

# **ROSHNI**

## **MASS AWARENESS PROGRAMME (MAP) OF "ROSHNI" (ENLIGHTENMENT)**

There is the need to form a devoted fellowship for bringing about awareness among the people of their rights and obligations through political education. This will prepare them to effectively contribute to the betterment of society and to establish a truly democratic order in Pakistan.

The basic requirement of democracy is free, fair and transparent elections, which could reflect the real desires of the electorate. Such elections will enable the people to send to the parliament such representatives from amongst themselves as could watch their interests fully as prime minister, ministers or members of the national and provincial assemblies, not self-seekers and money grabbers.

The problems required to be solved are basically those of the lower and middle classes who form the majority. Therefore, unless people from these classes reach the assemblies and other seats of power, the interests of the majority cannot be safeguarded. The principles of democracy will not take roots; the selfish elite will continue to rule to the detriment of the people.

The most important vehicles of democratic progress are education, health and social development. It is, therefore, essential to create awareness among the people, especially the youth, regarding these and other issues of public importance or solving them. It is also essential to engender in them the will to acquire political understanding as well as state power, through legal and constitutional means.

The main objectives of MAP will, therefore, be to:

1. Ensure, with the conscious participation of the people, free and fair and transparent elections with minimum financial burden upon the candidates.
2. Arrange quality education up to matriculation level, and impart proper technical skills.
3. Eradicate poverty, raise the standard of living of the working people and empower people at all levels.
4. Hold workshops for imparting lessons on social and political issues, and arrange "meet the people at the grassroots" programs.
5. Produce well researched written material for mass education, and to perform any other activity conducive to the objectives of MAP.

## **DETAILS OF MAP PROGRAM (These apply equally to other countries and nations)**

The principal objectives of the MAP are to promote true democracy (i.e., government of the people for the people, by the people). MAP intends to cover three areas of education: political education, voters' awareness, and school children and youth education on liberal, enlightened and progressive lines.

### **I. Political Education Classes**

A batch of 14 persons at a time, belonging to various fields of life, will be formed for weeklong workshops. Two lectures per day of quarter hour duration will be delivered followed by one-hour question-answer session. Fourteen subjects on social, political, economic and cultural issues could be framed from out of the following subjects:

1. Facts and figures about Pakistan's area, population, manpower and other resources, health, education, inflation, unemployment, law and order, corruption, tax system etc.
2. Basic problems of urban and rural life, and how to solve them?
3. Political history of Pakistan and its effects on the social, political and economic situation of the country.
4. The problems of the masses consisting of the lower and middle classes. How to create awareness among these classes for finding out ways for solving these problems?
5. Identification of Pakistan's vested interests and exploiting classes (feudalists, capitalists, civil and military bureaucrats, religious elite and others who are products of manipulation, corruption and plundering of natural resources of the country and public money).
6. What is the definition of true democracy? How to establish democracy on a sound footing right up to the grassroots?
7. Determining the relationship of the voters and the elected government. What are the ways of creating a relationship of trust between the government and the people? What is really meant by 'participation of people in governance'?
8. What kind of electoral rules are required in order to make meaningful participation of the people in elections possible.
9. Importance of the state structure in healthy development of society. The need for decentralizing power to the provincial, district and local levels, and the ways to do it.
10. The forms of a just economic system. The reforms required in the taxation structure, the budget making process and government non-development expenditure.

11. What are the defects in the working of Pakistan's political parties, and how to remove them? What role can political activists with commitment play in improving national politics?
12. How can the role of political leaders be improved? Should leadership be based on personalities or principles? Whether it should be 'personal' or 'collective'?
13. What are the basic rights and obligations of the individual?
14. What are the rights of women as against men? What are their responsibilities for building the society?
15. What are the solutions to the problems of children and youth? What part can they play in the development of the nation?
16. What is the importance of participation of industrial workers and *kissans* (tillers of land) in the political process? What are the ways to make their participation effective and fruitful?
17. What are the meanings of 'scientific thinking' and 'democratic process'? What are the ways of making the individual and collective roles purposeful?
18. What is a capitalist system? What are its defects? In the specific circumstances prevailing in Pakistan what kind of economic system should be adopted or developed?
19. In what ways can the cultural activities be harnessed to elevate a person spiritually, to and improve and flourish public life?
20. The need to instill the spirit of healthy nationhood, and the desire to develop the society on constructive lines.
21. How to create confidence among the people, and the will to acquire for themselves state power, through legal and constitutional means?
22. How to raise the standard of living of the poor and the weak?
23. Defining the divergent concepts of "faith" and "religion". The concept of faith was presented by all the prophets by the name of "Islam" and meant "firm belief in God and service to humanity", and which unifies humanity on the basis of peace and amity. The concept of "religion", on the other hand, leads to religious intolerance, sectarian conflicts and exploitation at the hands of clerics, who are a creation of the powerful moneyed elite.
24. How to bring about a change in the thinking and attitude of government functionaries towards the people for solving their problems, and making them self-orientated?
25. What is the role of Local Bodies in making possible fruitful participation of the general public in developmental work, and the throwing up of good

leadership at the local and district levels from amongst the lower and middle classes?

26. Initiating and developing programs, and holding workshops, for meeting the people at the grassroots level, and entering upon dialogue with them about solutions to their problems.

## **II. Voters' Education**

1. Voters should be convinced to participate in elections and go to the [polling stations in large numbers to tender their votes. Political mobilization is important for inducing the voters to vote.
2. The masses should also be educated to the extent that they can vote intelligently.
3. A collective will of the people is necessary to run true democracy. Voters belonging to various constituencies should vote for the better candidate no matter to which political party they belong.
4. There is a real need for honest and capable leadership. Only a well aware and determined electorate can throw up such leadership.
5. The voter should be enabled to rise above considerations of prejudices of *baradaries* (community groupings), sects, race or religion. They should vote only on the basis of merit.
6. If, at any time, an elected representative starts working against the interests of the electorate, the voters of the constituency should be empowered, by proper legislation, to re-elect another person in his/her place.
7. Unnecessary expenses by the candidates during the elections should be harshly curtailed. Setting up of billboards and advertisement in newspapers and electronic media should be banned.
8. Permanent political institutions should be set up for training politicians and political workers so as to make it possible for democracy to establish itself firmly and work effectively.
9. Democracy is a long-term and messy affair, and does not bring its fruits to bear in a short period. The autocratic rule of civil and military bureaucrats cannot be beneficial as against the ruler ship of good and seasoned politicians who are elected by the people, and who can be recalled by them.

## **III. School Children's Formal Education**

1. A minimum of expenditure should be incurred on raising posh buildings for schools.
2. More attention should be given to imparting quality education so as to improve the intellectual capabilities, to

build moral and spiritual strength and to inculcate humanitarian approach in the students.

3. Special care should be taken to make the students "good human beings" believing in the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and earnest in serving one another and humanity at large, irrespective of caste, creed or gender.