



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

Jan-June, 2004 Vol. 14/No. 1

INSIDE

- Shehri Seminars
- Community Policing
- Turtle Conservation
- Water Pollution
- Jamshed Town

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION: CAMPAIGNING FOR CITIZEN'S RIGHTS

Roland de'Souza highlights the relevance of *Public Interest Litigation* within the context of urban Karachi and Shehri's role in this important sphere of public advocacy

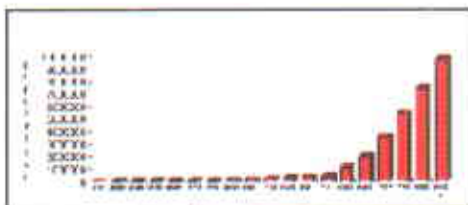
Most environmental degradation in the world has taken place over the last 200 years. Much of the built environment degradation in Karachi has taken place over the past 30 years. The two charts below show the close relationship this decay has with population growth and so-called *development*.

The *right to life* for citizens is being increasingly interpreted by the superior courts as *right to a clean, healthy and unpolluted environment*. People who live in urban areas have an entitlement to a suitable built environment, to open spaces for recreation and fresh air, to playgrounds for children, to schools and hospitals, to libraries and theatres, to proper transport systems, to freedom from air and noise pollution, to

adequate utilities, and the like. This is ensured by appropriate utilization of land on the basis of town-planning principles. In Public Interest Litigation (PIL), the citizens have tried to convert *right to environment* into a realistic enforcement of laws that make a clean and healthy environment a practical reality.

Unfortunately, owing to population pressures and mushrooming urban-rural migration, land in Karachi is being increasingly abused by violation of urban planning principles, including unlawful allotment of unplanned land, arbitrary conversion of land-use, and construction of illegal buildings. This results in severe deterioration of the built environment.

Aside from damaging the envi-



Linking development with population growth



Town-Planning & Building Laws

Much legislation and regulations exist related to the subject of town-planning, zoning, and building, including:

- Sindh Town Planning Act 1915
- KDA Order 1957
- Sindh Local Government Ordinance (SLGO) 2001
- Sindh Building Control Ordinance (SBCO) 1979
- Karachi Building & Town Planning Regulations (KB&TPR) 1979 & 2002
- Environmental Protection Act, 1997

1) The typical highlights of one of the more important of laws are given below:

While making a town-planning scheme, the Sindh Town Planning Act 1915 mandates the following:

Step-1: Declaration of intention to make scheme:

- declaration by a local authority of intention to make a scheme, and publication in the Official Gazette (Section 9(2))
- copy of plan to be open to inspection at head office of local authority (Section 9(4))
- acceptance of public objections/suggestions over a period of one month (Section 9(5))
- sanction by government of the making of such scheme by notification in the Official Gazette (Section 9(6))

Cont: Pg 3



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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

Security comes first!

A city needs to be at peace with itself before it can prosper and flourish. Providing security to the residents, property and the businesses operating in the city is the first and foremost responsibility of the government. Complement what essentially should be a political solution.

Karachi has been in the eye of the storm for the last two decades. The failure of our Afghan policy coupled with the policy of divide and rule followed by successive governments in the past-elected or non-elected, have played havoc with the peace and tranquility of the city. Karachi, being the only viable commercial port and centre of business, commerce and trade should have been secured against all kinds of law and order problems by according this issue the highest of priority.

However, time and again, the governments have failed to ensure, by design or by default that solutions are sought that are political in nature. Administrative measures can only sup-

Continued political instability has led to discontinuity and disconnect in policies and projects. Weak political and administrative resolve has led to the growth of urban mafias related to various urban services sectors, that hold the city in a stranglehold of intrigue, corruption and mis-management.

Civil society can only function in the presence of a functioning government. NGO's cannot hold dialogues with urban mafias. The assets of the city, whether it be land or property are now being measured in terms of rupees rather than for their social and environmental benefits.

This sorry state of affairs would continue unless decisions are taken at the relevant levels to seek political solutions to Karachi's problems with the greatest of sincerity and urgency. □



No space to even breath:
Citizens demand their rights

ronment, construction of illegal buildings is a life hazard. Earthquakes do not kill --- falling buildings do! Over the past five years, seismic tremors have killed 18,000 persons in 1999 in Izmit (Turkey), 20,000 in 2001 in Gujarat (India) and over 30,000 in Bam (Iran), in addition to rendering hundreds of thousands homeless. Karachi lies in a belt of upper-moderate seismic activity, a n d earthquake-resistant building codes are being ignored with impunity.

The citizens have been able to help the judges of our high courts realize the potential devastation for which they could be held (at least indirectly) responsible, because hundreds of unauthorized buildings were being erected in Karachi under the cover of misused court orders.

In 1999, SCMR 243, the Supreme Court warned all concerned that *It may further be observed that some builders raise unauthorized constructions after obtaining status quo orders from the courts.*

Citizen's experiences with PIL

It may be held that the success story of Shehri: CBE is an ingre-

redient of the success story of PIL in the courts of Pakistan. The citizens of Karachi would not have been able to make the headway they have (no matter how small) if the judges of our superior courts had not become active in com-

prehending the issues and boldly making the right decisions to tackle the problems.

Over the past decade, Shehri: CBE and its

members/sup-porters have instituted numerous cases in the superior courts challenging various types of environmental ruin occasioned by violation of town-planning principles. We chose some of the bigger defaulters and more outstanding examples of environmental degradation so that a trickle-down effect would emerge.

The citizens have been able to help the judges of our high court realize the potential devastation for which they could be held (at least indirectly) responsible, because hundreds of unauthorized buildings were being erected in Karachi under the cover of misused court orders.

Step -2: Making of the scheme

- * prepare and publish a draft scheme within twelve months (Section 10(1)), or a further period of nine months (Section 10(2))
- * local authority to entertain objections from the public to the draft scheme, over a period of one month (Section 13)
- * local authority to submit amended scheme to government for sanction by notification in Official Gazette (Section 14)

Step-3: Variation of the scheme

- * local authority may apply to government for variation of the scheme (Section 45B(1))
- * government to publish a draft of variation (Section 45B (2))
- * copy of variation plan to be open to the inspection of the public at the head office of local authority (Section 45B (4))
- * acceptance of public objection by the government over a period of one month (Section 45B(5))
- * notify the amended variation in the Official Gazette (Section 45B(6))

2) The KB&TPR 1979 requires that:

- * public notices and advertisements in the newspapers (one in English and one in vernacular) shall be Display Advertisements, not Classified Advertisements (Foreword, Page (ii), KBTPR-Part I)
- * The public notice for change of land use is to be issued by the concerned authority (Article 4 (b) of Schedule D Part II, Page 51, KBTPR Part-II), and not by the plot lessee.

The purpose of these rules is to ensure that the notice/advertisement is prominent and does not escape the public eye.

3) A number of relevant clauses in town-planning rules and regulations are:

- * KDA Order 1957 [Articles 40 and 52-A],
- * KB&TPR 1979 Part-II [Sections 3 and 4 of Schedule D],
- * SLGO 1979 [Schedule II, Part II, Sections 32, 33, and 34)] □



Some examples of built-environment PIL can be broadly classified as follows:

Misuse of parks, playgrounds & amenity plots

- * *Gutter Baghicha* in Trans-Lyari
- * KTC bus-depot amenity plots (11 Nos) in Karachi
- * SRTC bus-depot amenity plots (16 Nos) in Sindh
- * *Costa Livina* in Bagh-e-Ibn-Qasim
- * Kirthar National Park
- * *Karachi Playhouse* at Teen Talwar

Arbitrary conversion of land-use

- * KPT Officers Society land reclamation (130 acres) at Mai Kolachi
- * Commercialization of six roads in Karachi
- * Hazardous/explosive goldsmith workshops in Saddar
- * Illegal construction of buildings
- * *Glass Towers* in Clifton
- * 15 buildings around the Quaid's Mazar
- * 35 buildings around the Quaid's Mazar
- * 26 buildings along Shahrah-e-Faisal

All litigation involving land, construction of buildings, conversion of land-use, amenity plots, encroachments, and allotment of property, is PIL because the issues impact on the built environment. These cases are to be dealt with on an inquisitorial basis rather than a conventional adversarial basis. In such questions of public interest, the judges, the government officials and the advocates themselves become parties to the issue, and it is their bounden duty to assist the court in arriving at the truth.

Such litigation can never be considered as one of adversarial confrontation with the state. The judges must go far beyond deciding which party has

the better lawyer!

In one instance in 1998, the Chief Justice of the SHC converted into a writ petition a letter complaining about 35 unauthorized structures in the vicinity of the Quaid-e-Azam's Mazar. This eventually had the effect of bringing to a virtual halt the mushrooming illegal construction in the area, and indirectly led to the promulgation by the government of the infamous *Regularisation Ordinance* of 2002.

Shehri: CBE has come of age. The judges by and large accept that we are acting bona fide and have sufficient interest to move the courts for redressing public injury, enforcing public duty, protecting social and collective rights and interests, and vindicating public interest. We have stressed that class-action/PIL cases instituted on built environment issues relate more to diffuse interests than to specific injury to individuals.

Shehri: CBE's PIL is carried out in collaboration with other NGOs, concerned citizens, social and civic activists, and residents of the distressed areas. PIL has become a tool to mould and raise awareness of people to the fact that it is they (*the citizens*) who are the owners of the air, water, land and environment of our cities, and it is they (*the citizens*) who must rise to protect their property from being stolen or destroyed by selfish and short-sighted private interests, who are colluding with the very managers (*government servants*) who have been appointed to take care of the owner's property!

Shehri: CBE's PIL is carried out in collaboration with other NGOs, concerned citizens, social and civic activists, and residents of the distressed areas. PIL has become a tool to mould and raise awareness of people to the fact that it is they (*the citizens*) who are the owners of the air, water, land and environment of our cities, and it is they (*the citizens*) who must rise to protect their property from being stolen or destroyed by selfish and short-sighted private interests,

This collaborative PIL process has the salutary effect of helping the courts realize that a wide spectrum of people from diverse backgrounds are being adversely affected, while simultaneously creating public awareness and educating citizens on environmental issues and making them conscious that *something can actually be done!* While allegations of bias, personal ill will or intent to blackmail have been advanced against environmentalists, NGOs and civic activists, the judges are extremely discerning.

The principle of locus standi in environmental issues has been liberalized the world over, and the courts of Pakistan have followed suit. They have recognized that there are *interests without groups*, and that such interests can be legitimately promoted by an individual in his own right as a member of the citizenry to whom a public duty is owed.

Shehri: CBE has developed into a watchdog over agencies charged with managing the built environment of Karachi. It acts as a pressure group on government in the formulation of policies. It takes up environmental litigation at different levels and thus conscientizes development institutions. It promotes public participation in drafting schemes, programmes, and regulations.

The Way Forward

The judges of the courts are men and women who live in the built environment of Karachi, are witnesses to the loot and pillage, and are entirely aware of the problems of society and the continuing deterioration of the cityscape.



A few suggestions that would facilitate the public interest, advance the rule of law, and curb malpractices and corruption in questions relating to the built environment include:

- * Be proactive in reducing widespread abuse of ad-interim orders
- * Handle public-interest cases on an inquisitorial, rather than adversarial, basis
- * Ensure that government officials who have colluded in the degradation of the built environment, or who do not implement court orders, are proceeded against promptly
- * Recognize that delay in disposal of cases works against the public interest
- * Educate yourself on built environment issues/laws
- * Promote special *green benches* to deal with such cases

Much damage to this built environment is carried out under the umbrella of misused court orders, obtained in frivolous and vexatious cases filed by the government officials-mafia nexus: allotment of land, encroachments on public roads & footpaths, illegal construction, occupation of open spaces, etc. Thus, in addition to being judicially active, it is the responsibility of the courts to ensure that their orders (especially *ad-interim orders*) are not exploited and abused by corrupt elements.

It is also imperative that all courts examine cases concerning issues of public interest in Karachi on an inquisitorial basis rather than on an adversarial one. Departure from the conventional adversarial procedure is vital to enable the poor and the weak to bring necessary material before the courts in order to obtain enforcement of their fundamental rights under Articles 8, 9, 14, 23, 24 and 25 of the Constitution. The judge must not sit as a passive umpire, but must become actively involved in what is sometimes termed as *collaborative litigation*. Else, the judicial process is reduced to a mockery of justice.

The citizens are discouraged to find that often, the concerned government officials ignore lawful orders of the courts. Some of these are individuals who colluded with the built environment violators in the first place. Unless such persons are punished, others come to believe that although they may be caught, nothing will actually be done to them. This must change.

In conclusion, we find that PIL transforms the apathetic, selfish, and ignorant citizen from the frog that is slowly boiled to death in a pan of water, to the frog who immediately jumps out of the hot water because he realizes it is hazardous to his life. □

Roland de'Souza is an Electrical Engineer by profession and Chairperson, Shehri-CBE

The Goals of Modern City Planning

The planning and development of urban areas and towns is based on certain sound technical doctrines, which can best be understood by reference to the *New Encyclopaedia Britannica*, a passage that has been quoted with approval by the Supreme Court (PLD 1994 SC 514):

Goals of Modern City Planning: The ultimate goals were social, although the plans themselves related to physical things. They were deeply involved with intermediate economic objectives. The expression of the goals was, of course, coloured by the culture of the society seeking them. In the U.S. and countries following western European traditions, the ideal urban environment would reconcile the maximum opportunity for individual choice with protection for the individual from the adverse effects of the actions of others. Within the philosophy, city planning would probably seek:

- (1) the orderly arrangement of parts of the city — residential, business, industrial, etc. — so that each part could perform its functions with minimum cost and conflict;
- (2) an efficient system of circulation within the city and to the outside world, using to the maximum advantage all modes of transportation;
- (3) the development of each part of the city to optimum standards, as of lot size, sunlight, and green space in residential areas, and parking and building spacing in business areas;
- (4) the provisions of safe, sanitary and comfortable housing in a variety of dwelling types to meet the needs of all families;
- (5) the provision of recreation, schools, and other community services of a high standard of size, location and quality;
- (6) the provision of adequate and economical water supply, sewerage, utilities, and public services.

In any community, these goals might be supplemented by special goals, such as the preservation of a historical area, or the protection of property values, or the efficient conduct of Government. On occasion, the goals of some powerful special interests might be inconsistent with those of others, e.g., the preservation of slum property values and the provision of adequate housing. □

SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Workshop - Community Policing: Human Rights and Obligations

A Workshop was held at Hotel Reagent Plaza on May 28, 2004 by Shehri-CBE and Community Policing Committee of Ferozabad Police Station, Jamshed



Mr. Peter Bochmann, Resident Representative, FNST

Town in collaboration with Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation for the training of 300 officers and constables on *Community Policing, Human Rights and Human Rights in Islam*.

The speakers were Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Mr. Rizwan Abdullah, Mr. Peter Bochmann, Resident Representative of FNF, Mr. Waseem Durrani, Master Trainer and serving Inspector and stationed at Police Academy at Lahore with over 18 years experience in teaching and Dr. Anees Ahmed. The officers and constables appreciat-

ed the initiative taken by Shehri. Mr. Khateeb Ahmed and Mr. Rizwan Abdullah spoke about Community Policing and Shehri appreciated the efforts made by D.I.G. Operations, Mr. Tariq Jameel and T.P.O. Gulshan Town, Mr. Abdul Khaliq Sheikh in making this event possible considering the situation in the city. It also gave the citizens an opportunity to understand and know first hand the working conditions of the constables.

The information about the poor salary structure which for the constables in Sindh is Rs. 1000, for working 24 hours a day - less than those of the other three provinces came as a surprise. In the workshop, this issue was



Mr. Zafarullah Khan, FNST



Master Trainer, Mr. Waseem Durrani

most highlighted that any person when he/she joins the police force, signs on the dotted line that he or she agrees to 24 hours duty time.

This was a shock to the other participants who felt it was not humanly possible for anyone to work 24 hours and perform their duty correctly. Further, highlighted was the sub-human treatment given to the police force. In all the discussion, one thing stood the most that our training methodology is not up to standard, the pay structure of the police force does not allow them to live a decent life and that our constables need more attention if we are to expect them to safeguard our society and our respect and maintain the law and order. □



The workshop speakers



Enthusiastic response from the local police

Shehri Environment Education Mela 2004



Karachi my home, my city is in pain because of numerous environmental issues and threats. The adverse pressures on its natural environment (*beaches, parks, water, air*), its built heritage, and to the quality of life of its citizens and future generations are significant. Our beaches are now polluted, our parks are desertified, our historical buildings are decaying, our air is polluted, and the noise on the roads and neighborhood is unbearable. Who is going to take care of our home? We and only we! Let us educate ourselves and take action to save our home - Karachi.

Shehri was formed in 1988 by a group of concerned citizens to provide residents of Karachi with a platform through which they could effectively voice their concerns vis-a-vis the degradation in the natural and built environment and take action not only

to arrest the deterioration in the environment but also to improve the same.

Shehri's Environment Education Mela provided an excellent opportunity for all citizens especially students, teachers, and professionals to participate in an interesting set of activities that were aimed to enable them to reinforce their love and respect for Karachi and its environment and help them to become aware of the causes and effects of environmental degradation and enable them to take action to conserve and preserve the natural and built environment of Karachi. It was an event that provided a positive blend of education with entertainment. It also provided an ideal platform for the socially responsible and environment friendly companies to interact with the public and promote their products and services.

The Environment Education Mela was organised for the first time in Karachi by Shehri to communicate effectively with all age groups, educating them about the significance of Karachi as our home. The Mela highlighted the urgency for prompt action to address city issues and improve the overall environment. It also helped Shehri in generating funds for its Karachi projects of education, citizen action and advocacy.

Stalls

A number of innovative and educational stalls were setup on the occasion by the schools and the corporate sector.

School Stalls

Schools developed educational material and activities to facilitate environment education in a fun way for one





and all at the mela. Themes included

- * Karachi is my Home & City.
- * Beaches of Karachi & Action to Save them
- * Use of Water and Action for Conservation
- * Environmental Issues of Karachi
- * Vision for Karachi: How I see Karachi in 2025
- * Noise Pollution
- * Unplanned Growth in Urbanization
- * Protecting the Habitat of the Green Turtles
- * Protecting our Coast & Mangrove
- * Our heritage in Karachi
- * The Effects of our Environment on us

The focus was on creating awareness about the causes, effects and corrective actions needed to protect, conserve and improve the environment of Karachi. Students innovated and used their imagination and artistic abilities to communicate with the help of models, posters, poems, games and power point presentations. Shehri encouraged school children to develop these projects.

Corporate Stalls

Companies used spaces provided inside the stalls to promote their products and services. All promotional material was displayed inside the stalls.

Evaluation of Stalls

A panel of three judges evaluated each stall. The quality of work as well as presentation decided what preference was to be given to original, innovative and creative exhibits.

Stall Exhibit (Judges consider original work by students) 50%

- * Content of issues
- * Originality of idea
- * Actions proposed

Stall Presentation 50%

- * Cleanlines of the stall 10%
- * Verbal presentation by the representatives in each stall/Overall layout and decor of the stall 10%
- * Use of environment friendly material 20%
- * Creativity in organizing miscellaneous activities e.g. games

Imagination

Evidence of Research 10%

Note: Points were deducted for littering at the venue. Each school was responsible for the cleanliness of not only its stall but also the area in front of it up till the centre of the ground.

Other Activities

Other activities at the mela included:

Games

Interesting games: in pins, bombing the clown, face-painting, mehndi,

Tumbling box, merry-go-round and donkey-rides.

Food

A variety of quality food and drinks were also available at the mela.

Lucky Draw

To further build up the festivity mood lucky draws were conducted at regular intervals. All draws were held on entry tickets.

Fancy Dress Show

School children expressed their interest in the animal kingdom by dressing up in a particular manner and bringing life and colour to the carnival. The theme for the dress code of the Fancy Dress Show revolved around animals or environmental conservation issues. Three most attractively dressed children were given prizes by the judges.

Environmental Quiz (Quiz Time!)

A compare conducted an on-going quiz titled *One Question, One Prize*. There was a gift for every right answer. All the questions were based on environment related issues of Karachi.

Musical Performance

To liven up everyone's mood a DJ was arranged to play any song one may request. □



Awards for the best stalls

Save Gutter Baghicha campaign

Speakers at a conference held at the Shah Latif Library on Saturday, October 28, 2003 expressed deep concern over inordinate delay in the construction of a national park in the metropolis, which was announced by President, Pervez Musharraf on April 28 last year.

The park was to be built at the site of Gutter Baghicha at an area of 649 acres, out of its total area of 1,016 acres. The speakers also demanded removal of all sorts of encroachments at the project site, besides cancellation of all illegal allotments of land.

They urged that the remaining area of the land be reserved for a hospital and for some educational project.

The speakers criticized the role of *civil bureaucracy* for creating hurdles in the way of the project, allegedly in collusion with land mafia and other vested interests.

They further alleged that whenever some development project was launched in the backward areas of the defunct districts of saute and west, attempts were made by *vested interests* to sabotage the project.

They maintained that the people of these areas had always been deprived of fruits of development and they con-



The seminar speakers

tinued to suffer due to lack of modern civic amenities.

They observed that for the last more than 50 years the development thrust in the city had been focused on the former districts, central and east, and no significant project was launched in the underdeveloped areas of the city.

They urged the Sindh and city governments to execute the National Park project immediately as announced by the President in his April 28 speech as a gift for the people of Karachi.

The conference titled *Gutter Baghicha Bachao Campaign*, was organized by its convener, Nisar Baloch, Chairman of the Karachi NGOs Alliance, with the cooperation of Shehri (Citizens for a Better Environment).

Speakers included the PML-N leader, Main Ejaz Shafi, National Workers Party's Yousuf Mustikhan, Pakistan Awami Tehrik's Ifitikhar Shah Bokhari, National Party's Rauf Baloch, Hidatuallah and Inayat Husain of the Pakistan People's Party (SB).

In addition, Baloch intellectual, Mohammad Yusuf Naskandi and Nazim of SITE Town also spoke at the conference.

The Participants were of the view that in case the city government failed to take any serious action with regard to their demands, the residents of the underdeveloped areas would be compelled to think that it lacked concern for their development.

Some of the speakers also called for



Seminar Participants



Mr. Nisar Baloch, Coordinator, Save Gutter Baghicha campaign



restoring the original status of Baghicha, which was once established as a Sewage Farm on 1,017 acres on the Trans Lyari Quarter to cater to the 0.1 million population of the town.

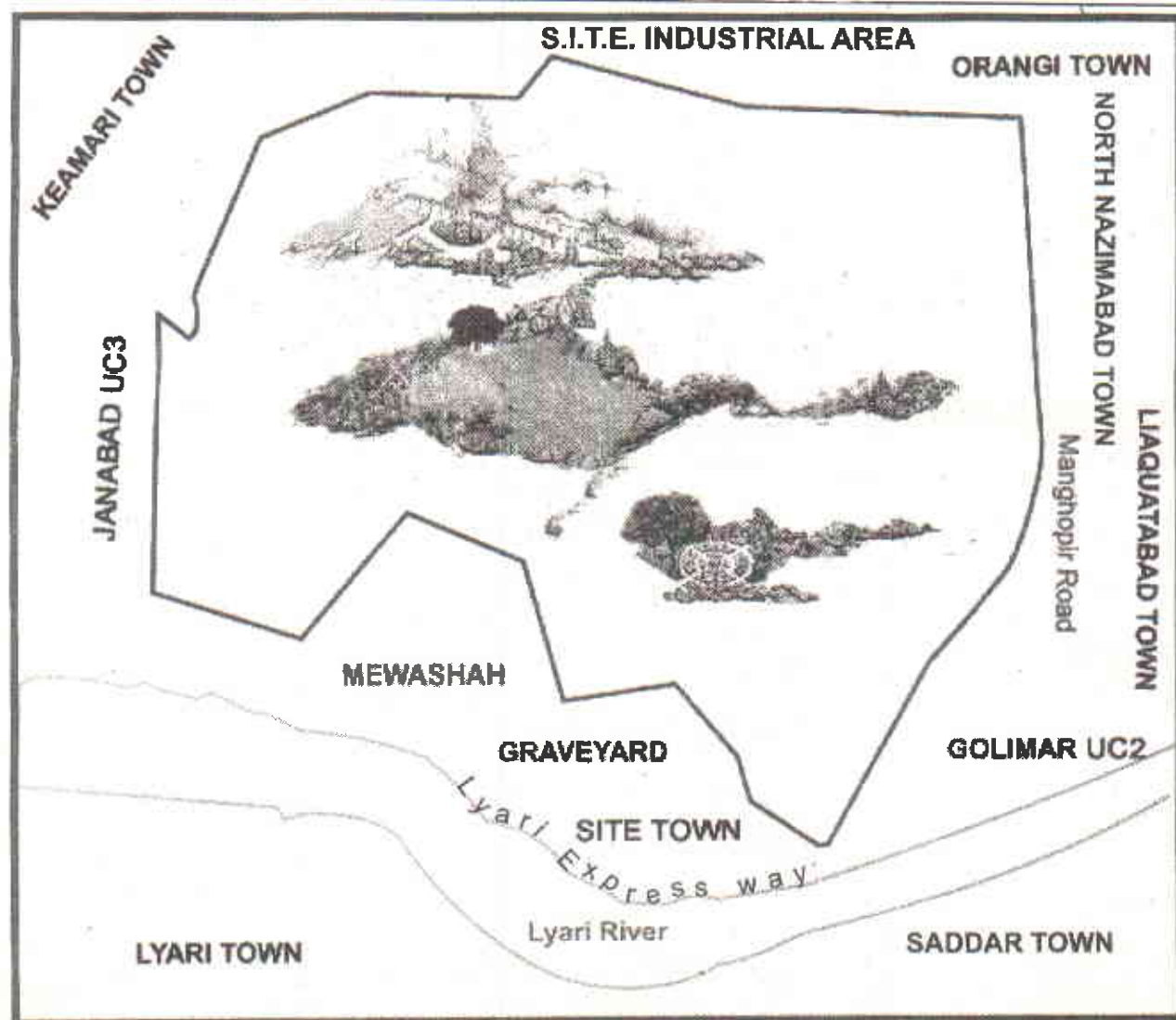
They also condemn the role of industrialists for grabbing the farm site and establishing marble factories and establishing marble factories and

processing units, on it, thereby creating environmental pollution in the locality.

The speakers noted with serious concern that in 1993, 200 acres of Baghicha land was allotted to the Officers Cooperative Housing Society for housing purposes in violation of rules.

The speakers vowed to extend full support to the people of Trans-Lyari in their struggle for attainment of their civic rights and stressed the need for greater unity among the people in this regard. □

What Gutter Baghicha Can Become!



Environs of Gutter Baghicha

The bastis and neighbourhoods of Gutter Baghicha are currently areas of unsatisfactory living conditions, low income, drug addiction, unemployment, ill-health, high infant mortality, and pollution. People living in Lyari and other adjacent areas have no recreation facilities and live with a sense of deprivation. Imagine what a peaceful green park in their midst would do for their psyche, health recreation and law & order.



SHEHRI ADVOCACY

In this section, we highlight some of our ongoing advocacy work and seek active citizen participation for ensuring protection of public interest.

Community Policing Committee: Making a difference!

The Community Policing Committee, Ferozabad Police Station, Jamshed Town was formed on August 12, 2003 with the aim of bridging the gap between the area residents and area police, by Mr. Tariq Jamil (D.I.G.) Operations and Shehri-CBE.

Following is the summary of activities of Community Policing Committee to date

The Community Policing Committee



and the Area Police jointly established a camp at Police Chowki Liberty, Tariq Road from 15th of Ramadan till Chand Raat, manned by the area residents, area police and traffic police. The sole object of the camp was to ease the pressure on the police in attending public complaints during these peak days of shopping, so police could concentrate on the duty of law enforcement.

The SDPO Ferozabad, A.S.P. Shehzad Waheed personally took the initiative by arranging and installing surveillance cameras at strategic points at Tariq Road, with control room at Police Chowki

Liberty, Tariq Road which he monitored personally, with a result that two thieves were caught red handed while stealing from a car parked in a narrow lane at a distance from the Police Chowki.

The Community Policing Committee established a *Community Policing Help Desk* at Ferozabad Police Station on December 19, 2003 and the *Help Desk* is being manned by Shehri Member Sheikh Rizwan Abdullah, almost daily during different hours of the day along with other volunteers.

Following are some observations made by Community Policing Committee members during their stay at Ferozabad Police Station.

Three police chowkis had been established within the jurisdiction of the police station at following locations:-

- Liberty Chowki, Tariq Road
- Nursery Market Chowki, Shahrah-e-Faisal
- Model School Chowki, P.E.C.H.S., Block II

It is observed that these chowkis do not operate round the clock and

remain inoperative on weekends and on public holidays and even on week days become inoperative after 10:00 p.m.

Observation

It is suggested that at least skeleton staff may be posted there so people may feel secure and in case of any emergency may be helped by the police present there.

It is observed that duty officers are not punctual in attending their duties and always report after the time fixed for reporting.

Ferozabad Police Station lacks resources of mobility which is hampering its efficiency of curbing the crime in the area. Following is the break-up of sanctioned/actual, vehicles/motor cycles available:-

<i>Sanctioned</i>	<i>Available</i>
Mobile vans 06	Mobile vans 03
Motor cycles 16	Motor cycles 05

Two mobile vans seem to have been withdrawn from the police station over a period of time, that need to be



returned immediately to the Ferozabad Police Station.

Motorcycles numbering eleven had been withdrawn from the Ferozabad Police Station over a period of time and given to various departments of the police station. They should immediately be returned to the Ferozabad Police Station on priority.

Observation

The jurisdiction of the Ferozabad Police Station had also increased many times as Baloch Colony Police Station had also been merged into it with increased area and population and resources being same. Additional manpower, mobile vans and motorcycles be provided to enhance the effectiveness of the police station in curbing the crimes, otherwise we should not expect any miracle to happen with this ill-equipped police.

It is suggested that notification may be issued by the office of the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) notifying existence and names of the Committee Members, so it may have some legal / official existence and some force in its working.

The Operation Wing of the Ferozabad Police Station is taking great pains in curbing the crimes within its jurisdiction, but as soon as an F.I.R. is registered, the case is transferred to the Investigation Wing of the same police station, which is not working with the Community Policing Committee, where some times cases are bulldozed and the Community Policing Committee also feels itself in the dark and unaware of the outcome of the investigation. Generally there are complaints regarding misbehavior and harassment during course of investigation. This reason forced people to avoid lodging of F.I.R.'s and coming to police for any help. Therefore, it is suggested that officials of the Investigation Wing should also be inducted in the Committee to have insight of the process of investigation. □

Stories of Valour...

Given below are accounts of acts of supreme courage performed by the staff of Ferozabad Police Station, Karachi



Sub Inspector Aurangzeb Khattak

Joined Police Service in 1991 and was initially appointed as an ASI. Completed probationary ASI course from Shadadpur. Passed the Elite Police Course in 1994 and secured First Position in the Sindh Province. Rejoined the Ferozabad Police Station in 1997. Earlier, had served in the Ferozabad Police Station for a period of one year in 1993. Was promoted to the post of Sub-Inspector in 1997 and served in Gulshan-e-Iqbal Police Station. Was posted again in Ferozabad Police Station in 1999. In 2001, left for the Police Training Centre in Saeedabad to complete the Inter School Course. Completed the course and secured second position. Was posted again at Ferozabad Police Station in 2003 and was given charge of the Tariq Road Police Checkpost. Presently serving as Acting SHO of Ferozabad Police Station since May 17, 2004. Also serving as member of the Community Policing Committee, jointly formed by the Ferozabad Police Station and Shehri-CBE.

Have been given several awards of merit / cash awards and have taken part in a number of police encounters.

Among various successful operations conducted, include the recovery of a five year old boy who was kidnapped for ransom in Charsada. The kidnappers were apprehended, brought to Karachi and presented before the courts. They were awarded life imprisonment.

Another police encounter took place in Jheel Park, where after 24 hours of continuous battle with the criminals, all were caught and the looted property was recovered.

Putting his own life in danger, rescued several people from a burning apartment on the 5th floor of Falcon Plaza.



Assistant Sub Inspector Ghulam Hussain

Joined Police Service on 27-1-1990 and was posted as a Police Constable. Completed Recruit Course from Police Training Centre, Saeedabad. Was then posted in Sher Shah Police Station in 1991 and served there till 1994. Took part in a shootout with criminals who had kidnapped passengers including women and children in a coach in Buffer Zone. Three kidnappers were killed in the shootout.

Was posted in Police Headquarters, Hasan Square from 1994 - 1996. Was posted in PIB

Police Station in 1996. Chased and entered in a shootout with dacoits near Central Jail. One dacoit was killed in the shootout. Was awarded for this service and promoted to the rank of Head Constable in 2001. Took part in the recovery of a kidnapped boy from Orangi Town. Received award of merit / cash awards.

Appointed at Ferozabad Police Station in 2002. On 26-10-02, took part in a police encounter with car snatchers at Allama Iqbal Road, near Noor Mosque. The car snatchers were apprehended and the stolen car was recovered. In recognition of this service was promoted to the rank of Assistant Sub Inspector. On 6-4-2004, at Mehmood Hussain Road single handedly and unarmed, apprehended a gang of criminals posing as police personnel. A stolen taxi and one TT pistol was recovered.



Head Constable Abdul-Rashid

Service Period - 23 years

Took part in a police encounter in May 2004 at Nursary, Shahrah-e-Faisal

under the leadership of Sub-Inspector Humayun and after exchange of fire successfully apprehended two dacoits who were planning to snatch cash from people coming out of a money exchange office.



Head Constable Nazar Mohammad

Service Period - 24 years

An encounter took place on 9-3-02 at Nursary, Shahrah-e-Faisal and exchange of fire

took place. He succeeded in overpowering two dacoits in a taxi and also recovered Two TT Pistols from their possession.



Police Constable Javed Ejaz

Service Period - 10 Years

In coordination with Sub Inspector Shahrak, apprehended a car lifter at Tariq

Road. In coordination with Sub-Inspector Aurangzeb, caught a dacoit who was in possession of a pistol at Tariq Road. Apprehended a number of criminals while working with Sub-Inspector Humayun.

These include a known convict, Rehan Uddin alias Money Changer. He was apprehended after a police encounter with three other criminals and a car was recovered. A 9 mm pistol, one TT Pistol and 125 CG were also recovered. □



Congratulations Dear Nazim Sahib!

We congratulate the city government on the success of its efforts to put the building control arm of the city under the management of the city administration!

Aside from being in accordance with SLGO 2001, the citizens expect that this step will create greater transparency and accountability in an organisation that was once termed a *Nest of Corruption* by the Sindh Governor in his Dissolution Order of the Sindh government in 1996.

We ask you to promptly undertake some simple measures:

- * Establish a *Nazim's Help Desk* at Civic Centre
- * Shift the TBCOs and their teams to the 18 town offices

This will make accessibility for citizens simpler, and will enable the town and UC Nazims to monitor the workings of the building control wing of municipal administration. Being situated in the center of their beat will also enable the BCGO officials to super-

vise compliance with town planning and building regulations in their jurisdictions. Public information counters must be set up in each town office so that copies of plans and other documents are made conveniently available to the public. This will go a long way towards arresting illegal construction and preventing mafias from cheating the innocent public.

- * Activate the *KBCA Overseer Committee*

Though notified some months ago by the Sindh Government, it has not met even once to date. The *Committee* has a great role to play in stimulating and improving the functioning of the KBCA/BCGO. Construction-related professionals, educational institutions, and public representatives will oversee the performance of the BCGO and can steer it along the right path. This will relieve much of the unlawful political and bureaucratic pressure that KBCA officials experience in their daily dealings.

- * Stop the widespread illegal sale of flats and shops all over Karachi

This is especially true of the inner city districts like KCHS Union/Gulshan Town, Garden and Jamshed Quarter/Jamshed Town, PECHS/Jamshed Town, etc. Under-construction projects without the mandatory *KBCA NOC* for Sale are being surreptitiously sold to the unsuspecting public. The builders' mafias are not obtaining the required Builder's License, nor are they paying the 2% Security Deposit that KBCA charges to protect the purchasers interests, and no action is being taken against them.

We request you to pay some interest to this long neglected area of city governance, ensure implementation of the applicable laws, and rescue the environment of this city from its accelerating downside.

Shehri is available to assist, help and monitor the city administration's efforts. □

Ribbon commercialization of six roads in Karachi

It is with heavy hearts that we write about the erroneous policy that was recently approved by the City Council. We request reconsideration of the following points:

1. *Commercialization* of residential areas is an avaricious cancer that is overwhelming Karachi, converting it into a concrete jungle, and leaving a beggared legacy for our children and future generations.
2. *Quick-fix* solutions, like ribbon commercialization, are a poor substitute for and a major distraction from what the City Council should actually be doing as a priority -

preparing urban renewal plans for deteriorating sections of Karachi and developing the long-overdue master plan for the city!

3. Detailed analyses of the proposed roads have not been carried out by the Master Plan department:

- * There is no data on how much environmental damage and human misery the previous illegal *commercialization* on these roads have caused.

- * There are no inquiries into the present (un)availability, or the future demand on utilities (*electricity,*

water, sewerage etc.), infrastructure (*road capacity, parking, garbage collection, etc.*) and amenities (*hospitals, schools, parks, playgrounds, police-stations, etc.*) that the increased densification by *commercialization* will generate.

- * No town-planning studies have been made of the effects of arbitrarily increasing the plot-ratios on *commercialized* plots.
- 4. The entire *commercialization of roads* process is a blatant attempt by shortsighted elements to generate money by any means, fair or



foul, to support profligate expenses of the administration. The division of the booty of *commercialization* charges is supposed to be as follows:

- a) 25.0% Administration expenses of Master Plan, CDGK
- b) 37.5% Development works in affected UC area
- c) 27.5% Development works in other UCs
- d) 10.0 Development works by special seats councilors

At least an additional amount of 25% of items (b), (c) and (d) above will also be siphoned off for UC administration, making the overall amount spent on salaries/administration equal to 43.75% of the *commercialization* receipts.

(In this city's recent experience with the 'regularisation' of illegal buildings, although the original KDA GB policy had the penalty monies being spent on up gradation of the infrastructure in the affected areas, eventu-

ally all receipts were used on salaries and administration')

We do not believe that the 28% amount left in the local UC will enable any significant development work to be undertaken to counteract the adverse effects of and overloading by the *commercialization*. Note that, the Rs. 30 million earned by KBCA from the *regularization* of the illegal *Fortune Towers* on Shahrah-e-Faisal was deemed insufficient for the required improvement of the local infrastructure: so, the money has been spent on salaries/administration.

5. The detailed procedure given in the CDGK policy ignores the town-planning studies and technical justification that need to be made before the proposed change of land-use is put to public notice. Such a procedure was outlined in the KBTPR 1979 Part-II (Schedule D) and KBTPR 2002 Regulation 18-4.2, as follows:

Step-1

Full technical justification of the pro-

posed change in land use, in the light of the planning of the area, commercial facilities in the vicinity, traffic flow and other relevant factors (*like availability of enhanced utilities and infrastructure / amenities*)

Step-2

Initiation and consideration of public objections

Step-3

NOC from Master Plan department.

instead, the City Council's policy starts at Step-2.

6. The fundamental constitutional *right to life* and a peaceful existence of neighbors and residents in the area will be denied to them by the increased pressure of *commercialization*, which includes pollution, noise, entry of strangers into the neighborhood, increased crime, etc.

We request you to reassess this critical issue. While it may be painful, it is your public duty to do the right thing. ☐

Invoking the Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002

Under the Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 (XCVI of 2002), which recognizes citizen's right to access information and records held by the public bodies, Shehri would appreciate the public availability of the following information/documents about Plot No. 151-A, Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi,

1. Whether the said plot is residential or commercial?
2. If the said plot is commercial, how and when was it commercialized?
3. Whether technical justification studies were done on the impact of change of land use from residential to commercial use?
4. Whether any consideration was given to the fact that people living in the area would be adversely affected by the said change to commercial use, and their right to a peaceful life would be destroyed?
5. Whether public objections were invited before the commercialization of the plot?

6. Whether any consideration was given to the fact that there would be an overload on the infrastructure and utilities, and what provisions have been made to deal with it?
7. What amount was paid as the commercialization charges of the plot, and when was it paid.
8. Has the building plan been passed by the lessor.
9. What is the legal and lawful laid down procedure of the Ministry of Housing & Works for the change of land use of plots owned by them?

It may be noted that Freedom of Information Ordinance was promulgated in October 2002 and came into force at once, as provided in its Section 1(3). The Section 13 of the Ordinance provides that citizens will be provided information within 21 days after the request is made. ☐

Illegal Madrassa - Plot No. 145-L, Block-2, Hali Road, PECHS.

On behalf of the residents, we have complained since the Masoomen Trust started their first illegal madrassa on Plot No. 145-M (*adjacent to this plot in 1997*). The trustees had an air raid shelter + G + 1 approved for a residential house. However, in connivance with the KBCA officers they allowed the

trustees to build Basement + G + 1 madrassa. They went to court _ gave an undertaking _ broke the law _ had the same regularized and now are doing the same on Plot No. 145-L.

In light of the present law and order situation, we support the residents that any religious place should not be

allowed by changing land use in residential area where they can become a security concern for all.

We know that people are extremely touchy about stopping illegal mosques and madrassas - but the law must be upheld. □

Violation of Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997

Approval of layout plan of M/s. Bagh-e-Zuhra Welfare trust Land measuring 6776 sq. Vide Survey No. 907, Deh Thano Malir

Please consider the following:

1. Planning & sub-division of land cannot be done by MDP, but must be done by MPO. Chapters 3 & 18 of the Karachi Building & Town Planning Regulations 2002 mandate that such Major Sub-divisions (*greater than 1 hectare/2.47 acres*) have to be approved by the Master Plan department.

2. Not provided is a technical study (*availability or non-availability*

of utilities/proposed Major Sub-division), nor provided is a copy of the layout plans. How can we be expected to submit pertinent comments or objections? Objections to what?

3. As per Item H-1 of Schedule-II of Review of IEE & EIA Regulations, 2002 notified under PEPA 1997, projects on land-use and urban plans in large cities like Karachi require an EIA, with public participation. Has this been carried out by CDGK or MDP? Please send us a copy by mail.

4. Under what law is the proposed layout plan being approved?

5. Is the plot affected by the Sindh Urban State Land (*Cancellation of Allotments, Conversions, Exchange*) Ordinance 2000?

6. Does the scheme fit into the overall planning of KDA Scheme 25-A and the City of Karachi? Is it in accordance with the established Zoning Regulations?

7. How will the KESC, KWSB, SSGCL, PTCL service the layout? Can the overloaded utilities network cater to such ad hoc/incremental demands?

We anxiously await the reply of concern departments, so that we can submit detailed comments/objections. □



A city
seeking
its past
glory

CONSERVATION

Update on the project: Helping the Turtles Survive

Shehri-CBE updates its readers on the progress in the green turtle onservation project, "Helping the Turtles Survive"

The following activities have been completed during the first phase of the project:

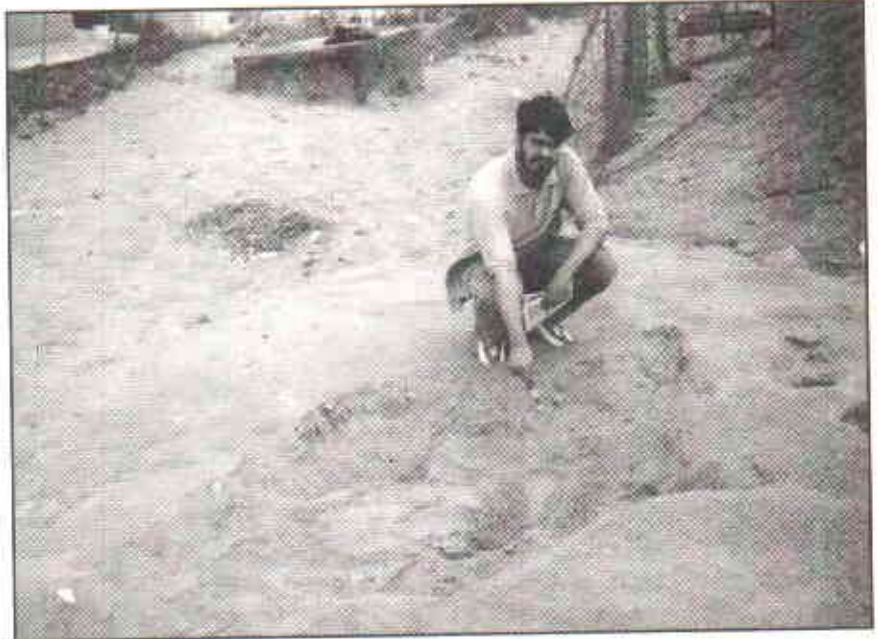
Development of survey techniques/tools programs for ecological/social assessment of critical turtle nesting/hatching grounds - Statistical Program for Social Survey (SPSS)

A detailed baseline survey/sampling exercise covering the physical, social and environmental aspects of the Sandspit/Hawksbay green turtle beach habitat has been completed. Target community for the survey exercise was the Hut Chowkidars. Hut chowkidars were selected as target community as their training as Environmental Stewards in the later stage of the project is an integral and strategic part of the project.

In addition, they are in the best position to provide vital information on the visiting green turtles and their habitat. Focus of the survey was the acquisition and gathering of information on the various aspects of the beach habitat, their inter-relationships and how they relate to the project objective of green turtle conservation.

A preliminary spatial survey of the turtles nesting habitat has also been carried out to record observations on the physical aspects of the green turtle nesting area in relation with the public opinion gathered.

The survey methodology was developed based on the determination of the type of research, response format, sample type/respondent type - unit of analysis and data preparation/validity. The tool used for data checking/log-



Surveying the Green Turtle habitat

ging, assessing the conclusion validity of the collected data, data transformation, documenting of a data base structure and detailed analytical assessment of the turtle habitat is the Statistical Program for Social Survey (SPSS). The data collected during the survey was later fed into the SPSS that is state-of-the-art computer software used as a tool for organizing, analyzing and synthesizing data on subjects related to social sciences and human-environment interaction. SPSS provides useful cross-tabulations/correlations between the various data output.

It can also serve as a tool for reducing the plausibility of the most likely threats to validity, thereby leaving as most plausible the conclusion reached in the study. All these attributes of the SPSS software were utilized during the course of the analytical work on the project.

Development of Habitat Protection Strategies/Plans

As a result of the analytical output and evaluation of survey and secondary data, certain conclusions were reached. In light of the conclusion reached, a strategic framework has been developed which is based on the following key imperative of sustainable habitat management.

- Need for dialogue - Consensus and compromise
- Establishment of Environmental Criteria - Environmentally appropriate legal instruments
- Training of Environmental Stewards
- Institutional Strengthening
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management



Development of Eco-system specific Environmental Criteria

As a result of the data analysis and related work in the field, specific environmental variables needed for the development of the relevant environmental criteria have been established for ensuring the suitability of the project area as an environmentally sound turtle-nesting habitat.

A *Process Oriented Habitat Model* has been identified for use to assess the suitability of the project area for turtle nesting/hatching.

The Model can be used to assess the plausible causal relationships or functional processes underlying habitat use, and therefore provides a general conceptual framework for assessing species-habitat relationship.

The output of the model is a *Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)* score that evaluates the aptness of the study area for the species - in this case, the turtles (*their nesting batching process*). Presently, the Environmental Criteria needed for the determination of the Habitat Suitability Index have been identified.

Preparation of Monitoring/ Surveillance tools for Environmental Stewardship

Based on the results of the survey, analysis and establishment of environmental criteria, a framework for the monitoring, surveillance and performance checking/evaluation of the Environmental Stewards has been developed.

Development of Public Awareness tools

With regards the development of public awareness tools, fruitful contacts have been established with academic institutions and NGO's.

A comprehensive legal review of all the documents related with land-use and environmental management in the project area is underway. This review would in the later phase of the project, lead to the formulation of suggested changes in the Hut Lease Deeds operative in the area.

The legal review process is being fed by the analytical output resulting from the physical and public opinion surveys conducted in the project area.

At the suggestion of Shehri-CBE, a project was initiated in the Indus Valley School of Arts & Architecture, whereby students were asked to develop a theme and a logo for the project and also design a car sticker.

Assisted by the faculty of the School, a theme/logo and sticker was selected. The car sticker has been printed and has gained much popularity within the city. Design work has also started for the preparation of a *Portable Turtle Exhibit Kit* for use in promoting the cause of turtle conservation in local

schools. Similarly, preliminary work on the design of further awareness tools such as mugs and paper-weights is also underway.

Shehri-CBE is coordinating with a local NGO, Book Group for the preparation of a booklet, *Kachwa Kahani*. The booklet is aimed at creating awareness among school children about the need of preserving and protecting the turtle and their habitat. It is expected that the booklet will become part of the school curriculum of certain schools that include in their curriculum books and teaching guides on issues related with environmental protection.

The text for the book is being finalized while illustrations are also being prepared. Expert guidance of the Sindh

Wildlife Department and the Worldwide Fund for Nature-Pakistan has been sought in the preparation of the text.

Contacts have been established with a number of local schools to explore possibilities of their involvement in the project activities such as an Internship Program and assistance as volunteers in turtle watch tours.

Shehri-CBE is also coordinating with a local advertising agency for the preparation of short messages and jingles for airing on FM 100 and FM 107 networks. In this regard, fruitful contacts have been established with the management of FM 100 and FM 107 networks.

Meetings/consultations with landowning/management agencies

Detailed meetings and contacts with relevant officials of Karachi Port Trust (KPT)/Manora Cantonment Board have resulted in the gathering of useful information/data on the beach area under the jurisdiction of KPT/Manora Cantonment Board. Information includes detailed maps/hut lease deeds/building rules/regulations etc. Meetings have also been held with the City District Government Karachi (CDGK) and Karachi Building Control Authority (KBCA) officials/Town Administration Keamari Town.

Legal Review

A comprehensive legal review of all the documents related with land-use and environmental management in the project area is underway. This review would in the later phase of the project, lead to the formulation of suggested changes in the Hut Lease Deeds operative in the area. The legal review process is being fed by the analytical output resulting from the physical and public opinion surveys conducted in the project area.



Problems or difficulties in Project Implementation

The only major difficulty in project implementation encountered so far is the lack of information received from the City District Government Karachi (CDGK). While detailed information regarding land use management and Hut Lease Deeds is documented and available with the management of the KPT and Manora Cantonment Board, similar level of documentation has not been made by the Land Department of the City Government.

The project team has been unable to obtain a copy of the Hut Lease Deed from the land department of the CDGK. Only a renewal of lease document could be accessed. Similarly, the project team has not been able to access related detailed information like record of hut owners/lease status and detailed site maps.

How have these problems/difficulties been addressed

Extensive literature review, physical field survey and positive coordination with organizations like WWF-Pakistan have to some extent helped in overcoming the problems created as a result of inadequate documentation at the City Government level.

Assessment of project achievements to date based on indicators in project work plan

The detailed survey and analytical work has resulted in the documentation of important social and ecological statistics that would feed positively into the overall project planning/development process.

The previously indicated threatened status of the turtles and their habitat has been validated and put into proper perspective as a result of the evaluation and analysis of the collected data through establishing linkages and relationships between project

variables. The evaluation of the Hut Chowkidars as potential Environmental Stewards, on balance, provides a positive feedback.

The willingness shown by the Hut Chowkidars for assuming the role of Environmental Stewards provides positive support and endorsement for key program deliverables during the implementation phase of the project.

Their apparent inability to link certain key variables with respect to the protection of turtles and their habitat can have various attributed reasons, namely restricted knowledge level or lack of sufficient incentives to seek greater participation and knowledge on turtle/habitat protection.

This limited clarity on interconnecting issues needs not be seen as a hurdle in their assuming the role of effective Environmental Stewards.

In fact, it provides a challenge and offers useful indicators for suitable incorporation in the planned training programs/modules.

The analytical output has also resulted in the development of a critical strategic framework for habitat management that addresses the key project objectives in a holistic manner. A significant achievement of the project has been the development of critically important environmental variables/environmental criteria that would lead to the determination of *Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)* for the turtle nesting grounds in the project area.

The Habitat Suitability Index would provide the benchmark, the achievement of which should ensure that the

project area remains as a suitable habitat for turtle nesting/hatching.

Based on the results of the survey, analysis and establishment of environ-

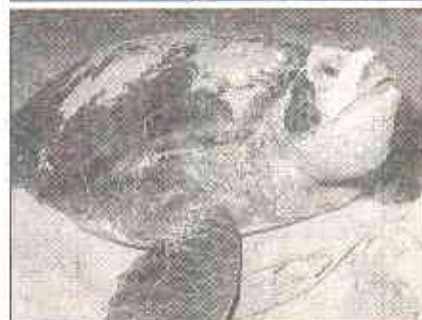
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mental criteria, a framework for the monitoring, surveillance and performance checking/evaluation of the environmental Stewards has been developed. It would be further developed during the preparation of the training program for the Hut Chowkidars and subsequently implemented during the next turtle-nesting season.

In the development of the public awareness tools, valuable contacts and partnerships have been established with other NGO's and academic institutions. An important consideration for this project has been the involvement of youth in turtle conservation efforts.

In this regard, the involvement of the students and faculty of the prestigious Indus Valley School of the Arts & Architecture is a positive development. While they are presently involved in the designing of turtle souvenirs and related public awareness tools, their further long-term involvement in turtle conservation efforts is also being considered. □

Project website:
www.shehri.org/turtleconservation





RESEARCH

Devolution & Decentralization: Analysing the case of Jamshed Town

Sumreen Mirza assesses the impact of the devolution of power process on the emerging social indicators in Jamshed Town and discusses potential for improving the quality of urban living.

Jamshed Town's two strategic development zones constitute impoverished communities divided across multiple jurisdictions. Caused by historical patterns of development as well as the more recent process of decentralization, this fragmentation poses a unique challenge to the newly established local government councils.

A primary challenge for the new regime will be coordinating development amongst numerous community organizations and across three tiers of local government. To be successful, local government should focus on embracing its new role as the facilitator of development.

With such small but densely populated jurisdictions, it is difficult to prevent the benefits or externalities of development efforts in one area from impacting surrounding communities. The hazards from polluted rivers and uncovered sewage channels are burdens shared to varying degrees across the city. For this reason, collaboration across local and municipal boundaries is a necessity. Coordinating development will be a process of continuous negotiation between competing interests and diverse constituencies.

Development problems may supersede administrative borders, but it is uncertain to what degree cross-community cooperation will as well. Many community organizations may attribute their cohesion and volunteer spirit to the fact that its members share the same religious or ethnic identity. This would require them to partner with diverse groups in order to work

in different communities. Local government officials will need to be capable of mediating the differences.

Given the high public expectations but limited public resources, local governments will need to find innovative ways to help communities to achieve the level of development they desire. Poverty maps can help bridge the communication gap between neighborhoods, community organizations, and reticent government officials. Using GIS to analyze development indicators from a spatial dimension also helps focus resources and efforts on areas of common concern.

In customizing policies to meet the complex needs of poverty-stricken communities, local officials will meet with resistance from political elites. They may use the new mechanisms for community participation to capture public funds and use them for other purposes.

Local government will need to have strong institutional arrangements to monitor and regulate the operations of Citizen Community Boards to ensure public accountability. Vigilance is an important ingredient in enabling community based development.

In reality, Census blocks are not the unit of planning, but instead the process begins at the neighborhood and community level. With participative decentralization, community groups have been empowered to carry out their own development projects and receive partial public funding.

Local government has the critical responsibility to cultivate and enable

such efforts. In this way, local government and communities share stewardship of the built environment.

It is in a highly politicized urban space that the dynamics of local geographical targeting are being tested. How well such targeting policies will be received is highly dependent upon the political environment, which is in turn shaped by the city's historical development. No doubt, the politics of geographical targeting will also be influenced by the design of the decentralized system of government.

A participative development component of local government decentralization is relatively new to the international development scene. Karachi is fortunate to have some well-established indigenous civil society organizations that can support the establishment of Citizen Community Boards to monitor local government. Already familiar with the bureaucratic culture and the local environmental conditions, such organizations are prepared for the numerous challenges that lay ahead.

Conclusion

Urban blight is degrading the quality of life in Jamshed Town. An integrated approach to Town planning will require prioritizing needs and balancing competing interests. One such strategy demonstrated here has been the construction of a rough baseline to assess the state of service delivery and identify the areas in greatest need for improvement. The development profile has also shown that community based development has not been suffi-



cient in improving conditions and quality of life here. In response, it has been recommended that participative decentralization, as embodied in *bottom-up planning*, be strengthened with more clear guidelines.

The implementation of decentralization in Jamshed Town has closely followed the methodology of the Census, delineating political units with similar population size and development levels. This has resulted however, in inter-Union inequality. The benefits and disadvantages of high-end residential development, lucrative commercial development, public utilities, and undesirable development are not shared equally. More specifically, Unions 1,2,3,4,8 and 9 are experiencing significantly greater development hardship than the other seven Unions.

The State is delegating service delivery to private and nonprofit institutions by devolving the power to plan and finance such activities to the communities they represent. However, in the unplanned settlements where the

cross boundary nature of geographical features is compounding lack of services, CCBs will need to cooperate with each other and with both Union and Town councils in order to secure the amount of funding required for a more comprehensive rehabilitation.

One consequence of Karachi's decentralization has been the fragmentation of poor areas. For the poor, this has the potential to improve or worsen their living conditions. Decentralization holds the promise of increasing public attention to their needs, and possibly inducing more investment that will benefit the poor.

The very act of devolving power to the local level also makes it possible for local elites to dominate the development

discussion, and where rich and poor strike a power balance, resentment and competition from the creation of so many more constituencies can block development progress. Whether the poor will reap the benefits of a decentralized system depends upon local conditions, which vary across the urban space.

The implementation of decentralization in Jamshed Town has closely followed the methodology of the Census, delineating political units with similar population size and development levels. This has resulted however, in inter-Union inequality. The benefits and disadvantages of high-end residential development, lucrative commercial development, public utilities, and undesirable development are not shared equally.

As the Unions focus on remedying their individual development sinks, the Town must focus on a long-term plan at a larger scale of operation. The Town's foremost development priority is servicing residential areas initially established informally, and which may or may not have legal cover today. This can be achieved by first reducing the hazards of their physical environment. The Town's second develop-

Table 3. Methodology for Identification of Development Zones

A development zone was defined as a contiguous group of blocks that reports low development indicators.

QUESTION	METHOD	MEASURES	OUTCOME
Which Unions are the worst off?	Ranking of Unions	Calculate aggregate totals for the union in all variables of interest.	Compares Unions to one another to identify "Union sinks"
Where are the lowest levels of development in the Town?	Basic Statistics	Calculate: Mean, Median, Minimum Maximum, Standard Deviation and construct: Histogram General Distribution Map	Characterizes the general distribution and identifies "development sinks," highest or lowest values for every variable, as appropriate.
Where are clusters of low development across the Town?	Spatial autocorrelation	Spatial autocorrelation will be measured using the Local Moran's I Statistic. The confidence statistic (or "z statistic") for Local Moran's I is calculated by comparing the local Moran's I statistic to the expected value.	Identifies spatial patterns in the levels of development, particularly along geographical features. Uses a confidence statistic to determine statistically significant clusters.

**Table 2. Jamshed Town's Union Populations**

Population in Jurisdiction (access to elected representative)	% of Town Population*	Total Population	Union No.	Union Name
Greater than 70,000 people (More than 3,000 people per councillor)	29%	72,832	2	Manzoor Colony
		70,506	10	Jamshed Quarters
		70,132	8	Jat Land Lines
55,000 - 55,000 people (About 2,500 people per councillor)	24%	64,016	9	Central Jacob Line
		57,189	6	PECHS I
		55,540	11	Garden East
55,000 - 65,000 people (About 2,500 people per councillor)	28%	53,718	7	PECHS II
		52,459	4	Chanesar Goth
		51,061	5	Mahmoodabad
		50,354	12	Soldier Bazar
Less than 50,000 people (About 2,000 people per councillor)	18%	47,580	3	Azam Basti
		43,063	13	Pakistan Quarters
		43,059	1	Akhtar Colony
Total (About 2,680 people per councillor)		713,509		

*Figures have been rounded off so may not total 100%.

Source: Population figures from 1998 Census of Karachi and totals calculated with GIS

ment priority is to revitalize the decaying inner city neighborhoods that also constitute part of the Town. This can be achieved by improving service delivery and easing densification pressures.

Analyzing data on a disaggregated scale can provide useful insights for local planning decisions but to do so is difficult and requires the investment of substantial time and resources. As Union councils determine what new sources of data are required to provide more meaningful analysis, it is important for them to consider opportunities for data collaboration.

Efforts to gain access to existing road network maps in GIS from the Citizen Police Liaison Commission could go a long way to making maps more readable and informative. Furthermore, before every agency or every council attempts to build its own GIS, efforts

to develop a coordinated or common database should be explored to facilitate multiple indicator analysis on a range of geographical and political scales.

This is just the first step towards future local comparisons. The 2010 Census will provide a new benchmark by which to grade the efforts of the metropolitan, town and union councils. Future data can help to determine how well decentralized government has improved pro-poor investment.

With richer data, it would also be worthwhile to develop further understanding of the process of self and community upgrading. Local data and poverty maps can answer such questions as to what are some of the factors that promote the upgrading in one block and not another? Why are some communities more successful than others? This would be especially inter-

esting if carried out along the borders of neighboring towns and military cantonment.

Karachi's new political boundaries have created an uncertain and precarious reality. New community identities are being forged along artificial borders. These borders have become the new lines along which communities are forced to plan, develop and cooperate for the short and long term. If the Town council can remain sensitive to the diverse needs of its constituency it may be possible to finally integrate unplanned settlements into the formal framework. □

Sumreen Mirza is a graduate of Tufts University, USA - completing her Masters Program in Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning and Arts in Law and Diplomacy

**Seawater inundates
three villages in Badin**

The Star: June 1, 2004

Reports reaching here from the coastal belt said that at least three villages have come under seawater. Bahder Khan Lund, Chaker Khan and Shaikhani Ghari have come under the seawater due to the gusty winds. The tides continued to play havoc and caused great damage to the already vulnerable LBOD embankments. The residents of the submerged villages told journalists of Badin that their villages were inundated due to breaches and vulnerable LBOD embankments.

**Naimat makes detour to
moot on city's waste plant**

Daily Times: May 21, 2004

City District Government Karachi (CDGK) and an American firm GBS Technologies Inc. USA held discussions to set up 500 MW power plant in Karachi on Wednesday.

The company will prepare draft plan of the plant and submit it with CDGK in next four to six weeks. A new technology "Plasma" would be introduced to generate power from waste and coal.

**Three business concerns
get environmental
reporting awards**

The News: June 5, 2004

The ACCA-WWP gave away their coveted Pakistan Environmental Reporting awards (PERA) 2003 to three business concerns engaged in voluntary environmental auditing in Pakistan.

Unilever (Pakistan) Limited, best report in the multinational company category; National Refinery Limited, best report in the local-listed company category and lastly a commendation for Qarshi Industries (Pvt) Ltd., in the non-listed local company category were the winners.



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.

GARMENT FACTORY IN RESIDENTIAL AREA

We, residents of Modern Co-operative Housing Society, signed as under; invite your kind attention towards a serious problem and violation of law that has created a lot of problems and difficulties for its residents and request assistance in finding solutions and necessary action.

1. A Garment Factory is being established at 20-Modern co-operative Housing Society. As you are well aware that this is a residential society and nobody should use its property, commercially, within this society.

2. That; due to the business activities being carried out under this factory is suffering its neighbours and the surrounding residents by;

a. It causes inconvenience and is dangerous due to the movement

of loading commercial vehicles, driving through the society for loading/unloading raw material/finished products.

b. The rapid movement of loading vehicles may result in an accident. It is also creating problems of pollution and noise that are really disturbing the peaceful environment of the society.

c. The workers being appointed for the factory and the visitors visiting the factory are also creating a security problem.

Keeping in view of all above, we request your to seal the said property and cancel lease, by putting immediate necessary action against the same. □

- Residents of Modern Cooperative Housing Society

managed trash and garbage dumps are our problem, lack of recreational facilities are of our own doing and it is we who should become its undoing, its solution is my dream for Karachi, My city and my home. □

MY CITY

Sumra Zia
St. Patrick's Girls School Class V-C

Karachi is the name of my city;
And is very dear to me
Once it was called the city of lights
Now it has turned into the city of fights.
Every where is the city of peril;
In every street there is a quarrel
Happiness is now very rare;
People have their hearts filled with scare.
Every young and old in the city is fearful
No one now here in the city is cheerful
The streets are silent and noiseless;
And the terrorists roam fearless.

Karachi's Children: Dreams of a Better Tomorrow My Role for Karachi

Hudaifa Gul Rashid
St. Patrick's Girls School Class V-C

Karachi is the city of fights
But I will make it the city of lights
Everybody is carrying a gun
But I will make the days and
nights full of fun
The streets are full of crime
But I will bring the police on time
Nobody worries about the pollution
But I will find some solution
Though I don't like the way it is
I know it can be a lot better than this.

My Dream, my role for Karachi

Fawwad Khan
Nasra School Class VII-C

Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah once said *Work, work, work and only work*. My dream is to follow this wise saying of our great leader and founder of our dear country Pakistan.

Karachi is one of the biggest cities in the world and had been once the capital of Pakistan. It is a cos-

ing an active role for the betterment of Karachi and its people.

My first step will be to finish all types of corruption that has entered into our society and is destroying our moral values.

Karachi was, once called the *city of lights*, but now a days due to

I want to make Karachi green by growing more trees and I want to increase the number of parks. I dream of improving the traffic systems by making few flyovers so that there is a smooth flow of traffic and no traffic jams. I also want to improve the drainage system and make my city clean of over flowing gutters.



YOUNG VOICES

Editorial

Water, water everywhere

Water. It is not just Man's basic need but essential to all life on Earth. Imagine if this necessity were to become a luxury... And this is exactly what may happen and soon enough if we are not careful in water conservation - and here by conservation the reference is not just to its use but also its abuse ranging from overuse to the addition of various pollutants.

A case in point is that of Manchar in our very own country where high levels of pollutants caused avoidable casualties. It is said that the Government has undertaken to provide compensation to the families of the victims... Yet the question remains: who are we to blame? The Government as a convenient target; the industries, for emptying their pollution into the pure Pakistani waters: or ourselves, for sitting and watching... and watching... □

TIT BITS

The youth pay tribute to their city - **KARACHI!!**

My Dream for Karachi My City My Home

Farhan Saad Ahmed
St. Paul High School Class IX

The sun was shining brightly as a cool breeze spread over the bright red flowers on my right, to rattle the beautiful plant on my left. At that moment, I felt my countenance to be the true personification of surprise and delight. I felt that I was not in my senses, that my memory had betrayed me. I had been living in this place for years, and had known this place very well. The place that once I recognized with heap of garbage of dirty symbols of poverty was all of a sudden filled with flowers of different colours, smiling upon their elegantly bright green hosts who were equally generous in their reception. The green grass, so smooth and maintained, produced a vista that my startled sight was refusing to believe. The dirty water and the open sewage lines, which had alienated this area from beauty, were nowhere to be found, and only a smooth and shining well built road in the centre and nature on its sides.

The cars went by and so did buses but I knew that these contraptions were beyond my recognition. The black fumes that I have attributed to these had disappeared and it seemed only right, as no evil is allowed into heaven. I picked up the newspaper, and its revelations were equally starting. The paper that once told stories of hunger, poverty, murder and violence was now singing notes of achievement, peace and prosperity. But all of a sudden, everything went away, and nothing but darkness was left of the magnificent scene, and then, I knew it was just a dream.

The papers still narrated stories of murder and violence, Hunger and poverty were still cracking young bones. The sewage lines were still open and flowing, and the government was just as ignorant. It was a shock, but this time, it was accompanied by grief and disappointment. Dreams and reality were as different as heaven and earth.



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.** Which organization / authority is responsible for management of facilities / utilities at Sandspit Beach?
Erum Hussain, DHA, Karachi
- A.** Manora Cantonment Board
- Q.** How many times during the breeding season do the green turtles nest?
Kashif Mirza, Dehli Colony, Karachi.
- A.** Two to three times (nesting season, August - October)
- Q.** What is the maximum weight of the green turtle?
Sultan Ahmed, Buffer Zone, Karachi
- A.** An adult green turtle can weigh upto 440 lbs.

Shehri needs volunteers to work in its following subcommittees

Legal
Media & Outreach
Anti-Pollution
Parks & Recreation
Gun Free Society
Conservation & Heritage
Fund Raiser

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 : _____

SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your
membership for 2004!

Join Shehri and do your bit as a



Open sewers, choking water line and overflow of sewage water, destroying our roads are our problems. Traffic jams and a disorganized public transport, potholes and unrepaired roads are our roads are our problem, mismanaged trash and garbage dumps are our problem, lack of recreational facil-

ities is our problem, poverty and hunger are our problems, lack of law and order, violence and murder are our problem.

We are surrounded by problems that are of our own doing and it is we who should become its undoing, its solu-

tions. I pray for a true Karachi, the city of lights, an administrative example, an emblem of success, a symbol of prosperity. I want it to become a story of meteoric development, a place to be proud of, and the Quaid's city. This is my dream for Karachi, My city and my home. □

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Sumra Zia
St. Patricks Girls School Class V-C

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Karachi is one of the biggest cities in the world and had been once the capital of Pakistan. It is a cosmopolitan city i.e. people from all over Pakistan and outside Pakistan, with different languages, religions, culture set alive here.

Karachi has tremendous problems which are making life difficult for the common man. I dream of play-

ing an active role for the betterment of Karachi and its people.

My first step will be to finish all types of corruption that has entered into our society and is destroying our moral values.

Karachi was, once called the *city of lights* but now a days due to dacoity, robbery, terrorist attacks and sniper shootings, life has become uncertain and extremely difficult for the people. I dream of making my dear city, a place of peace and tranquility, where people live in love and harmony.

I want to make Karachi green by growing more trees and I want to increase the number of parks. I dream of improving the traffic systems by making few flyovers so that there is a smooth flow of traffic and no traffic jams. I also want to improve the drainage system and make my city clean of over flowing gutters.

If my dream comes true, and if I play an active role for the improvement of my city, I will be the happiest person on earth. □



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

Address : _____

Occupation : _____

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Join Shehri and do your bit as a
good citizen to make this city a
clean, healthy and environmentally
friendly place to live in!



POLLUTION

Drinking Water Pollution: A criminal neglect?

As the death toll from consuming polluted drinking water increases by the day in Hyderabad city, attention is drawn by Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg to the critical lapses that occur in the process of bringing the water from the source to the consumer

The source of drinking water in most urban centres of Sindh is canal water. These centres include the large cities Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Mirpur Khas and others with a population between 50,000 and 500,000, which include Jacobabad, Nawabshah, Thatta and Badin. Shikarpur, Larkana and Dadu draw their supply from groundwater.

Water supply systems installed in a majority of urban centres with population between 25,000 and 50,000 provide unsafe drinking water.

In major cities, the water is filtered as well as chlorinated. About 75% of the water supplied to Karachi and Hyderabad, about 66% in Sukkur, 60% in Badin, 50% or less in Jacobabad and Nawabshah and about 20% in Thatta is treated with chlorine. No chlorination is effected in Mirpur Khas, Larkana, Shikarpur, Dadu and Kotri as well as other cities and towns. The 25 to 35% water remaining untreated in the three large cities viz. Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur, in addition to the 40 to 50% untreated in Badin, Jacobabad, and Nawabshah and 80% in Thatta cannot be considered safe for drinking.

Similarly, Mirpurkhas, Larkana, Shikarpur, Dadu have been provided with sedimentation tank only. The absence of sewage treatment facility and the faulty/leaky sewerage lines have contaminated the groundwater which has the potential to pollute water in the underground tanks. Analysis of ground water from wells, tubewells, or hand pumps shows that they are invariably contaminated with sewage organisms.

The water that leaks through the distribution lines, creates an underground pool during the supply hours. This serves as a nursery to the microorganisms, including sewage bacteria from sewerage pipelines criss-crossing the supply lines. The entire pool is sucked back into the distribution system due to vacuum created during idle hours. This is the reason for the gradual depletion of free chlorine in the treated water as it proceeds from the treat-



Sources of sewage water often get mixed with drinking water supply

ment plant to the distribution system and in its onward journey to the households.

Water from almost 95% of the wells in the cities of Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur and over 90% in their suburbs is contaminated with sewage bacteria and also contains total dissolved solids beyond permissible limits. Some of the toxic materials like inorganic and organic chemicals, the dyes, pesticides etc., discharged by large scale consumers, immediately outside their shops or working area, often find their pathway into the ground water through seepage and thus contaminate it seriously.

Groundwater has been over-exploited

in Sindh and the drying of traditional wells in the vegetable and fruit growing areas in the suburbs of Karachi is the case in example. Permanent damage has been done to the ecosystem of the barani or rained areas and of urban centres in coastal areas of Sindh. The salinity of groundwater in Southern Sindh, particularly the coastal areas has increased since over pumping has induced seawater to flow in, causing what is known as seawater intrusion.

Serious efforts are needed to plug the sources of pollution otherwise the quality of water will degrade further. These efforts will have to include conservation practices to minimize the production of wastewater, plugging the leakages from the sewerage as well as water supply lines on top priority basis, treatment of wastewater from the municipalities and industries as well as filtration and treatment of water at all water supply stations, be they in the towns or cities. What is essentially needed is monitoring the performance of the treatment system and transparency on the quality of water supplied to users.

In the absence of reliable supply of water, people have been forced to avail the supply from tankers. The quality of such water is invariably not fit for drinking. In view of the unreliable quality of drinking water, those who can afford it, have resorted to using bottled mineral water. Supply of bottled water has become a roaring business but has had no quality control on the supplies. Strict control on quality of water supplied by tankers or in bottles should therefore become mandatory. □



Citizen - Police Interaction

Shehri

Activities



Shehri participates in walk - Tasman Spirit Disaster



Visit of AKU - IED delegation

Formation of
Citizen Community
Board

HEHRI-CBE