



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

July - December, 2005 Vol. 16/No. 2

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A HABITAT AND LANDUSE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE TURTLE HABITAT AT HAWKS BAY/SANDSPIT, KARACHI

*Shehri - CBE with the financial assistance of the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** and Administrative support of **UNDP Pakistan**, prepares a habitat and landuse management plan for the turtle habitat at Hawksbay/Sandspit, Karachi. The major objectives and achievements of this two years project are documented in this **Special Report**.*

The primary objective of the project was to develop sustainable programs and activities for protecting the Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and conservation and land use management of the Green Sea Turtle nesting beach habitat in the project area through interventions based on the concept of environmental stewardship and participatory management.

The project activities were divided into three separate components and varying degrees of success has been achieved in meeting the objectives set out for each project component. The components included:

1. Habitat Management
2. Public participation and awareness raising

3. Amending the existing legislative instruments

A high degree of progress has been achieved in the first two project components. A detailed and comprehensive framework for sustainable habitat management for the project area has been prepared that establishes both management guidelines and proposes actions based on the suggested guidelines. For the first time in Pakistan a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) has been prepared for a sensitive ecosystem. Habitat Models provide a viable tool of species and resources co-management. In the project, in order to develop the desired Environmental Criteria, the habitat modeling technique has been used to assess the requirements for sustainable turtle nesting/hatching in the project area to act as a

Products generated by the project

The following concrete products have been generated during the project:

- A composite document containing a comprehensive framework for habitat management and detailed feasibility for designation of the project area as a protected area
- A preliminary feasibility study for using DNA Mapping for determining migration patterns of green turtles nesting in the Sandspit/Hawksbay beaches
- Complete computer based documentation with pictorial support of land use violations in Hut constructions on the beaches of Hawksbay /Sandspit
- In collaboration with the NGO Book Group, the preparation of a pioneering child education booklet on turtle conservation, namely *Haray Katchway*
- A first of its kind *Street Theatre* on the theme of turtle conservation prepared in collaboration with the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum
- Launching of *Turtle Lover Clubs* in three local schools

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Stakeholders involved in all stages of the project



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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.

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EDITORIAL

The NEQS: Need for Change

The Environmental Protection Act 1997 though it claims to address all the environmental concerns in the country is basically targeted at and is more or less specific in its legislation to the industrial sector in the country. As such, most of the rules, regulations and standards are focused on management, control and monitoring of effluent discharges. The more extensive legislative instruments such as the National Environmental Quality Standards are set primarily to deal with industrial discharges. The priority of the legislators was on monitoring of effluent discharges and penalizing the errant industrialists for which systems such Pollution Charges and Environmental Tribunals have been set in place. There is very little focus on facilitative legislation that could result in the overall improvement in the environmental management systems in the enterprises.

As the Act that is linked for enforcement and regulation with the federal and provincial EPA's limits itself to monitoring discharges, ensuring compliance with the NEQS, there is no effort to provide encouragement to the enterprises to enhance their general level of environmental functions and engage in activities such as energy saving,

waste recycling, reuse and reduction in waste generation levels. Occupational safety that includes ensuring a clean, safe and environment friendly work environment is not a concern for the EPA's. That is where considerations for environmental management tools such as Life Cycle Assessment can be promoted.

The Act also does not require the enterprises to put in place any kind of mandatory compliance requirements for the contractors/vendors that have been sub-let the work of waste disposal by the waste generating enterprises. The Act simply does not recognize this issue. This is a serious flaw that has provided a loophole for enterprises not investing in waste treatment systems. This is more evident in the case of solid waste for which not even compliance standards exist (other than for hospital waste).

While the Act is a document that touches and caters for various important issues related to environmental protection, its restricted focus on industry and compliance with effluent discharge standards at the cost of neglecting the overall and cross-cutting important environmental concerns limits and confines its potential for positive impact. □

tool for policy makers and protected area managers to enhance their capacity for sound protected area management.

In addition, a comprehensive feasibility has been prepared for designating the project area as a protected area and all options including international and national protected area categories and designations have been thoroughly evaluated to come up with a sound case for designating the project area as a protected area.



Launching of the
Turtle Stewards Committee
- An important outcome of the project

A successful two phase training program for the Hut Chowkidars on the concept and practice of Environmental Stewardship was organized in which about a 100 Hut Chowkidars participated. Detailed documentation of all development related violations/ encroachments in the beach area was completed to assess impact on the nesting suitability of the beach area.

The focus of the awareness raising activities was directed on the youth. Turtle Lovers Clubs aimed at educating and raising the levels of awareness among the youth were established in three local schools. Turtle watch tours of students and painting competitions on the theme of turtle conservation were organized. Students of a local school participated in the designing of the project logo. In collaboration with the NGO Book Group, a booklet *Harey Katchway* has been prepared that now forms part of the curriculum of certain schools.

A song and video based on the theme of conserving the turdes and their habitat was prepared and aired on private TV Channels. In collaboration with the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, a Street Theatre was prepared specially targeted at the local community. Souvenirs such as stickers, mugs, T-Shirts were prepared carrying the theme of turtle conservation. All these awareness raising measures have been well received by the target audience.

In order to provide post grant sustainability to project actions, a *Turtle Stewards Committee* comprising of civil society stakeholders such as concerned NGO's, local community, hut owners has been launched. The process has been facilitated by Shehri-CBE.

However, limited success was achieved in managing to introduce amendments in the Hut Lease Deeds to make them sensitive to the need of tackling the threats faced by the visiting and nesting turtles. After carefully analyzing the lease deeds and equating their clauses with the requirements of providing a safe nesting habitat for the visiting turtles, a set of amendments were developed. Karachi Port Trust (*responsible for leasing out huts in Sand spit beach*) management was approached on a regular basis to incorporate the proposed amendments in the hut lease deeds but no positive response was achieved.

In the case of the City District Government Karachi (*responsible for leasing out huts in Hawksbay beach*) limited success was achieved in the sense that the Shehri-CBE project team managed to convince certain councilors to table a Resolution in the City Council session asking for

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- Launching of the multi-stakeholder civil society initiative of the *Turtle Stewards Committee*
- Preparation of a pioneering video based training program on the concepts and practices of environmental stewardship for the local community
- Preparation of the following tools for raising public awareness and promotion of the cause of turtle/habitat conservation:
 - Song/Video on the theme of turtle/habitat conservation
 - Educational paintings / poster
 - Turtle conservation Mugs, stickers, T-shirts, badges

approval of the proposed amendments but the resolution could not muster the required support in the Council session.

The principal obstacle in achieving the objective of amending the Hut Lease Deeds issued by KPT was the non-responsive and immovable nature of the KPT bureaucracy. Despite persistent efforts by the Shehri project team, no positive response was obtained. Most of the discussions took place with the Estate Department.

However, the relevant staff in these departments was not able to present



Contributing to the management of solid waste in the project area



the case of hut lease amendments with any degree of success to the KPT Board.

With regards the City District Government, the operating dynamics was different. The CDGK being represented by elected councilors required a different approach from the project team. Contacts were established with the Estate/Revenue Departments and the elected councilors including the City Nazim.

The response of the Estate Department was initially not very encouraging. However, in due time the Shehri project team was able to establish a good working relationship with the relevant staff and they facilitated in the drafting of a council resolution to be presented for approval in the City Council. However, the required political support for getting the resolution adopted and approved in the Council could not be achieved. This was the reason for not getting the amendments incorporated in the lease deeds.

It is difficult to say how a dent could have been made in the KPT bureaucracy. Despite stated claims to the contrary, it would appear that environmental concerns do not figure predominantly in the decision making processes in KPT. This is particularly true when it comes to making choices between development and environmental protection.

The protection of turtles and their habitat is a matter that has never figured in the priority concerns of KPT. Given the time constraints attached to the project, positive progress could have been made by gaining greater access to the Board members of KPT, rather than concentrating on the bureaucracy to deliver. This is a strategy that can be adopted by other organizations trying to win environmental battles in the territorial jurisdiction of KPT.

It has been the experience of the pro-

ject team that as compared to the cumbersome bureaucratic machine in KPT, it was much more rewarding to work with the elected councilors and the bureaucracy in the CDGK. Despite initial reluctance, the Estate Department officials were to some extent convinced of our objectives, to the extent that they facilitated in the drafting of the Council Resolution. However, the required political support to get the resolution adopted in the council session could not be attained in a timely manner.

It was a learning process for Shehri project team itself to lobby in such way with a wide mix of political opinions and it is felt that given a bit more time success could have been achieved in the Council. Nevertheless, the experience was positive and a path and process has been identified for those willing to pursue such an option.

The positive aspects of the project relate to the preparation of a holistic framework for habitat management of the project area. The framework covers all related aspects such as policy making, planning, implementation and management recommending a participatory approach to all decisions regarding the planning and management of the habitat.

It identifies the relevant stakeholders and identifies actions based on the recommended guidelines. To assist policy making, planning and management a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) has been developed for the project area.

A detailed feasibility of designating the project area as a protected area has also been conducted. Various options have been analyzed for their relevance to the project area and nationally and internationally accepted and acknowledged options for protected area des-



Informing the public through generation of informational and educational products

ignations have been thoroughly evaluated.

A most detailed documentation of hut ownership and violations in hut constructions for the entire stretch of the Hawksbay /Sandspit beach has been prepared that can act as an extremely important document to assist any future planning and environmental protection measures in the area.

An extremely encouraging aspect of the project has been the interest that it has been able to develop amongst the youth. School children have participated in competitions to select the project logo and on the painting competition on the theme of turtle conservation. They have visited the turtle beach to participate in turtle watch tours and in beach cleaning activities.

The project team was able to establish *Turtle Lovers Clubs* in three local schools that was only possible due to the keen interest and participation of the students and teachers of the schools. The various tools for raising public awareness such as stickers, mugs and turtle conservation song/video have also been received very well by the people targeted.

Another positive gained from the project has been the training of the local community represented by the Hut Chowkidars in the concept and practice of environmental stewardship. Over 100 Hut Chowkidars participat-



ed in the two training sessions that were based on an innovation that it was conducted totally via the visual medium. It is expected that this project initiative would greatly help in developing a willing and well informed force of environmental stewards for the project area.

In the planning stage much importance was given to the role of and participation of the land owning agencies in the project area namely KPT and CDGK. It was assumed that they would realize the sensitive ecological status of the area and provide some support in the form of policy measures that could help in achieving the project objectives.

This expected support did not materialize, particularly in the case of KPT. The bureaucratic red tapes and political interests involved were not fully comprehended at the project planning stage that led to the obtainment of very limited positive results in the project component that dealt with the strengthening of the existing legislative instruments for the better protection of the turtle habitat.

The support of the Hut Owners in realizing their role and responsibility as principle users of the beaches and thus mobilizing for more environment friendly use of the beaches was not at a desired level that reduced the impact of training the Hut Chowkidars as environmental stewards.

It is felt that in the shape of the *Habitat Management Plan* the relevant policy makers have been provided with an ideal document on the findings of which can be based policies, plans and projects aimed at protecting the turtles and their habitat in the project area. Likewise, the feasibility for designating the project area as a protected area would greatly assist any such effort that may be undertaken in the future.

The local community has been trained as environmental stewards and this training should stand them in good stead in any future conservation plan that may be implemented in the project area that requires incorporation of local community support. Already, they are now in a better position to assist in the ongoing conservation efforts of organizations like WWF Pakistan and the Sindh Wildlife Department.

Public awareness, particularly of the youth has been raised through the project activities that should facilitate in the building up of a much more focused and well informed pressure on the relevant agencies for initiating conservation plans for the project area.

In the form of the *Environmental Stewards Committee* a forum now exists for furthering the projects objectives. There is a need to strengthen this Committee that can happen on the initiative of the committee participants themselves.

It needs to lobby effectively with relevant government agencies, promote and support all environment friendly

action aimed at protecting the turtles and their habitat and build within itself the capacity to help in raising funds and facilitate the work of the government and the civil society organizations for positive action.

Donor agencies and the corporate sector needs to come forward and financially assist in carrying forward some of the project initiatives such as the *Turtle Lovers Clubs* in the local schools. The present project has facilitated in the establishment of these clubs in three schools.

This base needs to be expanded to include more schools and funds need to be made available to sustain the activities of these clubs. Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment is both willing and capable of extending the scope and extent of this work in some other project and build on the successes achieved.

The project experience has shown that in order to find lasting and long term solutions to the environmental issues at hand, most important of all is a show of political will and the planning and management capacity within the responsible organizations to implement effectively the policy and planning initiatives.

This critical requirement is unfortunately lacking presently within the political and bureaucratic apparatus of our country. Informed and sustained public pressure can help in mobilizing political action in the right direction.

However, public pressure and advocacy has to be coupled with the presentation of viable planning and management options to facilitate government action in areas where they lack the requisite technical and managerial skills. Public private partnerships are a recommended course of action. □



Public awareness through interactive activities such as Street Theater



SHEHRI SEMINARS

Gender sensitization - civil society and police (September 29 - 30, 2005)

Speakers at the workshop said that discrimination and exploitation of women was not restricted to any particular region but it was a global phenomenon.

The situation would not improve unless the mindset of the society is changed, said the speakers at the concluding session of the two-day training workshop on *Gender-sensitization: civil society and police*.

They stressed that discrimination



towards women could only be stopped when every individual would start playing his due role and when women would be accepted as equal partners in every field.

Over 1.3 billion people are poor and approximately 75 per cent of them are women; between 75 per cent and 80 per cent of the refugees are women and children; women are paid less than men for the same work; only three per cent of all the high position in different fields are

SENSITIZING THE POLICE

Difficulties of Police

- * Physical Environment
- * Extraneous Pressures
- * Low Salaries
- * Overwork
- * Unattractive/Unfair Career Prospects
- * No Specialization
- * Communication Gap
- * Trial by media, courts, politicians, society
- * Absence of Forensic Techniques

Police as Reformers

- * Traditional police operations have failed
- * Crime is a social disease
- * Social disorganization responsible for crime
- * Historical perspective
- * Police are used to maintain status quo
- * Police should act as catalyst for social change

10 More Commandments

- * Be humane and sensitive to victims of crime
- * Adopt *Serve the Customer* attitude
- * Respond promptly to calls of service
- * Keep contact with complainants
- * Maintain human dignity (yours and others)
- * Do not succumb to pressures
- * Maintain financial, moral and intellectual integrity
- * Mind your personal hygiene and dress
- * Wear a friendly smile
- * Meet the public freely

Remember!

Public can smell your intentions



cent of women, aged between 20 and 60 years are abused in Switzerland; and 10 per cent of women in South that 50 per cent of all the women killed in Canada were murdered by their husbands. Responding to a question raised by the participants that why Pakistan was singled out and criticized when such violence against women also took place in

held by women; only one per cent of the ownership of property is enjoyed by women, the speakers pointed out.



Citing data regarding violence against women, they said that one woman in America are subjected to physical violence; and was raped every hour in Southern Punjab while a woman was gang raped every four days.



Similarly 20 per



developed countries, they said that the difference was that in the developed western countries when the crime was reported, over-whelming majority of the culprits were caught and punished.



Amber Alibhai and Khateeb Ahmad of Shehri, and Babar Bashir and Zehra Kamal of an Islamabad-based NGO, Rozan, spoke at the workshop, participated by over 25 police officials and NGO workers. Later, certificates were also given to the participants. □



Launching of Turtle Stewards Committee - July 26, 2005

A meeting was held on July 26, 2005 (*Hotel Beach Luxury, Karachi*) to officially launch the Turtle Steward Committee for the project *Helping the Turtles Survive*.

After detailed presentations and discussions on the various aspects related



to the project, the main objectives and functions for the Committee that were finalized during the meeting are as follows:

Objective

To advocate and promote environment friendly use of the Sandspit/Hawksbay beaches that is compatible with providing a safe habitat for sea turtle nesting

Composition of the Committee

The *Committee* would comprise of the following stakeholders

- Representatives of the Hut Owners
- Representatives of the Local Community
- Representatives of Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment (*Coordinator*)
- Representatives of the World Wide Fund for Nature (*WWF*) Pakistan

Proposed Actions of the Committee

* To advocate for and adhere to land use/development activities not harmful for sea turtle nesting.

* To advocate, promote and adhere to environment friendly use of the beaches, e.g. efficient garbage management system, no night lightening during turtle nesting season etc.

* To lobby with the relevant government agencies e.g. Karachi Port Trust, Manora Cantonment Board, City District Government Karachi, and Karachi Building Control Authority for implementing polices, plans and project that are compatible with the objectives of protection and sustainable management the sea turtle habitat at Sandspit/Hawkbay.

* To promote activities aimed at raising awareness among the general public on protecting the sea turtle habitat

It was decided that the next meeting of the Turtle Steward Committee would be held in September 2005 (*date to be finalized later*) at the WWF Pakistan Wetland Centre, Sandspit, Karachi.

It was also decided that for the first six

months, Shehri-CBE would act as the *Coordinator* of the Committee.

All the participants in the meeting appreciated the support provided by the Global Environment Facility-and the UNDP Office of Pakistan (*Small Grants Programme*) in the formation of the Committee as the first coordinated civil society endeavor to save the turtles and their habitat at the Hawksbay /Sandspit beaches.

Mr. John Stoney (*CEO ICI Pakistan*) and Ms. Nausheen Ahmed (*Public Affairs Officer, ICI Pakistan*) also attended the meeting as observers

Farhan Anwar (*Project Coordinator, Helping the Turtles Survive*) moderated the session. □

Committee Members

Following are the members of the Turtle Steward Committee:

1. Ms. Naila Ahmed (*Shehri-CBE*)
2. Farhan Anwar (*Shehri-CBE*)
3. Dr. Ejaz Ahmed (*WWF Pakistan*)
4. Syed Ali Husnain (*WWF Pakistan*)
5. Babar Husain (*WWF Pakistan*)
6. Abdul Ghani (*President, Fishersfolk Development Organization*) representing the local community.
7. Asif Ahmed Chowdry (*Chairman, Modern Motors*) - Hut Owner
8. Aqeel Merchant (*Fort Rhodes-Siddat Haider*) - Hut Owner

Shattered lives: Buildings in earthquake zones - November 19, 2005

Speakers at the seminar stressed the need for formulating a national disaster management system to ensure timely action for safety of people in case of an earthquake or a disaster and subsequent destruction of buildings.

They said the system should operate from federal, provincial, town and community level in coordinative and integrated manner with an updated information.

They maintained that new building laws be formulated and implemented, ensuring better building construction as, at present, in most of the cases building laws are not implemented.

Entitled *Shattered lives: buildings in earthquake zones and safety*, the seminar was organized with the collaboration of Helpline Trust. Provincial Minister for Planning & Development, Shoaib Bukhari was the Chief Guest.

A number of experts including Naeem Sadiq (Citizen), Nooruddin Ahmed (Civil Engineer), Mushtaq Dawood (Structural Engineer) and Qazi Faez Isa (Lawyer) identified certain critical issues including current building laws and their quality.

Some of the speakers were critical of the appointment of army officials on civilian jobs, such as relief commis-

sioner and authority of construction and rehabilitation work, saying this practice has tarnished the image of the military. They argued that civilians who have required skills and expertise could have done these jobs in a better way.

They expressed the view that a seismic zone map be prepared for the country, dividing it into different seismic zones which should reflect the risk of earthquake.

They also observed that seismic codes in respect of different seismic zones be prepared detailing the planning, designing and building structures by taking into account risk, building typologies, and material and methods used in construction.

Moreover, a mechanism be devised to enforce and implement these codes in actual construction and no exception to the applicability of the building codes be permitted. They particularly emphasized that government buildings, including schools, must not be exempted.

They opined that if any deviation in the structural design is required, con-



struction be immediately stopped and only resumed once approval of the new design has been obtained after ensuring its complete compliance with the applicable code.

The speakers also suggested that top heavy or ground storey, where ground floor or basement is hollow and is used for parking or storage, should be discouraged, as such building have proven extremely vulnerable in earthquake shaking.

They also said that buildings should not be permitted to be built adjacent to one another as they pound on each other during a strong earthquake and the one may also may have an impact on the other.





They further recommended that there should be good structural configuration in the buildings' shape, size and structural system carrying loads to an extent that they should ensure a direct and smooth flow of inertia forces to the ground and thereby symmetry should be encouraged with uniformly distributed mass. □



Saving Gutter Baghicha - December 28, 2005

Speakers at the seminar demanded that the entire 480-acre land of Gutter Baghicha be utilized for the construction of the proposed national park as had been pledged by President Pervez Musharraf.

The speakers vowed to foil any attempt by *land mafia* that had been eyeing the precious land and urged the city government to use the entire vicinity of Gutter Baghicha for the planned park. They also called for

cancellation of all plots, carved out of the Baghicha land and allotted illegally to the employees of the now defunct

acres, had already been reduced to 480 acres due to mushrooming encroachments, in the shape of industries, katchi abadis, etc. They stressed that the national park must be built as per the desire expressed by President Musharraf while addressing a public meeting on April 28, 2002 at the Quaid's Mazar where he also promised to restore the glory of Karachi.



of all plots, carved out of the Baghicha land and allotted illegally to the employees of the now defunct

The speakers included Shamsul Haq Memon, Provincial Secretary Environment and Alternative Energy Department, Maj-Gen (r) Mohammad Hasan Aqeel, a former ambassador to Thailand, Ms Amber Alibhai, Syed A. Mateen, Nisar Baloch and others.

KMC.

They noted that although the city government had started development work on 163 acre land sometime back, it had not yet planned any work on the remaining project area to be developed in the next phase.

According to them, the Gutter Baghicha area, once spread over 1,017

Ms. Alibhai briefed the participants about the role of Shehri in saving the

They pointed out that after completion of the design work for the 163 acre portion, a boundary wall was supposed to be raised and this had not yet been done. This, they apprehended indicated that the city government does not intend to include the remaining open space in the park project.



Gutter Baghicha.

She said that after achieving success to a great extent in the first phase, the NGO had now launched the second phase, during which it would make efforts to ensure that the city government covered the entire Baghicha land in developing the national park.

In reply to a question, she said that Shehri had documented the record of marble factories and the same would be presented to the authorities concerned for their removal. She maintained that these factories had been creating environmental problems in

and recalled that over the past three decades, it had become more a gutter and less a Baghicha (garden). Growing population, unauthorized housing and failure of the government in ensuring a sanitation system for the vast area had resulted in unhygienic conditions in and around this old area.

A treatment plant installed in 1961 in the Baghicha vicinity was no longer in working condition. However, the storm water channels, built by British rulers, were still in order and bringing in water from Lyari River and wastewater from the SITE industrial



area. This untreated water unfit for human consumption, was being illegally used for cultivation purposes, he stated.

Most of the speakers called for mobilizing masses in order to make the government move for protecting the precious state land from being grabbed by various mafias involved in different activities, including setting up illegal industries, factories and

hydrants in and around the project site. In his concluding remarks, Shamsul Haq Memon appreciated Shehri for its relentless struggling towards protecting the Gutter Baghicha land. With the collective efforts of Shehri and other such NGOs, as well as active support from local people, the aims and objectives of the struggle would be achieved, he hoped.

He assured Shehri that he would take up the issues at all appropriate forums. He expressed his optimism that the new city government would take the project seriously and resolve the problems being faced by the people in this regard. Participants of the seminar suggested that a delegation comprising representatives from Shehri and other NGOs should call on the new City Nazim to apprise him of the problems. The suggestion was approved. It was decided that a walk to highlight the issue would also be held.

Earlier, a group of journalists was taken to the Gutter Baghicha where tankers were seen fetching water from the illegally set up hydrants. □



the whole locality by creating unhygienic conditions leading to various ailments.

Nisar Baloch briefed the audience about the history of Gutter Baghicha,

and recalled that over the past three decades, it had become more a gutter and less a Baghicha (garden). Growing population, unauthorized housing and failure of the government in ensuring a sanitation system for the vast area had resulted in unhygienic conditions in and around this old area.

