**F. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY**

15. How important is the National Assembly Library as a source of information on the following? (1 denotes for low importance, 5 denotes for highest importance)

- (1) Information for your Parliamentary work (1 2 3 4 5)
- (2) Information for your electoral works (1 2 3 4 5)
- (3) Your general information needs? (1 2 3 4 5)
- (4) For speeches, debates, etc. inside and outside parliament (1 2 3 4 5)
- (5) For statistical analysis and data (1 2 3 4 5)
- (6) For responding to inquiries (1 2 3 4 5)
- (7) Others (please specify).....

16. How helpful is the National Assembly Library to you with the information that you need for debating in Parliament?

- (1) Very helpful
- (2) Helpful
- (3) Moderately helpful
- (4) Sometimes helpful
- (5) Unhelpful

17. How well stocked do you think the National Assembly Library is?

- (1) Very adequately stocked
- (2) Adequately stocked
- (3) Moderately stocked
- (4) Inadequately stocked
- (5) Very inadequately stocked

18. How staffed do you think the National Assembly Library is?

- (1) Very adequately staffed
- (2) Adequately staffed
- (3) Moderately staffed
- (4) Inadequately staffed
- (5) Very inadequately staffed

19. How do you rate the quality of service at the National Assembly Library?

- (1) Very good
- (2) Good
- (3) Fair
- (4) Bad
- (5) Very bad

## **G. GENERAL**

20. How do you like to receive your information? Please tick below.

- (1) Analyzed for you
- (2) Synthesized for you
- (3) Summarized for you
- (4) Explained to you

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