



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

July 2020 – June 2021

**Institute for Research, Advocacy & Development
(IRADA)**

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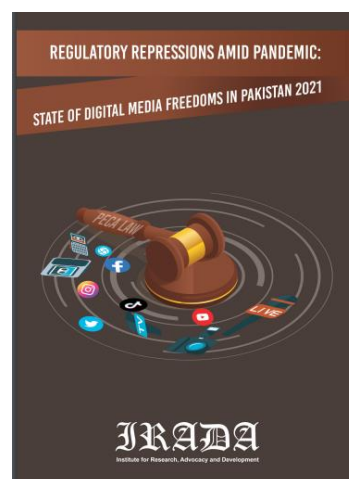
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Projects and Initiatives

During the period in review, IRADA – Institute for Research, Advocacy and Development – has implemented / is implementing following activities and initiatives with the support of several local and international development partners:

1. Regulatory Repressions Amid Pandemic: State of Digital Media Freedoms in Pakistan 2021

IRADA, with the support of IMS, conducted a study on ‘Regulatory Repressions Amid Pandemic: State of Digital Media Freedoms in Pakistan 2021’. This report takes stock of the digital rights situation in Pakistan in 2020-21 by compiling a compendium of research reports published during the year by national and international stakeholders, including regulatory authorities, digital rights organizations and media freedom watchdog groups. The report aims to provide a snapshot of the important findings and recommendations of these research studies on digital rights issues in Pakistan in one place.



The collection of studies is expected to give a comprehensive overview of the challenges faced by media stakeholders and Internet users in the effective and ethical use of online spaces and the solutions proposed to overcome these problems. The report is divided into five chapters: Access, Online Freedoms, Privacy, Legal Framework and Judicial Actions. It is hoped that the report will provide relevant stakeholders, including journalists, digital and human rights defenders, and policymakers, with a consolidated guide to the issues related to digital media freedoms and help them to develop strategies to overcome these challenges in order to create a progressive and safe enabling environment for digital media in the country.

2. Right to information laws and transparency: progressive legislation, reluctant governments

IRADA and IMS collaborated to conduct a research on Right to Information laws. This study provides a three-dimensional (3D) comparison – (i) intergovernment (federal and provincial), (ii) inter-body and (iii) inter-indicator – of implementation status of PDI clauses. The report provides a detailed framework of analysis for the study. Its different chapters are on inter-governmental comparison on PDI, inter-body comparison and inter-indicator comparison. While information commissions constituted under these laws are principally responsible for implementation of the RTI laws, including PDI clauses within their respective jurisdictions, they too fall in the definition of a public body.



Therefore, they are also required to proactively disclose their own information on their respective websites as required by their respective laws. In this context, the last chapter of this study provides a comparison of implementation status of PDI clauses by the four information commissions.

IRADA – The Institute for Research, Advocacy and Development – Pakistan

An independent research and advocacy organization focusing on social development and civil liberties

OUR VISION

IRADA envisions a democratic, participatory, peaceful and just polity in Pakistan

OUR MISSION

1. Strengthening democracy *through* inclusivity and pluralisms
2. Strengthening local empowerment *through* devolution of powers
3. Strengthening governance *through* accountability and transparency
4. Strengthening justice *through* fundamental rights

OUR WORK

1. Promoting inclusivity and pluralisms *through* support for free speech, civil liberties, peace and rights of minorities and marginalized communities
2. Promoting devolution of powers *through* support for empowerment of provinces and districts, policy development, provincial-level legislation and local governance
3. Promoting accountability and transparency *through* support for right to information, free media, open internet, open government
4. Promoting fundamental rights *through* support for equality, access to justice and rule of law.



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