



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

September - December, 2000 Vol. 10/No. 3

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SOS KIRTHAR!! IS ANYBODY LISTENING?

*As national and international protest mounts against the controversial oil/gas exploration project in the Kirthar National Park, a **SHEHRI SPECIAL REPORT** assesses the various landmarks set in the campaign to save the park and surveys the road ahead.*

In 1997, the Directorate General of Petroleum Concessions, an affiliated body of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Government of Pakistan, granted a concession to the Premier Oil Group, to explore for oil/gas, in the Dumbar Block. Premier Oil, later merged with Shell Oil, to form the Premier-Shell Pakistan Group.

90% of the Dumbar Block comprises of the Kirthar National Park. Kirthar National Park (KNP) is the largest national park of the country. It was designated as a national park in 1974 by the Sindh Wildlife Department. It was the first of Pakistan's park to be included in the UN's listing of national parks in 1975. In addition, Kirthar qualifies for the strict criteria fixed by the World Conservation Union for a Category II Protected Area.



KNP is situated at a distance of about 80 kms north of Karachi. Apart from its rich biodiversity status, the area houses archaeological remains dating back to 3500 years B.C., and also the largest of world's historic forts-Rannikot. In addition, the park area serves as the watershed of four important waterways

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON KIRTHAR

**World Wide Fund for
Nature-Pakistan**

**Sustainable Development
Policy Institute (SDPI)**

SUNGI Development

**Shehri-Citizens for a
Better Environment**

Shirkat Gah

CREED Alliance

PILER

**Karachi Administration
Women Welfare Society
(KAWWS)**

Aurat Foundation

**Urban Resource Centre
(URC)**

Idara-e-Amn-o-Insaf (IDARA)

**South Asia Partnership -
Pakistan**

Sindh Graduates Association



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Contributions are welcome
Interested contributors should contact the SHEHRI office for writers guidelines. SHEHRI newsletter readership is from students, professionals, environmentalists, policy makers, NGOs and other organizations.

Views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of the Editor/Editorial Board.

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EDITORIAL

The True Meaning of Local Governance

Local government is probably the most open, transparent and participatory of all tiers within the national governance structure. In effective and functioning democracies, it is therefore accorded the importance and significance it deserves. The people served by their local governments are also suitably aware of the fact that most of their everyday concerns will be solved at the local level, and consequently interact and participate vigorously and enthusiastically at this level within the prescribed mechanisms of citizen involvement. The local government officials, conscious of the knowledgeable and informed nature of citizen involvement, and aware of their own power to bring about meaningful change, deliver upon their mandate, finding little room for unchecked inefficiency and mismanagement.

It is exactly this closeness of integration between the elected and the electorate, that makes local politics so vital for the common man, as compared to say national politics, where citizen involvement is usually at a bare minimal.

We have never been able to (either by design or by default) to nurture and strengthen a people friendly local governance structure. In the absence of properly functioning local governance systems, the citizen of

the state has failed to grasp the true essence of democracy which lies in local politics, not in national politics, has been disoriented as a result, and at times fails even to prioritize with sufficient clarity, the real issues which matter most in his or her life. It is therefore, not uncommon amongst us, that whenever a few people, whichever strata of society they may belong to, gather and converse, more time is given to discussing world politics, than to issues effecting the day to day lives of an ordinary Pakistani citizen!

It nothing else, even if the presently floated system of "Local Governance", is able to establish this pivotal link between the ordinary citizen and its local council, it would be a creditable achievement.

To do this, the system should ensure that most of the needs and demands of the people are addressed at their local council level and people friendly mechanisms for achieving this objective are set in place. The present plan is long on rhetoric and short on substance and it is felt that if the requisite political, financial and administrative powers are not vested in the local councils to achieve the desired objectives, then a unique opportunity of evolving a meaningful grass root democratic process in the country may forever be lost. □



feeding into Karachi and Hyderabad i.e., Hub, Baran, Mole and Malir rivers.

However, the main issue at stake is the legal status of the park.



More than 200 new plant species have already been found in the park during the preliminary stage of the baseline study

According to the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972, all kinds of mining and exploration activities are prohibited in the national parks of Sindh province. This law is further augmented by the Sindh Wildlife Amendment Act 1993 and a Sindh Government Notification, 1997. It is clear, that the awarding of this exploration license was an illegal act.

It is for this very reason, that when the Premier Group approached the Sindh Wildlife Department (SWD) for gaining access to the area, the SWD officials resisted this move and also approached The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Pakistan to seek expert guidance. The fact that the SWD later on became part and parcel of this unfortunate episode, is another story.

When SWD established contact with IUCN, the environmental groups entered the equation. IUCN Pakistan immediately formed a sub-committee on Kirthar within its Pakistan National Council Membership. This sub-committee then expanded to form the *Citizens Committee on Kirthar*, as more and more NGO's became part of the campaign, which were not members of IUCN Pakistan

and a need was felt to form a broader alliance. Initially, IUCN established contact with the oil companies and the government to register their concerns. After a lengthy process of dialogue, it was decided that the only activity that can be allowed is to conduct a 'Baseline Scientific Study', (BS), of the park to prepare an inventory of the park and assess its ecological status. This was because the last thorough scientific study of the park was done in 1974, on the basis of which, Kirthar was declared a national park. On the basis of the findings of the proposed BS, it was decided to develop a 'Management Plan', for the park.

Instead of a baseline study, the project proponents of the oil/gas exploration project had been insisting on starting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The citizen groups resisted this move. The reason was obvious. An EIA is always considered an integral part of the project, whose environmental impact it assesses. In this case the subject project was clearly an illegal act. So it stands to reason that its EIA would also be illegal. It was as simple as that. The government and oil companies insist that an EIA is also a 'non-intrusive' and scientific study and hence allowable. The citizen groups do not buy this argument.

On 21/22 of January 2000, a Public Consultative Workshop was held in Karachi, in which the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the baseline study were finalized. Melbourne Enterprises International (MEI), a commercial wing of the Melbourne University, Australia, who were selected to do the Baseline Study, made their presentation. The main commitments that were made in this workshop were that:

- No consideration to an EIA

would be given and only the results of the baseline study, after due deliberation by all the relevant stakeholders would form the basis of any future management plan of the park.

Since the BS was being funded by Premier - Shell Group, a number of checks and balances were also proposed by citizen groups, which were accepted by the government.

These included:

- Formation of a *Project Steering Committee (PSC)*, consisting of all relevant stakeholders. The PSC would be responsible for monitoring all aspects of the study, from approval of project personnel to the clearance and issuance of funds.
- A *Technical Advisory Group (TAG)* was to be formed to provide technical oversight and report to PSC.
- Public disclosure of the findings of the BS.

"According to the 1973 study, the list of plants, for example, was less than 200 species in the park. We've now got a list which is well in excess of 400 species probably around about 500 plant species within the park and the known flora of the Sindh province is around about 1,000 species. We don't believe that we have found all of the species in the park."

– Dr. Neal Enright, Team Leader, Kirthar Baseline Study, MEI, University of Melbourne, Australia.



"In Pakistan, Shell wants to exploit reserves of natural gas lying under the Kirthar National Park, 80 miles north of Karachi, which is home to many rare species and contains archeological sites from 3,500 BC.

Environmental laws ban any mineral exploration in the reserve, but in 1997 Shell and Premier Oil were jointly awarded a licence to explore a region that included the whole Kirthar area. Since then they have been lobbying to lift the law blocking such activities.

A Shell spokesman said the protests did not take account of "today's high standards of exploration and production". □

**– Jonathan Leake,
Environment Editor, Sunday
Times, United Kingdom.**

From then on, has continued an unfortunate trail of broken promises and commitments on the part of the project proponents. Let us just briefly go through this list:

- The PSC, which was supposed to start functioning from the very beginning of the project, was notified under tremendous pressure from the citizen groups in late September and met for the first time on 22nd September 2000. This, when the study was initiated nine months earlier in January. Even when it was formed, its composition was such that it

was immediately rejected by all the citizen groups.

- The TAG only met once, that too informally in the park and could not feed into the PSC, as there existed no PSC!
- No public disclosure of the study findings was made. After much pressure from the citizens, the preliminary findings were provided only to IUCN and WWF, who anyway do not represent the citizens.
- Another interesting point. The BS contract is a three-way contract. MEI are the executors, PSP the funders and the SWD act as representative of the Sindh Government, the authorizing authority. Initially when the contract was prepared, it was sent to the Sindh Law Ministry for approval. They had some reservations and sent it back to the SWD for comments. However, the project got underway and it was only after 70% of the data collection work was completed that SWD finally got to sign on the dotted line, sometimes in late August! Till then it was a two-way contract. Who was protecting the interests of the people during these 7 or 8 months, nobody knows.
- Now we come to the main point of contention. It was categorically stated by the SWD officials in the Karachi Workshop that no EIA would even be considered till the BS results were evaluated. However, within a month, in April, the EIA was initiated and continues till this day and is in fact, scheduled to be completed before the conclusion of the BS! How can one describe such actions.

However, even though the BS has been conducted under such constraints, it still presents a very positive picture of the KNP. Dr. Neal Enright, the leader of the Australian team is quoted as saying that 200 new species have been discovered in the KNP. In the first meeting of the PSC, Dr. Neal further said that they have found in Kirthar a plant species, never before documented anywhere in the world. And all this when the study has been conducted during a severe drought period and therefore does not adequately represent the true ecological status of the park.

To the Citizens Committee on Kirthar, two things have become very clear. First, of course is the gross illegality of the whole process. In spite of clearly worded and unambiguous legal barriers, the whole charade goes on. The relevant ordinance and amend-

"Interest of the present Sindh Governor and Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources in the project is not surprising for knowledgeable sources as they know that the minister has been the employee of Shell before his present portfolio and the Governor used to sit at the company's board of governors." □

**– Zulfikar Shah
Progress Sans Nature,
News on Sunday**

ments are not being acknowledged or at most are being treated as minor irritants. They are being brushed aside only to be dealt with at an opportune time. Put under



pressure, the classic beggar bowl argument comes out. We are a cash strapped economy, need foreign

less dignified terms, it translates into electricity thefts and the activities of the *Kunda Mafia*. The tax

which has stood out is the systematic breaking of all the commitments made by the project proponents during the process of dialogue. Yet the citizens are being asked to accept their future commitments for ensuring the protection of the park's environment. How can that be? A dialogue is built on trust and cannot function in an atmosphere of mistrust.

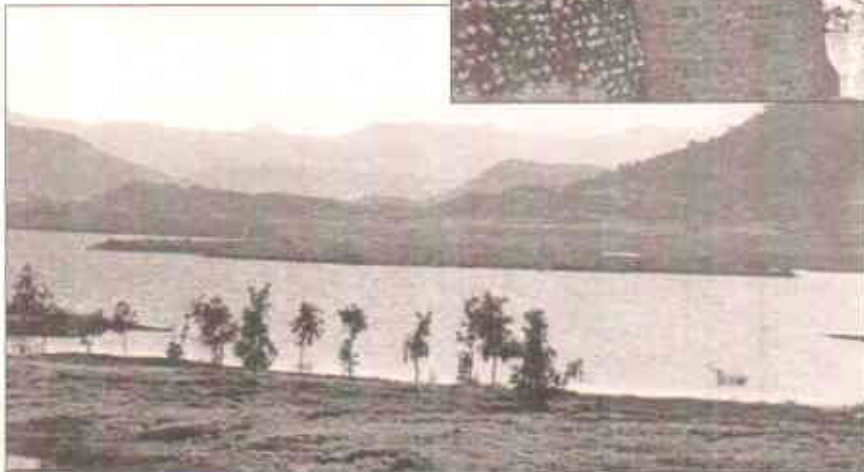
Apart from prominent national NGO's, globally based citizen activist networks like Friends of Earth and Global Response have facilitated this campaign by writing letters of protest to the relevant government agencies and multinational corporations involved in this illegal project. And the campaign goes on! □

"Despite the attempts to present a new image with glossy brochures and friendly websites, Shell is still one of the world's most notorious polluters and human rights abusers. Following recent operations in a region of Peru, the river now occasionally runs black. Shell also recently faced a successful Greenpeace campaign to stop them sinking the decommissioned Brent Spar oil platform in the North Sea, rather than following the standard practice of dismantling and recycling the equipment on shore." □
– Shell, Pakistan and Your University, Ben Moxham, Editor Farrago, Melbourne University Newsletter.

investment, the national development debate and the works.

It is above all a matter of governance. Had the national governance process been in shape, we would not be facing these apparently no option cases. An example might clarify this argument. In Karachi, these days, there is massive load shedding. Two hours announced load shedding, the rest comes as a bonus! The argument is that KESC does not have the money to buy furnace oil. Again, the citizens have to suffer, as there is no other option! But there are

payers subsidize for this mismanagement as the government cannot control the theft, and are given no options when it comes to finding solutions. Do the citizens always



Wildlife is not the only resource at stake: Rannikot Fort (Top) and the Hub River reservoir (Bottom)

always options. It is all a matter of governance. In Karachi, according to rough estimates, there are 50-60% transmission losses. Put in

have to pay for the mismanagement of our governments?

Another factor in this process

**For more information,
please log on to the
campaign website
www.savekirthar.org**



Kirthar Campaign gains International Support and Recognition



Global Response

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AND EDUCATION NETWORK

'P.O.Box 7490

BOULDER, COLORADO, U.S.A., 80306-7490

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



#6/00 Stop Oil/Gas Development in Kirthar National Park / Pakistan

Requested Action:

Please send polite letters to the Pakistani government and Shell-Premier. Ask them to immediately halt the ongoing Shell-Premier Environmental Impact Assessment and cancel all plans for oil and gas exploration and development in Kirthar National Park because:

- Oil and gas development are clearly illegal within Kirthar National Park, according to provisions of the Sindh Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1972, the Sindh Wildlife Amendment Act 1993, and a Sindh Govt. Notification 1997.
- The unique biodiversity of Kirthar National Park merits continued scientific study and strict preservation.
- Affected communities within the park and civil society must participate fully in all discussions and decisions regarding the future of Kirthar National Park.

Write to:

Usman Aminuddin, Federal Minister
 Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources
 Government of Pakistan
 Room # 305, Pak Secretariat,
 A Block, Islamabad, Pakistan
 Fax # Int'l code + 92-51-9206416

Peter Cockroft, General Manager & CEO
 Premier & Shell Pakistan B.V.
 4th Floor, West Half, Jang Building
 Fazal-e-Haq Road, Blue Area
 Islamabad, Pakistan
 Fax # Int'l code + 92-51-821785

This Global Response Action was issued at the request of and with information provided by the *Citizens Committee on Kirthar and Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment*. Special thanks to George Blevins for his drawings. For more information, please see these websites:

- www.savekirthar.org
- www.oilwatch.org.ec/teganatai/
- www.shell.com/royal-en/



GLOBAL RESPONSE is an international letter-writing network for environmental activism. At the request of indigenous, environmentalist, and human rights organizations around the world, GLOBAL RESPONSE develops Actions that describe specific, urgent threats to the environment. Each Action asks members to write personal letters to individuals in the corporations, governments and financial institutions that have the power and responsibility to prevent environmental destruction. GLOBAL RESPONSE also issues **Young Environmentalist's Actions** and **Eco-Club Actions** that educate and motivate primary and secondary school students to be active Earth stewards and global citizens. **Teachers Kits** are also available.

For more information, and to join Global Response, visit our website: www.globalresponse.org
 Phone: 303/444-9794 Email: action@globalresponse.org

PLEASE GIVE TO GLOBAL RESPONSE!

With your tax-deductible gift, we'll expand our international network and increase the effectiveness of your letters!



Please collect as many signatures as you can from friends and family and send to the concerned officials



- Chief Executive of Pakistan
- Governor of Sindh

Let us not destroy the legacy of our future generations!

Save the Kirthar National Park from Illegal gas exploration and production activities.



Website: www.savekirthar.org

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Send completed form to Shehri: CBE, 206-G/2, PECHS, Karachi-75400, Phone/Fax: 453-0646



SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Public Presentation of the 'Healthy City Karachi Project (Baseline Research) Report'

(Saturday, September 30, 2000, Frere Hall, Karachi)

The Baseline Research Report on the 'Healthy City Karachi Project', was presented before representatives of various sectors of the civil society in Karachi. It was a project of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, York University, Toronto, Canada. Shehri-CBE, acted as the 'Host Organization' for the project.

Qazi Faez Isa, Chairperson, Shehri-CBE presented the welcome address. Mr. Isa said that this



project, represented a new initiative from Shehri-CBE, since the city needs repair and improvement at a macro level, through comprehensive planning and implementation of city wide projects and initiatives. He said that it is upto the citizens of Karachi to provide the impetus. "We complain a lot but do not take an active part in solving our problems." said Mr. Isa. He added that there is a lot of despair and despondency in the society. Suicide rates are rising.

Mr. Isa lamented the fact that people are so discouraged that they

are leaving enmass for countries like America and Canada. He said that there is minimal investment in human resource development in our country. One manifestation of this fact was that while countries much smaller and with lesser natural and human resources than us, came back with loads of medals from the recent Olympic games, our contingent came back empty handed!

He was hopeful that the Healthy City Project could set in motion a process of positive change. Mr. Isa said that presently there is complete lack of co-ordination at all levels of governance in the country. Recently a building protected by the 'Heritage Act' was demolished by the Ministry of Defence. When questioned, they

said that provincial laws do not apply to them!

He concluded by saying that there is a lot of symbolism behind holding the session in Frere Hall. A building, representative of Karachi's once proud past. He said that this magnificent structure was built in two years! A hundred years later, we cannot boast of the same efficiency levels.

With the help of charts and slides, **Muhammad Tariq Khan**, Principal Investigator



Qazi Faez Isa
Chairperson,
Shehri-CBE

for the research report, made a presentation of the work done. He said that when he started his work, much sarcasm was shown by the people he met. This reaction in a way signified the apathy which has developed in the people that nothing can change for the better and things could only get worse. Mr. Khan gave an introduction of the 'Healthy City' concept and the model of Health and Community Eco-System. His presentation on the 'State of the City' included issues related to governance and civil society, city economy, key services and infrastructure, environmental management and social conditions.

Mr. Khan identified roads and public transportation, water and sanitation and solid waste management, as areas in need of urgent rehabilitation. On the issue of envi-



Farhan Anwar
Executive Member,
Shehri-CBE



ronmental management, he laid stress on reviving cultural activities and building recreational infrastructure.

He also outlined the methodology adopted in conducting the research, based on the principles of 'Participatory Action Research' and involving interviews, focus group

evolutionary process and cannot be classified as a strictly result based management system. The concept seeks participation and involvement of all sectors of the society in the decision making, planning and implementation processes within a city. This, he said was the need of the hour in



Muhammad Tariq Khan
Principal Investigator
Healthy City Research
Report



discussions and use of the internet to access and gain input from various sectors of the civil society in Karachi. He thanked Shehri-CBE, on behalf of York University, for acting as the 'Host Organisation' for the project.

Farhan Anwar, Executive Member, Shehri-CBE and Local Resource Person for the research report, gave his impressions on the subject. Mr. Anwar said that the Healthy City concept envisions an

Karachi. He called upon all the residents of the city to stand up and be counted in this hour of need and do their bit for converting Karachi into a city of peace,

Healthy City Project in Karachi.

Later, prominent academics and Shehri members including Prof. Muhammad Nauman, Prof. Kausar Bashir, Farooq Daud and Shaukat Omari appreciated



learning, culture and prosperity. He thanked the York University team for their initiative in introducing this concept in Karachi and expressed Shehri's resolve to work for the implementation of the

Shehri's initiative and gave suggestions.

Qazi Faez Isa concluded the session with a vote of thanks. □

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT TALKS, NEW DELHI, INDIA

Navaid Husain of Shehri-CBE Participates

In November 2000, six hundred delegates from SAARC (South Asia) nations met to discuss Nuclear Disarmament in New Delhi. Similar discussions are taking place throughout the region to forego militarisation and armaments and instead to pour money into our badly needed development processes. Over population, a severe lack of education, housing and employment are amongst the things that need to be addressed as the region is falling behind the rest of the world as we are involved in disputes.

The Pakistan delegation of 50 people was led by senior journalist, M.B. Naqvi. The list of partici-

pants, among others, included, Karamat Ali, M. Kutty, Dr. Haroon Ahmad, Tahir Ahmad Khan, Navaid Husain, Latif Kapadia, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasir Akhtar, Brig (Retd.) Rao Abid Hamid. Various bodies from individual countries are building up support internally and are planning across the border visits by groups of people to explore the elements of commonality.

Incidentally, during the Kargil crisis, India and Pakistan exchanged threats to use all the weapons they have (meaning regular and nuclear) on no less than nineteen occasions! □



Shehri's comments on "Regulations 2000" draft

As the government presents and opens for public debate, the first draft of the Building By Laws 2000, Shehri contributes to this process by submitting detailed comments and participates actively in the public hearings being held to finalize the draft.

General Comments

1. Language of the document must be legally correct: the Objections Review Committee must have a knowledgeable and competent lawyer at the re-formulation stage to advise on:
 - application of words and terms (e.g., "shall", "should", "will", "must", "preferable", etc.)
 - compatibility of the proposed Regulations with SBCO 1979 and other legislation (including KDA Order 1957, lease/land-grant conditions, zonal plans, etc.)
 - elimination of misuse / misinterpretation of the language
2. There is no properly established, documented, and well-publicized procedure of internal working in KBCA, e.g.,
 - delegation of powers and duties to CCOB, COBs, DCBs, ACBs, etc.
 - step-wise procedure for approval, etc., of plans.

This (and the following two measures) need to be set up in order to make the Regulations meaningful and effective.

3. A special court, covering all five districts, must be established for the trial of criminal offenses under SBCO 1979 (similar to KESC court, KMC court, etc.)
4. The role and functioning of special KDA/KBCA magistrates and KDA/KBCA police must be strengthened.
5. All acronyms/abbreviations must be stated in the "Definitions" chapter (e.g., "Floor Area Ratio" (FAR) or in a separate listing.
6. Before Town-planning or Building Regulations are formulated, should there not be a master-plan or a structured plan for the entire city? Do we not need an over-view of what is going on? Density (commercialization, increase of plot-ratios/FAR, etc.) of localities cannot be done in isolation without understanding its impact on the city, and its amenities and infra-

7. Is it not necessary to make provision for handicapped access in buildings (e.g. ramps, lifts, special toilets, fire-escape, water drinking fountains, etc.)?
8. Use sequential page numbering "1,2,3,4..."
9. All units must be SI (metric), with imperial units in parenthesis.
10. How can these Regulations mandate various positive actions by the "Concerned Authorities"? □

If anyone is interested in accessing the detailed comments of Shehri on "Regulations 2000", or the full draft of the Shehri petition in the KESC Tariff case, please contact the Shehri Secretariat

Shehri becomes Intervenor in the Petition for increase in KESC Tariff to be heard by NEPRA

Shehri's request to become intervenor in the KESC tariff case has been accepted by NEPRA. Apart from assisting in arriving at a just and informed decision on this issue, Shehri also requests that the following issues which are directly related to cost of electricity and the improvement of safety and performance standards of electrical systems in Pakistan, be also reviewed:

1. Upgrading of the "Electricity Act 1910" and "Electricity Rules 1937", two antiquated and deficient pieces of legislation and rules.
2. Enforcement of prescribed utility service characteristics, such as voltage, stability, load-shedding, etc.
3. Performance and corruption of the Electrical Inspectors, who do not ensure the safety of electrical installations.
4. The hazardous nature of electrical systems (both utility and consumer) in Pakistan.
5. The NEPRA award of "System Development Charges" to KESC
6. Promotion of the benefits of "wheeling" electricity between private producers (who are more efficient than WAPDA/KESC) and consumers. □



Shehri assists in the establishment of the 'Free Home School', in Bilawal Jokhio Goth, Karachi.

Bilawal Jokhio Goth is situated near Safora Goth, adjacent Race Course Ground on University Road. It is a locality bereft of even the basic necessities of life.

Poverty and unemployment are the major social problems faced by the residents. Basic health and education facilities are not provided and children at a very young age are forced into employment. Most of the young girls are employed as hired helps in nearby homes while boys either graze goats, run small shops, act as vendors or are employed in hard labour.

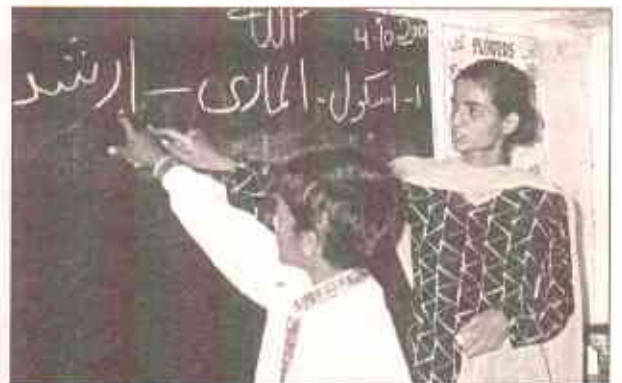
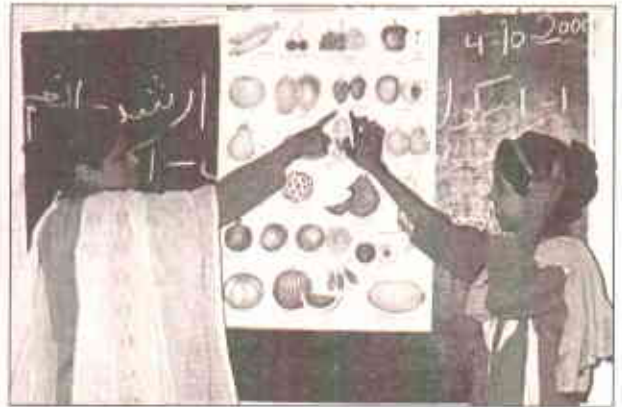
Hopes of improvement in the living conditions were raised with the formation of a Community Based Organization (CBO), *Association of Male Social Development (AMSD)*. AMSD sought assistance in promoting education on a self help basis from Shehri-CBE. Ms. Mansoor, Administrator, *Shehri-CBE*, paid a visit to the locality and expressed her resolve and commitment to assist AMSD in achieving their noble objectives.

On October 2, 2000, through a joint collabora-

tive effort, between AMSD and Shehri-CBE, 'A Free Home School' for children (age group 5-12) was established in the premises of the welfare centre of AMSD. 40 children are now enrolled in this school. Children are taught about character building, moral and religious aspects of education and the importance of cleanliness. In addition, language and mathematics classes are also held. Books, stationery, pencils etc. are provided free of cost to all the children.

Despite severe financial constraints, AMSD has managed till now to run the school and hold classes on a regular basis. Costs include stationery, water and electricity bills etc. It is also felt that proper furniture, including chairs, desks are required. Shehri-CBE is assisting AMSD in the generation of much needed funds.

However, funds are required on an ongoing and sustained basis to support this noble campaign in the long run and even open new branches. Shehri-CBE asks all its members and other local philanthropists to come forward and extend their



help and co-operation for the 'Free Home School', project. □

(Please contact Ms. Mansoor, Administrator, Shehri-CBE for further information.)



"Shehri Youth" Members participate in the "Dawn in Education" Program (October 4, 2000)

SHEHRI-CBE has started a process of organizing extra curricular activities involving the youth, mostly school going children, in order to broaden their outlook on social, environmental and development issues and concerns, so that they are better equipped to strive towards establishing an enlightened and progressive civil society in the country.

The *Dawn in Education Project* is an innovative program that aims at encouraging the children to read newspapers so that they can learn more about the world around them.



A visit was arranged by SHEHRI for the pupils of *Karachi Cambridge School, (Senior Section)* to the Dawn office at Haroon House on Wednesday, October 4, 2000, to see how a newspaper is produced. The session was conducted by **Ms. Farishta Dinshaw**, Project

concerning governance, and the present day problems faced by the citizens.

The Dawn Group of Newspapers at Haroon House, is run very efficiently in an environment friendly manner. Haroon House is free from smoke pollution. The paper utilized by the Dawn Group for printing, is imported from Denmark, Canada, Sri Lanka, where sustainable forestation activities are adopted. Heidelberg Harris printing machines are utilized in Dawn printing, which turn out 2000 copies per minute.



Coordinator, Dawn In Education, who provided detailed information on the newspaper printing process and its importance in the educational field, general knowledge and day to day activities of school going children.

Later, the session was carried on by the Chief Editor, STAR, **Mr. Kamal Majeedullah**. The children asked questions regarding the newspaper and other matters

Dawn goes into print by 2.am, and the process is completed by 4.am. The papers are delivered to the hawkers by 6.am. Ample printing paper is in store, to avoid inconveniences, like ban on paper by governments, if any.

During the visit of the Shehri team, it was time to print the evening issue of STAR, and the team was shown the entire printing process of the issue from step one to the last. After the education session, refreshments were served. One copy each of the STAR and a writing pad were distributed among the children. □