

PEOPLE AND THE LAND:

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Rural Karachi - A Case Study

CONTEXT

People view Karachi only as the mega urban center of Pakistan, the capital of Sindh province, the largest city in Pakistan, and the financial hub of Pakistan, generating about 65% of the national revenue. However, what most people are unaware of is that the urbanized settlements are surrounded by a large agrarian rural hinterland that had once promised to provide food security for the whole of Karachi. The Karachi Development Plan 1974 - 1985 stressed the need to "create an efficient agro-urban complex, using urban wastes to support the production of food supply needed by the urban population." However, the past decades have witnessed a plummeting decline in the agricultural produce for Karachi disturbing the promised potential once envisioned.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

In 2010 Shehri - CBE and ANSA undertook a project to identify the reasons that may have political, administrative and development implications for the inequitable growth in Karachi's rural hinterland inhabited by indigenous inhabitants of Karachi, with Gadap as a case study. Based on the evaluation, analysis, and strategies recommendations were made for policy, planning and institutional reforms. Moreover, the capacity of local communities in Gadap was examined and developed for an enhanced and informed political involvement for institutionalizing the related civil society monitoring, regulation and social accountability mechanisms. This publication briefly presents the major undertakings of the project, findings and recommendations.



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ENVIRONMENT

ANSA
South Asia Region

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Diagnosis

Diagnosis of the problem of inequitable growth and development patterns in rural Karachi

Planning for reforms

Implementing pilot "Happy Goths (Villages)"

Sustaining reforms

Application of a Social Accountability tool, "Community Score Card (CSC)"



CLASSIFICATION OF GOTHS IN KARACHI

- Coastal Goths are villages along the coast where main occupation is fishing and its ancillary activities.
- Rural Goths are situated at the perimeters of the city where farming and agriculture still constitute as the main source of livelihoods.
- Urbanized Goths are goths that were earlier purely rural but due to their proximity to the city have acquired urban characteristics.

TRACING THE RURAL ROOTS

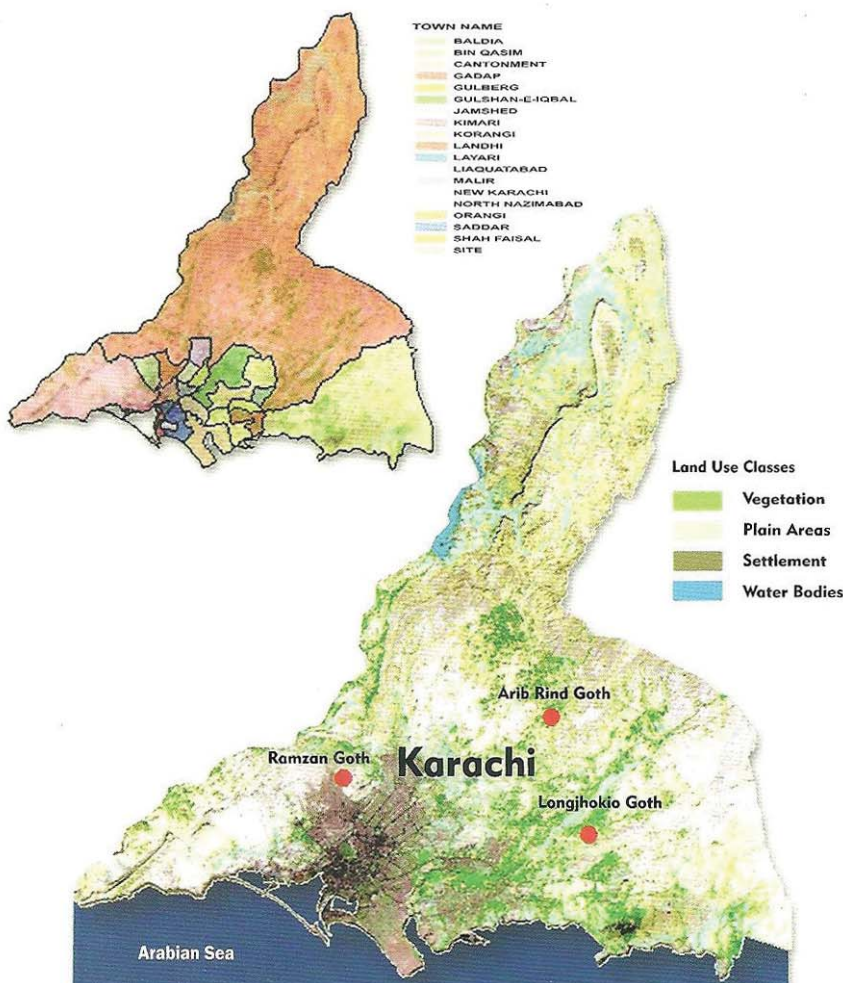
The beginning of the city of Karachi is rooted in a settlement that grew out of a fishing village by the name of *Kolachi Jo Goth*. The periphery of the old town was inhabited by the ancient villagers of Jokhios, Memons, and Mir Bahars, and the more picturesque center became the abode of Silwats, who migrated centuries ago from Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, India as stone workers.

As Karachi lies in the foothills of Kirthar Range, part of its territories was held by Baloch chieftains. However, in the early 18th century the control of Karachi from Baloch chieftains passed on to the Sindhi speaking chief of the Kalmati Maliks. In the early period, the settlements in Karachi mostly constituted of fishing villages. Later on different castes and tribes moved on and settled in different spots and began cultivation initially for sustenance, but then occupied grazing lands and started agricultural activities to meet the market requirements of fruits and vegetables.

Historically, the agricultural areas of Karachi, including Malir and Gadap, provided considerable quantities of fruits, vegetables, fodder, and grain to Karachi and other lower areas of Sindh. Cultivation was made viable due to perennial streams dependant on seasonal rains. Rainwater harvesting since centuries helped recharge the underground water aquifers. Then in the 1980s, serious drought and onset of unsustainable sand mining practices lowered the water wells of the indigenous wells, making water extraction almost impossible. Overall the cultivable land in rural Karachi reduced from 61% in 1960 to just 19% in 2000, mainly due to the unplanned expansion of the city, development of new residential schemes, and un-checked sand and gravel mining.





Based on topography and drainage patterns the potential agricultural areas of Karachi are found in Malir, Gadap, Darsano Channa, Kathore, Khar Nai, Hab, and Band Murad Areas. According to a research by a local NGO, the Orangi Pilot Project, there are 2,173 goths (villages), mostly in the three peripheral areas of Karachi: Gadap, Bin Qasim, and Kemari, out of which 573 have already become urbanized settlements.





Gadap, where the project was carried out, is one of the oldest areas of Karachi and has remained a center to pathways from Balochistan Lasbella & Hub. The roads from Gadap lead to important districts of Sindh that include Hyderabad, Thatta, and Dadu. Although Sindhis and Balochis are the dominant majority but other groups including Muhajirs, Punjabis, Seraikis, and Pakhtuns also reside in the area.











RURAL KARACHI

The collage features a central map of Rural Karachi, divided into numerous small areas. A legend indicates that yellow areas represent 'Rural Areas', blue areas represent 'Fishing Villages', black lines represent 'Deh Boundary', and grey lines represent 'UC Boundary'. The map labels include: KAND, KAND JAFI, SHORKAND, MOIDAN, MEHAR, WASKAND, KHAND, SONDI, TARARI, KHAND, LUSAR, BHAD, SHORING, MANDRO, GADAP, KARMATIAN, HUDA WAI, BOLHARI, KATHORE, BAYAL, KHADISI, ABDAR, CHOHAR, AMILANO, KONGAR, LANGHER, NARATHER, SHAH MURID, ALLAH PHEHAI, NANGAN, MOKHE, BUIAR BUTHI, THAMING, TOR, THADDO, KHARHAR, KORSANO, CHAMANO, MALIR, MANCHOPR, BALKANI, JAM CHAFRO, MURAD KHAN, METHA GHAR, MOHYO, LOLLIGH, and KHAMARI TOWN. The map also shows 'KHAMARI TOWN' and 'KHAMARI TOWN' in blue areas, and 'KHAMARI TOWN' in a green area. The collage includes several photographs: a man in a white shirt and a red sash holding a newspaper; a man in a white shirt and a red sash holding a rifle; a man in a white shirt and a red sash holding a rifle; and a group of children washing clothes in a large bowl.

 Rural Areas
 Fishing Villages
 Deh Boundary
 UC Boundary

 Rural Areas
 Fishing Villages
 Deh Boundary
 UC Boundary

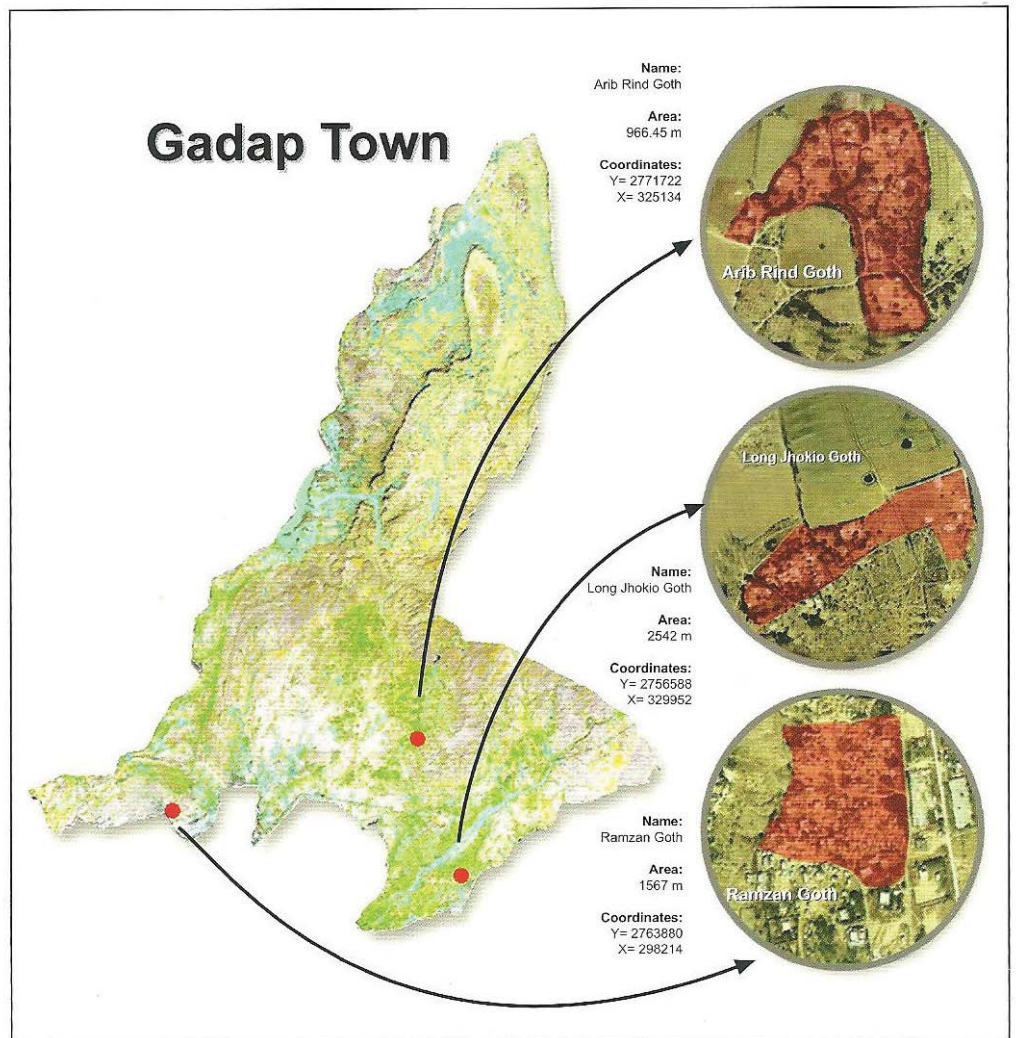
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DIAGNOSIS OF THE PROBLEM

The Profile and Issues of the Project Goths in Gadap

To meet the project objectives three goths in Gadap: Haji Ramzan Goth, Long Goth, and Arib Rind, were identified based on their ethnic background, socio-economic status, livelihoods, land allocation, natural resource availability together with the criterion that their rural characteristics remained relatively intact. This distinction was made with the realization that these Goths are now displaying the effects of uncontrolled urbanization that is adversely impacting their lives and leading to unsustainable changes. The study of the project Goths was done with the aim to situate development interventions within an understanding of the prevailing political and economic processes, specifically, the incentives, relationships, distribution and contest for power between different groups. This was achieved through detailed profiling and identification of chain of cause-effect relationships. As a part of the Diagnostic Phase of the Project, an extensive quantitative survey of the three project goths was conducted in which data on goth profile and issues were garnered from both male and female household members.



Basic Profile of the Project Goths

	Haji Ramzan Goth	Long Goth	Arib Rind Goth
House Holds	58	66	
Language	Barhahvi	Sindhi	Balochi
Illiteracy Rate	24%	46.96%	28%
Prevalent Diseases	Malaria & Diarrhea	Malaria	Malaria
Main Occupation	Trading & Farming	Farming	Farming
Land Ownership by Residents	96.55%	92%	96%

PRIORITY CONCERNS

Long Goth

- non-availability of civic services
- poor condition of roads
- unemployment

Ramzan Goth

- health
- education
- unemployment

Arib Rind Goth

- non-availability of civic services
- health
- unemployment

AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF GOTH BHALAI COMMITTEES

- Share experiences, best practices, and transfer skills on community improvement
- To lobby and engage with relevant government officials and agencies for resolving the problems common to the three goths
- To coordinate with NGOs, academic institutes, media etc to develop projects that can be jointly implemented for community awareness and skill development as well as goth development

PLANNING FOR REFORMS

Mobilizing for Change

To mobilize community for change and to initiate reforms through action "Happy Goths" project was launched. Under this project a *Goth Bhalai* Committee in each project village was established that was further divided into sub-committees to address multiple community issues. The Committee, headed by the village elder, comprised of a dozen members for which two were women.

A comprehensive Charter was developed detailing the aims and objectives of the Committee. These Committees were then linked in an Alliance that was mandated within the project framework to interact with political representatives and government agencies for converting their Goths into model "Happy Goths" with improved socioeconomic and political conditions.

Sustaining Reforms

The project also instituted mechanisms and practices for social accountability through capacity building of the community groups by the use of the Community Score Card. This accountability process was divided into the following five phases:

- Data Collection and assessment of all the target services and entitlements due to the communities
- Preparation of Input Tracking Score Card where the community was informed about their entitlements with performance criteria being listed
- Conducting of the CSC where the community was present and rated each aspect of the service with the score for performance against the selected indicators
- Preparation of the Self Evaluation Score Card where the relevant service provider was asked to rate its own performance against the selected performance indicators
- Development of Action Planning Matrix with the participation of community and service providers in which both parties mutually decided on action for improvement in services

COMMUNITY SCORE CARD (CSC)

CSC is a social accountability tool that acts as an interface between service providers and consumers and allows for the setting of benchmarks, targets and timelines and sharing of responsibilities with immediate feedback on quality and adequacy of the services provided.



AREAS OF INTERVENTION

The CSC process in the project Goths targeted two sectors - Health and Education. Through this exercise it became evident that though there were gaps in public service delivery, but inaction of the communities was also part of the problem. This exercise established that sustainable development is possible only when people and communities feel engaged in the planning and development of their localities, own what is being done for them and are empowered to monitor the quality, continuity, and impact of the development initiatives.

Case Study 1: Lady Health Workers Program

The reason for choosing the Lady Health Workers service for the CSC process was based on the Needs Assessment Survey in which inadequate health facilities were highlighted as one of the priority issues in the project goths. Through interactive meetings and sessions *Key Performance Indicators* were developed and scored and an Action Plan was delineated to meet the shortcomings in meeting the performance indicators by the service providers and community members.

Key Performance Indicators for LHW

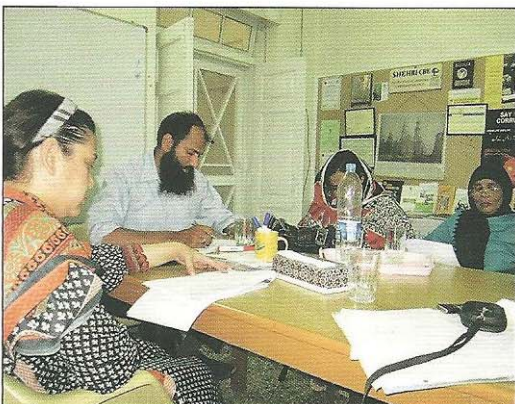
- Coverage provided
- Frequency of visits
- Availability of drugs and support kits
- Functioning of Static House
- Functioning of Health Committee and Women Group
- Organizing of Health and Sanitation Week
- Organizing of Mother and Child Week

Key Findings of the CSC Process

- The LHW service was functional
- The coverage was satisfactory
- The frequency of visits by LHWs was less compared to their service schedule
- LHWs were significantly under equipped
- The behavior of the LHWs was found satisfactory
- The static house was present though 'non-functional in two of the three Goths
- Health committees absent in all 3 goths

Action Plan

- Existing Static Health House to be made functional and to establish such a facility where it does not exist
- Community and LHWs agree to immediately form and activate the Women's Committee and the Health Committee
- Community and LHWs to ensure Mother and Child Week and Health and Sanitation weeks are observed regularly



Case Study 2:

Arib Rind & Sindh Education Sector Reform Program (SERP)

SERP is a World Bank funded program implemented by the Sindh government with the help of the private sector. It aims to improve quality, equity and efficiency in education service delivery. A Reform Support Unit (RSU) has also been set up for policy formulation and implementation of the program. Another salient part of SERP is the School Rehabilitation Program, the objectives of which are the infrastructure development of schools, construction of existing shelter less schools, providing more classrooms to existing schools and other necessary facilities like toilets and playgrounds etc. For the Community Report Card (CRC) process education in Arib Rind was chosen because only one government run primary school exists in the goth, which is the highest level of education available.

Education Key Performance Indicators

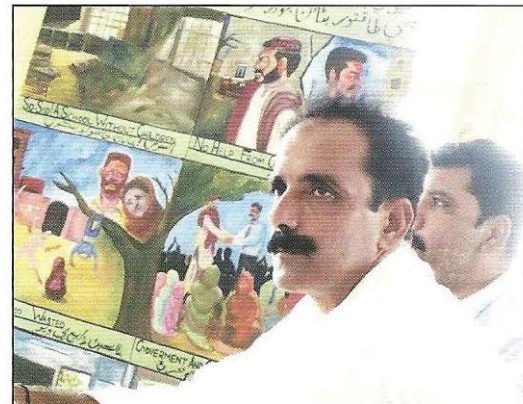
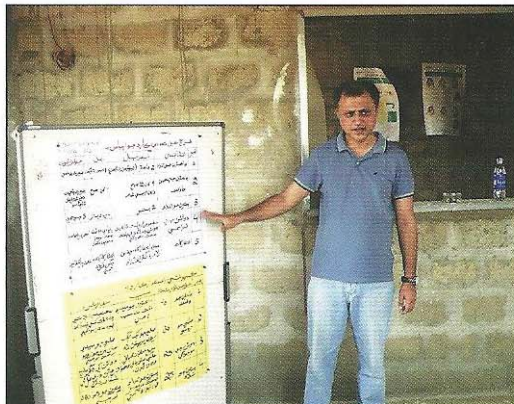
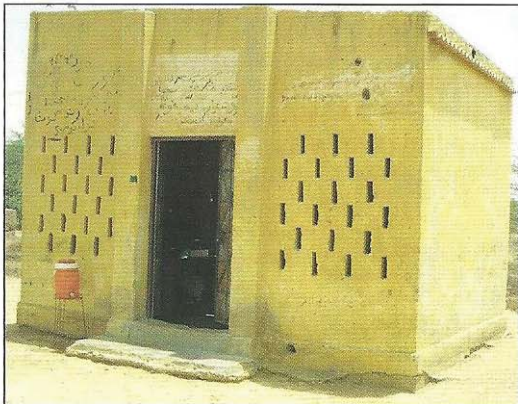
- Availability/punctuality of teachers
- Training of teachers
- Behavior of teachers
- Availability of free textbooks
- Provision of water, electricity and toilet facilities
- Functioning and involvement of School Management Committees (SMCs)
- Increasing enrolment in school
- Regular attendance of students

Key Findings of the CSC Process

- Basic school facilities are present
- School teacher present
- School teachers behavior termed satisfactory by the community
- Specified school hours not regularly followed
- Ancillary facilities such as water/washrooms not present
- Curriculum books provided to students on an annual basis
- The teacher though had attended the government sponsored training program but was found totally inadequate for the task
- The School Management Committee formed under the SERP existed only on paper
- Lack of community interest in increasing enrolment
- The monitoring by government/SERP of school functions was limited to financial audit

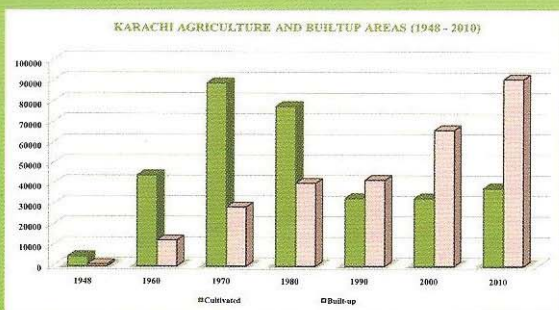
Action Plan

- The SMC would be made functional and would meet at least once a month
- The community agreed to increase the enrolment in the school from 12 to 30 students prior to the next budget allocation, so that on reaching the threshold of 30 students they would become entitled to an additional teacher, increased funding and space
- The area supervisors would negotiate with the RSU for provision of toilet/water facilities
- The educated women of the goth would help as volunteers in teaching students
- As many parents prefer a separate place for girls, especially after 12 years, it was recommended that perhaps there could be a separate room constructed for girls if there were enough female students. The SMC was made responsible to look into this matter



ENCROACHMENT OF URBAN LAND

(Source: Department of Geography, University of Karachi)



Land use change: The most serious threat faced by rural Karachi

The most serious challenge faced is the threat to agricultural land use. According to research carried out by a local NGO, the *Orangi Pilot Project (OPP)* there are 2,173 old traditional settlements (Goths) in Karachi mostly in the 3 peripheral towns of Karachi - Gadap, Bin Qasim and Kemari out of which 573 have already become urbanized settlements (figures recently accepted by the Government of Sindh). According to the OPP, there is extensive unofficial land subdivision and housing all over the periphery of Karachi. More than 593 goths (as per the OPP-RTI's latest survey) have become urban settlements spanning over more than 30,000 acres. More than 100,000 plots (over approx. 3,000 acres) are being made available annually generating approximately Rs. 25 billion. About 35% of the plots have been occupied. 2006 onwards, land subdivision. Consequently, the cultivable land has reduced from 61% in 1960 to only 19% in 2000, and what was the bread basket for Karachi is disappearing, making vegetables and fruit more expensive for us.

Then there is the adverse impact on the natural aquifers resource base of rural Karachi as a result of the extraction of huge quantities of sand to be used for supporting construction activities. Buildings in Karachi contain a high percentage of gravel and sand. This sand and gravel excavation has devastated the fertile valley of Malir and Gadap basins. In the 1950's and 1960's, excavation was allowed from Drigh Road area only. Now it has gradually spread in the entire Malir river valley upto Gadap, Darsano Channa, Khamai and Kathore. An average truck approximately carries 318 cubic feet of gravel. On taking an average of 1000 truck per day the daily frequency of sand and gravel excavation amounts to approximately 318,000 cubic feet!



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Shehri- Citizens for Better Environment

is a not for profit organization that aims to provide citizens with a platform to effectively voice their concerns in determining their future and taking action in arresting the deterioration in their living environment and proper reform with a view to improve the same.

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The Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA), funded by the World Bank Institute (WBI), is an initiative to promote, strengthen and sustain the concepts and practices of social accountability globally.

South Asia Region and Global Institute of Government Studies

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