



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

A Message of Hope A Vision of Prosperity



Youth as
entrepreneurs
of change

Education: The basic prerequisite for the establishment of an informed and pro-active civil society

The Scenario

Today, the common Pakistani searches for a vision, an omen for a better tomorrow. But the crisis seems to be overwhelming.

Politics, instead of outlining a pathway to good governance, has provided a corrupt few, with a shortcut to indulge in the shameful pursuits of loot and plunder. Not only has this resource rich country been bled dry by the scandalous acts of the ruling elite, the very soul of the nation – the notions of liberty and freedom have been mercilessly tortured and abused.

Given our history of governance failures, new

and more radical experiments regarding the structure of the state will continue to be made. However, it is you, the enlightened youth of this country who hold the key to a prosperous future, as you are the future masters of the nation's destiny.

So, be better informed and get involved in working for a better civil society. Provide your fellow countrymen and women with a vision of hope, unity and prosperity.

Stand up and be counted. You have not a moment to lose!

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The Challenges

The challenges are many and diverse in nature. Few countries in the world show a wider gap between their investment in physical production and their investment in human capital than Pakistan, which has neglected investing in its most precious wealth – its people. Other related factors like political instability and societal violence also inhibit national growth.

Our expenditure on public education stands at 3.0% of the Gross National Product (GNP) and 8.1% of the Total Government Expenditure.

Number of Research and Development Scientists and Technicians stands at 0.1 per 1000 people.

Adult illiteracy rate is 59.1%.

21% of the population do not have access to safe drinking water while 44% of the people do not have access to any kind of sanitation services.

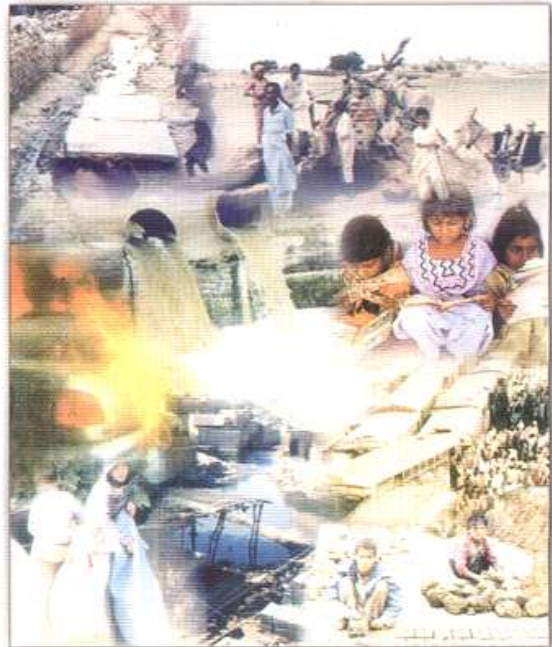
Infant mortality rate is 95 per 1000 live births while under 5 mortality rate is 136 per 1000 live births.

External Debt stands at 47.5% of the GNP, while the Debt Service ratio is 35.2%.

Financial bankruptcy leads to extremely high rates of unemployment. In Sindh alone, 450,000 graduates were jobless in 1998.

The will of the people is not enforced. At federal level alone, 22 ordinances, were issued during 1998.

The phenomenon of honour killings offers an ugly face of our society. Of the 888 killed in Punjab in 1998, 67% were victims of their own kins.



According to the United Nations Human Development Index rating, Pakistan stands at 138 among 174 nation states of the world.

These crises situations are manifestations of the inherent imbalances in our system of governance.

(Source of Information: UNDP Human Development Report, 1999, State of Human Rights in 1998, HRCP)



Strategies

You can contribute now as students and later in your professional lives, both as individuals and as members of a pro-active civil society in bringing about positive change in our national growth process.

What You Can Do

Instead of outlining any lengthy plan of action we simply put in front of you some symbols of our national potential for professional and human excellence, which you can adopt as your future role models..

These are people who went much beyond the needs of their professions to meet the urgent requirements of a nation in turmoil. They did not wait for any messiah of change. They became their own vehicles of change.



**Dr. Akhtar
Hameed
Khan**

One of the greatest social reformer of our age, whose initiatives transformed the lives of millions of people.



**Hakim
Mohammad
Said**

A businessman, who, against the prevailing business ethics of our nation, chose to invest his profits within the community and in the national development process.



**Dr. Abdus
Salam**

A scientist who reached the pinnacle of his profession, and strove for the development of the under developed world.



**Faiz
Ahmed Faiz**

A poet and a thinker whose love for his country was only matched by the courage of his convictions.



Ruth Pfau

An extraordinary women, whose life is dedicated towards the care of those disadvantaged sections of the society, whom few choose to consider.



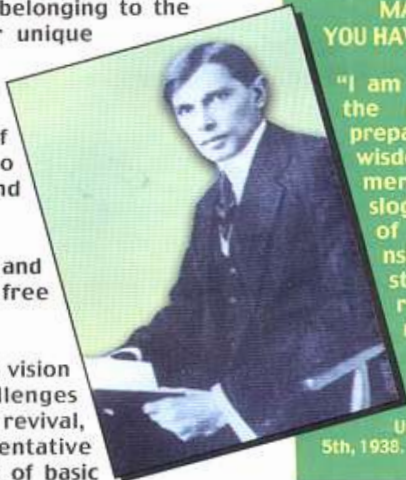
**Dr. Adeeb
Rizvi**

A medical doctor, who in the true sense of the word, has become a symbol of professional excellence and humanity.

Where Shehri Can Assist

Shehri wishes to involve and mobilize the youth in striving for the promotion and establishment of an informed, tolerant and pro-active civil society, capable of contributing positively to the growth of the nation. Shehri can, however, only act as a catalyst. It is upto the youth to rise to the occasion and take up the challenge. We wish to channel our interaction with the youth through a long term process of engagement with the following objectives in mind:

- ▶ To inculcate in the youth, a sense of belonging to the country and the realization of their unique status and great responsibility as educated and enlightened citizens.
- ▶ To inform about the system of governance and administration and to discuss the need, potential and mechanisms for positive change.
- ▶ To inform the youth about their rights and responsibility within the system as free citizens of the state.
- ▶ To discuss and develop strategies and a vision for overcoming the important challenges facing our country such as economic revival, establishment of true, representative democracy, protection and safeguard of basic human rights etc.
- ▶ To discuss, develop and put in practice, strategies for meaningful citizens contribution and participation in the affairs of the nation, particularly at the grass roots level.



THIS YOUNG MAN HAD A VISION. DO YOU HAVE A VISION?

"I am glad to know that the Muslim youth is prepared to share senile wisdom and to replace mere shibboleths and slogans by some sense of practical responsibility. I want you to study and think and realize your responsibility"

- Excerpt from Quaid's address to the Allgarh Muslim University Union, Strachy Hall, Jan 5th, 1938.

We plan to manage these activities through

	Series of seminars/ workshops, brainstorming sessions	Advocacy Work	
	Projects & Programs	Publications	

Come join us, in strengthening the hands of the civil society in the important task of contributing positively towards the nation building process. (Donations to Shehri-CBE are approved under section 47(I) (d) of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1979)



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