

## Police Reforms and Accountability in Pakistan

**Muhammad Hamza Zakir**

LLM Scholar, Department of Law, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,  
Pakistan.

[hamzazakirkhan@yahoo.com](mailto:hamzazakirkhan@yahoo.com)

**Fawad Iqbal**

Director, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

[fuwwad@gmail.com](mailto:fuwwad@gmail.com)

**Syed Hammad Khan**

Law Graduate, Department of Law, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,  
Pakistan

[syedhammadk@gmail.com](mailto:syedhammadk@gmail.com)

**Abdul Wahab Ahmad**

LLM Scholar, University of management and technology.

[wahabwatto18@gmail.com](mailto:wahabwatto18@gmail.com)

---

### Abstract

*In this scholarly investigation, this paper explores the challenges and prospective consequences linked to the execution of adjustments within the law enforcement sector and strategies to ensure responsibility in Pakistan. In this research, we delve into the historical context of the nation's law enforcement history, identify notable issues within the present police structure, and closely examine recent initiatives aimed at reinforcing police accountability. By analyzing relevant scholarly materials, real-world instances, and official governmental documents, this research article introduces novel viewpoints concerning the diverse opportunities for accomplishing effective police reform and elevating accountability standards in Pakistan.*

**Keywords:** Accountability, Challenges, Consequences, Law Enforcement, Pakistan

---

### 1. Introduction

The implementation of regulations plays a pivotal role in upholding social harmony, fostering equity, and ensuring the safety and security of individuals within any society. When contemplating Pakistan, a country characterized by a complex blend of social, political, and economic factors, it becomes imperative to underscore the importance of the operational efficiency and accountability of the law enforcement agency. The historical heritages, socio-political frameworks, and continually shifting challenges in Pakistan exert considerable influence on the operational landscape of law enforcement. To enhance both responsibility and efficiency, it is essential to put in place all-encompassing modifications.

#### 1.1 Background and Significance

Pakistan's policing system has been profoundly shaped by its historical colonial legacy, leading to significant changes over time. The influence of the British on the organisation and operations of law enforcement in the country can still be observed today, thanks to their implementation of a

centralised policing model during their period of rule. Following its independence, Pakistan embraced this heritage and modified it to suit its distinct socio-cultural environment. Nevertheless, as time goes on, worries about the inappropriate behaviour of police officers, misuse of authority, and absence of responsibility have surfaced as significant concerns, gradually eroding the confidence that the public has in law enforcement organisations (United Nations, 1990).

The importance of implementing police reforms and ensuring accountability in Pakistan cannot be emphasised enough. An efficient and open police system is crucial for the smooth functioning of a democratic society, safeguarding of human rights, and upholding the principles of justice. It is crucial to establish public confidence, deter power abuses, and create a safe atmosphere for citizens to flourish by guaranteeing that law enforcement agencies adhere to legal and ethical limits (Ahmad, R. N., Bakhsh, F., Khan, M. D., & Kanwal, S. 2020).

### **1.2 Research Objectives**

The main goal of this research paper is to thoroughly analyse the obstacles and potential outcomes of implementing police reforms and accountability measures in Pakistan. Through an exploration of the background, current challenges, and recent efforts, the study seeks to offer a comprehensive comprehension of the status of law enforcement in the nation. The particular goals of the research encompass:

1. Analyzing the historical evolution of policing in Pakistan and its influence on the current structure.
2. Identifying key challenges that impede police accountability and hinder effective law enforcement.
3. Evaluating recent police reform initiatives undertaken by different provinces and at the federal level.
4. Assessing the impact of accountability mechanisms on improving police behavior and public perception.
5. Providing recommendations for potential avenues to strengthen police reforms and enhance accountability.

### **1.3 Scope and Limitations**

The main emphasis of this academic study revolves around the topic of police reforms and the establishment of accountability measures within the context of Pakistan. The subject matter of this study revolves around the evolution of the law enforcement structure throughout history. It delves into the complexities and obstacles associated with political intervention, unethical practises, limited independence, and insufficient education. Additionally, it scrutinises recent endeavours to bring about change within the administrative hierarchy. Nevertheless, it is crucial to recognise that given the immense scope and intricacy of the subject matter, this document may not delve into every facet with comprehensive precision.

Furthermore, despite our best attempts to collect the most current data during the writing process, it is important to acknowledge that the ever-changing nature of policies and political environments may influence the precision and timeliness of the provided information. The scope of this research paper is constrained by its dependence on existing literature, reports, and data, and might not encompass recent advancements that have transpired subsequent to the data cutoff (Khan, M. I., Shah, S., & Kanwel, S. 2023).

In the following parts of this academic article, we will explore the historical background of law enforcement in Pakistan, emphasising significant obstacles to ensuring police responsibility. We will also analyse global benchmarks and exemplary methods, investigate recent endeavours to reform the police, investigate the involvement of non-governmental organisations, assess the legal

and organisational structure, present real-life examples, and summarise the remaining hurdles and potential prospects for enhancing police reforms and accountability in Pakistan.

## **2. Historical Overview of Policing in Pakistan**

The history of law enforcement in Pakistan has a multifaceted path that can be linked to the time of colonial rule, which was then followed by various changes after gaining independence. Gaining insight into the historical progression is essential in order to grasp the current obstacles and possibilities linked to police reforms and accountability.

### **2.1 Colonial Legacy**

The origins of the policing system in Pakistan can be traced back to the colonial era, during which the British administration established a centralised law enforcement system to uphold their control. The Implementation Act of 1861, widely referred to as the "Lawrence Code," had a significant impact on the formation and functioning of the law enforcement system in present-day Pakistan during its time as a part of British India. The main objective of this system was to give precedence to the colonial administration's interests at the expense of the local population's welfare. The main responsibilities of law enforcement officials revolved around upholding societal harmony, generating funds, and quelling resistance, occasionally employing repressive tactics (Government of Pakistan, 2002).

Pakistan's policing framework still bears the marks of its colonial past, which is clearly reflected in its current state. It is evident that the hierarchical structure, which prioritises maintaining order rather than promoting community well-being, and the lack of systems for holding individuals accountable, are some of the lasting aspects passed down from that era. Furthermore, in the time of colonisation, there was minimal engagement between the police and the native inhabitants, leading to a widespread belief that law enforcement served as a means of oppression rather than safeguarding (Khan, M. I., Nisar, A., & Kanwel, S. 2023).

### **2.2 Post-Independence Evolution**

Following the partition of India in 1947, Pakistan was given the task of overseeing the administration of the law enforcement system that had been established by the British colonial authorities. Conversely, the newly established nation faced unique challenges regarding governance, internal security, and the creation of an integrated policing structure. In 2002, a notable effort was made to revamp the police system through the implementation of the Police Order. This initiative sought to distribute authority and strengthen community oversight. The focus was on promoting community engagement in policing and ensuring the independence of law enforcement from political pressures (Abid et al., 2019).

In spite of these endeavors, obstacles endured. Following the attainment of independence, the police force faced persistent challenges such as unwarranted political meddling, insufficient allocation of resources, and a dearth of comprehensive professional training. The obstacles faced impeded the progress of establishing a law enforcement agency capable of efficiently safeguarding and serving the people of Pakistan (Kanwel, S., ul Hassan, S. S., & Ayub, N. 2023).

### **2.3 Challenges and Criticisms**

Pakistan's policing system has faced numerous challenges and criticisms throughout its history, which continue to be relevant in the present. A few of these obstacles include:

**Government Intervention:** The impact of political leaders on the selection, relocations, and operational choices of law enforcement has hindered the autonomy and efficiency of the police department. The occurrence of this disruption frequently leads to the misapplication of authority and assets to achieve political advantages.

**Insufficient Independence:** The police department has faced challenges in attaining operational independence due to political influence. It impedes their capacity to arrive at decisions grounded in merit and the law, rather than being influenced by political factors.

**Scandalous Behaviour and Wrongdoing:** Numerous cases of scandalous behaviour and wrongdoing within the police force have severely undermined the faith of the public and tarnished the reputation of law enforcement organisations. Instances of coercion, corruption, and misuse of authority have been documented in diverse circumstances.

**Unchecked:** Instances of violations against human rights and unlawful killings have been recorded, frequently without adequate responsibility. The lack of consequences for such behaviours has only intensified the public's anger and suspicion.

**Lack of Proper Preparation and Tools:** Insufficiently trained personnel, obsolete equipment, and scarce resources have impeded the growth and progress of law enforcement officers. Their capacity to adequately address ever-changing obstacles and maintain the integrity of legal principles is impacted by this.

In the upcoming parts of this academic article, we will explore global benchmarks and optimal approaches for enhancing police systems, investigate recent endeavours for reform carried out in different parts of Pakistan, investigate the involvement of civil society and public participation, evaluate the legal and institutional structure, and suggest solutions for overcoming the obstacles highlighted in this historical analysis.

### **3. Key Challenges to Police Accountability**

Ensuring police accountability is an essential element of a well-operating and fair system of law enforcement. Pakistan faces numerous obstacles when it comes to ensuring police accountability, which ultimately leads to various problems such as misuse of authority and a decline in public confidence. It is crucial to grasp and tackle these obstacles in order to achieve all-encompassing transformations in law enforcement.

#### **3.1 Government Meddling**

Political interference in law enforcement operations poses a significant obstacle to ensuring police accountability in Pakistan. The autonomy and impartiality of the police force are compromised due to the impact of political elites on appointments, transfers, and decisions. Frequently, this meddling leads to the improper utilisation of law enforcement organisations for individual or partisan advantages, weakening the principles of justice and corroding the confidence of the general public.

#### **3.2 Insufficient Independence**

Political meddling is a major factor contributing to the absence of operational independence. Law enforcement officers frequently face a challenging dilemma when it comes to balancing their commitment to upholding the law and following political directives. Their capacity to carry out investigations, effectuate arrests, and take appropriate measures solely based on merit and legal factors is undermined, resulting in uneven enforcement and a perception of partiality.

#### **3.3 Integrity and Ethical Behaviour**

The presence of corruption and unethical behaviour within law enforcement agencies poses substantial obstacles to ensuring accountability. Reports have emerged of various acts of corruption, including bribery, blackmail, and misuse of authority, which have cast a shadow over the reputation of law enforcement organisations and impeded their capacity to efficiently serve the public. A culture of impunity is fostered by the widespread occurrence of such behaviour, allowing officers to commit wrongful acts without any apprehension of facing repercussions (Khan, 2009).

#### **3.4 Impunity is a significant concern that needs to be addressed.**

The problem of impunity is closely linked to dishonesty and wrongdoing. Instances of violations against human rights, unlawful killings, and the disproportionate application of force have been documented, frequently resulting in the evasion of responsibility by those responsible. Public confidence is further eroded due to the absence of transparent procedures for investigating and prosecuting such actions, which in turn sustains a pattern of mistreatment.

### **3.5 Inadequate Training and Resources**

Insufficient training and limited resources for law enforcement officers are major factors that contribute to difficulties in upholding accountability. Lack of proper education on human rights, ethical behaviour, and community policing results in officers being poorly prepared to handle intricate scenarios with the required level of professionalism. Furthermore, their effectiveness in fulfilling their responsibilities is compromised due to obsolete machinery and scarce resources, thereby amplifying the probability of engaging in improper behaviour (Cheema, 2006).

It is crucial to tackle these primary obstacles in order to cultivate a sense of responsibility within the law enforcement agency. It is crucial for police reform initiatives to prioritise the reduction of political interference, the empowerment of operational autonomy, the eradication of corruption, the establishment of accountability for human rights violations, and the provision of extensive training and resources for officers.

In the following parts of this academic article, we shall delve into the global benchmarks and optimal approaches concerning the transformation of law enforcement agencies. We will scrutinise the recent endeavours towards reform in Pakistan, deliberate on the significance of non-governmental organisations in fostering transparency, evaluate the legal and organisational structure, and put forth suggestions for surmounting the aforementioned obstacles.

## **4. International Standards and Best Practices**

Pakistan can find valuable guidance from global norms and exemplary methods when it comes to improving and ensuring police accountability. Pakistan has the opportunity to enhance its law enforcement system and promote human rights by adhering to these standards. This will result in a more efficient and transparent system that prioritises the welfare of the public.

### **4.1 Role of Human Rights Organizations**

The importance of organizations devoted to human rights cannot be emphasized enough. These groups have a pivotal function in supporting and safeguarding the fundamental rights and liberties of individuals globally. Through their unwavering endeavors, they aim to guarantee that every individual is treated with respect, parity, and justice. Human rights organizations have a significant impact, particularly when it comes to championing police accountability and cultivating an atmosphere of openness. Entities such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan have been instrumental in spotlighting incidents of police misconduct, abuse, and the absence of accountability. These organizations provide a platform for individuals to voice their concerns and draw attention to systemic issues. By advocating for transparency and calling for transformation, their diligent efforts contribute to holding law enforcement agencies accountable and advancing the cause of reform (Human Rights Watch, 2014).

### **4.2 Comparative Analysis of Police Reforms in Other Countries**

Examining the experiences of other countries in reforming their police systems can provide valuable lessons applicable to Pakistan's situation. Numerous nations have encountered comparable issues such as corruption, political meddling, and a deficiency in accountability. For instance, the United Kingdom has made noteworthy strides by introducing community-oriented policing and creating autonomous oversight institutions, which have bolstered transparency and

public confidence. Similarly, the United States' endeavors to diversify its police forces and improve training methods offer valuable insights (UN Office on Drugs and Crime, 2011). Through a careful examination of effective reform models from around the world and customizing them to align with Pakistan's unique circumstances, substantial advancements can be realized.

#### **4.3 United Nations Guidelines on Police Accountability**

The United Nations has established a set of principles and guidelines that outline expectations concerning police accountability and behavior. These guidelines underscore the significance of professionalism, impartiality, the preservation of human rights, and the creation of independent oversight mechanisms. The Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, adopted by the UN in 1990, stands as a crucial document directing the appropriate application of force and ensuring accountability when it is misused. By adhering to these principles, Pakistan can harmonize its efforts in police reform with international norms, subsequently enhancing accountability (United Nations, 1990).

International benchmarks and superior practices provide a framework for shaping effective police reform strategies that prioritize accountability, uphold human rights, and elevate public confidence. By capitalizing on insights from human rights groups, assimilating lessons from successful reforms in other nations, and aligning with UN directives, Pakistan can lay the groundwork for a more accountable and proficient police force.

In the ensuing segments of this research paper, we will delve into recent endeavors aimed at reforming the police in Pakistan, explore the roles played by civil society and public participation, scrutinize the legal and institutional structure, present instances of successful reforms, and put forth recommendations for surmounting challenges and executing efficient police reforms and accountability mechanisms.

### **5. Recent Police Reforms in Pakistan**

Advancements in the pursuit of police reforms in Pakistan have manifested in several provinces as well as on the national level (Government of Pakistan, 2002). In this section, we delve into recent initiatives for reform in various regions of the nation, shedding light on their aims, methodologies, and the influence they've exerted in fortifying police accountability.

#### **5.1 The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Model**

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has been at the forefront of police reforms in Pakistan. The KP Police Act of 2017 aimed to transform the police force into a professional, accountable, and community-oriented institution. Key features of the KP model include:

- 1. Depoliticization:** The act aimed to minimize political interference by establishing Police Complaints Authorities at the district level to address grievances.
- 2. Community Policing:** The Community Policing Unit fosters a closer relationship between the police and the public, encouraging community participation in maintaining law and order.
- 3. Accountability:** The establishment of the Internal Accountability Unit aimed to investigate and take action against cases of misconduct within the police force.

#### **5.2 Punjab Police Reforms**

The Punjab province has also undertaken significant police reforms to enhance accountability and professionalism. These reforms include:

- 1. Punjab Police Order 2002:** This framework aimed to separate law enforcement from political influences and establish Police Complaints Authorities to address citizen grievances.

2. **Technology Integration:** The Punjab Safe Cities Authority has introduced technology to enhance surveillance and response, improving transparency and efficiency.
3. **Public Interaction:** The Punjab Police launched various initiatives, such as the Police Khidmat Markaz, to provide citizen services and enhance public engagement.

### 5.3 Sindh Police Initiatives

Sindh province has taken steps to address the challenges of police accountability and reform:

1. **Reforms through Legislation:** The Sindh Police Act 2011 aimed to establish an autonomous and accountable police force, providing a framework for internal accountability mechanisms.
2. **Community Engagement:** Community Police Liaison Committees have been established to facilitate communication and cooperation between the police and the public.

### 5.4 Federal Initiatives: National Police Bureau

At the federal level, the National Police Bureau has worked on various projects to enhance police capacity and accountability:

1. **Police Reforms Program:** The program aimed to enhance the capabilities of police forces through training, equipment provision, and modernization.
2. **National Public Safety Commission:** Proposed legislation sought to establish an oversight body for federal law enforcement agencies.

### 5.5 Assessment of Implementation and Impact

While these reform initiatives demonstrate progress, their effectiveness varies and faces challenges in implementation:

1. **Partial Implementation:** Some aspects of the reforms, such as community policing and accountability mechanisms, have been partially implemented, leaving room for improvement.
2. **Resource Constraints:** Limited resources and bureaucratic hurdles have hindered the full realization of reform objectives.
3. **Cultural Change:** Changing the organizational culture within police forces to prioritize accountability and transparency remains a challenge.

In the subsequent sections of this research paper, we will explore the role of civil society and public engagement, analyze the legal and institutional framework, showcase case studies of successful reforms, discuss remaining challenges, and provide recommendations for addressing the obstacles to police reforms and accountability in Pakistan.

## 6. Civil Society and Public Engagement

The involvement of civil society and active engagement by the public are pivotal elements in molding police reform measures and establishing accountability. In this section, we delve into the intricate interplay between civil society, the general populace, and law enforcement bodies within the framework of police reforms and accountability in Pakistan.

### 6.1 Role of Civil Society Organizations

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are instrumental in advocating for police reforms and holding law enforcement agencies accountable. These organizations serve as watchdogs, conducting research, documenting cases of abuse, and raising awareness about issues related to police misconduct and accountability. CSOs facilitate dialogue between the public and law enforcement, pushing for transparency, fairness, and human rights in policing (Abid et al., 2019).

### 6.2 Public Perception and Trust in Police

The way the public perceives the police holds immense significance in assessing the effectiveness of reform endeavors. Negative perceptions stemming from encounters with abuse, corruption, and the absence of accountability within the police force can gradually erode the public's trust in law enforcement institutions. The process of rebuilding this trust necessitates clear and transparent communication, a willingness to address community concerns, and a sustained commitment to resolving grievances. It's worth noting that public sentiment can exert a considerable impact on the outcomes of reform initiatives and influence the dynamics between the police and the community (Khan, 2009).

### **6.3 Importance of Community Policing**

The concept of community policing is centred around the idea of promoting strong partnerships between law enforcement organisations and the community in order to effectively tackle safety issues at a local level. When considering Pakistan, the introduction of community policing has the potential to foster mutual understanding, strengthen accountability, and improve the overall effectiveness of law enforcement efforts. By actively participating in community interactions, police officers can better understand the unique requirements of the people they serve and include them in the decision-making procedures. This approach establishes a solid groundwork for fostering trust and increasing responsibility.

Engaging in community policing can result in the recognition of specific crime trends within a locality, the development of focused approaches to prevent crime, and a reduction in occurrences of police misconduct. Furthermore, it enables societies to take an engaged part in guaranteeing their personal well-being and protection. It should be emphasised that the effective execution of community policing relies on various elements, including the adequate education of police officers, the provision of essential resources, and ongoing endeavours to reshape the culture within organisations.

In the upcoming segments of this academic article, we will extensively examine the legal and institutional structure that forms the foundation of endeavours to reform the police. We will investigate real-life examples that demonstrate effective reforms, closely analyse the persisting difficulties, and offer suggestions to surmount barriers in order to establish police accountability in Pakistan.

## **7. Legal and Institutional Framework**

Police reforms and accountability rely heavily on the legal and institutional framework as their foundation. In Pakistan, the focus is on analysing the fundamental elements of this framework and how they influence the implementation of law enforcement practises and mechanisms for ensuring accountability.

### **7.1 Police Order 2002 vs. Police Act Reforms**

The 2002 Police Order marked a substantial endeavour to overhaul Pakistan's law enforcement system. The main goals of the organisation were to distribute power, improve independent decision-making, and reinforce responsibility within the law enforcement agency. On the other hand, the effectiveness of the initiative was hindered due to various obstacles encountered during the implementation phase and a noticeable absence of political dedication. Following the implementation of different provincial regulations, such as the Police Act, subsequent changes have been made to rectify the deficiencies found in the Police Order.

The main focus of these reform initiatives is to prioritise the creation of internal systems for ensuring accountability, setting up regulatory bodies, and protecting law enforcement from any unwarranted political interference. By examining the differences between the Police Order of 2002



and the subsequent Police Act reforms, we can assess the merits and drawbacks of each in their efforts to improve police accountability and professionalism.

### **7.2 Independent Police Complaints Authorities**

Having Independent Police Complaints Authorities (IPCA) is of utmost importance in order to establish an external system that can effectively monitor and regulate law enforcement agencies. The primary function of IPCAs is to receive and examine grievances filed against law enforcement personnel, thereby guaranteeing responsibility for cases involving wrongdoing, mistreatment, and various infractions. The effectiveness of IPCAs relies on their independence, openness, and their ability to enforce penalties on officers held accountable for wrongdoing.

The existence and the efficiency of IPCAs in Pakistan are clear signs of the government's commitment to upholding police accountability. By analysing the structure of their organisation, the range of their power, and the subsequent results, we can gain valuable knowledge about the level of external supervision and its impact on enhancing the behaviour of the police department.

### **7.3 Role of the Judiciary in Ensuring Accountability**

The significance of the judicial system cannot be overstated when it comes to maintaining the integrity of the legal system and ensuring that law enforcement is held responsible for their conduct. The jurisdiction of courts extends to the evaluation of incidents of police misconduct, the issuance of instructions for inquiries, and the rendering of decisions in matters concerning infringements of human rights. When the judiciary actively engages with cases of police abuse, it can serve as a deterrent against misconduct and contribute to promoting accountability (Raza, 2014).

The decisions and interpretations of laws by the judiciary, particularly those related to law enforcement, play a crucial role in shaping the legal framework pertaining to accountability. The judiciary's effectiveness in curtailing police misconduct and enforcing measures of accountability can be evaluated through legal precedents and their impact on police practices.

In the forthcoming sections of this research paper, we will present real-world examples illustrating successful endeavors to reform the police, address the persisting challenges in establishing accountability, and offer recommendations for surmounting these hurdles, with the ultimate goal of achieving comprehensive police reforms in Pakistan.

## **8. Case Studies and Success Stories**

Examining case studies and success stories of police reform initiatives provides practical insights into the strategies and approaches that have yielded positive results in enhancing accountability and improving law enforcement practices in Pakistan.

### **8.1 Model Police Stations**

Model Police Stations are a notable success story in police reforms, aiming to transform police stations into citizen-friendly and accountable institutions. These stations prioritize professionalism, efficiency, and transparency in interactions with the public. Key features include:

- 1. Facility Upgrades:** Model Police Stations often undergo physical renovations to create a more welcoming and safer environment for visitors.
- 2. Customer Service:** Implementation of customer service principles ensures that citizens are treated with respect and that their grievances are addressed promptly.
- 3. Transparency:** Information desks and complaint centers provide easy access to information and facilitate the registration of complaints.

Assessing the impact of Model Police Stations on citizen satisfaction and perception of police accountability can shed light on their effectiveness in improving public trust.

### **8.2 Use of Technology in Policing**

Technology has been harnessed to enhance police accountability and efficiency. Examples include:

1. **CCTV Surveillance:** Installation of surveillance cameras in public areas and police stations can increase transparency and provide evidence for investigations.
2. **Digital Complaint Portals:** Online platforms for registering complaints allow citizens to report misconduct and hold officers accountable for their actions.
3. **Crime Mapping and Analysis:** Technology-driven crime mapping helps police identify trends, allocate resources, and respond effectively to criminal activities.

Assessing the impact of technology adoption on police responsiveness, transparency, and accountability provides insights into its role in modernizing law enforcement practices.

### 8.3 Accountability Mechanisms in Action

Several provinces in Pakistan have introduced innovative accountability mechanisms to address police misconduct and ensure transparency:

1. **Internal Accountability Units:** These units investigate allegations of misconduct within the police force, leading to disciplinary actions against errant officers.
2. **Public Complaints Commissions:** Independent bodies receive and investigate complaints against police officers, offering a mechanism for citizens to seek redressal.
3. **Oversight Committees:** Civil society representatives and legal experts participate in oversight committees to monitor police conduct and propose reforms.

Analyzing the effectiveness of these mechanisms in holding officers accountable and improving their behavior provides insights into the potential for replicating such models.

Through a careful examination of these case studies and stories of achievement, policymakers and practitioners have the opportunity to discover valuable approaches to bolstering police reforms and accountability mechanisms in Pakistan. In the upcoming segments of this academic article, we shall delve into the unresolved obstacles surrounding police accountability, present suggestions for tackling these hurdles, and chart a course towards all-encompassing police transformations (Khan, M. I., & Kanwel, S. 2023).

## 9. Remaining Challenges and Future Prospects

Despite the ongoing efforts to implement comprehensive police reforms and improve accountability in Pakistan, numerous obstacles remain. It is of utmost importance to acknowledge and tackle these obstacles while also recognising the potential opportunities that lie ahead in order to establish a law enforcement system that is both enduring and efficient.

### 9.1 Sustainability of Reforms

One of the main obstacles is guaranteeing the long-term viability of reform endeavours. Resistance within the system is a common obstacle that reforms encounter, highlighting the importance of establishing a framework to incorporate changes and fostering a culture that prioritises openness and responsibility. It is crucial to consistently monitor, assess, and adjust reform initiatives in order to avoid reverting to previous methods (Sial, 2008).

### 9.2 Strengthening Internal Accountability

It is crucial to enhance the internal accountability mechanisms in order to adequately tackle instances of misconduct and abuse within the police force. In order to ensure the well-being of officers and encourage the reporting of misconduct, it is crucial to establish a secure atmosphere where they can freely disclose any wrongdoing without facing any negative consequences. Additionally, it is important to develop unambiguous procedures for investigating and resolving complaints.

### 9.3 Enhancing Training and Professionalism

It is of utmost importance to prioritise the allocation of resources towards training initiatives that centre around human rights, community policing, ethical behaviour, and the appropriate use of force. These programmes play a vital role in elevating the level of professionalism exhibited by law enforcement personnel. Ongoing education and the cultivation of expertise will empower law enforcement personnel to effectively navigate a wide range of circumstances while upholding the principles of professionalism and safeguarding human rights (Raza, 2014).

#### **9.4 Legislative Reforms and Political Will**

It is imperative to implement comprehensive reforms to the legal framework that governs law enforcement agencies in order to attain enduring transformation. It is crucial to have legislative changes that guarantee independence in operations, safeguard individuals who expose wrongdoing, and set forth unambiguous standards for holding individuals accountable.. Political will is equally important to drive these reforms forward, as it requires sustained commitment from policymakers to prioritize accountability over short-term political gains (Sial, 2008).

The journey toward comprehensive police reforms and enhanced accountability in Pakistan is complex but essential for building public trust, upholding the rule of law, and fostering a safe and just society. By addressing challenges, learning from successes, and committing to long-term change, Pakistan can build a law enforcement system that serves and protects its citizens while adhering to international standards of professionalism and accountability. This research paper has delved into the historical context, challenges, reform initiatives, and prospects for improving police accountability in Pakistan. Through concerted efforts and a collective commitment, Pakistan can pave the way for a brighter future where law enforcement agencies truly serve the people.

#### **10. Conclusion**

The endeavor to bring about comprehensive police reforms and accountability mechanisms in Pakistan represents a critical journey towards a just, transparent, and accountable law enforcement system. This research paper has explored the historical underpinnings, key challenges, reform initiatives, and future prospects that shape this complex landscape. Historically, Pakistan's policing system inherited colonial legacies that led to challenges such as political interference, lack of autonomy, corruption, and impunity. However, recent years have witnessed significant efforts to reform the police force and enhance accountability. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa model, Punjab Police reforms, Sindh Police initiatives, and federal-level endeavors reflect a commitment to change and improvement. International standards and best practices have played a guiding role, highlighting the significance of human rights organizations, comparative analysis, and UN guidelines in shaping reform agendas (Kanwel, S., & Ayub, N. 2023). Civil society and public engagement have emerged as driving forces in advocating for accountability, fostering trust, and promoting community-oriented policing. The legal and institutional framework, including the Police Order 2002, Police Act reforms, Independent Police Complaints Authorities, and the role of the judiciary, forms the backbone of accountability measures. These mechanisms aim to limit political influence, ensure external oversight, and hold officers accountable for their actions. Case studies showcasing model police stations, technology integration, and accountability mechanisms in action demonstrate the positive impact of targeted reforms. These success stories underscore the importance of a citizen-centric approach, leveraging technology, and implementing oversight bodies. However, challenges remain. Sustaining reforms, strengthening internal accountability, enhancing training and professionalism, and driving legislative changes demand sustained commitment. Ensuring the sustainability of reforms necessitates a cultural shift towards transparency and accountability within law enforcement agencies.

In conclusion, Pakistan's journey towards police reforms and accountability is ongoing, marked by progress and obstacles. The collective efforts of civil society, law enforcement, policymakers, and citizens are vital for shaping a brighter future. By fostering a culture of accountability, prioritizing the rule of law, and upholding human rights, Pakistan can forge a path towards a safer, more just society where law enforcement agencies genuinely serve and protect all citizens.

## References

- Abid, Qaiser, et al. "Police Reforms in Pakistan: An Analysis of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Model." *Journal of Political Studies*, vol. 26, no. 2, 2019, pp. 235-254.
- Ahmad, R. N., Bakhsh, F., Khan, M. D., & Kanwal, S. (2020). Registration of Second FIR (First Information Report) in Sughran Bibi Case: A Landmark Judgement of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. *Review of Education, Administration & Law*, 3(1), 113-122.
- Ali, S., Zakir, M. H., Arif, M., & Hammad, S. (2023). THE CPEC-SOVEREIGNTY DILEMMA BETWEEN PROSPERITY AND AUTONOMY: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY. *PAKISTAN ISLAMICUS* (An International Journal of Islamic & Social Sciences), 3(2), 442–459. Retrieved from <https://pakistanislamicus.com/index.php/home/article/view/75>
- Cheema, Moeen H. "Police Reforms in Pakistan: A Critical Assessment." *Pakistan Development Review*, vol. 45, no. 4, 2006, pp. 977-995.
- Human Rights Watch. "'No Space for Justice': Impunity for Crimes by Paramilitary Forces in Pakistan." 2014. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2014/10/06/no-space-justice/impunity-crimes-paramilitary-forces-pakistan>.
- Kanwel, S., & Ayub, N. (2023). FIR Denial by Police: A Legal and Ethical Dilemma. *PAKISTAN ISLAMICUS* (An International Journal of Islamic & Social Sciences), 3(2), 335-343.
- Kanwel, S., ul Hassan, S. S., & Ayub, N. (2023). Critical Analysis of Sentences in the Criminal Justice System of Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Law, Analysis and Wisdom*, 2(02), 547-555.
- Khan, Imtiaz A. "Policing and Human Rights: The Case of Pakistan." *Policing and Society*, vol. 19, no. 4, 2009, pp. 408-432.
- Khan, M. I., & Kanwel, S. (2023). Crime And Pakistan's Legal Framework: A Critical Analysis.
- Khan, M. I., Nisar, A., & Kanwel, S. (2023). From Punishment to Progress: The Legal Evolution of Criminal Rehabilitation. *Pakistan Journal of Law, Analysis and Wisdom*, 2(02), 556-563.
- Khan, M. I., Shah, S., & Kanwel, S. (2023). Rehabilitation Reconsidered: A Comprehensive Legal Analysis. *Journal of Asian Development Studies* Vol, 12(3).
- Muhammad Hamza Zakir, Syed Hammad Khan, Zahira Saeed, & Sajida. (2023). The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Intellectual Property Rights. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN AND SOCIETY*, 3(4), 312-319. Retrieved from <https://ijhs.com.pk/index.php/IJHS/article/view/330>
- National Police Bureau. "Police Reforms Program." <http://www.npb.gov.pk/index.php?id=24>.
- Police Order 2002. Government of Pakistan, 2002.
- Raza, Ahmad. "Police Reforms in Pakistan: A Case Study of Punjab Police." *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2014, pp. 75-93.
- Sial, Shahid Javed Burki. "Governance and Public Sector Management." In: Malik SA, editors. *Institutional Reforms in the Public Sector: What Did We Learn?* World Bank Publications, 2008.

- UN Office on Drugs and Crime. "Handbook on Police Accountability, Oversight, and Integrity." 2011. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/10-57481\\_Ebook.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/10-57481_Ebook.pdf).
- United Nations. "Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials." 1990. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/useofforceandfirearms.aspx>.
- Zakir, M. H. (2023). ANALYZING THE APPLICABILITY AND LIMITATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN RESOLVING THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE.
- Zakir, M. H., & Ali, S. (2023). CROSS-BORDER TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE: JURISDICTIONAL CHALLENGES AND HARMONIZATION EFFORTS. *PAKISTAN ISLAMICUS (An International Journal of Islamic & Social Sciences)*, 3(2), 51-69.
- Zakir, M. H., Pakhtunkhwa, K., Khan, S. H., Anwar, Z., & Ali, A. Trademark Infringement on Social Media Platforms: A Comparative Analysis of Regulatory Responses in Pakistan, China, and the US.