

**INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
CENTRE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) at the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) conducts research and fosters discussions on all aspects of social, political and economic policies in Pakistan in general and the N-WFP/FATA in particular.

The mission of the Centre is to, facilitate inquiry in the social sciences, conduct and disseminate research findings in important public policy arenas; stimulate public discussion and address important social, political and economic issues; provide support for public policy education

In order to spread awareness about social issues of critical nature among the masses the CPPR organizes seminars in order to provide a forum for informed debate on important public policy issues.

The Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) at the Institute of Management Sciences organized a seminar on “Local Government: Prospects and Problems in Pakistan”. The main purpose of the seminar was to enhance an understanding about the Local Governance system both from Practitioner’s as well as Academician’s perspectives. The CPPR invited two guest speakers Mr. Hifz ur Rehman Secretary Local Government, Government of NWFP and Professor Dr. Taj Muharrum, Chairman Political Science Department. Participants from all walks of life including media, NGOs, and a large presence of students attended the seminar.

Mr. Hifz ur Rehman shared his personal opinion based on his experience about the prospects and problems of Local Governance in Pakistan. His presentation comprised of the basic rationale of local Governance and its implementation in Pakistan. He explained the prerequisites of local Government system and elaborated the concept of devolution plan 2001. According to him the main elements of the devolution are to transfer responsibilities and resources to the decentralized offices for the operations, management and control. He stressed the need of willingness to work under the framework of the system. He shared the challenges faced by the LG system. His ideas of way forwardness brought a ray of hope; and a clear vision of the role of political will and wisdom of people for effective functional local government system.

Dr. Taj Muharrum emphasized on the utility and importance of local governance in the process of political development, consciousness and change by giving a historical and academic overview. Local Governance in his opinion is the institutional setup at the gross root level. These are the nurseries of the political system of development. For democratic culture in any society local government system is of great importance. Many of the great and famous politicians in the sub-continent had started their careers from local

government. He gave the timeline of local government system in Pakistan's political history. He explained how different governments despite elected ones or military ruled initiated the local governance system but could not use it to its purpose because of various political reasons. He suggested that if the political commitment, agreement and consensus could be made possible it will help in a flourished future of the local governance system.

The seminar was concluded by Dr. Nasser Ali Khan, Director Institute of Management Science by thanking the guests and commenting on the importance of such activities where different perspective of the same issue can be shared. In the end, he emphasized the importance of such a thought provoking lectures for the youth.