



## **Sociology**

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### **Assignment**

### **Transparency International Pakistan Youth Awareness and Capacity Building Session**

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## **Understanding SDG 16 :- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**

Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) is one of the 17 global goals set by the United Nations to promote peace and prosperity for all. This specific goal focuses on creating peaceful societies, ensuring justice for all individuals, and building strong and fair institutions.

SDG 16 addresses key issues such as reducing violence, ending abuse, ensuring access to justice, and building effective, transparent, and accountable institutions. It emphasizes fairness, equality, and the protection of human rights. It also promotes inclusive decision-making, legal identity for everyone, and public access to information. By strengthening law and order, SDG 16 supports the success of many other development goals.

### **Transparency and Public Access to Information :- SDG 16.10**

Target 16.10 of SDG 16 is about two important things:

1. Making sure people can get information about how governments and institutions work
2. Protecting basic freedoms such as free speech, peaceful protests, and access to justice

These goals aim to make governments more open and help citizens trust public institutions. When people know what's happening in government, they can hold leaders accountable. This leads to better services, less corruption, and stronger participation in community matters. However, some sensitive information—such as military plans or court investigations—may be kept private for national security.

### **Access to Information Law in Sindh:**

In the province of Sindh, the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2016 gives citizens the legal right to request information from public offices. Rooted in Article 19-A of

Pakistan's Constitution, this law ensures that people can access important public records, helping them understand how the government works and allowing them to raise concerns when needed. Citizens can request details about public spending, hiring processes, or decision-making in government departments and NGOs that use public funds. However, private data or matters involving national security are excluded for privacy and safety reasons.

The Sindh Information Commission oversees the enforcement of this law and ensures that requests are handled fairly. With this law, everyday citizens can question delays in services, verify their inclusion in welfare programs, or challenge irregularities in education and healthcare systems. In short, it empowers people to protect their rights and contribute to a more transparent and accountable society.

### **How Can Citizens Use This Law:-**

#### *For Personal Benefit:*

- A person can ask for information to check if they were unfairly excluded from a government support program.
- If there's a delay in issuing property papers or ID cards, citizens can ask which official is responsible and how long it should take.
- Students can request merit lists or admission criteria to challenge unfair academic decisions.

#### *For Society's Benefit:*

- People can uncover poor planning or corruption in public development projects by requesting budget details and contractor names.
- Health or education problems in a community can be investigated by requesting staff attendance, stock availability, or spending records.

## **Conclusion:-**

SDG 16, especially target 16.10, plays a crucial role in promoting justice, peace, and transparency. Laws like the Sindh Right to Information Act empower citizens to actively participate in society by holding institutions accountable and ensuring that services are delivered fairly and honestly. Through this, individuals not only protect their own rights but also help build a more just and informed society.