

Freedom of information
is a fundamental
human right and...
the touchstone of all
the freedoms to which
the UN is consecrated.
UN General Assembly,
1946

Our Right to Know

**Under Section 137 of the Punjab Local Government Ordinance 2001,
we have the right to access information held by the district governments.**

**We can use this right to information to promote
transparency and accountability in the district governments.**

For instance, by using this right, we can find out:

- **How much funds have been allocated to the school located in our village?**
- **Are the funds allocated to our school being used appropriately & efficiently?**
- **Why the district Govt. has not posted adequate number of subject specialists in the high school in our area?**
- **Why some schools get more funds or facilities than others?**
- **How many new projects in the education sector are being implemented and whether the cost estimates are justified?**

**You can also demand provisions of documents like copies of annual budgets,
annual development programs, contracts, feasibility reports, progress reports,
and income and expenditures statements.**

**In case of denial of your legal right to access to information, you can approach a court of law or you can
file a complaint to the office of the Punjab Ombudsman at the following address:**

**Local Govt.
Ordinance 2001
(Section 137)**

**Ombudsman Punjab
2-Bank Road, Lahore
E-Mail: infolahore@ombudsmanpunjab.gov.pk
Telephone: +92-42-9211780, Fax: +92-42-9213710, 9213711
Website: www.ombudsmanpunjab.gov.pk**

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- **“Every citizen shall have the right to information about any office of the district Government, Tehsil Municipal Administration and Union Administration.**
- **Every office shall provide requisite information, if not restricted under any law for the time being in force, on the prescribed forms and on payment of such fee as may be prescribed.**
- **Information about the staffing and the performance of the office of a local government during the preceding month shall be displayed at a prominent place for access by citizens”.**