

Chapter # 13

PROTECTION OF CITIZENS RIGHT AND ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS



Q1: Elucidate the role of the ombudsperson in redressal of public grievance?

- The role of ombudsperson is to provide protection against harassment of women
- To create a safe working environment for a woman which is free of harassment, abuse and intimidation with a view towards fulfillment of their right to work with dignity
- With the help of ombudsperson The aggrieved person can lodge complaint through online mechanism free of cost or by post
- The aim of Ombudsperson is to provide justice to the complainants at their door step, equipped with adequate manpower and logistics.
- The existing law empowers a woman to lodge a complaint to the Ombudsperson. The proposed amendments seek to ensure equality to both sexes to seek redressal of their grievances.

Q2: Write a short note on following:

Q. What is the role of Women Ombudsperson in Pakistan?

In 2010, the parliament of Pakistan passed an act of regarding "Protection against harassment of women" at workplace. The role of Ombudsperson is to create a safe working environment for a woman which is free of harassment, abuse and intimidation with a view towards fulfillment of their right to work with dignity. The aggrieved person can lodge complaint through online mechanism free of cost or by post to the women ombudsperson in Islamabad or their respective cities. The aim of Ombudsperson is to provide justice to the complainants at their door step, equipped with adequate manpower and logistics. The Federal Ombudsperson secretariat have suggested amendments in the legislation stating that the Constitution of Pakistan recognizes the fundamental rights of citizens to dignity of persons by Article 14. The existing law empowers a woman to lodge a complaint to the Ombudsperson. The proposed amendments seek to ensure equality to both sexes to seek redressal of their grievances.

Q. What is the role of Human Right Cell established in the Supreme Court of Pakistan?

The role of human right cell is to deal with applications received on daily basis on the basis of violation of human rights in Pakistan. This cell is established to provide speedy and fair justice to the public without any cost. There are many functions of human right cell. It receives application from public through general post or by email. An overseas complaint cell has also established to deal with the applications of overseas Pakistanis.

Q. What are the functions of Ministry of Human Rights in Pakistan?

There are several functions of Ministry of Human Rights in Pakistan:

- To review human rights and protection of labour rights in the country without any delay or discrimination.
- To coordinate activities of Ministries, Divisions and Provincial Governments in order to facilitate the functions to human rights.
- To collect information, documents and reports on complaints and allegations of human rights violation from Ministries, Divisions, Provincial Governments and other agencies.
- To refer inquiries or investigations in respect of any incident of violation of human rights.
- To pursue or defend issues, complaints representations and matters for and against Pakistan relating to human rights.

Identify various forms of harassment in your area and write a detailed note on any two of them?

There are various forms of harassment that can be observed in our society.

- Racial harassment
- Religious harassment
- Sexual harassment
- Disability harassment
- Political harassment
- Bullying
- Stalking



Sexual harassment: Sexual harassment is the most common harassment on the basis of gender. Mostly females are affected by sexual harassment particularly at workplace or sometimes in public place. The men are less affected by sexual harassment as compare to women. It includes physical contact, verbal contact, or sometimes inappropriate use of gestures.

Racial harassment: Racial harassment also exists in our society and it has several bad impacts on the people who are being harassed. This harassment occurs due to the superiority complex on the basis of race, language and culture. This social ill can be diagnosed and treated through proper counseling.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- 1) The institution of Ombudsman (Mohtasib) is generally referred as the **poor man's court**
- 2) The Ombudsman has the same powers, mutatis mutandis, as the **civil** court has to punish any person for its contempt.
- 3) Parliament of Pakistan passed the Protection against Harassment of Women at workplace Act in **2010**

