



"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

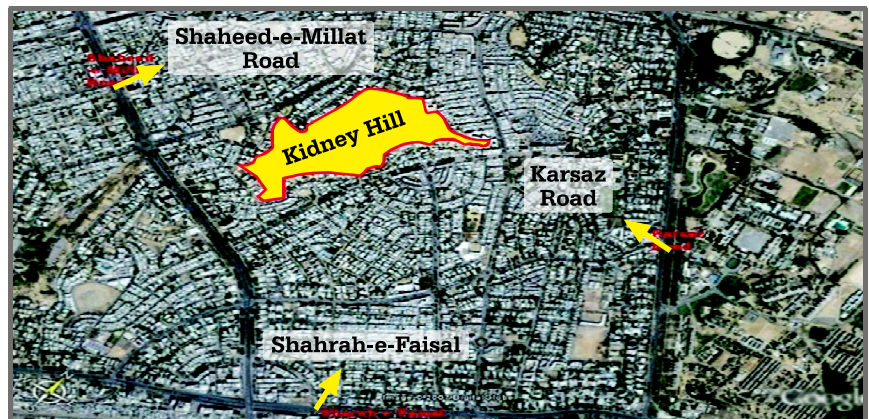
SHEHRI

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

JULY - DECEMBER 2019

KIDNEY HILL SHEHRI SIGNALS SUCCESS

This 62-acre space was planned and notified under the KDA Order of 1957 as Scheme 32, 'Falaknuma' and later named 'Ahmed Ali Park' in honour of the Cornell-educated master-planner of the various land development schemes in Karachi over the 1960s and 70s. The hill-top plateau is bound by Faran Cooperative Housing Society in the north, south and the west, and with the Overseas Co-operative Housing Society (OCHS) in the east; both these cooperatives are a part of the KCHSU.



'Falaknuma' comprised an open-water reservoir for the surrounding population, as per a notification issued on

September 5, 1969. The topographical features of the site were to be developed as a Recreational Scheme, comprising playgrounds, horse-ride path, club, restaurants, gardens, a lake, tennis courts, a science museum/observatory and preservation of the rock to be known as Jabal Tariq as a landmark of the city.

1999 Shehri along with fourteen (14) residents applies to become Interveners in the High Court of Sindh Case CP No.1314/1990 (filed by Overseas CHS).

Constitutional Petition No.160 of 2007 was filed by Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment along with area residents in High Court of Sindh against illegal allotment of plots in Kidney Hill

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI CP NO. 160 OF 2007

1. Mst. Marium Haji R/o Overseas CHS, Karachi	8. Marium Ismail R/o Faran CHS, Karachi
2. Syed Imaduddin Rafai R/o Faran CHS, Karachi	9. Mohd. Anwar Abbasi R/o Faran CHS, Karachi
3. Obaid Iqbal R/o Faran CHS, Karachi	10. Rasheed Ahmed R/o Faran CHS, Karachi
4. Haji Kasam R/o Faran CHS, Karachi	11. Haroon Mianoor R/o Faran CHS, Karachi
5. Anwar Ahmed R/o Faran CHS, Karachi	12. Rashid Motan R/o Overseas CHS, Karachi
6. Mumtaz Haji R/o Faran CHS, Karachi	13. Abdul Malik R/o Faran CHS, Karachi
7. Mst. Siddiqua Alibhai R/o Faran CHS, Karachi	14. SHEHRI-CBE Citizens for a Better Environment

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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:**

Dr. Kaiser Bengali

Vice Chairperson:

Sameer Hamid Dodhy

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Amber Ali Bhai

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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.

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Web: www.saudagar.com.pk

Ph: 021-34152970, 0333-2276331

SHEHRI-CBE

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With the increasing pressure of population and the escalation of land value over the decades, land mafias came to covet the open space of Kidney Hill. Surrounding residential plots nibbled at the park and, over time, many parts were encroached and came under litigation. In 1979, the OCHS and Al-Riaz Cooperative Housing Society (ACHS) managed to 'persuade' the Ministry of Works to allot residential land/plots to them.

In 1984, the Kidney Hill area was handed over jointly by the federal government, the Sindh government, the Board of Revenue, Secretary Housing & Town Planning, Karachi Mayor Abdul Sattar Afghani, KDA Director-General Z.A. Nizami, and the managing-director of the KCHSU to the KMC (Parks Department) for the development and maintenance of a park. (which KMC parks department did not do)

Since then the issue has been kicked around with layout plans

being rejected by the KDA, allotments being cancelled, cases being filed in the superior courts by OCHS, ACHS and residents.

In 2006, OCHS, KCHSU, GoP /MoW, Government of Sindh, City District Government Karachi (CDGK) signed an 'Agreement of Settlement' whereby Kidney Hill Park was to be planned as a residential scheme, and only about 1 acre left available for a park and another 1 acre for KWSB water reservoir services.

This fraudulent agreement was challenged in the high court by Shehri and other concerned citizens. Despite many forms of intimidation and death threats given to Shehri members and their families, the case is still being fought --- and hope springs eternal!

Following is a chronology of events regarding the Kidney Hill Park, in order of occurrence, which we have complied for 16 years from the three court cases filed by different parties.

Cases filed in High Court of Sindh		
Case No.	Filed by	Against
CP No.1314/1990	Overseas Cooperative Housing Society	Govt. of Pakistan & others
	In 1999 Shehri and 14 residents of Faran C.H.S. join the case	
Suit No. 1582/97	Mst. Marium Haji & others (Residents of Faran C.H.S)	Foundation Public School & others
CP No. 160/2007	Shehri and others	Govt. of Pakistan & others
Suit No. 1370/2008	Mr. Ardeshir Cowasjee & others	Govt. of Pakistan & others
HCA No.152/2018	Foundation Public School & others	Mst. Marium Haji & others (Residents of Faran C.H.S)
Execution No.44/2018 (pending) (Suit No.1582/1997)	Mst. Marium Haji & others (pending)	Mst. Yasmin R. Minhas & others
Case filed in Supreme Court of Pakistan		
Civil Appeal No.306/2001	Overseas Cooperative Housing Society	Government of Pakistan & others

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Date	Events
07-06-1960	Karachi Development Authority (KDA) approved by notification of Kidney Hill in its governing body meeting.
14-09-1963	Letter by Karachi Cooperative Housing Society Union (KCHSU) to Karachi Development Authority (KDA) requesting for allotment of Kidney Hill.
05-10-1963	Karachi Development Authority (KDA) rejected the request for allotment of Kidney Hill to KCHSU.
03-09-1964	KCHSU has admitted in their letter that Kidney Hill has been reserved as open space.
07-11-1966	Kidney Hill is notified under article 45 of KDA Order of 1957 as Scheme 32, 'Falaknuma'. 62 acres are zoned as open space constituting the entire plateau, and are to be developed as a recreational facility, with 18 acres reserved for a water reservoir for the surrounding Karachi Cooperative Housing Society Union (KCHSU). These 62 acres are shown as amenity space in the layout plan of KCHSU. In 1966 1st Notification published. Objections were raised by the different societies as well as parent society.
17-07-1967	KCHSU requested for construction of 40 ft. wide road between the area of the Karachi Union and Kidney Hill to KDA.
05-09-1969	That the 2nd Notification was published on 5.9.1969 & 12.9.1969 to which no objections were raised. The said notification says that "KDA has framed a Water Reservoir site and recreation park scheme for the entire area known as Kidney Hill to be called as KDA Scheme-32 "Falaknuma" covering an area of approximately 62 acres zoned as an open spaces in the master plan of Karachi, constituting the entire Plateau surrounded by the area of Karachi Cooperative Housing Society Union"
11-04-1979	Overseas Cooperative Housing Society (OCHS) and Al-Riaz Cooperative Housing Society (ACHS) manage to get amenity Kidney Hill land unlawfully allotted with the connivance of officials of Federal Ministry of Works (MoW).
1981	Owing to public hue and cry, Mayor Abdul Sattar Afghani takes up this issue with President Zia-ul-Haq who issues directive # 871 of 1981
08-02-1982	The Chief Martial Law Administrator (CMLA) directs that Kidney Hill will remain as a park
04-02-1984	Kidney Hill is handed over to KMC for development as a park, jointly by Joint Secretary (MoW), Commissioner Karachi/Secretary, Housing Town Planning/Member (Land Utilization) Board of Revenue on behalf of Government of Sindh (GoS), Director General on behalf of KDA, MD KCHSU, and Mayor Afghani. This action is confirmed by Assistant City Survey Office (East) vide AC SO/60 dated 4/2/84
31-12-1984	Deputy Secretary, MoW cancels the allotment of OCHS & ACHS, vide letter No. F 16(1)/76-DEM
20/10/1986	Mayor of Karachi writes Chief Secretary (GoS) and requests cancellation of all building plans and also requests no fresh approval be granted. The matter was also taken up by the residents of the area with the Director Master Plan, KDA pointing out the illegal activities.

01-01-1990	<p align="center">Constitutional Petition No. 1314 of 1990 The Overseas Cooperative Housing Society Vs. Government of Pakistan & others</p> <p>Overseas Cooperative Housing Society (OCHS) files Constitutional Petition No. 1314/1990 against Ministry of Works (MoW), Government of Pakistan (GoS), Karachi Development Authority (KDA) and Karachi Municipal Corporation (KMC) challenging the cancellation of its allotment. The court puts plot into the custody of the Nazir of the High Court.</p>
April 1990	PPP Minister of Cooperatives, Agha Siraj Durrani, tries to restore land to the OCHS & ACHS.
08-05-1990	<p>Governor of Sindh by way of newspaper "Jang" directed all the concerned departments not to take any action in respect of land reserved for park.</p> <p>The Mayor of Karachi by way of newspaper stated that the said plot is reserved only for use of park.</p>
26-08-1990	Governor of Sindh orders that Durrani's initiative not be implemented. Section Officer, GoS, in a letter dated 26-8-90 confirms that a park is to be developed on this land
02-10-1990	Director General KDA sends his comments to GoS
21-11-1991	The Nazir appears to give evidence before the Court that the plot is in his possession by order dated 21-11-1991 passed in C.P. No.1314/1990
1995	<p>That sometime in the year 1995 residents of the area noted some activities again on the amenity plot and it transpires that Foundation Public School intends to establish a commercial School in a part of the Kidney Hill (measuring 6189 sqyds) 1.28 acres</p> <p>Residents of the area immediately approach to Chief Secretary (GoS), to reconsider the proposal of construction of school in the plot in question, as it would cause nuisance and inconvenience to the area residents.</p>
25-02-1996	Residents write Chief Minister to intervene in the matter to stop illegal construction on the plot marked for park.
10-03-1997	Chief Minister directs Chief Secretary and Housing & Town Planning department to stop illegal construction and asks to furnish a compliance report in the matter.
11-05-1997	The plaintiff's attorney requests the Secretary, Housing and Town Planning Department, to provide them hearing before submitting any comments as desired by the Honorable Chief Minister.
	Despite the order construction was not stopped .
29-11-1997	<p>Residents of Faran C.H.Society file Suit No. 1582/1997 against Foundation Public School owners, for building their school in Kidney Hill in connivance with all concerned. (They were showing an amenity space plot No.137 to be inside Kidney Hill), when actually it is an amenity space in Faran C.H.Society reserved for park.</p> <p>Dates of Hearings : 29.09.2017, 02.10.2017, 09.10.2017, 02.12.2017, 09.12.2017, 16.12.2017, 13.01.2018, 27.01.2018</p> <p>Date of Announcement of Judgment : 02.04.2018</p>

08-10-1998	In Suit No. 1582/1997 (filed by residents), the High Court directs the Nazir to submit report with regard to confirm the factual position of plot No. 137, Faran Cooperative Housing Society, whether the plot in Suit is in his possession or not.
12-10-1998	Complying with Court's order, Nazir fixes the matter for 12-10-1998, with notices to Director, Master Plan Department, KDA Director Parks, KMC and both the counsels in the case. (Suit 1582/97)
12-10-1998	Both counsels for the Plaintiffs and Defendant No. 1, Mr. Akhlaq Khan, Director along with Mr. Muhammad Sarfaraz Khan, Assistant Director, Master Plan, KDA, Mr. Lal Muhammad, Assistant Director, parks, Mr. M. Siddique and Mr. Altaf Ahmed Khan, Assistant Directors Land, KMC, appear before the Nazir along with relevant record. The Director and Assistant Director, Master Plan Department confirm that the Plot No. 137 Faran Cooperative Housing Society is out-side the boundary of Kidney Hill Area, according to Layout plan, which was prepared by KDA after 1974, as per KDA record.
14-10-1998	Nazir report specifies that plot No.137 is located outside the Kidney Hill whereas construction is being carried out within Kidney Hill.
1999 - Shehri joins the fight to save Kidney Hill	
1999	In CP No.1314/1990 (filed by Overseas CHS), Fourteen residents and Shehri apply to become Interveners in the case. Application is granted, but OCHS files Civil Appeal No.306/2001 in Supreme Court against this order.
25-09-2005	OCHS holds Annual General Meeting and informs members that discussions are in progress with Governor of Sindh to settle out of court the matter of Kidney Hill
27-12-2005	Special General Body Meeting of OCHS is held, and members informed that the Governor had twice been briefed about the factual position and that a compromise is being worked out as follows: 1) OCHS members will reduce size of residential plots to accommodate a park 2) Roads will be minimum 30 - 40 feet wide. 3) The size of all reduced plots shall be equal.
18-06-2006	OCHS, KCHSU, GoP/MoW, GoS, City District Government Karachi (CDGK) sign ' <i>Agreement of Settlement</i> ' and divide up Kidney Hill (which has now reduced from 62 to 55 acres over the past 40 years with continuing encroachments by adjacent plots), with approximately 66% for residential plots & in-between roads
16-11-2006	Secretary, MoW, Abrar Alam concurs with compromise ' <i>Agreement</i> '
11-12-2006	Supreme Court disposes off Civil Appeal No.306/2001 (filed by OCHS) on the basis of compromise ' <i>Agreement of Settlement</i> ', allowing residents of the area and Shehri to file a fresh petition if they are aggrieved.
12-12-2006	M. Sharif Bhajjee , MD, KCHSU submits sub-division plan of Kidney Hill to Master Plan Group of Offices, CDGK, who respond as follows; 1) <i>According to Clause 18-4.1 of KB&TP Regulations 2002 "No amenity plot reserved for the specific purpose shall be converted or utilized for any other purpose".</i> 2) <i>According to the Layout Plan of Scheme-32, the proposed layout plan submitted by you is showing KDA Water Reservation on 18 acres land (approx.), for which NOC from KWSB is required.</i>

	<p>3) <i>Since the scheme 32 was notified as Kidney Hill (Falaknuma) which includes Water Reservation (18 acres) therefore its de-notification is required from the Government of Sindh.</i></p> <p>4) <i>The matter is also pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Sindh, its latest status needs to be confirmed.</i></p> <p>5) <i>Press Public Notice in two leading newspapers (English & Urdu) as per format in A-5 size as per the KBTP Regulations 2002 is required.</i></p>
23-01-2007	Sindh High Court disposes off CP 1314/1990 (filed by OCHS against the cancellation order of 1981), in terms of the compromise 'Agreement of Settlement', but allows 15 days for Shehri and other aggrieved residents of the area to file fresh petition.
02-02-2007	<p>Shehri writes to MD, KWSB, for the following information on Kidney Hill.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Area of Kidney Hill is in KWSB control 2) How many households receive water from the reservoir 3) Provisions KWSB has made for new proposed housing scheme. 4) Whether or not the proposed subdivision layout plan has been made with KWSB consent
06-02-2007 Shehri files case CP No.160/2007 in High Court of Sindh	
06-02-2007	Fourteen area residents and Shehri file Constitutional Petition 160/2007 . Ad-interim order given not to create 3rd party interests
12-02-2007	Application submitted (CP No.160/2007) in court for deletion of the names of fourteen residents from the petition. Application is granted due to the death threats.
18-02-2007	Ardeshir Cowasjee writes in DAWN about the Kidney Hill scam, and threats to residents
19-02-2007	Intimidation of and violent threats to Shehri members and their families commence.
21-02-2007	Shehri circulates appeal for other concerned citizens and NGOs to join Vakalatnamas are given by a number of individuals and some civic groups.
22-02-2007	Shehri's appeal reproduced in DAWN . Abdul Hafeez Peerzada files vakalatnama on behalf of OCHS. Threats to Shehri members escalate over the next few days.
25-02-2007	Ardeshir Cowasjee again writes in DAWN about Kidney Hill
26-02-2007	Citizens groups all over the city join as petitioners in case. Intimidation of Shehri members continues.
27-02-2007	General Secretary family receives renewed threats from the man identified as Javed, this time he calls from Dubai (Cell No.00971507542026), he tells him that his son's and aged father-in-law's pictures and the rest of the family's photographs are lying in front of him, and if he wants, he will fax to him.
01-03-2007	Shehri goes to Court and files the application to withdraw the case and meets governor at 1:00 pm. Meeting starts at 1:00 pm and goes on till 4:00 pm. Governor agrees to review the compromise agreement. At 5:38 pm Javed calls from 0302-2463514 and gets extremely nasty and says I know everything that was said in the meeting at the Governor house, and this is not MQM money, this is my money and I have invested 70 crores and 20 more will not make any difference and if I we do not get our land we will create havoc for you all.
02-03-2007	FIR No.164/07 was lodged at Ferozabad Police Station u/s 506/B of PPC by complainant Amber Alibhai.

03-03-2007	At 9:24 pm a threatening phone call received in which the person threatened that we have 24-hours to withdraw the case as it has not been done according to Javed, telephone number was 0391-4205249. After General Secretary speaks to MQM representative Dr. Farooq Sattar, all intimidation goes silent. The court withdrawal application is suspended.
29-09-2008	<p>A new Suit No. 1370/2008 filed by Mr. Ardeshir Cowasjee and others Vs. Federation of Pakistan & others in the High Court of Sindh, with new petitioners as the 14 residents of the area had left due to the death threats in CP 160/2007.</p> <p>The learned counsel for the Petitioners Barrister M. Naim-ur-Rahman contended that in Scheme No. 32, there is 62 acres of land known as Kidney Hill area. As in 1948 Karachi was the Capital of Pakistan, it belonged to the Federal Government. Subsequently on transfer of capital to Islamabad the land reverted to the Sindh Government and on or about 04.02.1984 a handing over possession of Kidney Hill (Ahmed Ali Park) to Karachi Metropolitan Corporation for development of a park was signed by the Federal government, Government of Sindh, Karachi Development Authority and Karachi Cooperative Housing society Union, after such possession was given to KMC, the Overseas Cooperative Housing Society Limited made a claim of 40 acres of land for development of Housing Society out of the Kidney Hill park. Such claim was made by Overseas Cooperative Housing Society on the basis of an allotment that had been made in 1973 by Karachi Cooperative Housing society Union Limited. That such allotment was cancelled by the Federal Government through its letter dated 31.12.1984. This cancellation was challenged by the OCHS by filing Constitutional Petition No. 1314 of 1990 in the High Court, but the matter was disposed of by Settlement Agreement.</p>
20-04-2018	<p>The Suit 1582/1997 filed by residents of Faran CHS against Foundation Public School for unlawfully taking 6189 sqyds to Kidney Hill for their school is decreed in favour of the plaintiffs for the said prayers mentioned in the plaint along with costs of the proceedings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Plot No. 137 Faran Cooperative Housing Society has been reserved for Park and cannot be used for any other purpose. • Declared that all action, order and direction for the conversion of amenity plot reserved for park are illegal, unlawful and without any lawful authority. • Cancelled the lease executed in favour of defendant No.1. (Foundation Public School) • Injunction granted restraining the defendant No.1 from constructing school building on the plot in question. • Cost of the suit.
11-05-2018	<p>Mst. Marium Haji & others residents of Faran CHS file Execution Application No. 44 of 2018 (Implementation of Decree) in Suit No. 1582 of 1997</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mst. Marium Haji filed an Execution Application in the High Court with request that the decree dated 20.04.2018 passed by Honorable High Court may graciously be converted into Execution Petition; • The defendant No. 1 & 8 may be directed not to interfere and handover the impugned Plot No. 137 Faran Cooperative Housing Society to KMC and official defendant KMC may be directed to restore the same into park as the same has been illegally carved out from Kidney Hill Park. • The official defendant No. 7 (SBCA) may be directed to demolish the construction raised on impugned Plot No. 137 Faran Cooperative Housing Society. <i>(Till date not done, despite order of Justice Gulzar Gulzar Ahmed in Supreme Court case CP 09/2010)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The official defendants may be directed to cancel the lease of plot No. 137 Faran Cooperative Society. <p>In case of failure the Nazir of the High Court be directed to execute the decree and cancel the lease of Plot 137 Faran Cooperative Housing Society and handover the encroached space to KMC for developing as part of Kidney Hill.</p>
15-05-2018	Foundation Public School files High Court Appeal No.152 of 2018, against the Judgment in Suit No. 1582 of 1997 with the request to set aside the Impugned Judgment and Decree passed by the learned Single Judge dated 02.04.2018 and 20.04.2018 respectively and dismiss the suit filed by the plaintiff. (still ongoing)
09-05-2019	<p>The Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan in Constitutional Petition 09/2010 headed by Justice Gulzar Ahmed passes an order that the Commissioner, KMC to examine each and every allotment and lease of the land of Kidney Hill Park and to issue notices to all illegal allottees/lessees for removal of their respective houses and all constructions whatsoever and restore the Kidney Hill Park of 62 acres as a park, the Commissioner shall ensure that this park is developed on the modern lines for providing amenity to the people of Karachi.</p> <p>The court also directs the Chief Chief Secretary, Commissioner Karachi, KMC, KDA and all other civic agencies to submit its compliance report regarding removal of encroachments from the government lands, parks, playgrounds and all other amenity lands.</p>
06-08-2019	The KMC submits its report to Supreme Court of Pakistan in Constitutional Petition 09/2010 and states that 62 acres of land of Kidney Hill has been retrieved and it is in possession of KMC. KMC also prepares PC-1 of Rs. 950 million for making a modern park on such land. However the plans for development are only for 55-acres. The balance 7-acres has not been retrieved by KMC. The encroachment by Foundation Public School still stands and encroachment along the boundary of OCHS who still are holding on the Kidney Hill and illegally.
05-10-2019	Tree plantation has started after the completion of geographical study and landscaping in Kidney Hill Park - by Municipal Commissioner KMC, Dr. Saifur Rehman
08-10-2019	Adviser to Chief Minister of Sindh Mr. Murtaza Wahab , visits Kidney Hill.
09-10-2019	<p>Municipal Commissioner, KMC, Dr. Saifur Rahman, invites Shehri members to visit Kidney Hill Park. The briefing was given as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illegal Hotels were operating 2. Hundreds of cattle farms were operating 3. Prostitutions and drug dens 4. Encroachments by the Residents of Faran and OCHS 5. The nearby hospitals were dumping their hospital wastes 6. It had become a garbage dump site. <p>The KMC have done the following :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They have taken over the physical possession of parks 2. Have Built gates 3. Planted hundreds of trees 4. Cleared a lot of garbage 5. Clearance is still taking place 6. Completed the topography mapping of the place 7. They have not cut any kikar or cactus. They will need to trim these.



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TACKLING ISSUES OF LAND USE VIOLATIONS AND ENCROACHMENTS - SHORT TERMED AND AD-HOC SOLUTIONS WILL NEVER WORK



Farhan Anwar

Recently, in the wake of the Supreme Court decisions regarding removal of 'encroachments' from the old city and from the Right of Way (RoW) of the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR), this long sustaining urban development issue in Karachi got highlighted. From within the civil society, the government and other relevant stakeholders, a number of views and concerns were raised. They touched on a variety of interfacing constructs attached to this phenomenon - social, political, legal, environmental to name the more obvious ones. Poor friendly planning has never been a priority in this city and result is a growing profile of urban inequity in the city. So while what happened at Empress Market and what is presently happening along the KCR RoW is deeply disturbing, this is not something new within the historical context of the city and will not be the last if solutions having a 'temporary' status attached are implemented - like communities have been displaced, give them alternate space and shelter. That is not a sustainable solution!



The critical understanding that can be drawn from the legal orders and subsequent developments is that there is no simple, one dimensional solution to this malaise that has afflicted this city since long. Root causes of the problem and the cross cutting factors, cause and effect relationships have to be understood, unpacked and addressed, instead of treating the symptoms. It is feared that unless such a holistic lens is applied, as has been shown in the resulting social and political chaos, a viable and durable solution would always remain elusive and this urban disease will mutate and become even harder to suppress with the passage of time.

In order to understand issues

of 'encroachment' and 'land use violations' we need to analyse the 'why' and the 'how'. The first thread to consider in this complicated web of urban mismanagement is the lack of sanctioning and non-implementation of any of the Master Plan prepared for this city and the ever weakening writ of the state and rule of law. None of the Plan got legal sanction leading to the ad-hoc development of the city and excessive use of the so called official 'discretion' in the enacting and implementation of urban development policies and actions. Issues in city planning as a result have never been addressed holistically in an integrated manner. As such, critical urban services like housing, public spaces, water and

sanitation, transportation, commercial growth have all suffered.

If we categorize the type of 'illegal' constructions, encroachments and built typologies that have been targeted - then they are either housing and shelter or commercial. Let's take housing first. Decision makers and service providers in Karachi have never been able to address successfully the issue of social and low income housing in Karachi. A number of efforts have failed owing to a variety of reasons that include a failure to attract genuine buyers, absence of provision of basic civic services such as water, power, transport, employment and education - that convert a 'house' into a 'housing' project, lack of financial support systems with the result that instead of 'genuine buyers' land was invested in by speculative real estate actors. Learning from successful community based efforts such as the Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) model never was a priority and as such there was an unfortunate failure by the government to streamline such models into a policy framework to increase their footprint. The Sindh Katchi Abadi Authority (SKAA), made to evaluate and

regularize katchi abadis (squatter settlements) was not able to sustain some good progress made in the beginning. It is therefore no surprise that at present, over 50 percent of Karachiites live in informal settlements, which grow at twice Karachi's annual urban growth rate. Other estimates show that the current demand of 80,000 housing units is met by a supply of only 30,000 units per year in the formal sector. The gap is made up for with the supply of at least 32,000 housing units in katchi abadis (informal settlements) annually (Hasan 2013). It is such katchi abadis that are among the ones that are being demolished. So while the intent behind the legal order is noble and legally also viable but given the ground realities, such encroachment removal practices, in the absence of a viable social and low income housing vision and plan can never lead to a workable solution.

If we look at the way commercialization of land parcels has taken place, sound planning principles like creating decentralized/ district and neighborhood based commercial districts and market spaces has not been followed. Instead what we are now witnessing is a process

of unregulated commercialization of land parcels in Karachi that primarily is within the backdrop of the policy decision of the City District Government Karachi (CDGK) to allow for commercialization of various traffic corridors (17 traffic corridors in all) within the city under the CDGK Change of Land Use and Master Planning Bye-Laws 2003, notified on February 12, 2004. This 'ribbon commercialization' was in defiance to the opposing pleas of planning experts as what has happened now is piecemeal commercialization filtering from the main traffic corridors behind into neighborhoods with extremely damaging social and environmental consequences. Once such processes are rolled out, issues with the 'illegality' of land use conversions are worked out through a nexus of builders, regulating agencies, investors, elected representatives etc. Institutions of land development and regulation have been politicised, with rampant corruption and rent seeking, so that instead of curtailing practices of land use violations and illegal encroachments, laws have been modified in the guise of 'regularization' to facilitate the abusers and to kosher their crime.

If we talk about public spaces such as 'parks' and 'playgrounds', then the most potent threats they have faced since many years now have been either encroachments or 'change of land use' obtained through using political or other forms of influence. This challenge poses in many cases an 'existential threat' to such places of public access. In this regard, a Judicial Commission formed in the year 2016 in response to a petition filed by a citizen looked into services such as water and sanitation, solid waste while on November 29, 2017, the Supreme Court, responding to another citizens petition, ordered the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) to remove encroachments from around 35,000 amenity plots in the city within a period of two months. The Court also observed that in many of the encroached amenity plots, proper buildings including universities and marriage halls have been constructed. This brings into focus an almost complete government failure of regulating land use that in most cases results from complicity of relevant government officials with elements of the real estate and builders, politicians, and bureaucrats. Land use

manipulation is a high stake operation in Karachi as a significant percentage of available finance gets invested in land, to a great extent in speculative buying.

The scale of this problem is huge and a study - Parks and Amenity Spaces of Karachi, conducted in the year 2011 by a local NGO, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment¹ throws some light on this. The study team physically surveyed all the ST Amenity plots in Karachi and documented their present land use status comparing it with the original land use plans. It was found that of a total of 7911 ST Amenity plots, 1955 were partially or fully encroached upon. This means 24% of the ST Amenity plots already have been encroached on. Types of encroachments included mosques, apartments, housing, and squatter settlements. All this has happened while the law relating to ST Amenity plots specifically states that, Regulation 18-4.1, No Amenity Plot reserved for the specific purpose shall be converted or utilized for any other purpose' - The Karachi Building & Town Planning Regulations, 2002. Urban green areas have declined as a proportion to the urban footprint, from 4.6

percent (27 km²) to 3.7 percent (30 km²).²

Karachi is a highly fragmented city with the fragmentation cutting across the institutional, political, religious, socio-economic fabric of the city. When we deconstruct processes of transaction of land and services then we find that with the reducing writ of the state, they have been transferred significantly to the informal sector that is not regulated. There is a parallel economy related with transaction land, access to civic services and more in the city, running into billions of rupees that is not documented. So any practice related with land and services provides a mined landscape for our decision makers, navigating which to formalize processes and bring back the rule of law and develop through a vision and integrated planning approach would require a strong show of political will and forging of a political consensus among the key powerbrokers within the city. In the absence of this larger vision, we would continue to see more violation of land uses and encroachment of spaces meant for the public interest.

(this article was earlier published in Newslines September 2019 issue)

¹

² Karachi City Diagnostic Report, 2017 - The World Bank

STILL LOVE KARACHI

Danish Azar Zubay



I was a bit shocked to see that Pakistani people are among the happiest people in the world, what was more surprising was that they were ranked at 67th position, and India in the 140th position-near the bottom of the list of the 156 countries ranked. The World Happiness Report combines quantitative data - such as per capita GDP growth - and qualitative data, such as social support, freedom to make life choices, and perceptions of corruption, to rank 156 countries. When it comes to happiness Pakistan beats India big time according to the recently published World Happiness Report (Forbes).

Pakistan's big edge in the happiness ranking over India may come as a surprise to some emerging market observers. India's economy has been outperforming Pakistan's in a number of metrics, like world competitiveness, GDP size and growth, and inflation rates.

Another news: Recently another survey put Karachi at almost the bottom of the 'Most Unlivable Cities' of the

world. Each year, the EIU gives 140 cities scores out of 100 on a range of factors, such as living standards, crime, transport, and infrastructure, access to education and healthcare, as well as political and economic stability. This year, Karachi has been ranked 136th on the list - the fifth least livable city in the world - only managing to fare better than Damascus in Syria, Lagos in Nigeria, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Tripoli in Libya. Imagine we the Karachiites with our beloved city are put next to war torn countries like Syria and Tripoli. Vow. We must be real fighters. And we prefer to be happy.

Well, to say the least, Karachi has been, if not in a state of war but surely a war like emergency ever since we have lived in this amazing but god forsaken megalopolis. We have developed a perpetual love-hate relationship which is impossible to disregard. It is hard to imagine for a foreigner that we the people endure the most cruel electrical load shedding and blackouts, have sleepless nights, pay our bills and get back to work the next



morning. We will find creative ways to bypass the overflowing city gutters and wade through the lakes formed by monsoon rains. We know how to by-pass or outsmart the crooked constables on the roads. It's impossible to visualize the kind of public transport we have to cope with but we have learnt to manage. We have learnt the craft of the survival even though some say that Karachi is a classical example of urban mismanagement and poor governance.

Let's just ignore the top rungs, the 1% rich and powerful who manage to create untouchable enclaves for themselves. The discussion is about the real people, the 90%. The kind of unhygienic, unlivable conditions that people of Karachi endure is really

astonishing but still manage to continue with the burden of life with a smile. A single seasonal rain and the utilities of the city collapse. We are drowning in our own garbage as there is no system of collection and disposal of waste and we dump all our sewerage in the sea as none of treatment plants are functional. Potable water-less said the better. The list is long and perhaps common to all south Asian cities, it's not worth a mention here because this article is not about issues but about the resilience of the people of Karachi.

Most of us have seen Karachi - as it is now. Ungovernable but still full of energy, She provides livelihood to millions despite its miserable conditions. She almost feeds the rest of the country by its wealth. With an estimated GDP close to \$120 billion Karachi contributes the bulk of Sindh's gross domestic product and accounts for approximately 20% of the total GDP of Pakistan. Karachi has largest informal economy which is not reflected in GDP estimates. The informal economy may constitute up to 36% of Pakistan's total economy. The informal sector employs up to 70% of the city's workforce that migrates from all over Pakistan and

make Karachi their home. In 2018 The Global Metro Monitor Report ranked Karachi's economy as the best performing metropolitan economy in Pakistan.

Unfortunately, the metropolitan of Karachi has become a battle ground of power. Every gang, political or otherwise wants Karachi's reigns as it is the most productive and profitable enterprise of the country. Some poor souls do get crushed because of the turf wars. She is the golden goose which every gang wants to have and kill. But what is most extraordinary is that life goes on for the masses while the bad guys keep on plotting and busy paralyzing the city life. Can it be the inner strength and patience and hope that one day all will be fine? How else can they survive if they did not believe that one day there will be peace and all these dark forces that are bent to destroy the peace in the city will be destroyed themselves?

Yes, all mega cities have their part of urban pressures and degenerates and it would be naïve to believe that all is well but one has to give due credit to people who dare to live a normal life in the extraordinary hard times and chaos. Perhaps they have

learnt to live dangerously but come evening, when the sun is setting, one sees an unexpected smile on the faces. There is a strange mind-boggling peace in the eyes. The weariness disappears and we all like to help whoever in needs. There is so much to fix here and so many us turn into good Samaritans fixing things. If there was a reward for the 'Most resilient people of the world' Karachi would be on the top of the list.

We are sure that Karachi endures because of not 'some good men' but plentiful good men and women who are part of the system who refuse to quit. The people of Pakistan and especially Karachi have outranked almost every nation in the world as far as philanthropy is concerned. There is complain about brain drain but if we look around we are flooded with people and institutions, NGO's who work selflessly - contributing to the betterment of the city and its people. And it's not just Karachiites but also foreigners who visit Karachi and fall in love with it.

Sister Gertrude Lemmens was a Dutch nun and founder of Dar-ul-Sukun, a home for the mentally handicapped, orphans and

the aged in Karachi. She had been in Karachi since 1940 until she died in 2000. She devoted her life to Karachi. Her fiancé came after her to Karachi once to convince her and to take her back with him. But Gertrude Lemmens strongly felt committed to her work in Karachi. She refused to go back and broke off the engagement.

Ruth Pfau was a German nun and a Physician. She moved from Germany to Karachi in 1961 and devoted more than 55 years of her life to fighting leprosy in Pakistan. While in Karachi, by chance she visited the Lepers' Colony behind McLeod Road (now I. I. Chundrigar Road) near the City Railway Station. Here she decided that the care of patients would be her life's calling. She started medical treatment for the leprosy patients in a hut in this area. The Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre, was founded (which later branched out into tuberculosis and blindness

prevention programmes and social work for the leprosy patients.) Known as "Pakistan's Mother Teresa", Pfau contributed to the establishment of 157 leprosy clinics across Pakistan that treated over 56,780 people.

There must be something in Karachi besides the suffering of a few souls that attracts angels. It's the people of Karachi - of all walks of life that come together as one whole. A better whole. I was reassured of this optimism by a brief remark of a Japanese friend. He has made Karachi his home since the last many decades. He had blended in the Karachi culture, speaks Urdu fluently, has a family and is involved in a benevolent project in Karachi besides being the best ambassador between the two

countries. He writes on his Facebook page;

"From world's 4th most livable (pleasant) city OSAKA to world's 5th least livable (unpleasant) city KARACHI. According to Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Livable Index 2019. But no regret. I still love Karachi due to wonderful Karachiites." (Mohammad Azmat Shigeyuki Ataka)

Karachiites are the winners.

Sadcasim



Did You Know?

On an average a man inhales **3 cylinders** of oxygen everyday. As per today the Price per cylinder is **700 Rs.** So a person inhales **2,100 worth oxygen daily.** If we do not get oxygen freely as we are getting now from trees & plants then we'll have to spend **7,66,500 per year.** Can you afford it? Isn't this one reason enough for us to plant more trees?

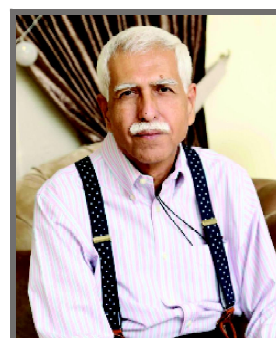
Share This With Maximum People & Spread This Awareness! 😊

OBITUARY

The Management and Members of Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment offer deepest condolences to the family of late Sheikh Rizwan Abdullah. He remained Treasurer of Shehri-CBE from 2002 to 2006 and we greatly benefitted from his wisdom and active facilitation in our work.

May Allah rest his soul in peace. Ameen.

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment



STRATEGIC ISSUES IN URBAN TRANSPORT:

Realities, Policies and Implementation issues in Selected Urban Cities of Sindh



A well designed and effective mass transport system is a basic requirement of any major city and is regarded as one of the engines of growth in the initial phases of the development process. In developing countries, where resources are scarce and unevenly distributed, transportation of goods and services, and movement of people is facilitated by road, rail, sea and air. Therefore, transport and transportation play a complimentary and supportive role in the socio-economic development of society. Pakistan is no exception.

Transport has played a vital role in the economic and social development of Pakistan. Road transport is the only source of passenger, goods and services movement for inter- and intra-city level, spread to all over the country. With the passage of time however, government owned transport services are barely operated in any part of the country, while the private sector has taken over complete control of road transport at both the inter-city and intra-city level. Now-

a-days, intra-city transport consists of a declining number of buses, coaster, mini-buses, wagons, taxis, while the number of rickshaws, motorcycle rickshaws (Qingqui), along with online services like Uber and Careem, in selected major cities has increased. Not only have these modes of transport completely replaced the government operated public transport facilities, but they have increased the economic and social cost to their users in terms of time, money, congestion, transport and traffic regulations.

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment conducted a study to examine and explore various transport related issues and find possible solutions in six cities of Sindh: Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Nawabshah, Larkana and Sukkur.

This study focuses on the deteriorating conditions of transport and related issues in the province of Sindh. Historically, the transportation system in Sindh and specifically Karachi, can be traced back

to the time of Partition. At the time of Partition, while the road network was insufficient, there existed an extensive railway network for passengers and freight. At the provincial level, the Sindh Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) had a network of buses and provided services for inter-city and intra-city level. Karachi itself had a good public transport system, which was run by the SRTC as well as tram network and a local circular railway, known as the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR). However, in the 1960's, politically motivated decisions resulted in the winding up of the SRTC, closing-down of the tramway, neglect of the KCR and deliberate neglect of the railways which in turn shifted the movement of goods and people from trains and trams to the roads. During the 1970's and early 1980's, the Karachi Transport Corporation (KTC) used to provide public transport service, and then gradually vanished altogether. Subsequently, there was a complete take-over by private entities and where buses, coaches, mini-buses,

taxi, rickshaws, Suzuki, Qingqui, became the various transportation options available for the public and continue to this day. The road infrastructure in Karachi has seen an improvement with the construction of flyovers, underpasses and signal-free corridors. However, increasing numbers of cars, motorcycles and Qingqui rickshaws has changed the urban canvas of the metropolitan city. Since there is no proper regulation for public transport system in place, private transporters are the decision makers for the fares as well as the type of transport they bring on roads.

In other cities of Sindh (specifically the selected cities of Hyderabad, Larkana, Mirpurkhas, Nawabshah and Sukkur), this situation becomes much worse where neither public nor private transport system exist, and intra-city bus transport system is largely non-existent. Furthermore, deteriorating road conditions, increasing population together with rising motorization, car and motorcycle ownership have led to increased traffic jams and congestion which in turn have a consequent impact on the health and wellbeing and livelihood of residents of the cities and businesses.

The other serious impact of roads as the main artery for transport is the high incidence of accidents. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, last ten years data indicates that the number of people who lost their lives in road accidents is much higher than the victims of terrorism as on average 15 people die every day in accidents across the country. Sindh has proved the deadliest in terms of average people killed in accidents, followed by Punjab, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In total 9,639 people died, in 13,965 accidents in Sindh over the decade.

Total Number of Vehicles Registered

Cities	Commercial	Private	Motorcycle	Tractor	Total
Hyderabad	49,222	16,345	698,230	20,280	784,077
Karachi	549,739	1,361,663	2,676,125	6,822	4,594,349
Larkana	9,266	7,523	121,323	18,758	156,870
Mirpurkhas	900	621	86,974	12,276	100,771
Nawabshah	2,899	3,021	186,750	22,332	215,002
Sukkur	24,769	13,483	370,792	6,090	415,134

Data Source: Excise & Taxation Department, Government of Sindh.

*Data of Vehicle Registered Until December 2017

The study carried out finds two specific recommendations to solve the rising problems in road travel and transport. Firstly, it is strongly recommended to introduce a viable and sustainable uniform public transport system in each city which should cater to the needs of the public and

be accessible to every citizen at an affordable price. Second, traffic management should be the second line of action to reduce traffic jams and congestions. In this connection, a proactive role of city administration and traffic police department is necessary to ensure strict and

u n c o m p r o m i s i n g implementation of traffic laws and regulations along with building laws and parking space for privately owned vehicles.

Simultaneous implementation of these recommendations is expected to have a positive

long-term impact on the traffic on the roads. An increase in the dependence by commuters on an accessible quality public transport system for travel at affordable prices is likely to reduce travelling on

motorcycles or rickshaws or other public transport means to travel. There is an urgent need for a sustained and conscious effort at a multilateral level, where the general public, administration, traffic police,

law makers, businesses and civil society have to play their role and contribute towards the improvement of travel and traffic environment and reduction in congestion, to enhance the quality of life in cities.



Karachi



Karachi



Hyderabad



Hyderabad



Sukkur



Mirpurkhas



Nawabshah



Larkana

COMMUNITY POLICING THROUGH COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE



25 years ago, a number of progressive police departments began experimenting with a new approach to policing that focused on improving relations between police officers and the communities they serve. This approach to policing, called community policing, focused on developing partnerships between the police and the community, addressing community problems through systematic problem-solving efforts, and finding ways to ensure that officers' efforts in these areas receive support from the police department. Today, community policing is widely accepted in police departments across the country, and the vast majority of community members and local politicians want their police departments to be a community policing agency. As police departments implemented the community policing philosophy, they developed a deeper understanding of what it means to partner with the community. The community is not merely the people living or working within a city, but also the city's nonprofit and community-based organizations, local businesses, and, also important, government agencies. As police departments strengthen and advance their community policing efforts, they call on their

colleagues in other departments of their own city government to assist with problem-solving efforts in the community. At this same time, many city administrators are seeking ways to increase community involvement in local government matters. These same managers are also trying to create a more transparent government structure that stresses accountability and responsiveness to the community. Cities that pursue these efforts are beginning to adopt a new approach to local governance—one that is service-oriented. We refer to this philosophical approach to local governance as "community governance." At its most basic level, community governance takes the philosophy and elements of community policing to the citywide level. It stresses collaboration among city agencies and with the community, systematic problem-solving efforts, and organizational changes to support this new orientation.

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation conducted Seven workshops on "Community Policing for Responsive Governance". These workshops were conducted by Mr. Niaz

Ahmed Siddiki, former Inspector General of Police, Sindh. The details of workshops are as follows:

1. 6th February 2019 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi, with East Zone, Police, Karachi
2. 15th April 2019 at Movenpick Hotel, Karachi, with West Zone, Police, Karachi
3. 30th April 2019 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad, with Hyderabad Range Police
4. 10th October 2019 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi, with South Zone Police, Karachi
5. 22nd October 2019 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi, with Traffic Police, Karachi
6. 31st October 2019 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi, with women Police Karachi.
7. 14th November 2019 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad, with Hyderabad Range Police

In Karachi senior Police Officers, including present IG Police Sindh, Dr. Kaleem Imam, Addl. I.G. Police, Karachi Range, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Memon, DIG Police East Zone, Mr. Amir Farooqui, DIG Police West Zone, Mr. Amin Yousufzai, Mr. Javed Ali Mahar, DIG Police Traffic, Karachi, SSP Karachi East, SSP Malir, SSP Korangi, SSP South, SSP City, SSP West Karachi, retired IGs; chairperson of the

Sindh Human Rights Commission; senior retired officers from the armed forces; Chief CPLC, community members, minorities and eminent members of Civil Society participated.

Ms. Amber Alibhai, Secretary General, SHEHRI in her welcome address stressed the need for maintaining close coordination between police and community for responsive governance. Community Policing was in her view key to improving the Police image, enhancing professional capabilities through technological skills, and creating awareness of law and fundamental rights in citizens.

She said that Shehri has been working closely with the Police since 2003 and to date had conducted workshops all over Pakistan and trained almost 2000 police personnel. She suggested that every police station should have its own website so that the people in the area could acquaint themselves about the personnel posted at their police station and the duties they performed. This would result in close coordination between the community and the police in addressing all issues. She recommended proactive disclosure of information regarding the local police station's performance by making it available to people through the Police Station's website. This

particular recommendation would bring the Police in conformity with Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan which guarantees the Right to Information to every citizen. She also pointed out that Section 6 of the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act 2016 also makes it obligatory for all government departments to comply with these provisions. Set out below is a summary of the main discussion points at the workshops.

Mr. Niaz Ahmed Siddiki, former Inspector General of Police, Sindh gave a detailed presentation on 'Community Policing, Ethical Police Conduct and International Standards and best practices on the 'Use of Force and Firearms by Police'. He said police departments that adopt community policing philosophy work in partnership with the community and depart from the traditional 'professional' policing model to a trust building, community centric, problem solving model. He went on to state that community policing's emphasis on problem solving with community participation has transformed the way modern police forces work around the globe. He explained that there are three elements to community policing philosophy: Community Partnerships, Problem Solving and Organizational Transformation and stressed the need of collaboration between police and community because

police see the general public as their partners in preventing and controlling crimes.

Mr. Khatib Ahmed, an executive member of Shehri, said that the objective of such workshops was to build a bridge between the police and the community for better governance. He said that the community policing model balances reactive responses to calls for service with proactive problem-solving centered approaches that address the causes of crime and disorder. He said that it was the primary function of police officers to protect the lives and properties of the citizens was and it is also their prime responsibility to prevent and detect crime. He said that police officers should provide the protection of law to the common man.

During the workshops Mrs. Amra Javed, an executive member of Shehri-CBE, pointed out several examples of where community policing could help such as respect for people's needs and comfort. She also spoke about public nuisances getting out of hand due to the police's failure in the implementation of laws and cited the example of the violation of The Sindh Sound System (Regulation) Act of 2015 when mosque loudspeakers were misused and felt that the issue could be easily fixed through community policing.

Ms. Fouzia Tariq, Management and Training Consultant and human rights expert said that human dignity was to be protected at all times particularly during emergencies, operations and investigations. She identified Article 14 of the Constitution of Pakistan that guarantees the dignity of a person and right to privacy declaring them to be as inviolable and inalienable rights and prohibits torture for the purpose of extracting evidence. She also drew attention to the UN Code of Conduct for Police Officers which prohibits all forms of inhuman, degrading, and cruel conduct.

Dr. Kaleem Imam, Inspector General of Police said that **"Community policing"** is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime." IG also appreciated Shehri efforts in bridging the gap between police and community.

Justice (R) Majida Rizvi said that attitude of police towards people was changing gradually, and stressed that respect was citizens' basic right. She impressed upon

police officials to be polite with people, especially the poor.

Mr. Wajid Ali Durrani, former Inspector General of police, Sindh said that community policing is the ultimate solution for preventing and detecting crime and for the maintenance of public peace and order. He said that neighborhood residents who believe local police officers have their best interests at heart are more likely to share information that may prevent violence. In this way, he felt, law enforcement ideally could become a collective problem solving activity, whereby consistent community engagement would lead to reciprocal trust and enhanced public safety.

Former Inspector General of Police, Sindh Mr. Asad Jehangir Khan and Mr. Iqbal Mahmood, CPLC Chief Mr. Zubair Habib also spoke at the workshop and discussed the various Community Policing initiatives introduced in the province.

Dr. Amir Farooqui, Deputy Inspector General of Police, East Zone, Karachi said that community policing could help the police to reduce the crime and also to improve the image of the police in the public.

Dr. Amin Yousuf Zai, Deputy Inspector General of Police, West Zone, Karachi said that

the police was a product of the community itself and it should accordingly work in proactive partnership with citizens to identify and solve their problems.

Mr. Javed Ali Mahar, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Traffic, Karachi said communication gaps between the police and the community always create problems.

Two similar workshops "Community Policing for Responsive Governance" were held at Hyderabad with Hyderabad Range Police. Mr. Niaz Ahmed Siddiki, former IG Police, Sindh conducted the session. Addl. I.G. Police, Hyderabad Range, Dr. Waliullah Dal, DIG Police, Hyderabad Range, Mr. Naeem Shaikh and SP Head Quarters Hyderabad, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Zardari also attended the concluding session of workshop.

At the end of the Workshop an interactive Open House session between the community and Police officers captioned 'Coffee with a COP' was conducted where the term 'COP' symbolized 'Community Oriented Policing'. In this session, moderated by Ms. Fouzia Tariq, problems and issues relating to the community were freely discussed and their solutions proposed.

**6TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT MARRIOTT HOTEL, KARACHI
WITH EAST ZONE, POLICE, KARACHI**



**15TH APRIL 2019 AT MOVENPICK HOTEL, KARACHI
WITH WEST ZONE, POLICE, KARACHI**



**30TH APRIL 2019 AT INDUS HOTEL, HYDERABAD
WITH HYDERABAD RANGE POLICE**



10TH OCTOBER 2019 AT MARRIOTT HOTEL, KARACHI WITH SOUTH ZONE POLICE, KARACHI



22ND OCTOBER 2019 AT MARRIOTT HOTEL, KARACHI WITH TRAFFIC POLICE, KARACHI



31ST OCTOBER 2019 AT MARRIOTT HOTEL, KARACHI WITH WOMEN POLICE KARACHI.



14TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT INDUS HOTEL, KARACHI WITH HYDERABAD RANGE POLICE



PLANTING TREES : BEST SOLUTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE



Have you ever imagined what life would be like without trees? Just imagine that without trees we would not be able to breathe the free oxygen we take for granted, resulting in a life in a dome where oxygen would be artificially supplied. How many people would be able to afford that? Imagine every person will have to carry his oxygen cylinder. Below is a data of Oxygen that one person breathes and how much it costs:-



"DC East Ahmed Ali Siddiqui planting tree in Karachi Administration Society"



We are losing an acre and half of forest every second or 15 billion trees are lost every year, so imagine what amount of trees need to be planted to reverse the negative effects of this loss.

In the past century, the rise of 1.5 degrees has already resulted in the rise of cyclones, tornadoes, storms, severe heat spells, rapidly melting glaciers, and loss of ice cap in the north.

All these reasons should be good enough for us to start a rigorous drive to plant as many trees as we can.

Not only that, what would be our diet without all the delicious fruits we consume daily, and the chirping of the birds which is music to our ears and a treat for sore eyes.

Apart from inhaling carbon

dioxide, trees also absorb various harmful gases including sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide and also filter harmful pollutants from the atmosphere thereby providing us fresher and cleaner air to breathe. The growing amount of air pollution caused by the smoke emitted by vehicles and factories can be controlled only if we plant more and more trees. However, this is not the only reason why tree plantation is important. It offers several other benefits. Some of the top advantages of growing trees include:

- Providing fruits and

leaves that serve as food for birds, animals as well as human beings.

- Maintaining bio diversity.
- Providing wood, rubber and other raw materials that are used for manufacturing various goods such as furniture, doors, windows, utensils, stationary items and decorative items.
- Conservation of water.
- Habitat for birds and animals.
- Climate Control.
- Preservation of soil.
- The silk we wear, the paper we use, the napkins and tissues we use, all come from the trees either directly or indirectly.
- A lot of medicines, and most of the cosmetics we use also come from trees.

Those of us living in Karachi have not forgotten the heat wave of 2015 which killed 1200 people. This heat was 5 to 8 degrees higher than the normal temperature for that time of the year. Climate change all over the world was the major factor which led to this rise in temperatures.

Trees play an important role

in an ecosystem by maintaining ecological balance and equilibrium. A micro-habitat formed by planting trees can create a green and natural area, and a micro climate that is healthy for all life forms, including man.

Those of us living in Karachi have not forgotten the heat wave of 2015 which killed 1200 people. This heat was 5 to 8 degrees higher than the normal temperature for that time of the year. Climate change all over the world was the major factor which led to this rise in temperatures.

Trees play an important role in an ecosystem by maintaining ecological balance and equilibrium. A micro-habitat formed by planting trees can create a green and natural area, and a micro climate that is healthy for all life forms, including man.

As researchers have discovered, urban trees can also cool down temperatures in neighbourhoods anywhere from 0.5 degrees Celsius to 2 degrees Celsius on the hottest summer days. This is vital during deadly heat waves, as studies have shown that every additional one degree Celsius in a heat wave leads to a three percent or more



MPA Bilal Ghaffar planting Ajwa tree at Medicam park KAECHS

increase in mortality.

Here in Pakistan, we need to look into the reason which caused this disaster, and appreciate the work Shehri-CBE is doing to control the factors which resulted in this serious rise in temperatures. Foremost in this disaster making was the criminal activity of destruction of green cover of Karachi, e.g. take the case of Jheel Park in P.E.C.H.S. Shehri had planted numerous trees of rose wood, and when they were fully mature, they were cut down by criminals for the sole purpose of selling the wood. These trees were replaced by conocarpus trees, thus ruining the beauty of the park and resulting in reported allergies by the people of the area, due to the conocarpus

trees. Similarly, if you look around the city, in the past ten years, all big parks have been ravaged of their green cover and the people deprived of places to relax e.g. Model Park in Block-6 in P.E.C.H.S., Khalid Bin Waleed Park in Block 2, P.E.C.H.S., family park in Manzoor Colony, numerous parks in Clifton, Aziz Bhatti Park and Safari Park in Gulshan-e-Iqbal and in Nazimabad. Similarly huge trees have been cut in route of BRT and other development works. The Parks department of this sprawling mega city does not have a single tree transplanting machine which could have saved numerous precious trees.

The biggest factor resulting in the heat island effect was turning different city roads into highrise zones, e.g. Khalid Bin Waleed Road, Shahr-e-Faisal, Shaheed-e-Millat Road, Tipu Sultan Road, Allama Iqbal Road, where each house has been turned into 60-80 apartments without any mandatory specifications for open space and green cover. Due to this, the city has been turned into a concrete jungle hindering the movement of air currents, and thus increasing temperatures.

Shehri has a few suggestions



Tree Plantation at Mazar-e-Quaid

for the Parks Department.

treatment plant etc.

- Only professional people should be posted as head of department
- All staff should be given training in gardening
- Each park which is developed should have a plaque of its sponsor, with the budget sanctioned and the builder should be made responsible for its uplift at least for 5 years.
- Each park should have a marked area for composting, instead of burning leaves causing further degradation of air quality.
- If possible it should also have a herbs patch to raise funds for maintenance / upkeep.
- Every big park should have a reed, water

Realising the gravity of the situation, Shehri has taken up the task of tree plantation in Karachi. Our objective is to mitigate the impact of climate change. We are planting local flora and indigenous trees to protect the regional biodiversity of Sindh. We are also willing to help individuals who want to plant trees in their areas, by providing trees and expertise where required.

Here let's make it clear that just planting and posting pictures should not be the goal. We have to make sure that whatever is planted, is also nurtured for at least 6 to 8 months, whereupon trees normally survive with occasional watering 2 to 3 times a week. They should also be protected from goats and other grazing animals, and from rowdy kids.

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