



"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 2020

THE GENDER WAR OF CONTROL



Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's speech of 11th August 1947, as the founder of Pakistan, and as the newly elected President of its Constituent Assembly, stipulated the following:

"You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques, or to any other places of worship in this state of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion, caste or creed: that has nothing to do with the business of the state".

Quaid-e-Azam also said in this speech in Karachi that "it is our responsibility to not allow compromise on the dignity of the minorities".

Keeping this in mind, Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment, with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation, conducted workshops with training and seminars for "Improving Gender Empowerment through inclusive Urban Governance" with Christian and Hindu communities, this programme

is continuation of our transport study which we conducted in 2017-2018 and during this project we realized how marginalized women of minority sects were.

INSIDE

The Drowned City	P-08
Planting a Tree	P-10
Sustainable Agriculture	P-14
Sindh Government	P-15
Violations of Buildings	P-17
Successful Plantation	P-24
Sindh Government	P-26
Ministry of Climate	P-27

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
www.facebook.com/shehri.citizens
Twitter: @ShehriCBE

EDITORIAL

Shehri-CBE Team

MANAGING COMMITTEE**Chairperson:**

Sameer Hamid Dodhy

Vice Chairperson:

Saleka Enver

General Secretary:

Amber Alibhai

Treasurer:

Amra Javed

Members:

Danish Azar Zubay
Mohammad Ali Rasheed
Engr. Parvez Sadiq

SHEHRI STAFF**Coordinator:**

Sarwar Khalid

Assistant Coordinator:

Mohammad Rehan Ashraf

Accounts Consultant:

Irfan Shah

Office Assistant:

Mohammad Tahir

Office Boy:

Khursheed Ahmed

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:**Saudagar Enterprises**

Web: www.saudagar.com.pk
Ph: 021-34152970, 0333-2276331

SHEHRI-CBE

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

The objectives were:

1. Education and capacity building of women in religious minorities, with an aim to enable them to better address violations of their human and fundamental rights, including gender based legal protections by seeking timely access to institutions of prosecution and justice, and enshrined fundamental rights.
2. Influencing policy making bodies for empowering religious minorities/women, by strengthening laws and institutional systems for enabling access to all fundamental rights. This also includes property rights!

With these objectives in view, SHEHRI-CBE, conducted a number of workshops (awareness sessions) in Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Tando Allahyar. These sessions were held on the following dates and venues in 2020:

1. 19th July 2020 at St. John Church, Landhi No. 2, Karachi
2. 25th July 2020 at PVDP Conference Hall, Mirpurkhas
3. 12th August 2020 at Baptist Church, Pahar Gunj, Karachi
4. 15th August 2020 at Bshell Colony, Mirpurkhas
5. 12th September 2020 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad
6. 23rd September 2020 at Calvery Church, Pahar Gunj, Karachi

7. 26th September 2020 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad
8. 10th October 2020 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad
9. 22nd October 2020 at Calvery Church, Pahar Gunj, Karachi
10. 24th October 2020 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad
11. 31st October 2020 at Village Abdin Farm, Mirpurkhas.
12. 1st November 2020 at The New Revival Church, Azizabad, Karachi
13. 7th November 2020 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad
14. 8th November 2020 at New Revival Church, Khuda-ki-Basti, Karachi
15. 10th November 2020 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi
16. 13th November 2020 at Indus Hotel, Hyderabad
17. 17th November 2020 at Shanti Nagar Village, TandoAllahyar
18. 28th November 2020 at Abdul Aziz Farm Village, Mirpurkhas

These workshops / sessions were moderated by Zahid Farooq in Karachi, Mr. Ross Mahtani in Hyderabad and Mr. Shahzad Malik in Mirpurkhas / Tando Allahyar.

Following resource persons were invited as speakers in the sessions

1. Advocate Tabassum Yousuf (Karachi)
2. Prof. Dr. Nuzhat Williams (Karachi)
3. MPA Anthony Naveed (Karachi)



4. MPA Mangla Sharma (Karachi)
5. Father Iqbal Daniel (Karachi)
6. Advocate M. Parkash Mahtani (Hyderabad)
7. Prof. Dr. Aijaz Ali Wassan, Sindh University Jamshoro (Hyderabad)
8. Mr. Veer Jee Kohli, Special Assistant to CM Sindh (Hyderabad)
9. Mr. Naeem Ahmed Shaikh, DIG Hyderabad
10. Mr. Ibrahim Arbab, Assistant Commissioner (City), Hyderabad
11. Ms. Qandeel Fatima Memon, Assistant Commissioner (Rural), Hyderabad
12. Mr. Shabir Jan Jiskani, Assistant Commissioner (Staff), Hyderabad
13. Mohammad Bux Kapri, Civil Society Activist, Mirpurkhas
14. Mohammad Rafiq Leghari, Chairman Union Council, Mirpurkhas

In all these sessions, our speakers and moderators spoke about the importance of Article 19-A of the Constitution: "Right to Information (RTI)", which empowers a citizen to get

"Laws of inheritance applicable to Christians are the same for both genders. If a husband dies intestate i.e. without making a will then wife inherits 1/3 share and the remaining 2/3 is equally distributed between sons and daughters according to the Christian law of Inheritance 1925".

Advocate Tabassum Yousuf

"Women police stations are established with the objective of providing relief for those women victims who are reluctant to approach male police stations to lodge their complaints".

Mr. Naeem Ahmed Shaikh
DIG Police Hyderabad Region

information from government departments.

Moderators/speakers gave PowerPoint presentation on available legislative instruments, institutional mechanisms and civil society facilitation options seeking appropriate redress on matters related to human rights, gender, religious minority rights, laws of inheritance, land and property, and also for prevention of discrimination based on customary/traditional and informal practices.

OBSERVATIONS

It was emphasized by all the speakers that the "Right to Information" was one of the basic steps towards empowering people's rights, and they can take part in the government of his country, directly or indirectly or through freely chosen representatives.

The participants of these workshops were either Christians or Hindus. Most of them enunciated following points.

1. Forced conversion from their religion should be

stopped.

2. Government should form a committee to look into forced conversion.
3. Government takes immediate action whenever Muslim girls or boys are forced to convert from their religion but they remain indifferent when Christians or Hindu children are converted.
4. Minorities are not given equal number of holidays and other facilities during their festivals.
5. Job quota for minorities is not properly implemented.

"Sindh Government has enacted various women pro laws such as the Child Marriage Restraint Act, The Domestic Violence (Prevention & Protection Act), 2013 and The Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, Sindh Hindu Marriage Act (Amendment) 2018".

Veerji Kohli
Special Assistant to CM Sindh

6. Minorities must be provided equal rights in the society.
7. Educational institutions should not force Christians and Hindus to study Islamiaat.
8. There should be no gender discrimination.
9. No due respect is given to females working in offices.
10. There should be women police for domestic violence (We noted that there are Police Stations in Karachi where all the staff are women).

About their own community

1. In Christian and Hindu community priority is always given to male members of the family in obtaining education. Even if a girl is

"We often see that a girl is not given proper education because she is going to go to another family and a boy is educated because he will bring Income to the family. Its horrible Mindset of people need to change that a girl is not a burden".

Prof. Dr. Nuzhat Williams

doing well in school she is not allowed to go beyond class 7 on one pretext or another. Either it is transport to the schools, marriage or work at home etc.

2. No inheritance share is given to females in the family.
3. Women are not given proper education and awareness regarding their rights.
4. Inheritance laws should be allowed and land and property rights be given accordingly

"Constitution of Pakistan provides equal rights to religious minorities. All citizens are equal before law. There is no discrimination on ground of religion, caste, creed, sex or place of birth".

Zahid Farooq



CONCLUSION:

In the village of Bhell in Mirpurkhas, there are 200 houses of Hindu families. SHEHRI'S main aim was to give them a sense of their rights. Sadly, it was heart-wrenching to see their plight. They did not even have basic facilities of water and sewerage to survive. They were uneducated and living much below the poverty line. 50 women participants were invited from the Bhell village.

Pakistan's most religiously diverse society is the province of Sindh with 8% religious minority population - predominantly Hindus and some Christians.

The "Sindh Hindu Marriage Act 2018" law and "Minority Rights Commission" passed by Sindh Assembly outlaws forced conversions and also protects Hindus.

"Education is the key factor for women empowerment, prosperity, development & welfare".

Qandeel Fatima Memon
Assistant Commissioner
Rural Hyderabad

A practicing lawyer was also invited to the seminar who reiterated that the laws of inheritance applicable to Christians are the same for both genders. If a husband dies intestate i.e. without making a will then wife inherits 1/3 share and the remaining 2/3 is equally distributed between sons and daughters according to the Christian law of Inheritance 1925.

Minorities face multiple forms of discrimination and

therefore are vulnerable to a range of abuses: including forced conversion, forced marriage and sexual violence.

Although heavy fines and punishments exist, laws on Child Marriage (Early Marriage) have little impact as they are not well enforced", says Zahid Farooq

The "Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act" makes sexual harassment of women in workplace and in public places a criminal offense.

"Sindh Child Marriages Restraint Act prohibits the underage marriage but it is violated in many cases".

Advocate M. Parkash

Concluding: it is noted that the participants of both group were:

1. Able to understand their importance and role in society
2. Able to get information about their rights in the family, in society and in the country
3. Able to understand the issues in their daily life
4. Able to appreciate that they are part of the society, and that they have rights





MEERA PAKISTAN **MEERA GHAR**

**Low-cost Housing Finance Scheme
led by the Prime Minister's Vision**

Build your dream home with the largest Islamic Bank in Pakistan.
Meezan Bank is committed to providing Shariah-compliant,
Riba-free and affordable housing finance to the people of Pakistan.

Category	Tier 1 NAPHDA projects	Tier 2 Non-NAPHDA projects	Tier 3 Non-NAPHDA projects
Housing Units	Housing Units/apartments of up to 125 sq. yards / 5 Marla with covered area of up to 850 sq. feet		Housing Units of more than 125 sq. yards up to 250 sq. yards / 10 Marla or apartments with covered area from more than 850 sq. feet to 1,100 sq. feet
Purpose	Only for construction and first purchase of newly constructed affordable housing units		
Financing Tenor	Up to 20 years		
Profit rate	First 5 years = 5%	First 5 years = 5%	First 5 years = 7%
	Next 5 years = 7%	Next 5 years = 7%	Next 5 years = 9%
	For periods exceeding 10 years = 1 year KIBOR+2.5%	For periods exceeding 10 years = 1 year KIBOR+4%	For periods exceeding 10 years = 1 year KIBOR+4%
Maximum Price of Units	Rs. 35 Lakhs		Rs. 60 Lakhs
Maximum Financing Range	Rs. 27 Lakhs	Rs. 30 Lakhs	Rs. 50 Lakhs

Approximate monthly payments*

Financing amount	Rs. 10 Lakhs	Rs. 20 Lakhs	Rs. 30 Lakhs	Rs. 40 Lakhs	Rs. 50 Lakhs
Total monthly payment	Rs. 6,600/-	Rs. 13,199/-	Rs. 19,799/-	Rs. 31,012/-	Rs. 38,765/-

(Monthly payments mentioned above are for first five years, based on 20 years financing period.)
(Monthly payment includes unit price and rent.)

*Terms & conditions apply.



To get in touch
with our representative,
scan the QR code.

For detailed terms and conditions,
please visit your nearest branch or visit our website.



Meezan Bank
The Premier Islamic Bank

Follow us on [f](#) [t](#) [YouTube](#) [in](#) [@](#)

111-331-331 & 111-331-332 www.meezanbank.com

THE DROWNED CITY

SAMEER HAMID DODHY, SHEHRI-CBE



Let the rain kiss you. Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops. Let the rain sing you a lullaby. (Langston Hughes)

Unfortunately for the citizens of Karachi, rain is a disaster that drowns the entire city.

Currently the National Disaster Management Authority has been called in to clear the drains, which is essential. However the truth is that this action is like giving aspirin to a cancer patient. The pain lessens for a little while but the fundamental issues remains the same.

There has been a great deal of breast beating and finger pointing regarding the causes for the flooding in Karachi. The drains are not cleaned properly. There are encroachments on the drains. Construction is made without planning and at

times elevated roads make it impossible for the drainage of the water.

However what is often overlooked is that the destruction in Karachi is caused by the greed of the rich and the powerful.

Karachi has three main drainage outfalls that carry the city's sewerage and rain water into the sea. They have been choked or narrowed over the years either to make room for construction or to reclaim land.

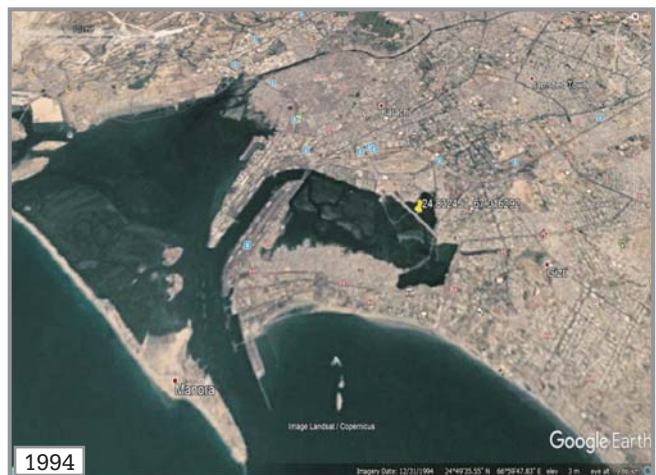
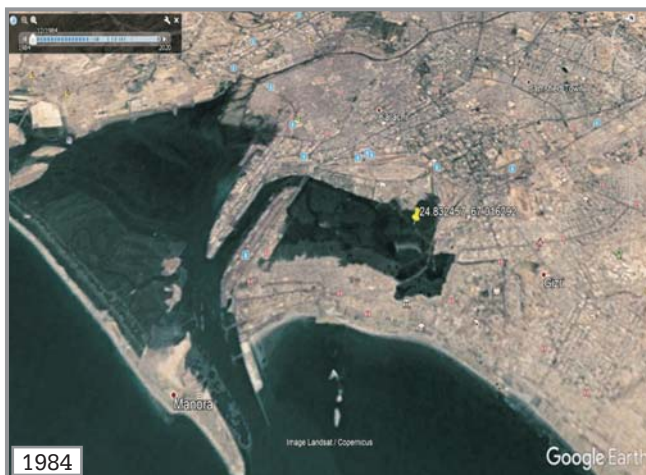
The three drainage outfalls are Lyari river, Malir river and Kolachi Bypass.

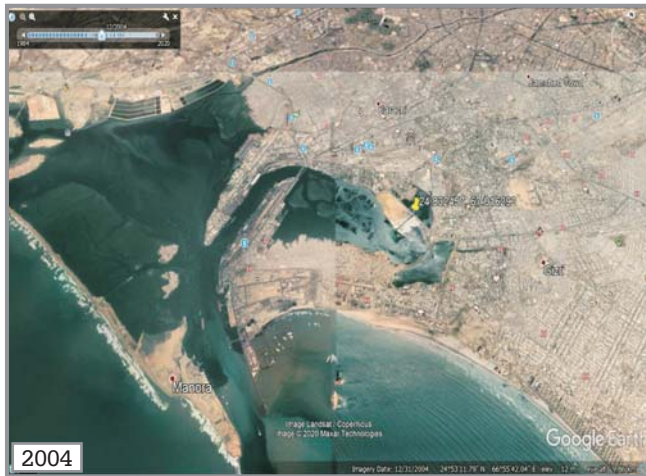
The Kolachi Bypass, which receives the Soldier Bazar and the City Railway drains, has been reduced from the original 300 feet to 30 feet. KPT did so to reclaim land for commercial purposes while destroying the

mangroves and constricting the outfall.

The late Parveen Rahman (Director of the Orangi Pilot Project who was murdered by the land mafia in 2013) stated that the Mai Kolachi Bypass can be converted into a low bridge which would ensure that the water would not be blocked in Saddar or on I.I. Chundrigar Road and would also save the mangroves. However this proposal was never seriously considered as 'reclaimed land' by the KPT next to the bypass will have to be surrendered to the sea. How can billions of potential profit be sacrificed?

A picture is worth a thousand words and here are Google Earth Pro images of the Mai Kolachi from 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2020. The images clearly show the blockage of the outfall.





Anyone with a computer and internet connection can access these images by putting in Google satellite coordinates 24.832457, 67.016292

The Lyari river has been narrowed by the construction of the Lyari Expressway that has reduced the river to one third its width.

The Malir river has been choked by the Defence Housing Authority. Land reclamation has also constricted the outlet to the sea at Gizri Creek.

In 2009, Masood Alam, Executive District Officer Municipal Services of the city government, stated "Manzoor Colony Drain is 200 feet wide

when it starts from Mehmoodabad. It shrinks to just 24 feet by the time it reaches sea through Phase 8 of Defence."

Arif Hasan stated on the status of Gizri Creek at Phase 7 Defence Housing Authority (DHA), "All that we are left with is approximately an 80 feet nallah. When there is high tide, or rain, the water cannot get out. The result is that it gets choked."

It is said that the sign of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again and to expect the different results. Going by that standard we in Karachi are truly insane because the problems were

identified many years ago but whenever there is flooding the blame game starts but their root causes remain - which is that very rich and powerful people are encroaching on the drainage of Karachi.

Soon the monsoons will recede and things will get back to normal with further land grabbing until the next time the city is flooded.

Poor Karachi! Once it was the Paris of the East and today it is a city waiting to die. Stained with the blood of martyrs like Parveen Rahman who warned the city of the dangers it faced and ignored by the elites whose eternal greed will kill the city.

OBITUARY

The Management and Members of Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment offer their condolences to the family of late DSP (R) Jahan Khan Bhatti. Mr. Bhatti was associated with Shehri-CBE from 2008 to 2013 as a coordinator for the project "National Project for Participatory Citizen-Police Interaction & Training for Improved Policing of Human Rights Violations & Advocating Police Policy Reforms" 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

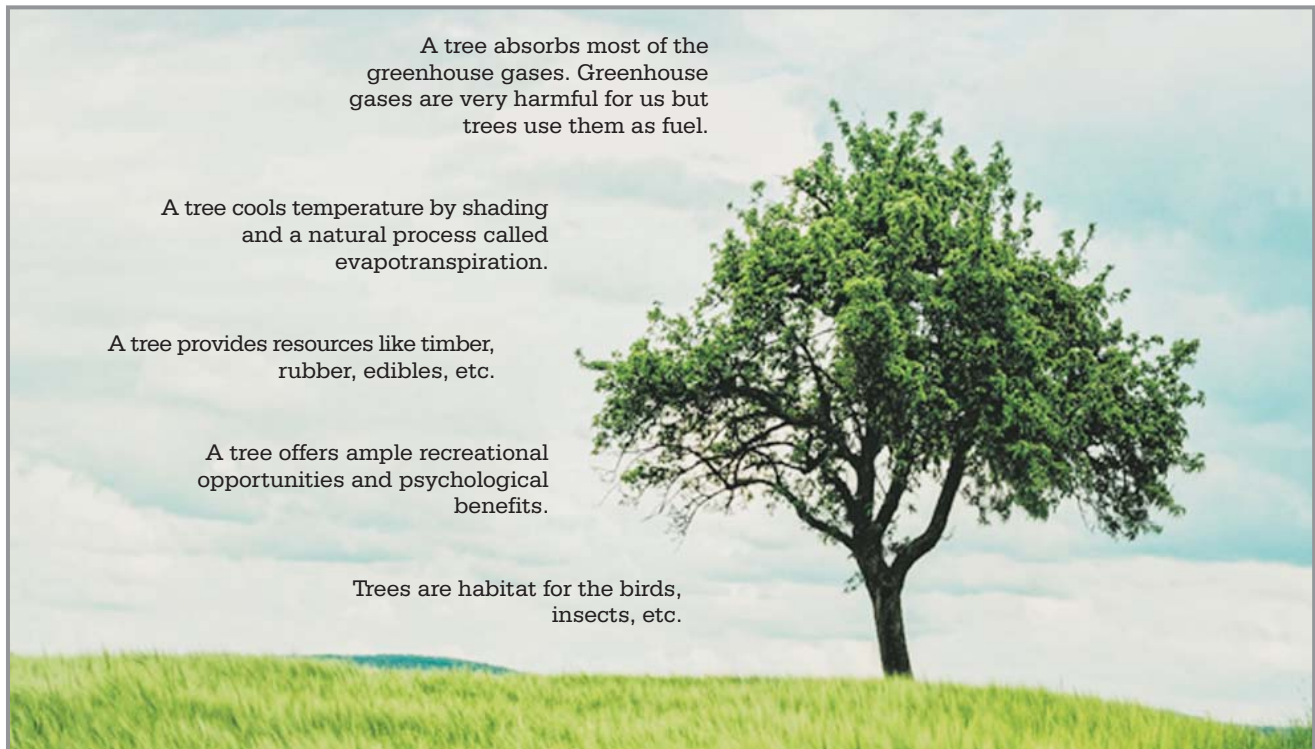


PLANTING A TREE

MALIHA AMANAT



A tree is a part of an intricate natural ecosystem. It is absolutely important and crucial element of the natural environment. Because it provides unique and a wide range of ecological services which other ecosystem elements could not offer.



In the context of Karachi, trees at first place are overlooked; for example, trees are cut or pruned during construction works and are used in placing advertisements. In the second place, trees are planted incorrectly due to a lack of awareness about tree plantation or without consulting an arborist. Lastly, in third place, the tree remained unprotected and vulnerable. For these reasons, tree growth is considerably hampered and damaged.



GENERAL GUIDELINES AND IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS WHILE PLANTING A TREE

Taxonomically, the general guidelines and considerations are encapsulated in a three-stage process of tree planting. The process is illustrated below and subsequently described.



Selecting a tree specie



Planting a tree



Maintaining a tree

Selecting a tree specie

Nature is relentlessly diverse. One has myriad choices while selecting a tree species. However, the choices are constricted by adding constraints and considerations in the equation.

Key consideration of this stage

- ⇒ Plantation site suitability
- ⇒ Biological diversity of a tree
- ⇒ Climate adaptability of a tree

Plantation site suitability

Plantation site should be evaluated in terms of space available for tree growth. A tree requires space for spreading its root networks and foliage; the required space is vary from tree to tree. It is highly recommended that one should be aware of the area required by a tree to grow and mature. Internet perhaps serves a good medium to gain this knowledge.

Furthermore, it should be considered that the biological characteristics of soil and tree should be compatible in order to facilitate healthy tree growth. An arborist consultation is highly recommended here.

Biological diversity of tree

Tree biodiversity is important for three reasons. First, tree biodiversity considerably mitigate the potential risk of loss of trees due to pest attacks and unusual weather. Secondly, biodiversity in trees contribute to enhanced ecological services for improved urban resilience. Thirdly, the biodiversity of trees would nourish biodiversity of fauna including birds, pollinators, butterflies, and other insects; which means cleaner environment, improved crops production, and lesser pollution.

A general RULE Of THUMB for tree biodiversity?

Generally, a **10 20 30 rule** is widely accepted to flourish an adequate biodiversity in urban tree population. The principle states that an urban tree population should include no more than

- 10% of any one specie,
- 20% of any one genus, and
- 30% of any one family.

Climate adaptability of a tree

Tree species is selected considering the climate of the chosen site. For example, coconut trees are good for tropical climate but should not be suggested for cold climate. Native trees or indigenous tree species should be given preference over exotic species. Invasive plant species should be taken carefully considered while planting.

Planting a tree

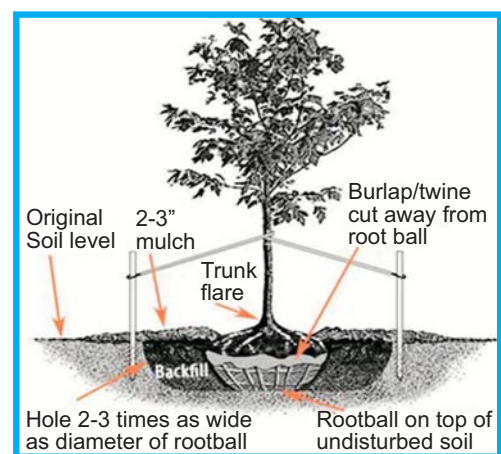
Essentially, planting a tree is more than sowing a sapling in the ground. The area of the tree pit is very important.

- ⇒ Area of tree pit
- ⇒ Visibility of tree trunk flare
- ⇒ Thickness of mulch layer

Area of tree pit

A tree pit is a trench dug for the plantation of the tree sapling. A tree sapling is a young tree is it typically of height 7 to 10 feet. Although the area of tree pit varies widely, a general guidelines would substantially help. There is a rule of thumb which says that a tree pit should be 2 to 3 times wider than the tree root ball (area of roots network beneath the tree trunk) and 2 to 3 times less deeper than the root ball height.


As illustrated below:



Source: Gardners Supply Company, 2020

Visibility of trunk flare

The trunk flare should be visible above the ground. The trunk flare is a transition zone; it needs to be completely aerated and uncovered. It should be carefully considered that mulch and soil does not cover up the trunk flare, as it does so, the nutrients present in mulch and soil wet the trunk flare and makes it more vulnerable to the attack of insects and pests hampering the growth of tree and blocking oxygen.


 A well-maintained trunk flare.



Why trunk flare visibility matters?

Trunk flare of a tree is a junction between upper part (canopy and trunk) and lower part (roots) of a tree. A main function of trunk flare is to supply oxygen to the roots. Covering trunk flare constricts oxygen supply and so hamper the growth of roots.

Thickness of mulch layer

Place a mulch layer on top of the soil. Be careful that mulch layer should not touch the tree trunk and trunk flare. The mulch layer should be not be thicker than 3 inches.

A mulch layer is highly recommended to be placed on top of the tree soil on the surface of the tree pit for a healthy and sustainable growth of a tree.

What is a mulch layer? A mulch layer is a mixture of organic and inorganic nutrients. It is composed of a variety of nutrients including dried fruits and vegetable residues, grass, bark wood, hay, leaves, shredded newspaper and cardboard, and animal manure. A mulch layer is applied on top of soil, whereas, a compost is mixed with the soil.

Why mulch layer matters? A mulch layer provides the soil with nutrients, fertility, and moisture.

Maintaining a tree

A tree requires care and maintenance. The maintenance of a tree requires a few actions. First and foremost is watering the tree. Second, apply mulch layer to maintain and flourish soil quality. A mulch should be applied when vestige of last mulch is disappearing. Thirdly, it is important to keep the tree pit clear from garbage and weeds and protect the trunk flare from being covered and tree foliage from damage.

Over the time, tree trunk flare will cover from dust, garbage, and cement infrastructure. Trees planted on roads and pavements are potentially vulnerable. Moreover, weeds and unwanted invasive plants also grow in tree pits and sucks nutrients from the ground. Therefore, the tree pit should be cleared and prevented from unwanted weeds and plants, and from garbage and any other waste. The waste in the tree pit can block air, cover the trunk flare, or facilitate the growth of unwanted microorganisms, for example, mismanaged organic waste in tree pits. Even more trees in the urban settings are especially vulnerable from contrivances and lighting strings, this brutally damage tree's complex and delicate ecosystem. This practice should not be promoted.

P.S.

Nevertheless, everyone who is planting a tree is necessarily an arborist or botanist. Neither, it is mandatory to have a degree in tree science before planting a tree. A moderate level of self-study from secondary sources would substantially help. However, a consultation to an arborist is highly recommended.



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

SALEKA ENVER, SHEHRI-CBE



The issues around current farming Methods:-

- Even though, the agriculture sector has significantly increased productivity to reduce the number of food insecure people, it has had its downside. The cost to nature has been high!
- Intensification and expansion has degraded soils and ecosystems, depleted already challenged water resources in most countries, and also reduced biodiversity. According to FAO, more than 25% of arable soils worldwide are thus degraded.
- Yields have also been stagnating
- Future demand for food will increase

Farmers and conservationists should work together to conserve soil biodiversity through sustainable farming methods for improving agricultural land health and productivity.

Some sustainable agricultural principles:-

1. Rotating crops and embracing biodiversity
2. Planting of cover crops. In agriculture, cover crops are plants that are planted to cover the soil rather than for the purpose of being harvested. Cover crops manage soil erosion, soil fertility, soil quality, water,

weeds, pests, diseases, biodiversity, and wildlife in an agricultural ecosystem- an ecological system managed and shaped by humans. Some cover crops are clover, snow peas etc. which fix nitrogen, cover soil in winter and add humus to soil in spring.

3. Reducing or eliminating tillage (manual clearing followed by mechanized tillage for preparation of land for growing crops)
4. Applying integrated pest management
5. Integrating livestock and crops
6. Adopting agro- forestry practices i.e. by mixing trees or shrubs into their operations, farmers can provide shade and shelter to protect plants, animals and water resources, while also, potentially offering additional income
7. Sustainable farms value uncultivated, or less importantly, cultivated areas, for their role in controlling erosion, reducing nutrient runoff, and supporting pollinators and other biodiversity.

Transition to Sustainable Agriculture

STEPS that farmers, government agencies and policy makers can take are:-

- 1) Prioritize soil and landscape biodiversity for food and

nature

- 2) Wide adoption of agro-ecological approaches for managing agricultural landscapes...it integrates practices such as organic farming, regenerative agriculture, some aspects of perm culture, and therefore contributes to sustainable development.
- 3) Establish targets and indicators at national and global levels for sustainable agriculture.
- 4) Reward farmers for ecosystem services.

Can the adoption of sustainable farming methods help in food sufficiency and concerns related to livestock farming in this pandemic?

- 1) Yes! Sustainable farming practices contribute to addressing concerns around intensive farming, especially improving animal welfare thus reducing threat to human health.... because of less use of agrochemicals, smaller herd sizes and outdoor holding with reduced risk of zoonotic diseases emerging.... due to the increased diversity in crops and species.
- 2) Improving soil and land health will reduce the farmer's vulnerability to increased climate change impacts.

SINDH GOVERNMENT SEEKS HELP OF CIVIL SOCIETY, TOWN PLANNERS TO FINALISE KARACHI MASTER PLAN



On 14th October 2020, Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah invited architects, Town planners, representatives of Civil Society and urban planning experts to finalize the master plan for the Karachi city.

Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah said that the provincial government will beautify Karachi with the support and cooperation of the civil society. Shah told that the government is working on the K-IV Greater Karachi Water Supply Project, the Karachi Circular Railway, the Bus Rapid

Transit System, the Karachi Water & Sewerage Services Improvement Project, the Malir Expressway and other mega development projects in the city. He said that the federal government, the provincial administration and the World Bank have been providing the required funds for these projects in the city.

During the meeting Chief Secretary reiterated that the provincial government will not allow the construction of any illegal building anywhere in the city at any cost. He said

that under-construction buildings in the city should now carry a board outside their premises with a QR code that enables the public to use their smart phones to ascertain the legal status of the construction duly approved by the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA).

Shah said the Sindh government is devising master plans for 17 cities of the province, out of which plans for Sukkur, Larkana and Islamkot have been completed. Master plans for the remaining 14 cities

will be completed by June, he added.

He sought the opinions of experts of architecture and urban town planners for finalising the master plan for Karachi. The chief secretary said that construction experts should also provide their advice so that the conservation of heritage buildings in different parts of the city can be ensured.

Those who attended the

meeting assured the provincial authorities that they would provide the utmost support for finalising Karachi's master plan. They said that they would also extend their expert advice for finalising mega development projects for the city.

The Chief Secretary assured everyone that the suggestions of civil society representatives and urban town planners will be fully adhered to while preparing the master plan for the city.

The meeting was attended by Local Government Secretary Najam Ahmed Shah, the Institute of Architects Pakistan's Arif Changezi, Heritage Committee head Yasmeen Lari, the NED University of Engineering & Technology's Prof. Dr. Noman Ahmed, Shehri General Secretary Amber Alibhai, the Institution of Engineers Pakistan's Engr Sohail Bashir, Maria Ansari, Hameer Soomro, Asad IA Khan and the SBCA director general.



VIOLATIONS OF BUILDINGS RULES AND REGULATIONS IN THE CITY



The Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan passed orders dated 22nd January 2019, in Civil Petition No.815-K of 2016 and issued specific directions for SBCA, the relevant para is reproduced as under:-

"Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), shall not approve any multistoried building plan on residential plots

meant for residential houses, amenity plots like play grounds, parks, and others amenities and all such approval given by SBCA shall be reviewed and any building constructed in violation of original Master Plan in the City of Karachi, shall be ensured to be restored to its original position".

Despite the Supreme Court

order, SBCA failed to implement it in the city. We at Shehri received various complaints regarding illegal construction on residential plots, schools on residential plots, misuse of residential plots and violations of building rules and regulations.

These are just a few, there are many more across the city.

Plot No. JM-977 (1500 sqyds), Street No. 8, Muslimabad, Karachi

- Construction against allotment order and lease agreement
- Multistorey highrise construction on residential plot
- Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road.



Plot No. JM 655 (1300 sqyds), Jamshed Quarters, Karachi.

- The above mentioned plot is residential and its situated on less than 40' ft wide road.
- The builder constructed flats for commercial sale.
- Construction in COS
- An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.



Plot No. 301 (240 sqyds), Block 2, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, KDA Sch-24, Karachi

- G+3 construction on residential plot. Illegal shops and portions/flats. G+1 construction is allowed on residential plot
- Entire COS encroached.
- An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.



Plot No. A/331 (240 sqyds) Block D, North Nazimabad, Karachi.

- Construction on 3rd floor in progress, whereas G+1 construction is allowed by SBCA. The owners/builders constructed Illegal Portions/flats.

**Plot No. 153-N (1000 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- G+2 construction on residential plot.
- Illegal Portions on residential plot. Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road.
- In P.E.C.H.S. G+1 construction is allowed on residential plot
- An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.

**Plot No. 147-B (1000 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- G+2 construction, whereas approval was only B+G+1
- Illegal Portions on residential plot.
- Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road.
- Construction against approved building plan

**Plot No. 171-1-A (1000 sqyds), Block-3, Sir Syed Road, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- Multistorey highrise construction.
- Violation of allotment order and lease agreement

**Plot No. 171-1-C (1000 sqyds), Block-3, Sir Syed Road, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- Multistorey highrise construction.
- Plot situated on residential street, less than 40'feet wide road. B+G+2+under construction. Plan for more floors.
- Violation of allotment order and lease agreement



Plot No. 156-L, (100 sqyds) Block 2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi

- Illegal construction of portions on residential plot
- Plot situated on residential street, less than 40' feet wide road.
- Violation of allotment order and lease agreement

**Plot No. 137-E (300 sqyds) Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- G+2 construction on residential plot.
- Constructions of Illegal Portions for commercial sale.
- Plot situated on less than 40'feet wide residential road. Construction in COS.
- In P.E.C.H.S. G + 1 construction is allowed on residential plot. An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.

**Plot No.137-G (300 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- G+2 construction on residential plot. Illegal Portions for commercial sale.
- Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road. Construction in COS
- In P.E.C.H.S. G + 1 construction is allowed on residential plot. An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.

**Plot No.161-A (2000 sq.yds), Block-3, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- Plot situated on non-declared commercial road.
- Illegal car showroom on residential plot

**Plot No.144-B (1000 sq.yds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- School on residential plot.
- KBTPR not followed.
- Hali Road is a residential road, in rush hours, cars are lined up on the roads for hours.
- Noise and Traffic jams, result of the vehicles during school hours.



Plot No.145-C (1000 sq.yds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi

- School on residential plot.
- KBTPR not followed.
- Hali Road is a residential road, in rush hours, cars are lined up on the roads for hours.
- Noise and Traffic jams, result of the vehicles during school hours.

**Plot No.146-H (1000 sq.yds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- School on residential plot.
- KBTPR not followed.
- in rush hours, cars are lined up on the roads for hours.
- Noise and Traffic jams, result of the vehicles during school hours.

**Plot No.145-E (1000 sq.yds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- Plot situated on residential road
- Misuse of residential plot, as owners have converted the plot into a car parking site for commercial purpose.

**Plot No.126-M (300 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road. Construction of portions for commercial sale. COS covered.
- Construction against allotment order and lease agreement

**Plot No.112-C (300 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road. Construction of portions for commercial sale. COS covered.
- Construction against allotment order and lease agreement
- Illegal construction of portions on residential plot



Plot No.123-P (300 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi

- Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road. Construction of portions for commercial sale. COS covered.
- Construction against allotment order and lease agreement

**Plot No.118-G (300 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road. Construction of portions for commercial sale. COS covered.
- Construction against allotment order and lease agreement

**Plot No. 142-S (1000 sqyds), Block 2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi.**

- Plot situated on non-declared commercial road.
- Commercial activity on residential plot

**Plot No. 166-A (2000 sqyds), Block 3, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi.**

- Plot situated on non-declared commercial road.
- Commercial activity on residential plot

**Plot No. 85-S (1000 sqyds), Block 2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi.**

- Misuse of Residential Property
- No change of land use



Plot No. 77-P (400 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi.

- G+2 construction on residential plot.
- Construction of portions for commercial sale.
- In P.E.C.H.S. G+1 construction is allowed on residential plot. An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.

**Plot No. 139-A (1000 sqyds), Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Karachi**

- Construction within the radius of 3/4 miles of Quaid-e-Azam Mazar
- Under prevailing law, the height of all construction falling within the radius of 3/4 miles of Quaid-e-Azam Mazar shall not exceed above podium level of 91-ft (27.72 m).

**Plot No.20 (1000 sqyds), Block-3, New Karachi Cooperative Housing Society (NKCHS), Karachi**

- Plot situated on less than 40'feet wide residential road. Construction of portions for commercial sale.
- An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.

**Plot No.36 (1000 sqyds), Block-3, New Karachi Cooperative Housing Society (NKCHS), Karachi**

- Plot situated on less than 40'feet wide residential road. Construction of portions for commercial sale.
- An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.

**Plot No.38 (1000 sqyds), Block-3, New Karachi Cooperative Housing Society (NKCHS), Karachi**

- Plot situated on less than 40' feet wide residential road. Construction of portions for commercial sale.
- An independent inspection of construction and examination of approved building plan will show various violations of construction on the site.



23

SUCCESSFUL PLANTATION OF URBAN FOREST AT MAZAR-E-QUAID BY SHEHRI, ON PLOT ADJACENT TO MANAGEMENT BOARD



After the intense heat wave in 2015 desperate measures were needed to combat climate change in order to mitigate the adverse effects on the environment. As green cover continued to dwindle in Karachi, Shehri CBE decided to do something about it.

After a survey of appropriate sites, Shehri decided to kick off its million-trees campaign at Mazar-e-Quaid, but due to security reason it was not possible to create urban forest there so Shehri requested

Mr. Mohammad Arif, Resident Engineer of Quaid Mazar Management Board (QMMB), to give us an alternate site and he provided us the plot adjacent to the QMMB's office and decided to start plantation there, up till now Shehri was planting trees inside the boundary. On this plot they were constructing a treatment plant so that water was available in abundance.

This is a semi rocky field so new soil and lot of manure were required which were provided

by Shehri to lay the foundation of urban forest. Thus, in March 2016 Shehri dispatched dumpers of soil mixed with manure to the site, 250 pits were dug, soil placed in them and trees were planted by Shehri volunteers. This was just the beginning!

Initially, Imli and Neem Trees were planted. Then in April 2016, more Neem Trees, Gul Mohar, Cyrus, Cardia, Jamun, Guava, Jungle Jalebi and Pomegranate Trees were also planted.

Tree Plantation adjacent to Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Manager Board's Office

#	Date	Participants	Details of Sapling	Pictures
1	09/04/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shehri members Members from tree plantation group 	350 sapling of plants and fruits (mix of IMLI Jungle Jalabee, Gulmohar, Neem Raintree) - dumper of khaad and mitti	
2	14/04/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shehri Members 	150 Kachnar Trees planted Note: how this area was barren	
3	28/06/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shehri Members 	150 Chickoo, Neem, Lemon	

#	Date	Participants	Details of Sapling	Pictures
4	23/08/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shehri members Mrs. & Mr. Saeed Sethar planting Gauva Tree at Urban Forest site 	100 Gauva, Chickoo, Bari	
5	28/08/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident Engineer Muhammad Arif Shehri Members 	80 Gauva & Chickoo	
6	20/08/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shehri Members 	50 Gauva	
7	21/08/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Komal Pervez 	75 Jamun, Beri & Chickoo	

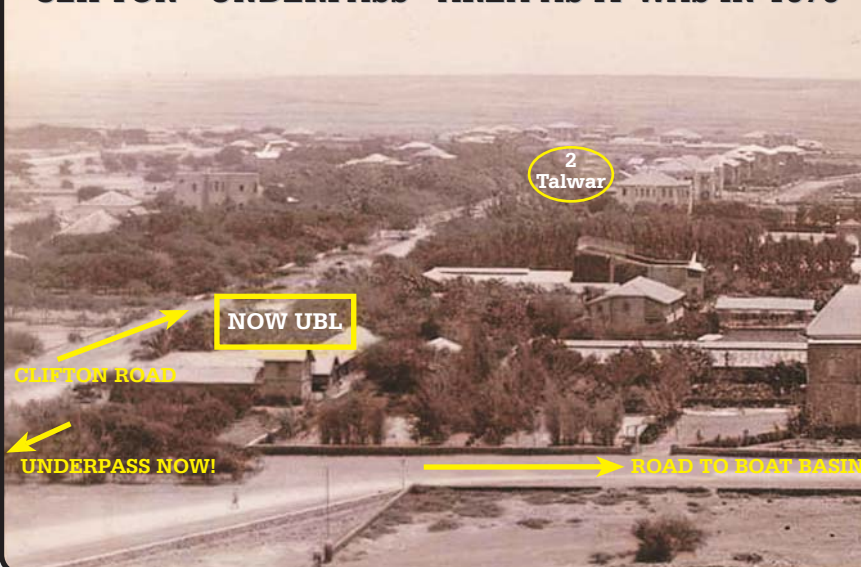
Till today approximately more than 1000 fruits trees have been planted.

All in all, it is now a blossoming, healthy developed area with a

very promising urban forest in the making. Kudos to Shehri's efforts!

This is one of the most amazing pictures of Karachi! Yes! That's the clifton underpass about 138 years ago! Zamzama wasn't land, it was a body of water! Think about that the next time you go shopping at khadda market!

CLIFTON "UNDERPASS" AREA AS IT WAS IN 1875



SINDH GOVERNMENT RE-NOTIFIES THE SBCA OVERSEE COMMITTEE



The Sindh Government has formed a committee to review the Sindh Building Control Authority's (SBCA) affairs and monitor the issuance of permits for construction of high-rises and approval of maps by it. In this regard a notification dated

24th August 2020 issued by Local Government & Housing Town Planning Department.

According to the notification, the local government secretary will head the committee comprising nine members. It

has been tasked to review and monitor the authority's matters, including grant of permits for high-rises and approval of maps by the SBCA.

Following are members of the SBCA Oversee Committee

1	Secretary, Local Government & Housing Town Planning Department	Chairman
2	The Chairman, Association of Buildings and Developers	Vice Chairman
3	Director General, SBCA	Member/Secretary
4	Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council or his nominee	Ex Officio Member
5	Chairman Pakistan Council of Architects & Town Planners or his nominee.	Ex Officio Member
6	President Institute of Architects Pakistan or his nominee	Ex Officio Member
7	President Institute of Engineers Pakistan (IAP) or his nominee	Ex Officio Member
8	Mrs. Amber Alibhai, Shehri-CBE	Member
9	Mr. Hameer Soomro, Architect/Civil Activist	Member

Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows;

1. To Oversee all affairs of the SBCA and monitor the grant of permission for High Rise Buildings in accordance with the Sindh Building Control Ordinance, 1979, Karachi Building and Town Planning Regulations 2002 and other laws of the land.
2. The take measures to ensure that the provisions for amenity parks, playgrounds public services and recreational areas in various housing and other schemes are properly utilized and allotted.
3. To make recommendations

for the effective preservation and restoration of buildings of architectural, cultural or historical interest.

4. To coordinate with any Task Force, advisors, experts or others persons performing any functions under the Sindh Building Control Ordinance 1979.
5. To recommend further amendments in laws, Building Regulations and Services Rules/Review the previous KBTPR or other rules or notification with a view to achieve the object of the promulgation of SBCA-1979, KBTRP 2002 and other laws of the land in letter and spirit.

6. To monitor and make sure to comply the Orders or Judgments or the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan and High Court of Sindh strictly in accordance with the spirit of the said orders and judgments.

7. The examine the professional obligations or statutory duties of the all officers or official of the authority (SBCA) and submit their respective recommendations to all the Government for perusal and necessary action.
8. Any other assignments as assigned by the Government of Sindh.

MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS EAGAR TO SEE KARACHI CITY GREEN



Malik Amin Aslam Federal Minister and Adviser to Prime Minister of Pakistan for Climate Change, joined Plantation drive at Quaid's Mazar by planting an Ajwa dates tree.



Rukhsana Naveed, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change Pakistan, was invited to join plantation drive by Shehri at Quaid's Mazar

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 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.

SUCCESES

Passing of Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Bill 2014 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 1600 (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 Affair
- Media and Outreach
- Million Trees Campaign
- Conservation and Heritage
- Fund Raising
- Gun Free Society

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Contact No.: _____

E-mail: _____

JOIN SHEHRI

To Create a Better Environment

Submit A Cross Cheque of PKR 5000/= in favor of Shehri-CBE Along with 2 passport size photos to become a member

Address: 88-R, Block-2,
P.E.C.H.S., Karachi-75400.
Tel / Fax : 021-3453-0646

SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2021 (Rs. 5000/=)

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