

SHEHRI

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead

INTRODUCTION

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment (Shehri-CBE) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1988. It is run by a Volunteer Managing Committee elected by the General Body for a term of two years.

SHEHRI MISSION

Shehri-CBE's mission is to develop and implement a strategy in which the environment of Pakistan, and in particular the built environment is managed, and developed in a transparent and participatory manner with a view to ensure the supremacy of the citizen's interest in all matters effecting their engagement with the environment around them. Shehri-CBE's aim is to achieve this by encouraging participatory development through active engagement by citizens, creating awareness of and applying existing legislation and promoting accountability.



WORK

In accordance with its mission, Shehri-CBE work focuses on the built and natural environment of Pakistan and in particular, the city of Karachi. We raise awareness of urban environmental degradation, human rights violation, lack of infrastructure, land-use violations, mass transit, urban governance, legislation, rule of law and organize and participate in various advocacy programmes in relation thereto.

OBJECTIVES

1. Establishment of an aware and proactive civil society promoting good governance, transparency, and rule of law.
2. Promotion of research, data collection, dialogue to influence development for effective legislation and policies.
3. Establishment of an effective and representative system of participatory governance.
4. Creation of awareness of basic human rights in society.
5. Preparation of a representative Master / Zoning Plan for Karachi / Sindh and accurate implementation of the same.

THE WORK WE DO

1. Help Desk : We assist citizens in issues they may have relating to land-use and violations of the Master Plan.
2. To hold seminars and workshops to train and raise awareness on matters relating to governance.
3. We follow events closely in our city, province and country which relate to land-use, activities which effect the living and built environment and where necessary, we intervene through letters, meetings and eventually filing Public Interest litigation.
4. Working with other citizen groups under the banner of democratic policing.
5. We endeavour to attend all Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) public hearings, in connection with all matters which may adversely impact our living and built environment, such as change of land-use and zoning regulations and the setting up of coal plants and cement factories.

FOUNDER MEMBERS OF SHEHRI-CBE:

Architect Danish Azar Zubay, Economist Dr. Kaiser Bengali, Architect Humera Rehman.

Friedrich Naumann Foundation has been in partnership with Shehri-CBE since 1990. We feel proud to be associated with the foundation and hope to share our success stories to honor our strong partnership

PARKS AND AMENITY SPACES IN KARACHI:

Karachi no longer has open spaces. Parks and amenity places have been illegally taken over to build houses that often goes unreported.

Shehri – Citizens for a Better Environment with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation compiled the book titled "Park and Amenity Spaces of Karachi".

The research carried out in the making of this book has taken more than three years. The purpose is to provide concerned citizens with a document that will assist them in determining the location and types if amenity, public utility service and park plots in this city, and the rules and laws governing their usage. Additionally, it highlights the present status of the open spaces in terms of encroached land, changes in land use, etc. It is useful in tackling many complaints we receive daily at the helpdesk. It has become the primary resource book for 70 % complaints queries we receive.



Mr. Olaf Kellerhoff, Resident Representative, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Presenting book titled 'Parks & Amenity Spaces of Karachi' to General Secretary Shehri- Citizens for a Better Environment, Mrs. Amber Alibhai at the book launching ceremony – 7 December 2012

In its quest to save "open spaces" in Karachi, Shehri-CBE undertook the mammoth task of documenting all amenity plots in the city. These Special Type (ST) plots are those that have been designated as parks, playgrounds, hospitals, schools, or public buildings in the master plan of the area. Shehri-CBE adopted the following procedures for the compilation of this book:

- Scanning and converting the layout to and AUTO CAD format
- Physical verification at site of each and every plot
- Nature and extent of encroachment (if any)
- Correlation with Google-Earth layout



SUCCESS STORIES OF SHEHRI-CBE

Success stories of shehri-CBE were made possible through the funds made available by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation

- THE JUDICIARY ACKNOWLEDGES SHEHRI-CBE'S WORK:** In recognition of Shehri-CBE's expertise in matters involving the built environment, Shehri-CBE was appointed amicus curiae by the Sindh High Court in a number of public interest cases, including the following: (1). Suit No.858/96 by Justice Musheer Alam through order dated 12-4-2004 (2). CP No.D-1970/98 by Justice Rana Bhagwandas and Justice Sabihuddin Ahmed through order dated 19-3-1999. (3). Suit No.869/97 by Justice Muslehuddin Ahmed through order dated 12-3-1999. In Suit No.1645/98, Justice Ali Aslam Jafri in his order dated 2-12-2000 has referred to Shehri-CBE's as an NGO *"committed to better environment in the city of Karachi and it is acting like a watch dog to ensure that high-rise buildings in violation of law, rules and regulations are not allowed to be constructed, because such construction amounts to permanent nuisance not only at present but in the times to come when the citizens of Karachi might be deprived of utilities and basic necessities of like fresh air, water, electricity and sewerage, etc., which basic requirements even today in this 21st century are not fully available to the residents of this Cosmopolition City, in the manner it ought to be"*.
- 35 BUILDINGS SEALED BY COURT ORDER:** In February 1998, Roland deSouza, a member of Shehri-CBE and other concerned citizens of Garden, Jamshed Quarters and Soldier Bazar had written a complaint to the Chief Justice, Sindh High Court, Mr. Wajihuddin Ahmed and requested him to take action against 35 illegal buildings constructed around Mazar-e-Quaid. The Chief Justice converted the complaint of the citizens into a **Constitutional Petition No.160/1998** and sealed these buildings. (*Public Notice: Daily "Dawn", Karachi, 3-12-1998*)
- SINDH ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION (SRTC):** As a result of filing a constitutional Petition (CP # D-1571 / 2000) Shehri-CBE & Ors vs. Province of Sindh & Ors. Shehri-CBE was successful against the commercialization and sale of 11 Karachi Transport Corporation (KTC) & 15 Sindh Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) bus-depot plots in Karachi and Sindh. (*Public Notice: Daily "Dawn", Karachi, 26-10-1997*)
- GLASS TOWERS:** As a consequence of filing Public Interest Litigation against the encroachment by Glass Towers on the notified-road widening of Clifton Road, Shehri-CBE was successful in having the illegal encroachment demolished thereby preventing the main road from being constricted. (*Public Notice: Daily "Dawn", Karachi, 16-11-1998*)
- GUTTER BAGHICHA PARK:** As a result of advocacy and filing public interest litigation Shehri-CBE saved the 480-acre Gutter Baghicha Park on Manghopir Road. This is the largest open recreational space in the low income congested area of Lyari. Approximately one million inhabitants live in the radius of Gutter Baghicha and is known as the lungs of Lyari.
 - Suit No.1484/08 - Shehri & Ors Vs. CDGK & Ors
 - HRC # 6-K/93 - Mrs. Amber Alibhai & Ors. Vs. Director EPA Sindh & Ors.
- OVERSEE COMMITTEE:** As a result of active advocacy establishment of the 'Oversee Committee' of the Karachi Building Control Authority (KBCA) now Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), notified as members under section 4A of the SBCA for a term of 5 years and maintained a 'Public Information Counter' for 3 years (1996-2001).
- PAKISTAN FORUM ON DEMOCRATIC POLICING (PFDP):** is a civil society initiative for police reforms in Pakistan and was formed to advocate an agenda at the national and provincial levels for constitution of a legal framework for police reforms. The forum was officially launched at a ceremony jointly organised by groups working for democratic policing- an alliance of Rozan, CPDI, Shehri-CBE, Aurat Foundation, Individual Land, Shirkat Gah, HRCP, SPARC and SPO.
- DOONGI GROUND - LAHORE:** Shehri-CBE along with the residents of Gulberg- Lahore filed Writ Petition # 1226/06 in the Lahore High Court and successfully challenged the illegal conversion of land-use in respect of the commercialization of Doongi Ground.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Karachi Building Control Authority
 The Owners / Attorneys / Occupants of
Garden East: GRE 138, 259, 337, 338, 360, 361/1, 361/2, 364/1, 371, 458/1, 511/20, 539, 540 & 552.
Garden West: GRW 77, 78, & 322.
Jamshed Quarters: JM 61, 91, 103/1, 104/1, 126, 220, 633/2, 671, 673, 674 & 688.
Soldier Bazar: 100/10 Roshan Colony, SB 19, 21.
Sub: SHOW CAUSE NOTICE IN RESPECT OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES BUILT ON ABOVE MENTIONED PLOTS



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- The original KDA plan of Kidney Hill Park 1966.
- WATER RESERVOIR
 - SWAN LAKE
 - CHILDREN'S PADDLING POND
 - MOSQUE AND MAZAAR
 - FAIRAN SCHOOL
 - PAHARI BAGH
 - PARK

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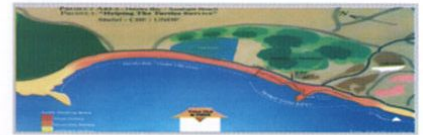
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- Hawkesbay Scheme 42 as planned by the KDA

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- The image shows the entrance to the Makro Wholesale Centre. A large, dark archway frames the entrance, with the word 'makro' in its signature red and white font above it. Below the arch, a sign reads 'Wholesale Centre'. Two white banners with red and black text are hanging from the archway. The background shows a clear sky and some greenery.

- **TARGETING FOR A GUN FREE SOCIETY:** Shehri-CBE, Citizens Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) jointly launched a "Gun Free Society" campaign on 19th September, 1998, at Karachi Press Club. We have raised awareness through 150,000 Stickers and workshop.

- **HELPING THE TURTLE SURVIVE (2004-2005):** Shehri - CBE with the financial assistance of the Global Environmental facility (GEF) and administrative support of the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), prepared a habitat and land-use management plan for the turtle habitat at Hawkesbay/Sandpits, Karachi.



- **GIS MAPPING OF KARACHI COAST AND GIS BASED ANALYSIS OF MARINE TURTLE HABITAT:** Shehri-CBE had conducted Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of the Karachi Coast and GIS based analysis of marine turtle habitat in 2010 with support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Pakistan. The project goal was to provide a credible and scientifically based planning, management and monitoring tool that established a knowledge base for effective and sustainable conservation of the Karachi coast. The project was awarded the "Indus Conservation Award" in the year 2012 for 'best performance' among all funded projects by the Technical Committee of the fund program.



- **GALIYAT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GDA):** Peshawar High Court, Green Bench in Case No. WPsno.348/2011&113/2011, had asked Shehri to join as Amicus Curie in the above matter to help developed Galiyat Master Plan (Nathia Gali) to conserve the environment of the scenic hillside.
- **SMOKE AND NOISE POLLUTION:** To address the issue of noise pollution and vehicular smoke, Shehri-CBE filed a Human Rights Case in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Case No. HR # 4-K/92, on November 01, 1993, as a consequence of which an order was passed to impose a ban on silencer less rickshaws and smoke emitting vehicles.
- **OECD WATCH:** Shehri-CBE is one of the founding members of OECD Watch. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development watch was established in Netherland in March 2003 by groups of NGOs from Europe, the Americas, Australia, Africa and Asia who share a common vision about the need for corporate accountability and sustainable investment.
- **RIGHT TO INFORMATION (RTI):** Shehri-CBE has played a vital role in the promotion of Article 19-A of the Constitution, and the Freedom of Information Laws all across the Sindh province. Shehri has held almost 60 training workshops and trained more than two thousand Five hundred 2500 people, while creating awareness in almost 10,000 citizens. Through placement of public service ads in Urdu, English & Sindhi newspapers, Shehri has extended its outreach on FOI to all over Pakistan. Shehri-CBE has contributed towards the drafting of the new "Sindh Transparency & Right to Information Bill".



Member of "NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY (NCB)" of MANGROVES FOR FUTURE PROGRAMME (MFF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan notified its membership through letter [No. 2(4)/2007-DIGF-II].

Moreover, the organization is also responsible for Gender Mainstreaming in all IUCN projects to confirm long lasting and inclusive development. Shehri-CBE helps engage each gender with respect to their societal roles to guarantee higher success of environmental conservation projects.

Shehri-CBE partnered with the National Endowment for Democracy for the National Project for Participatory Citizens Police Interaction & Training for Improving Policing of Human Right Violation & Advocating Police Reforms, trained more than eighteen hundred police personnel including around 120 women from all over Pakistan during 2007 - 2016.

Locations: Police Head Quarter Peshawar, Police Training Center Sihala, Special Security Unit Karachi, Police Training School (Garden) Karachi, Police Training College (Saeedabad) Karachi, and Police Lines Hyderabad, Quetta, Lahore and Islamabad

SDGS UNDERTAKEN BY SHEHRI-CBE



SHEHRI IN ACTION



SHEHRI HELP DESK

Our citizen helpline became active in 1995 when SHEHRI-CBE and members decided to provide rights based information to the complainants that approached the organization for assistance. It is now an integral part of our system.

We are proud of our unique initiative to benefit the society. You can call us for help on 34530646