



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

# SHEHRI

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

JANUARY - JUNE 2016

## SINDH SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE ACT 2014 GIVEN ASSENT BY THE GOVERNOR

"Any person who refuses to honor the senior citizens' card or violates any of its provision shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment not less than one year but not more than three years or fine that may extend to Rs. 30,000 or with both. Whoever, having the care and protection of senior citizen including family member and spouse, leaves such senior citizen in any place with the intention of wholly abandoning such senior citizen, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for three months or fine," states Chapter 5 Article 14 and 15 of Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Act 2014.



Khatib Ahmed, member Shehri-CBE, smiles when he talks about his advocacy campaign that contributed to passing of this Bill through the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on April 29, 2016.

"It is an extraordinary success. The government has finally acknowledged the Rights of Senior Citizens who spent their sweat and blood for this country.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

ARE YOU 60 YEARS OLD?  
CONGRATULATIONS!  
YOU ARE A SENIOR CITIZEN!

### SINDH SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE BILL

**25 % OFF**  
**ON RECREATION, FOOD,  
GOODS & SERVICES**  
**25 % OFF**  
**ON GERIATRIC  
MEDICINES & DRUGS**  
**50 % OFF**  
**ON PRIVATE & PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT FARES**  
**100 % OFF**  
**ON TAXES & GERIATRIC  
TREATMENT**

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## E ditorial

# Pakistan ranks eight among countries most affected by Climate Change

Pakistan has been marked as one of the worst hit countries by Climate Change according to the Long Term Climate Risk Index 2016 prepared by GermanWatch. Within a span of 20 years (1995-2014) 143 deadly climactic events were recorded claiming lives of 487 people. In the following year 2000 people died of dehydration and heatstroke inflating the figures for worse.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has pointed out that rise in temperature in Pakistan is higher than the average global temperature increase. Adding to the misery, Karachi bears even more warmth due to heat island effect.

The US Environmental protection agency defines heat island effect as, "The annual mean air temperature of a city with 1 million people or more can be 1.8-5.4°F (1-3°C) warmer than its surroundings. In the evening, the difference can be as high as 22°F (12°C)." Now imagine the impact of heat island effect in a city of 20 million people.

Coupled with water shortage and electricity shortfall, it is a recipe for disaster. No wonder 1500 people lost their lives in last year's heatwave. Currently, Karachi water supply faces deficiency of 2 Billion Liters per day particularly because of obsolete and leaking supply network.

Extensive Tree Plantation can be the quick fix to all these issues. Research has found that Evapotranspiration, alone or in combination with shading, can help reduce peak summer temperatures by 2-9°F (1-5°C) resulting in reduced energy needs. Moreover, fresh water is replenished in the system through rainfall drawn by trees.

Realizing the climate change emergency faced by Karachi, Shehri has initiated a "Million Trees Campaign" to overcome the environmental crisis engulfing the mega city.

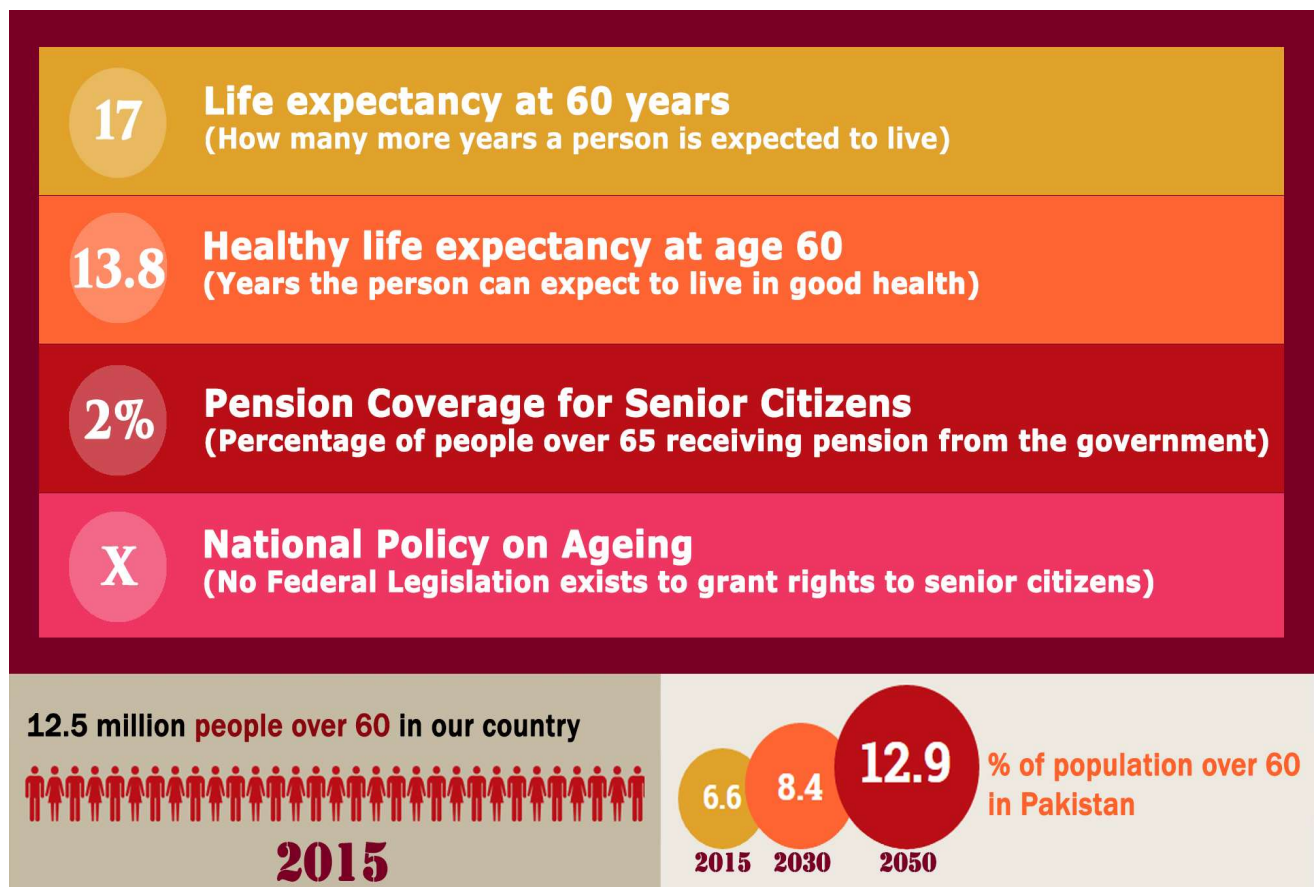
Join us in our campaign to avert the impending disaster.

I am thankful to all those who collaborated to make this possible. The Speaker, the Government, all parties of the Opposition, Standing Committee on Social Welfare, Secretariat of Sindh Assembly, and all honorable Members of Provincial Assembly of Sindh," expressed the seasoned Human Rights Activist.

"The Bill was passed unanimously by the Sindh Assembly," he adds beamingly, "Now we just need to implement the legislation in its true letter and spirit."

Pakistan is blessed with 12.5 million Seniors who add value to our society in every field, yet only approximately 2% of the population receives old age benefits under the pension policy of the government. Unfortunately 98% of the seniors (60+ years) were ignored for over 60 years in our national policies.

To our luck the devolution of power to the Provinces has led to strong Senior Citizen's Rights movement in Provinces. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the first to pass a Senior Citizens Welfare Act 2014 to encourage help to Seniors by the Government. However the legislation has several shortcomings. Comparatively, the legislation passed by Sindh Assembly is more administratively friendly and far-reaching.



Several concessions will be offered by the Sindh Government to its senior residents through "Azadi card". This card would be effective for both public and private entities mentioned in the legislation.



## **SINDH SENIOR CITIZENS COUNCIL**

### **CHAIRPERSON:**

Minister for Social Welfare Department

### **MEMBERS:**

1. Two members of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh to be nominated by the Speaker of the Sindh Assembly
2. Secretary Finance Department
3. Secretary Health Department
4. Secretary Local Government Department
5. Secretary Zakat and Usher Department
6. Secretary Transport Department
7. Secretary Food and Agriculture Department
8. Secretary Health Department
9. Two members from amongst a well known NGOs; one engaged in the welfare of Senior Citizens and one from Human Rights
10. Two senior citizens from civil society, one of whom shall be a retired government officer and one businessman
11. One retired Sessions Judge or Additional Sessions Judge
12. Secretary Social Welfare Department

These Senior Citizen Cards will enable the government to register the number of Seniors our province houses and thereby, allowing effective policies and measures to ensure welfare of these valued Citizens.

Currently, the province relies on rough estimates. The concessions offered by the card will encourage registration of the Seniors consequently improving databases along with essential services.

A Senior Citizens Council has been legislated, under chapter 2 of the aforementioned Act, to ensure formulation of policies for the wellbeing of Senior Citizens, issuance of Azadi Cards,

"Free Services for funeral and burial on the death of senior citizen by the local council" – Chapter 2.5 (j)



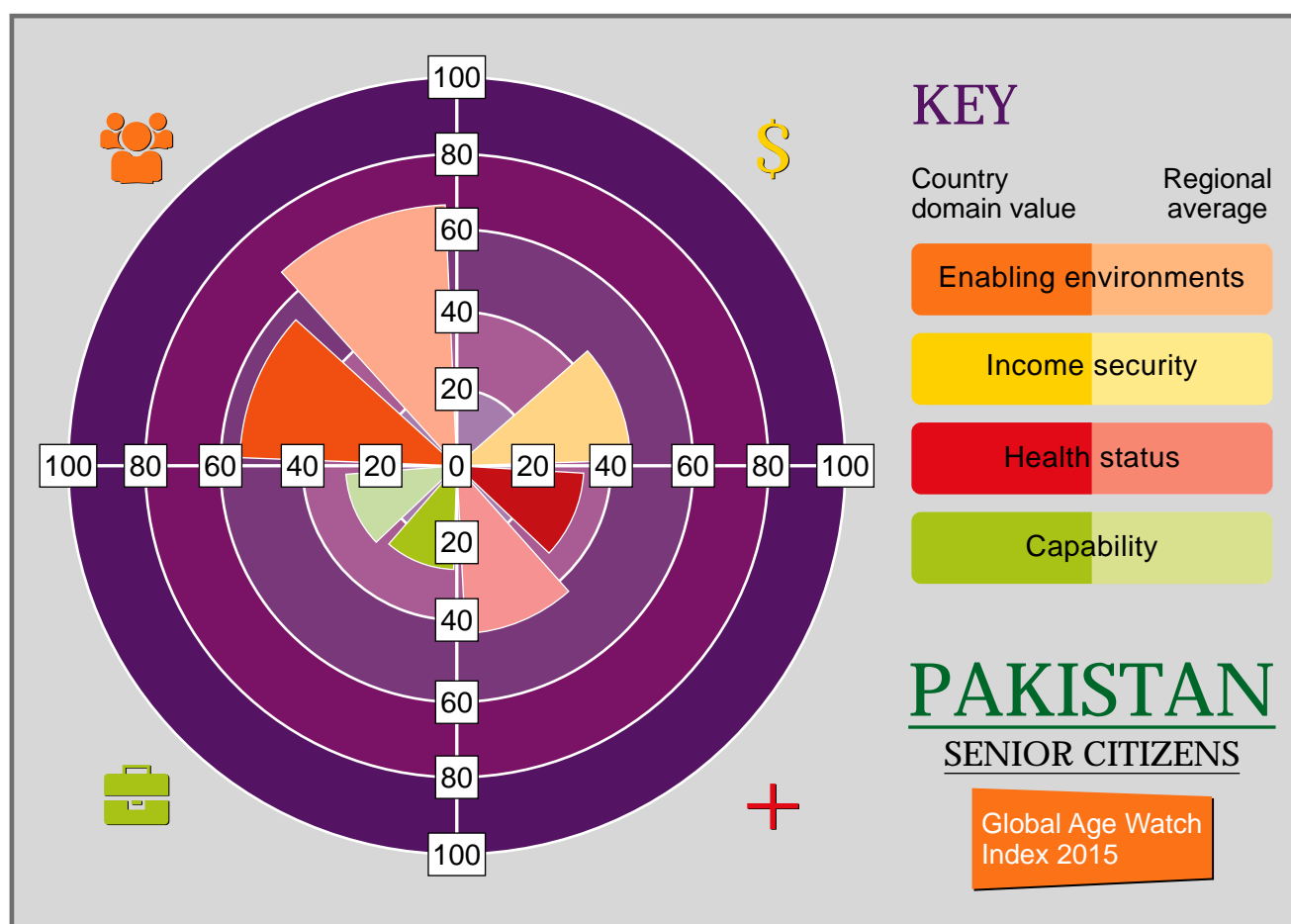
provision of outlined essential services, liaison with International Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations, support pension claims and procedures, as well as provision of discounts and concessions under the ambit of said law.

According to Global Age Watch Index Pakistan ranks low on the Global Age Watch Index, at 92 overall. It ranks low in all domains.

The country ranks lowly in the health domain (78), due to low life expectancy at 60 (17) and healthy life expectancy at 60 (13.8) compared with regional averages (19.3 and 14.8 respectively). It ranks low in the enabling environment domain (81) due to lesser satisfaction of older people with social connectedness (60%), civic freedom (46%) and public transport (55%), compared with regional averages (69%, 67%, and 65% respectively).

It ranks second lowest overall (95) in the income security domain. It has the lowest pension coverage (2.3%) in the region, and lower than regional average GNI per capita (US\$4,557).

The only laudable statistics is with regard to poverty in Senior Citizens. Pakistan flaunts the lowest old age poverty rate (1.8%) in the Mediterranean East.



## ADVOCACY TIMELINE OF SINDH SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE ACT 2014

The Bill was drafted by MPA Syed Sardar Ahmed, MPA Khalid Ahmed and Mrs. Shireen Rehmatullah (Senior Citizens Welfare Trust) rendering the draft Senior Citizen friendly. Mr. Khatib Ahmed got involved with the draft legislation as a coordinator between civil society and legislators.

- The Bill was first introduced in the Sindh Assembly as a private member Bill in 2012 by MPA Syed Khalid Ahmed. Due to the completion of tenure of the Provincial Assembly the Bill was stalled for discussion.
- After the 2013 elections, the Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Bill was introduced as Private Member Bill again to the newly elected Sindh Assembly Members by the same MPA.
- Member Shehri-CBE Khatib Ahmed and Vice President Senior Citizens Care Giver Organization Samina Vertejee along with a dedicated team lobbied for adoption of the new Bill by the Sindh Assembly.

### TIMELINE

- o The government of Sindh introduced "Government Bill No. 27 of 2014 - The Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Bill 2014" on October 27, 2014.
- o On December 10, 2014 the Provincial Assembly of Sindh referred the aforementioned Bill to the Standing Committee on Social Welfare for consideration.
- o The Standing Committee on Social Welfare conducted its two meetings on May 21, 2015 and January 18, 2016 finally approving amendments to the Bill by MPA Syed Khalid Ahmed.
- o The final draft of Sindh Senior Citizens Welfare Bill 2014 was presented before the Provincial Assembly of Sindh by Senior Minister Nisar Khuhro on April 29, 2016.
- o The Bill was adopted by the Sindh Assembly by all members unanimously on the very same day
- o The Bill was assented to on June 22, 2016 by the Governor of Sindh to become an Act.
- o Now the rules shall be formulated for the implementation of the law.

#### Standing Committee on Social welfare

1. **Chairperson**  
MPA Abdul Haseeb
2. **Member**  
MPA Jamal Ahmed
3. **Member**  
MPA Nand Kumar
4. **Member**  
MPA Khalid bin Vilayat
5. **Member**  
MPA Muhammad Azeem
6. **Member**  
MPA Muhammad Kamran
7. **Member**  
MPA Bilquees Mukhtar
8. **Member**  
MPA Pesu Mal
9. **Member**  
MPA Makhdom Khalil-u-Zaman
10. **Member**  
MPA Faraz Dero
11. **Member**  
MPA Syed Aijaz Hussain Shah
12. **Mover of Amendments**  
MPA Khalid Ahmed
13. **Ex-Officio Member**  
Senior Minister Nisar Khuhro
14. **Secretary to the Committee**  
Makhdom Shafi Muhammad
15. **Secretary to the Committee**  
Makhdom Shafi Muhammad

This marks the golden era of senior citizens welfare in our society. We hope that the seniors will continue to guide us along the way to a prosperous and caring country.

For more details and copy of law log on to:  
[www.shehri.org](http://www.shehri.org)

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT**

- 10.1 Government may confer such powers and impose such duties on a Deputy Commissioner as may be necessary, to ensure that the provisions of this Act are properly carried out and the Deputy Commissioner may specify the officer subordinate to him who shall exercise all or any of the powers, and perform all or any of the duties so conferred or imposed and the local limits within which such powers and duties shall be carried out by the officers as may be prescribed.
- 10.2 Government shall prescribe comprehensive action plan for providing protection of life and property of senior citizens.

(Social Welfare Department shall be responsible to implement the law)

### **SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE FUNDS**

- 12.1 There shall be established a Fund to be known as the Senior Citizen Welfare Fund.
- 12.2 The Fund shall be utilized for all activities relating to welfare of Senior Citizens and improving their wellbeing in the society.
- 12.3 The sources of the Fund shall include the sum of money allocated by the government, grants-in-aid from multi-lateral and bilateral donors, national or international organizations, local councils, civil society or from any other source.
- 12.4 The council shall, with the approval of Government, invest the fund in any scheme including Government Securities for raising funds.
- 12.5 The fund shall be managed and operated in the manner as may be prescribed.





# MASTER TRAINER WORKSHOP: CAPACITY BUILDING OF POLICE



Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad (June 1-2, 2016)



Police Master Trainers with Shehri-CBE trainers and organizers

"Human Rights and Advocacy for Police Reforms" workshop was conducted for the selected master trainers from previous trainings of Sindh and Balochistan Police Personnel on June 1-2, 2016 at Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad.

This training was funded by National Endowment for Democracy (N.E.D.), United States of America and supported by Sindh and Balochistan Police Departments.

ASI Abdul Haleem (Commandant Police Training College Quetta), PC Shahzad Malik (Reader to Additional IG Balochistan), ASI Zaheer Solangi (Human Rights Cell SSP Office Jamshoro), ASI Fayaz Hussain Memon (SSP Office Hyderabad), ASI Moazzam Ali Siddiqui (Investigation

Cell, Human Rights Cell Hyderabad), PC Azhar Malik (DIG Office Hyderabad), ASI Abdul Jaleel Khattak (Police Station SITE-A West Zone Karachi) and Lady PC Rani Khan (PS Soldier Bazar East Zone Karachi) were

selected on the basis of their performance in the previous training modules conducted by Shehri-CBE.

The evaluation criteria which led to the selection of the participants evaluated them on the following indicators:

- Clarity acquired on Human Rights issues
- Comparitively better communication skills which can be further enhanced during the master trainers' workshop
- Demonstrated willingness to learn and share
- Demonstrated leadership qualities during the four training workshops

"Police Officers should organize consultations with students in the universities so that young generation is encouraged to join the department and understand the difficulties associated with policing," suggested Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Assistant Trainer Shehri-CBE.

Ms. Gulmina Bilal, Lead Trainer Shehri-CBE, appreciated the efforts put in by police despite tough working hours and conditions. "Shehri-CBE has provided you with this platform to motivate you to conduct Human Rights training in your respective districts so that the Human Rights knowledge and positive attitude is inspired through you in the police," expressed Ms. Bilal during the award ceremony.



Ms. Gulmina Bilal and Khatib Ahmed conducting Human Rights Training

## RESTORING OUR ECOSYSTEM: KARACHI MILLION TREES CAMPAIGN



Karachi Million Trees Campaign is an initiative by Shehri-CBE to restore greenery in the city. Native trees such as Neem, Gul Mohar, Amaltus, Coconut, Guava, Indian Almond and others have been planted across the metropolis to restore its lost natural beauty and ecosystem. Side by side, environmental degradation and callous callings of the government and mafias are stalling our efforts.

In 1960, Karachi had boasted 61% cultivable land which has been reduced to a despicable 0.42% in recent times. Concrete floors have replaced the porous nutrient rich soil of Karachi inhibiting replenishment of the earthly resources. Vegetables and fruits native to the largest city of Pakistan have been denied growing landscapes. The future of urban and rural greenery faces a tough challenge.

### WHAT YOU CAN DONATE?

1. YOUR TIME
2. YOUR EFFORTS
3. 4 FEET TALL TREE PLANTS
4. BAG OF MANURE
5. BAG OF RICH SOIL
6. PLANTATION SITE ACCESS
7. EMPTY 1.5 LITRE BOTTLES
8. DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Contrastingly in West,



Germany has restored its ecosystem after its annihilation during World War II. Urban Forests that had ceased to exist have been replanted and looked after. This restoration of geographical landscape has protected the territory from sink holes, erosion and declining water tables. The country boasts clean water availability to the masses and the mineral water industry has been unable to compete with its standards. The secret lies with preservation of the ecosystem.

On the other hand, Karachi constantly witnesses tree cutting, sink holes on its

thoroughfares, suffers land erosion and acute water crisis. All phenomena directly linked with tree cover in the city. Deep roots not only prevent land erosion but also add important elements like fixated-Nitrogen to the soil. Moreover leaves take up pollutants and redeem fresh water to the atmosphere. The bare soil absorbs rainwater. Greenery is the lifeline of the living beings. Its degradation spares no citizen.

### LAWS OF TREE CUTTING

The Gazette of Pakistan (1992)  
Forest Act (Sindh Amendment) Act (1994)  
Park Adoption Terms & Conditions (1998)  
Sindh Trees and Parks Ordinance (2002)  
Sindh Local Government Act (2015)



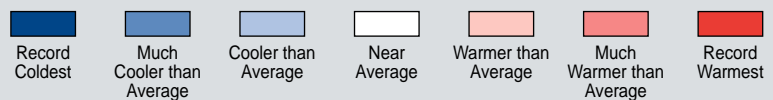
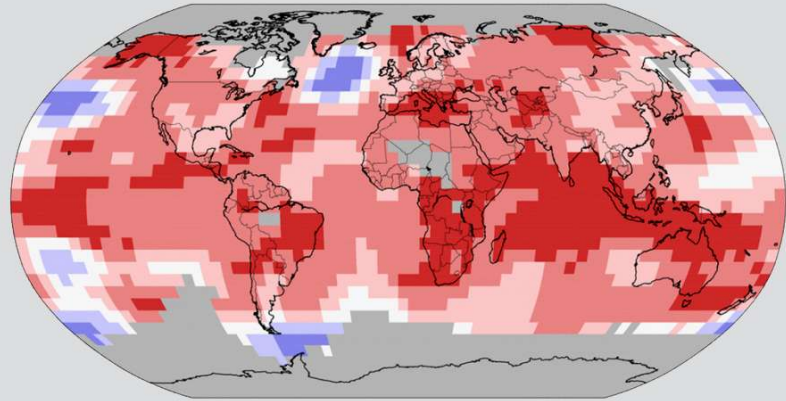
Hence, the idea of planting "Million Trees in Karachi" along with saving the existing ones came into being. Shehri-CBE engaged the Sindh Parks and Horticulture Department and citizens to make this campaign a success. Six Plantation Activities have been conducted in various public spaces of the city including the Quaid's Mazar, Hill Park, and Ladies Park. The campaign will continue till the target of One Million Trees is achieved.

Simultaneously, Shehri-CBE remains vigilant of the illegal tree cutting happening in the city. Protest letters are sent out to the relevant departments to ensure strict action against the culprits and their allies in the government.

Here are some important maps and figures to understand the ecological emergency we face today:

## 2016: HOTTEST YEAR SO FAR

Land and Ocean Temperature Percentiles Jan-Apr 2016

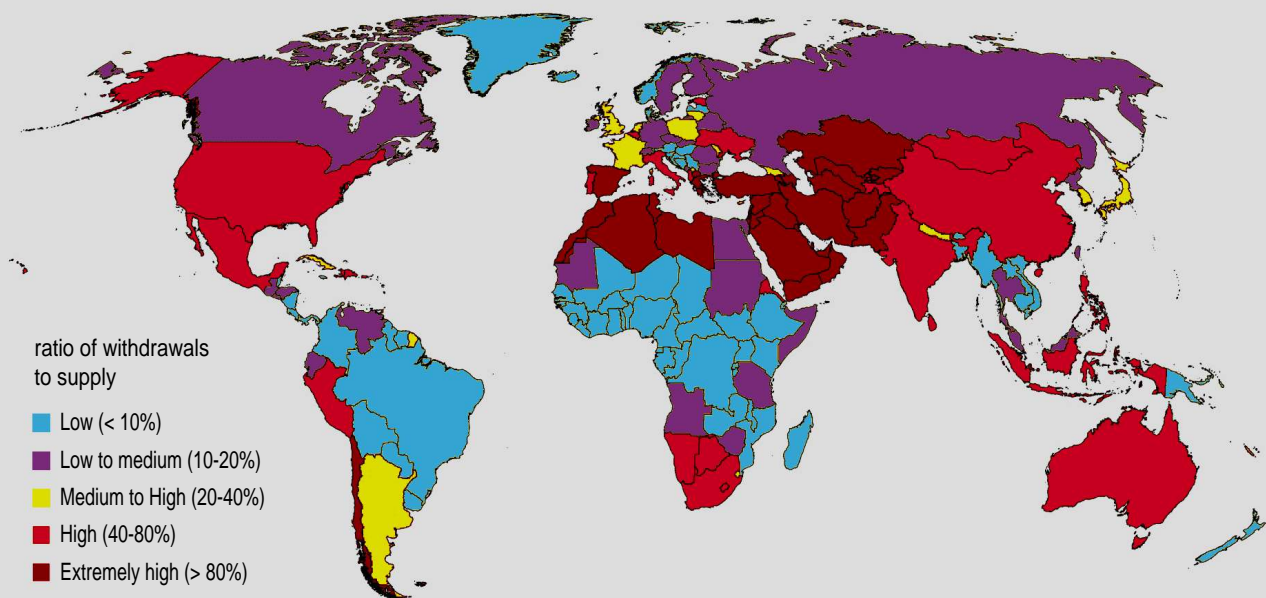


3.7 Million deaths attributed to air pollution

Karachi ranks 5th in the WHO list of the most air polluted cities of the world...

Safe annual average of air pollutants is 10 microns/m<sup>3</sup> whereas Karachi struggles with 117 microns/m<sup>3</sup>

## Water Stress by Country: 2040



NOTE: Projections are based on a business-as-usual scenario using SSP2 and RCP8.5.



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



## Thinking Ahead

So what is Shehri-CBE's strategy to mitigate this deteriorating environmental crisis?

The task is no wonder daunting however with the support of the citizens this crisis can be reversed. People have to understand that planting trees is no more a choice it is a survival tactic to live alongside Global Warming. To create this much needed ownership, Shehri-CBE engages local communities to participate in the plantation drive. They are encouraged to keep track of the planted trees and ensure that these are looked after by the municipal gardeners.

Moreover, children are encouraged to plant trees with adult supervision. They are our successors and their future rests with this ailing world which should be quickly cured before it dies along with us. Government collaboration is also a part of our campaign. We encourage related personnel to take interest in these crisis mitigation measures.

On May 5, 2016, the Apex Court (CMA No.209-K of 2014 in C.P.No.152-K of 2011 and CMAs No.657 to 660-K of 2015 and CMA No.869-K of 2015 in CMA No.209-K of 2014) ordered the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, the Defence Housing Authority and all the



cantonment boards to remove these billboards/hoardings across the city by June 30, 2016. The order came about after hundreds of mature trees were cut down in the city to create space for billboards and hoardings.

Supreme Court defines public property as:

1. Roads and Roundabouts
2. Sidewalks and Pedestrian lanes
3. Islands in the centre of a road or service lane
4. Overhead bridges and underpasses
5. Overhead Pedestrian walkways or bridges
6. Green belts or dividers between a road
7. Nullahs (storm water drains) and the banks of nullahs

Heatwave had claimed lives of more than 1500 people during last year. There was no green cover to protect the fasting people from the deadly heat stroke. Luckily,

the Prime Minister has recently launched the "Green Pakistan Programme" to add a billion trees to the habitat of Pakistan alongside the "Billion Trees Tsunami Campaign" spearheaded by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A legislation to protect the ecological value of Goths should be passed to discourage urbanization of the areas. These are the frontline targets of Land Mafia.

Pakistan Navy is also supporting the mangroves plantation campaign in Sindh and Balochistan. All in all, these programs have to be successful to protect us from INSANITY heatwaves, floods, landslides and water runoffs. To be a part of our Karachi Million Trees Campaign, email us your contact number and full name on [info@shehri.org](mailto:info@shehri.org).

## BALUCHISTAN POLICE TRAINING WORKSHOP (MODULE 1 & 2)



Lourdes Hotel, Quetta (Jan 25th-28th, 2016)

"We strive to increase understanding and knowledge of Baluchistan Police Trainees about existing policies/ legislation pertaining to human rights violations in Pakistan. This is important because our law enforcement is responsible to protect the rights of all citizens including the alleged criminals and victims of crime," said Ms. Gulmina Bilal while explaining context of the training conducted by Shehri-CBE.

In response to the lead trainer, AIG Training Baluchistan Dr. Suleman Rana said, "Shehri-CBE is truly assisting the police in reviewing its working environment. In Colonial times and later, the Police would organize 'Darbar' to ask the officials about the inhibitions and practice of policing. This practice was stopped due to bad law and order situation in the province. It is great that this organization provides our personnel the platform to discuss effective and humane policing practice."

Module 1 of the training was related to "Understanding of Human Rights and Relevant Policies/ Rules and

Legislations Operative in Pakistan" while Module 2 highlighted "Advocacy and Awareness Raising for Police Reforms".

Inspector Abdul Hafeez (Mehkran Range), Inspector Riaz Ahmed (Zhob Range), Inspector Altaf Hussain (Zhob Range) SIP Shabir Ahmed (CTD Quetta), SIP Mehmood Mohammad (CTD Quetta), SIP Sher Wazir, (Special Branch Quetta), ASI Zainullah (Special Branch Quetta), SIP Mohammad Umer (Naseerabad Range), SIP Khamisa Khan (Naseerabad Region), ASI Mohammad Ibrahim (Crimes



Photo of Police Trainees and Participants with AIG Training Baluchistan Dr. Suleman Rana

Branch Quetta), ASI Khalil Ahmed (Crimes Branch Quetta), ASI Abdul Haleem (PTC Quetta), HC Naqeebullah (Quetta Range), PC Shahzad Malik (Quetta Range), HC Abdul Ghaffar (Khuzdar Range) and HC Syed Abdul Majeed (Mehkran Range) attended this training.



Shehri-CBE Master Trainer SP Umar Khosa (Baluchistan Police)



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS - A ROADMAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION



NED University, Karachi (May 28, 2016)



"Through research and development they can create and incubate new technologies, they can identify strategic priorities and best practices in strategy and innovation," reads Getting started with the Sustainable Development Goals - A Guide for stakeholders (2015)

This was the theme for Shehri-CBE's seminar supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation Pakistan on May 28, 2016.

47 participants including academia, students and youth professionals attended the seminar.

Farhan Anwar, Urban

Planner and Member Shehri-CBE, explained the evolution of these development goals overtime and their importance to the attendees of the workshop.

Ms. Sana Hameed gave a presentation to disclose the methods of participatory development to achieve the targets set by UN, while Professor Noman Ahmed explained the means to overcome challenges faced by the academia to promote quality education (Goal 4) in the absence of adequate facilities.

The students were encouraged to share their ideas to ensure fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goals in the near future.





# EDULJEE DINSHAW ROAD PROJECT

By Danish Azar Zubay



Urban planners throughout the world are finally recognizing that streets should be designed for people, not automobiles which many a writers have equated with metallic coffin on wheels. It's a fact that this deadly metal box has consumed millions of lives since its invention but the irony is that we all allow it to do so because we think it is a convenience we cannot give up. After over a hundred years of living with cars, some cities are slowly starting to realize that the automobile doesn't make a lot of sense in the urban context. It isn't just the smog or the traffic deaths; in a city,

cars aren't even a convenient way to get around. Traffic in London today moves slower than an average cyclist (or a horse-drawn carriage). Commuters in L.A. spend 90 hours a year stuck in traffic. A U.K. study found that drivers spend 106 days of their lives looking for parking spots.

A recent mail shared by a friend informed us of a new global trend of banning the car from city streets. Madrid has already banned most traffic from certain city streets, the car-free zone will expand even more by 2020, the mayor of Paris plans to double the number of bike

lanes in the city, ban diesel cars, and limit certain high-traffic streets to electric cars and other ultra-low-emission vehicles. The smoggy city of Milan is testing a new way to keep cars out of the city center: If commuters leave their vehicles at home, they'll get free public transit vouchers. Copenhagen started introducing pedestrian zones in the 1960s in the city center and car-free zones slowly spread over the next few decades. One common streak that is apparent in all urban interventions is to reclaim and open up urban spaces for people. Urban managers are finally looking at the human cost and shifting their focus from 'cars' to 'people'.

Why must Karachi, one of the largest and most populous metropolitan cities in the world, be left behind? Recently a humble attempt to reclaim and open up one of the most neglected roads of Karachi was made by a group of concerned citizens, and it turned out to be a God sent blessing for the inhabitants and visitors alike. Eduljee Dinshaw road got a new lease of life.

Eduljee Dinshaw Road (EDR) named after the great Parsi philanthropist of Karachi - EDR which was somehow renamed as Muhabbat Khan Road for some reason got its original name back after the restoration works. Main EDR is a single kilometers stretch on the edge of the downtown near the sea starting up with two of the most prestigious architectural landmarks of Karachi, the majestic curved stone structure of the Karachi Port Trust and the imposing Imperial Custom House, both exactly a 100 years old. These great colonial beauties though protected by heritage laws, had lost their grace because of vehicular pollution, saline air and general neglect. The new building of busy Custom house sits next to the Old Custom House which houses the training directorate of Customs and at the end of EDR there was a Hindu Temple - Jhulay Lal Mandir which was shut down because of criminal neglect of the entire neighborhood. This end of the road was extremely congested and smelly mess because of a few apartment buildings, dirty go-downs, warehouses, truck stands, fork lifters and related truck drivers culture. The road had become used to unruly traffic and become a hide



out for drug peddlers and garbage dumping ground. The municipal authorities were looking the other way while the people visiting this neighborhood because of their business with Port trust, Customs etc. had no choice but to go through the muck. The nearby apartment's owners were just adding to the mess. The situation was so pathetic that one could not imagine fixing it.

Here was one of the toughest urban management challenges and one man who thought of fixing it was a

senior government officer, surprised, well yes we were all. Tariq Huda Custom Collector Preventive decided to initiate a process to restore the area and hence laid the foundation of a project, which is a first of its kind of neighborhood development and urban rejuvenation. Although the reclamation of urban spaces is not a novel idea but considering the Karachi city's urban management devoid of local government system and the prevailing law and order situation it was hard to imagine that a change was possible.





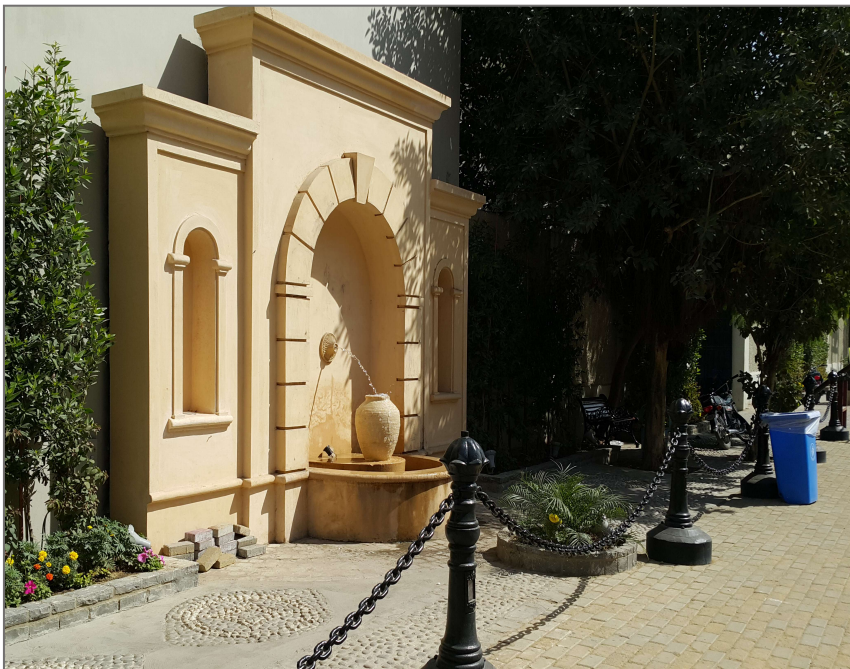
Well, luck was on Karachi's side and Shahid Abdulla, a renowned architect with a huge portfolio of social work was called in for help.

Looking at the photos of the finished EDR project the onlooker can be overwhelmed by the unexpected change and the beautification of the street but a careful observer can also estimate the nature of work involved. The most apparent are the things that are visually obvious i.e. the tough paving mixed with cobble stone instead of tarmac, the new stone look of the Imperial custom house building, installation of the Victorian era Lamp posts, the trees, planters and planter benches, introduction of classical features like fountains, street furniture etc. but if you ask

the design consultant and the project manager of EDR the story is not so charming. It reads like a series of unending trials and tribulations. Shahid Abdulla had called in his old friend and associate Danish Zuby and asked to steer the project as a design consultant, and appointed Haider Raza, an old lieutenant well versed in site management on a day to day basis. The renowned electrical consultant Roland De Souza who happens to be a great social worker along with Yunus Sheikh were engaged as specialist for electrical and plumbing works respectively, the services which they provided pro-bono. The major part of the story of EDR is much beneath the surface.

The first and foremost idea

was of sustainability, of doing something that lasts for the benefit of the neighborhood, something that was clean and pleasing, therefore the over flowing sewerage lines had to be fixed first. Not only slopes were required on the entire stretch of EDR so that there was no puddles of water after the rain but new and bigger storm-water drain had to be installed. Then there were several services buried underground since decades like water supply, telephones, gas etc. feeding the apartments and office buildings. The service providers and the municipal agencies were not interested in any clean-ups but had actually created a complicated mess. Every shovel dig created a new problem to be fixed. To top it all this was a busy thoroughfare that could not be shut down because of important offices in the neighborhood like the Karachi Customs and it's spilled out trade subsidiaries. Work had to be carried out with the busy vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Then there were local touts who would appear at odd hours and disrupt the work in progress and at times even vandalize and steal construction material. For these were some of the bizarre site conditions the team was facing.





Despite all odds the team work paid off in the end with major help coming from the Customs Collector himself who was instrumental in cleansing of unruly truck culture, old electrical poles and jungles of cables. The success story of EDR also lies in the fact that some crucial decisions were taken up front like EDR should be steered on a 'Self-help' basis and should be self financed but taking board all the municipal stake holders and agencies. The idea was that it should not become a burden on the state yet a 'Public-private' formula should be applied. This concept eased out many a hurdles and the Commissioner Karachi, the Governor Sindh appreciated the efforts and all concerned agencies were on board at once. Each one was eager to help. Public works can become a nightmare if the municipal agencies are uncooperative therefore with the help of top offices in the Karachi it became a relatively smooth sailing.

A trust of concerned citizens was formed and registered which included the Commissioner Karachi Mr. Shoaib Siddique, The Customs Collector Mr. Tariq Huda, eminent architect Mr. Shahid Abdulla, Mr. Jameel Yusuf ex CPLC co-Chairman and Mr. Meraj



Zuberi the Finance wizard. The proposed design scheme was finalized in a few meetings and ground breaking done immediately. A successful fund raising campaign asking the business community to help rejuvenate the neighborhood raised almost 70 million rupees. The slogan was to 'give back to the city' and reap the benefits of a comfortable environment.

Today EDR stands a testament to the fact that 'unthinkable' can be done just by thinking about it. All one needs is will to do it and a clear direction. EDR has been transformed from a congested, hazardous and filthy neighborhood into an open promenade, a beautiful

urban breathing space, a space for interaction and relaxation for inhabitants of its neighborhood and visitors alike. The trust has now employed full time staff for the maintenance and upkeep of EDR. The trees and plants are watered regularly and waste bins have been provided for litter.

One evening when this writer visited EDR late at night he was pleasantly surprised. It was such a blissful experience looking at the carefree families strolling down EDR with little children playing around. Did not feel like Karachi at all. The EDR experience was so enormous that the trust of EDR has already put a few urban spaces of Karachi on their list of reclamation.

# CONSULTATION BETWEEN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND POLICE



St. Philip Catholic Church, Karachi (January 22, 2016)

A consultative session on "Police reforms: A session with Citizens" was arranged by Shehri CBE at St. Philip Catholic Church, Karachi, to encourage inclusion of the views and reservations of the Christian community in Pakistan.

The objective of this event was to understand the grievances of the minority groups in the country. Sindh Police personnel were invited to hear out the grievances of the community and to suggest measures to pacify the negativity related to law enforcement officials.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to discuss our concerns with the police, not



Fr. Saleem offering prayers before the start of consultation with Police Officials

something which is common in Pakistan," said Fr. Saleem while giving introduction of the event.

ASI Nisar-ul-Haq uplifted the morale of the Christian community by saying, "People should consider the police as their friends and report any hate crime or

good will and believed that if the police officials pose a positive behavior towards citizens, crime rate will fall as the people will act as a proxy to prevent crime through active reporting. He also asked the citizens to respect the law enforcement agencies who put their lives at stake to protect the people.

Recommendations for police reforms were collected from the participants and shared with Shehri-CBE.

The meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks given by Fr. Bernard, who thanked Shehri-CBE for promoting dialog between the police and citizens, and furthering the drive to introduce police reforms.



bribery incident witnessed by them. We will surely take measures to overcome any menace disturbing the Christian community."

Fr. Bernard Yunus Bhatti reflected similar

## CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT PROJECT



Citizens Voice Project (CVP) USAID intends to raise awareness about the present Sindh FOI law, 2006 among the citizens from different spheres of life, so that not only do they become aware of it but at the same time to motivate them to use the law to achieve transparency and accountability of their government. Secondly, to interact with the political parties to educate them about the inherent weaknesses of the present law and to impress upon them the need to enact a better law in Sindh, as was done in KP and Punjab.

The main objectives are:

1. To create awareness and enhance citizen knowledge about the access to information laws and improve departmental governance
2. To enhance capacity of government officials about their role and responsibilities, and importance of FOI Act, 2006 which enable them to increase and broaden their data base, and to tabulate and computerize their data for easy recovery.

3. To create engagement between civil society and Sindh Provincial Assembly to devise a way forward for a more effective Right to Information (RTI) legislation in Sindh.

**Citizen Capacity Building Sessions:** To achieve this purpose six citizen capacity building sessions were conducted successfully with the citizens related to different fields.

1. Citizens and Professionals (11th July 2015, Hotel Movenpick)
2. Government officials (8th August 2015, Hotel Movenpick)
3. Citizens Interior Sindh (5th September 2015, Asia Hotel Larkana)
4. Students (12th October 2015 Federal Urdu University)
5. Low income (17th October 2015 (Jesus and Mary Institute of Nursing, Essa Nagri, Karachi)
6. Women Activists (22nd December 2015, Hotel Movenpick)

Some of the participants that attended the sessions requested us to conduct further sessions in their respective areas or institutes. This shows the level of interest common citizens are taking in the effective enactment of FOI law.

**Consultative Session with Political Parties:** A step forward in this regard was firstly to raise citizens' demand, and secondly to put pressure on the political parties and legislators for the approval from Sindh assembly of the drafted bill on Right to Information (RTI). Different consultative sessions were held with C-TAI partners, resulting in the finalization of the RTI draft and the framing of the citizens' Charter of Demand.

Consultative sessions with prominent political parties and legislators of Sindh were held for the promotion of the draft bill on Right to Information (RTI).

**RTI Conference:** Right to Information Conference was held by Shehri-CBE under the banner of Citizens Voice Project - CVP USAID, on 24th March



2016 at a local hotel in Karachi.

The main purpose of RTI conference was:

- To sum up the events and achievements of the project, how the awareness level was raised among citizens regarding 19-A.
- To show the efficacy of the project activities in raising awareness among the citizens, youth, professionals, government officials and parliamentarians.
- To take assurance from the legislature/ Sindh government

representatives for the enactment of a better and effective RTI law in Sindh.

Prominent speakers invited in the conference from different provinces were:

1. Maj(r) Sahibzada M. Khalid, Chief Information Commissioner, KP
2. Mr. Ahmed Mukhtar Ali, Information Commissioner, Punjab
3. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, VC, Sindh Madressatul Islam University
4. Barrister Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui, Advisor to CM on Law (Law Minister)

Dr. Gardezi opened the floor for the honorable speakers to share their views and invited Maj(r) Sahibzada M. Khalid, Chief Information Commissioner, KP to share his experiences with the participants.

"The passing of law is the preliminary step, what really matters is the implementation," said Maj(r) Sahibzada M. Khalid, while sharing his experience when he was appointed as Chief Information Commissioner KP, he didn't even know what RTI stands for, but now he admired the efforts of KPK government as the impact of this law on the governance of KP is great.



The next speaker Mr. Ahmed Mukhtar Ali, Information Commissioner, Punjab admired the efforts of Shehri-CBE in preparing an effective draft as he reviewed both the drafts the one prepared by Sindh government and the C-TAI draft and find the C-TAI draft far much progressive. He concluded by saying that "the Sindh government must adopt the C-TAI draft, as enactment of a better Right to Information law is the key tool to transparency and good governance."

America and Pakistan on Freedom of Information." He also shared his experience when he was appointed as Director General Ombudsman Sindh. He added that the collaborative efforts of the coalition partners can bring change if they work effectively and pressurize the government for the enactment of the new and effective RTI law. He concluded by saying that the human progress depends on the power of question and only effective RTI law gives the power of question to a

Shehri's draft would be taken into consideration.

To conclude, Mr. Noor-uddin Ahmed (Chairperson Shehri-CBE) came on stage for Vote of Thanks and to present shields to the honorable speakers. Mr. Noor-ud-Din Ahmed thanked all the speakers and participants and said that "Right to Information is the only platform that can bring transparency as it is the tool that can empower a common man as citizens are not only the ultimate



Dr. Muhammad Ali Sheikh, VC, Sindh Madressatul Islam University and a proponent of RTI law enactment shared his experience when he started working on FOI in the very beginning and selected FOI as a topic for his post doctoral research "Comparative Study of

common citizen.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab committed the participants that the government prepared draft would not be tabled, and only a draft acceptable to all stakeholders would be considered. In this regard

beneficiaries of development, but also the agents of development."

The efficacy of C-TAI draft was endorsed by everyone present at the conference and felt the importance of an effective Right to Information law in Sindh.



## ENCROACHMENT ISSUES IN KARACHI

Movenpick Hotel, Karachi (May 16, 2016)



"Get up, stand up: stand up for your rights," Vice Chairman Sameer Hamid Dodhy drew inspiration from Bob Merley's song during a consultative workshop 'Encroachment Issues in Karachi' organized by Shehri-CBE with support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

97 citizens from all walks of life including police officials participated in the

consultation along with Executive Members of the Managing Committee Mr. Nooruddin Ahmed, Mrs. Amber Alibhai, and Mrs. Amra Javed. Member Shehri-CBE Dr. Raza Ali Gardezi was also one of the panelists for discussion.

"Only 31% of Karachi is under KMC's jurisdiction and only 15 policemen are assigned to guard the recently cleared encroached space. We are short of manpower and funds to deal with such a massive issue," expressed KMC Anti-encroachment Cell Director Mazhar Khan when drilled about widespread encroachment in the metropolis of 18 million people.

However Shehri argued that under Section 23, 31 and 34 of Police Act 1861, Police is empowered to take action against encroachers for blocking commuters, roadside sales, and throwing trash. Therefore, the police cannot excuse itself for failing to remove encroachment all over the city. The participants were urged to report violations to the Administrator, Commissioner, Chief Minister, and Governor as well as send reminders till the issue is solved.

FNF Regional Director South Asia Ronald Meinardus and FNF Country Representative Rudiger Graikhen also graced the event with their presence.





# THE CURIOUS CASE OF ENCROACHMENT IN KARACHI



Oonib Azam

In most of megacities around the world, sidewalks are meant to provide a safe path to pedestrians' but not in Karachi.

In Karachi footpath/sidewalks are the monarchy of street hawkers, beggars, encroachers, food stalls, parking and seating areas for roadside establishments and advertisement of billboards. The most irksome are these huge billboards allowed by the very authorities that are supposed to safeguard the interests of the citizens.

The city is comprised of eight different cantonments and one metropolitan corporation, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) each follows its own bylaws making it easy to manipulate them when authorizing signboards that are huge and hinder traffic.

All hoardings in the city are put up on the behest of the KMC's directors and the CEOs of the cantonment boards. By digging deeper into what these bylaws say about the placement of hoardings one could easily decipher, how cleverly they have been drafted to



manipulate the laws in their own interest.

According to the Clifton Cantonment Board's bylaws - that are the only easily available bylaws for the public - no person can place any advertisement without the board's approval. Advertisements of mega size will generally be discouraged in urban areas but the board is allowed to give permission depending on individual cases, it states. It is usually this provision that allows huge signboards to go up.

The bylaws condemn the display of obscene and indecent material. In case if the displayed material is objectionable from the government or boards point of view, the advertiser is

liable to remove such advertisement. One could laugh out loud for this one. Our streets adorned with huge bill boards featuring physical intimacies of our stars are allowed by these very boards.

These authorities decide where to place the billboard, that can in no way impair the visibility of any road traffic sign, states the bylaw. The maintenance of the billboard and its surrounding area has to be taken care of by the advertiser, who must ensure the signboard does not pose any danger. The bylaws restrict the placement of more than one sign at a particular site. If two billboards are joined together, the advertisement shall be displayed with the

axis of symmetry perpendicular with the direction of the oncoming traffic.

rooftops of building. But they may be allowed only after obtaining a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the

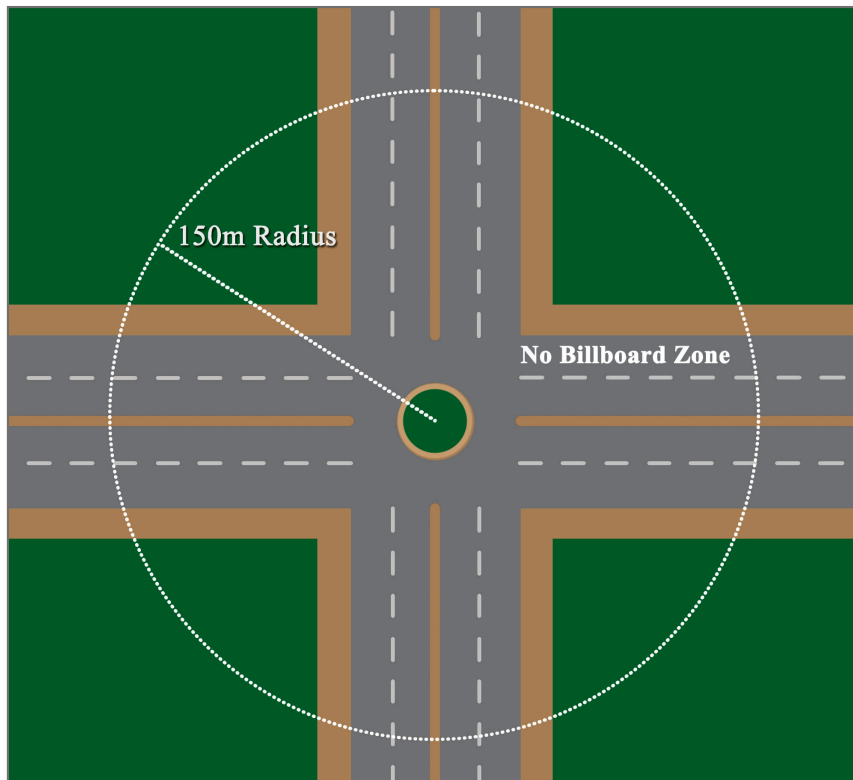
designated for hoardings, the board can exercise its powers to issue the NOCs.

These NOCs may administratively be valid but it definitely bypasses the technical approval process.

Recently in a surprising move, the Supreme Court (SC) mentioned that there was no law that permits installing outdoor advertising billboards and signboards on 'public property' and ordered KMC, including all the cantonment boards to remove these billboards/hoardings across the city by June 30.

The 'public property' was explained as roads, sidewalks, islands in the centre of a road or service lane, overhead bridges and underpasses, overhead pedestrian walkways or bridges, roundabouts, green belts or dividers between a road, pedestrian lanes and nullahs (storm water drains) and the banks of nullahs. This means Karachi is supposed to become a city free from bill boards or hoardings.

God knows if the day would come. The parking mafia and street hawkers are in no way to leave the public property empty, in the space-craving metropolis, where huge malls and hospitals are



Billboards cannot be placed within a radius of 150 meters from the centre of an intersection on an arterial road and within 150m from the centre of an intersection of any lower-order road. External illumination is permitted provided such illumination does not constitute a road safety hazard or cause undue disturbance.

Similarly, for placement of billboards on rooftops, the bylaws state that sky-vision or other illuminated advertisement materials shall be discouraged on

owner of the building or the relevant traders' association.

The board officials takes every decision keeping in mind public interest. If the board thinks something is in favour of the public, they have the right to pass that decision.

Such grey areas in the bylaws is left to overwrite them. For example, the advertisers try to identify the most attractive locations to fulfill their purpose of placing an advertisement. However, if those locations, according to the bylaws, are not



springing up and taking large chunk of service roads and footpaths under their ownership - some of which are even leased by the municipalities.

Several islands in the center of the road or a service land have been literally leased by municipalities to earn revenues, which results in irregular parking

surrounding those islands, which chokes the traffic to a complete halt during rush hours.

Again, the several cantonment boards and the KMC have got their separate bylaws for parking. Even the metropolis has got a building control authority, which is also powerless in cantonment areas.

every 10 beds and per consulting room of a clinical or medical service building, every six bedroom for a hotel of three-star category and above - in addition to a per room requirement, parking space shall be provided for all other facilities for example, restaurants, conference room etc.



According to the Sindh Building Control Authority's (SBCA) parking bylaws; one motor vehicle parking shall be provided; for





Also one motor vehicle parking space should be there for every 800 square feet of floor area of retail shopping, for every 2000 square feet of floor area of office space in an industrial building unit, 50 visitors who can be accommodated by an area or structure for sports activities, every eight seat occupancy of restaurants or banquet halls, every 4000 square feet floor area of all educational institutions situated on a plot of measuring 2000 square yards and above, every 60 square yard of a marriage lawn/ hall of minimum plot area of 1000 square yards.

However, when it comes to the cantonment boards, their bylaws of parking are ineffective. The cantonment bylaws in most of the cases never come out for public scrutiny.

The nonchalant behavior of the directors of the KMC, SBCA and the CEOs of the cantonments boards has added salt to the wounds. Where most of these encroachments take place under their umbrellas, they also refrain taking actions against hospitals arguing they work for a good cause.

Until, the vested interest in drafting the bylaws is put to an end, encroachment will



continue to take place. Our soft corner for hospitals and religious places breaking such bylaws need to end and actions needs to be taken across the board.

Where, most of the anti-

encroachment operations take place during the month of Ramadan, which turns up to be nothing but a short term remedy. It takes encroachers not more than a day to reclaim their occupied territories.

## DEALING WITH ENCROACHMENT

1. Take photographs of the encroachment
2. Write Complaint Letters to (depending upon the nature of complaint):
  - a. KMC Anti-encroachment Cell
  - b. Police
  - c. Building Control Authority
3. Quote the violation of the relevant laws in your letter to add weightage to your complain
4. Get as many endorsement signatures as possible on your letter to exert more pressure
5. Forward the letter to different officials:
  - a. Administrator
  - b. Commissioner
  - c. Governor
  - d. Chief Minister
  - e. Local body officials, etc
6. Keep sending reminders till the problem is dealt with

# ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS RAISING FOR POLICE REFORMS



Lourdes Hotel, Quetta (May 5th-8th, 2016)

Police Training Workshop Module 3 "Human Rights within the context of the Vulnerable Sectors of Society" and Module 4 "Human Rights within the Global Context" were conducted by Shehri-CBE during May 5-8, 2016 in Quetta, Balochistan.

The objective of the 4-day workshop was to instill awareness about the Federal and Provincial laws that protect citizen rights and to understand the implications of being a signatory to various Human Rights Conventions.

16 Police Trainees were capacitated during the workshop to deal with Human Rights Violations in the society as well as within the police stations.

On the first day a session with Activists, Civil Society Organizations, Media and Police was conducted to amplify effective policing in Balochistan. Police reforms were suggested by all the stake holders including:

- > Proper Pay scales >
- Enhanced Medical Facilities
- > Provision of Advance Investigation tools >

Encouraging youth and qualified professionals to join police > Promoting Law abiding Culture >

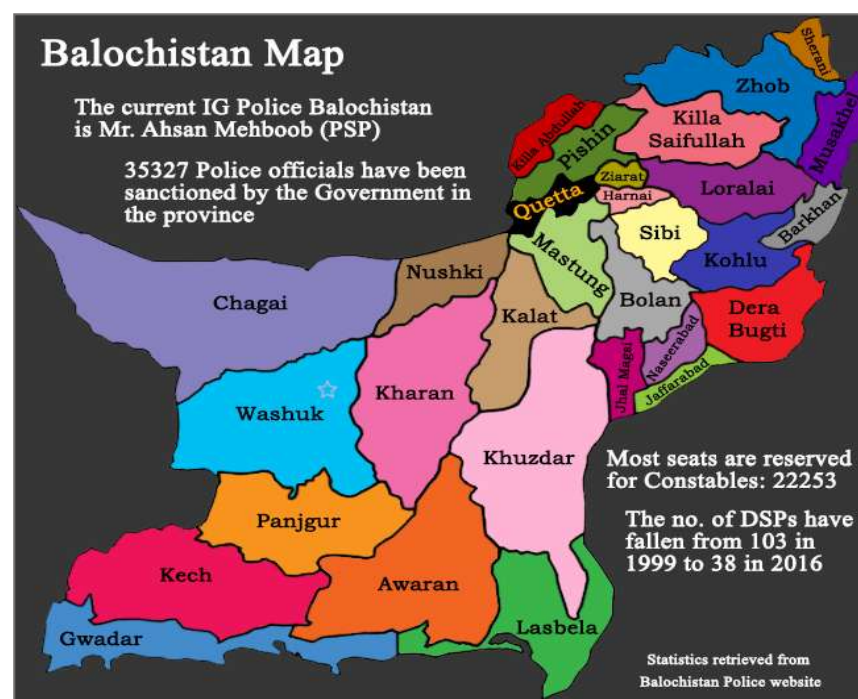
This consultation was moderated by Ms. Gulmina Bilal, Lead Trainer Shehri-CBE, while the other trainers of the workshop included Mr. Khatib Ahmed, Mr. Wasim Kamran, Mr. Nasurallah Khan, and Advocate Tahir Hussain.

The workshop also included case studies and documentaries on child rights, early marriage, child trafficking, violence against women, women's rights, etc.



"We are thankful to Shehri for assisting both police and citizens in understanding human rights," commented ASI Khalil Ahmed when asked to evaluate the workshop by Shehri.

While HC Abdul Ghaffar said, "Khuzdar will surely benefit from all that I learnt. I will implement it in my district."



# 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.

### SUCSESSES

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 1000/= 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 2016 (Rs. 1000/= )  
Join Shehri and play your role as a good citizen to make this city a clean, healthy and environmentally friendly place to live in!