

## THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION OF PRESS FREEDOM IN PAKISTAN HISTORY, INTERPRETATION AND PROSPECTS

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### ABSTRACT:

The freedom of the press is usually guaranteed in the constitution of a country as a fundamental human right. The same is also guaranteed in the 1973 constitution of Pakistan but it is not absolute freedom instead it is subject to some restrictions. This paper is an attempt to study the historical perspective of the constitutional provision relating to the press; its interpretation and future prospects. The methodology used in this paper is based on document study in which the researcher has consulted the relevant material on the basis of purposive sampling. The methodology of document study was coupled with one-on-one depth interviews of communication scholars & media practitioners to enrich the findings. Focus group discussion further sharpened the observation and led this with to draw concrete conclusion & suggestions.

All the time of independence on August 14, 1947, Pakistan had no constitution of its own. Under section 81 of the Indian Independence Act of 1947, the Government of India Act, 1935, coupled with certain amendments adopted by Pakistan, became its working constitution.

Since Government of India Act, 1935 was promulgated by the foreign rulers, there is no mention of freedom of expression or Press<sup>4</sup> Quaid-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah the Founding Father of Pakistan rightly remarked the 1935 Act as "Thoroughly rotten, fundamentally bad and totally unacceptable"<sup>5</sup>

Since this old Act did not contain all that was required for the constitutional Government of an Independent modern state, efforts of framing of constitution had been started right from the early days of Independence but after nine long years Pakistan had at last framed a constitution which was adopted on March 23, 1956<sup>6</sup>.