



"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

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

JANUARY - MARCH 2015

ENCROACHMENT ISSUE - THE ULTIMATE URBAN MENACE IN PAKISTAN

Pakistani authorities have taken a toll on encroachers with the recent nationwide campaign against illegal possession and construction. From Islamabad to Karachi, city governments are demolishing unlawful structures and evicting criminal occupants to release amenity plots from the clutches of the land mafia.

On April 4, 2015 the citizens of Karachi celebrated as the illegitimate marriage hall of Senator Babar Ghauri was taken down by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation on the directive of Minister for Local Government Sharjeel Memon. The plot was being used for commercial activity as opposed to the approved amenity plot sub category of welfare hospital determined for land use. Ghauri was charged guilty under 'The Sindh Public Property (Removal of Encroachment) Act 2010'.

Soon after, on April 8, 2015 an ad appeared in the famous English and Urdu newspaper dailies warning encroachers to ward off activity on amenity plots or suffer the punishment inflicted during the anti-encroachment drive. All amenity plot leases and allotments were cancelled by Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) through resolution no. 26 passed by the Administrator Karachi Saqib Ahmed Soomro on March 30th 2015.

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH NOTIFICATION KARACHI, THE 26TH OCTOBER, 2010

NO.PAS/Legls-B-21/2010-The Sindh Public Property (Removal of Encroachment) Bill, 2010 having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 27th September, 2010 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 20th October, 2010 is hereby published as an Act of the Legislature of Sindh.

THE SINDH PUBLIC PROPERTY (REMOVAL OF ENCROACHMENT) ACT, 2010
SINDH ACT NO: XVIII OF 2010

FOUNDED BY QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

Wednesday
April 8, 2015
Jumad-ul-Baqi 18, 1436
KARACHI

Rs 19.00
50 Pages
Vol. LXIX No. 97
Page No. 59-60

DAWN

Instructions/Information for amenity plot owners

On the instructions of
Mr. Sharjeel Inam Memon
(Minister for Local Government, Sindh),
Saqib Ahmed Soomro, Administrator, Karachi
has passed a resolution No. 26 on 30th March
2015 by the powers given to him by the Council
under Notification No. SOA/LG/4(37)2011 on 7th
December 2011.

Details are as under:
"Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has permitted to cancel the lease, allotment and authorized to seal the amenity plots of Karachi Development Authority after taking back the possessions of those plots that are not used according to the amenities purpose they were allotted for".

Therefore the owners of amenity plots are advised to stop commercial usage of the amenity plots. Otherwise Karachi Metropolitan Corporation will take strict action against the amenity plot owners under the resolution mentioned above.

Local Government Department
Government of Sindh

INSIDE

Political Consultation...

P-7

24th Annual General Meeting

P-9

Gender Integrated Planning...

P-10

Mass Transit System-Karachi

P-11

Unplanned Urbanization...

P-13

27th "Human Rights and
Law Enforcement.

P-14

The Day The Nation Cried...

APS Peshawar Attack!

P-15

FOI Workshop

P-17

Continued on Page 3

SHEHRI - CBE

88-R, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S,
Karachi 75400 – Pakistan.
Tel/Fax: +92-21-34 53 06 46
E-mail: info@shehri.org
Url: www.shehri.org

EDITORIAL

Shehri-CBE Team

MANAGING COMMITTEE**Chairperson:**

Sameer Hamid Dodhy

Vice Chairperson:

Derrick Dean

General Secretary:

Amber Ali Bhai

Treasurer:

Amra Javed

Members:

Nooruddin Ahmed
Mohammad Ali Rasheed
Roland de'Souza

SHEHRI STAFF**Coordinator:**

Sarwar Khalid

Assistant Coordinator:

Mohammad Rehan Ashraf

Manager Communications:

S. Humna Mehewish Al-Quadri

Accounts Consultant:

Irfan Shah

Help Desk Assistant:

Kathleen Alexander

Office Assistant:

Mohammad Tahir

Office Boy:

Khursheed Ahmed

Security Guard:

Muhammad Mujahid

SHEHRI Founding Members

- 1.Mr. Kalid Nadvi (Economist)
- 2.Barrister Qazi Faez Isa
- 3.Ms. Humaira Rehman (Architect)
- 4.Mr. Danish Azar Zubay (Architect)
- 5.Mr. Navaid Husain (Architect)
- 6.Barrister Zain Sheikh
- 7.Dr. Kaiser Bengali (Economist)

Contributions Are Welcome

Please contact the SHEHRI office for writers guidelines.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Editor/Editorial Board.

Production:

The Grid Art Cell: 0333-2276331
website: www.thegridart.com

SHEHRI-CBE

Acknowledges the support of the
Friedrich-Nauman Foundation
for the printing of this newsletter

*Editorial***CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS
DISRUPTING PEACE**

Just as the English are unearthing their medieval kings and reburialing them, Pakistanis are unearthing their medieval traditions of religious violence however, the reburialing is not expected anytime soon. 46 innocent lives were claimed in the recent attack on a religious minority and unfortunately this not a standalone incident. Hundreds have died in separate incidents.

Karachi has been suffering ethnic, religious, political and professional carnage far greater than any other metropolis in Pakistan. What is the solution to this? Apart from educating the masses we need a change in the mind set of law enforcement too. They are the first line of defense against the human rights violations in a society and hopefully, the inclusion of a 100 marks Human Rights (HR) course in the Training Course of Sindh Police will equip them with just the right knowledge and attitude to address these extremist grievances. Shehri is proud to have contributed to the society through our active advocacy leading to this inclusion of HR course.

Our team is also thankful to the citizens and civil society of Pakistan which has started to understand and enforce the importance of Right to Information and is assisting our organization in influencing a powerful Sindh Right to Information 2015 Bill to be passed by the Sindh Assembly. This bill will not only influence the bureaucracy to perform better but also help develop transparency and healthy competition between administrations divided by political boundaries.

We look forward to your intellectual contributions and comments to help us be better!

Shehri has been working on the encroachment issue since its inception in 1988 and has been able to release several severed public properties from the control of criminal elements. Our successes include demolition of Glass Tower encroachment on Clifton road, demolition of Costa Linina apartments on Ibn-e-Qasim Park in Clifton, halting of commercialization/sale of 11 Karachi Transport Corporation and 15 Sindh Road Transport Corporation bus depots, preventing commercialization of Doongi Ground park Lahore, protection of 62-acre Kidney Hill Park, along with many others.

In 2009 Shehri received a complaint from Al Mehrab

Tibbi Imdad (AMTI) that a donated hospice plot has been illegal occupied by an encroacher Asim Khan and the felon has filed a fake case against the property to prevent legal transfer to the social welfare organization.

The donor of the plot, Hassan Ali Haji, had passed away and now the land mafia network was digging in their heels to inhibit transfer. Shehri immediately got involved to assist the Legal heirs.



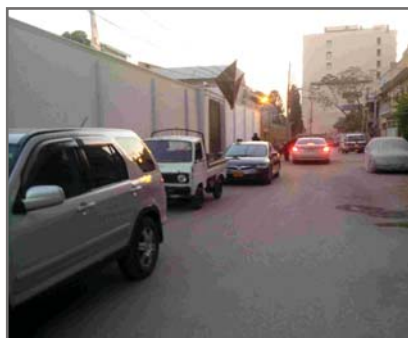
AL MEHRAB TIBBI IMDAD

Current Address: B-11, Block - A, S.M.C.H.S., Karachi, Pakistan.

AMTI is a hospice, which not only provides medical assistance to terminally ill but also provides for their basic and secondary needs. Founded by Justice (R) Majida Razvi, Liaquat Merchant, Amtul Rauf Khan, Amber Alibhai, Begum Bano Rangoonwala, Dr. Faridon Setna, Sherry Rehman, Begum Razia Nawazishali, Qaiser Nasim Jan, Saba Obaid, Faresa Ahsan, Spenta Kandawala and Iftikhar Soomro, **AMTI** boasts of its free medical care to Cancer patients whilst protecting their integrity and self-respect in the course of it.

Said Anwar is an Afghan National who is receiving treatment in **AMTI** for Cancer. Anwar had travelled illegally to Pakistan to find work to support his family. Instead, he ended up in the hospital to only discover his life-threatening disease. After half a month of treatments at hospitals he was referred to **AMTI** and was admitted in the latter. When his brother-in-law discovered his condition, he too, illegally travelled to Karachi paying bribes along the way to visit Said. Reaching **AMTI**, he felt relieved and said, "He has the best treatment here. There is no place like this in Afghanistan, he can swallow now."

Such touching stories are the norm at **AMTI**. The hospice provides quality care to terminally ill and provides free treatment 24/7. Food is prepared keeping in view the condition of the patients, bed linens are clean, facility spic and span, and doctors are available all the time. Inspired by such selfless endeavor of **AMTI**, Haji had decided to donate the abovementioned plot to the organization.

SNAKES AND LADDERS- SHEHRI AGAINST THE ENCROACHER AND HIS AIDES*Timeline of the Anti-encroachment saga***PROPERTY DETAILS:**

Address: E-36, Block 7, KDA Scheme 24, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi.
Plot Area: 1500 square yards
Donor: Hassan Ali Haji
Donee: Al-Mehrab Tibbi Imdad (AMTI)
Encroacher: Asim Khan
Group Helper: Shehri-CBE
Lessor: KDA/KMC

DATE	EVENT
Phase I - Allotment of the Plot, Demise of Allottee and Authorization of Power of Attorney	
03 September, 1965	Hassan Ali Haji s/o Cassim Haji gets plot E-36, Block 7, Gulshan-e-Iqbal through KDA balloting (Serial # HB/18815/3September1965)
26 December, 1966	Hassan Ali Haji s/o Cassim Haji, Executive Engineer in Pakistan Western Railways, is allotted Plot E-36 (1500 sq. yds.), Block 7, KDA Scheme No. 24, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi. Allotment Order EG/48/1038 Dated 26 Dec. 1966
08 December, 2008	Hassan Ali Haji passes away.
09 December, 2008	His siblings discover the file of the said plot of Hassan Ali Haji labelled "I wish to donate this plot to Al-Mehrab Tibbi Imdad (AMTI)"
26 December, 2008	Ms. Afroze Begum is nominated as the recipient of General Power of Attorney and is registered with Sub-Registrar III Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town, on behalf of all legal heirs of Hassan Ali Haji
Phase II - Process of Property Transfer	
06 May, 2009	All relevant papers along with the power of attorney were submitted to KDA/CDGK Land Department (Now Karachi Municipal Corporation) to process the case and transfer the property to AMTI.
25 May, 2009	CDGK refuses property transfer due to civil suit no. 1242/2009 filed in the Court of IXTH Civil Senior Judge East at Karachi by Asim Khan (Encroacher) s/o Abdul Rehman Khan.
27 July, 2009	Suit dismissed by Civil Court U/o VII Rule 11 Criminal Procedure Code stating that the suit was non-maintainable.
08 April, 2011	AMTI on the request of legal heirs paid a sum of PKR 14 Lacs as Non Utilization Fees (N.U.F.). This amount was illegally charged by CDGK since the possession was enjoyed by the encroacher.
13 April, 2011	Property of Hassan Ali Haji transferred by way of inheritance through Mutation Order no. CDGK/KDA Wing/Land/ Sch-24/2011/ Dated 13 Apr. 2011 to the legal heirs of Hassan Ali Haji.

15 February, 2012	Additional District Officer (W&S), Scheme 24, issued letter no. Addl. DO/Sch-36(S.D.)/2011/35 to encroacher to vacate the plot.
18 June, 2012	Ms. Afroze begum protested in a letter to CDGK Director Recoveries that even after illegal charging of N.U. F. from the allottee, the possession still rests with the encroacher. She asked for eviction of the criminal.
07 November, 2012	Ms. Khairunnisa, sister of Hassan Ali Haji, filed a constitutional petition no. 3922/2012 in High Court of Sindh asking it to direct CDGK to evict the encroacher and handover the property to AMTI.
04 November, 2013	Sindh High Court orders KMC to examine the property documents of the petitioner and the attorney of Asim Khan within 90 days to establish the property ownership by either of the two.
01 January, 2014	KMC Land Management Department (KDA wing) issues letter no. KDA Wing/KMC/LM/Sch-24/2014/02 to Ms. Afroze Begum and Asim Khan to visit Director Land Management to get their property documents authenticated.
08 January, 2014	Director Land Management examined the property documents provided by Ms. Afroze Begum, while encroacher failed to submit any.
15 January, 2014	C.P.L.A. No.23-K/2014 filed in the Supreme Court by Encroacher against High Court Order C.P.D No. 3922 of 2012 passed on 4 November, 2013.
23 January, 2014	Supreme court dismissed the petition C.P.L.A. No.23-K/2014 by the Encroacher
02 September, 2014	Contempt application no. C.M.A. No. 21912/2014 filed in Sindh High Court against KMC and encroacher.
12 September, 2014	Director Land Management 1 KDA KMC passed speaking order vide letter no. KDA Wing/KMC/DLM/2014/3714/L in compliance of Sindh High Court Order of 12 November, 2013 recognizing the genuine ownership of Ms. Afroze Begum.
18 September, 2014	Sindh High Court acknowledges KMC speaking order issued on 12 September, 2014 and directs the entity to implement the said order within 15 days.
24 September, 2014	Encroacher files suit no. 1774/2014 in Sindh High Court challenging KMC speaking order passed on 12 September, 2014.
Phase III- Handing over of Physical Possession	
05 November, 2014	Sindh High Court reviewed all past orders, by the Supreme Court and Sindh High court, with respect to the plot and passed order to KMC to handover physical possession of the plot to Ms. Afroze Begum.
10 November, 2014	Ms. Afroze Begum sent a letter to KMC Director Land Management to remind him of Sindh High Court Order directing KMC to handover physical possession of the plot.

16 December, 2014	KMC Estate and Enforcement Department (KDA Wing) issued letter no. KDA Wing/KMC/E&E/2014/33/L to Station House Officer Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi to assist the rightful owners in retrieving physical possession of the plot from the encroacher.
	Senior Director Land/Anti-Encroachment KMC Bilal Manzar and Station House Officer Sindh Police Shaukat Ali fail to demolish the illegal construction and hand over the plot to the legal heirs.
17 December, 2014	Advocate Yawar Farooqui, the attorney of legal heirs, contacted the High Court Judge to inform him of the failing. High court hearing was summoned at 12 pm in which Additional IG Sindh Police Ghulam Qadir Thebo promised adequate police force to oversee demolition and peaceful transfer of the plot.
18 December, 2014	12 feet tall illegal walls were demolished by KMC under Police security to reveal fake graves made by the encroacher to symbolize religious reverence. These were created to define the plot as a place of religious worship. The fake graves were also leveled by the KMC Staff.
19 December, 2014	Physical possession received by Ms. Afroze Begum through 'Acknowledgment and Possession Order' given by the Executive Engineer Scheme 36, Work and Services Land Department, KDA Wing, KMC.
Phase IV- Fake suit stalls sale of the plot	

Shehri continues to fight the war against encroachers as the plot is still restricted from sale due to yet another fake law suit filed against the said property. This story demonstrates the failings of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Sindh Police and Judiciary in allowing rightful owners to exercise their writ. It is obvious that the laws are in clear favor to the land grabbers and

the land mafia in the region and their continuous strife of filing fake cases does immense good to their illegal ventures, whilst the true owners struggle with the hefty fees of lawyers and endless delays to recognize their rightful property.

There is a strong need for not only a decisive legislation to prevent fake cases but also a dire need to

implement the existing laws into effect. Shehri is not ready to take a back seat, the team plans to fight back crime and uphold rule of law in this mega metropolis of Pakistan. However, no human resource is enough to fight crime and illegalities and we would appreciate all the help we can muster against these encroachers. Come forward and assist us in our cause to empower the citizens of Pakistan.

The encroacher had successfully acquired the following utilities/services, on/through the property (E-36, Block 7, Gulshan-e-Iqbal) which did not even belong to him:

1. PTCL [Telephone] Connection: 021 34 986 587
2. Gas Connection: Bill ID 222 565 848 108
3. Electricity Connection: Consumer # 30 368 785
4. Bank Account: Dubai Islamic Bank reference # 99 76 AD2 140 590 004

POLITICAL CONSULTATION AND LOBBYING FOR NEW RTI LAW



Shehri Report

Shehri-CBE has been working to promote 'Right to Information' in Pakistan since 2011 and in the course of it discovered many loopholes in the existing Freedom of Information/Right to Information Laws in Pakistan. Some of these are:

- Sindh FOI legislation supports secrecy over disclosure.
- No Rules and Regulations exist for FOI Law (Sindh).
- No penalties are inflicted on officials wrongfully denying FOI request.
- Information delivery system supports delay which demotivates the users.

To counter these challenges and issues within the RTI delivery mechanism Shehri-CBE developed a network of



Consultation with Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sikandar Mandhro related to the new draft of Sindh Right to Information Bill 2015

Coalition Partners for Transparency and Access to Information (CTAI). This work group formulated the 'Sindh Right to Information (RTI) Bill 2015' to assist the legislators in developing a model RTI law in the province. In order to facilitate this bill draft, meetings with MPAs and relevant bureaucratic personnel of Sindh Assembly were conducted.

The first meeting was conducted with Mr. Taj Haider, Senator and Parliamentary leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP). He assured Shehri's team that he will garner support for 'Sindh RTI Bill 2015' in his party and ensure consultations to enhance the quality of the bill draft. Meeting with Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Sikandar Mandhro, another PPP stalwart, was in line with this commitment. Mr. Mandhro was quite appreciative of the endeavors of Shehri and CTAI and facilitated a meeting with the Deputy Secretary (Legislation) Law Department Sindh Assembly, Mr. Mohammad Aslam Sheikh to process the draft through the legal framework.



PPP Senator and Parliamentary Leader Taj Haider discussing and analyzing the draft of "Sindh RTI Bill 2015"

Simultaneously meetings were conducted with the Opposition Leader Sindh Assembly, Mr. Shehryar Mahar, to induce acceptance of the upcoming 'Sindh RTI Bill 2015'. Mr. Mahar recognized the importance and projected efficacy of the bill draft and assured Shehri that he will present it as a private bill on the Assembly floor if the government fails to bring it. He also backed the idea of developing support through a RTI sensitization conference with the Members of Opposition, Sindh Assembly to enhance pressure on the government to enact the proposed legislation.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), the second most popular political entity in Sindh was also engaged to support the upcoming bill on RTI. A meeting with Syed Sardar Ahmed, the parliamentary leader of MQM in Sindh Assembly, was conducted to discuss the possible support of MQM for the RTI Bill 2015.



Meeting with Opposition Leader Mr. Shehryar Mahar

Recommendations related to the bill draft were also recorded by the Shehri team. A session with MPAs of MQM will soon be held to discuss the draft of the bill to incorporate more suggestions by the political veterans.

Recently, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has gained popularity and vote bank in Sindh, therefore Shehri will be conducting awareness and sensitization meetings with PTI MPAs to inspire use of the RTI laws. The objective of this meeting would be to encourage support from PTI on the new draft of Sindh RTI

Bill 2015 once it is presented for vote in the SA.

Shehri is looking forward to closely work with the parliamentarians to improve the RTI delivery system in Sindh. Sindh government is quite eager to implement a strong RTI law and is in the process of creating a public-private partnership to enhance the efficacy of the developing legislation. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has also endorsed the bill draft created by Shehri and is ready to assist in its advocacy campaign.

The new Sindh RTI Bill draft 2015 has features that will protect and facilitate the information seeker as well as the person in-charge of disseminating that information. It will empower the people to question government policies and enhance transparency in the system.

MQM Parliamentary leader Syed Sardar Ahmed with Dr. Raza Gardezi and Ms. Humna Mehewish

SHEHRI-CBE

24TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Shehri Report

February 14, 2015- Shehri-CBE held its 24th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at its office.

Mr. Danish Azar Zuby (Founder Member Shehri), Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Mr. Syed A. Mateen, Mrs. Bernadette Dean, Mr. Maqsood Akbar, Dr. Raza Gardezi, Mr. Farooq Fazal, Mr. Hanif A. Sattar, Mr. Ateeq-ur-Rehman Khan, Mr. Khursheed Javed and Mr. Aijaz Nabi were present to evaluate the performance of Shehri.

SHEHRI MANAGING COMMITTEE

1. Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy (Chairperson)
2. Mr. Derrick Dean (Vice Chairperson)
3. Mrs. Amber Alibhai (General Secretary)
4. Mrs. Amra Javed (Treasurer)
5. Mr. Mohammad Ali Rasheed (Member)
6. Mr. Roland deSouza (Member)

The introduction was given by the Chairperson Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy while the General Secretary Shehri-CBE Mrs. Amber Alibhai presented the Annual General Report (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) to the members for scrutiny.

The AGR covered the financial and qualitative



Mrs. Amber Alibhai highlighting the achievements of Shehri assessment of the year along with photographic evidence and success indicators. It was noted that the office should undertake stronger roles to stop encroachers from usurping public land and should involve youth to make the campaign more effective. undertaken by Dr. Raza Gardezi was held in high esteem too. Mr. Sarwar Khalid and Mr. Rehan Ashraf were appreciated for their dedicated efforts for the "Police Training Project", taking it to new heights. New staff members were also welcomed in Shehri.

The role of Mr. Roland deSouza for sensitizing public bodies and people on the nuclear issue was lauded during the meeting. Simultaneously, the "Right to Information" campaign

All the members agreed to invest more time and efforts to help Shehri develop the writ of sovereign citizens for a better environment in Pakistan.



GENDER INTEGRATED PLANNING - IUCN TRAINING



Trat Province, Thailand (April 20-24, 2015)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Office conducted 'Gender Integrated Planning Training (GIP)' in Trat Province, Thailand from the 20-24 April, 2015.

The training was conducted in collaboration with Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) and Mangroves for the Future (MFF).

The objective of the program was to prepare IUCN country and program offices in Asia to incorporate gender-specific solutions within the

planning and implementation framework of the projects.

Representatives from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Bhutan, Seychelles, Indonesia, Vietnam, Honduras and other countries participated in the workshop.

Manager Communications Shehri-CBE Syeda Humna Mehwish Al-Quadri was nominated as the Gender Focal Point Pakistan by IUCN. Her role will be to ensure gender integration in projects run by IUCN in Pakistan.

Ghulam Qadir Shah, National Coordinator MFF and Haani Jamal Khan Grants Officer IUCN also represented Pakistan during the workshop.

The team is expected to arrange GIP trainings for IUCN donees with the help of National Coordinating Body of Mangroves for the Future Programme (MFF) to ensure Gender mainstreaming in Pakistan.

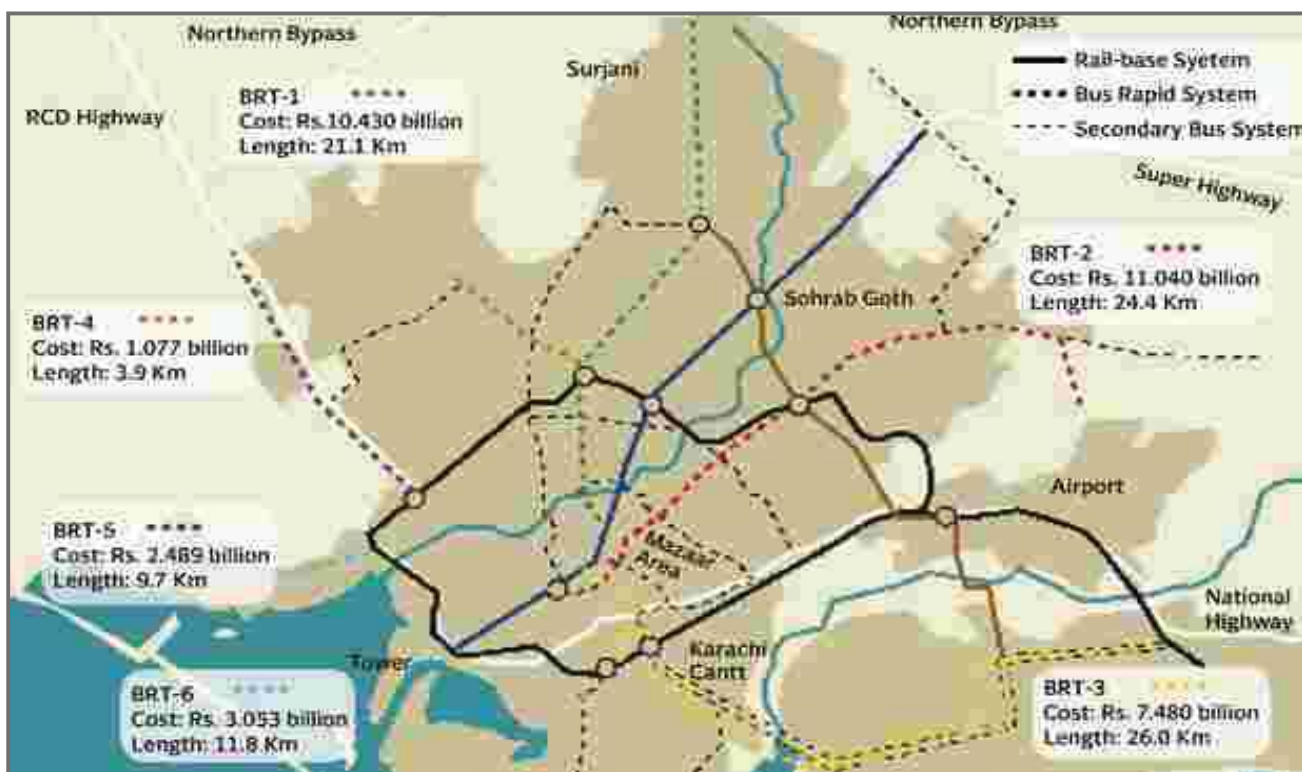
This approach is expected to empower women against gender discrimination and increased workload, especially during disasters and crisis.



MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM - KARACHI



By: Roland deSouza



Karachi Urban Transport Improvement Plan 2030

Shehri-CBE has been actively involved in supporting people- and environment-friendly transport systems in the city of Karachi for many decades.

In 1997, Shehri mobilized a public outcry and signature campaign against the unlawful commercialization of eleven amenity bus-depot plots that has been under the use of the government's defunct Karachi Transport Corporation (KTC). Public interest litigation in the Sindh High Court saved the plots for amenity use (similar litigation by Shehri also

saved 15 bus-depot plots of the defunct Sindh Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) in numerous cities and town of the province). These plots are being now used and will be used in the future for transport-related work.

Shehri has participated in numerous meetings regarding the re-activation of the Karachi Circular Railway, including the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) public hearing and the subsequent expert committee proceedings.



Shehri in consultation with Karachi BRT experts and planners (19 March, 2015)

Mistaken efforts by the city government to construct overpasses and underpasses (which do not solve traffic problems, but actually exacerbate them by encouraging more single-passenger cars to come out on the roads), has been opposed by Shehri in various public forums and EIA hearings. Some examples are the Signal-free Corridor along Sharah-e-Faisal, the Elevated Expressway along Sharah-e-Faisal, and the heritage-destroying, park land-grabbing Bahria Icon road "improvement" project in Clifton.

There is no doubt that affordable mass-transport system is acutely required in Karachi, and the Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system is the best (some say "only") solution. Shehri was active in planning sessions and citizen opinion studies conducted by the Asian Development Bank in 2007/2008 for their Megacities Project --- which was aborted owing to the city government (MQM) vs provincial government (PPP) tussle, reported in Ardeshir Cowasjee's column, "Who grabs the larger slice?"- (Dawn Newspaper)

Shehri subsequently participated in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) study of the

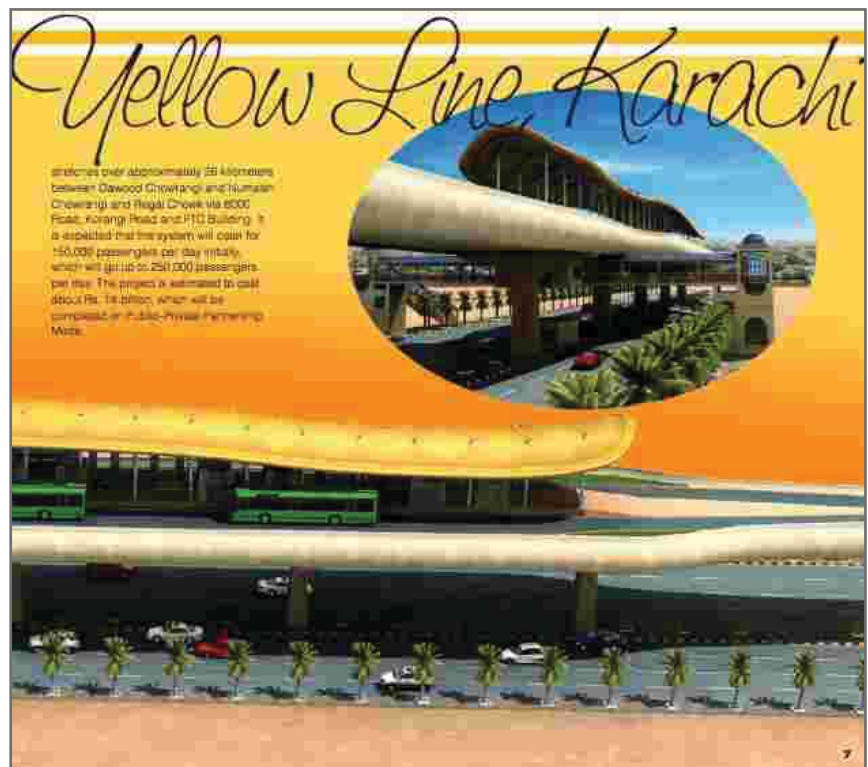
Karachi's first BRT venture: Chinese are paying for the Yellow line, Asian Development Bank for the Red line, Real-estate giant for the Blue line, and Islamabad for the Green line. Will they have the same policy? We don't know yet!

transport woes of this city, wherein the feasibilities of four or five BRT lines were analyzed, public hearings conducted and solutions proposed by Japanese experts.

Over the past year, ostensibly as a part of the ongoing MQM/PPP feud, the transport planning of Karachi (along with its building control, master planning,

solid waste management, and other local government functions) has been hijacked by the provincial government through the creation of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority. Four BRT lines are proposed to be built by four separate parties, with equipment sourced from different manufacturers. A totally non-integrated BRT system will emerge --- with the resulting chaos and loss to the residents of the city. The suppliers and the buyers will make a profit!

Karachi needs to identify the best system and install ONE line to learn from its mistakes and operating experience. Other lines can be installed later.



An ambitious ad depicting the proposed BRT yellow line

UNPLANNED URBANIZATION HARMING HISTORICAL SITES OF KARACHI



Arts Auditorium, University of Karachi (March 4, 2015)

March 4, 2015- International Relations (IR) Department, University of Karachi arranged a seminar on 'Chaotic urbanization and its impact on the historical places of Karachi' at the Arts Lobby Auditorium of the varsity.

Mr. Roland deSouza, Member Executive Committee of Shehri-CBE was invited as a Guest Speaker to speak on the issue along with Academicians, Urban Planners, Civic Activists and Historians.

The veteran civic activist highlighted the blatant violations of six laws that are meant to protect historical and cultural sites from encroachment and damage. He cited the example of Bahria Icon which is a threat to Jehangir Kothari Parade (a heritage site) in Karachi yet the government and bureaucracy has turned a blind eye towards it.

"600 heritage buildings are protected under these laws, but this protection is only limited to the files," complained deSouza, "The government has de-notified some of these buildings to favor the builders who are eyeing these for new



constructions."

Mr. DeSouza was also found quoting a Federal Environmental Impact Assessment official, "EIA ka kaam hai haram ko halal banana (EIA's job is to make illegal work legal)," to explain the mentality of government officials in-charge of the protection of environment in our country.

Dr. Rukhman Palari, another speaker from the Sindhi Department, University of Karachi grieved, "3,000 tons of garbage is dumped and burnt daily in Deh Jam Chakro, Malir - the site Shah Latif Bhitai calls Sassui's foot and the place recognized as Bhitai's takia will now be taken over by the grand mosque of Bahria Town."

Professor of IR department,

KU, Mr. Mutahir Ahmed spoke about the poor urban planning and uneven development witnessed in Karachi over the past few decades. He demanded that the government should limit the power of builders who are now in-charge of the fate of the Mega City.

A solution was proposed by Mr. Arif Hassan who believes that a heavy land non-utilization fees along with a 500 square yards ceiling of land ownership will mitigate the ongoing crisis of land management.

The seminar ended with a sincere call to youth 'to fight against encroachers and land mafia' to protect Karachi, and its historical and cultural sites. Almost 500 people were present at the event.

27TH "HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION" WORKSHOP



Police Training College, Saeedabad, Karachi (December 22nd-26th, 2014)



Group Photo with Additional IG Sindh Ghulam Qadir Thebo, PSP, Shehri Trainers and Police Trainees (December 26, 2014)
- PTC Saeedabad Karachi.

Shehri-CBE conducted the 27th Police Training Workshop at PTC Saeedabad, Karachi with the support of National Endowment for Democracy and Sindh Police.

23 participants from the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector to Inspector Police were trained to counter Human Rights violations in Sindh. Training was also imparted on the basic Constitutional Rights of the citizens, accused and witness to ensure ethical investigation by the Police.

Executive Member Shehri-CBE Mr. Khatib Ahmed gave an introduction of the training, while Chief operating Officer MCTS Ms.

Fouzia Tariq spoke on Islamic injunctions, Constitutional provisions, UN Declaration of Human Rights and Police Code of Conduct.

Former Additional IG Sindh Mr. Zafar Ahmed (PSP), Former IG Sindh Mr. Ghulam Shabbir (PSP), Former IG

Sindh Niaz Ahmed (PSP), and Former Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Barrister Shahida Jamil in order of sequence, spoke respectively on Juvenile Justice System, Terrorism and Violent Crime, Police Investigations, and Police Responsibilities.



Former IG Sindh Niaz Ahmed Siddiki, PSP, imparting training on Investigative Skills (December 24, 2014)

THE DAY THE NATION CRIED... APS PESHAWAR ATTACK!



Police Training College, Saeedabad, Karachi (December 17, 2014)

Peshawar: December 17, 2014- No mother could have imagined that she was dressing up and preparing her children for 'death'. Unfortunately 132 mothers of Army Public School (APS) students were doing just that on the morning of the dreaded day.

APS Peshawar was attacked by terrorists to avenge the ongoing operation 'Zarb-e-Azb' in Khyber Paktunkhwa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas. They killed over a hundred students and nine staff members to hurt the morale of the Pakistani Army.

The whole nation was stunned and the world ended for 141 households. In the wake of the incident Pakistan Army announced an even more severe attack



Sindh Police saluting the young martyrs of APS

on the militants to punish them for this massacre. That day, the entire country from the Himalayas to the Arabian Sea joined hands to uproot terrorism.

Sindh Police was not behind in declaring allegiance to the cause. Shehri-CBE was conducting Human Rights

and Law enforcement training in Police Training College Saeedabad when the calamity hit. The police officials immediately responded and strengthened their resolve to protect the citizens.

A Fatiha ceremony was arranged at the college and candles were lit to remember the victims of the attack. Wreaths were put and salutes given, to honor the lost lives. Shehri officials and Sindh Police grieved that day, further activities were suspended.

"We hope that no such day ever returns in our homeland and our children live in safety," prayed Khatib Ahmed, member Shehri.



Army Public School Peshawar after the attack

4TH CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP BY THE COALITION FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION (C-TAI)



Movenpick Hotel, Karachi (March 5th, 2015)

Shehri- Citizens for a Better Environment along with "Coalition for Transparency and Access to Information (CTAI)" held a consultation on "Draft of Sindh Right to Information Bill 2015".

Mrs. Amber Alibhai, General Secretary Shehri-CBE, gave the introductory speech and enunciated the theme of the consultation.

After introductions, Dr. Raza Gardezi was invited to present the features of a model RTI legislation. Thereafter, he explained the lacking in the current "Sind Freedom of Information Act 2006" and suggested improvements in accordance with the international standards.

Then on, Dr. Gardezi



Regional Director Ombudsman Mr. Ahmed Jamal Aijazi enunciating the process of appeal to C-TAI

presented the draft of "Sindh Right to Information Bill 2015" for consultation. Several suggestions were made out of which some were incorporated into the draft with majority vote. It was announced that the members can read the copy of draft and suggest improvements till the following week for

developing the final copy of the Bill draft.

Mr. Ahmed Jamal Aijazi, Regional Director Ombudsman, also spoke at the event and requested Shehri to increase its ambit of FOI requests to all government departments to create a check and balance on the efficacy of Public Information Officers in the government organizations.



General Secretary Mrs. Amber Alibhai highlighting the efforts of Shehri-CBE in quality implementation of RTI

47 participants including representatives of C-TAI, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Regional Ombudsman Office, Electronic and Print Media, Political Parties, and concerned citizens attended the consultative dialogue to suggest improvements in the draft of "Sindh Right to Information Bill 2015".

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION WORKSHOP



HANDS Training Hall, Thatta (December 31st, 2014)

Shehri-CBE in collaboration with Sindh Agricultural and Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO) organized a workshop on Freedom of Information/Right to Information Law in Sindh with support from Open Society Foundation.

20 participants from the Voice of Youth Thatta, Active Citizen Forum Sindh, MPCO Thatta, ELI Thatta, Thatta Youth Development Organization, HANDS, and MCHIP Thatta attended the workshop.

Dr. Raza Gardezi, Shehri FOI Project Lead, conducted training on the use of FOI/RTI law in Sindh. He detailed the steps of filing an FOI request.



Dr. Raza Gardezi, Project Lead FOI (Shehri-CBE) imparting training

He also informed the participants about the "Draft of Sindh Right to Information Bill 2015" formulated with the help of Coalition for Transparency and Access to Information (C-TAI) to address the failings of the current FOI Law.

The participants appreciated the efforts of Shehri-CBE in not only

inculcating awareness regarding the existing laws but also going a step further by influencing the polity to accept the new draft of RTI law through the Sindh Assembly.

Now aware of their rights under article 19-A, the trainees expressed interest in serving the cause of transparency in governance through RTI requests-addressing government officers to reveal information necessary for scrutiny.

Dr. Gardezi also gave Participant toolkit to the attendees of the workshop addressing all questions related to RTI laws and use in Pakistan. They were also encouraged to use Shehri's website for guidance on the subject.



RIGHT TO INFORMATION IS NOT 'RIGHT' IN PAKISTAN



By: Humna Mehwish

Article 19-A of the constitution of Pakistan states, "Every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law."

With this fundamental right granted to the people of Pakistan, the country finally entered the era of transparency but the weak law continues to make this process tiresome and inhibitive. The undefined linguistics of restrictions and the broad generalization has left a loophole in the system which is now being compromised and fraudulently used by public officials to hide discrepancies. Even the Sindh Freedom of Information Act 2006 does not define the exclusions comprehensively enough to stop misuse. No rules and regulations have been outlined till to-date.

Recently, a citizen sent a "Right to Information (RTI)" request to Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM). The state corporation denied access to one of the most pertinent and influential pieces of

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

does NOT give you a choice,
it gives You the
RESPONSIBILITY to safeguard
your Country!

File an RTI request today!
OWN Pakistan

information, utilizing the same 'exclusions clause'. PSM claimed that information revelation regarding the educational qualifications and respective designations of the staff employed at the Heat Treatment shop will breach privacy of the PSM employees and is therefore not permissible under RTI law.

Rationality cannot justify this excuse by the corporation as the public- the paymasters- have the right to know if the employees have been hired on merit or not. Simultaneously, it is their right to know if the technical and dangerous facility is being managed by sturdy professionals so that they

can assess the safety of the employees at the corporation. This harmless request has been wrongfully denied by PSM.

Supreme Court has recently elaborated on the implications of article 19-A in the Memogate case. The statement reads, "...it was clear from reading of Art. 19A of the Constitution and S.3 (1) of the Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2002 that the constitutional right was much broader and more assertive than the statutory right which by its own terms was restricted to disclosure of official record only..."

The Apex court further defines, "All state functionaries have to

understand that in a very sense, they are employed in the service of the People of Pakistan and are paid for by them. The loyalty, therefore, of these State functionaries has to be the Constitutional order established by the people."

In the light of these rulings the denial pursued by PSM is unconstitutional. It seems that the loyalty of the Public Corporation has been shifted to its hierarchy instead of the people. The public is being denied to know about the investment of their money and the management they have been paying for. How can any state institution deny

this fundamental right of the people ordained under the Republic Governance System where people are the epicenter of power?

After all the legal channels were exhausted and the PSM and ombudsmen office denied RTI, the sovereign citizen has decided to take up the matter with the Honorable President of Pakistan Mr. Mumnoon Hussain in his letter sent out on February 7, 2015 to request his 'Right to Information' to be considered a right!

Shehri-CBE, which has been working on "Right to Information in Pakistan",

recently conducted a consultative dialog with its 'Coalition to Transparency and Access to Information (CTAI) on a new RTI bill for Sindh. The new bill features few inhibitions and allows more freedom of access to information. Over 20 civil society organizations have rectified this draft and the organization has been conducting dialog with Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sindh Assembly Dr. Sikandar Mandhro, Opposition Leader Sindh Assembly Mr. Shehryar Mahar, MQM Parliamentary Leader Sindh Assembly Mr. Syed Sardar Ahmed and PPP Senator and Parliamentary Leader Taj Haider to facilitate adoption of the bill by the Sindh Assembly.

Dr. Raza Gardezi, Member Shehri-CBE, who has formulated this bill said, "Sindh FOI has a deplorable success rate of less than 25% and that too after pursuing the cases on an average of more than a year. This compares poorly with the success rate of 45% in Punjab and 58% in KP under their respective RTI acts. Therefore, Shehri has prepared this new RTI bill to match the efficiency of provinces and to align Sindh with the international standards."



Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM)

BALUCHISTAN POLICE TRAINING WORKSHOP (MODULE 1 & 2)



Lourdes Hotel, Quetta (December 10th - 13th, 2014)

Shehri-CBE conducted Module 1, "Understanding of Human Rights and Relevant Policies, Rules and Legislations operative in Pakistan" and Module 2, "The Religious Dimension and Understanding of Human Rights" of Police Training in Lourdes Hotel Quetta from December 10 to 13, 2014.



Mr. Asif John conducting a session on "Human Rights and Christianity"
(Dec 13, 2014)

This project is funded and supported by National Endowment for Democracy, U.S.A.

20 police trainees from Quetta, Musakhail, Zhob, Loralai, Jaffarabad, Jhal Magsi, Naseerabad, Khuzdar, Washuk, Sui, Sibi,

Gwadar, Panjgor and DIG Special Branch Balochistan attend this capacity building and sensitization workshop.

Shehri Lead Trainer Ms. Gulmina Bilal, Shehri Member Dr. Abdul Mateen

and Mr. Asif John conducted trainings on "Human Rights violations in the light of the constitution of Pakistan", "Human Rights and Islam" and "Human Rights and Christianity" respectively, while Mr. Sarwar Khalid moderated the workshop.



Group photo of Police Trainees with Leader Trainer Shehri Ms. Gulmina Bilal (Dec 13, 2014)

RURAL KARACHI: FACING AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT



Study by Farhan Anwar

Shehri-CBE with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation has developed a comprehensive study on "Rural Karachi: Facing an Existential Threat"

The study conducted by Mr. Farhan Anwar, analyzes the various dimensions of rural Karachi and the challenges faced by it due to rapid and unplanned urbanization.

The population of the metropolis has surged by 2270% [23.7 Million -2014 Estimate] since the Partition of India and continues to increase as migrants from neighboring provinces and countries come to seek refuge and livelihood in the financial capital of Pakistan.

Whilst the city is developing into a strong urban center, the ancient occupations are fading away. Alluvium,

which was once the source of rich agriculture, is now being used for construction purposes. Even the ban imposed by Government on sand extraction through an act of the Sindh Assembly has been compromised through the indemnity clause, "No suit prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this act". It seems a lot of good faith is taking away a lot of alluvium in Karachi.

This land erosion has resulted in the sorry figure of ground water levels dropping up to 300 feet [Daily Jang 1994]. If such rates of erosion continue, salt water will infect the underground fresh water reservoirs making the soil incapable of harvesting anything and the growing

1960: 61%
Cultivable land



2000: 19%
Cultivable land

food demand of Karachi will get no support from the neighboring rural areas.

The report also reveals that the agricultural area (ha.) versus built-up land (ha.) has been reduced to 0.42% in 2010 compared to 5.17% in 1948. Anwar questions the role of government authorities for mitigating water crisis in the largest urban center of Pakistan. His research elucidates the role all stake holders should play to overcome water poverty for agricultural use.



Urban Sprawl near Shahra-e-Faisal Link road

28TH "HUMAN RIGHTS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION" WORKSHOP



Police Training College, Saeedabad, Karachi (January 26th-29th, 2015)



Police Trainees with Trainers and Moderators of Shehri (Jan 29, 2015)

28th Police Training Workshop was conducted by Shehri-CBE with the support of National Endowment for Democracy and Sindh Police at PTC Saeedabad, Karachi.

21 Sindh Police personnel, Grade 14 and lower, were sensitized about the Human

Rights Violations in Pakistan and the method to contain it. They were also given training on investigative skills to protect the rights of law abiding citizens. The participants were from various law enforcement departments of Karachi.

Former Minister for Law,

Justice and Human Rights Barrister Shahida Jamil, Former Inspector General Sindh Mr. Naiz Ahmed Siddiqui (PSP), Former Inspector General Sindh Mr. Ghulam Shabbir Sheikh (PSP), Former Additional Inspector General Sindh Mr. Zafar Ahmed Farooqui (PSP), Chief Operating Officer MCTS Mrs. Fouzia Tariq and Member Shehri-CBE Mr. Khatib Ahmed conducted the training.



Former Minister Law, Justice & Human Rights Barrister Shahida Jamil training police personnel (Jan 28, 2015)

Human rights in the constitution of Pakistan, Juvenile Justice, Rights of Minorities and Marginalized Communities, Dealing with Terrorism, and Rights of Complainants, Accused and Witnesses were some of the topics covered during the training workshop.

5TH CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP BY THE COALITION FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION (C-TAI)



Movenpick Hotel, Karachi (March 28th, 2015)

Shehri-CBE, under the banner of 'Coalition for Transparency and Access to Information (C-TAI)', arranged the fifth consultative session on the draft of Sindh Right to Information Bill 2015. This consultation was supported by the Open Society Institute (OSI).

Mrs. Amra Javed, Treasurer Shehri-CBE, gave the introduction and highlighted the efforts that the organization had put to develop the new draft law. She invited Dr. Raza Gardezi to elaborate on the specifics of the revised Draft of Sindh RTI Bill 2015.

Dr. Gardezi gave a detailed presentation of the new draft specifically highlighting the additions and subtractions that were made after reviews from the C-TAI members during the fourth consultative session. He particularly



Treasurer Shehri-CBE Mrs. Amra Javed with C-TAI representatives

quoted the section of 'exemptions' which has been skimmed to promote stronger RTI in the province through the new draft.

He further added that retired or acting bureaucrats should not be hired as Information Commissioners since they support the privacy of information to cover their failings. He proposed that Civilians should be encouraged to assume this

role to enhance the efficacy of the RTI law.

"Right to Information should be considered a 'RIGHT' and not an 'Act'. The whole world recognizes it as a right which amplifies the implications of the law," stressed Dr. Gardezi during the meeting.

"A simple note can be deemed as an RTI request through the new bill," he said. He believes that this will set the RTI revolution in the positive direction and create ease for citizens.

Toward the end, all the C-TAI members and the participants approved and endorsed the Draft of Sindh RTI bill 2015 and hoped for a successful adoption by the Sindh Assembly.



Dr. Raza Gardezi interacting with C-TAI representatives

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN: EHSANPUR MODEL VILLAGE



By: Danish Azar Zuby

The devastating floods of 2010 in Pakistan left millions homeless and destitute, destroying villages and physical infrastructure of a large portion of rural Punjab and Sindh. The nation immediately rose to help. Many NGO's, government, semi government, and private organizations laid out philanthropic programs to rebuild the lives of the flood affectees.

The government of Punjab initiated a resettlement program by allotting alternative land and invited



partnership to rehabilitate the affectees. Engro, a private industrial corporation accepted the invitation and decided to undertake one such project

under its CSR program along with other partners. Ehsanpur is a success story of this initiative taken by these multiple stakeholders.

**EMV project was a joint venture between;
Engro Corporation, Engro Foundation (EF) - Project Leader and Executor
Government of Punjab, PDMA (Provincial Disaster Management Authority) - Land
Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) - Funding
Ansaar Management Company (AMC) - Construction**

The idea was to develop a sustainable design which would automatically lead to the elimination of negative environmental impacts. To attain that, use of renewable resources would have been inevitable to reduce the carbon footprint of the community. Such 'green designs' create a dynamic balance between the economy and society of the target group as well as enhance the modernity of the community.

Ehsanpur was a similar ambitious endeavor which could only be realised through systematic planning and cooperation of a willing team. The initiative came from the GOP by land allotment and this project was granted 20 acres of land in Muzaffargarh district of Multan to be spearheaded and developed by Engro.

After due diligence, mutual consultation and structuring

of Board of Trustees, Steering Committee and project management teams, a comprehensive "Three year Phase-Plan" was drawn up with an overarching concept of sustainability, by not only creating the basic housing units and a civic master plan, but of livelihood opportunities, community health, education, community level governance and handing over of a thriving village to the elders



at the end of its 3 year term.

The basic concept that was followed was 'Saiban', a renowned model of development known as Khuda Ki Basti, where there is a strong emphasis on self-reliance. Differentiating itself from Saiban's model of incremental development, the focus was on scale and sustainability with 'low-cost and community participation'. Engro Foundation (EF) adopted a participatory method of village development through its strong mechanisms of involving the community in construction as well as social activities. It created a proper chain of command and adopted a comprehensive management strategy right from the beginning with its executive committee, steering committee, social mobilizing teams, and the formation of Community

organizations and Village organisation. The idea was not to just create housing but to form and strengthen local institutions and finally empower the recipient community of the village.

We were invited to design the physical infrastructure of the village based on typical layout, by creating a new master plan and individual housing units, school, vocational training centre, basic health unit, mosque

etc. The Master Plan was based on 9 Blocks dividing 20 acres of land equally. 6 blocks were allocated to residential "Mohallas" or neighborhoods, with an average of 25 homes in each block and a common central open green/space. The remaining 3 blocks consisted of shared functions i.e. Commercial/Community Services Block, Grey-water Harvesting Block, and future expansion. The Village Layout was designed with the principle objective of providing an environment which would protect the social fabric and privacy of each individual while also enabling village-level interaction and development.

Housing and Mohallas

Finally, 166 homes were built on 6 residential blocks. EF with the technical support of its partner AMC, employed a novel approach whereby residents were



moved into a Reception Area even before the first brick was laid so that they would be involved in the construction process from the onset. This provided maximum ownership feel as EMV is literally built with the hands of its residents.

Street network was laid in the form of brick soling to connect each of the 9 Blocks and the sanitation scheme was based on the LPP Model (Lodhran Pilot Project) in conjunction with a Grey-water Harvesting Unit (GHU). The GHU allowed non-refuse water from hand pumps and wash areas to collect in a constructed wetland for natural filtration. The harvested water and wetland allow multiple uses including fish farming and community gardening.

Health

EF focused on two levels of healthcare based on the specific needs of EMV, as well as its surrounding areas: Immediate Care and Primary Health Care. Immediate health care was provided to the families as they came to reside in the reception areas, and as they were moving into their homes.

Health awareness and medical camps were held at regular intervals, as and when required. These camps

conducted various investigations including Blood, Hepatitis B & C, malnutrition, insufficient birth spacing, anemia and chronic infections such as malaria. Eventually the units were converted into a 'Basic Health Unit' for the community.

Education

EF's education interventions focused on primary school age children, adolescents and adults. To ensure the primary education objectives, EF along with its partners Roshni and FDO (Farmers Development Organization) developed a two-pronged approach, consisting of Formal and Non-formal education.

Roshni organized 'Adult Literacy Classes', separate for males and females, keeping the cultural context into consideration. The objective was to instill the ability to read newspapers,

communicate in simple writing, fill forms of daily use with understanding and to perform arithmetical operations and measurements related to day to day needs.

Livelihoods

Under the livelihood program, a systematic and structured design process was undertaken that went through the layers of community research and data to arrive at the best Livelihood interventions.

"Data from Poverty Scorecards, Livelihood Grouping and Seasonal Calendar revealed that 90% of the community was engaged in agriculture, 80% tended livestock while 70% were involved in construction labour during the off-season."

Based on these findings, four programs were designed



that would enhance the livelihoods of EMV beneficiaries. These were: Skills Development Training, Asset Transfer and Enterprise Development Program, and Dairy-Agri Better Management Practices Program. To date countless residents have received training in masonry, shuttering, steel-fixing and welding, and many have received asset transfers to start their own business.

Dairy Hub

EF in partnership with its sister company Engro Food created a 'Dairy Hub', which has a proven record of rural livestock management in the rural areas that includes visit of Aragri-officers, training of villagers, and fodder crop demonstrations.

The purpose of establishing a Dairy Hub was not only to increase milk production per animal but also to decrease cost of milk production, so that maximum benefit could reach the villagers by selling their product.

PAST INSIGHTS

140 out of 166 households were engaged in regular livestock tending and on average each household had around 2-8 large dairy animals (buffaloes/cows). However, the milk production of these animals was painstakingly low.



Off Grid Electricity

EMV was perhaps the first model village in Pakistan not connected with the national energy grid. Engro with its sister company, Engro Powergen, was able to provide this unusual facility with the cooperation of a Chinese partner company. The scope of the work included independent solar homes equipped with basic lights and fans and solar electricity to fulfill the requirements of common facilities including shops, community center and dairy hub, and solar powered LED streetlights to illuminate the village at night.

Transfer of Ownership

Last but not the least, a wonderful thing happened, the ownership of the houses was transferred in the names of the females of the family units. The marginalized and underrepresented woman was now the owner of the house.

'Retention rate' of the inhabitants of the village

after the gestation period of three years, was almost 99% after the handing over the village to the 'Village organization'. Minor maintenance issues were reported relating to the off grid power network which were resolved by Engro whilst training the local populace in this regard.

Trendsetting Achievement

One can easily assume that EMV is a success story and a fine example of rural regeneration. It could not have been possible without a vision, leading to prudent planning and professional management.

Uplifting a poor and devastated community does not directly imply the provision of physical infrastructure but in fact social infrastructure is even more important to develop. We can proudly say that Ehsanpur is not just a row of low cost housing but a very alive and breathing village.

SHEHRI - CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT



INTRODUCTION

Shehri- CBE is a Karachi-based voluntary advocacy group established by concerned citizens in 1988 to project their apprehensions about the deterioration of the environment.

Shehri focuses on issues relating to the built and natural environment. There is a special emphasis on tackling illegal construction and zoning violations, and their related symptoms, e.g., drainage, encroachments, parking and infrastructure. Shehri monitors the regulatory bodies and government agencies and encourages civil society to do the same.

SUCSESSES

Demolition of Glass Towers illegal encroachment on the notified road-widening of Clifton Road.

Saving of 480-acre Gutter Baghicha Park on Manghopir Road. This is the largest open recreational space in a low income congested area of Lyari-inhabited by approximately one million people.

Saving of 62-acre Kidney hill Park in Karachi Cooperative Housing Society Union inclusive of 18-acre notified KWSB installations.

Establishment of the Oversee Committee of the KBCA and a

Public Information Counter.

Halting commercialization and sale of 11 KTC and 15 SRTC bus-depot plots in Karachi and Sindh. Today these plots are to be used by the CDGK for intercity bus terminals and other related transportation activity.

Saving (Makro) webb Ground playfield in Lines Area, Karachi.

Demolition of apartment structure Costa Linina in amenity Bagh-e-Ibne-Qasim, Clifton. CDGK has now developed it as a park.

Preventing commercialization of Doongi Ground park / playfield in Lahore.

Reducing, as part of Lahore Bachhao Tehrik, the amount of damage from Canal Bank Widening Project.

Reaffirmation of seismic building code in Quetta.

Training 1400 (Approx) police officers all over Pakistan on participatory citizen-police interaction, human rights violations and police reforms.

Over the years, Shehri's expertise has been recognized by superior courts and it has been called as amicus curiae (friend of the court) in cases dealing with built environment violations.

OBJECTIVES

Establishment of an aware and pro-active civil society, good governance, transparency and rule of law.

Promotion of research, documentation, dialogue with and influence of public policies.

Setting up an effective and representative local government system.

Preparation of a representative Master Plan / Zoning plan for Karachi city and effective implementation of the same.

Observance of basic human rights in society.

HOW IS SHEHRI RUN?

A volunteer Managing Committee, duly elected by the General Body for a term of two years, thereby functioning in an open and democratic manner. Membership is open to all who subscribe to its objectives and memorandum.

SHEHRI needs Volunteers

to work in the following areas:

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

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

 Occupation: _____

JOIN SHEHRI

To Create a Better
Environment

With a cross cheque of
Rs. 1000/-
(Annual Membership Fee)
in the name of Shehri-CBE
with passport size photograph

Address: 88-R, Block 2,
P.E.C.H.S., Karachi-75400,
Pakistan. Tel/Fax : 3453-0646

SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your
membership for 2015 (Rs. 1000)

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