

Study trip of SGS BS public administration students at Local Government
Academy Lalamusa
(May 23rd, 2023/ Tuesday)



Overview of the study visit

Our worthy faculty member Dr. Seemi Waheed arranged the study trip for BS public administration class, in the Local Government Course. They visited the Punjab Local Government Academy (PLGA), Lalamusa. The Director PLGA – Mr. Najeeb Aslam and his team hosted the delegation. The class and the faculty were welcomed by the Director and his team. The team briefed on the Punjab local government system, history of PLGA, and Punjab Local Government Act 2022. He briefed on the history of the academy, areas of training and way forward of this institute. PLGA was established under the Village Aid Programme for the training of local farmers in 1953. It served as the Basic Democracies Training Institute from 1961 to 1971. It was then converted into the Local Government Training Institute in 1972. In 2001, PLGA obtained its present nomenclature. PLGA designs and delivers the latest training modules to upgrade the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the trainees in the technical, social and managerial areas of the local government functions and reshaping the enabling environments in which local governments operate. The ultimate objective is to improve the service delivery for the 120 million citizens of Punjab.



PLGA offers the various types of trainings broadly categorized as following:

- Training for Senior Management
- Post Induction Training for Local Government Employees
- Mandatory Training for LG&CD Department Officers and Staff for Promotion
- Customized Training Courses for Donor Funded Projects
- Awareness and Training of Public Representatives on Local Government Laws

Their vision is to prepare motivated, proactive, dedicated, disciplined and competent public servants through high quality training focusing on appropriate attitudes, skills, knowledge and behaviors for better municipal service delivery. And mission is to impart the best quality training to the officers/officials of LG&CD Department and local government elected representatives in the most effective manner.



The core objectives of PLGA are:

- To prepare technical and management related training modules on the basis of Training Needs Assessment of local government institutions;
- To design training programs and deliver them using the latest training methodologies;
- To liaison with the relevant national and international training partners for institutional development as the premier local government training academy in the country;
- To organize specialized training courses and purpose-specific conferences and seminars on the local government related subjects and themes

Director General elaborated very proactively about the upcoming projects of PLGA. He discussed 24 modules on which his organization is working to deliver trainings. Some of them were: Citizens Engagement, Digitization of Local Government, PEEDA & PPRA Rules, CRVS & Muslim Family Laws, M&E Framework, Purchase, Contract & Auction, Office Administration & Management,



Annual Development Program, Development Planning & Works Rules, Financial Management, LG Taxation, Budget, Accounts & Audit, Effective Communication & Presentation Skills and inter alia.



He also highlighted the issues and challenges that he is currently facing including the budget allocation, human resource management and infrastructural development. By commenting on the future projects of PLGA, he explained that since its inception, PLGA has been working with different development agencies and projects such as JICA, UNDP, GIZ, UNICEF and Water Aid etc. Currently, PLGA is undergoing the capacity enhancement process under ADB funded Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Project (PICIIP). The project envisions PLGA to be the intellectual powerhouse for the country's LG sector and become a self-sustaining academy. It will act as the modernized training arm of the Punjab Government for capacity building of the Local Government officers and staff as well as elected representatives of Punjab and other provinces of the country. They are working to upgrade it into Center of Excellence (worth total cost of 137 million PKR project) by granting the autonomous status to the institute.



He concluded the session by emphasizing students to work diligently on their careers. He advised them to adopt four principles in life: a good intention, commitment, diligence and have faith on ALLAH SWT (*Tawakul*).



Afterwards, Mr. Moazzam Ali Janjua, Ex. Add. Sec. LG AD (Estate), PLGA conducted a training session on LG system & PLGA act 2022. He delivered a detailed lecture on its background and different amendments so far. He also discussed its implementation side and context within the current structure of local government. Students showed keen interest and inclusively participated in the Q&A session. They asked question related to the budget allocation, local government reforms and incorporation of local subjects in the public policy mechanisms of Pakistan.



In the end, Dr. Seemi Waheed gave concluding remarks. She appreciated the hospitable efforts of the academy for the visit. She commented on the session and encouraged the DG PLGA for the future endeavors. Senior Liaison Officer – Amna Siddique (SGS, UMT) also acknowledged the well-planned efforts of the DG PLGA and team. This visit complements to the legacy of School of Governance & Society, UMT towards industry-academia linkages. We are looking forward to engage PLGA in our school activities. The session was formally closed by exchanging souvenirs coupled with a group photo. The delegation visited the campus and as a token of respect there was a tree plantation ceremony. After the lunch, students interacted with the DG & team of PLGA and safely came back to the university.



To sum, it was an informative and interactive study trip for the students of SGS. They learned and experienced on-ground realities of the public organization specifically in the context of third tier of governance - *local government*. SGS will keep doing these efforts to engage its key stakeholders. Looking forward to these collaborations!





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