



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

SHEHRI

May - August, 2000 Vol. 10/No. 2

INSIDE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal Buildings • Healthy City Karachi • Devolution Plan • Deep Sea Fishing • Kirthar National Park • Hamal Lake

THE MYTHS ABOUT REGULARISATION OF ILLEGAL BUILDINGS

As pressure builds from vested interest groups to "regularise" the "irregular" buildings, **Roland de Souza** demolishes many myths and presents the real face behind these corrupt practices.

Everyone in Karachi is aware of the problem of unauthorised structures. Most citizens who do not live in Defence Housing Authority (and many who moved there owing to the problems in their previous residential areas) have been exposed to the creeping increase in densities in the inner city localities, especially areas like Garden West/East, Jamshed Quarters, PECHS, the KCHS Union Societies on either side of Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Saddar Bazar, Preedy Quarters, Clifton, and Karachi Cantonment. The "Disease" is now spreading outwards affecting Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Federal "B" Area, and other suburbs.

The city is being silently converted into a vast concrete slum. Overloading of electricity, water/sewerage, and other utility/infrastructure systems causes load-shedding, breakdowns, low-voltages, garbage and sewage on the streets, kids playing cricket on the roads, and other familiar signs of civic collapse that we have come to silently accept in Karachi. Life just cannot be allowed to go on this way: *what legacy are we leaving for our future generations?*

The greedy builders mafia and their patrons in the government have generated a number of myths and fallacies about "regularisation". These myths are designed to elicit public sympathy, play with people's sentiments, and give crooked politicians and

bureaucrats the much needed excuses not to take mandated statutory action. The next "illogical" step would be to consider the mass and indiscriminate condoning of violations of the building and environmental laws.

Some of these myths are addressed below:

Myth No. 1

Violations of the building and town-planning rules and regulations are "minor"



GLASS
TOWERS:
THE PROPER
WAY OF
DEALING
WITH
ILLEGAL
BUILDINGS

THEY ARE NOT. Most illegal multi-storeys, consisting of six to eight-floor commercial-cum-flats buildings have been constructed on residential bungalow plots, where the building regulations and the plot-lease conditions allow

only G + 1 floors on one third of the plot. The over-building in many cases exceeds 1000%!!

Myth No. 2

"Sealed" buildings are causing adverse economic effects to the city businesses

NOT TRUE: Most of the illegal structures, including the infamous "262 sealed buildings" of 1996, are actually no longer "sealed". They have been invaded by the builders mafia, completed, and have been occupied by fake and "rented" tenants. They have even



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Interested contributors should contact the SHEHRI office for writers' guidelines. SHEHRI newsletter readership is from students, professionals, environmentalists, policy makers, NGOs and other organizations.

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EDITORIAL

Information Technology or Visa Technology

Our planning strategies and processes are more often than not, characterized by a shocking lack of vision and common sense, bereft of conformity with the basic principles which can sustain and stimulate the dynamics of financial and social growth.

While one government seeks to fulfill the energy needs from thermal sources, the other considers exploiting hydropower resources, a matter of life and death. One starts a project with fanfare, the other aborts it without ceremony, at the first opportunity offered. And so rocks the nation on this mad policy rollercoaster. Every government nurtures its own precious little project, which is supposed to take the nation into a new age of prosperity and growth. While Benazir sought to export power (electric!) to the whole world, Nawaz Sharif's motorway was supposed to turn NS into a modern day Sher Shah Suri. Today, while the Independent Power Plants fiasco offers a case impossible to solve, people still prefer to travel on Sher Shah Suri's half a century old GT road, instead of the modern day wonder built by Sher Shah Suri II !!

None the wise, the present day products of the October revolution, wish to continue in the same ego-centric tradition, albeit, with an added zeal! The hapless countrymen now awake to the tune of a new mantra. A brand new show is on offer, commensurate with the needs of the 21st century.

The new road to Heaven is named

the "Information Highway". Our dynamic new Minister for Science & Technology, after spending a lifetime researching in basic sciences, seeking medicinal cures in herbs and plants, suddenly discovers that information technology holds the cures for all ills !!

Can one show the audacity of asking the honorable minister, as to what the millions of information technologists are going to do after coming out of the thousands of "Software Parks", to be developed.

When the social and technological sectors of a society reach a certain state of compatibility, they converge and combine to produce what is now on offer in the developed world. In the absence of the scientists, engineers, technologists capable of providing the required input to these IT gurus, will these 21st century gladiators fare any better than mere data operators (foot soldiers!). It is the combination of the scientist/engineer and IT person which culminates in the development of a software. Where are the scientists, where are the engineers?

At present, the "Information Technology", on offer in our country, serves more as a "visa technology", as is evident from the thousands of visa seekers, mostly the youth-the lifeline of the nation, lining up at the consulates of their choice. Well done honorable minister, what a way to end the unemployment problem in the country !! □



been subleased. As the builders are not able to get sale for these tainted flats/shops, they want them "regularised" and made kosher. The illegal builders are generally the only ones that are suffering the most. Some genuine buyers who made initial investments, stopped further payments when a hue-and-cry was raised, when court-cases were filed, and when illegal structures were sealed. The government must ensure that the builder makes restitution to such genuine parties.

Myth No. 3

Citizens and NGOs complain after the buildings are completed

UNTRUE. Most neighbours/local residents complain at the start when they observe that the foundations of the illegality are being excavated. Many writ petitions are filed in the courts at the incipient stages. Despite continuous complaints to the authorities over a period of years and notwithstanding court cases, prompt, effective and complete statutory action by the KDA/KBCA is not forthcoming. The government officers actually help the builder to complete the structure. In many cases, when only the outside shell is hurriedly finished, lunda-bazar clothes are hung on the balconies, and poor families from Kharadar are inducted to prove that the building is occupied, so as to thwart statutory action. This drama of "the widows and orphans who have invested their life's savings" game is played over and over again by the builders mafia.

Myth No. 4

Occupants have been issued subleases by the district registrar

ABSOLUTELY MEANINGLESS.

Merely another trick of the builders, in collusion with corrupt officials of the Sindh Board of Revenue. The High Court has recently ruled on two occasions that subleases issued for flats/shops/offices are invalid if a KBCA "NOC for Sale" and "Occupancy Certificate" have not been obtained. The government must stop the issuance of such invalid subleases which only tend to confuse the public. The government must also prohibit the provision of utilities by KESC, KWSB, and SSGCL to such potentially dangerous multi-storeyed buildings that do not have Cantonment Board/KBCA "Occupancy Certificates" attesting to their safety for occupation use.

Myth No. 5

The builders who construct illegally are small fry

ABSOLUTELY NOT. Illegal buildings are big business, vying with the drug racket for investment/profits. A 16-storey unauthorised commercial structure on Shahrah-e-Faisal promises an illicit return of Rs. 930 million to the builders consortium. An 8-storey residential-cum-commercial project behind the TV Station that was recently partially demolished was to generate a profit of Rs. 76 million (see calculation in box). Many members of the major builders' Association are into illegal construction in a big way, especially on Shahrah-e-Faisal, I. I. Chundrigar Road, and Clifton.

Myth No. 6

The builders of the illegal structures have run away

NOT TRUE. Their identities and present whereabouts are well known to the KBCA officials and

to the district administration police (after all, these builders are applying for "regularisation"), and even to the so-called "allottees". Effective prosecution of these criminals must be undertaken, and they must be made to pay restitution to the few genuine buyers. Additionally, lawful forfeiture of the plot by the lessors can provide some money to compensate people who have been defrauded. It is amazing that even the colluding KBCA officials (who have not run away) are not being taken to task: this is the level of apathy of the government.

Myth No. 7

The illegal buildings have been constructed with citizens money

NOT ENTIRELY TRUE: Most illegal construction ventures are organised by a group of investors who contribute towards the purchase of the plot and the seed capital. After the project is launched, purchasers make initial down-payments and further installments are paid over a period of 3 to 5 years. But when a hue-and-cry was raised in 1995/96 and hundreds of buildings were sealed or challenged in court cases, the purchasers wisely stopped making payments. The builders/investors consortiums violated the seals and were consequently compelled to pay for the completion of the illegal structure, so that fake occupants could be inducted to stave off demolition actions. Now, the builders need the illegalities "regularised" so that they can sell off their buildings and recover their monies.

Myth No. 8

Existing building regulations/bye-laws are 'obsolete' and 'impractical'



RIDICULOUS: As an analogy, don't habitual traffic violators find the traffic rules obsolete and impractical? They do not want to obey any rules. Majority of our laws acts are of pre-partition days, but they are still enforced whether obsolete or not. The upgraded Building Regulations presently being worked on will not make the existing illegal buildings "legal". The necessary infrastructure (parking, schools, playgrounds, police stations, roads, parks, garbage collection, etc.) and utilities (electricity, water, sewerage, etc.) are just not available in the inner city areas, and the lives of existing residents are being made miserable by illegal densifi-

cation of the residential areas with new multi-storeyed flats, offices flats, offices and shopping centres. The original area development schemes (like *Saddar Bazar Quarters*, *Garden East*, *PECHS*, etc.) catered for a certain number of inhabitants: additional unauthorised occupants and commercial activity cannot be accommodated in the same area without a severe reduction in the quality of life for all. Thus change of land-use, plot-ratios and densities cannot be increased without a massive town-planning exercise and a pre-augmentation of civic infrastructure and amenities.

Myth No 9

"Regularisation" of all building violations except those under Regulation 16(2)(c) is permitted under the existing building laws.

FALSE: The Sindh Building Control Ordinance 1979 (SBCO) has no provision for "regularization" of violations/breaches of its Regulations. In fact, Section (12)6 of the SBCO specifically forbids deviations from the approved plans. Section 19(1-A) provides that no offence relating to building works carried out in violation of the regulations shall be compounded. "Regularisation" is merely the con-

THE PROFITS OF ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION

A nine-floor (basement + ground + 7 floors, total covered area = 80,000 square feet) shops-cum-offices-cum-flats high-rise building has been illegally constructed on a 1100 square yard bungalow plot behind the PTV Station in the KCHS Union area.

The builder, with complete contempt for the law, did not even bother to obtain KDA/KBCA approval for the permissible G + 1 floor bungalow (total covered area = 6,630 square feet) on 1/3rd of the plot. The mandatory KBCA safety procedure for the proof-vetting of the structural stability/earthquake-resistance of the high-rise structure has been eliminated.

An approximation of the costs involved is:

Costs		Sale Income	
Plot/land	Rs. 15 million	42 flats@Rs 2m	Rs. 84 million
Construction	Rs. 28 million	Shops	Rs. 20 million
Miscellaneous	Rs. 05 million	Offices	Rs. 20 million
Total	Rs. 48 million	Total	Rs. 124 million

Profit=Rs. 76 million

The ABAD-proposed "regularisation" penalties of Rs. 10 million per illegal building will still leave the builder with an illicit tax-free profit of Rs. 66 million. The cost of damage to the built environment, which will be paid for by other non-involved citizens of Karachi, is beyond calculation! □



doning of not taking prior permission for constructing something that is actually and inherently lawful. Regulation 16(2)(c) of the Karachi Building and Town Planning regulations deals only with the compounding of the offenses. The regulations dealing with the regularization is Regulations 24 (and its accompanying Form 7 on page 136 of Vol. I of KBTPR) and Regulation 25, both of which forbid permission for a building constructed in violation of the regulations or in contravention of any building or zoning regulations or restrictions or covenant of lease.

The superior courts have upheld this view, and have given a number of decisions deploring the tendency of corrupt politicians and bureaucrats to misinterpret and misuse the law.

The Supreme Court has clarified that "...there is a marked distinction between a criminal liability under Section 19 of the (*Sindh Building Control*) Ordinance and a civil liability under the (*Karachi Building & Town Planning*) Regulations to rectify irregularity/breaches.

The (*KDA/Karachi Building Control*) Authority may compound criminal liability but it cannot regularize a breach of the Regulations (*emphasis added*)...". The Court has also stressed that "...the (*KDA/Karachi Building Control*) Authority has no discretion in fact and law."

Most of the so-called "regularisations" carried out in the past have been done in blatant violation of the law: the builders' mafia is now trying to misuse these old unlawful "regularisations" as precedents for new illegal "regularisations". Unfortunately, two wrongs do not make a right.

Myth No 10

The punitive "regularisation" penalties will effectively discourage future illegal construction

RIDICULOUS: Only a political and administrative will to implement the law can discourage violation of the law. One needs only to look at the Defence Housing area to observe the complete absence of blatantly illegal structures. In any case, the penalties will not come out of the pockets of the builders; rather they will be extracted from the purchasers; the very same orphans and widows that the Government is so adamant on looking after the interests of. The builders will not suffer. All that will be established conclusively is that crime does pay, that criminals are protected at all costs, and that what is illegal today becomes legal tomorrow – albeit a small fee and proper connections.

But undoubtedly, corrupt government officials will benefit personally. They made money to look the other way while the illegal construction went on. Now they will make money in the process of "regularisation" while ensuring that their patronised projects are not demolished.

Myth No 11.

The "regularization" money will be used for development projects of the city.

NOT IF THE GOVERNMENT CAN HELP IT: The KDA/KBCA presently does not have the money to pay the salaries and expenses of the bloated bureaucracy that it has acquired over years of political nepotism. The KDA has about 7500 people, when it could function with about 2000. The KBCA has about 950, when only 300 would probably be sufficient. Over the

past fifteen years, billions of rupees collected by KDA/KBCA in the name of "regularization", or "betterment", or "additional floors", or "commercialization" charges have been frittered away in paying salaries and other non-development expenses. Although the KDA Order 1957 ordains that only 15% of development charges (and "regularization" charges are a form of development charges to be used to reinforce the overloaded civic infrastructure/utilities system) may be used for overheads and salaries; the government violates this requirement with impunity. Additionally, the proceeds of "regularization" cannot even be used for any other kind of development work.

Myth No 12.

If a cut-off date is fixed, builders will not construct illegally after that

CAN ANYONE BELIEVE THAT? Builders regularly make appeals for a cut-off date. What prevents them from not constructing in violation of rules even before a cut-off date? If the government cannot enforce the Building Regulations today, how can they enforce them after the cut-off date? A cut-off date was implied in the 1994 amendment to the SBCO 1979 which did away the compounding of offenses: but unauthorised construction has not stopped, and it continues even today.

Myth No 13.

"Regularisation" of buildings is no different to the other amnesty schemes allowed in Pakistan

INACCURATE: Other "whitener" and amnesty schemes involving taxes, black money, illegal guns, smuggling, adhoc appointments, etc., while distasteful and detri-



mental to the promotion of respect for the law, are not only counter-productive but are also directly hazardous to the rest of the populace and a permanent violation of their fundamental rights to a peaceful life as guaranteed by the constitution. Such schemes have never proved successful for the simple reason that they encourage people to more brazenly violate the law. In the words of the High Court of Sindh *"It would tantamount to allowing premium on deviation from the rules and thus who chose to obey the rules would suffer and would be at a disadvantage as compared to these who do not to obey the rules"*. Illegal and potentially dangerous structures that are *"regularised"* will become a part of the built environment and a catastrophe waiting to happen.

The High Court has, over the past three years, given numerous judgments in suits and petitions dealing with around a hundred structures, directing the KDA/KBCA to take lawful action, including eviction of illegal occupants and demolition of unauthorised buildings. Aside from duly serving notices on the builders/occupants, the Authority has done virtually nothing to implement the law or the courts' orders.

Instead, the mafia is proposing a *"practical"*, *"compassionate"*, and *"compromise"* solution: *"regularise"* the illegal structures! It does not matter that the procedure smacks of the same corruption and cowardice that has dragged this nation down to its knees over the past 53 years. Nor does it seem to matter that these potentially dangerous structures may collapse in the next earthquake to hit Karachi.

We seem to have quickly forgotten the August 1999 lesson from Turkey: 100 thousand poorly constructed, illegal, and *"regularised"*

buildings collapsed, 20 thousand people died, and 600 thousand were left homeless. There, too, the greedy builders and their partners in the municipal building control authorities were to blame. How can anyone in the present government take personal responsibility for the thousands of lives that may be lost in earthquake disasters involving the destruction of illegal buildings that have been *"regularised"* in Karachi? It will be bad enough that illegal buildings will collapse, but how will the government members explain away the fact that the collapsed illegalities had been *"regularised"* by them?

In October 1999, the KDA Governing Body wisely cautioned the public through a KBCA notice published in newspapers of record that numerous unauthorised structures had been constructed in Karachi under the cover of court orders, and that the law did not permit the *"regularisation"* of such blatantly illegal and dangerous buildings. The KDA/KBCA went on to correctly clarify that *"condonation is only possible when the deviations from the approved plans are still within the Building Regulations"*.

The 21-8-2000 editorial of this newspaper entitled *"A strange proposal"* succinctly outlines the difficulties inherent in a similar policy of *"regularisation"* of encroachments: the violations are a public nuisance and an infringement of the citizens' fundamental rights, they overload the civic infrastructure, litigation would multiply, a green signal would be given to other encroaches, other avenues should be explored to raise funds including cutting back on redundant personnel, etc.

What then is to be done about this lingering problem of sealed and illegal buildings? Citizens groups

have suggested that the government adopts the following steps:

- 1) Immediately put a stop to presently ongoing unauthorised construction activity: enforce the law!
- 2) Prosecute the builders and make them pay restitution to persons defrauded.
- 3) Punish the conniving government and KBCA officers.
- 4) Stop issuance of invalid sub-leases and KESC/SSGCL/KWSB utilities without reference to Cantonment Board/KBCA *"Occupancy Certificates"*.
- 5) Run a continuous media campaign advising the public not to invest in buildings without obtaining prior clearance in writing from KBCA/Cantonment Boards.
- 6) Demolish those illegal structures so ordered by the High Court of Sindh, and forfeit the plot leases.
- 7) Defer lawful action (or ignore for the present) those completed illegal structures on which no court order has been received. No *"regularisation"* is to be carried out.
- 8) Eliminate political and bureaucratic interference in the lawful working of the building control authorities.
- 9) Develop and implement a proper Master Plan for the city, which will provide better housing, infrastructure, and transport in the suburban areas, and establish security of life to citizens in these locations. □

Roland deSouza is a professional engineer and Executive Member, Shehri-CBE

GOVERNANCE

Towards making Karachi a healthy city

Muhammad Tariq Khan, Principal Investigator for the Healthy City Karachi Project, writes about the activities undertaken in Phase I of the project

Back in Fall 1999, when I sent the first draft of the project proposal to people, peer's and mentors around the world, I received a very mixed response. There was definitely a lot of sarcasm and apathy towards the future of Karachi and Pakistan but some of the organizations also showed their interest and enthusiasm. This writeup describes the objectives and the research process, at the same time it highlights the outcome of specific

nizes the increase in urban areas in Pakistan. In keeping with the policy of the government, and also with reference to civil society concerns about the situation of the city, the project addressed the following main objectives:

- To investigate the state of health in Karachi, and recommend strategies to achieve a healthy living environment;
- To explore the ways of promoting participatory form of gov-

tive categories:

- **Getting started**
 - increase health awareness
 - advocate strategic planning
 - mobilize inter sectoral action
 - encourage community participation
 - promote innovation
 - secure healthy public policy
- **Getting organized**
 - Appoint committee
 - analyze environment
 - define project work
 - set-up office
 - plan strategy
 - build capacity
 - establish accountability
- **Taking action**
 - build support group
 - understand ideas
 - know the city
 - find finances
 - decide organization
 - prepare proposal
 - get approved



The Healthy City Karachi Project Team:
(L-R) Farhan Anwar, Mehereen Wadiwalla, Tanya Anand and Muhammad Tariq Khan

activities such as focus group discussions and individual interviews organized during the first phase of the three months of field research in Karachi.

Project Objectives

The 8th Five Year Plan and the Pakistan National Conservation Strategy acknowledges the current phase of rapid urbanization in Pakistan, and strongly recommends that cities should take steps to provide necessary services to their residents. The new plan of devolution of power, also recog-

ernance in the city;

- To determine the level of cooperation between the government and the civil society;
- To inspire the residents and the local governments to work together towards Healthy City status.

The Process

The Healthy City Karachi project followed the guidelines published by the WHO which were designed to facilitate the process of creating a healthy city project. It divides the whole process into three distinc-

This project report is based on the activities which aimed at achieving the first stage of creating the healthy city program in Karachi. It included:

- A background review;
- Understanding the concepts and issues;
- Finding partner/host organization;
- Conducting focus group discussions;



- Individual and group interviews;
- Search Conference facilitating the process of change in the city;
- Evaluation;
- Final report / proposal for further action;

The whole process was based on the principles of participatory action research, which provide stakeholders the power to navigate the process of change.

The Partners

The process of finding a partner organization in Karachi was a big challenge, while there were many organizations with good facilities and support staff, most lack the long term vision, I felt was necessary to lead the process. I also felt it was crucial that the organization I partnered with, should be one which is interested in the academic, advocacy and policy side of the project. Based on these criteria, two organizations, Department of Community Health Sciences at Aga Khan University, Karachi and a local NGO, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment, showed interest in the project. In the initial phase, I was in favor of working with the Aga Khan University but later decided to work with Shehri-CBE. The basic reason of working with Shehri was its advocacy approach towards urban development issues.

The Aga Khan University was interested in the project because of their Urban Health Program which is funded by the WHO, Kobe, Japan. The project is focused on gathering data on social environment and domestic violence. Unfortunately, I was not able to access the data due to the structure of the university and the non-availability of the

Principal Investigator.

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment, on the other hand is a local NGO in Karachi which became very much interested in the Healthy City Karachi Research Project. Despite their limited funding and space, they showed great interest in hosting me and two of my volunteers in Karachi. Shehri is one of the most respected NGO in Karachi. It helped me in getting connected with government departments and other civil society organizations. Shehri is most likely to continue the project and will be approaching the Faculty of Environmental Studies for establishing official partnership with the help of Canadian International Development Agency. Mr. Farhan Anwar, Executive Member of Shehri-CBE worked with me as a resource person.

Project Activities

Focus Group Discussions

During the three months of field research, I along with the support

of host organization and volunteers, facilitated 8 focus groups sessions. Most of the sessions were very well attended, except for the one with Media and Community Based Organizations. The Focus group sessions are an integral part of the action research methodology, as they give the stakeholders an opportunity to discuss issues in a safe environment without any fear or pressure. In this section, I will briefly describe all the focus group discussion sessions organized during the Phase I of the field research in Karachi. These sessions were between 1.5 to 3 hours duration. In the Phase I of the project, focus groups were held with women groups and youth.

Review of the Phase I

The Phase I of the focus group exercise established the base for further action. An intensive review was conducted at the end of Phase I, involving Shehri representative, project volunteers and myself to understand the process and analyze the situation. For example, the disparity among the children's

PROJECT TEAM

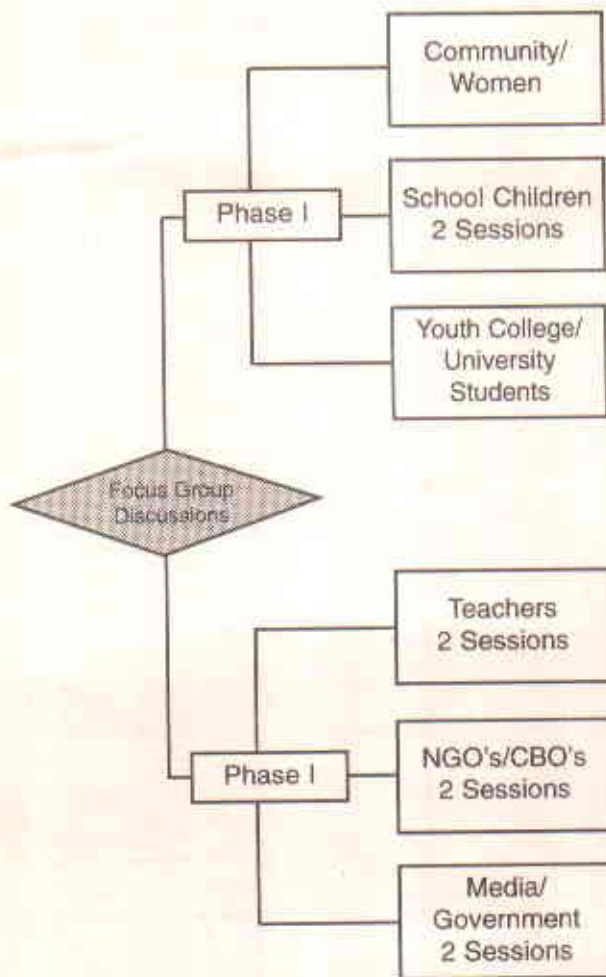
Principal Investigator	• Muhammad Tariq Khan, MES Candidate Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
Project Advisors	• David Morley, Supervisor, Healthy City Project, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University • Trevor Hancock, Supervisor, Healthy City Project, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
Local Resource Person	• Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE
Volunteers	• Mehreen Wadiwala, 2nd year undergraduate student, York University • Tanya Anand, 3rd year undergraduate student, York University ☐



focus group was very clear; one group talking about the poverty and the other is feeling the evils of poverty. The children from the private schools were more interested in western style of fun, and for the other kids going to beach is like a big day of the year. The review produced many themes and trends in the discussions, these include: Communication between citizens and the government is deteriorating, the issues of water, solid waste management and shelter are becoming more important to people. The rise in apathy and individualistic lifestyle is one of the reasons of the weakening of civil society.

The youth focus groups reflected the growth in apathy and frustration among the young people, but it also clearly showed the love for the city among the students belonging to the middle class income bracket. □

CHART DESCRIBING THE FOCUS GROUP PROCESS



Karachi's assets?

- Liveliness
- Helpful people
- Food
- Vibrancy
- Multiculturalism
- Social interaction
- Modernized
- Opportunities for women to work
- Restaurants
- Determination of people
- Financial opportunities
- Historical structures
- Networking opportunities
- Passion that keeps us alive
- Hope
- Our city

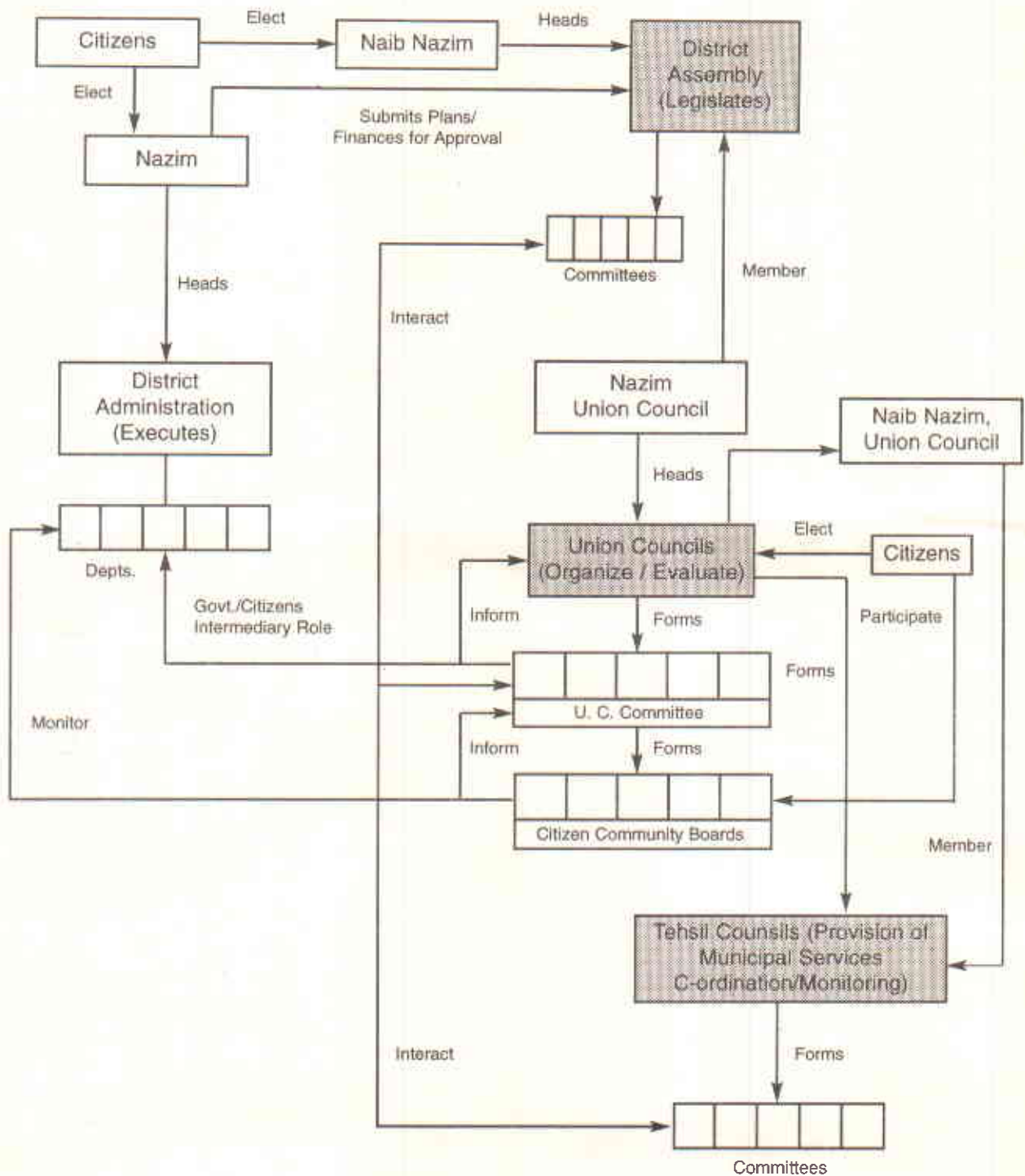
Participants at the Focus Group on Youth and Karachi

Dear Tariq: You have certainly embarked on a thousand mile journey with your first step. I recall the Karachi of yester years and remember taxi drivers wearing uniforms. Bus conductor in uniform, giving tickets. Obeying the traffic rule was considered a civilized act and hallmark of educated elites. Bless the ZAB's era, these things got changed. The uniform disappeared and the friendly smile got replaced with rowdy behavior, no respect for law, no regards for scholarly pursuits and moral standards. My dear young man, your challenge is changing the Attitude. There is no dearth of plans. Try visiting the Civic Centre top floor. Filled with Foreign Consultants Reports, UNDP, JICA, WB, ADB, on making Karachi the "Urusul Balad" the Bride of Cities..." □

One of many email response to the first draft of the Healthy City Karachi Project.

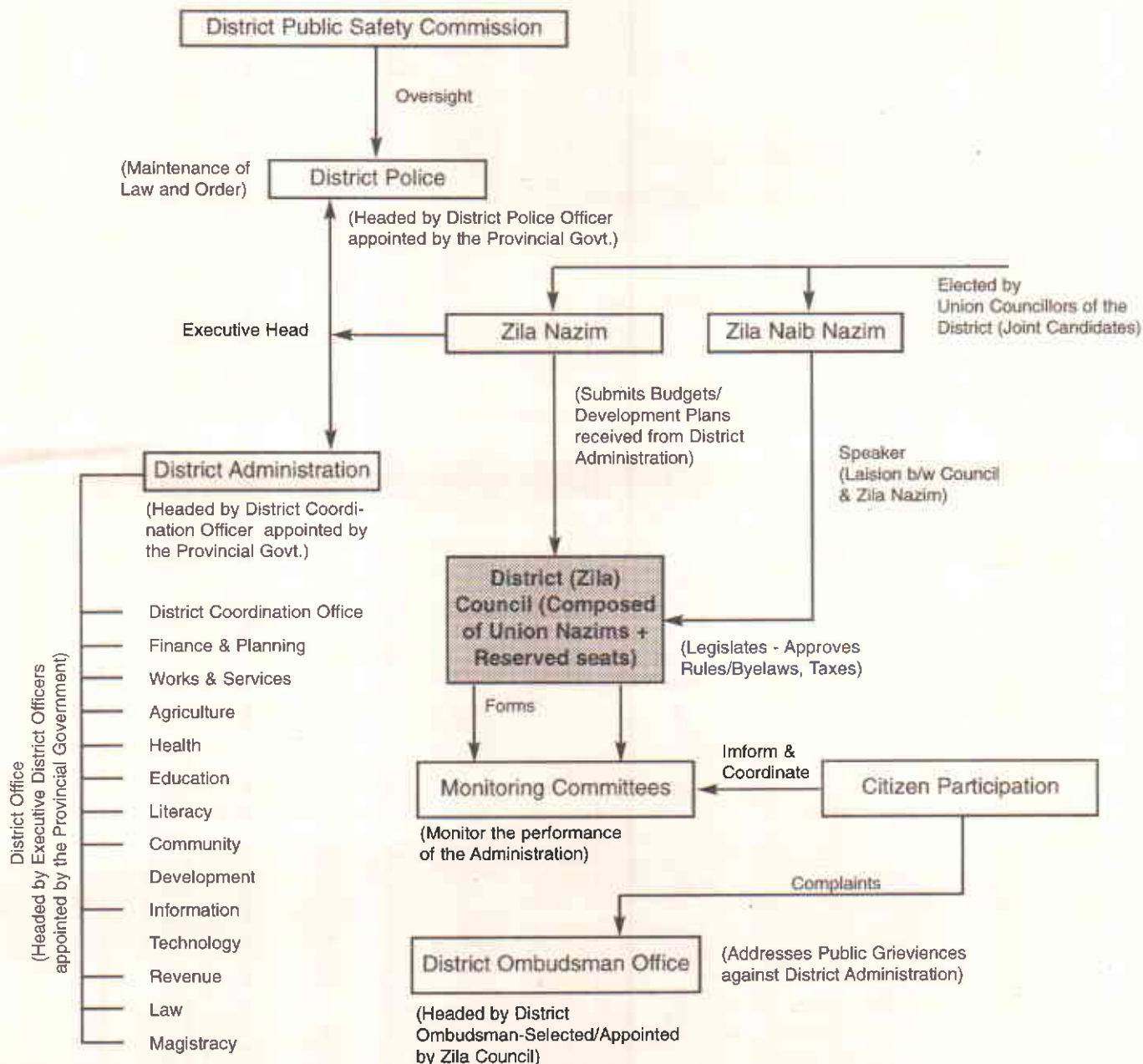


As the National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) announces the finalized draft the District Government (Devolution Plan), Farhan Anwar of Shehri explains the plan with the help of concept clearance diagrams



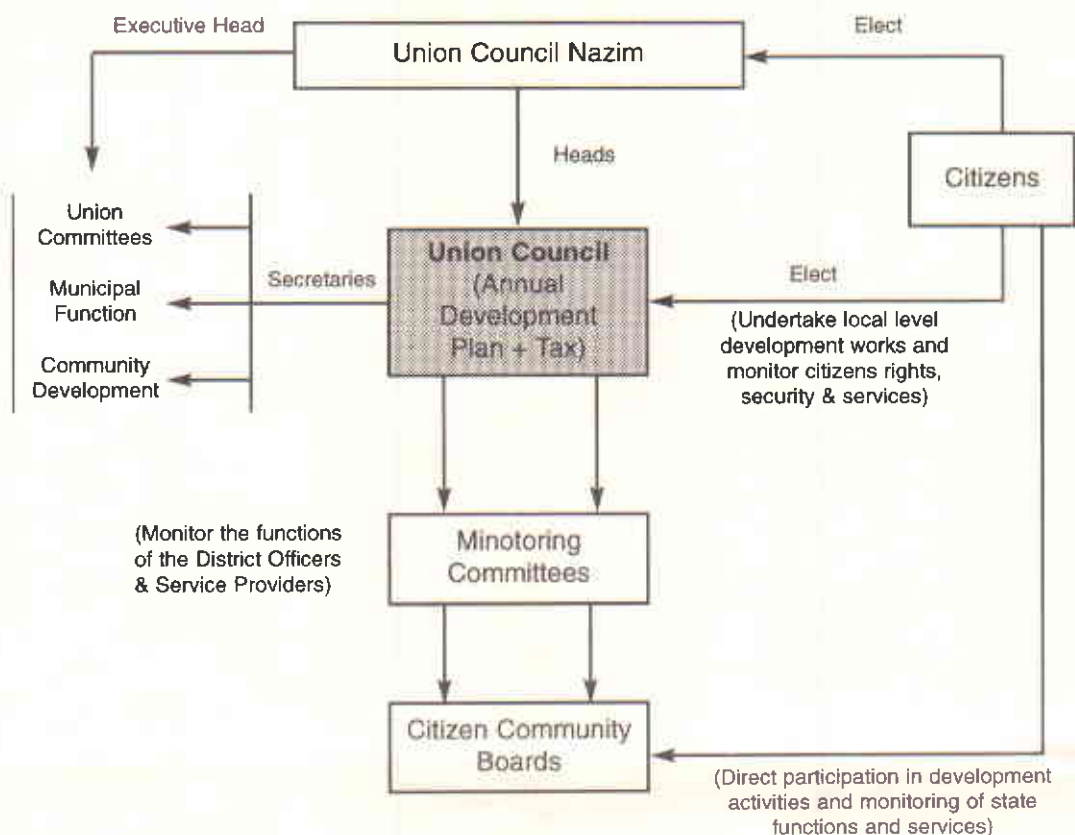


District (Zila) Council

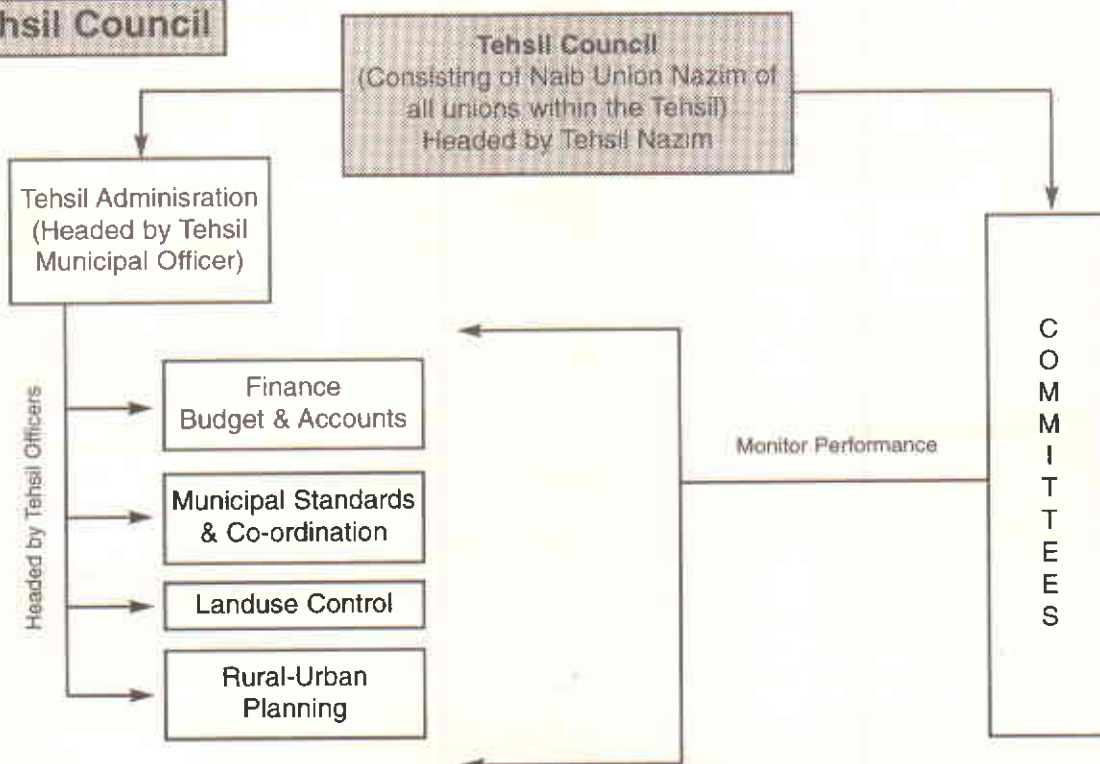




Union Council



Tehsil Council





GOVERNANCE

Local governance and conservation

As the Devolution of Power plan of National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB), receives inputs from various sectors of the society, The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Pakistan prepares a paper proposing a link between local governance and conservation and how it can be achieved. Shehri provides a breif on the paper.

Evolution of local government is a critical step in representing peoples interests at the level closest to them, and in the process of bringing solutions to the level of the problems. Any initiative to decentralize has enormous potential for resolving the problem of the unsustainable use of Pakistan's renewable natural resources, and for ensuring that their sustainable use contributes to alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life of the vast majority of the country's citizens.

So far, the debate on the district government plan put forward by the National Reconstruction Bureau has centered primarily on the structure that has been proposed – on how to organise and co-ordinate the hierarchy of human resources to be deployed at the local government level. This paper seeks to introduce into the debate one specific issue of the substance of what local government can do, and potentially do more effectively than any other level of government-manage Pakistan's dwindling stock of renewable natural resources.

It is generally accepted that local-level resource management is the single most effective means of assuring wise use of renewable natural resources. In Pakistan, the truth of this has been demonstrated in a variety of local-level devel-

opment initiatives around the country. But this positive experience has not been incorporated into policy or practice generally.

Management of renewable natural resources has been seriously constrained by apparent apathy on the part of many local communities to resource management concerns. This impression of disinterest arises precisely because there is no governance mechanism that per-



Management of water resources: An important element in the debate over governance and conservation

mits local management of renewable natural resources. Since people are not organised at the local level, there is no mechanism for collective analysis of local problems and attempts to solve them. Though individuals in communities are fully cognisant of degradation and depletion of renewable natural resources, they are powerless to do anything about them because management authority is primarily in the hands of remote provincial and federal authorities. Disempowered for decades, they have lapsed into what appears to be apathy. Almost every communi-

ty, though, has well-regarded, dynamic individuals interested in and committed to wise management of renewable natural resources and how that management can contribute to overall development, and to resolving conflicts over resource use. However, they get no official recognition and are therefore not in a position to make a lasting impact on the attitudes of others in their communities. The devolution plan provides an opportunity to remedy that situation.

In the context of the move to empower local governance, therefore, there is a window of opportunity to agree on the rules for local management of renewable natural resources. The practice of managing catchment and river basins, stationary

resources (*plants*) and mobile resources (*animals*) will be different, but the basic principles underlying their management, need to be the same and need to be known and understood by all those empowered to manage them. Jurisdiction for management needs to be clearly defined at each level of governance and among all levels.

This paper discusses five critical renewable natural resources – water, forests, biodiversity, grazing lands, and soils – and the management regimes that have brought



them to the current state of crisis. The discussion then turns to the proposed plan and examines how its structures would or would not provide the mechanisms required to ensure sustainable local management of renewable natural resources. Finally, the paper makes a series of recommendations for policy initiatives to be undertaken, for the legal measures that will be required to legitimize the role of local renewable natural management and to ensure that it is taken into account at all other levels of governance, and for revisions in the administrative structure proposed.

The policy recommendations include: implementing the devolution plan in phases; tailoring the administrative structure to the conditions and needs of the individual districts; developing appropriate materials and curricula and instituting intensive education and training programmes; instituting a system of comprehensive land use planning; institutionalizing formal and informal stakeholder participation in managing forest resources; implementing the national *Biodiversity Action Plan* through the local governance structure; developing policies for managing rangelands; and developing an integrated national water management policy.

The recommendations for legal measures include; deriving customary law traditions for renewable natural resource management and incorporating them into the statutory legal regime; providing for locally-appropriate methods of resolving conflicts arising from

resource tenure and use; developing a comprehensive and internally coherent legal regime enabling local management of renewable natural resources.

The recommendations on the administrative structure include; allocating the environment and natural renewable resource portfolio to the District Coordination Officer; amending the rules of business regulating use of public funds to ensure that local governance bodies have power to

access and use them; revising the mandate of the CCBs to include a conflict resolution function and to indicate their differing roles in rural and urban contexts, creating separate departments of water supply and sanitation; mandating the Revenue Department to maintain transparent records of land tenure and resource rights; constituting separate district departments for renewable natural resources, forestry and irrigation and drainage, where appropriate; creating district subfunds of the Provincial Sustainable Development Funds to support local management of renewable natural resources; constituting environment and renewable natural resource management committees at the union, tehsil, and district levels; creating round tables and/or other structures to facilitate informal civil society participation in decision-making that concerns management and use of renewable natural resources; developing terms of reference for renewable natural resource management at each governance level; making population a district level department. □

This paper discusses five critical renewable natural resources - water, forests, biodiversity, grazing lands, and soils - and the management regimes that have brought them to the current state of crisis.

THE HELPLINE TRUST: JOIN HANDS TO ENSURE GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Helpline Trust has been advocating Good Governance, Rule of Law and Accountability since 1994. We realized that the only way to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Karachi was to demand and advocate Good Governance. To accomplish this, we initiated formal and informal actions to draw the attention of the government and the citizens to the corruption and mismanagement in government departments, the misuse, abuse of authority and public funds and establish accountability and a code of conduct.

We have included mobilization of public opinion, civil action, lobbying, negotiations and court actions as our tools for change. We have aimed and designed our efforts and actions to persuade and influence those in government, politics and society to improve the quality of life of the citizens. We have demanded positive contributions from individuals, groups and institutions.

We have initiated and innovated events through civic oriented programs which include Strengthening the Judicial System, "Adop a School" program, A Safer and Better Karachi, through traffic ordinance. All programs have independent committees which monitor weekly bazaars, pharmaceutical and consumer products, patient's rights, civic agencies, etc. THT has also filed public interest litigations. To convey our message, we have launched our own newsletter, *The Citizen*, which is distributed free of cost.

We wish to launch an awareness campaign against Gukka and Adulteration, Spurious and Sub-standard Products through the print and electronic media. If you wish to participate or sponsor the campaigns, please contact the CPC Office, Tel. No. 5381842. □

— The Helpline Trust.



ACTIVISM

Reliving the moment

A privately produced drama serial, on air these days, honours the courage and determination of a fearless citizen activist, our very own - Navaid Husain.

Shehri in its tireless efforts to have implemented, the rules and regulations, safeguarding and protecting the built and natural environment in the city of Karachi, has faced various threats and attacks with great courage and fortitude. The builder mafia, the religious zealots and the like have all made unsuccessful efforts to dampen the zeal and commitment of the Shehri staff and members.



Navaid Husain (Centre): The inspiration behind the Drama Serial

Three years ago, terror visited the Shehri office in its most potent and destructive form. Navaid Husain, co-founder and managing committee member of Shehri, was seriously injured in a murderous attack on his life in the Shehri office. By the grace of God and the prayers of his countless well wishers, he survived this attack, to fight again for the cause of the city, its environment and its people.

To honour his bravery and commitment to a noble cause, Evernew Entertainment, a private production company decided to prepare a drama serial in the

backdrop of the issue of illegal constructions in the city and the activities of the builders mafia. The lead character of the drama, an honest and environmentally conscious architect, draws reference from the personality of Navaid Husain.

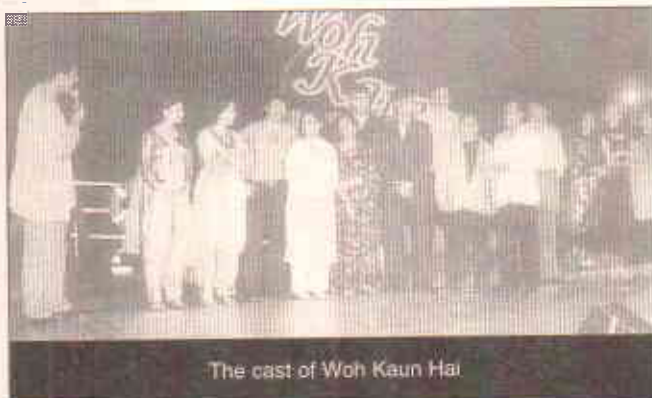
The serial, named "Woh Kaun Hai" already on air, promises to be an engrossing serial. The serial's theme song, *Woh Kaun Hai, Joh Dekhai Na Deh*, is responsible for its name. A private production, it is scripted by Zakia Akbar and directed and produced by Sultana Siddiqui. As mentioned earlier, what is inter-

esting about the play is its relevant and hitherto unexplored theme. While most social dramas deal with issues related to fuelled life, and if touching upon urban problems, normally centre on women's issues, this one has dared to tackle and expose one of the most pressing problems of a mega city - the intrigues of the builders mafia.

With a star cast like Arjumand Rahim,

Zeeshan Sikandar, Yasser Nawaz, Sonia Khan, Ghazal Siddiqui, Yasmeen Ismail, Rizvana Khan, Farah Nadeem, Khalid Anum and Rehan Sheikh, the play revolves around the life of an upright architect who suffers at the hands of the building mafia. Says Sultana Siddiqui, "Most of the initial action has not only been inspired by the actual shoot-out at the architect Navaid's office, the scenes have been shot at the original place as well".

With the central plot woven around the architect (played by Zeeshan Sikandar) the lives of other characters come into focus and add different dimensions to the play. Arjumand plays a simple country girl brought up by his grandmother, and who finds herself under the wing of Zeeshan's family after her death. Yasser Nawaz, also from the country, is in love with Arjumand but she doesn't reciprocate his affections and after she leaves, he reconciles himself to his unrequited love by turning towards spiritualism. Zeeshan's older brother, Khalid Anam, is a lawyer working for the building mafia. His sister Sonia Khan, has a friend (Ghazal



The cast of Woh Kaun Hai



Siddiqui) adopted by a respectable family.

Her mother, Yasmeen Ismail had left her at the Edhi Home to protect her from her roots - the Kotha.

Ghazal joins an NGO initiated by Zeeshan, only to find her past catching up on her.

This initiative taken by the Evernew Entertainment Group,

honoring the committed and brave activists of our country during their lifetime, is indeed commendable and needs to be taken up by other media organizations. □

THE URGENT NEED FOR SELF SUFFICIENCY

Some eminent social workers and environmental activists get together to advocate the need for self sufficiency

On 14th August 2000, Navaid Husain, Nisar Baloch and Ms. Farzana Salim (*GOP Labour Department*) called on five communities in West Karachi. They spoke to five groups of NGOs in an appeal to be self sufficient and stand on their own two feet. Navaid said that donor fatigue had taken place i.e. donors were tired of supporting this country as fifty years of aid to the country had failed to produce a sustainable standard of living.

The aid or loan from any country is based on tax recovery from people living there. They have become sick and tired of supporting us. Also the question that was put across to people in West Karachi was how Japan and Western Europe managed to recover from the after effects of World War. Their entire infrastructure, factories and housing was bombed after five years of war, yet they recovered after a few years? We inherited a country that did not suffer the damage they



(L-R) Nisar Baloch, Navaid Husain, Farzana Salim

donors/aid giving agencies, the other half is consumed by the army, in government salaries and in corruption. There is no money for development. On education we spend 2.1% whereas Iran spends 11% on education!

Navaid said that they would arrange for community funding i.e the community would be self sufficient in fields of children's education, adult education, vocational training for adults, health, population welfare and community uplift.



Session with the local community

Nisar Baloch said the community should be self-sufficient and strong and not be dependant on out side help.

Ms. Farzana Salim told the women there of the government's availability of trainers who would come there to train females in sewing and stitching. She encour-

aged the women to fend for themselves.

Other prominent activists of the city are also expected to join this campaign. □

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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Export-led industrial fishing: Threats to ecology and livelihoods

Although recently, the government has decided to cancel the licenses of foreign deep sea fishing trawlers, the Deep Sea Fishing Policy of the government has led to a heated debate on the threats it poses to the small scale fishing industry in the country and questions remain. An advocacy note by CREED Alliance looks into this issue.

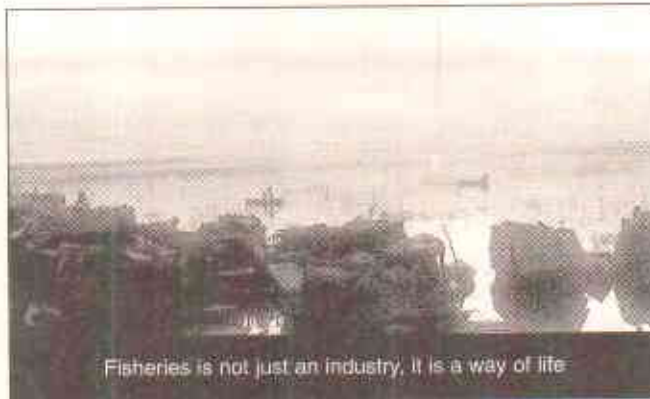
Carried over from the Sharif government, a reckless Deep Sea Fishing Policy was recently proposed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. To accelerate exports via intensified exploitation of marine resources, the new Policy encourages industrial fishing by liberalising international access to the *Exclusive Economic Zone*. Traditionally restricted to Sindh and Balochi fisheries, creeks and off-shore waters in the 12 miles of sea under provincial jurisdiction will now be freely available for industrial fishing to foreign investors in processing facilities.

The new federal policy is wholly incompatible with protection of marine ecology and promotion of equitable livelihoods for fishermen. Hence the proposed Deep Sea Fishing Policy violates federal and provincial laws; defies national and international commitments to conservation and biodiversity; and disregards valid claims to provincial autonomy over natural resources included in their constitutional jurisdiction.

Due to the same flawed substance and exclusionary process of formulation, the new policy of the military regime echoes past governments.

Old and New Policy

After the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas defined the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the federal government formulated a Deep Sea Fishing Policy to regulate foreign fishing vessels. The first policy to regulate foreign fishing vessels. The first policy of 1982 permitted joint ventures in the



Fisheries is not just an industry. It is a way of life

EEZ. After 1989, the policy allowed only Pakistani flag vessels. However, industrial fishing has always been disguised foreign operations.

Under local pressure, the federal policy in 1995 reserved nearby waters of the EEZ for local "small fishermen" and restricted "industrial" fishing to beyond 35 miles off the coast. The policy envisaged a maximum number of industrial fishing licenses, as well as maximum duration per vessel trip. Licenses for industrial fishing were restricted to joint ventures,

and as an exception to "a foreign firm which make a sizeable investment in establishing shore-based facilities."

The revised Deep Sea Fishing Policy is a carryover from the Sharif government. In that policy, small-scale fishing will lose its reserved area, so that industrial fishing can be given access to the entire 12-200 miles of the EEZ. the number of maximum licenses is nearly doubled from 70 to 120 industrial vessels. Major investors in processing facilities are promised access to the entire coastal waters. As a bribe to local commercial interests, the policy promises special assistance to "small" fishermen to upgrade their vessels for fishing in the deep sea.

Ravaged Fisheries, Declining Livelihoods

In tandem with local overfishing, the Deep Sea Fishing Policy has become responsible for a rapid, but unsustainable, increase in catch. For many years now, total harvesting of fish and shrimp by local and foreign vessels appears in excess of the level required to maintain marine stocks.

The last stock and sustainable catch estimates were made by the



FAO in the early 80s. In its recent review of the *State of World Fishery Resources*, FAO reports that all species in the Western Indian Ocean are either already fully exploited or not much information is available to make a judgement. Over the last two decades, even understated official estimates show an enormous increase in total marine catch. But catch of numerous species have declined precipitously, indicating overfishing.

Furthermore, there are additional reasons to believe that stocks, and hence maximum sustainable yields, are declining. As a consequence of the dams and barrages to feed a greedy and wasteful irrigated agriculture, the steady decrease in fresh water and silt to the Indus delta has led to a deterioration in the ecosystem for breeding fish. A rapid increase in marine pollution due to domestic, industrial, and agricultural drainage of untreated and toxic effluent provides cumulatively adverse impacts upon the quality and quantity of stocks. The absence of effective bans on fishing in breeding seasons and the prevalence of destructive fishing gear such as the fine-mesh *Bhoola* nets have also systematically depleted and degraded marine fisheries.

For all of the above reasons we must judge catch to exceed the sustainable level given even by the crude, optimistic, 80s estimates of stocks. But then the continuous excess of catch would itself reduce stocks today.

Denied of fair access to livelihoods in their traditional fishing grounds, Sindh fisherfolk are now compelled to fish at greater distances. This results in serious risks of lengthy imprisonment and loss of vessels, and now even death, when intercepted by Indian border agencies.

Our fisherfolk are adversely affected by industrial fishing. Even when such vessels remain beyond the restricted zone, industrial vessels harvest enormous levels of

fish that swim back and forth between nearby and distant waters. Fisherfolk then harvest decreased catch of high value export fish. The manifold discard of by-catch by the industrial vessels deprives fisherfolk of fish of value in subsistence consumption and local markets. Trespass by foreign vessels into prohibited zones is a perennial problem. Lately, foreign vessels have become quite brazen. These foreign poaching vessels are a direct competitor for all species easily accessible to fisherfolk. In addition, the industrial vessels have a history of damaging nets and boats of fisherfolk. Rarely do they acknowledge damage, let alone pay adequate compensation.

Denied of fair access to livelihoods in their traditional fishing grounds, Sindh fisherfolk are now compelled to fish at greater distances. This results in serious risks of lengthy imprisonment and loss of vessels, and now even death, when intercepted by Indian border agencies. Closer to home, Balochistan agencies regularly seize unlicensed Sindhi boats fishing in provincial waters because their own stocks are rundown.

Foreign Scams

The experience with Forbes & Company is indicative of scams to expect from Islamabad's invitation to foreign investment in fisheries.

In 1998, the Federal Board of Investment (BOI) signed a memorandum of understanding, in which Forbes promised to invest around \$450 million in three years to upgrade Gwadar port, establish a fishing fleet of 100 modern vessels, and set up fish processing complexes in Balochistan and Sindh. Forbes vessels would have a monopoly to fish in the entire EEZ, i.e. upto 12 miles off the coast of both Sindh and Balochistan. The Sindh government is now known to have opposed this scam. More sensitive to the rights of fisherfolk, the Balochistan government reacted very negatively.

Forbes never did supply a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, perhaps because WWF-UK had expressed strong concerns. Replacing diligence with ignorance, Pakistan's representative to FAO nevertheless defended the Forbes deal. BOI finally had to cancel the agreement when Forbes reneged on the agreement.

Policy Reforms

All available evidence indicates that current levels of catch and by catch by local and industrial vessels are degrading and depleting fisheries stocks. In addition, there is a scandalous history of poaching by industrial vessels even in off-shore territorial waters. What is therefore needed is a complete ban on the operation of industrial fishing vessels, regardless of origin. The Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997, provides adequate legal cover for a complete ban until comprehensive marine surveys indicate otherwise. A complete ban on deep sea fishing crafts can also be imposed under the *Exclusive Fishery Zone (Regulation of Fishing) Act 1975*, and the *Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act 1976*.



Until a ban is imposed, federal laws need to be enforced for federally licensed craft. This includes the complete prohibition on fishing in territorial waters (*first 12 miles*); ban on any fishing under 35 miles, and ban on shrimp fishing anywhere, by industrial vessels. All of these restrictions are already part of the *Exclusive Fishery Zone*

(*Regulation of Fishing*) Rules 1990.

The revised Deep Sea Fishing Policy had not been formally approved by the Sharif Cabinet. No Policy has ever been approved by the federal Senate; or even received sanction by the Council of Common Interests and subsequent ratification by provincial assemblies.

Claims by the current military regime to set new directions in governance will remain hollow when it arbitrarily promulgates a Deep Sea Fishing Policy which magnifies threats both to marine ecology and to livelihoods of fisherfolk in Sindh and Balochistan. □

CONSERVATION ALERT!!!

Citizen Groups demand for the upholding of law in the Kirthar Project

In the public consultative workshop, held on the 21-22 of January, 2000, in Karachi, the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed Kirthar Baseline Study (KBS), were discussed. The decision to hold the Baseline Study was the result of an encouraging and productive public consultation process, which had raised hopes of a lawful and meaningful conclusion to the issue. Consensus was reached on the following issues.

- * A decision and recommendation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the proposed oil/gas exploration project in the Kirthar National Park, could only be made after complete results of the KBS are released and deliberated upon by all the relevant stakeholders.

In order to ensure the integrity and transparency of the KBS, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) shall be formed. The PSC, including all the relevant stakeholders, was supposed to monitor and validate all the activities related with the KBS, from the approval of the project personnel, to the clearance and issuance of funds.

- * The results of the KBS will be placed and discussed before the public at regular intervals, as this study shall be deemed as a public document.

Since the TOR workshop, all the above mentioned commitments have been breached by the project proponents. In gross violation of the existing provincial legislation, an EIA which is a specific project related activity (*the subject project being prohibited, as per the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 1972, Section 15, Sindh Wildlife Amendment Act*

1993 and Sindh Government Notification 1997) has been initiated.

The PSC and TAG have not been formed. The finalized draft of the KBS has not been circulated among the stakeholder groups and the preliminary results of the KBS have not been made public.

We the undersigned, strongly condemn and protest against these actions of the project proponents and demand.

- * Public disclosure of the KBS preliminary results, which have so far been submitted to the Sindh Wildlife Department (*whose integrity, in the absence of all the proposed checks and balances is in serious doubt*)
- * Convening of a truly representative PSC, which should immediately review all the financial, technical and management aspects of the KBS.
- * An immediate halt to the EIA process. (*an illegal act*)

Endorsed by:

Citizens Committee on Kirthar
 Worldwide Fund for Nature-Pakistan
 Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)
 SUNGI Development
 Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment
 Shirkat Gah
 CREED Alliance
 PILER
 Karachi Administration Women Welfare Society (KAWWS)
 Fisherfolk Forum □



POLLUTION

Dangerous Living

Recently, an air pollution study of Tariq Road, Karachi was conducted by **Atif Bilgrami**, of the Civil Engineering Department of the NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. The results highlight the risks of exposure to the air we breath.

Tariq Road is a major commercial centre of Karachi. Hundreds of shops and offices operate in this area and thousands of people visit the place daily. As such, it is important to keep the environmental conditions good and safe for the people. Recently, an air pollution study of the area was conducted, which revealed some disturbing results.

Nine test stations along the main Tariq Road were selected and air quality readings were taken at different time intervals over a period of four days.



A busy intersection on Tariq Road

For recording the readings, the 'Particulate Count', method was selected. In this method, a paper tape is pasted at the test point, such that the sticking side is facing the test area (*in this case, the road*). The particulates and dust particles from the automobiles stick to the surface and are weighed.

The particulate count was recorded as follows:

1. Wednesday - Thursday
(10 am to 10 am)
24 hours particulate count
2. Wednesday
(6 pm to 8 pm)
2 hours particulate count
3. Saturday - Sunday
(10 pm to 10 pm)

24 hours particulate count

Analysis of the Results

From the results, it is quite evident that pts. 1, 4, 5 and 9 are most critical, because the weight of particles at these points is much greater

that these points represent traffic signals and the vehicles constantly stop at these points emitting their exhaust gases.

Point # 4 is the most polluted point in this traffic corridor, as it represents the most busy bus/wagon stop. Points # 2 and # 6 are least polluted as they are not adjacent to the rush of heavy traffic. On Saturday and Sundays, which are non-working days, the particulate count is less.

However, it is still quite significant as buses/wagons continue to ply on the roads.

as compared to the weight of particles at other points. The reason is

1. WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY (10 AM TO 10 AM)

S. No.	Wt. of tape+particles	Wt of tape	Wt of particles
1.	2.497 mg	2.438	.059
2.	2.440 mg	2.438	.002
3.	2.442 mg	2.438	.004
4.	2.503 mg	2.438	.065
5.	2.499 mg	2.438	.061
6.	2.439 mg	2.438	.001
7.	2.442 mg	2.438	.004
8.	2.440 mg	2.438	.002
9.	2.438 mg	2.438	.06



Conclusion

Although it is quite a base level study, it nevertheless shows that in

the absence of proper regulatory and traffic control measures, automobile pollution, particularly that emitted from the exhaust of wag-

ons and autorickshaws is a major cause of environmental and health concern in the city. □

2. WEDNESDAY (6 PM TO 8 PM)

S. No.	Wt. of tape+particles	Wt of tape	Wt of particles
1.	1.794 mg	1.755	.039
2.	1.756 mg	1.755	.001
3.	1.756 mg	1.755	.001
4.	1.791 mg	1.755	.036
5.	1.772 mg	1.755	.017
6.	1.755 mg	1.755	0
7.	1.756 mg	1.755	.001
8.	1.756 mg	1.755	.001
9.	1.782 mg	1.755	.027

WHEN I AM ALONE...

When I am alone I think of the rich, the wealthy ones,
but I never think of the poor and the needy ones.

I think of the living ones, the enjoying ones,
but I never think and try to learn from the dead ones.

When I am alone I think of the skies and the moon light,
But I never think of the sun which keeps the moon bright,
I think of the ocean waters, the galaxies and all,
but I never think of my duties to the Creator of all.

When I am alone I think of the evil, the trouble makers,
but I never think of sharing Peace and Happiness with others,
I think of the fairies, the angels and all,
but I never think of killing the devil in my soul.

When I am alone I think of the avengers,
foes and the annoying ones,
but I never think of the cherishing, caring and adoring ones;
I think of the flowers, gardens, the heavens and paradise,
but I never think of hell, where one has to go when he dies.

Sheraz Mumtaz

3. SATURDAY-SUNDAY (10 PM TO 10 PM)

S. No.	Wt. of tape+particles	Wt of tape	Wt of particles
1.	1.982 mg	1.971	.011
2.	1.971 mg	1.971	0
3.	1.972 mg	1.971	.001
4.	1.983 mg	1.971	.012
5.	1.974 mg	1.971	.003
6.	1.971 mg	1.971	0
7.	1.972mg	1.971	.001
8.	1.972 mg	1.971	.001
9.	1.979 mg	1.971	.008

DEAR MEMBERS

Kindly send us your
e-mail address to enable us
to keep in touch with you.
It would also help us in bringing
down our mailing expenditure

– Shehri Secretariat



SPOTLIGHT ON THE PRESS

Minister takes serious notice of destruction of beaches

DAWN, Sep. 2, 2000

Federal Minister of Environment Omar Asghar Khan has said the federal government has taken serious notice of reports about destruction of mangroves and reclamation of land in the Chin Creek along the Mai Kolachi bypass in Karachi.

He said this in response to a point raised by a member of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) at a meeting at the Federation House here on Saturday that, the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) was encroaching the sea by destroying mangroves along the Mai Kolachi bypass for construction of residences for its staff.

Construction of 32 bus terminals approved

The News, Aug. 27, 2000

The Sindh government has approved a plan put forth by the city administration for the construction of 32 bus terminals to provide facilities to the commuters as well as drivers besides regulating the transport system in Karachi.

Official sources told PPI that the Traffic Engineering Bureau (TEB) has identified the sites for construction of 32 bus terminals for which the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), Karachi Development Authority (KDA) and Defence Housing Authority (DHA) have agreed to provide land.

Encroachers told to reconstruct damaged footpaths

THE STAR Aug. 29, 2000

All illegal encroachments, obstructions and constructions at Khalid Bin Waleed Road's footpaths will be demolished and the encroachers will have to construct the damaged footpaths, at their own expense.

These instructions were issued by Commissioner Karachi when he visited Khalid Bin Waleed Road yesterday.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

SHEHRI invites the residents of the city to share with us, their concerns, on issues which are adversely affecting their neighbourhood's environment. Please write to us, preferably with a supporting photograph, so that efforts are made and solutions sought - Ed.

Misuse of Amenity Plots for Park:

S/T-5 and S/T-6, Block-4, Clifton

We would like to bring to your kind attention that amenity plots S/T-5 and S/T-6, Block 4, Clifton are being encroached upon. Construction work on these sites is going on. There is a board which says "NBP Sport Complex." We strongly object to the construction of a massive concrete structure and conversion of a Park and Fountain into a SPORTS COMPLEX on the following grounds:-

- The Block-4 is a residential area and the width of the roads is no more than about 20 ft. There is no parking area in and around the area to take care of the huge traffic jam that will be created every now and then.
- That we all want rest after hard work during the week and in the week-ends we will have nuisance of car horns, traffic jams, and our peace will be disturbed. There is already a problem of the undesirable people near the Mazar.
- That it is illegal to convert the Park and Fountain amenity plots into a sports complex. The sports complex should be in an area other than prime residential area and a park cannot be converted into a sports complex. □

*Abbas Akberali
for and on behalf of residents
of Block-4, Clifton, Karachi*



YOUNG VOICES

From this issue onwards, Shehri is introducing a new two page section dedicated to the youth of our country. In this the first publication, we highlight through maps, photographs and descriptive text, information on the rich bio-diversity of our country – Ed.

Bird life in the Aquatic Regions of Pakistan

Pakistan has been blest with a great diversity of landscape; from the high peaks of the Karakoram and the Hindu Kush to the coastal areas of Karachi. Yet amongst all these highs and lows, lakes are usually overlooked, despite the fact that Pakistan's aquatic areas are the stopovers for many birds on their yearly migration.

Many animals move from place to place as the seasons change. Their traveling is called migration. This migratory habit is a characteristic of animals living in the temperate zone. Birds and other animals travel many miles to seek lodging in warmer areas during winter. Some birds travel over the same routes and arrive at the same place around the same time each year. Scientists believe that the birds may use the sun and the stars as guides.

In our country, there are lakes in all the provinces which are visited by migratory birds on a yearly basis, but unfortunately only a few lakes have facilities for

bird watchers or tourists and most of the birds are hunted mercilessly inspite of bans. The major aquatic areas of Pakistan are as follows:

Shandur Lake

lake is located on the border of Chitral and Gilgit. It gets its water from the melting snow in the valley. As it is situated on the migratory route of birds, it acts as a major stopover. Many types of waterfowl thrive here which include Mandarin ducks and Arctic warblers which stop here during their journey from the Scandi-

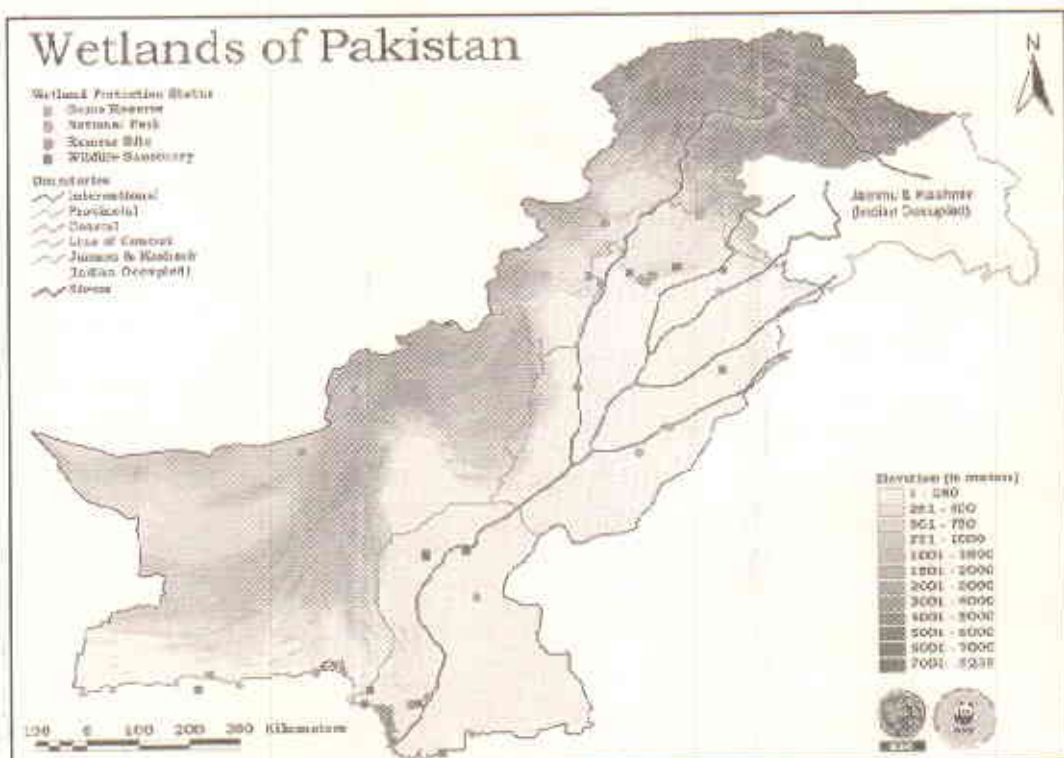
navian countries to the coast of China.

Bert Lake

It is located East of Shandur lake in the heart of the Pasu glacier, at a height of 8000 ft from sea level. Different waterfowls like storks frequent this lake.

Aquatic Regions of Kurram Valley

These are located in the south of Lakes 1/2 and include Kurram river and Baran dam. They are also very important as they are





located on the fly path of birds from the North.

Chashma Barrage

Chashma Barrage is located on River Sindh at a distance of about 25 kms S.W. of Mianwali. It consist of 5 small lakes. This aquatic region has the distinction of being visited by more than 2 lac migratory birds which is the largest number amongst all the lakes in Pakistan. These include many types of birds including Mallards; ducks from Northern China and U.S.S.R.

Uchali Lake

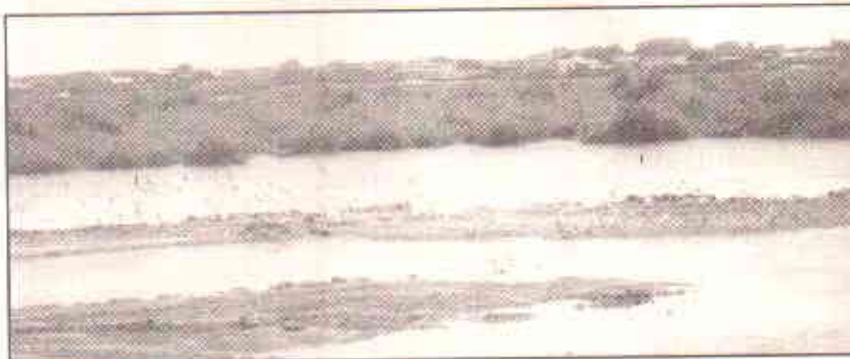
This lake is situated at a distance of 13 kms west of Noshehra in the Salt Range at a height of approx. 700 m above sea level. As the water in the lake is dependent on natural springs and rains, the water level is unpredictable, which in turn affects the number of visiting birds. Nevertheless the rare white headed water fowl remains a regular visitor because of which a ban has been placed on the hunting of birds in the vicinity.

Zangi Nawar Lake

This lake of Northern Balochistan contains bitter or salty water depending upon the amount of rain it receives. It is surrounded by sand dunes having different minerals which give the water its particular taste. A rare breed of water fowl known as the Marbled teal lives here.

Drigh Lake

This lake has been declared a sanctuary for birds. Thousands of birds can be seen roosting here in winters. Many types of Cranes can also be seen. As it is used for irrigation purposes, its area is



The coastal riches of our country

rapidly decreasing.

Manchar Lake

It is located in Dadu district and is the largest natural freshwater lake in Asia. It is the home of the boat people (Mohanas) as well as water fowls and ducks from Central Asia. Unfortunately, the water is getting contaminated day by day which has resulted in the decrease of birds in winter.

Kinjhar Lake

It is situated 19 kms N.E. of Thatta. it is also called the Kalri Lake. This lake is famous for its colourful fish, waterfowl and boat rides. The place is always teeming with migratory birds in the winters. Small islands in the lake become secure breeding grounds as there is a ban on hunting.

Haleji Lake

Is located at 70 kms from Karachi. This fresh water lake is supposed to be one of the best in the world. It is surrounded by tall bulrushes and is filled with water cress and lotus plants. In winters several types of birds and water fowls stay here enroute from the snowy environs of Siberia.

Apart from providing shelter to migratory birds, these lakes also play a very important role in maintaining the ecological bal-

Advice

Hold on to your dreams,
And they will never die,
They will live on forever,
Like the starlight in the sky.

What you want to be,
Is your wish,
From the truth,
never ever shy.

Struggle on and on,
To achieve your goal.
Never lose hope and
never cry.

Keep praying to God,
And if your prayer fails,
Never blame Him and
never ask why.

Kiran Bashir Ahmad

ance. They provide fish, prawns, lotus and honey amongst food products while the plants are used for making medicines or obtaining dyes for tanning leather. □

Editor, Young Voices
**Kiran Bashir
Ahmad**



ASK SHEHRI

Most residents when faced with any civic problem do not know which person or organization to contact in order to solve their problem. In this column we invite the readers to share their worries with us and seek our help, which is always forthcoming – Ed.

Q. Under which Sindh Government legislations are mining and exploration activities banned in the national parks of Sindh Province?

Altaf Soomro, Malir, Karachi

A. Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972, Sindh Wildlife Amendment Act 1993 and Sindh Government Notification 1997.

Q. Under the recently announced "District Government Plan" will the District Assemblies be directly elected?

Murtaza Zaidi, F. B. Area, Karachi

A. No, only the Union Councils will be directly elected.

Q. Have ISO standards been established for environmental management?

Saima Khan, Clifton, Karachi

A. ISO 14000-1, deal with environmental management standardisation.

Shehri needs volunteers

Any person who wishes to help out in Shehri's ongoing and planned projects (cash / kind) should visit the Shehri

Office for further information or contact the Shehri Secretariat through phone, fax or e-mail)

JOIN SHEHRI TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

If you wish to join shehri please send this card to

SHEHRI Citizens for a Better Environment,
206-G, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S.,
Karachi-75400, Pakistan.
Tel / Fax : 453-0646

With a cross cheque of Rs. 300/- (Annual Membership Fee) in the name of Shehri-CBE with passport size photograph

Name : _____

Tel. (Off) : _____ Tel. (Res) : _____

Address : _____

Occupation : _____

SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership for 1999! Join Shehri and do your bit as a good citizen to make this city a clean, healthy and environmentally friendly place to live in!

BIO DIVERSITY

Hamal Lake: Why this neglect?

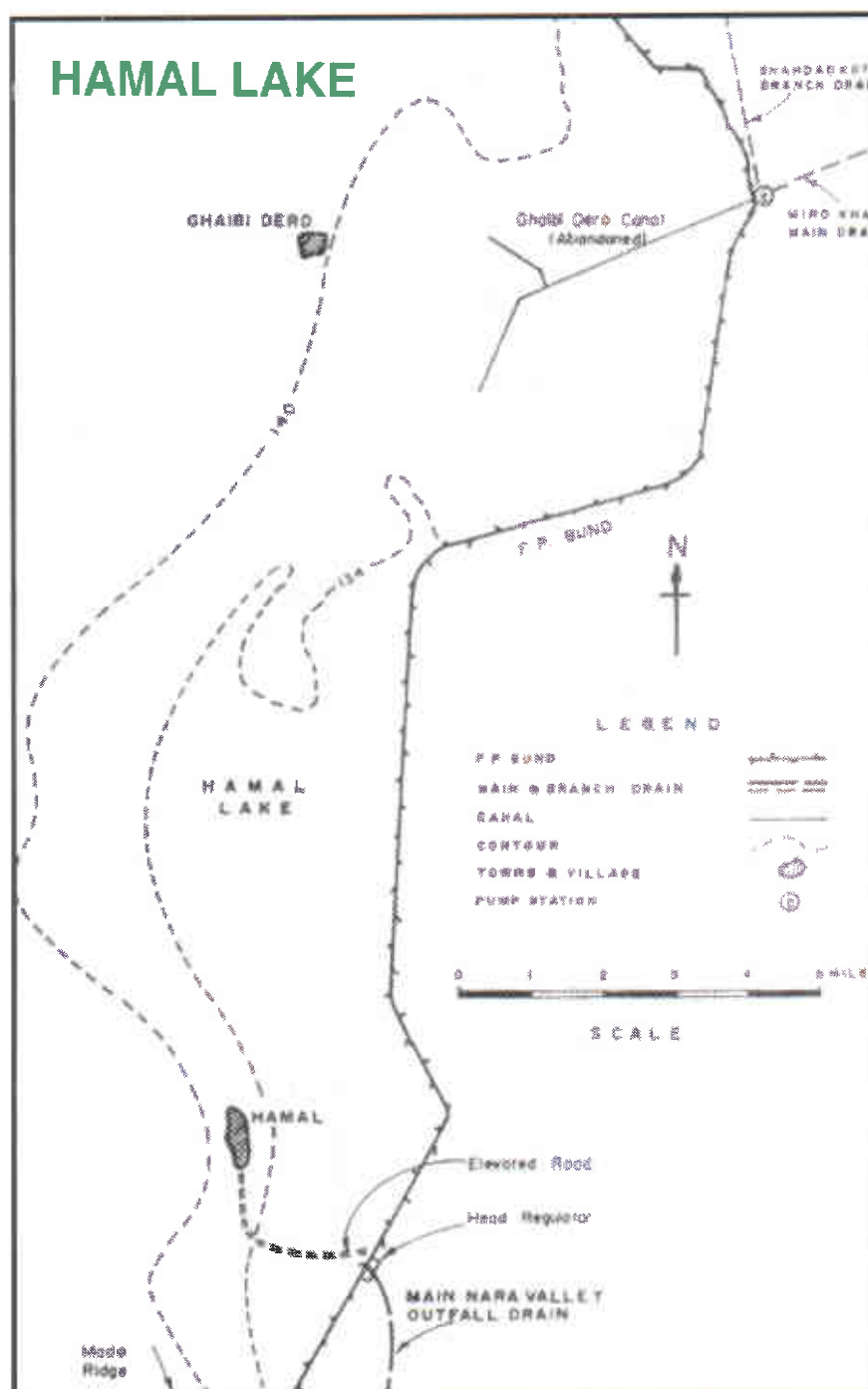
Fayaz Hussain Waggan highlights the significance of a precious natural resource and stresses the urgent need for its preservation.

Hamal Lake is situated in District Larkana, Taluka Warah, 60 kms west of Larkana city. The surface area of the lake is about 26000 acres and the maximum water storage level is about 0.08 MAF with a level of + 134 feet.

The source of water is from the northeren hill torrents such as Nari, Mula, Chakar and Bolan. Total catchment area draining towards Hamal Lake is 26000 square miles. This inflow occurs three or four times a year. Another important source of inflow comes from the drains of the Larkana/Shikarpur surface drainage project. About 5000 acres of land around the lake is used for agricultural purposes.

Uses

The principle uses of the lake include: fishing, irrigation water (mostly for wheat plantations), a disposal point for effluent from Larkana/Shikarpur S.D.



project, feeding site for migratory birds, for drinking purposes. The lake is not used for recreational purposes.

Ecology

Fishes are supplied on a commercial basis to Punjab and Karachi. Birds from Siberia and the Russian plains come during the time period, September to January. Wolves, rabbits and pigs are found in the area surrounding the lake.

Aquatic life is not diverse as the soil is saline

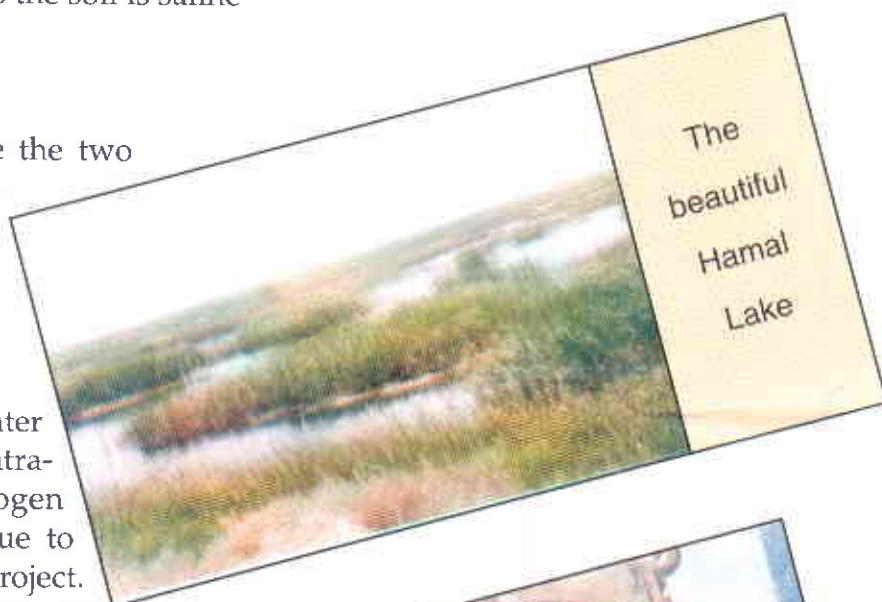
Socio-Economics

Fishing and agriculture are the two main occupations of people living around the Hamal Lake.

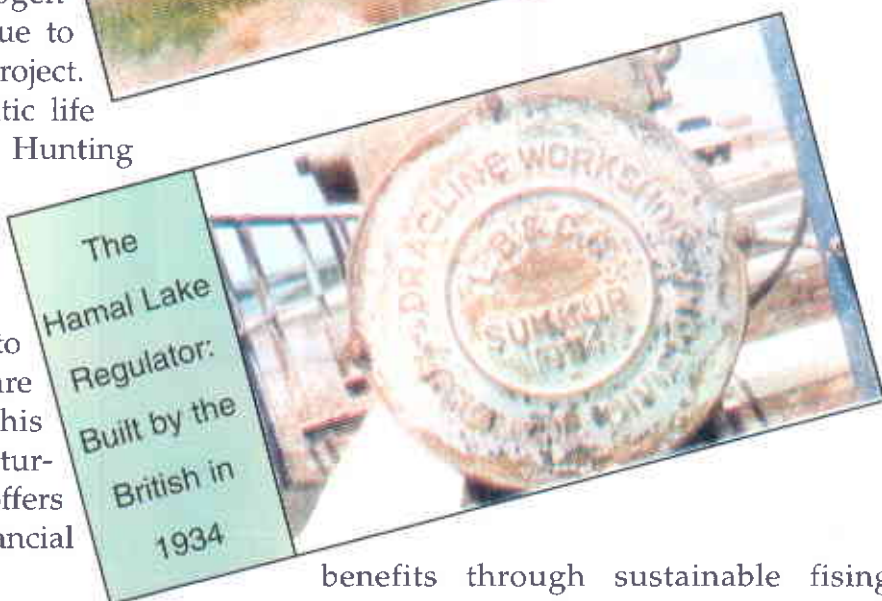
Environmental Concerns

In the winter season, the water level drops and the concentration of phosphorus, nitrogen increases. This is mostly due to drainage from the SCARP project. Upstream as a result, aquatic life and migratory birds suffer. Hunting and poaching activities also cause considerable damage to the wildlife.

There is an urgent need to check the pollutants which are being introduced into this beautiful lake. This great natural bio-diversity resource offers significant potential for financial



The beautiful Hamal Lake



The Hamal Lake Regulator: Built by the British in 1934

benefits through sustainable fishing activities and development of proper recreational infrastructure. Otherwise, it is quite possible that we might lose this precious natural resource forever. ▣

(Fayaz Hussain Waggon is a Civil Engineer)