

Other Activities

The main focus of Shehri is on natural and built environment. However Shehri also is involved in other activities.

a) Community Policing

Shehri in collaboration with Ferozabad Police Station, Jamshed Town and the local residents initiated a 'Community Policing' project that aims to build trust between the community and the institution of local police through joint projects and training programs.

b) Corporate Social Responsibility

In the year 2006, Shehri-CBE in collaboration with the consultancy firm Sustainable Initiatives initiated the project "Civil Society Capacity Building on Corporate Social Responsibility and OECD Guidelines Implementation" Procedures. The project deals on issues related with 'Corporate Social Responsibility' (CSR) with particular reference to the implementation of the 'OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises' operating in Pakistan.

c) The Citizen Report Card – Advisory Committee

In Karachi, the Karachi Water & Sewerage Board (KW&SB) with support from Water & Sanitation Program-South Asia (WSP-SA) has rolled out a wide ranging institutional reform agenda. In this context, WSP-SA decided to pilot a 'Citizen Report Card' (CRC) project based on user feedback on water and sanitation services in Karachi. Shehri is chairing the committee.

d) NEPRA

In collaboration with Liberal Forum Pakistan, Shehri has been participating in tariff determinations and other citizen feedback on regulatory affairs (environmental issues, licensing, etc) of the National Electricity Power Regulatory Authority.

"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little."
— Edmund Burke

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.

Environmental protection doesn't happen in a vacuum. You can't separate the impact on the environment from the impact on our families and communities.
— Jim Clyburn



Training Workshop "Attitude, Tolerance and Community Police" By Shehri-CBE



480-acre Gutter Baghicha Park on Manghopir Road saved by Shehri-CBE

Donations to Shehri-CBE are approved under Section 2(36)(c) and under Clause 58 of the second schedule of Income Tax Ordinance, 2001

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SHEHRI



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
— Margaret Mead

What is Shehri?

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

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

Shehri is convinced that it is only through raising public consciousness and effectively articulating citizen pressure that the process of wanton neglect and corruption can be arrested and the environment improved.

"The superior man seeks what is right; the inferior one, what is profitable."
— Confucius

Shehri Objectives

Among Shehri's objectives are:

1. Establishment of an aware and pro-active civil society, good governance, transparency and rule of law.
2. Promotion of research / documentation, dialogue and influence of public policies.
3. Setting up an effective and representative local government system, e.g. capacity building and training.
4. Preparation of a representative Master Plan / Zoning Plan for Karachi city and effective implementation of the same.
5. Observance of basic human rights in society.

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."
— Edmund Burke

Shehri Success Stories

A small sampling of our efforts in the public interest includes:

1. Demolition of Glass Towers illegal encroachment on the notified road-widening of Clifton Road. This action saved the road from being constricted.
2. Saving of 480-acre Gutter Baghicha Park on Manghopir Road. This is the largest open recreational space in a low income congested area of approximately one million inhabitants and is the lungs of Lyari.
3. Demolition of apartment structure Costa Livina in amenity Bagh-e-lbne Qasim, Clifton. This action stopped similar illegal allotments. CDGK has now developed the park.



Illegal commercial offices have opened in residential houses. As there is no parking space the office staff park their cars on the pavement & road.



An unlawful supermarket built in a residential area



Unplanned apartments without car parking

4. Stopping commercialisation and sale of 11 KTC & 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 activity hereby removing the illegal bus terminals from the roads of Karachi.
5. Saving of a 5-acre park in North Karachi. Sixty thousand people of the area can now access this open space.
6. Establishment of the 'Oversee Committee' of the KBCA and a 'Public Information Counter'
7. Saving of 62-acre Kidney Hill in Karachi Cooperative Housing Societies Union inclusive of 18 acre notified KWSB installations.
8. Participation in numerous government committees and assistance to the judiciary.

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

Conviction is worthless unless it is converted into conduct.
— Thomas Carlyle

Is Shehri Anti-Development?

Karachi will expand in the 21st century due to population pressures and urban-rural migration. This increase in population needs housing. However a city also requires

- Open spaces for recreation & fresh air. (lungs for the city)
- Playgrounds for children.
- Schools, hospitals & other social amenities.
- Libraries & theatres. (culture)
- Transport systems & roads.
- Adequate utilities & infrastructure (electricity, water, sewerage, etc)

At this moment the city is being abused by unlawful allotment of unplanned land, arbitrary conversion of land-use, zoning violations and construction of illegal buildings.

Of course new buildings are needed for a growing population. However how is it beneficial if a powerful criminal group takes over a park in connivance with corrupt government officials to make a shopping plaza on amenity land? Who profits if an illegal office complex is made without parking space forcing the residents to park on the roads causing traffic problems? Who gains if illegal commercial buildings are made in residential zones? Who profits if an unsafe multistory building is constructed using substandard raw materials? A city's development should be for the benefit of all the populace and not a handmaiden for a few. Shehri wants the cities in Pakistan to be developed in a manner to benefit all citizens.

"Your descendants shall gather your fruits."
— Virgil