



Shehri-CBE

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP

FINAL REPORT



**CIVIC EDUCATION FOR
ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP**



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ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP**

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Project Brief

Citizens for a Better Environment (Shehri-CBE) has executed the project - **Youth Empowerment for Engaged Citizenship** - that aimed to build capacity in youth, both through enhancement and also application of knowledge that relates with informed civic activism. The project has attempted to provide a model where the academic spaces at the higher level of learning, become facilitators of incorporating knowledge of civic education and nurture within students, pro-active socio-political mobilization and awareness of their fundamental rights. This model has been developed through engagement with students of three (3) selected higher education institutes in the city of Karachi. During the course of the project, students were informed about the public policy arena as it relates with Pakistan and in particular the province of Sindh and Karachi city. Capacity building and interactive learning sessions, exposure field visits to government and non-government institutions were organized to enable students to understand the meaning of social contract in relation to the structure of governance - the branches of the legislative, executive and the judiciary and the interfaces between the formal and informal actors situated within the chosen policy universe. A series of Panel Discussions were held with elected representatives, civil servants and representatives of civil society and startup organizations where students were exposed to discussions on real life challenges and experiences of the public policy arena.

Knowledge products have been developed and through extensive discussions on the existing state of governance, they have been facilitated in understanding the implications of non-participatory, top-heavy policy and planning and also, how participatory methodologies and instruments can be applied for making such processes inclusive.

The project hopes to advocate this model framework for creating a politically informed and activated youth citizenry - A model that can find replication and expansion within the pedagogical and academic spaces nationwide. Through this report, the activities and outputs of the project are being documented so that the learnings and findings serve to provide for relevant stakeholders, the architecture of this model of youth empowered socio-political activism.

SECTION 1

Project Mapping

This Section maps out the context and structure of the project in terms of the events and activities conducted in line with the stated project objectives and outcomes

The project activities and associated deliverables were divided in three (3) separate phases:

Phase I



- In the preliminary phase of the project, Citizens for a Better Environment: Shehri-CBE focused on establishing collaboration with three (3) higher level educational institutions in Karachi. These included:

- Habib University - Social Development & Policy Program, School of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
- University of Karachi - Department of Public Administration
- Millennium Institute of Technology & Entrepreneurship (MITE) - Department of Business & Management Sciences

- Engagements began by assessing the level of knowledge and understanding among young citizens about Pakistan's electoral and governance system and the importance of active citizenship in a functional democracy. For this purpose, the consultative sessions have provided a forum to the students to share their perceptions on what it means to be a Pakistani citizen and how youth can engage with national, provincial, and local governance institutions and processes. Each session featured discussions and interactive exercises to evaluate the level of civic awareness and engagement among a diverse cross- section of urban youth and understand youth perspectives on the state of democracy in the country.

- Based on the engagement with youth and consultations with relevant experts, two Knowledge Product Toolkits,

(1) Understanding Policy and Governance in Pakistan - A Toolkit for Youth Empowerment

(2) Learning Civic Activism and Advocacy - A Toolkit for Empowered Citizenship, have been published for use within educational institutions and for general dissemination within relevant formal and informal stakeholders. The first Toolkit aims to facilitate interactive dialogue and learning in classrooms. The content has focused on the structure and function of the democratic system in Pakistan, including the roles of the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches as well as the electoral system, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

In the second Toolkit, learnings documented aim at building skills within youth to engage with both formal and informal stakeholders and imparting methodologies for effective citizen engagement with local communities and mobilizing them for collective action to influence key decision-makers and policies that impact their respective communities.

Phase II

- In the second phase, capacity building sessions with relevant experts have been introduced to the thematic issues related to urban governance including: land use and management, gender, transparent and inclusive governance, and the environment. These issues form the core expertise of (Citizens for a Better Environment) Shehri's work for more than three (3) decades.
- Panel discussions cum Mentorship sessions with elected representatives, civil servants and civil society representatives were organized to facilitate engagement of students with formal and informal actors in the public policy arena where the panelists shared their experiences and insights on the selected key thematic issues.
- Field exposure visits of participating students to relevant legislative and administrative agencies and offices of civil society organizations were organized where students learned firsthand about policy formulation and implementation
- Opportunities created for participating students to find internship placements, in both formal and informal sector organizations, with the support of the project team, so that they can gain skills and motivation for volunteerism and social mobilization, particularly in sectors related with public policy, health, education climate change/environment and gender.
- As part of their learning process, students developed action plans on the selected thematic issues to reflect on how genuine democratic decision-making can be achieved through participatory and inclusive political processes.

Phase III

- In the final phase of the project, a comprehensive Course Curriculum on civic education that can be deployed in higher education institutions has been developed. The curriculum has been based on learning and feedback from the pilot project, extensive reviews of relevant global best practices, and consultations with academics and experts.

In parallel, has also been developed a website, that will serve as an online continued resource on civic education and activism.

SECTION 2

Students Engagement

This Section documents the various activities conducted to engage students in the consultative and learning sessions. Also included is an assessment of the students' responses documented at the initiation phase of the project and profiles of the speakers, mentors and panelists that participated in these sessions. The field exposure visits of the participating students are also documented

Consultative Sessions

Orientation Sessions

An orientation session was conducted at each participating university as the first stage of engagement with students. The purpose of these sessions was two fold: to gauge the existing level of awareness, knowledge, and comprehension among students regarding civic education, governance systems, and the responsibilities of citizens; and to introduce them to the project's overall vision, objectives, and methodology.

During each session, facilitators from Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment provided an overview of the project's thematic areas, including informed citizenship, participatory governance, and youth involvement in policy processes. Students were encouraged to share their thoughts on the meaning of citizenship, their experiences of civic participation, and their understanding of how governance structures function at the national, provincial, and local levels.

The orientations also served as a platform to explain how upcoming knowledge enhancement engagements would build upon this initial understanding. By combining dialogue, presentations, and open discussions, the sessions helped establish a strong foundation for meaningful learning and critical thinking, preparing participants to actively engage in the subsequent phases of the project.

Orientation Session #1

Date: 10 December 2024

Venue: Millenium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE)



Time	Contents
9:00 – 9:15 am	Welcome Address Huma Baqai, Rector, Millennium Institute of Technology & Entrepreneurship (MITE)
9:15 – 9:30 am	Introduction – Shehri – CBE's work in promoting good governance Amber Alibhai, General Secretary, Shehri-CBE
9:30 – 10:00 am	Youth Empowerment for Engaged Citizenship – Project Introduction Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner & Project Manager, Shehri-CBE/Assistant Professor of Practice, SDP, Habib University
10:00 – 10:30 am	Tea Break
10:30 – 11:00 am	Key Note Address – Profile of Governance in Pakistan – Past & Present Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Economist Founder Member Shehri – CBE & Former Head and Designer of Benazir Income Support Programme Represented Sindh & Baluchistan in National Finance Commission (NFC)
11:00 – 11:45 am	Q & A – General Discussion
11:45 – 1:00 pm	Working Group Session
Refreshment Box	



Orientation Session # 2

Date: 11 January 2025

Venue: Department of Public Administration,
University of Karachi



Time	Contents
9:00 – 9:30 am	Registration/Arrival of Participants
9:30 – 9:40 am	Welcome Address <i>Dr. Ghazal Khawaja Hummayoun, In – Charge, Students' Guidance, Counselling and Placement Bureau, University of Karachi</i>
9:40 – 10:00 am	Introduction – Shehri – CBE's work in promoting good governance <i>Amber Alibhai, General Secretary, Shehri-CBE Dr. Kaiser Bengali message (she will read)</i>
10:00 – 10:25 am	Youth Empowerment for Engaged Citizenship – Project Introduction <i>Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner & Project Manager, Shehri-CBE</i>
10:25 – 10:40 am	Tea Break
10:40 – 11:10 am	The National and Provincial Legislative and Policy Space – Case Study of the Sindh Public Private Partnership Act, 2010 <i>Naveed Sheikh, Senior Advisor (UNDP) Sindh SDG Unit</i>
11:10 – 11:40 am	How Bureaucracy Works in Pakistan – Understanding its structure, Functioning and Challenges <i>Syed Jawad Muzaffar, Director, Urban Regional Policy & Strategic Planning, Government of Sindh</i>
11:40 – 12:10 pm	Q & A – General Discussion
12:10 – 1:10 pm	Interactive Moderated Session
1:10 – 1:30 pm	Summation and Vote of Thanks
	Lunch



Orientation Session # 3

Date: 12 April 2025

Venue: Habib University



Time	Contents
1:30 - 2:00 pm	Arrival of Participants / Registration
2:00 - 2:20 pm	Welcome Address <i>Sahaab Bader Sheikh, Program Director, Social Development & Policy Program, Arts Humanities & Social Sciences Department, Habib University</i>
2:20 - 2:40 pm	Introduction – Shehri – CBE's work in promoting good governance <i>Amber Alibhai, General Secretary, Shehri-CBE</i>
2:40 - 3:10 pm	Youth Empowerment for Engaged Citizenship – Project Introduction <i>Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner & Project Manager, Shehri-CBE/Assistant Professor of Practice, SDP, Habib University</i>
3:10 - 3:40 pm	Governance & Administrative Structure in Pakistan <i>Mumtaz Ali, Urban Planning & Development Expert</i>
3:40 - 4:10 pm	Key Note Address – Profile of Governance in Pakistan – Past & Present <i>Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Economist</i>
4:10 - 4:40 pm Tea Break	
4:40 - 5:30 pm	Q & A – General Discussion
5:30 - 6:00 pm	Working Group Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate Distribution • Conclude • Refreshments



Knowledge Workshops

A total of three (3) Knowledge Workshops were conducted across the participating universities, serving as an interactive platform for students to engage with subject experts, practitioners, and academics on key dimensions of governance and civic engagement in Pakistan. These workshops were designed to deepen students' understanding of the country's constitutional framework, the three branches and multiple tiers of governance, and the mechanisms through which citizens can participate in democratic and administrative processes.

Each session focused on translating abstract governance concepts into relatable discussions, encouraging students to reflect on the role of citizens in shaping transparent and accountable systems. Subject experts guided participants through themes such as the Constitution's relevance to everyday governance, the functioning of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and the structure of provincial and local government. The electoral process was explored not only as a political exercise but as a vital tool of civic empowerment.

Through presentations, case studies, and group discussions, students examined real-world governance challenges and identified practical avenues for civic participation. The workshops collectively helped strengthen critical thinking among youth and inspired a sense of responsibility and agency in contributing to democratic reform and good governance practices.

Knowledge Workshop #1

Date: 28 April 2025

Venue: Department of Public Administration,
University of Karachi



Time	Contents
11:00 – 11:30 am	Registration/Arrival of Participants
11:30 – 11:40 am	Welcome Address <i>Dr. Saima Akhtar, Professor & Chairperson, Department of Public Administration, University of Karachi.</i>
11:40 – 12:00 pm	Knowledge Workshop Introduction <i>Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner & Project Manager, Shehri-CBE</i>
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Governance & Administrative Structure in Pakistan <i>Mumtaz Ali, Urban Planning & Development Expert</i>
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Understanding Right to Information – A Tool for Transparent Governance <i>Sameer Hamid Dodhy, Vice-Chairperson, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment</i>
1:00 – 1:15 pm	Tea Break
1:15 – 2:15 pm	Working Group Session – Governance & Administrative Structure in Pakistan & Right to Information
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Certificate Distribution & Vote of Thanks
	Lunch



Knowledge Workshop # 2

Date: 8 May 2025

Venue: Millenium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE)



Time	Contents
9:00 – 10:00 am	Registration/Arrival of Participants
10:00 – 10:45 am	Knowledge Workshop Introduction Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner & Project Manager, Shehri-CBE
10:45 – 11:30 am	Voice of Inclusion – Youth & Governance Ross Mahtani, Development Professional & Minority Rights Activist
11:30 – 12:15 pm	Understanding Right to Information – A Tool for Transparent Governance Sameer Hamid Dodhy, Vice-Chairperson, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment
12:15 – 12:30 pm	Tea Break
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Working Group Sessions – Inclusive Governance & Right to Information
1:30 – 2:15 pm	Working Group present to the Plenary
2:15 – 3:00 pm	Questions/Answers
	Lunch



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Knowledge Workshop # 3

Date: 14 May 2025

Venue: Habib University



Time	Contents
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Registration/Arrival of Participants
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Knowledge Workshop Introduction <i>Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner & Project Manager, Shehri-CBE</i>
2:45 – 3:30 pm	Voice of Inclusion – Youth & Government <i>Ross Mahtani, Development Professional & Minority Rights Activist</i>
3:30 – 4:15 pm	Understanding Right to Information – A Tool for Transparent Governance <i>Sameer Hamid Dodhy, Vice-Chairperson, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment</i>
4:15 – 4:30 pm	Tea Break
4:30 – 5:15 pm	Working Group Sessions – Inclusive Governance & Right to Information
5:15 – 6:00 pm	Working Group present to the Plenary
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Questions/Answers Conclude
Refreshments	



Panel Discussions

A series of nine (9) Panel cum mentoring discussions were held in all the three collaborating universities where students were provided the space to engage with their elected representatives, civil bureaucracy and civil society organizations. The objective was to facilitate the students in taking the knowledge and learning they had acquired in the knowledge workshops to engage in an informed manner with various actors of the public policy arena. To know about real life challenges in terms of constructing and implementing public policy agendas. Elected representatives from all tiers of governance – federal, provincial and local - participated in these events. Civil service officials representing service providing agencies, municipal and administrative bodies engaged with the students while civil society representatives belonging to a diversity of areas shared their experiences and work with the participating students.

The discussions were structured in a way that after an initial round of questions by the session moderators, the students were given the opportunity to pose their queries and observations to the panelists and in all the conducted sessions, a lively debate ensued where very constructive discussions helped in adding to the knowledge base of the students and very importantly, the gap and disconnect that existed between them and the officials and organs of the state was penetrated making the youth much more comfortable and encouraged in considering continued engagements with their elected representatives, service providers, administrators and civil society representatives.

Panel Discussion #1

Date: 19 June 2025

Venue: Millenium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE)



Time	Contents
9:30 – 10:00 am	Registration of Participants
10:00 – 11:20 am	Learning Groups Executive Branch of Government (students are given tasks to work on in groups and present to the Plenary) Session Moderator, Mumtaz Ali, Urban Planning & Development Expert Lunch/Prayer Break
11:20 – 11:30 am	Tea Break
11:30 – 1:00 pm	<p>Expert Panel Discussion Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mr. Tariq Ali Nazamani, Managing Director, Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) ◆ Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission ◆ Mr. Shahid Jatori, Information Commissioner, Sindh Information Commission (GoS) ◆ Mr. Masood Alam, Project Coordinator, Competitive & Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project ◆ Mr. Amjad Rafi, DSP Traffic, Karachi
	Lunch Box



Panel Discussion # 2

Date: 27 June 2025

Venue: Habib University



WORKSHOP - Knowledge Workshop - Youth Empowerment for Engaged Citizenship	
Time	Contents
11:45 - 12:00 pm	Registration/Arrival of Participants
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Learning Groups (Executive Branch of Government) (<i>students are given tasks to work on in groups and present to the Plenary</i>) Session Moderator, Mumtaz Ali, Urban Planning & Development Expert
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Lunch/Prayer Break
2:30 - 4:30 pm	Expert Panel Discussion Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sajida Qazi, Chief Foreign Aid, Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh</i> <i>Kanwal Bhutto, Additional Secretary, Local Government, Government of Sindh (TBC)</i> <i>Tariq Ali Nizamani, Managing Director, Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB)</i> <i>Masood Alam, Project Coordinator, Competitive & Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project</i> <i>Irfan Allahwala, Chairman, Union Council 2, Chanesar Town Municipal Corporation, Karachi</i> <i>Tariq Mustafa, Advisor to Governor Sindh</i> Tea
	Session Moderators: Alisha Ghayas & Alyzeh Miqdad Social Development & Policy Program, Habib University



Panel Discussion # 3

Date: 17 July 2025

Venue: Department of Public Administration,
University of Karachi



Time	Contents
10:00 – 10:15 am	Registration/Arrival of Participants
10:15 – 10:30 am	Introductory speech Farhan Anwar, Project Manager, Shehri-CBE Expert Panel Discussion
10:30 – 12:30 pm	<p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Tariq Ali Nizamani, Managing Director, Sindh Solid Waste Management Board, (SSWMB) Mr. Waqar Saleem Baig, Principal Municipal Training and Research Institute, LG Dept, Sindh Mr. Amjad Rafi, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic, New Town Karachi Mr. Muhammad Shahid, Director, City Institute of Image Management (CIIM), KMC Ms. Shazia Imran, Member City Council, KMC Khawaja Ghulam Qamar, Chairman UC-6, Gulberg Town <p>Panel Moderator – Farhan Anwar, Project Manager, Shehri-CBE</p>
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Questions/Answers
	Lunch



Panel Discussion # 4

Date: 18 July 2025

Venue: Habib University



Time	Contents
11:15 – 11:30 am	Registration of Participants
11:30 – 1:30 pm	<p>Panel Discussion with Elected Representatives</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syed Hafeezuddin, Member National Assembly (MNA), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) • Adil Askari, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sindh, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) • Syed Najmi Alam, Advisor to Chief Minister, Province of Sindh, Parliamentary Leader, KMC City Council • Rehan Bandukda, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sindh, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) <p>Panel Moderator – Farhan Anwar, Project Manager, Shehri-CBE/Assistant Professor of Practice, Habib University</p>
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Questions / Answers
	Lunch



Panel Discussion # 5

Date: 8 August 2025

Venue: Habib University



Time	Contents
11:15 – 11:30 am	Registration
11:30 – 1:30 pm	<p>Expert Panel Discussion</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reheema Panhwar, Gender Advisor, Water Aid, Pakistan • Zahid Farooq, Joint Director, Urban Resource Center (URC) • Zeenia Shakut, Director, The Knowledge Forum • Shoaib Abdul Razzaq, Senior Manager, Marine Project, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), Pakistan <p>Panel Moderator – Farhan Anwar, Project Manager, Shehri-CBE/Assistant Professor of Practice, Habib University</p>
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Questions / Answers
	Lunch



Panel Discussion # 6

Date: 23 August 2025

Venue: Department of Public Administration,
University of Karachi



Time	Contents
11:15 – 11:30 am	Registration
11:30 – 1:30 pm	<p>Expert Panel Discussion</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zahid Farooq, Joint Director, Urban Resource Center (URC) • Zareen Rashid, Head of Livelihoods Department, Rana Liaquat Craftsman Colony Welfare Project (RLCC) • Mr. Kashif Anthony, Coordinator, National Commission for Justice & Peace (Sindh) <p>Panel Moderator – Farhan Anwar, Project Manager, Shehri-CBE/Assistant Professor of Practice, Habib University</p>
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Questions / Answers
	Lunch



Panel Discussion # 7

Date: 16 September 2025

Venue: Department of Public Administration,
University of Karachi



Time	Contents
11:15 – 11:30 am	Registration
11:30 – 1:30 pm	<p>Expert Panel Discussion</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rehan Bandukda (Member Sindh Assembly) • Mr. Keleemullah, Chairman TMC Safoora • Mr. Arshad Hussain Shah, Chairman UC-8, Safoora Town • Ms. Sanam Baloch, Chairperson UC-1, Gulshan Town • Mr. Muhammad Noman Khan, Chairman UC-5, Safoora Town/Spokesperson to the Opposition Leader in the City Council • Muhammad Shahid, Director of City Institute of Image Management (CIIM), KMC <p>Panel Moderator – Farhan Anwar, Project Manager, Shehri-CBE/Assistant Professor of Practice, Habib University</p>
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Questions / Answers
	Lunch

“Empowering Youth for Engaged Citizenship”

16th September 2025

Mr Hall, Department of Public Administration
University of Karachi



Panel Discussion # 8

Date: 7 October 2025

Venue: Millenium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE)



Time	Contents
9:45 – 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 – 12:00 pm	<p>Expert Panel Discussion</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Zareen Rashid, Head of Livelihoods Department, Rana Liaquat Craftsman Colony Welfare Project (RLCC) • Mr. Mansha Noor, Executive Secretary, Caritas • Ms. Angel Imdad, CEO and Co-Founder, Irverde, Go-Geeen • Mr. Zahid Farooq, Joint Director, Urban Resource Centre, URC • Dr. Asim Mansoor, CEO, Eco Group of Companies, Lahore <p>Panel Moderator – Farhan Anwar, Project Manager, Shehri-CBE/Assistant Professor of Practice, Habib University</p>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Questions / Answers



Panel Discussion # 9

Date: 21 October 2025

Venue: Millenium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE)



Time	Contents
9:45 – 10:00 am	Registration
10:00 – 12:00 pm	<p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adil Askari, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sindh • Qurat ul Ain Khan, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sindh • Mirza Farhan Baig, Chairman U.C., Korangi • Sanobar Farhan, Member City Council <p>Panel Moderator – Farhan Anwar, Project Manager, Shehri-CBE/Assistant Professor of Practice, Habib University</p>
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Questions / Answers
	Refreshments



Student Responses

In our three (3) Orientation Workshops held in the collaborating universities, we asked the students two questions:

- Q1. Which do you think are the 3 top governance related challenges facing our country?
- Q2. In terms of capacity-building, which are the three key areas of governance where you want the project capacity-building sessions to focus on?

Students were asked independently to respond to these queries

From the responses we received, here are some of the key emerging themes:

1. Corruption and Accountability
2. Political Instability and Governance Structures
3. Education and Awareness
4. Marginalization and Discrimination
5. Infrastructure, Urban Planning, and Public Services
6. Economic Governance and Policy
7. Rule of Law and Judiciary
8. Public Participation and Representation
9. Freedom of Expression and Civil Rights
10. Environmental Governance

Find ahead the response rate across these themes and some key responses from the students in the three universities.

Top 3 Governance Related Challenges in Pakistan:



Favour towards majority, a selective majority in religious constitution

Land Use and Planning without careful evaluation of past projects in Karachi traffic

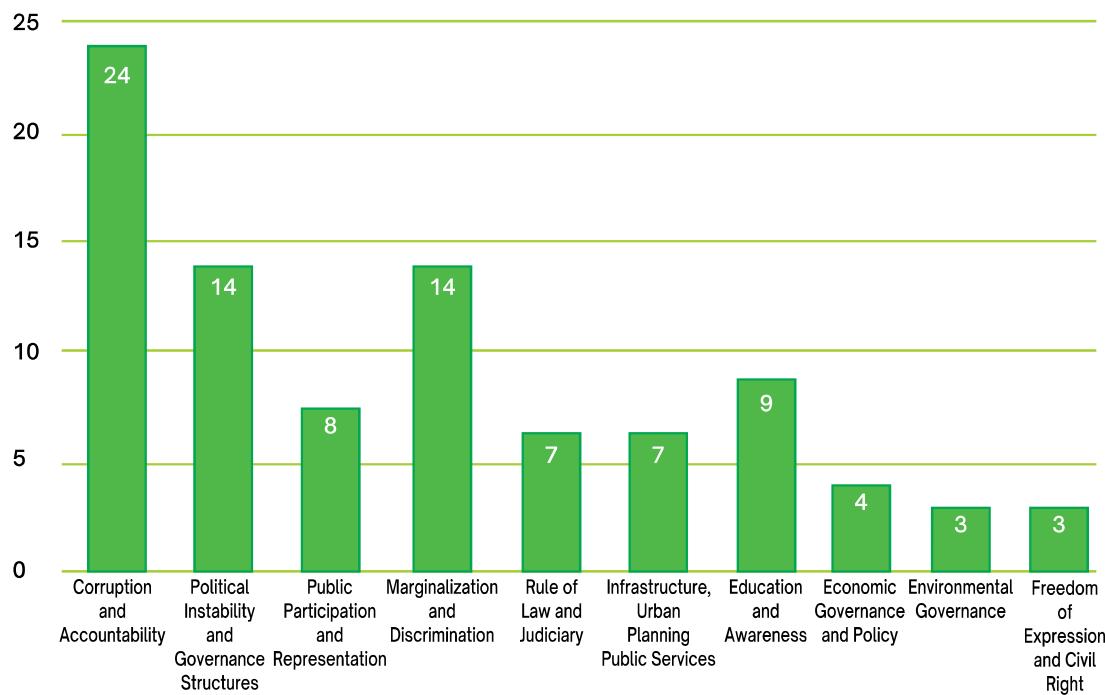
Disconnect between different stakeholders: governance & civil society organizations

Involvement of military in government affairs

Lack of proper attention and enforcement planning

Lack of accountability, inadequate funds management

Habib University: Top 3 Governance Related Challenges in Pakistan



3 Key Areas for Capacity-Building Sessions:



More Awareness with Regard to Individual Autonomy, Rights, and Role in Governance

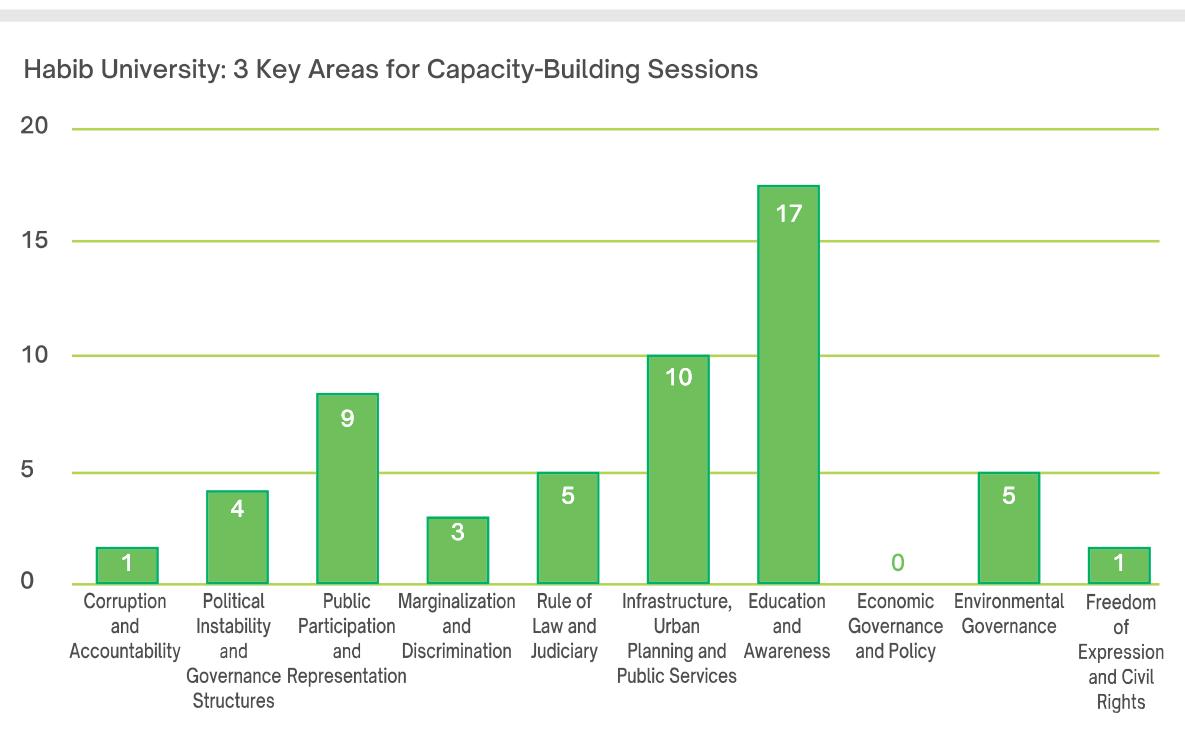
Climate Change and Environment Related Initiatives

The Youth's Role in Governance

Process of Policy-Making

More Field Visits and Engaging with Relevant Communities/ Stakeholder's Related to our Project

Ethnic and Gender Disparity in Governance



Top 3 Governance Related Challenges in Pakistan:



Militarisation

Lack of Implementation of Policies/laws

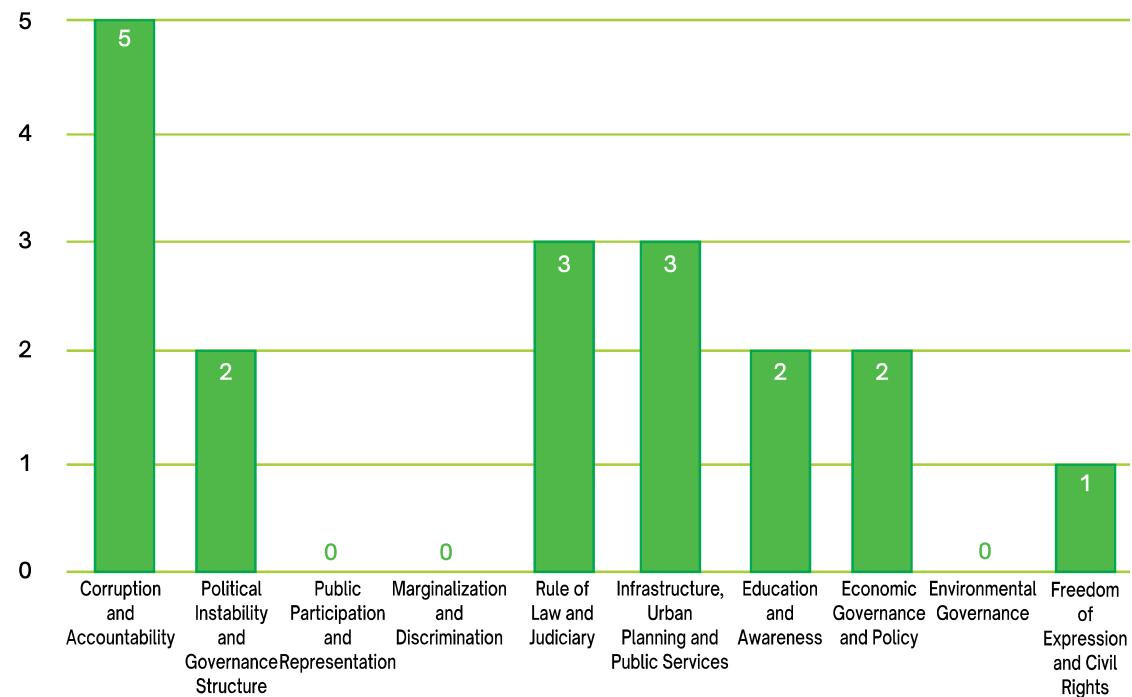
Poor Allocation of Resources

Lack of accountability

Freedom of speech

Economic Management

Karachi University: Top 3 Governance Related Challenges in Pakistan



3 Key Areas for Capacity-Building Sessions:

Structural Changes in Institutions & Fostering Transparency

How Democracy Works

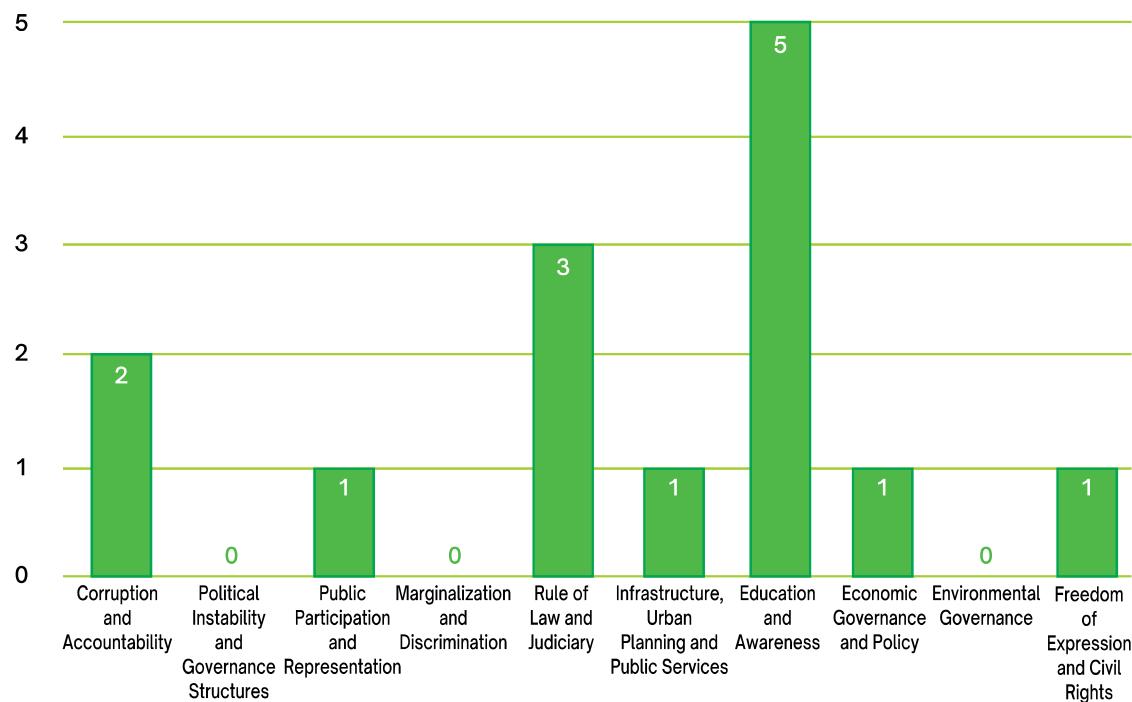
Response Police Reforms, Judicial Reforms, Increase Police Presence, Community Engagement

Civic Engagement Awareness

Public Judicial Management

Freedom of Expression

Karachi University: 3 Key Areas for Capacity-Building Sessions



**Top 3 Governance Related Challenges in
Pakistan:**



Favor towards majority, a selective majority in religious constitution

Land Use and Planning without careful evaluation of past projects in Karachi traffic

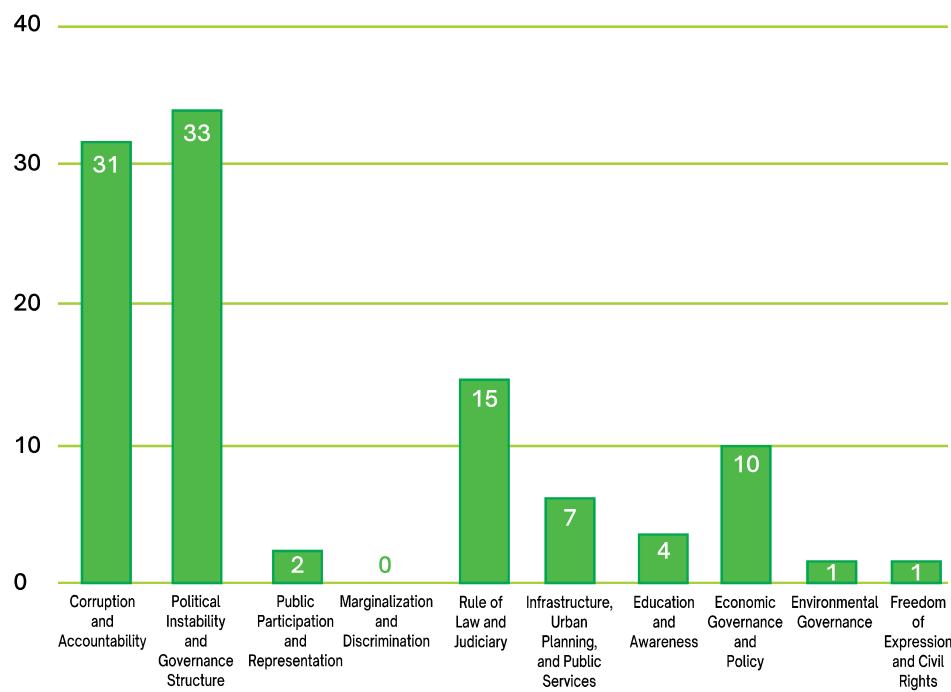
Involvement of military in government affairs

Disconnect between different stakeholders: governance & civil society organizations

Lack of proper attention and enforcement planning

Lack of accountability, inadequate funds management

MITE: Top 3 Governance Related Challenges in Pakistan



3 Key Areas for Capacity-Building Sessions:



Climate Change Governance

Introduction to Rights and Privileges to the Needy

Anti-corruption Strategies and Policies

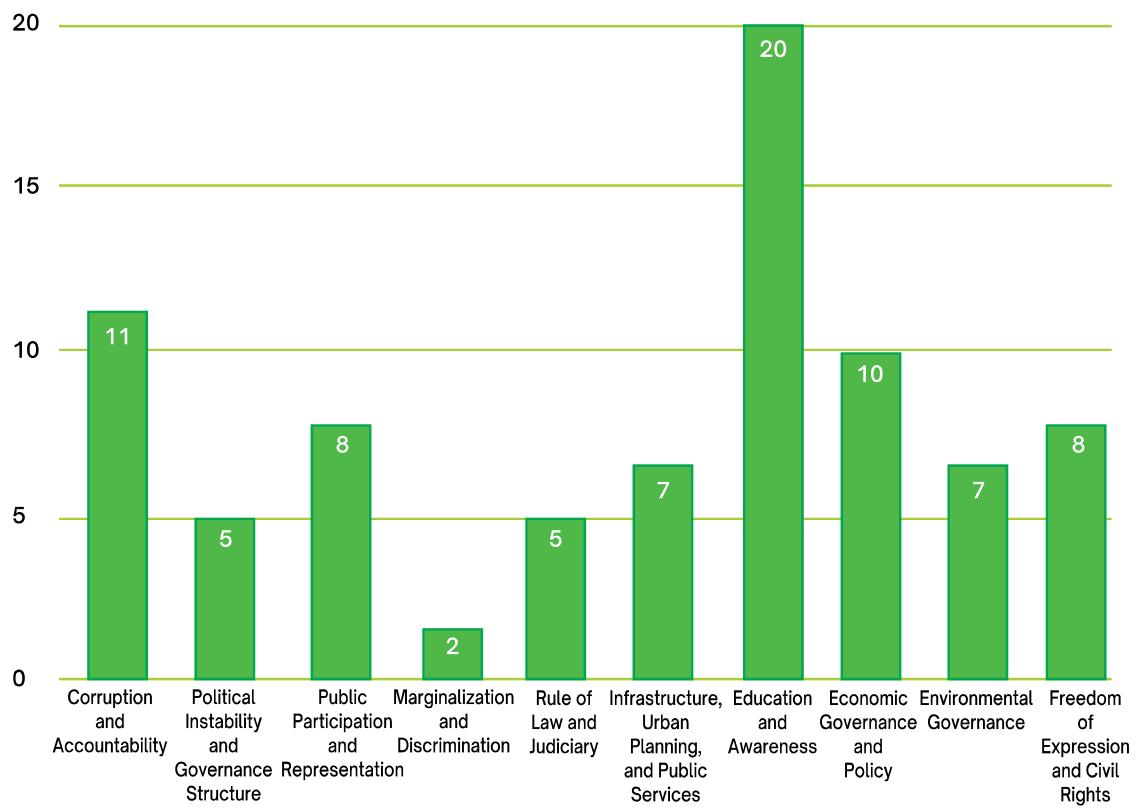
Economic Instability

Defining the Mandate
"What Department can Resolve my Issue?"

Fight for Better Security

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MITE: 3 Key Areas for Capacity-Building Sessions



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Speakers/Mentors Profiles

Dr. Kaiser Bengali



Dr. Kaiser Bengali is an economist engaged in teaching, research and policy advice. He has worked in prestigious teaching and research institutions in Pakistan and has been engaged in consultancies in Pakistan and abroad. He has served in advisory positions to Chief Ministers of Sindh and Baluchistan, designed Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and is a member of National Finance Commission. He has over 50 research publications and is author/editor of 9 books



Sameer Hamid Dodhy



Sameer Hamid Dodhy, an engineer and entrepreneur, brings a unique blend of technical expertise and civic commitment to his work. He actively leads seminars, lobbies for better governance, and advocates for stronger Freedom of Information laws.

Dodhy is involved with organizations like the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, and the Arts Council of Pakistan, and supports environmental efforts such as urban forestation. His wide-ranging engagement reflects a strong commitment to transparency, sustainability, and civic participation in Pakistan's urban landscape.



Farhan Anwar



Farhan Anwar did his Bachelors in Civil Engineering and Masters in Urban and Regional Planning. Anwar is a Faculty at the Social Development & Policy Program at the School of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, Habib University, Karachi (www.habib.edu.pk). He also serves as Member, Central Committee on Environment, Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

His portfolio includes urban sustainability planning, smart cities, public policy, climate adaptation, urban resilience, institutional strengthening and change management. Anwar served as an Urban Reforms Consultant to the

World Bank from 2006-2013 and is presently serving the World Bank in the capacity of Urban Planning Consultant on the Karachi Transformation Strategy project. He has also extended consulting services to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), WWF Pakistan and several prominent Pakistani consulting firms. Anwar is the Lead Author of the Sanitation Strategy, Government of Sindh and the Author of Pakistan's National Strategy and Action Plan for the Mangroves of the Future Regional Program.

He has a number of publications to his credit and contributed (2013-2016) a weekly column - Elasti-cities focused on urban planning, environment, and development issues of Karachi City in the Express Tribune Newspaper - and the Arts Council of Pakistan, and supports environmental efforts such as urban forestation. His wide- ranging engagement reflects a strong commitment to transparency, sustainability, and civic participation in Pakistan's urban landscape.. He is a regular contributor to the Op-Ed section in Daily Dawn Newspaper.



Naveed Ahmed Shaikh



Mr. Naveed Ahmed Shaikh is a seasoned development professional with over 20 years of experience, including more than 12 years specializing in public policy and public-private partnerships. He has a proven track record of success working with non-profit organizations, public sector entities, and international development partners on large-scale projects.

Mr. Shaikh's expertise lies in social policy reform, development planning, and management, particularly within the education sector. He was a counterpart officer for the Sindh Education Reform Program I & II.



He collaborated closely with Sindh's Education and Literacy Department to develop and implement school improvement policies and frameworks. As Chief of Party for a large USAID- funded education sector program in Sindh, he demonstrated his leadership skills, overseeing all aspects of project management and impact while effectively engaging with the Government, USAID, project partners, and stakeholders. His core focus areas include public policy, governance, and public-private partnerships.

Mr. Shaikh is an independent consultant who contributes his expertise to various development projects with organizations such as UNDP, USAID-ERA, ADB, and RTI International. He holds a Master's degree in International Education Policy and Management from Vanderbilt University and is a Fulbright Scholar.

Mumtaz Ali



With over 20 years of experience, Mumtaz Ali has played a vital role in developing and implementing more than 20 Urban and Regional Development Plans across Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Syria. His extensive portfolio spans a wide range of urban and regional planning, and development initiatives. A skilled leader and trainer, Ali has guided teams in preparing Master Plans, Feasibility Studies, Technical and Financial Proposals, Environmental Assessments, and Project Reports and Presentations.



Currently, Ali is the Lead Urban Planning Consultant with the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat(AKAH) – Global Office in Geneva, where he provides support on community and stakeholder engagement initiatives, as well as habitat planning projects, focusing on diverse settings from rural villages to urban centers. He also serves as an Individual Urban Development Specialist (STC) with the World Bank, focusing on assignments for the Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project (KNIP) and the Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project. In addition, Ali has held prominent positions with several prestigious organizations, including Advisor for the Sindh Floods Action Recovery Plan with UNDP Pakistan.

His prior roles include Principal Urban Planning Consultant at EA Consulting Pvt. Limited, Project Manager for the UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals Initiative in Sindh, Director of Urban Policy and Planning for the Government of Sindh, and Urban Development Specialist on the ADB-supported Sindh Cities Improvement Program (SCIP).

Ali has also contributed his expertise to organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union, USAID, UNDP, and UN-HABITAT. He has served as an academic faculty member at Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, NED University, SZABIST, and SUPARCO Karachi, and as a Research Scholar at the National University of Singapore. His leadership in urban planning, team training in feasibility studies, environmental assessments, and technical reporting continues to shape urban and regional development in diverse settings.



Ross Mahtani is a development professional and minority rights activist. He is serving as a volunteer member of two government commissions, Minority Rights Committee of the Sindh Human Rights Commission (Govt of Sindh) and working group of Minorities for the National Commission on the Rights of Child (Govt of Pakistan), and has contributed to the promotion and protection of the rights of marginalized groups in Pakistan. He is also nominated as Member of Inter-Faith Committee formed of the rights



of marginalized groups in Pakistan. He is also nominated as Member of Inter-Faith Committee formed by Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad, and Member of Peace Committee formed by DIG Hyderabad.

He has also served as elected member of executive council of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) from 2017 to 2020. His primary focus and work is concerning human rights, minority rights, advocacy, peace and inter-faith harmony. He was also awarded Legislative fellowship in 2017 at Ohio House of Representatives in the US. He has extensively worked on policy level issues and legislations concerning religious minorities.

He is very active in volunteer service since his university days and has served at elected positions in international youth organizations as President of Liberal Youth South Asia (LYSA) and South Asia Committee Chairperson for Young Liberals and Democrats of Asia (YLDA). He is a recipient of National Youth Award 2010 by Government of Pakistan for services rendered in community service and peace. He is also alumni member of various international think tanks.

Panelists



Mr. Tariq Ali Nizamani
Managing Director
Sindh Solid Waste
Management Board



Mr. Waqar Saleem Baig
Principal Municipal Training
and Research Institute, LG
Dept, Sindh



Mr. Amjad Rafi
DSP Police, Traffic, New
Town Karachi



Mr. Muhammad Shahid
Director, City Institute of
Image Management (CIIM),
KMC



Ms. Shazia Imran,
Member City Council,
KMC



Khawaja Chulam Qamar
Chairman UC-6, Azizabad
Town Municipal
Corporation, Gulberg (JI)



Zahid Farooq
Joint Director, Urban
Resource Center (URC)



Zareen Rashid, Head of
Livelihoods Department,
Rana Liaquat Craftsmen
Colony Welfare Project
(RLCC)



Mr. Kashif Anthony
Coordinator, National
Commission for Justice &
Peace (Sindh)

Panelists



Mr. Rehan Bandukda
Member Sindh Assembly,
PTI



Mr. Kaleemullah
Chairman TMC Safoora
(PPP)



Mr. Arshad Hussain Shah
Chairman UC-8, Safoora
Town (PTI)



Ms. Sanam Baloch,
Chairperson UC-1, Gulshan
Town (PPP)



Mr. Muhammad Noman
Khan
Chairman UC-5, Safoora
Town/Spokesperson to the
Opposition Leader in the
City Council (Jamat Islami)



Sajida Qazi,
Chief Foreign Aid,
Planning & Development
Department
Government of Sindh



Kanwal Bhutto,
Additional Secretary, Local
Government
Government of Sindh



Masood Alam
Project Coordinator
Competitive & Livable
City of Karachi (CLICK) project



Irfan Allahwala
Chairman, Union Council 2
Chanesar Town Municipal
Corporation
Karachi (JI)

Panelists



Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho
Chairperson, Sindh Human
Rights Commission



Mr. Shahid Jatoi,
Information Commissioner
Sindh Information
Commission (GoS)



Mr. Mansha Noor,
Executive Secretary, Caritas



Ms. Angel Imdad
CEO and Co-Founder
Irverde, Go-Green



Dr. Asim Mansoor, CEO,
Eco Group of Companies,
Lahore



Syed Hafeezuddin, Member
National Assembly (MNA),
Muttahida Qaumi
Movement (MQM)



Adil Askari, Member
Provincial Assembly (MPA),
Sindh, Muttahida Qaumi
Movement (MQM)



Syed Najmi Alam, Advisor to
Chief Minister, Province of
Sindh & Chairman UC



Raheema Panhwar
Gender Advisor, Water Aid,
Pakistan

Panelists



Zeenia Shaukat
Director, The Knowledge Forum



Shoaib Abdul Razzaq
Senior Manager, Marine Project,
Worldwide Fund for
Nature (WWF), Pakistan



Tariq Mustafa
Advisor to Governor Sindh



Sanobar Farhan
(Member City Council,
KMC)



Mirza Farhan Baig,
Chairman UC Korangi



Qurat ul Ain Khan
(Member Sindh Assembly)

Exposure Visits

Exposure visits were a pivotal component of the project, conceived as a hands-on learning journey for university students into the core of governance, policymaking, and administrative institutions.

The essential purpose of these visits was to offer students direct, first-hand experience of how public institutions function, how fundamental decisions are made, and how essential services are delivered to the populace. By actively engaging with civil servants, institutional representatives and civil society organizations, students are provided with practical insights into the complexities and challenges of local governance and public accountability, thereby strengthening their understanding of these institutions. The structured program typically included an introductory session, comprehensive briefings on the organizational systems and visits of their facilities and work.

Exposure Visit #1

Date: 25 July 2025

University: Habib University

Venue: KMC Head Office



Exposure Visit # 2

Date: 13 September 2025

University: Habib University

Venue: Raana Liaqat Craftsmen's Colony (RLCC)



Exposure Visit # 3

Date: 18 September 2025

University: University of Karachi

Venue: Pakistan Meteorological Department



Exposure Visit # 4

Date: 16 October 2025

Venue: KMC Head Office

University: Department of Public Administration, University of Karachi



Exposure Visit # 5

Date: 17 October 2025
 Venue: Ra'ana Liaqat Craftsmen Colony (RLCC)

University: Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE)



Exposure Visit # 6

Date: 28 October 2025

Venue: KMC Head Office

University: Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE)



SECTION 3

Social Internship Placements

This Section documents student's participation in the – **Social Internship Program** – is where the project team engaged with and placed students in government and non-government organizations, private sector entities for their capacity buildings on a diversity of public interest issues, like national and local governance, environment and climate change, urban service delivery, health, education and gender etc

Social Internship Placement Program



One important project component was focused on creating opportunities for participating students to find internship placements, so that they can gain skills and motivation for volunteerism and social mobilization, particularly in sectors related with public policy, health, education climate change/environment and gender. An extensive engagement was carried out where the project team has connected with a number of governments, civil society, private and research-based organizations to explore with them the possibilities of them hosting participating students as summer interns during the summer academic break. The contact details and internship requirements of potential host organizations were shared with the participating students and they were assisted in making their choices for selecting host organizations.

A total of 20 students did their summer internships, availing this opportunity.

Details of contacted host organizations and of students that have started their internships are shared as follows:

LIST OF INTERNSHIP HOSTS

Government Agencies

S.NO.	ORGANIZATIONS
→ 01	Directorate of Urban Policy & Strategic Planning Unit, Government of Sindh
→ 02	Competitive & Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) - Project of Government of Sindh, funded by the World Bank Group
→ 03	Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC)

Civil Society Organizations

S.NO.	ORGANIZATIONS
→ 01	The Citizens Foundation (TCF)
→ 02	Transparency International (TI)
→ 03	Urban Resource Center (URC)
→ 04	Climate Action Center (CAC)
→ 05	Orangi Pilot Project – Research & Training Institute (RTI)
→ 06	Rana Liaquat Craftsmen's Colony Welfare Project (RLCC)
→ 07	Citizens for Better Environment - Shehri-CBE
→ 08	NOWPDP

→	09	NOW Communities
→	10	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Pakistan

Private Organizations



S.NO.	ORGANIZATIONS
→ 01	ConnectHear
→ 02	Wrap up
→ 03	Sehat Kahani
→ 04	Iverde - Alliance for Sustainability
→ 05	Garbage Can
→ 06	WM Creative Studio
→ 07	Asani.io

Students profile and the organizations they joined for Internship

Habib University



STUDENTS NAME	DEPARTMENT/YEAR	ORGANIZATION
Ukasha Shabbir	SDP – Class of 2028	Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) Govt. of Sindh
Areeba Arif	SDP – Class of 2026	Climate Action Centre
Mehlab Kashani	SDP – Class of 2026	Climate Action Centre
Umme Salma	SDP – Class of 2028	Climate Action Centre
Raamin Javed	SDP – Class of 2026	Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC)
Zubia Rizwan	SDP – Class of 2026	Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC)
Zainab Abbas	SDP – Class of 2028	Baghban - The Citizen Foundation (TCF)
Dua Muhtashim	SDP – Class of 2025	Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK)
Alisha Chayas	SDP – Class of 2027	Shehri - CBE
Alyzeh Miqdad	SDP – Class of 2027	Shehri - CBE
Mehak	SDP – Class of 2027	Shehri - CBE
Sidra	SDP – Class of 2027	Shehri - CBE
Samreen	SDP – Class of 2027	Shehri - CBE

University of Karachi



STUDENTS NAME	DEPARTMENT/YEAR	ORGANIZATION
Munazzah	DPA - Final Year	Knowledge Forum and Baghban - The Citizen Foundation (TCF)
Arbab Mahsood	History - Final Year	Baghban - The Citizen Foundation (TCF)
M. Aziz Nadeem	DPA - 3 rd Year	Urban Resource Center
Izma Maheen	DPA - 3 rd Year	Baghban - The Citizen Foundation (TCF)
Faraz	DPA - 3 rd Year	Urban Resource Center (URC)
Aneeq Ayub	History - Final Year	Baghban - The Citizen Foundation (TCF)
Mishal Zia	DPA - 3 rd Year	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Tayyaba Haider	SDP – Class of 2028	Competitive and Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) Govt. of Sindh

SECTION 4

Knowledge Products and Course Curriculum

This Section provides concepts of the two (2) knowledge products that have been prepared and published, that documents the architecture of governance in Pakistan and educate the citizens, with a particular focus on urban youth, on informed civic activism. In addition, a brief on the course curriculum on Civic Education for Undergraduate students

Knowledge Products



Two (2) separate Knowledge Products have been prepared, that documents the architecture of governance in Pakistan and educate the citizens, with a particular focus on urban youth, on informed civic activism.

Knowledge Product 1: - Understanding Policy and Governance in Pakistan - A Toolkit for Youth Empowerment

This Toolkit in a reader friendly manner, details out the key pillars of the governance framework of Pakistan - legislations and institutions - sourcing from the Constitution of Pakistan, providing relevant information on key legislative and institutional architecture as it relates to the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary - spread across the three tiers of governance - the Federal, provincial and the local.

There is a critical focus on the role of the citizenry in terms of entitlements, rights and responsibilities and an understanding of avenues for applying effective forms of citizen activism for influencing decision making processes. In this context, needs to be highlighted the electoral process and associated legislations and institutions.

Link to Toolkit: [Understanding Policy and Governance in Pakistan](#)



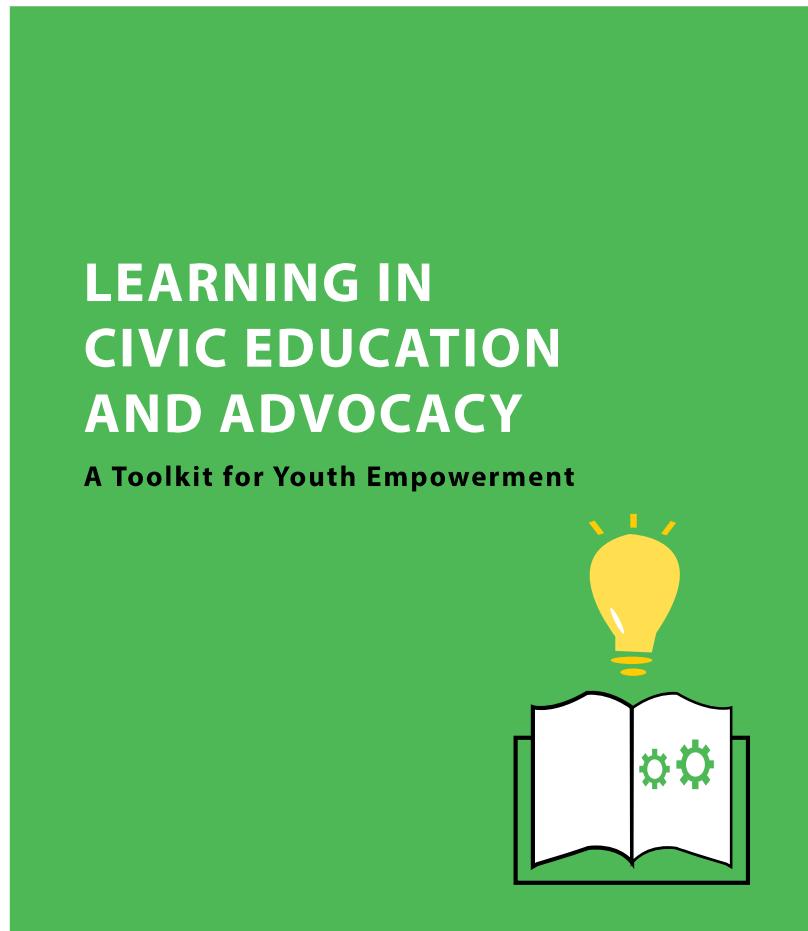
Knowledge Product 2: - Learning Civic Activism and Advocacy - A Toolkit for Empowered Citizenship

This Toolkit aims to capacitate citizens, particularly the urban youth, for active citizen engagement for understanding community-based problems in an inclusive manner and engaging with formal and informal stakeholders for designing solutions.

This information comes through bringing out an understanding of the term 'civic activism' and then highlighting the practice of civic activism in various typologies of citizen engagement within the ambit of public policy and institutions of governance. Models and best practices would document applied models on civic activism - learning how to engage with communities and formal actors - example, elected representatives and service providers.

The Toolkit is structured in a way that the content can be easily used for facilitating interactive tasks-oriented learning classroom discussions that deal with educating students about the proactive civic activism and advocacy.

Link to Toolkit: [Learning Civic Activism and Advocacy](#)



CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT (SHEHRI-CBE)

Course Curriculum



Based on the project learnings and extensive review of relevant global best practices in academic learning, consultations with relevant academics and experts, a comprehensive course curriculum has been developed, adapted to local needs that contributes in achieving the project objective aimed at structuring the framework and model for expanding the project footprint at a nation-wide scale this contributing informed youth mobilization in the public policy arena and governance realm as change agents. The Course Curriculum will be shared and disseminated with relevant academic institutions and programs.

To access the course curriculum, please visit this link:
shehri-civiceducation.org/coursecurriculum

SECTION 5

Student Research

This Section highlights briefs on the field research work carried out by participating students of the three collaborating universities



1. Strategic Initiatives for Effective Solid Waste Management in Karachi

- *Sarah Zafar, Rumaisa Khan, Muhammad Hamza Malik, Rubab Rana Tasawar*

This Action Plan for Solid Waste Management in Karachi outlines a strategic initiative to tackle the pressing issues of waste disposal in the city. Beginning with an in-depth analysis of the current problems and challenges, this document builds a foundation for effective solutions. Through primary research and stakeholder engagement, innovative methodologies and best practices have been identified to improve waste management. The plan culminates actionable recommendations and solutions, focusing on youth engagement in communities to drive positive change. Supported by references and study materials, this document is stated to indicate pathways for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Karachi.

2. Analysis for Improving Urban Mobility in Karachi

- *Faraz, Hadiqa Riaz, M.Khalil, Aneeba Gul, M.Aziz Nadeem*

Using a mixed-method analysis of historical trends, policy documents, and stakeholder perspectives, the research traces the expansion of Qing Qis (scooter/rickshaw) from small operations in peripheral neighborhoods to a citywide presence. Findings reveal that affordability, route flexibility, and the failure of government-led bus and rail projects enabled this informal mode to fill critical service gaps, providing livelihoods and accessible transport for lower-income commuters, women, and students. However, weak regulation has produced significant safety risks, congestion, and environmental strain, underscoring systemic planning failures. By highlighting the interplay between citizen innovation and institutional neglect, this study contributes to the urban transport literature by demonstrating how informal mobility networks can both sustain and destabilize megacities. The research concludes with a thematic action plan urging Karachi's local government to formalize licensing, enforce safety standards, and integrate low-cost feeder systems with mass-transit projects, offering a policy pathway toward safer, more equitable, and sustainable urban mobility.

3. Emergency Shelter Preparedness for Natural Disasters in Karachi

- *Munazzah, Shifa Qazi, Bushra Iqbal, Pervaiz Ali*

Currently, Karachi does not have designated emergency shelters equipped with essential facilities such as beds, clean water, first aid, or temporary housing. As a result, residents, particularly those in high-density and low-income neighborhoods, are left exposed during crises. Past incidents of building collapses and urban fires have demonstrated the urgent need for coordinated disaster response and preparedness strategies. This research aims to bridge this gap by conducting a systematic assessment of disaster risks, community preparedness, and shelter needs in Karachi. The research focuses on identifying high-risk areas, understanding community perceptions and needs, and proposing a framework for emergency shelters, including recommended locations, essential resources, and operational guidelines. The outcomes of this project aim to enhance Karachi's disaster preparedness by providing actionable recommendations for community-centered shelter planning.

4. Urban Governance Challenges and Pathways for Informal Settlements: A Case Study in Karachi

- *Fatima Wasim, Urooj Fatima, Arooma, Sarwat Aneeq, Ayub*

Informal settlements in Karachi, locally known as katchi abadis, accommodate more than half of the city's population and remain central to its housing and labor economy. Yet, they continue to face persistent governance challenges such as fragmented institutional responsibilities, poor service delivery, and vulnerability to climate-related shocks. This study investigates pathways for inclusive urban governance in Karachi's informal settlements by focusing on three dimensions: community empowerment, youth participation, and the integration of smart technologies. Drawing on global and local experiences—from Singapore's centralized housing schemes to Karachi's Orangi Pilot Project—the research highlights how community-state partnerships and technology driven tools can reshape governance outcomes. Using qualitative fieldwork and secondary data, the study assesses residents' awareness and readiness for governance participation, examines strategies for empowering youth-led initiatives, and evaluates the potential of digital innovations. The findings aim to propose integrated governance pathways where empowered communities, responsive local institutions, and technological innovations collectively contribute to sustainable urban development in Karachi's informal settlements.

5. Air Pollution in Karachi: Assessing Plantation as a Sustainable Mitigation Strategy

- Umme Habiba

Air pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental challenges in Karachi, with Air Quality Index (AQI) levels frequently exceeding World Health Organization (WHO) standards. The city's rapid urbanization, vehicular emissions, industrial discharges, and waste burning have resulted in persistent particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentrations, severely affecting public health and urban livability. While global evidence highlights plantation as an effective strategy for reducing air pollution, limited research has evaluated its impact within Karachi's unique demographic and ecological conditions. This research seeks to investigate the role of plantation as a sustainable mitigation measure against air pollution across six administrative districts of Karachi. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study will analyze quantitative data from secondary sources such as AQI and population density, and qualitative insights from policymakers, NGOs, and community stakeholders. GIS mapping and statistical analysis will be employed to assess district-level variations, while thematic analysis will highlight perceptions, barriers, and opportunities for plantation as an intervention. The expected outcomes include localized evidence on the relationship between plantation and air quality improvement, district-specific recommendations, and practical guidance for integrating green infrastructure into Karachi's urban planning. By linking environmental sustainability with public health, this study aims to provide policymakers with actionable strategies to reduce pollution exposure and enhance resilience in one of the world's most densely populated megacities.



1. Eradicating Solid Waste in Jinnah Town: A Community-Based Action Research on Urban Waste Governance and Post-Consumer Plastic Waste Recycling

- Ukasha Shabbir, Muniba Sadiq, Uraiba Sharjeel, Sidra Mujeeb and Mahek Riaz Shaikh

This project examines the entrenched problem of visible solid-waste, particularly, overflowing 'kachra kundis' in Jinnah Town (UC-12), Karachi, and develops practical, youth-led interventions to reduce street litter, reclaim recyclable material, and improve public health and urban livability. Using a mixed-qualitative approach, the student team conducted repeated field visits to multiple dumping sites, mapped hotspots with geotags and photographs, and carried out semi-structured interviews with neighborhood residents, sweepers, SSWMB contractors and informal collectors.

2. A Local Government Model for Regulating and Recycling Banners in Karachi - Case Study Incholi, Karachi

- Fizra Nayab, Syed Muhammad Ammar Jafri, Shifa Imran

Karachi's streets are plastered with political, commercial, and event-related banners that remain long after their purpose expires. These banners are rarely removed, creating visual clutter, blocking signage, and worsening the city's aesthetic appearance. Despite being under the jurisdiction of local government institutions like the Union Council (UC) and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), enforcement remains weak due to overlapping responsibilities, corruption, and lack of systems for accountability or recycling.

This plan proposes a practical, community-centered model for managing, regulating, and recycling banners/posters within one UC of Karachi.

3. Reconnecting Urban Youth with Public Healthcare in Pakistan: Building Trust, Awareness, and Action

- Fatimah Riyaz, Mahnoor Aftab, Syeda Zahra Hasan

Pakistan's public healthcare sector, particularly within the diverse and densely populated metropolis of Karachi, is critically undermined by systemic challenges, including chronic under-resourcing and a pervasive trust deficit between citizens and state institutions. This research addresses the urgent need to mobilize Karachi's vast youth population (ages 15-25) as a strategic asset to revitalize public health and bridge the widening communication gap between communities and government health bodies. Employing a rigorous qualitative approach, this study utilizes semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions to investigate the dual drivers of youth non-participation: perceptions of institutional inefficiency and a lack of meaningful roles, versus the powerful influence of intrinsic motivators such as the desire for hands-on experience, civic contribution, and a sense of collective service. By analyzing engagement successes among non-state actors and consulting key stakeholders, the research culminates in the development of a Youth-Civic Health Engagement Model. This model strategically positions youth as community connectors, supporting preventive health outreach, patient navigation, and communication facilitation, thereby merging practical service with civic education and responsibility. The expected outcome is a policy-informed, replicable framework that can serve as a blueprint for both governmental and non-state actors in Karachi and comparable urban centers. Ultimately, this project underscores the transformative potential of cultivating civic consciousness through structured youth engagement, aspiring to rebuild long-term institutional trust and transform public healthcare spaces into vibrant platforms of active citizenship.



1. Reviving the Green Canopy Near Johar chorangi area

- Sameer Rasheed, Muhammad Yousuf, Aiman Manzoor, Preetem, Laksh, Muhammad Abbas

This study explores the impact of rapid urbanization and loss of tree cover in Johar Chowrangi, Gulistan-e-Johar, Karachi. Using mixed methods—including surveys, field observations, and community interviews—the research highlights how declining greenery and rising temperatures are affecting daily life. Residents reported intense heat, poor air quality, and the disappearance of shaded areas. Field interviews provided deeper insights into public frustration, community willingness to contribute, and the lack of institutional action by municipal authorities. The study concludes that meaningful environmental improvement requires collaboration between citizens and government agencies, supported by organized plantation efforts and long-term maintenance strategies.

2. Streetlights issue on creek road DHA Karachi

- Sameer Khan, Anas, Abdul Rehman, Muskan, Aailah, Haya, Fawad

The purpose of this research study is to explore the effect of insufficient and poor maintenance of streetlighting in Creek Road, DHA Phase VIII, Karachi. Despite its location within the vicinity of a well-developed urban residential district, most of the streetlights along this route are either nonfunctional or quite insufficient, which causes poor visibility during evening and nighttime hours. This situation has resulted in higher rates of road accidents, greater concerns about theft and harassment, and an evident decline in the sense of security among daily commuters, pedestrians, delivery riders, and local residents.

The purpose of this study is to analyze how the lack of efficient lighting affects the daily routines, safety, and mobility of individuals who use or live near Creek Road. This research uses a primary data collection method: field observation, on-site photographs, structured interviews, and short community-based surveys. Such insight indicates that irregular maintenance schedules, unclear responsibility between municipal bodies, and limited planning for sustainable lighting in high-use public areas contribute to the problem.

The study suggests that timely maintenance, better coordination among authorities, and installation of solar streetlights may be a solution in the long term. The implementation of measures will increase public safety, offer smoother travel at night, and highly improve the quality of life in the area.

3. The Issue of Encroachment and Poor Road Conditions in Johar Chowrangi and Their Impact on Traffic Flow and Parking Spaces

- Kulsoom Fatima, Muhammad Adnan Khan, Shahzaman Jamali, Abdul Kabeer Memon, Mudasir Musa Jamali, Muhammad Hassan

This research investigates how roadside encroachment affects traffic flow and parking availability in the Johar Chowrangi area of Karachi. The study focuses on understanding how illegal occupation of public space—such as street vendors, extended shop fronts, and informal stalls—creates difficulties for drivers, pedestrians, and local shopkeepers. Johar Chowrangi was selected because it is one of the busiest commercial intersections in Karachi and exhibits severe encroachment-related issues. The findings indicate that reduced road width, random parking due to encroachment, and weak enforcement are the primary contributors to traffic congestion in the area. Additionally, the study observed that residents and commuters have become accustomed to these conditions and rarely demand proper management. The research highlights the need for organized vending zones, stricter regulation, and effective municipal control to improve mobility and restore public spaces to their intended use.

4. Drug Abuse and Its Impact on Students Focus Area: Educational Institutes in DHA Phase 8, Karachi

- Taanir Altaf, Bilal Khalid, Abdullah Ayaz Khan, Wania Raheel, Urwa Siddiqui, Shayan Azhar

This study explores drug abuse among Karachi's youth and its impact on the city's social wellbeing. Using a survey of 30 young people, field visits to drug-prone areas, and interviews with law-enforcement officials, the research examines awareness, exposure, and influencing factors. Findings show that peer pressure, stress, curiosity, and easy access drive youth drug use, despite awareness of its harms. Law-enforcement reports highlight rising youth involvement and gaps in prevention and rehabilitation. Drug abuse is linked to academic decline, family issues, and increased crime. The study emphasizes the need for awareness programs, counseling, community engagement, and better coordination between families, schools, and authorities to protect Karachi's youth.

5. Low Coverage of HPV Vaccination in Malir District

- *Bushra Gul, Jawad Ghulam Hussain, Ayush Rai, Alishba Imran, Nofil Rao, Rafiq Junejo*

This study explores the reasons that have contributed to the poor uptake of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination practices among the eligible cohort of girls aged 9–14 in the Malir District of Karachi. The HPV vaccination is part of a national campaign mobilized by the Federal Directorate for Immunization (FDI) with support from Gavi, WHO, and UNICEF. While the government has made strides to vaccinate girls, Malir remains one of the lowest performing districts in Sindh. This study utilizes a mixed-methods approach, which includes primary data collected through semi-structured questionnaires, interviews with health officials, field observations, and secondary literature. Our findings indicate that various factors contribute to the low uptake of HPV vaccination, particularly misinformation, fear of side effects, and infertility; low awareness of cervical cancer; socio-cultural; and religious misunderstandings. Despite having an eligible population of about 4,000 girls for HPV vaccination in Malir, only 1,500 girls have been vaccinated, indicating low demand for the vaccine. Quantitative results indicate that 70% of participants in our study had heard of the HPV vaccine; however, only 60% of participants were aware of the purpose of the vaccine and 90% were fearful of side effects. The study concludes that the issue is not availability of the vaccine, but rather trust, community engagement, and weak communication channels between health institutions and populations. To improve HPV vaccine acceptance and coverage in Malir, awareness strategies should be focused, involving trusted community members, other stakeholders, and stronger advocacy by schools, and health care providers.

6. Impact of Industrial Activities on Contaminated Water in Korangi Industrial Area

- *Ashar Humayun, Nuzhat Nazeer, Muhammad Umar, Syeda Hafsa Qadri, Tehami Hassan, Ibrahim Khan*

This study examines the impact of industrial activities on groundwater contamination in the Korangi Industrial Area of Karachi, one of Pakistan's largest manufacturing hubs. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines stakeholder interviews, and field observations, the research identifies critical patterns of pollution linked to unregulated industrial discharge and inadequate wastewater management. Grounded in the framework of environmental sustainability and industrial ecology, the findings reveal elevated concentrations of heavy metals—including lead, chromium, zinc, and nickel—that exceed national and international safety standards. The study highlights how unchecked industrial growth and weak regulatory enforcement have contributed to severe environmental degradation and public health risks. It underscores the urgent need for integrated industrial waste management systems, stronger environmental governance, and community-centered interventions to restore water quality and ensure sustainable urban development in Korangi.

7. Rising Trash Levels and Waste Management Challenges at Sea View

- *Zaid Zafar, Summaya, Shafay Shah, Abdul Rehman Tanveer, Sufyan Tariq, Umer Maniar, Talha Altaf*

This report investigates the escalating issue of waste accumulation and ineffective waste disposal practices at Sea View Beach, Karachi. Through systematic field observations, stakeholder interviews (vendors, camel/horse peddlers, visitors) and community surveys, the study examines the underlying causes, impacts, and public perceptions of coastal pollution. Findings reveal that the majority of waste comprises non-biodegradable materials such as plastic bottles, wrappers, and food packaging, primarily resulting from insufficient waste disposal infrastructure, weak regulatory enforcement, and limited civic responsibility among visitors. In addition, drainage outflows and tidal activity contribute significantly to the recurring buildup of litter, undermining the daily cleaning efforts carried out by the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC). The report concludes that addressing these challenges requires a coordinated strategy involving infrastructural development, stricter municipal oversight, and enhanced community awareness to ensure the long-term cleanliness and sustainability of Sea View Beach.

8. Damaged Infrastructure on Karachi University Road

- *Wafa, Umme Ruman, M. Hamza, Shahzain Nadeem, M. Abdullah, Fatima, Mohammad Rizwan*

Karachi, the largest metropolitan city of Pakistan faces an intensifying infrastructure disaster which has transformed University Road into a research example of how cities handle their infrastructure needs and administrative performance. The research investigates the Karachi University Road infrastructure deterioration through an analysis of drainage problems and pipeline damage and extended Bus Rapid Transit construction delays. The research combines quantitative data from Dawn and The Express Tribune and Aaj News and PPI News Agency with qualitative information obtained through interviews with commuters and drivers and officials. The research data shows that potholes (38%) and utility cuts (22%) represent the majority of road damage while construction delays (45%) and drainage system failures (30%) act as primary factors leading to these issues. The number of vehicle repairs has increased by 2530% while traffic accidents rise to almost twice their normal rate when rainfall exceeds 100 mm. The maintenance budget utilization remains at 35-40% which leads to short-term solutions instead of permanent infrastructure solutions. The research demonstrates that Karachi faces an ongoing governance problem because of insufficient coordination between departments and insufficient funding and minimal public participation. The research demonstrates that proper drainage systems combined with transparent maintenance reports and localized repair methods would lead to better safety standards and improved mobility and public trust. University Road functions as a transportation problem which also demonstrates the complete breakdown of Karachi's urban management system.

SECTION 6

Project Website

This Section covers the project's online initiative, showcasing website's technical performance, user engagement and its role as a sustainable hub for civic learning and activism.

Project Website



An important project component deals with creating an online space with evolving content to act as a resource bank for students, activists, researchers etc. that will also act as a post project sustainability intervention. Other than acting as a resource bank with information on the branches and tiers of governance, including legislative and institutional information, introduction to the constitution of Pakistan, electoral process etc. the Website it is planned will leverage following online/social media- based interventions for promoting youth activism:

- **Social Media Campaigns:** Utilize platforms like Instagram, and X to raise awareness about social issues using impactful visuals, infographics, and trending hashtags.
- **Curated Online Resources:** Develop a centralized online hub with curated content like articles, videos, and documentaries on relevant topics.

Progress Update



The basic design architecture, home page, content tabs have been designed, and the website has been formally launched and is being populated. There are separate content tabs that have been created for documenting project-based interventions and information related with the national governance structure. Information will be distributed in content tabs labeled as Branches of Government (Legislative, Executive and Judiciary) and Tiers of governance (Federal, Provincial and Local). A dedicated focus has been created on the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan detailing for example, the Fundamental Rights, the electoral process and legislative avenues available for citizen engagement.



In addition, a series of polls and citizen perception surveys were conducted. This has been done in order to get citizens valuable feedback on how they feel about issues of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the working of the state. Critical queries on national governance will be posted for citizens to respond and citizen perception surveys posted on important governance themes in this virtual platform. Information received will be documented and analyzed and shared on this public engagement platform that aims to promote informed, positive and solution driven civic activism.

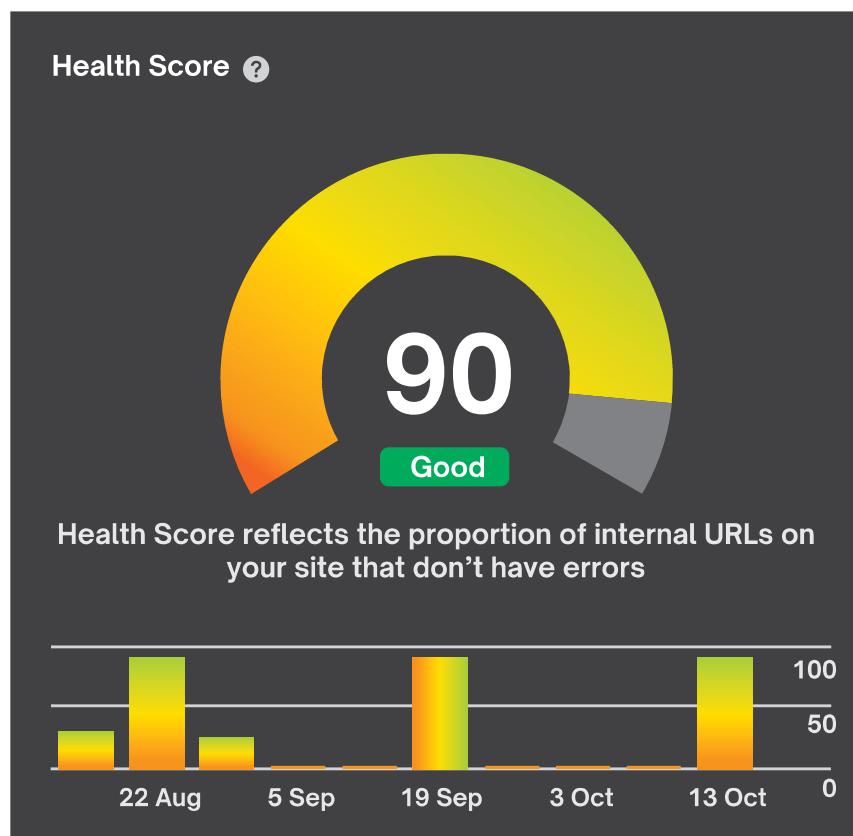
Web address: www.shehri-civiceducation.org

The performance of the website and insights from user engagement are detailed below.

Technical Performance and User Experience →

To ensure the website serves as a reliable and accessible resource, its technical health was continuously monitored. The site's "Health Score," which reflects the proportion of internal URLs without errors, is a key indicator of its performance and user-friendliness.

As of October 13, the website achieved an excellent Health Score of 90, rated as "Good." This high score indicates a technically sound platform, free of significant errors like broken links, which ensures a seamless and positive user experience for students and visitors seeking information. This robust performance is critical for maintaining credibility and encouraging repeat visits.



User Engagement and Survey Insights



To better understand the perspectives and needs of the target audience, surveys were conducted among students. The feedback gathered underscores the relevance of the project and the demand for resources offered through the website.

- **Perception of Current Governance:** A significant majority of respondents (68%) feel that decision-making in institutions of governance is not happening in an inclusive or participatory manner. This highlights a critical gap in civic trust that the project aims to address.
- **Belief in the Power of Knowledge:** An overwhelming 96% of participants believe that if people had greater knowledge and input, they would be able to influence policy-making to make it more inclusive. This strongly validates the project's core assumption that informed citizens are empowered citizens.
- **Demand for Civic Education:** Reinforcing the project's mission, 100% of survey respondents expressed a desire to become more informed citizens in order to better participate in civic life. This unanimous response confirms a clear and urgent demand for the type of educational content the website provides.
- **Audience Demographics:** The surveys captured feedback from a mixed group of 21 participants, comprising 57.1% female and 42.9% male respondents.

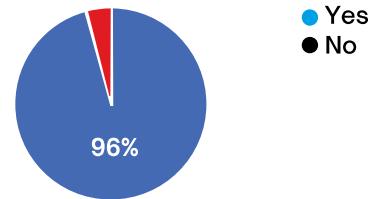
Would you like to become more informed citizens in order to better participate?

25 submissions



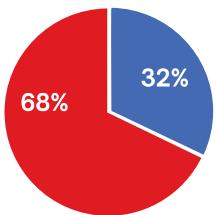
In your opinion, if people had greater knowledge and input, they would be able to influence policy making to make it more inclusive?

25 submissions



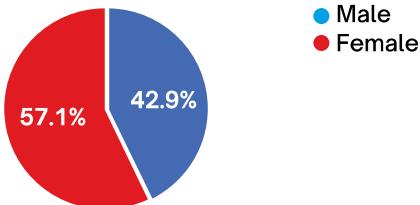
Do you think decision making in our institutions of governance is happening in an inclusive and participatory manner?

25 submissions



Gender

21 submissions



SECTION 7

Student Feedback

Reflections and Recommendations

This Section brings out feedback received from participating students on their perceptions and recommendations as they relate to their experiences in engaging with the different project activities and suggestions for institutionalizing the outcomes achieved during the course of the project

Student Feedback



This section documents the feedback and evaluation gathered from students who participated in the various project activities, including the consultative sessions, knowledge workshops, and panel discussions. The student feedback survey was designed to gauge overall satisfaction, assess knowledge enhancement, and evaluate the relevance and quality of the content and resource materials, providing crucial input for the final Course Curriculum development.

The responses overwhelmingly indicate a successful implementation, with students reporting a highly positive and impactful learning experience.

Summary of Evaluation Results



Across all key performance indicators, the survey results demonstrated a high degree of participant satisfaction and confirmed that the project achieved its intended knowledge and capacity-building outcomes.

- **High Overall Satisfaction:** The overall satisfaction rating with the project was exceptionally high, with the vast majority of participants rating the experience as "Excellent" or "Good".

University Name

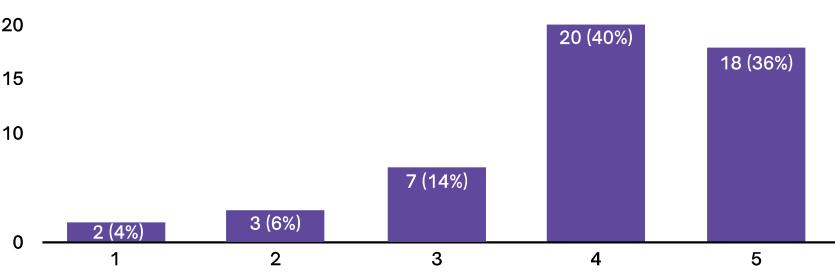
50 responses



- **Knowledge Acquisition:** Students strongly agreed that the sessions significantly enhanced their understanding of civic education, Pakistan's governance structure, and the electoral system.

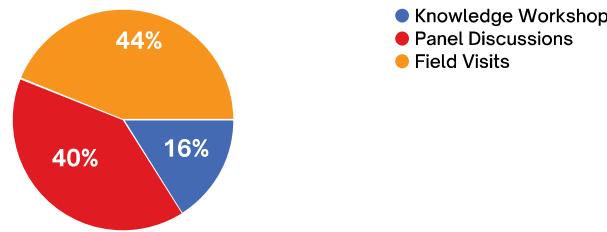
Would you consider knowledge of the government functions has increased after this project?

50 responses



Which of our project activities have you found the most informative?

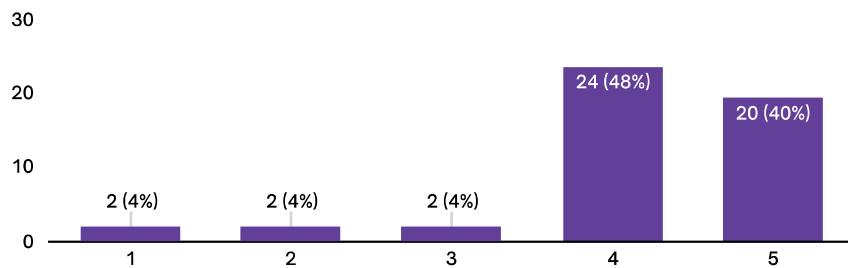
50 responses



- **Relevance and Application:** Participants strongly rated the content as relevant to their academic discipline and future professional or civic lives. They noted that the training provided practical methodologies for effective citizen engagement and mobilization.

Would you consider this project as having an impact on your information awareness?

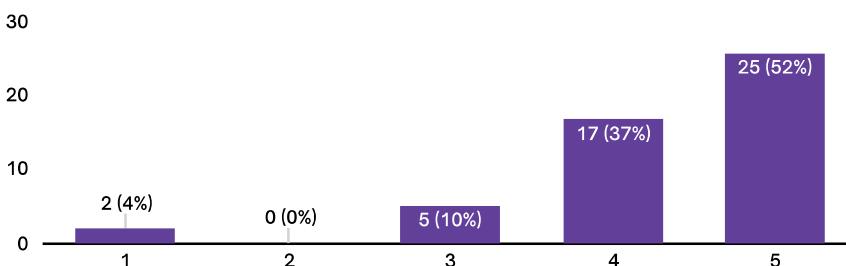
50 responses



- **Quality of Instruction:** The quality of the speakers, mentors, and panelists including elected representatives, civil servants, and civil society representatives was rated highly. The sessions were praised for being interactive and providing real-world insights into the public policy arena.

Are you more inclined to participate in activities promoting civic activism/engage in initiatives related to civic activism?

50 responses



Specific Impact and Future Intent

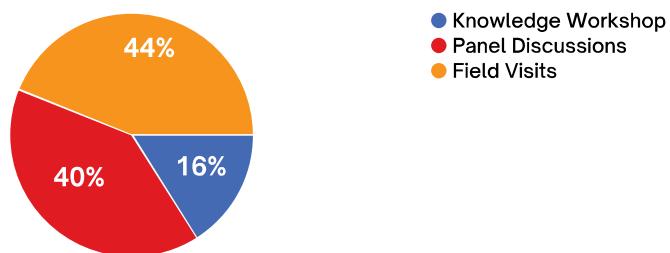


The feedback highlighted the project's success in fostering a pro-active mindset and a desire for sustained civic engagement:

- **Improved Understanding of Policy Processes:** A significant portion of students reported a clearer understanding of the complexity of policy formulation and implementation, as well as the implications of non-participatory planning

Which of our project activities have you found the most informative?

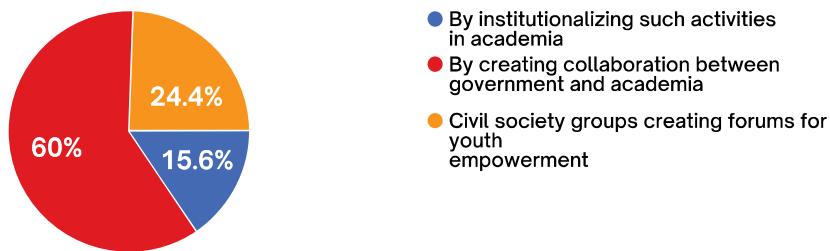
50 responses



- **Motivation for Activism:** The project successfully cultivated a motivation for volunteerism and social mobilization in sectors like public policy and environment.
- **Desire for Continued Engagement:** A large majority of participants expressed a strong desire for continued engagement and future opportunities for civic action and policy influence, confirming the project's success in creating a foundation for an "activated youth citizenry".

How do you think project objectives can be achieved in sustainable manner?

45 responses



The positive results confirm that the model developed by Shehri-CBE, which integrates civic education into higher education academic spaces, is highly effective in building capacity and nurturing informed civic activism among the youth.

Capturing the Voice of the Youth!

Student Reflections



- *Maryam Qazi, Habib University*

"I took part in Garbage Can's initiative of second home library for the population of Shah Faisal Colony. The overall experience was really good, and we got to learn to work on a sustainable, environmentally friendly initiative. Along with working with RLCC, the internship empowered me to work on projects that serve society in any way possible."

- *Ibshar Qaiser, University of Karachi*

"I attended multiple panel discussions and workshops and a field visit and I got to know a lot about social issues and their solving strategies - looking forward to be a part of this again!"

- *Munazzah Rajput, University of Karachi*

"I got an internship at The Knowledge Forum and grateful to Shehri team for this opportunity. Now I am working as a research assistant at the Knowledge Forum and my knowledge skills and my experience got a boost because of this experience."

- *Habib University*

"While I have not been able to partake in any civic engagement so far myself, I have however been able to utilize the knowledge I gained about Pakistan's governance structure, Karachi's municipalities to further understand these structures more. I have further shared that information with students I taught in Habib University's summer camp, hence passing on the knowledge I gained from this project to bright young minds who will learn more about Karachi, the issues it faces and its rich history over time."

- Maryam Qazi, Habib University

“My internship program of second home library initiated by Garbage Can Co. partnered with RLCC. It was a remarkable experience as we built eco bricks from garbage. From separating the garbage to cutting it into bits and pieces and making eco bottle bricks to building the library wall by wall. Every step was self-reflective. These are the initiatives that set examples. I was surprised as first as I was not aware of such projects and initiatives but thanks to the civic education project and Shehri team, that I got to be part of this internship project with incredible people.”

- Ukasha Shabbir, Habib University

“Through Shehri, I was able to secure an internship at CLICK which is a World Bank/Government of Sindh project. It equipped me with real life insights on social work and rehabilitation. Additionally, I worked on the rehabilitation of a park near my home with the help of Shehri which is in progress. Alongside this, the research project that we are doing regarding urban waste management has given me experience of real time actionable research and how a systematic intervention could be implemented.”

- Fatimah Riaz, Habib University

“Through the Civic Education Project (its workshops), I got the chance to engage directly with government officials, which was a completely new experience for me. Speaking one-on-one with them gave me the confidence to express my views and helped me understand how to approach people in positions of authority respectfully but assertively. I learned that as citizens, we have the right and the responsibility, to hold our leaders accountable, not through confrontation, but through informed and constructive dialogue. This project also showed me how powerful youth voices can be in shaping public decisions. Being part of discussions that were actually considered by officials made me realize that change often starts with participation. The experience encouraged me to stay involved in civic activities and strengthened my belief that young people can make a real difference when they engage actively in their communities.”

- Habib University

“I was able to do an internship at KMC which really helped me in bridging the gap between what I've studied and all of that actually works in a government setting. I was able to connect with important stakeholders and gain more knowledge not just about the functioning but also the structure of government.”

- Sarah Zafar, University of Karachi

“Being a part of the University of Karachi cohort, I, a biotechnology student got to know what I wouldn't have known as a student, the things discussed in the workshop, ignited something in me, individual responsibility in civic responsibility. It really made me think about the daily choices we make as civilians.”

Student Recommendations



- Maryam Qazi, Habib University

“More field visits!!”

- Tousif, University of Karachi

“Add more panel discussions in the coming projects and at the end of every discussion there should be some activity or research work for the students so that by doing so their concept will clear more.”

- Ibshar Qaiser, University of Karachi

“Do more publicity, marketing - please work on it so more people get to join it.”

- Tasbeeha Ahmed, University of Karachi

“Incorporate more hands-on activities for students to boost engagement.”

- Agha Shaheryaar, University of Karachi

“Document and share achievements for the second iteration to inspire further participation and attract new supporters.”

- Habib University

“Organize more knowledge workshops that have more interactive activities.”

- Maryam Qazi, Habib University

“Outside settings give us more exposure to the governmental work. Having field visits not just to the organizations but to the project fields also, would be more impactful like the urban forest in Karachi etc.”

SECTION 8

Concluding Workshop

Celebrating Our Youth

- Empowering for Engaged Citizenship

Successful Completion of the Project

We celebrated this gainful engagement, shared our experiences and promoted youth activism in an interactive concluding event, which was organized on Saturday, October 25, (9:30 am - 6:00 pm) at Movenpick Hotel Karachi. The day was filled with celebrating and stimulating our youth - in the morning session, we exhibited the works of youth led NGOs/Startups and university students that relate with a range of activities targeted at empowering communities and improving livability. In the second half of the engagements, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment team shared with a diverse set of stakeholders, the project work and future follow up of this initiative. An invigorating panel discussion was organized with some game changing youth and awards were distributed amongst the participating student groups on their field research-based Action Plans submissions.

Time	Activity
9:30 am - 12:30 pm	<p>Celebrating Youth Activism - Exhibiting Youth Led Civic Engagement</p> <p>The following exiting, diverse and impactful NGOs/Startups and university students research will be exhibited for public engagement and conversation:</p>
Youth Led NGOs, Startups & Student Groups	Youth Research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect Hear • Hunar Foundation • Youth Parliament • Rana Liaquat Craftmenn's Colony (RLCC) • Caritas • Bagh-e-Sakina • Hash Crafters Studio • Right, Roll, Lead • E for Etiquettes • Farokht-content commerce platform • Collective Pakistan/Safar Buddies • Civic and Social Responsibility Society (University of Karachi) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routes to Access (Habib University) • Air Pollution in Karachi: Assessing Plantation as a Sustainable Mitigation Strategy (University of Karachi) • Socio-Economic Impact of Displacement and Resettlement Due to the Thar Coal Project in Blocks I and II (University of Karachi) • Reflow Karachi (University of Karachi) • Indigenous fisherman community of Karachi-Ibrahim Hyderi (University of Karachi) • <i>Socioecological Assessment of Karachi's Afforestation Efforts for Adaptive Management Strategies (University of East London.)</i> • Comprehensive Environmental Design: Socio-economic upliftment in Baba and Bhit Islands (NED University of Engineering & Technology) • Informal high-rise Housing in Karachi; Vertical Movement Challenges and its impact on the lives of its users (NED University of Engineering & Technology) • Grassroots Civic Mobilization in Pakistan: Pathways, Practices, and Policy
Break Refreshments	
2:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Welcome Address <i>Amber Alibhai, General Secretary Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment</i>
2:40 pm - 3:00 pm	Views on University Collaboration <i>Dr. Faryal Salman HoD, Department of Business & Management Sciences, Millennium Institute of Technology & Entrepreneurship (MITE)</i> <i>Dr. Ghazal Khawaja Humnayun Associate Professor & Director, Students' Guidance, Counselling and Placement Bureau, University of Karachi</i>
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	A Journey of Discovery and Hope <i>A Video Documentary capturing moments and experience of the project</i>
3:15 pm - 3:45 pm	Sharing our Work - Experiences, Assessment and Way Forward <i>Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner, Project Manager Associate Professor of Practice, Habib University</i>
3:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Panel Discussion - Youth as Enablers of a more Livable Tomorrow <i>Panelists: Javeria Imran, Syed Naveed, Aroma Sarwat, Ali Sohaib, Fatima Amiri, Saman Khan Moderator: Farhan Anwar, Urban Planner, Project Manager</i>
5:15 pm - 5:45 pm	Awards Distribution <i>• Saleka Enver, Chairperson • Amra Javed, Executive Member Shehri-Citizen for a Better Environment</i> <i>Cash Awards distributed to participating students in the field research component of the project</i>
5:45 pm - 6:00 pm	Concluding Remarks <i>Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Economist Founding Member, Shehri-CBE</i>
Refreshments	

Event Proceedings

The event opened with Amber Alibhai, General Secretary of Shehri-CBE, discussing the urgent need for and importance of the project and also its strong relevance to the mandate and work of Shehri-CBE. She expressed gratitude to the three participating universities – the University of Karachi, Habib University, and the Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE) – for their active collaboration. She also acknowledged the project team, Farhan Anwar, Wajeeha Farooqui, Sarwar Khalid, Rehan Ashraf, Irfan Ahmed Shah, Paras Fahim and Muhammad Khurshid, emphasizing that the initiative embodies one of Shehri-CBE's core missions: *empowering citizens through knowledge and participation.*

Project Manager Farhan Anwar shared the broader vision behind the program and explained in detail the activities undertaken in the project and the key deliverables. Anwar stated that a,

"Key issue we face is the state's failure to establish a viable social and political contract with its citizens and this disconnect between government and people, has fueled hopelessness, especially among youth who increasingly wish to leave the country. Our project sought to counter that by engaging students and helping them develop civic knowledge and capacity."

Academic Reflections



Dr. Faryal Salman, Head of the Department of Business & Management Sciences at MITE, commended Shehri-CBE's efforts, saying,

"Our students were deeply engaged because they got to see how the system actually works. Their biggest takeaway was realizing that their voices matter."

Dr. Ghazal Khawaja Hammayun, Associate Professor and Director of the Students' Guidance, Counselling & Placement Bureau at the University of Karachi, also lauded the initiative, stating,

"Shehri-CBE has helped both faculty and students gain not only theoretical understanding but also valuable on-ground experience."

Event Highlights



The event provided a space to civil society organizations, start-ups, academia to both display and explain to the participants their work in promoting citizen participation in problem solving. The work and products of the organizations were displayed and stalls that were heavily visited by participants in this public event.

A very thought provoking and engaging panel discussion was held with six (6) young game changers, that are working in a diverse arena of public engagement, generating narratives and practices for communal change and social mobilization.

In the end, **Saleka Enver**, Chairperson of Shehri-CBE, and **Amra Javed**, Executive Member, distributed shields to panelists, along with cash awards and certificates to students who participated in the project's field research component.

In his concluding address, **Dr. Kaiser Bengali**, founding member of Shehri-CBE, underscored the importance of civic engagement:

“Being civically engaged isn’t just about yourself — it’s about others. You must go beyond personal interest and ask, ‘What can I do for my city?’ That’s how Shehri-CBE began — when six citizens decided to save their city from destruction.”

He also highlighted Shehri-CBE's landmark achievement in protecting Kidney Hill from private housing development — a legal battle that spanned 19 years.

“Ordinary citizens can safeguard public spaces. The fight for change doesn’t require violence; it requires perseverance and lawful action. Just as Shehri-CBE used the courts as its tool for justice, so should you.”

Student Testimonials



Participants shared inspiring reflections on their learning journey.

Hamza Malik, a biotechnology student at the University of Karachi, remarked,

“Meeting civil servants helped me understand new career paths and how government departments actually work. Learning where to take complaints and how systems operate showed me how we can contribute to improving them.”

Ukasha Shabbir, a student at Habib University who secured an internship at CLICK (Competitive and Livable City of Karachi) through the program, shared,

“During my two-month internship, I visited rehabilitation sites and worked with finance and policy departments — experiences that gave me real insight into governance and civic responsibility.”

Amber Alibhai



Distinguished Guests, Assalam-o-Alaikum

Our project to 'Celebrate our Youth - through Empowerment for an Engaged Citizenship' has came to an end. Todays event is to personally thank and appreciate all the persons who made it possible and showcase the work of the students. As they say it takes an entire village to raise a child, our village comprised of some of the most generous people who gave their time, shared their knowledge and experiences and facilitated the entire journey of learning.



Our object was/is to engage our youth, who are the owners and leaders of our country, it is important for them to understand our system of governance. The learning began with shortlisting three (03) institutions, who I would like to thank, who graciously and whole heartedly facilitated Shehri to engage with their students.

1. Department of Public Administration, University of Karachi (Prof. Dr. Saima Akhtar, Chairperson, Department of Public Administration and Prof. Dr. Ghazal Khawaja Humayun, Director Students' Guidance, Counselling and Placement Bureau, University of Karachi). Thank you
2. Habib University, Dr. Shahab Bader Sheikh, Programme Director, Social Development and Policy Programme and Farhan Anwar, Associate Professor of Practice. Thank you.
3. Millennium Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship (MITE), Department of Business & Management Science (Dr. Huma Baqai, Rector MITE, Dr. Huma Baqai Shehri has known since 1998 and Prof. Dr. Faryal Salman Head of Department of Business & Management Science, MITE)..

MITE went a step further and converted this interaction as part of a course component named Civic & Community Engagement, it was a graded course and we look forward to knowing how the students fared.

Without the support of these three institutions this learning would not have been possible.

Thank you to Mrs. Iffat Ara for Researching, Editing and writing the Toolkit for your empowerment.

Thank you to our Trainers, who gave their time, expertise and knowledge.

1. **Ross Mahtani**, Development Professional & Minority Rights Activist, who spoke on Voice of Inclusion – Youth & Governance
2. **Mumtaz Ali**, Urban Planning & Development Expert, who spoke on governance and administrative structure in Pakistan,
3. **Sameer Hamid Dodhy**, Vice Chairperson Shehri, who spoke on Right to Information - A Tool for Transparent Governance.
4. **Naveed Sheikh**, Senior Advisor (UNDP) Sindh SDG Unit, who introduced the National and Provincial Legislative and Policy Space – Case Study of the Sindh Public Private Partnership Act, 2010
5. **Jawad Muzaffar**, DC Korangi, who shared his experience as young public servant

Thank you to our Honorable elected representatives and Advisors to the Govt of Sindh who came and shared their political experience with our students in panel discussions.

- Syed Hafeezuddin, Member National Assembly (MNA) - MQM
- Mr. Rehan Bandukda (Member Sindh Assembly), PTI
- Adil Askari, Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), MQM
- Syed Najmi Alam, Advisor to Chief Minister, Province of Sindh, Parliamentary Leader, KMC City Council. Pakistan Peoples Party
- Qurrat-ul-Ain Khan (Member Sindh Assembly), MQM
- Mr. Irfan Allahwala, Chairman, UC-8, Chanesar Town, Jamat Islami
- Mr. Kaleemullah, Chairman TMC Safoora, Pakistan Peoples Party
- Mr. Arshad Hussain Shah, Chairman UC-8, Safoora Town, PTI
- Ms. Sanam Baloch, Chairperson UC-1, Gulshan Town, Pakistan Peoples Party
- Mirza Farhan Baig, Chairman U.C., Korangi, Jamat Islami
- Sanobar Farhan, Member City Council, PTI
- Mr. Muhammad Noman Khan, Chairman UC-5, Safoora Town/Spokesperson to the Opposition Leader in the City Council, Jamat Islami
- Khawaja Ghulam Qamar, Chairman UC-6, Azizabad, TMC Gulberg, Jamat Islami

We also engaged and invited Panelists from various Government departments

- Sajida Qazi, Chief Foreign Aid, Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh
- Kanwal Bhutto, Additional Secretary, Local Government, Government of Sindh (TBC)
- Tariq Ali Nizamani, Managing Director, Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB)
- Masood Alam, Project Coordinator, Competitive & Livable City of Karachi (CLICK) project
- Mr. Waqar Saleem Baig, Principal Municipal Training and Research Institute, LG Dept, Sindh
- Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Detho, Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission
- Mr. Shahid Jatoi, Information Commissioner, Sindh Information Commission (GoS)
- Mr. Amjad Rafi, DSP Traffic, Karachi
- Mr. Muhammad Shahid, Director, City Institute of Image Management, KMC

Our Panelists from NGOs/Civil Society organization

- Ms. Zareen Rashid, Head of Livelihoods Department, Rana Liaquat Craftsman Colony Welfare Project (RLCC), NGO established by Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan, situated in Shah Faisal Colony No.2
- Mr. Mansha Noor, Executive Secretary, Caritas
- Ms. Angel Imdad, CEO and Co-Founder, Irvende, Go-Green
- Mr. Zahid Farooq, Joint Director, Urban Resource Centre, URC
- Dr. Asim Mansoor, CEO, Eco Group of Companies, Lahore
- Raheema Panhwar, Gender Advisor, Water Aid, Pakistan
- Zeenia Shaukat, Director, The Knowledge Forum
- Shoaib Abdul Razzaq, Senior Manager, Marine Project, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), Pakistan

Then we had field visits, we extend our sincere thank you to our Mayor Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui, who facilitated the visit of the students to the KMC Head Office and specially to the City Council Hall and Clock Tower. The students of each institution experienced the space and sat in the City Council assembly, they were given a guided tour.

- Ameer Hyder, Chief Metrologist, facilitated the visit of the students to the Pakistan Metrological Complex, especially the visit of Radar Centre, weather forecasting centre, climate monitoring, and research on atmospheric sciences at Gulistan-e-Jauhar. It was a fascinating experience for all.
- Zareen Rashid, Head of Livelihoods Department, Raana Liaquat Craftsmen Colony (RLCC), who facilitated the visit of the students to the RLCC centres. The students visited the different units of RLCC
 - School
 - Clinic/Mental Health Counselling
 - Computer Training Centre
 - Beautician/Parlor courses are taught
 - Day care
 - Livelihoods department
 - Vocational Training Centre facilities – all situated with RLCC
- Thank you to Farhan Anwar who so ably with dedication conducted this learning project. His team members, Wajeeha Farooqui, Rehan Ashraf, Sarwar Khalid, Irfan Ahmed Shah and Paras Fahim
- A special thank you to Rehan and Sarwar for their continued dedication and hard work and always rising above the call of duty to get the work done.
- For Shehri this project is our ethos, empowered informed citizens make better, brave and real true owners.

Exhibition and Discussion











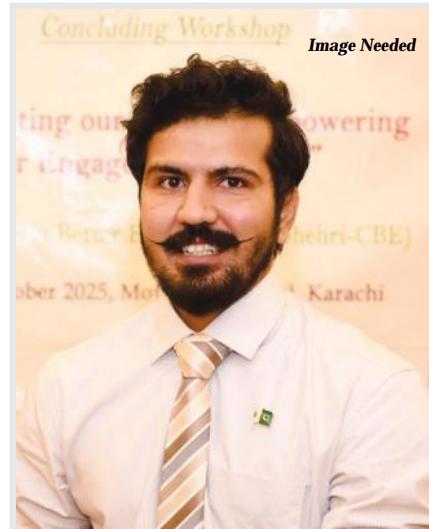
Panelists Profiles

Ali Sohaib



M.Phil (Social Work)
 Emergency Response & Disaster Risk
 Management Specialist |
 Internationally Certified Rescuer

Ali Sohaib is a humanitarian professional and Emergency Response Specialist from Pakistan with over seven years of experience in disaster management, crisis response, and community resilience. He holds an M.Phil in Social Work from the University of Karachi and is an internationally certified rescuer trained by IFRC and IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, Türkiye. His expertise includes search and rescue, emergency medical response, disaster preparedness, and community-based risk reduction. Ali has led and participated in numerous rescue operations during floods, fires, building collapses, and accidents, saving over 100 lives through direct action. Beyond field operations, he focuses on empowering communities through disaster-preparedness training, youth volunteer programs, and first aid awareness. His dedication has earned him multiple honors, including the Youth Icon Award, Humanitarian Award, and special recognition from the former President of Pakistan. Driven by empathy and resilience, Ali continues to advance humanitarian action by promoting preparedness, awareness, and sustainable disaster response systems.



Aroma Sarwat



Aroma Sarwat is a Gold Medalist from the Department of Public Administration, University of Karachi, recognized for her leadership in civic engagement, youth empowerment, and public awareness on health and governance.

She is the Founding President of the Pakistan Health Parliament – Karachi University Chapter, leading initiatives on diabetes, youth mental health, drug abuse, and environmental health. Under her leadership, the chapter has organized impactful seminars, workshops, and awareness campaigns promoting preventive healthcare among youth.



All Original Image Required

Jaweria Imran



Jaweria Imran holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Karachi, where she achieved 2nd position in BPA (Hons) and earned multiple Achievement Medals for co-curricular excellence. As the former President of the Civic & Social Responsibility Society (CSR) (2024-2025) and Captain of the Green Youth Movement Club, she demonstrated exceptional leadership by transforming CSR into an active platform dedicated to social change, focusing on critical awareness initiatives covering health issues (e.g., breast cancer, mental health) and educational topics (e.g., freelancing, scholarships), alongside leading major



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environmental and sustainability projects aligned with UN SDGs. Additionally, she is an experienced Graphic Designer and Social Media Manager with over four years in the field, leveraging her creative skills to manage communication while also conducting valuable workshops on Graphic Designing, Freelancing, and LinkedIn Profile Optimization to empower young professionals.

Syed Naveed Ahsan



Syed Naveed Ahsan, Focal Person for Sports at the District Education Office, Central (Govt. of Sindh), is dedicated to promoting youth engagement through inclusive sports opportunities.

In 2019, he launched **“Hum Abhi Khaelien Gay”**, a project aimed at advancing gender equality through sports. The initiative brought together diverse youth in a safe, inclusive environment. For his impactful work, he received the Gender Equality Youth Champion Award in 2020.



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Fatima Amiri



Fatima Amiri is the Founder of the Fatima Farhat Foundation (FF Foundation), a welfare organization dedicated to serving humanity and promoting social well-being through essential aid and empowerment. Inspired by the need to uplift individuals, particularly women, in a male-dominated society, she oversees key initiatives including Food Drives, Roti Bank Drives, and Skill Development & Empowerment Sessions to foster self-reliance and financial independence, alongside running Medical Camps for underserved communities.



Beyond her foundation, Fatima is a Founding Member of CAN 1.5°C (Climate Action & NTDs), a youth-led initiative addressing the critical link between climate change and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Drawing from her personal experience with Chikungunya, she leads community engagement in Karachi, mobilizing youth to advocate for equitable healthcare and climate resilience in vulnerable populations.

Through both organizations, Fatima's mission is to inspire collective, youth-driven change, fostering a future where humanity, equality, and opportunity thrive together.

Sannam Khan



Sannam Khan, 22 years entrepreneur working in a field of E-commerce Brand Management for 4 years holding a startup name Digimarvix Pvt Ltd. Along with holding a degree in business with premium institutions of Pakistan IBA and MITE. He serves as a lead Faculty of Baitussalam Tech park serves over 150+ students.



Stalls



Bagh - e - Sakina



Farokht



Hash Crafters



E for Etiquettes



Bait - us - Salam



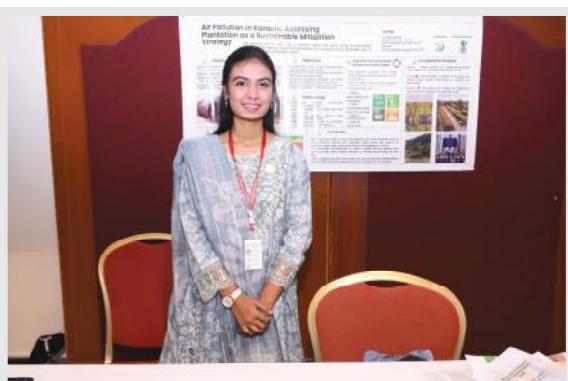
Caritas Pakistan



Informal high-rise Housing in Karachi; Vertical Movement Challenges and its impact on the lives of its users



Inclusive parks policy- Playgrounds for all



Air Pollution in Karachi: Assessing Plantation as a Sustainable Mitigation Strategy



The Civic and Social Responsibility Society, UOK



KaamWala



Hunar Foundation



Routes to Access



Reflow Karachi



Socioecological Assessment of
Karachi's Afforestation efforts
for adaptive management strategies



Department of Political Science, Jinnah
University



Collective Pakistan and Safar Buddies



Socio-economic impact of
displacement and resettlement due to
Thar coal project in blocks I and II



Comprehensive environmental design
Sociology-economic uplifting in Baba
and Bhit islands



Indigenous Fisherman Community of
Karachi

Establishing Protocols for Engagement

In consultation and discussions with the collaborating universities, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed spelling out the main protocols of engagement, identifying the scope and nature of the engagements and contributions and expectations from the collaborating organizations.



FINAL REPORT 2025



SHEHRI-CBE