



6th Youth Parliament Pakistan

Study Visit to UK & Denmark

February 23-27, 2015

Study Visit Report



6th Youth Parliament Pakistan

Study Visit to UK & Denmark

February 23-27, 2015

Study Visit Report

PILDAT is an independent, non-partisan and not-for-profit indigenous research and training institution with the mission to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan. It also serves as Secretariat, Youth Parliament Pakistan.

PILDAT is a registered non-profit entity under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Pakistan.

Copyright © Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency - PILDAT

All Rights Reserved

Printed in Pakistan

Published: March 2015

ISBN: 978-969-558-495-8

Any part of this publication can be used or cited with a clear reference to PILDAT.



Secretariat, Youth Parliament Pakistan

Islamabad Office: P. O. Box 278, F-8, Postal Code: 44220, Islamabad, Pakistan

Lahore Office: P. O. Box 11098, L.C.C.H.S, Postal Code: 54792, Lahore, Pakistan

E-mail: info@youthparliament.pk | Website: www.youthparliament.pk

CONTENTS

Preface

Meetings and Interactions

	07
i. Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth , Acting Clerk of Legislation Chamber Business Directorate, House of Commons	07
ii. Mr. John Turner , Table Office Clerk, House of Lords	07
iii. Mr. David Lloyd , Head Clerk of the Health Committee	07
iv. Mr. Andrew Stephenson , MP, Chairman of All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)	07
v. Mr. Flemming Juul Ph.D, Roskilde University	08
vi. Ms. Nicoline Miller , Chief Electoral Officer	08
vii. Mr. Bjorn Forde , Director, Danish Institute of Political Parties and Democracy (DIPD)	09
viii. Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink , Capacity Development Advisor, the DANIDA Fellowship Centre (DFC),	09
ix. Introduction to <i>SkoleValg</i>	09
x. Honourable Mr. Nadeem Farooq , MP, Social Liberal Party	10
xi. Honourable Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil , MP, Socialist Democrat Party	10
xii. Honourable Mr. Per Stig Moller , MP, Conservative Party, Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee	10
xiii. Honourable Mr. Steen Gade , MP, Conservative Party and Chairperson Land, Energy and Building Committee	10
xiv. Honourable Mr. Jesper Peterson , MP, Social Democratic Party, Chairman of the Finance Committee	11
xv. Mr. Morten Villumsen , Advisor, the Committee Secretariat,	11
xvi. Ms. Suzanne Moll , Press Officer KVINFO	12
xvii. Dinner hosted by H.E. Mr. Masroor Junejo at Pakistan Embassy in Copenhagen	12
xviii. Ms. Astrid Vind , Danish Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs	12
xix. Ms. Metter Sondergaard , Danish Council for Ethnic Minorities	13
xx. Mr. Mikkel , Danish Youth Council (DUF)	13
xxi. Interaction with members of political youth wings: Mr. Markus Rasmussen , Conservative Party Youth Wing; Mr. Trine Simmel , Socialist Party; Mr. Alexander Grandt Peterson , Social Democratic Youth wing.	14
xxii. Interaction with ' Ungiverden '	14
xxiii. Visit to Engstrandskolen Public School at Hvidovre, Briefing by Mr. Thomas Pederson Friis , Acting Deputy Head	14
xxiv. Mr. Kashif Ahmad , Party Leader 'National Party'	15
xxv. Mr. Holger Pyndt , Senior Consultant, LGDK	16

Appendices

Appendix A: Analysis by Members of the Delegation	21
Appendix B: Programme	75
Appendix C: Members of Pakistan Delegation	82

PREFACE

PILDAT facilitated a Study visit to the United Kingdom and Denmark from February 23-27, 2015 for selected members of the National Assembly of Pakistan and of the Youth Parliament Pakistan. The aims of the visit were to facilitate learning about the democratic and Parliamentary systems, institutional measures of public accountability and transparency of Governments. The programme aimed to provide specific learning about the UK and Danish democracies, electoral, parliamentary and political systems.

The Pakistan Delegation on the Study Visit to London and Copenhagen included: **Honourable Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA (NA-222, Hyderabad, Sindh, PPP), Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways, **Honourable Mr. Omar Ayub Khan**, MNA (NA-19, Haripur, KP, PML-N), Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, **Mr. Aqeel Ahmed Yousafzai**, Youth Prime Minister, **Mr. Muhammad Shahzar Illahi**, Youth Leader of the Opposition, **Mr. Sohaib Saeed**, Chairperson Youth Parliament Standing Committee on Economic and Finance Affairs, **Mr. Ali Shan Khan**, Youth Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Syeda Mizghan Mehboob Kirmani**, Chairperson Youth Parliament Standing Committee on Education & Youth Affairs and **Ms. Rahy Farooq**, Member Youth Parliament Standing Committee on Education & Youth Affairs.

The Youth Parliament Pakistan, a PILDAT initiative since 2007, is currently funded by the Danish Embassy under the development programme 2013-2016. The platform envisioned and created by PILDAT is facilitated at inculcating in youth of Pakistan values and spirit for democracy, the importance of dialogue and an understanding of the concept of Parliament and its role in democratic decision-making and oversight.

Acknowledgement

The Study Visit to UK & Denmark was funded by DANIDA, the Royal Danish Embassy, Islamabad. PILDAT would like to thank the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in London and Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) in Copenhagen for facilitating meetings in UK and Denmark respectively.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the personal accounts by Members of the Delegation are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of PILDAT.

Islamabad
March 2015



Pakistan Delegation members meet Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth, Acting Clerk of Legislation Chamber Business Directorate, House of Commons and Mr. John Turner, Table Office Clear, House of Lords at the British Parliament, London.

Meetings and Interactions

The first day of the Study visit began in London with a historical tour of the British Parliament and a briefing on the historical development of the UK's political system. The members were taken to highly symbolic places such as the Westminster Hall, Saint Stephens Chapel and were also shown some significant documents such as the Magna Carta.

The Delegation was briefed by **Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth**, Acting Clerk of Legislation Chamber Business Directorate, House of Commons, and **Mr. John Turner**, Table Office Clerk, House of Lords on the British Parliamentary system. Both of them presented an overview of the overall structure and Rules of Procedures of House of Commons and House of Lords respectively. Mr. Smyth explained the primary differences between the two Houses of the British Parliament including the membership criteria and election process. While answering a question regarding Britain's unwritten constitution, Mr. Smyth discussed the merits and demerits of having an unwritten Constitution but hinted towards an increasing trend in the UK over adopting a written Constitution.

Briefing the Delegation on the workings of the House of Lords, particularly the power of the House with regards to influencing legislation, Mr. John Turner said that a particular percentage of the Lord had to be Bishops. Commenting on the role of the speakers of both the Houses, Mr. Turner said that the speaker of the House of Lords had merely a symbolic role as compared to the speaker of the House of Commons.

In a briefing on British Parliamentary Committee system, **Mr. David Lloyd**, Head Clerk of the Health Committee, briefed the delegation about the powers and structures of Select Committee system in the UK. While elaborating on Health Committee, Mr. Lloyd said that it consisted of 7 members and was responsible for producing multiple reports during a year regarding several issues which they were working on. Mr. Lloyd also explained a recent change in the Committee system whereby the Committee members and Chairs were now not elected by the members of the House of Commons. He, in particular explained to the delegation certain themes that the Health Committee had been following such as diseases caused by air pollution, Ebola and most importantly obesity which according to the Mr. Lloyd was on the rise in the UK.

The Pakistan delegation held a detailed interaction with **Mr. Andrew Stephenson**, a young Member of the UK Parliament and the Chairman of All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Pakistan. Mr. Stephenson explained that coming from a constituency nearly 20 per cent of his electorate from Pakistani origin, it was an honour for him to chair the APPG on Pakistan. Mr. Stephenson shared with the delegation the roles and powers of an MP in the British political system. As UK faces an election in May 2015, many questions were raised with Mr. Stephenson regarding the electoral process in the UK. Mr. Stephenson emphasised that there exists a spending limit on electoral expenses which is strictly followed and publicly scrutinized. Roughly of about 40,000 GBP, the expense limit does not allow candidates buying airtime on electronic media. Instead, mass leaflet distribution is



Pakistan Delegation visited the Danish Institute of Political Parties and Democracy (DIPD) as part of the Study Visit to UK & Denmark

the most important campaigning tool. Differentiating between the role of the members of Parliaments in Pakistan and the UK, he said that in the presence of a well-established bureaucracy in the UK and a functioning system of delivery of services to citizens and voters, the UK public, unlike in Pakistan, does not expect MPs to facilitate provision of services for them.

The Pakistan Delegation also observed the proceedings in both the Houses of the UK Parliament as well as the working of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Pakistan delegation consisting Members of National Assembly and the Youth Parliament Pakistan began the Study Visit in Copenhagen, Denmark on the second day with briefings on the development of the Danish political system, Danish democracy and the Danish electoral system.

In an Introduction to Danish Democracy and Political System, **Mr. Flemming Juul Ph.D**, Lecturer in Political Science at the Roskilde University Centre, shared with the Pakistan delegation the origins and landmark developments that led to the creation of contemporary Danish democracy. The handing over of national decision making power, first by replacing the nobility by talented people in the courts, and later by appointment of an elected body of advisors to rule in lieu of the King in 1848 led to the adoption of Denmark's Constitution in 1849. After this, the Danish Constitution has had two major amendments; the first granting women to vote in 1915 and the marking the move from the bi-cameral to uni-cameral legislature in 1953. A referendum of the general population in which 40% of the electorate need to vote in favour of a

Constitutional amendment, is needed to amend the Danish Constitution. Through an interactive discussion he further highlighted the peculiar role of the Church which is in fact a state institution with priests serving as public servants. Local and Regional Governments handle education, care for the elderly and health care in line with the Danish social welfare model. He pointed out that with an aging population, the Danish government is attempting to raise the retirement age and lower the age at which young people may start earning, thereby decreasing the overall percentage of the dependent population. The rate of income tax for higher income groups in Denmark can go upto 60%, while it may be 40% for middle income groups, he added.

The Delegation met with the Chief Electoral Officer **Ms. Nicoline Miller**, who highlighted the working of the peculiar election process in Denmark and said that the elections get approved after 12 days when 'Folketing'- the Danish Parliament sits and accepts the elections. The local municipalities train their polling officers who are members of local political parties not contesting a seat in the elections. Ms. Miller explained, if a political party succeeds to get 1000 votes during one election, that particular party gets eligible to avail financial support from the Danish Government. In the Danish electoral process, apart from the 135 constituency seats distributed among the ten multi-member constituencies, 40 seats are distributed among the three provinces. These seats are distributed proportionally before the election every 5 years as sum of population, number of registered voters and the area measured in terms of population density. After the elections, these 40 seats are further distributed among the 10 multi- member constituencies, within the



(L to R) Mr. Muahmmad Shahzar Illahi, Youth Opposition Leader presenting souvenir to Mr. Bjorn Forde, Director Danish Institute of Political Parties and Democracy (DIPD)

provinces where they were first allocated. Elaborating on the electoral process in Denmark further, Ms. Miller specifically mentioned that any voter could complain over the elections. The complaints are addressed to the Danish Parliament and sent to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Interior for processing. The 'Folketing' decides on the complaints in a meeting of the provisional committee for the scrutiny of Elections. Talking about the e-voting introduction in the Danish electoral process, Ms. Miller highlighted that the usage of electronic machine is discouraged politically because of lack of security and privacy concerns apart from the machine being expensive. Responding to a question on election rigging and malpractices, Ms. Miller said if a person tries to hinder or distort free and fair elections is penalised by imprisonment for up to six years. The same penalty applies to all actions taken concerning other statutory polling, referendum etc. in public affairs.

In a meeting with the Danish Institute of Parties and Democracy (DIPD), the delegation was briefed by the working of the DIPD by **Mr. Bjorn Forde**, Director, Danish Institute of Political Parties and Democracy (DIPD). Explaining the role of DIPD in bringing 'the Danish way' of Democracy to developing democracies, Mr. Forde said that the body exists as autonomous and independent institution. The Board of Directors (BoD) is of 15 members for a period of four years, who makes decisions on all partnerships. The vision of DIPD includes democracy with development rather than waiting for countries to attain developmental maturity and then creating a democratic system. This aim is carried out by facilitating increasing accountability and

increasing political participation and representation by facilitating the role played by indigenous political parties. The DIPD is currently carrying out extensive programmes of capacity development and funding in Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.

Earlier during the day, **Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink**, Capacity Development Advisor, the DANIDA Fellowship Centre (DFC), spoke to the delegation about the work of the DFC through the Capacity Development Programme and Strategic Framework for Danish Support to Development Research. This was followed with a discussion on role of DANIDA as an autonomous public sector organization that works on the development aims of the Danish foreign policy. The DANIDA is funded through the 0.7% of the Danish Gross National Product that was committed to working for the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. The Danish-Arab Partnership programme was quoted as an example of one of the new projects that aims for capacity building as well as diplomatic cooperation.

The next and third day, the Pakistan delegation spent the day interacting with the Danish MPs and Committee Chairs at the Folketing – the Danish Parliament, focusing on the Parliamentary system, Committee system and interacting especially with the Chairs of the Danish Foreign Affairs, Climate, Energy and Building and the Finance Committees, among others.

The interactions at the Danish Parliament included an overview of the '*SkoleValg*' – a programme introducing



Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil, MP, Socialist Democratic Party, explaining the structure of the Danish Welfare system to the members of the Delegation

democracy to youth in Denmark, challenges and advantages of minority governments, and Denmark's social welfare system.

Honourable Mr. Nadeem Farooq, the Pakistani-origin Danish MP belonging to the Socialist Liberal Party, briefed the members about the composition of the Danish Parliament. Mr. Farooq explained about the existence of red and blue blocks in the Danish political system. The red blocks include socialistic political parties while the blue block include the liberal-conservatives. He explained that the current Government which is a minority Government consists of three parties under the red block that include Social Democratic Party, Red-Green Alliance and the Social Liberal Party. The opposition parties include the Liberal Party, Conservatives, Liberal Alliance and the Christian Democrats. Moreover, he emphasised that the Government bloc works together with coalition parties on some of the issues in order to stay in power.

Honourable Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil, MP from the Socialist Democrat party and also the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Labour Affairs, shared that core reason for the Danish Welfare state lies in the high wages for the unskilled workers. High wages also contribute to low corruption in Denmark. She discussed that it is not the Government but the labour market including strong labour unions that decide the wages for each sector of the economy. In response to a question, Ms. Theil said that the multiculturalism is a problem in Denmark compared to

that in the UK, for instance, and cited examples where high achiever students from different ethnic backgrounds were not easily absorbed in the Danish job market. She believed that Denmark has a long way to go in absorbing ethnic diversity and embracing multiculturalism.

In a candid interaction with **Honourable Mr. Per Stig Møller**, MP, Conservative Party and Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee and former Foreign Minister, the Delegation members were briefed on the working and the responsibilities of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Elaborating the working and Rules of Procedures of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Møller said that Committee regularly calls the Foreign Minister for questioning. Answering to a question on Pakistan's efforts in the War against terrorism, he said that it was all due to the mistrust among the Pakistan and Western world. Honourable Mr. Omer Ayub Khan, MNA and Chairman Standing Committee on Finance while discussing the topic clarified the Pakistani stance and pertinently mentioned that mistakes existed on both sides and that the current Government along with the military establishment does not differentiate between good and bad Taliban and action is being taken against all types of Taliban who pose a threat to the country. Mr. Omar Ayub Khan while discussing the freedom of speech said that while it may remain sacrosanct it should be used with responsibility and not to incite sentiments of the followers of any religion in the world.

Honourable Mr. Steen Gade, MP, Conservative Party



(L to R) Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, MNA, Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance with his Danish counterpart Mr. Jesper Peterson, MP, Social Democratic Party, Chairman Finance Committee

and Chairperson Land, Energy and Building Committee, while briefing the delegation said that by 2020 Denmark will be able to reduce its carbon footprint by 34% and the EU will reach 40 percent reduction in Carbon foot print by 2030.

Honourable Mr. Jesper Peterson, MP from the Social Democratic Party and Chairman of the Finance Committee, shared with the Pakistan delegation the Budget process in the Danish Parliament and the working of the Finance Committee. He shared that the Budget cycle spans from January to July each year. The Ministry of Finance prepares the Budget Bill. The Committee's role is to scrutinise the Budget Bill by involving six to eight ministries. Change in the budget during the year is referred to the Finance Committee without recourse to the plenary. It was noted during the discussion that Denmark, Pakistan and Bangladesh are the only 3 countries in the World where Parliamentary approval is not sought by the Executive while making changes/additions to the Budgets during the year, once passed by the respective Parliaments. While the revisions are brought before the Finance Committee in Denmark, in Pakistan, the supplementary budget for the previous year is only shared by the Government with the Parliament after the passage of the next year's budget, thus rendering passage of the budget by the Parliament as almost a meaningless exercise Responding to a question about the adoption of Euro as

a national currency, Mr. Peterson said that two referendums were held in this regard and the Danish people are hesitant to give up their identity. In 1973, along with Britain and Ireland, Denmark joined the European Economic Community after a public referendum. He further added, after Maastricht Treaty in 1992, the Danish people rejected European integration and therefore rejected Euro as the national currency in a referendum in 2000.

Mr. Morten Villumsen, Advisor, the Committee Secretariat, Danish Parliament enlightened the members about the Committees, their working and their roles in the Danish Parliament and shared that a total of 26 Standing Committees exist in the Danish Parliament. Each Committee has approximately 29 members. At first, there were 17 members in each Committee and 12 substitute members, however after a reform the number was increased to 29. He further added that the Government parties and the coalition parties have 15 seats in each Committee, while the Opposition has 14 seats respectively. Hence, the Committee membership roughly reflects the distribution of seats in the Parliament. The role of Government in this regard is minimised, as it has no say in deciding the distribution. Mr. Villumsen further said that some of the Committees may ask for a greater participation if a party shows willingness to work on a particular area in relevance to the working of that



Ms. Suzanne Moll, Press Officer, KVINFO talking to the Delegation on Freedom of Speech in Denmark

specific Committees. The Committee meetings can range from 6-700. Moreover, he said that the Committees work on Bills and proposals for parliamentary resolution after first reading. After the first reading in the Chamber, most Bills and proposals for parliamentary resolution are referred to one of the Standing Committees. When dealing with a Bill or a proposal for parliamentary resolution, the Committee puts a number of questions to the relevant Minister responsible. The Committee may ask the Minister to respond orally, in which case the Minister will be required to attend a consultation in the committee. Mr. Morten Villumsen also shared that some of the Committees may keep their proceedings confidential. However the consultations are open to the public.

In a frank discussion on freedom of speech with **Ms. Suzanne Moll**, Press Officer KVINFO, the delegation discussed the need for responsibility in exercising freedom of expression. She believed that when the caricatures appeared in the media, the Danish Prime Minister should have met the Ambassadors of the Muslim countries. Ms. Moll agreed that unlike the outside perception, the thinking classes in Denmark have learnt a great deal from the infamous caricature controversy. She shared that a greater understanding of cultural sensitivities of immigrants is required in Denmark. She also remarked that the controversy reflects more of a social cohesion than a religious issue. Discussing the media Parliament relationship, Ms. Moll said that Denmark is probably the only country in the world where a Press Council has been set up by legislation.

The Pakistan delegation was hosted at a dinner

reception by **H.E. Mr. Masroor Junejo**, Pakistan Ambassador to Denmark. He appreciated the initiative by PILDAT and thanked the Danish support for the Study Visit.

The fourth day of the Study Visit was dedicated to the Youth delegation interacting with the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs and the Youth Political Wings. Three representatives from the Danish Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs briefed the Pakistan delegation on the remit and working of the Ministry. Starting with the briefing, **Ms. Astrid Vind**, explained about the Civil society strategy, how is the Ministry working to build bridges, its agenda, department of integration and democracy and the strategies and initiatives. She told that the Indian origin of the Minister Mr. Manu Sarren itself is symbolic of the positive work being done by the Ministry other than the administrative functions in relation to the organizations and financing of social system that the Ministry has been performing for integration between disabled, marginalized groups, elderly and disadvantaged children. She added that the recent terrorist attack in Copenhagen has led the Ministry to relook upon its policy for integration.

Answering a question, she said that Denmark hasn't been following the EU's Programme for radicalization; instead it is following an Aarhus model collaborated by the provincial ministry. They have been putting in efforts to engage the newcomers actively in democratic process, trying to make them enjoy equal rights, duties and responsibilities. She added that the Ministry of Education does the combined training of the new immigrants teaching them language. Ms. Vind further



Youth Parliament Pakistan Members during an interaction with three members of the Youth Wings of different Political Parties at Danish Youth Council (DUF).

elaborated about Roma issues, civil society and integration, anti-discrimination and equal treatment and citizenship of all ethnic groups that are her policy areas. Denmark has a long history of participation in voluntary sector, i.e., a part of their 'cultural code' and they have been trying to make this open to new comers. Moreover, she briefed about the 'Project Baba' targeting the fathers with ethnic minority background, empowering them to avoid family conflicts and bridging the gap. Concluding the briefing she said that integration, citizenship and capacity building of the ethnic minority organizations is the major goal managed by the Danish Refugee Council and the Ministry.

Continuing with the briefing from the Ministry, **Ms. Metter Sondergaard** briefed about the Government independent organization, the Danish Council for Ethnic Minorities, established in 1999 with the main objective to make political recommendations and giving advise on issues of relevance for ethnic minorities, refugees and immigrants, to the Minister. The Council is composed of 14 members; 5 appointed by the Minister, 4 permanent representation from the largest cities while the remaining 5 elected by the board of representatives. The council receives 80000 Euro funding from the Government. The council gives recommendations on new legislation and matters of interest within the area of integration. She told that the Council made a press release on the recent Copenhagen and Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack. Ms. Sondergaard mentioned that the biggest challenge for the municipalities currently is to manage the asylum. The Council is a non-religious council focusing on strengthening representation of resourceful

immigrants, their democratic participation, active citizenship, equal opportunities, housing and redefinition and revision of Danish society, which has been a mono-cultural society for long. She told the delegation that one has to go to the Parliament to get citizenship of Denmark. In the end, she told that it was because the efforts of the Council that after December 2014, citizens have been allowed to have dual nationality.

The Pakistan Delegation visited the Danish Youth council (DUF) where **Mr. Mikkel** shared that the Council is responsible for the lobby organization and service provider for 71 different youth organizations participating in democratic process. The DUF has been working since 1940 and also represents the scouts, religious, minority, theater organizations and youth clubs. He termed these organizations as the ones with 'small democracy', reflection of big formal democracy. He added that the goal of the DUF is to enlighten, teach and engage youth in democracy participating actively in it, at all the time. He said that the DUF believes immigration issue is the top most concern of the youth of Denmark amongst others including education, climate, health and surveillance. Mr. Mikkel commented that although the political interest among the youth seems to be increasing with time, yet a decrease in voter turnout has been seen in previous elections which is the biggest challenge. Influence of parents for the first time voters is very beneficial and for that matter the DUF has been trying to lobby and reduce the minimum voter limit from 18 to 16 years. Mr. Merkel also shared the details about the GOTV (Get up and vote) programme launched to assist the first time voters through post cards, advertisements,



Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan interacting with school children during a visit to 'Engstrandskolen' Public School at Hvidovre Municipality

political debates and SMS reminders. He also shared the concept of national trial elections for 8th and 9th graders and cooperation between schools and youth organizations. The DUF is funded by the State lotteries that makes up around 130 millions DK.

Members of Youth Parliament also met three members of the youth wings of different political parties i.e. **Mr. Markus Rasmussen** from the Conservative Party Youth Wing, **Mr. Trine Simmel** from the Socialist Party and **Mr. Alexander Grandt Peterson** from the Social Democratic Youth wing. They shared that youth wings of parties critically analyze the mother parties openly and somewhat more staunchly believe on the manifestos of the right and left wing. Yet, they agreed that the best outcome of a minority Government Danish tradition is the tolerance of all political views. After a very healthy debate amongst the young representatives with three different views on issues of immigrants and the recent religious conflicts pertaining to the Muslims, the three of them believed that it is not the religion which is to be blamed, instead it is the structure of the society that needs to be changed.

Ms. Terine added that in her view, Denmark should be open to refugees as it will otherwise be irresponsible on their part for supporting wars on one side and not taking responsibility of it on the other side. Answering a question, Mr. Marcus said that in his view, there shouldn't be any boundaries for trade like EU has defined. He was of the idea that it is time for having more capitalistic approach and free trade because if profit and goods won't cross the borders, armies would.

The day concluded with a very stimulating exchange of

views with a young delegation of six from 'UngiVerden', which is a case of youth trying to influence the political agenda. The two sides exchanged views about challenges that the youth of the two countries face, Denmark's relations with Pakistan, the general perception of the Danish public regarding terrorism and position of Pakistan and the recent developments with the social media amongst the youth.

Earlier in the day, the Youth Prime Minister, **Mr. Aqeel Ahmed Yousafzai** and Youth Leader of the Opposition, **Mr. Muhammad Shahzar Illahi**, accompanied by the two MNAs **Honourable Syed Naveed Qamar** and **Honourable Mr. Omar Ayub Khan**, MNA, visited a Danish radio broadcast and web Urdu TV channel 'Aap ki Awaz' and talked about the challenges that Pakistan has been facing and the outlook of Pakistani Youth upon the current scenario.

The Pakistan Delegation concluded the 4-day Study Visit to Copenhagen by focusing on the system of local governance and democracy in Denmark. The day included visiting a public school and interacting with teachers and students, visit and interaction with Hvidovre municipality mayor, interaction with an upcoming political party and understanding the local government system.

While visiting the Engstrandskolen Public School at Hvidovre, the delegation was met and briefed by **Mr. Thomas Pederson Friis**, Acting Deputy Head, who welcomed the delegation and informed that 500 pupils study at this traditional Danish school with a department for pupils with suffering from dyslexia. During a discussion on the working of the school, Mr.



Pakistan Delegation Members visit the office of Ms. Helle Moesgaard Adelborg, Mayor of Hvidovre Municipality

Friis said that the hiring for teachers is done in a corporate manner and there is no concept of transfers in other regional schools. The school management is also planning an experiment with their students to start a radio and TV station, which will also assist in Public Relation's of school. He further added the schools in Denmark can only hire trained teachers but a debate is currently underway to introduce people with certain expertise that are not trained teacher but a member of teachers union. Teachers unions are very organized and determine the employer/employee relationship. The Deputy Head Master informed that a person has to train for 4 years to be qualified teacher. They can continue to increase their qualification and to develop subject expertise.

Later, the Delegation members interacted with Grade 8 Students and discussed about the participation of youth in politics. During the discussion students pointed out that MS Office should be taught at an earlier age and should be part of curriculum. It was pointed out till the 7th Grade different skills like carpentry are also taught. The Danish pupils inquired about the standard of education in Pakistan. Honourable Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, MNA explained the students about the schooling system in Pakistan. Mr. Friis added that students have a high knowledge of democracy and the administration is working hard to improve the competency level in students. He further stressed on the fact that reforms are being introduced in school to make children more movement oriented, as it improves health and learning abilities. Discussion on the new school reforms indicated that working hours of teachers have increased and become inflexible. Previously the teachers had to turn up just before their classes and prepare at home.

Now they have 9-5 fix timing schedule and prepare at school. The teachers feel they do not have appropriate facilities to prepare at school, as the school does not provide working space to every teacher.

In answer to a question by Honourable Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, MNA, the Deputy Head Teacher said the average yearly raise in income is 4.7% (around US\$ 300) and teaching is one of the well-paid professions. Danish schools are also introducing comparative religion as a subject while there is no uniform in the Danish Schools to allow students freedom of thought. Except regular subjects Danish Schools have carpenters, music, food technology, etc. as main line full credit subject. The school has a part time psychologist and a family counselor to assist the teachers with difficult children. The meeting ended with a tour of the school area including common room, play area, classrooms and library.

Later in the day, the delegation was received by **Mr. Kashif Ahmad**, Party Leader 'National Party' and his two brothers **Mr. Amir Ahmad** and **Mr. Asif Ahmad** at the Municipality building. The Mayor gave a welcome address to the delegation. During her welcome address she mentioned that the Town Hall building was 60 years old and was built in 1955. She pointed out the beautiful painting in the counselors office was completed in 3 years by a famous Danish artist and measured 70sq meter exactly the same size as House of the Mayor. The painting has a symbolic value that as how the beautiful city of Hvidovre developed.

The delegation was informed that all decisions of the city are taken in the municipality. The political party of



Pakistan Delegation Members interact with Mr. Kashif Ahmad, Mr. Amir Ahmad and Mr. Asif Ahmad-founders of the National Party, Denmark

Mayor is 'Social Democrats' and the Honourable Mayor added that it would not make any difference with her funds or working if the Party in the center is different from her party. The Mayor proudly shared that the city was a village around 90 years ago and today it is a developed and bustling city turning into one of the closest suburban city of Copenhagen. The Counsel has 21 members. She further informed that the meetings of the Counsel is open and easily accessible to public and can watch the proceedings from the public gallery.

The administration at the municipality has been divided into sections like schools, hospitals, infrastructure, etc. The Mayor has close interactions with the Government and especially the Ministers. It is difficult for the Mayor to work if she is not from the ruling party but even than it does not hinder working of the Counsel. The funding stays exactly the same even if the party in the Parliament is different than the party in the counsel. The Mayor also has a duty to go out and meet people to better understand the issues of the common citizens. She has a special interest to look after the weak and poor. The Mayor added that the municipality is quite popular due to its proximity to Copenhagen and 1200 people are on the waiting list to be accommodated for provision of a house. All meetings of the Counselors are recorded on webcams and can be watched by anybody on the Internet.

In a meeting with **Mr. Kashif Ahmad, Mr. Amir Ahmad and Mr. Asif Ahmad** the history and purpose of creation of the National Party was discussed. In a candid discussion, they mentioned that the National Party is a Social Center Party with the cause to improve the image of Muslims in Denmark which has been on a

decline since the Danish Cartoon issue and Charlie Hebdo event. They want to ensure that the concept of terrorism is not associated with Islam. Denmark has 500,000 immigrants. The minimum age to get your wife immigrated in to Denmark is 24 years (this applies to anyone outside the EU). Denmark has very strict laws for spouse visa with stringent requirements. They suggested that the spouse visa laws are very discriminatory violation of human rights. They acknowledged Denmark has excellent democracy and has the world's best social welfare system.

In the evening, the Delegation members were briefed by **Mr. Holger Pyndt**, Senior Consultant. Mr. Pyndt welcomed the Delegation to the National Association of Municipality. He started with a presentation on the general statistics of Denmark. He mentioned 74.16% of workforce is occupied in the service industry followed by industry 18.52% and remaining 2.14% in agriculture. The stronghold of Denmark are health and medicine, energy related production, shipping and transportation and IT services. The unemployment is very low and decreasing even by European standards. Denmark has 98 municipalities within 5 regions. The Danish Parliament has between 22-25 ministries. Denmark is success model due to high level of efficiency. Two reforms took place in the history of Denmark to reduce the number of municipality from 1400 to 98. A commission was made under the Minister of Local Governments. In the second reform it was decided that the municipality should not have less than 20,000 inhabitants. It was also informed to the delegation that Denmark is a very decentralized country with a strong faith in devolution of power. In history the Parliamentarian were unsatisfied with the



Group photo of Pakistani Delegation in front of the Town Hall, Hvidovre Municipality

performance of state services hence they pursued the move towards localized services. Strong civil society helped achieve these targets. The concept for decentralization was to place services as close to the citizen as possible i.e. with municipalities.

It was also informed to the delegation that 50% of total finance with central Government to the local Governments. 29% is kept by the central Government to meet its expense and invest in different projects. Where as 21 % is given to the regions. In terms of spending the highest portion is spent on children through schools and job center. Followed by looking after the elderly people, administration, health, etc. Denmark spends almost twice as much as UK on the sub-national expenditure. Central Government is tasked with policy and regulation, economic policy, foreign and security policy incl. defense, courts, police, prisons, tax collection, custom authorities, postal authorities, railways, national highways, higher education, food control, etc. In Danish context inhabitants mean income hence there is a drive to increase their size. Municipalities are tasked with social welfare and preventive health (including job centers), education and culture, environment, public utilities and planning, public utilities. He also pointed out that unemployment benefit is for 2 years. Every municipality has a 'One Stop Shop' for all public administrative services. The Government is conducting an experiment called "Free Municipality" which are do not receive any funding from the center government and they can replace the regulations of the center with their own. Every municipality has a CEO under the Mayor who is a civil servant. It was also pointed out that 30% of all councilors are women though there is no

quota. 90% of municipality's staff are contract based and the remaining 10% are civil servants. 69% of the total budget is staff salaries. Danish municipalities are funded by taxes, user payments, central Government funding's, equalization and loans. Taxes include personal income tax and land tax.



Pakistan's Ambassador, H. E. Mr. Masroor Ahmed Junejo hosted a dinner for Pakistan Delegation at the Embassy of Pakistan, Copenhagen



Youth Parliamentarians in an interactive session with Danish Youth at Tana office, Copenhagen

Appendix A

Analysis by Members of the Delegation

Report

Mr. Ali Shan Khan, YP13-KP01
Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs
Youth Parliament Pakistan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Mr. Ali Shan Khan, YP13-KP01
Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs
Youth Parliament Pakistan

Mr. Ali Shan Khan belongs to the District Bannu of KPK. He was born on November 17, 1993 and completed his schooling at Pennell High School & College Bannu in 2009. Later, he did his Intermediate (F.Sc Pre-Engineering) from Government Degree College No 2, Bannu in 2011. Mr. Khan moved to Peshawar and joined Cecos University Peshawar. He is currently doing B.Sc Electrical Engineering He has been a debater since class 3 and aspires to become a youth motivator and political consultant .He has remained actively involved in youth politics and has arranged different seminars regarding youth leadership and youth motivation. He is looking forward to utilize his potentials and vision of his youth development from YPP platform.

Introduction

The Study Visit of the Pakistani delegation of Youth Parliament to UK and Denmark was a very important and has several objectives. The core objectives of this Study Visit to UK-Denmark were in to provide the Pakistani Youth a thorough understanding of the parliamentary setups in Britain and Denmark. The Study Visit also envisioned Pakistani Youth to learn about the democratic and Parliamentary systems; along with these it also helped in learning about the electoral system, local government system, educational institutions and working of the municipalities in Denmark. The other objective of it was the provision of knowledge about how things work in the Folketing (Danish Parliament) and in Committees; it also helped in understanding of the perspective of youth and media and the role they play in Danish democracy.

Meetings & Interactions in London, United Kingdom

On the first day of the interactions in UK, the delegation visited the British Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords). The delegation also had meetings with the different officials from House of Commons and the House of Lords in the Commonwealth of Parliamentary Association Meeting Room. Moreover the Delegation also met with MP's of the British Parliament. They observed the proceedings in the House of Commons and House of Lords separately. The delegation was also invited to sit in the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee Meeting. The Pakistani delegation was taken for a detailed visit of the both Chambers of the British Parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords) to initialize the programme for the Study visit to UK-Denmark 2015.

The delegation had its first meeting with Mr. John Turner (Table Office Clerk, House of Lords) and Mr. Liam Lawrence Smyth (Acting Clerk of Legislation Chamber Business Directorate, House of Commons) gave a detailed briefing on the British Parliamentary System.

Mr. Turner presented an overall view of the Rules and Procedures of the House of Lords and Mr. Smyth gave an overall view of the Rules and Procedures in the House of Commons. Mr. Smyth explained that the main differences between House of Commons and the House of Lords is that the House of Lords is a self regulatory body and its speaker doesn't have any executive powers but is a more ceremonial one then in case of House of Commons. He also explained the membership criteria and the election process in House of Commons.

In a meeting with Head Clerk of the Health Committee, Mr. David Lloyd the Delegation was briefed on the British Parliamentary Committee System, about the powers and structures of the select committee system in UK. In the House of Commons, the Select Committee monitors the work of Government departments. Explaining the responsibilities of the Health committee Mr. Lloyd said that the Committee reports on expenditures, treatment of patients, impacts of obesity and malnutrition and medical reports. He said that any party that has an overall majority would definitely have a majority in the select committees. The Pakistani Delegation also held a detailed meeting with Mr. Andrew Stephenson who is a young Member of the British Parliament and the Chairman of the All Parties Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Pakistan. Mr. Stephenson explained the delegation about the roles and powers of MP in the British Political System. Later the delegation was taken to the Visitors' Gallery to observe the proceedings of the House.

Meetings & Interactions in Copenhagen, Denmark

The Delegation was welcomed by **Mr. Erik Bryld** (Managing Director of Tana Copenhagen) at the DANIDA Fellowship Centre on February 24, 2015.

Later, in a meeting with Ms. Maya Lindberg, Capacity Development Advisor, DANIDA Fellowship Centre (DFC), the delegation was briefed about the working of the DFC through Capacity Development Programme and Strategic Framework for Danish Support to Development Research. Mr. Flemming Jull Christianson, Lecturer in Political Science at the Roskilde University Centre,, gave a detailed briefing on an Introduction to Danish Democracy and Political System. He said that in the past Denmark had been a larger country then now in area because in 1660 many of these areas were lost and by 1770 after loss in two wars they gave up the rest of the lands. He further shared with the delegation the origins and landmark developments that led to the creation of contemporary Danish democracy. The handing over of national decision making power, first by replacing the nobility by talented people in the courts, and later by appointment of an elected body of advisors to rule in lieu of the King in 1848 led to the adoption of Denmark's Constitution in 1849. After this, the Danish Constitution has had two major amendments; the first granting women to vote in 1915 and the marking the move from the bi-cameral to uni-cameral legislature in 1953.

The Delegation met with the **Chief Electoral Officer Ms. Nicoline Miller**, who highlighted the working of

the peculiar election process in Denmark and said that the elections get approved after 12 days when 'Folketing'- the Danish Parliament sits and accepts the elections. The local municipalities train their polling officers who are members of local political parties not contesting a seat in the elections. Ms. Miller explained, if a political party succeeds to get 1000 votes during one election, that particular party gets eligible to avail financial support from the Danish Government. In the Danish electoral process, apart from the 135 constituency seats distributed among the ten multi-member constituencies, 40 seats are distributed among the three provinces. These seats are distributed proportionally before the election every 5 years as sum of population, number of registered voters and the area measured in terms of population density. After the elections, these 40 seats are further distributed among the 10 multi- member constituencies, within the provinces where they were first allocated. Elaborating on the electoral process in Denmark further, Ms. Miller specifically mentioned that any voter could complain over the elections. The complaints are addressed to the Danish Parliament and sent to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Interior for processing. The 'Folketing' decides on the complaints in a meeting of the provisional committee for the scrutiny of Elections. Talking about the e-voting introduction in the Danish electoral process, Ms. Miller highlighted that the usage of electronic machine is discouraged politically because of lack of security and privacy concerns apart from the machine being expensive. Responding to a question on election rigging and malpractices, Ms. Miller said if a person tries to hinder or distort free and fair elections is penalized by imprisonment for up to six years. The same penalty applies to all actions taken concerning other statutory polling, referendum etc. in public affairs.

In another meeting of the Delegation members with the Danish Institute of Parties and Democracy (DIPD), **Mr. Bjorn Forde, Director, Danish Institute of Political Parties and Democracy (DIPD)** explaining the role of DIPD in bringing 'the Danish way' of Democracy to developing democracies, Mr. Forde said that the body exists as autonomous and independent institution. The Board of Directors (BoD) is of 15 members for a period of four years, who makes decisions on all partnerships. The vision of DIPD includes democracy with development rather than waiting for countries to attain developmental maturity and then creating a democratic system. This aim is carried out by facilitating increasing accountability and increasing political participation and representation by facilitating the role played by indigenous political parties. The DIPD is currently carrying out extensive programmes of

capacity development and funding in Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.

On February 25, 2015 the Delegation was taken to Danish Parliament (Folketing). The same day, Honorable **Mr. Nadeem Farooq**, a Pakistani origin Danish Member of Parliament affiliated with the Socialist Liberal Party, briefed the members about the composition of the Danish Parliament.

The Delegation was also briefed on the Parliamentary System of Denmark and the development of modern Danish democracy by **Mr. Anton Hoj Jacobson, Legal Advisor, the Legal Services Office.**

Honourable Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil, MP (The Social Democratic Party), Chairperson Standing Committee on Labour Affairs and the Spokesperson of the Social Democratic Party, unveiled the biggest mystery for the Danish Welfare State. She told that the core reason for the Danish Welfare State is the high wages for the unskilled workers in Denmark. She said that the gap between the poor and the rich in Denmark is not high. Other important fact she mentioned was that in Denmark there is very less corruption and the reason behind this lies also in the high wages of the population and if a person is found in corrupt practices he/she might lose his/her job as a consequence and its difficult in Denmark to get a new one so people avoid corruption. The wages of workers are not decided by the parliament but are decided by the Labour Union. If a person is working below the minimum wage then union approach that person and facilitate him. She explained that the political parties do get funds from the Unions like the Left Wing Parties are funded by Trade Unions and the Right Wing Parties are funded by Employers Unions. There are 16 trade unions in the private sector and 26 trade unions in the public sector in Denmark. Answering to a question Ms. Thelle said that a multiculturalism is a problem in Denmark compared to that in UK, for instance she said that her friends who were the topper of her Universities but were not given a job for three years in Denmark with the reason that she was a black but when she went to UK she got immediately a job. She believed that Denmark has a long way to go in absorbing ethnic diversity and embracing multiculturalism.

Later the Delegation visited the Chamber to observe the proceedings.

In a meeting with **Honourable Mr. Per Stig Moller** MP (The Conservative Party), Ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Current Chairperson Foreign Affairs

Committee, briefed the delegation about the working and the responsibilities of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He said that Foreign Affairs Committee can call the Minister in Office anytime and question him. The Minister is bound to respond the committee satisfactorily and if he fails to do so the Committee writes a statement against him.

In another meeting with **Mr. Villumsen** (Advisor, The Committee Secretariat) the delegation was explained about the working and the different roles of the Committees in the Danish Parliament. The Delegation members also met Mr. Steen Gade, Chairman Energy, Climate & Building Committee and Mr. Jesper Peterson, MP & Chairman Finance Committee.

Later in the evening, after completing the visit to Folketing, the delegation met **Ms. Suzzane Moll** Press Officer Kvinno at her office; she said that Danish society gave very high importance and value to the freedom of speech at all cost. She said that when the caricatures appeared in the Danish media; the Danish Prime Minister should have met the Ambassadors of the Muslim countries which was the biggest mistakes. Ms. Moll agreed that unlike the outside perception, the thinking classes in Denmark have learnt a great deal from the infamous caricature controversy. She shared that a greater understanding of cultural sensitivities of immigrants is required in Denmark. She explained that press is self-regulatory meaning that it knows that what are its boundaries (Chief Editor and Editor).

The fifth day of the Study Visit to UK-Denmark started with a meeting with Ministry of Children, Gender Equality; Integration and Social Affairs Representatives. The delegation visited the Danish Youth Council (DUF) and met the Political Party Youth Wings representatives and at last but not the least the delegation met some inspiring youth members from "UNGIVERDEN".

The Pakistan Delegation visited the Danish Youth Council (DUF). Members of Youth Parliament met three members of the youth wings of different political parties. They shared that youth wings of parties critically analyse the mother parties openly and somewhat more staunchly believe on the manifestos of the right and left wing. Yet, they agreed that the best outcome of a minority Government Danish tradition is the tolerance of all political views. After a very healthy debate amongst the young representatives with three different views on issues of immigrants and the recent religious conflicts pertaining to the Muslims, the three of them believed that it is not the religion which is to be blamed, instead it is the structure of the society that

needs to be changed.

The day concluded with a stimulating exchange of views with a young delegation of six from 'UngiVerden', which is a case of youth trying to influence the political agenda. The two sides exchanged views about challenges that the youth of the two countries face, Denmark's relations with Pakistan, the general perception of the Danish public regarding terrorism and position of Pakistan and the recent developments with the social media amongst the youth. The last day started with a visit to a public school Engstarandskolen and the members of the Delegation interacted with teachers and students. Later, the Delegation met the Mayor of Hvidovre municipality and interacted with an upcoming political party established by three Pakistani Muslim brothers.

Analysis of the Study Visit

The Study Visit to UK-Denmark led to a thorough understanding of the political, democratic and local Government systems of the two countries. Learning about the political models practiced in the United Kingdom and Denmark led to a better understanding of new perspectives of politics and democracy that can be adopted and practiced in Pakistan.

I found the Danish Social Welfare System to be one of the best in the world. They also have one of the best Tax systems in the world. In the British Parliamentary System is the concept of Shadow Cabinets that, if implemented in its full essence, will yield better deliverables. We find Britain at the apex of all the standards of the developed world for instance its Democracy; Education and democratic norms and culture at its peak which is now; but it wasn't from the beginning nor it was inculcated in their nature but the British as a society have gone through a long process of democratic maturity which as a result have developed them as a society. Similarly, a lesson for us to learn from them is that the more our democratic process is allowed nurture the better fruits our country will reap and the better as a society we will develop. Moreover there are some restrictions like in terms of money expenditure an upper limit of money above which no candidate can invest during an election campaign in Britain that is a good step and should be followed in Pakistan Electoral System as it provides a level playing for all candidates. The Rule of Law is equally exercised on every from the rich to poor.

About the Danish Parliamentary System as it is a "Negative Parliamentarianism" which means "which means that the Government may never have a majority against it in the parliament, but it is not required to have

the support of an actual majority, as the minority governments do not have themselves a majority so they will always negotiating with other parties so an environment of reconciliation and dialogue is all time open among which is better for the democracy. The people of Denmark even though being a apart of EU they are bound to use euro as a currency like the other EU countries do but they have exempted themselves from EU on few matters like currency Danish Kroner instead of EU because to preserve their separate identity intact. There is a very high level of trust among the citizens and the politicians /officials which is beneficial for the system while in Pakistan it is the other way round a huge trust deficit among the citizen and the politicians exists which has to be bridged in order for high tax collection.

After interacting with the Danish journalist, we observed that efforts for integration of ethnic and religious minorities in the Danish Society have started because it has now become inevitable after some recent incidents in Denmark and France on freedom of speech. The reason why Denmark is among lowest on the corruption list in world is the high wages, Denmark pay to its citizen. The Concept of the Welfare State of Denmark, free education for all and free health for all is due to the high taxes the citizen pay to the Government. Moreover, we observed that there is free education for all citizens till high school in Denmark. The teachers are first trained and then recruited in the Schools. What I inferred from the Interaction with the Youth of Denmark both at the DUF and UngiVerden, I observed that the youth is mobilized and they want to serve their country as progressive civil Society. I had a clear idea of my standing in Pakistan as youth after interacting with the Danish youth. If guided correctly, the youth can help build Pakistan as strong as the developed countries.

Municipalities are responsible for doing the major work in Denmark whereas the Devolution of Power is not done with the Local Government Elections still to be done in Pakistan.

I firmly believe that if we acquire few of the qualities from the West such as political will, professionalism, rule of law and being disciplined, we can change our society and political culture gradually.

Report

Mr. Aqeel Ahmad Yousafzai , YP14-KP02
Youth Prime Minister
Youth Parliament Pakistan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Mr. Aqeel Ahmad Yousafzai, YP14-KP02
Youth Prime Minister
Youth Parliament Pakistan

Aqeel Ahmad Yousafzai belongs to the Swabi District of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa. He was born on March 8th, 1992 and did his initial schooling from Quaid-e-Azam group of Schools in Swabi. He later went to Islamia College Peshawar for his Intermediate Studies. In 2010, he moved to Lahore to study Law and Policy at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). In 2013, he was selected as the Cultural Ambassador of Pakistan in U.S. where he studied for a semester in Florida International University, Miami, Florida. Alongside that, he pursued a non-degree study in Diplomacy, International Relations, and US Constitutional Law. In addition to his academic endeavors, he is the President of LUMS Literary Society, Director Academic Events Amnesty International and Director Publicity Law and Politics Society. Moreover, he is a passionate debater and has spoken at a number of Model United Nations including LUMUN, SMAMUN etc.

Introduction

Denmark has recently been listed 4th on the index of democracy, and 1st on the Corruption Perception Index for government transparency and lack of corruption. According to another research conducted, Denmark is a part of the part of Top Five with the happiest population. Although, these parameters cannot be perceived definitive, these certainly provide cursory answers as to how the business of a state is being run.

The foundations of the modern democracy in Denmark were laid by the first Democratic Constitution in 1849. Over the years, Denmark has strengthened democratic culture and has inculcated democratic values to such an extent that at this point in time, not many a parallels of the Danish Democracy can be seen. This entire process did not take place over night obviously; it took Denmark almost two and a half centuries to reach the phenomenal democracy that she has today. Apparently, the Study Visit arranged and organized by PILDAT to understand the democracy and political structure in Denmark, was led by this enquiry as to how Denmark achieved this stable and nurturing form of Democracy which in unmatched and unparalleled.

Pakistan, on the other hand, has always had problems adapting to the idea of democracy. In her 68 years of national history, Pakistan has almost spent half of her life in dictatorships, when rights of the people were taken away, and democratic structures and institutions were dismantled. While such practices, on one hand, pushed the country into depths of economic, social and legal crisis, on the other hand, it has led the country into the adoption of a culture which is very little run by democratic values. This lack of democracy can be seen not only in the political arena, but also all spheres of life, where notions like tolerance and peaceful coexistence are very hard to find.

In the contemporary times, the people of Pakistan in general, and the youth in particular feels the need to acquire the necessary ideas to make the shaky and weak democracy work at home, and this willingness to improve comes with the understanding that in order to cultivate a stable democracy, there is a dire need to exchange and import democratic norms from other parts of the world. The idea that in order to ensure that democracy is never derailed in the political arena, is impossible without evolving from the system that we have intact at this point in our national history, was in my opinion, one of the inspirations for this four day Study Visit to Denmark.

As a proud member of the delegation from Pakistan, I

had the pleasure of interacting with people from all spheres of lives, ranging from Politicians and political experts to representatives of academia, and students. We were fortunate to have the company of two Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Omar Ayub Khan and Mr. Naveed Qamar. These two gentlemen facilitated the Study Visit by giving us valuable insights and enabling us to draw parallels in the systems and practices between Denmark and Pakistan.

As representatives of the Pakistani people, we tried to portray the real image of Pakistan to the Danish officials and people- an image that they were not familiar with. We were able to give our hosts nuances of the political and democratic structure in Pakistan, alongside exchanging information to strengthen and improve different areas in both the countries.

The following areas were covered during the span of this Study Visit, to give us an understanding of the inspirational Danish democratic model.

1. The Danish Democracy and Political System
2. Danish Parliamentary and Committee System
3. The Danish Electoral System
4. Free Speech in Denmark
5. The Role of Youth in Danish Democracy
6. Local Governments; Power and Responsibilities

The Danish Democracy & Political System

History and General Overview

In an Introduction to Danish Democracy and Political System, **Mr. Flemming Juul Ph.D**, Lecturer in Political Science at the Roskilde University Centre, shared with the Pakistan delegation the origins and landmark developments that led to the creation of contemporary Danish democracy. The handing over of national decision making power, first by replacing the nobility by talented people in the courts, and later by appointment of an elected body of advisors to rule in lieu of the King in 1848 led to the adoption of Denmark's Constitution in 1849. After this, the Danish Constitution has had two major amendments; the first granting women to vote in 1915 and the marking the move from the bi-cameral to uni-cameral legislature in 1953. A referendum of the general population in which 40% of the electorate need to vote in favor of a Constitutional amendment, is needed to amend the Danish Constitution. Through an interactive discussion he further highlighted the peculiar role of the Church which is in fact a state institution with priests serving as public servants. Local and Regional Governments

handle education, care for the elderly and health care in line with the Danish social welfare model. He pointed out that with an aging population, the Danish government is attempting to raise the retirement age and lower the age at which young people may start earning, thereby decreasing the overall percentage of the dependent population. The rate of income tax for higher income groups in Denmark can go up to 60%, while it may be 40% for middle income groups, he added.

Institutionalized setup for Promoting Democracy

In a meeting with the Danish Institute of Parties and Democracy (DPID), the delegation was briefed by the working of the DPID by **Mr. Bjorn Forde**, Director, Danish Institute of Political Parties and Democracy (DIPD). Explaining the role of DIPD in bringing 'the Danish way' of Democracy to developing democracies, Mr. Forde said that the body exists as autonomous and independent institution. The Board of Directors (BoD) is of 15 members for a period of four years, who makes decisions on all partnerships. The vision of DIPD includes democracy with development rather than waiting for countries to attain developmental maturity and then creating a democratic system. This aim is carried out by facilitating increasing accountability and increasing political participation and representation by facilitating the role played by indigenous political parties. The DIPD is currently carrying out extensive programmes of capacity development and funding in Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.

Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink, Capacity Development Advisor, the DANIDA Fellowship Centre (DFC), spoke to the delegation about the work of the DFC through the Capacity Development Programme and Strategic Framework for Danish Support to Development Research. This was followed with a discussion on role of DANIDA as an autonomous public sector organization that works on the development aims of the Danish foreign policy. The DANIDA is funded through the 0.7% of the Danish Gross National Product that was committed to working for the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals. The Danish-Arab Partnership programme was quoted as an example of one of the new projects that aims for capacity building as well as diplomatic cooperation.

Danish Parliamentary and Committee System

Danish Committee System

Mr. Morten Villumsen, Advisor, the Committee Secretariat, Danish Parliament enlightened the members about the Committees, their working and

their roles in the Danish Parliament and shared that a total of 26 Standing Committees exist in the Danish Parliament. Each Committee has approximately 29 members. At first, there were 17 members in each Committee and 12 substitute members, however after a reform the number was increased to 29. He further added that the Government parties and the coalition parties have 15 seats in each Committee, while the Opposition has 14 seats respectively. Hence, the Committee membership roughly reflects the distribution of seats in the Parliament. The role of Government in this regard is minimized, as it has no say in deciding the distribution. Mr. Villumsen further said that some of the Committees may ask for a greater participation if a party shows willingness to work on a particular area in relevance to the working of that specific Committees. The Committee meetings can range from 6-700. Moreover, he said that the Committees work on Bills and proposals for parliamentary resolution after first reading. After the first reading in the Chamber, most Bills and proposals for parliamentary resolution are referred to one of the Standing Committees. When dealing with a Bill or a proposal for parliamentary resolution, the Committee puts a number of questions to the relevant Minister responsible. The Committee may ask the Minister to respond orally, in which case the Minister will be required to attend a consultation in the committee. Mr. Morten Villumsen also shared that some of the Committees may keep their proceedings confidential. However the consultations are open to the public.

Danish Parliamentary System

The interactions at the Danish Parliament included an overview of the 'SkoleValg' introducing democracy to youth in Denmark, challenges and advantages of minority governments, and Denmark's social welfare system.

Honorable Mr. Nadeem Farooq, the Pakistani-origin Danish MP belonging to the Socialist Liberal Party, briefed the members about the composition of the Danish Parliament. Mr. Farooq explained about the existence of red and blue blocks in the Danish political system. The red blocks include socialistic political parties while the blue block include the liberal-conservatives. He explained that the current Government which is a minority Government consists of three parties under the red block that include Social Democratic Party, Red-Green Alliance and the Social Liberal Party. The opposition parties include the Liberal Party, Conservatives, Liberal Alliance and the Christian Democrats. Moreover, he emphasized that the Government bloc works together with coalition parties on some of the issues in order to stay in power.

Honorable Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil, MP from the Socialist Democrat party and also the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Labour Affairs, shared that core reason for the Danish Welfare state lies in the high wages for the unskilled workers. High wages also contribute to low corruption in Denmark. She discussed that it is not the Government but the labor market including strong labor unions that decide the wages for each sector of the economy. In response to a question, Ms. Theil said that the multiculturalism is a problem in Denmark compared to that in the UK, for instance, and cited examples where high achiever students from different ethnic backgrounds were not easily absorbed in the Danish job market. She believed that Denmark has a long way to go in absorbing ethnic diversity and embracing multi-culturalism.

In a candid interaction with Honorable Mr. Per Stig Moller, MP, Conservative Party and Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee, the Delegation members were briefed on the working and the responsibilities of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Elaborating the working and Rules of Procedures of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Moller said that Committee regularly calls the Foreign Minister for questioning. Answering to a question on Pakistan's efforts in the War against terrorism, he said that it was all due to the mistrust among the Pakistan and Western world. Honorable Mr. Omer Ayub Khan, MNA and Chairman Standing Committee on Finance while discussing the topic clarified the Pakistani stance and pertinently mentioned that mistakes existed on both sides and that the current Government along with the military establishment does not differentiate between good and bad Taliban and action is being taken against all types of Taliban who pose a threat to the country. Mr. Omar Ayub Khan while discussing the freedom of speech said that while it may remain sacrosanct it should be used with responsibility and not to incite sentiments of the followers of any religion in the world.

Honourable Mr. Steen Gade, MP, Conservative Party and Chairperson Land, Energy and Building Committee, while briefing the delegation said that by 2020 Denmark will be able to reduce its carbon footprint by 34% and the EU will reach 40 percent reduction in Carbon foot print by 2030.

Danish Electoral System

The Delegation met with the Chief Electoral Officer **Ms. Nicoline Miller**, who highlighted the working of the peculiar election process in Denmark and said that the elections get approved after 12 days when 'Folketing'- the Danish Parliament sits and accepts the

elections. The local municipalities train their polling officers who are members of local political parties not contesting a seat in the elections. Ms. Miller explained, if a political party succeeds to get 1000 votes during one election, that particular party gets eligible to avail financial support from the Danish Government. In the Danish electoral process, apart from the 135 constituency seats distributed among the ten multi-member constituencies, 40 seats are distributed among the three provinces. These seats are distributed proportionally before the election every 5 years as sum of population, number of registered voters and the area measured in terms of population density. After the elections, these 40 seats are further distributed among the 10 multi- member constituencies, within the provinces where they were first allocated. Elaborating on the electoral process in Denmark further, Ms. Miller specifically mentioned that any voter could complain over the elections. The complaints are addressed to the Danish Parliament and sent to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Interior for processing. The 'Folketing' decides on the complaints in a meeting of the provisional committee for the scrutiny of Elections. Talking about the e-voting introduction in the Danish electoral process, Ms. Miller highlighted that the usage of electronic machine is discouraged politically because of lack of security and privacy concerns apart from the machine being expensive. Responding to a question on election rigging and malpractices, Ms. Miller said if a person tries to hinder or distort free and fair elections is penalized by imprisonment for up to six years. The same penalty applies to all actions taken concerning other statutory polling, referendum etc. in public affairs.

Free Speech and Integration of Minorities in Denmark

Danish understanding of Free Speech

Notions like tolerance, respect and peaceful coexistence in a society are the clear indicators of democracy in a country. Denmark, over the years, has transformed into a very complex multicultural society. The kind of multicultural society, that may be called as a Bricologe in the terms of comparative study, where a system spontaneously accommodates parts of others systems, and adopts them as parts of its own. In the aftermath of the incident of "Danish cartoons" recently, and the unfortunate killing incident that took place in February 2015, it was really important to look at the Danish way of multicultural co-existence.

In a frank discussion on freedom of speech with **Ms. Suzanne Moll**, Press Officer KVINFO, the delegation discussed the need for responsibility in exercising

freedom of expression. She believed that when the caricatures appeared in the media, the Danish Prime Minister should have met the Ambassadors of the Muslim countries. Ms. Moll agreed that unlike the outside perception, the thinking classes in Denmark have learnt a great deal from the infamous caricature controversy. She shared that a greater understanding of cultural sensitivities of immigrants is required in Denmark. She also remarked that the controversy reflects more of a social cohesion than a religious issue. Discussing the media Parliament relationship, Ms. Moll said that Denmark is probably the only country in the world where a Press Council has been set up by legislation.

Multiculturalism and integration of minorities into mainstream

Three representatives from the Danish Ministry of Children, Gender E quality, Integration and Social Affairs briefed the Pakistan delegation on the remit and working of the Ministry. Starting with the briefing, **Ms. Astrid Vind**, explained about the Civil society strategy, how is the Ministry working to build bridges, its agenda, department of integration and democracy and the strategies and initiatives. She told that the Indian origin of the Minister Mr. Manu Sarren itself is symbolic of the positive work being done by the Ministry other than the administrative functions in relation to the organizations and financing of social system that the Ministry has been performing for integration between disabled, marginalized groups, elderly and disadvantaged children. She added that the recent terrorist attack in Copenhagen has led the Ministry to relook upon its policy for integration.

Answering a question, she said that Denmark hasn't been following the EU's Programme for radicalization; instead it is following an Aarhus model collaborated by the provincial ministry. They have been putting in efforts to engage the newcomers actively in democratic process, trying to make them enjoy equal rights, duties and responsibilities. She added that the Ministry of Education does the combined training of the new immigrants teaching them language. Ms. Vind further elaborated about Roma issues, civil society and integration, anti-discrimination and equal treatment and citizenship of all ethnic groups that are her policy areas. Denmark has a long history of participation in voluntary sector, i.e., a part of their 'cultural code' and they have been trying to make this open to new comers. Moreover, she briefed about the 'Project Baba' targeting the fathers with ethnic minority background, empowering them to avoid family conflicts and

bridging the gap. Concluding the briefing she said that integration, citizenship and capacity building of the ethnic minority organizations is the major goal managed by the Danish Refugee Council and the Ministry.

Continuing with the briefing from the Ministry, **Ms. Metter Sondergaard** briefed about the Government independent organization, the Danish Council for Ethnic Minorities, established in 1999 with the main objective to make political recommendations and giving advice on issues of relevance for ethnic minorities, refugees and immigrants, to the Minister. The Council is composed of 14 members; 5 appointed by the Minister, 4 permanent representation from the largest cities while the remaining 5 elected by the board of representatives. The council receives 80000 Euro funding from the Government. The council gives recommendations on new legislation and matters of interest within the area of integration. She told that the Council made a press release on the recent Copenhagen and Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack. Ms. Sondergaard mentioned that the biggest challenge for the municipalities currently is to manage the asylum. The Council is a non-religious council focusing on strengthening representation of resourceful immigrants, their democratic participation, active citizenship, equal opportunities, housing and redefinition and revision of Danish society, which has been a mono-cultural society for long. She told the delegation that one has to go to the Parliament to get citizenship of Denmark. In the end, she told that it was because the efforts of the Council that after December 2014, citizens have been allowed to have dual nationality.

The Roles of Youth in Danish Democracy

The Pakistan Delegation visited the Danish Youth council (DUF) where **Mr. Mikkell** shared that the Council is responsible for the lobby organization and service provider for 71 different youth organizations participating in democratic process. The DUF has been working since 1940 and also represents the scouts, religious, minority, theater organizations and youth clubs. He termed these organizations as the ones with 'small democracy', reflection of big formal democracy. He added that the goal of the DUF is to enlighten, teach and engage youth in democracy participating actively in it, at all the time. He said that the DUF believes immigration issue is the top most concern of the youth of Denmark amongst others including education, climate, health and surveillance.

Mr. Mikkell commented that although the political

interest among the youth seems to be increasing with time, yet a decrease in voter turnout has been seen in previous elections which is the biggest challenge. Influence of parents for the first time voters is very beneficial and for that matter the DUF has been trying to lobby and reduce the minimum voter limit from 18 to 16 years. Mr. Merkel also shared the details about the GOTV (Get up and vote) programme launched to assist the first time voters through post cards, advertisements, and political debates and SMS reminders. He also shared the concept of national trial elections for 8th and 9th graders and cooperation between schools and youth organizations. The DUF is funded by the State lotteries that makes up around 130 million DK.

Members of Youth Parliament also met three members of the youth wings of different political parties i.e. **Mr. Markus Rasmussen** from the Conservative Party Youth Wing, **Mr. Trine Simmel** from the Socialist Party and **Mr. Alexander Grandt Peterson** from the Social Democratic Youth wing. They shared that youth wings of parties critically analyze the mother parties openly and somewhat more staunchly believe on the manifestos of the right and left wing. Yet, they agreed that the best outcome of a minority Government Danish tradition is the tolerance of all political views. After a very healthy debate amongst the young representatives with three different views on issues of immigrants and the recent religious conflicts pertaining to the Muslims, the three of them believed that it is not the religion which is to be blamed, instead it is the structure of the society that needs to be changed.

Ms. Terine added that in her view, Denmark should be open to refugees as it will otherwise be irresponsible on their part for supporting wars on one side and not taking responsibility of it on the other side. Answering a question, Mr. Marcus said that in his view, there shouldn't be any boundaries for trade like EU has defined. He was of the idea that it is time for having more capitalistic approach and free trade because if profit and goods won't cross the borders, armies would. The day concluded with a very stimulating exchange of views with a young delegation of six from 'UngiVerden', which is a case of youth trying to influence the political agenda. The two sides exchanged views about challenges that the youth of the two countries face Denmark's relations with Pakistan, the general perception of the Danish public regarding terrorism and position of Pakistan and the recent developments with the social media amongst the youth.

Local Governments, Power & Responsibilities

Delegation members were briefed by **Mr. Holger**

Pyndt, Senior Consultant. Mr. Pyndt welcomed the Delegation to the National Association of Municipality. He started with a presentation on the general statistics of Denmark. He mentioned 74.16% of workforce is occupied in the service industry followed by industry 18.52% and remaining 2.14% in agriculture. The stronghold of Denmark are health and medicine, energy related production, shipping and transportation and IT services. The unemployment is very low and decreasing even by European standards. Denmark has 98 municipalities within 5 regions. The Danish Parliament has between 22-25 ministries. Denmark is success model due to high level of efficiency. Two reforms took place in the history of Denmark to reduce the number of municipality from 1400 to 98. A commission was made under the Minister of Local Governments. In the second reform it was decided that the municipality should not have less than 20,000 inhabitants. It was also informed to the delegation that Denmark is much decentralized country with a strong faith in devolution of power. In history the Parliamentarian were unsatisfied with the performance of state services hence they pursued the move towards localized services. Strong civil society helped achieve these targets. The concept for decentralization was to place services as close to the citizen as possible i.e. with municipalities.

It was also informed to the delegation that 50% of total finance with central government to the local governments (municipality). 29% is kept by the central government to meet its expanse and invest in different projects. Where as 21 % is given to the regions. In terms of spending the highest portion is spent on children through schools and job center. Followed by looking after the elderly people, administration, health, etc. Denmark spends almost twice as much as UK on the sub-national expenditure. Central Government is tasked with policy and regulation, economic policy, foreign and security policy incl. defense, courts, police, prisons, tax collection, custom authorities, postal authorities, railways, national highways, higher education, food control, etc. In Danish context inhabitants mean income hence there is a drive to increase their size. Municipalities are tasked with social welfare and preventive health (including job centers), education and culture, environment, public utilities and planning, public utilities. He also pointed out that unemployment benefit is for 2 years. Every municipality has a 'One Stop Shop' for all public administrative services. The Government is conducting an experiment called "Free Municipality" which are do not receive any funding from the center government and they can replace the regulations of the center with their own. Every municipality has a CEO under the



Y O U T H

P A R L I A M E N T
P A K I S T A N

Mayor who is a civil servant. It was also pointed out that 30% of all councilors are women though there is no quota. 90% of municipality's staff are contract based and the remaining 10% are civil servants. 69% of the total budget is staff salaries. Danish municipalities are funded by taxes, user payments, central Government funding's, equalization and loans. Taxes include personal income tax and land tax.

Conclusion

It was indeed an honor to become a part of the Pakistani Delegation under PILDAT, and represent Pakistan in Denmark. This journey of learning and enlightenment that we embarked on, on the 24th of Feb 2015 came to end on the 28th of Feb, 2015. These four days in Denmark included our interactions with the Members of Danish Parliament, Office bearers from political and administrative arenas, experts on political and democratic structures in Denmark, and the Danish Youth. The cleverly designed master plan of this Study Tour ensured our maximum learning and exchange in such a short time period, i.e. only four days. Denmark holds great fame in the Comity of Nations, for two major reasons, i.e. a) for her harmonic and strong democratic system, b) for its ranking among the countries with highest level of happiness among the masses. The former, although, holds great importance, I found myself personally more curious about the latter. I took off on this journey with a curiosity to understand as to how does a well-established democratic system contributes towards the happiness of masses, and with every single day passed, and every meeting attended, the relationship between democratic practices and the happiness and welfare of the people made more and more sense. By the end of the Study Visit, this curiosity and urge to understand the correlation between the two, led me to the conclusion that one of the reasons contributing to high rates of happiness among Danish people is the presence of trust and confidence between the people and the Government. I was utterly surprised at the level of trust and confidence that the people had in the legislature and executive of the country. In one of our interactions with the Members of Danish Parliament, we were told that people from the upper economic strata pay around 60 percent of their incomes in taxes believing that this tax payer's money is going to contribute to their free health, free education, old age benefits, unemployment benefits etc. This belief that every Kroner paid in tax will contribute to the betterment of the country and her citizens clearly depicts the trust and confidence that Danish people have in their government.

Similarly, during the Study Visit, during our interactions with representatives from almost all of walks of life, i.e. politicians, civil servants, youth activists, youth party leaders, teachers, experts, "love" for democracy became a recurring uttered phrase. This made me wonder as to how the people who are not in the political arena perceive democracy. So, on one of our visits to a local school, when the head teacher told us about the teachers' unions and their strikes, he said that there has been an instance in the recent past when educational institutions were locked down by the unions, and government had to negotiate and convince the union to reopen. I asked him a simple question, as to if he was to pick and prioritize one of the two, between democracy and education, which one would pick? And to my surprise, he picked democracy. So I asked him again, as to whether he shall have the educational institutions locked down and democracy prevails, or would he rather let the government intervene and force the unions to reopen schools. The educator responded, "I'd rather have the educational institutions closed and issues be resolved democratically, because if democracy were to prevail, everything including education will be at its best in the country." Instances like these left me in a state of awe, and made me realize the importance of democracy and trust between the people and the government. In Pakistan, sadly, the trust and belief of masses in government and institutions have shattered. Not only in the context of Tax system, but in general. The recent episode of alleged rigging and the lack of trust in the Election Commission of Pakistan is one such example. Similarly, the lack of democratic practices, both in the national political arena and inside the parties is one big hindrance in the process of democratization in Pakistan.

To sum up, this Study Visit gave me an opportunity to learn on various fronts. On one hand, I came back with a sound understanding of democracy and political practices in another. On the other, it gave me a chance to interact with the Danish Youth and made me realize the importance of involvement of youth in politics. Most importantly, I was enlightened throughout in the company of the Pakistani Members of the National Assembly, Mr. Naveed Qamar and Mr. Omer Ayub. The two gentlemen were there for our guidance throughout and inspired us throughout the entire Visit. I am absolutely confident that this Visit and the learning we have had through this Visit, is going to help us in understanding the idea of democracy and fair play in politics. I plan on working on the restoration of people's faith in the administration and state machinery, so that one day Pakistan becomes the welfare state that our forefathers foresaw.

Report

Syeda Mizhgan Mehboob Kirmani YP54-SINDH07
Chairperson Standing Committee on Education and Youth Affairs
Youth Parliament Pakistan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Syeda Mizhgan Mehboob Kirmani YP54-SINDH07
Chairperson Standing Committee on Education and Youth Affairs
Youth Parliament Pakistan

Ms. Mizhgan Kirmani was born on November 04, 1991 in Karachi, Pakistan. She is currently doing her Masters in International Relations from University of Karachi. She has attended several Model United Nation Conferences and also has chaired B.MUN 2012 (DISEC). In addition to that she participated as a motivational speaker at The Citizen Foundation and Dur-ul-Sukun. Also, she has worked under the educational emergency Article 25-A and attended several conferences as a guest speaker for ITA. Besides that, has worked with the prestigious educational forum Teach for Pakistan where she was appointed as their Programme Manager for Summer Camp 2013 at IBA-Centre of Entrepreneurship. Later she served as Teach for Pakistan's Campus Ambassador for six months and has interned with Human Rights Commission of Pakistan on "The Agony in Baluchistan." She aspires to improve the conditions of her area through her suggestions and strategies via platform of PILDAT Youth Parliament.

Introduction

The Study Visit included two of the Honorable Members of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Honourable **Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA (NA-222, Hyderabad, Sindh, PPP), Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways, Honourable **Mr. Omar Ayub Khan**, MNA (NA-19, Haripur, KP, PML-N), Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue. This was an additional benefit to my learning in London and Copenhagen that was directly coming from my own country's democratic leadership.

Youth Parliament Pakistan selected total of 60 young members from all over the country via brain twisting interviews and essays questions. The platform arranged sessions of 5 days each where the young minds not only became skilled at democratic practices but also executed their skills on the floor by preparing best of finest resolutions, bills and policies in their respective committees. The Steering Committee of YPP selected the best 6 out of 60 for the Study Trip to UK-Denmark 2015 on the ground of their legislature business and maturity of debates.

The Pakistan Delegation visited, observed and monitored the British and Danish Parliamentary works and process. The delegation interacted with the Western Democratic minds that are ruling the bloc with their expertise in maintain a healthy democracy. The motive of the tour was to learn and gain awareness in the world of international politics and diplomacy. The main aim of the study visit was to make the young minds learn about the strong democracies that are ruling the world.

The platform envisioned and created by PILDAT is facilitated at inculcating in youth of Pakistan values and spirit for democracy, the importance of dialogue and an understanding of the concept of Parliament and its role in democratic decision-making and oversight.

Objectives of the Study Visit

The Pakistan Delegation visited UK-DENMARK to achieve the following objectives:

1. To observe and interact with the Democratic Practices of the UK-Danish Parliaments
2. To interrelate the Pakistani , British and Danish systems of Politics
3. To examine the Danish Electoral and Local Governance setups
4. To study the proceedings and workings of the British and Danish Parliamentary Committees.
5. To intermingle with the Danish Youth

Key Questions of the Study

1. How does the British Parliament operate in the absence of a written Constitution?
2. How the performances of the British Parliamentary committees are evaluated and how are their reports and findings adopted by the Government?
3. What is the relationship between Media and the British Parliament?
4. What are the penalties for malpractices during the elections?
5. To what extent are the electronic machines for voting are used in Denmark?
6. Both Germany and UK have admitted the failure of multi-culturism. What are the views of the Government of Denmark? What is the bipartisan opinion on the issue?
7. Danish Parliament was Bi-Cameral before, what advantages did it receive when it adopted the unicameral system?
8. How Danish Parliamentary committees work and regulate?
9. What is the policy of the Government and leading political parties on multi-culturism especially in the wake of cultural challenges facing Denmark?
10. What is the role of Danish Youth in the Danish Democratic System?
11. What are powers of taxation of the Local Government?
12. How the resources are distributed to the Local Government or is each Local Government self-sustaining?

Interactions in London, UK

Tour of the Parliament

The Pakistan Delegation was given a tour of British Parliament by a well-learned tour guide. During the Parliament tour the delegation was told historical and present events in the history of British Politics.

Introduction to the Westminster by Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth and Mr. John Turner

The delegation met the clerks from both houses and learned about the workings of the British Parliamentary committees and how their chairs are elected in the house by the members. Also the clerks elaborated on the topic of the, how the British Parliament works with the unwritten Constitution and the Queen as the sovereign head of the country.

The Role of an MP- Mr. Andrew Stephenson

The Pakistan delegation held a detailed interaction with **Mr. Andrew Stephenson**, a young Member of the UK Parliament and the Chairman of All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Pakistan. Mr. Stephenson explained that coming from a constituency nearly 20 per cent of his electorate from Pakistani origin; it was an honor for him to chair the APPG on Pakistan. Mr. Stephenson shared with the delegation the roles and powers of an MP in the British political system. Differentiating between the role of the members of Parliaments in Pakistan and the UK, he said that in the presence of a well-established bureaucracy in the UK and a functioning system of delivery of services to citizens and voters, the UK public, unlike in Pakistan, does not expect MPs to facilitate provision of services for them.

The Committee System – Mr. David Loyld

He explained the workings within his committee that was working on betterment of Health in Britain. He explained the work progress and that how the Committees work are adopted by the Government and how much is implemented. Also he added that public opinions are also sometimes taken in so that the public stays engaged in the social betterment.

Interactions in Denmark, Copenhagen

Tuesday, February 24, 2015: Meetings and Interactions

Welcome by Mr. Erik Bryld, Managing Director of Tana Copenhagen

Mr. Erik Bryld welcomed The Pakistan Delegation and gave a condensed introduction to Tana and the projects associated with it. He further added that Tana works for strengthening the Democracy not only in Denmark but also across the Danish borders.

Intro to Programme by Ms. Nadia Masri-Pederson

Ms. Nadia introduced a complete schedule of four days at Copenhagen to the Pakistan Delegation. She also observed the interest of each delegate from Pakistan while taking their introduction.

Intro to DANIDA Fellowship Centre by Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink

Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink, Capacity Development Advisor, the DANIDA Fellowship Centre (DFC), spoke to the delegation about the work of the DFC through the Capacity Development Programme and Strategic Framework for Danish Support to Development Research. This was followed with a discussion on role of DANIDA as an autonomous public sector organization that works on the development aims of the Danish foreign policy. The DANIDA is funded through the 0.7% of the Danish Gross National Product that was committed to working for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The Danish-Arab Partnership programme was quoted as an example of one of the new projects that aims for capacity building as well as diplomatic cooperation.

Intro to Danish Democracy and Political System by Mr. Flemming Juul

Mr. Flemming shared with the Pakistan delegation the origins and landmark developments that led to the creation of contemporary Danish democracy. The handing over of national decision making power, first by replacing the nobility by talented people in the courts, and later by appointment of an elected body of advisors to rule in lieu of the King in 1848 led to the adoption of Denmark Constitution in 1849. After this, the Danish Constitution has had two major amendments; the first granting women to vote in 1915 and the marking the move from the bi-cameral to uni-cameral legislature in 1953. A referendum of the general population in which 40% of the electorate need to vote in favour of a Constitutional amendment, is needed to amend the Danish Constitution. Through an

interactive discussion he further highlighted the peculiar role of the Church that is in fact a state institution with priests serving as public servants. Local and Regional Governments handle education, care for the elderly and health care in line with the Danish social welfare model. He pointed out that with an aging population, the Danish government is attempting to rise the retirement age and lower the age at which young people may start earning, thereby decreasing the overall percentage of the dependent population.

Introduction to the Danish Electoral System by Ms. Nicoline Nyholm Miller

Ms. Nicoline Nyholm Miller, who highlighted the working of the peculiar election process in Denmark and said that the elections get approved after 12 days when Folketingân- the Danish Parliament sits and accepts the elections. The local municipalities train their polling officers who are members of local political parties not contesting a seat in the elections. Ms. Miller explained, if a political party succeeds to get 1000 votes during one election, that particular party gets eligible to avail financial support from the Danish Government. In the Danish electoral process, apart from the 135 constituency seats distributed among the ten multi-member constituencies, 40 seats are distributed among the three provinces. These seats are distributed proportionally before the election every 5 years as sum of population, number of registered voters and the area measured in terms of population density. After the elections, these 40 seats are further distributed among the 10 multi-member constituencies, within the provinces where they were first allocated. Elaborating on the electoral process in Denmark further, Ms. Miller specifically mentioned that any voter could complain over the elections. The complaints are addressed to the Danish Parliament and sent to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Interior for processing. The Folketing decides on the complaints in a meeting of the provisional committee for the scrutiny of Elections. Talking about the e-voting introduction in the Danish electoral process, Ms. Miller highlighted that the usage of electronic machine is discouraged politically because of lack of security and privacy concerns apart from the machine being expensive. Responding to a question on election rigging and malpractices, Ms. Miller said if a person tries to hinder or distort free and fair elections is penalized by imprisonment for up to six years. The same penalty applies to all actions taken concerning other statutory polling, referendum etc. in public affairs.

Meeting the Danish Institute of Parties and Democracy Director, Mr. Borjan Forde

Mr. Borjan Forde explained the role of DIPD in

bringing the Danish way of Democracy to developing democracies; Mr. Forde said that the body exists as autonomous and independent institution. The Board of Directors (BoD) is of 15 members for a period of four years, who makes decisions on all partnerships. The vision of DIPD includes democracy with development rather than waiting for countries to attain developmental maturity and then creating a democratic system. This aim is carried out by facilitating increasing accountability and increasing political participation and representation by facilitating the role played by indigenous political parties. The DIPD is currently carrying out extensive programmes of capacity development and funding in Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Tour of the Danish Parliament

The Pakistan delegation was given a tour with a detailed history of the Danish Parliament.

Skolevalg-Introduction to Democracy to the young children by Mr. John Kanjan

He explained the Pakistan Delegation that how Denmark's Education integrates the political and societal ethics in their children from a very young age. He highlighted that from an early age the kids learn the election process and they know the perks of being a politicians, thus this helps in gaining a politically active youth for the future democracy.

Challenges and Advantages for Parliamentarians with the Minority Governments and with Multi Party Coalition Government by Mr. Nadeem Farooq

Pakistani-origin Danish MP belonging to the Socialist Liberal Party, briefed the members about the composition of the Danish Parliament. Mr. Farooq explained about the existence of red and blue blocks in the Danish political system. The red blocks include socialistic political parties while the blue block includes the liberal-conservatives. He explained that the current Government which is a minority Government consists of three parties under the red block that include Social Democratic Party, Red-Green Alliance and the Social Liberal Party. The opposition parties include the Liberal Party, Conservatives, Liberal Alliance and the Christian Democrats. Moreover, he emphasized that the Government bloc works together with coalition parties on some of the issues in order to stay in power.

Briefing on the Danish Welfare System by Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil

She briefed the delegation on the welfare and labor system in Denmark. She is a MP from the Socialist Democrat party and also the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Labour Affairs, shared that core reason for the Danish Welfare state lies in the high wages for the unskilled workers. High wages also contribute to low corruption in Denmark. She discussed that it is not the Government but the labour market including strong labour unions that decide the wages for each sector of the economy.

The Foreign Affairs Committee - Mr. Per Stig Moller

MP, Conservative Party and Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee, the Delegation members were briefed on the working and the responsibilities of the Foreign

Affairs Committee. Elaborating the working and Rules of Procedures of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Moller said that Committee regularly calls the Foreign Minister for questioning. Answering to a question on Pakistan's efforts in the War against terrorism, he said that it was all due to the mistrust among the Pakistan and Western world.

The Committees Secretariat-Advisor Mr. Morten Villumsen

Danish Parliament enlightened the members about the Committees, their working and their roles in the Danish Parliament and shared that a total of 26 Standing Committees exist in the Danish Parliament. Each Committee has approximately 29 members. At first, there were 17 members in each Committee and 12 substitute members, however after a reform the number was increased to 29. He further added that the Government parties and the coalition parties have 15 seats in each Committee, while the Opposition has 14 seats respectively. Hence, the Committee membership roughly reflects the distribution of seats in the Parliament. The role of Government in this regard is minimised, as it has no say in deciding the distribution. When dealing with a Bill or a proposal for parliamentary resolution, the Committee puts a number of questions to the relevant Minister responsible. The Committee may ask the Minister to respond orally, in which case the Minister will be required to attend a consultation in the committee. Mr. Morten Villumsen also shared that some of the Committees may keep their proceedings confidential. However the consultations are open to the public.

The Climate and Energy Committee

MP, Conservative Party and Chairperson Land, Energy and Building Committee, while briefing the delegation said that by 2020 Denmark will be able to reduce its carbon footprint by 34% and the EU will reach 40 percent reduction in Carbon foot print by 2030.

The Finance Committee – Mr. Jesper Peterson

MP from the Social Democratic Party and Chairman of the Finance Committee, shared with the Pakistan delegation the Budget process in the Danish Parliament and the working of the Finance Committee. He shared that the Budget cycle spans from January to July each year. The Ministry of Finance prepares the Budget Bill. The Committee's role is to scrutinize the Budget Bill by involving six to eight ministries. Change in the budget during the year is referred to the Finance Committee without recourse to the plenary. It was noted during the discussion that Denmark, Pakistan and Bangladesh are the only 3 countries in the World where Parliamentary approval is not sought by the Executive while making

changes/additions to the Budgets during the year, once passed by the respective Parliaments.

**The International Department – Head
Mr.Flemming Kordt Hansen**

He discussed the military and arms expansion and production at the Danish Parliament.

Ms. Suzanne Moll-Freedom of the Speech

In a frank discussion on freedom of speech with **Ms. Suzanne Moll**, Press Officer KVINFO, the delegation discussed the need for responsibility in exercising freedom of expression. Ms. Moll agreed that unlike the outside perception, the thinking classes in Denmark have learnt a great deal from the infamous caricature controversy. She shared that a greater understanding of cultural sensitivities of immigrants is required in Denmark. She also remarked that the controversy reflects more of a social cohesion than a religious issue. Discussing the media Parliament relationship, Ms. Moll said that Denmark is probably the only country in the world where a Press Council has been set up by legislation.

Thursday, February 26, 2015

The Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs Representative

Ms. Astrid Vind, explained about the civil society strategy, how is the Ministry working to build bridges, its agenda, department of integration and democracy and the strategies and initiatives. She told that the Indian origin of the Minister Mr. Manu Sarren itself is symbolic of the positive work being done by the Ministry other than the administrative functions in relation to the organizations and financing of social system that the Ministry has been performing for integration between disabled, marginalized groups, elderly and disadvantaged children. She added that the recent terrorist attack in Copenhagen has led the Ministry to relook upon its policy for integration. **Ms. Metter Sondergaard** briefed about the Government independent organization, the Danish Council for Ethnic Minorities, established in 1999 with the main objective to make political recommendations and giving advice on issues of relevance for ethnic minorities, refugees and immigrants, to the Minister. The Council is composed of 14 members; 5 appointed by the Minister, 4 permanent representations from the largest cities while the remaining 5 elected by the board of representatives. The council receives 80000 Euro funding from the Government. The council gives recommendations on new legislation and matters of interest within the area of integration.

Visit to the Danish Youth Council DUF

Mr. Mikkel shared that the Council is responsible for the lobby organization and service provider for 71 different youth organizations participating in democratic process. The DUF has been working since 1940 and also represents the scouts, religious, minority, theater organizations and youth clubs. He termed these organizations as the ones with 'small democracy', reflection of big formal democracy. He added that the goal of the DUF is to enlighten, teach and engage youth in democracy participating actively in it, at all the time. He said that the DUF believes immigration issue is the top most concern of the youth of Denmark amongst others including education, climate, health and surveillance.

Interaction with the Representative of the Political Party Youth Wings

Members of Youth Parliament also met three members of the youth wings of different political parties i.e. **Mr. Markus Rasmussen** from the Conservative Party Youth Wing, **Mr. Trine Simmel** from the Socialist Party and **Mr. Alexander Grandt Peterson** from the Social Democratic Youth wing. They shared that youth

wings of parties critically analyze the mother parties openly and somewhat more staunchly believe on the manifestos of the right and left wing. Yet, they agreed that the best outcome of a minority Government Danish tradition is the tolerance of all political views. After a very healthy debate amongst the young representatives with three different views on issues of immigrants and the recent religious conflicts pertaining to the Muslims, the three of them believed that it is not the religion which is to be blamed, instead it is the structure of the society that needs to be changed.

Visit to Engstrandskolen Public School at Hvidovre

The delegation was met and briefed by **Mr. Thomas Pederson Friis**, Acting Deputy Head, who welcomed the delegation and informed that 500 pupils study at this traditional Danish school with a department for pupils with suffering from dyslexia. During a discussion on the working of the school, Mr. Friis said that the hiring for teachers is done in a corporate manner and there is no concept of transfers in other regional schools. The school management is also planning an experiment with their students to start a radio and TV station, which will also assist in Public Relation's of school. He further added the schools in Denmark can only hire trained teachers but a debate is currently underway to introduce people with certain expertise that are not trained teacher but a member of teachers union. Teachers unions are very organized and determine the employer/employee relationship. The Deputy Head Master informed that a person has to train for 4 years to be qualified teacher. They can continue to increase their qualification and to develop subject expertise.

Meeting the Mayor

The Mayor gave a welcome address to the delegation. During her welcome address she mentioned that the Town Hall building was 60 years old and was built in 1955. She pointed out the beautiful painting in the counselors office was completed in 3 years by a famous Danish artist and measured 70sq meter exactly the same size as House of the Mayor. The painting has a symbolic value that as how the beautiful city of Hvidovre developed. The delegation was informed that all decisions of the city are taken in the municipality. The political party of Mayor is 'Social Democrats' and the Honourable Mayor added that it would not make any difference with her funds or working if the Party in the center is different from her party. The Mayor proudly shared that the city was a village around 90 years ago and today it is a developed and bustling city turning into one of the closest suburban city of Copenhagen.

Meeting City Council Member and Party Leader

Mr. Kasif Ahmed

Mr. Kashif Ahmad, Mr. Amir Ahmad and Mr. Asif Ahmad the history and purpose of creation of the National Party was discussed. In a candid discussion, they mentioned that the National Party is a Social Center Party with the cause to improve the image of Muslims in Denmark which has been on a decline since the Danish Cartoon issue and Charlie Hebdo event. They want to ensure that the concept of terrorism is not associated with Islam. Denmark has 500,000 immigrants. They acknowledged Denmark has excellent democracy and has the world's best social welfare system.

Local Government Denmark – Mr. Holer Pyndt

Mr. Holger Pyndt, Senior Consultant

Mr. Pyndt welcomed the Delegation to the National Association of Municipality. He started with a presentation on the general statistics of Denmark. He mentioned 74.16% of workforce is occupied in the service industry followed by industry 18.52% and remaining 2.14% in agriculture. The stronghold of Denmark are health and medicine, energy related production, shipping and transportation and IT services. The unemployment is very low and decreasing even by European standards. Denmark has 98 municipalities within 5 regions. The Danish Parliament has between 22-25 ministries. Denmark is success model due to high level of efficiency. Two reforms took place in the history of Denmark to reduce the number of municipality from 1400 to 98. A commission was made under the Minister of Local Governments. In the second reform it was decided that the municipality should not have less than 20,000 inhabitants. It was also informed to the delegation that Denmark is a very decentralized country with a strong faith in devolution of power. In history the Parliamentarian were unsatisfied with the performance of state services hence they pursued the move towards localized services. Strong civil society helped achieve these targets. The concept for decentralization was to place services as close to the citizen as possible i.e. with municipalities.

Analysis

I was one of the fortunate ones who accompanied the Pakistan Delegation under PILDAT on the study tour to UK-Denmark. The study tour included some of the Honorable Members of the National Assembly, thus this was an additional benefit to my learning that was directly coming from my own country's democratic leadership.

The aim of the Study visit was to experience and gain knowledge of democratic practices from the Western bloc. For a week I witnessed their Parliamentary procedures and workings which made me realize that in order to survive the world politics we need to build the bridge of trust between the locals and the politicians, then only we can achieve the maximum level of harmonic and strong Democracy. This is the only way to improve the Local Governance and Taxation systems in Pakistan. The locals should start trusting the top-notch leaderships for betterment.

One thing that strengthens Danish democracy is the well-built and well-versed educational system that not only caters to the child development but also creates awareness from a tender age regarding politics and human rights. This consciousness is highly commendable for Pakistan since more 85% adults are not responsive of the rights that they deserve. Furthermore, Danish Government caters their Youth very smartly since they know that their future depends on the politically active young citizens. The organization like DUF for youth programmes should be installed and composed in Pakistan too. This will help to fortify the roots of democratic regimes in Pakistan.

The study tour further led to me analyzes the Electoral system of the Danish Government. The penal codes are way stronger than the resourceful voices thus corruption doesn't integrate with the rights' of the citizens. Also the Danish society holds a strong ground for Gender Equality and Integrations which shows how well knit is the Danish culture.

The highlight of the tour which makes me gape in awe is the workings of the Parliamentary Committees at Folketing. The policies and way the new ideas are framed and adopted by the Government shows the political maturity of the Government and Opposition benches in the Danish Parliament.

The British Parliamentary systems also added an ink to my learning diary that Pakistani Bureaucracy needs a revisit of improvements and corrections when it comes to deal with the locals around since satisfying general

mob can only gratify a healthy democracy.

The UK-Denmark study tour helped me enhance my political and civil mellowness which will definitely aid me in my potential endeavors. The combination of the Domestic and International leadership on the tour garnished my bucket of civility to a new dimension where I can assure myself that I did come back as a more mature and responsible citizen of Pakistan.

Conclusion

The trip is not only informative but it taught the Pakistan Delegation several aspects of a healthy democratic regime. The current need of the hour of Pakistan is to maintain stability in the democratic process of the country so that past mistakes in governance are not repeated. Pakistan needs an extremely strong social welfare system setup to calm the general mob of the country that is suffering the economic disparity since many years. The Danish and British systems of the Parliamentary works can help to achieve these motives if they are accurately replicated in the Pakistan

Report

Ms. Rahy Farooq, YP11-ICT01
Member of Youth Parliament Pakistan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ms. Rahy Farooq, YP11-ICT01
Member of Youth Parliament Pakistan

Rahy Farooq belongs to the Federal Capital Islamabad. She was born on September 15, 1992. She received her schooling from IMCG F-10/2 Islamabad and after completing her FSC in 2011, she started studying medicine from Federal Medical & Dental College, Islamabad (P.I.M.S.) and is currently a student of third year MBBS. Ms. Farooq has been awarded as the best all-rounder student for the year 2009-10 by the then Prime Minister of Pakistan. She holds the honor of being selected as the best debater to speak in the convention center (2009) and the presidency (2004, 2011). Ms. Farooq was in the national choir for PTV (2005-2011) and also the captain for the basketball team. Moreover, she has been involved in speaking at different youth forums, speaking to enhance the leadership qualities in youth and is passionate to serve the people of Pakistan by all possible means.

Introduction

Pakistan, in all its attempts to burgeon its nascent democratic system, has an ample amount of commodities to adopt from the successful democratic nations of the world. Be it the institutions or the public, both needs to evolve democratically.

Although more than a century ahead of the 1857 war of independence, nobody can negate the fact that the skeleton of our system still somehow resembles to that of the British system. For good or for bad, we haven't left behind what they taught and inculcated in us. The only difference being that they have evolved and made themselves better but we are still living in 1857. In order for us to be better, we need to discover and assimilate their current structure and democratic approach to success. May be these similar common grounds led PILDAT to arrange a study tour for a delegation of politically active minds to the United Kingdom, of which I had the good fortune of being a member.

The world is progressing rapidly and so is Denmark with its better than ever democratic structure, ranked as one of the five best democratic states of the world. The study tour also catered us the opportunity to have a comprehensive outlook on the inspirational Danish model by a four day detailed visit to Denmark.

From the insightful view on the Danish parliamentary system to the perspicacity of their young minds and school pupils, it was immense pleasure for me to gain an understanding of it accompanying two equally intrigued yet adept Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the Parliament of Pakistan- Mr. Omar Ayub Khan and Mr. Naveed Qamar.

It was nevertheless a two-way interaction where we, on one hand familiarized ourselves with their set-up; they on the other hand also got the hang of the better picture of Pakistan. In order to understand the phenomenal democracy enjoyed by the two countries, following different areas are analyzed:

- i. The UK and Danish Democracy and Political system
- ii. The UK and Danish Parliamentary and Committee system
- iii. The Danish Electoral system
- iv. The Multiculturalism
- v. The Youth Participation
- vi. Local Governance and local Democracy

The UK and Danish Democracy and Political system

The British political system, although a multi-party system, is much kindred to Pakistan political system. It is majorly governed by the two large political parties i.e. The Conservative and The Labor Parties, with support of the third major party; The Liberal Party. The coalition and minority Government rule is rarely seen.

Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth, Acting Clerk of Legislation Chamber Business Directorate, House of Commons, and Mr. John Turner, Table Office Clerk, House of Lords briefed that the UK is a unitary democracy which run by a constitutional monarchy in which the queen, being symbolic, is the head of the state and the Upper House- The House of Lords; Whereas, The Prime minister, being the head of the Government and The House of the Commons, has the literal legislative and governing power. Having no written constitution, the judiciary was oblivious to legislative and the executive. The judiciary can, nevertheless, define the boundary lines subject to the parliamentary privileges and issues like freedom of speech. However, on demand of the system, the possibility of a written constitution being formed by the British parliament in near future is foreseen.

The democratic tradition in Denmark is as old as 17th century when they lost wars (with Norway, Sweden and Germany) and finally after being influenced by the French revolution, formed the first free constitution in 1849. Mr. Flemming Juul Ph.D, Lecturer in Political Science at the Roskilde University Centre summed up that 70% of the articles in the current constitution are the still the same suggesting that the system has evolved for over a century to reach up-to the level that it is now.

Like the UK, the monarch is the head of the state with only a ceremonial role whereas, the Folketing (the Danish Parliament) is the policy making body with the Prime minister heading it. Any legislation which is to be amended has to undergo the process of referendum by the general public. However, it is very rare since the last referendum was required to be held in 1953. Unlike the British, who have a common law system, Denmark has a 'positive law system'. The courts are independent of the government and the political affairs and have only once claimed a law to be unconstitutional.

The most interesting aspect of the political system of Denmark is that it has the tradition of having a minority and coalition system government wherein the majority parties sit on the opposition benches. The government

changes every four years. There are eight major parties with leftists on the 'Red bloc' and rightists on the 'blue bloc'. The coalitions are usually formed within one bloc in order to form the government. Also noticeable was the fact that in none of the parties did we notice the presence of hereditary politics. A new party runs with 1/175 signatures of the number of votes casted during the lastest election in a constituency.

The major challenges that the Danish have been facing include Europeanization, Globalization, polarization in the society, lack of trust in the politicians and the challenges to liberty rights.

The organizations like Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) launch programmes and support to built-in capacity development of the politicians; promoting Danish strategic policies for example the Public-Private partnership support programme and the Danish-Arab partnership programme to bridge the gaps after the caricatures of Muhammad. (PBUH).

The Parliamentary & Committee System

The House of Lords of the British Parliament is the self-regulating chamber having no power over financial matters. It only gives way to the Commons who have the legislative and the financial authority of matters. Bishops, have the liability for being a member of the House of Lords. With 650 constituencies, the Commons also represent the Scotland, the Wales and the Northern Ireland. The elected MPs have no privilege to enjoy any personal immunity. The speaker for the House of the Commons is a powerful figure as he selects the amendments, the legislative business and presides over the proceedings of the House. On the other hand, the speaker for the House of Lords only has a ceremonial role.

There are around 25 standing committees in the British system to monitor the workings of the parliament. A house-wide ballot is casted in order to elect the chairpersons for each committee. Each committee usually presents 250-300 reports annually. The Lords also have thematic committees with seven sub-committees.

With a total of 179 members, the Danish law-making body is divided into 92 'Red bloc Left wing' members to 87 'Blue Bloc Right wing' members. The minority Government works in coalition with the far-left party. The Prime Minister has the right to call upon a general election at any time of his regime. Every MP has the parliamentary immunity from judicial prosecution. In order to get a bill passed in the Parliament, it is

presented thrice to it. The Parliament is also responsible for formulating the budget which gets approved after three rounds of negotiations; by mixed settlements of different parties and patch work. It was interesting to know that there were more similarities between parties of different blocs on economic issues than within the same blocs. The Cabinet System has been in working since 1901 where the ministries do not keep any record of their workings. However, if there ever is an impeachment, the minister himself resigns. Mr. Nadeem Farooq, MP (Social Liberal Party) mentioned that the minority government, in short, is stabilized by mutual respect, dialogues and productive solutions of matters and this is the model which best suits the Danish system.

If a political party succeeds to get 1000 votes during one election, that particular party gets eligible to avail financial support from the Danish Government. In the Danish electoral process, apart from the 135 constituency seats distributed among the ten multi-member constituencies, 40 seats are distributed among the three provinces. These seats are distributed proportionally before the election every 5 years as sum of population, number of registered voters and the area measured in terms of population density. After the elections, these 40 seats are further distributed among the 10 multi-member constituencies, within the provinces where they were first allocated.

The Danish Electoral System

The Chief Electoral Officer Ms. Nicoline Miller highlighted the working of the peculiar election process in Denmark and said that the elections get approved after 12 days when 'Folketing'- the Danish Parliament sits and accepts the elections. The local municipalities train their polling officers who are members of local political parties not contesting a seat in the elections. If a political party succeeds to get 1000 votes during one election, that particular party gets eligible to avail financial support from the Danish Government. In the Danish electoral process, apart from the 135 constituency seats distributed among the ten multi-member constituencies, 40 seats are distributed among the three provinces. These seats are distributed proportionally before the election every 5 years as sum of population, number of registered voters and the area measured in terms of population density. After the elections, these 40 seats are further distributed among the 10 multi-member constituencies, within the provinces where they were first allocated.

Any voter could complain over the elections. The complaints are addressed to the Danish Parliament and

sent to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Interior for processing. The 'Folketing' decides on the complaints in a meeting of the provisional committee for the scrutiny of Elections. Talking about the e-voting introduction in the Danish electoral process, Ms. Miller highlighted that the usage of electronic machine is discouraged politically because of lack of security and privacy concerns apart from the machine being expensive.

If a person tries to hinder or distort free and fair elections is penalized by imprisonment for up to six years. The same penalty applies to all actions taken concerning other statutory polling, referendum etc. in public affairs.

The Multi-Culturalism

The UK Parliament has 12 Pakistani MPs of which Mr. Sajid Jawed won of a constituency having 99.1% of the British population. So the multi-culturalism has been evolving in a good way in the UK.

Danish Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs briefed the Pakistan delegation on the remit and working of the Ministry. Starting with the briefing, Ms. Astrid Vind, explained about the civil society strategy, how is the Ministry working to build bridges, its agenda, Department of integration and democracy and the policies and initiatives. She told that the Indian origin of the Minister Mr. Manu Sarren himself is symbolic of the positive work being done by the ministry other than the administrative functions in relation to the organizations and financing of social system that the Ministry has been performing for integration between disabled, marginalized groups, elderly and disadvantaged children. She added that the recent terrorist attack in Copenhagen had led the Ministry to relook upon its policy for integration.

Denmark hasn't been following the EU's Programme for radicalization; instead it is following an Aarhus model collaborated by the provincial ministry. They have been putting in efforts to engage the newcomers actively in a democratic process, trying to make them enjoy equal rights, duties and responsibilities. She added that the Ministry of Education does the combined training of the new immigrants teaching their language.

Ms. Vind further elaborated on Roma issues, civil society and integration, anti-discrimination and equal treatment and citizenship of all ethnic groups that are her policy areas. Denmark has a long history of

participation in the voluntary sector, i.e., a part of their 'cultural code' and they have been trying to make this open to newcomers. Moreover, the 'Project Baba' is targeting the fathers with ethnic minority background, empowering them to avoid family conflicts and bridging the gap. Integration, citizenship and capacity building of the ethnic minority organizations are the primary goal managed by the Danish Refugee Council and the Ministry.

Continuing with the briefing from the Ministry, Ms. Metter Sondergaard briefed about the Government independent organization, the Danish Council for Ethnic Minorities, established in 1999 with the primary objective to make political recommendations and giving advice on issues of relevance for ethnic minorities, refugees and immigrants, to the Minister. The Council is composed of 14 members; 5 appointed by the Minister, four permanent representations from the largest cities while the remaining 5 elected by the board of representatives. The council receives 80000 Euro funding from the Government. The council gives recommendations on new legislation and matters of interest within the area of integration. She told that the Council made a press release on the recent Copenhagen and Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack. Ms. Sondergaard mentioned that the biggest challenge for the municipalities currently is to manage the asylum. The Council is a non-religious Council focusing on strengthening representation of resourceful immigrants, their democratic participation, active citizenship, equal opportunities, housing and redefinition and revision of Danish society, which has been a mono-cultural society for long. She told the delegation that one had to go, to the Parliament to get citizenship of Denmark. In the end, she said that it was because the efforts of the Council that after December 2014, citizens have been allowed to have dual nationality.

In a meeting with Mr. Kashif Ahmad, Mr. Amir Ahmad and Mr. Asif Ahmad (the three Pakistani born Danish brothers who have made a political party in Denmark) the history and purpose of creation of the National Party was discussed. The National Party is a Social Center Party with the cause to improve the image of Muslims in Denmark which has been on a decline since the Danish Cartoon issue and Charlie Hebdo event. The party wants to ensure that the concept of terrorism is not associated with Islam. Denmark has 500,000 immigrants. The minimum age to get your wife immigrated in to Denmark is 24 years (this applies to anyone outside the EU). Denmark has very strict laws for spouse visa with stringent requirements. They party believes that the spouse visa laws are very

discriminatory violation of human rights and is adamant that Denmark has the world's best social welfare system.

The Youth Participation

The British system has been successful in indulging the young minds into the policy making and other political affairs. The delegation was honored by meeting with Mr. Andrew Stephenson, who was himself the first council 'Youth Champions' in the country was first elected as an MP at an age of 23.

The biggest challenge that the Danish Government is facing is the low turnout of the youth in the elections. They have been targeting two groups in order to correct this. The first being the school children and the other being the first time voters.

The school children of 8th and 9th grade are encouraged to vote on the Election Day. Political science is introduced as a compulsory subject in the curriculum and they are made to enjoy the duties of being a politician for a day. A democracy game is played in which the model of the actual elections is replicated so as to make them learn maximally. This game has three modules. In the first module, the PM announces for the school elections and twenty-five pre-defined issues are presented to the pupils out of which they have to choose three major issues. In the next module, the pupils make campaigns for their key issues and get the country mob involved through media and internet. And lastly, the youth parties pick three issues that becomes their manifesto. Student council helps in the conduction of the elections and counting of the votes. The aim of all this exercise is to bring about political involvement and awareness amongst the young minds.

The Pakistan Delegation visited the Danish Youth Council (DUF) where Mr. Mikkel shared that the Council is responsible for the lobby organization and service provider for 71 different youth organizations participating in a democratic process. The DUF has been working since 1940 and also represents the scouts, religious, minority, theater groups, and youth clubs. He termed these groups like the ones with 'small democracy', reflection of big formal democracy. The goal of the DUF is to enlighten, teach and engage youth in democracy participating actively in it, at all the time. The DUF believes the immigration issue is the top most concern of the youth of Denmark amongst others including education, climate, health, and surveillance.

Although the political interest among the youth seems to be increasing with time, yet a decrease in voter

turnout has been seen in previous elections that are the biggest challenge. Influence of parents for the first-time voters is very beneficial and for that matter the DUF has been trying to lobby and reduce the minimum voter limit from 18 to 16 years. Mr. Merkel also shared the details about the GOTV (Get up and vote) programme launched to assist the first-time voters through postcards, advertisements, and political debates and SMS reminders and the concept of national trial elections for 8th and 9th graders and cooperation between schools and youth organizations. The DUF is funded by the State lotteries that make up around 130 million DK.

The youth wings of parties critically analyze the mother parties openly and somewhat more staunchly believe on the manifestos of the right and left wing. The best outcome of a minority Government Danish tradition is the tolerance of all political views.

The youth thinks that Denmark should be open to refugees as it will otherwise be irresponsible on their part for supporting wars on one side and not taking responsibility for it on the other hand. There shouldn't be any boundaries for trade like EU has defined. They think that it was time for having more capitalistic approach and free trade because if profit and goods won't cross the borders, armies would.

'UngiVerden' is a case of youth trying to influence the political agenda and working on challenges that the youth face and the recent developments in the social media amongst the youth.

The Local Governance & Local Democracy

The Danish local system has 98 municipalities with counselors and mayors heading them. Every municipality interacts with Government for funding and budget through an association by which agreements are made annually.

The administration at the municipality of Hvidovre has been divided into sections like schools, hospitals, infrastructure, etc. The Mayor has close interactions with the Government and especially the Ministers. It is difficult for the Mayor to work if she is not from the ruling party but even then it does not hinder working of the Counsel. The funding stays exactly the same even if the party in the Parliament is different than the party in the counsel. The Mayor also has a duty to go out and meet people to better understand the issues of the common citizens. She has a special interest to look after the weak and poor. All meetings of the Counselors are

recorded on webcams and can be watched by anybody on the Internet.

74.16% of workforce is occupied in the service industry followed by industry 18.52% and remaining 2.14% in agriculture. The stronghold of Denmark is health and medicine, energy related production, shipping and transportation and IT services. The unemployment is very low and decreasing even by European standards. Denmark has 98 municipalities within 5 regions. The Danish Parliament has between 22-25 ministries. Denmark is success model due to high level of efficiency. Two reforms took place in the history of Denmark to reduce the number of municipality from 1400 to 98. A commission was made under the Minister of Local Governments. In the second reform it was decided that the municipality should not have less than 20,000 inhabitants. It was also informed to the delegation that Denmark is a very decentralized country with a strong faith in devolution of power. In history the Parliamentarian were unsatisfied with the performance of state services hence they pursued the move towards localized services. Strong civil society helped achieve these targets. The concept for decentralization was to place services as close to the citizen as possible i.e. with municipalities.

It was also informed to the delegation that 50% of total finance with central government to the local governments (municipality). 29% is kept by the central government to meet its expanse and invest in different projects whereas 21 % is given to the regions. In terms of spending the highest portion is spent on children through schools and job center followed by looking after the elderly people, administration, health, etc. Denmark spends almost twice as much as UK on the sub-national expenditure. Central Government is tasked with policy and regulation, economic policy, foreign and security policy incl. defense, courts, police, prisons, tax collection, custom authorities, postal authorities, railways, national highways, higher education, food control, etc. In Danish context inhabitants mean income hence there is a drive to increase their size. Municipalities are tasked with social welfare and preventive health (including job centers), education and culture, environment, public utilities and planning, public utilities.

The Government is conducting an experiment called "Free Municipality" which do not receive any funding from the center government and they can replace the regulations of the center with their own. Every municipality has a CEO under the Mayor who is a civil servant. It was also pointed out that 30% of all councilors are women though there is no quota. 90% of



Y O U T H

P A R L I A M E N T
P A K I S T A N

municipality's staff is contract based and the remaining 10% are civil servants. 69% of the total budget is staff salaries. Danish municipalities are funded by taxes, user payments, central Government funding's, equalization and loans. Taxes include personal income tax and land tax.

Conclusion & Inference

Since the day the announcement of the selected delegates was made, until the day we finally flew from the evergreen native land, it is worthwhile mentioning how jubilant, excited and most importantly inquisitive every other person was, whom we met on our way (including the MYPs who couldn't make it), for the study trip. I can't ignore writing how it felt a huge responsibility to represent all these beautiful native Pakistani minds and doing justice to them in the countries abroad as the best delegates, as we were not just the little depiction of true picture of Pakistan but also of the Embassy of Denmark in Pakistan representing the bond of fidelity that ties the two nations.

Mind full of questions, fully prepared to absorb all the democratic norms of the developed British and Danish civilizations, we had a head-start on the tour with whole one day of learning the system in UK. It was indeed, very little time to retain the workings of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, how the both interact, the British committee system, let alone the beautiful and classic architecture of the Parliament House where the entrance door to the Lords was 'A gift from Pakistan'. Comparing the systems to that of Pakistan, it was interesting to notice that even without a written constitution, the Lords only having a symbolic role, give way to the Commons which have the actual authority to all financial and legislative matters. The committee system was also very much comparable; adding here that casting of a house-wide ballot for the election of a committee chair was something amusing that we came across. Gathering all the learning from the meetings and observations, the democratic system in UK seemed to be very much similar to the one we have. Their pillars were high because every institution, be it the Lords, the Commons or even the Queen, without intervention to anyone else's business, was fully committed to its job contributing to the stable democracy and developed civilization.

As we proceeded to Copenhagen from there, the biggest question we had in our minds was as to how on earth be it ever possible for a country to run so successfully with a democratic "Minority Government". The four days that we had all the interactions and meetings with almost all sectors of Denmark including the youth, the school children, the teachers, the politicians, the Government officials and the journalists; we learnt that it wasn't the system that was running the Danish people so successfully, it was but THE PEOPLE who were running it. It was the faith they had in themselves and trust they showed in each

other, it was their honesty, concern and feeling of responsibility towards self-contribution for their country; which totally adaments the fact that how the Danish local people volunteer for everything their government needs the manual force for. From presiding over the general elections to the mass awareness, they volunteered for everything out of the will.

I always used to think that unless Pakistan's literacy rate is raised enough, we can't have a prosperous democratic state. But I feel more optimistic and glad saying that I have learned from the trip that I was wrong. Comparing 99% Danish literacy rate to ours as low as 45%, I learned that the successful democratic system had nothing to do with the literacy rate. Fascinating enough, when asked, the local school principle answered that if they were to choose between democracy and literacy, they will before any second thought will raise their hands for the democracy as democracy is the which sets one's minds free and liberates them to learning that comes second.

As inquisitive as we were, it wasn't surprising that so were they especially the youth and the media. It was an immense pleasure to see how actively the youth had been involved in politics, government and all matters through proper organizations, channels and platforms like DUF, youth political party wings and social cases like UngiVerden. It was then, when I realized how blessed are we to have our 65% of young asset in our hands and how better can we prove to be if we follow the model that they have for their youth. We had heated debates regarding freedom of speech, the caricatures, and the terrorist activities and were able to give a broader and real picture of the happenings and the stance that Pakistan has which is often not what is depicted by the media and unsurprisingly that was there, inculcated in the general minds of the people there as well. After gathering their views, both in broader terms actually longed for good will for each other, progressing Pakistan, harmony, friendship and world peace in everyone's interest.

Throughout our journey, the mentoring that I received from observing the diplomatic skills, the learning capabilities and the long experience of Mr. Omar Ayub Khan and Mr. Naveed Qamar is life-lasting. I consider myself really grateful to Almighty for being able to observe how cultivated and erudite Pakistani politicians do we have as a hope for the system. I really wish and long for all the young Pakistanis interested in politics to have this sort of knowledgeable interaction with the senior politicians through some platform so that they get to know that like the Danish people did, we also form opinions and wrong perceptions about our

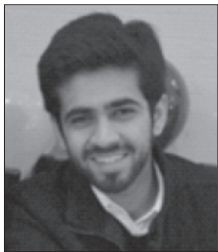
leaders who deserve so much better than how the media has put them. This way we will be able to understand our responsibility of cooperation and developing the trust that we have been lacking.

Of all the things that we assimilated, I am in-dubiously more confident than ever before in our system and consider it so much better than the two systems that I had observed. Danish people have been running the system for over a century, and this is precisely the reason it has now paid-off to them. It was with the evolution and learning of it that their democracy strengthened to the level that it was seen now. The need of the hour is that we feel the responsibility to have patience and trust in our nascent new-born democratic system and the day won't be far when a delegate from UK and Denmark will visit Pakistan to learn from our system and rectify their loopholes according to it. InshaaAllah.

Report

Mr. Muhammad Shahzar Ilahi, YP56-Sindh-09
Leader of the Opposition, Member of Youth Parliament Pakistan

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Mr. Muhammad Shahzar Ilahi, YP56-Sindh-09
Leader of the Opposition, Member of Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Muhammad Shahzar Ilahi was born on September 12, 1994 and belongs to Mirpurkhas district, Sindh. He completed his O levels in 2010 from Beaconhouse School Sialkot and his A levels from Beaconhouse Margalla campus Islamabad. He is currently pursuing BSc Economics and Political Science from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). Shahzar's academic excellence won him a gold medal for his achievements in A levels and placed him on the Deans Honour List in his freshman year at LUMS. His profound debating experience led him to become the President of the Debates and Recitation Society at LUMS (DRUMS), a post that he currently holds. Having lived in 12 different cities, Shahzar has travelled extensively across Pakistan and has been a part of debating circuits along the way. His interest in parliamentary affairs drove him to attend the entire Budget Session 2013-14 in the National Assembly as an observer. He has always been an active social worker and helped set up and manage a flood relief camp at Sialkot during 2010.

Politically, Muhammad Shahzar Ilahi is affiliated with the **Green Party** and is the members of the **Youth Committee on National Security**. He is currently serving as the **Leader of the Opposition**.

Introduction

When considering potential solutions to the problems Pakistan faces, it is always helpful to analyze prevailing models of development being applied in several countries across the globe. What is necessary for policy makers is to pick up best practices from every model and then see how they can be applied to Pakistan when passed through the several filters that make Pakistan different from the countries where those models are applied. These filters include our geo-strategic location, our constitution, the essential elements of our government structure and political system but also extend to more intangible domains such as our culture, ethnic composition and, perhaps most importantly, religion. Hence, the identification of the best models and the best practices within those models is very important. The Study Visit of a delegation from the Youth Parliament Pakistan, arranged by Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) was a cardinal opportunity to study and analyze two very important models; that of the UK and Denmark.

This analysis will aim to highlight the cardinal features of each country's governance and social structure, as understood during the study visit and will then simultaneously analyze whether the respective best practices from those models can be applied to the system in Pakistan. Conclusively, policy suggestions will be given to potential policy makers which they could adopt to truly make Pakistan, and I quote, *"One of the greatest nations of the world"* (Muhammad Ali Jinnah, 1948).

Best Practices from the UK model of Governance

Theoretically, Britain is the birthplace of the Westminster system and despite the presence of a symbolic monarchy, one of the more efficient democracies of the world. Given the colonial history, Pakistan and Britain share several elements of the governance structure and political system which was something that the delegation experienced during the visit. There were a large amount of things which were however, very different and if applied to Pakistan, could lead to much better management and administration that the levels currently prevalent here.

The most basic difference, at least when came to the parliamentary practices, was the role of the members of parliament and the rules and regulations regarding their electoral process. Andrew Stephenson, a young British MP and coincidentally, also the Chairman of the All-

Party Parliamentary Group for Pakistan (APPGP) briefed the delegation on how the MPs in Britain had three very clearly defined responsibilities. Firstly, they were responsible for their respective constituencies and their management. Secondly, they had parliamentary responsibilities i.e. they were responsible for drafting and debating laws as parliamentarians of the country. And finally, they were responsible for maintaining true to their respective party lines and representing the stance of their parties on various issues. He explained to the delegation how there should be an equal weight assigned to each responsibility and if this balance is not maintain, a parliamentarian cannot be considered to be doing justice to his office. As for the rules and regulations concerning the elections, strict financial limitations are enforced by law on contenders for political office when it comes to how much they can spend on election campaigns and in what ways. Not only does this allow equal competition, but it also ensures and public money is not wasted on extravagant election campaigns. A maximum of thirty thousand pounds for example can be spent on election campaigns.

In Pakistan, there is a dire need to inculcate within the parliamentarians this sense of multiple responsibilities. Too much emphasis on constituency work leads to little attention being given to the drafting and debating of laws in the National Assembly which has long term repercussions for the society as a whole, and vice versa. As for the rules and regulations concerning elections and campaigns, Pakistan has yet to catch up. Not only should the nomination process be absolutely clear and just to all nominees, laws limiting the scope of financial spending on campaigns and rules barring e.g. access to national television (as in the UK) for contenders would not only ensure that money is wasted, but would also lead to a new breed of young politicians entering the arena in Pakistan resulting from the more equal playing field. Also, according to Mr. Stephenson, MPs in Britain were not considered by their constituents as the ultimate administrators when it came to development work. The public realizes that the most the MP can do is direct respective government institutions responsible for development work to consider certain projects in their area. This allows for institutional autonomy and clear division of work between the executive and the legislature which consequently leads to effective performance of tasks since every department knows clearly what its responsibilities are.

In Pakistan, the public as well as the Parliamentarians need to be told that it is the bureaucratic government institutions and not the members of the legislature that are directly responsible for administrative tasks at local

levels. When this distinction is made clear, greater amount of development work will be done more effectively.

Best Practices from the Danish model

Denmark is a near perfect society. With a wide spectrum of political parties (hence diverse political inclinations), a parliament that runs primarily on compromise (Denmark has a minority Government), inculcation of democratic and social values in early years of education, heavy taxation and equally heavy spending on public welfare, decentralization of administrative authority and a society that runs primarily on trust, Denmark present several best practices to bring back to Pakistan. These best practices can be broadly classified under three categories namely governance structure, economic management and the education system.

a) Governance Structure

The striking features of the Danish system of governance were the compromising attitude of the parties in government, high levels of decentralization and autonomy and the ease of access to government officials. In Denmark, there exists a minority government which, in order to survive, has to take the parties in Government into consideration before taking any decision or drafting any law. This requires high levels of compromises which have proven to be not only beneficial to the Danish political parties but to the public at large since a diversity of public opinions are catered to during the compromise process as opposed to narrow ones when only one majority party takes almost every decision. In Pakistan, such levels of compromise are difficult to achieve in the short term given the low amounts of trust between the political leaders. There have been phases however, e.g. the previous government of the PPP, where the amount of compromises made by the ruling party has been significantly high. This means that with time, the political process may evolve enough to allow greater amount of compromise which would be beneficial to the Pakistani public. Secondly, decentralization occurs in Denmark not only on the basis of National, regional and local governments but along the lines of different institutions as well. Local governments for example, are completely free to collect and spend revenue as they may please but in accordance with the national law that applies to all. There is no intervention from the center in this process. Institutions are also decentralized and extremely autonomous and one such example is the

media which has evolved into a responsible institution but completely on its own.

This high level of decentralization is only a result of high levels of trust between the lower and upper levels of Government and between the various institutions. Such decentralization and autonomy if applied to Pakistan, would not only lead to more effective delivery of services to the people at the very local level but would allow the institutions and the local government to evolve into effective ones overtime. The trust required to implement this however, would take time to develop. Lastly, it was made very apparent to the delegation during the study visit that it is very easy for the general public to interact with senior government officials for instant even the national ministers. This not only develops trust between the public and the government but also allows the government to keep a check on what the public really want, hence leading to effective delivery of the right services. In Pakistan, for the government and the people to reap the same benefits and, more importantly, for trust to develop in the long term between the two, ease of access to government officials must be ensured. This however, is not an easy task given the security situation of the country. A possible solution is to arrange for public representation of local levels and the civil society heads to meet the officials several times during the year.

b) Economic Management

Denmark is a welfare state. The Danish economic system in itself is a perfect mix between socialism and capitalism. The socialist element comes into the picture when the government, in order to maintain the welfare levels of the society, can impose up to 60 per cent tax on incomes above a certain level. Similarly, according to Mr. Holger Pyndt, a senior consultant at Office of Municipalities, nothing is free in Denmark and everything owned is taxed. This has multiple benefits. It not only allows the government to collect enough revenue to lavishly spend on welfare services like education and healthcare (which are free in Denmark), but it is also an automatic check on inequality in the economy. This is because fearing the high taxes, few people in the society aim to earn extremely large amounts of income hence there is no stark inequality problem in the Danish society. The capitalist element, on the other hand, is extremely strong in Denmark as well particularly when it comes to the determination of wages. Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil, a Danish MP, briefed the delegation on how wage

determination in Denmark was solely the result of negotiations between the trade unions and employer associations and that the government had no role in the process. Essentially, the government maintains the *ceteris paribus* (an economic principle whereby all other factors in the economy are held constant) and the forces of labor demand (employer associations) and supply (trade unions) arrive at the perfect equilibrium. Denmark's business friendly environment is also proof of the capitalist system at work but kept in check via taxation. In Pakistan, the state seems to be over-involved in the economy. Apart from the security situation which threatens investor confidence, the over arching hand of the state gives little space for the businesses to operate freely. Although tax laws exist, they are rarely implemented and a minute proportion of the people with taxable incomes pay income taxes, thereby making it impossible for the state to spend on welfare. What is necessary is the creation of strong trade and employer associations (this can be done by allowing the civil society to step up in this regard) so that wage determination can be done by the forces of demand and supply, allowing the government to uninvolved itself from the process. Secondly, the government of Pakistan must impose taxes. Unless this is done, the country will keep on suffering from budget deficit and will be forced to borrow, putting further stress on government financial reserves.

c) Education system

Denmark has an excellent education system. Its public schools are at par, if not better, with the most prestigious private schools in Pakistan and education is free and compulsory (something Article 25A of our constitution aspires to have but the Governments fail to achieve). In fact, one of the most talked about topics in Denmark was how to find ways for the education system to deliver even more than it already was. Not only did the education system in Denmark allow the student to chose what they wanted to study, it inculcated within them basic values such as those of democracy, communal living, conservation of resources etc. This is done by simple exercises in which all students of various grades have to participate. For instance, students of early classes are taught to boil potatoes with very little water in order to inculcate within them a sense of responsibility towards the little left resources. Grade 8th students are made to participate in a national "Democracy Game" whereby these student debate some very contemporary topics e.g. Denmark's inclusion in the EU, whether Denmark should possess nuclear weapons etc. After the

nationwide debates held at various schools, students are made to vote for their favourite topics. This inculcates the values of democracy, compromise and debate within students leading them to be a part of one of the most political knowledgeable youth in the world (according to various surveys). Those in charge of education also realize that democracy is one thing the Danes would be unwilling to give up. When the delegation inquired Mr. Thomas Pederson, the Deputy Headmaster of Engstrandskolen, a school in Hvidovre, whether education mattered more to the Danish than democracy, he replied in the negative. In Pakistan, public education is in shambles creating a vacuum for lower income families to either not educate their children or choosing *madrassah* over the expensive private schools. What the government needs to do is not only revive the public education sector by diverting finance towards this sector but also needs to devise the syllabus in such a manner that the values of religious and ethnic tolerance, peace and democracy are inculcated in it. This is in no way and easy task but the for the future of the country, the government needs to begin today.

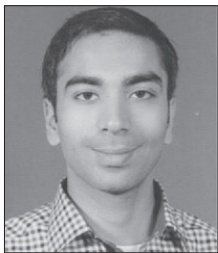
Conclusion

Although much can be said about how the aforementioned strategies can be adopted in Pakistan and what filters they would have to be passed through before they're implemented, one thing is for certain; there are no short cuts. Denmark is a thousand year old state that was given in its first constitution in 1849 which is still follows. The institutions and governance structures that it currently possesses are the result of centuries of evolution and these institutions have borne the brunt of several wars and monarchs. Pakistan is hardly 70 years old. To expect it to magically become a society as good as Denmark in the minimum amount of time is a wrong tangent to start off on. What the government does need to do in the short term however are two things; a) it needs to strictly impose taxes on those with taxable incomes so that enough revenue is generated to be spent on welfare of the public and b) it needs to urgently revive the education sector with some basic structural adjustments. Intangible elements such as trust, democratic values etc. only come to a society with time. Only when institutions in Pakistan are allowed to evolve on their own will they one day become strong enough to support the increasingly vibrant and diverse Pakistani society. Unless this institutional evolution takes place, different groups within the society will keep on fighting among each other for the control of the limited resources offered by these underdeveloped institutions.

Report

Mr. Sohaib Saeed, YP02-AJK02
Chairman Youth Standing Committee on Finance,
Economic Affairs and Planning

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Mr. Sohaib Saeed, YP02-AJK02

Chairman Youth Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning

Mr. Sohaib Saeed was born on May 16th, 1985. He belongs to the city of Mirpur Azad Kashmir. He is currently the Vice President of AJK Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Saeed completed his O' Levels from The City School, Mirpur and moved to The City School, Capital Campus Islamabad for his A' Levels which he completed in 2003. He joined Lahore School of Economics for his BBA (Hons) with majors in Finance and did his MSc in International Business from The University of Salford, UK. Mr. Saeed is currently working as Executive Director with Azad Group which has a diversified portfolio ranging from Toyota Dealership to Textile Spinning and Woven Polypropylene Sacks at Mirpur. He has travelled to 17 countries around the globe and has a keen interest in history, culture and politics. He participates in the business politics of the state and works with CIPE, SMEDA and Mirpur University to encourage Entrepreneurship.

Meetings & Interactions

Meeting with Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth (Acting Clerk of Legislation Chamber Business Directorate, House of Commons) and Mr. John Turner (Table Office Clerk, House of Lords)

The meeting focused on the structure of House of Commons and House of Lords including membership criteria and election process. The Magna Carta and the unwritten constitution of UK were also discussed. It was also suggested that there is a desire to move towards a written constitution in future. During the briefing on House of Lords it was informed that the speaker of the House of Lords is ceremonial and does not have a commander of the house like in the lower house of the parliament.

Meeting Mr. David Lloyds, Head Clerk of Health Committee

Mr. Lloyds briefed about the working of the committee system in the British Parliament. Taking example from the Health committee he mentioned how the reports are prepared by the 7 members. He also informed about how the Chairs of the committees are elected. It was also discussed how the health committee focuses on current health issues like obesity and works on improving health condition of citizens.

Meeting with Mr. Andrew Stephenson, Member Parliament

Mr. Stephenson discussed the role of an MP in party and constituency politics in UK. He explained the cultural mix of his constituency especially the large size of voters of Pakistan origin. He is also the chair for All Party Parliamentary Group on Pakistan. He explained the process of election and different intra party democratic models being followed by various parties.

Meeting with Dr. Flemming Juul, Lecturer, Political Science, Roskilde University

Dr. Flemming Juul made a presentation about the history of the Danish democracy. He explained how a kingdom was transformed into a democracy. Initially people of high intellect were taken into the courts and later a house of representation of the people was established under the constitution of 1849. It was also mentioned as a matter of great importance that women were granted a right to vote in 1915 and the parliament was changed from a two house system to a single house system in 1953.

Meeting with Ms. Nicoline Miller, Chief Electoral

Ms. Nicoline Miller made a presentation about the election process of Denmark. It was noted in particular

that the level of trust amongst the public and the election commission is very high. The election commission has very few permanent staff and during the elections the polling staff is provided by the local municipalities. She explained the working of the proportionate representation system followed by Denmark and how it varied from first past the post system. She also mentioned the low number of complaints received after the elections and the election process to be very manual and there is a debate going on electronic voting machines but to not much of success.

Meeting with Mr. Bjorn Forde, Director, Danish Institute of Political Parties and Democracy (DIPD)

Mr. Forde discussed the role of Danish Institute of Political Parties and Democracy especially in the developing economies of Africa and Asia. He explained that DIPD is autonomous and has a 15 member board. DIPD works on democracy through development.

Meeting with Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink, Capacity Development Advisor, The DANIDA Fellowship Centre (DFC)

During the meeting with Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink the role of DFC for capacity development was explained. DANIDA an independent body is funded by the Danish Government and enjoys 0.7% of the Danish GNP also pursuing the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Meeting with Mr. Nadeem Farooq, Member Parliament, Social liberal Party

Mr. Nadeem Farooq a member of the parliament of Pakistani origin spoke about the make-up of the Danish Parliament and the working of red and blue blocks in the political system. The red block being the socialist agenda parties and the blue block include the liberal-conservatives. He explained the working of a minority government and how the block unifies to form a government when a single party is unable to secure majority in the house.

Meeting With Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil, Member Parliament, Socialist Democrat Party

Ms. Rosenkrantz-Theil is the Chairperson of the standing committee on Labour affairs made a presentation on how the labour market works in Denmark and the role of labour unions. She also spoke about the flexibility for people to work without binding contracts. She also pointed towards the high rate of wages enjoyed by the labour one of the highest in Europe. She also touched upon the concept of welfare system in the Denmark and how it protects its citizen. She admitted that Denmark is struggling with the idea

of multi cultures due to it being a monoculture country for centuries but it's a prime agenda for government to ensure multi cultures.

Meeting with Mr. Per Stig Moller, Member Parliament, Conservative Party

Mr. Per Stig Moller had an interactive discussion with the delegation. Mr Moller is the former foreign minister and Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee. He spoke about the working of the foreign affair committee and the relations of Denmark especially with Pakistan. He appreciated Pakistan's efforts on war on terror and the pointed towards the mistrust between Pakistan and the west.

Meeting with Mr. Steen Gade, Member Parliament, Conservative Party

Mr. Gade is the chairperson for the Land, Energy and Building Committee. He spoke about the energy consumption of Denmark and how his committee is working on reducing its consumption while changing the producing mix as well. He said that by 2020 Denmark will be able to reduce its carbon footprint by 34%.

Meeting with Mr. Jesper Peterson, Member Parliament, Social Democratic Party

Mr. Peterson is the chairperson of the Finance Committee and talked about the working of the finance committee and its role in the budget process and the role of the committee to scrutinize the budget bill. View point of other ministries is also taken by the committee to safe guard their interests. It was noted during the discussion that Denmark, Pakistan and Bangladesh are the only 3 countries in the World where Parliamentary approval is not sought by the Executive while making changes/additions to the Budgets during the year, once passed by the respective Parliaments. While the revisions are brought before the Finance Committee in Denmark, in Pakistan, the supplementary budget for the previous year is only shared by the Government with the Parliament after the passage of the next year's budget, thus rendering passage of the budget by the Parliament as almost a meaningless exercise. He also mentioned Denmark did not adopt the common European currency the Euro due to a referendum which suggested the sentiments of Danish towards Krone, but said that the Danish currency is closely pegged with the Euro to maintain the balance.

Mr. Morten Villumsen, Advisor, The Committee Secretariat, Danish Parliament

Mr. Villumsen explained the committee system in the Danish parliament. He mentioned that there are 26 standing committees in the Danish Parliament with

each committee containing 29 members. He explained that the proportion of representation is a close reflection of the general seat distribution amongst parties. The committees follow a 3 times reading of bill before it being approved and adopted as a law by the parliament. He also mentioned that a committee can choose to keep its working and session confidential unlike the session of the house which is always public.

Meeting with Ms. Suzanne Moll, Press Officer KVINFO

During the meeting with Ms. Suzanne Moll a detailed discussion took place on the freedom of speech and the role of Danish media in the country. She understood the sentiments of the muslim world over the infamous caricature issue and said that Denmark has learnt its lesson and is more willing to accept the cultural sensitivity of others.

Meeting with Ms. Astrid Vind, The Danish Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs

Ms. Vind spoke about the government's strategy to increase a more positive attitude of Danish people towards multi-culture. Ms. Vind further elaborated about Roma issues, civil society and integration, anti-discrimination and equal treatment and citizenship of all ethnic groups that are her policy areas. Denmark has a long history of participation in voluntary sector, i.e., a part of their 'cultural code' and they have been trying to make this open to new comers. Moreover, she briefed about the 'Project Baba' targeting the fathers with ethnic minority background, empowering them to avoid family conflicts and bridging the gap.

Visit to Danish Youth Council (DUF)

During the visit the delegation was informed that this is gathering platform for 71 member youth organization. It has been working since 1940. He added that the goal of the DUF is to enlighten, teach and engage youth in democracy participating actively. He said that the DUF believes immigration issue is the top most concern of the youth of Denmark amongst others including education, climate, health and surveillance.

Meeting with members of youth organization UngiVerden

The two sides exchanged views about challenges that the youth of the two countries face , Denmark's relations with Pakistan, the general perception of the Danish public regarding terrorism and position of Pakistan and the recent developments with the social media amongst the youth.

Meeting with Mr. Thomas Pederson Friis, Acting Deputy Head, Engstrandskolen Public School

While visiting the Engstrandskolen Public School at Hvidovre, the delegation was met and briefed by **Mr. Thomas Pederson Friis**, Acting Deputy Head, who welcomed the delegation and informed that 500 pupils study at this traditional Danish school with a department for pupils with suffering from dyslexia. During a discussion on the working of the school, Mr. Friis said that the hiring for teachers is done in a corporate manner and there is no concept of transfers in other regional schools. The school management is also planning an experiment with their students to start a radio and TV station, which will also assist in Public Relation's of school. He further added the schools in Denmark can only hire trained teachers but a debate is currently underway to introduce people with certain expertise that are not trained teacher but a member of teachers union. Teachers unions are very organized and determine the employer/employee relationship. The Deputy Head Master informed that a person has to train for 4 years to be qualified teacher. They can continue to increase their qualification and to develop subject expertise.

Later, the Delegation members interacted with Grade 8 Students and discussed about the participation of youth in politics. During the discussion students pointed out that MS Office should be taught at an earlier age and should be part of curriculum. It was pointed out till the 7th Grade different skills like carpentry are also taught. The Danish pupils inquired about the standard of education in Pakistan. Honourable Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, MNA explained the students about the schooling system in Pakistan. Mr. Friis added that students have a high knowledge of democracy and the administration is working hard to improve the competency level in students. He further stressed on the fact that reforms are being introduced in school to make children more movement oriented, as it improves health and learning abilities. Discussion on the new school reforms indicated that working hours of teachers have increased and become inflexible. Previously the teachers had to turn up just before their classes and prepare at home. Now they have 9-5 fix timing schedule and prepare at school. The teachers feel they do not have appropriate facilities to prepare at school, as the school does not provide working space to every teacher.

In answer to a question by Honourable Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, MNA, the Deputy Head Teacher said the average yearly raise in income is 4.7% (around US\$ 300) and teaching is one of the well-paid professions. Danish schools are also introducing comparative religion as a subject while there is no uniform in the Danish Schools to allow students freedom of thought. Except regular

subjects Danish Schools have carpenters, music, food technology, etc. as main line full credit subject. The school has a part time psychologist and a family counselor to assist the teachers with difficult children. The meeting ended with a tour of the school area including common room, play area, classrooms and library.

Meeting with Mr. Kashif Ahmad, Party Leader 'National Party'

Later in the day, the delegation was received by **Mr. Kashif Ahmad**, Party Leader 'National Party' and his two brothers **Mr. Amir Ahmad** and **Mr. Asif Ahmad** at the Municipality building. The Mayor gave a welcome address to the delegation. During her welcome address she mentioned that the Town Hall building was 60 years old and was built in 1955. She pointed out the beautiful painting in the counselors office was completed in 3 years by a famous Danish artist and measured 70sq meter exactly the same size as House of the Mayor. The painting has a symbolic value that as how the beautiful city of Hvidovre developed.

The delegation was informed that all decisions of the city are taken in the municipality. The political party of Mayor is 'Social Democrats' and the Honourable Mayor added that it would not make any difference with her funds or working if the Party in the center is different from her party. The Mayor proudly shared that the city was a village around 90 years ago and today it is a developed and bustling city turning into one of the closest suburban city of Copenhagen. The Counsel has 21 members. She further informed that the meetings of the Counsel is open and easily accessible to public and can watch the proceedings from the public gallery.

The administration at the municipality has been divided into sections like schools, hospitals, infrastructure, etc. The Mayor has close interactions with the Government and especially the Ministers. It is difficult for the Mayor to work if she is not from the ruling party but even then it does not hinder working of the Counsel. The funding stays exactly the same even if the party in the Parliament is different than the party in the counsel. The Mayor also has a duty to go out and meet people to better understand the issues of the common citizens. She has a special interest to look after the weak and poor. The Mayor added that the municipality is quite popular due to its proximity to Copenhagen and 1200 people are on the waiting list to be accommodated for provision of a house. All meetings of the Counselors are recorded on webcams and can be watched by anybody on the Internet.

In a meeting with **Mr. Kashif Ahmad**, **Mr. Amir**

Ahmad and Mr. Asif Ahmad the history and purpose of creation of the National Party was discussed. In a candid discussion, they mentioned that the National Party is a Social Center Party with the cause to improve the image of Muslims in Denmark which has been on a decline since the Danish Cartoon issue and Charlie Hebdo event. They want to ensure that the concept of terrorism is not associated with Islam. Denmark has 500,000 immigrants. The minimum age to get your wife immigrated in to Denmark is 24 years (this applies to anyone outside the EU). Denmark has very strict laws for spouse visa with stringent requirements. They suggested that the spouse visa laws are very discriminatory violation of human rights. They acknowledged Denmark has excellent democracy and has the world's best social welfare system.

Meeting with Mr. Holger Pyndt, Senior Consultant, National Association of Municipality

In the evening, the Delegation members were briefed by **Mr. Holger Pyndt**, Senior Consultant. Mr. Pyndt welcomed the Delegation to the National Association of Municipality. He started with a presentation on the general statistics of Denmark. He mentioned 74.16% of workforce is occupied in the service industry followed by industry 18.52% and remaining 2.14% in agriculture. The stronghold of Denmark are health and medicine, energy related production, shipping and transportation and IT services. The unemployment is very low and decreasing even by European standards. Denmark has 98 municipalities within 5 regions. The Danish Parliament has between 22-25 ministries. Denmark is success model due to high level of efficiency. Two reforms took place in the history of Denmark to reduce the number of municipality from 1400 to 98. A commission was made under the Minister of Local Governments. In the second reform it was decided that the municipality should not have less than 20,000 inhabitants. It was also informed to the delegation that Denmark is a very decentralized country with a strong faith in devolution of power. In history the Parliamentarian were unsatisfied with the performance of state services hence they pursued the move towards localized services. Strong civil society helped achieve these targets. The concept for decentralization was to places services as close to the citizen as possible i.e. with municipalities.

It was also informed to the delegation that 50% of total finance with central government to the local Ggovernments (municipality). 29% is kept by the central government to meet its expanse and invest in different projects. Where as 21 % is given to the regions. In terms of spending the highest portion is spent on children through schools and job center.

Followed by looking after the elderly people, administration, health, etc. Denmark spends almost twice as much as UK on the sub-national expenditure. Central Government is tasked with policy and regulation, economic policy, foreign and security policy incl. defense, courts, police, prisons, tax collection, custom authorities, postal authorities, railways, national highways, higher education, food control, etc. In Danish context inhabitants mean income hence there is a drive to increase their size. Municipalities are tasked with social welfare and preventive health (including job centers), education and culture, environment, public utilities and planning, public utilities. He also pointed out that unemployment benefit is for 2 years. Every municipality has a 'One Stop Shop' for all public administrative services. The Government is conducting an experiment called "Free Municipality" which are do not receive any funding from the center government and they can replace the regulations of the center with their own. Every municipality has a CEO under the Mayor who is a civil servant. It was also pointed out that 30% of all councilors are women though there is no quota. 90% of municipality's staff are contract based and the remaining 10% are civil servants. 69% of the total budget is staff salaries. Danish municipalities are funded by taxes, user payments, central Government funding's, equalization and loans. Taxes include personal income tax and land tax.

Analysis

The study visit to UK and Denmark was a very learning experience. We had the privilege to meet the important people including civil servants and politicians from UK and Denmark. The agenda of the meetings included understand the democratic model and practices of UK and Denmark. We studied the formation of upper and lower houses in UK. We had interaction with Political Parties of Denmark in the Folketing where we understood the point of view of the left and right block especially about the relationship of East and West.

We were also introduced to the Election Commission of Denmark where we were better able to understand how elections are carried out in Denmark and what is the role of the Election Commission. In comparison to our Election Commission it had a much leaner but efficient setup which is very much possible in Pakistan with the presence of the Local Governments. The role of Local Governments was much under debate both in UK and Denmark where it is seen as a fundamental pillar for the progress of the country. The Local Governments are the true voice of people and the operation & implementation arm of the political system. It was an

important learning point to have Local Governments in Pakistan for our country to function at its peak potential.

Lastly, while interaction with different political parties we also found out that the intra party democracy is also observed very stringently in the developed nations and that's a learning we have to encourage at home to flourish interest of youth participation in politics. It was also learnt that different parties follow a different intra party model and choose their central and core committees in different fashion but the idea is purely democratic where everyone plays on equal grounds.

As an aspiring politician it was a knowledge that was very important for our understanding and as a citizen it gave us a comparison between a successful and struggling model. This learning will help us become more aware of our political setup and help us improve it by becoming a more important part of it.

Appendix B

Programme of the Study Visit

Monday, February 23, 2015

10:00 am **Tour of the Parliament House**

11: 15 am **Introduction to the Westminster**

Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth, Acting Clerk of Legislation Chamber Business Directorate, House of Commons

- **Mr. John Turner**

Table Office Clerk, House of Lords

Objectives / Questions

- *Overview of the British political system*
- *How does the UK Parliament Work?*
- *How does the British Parliament operate in the absence of a written Constitution and What is the position of British legislators on the adoption of a formal Constitution?*
- *What is the quorum requirement? Was there ever a requirement of quorum and it has been waived?*
- *Are attendance records of MPs made public?*
- *How does the Register of Members Interest work? How does it guard against conflict of interest?*

12:15 pm **The Committee System**

Mr. David Lloyd, Head Clerk of the Health Committee

Objectives/Questions

- *Committee system in the UK Parliament*
- *How does the public interact with Committees and vice versa?*
- *What roles do the Committees in House of Commons and House of Lords play?*
- *How is the performance of the Parliamentary committees evaluated and how are their reports and findings adopted by the Government?*
- *To what extent are the workings of Parliamentary Committees made public?*

01:00 pm **Lunch in the CPA Room**

02:15 **The Role of an MP**

- **Mr. Andrew Stephenson** MP (Conservative)

Objectives/Questions

- *How does the Parliament and how do MPs fare in public opinion? ?*
- *How do British MPs manage constituency relations and how often do MPs interact with ? constituents? ?*
- *How easy it is for an average citizen to interact with their MPs? ?*
- *Opportunities in British politics for a Pakistani-origin British Muslim ?*
- *State of Relationship of the Pakistani Diaspora with British society ?*

03:30 pm **Observe Chamber and Committee proceedings**

End of Day 1

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

- 09:00 – 09:45 am Welcome by **Mr. Erik Bryld**, Managing Director of Tana Copenhagen & Intro to Programme and Participants by **Ms. Nadia Masri-Pederson**
 09:45 – 10:00 am Intro to DANIDA Fellowship Centre. **Ms. Maya Lindberg Brink**
 10:00 – 12:00 Intro to Danish Democracy and Political System **Mr. Flemming Juul Christiansen**, Ph.D. and lecturer in political science at Roskilde University Center

Objectives/Questions

- *What is the model of the Danish Political System?*
- *How does the Constitutional monarchy work?*

- 12:30 – 01:00 pm **Daily Bonus** (Gråbrødre Torv)
 01:00 – 02:30 pm **Intro to the Danish Electoral System**

- **Nicoline Nyholm Miller**, Chief Electoral Officer, Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Interior

Objectives/Questions

- *To what extent electronic voting machine is used in Denmark? How is rigging and manipulation countered in elections?*
- *How are free and fair elections ensured? What are the penalties for malpractices like rigging?*

- 03:00 – 05:00 pm **Meeting the Danish Institute of Parties and Democracy (DIPD)**

- **Mr. Bjorn Forde**, Director and
- **Mr. Mathias Skibdal**, Student Assistant

Objectives/Questions

- *What is the role of the DIPD and how does it interact with Parliament and Political Parties?*
- *Is there a tradition of annual conference of political parties?*
- *How popular are MPs, Parliament and Political parties in Danish public opinion? How are they rated vis-à-vis other institutions of the State?*
- *How are parties organised internally?*
- *Does Denmark provide State funding to Political Parties*
- *What is the Parliamentary Budget Process in Denmark? If changes are required in Budget, does the Government require to go back to the Parliament?*
- *Is there a system of training/capacity building of elected legislators or party officials?*

End of Day 2

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

- 09:00-9:15 Welcome to the Danish Parliament, **Ms. Susanne Henriksen**, Senior Clerk, The International Department
- 09:15- 09:45 Tour of the Danish Parliament
- 09:45-10:15 “Skolevalg”-Introducing Democracy to young students, **Mr. Jonas Kanjas**, Advisor, the Communications Department
- 10:20- 10:40 **Challenges and Advantages for Parliamentarians with Minority Governments and with multi-party Coalition Governments**

- **Mr. Nadeem Farooq**, MP (The Social Liberal Party)

Objectives/Questions

- *Given that Denmark had a long history of coalition Governments, how much do the ideologies of the political parties in Denmark differ and how do they affect decision making in Parliament?*
- *What role does the Opposition play in the Danish Parliament?*
- *How is the Annual budget drafted and approved?*
- *What is the policy of the State towards diversity of cultures, especially towards immigrants?*
- *Both Germany and UK have admitted the failure of multiculturalism. What are the views of the Government of Denmark? What is the bipartisan opinion on the issue?*
- *What is the policy of integration? Is ethnic diversity protected or integration encouraged?*
- *What is percentage of MPs belonging to ethnic minorities?*
- *What is the number of women MPs in Parliament? Is there a quota by Parliament or by Political Parties?*

- 10:45- 11:25 **The Parliamentary System in Denmark and the Development of Modern Danish Democracy**

- **Mr. Anton Høj Jacobsen**, Legal Advisor, The Legal Services Office

Objectives/Questions

- *Denmark had a bicameral legislature previously like Pakistan? What were the advantages of abolishing it?*
- *What benefit was gained after the launch of the 'democracy canon' in 2008 by the Danish Government?*
- *Does the Danish Parliament maintain a Register of Members' Interests? How is conflict of interest guarded against in MPs?*
- *Do public and institutes / media evaluate performance of Danish Parliament and / or individual MPs?*
- *What is the role played by Danish Parliament Committees? How powerful are Committees?*

- 11:30- 11:55 **Briefing on Denmark's Social Welfare Model**

- **Ms. Pernille Rosenkrantz-Theil**, MP, (The Social Democratic Party)

Objectives/Questions

- *What are the key features of the Danish Welfare system?*
- *Is there a debate in the Danish society that the welfare model is too expensive? Is there a bi-partisan consensus on the continuity of the system?*

- 12:00 – 12:50 pm **Lunch in the Snapsting (restaurant of the Danish Parliament) of the Danish Parliament with Mr. Nadeem Farooq, MP (The Social Liberal Party) and The Children's Education Committee Ms. Karen Ellemann, MP (The Liberal Party) who will join at 12:30pm**

- 01:00 – 01:10 pm Visit to the Gallery: Observing “Questions Time” in the Chamber

- 01:15 - 01:35 pm The Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman Mr. Per Stig Møller, MP (The Conservative Party)

- 01: 40- 02:05 pm **The Committees in the Danish Parliament**

- **Mr. Morten Villumsen**, Advisor, The Committees Secretariat

Objectives/Questions

- *What roles do the Committees play in the Danish Parliamentary System?*
- *Are Danish Parliamentary committees elected or appointed?*
- *Do Committees have their own budget to undertake hearings, visits, studies?*
- *What is the number of staff assigned to each committee?*
- *Are the Committee proceedings open to public? What is the level of public involvement/attendance in committee meetings?*
- *Do committees invite public input into legislation and policies under review? How is that managed and what is the public participation in the process?*

02:10–02:30 pm **The Climate, Energy and Building Committee**

- **Mr. Steen Gade**, MP, Chairman, (The Socialist People's Party)

Objectives/Questions

- *What is the remit of the Committee and some of its key policy recommendations?*
- *Does the Committee engage with outside experts / industry?*
- *How does the Government respond to Committee's recommendations?*

02:35- 03:15 pm **The Work of the Finance Committee, Mr. Jesper Peterson**, MP (The Social Democratic Party)

03:20- 3:50 pm **Parliamentary Delegations in the Danish Parliament, Mr. Flemming Kordt Hansen**, Head of Section, The International Department

Objectives/Questions

- *What is the contribution of the Danish Parliament to the country's Foreign Policy priorities?*
- *How much the foreign Policy is influenced by the political parties in the Parliament?*
- *Does the Danish Parliament have All-Party Friendship Groups with other countries? How do these groups/committees advance Parliamentary diplomacy?*

04:15 – 05:20 pm **Meeting Journalist Suzanne Moll – Freedom of Speech, Kvinno**

06:00 – 08:30 pm **Dinner at the Pakistan Embassy**

End of Day 3

Thursday, February 26, 2015

10:30- 12:00 pm **The Ministry of Children, Gender Equality, Integration and Social Affairs, Representative**

- **Ms. Astrid Vind**, Office of Integration and Democracy and The Council of Ethnic Minorities, Ms. Natasha Al-Hariri, Ms. Anne Boje Hansen and Ms. Metter Sondergaard

Objectives/Questions

- *What is the remit and functioning of the Ministry?*
- *How does the Ministry interact with counterpart Parliamentary Committee?*
- *What does the Ministry do to ensure gender representation in the Parliament, public and private sector employment, etc?*
- *How is the youth defined in Denmark in terms of age?*
- *Does the Ministry take any measures to inculcate democratic spirit in youth?*
- *How the youth perspective incorporated in the national policies?*
- *What is the composition of ethnic and religious minorities in the Danish society?*
- *What is the remit of the Council?*
- *How does it work to preserve/promote culture of ethnic and religious minorities?*
- *What is the policy of the Government and leading political parties on multiculturalism especially in the wake of cultural challenges facing Denmark?*

12:00 – 12:30 pm **Lunch**

01:00 – 02:00 pm **Visit to The Danish Youth Council (DUF) - Youth's Role in Civil Society Objectives/Questions**

- *What are the key challenges faced by youth in Denmark?*
- *Are the Danish youth politically involved? What are some of the key political issues of interest to youth?*
- *How is youth's perspective incorporated in the Danish policies?*
- *What is the role of Youth in Danish Democratic System?*

02:00 – 03:30 pm **Interaction with Representatives of Political Party Youth Wings** (SUF: Trine Simmel, KU: Markus Rasmussen, DSU: Mr. Alexander Grandt Peterson)

04:00 – 05:30 pm **Daily bonus: Session with 'UngiVerden'- a case of youth trying to influence the political agenda**, Ms. Laura Neerup Breio, Policy Assistant at Globalt Fokus & other youth.

Objectives/Questions

- *What are the key political issues of interest to youth in Denmark?*
- *How does the youth politically organise itself?*

05:30 pm Free Time

End of the Day 4

Friday, February 27, 2015

09:00 – 10:30 am **Daily Bonus:** Visit Engstrandskolen, Mr. Thomas Pederson Friis, Acting Deputy Head and Ms. Elin Juel Christensen, Acting Head Teacher and young school students.

10:45 am **Visit to Hvidovre Municipality**

11:00 – 11:15 am Welcome by the Mayor of Hvidovre, **Ms Helle Moesgaard Adelborg**, from the Social Democratic Party

11:15 – 12:45 pm **Meeting City Council Member and Party Leader**

- **Mr. Kashif Ahmad**, Party Leader 'National Party'

Objectives/Questions

- *How does the Local Government system work in Denmark?*
- *How many tiers are there of Local Government in Denmark?*
- *Are the Local Government elections on party basis?*
- *Is there a quota of women, youth and ethnic/religious minority representation in Local Governments?*
- *What are the subjects / services under the remit of Local Governments?*
- *What are the powers of taxation of the Local Governments?*
- *How are the resources distributed to Local Governments or is each Local Government self-sustaining?*
- *Is there a system of training/capability building of elected local governments?*

12:45 – 02:00 pm Lunch (in Valby) and transport

02:00 – 04:00 pm **Local Government Denmark** – the Role of Municipalities, Mr. Holger Pyndt, Head of Office

04:30 – 04:45 pm **Evaluation**

End of Day 5

Appendix C

List of Pakistan Delegation

Appendix C

List of Pakistan Delegation

Members of the National Assembly of Pakistan

No.	Names	Designation
1.	Syed Naveed Qamar , MNA NA-222 Hyderabad-V, Sindh, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian (PPPP)	Chairman, National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways
2.	Mr. Omar Ayub Khan , MNA NA-19, Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PML-N	Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization

Members of the Youth Parliament Pakistan

3.	Mr. Ali Shan Khan YP13-KP01	Youth Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs
4.	Mr. Aqeel Ahmad Yousafzai YP14-KP02	Youth Prime Minister
5.	Syeda Mizhgan Mehboob Kirmani YP54-SINDH07	Chairperson Youth Standing Committee on Education and Youth Affairs
6.	Ms. Rahy Farooq YP11-ICT01	Member, YPP Standing Committee on Education & Youth Affairs
7.	Mr. Muhammad Shahzar Ilahi YP56-SINDH09	Leader of the Opposition, Youth Parliament Pakistan
8.	Mr. Sohaib Saeed YP02-AJK02	Chairman, Youth Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning

PILDAT Team

9.	Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob	President, PILDAT; Secretary General Youth Parliament Pakistan
10.	Ms. Aasiya Riaz	Joint Director, PILDAT
11.	Ms. Aimen Khan	Projects Manager, PILDAT
12.	Ms. Shandana Sajjad	Projects Officer, PILDAT



Secretariat, Youth Parliament Pakistan

Islamabad Office: P. O. Box 278, F-8, Postal Code: 44220, Islamabad, Pakistan

Lahore Office: P. O. Box 11098, L.C.C.H.S, Postal Code: 54792, Lahore, Pakistan

E-mail: info@youthparliament.pk | Website: www.youthparliament.pk