



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

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1997 Vol. 1/No. 22

INSIDE

- Local Bodies Polls
- Shehri Workshops
- Shehri Publications
- KBCA Affairs
- Interview
- Composting
- Moosa Colony: A Profile

Local Bodies Elections: Issues and Challenges

As the government announces April 18th 1998, as the date for holding countrywide local bodies polls, Farhan Anwar analyses the issues that would confront the new city managers, highlights the enormity of the coming challenges and suggests some guidelines for change.

The year 1997, began with a change at the top level of the country's administrative tier. The thundering mandate restored by the electorate upon Nawaz Sharif and his Pakistan Muslim League was an explicit pronouncement of their earnest desire for change. Assemblies, both at the National and provincial levels were formed. The nation awaited with mixed feelings of hope and apprehension, as a new batch of ministers, advisors and administrators took over to manage the affairs of the state. However, it was a matter of some concern that the local councils and metropolitan bodies of the state, accepted the world over as the basic tools of change, continued to be maladministered by unelected appointees in the absence of elected local bodies. This tier of government, arguably the most important, has always been the most neglected in our country.

Now there is some good news. It has been announced that polls to the local bodies are to be held

throughout the country, though on a non-party basis, on the 18th of April 1998. Though this news can only be greeted with a sigh of relief, there are enormous challenges that await the new managers of our cities and towns, particularly in the larger urban centres, which would require from them radical initiatives, selfless



devotion and courage to reverse the tide of continuous degradation in the civic affairs of our country. Can we expect the newly elected managers of our cities to deliver? One can only hope for the best and help them in their coming hour of trial.

The performance of local councils is reflected in the conditions of the

cities and towns they represent. If the fortunes or rather misfortunes of our urban centres are anything to go by, than their metropolitan bodies appear to exist only in name. The urban water and sewerage networks, outlived their usefulness long ago, and are presently in a state of continuous breakdown. Garbage cannot be disposed, for the simple reason that we are still in the process of figuring out, how to collect it! The devising of appropriate disposal techniques are probably being left for our future generation of urban planners. The efforts we undertake to solve our transportation crisis can at best be termed as medieval, when compared with the path being followed by some other nations of comparable resources and manpower.

The process of Karachi's degeneration, from being the cleanest city of Asia, to its present miserable state, probably being the filthiest city in the region, reads as a sorry tale of official mismanagement, systematic corruption,



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EDITORIAL

A prayer for the suffering citizens of Karachi

The pace of life in large cities is hectic and although the residents derive many benefits an urban centre has to offer, they are also subject to the accompanying stresses and strains. That is why, urban planners, the world over, take special care in providing the residents with a variety of recreational facilities in order to help ease the burdens of the daily rigours of city life. We, in Karachi, are not that fortunate. A few pathetically ill-equipped "developed" open spaces are offered in the way of parks and playgrounds. The undeveloped open spaces are fast giving way to hideous highrises. Indoor sporting facilities of international standards are non-existent. Access to arts and theatrical pursuits are limited to the elite few. It is a shameful fact that despite being blessed with a long coastline, exhibiting rich ecological treasures, we are least bothered to develop a proper coastal recreational infrastructure. Need one go on! It is too painful. Given the present state of paralysis of thought and action, afflicting our urban planners and managers, it seems that apart from contributing positively in our own spheres of lives, one can only pray to God Almighty for a better fate for the beleaguered citizens. May God have mercy on us (Amen).

inefficiency and criminal neglect towards duty and responsibility. This unfortunate chronology of mishaps holds many warnings for our other growing urban centers.

All the three phases of the project cycle i.e. planning, development and management have suffered, and the combined effect of these successive failures has been disastrous. Some good plans were made in the early years, which could not be properly implemented, mainly due to an absence of political will and excessive red-tapism. Lack of consistency in policy planning, in the face of an exponential rise in population levels, led to a steady and continuous decline in the condition of infrastructure facilities, which are now in a state of almost complete paralysis.

The evils of corruption and inefficiency, seeped into the functioning of the local bodies on massive scale, ironically, with the onset of democracy in the country, as appointments began to be made, mostly on political grounds, rather than on merit. This unfortunate trend has continued to date.

Karachi's most recent exercise in major level urban planning is a classic example of gross mismanagement. The newest urban master plan, dubbed as the "Master Plan 2000", was prepared jointly under the auspices of

The evils of corruption and inefficiency, seeped into the functioning of the local bodies on massive scale ironically, with the onset of democracy in the country

the World Bank about ten years ago by the provincial department of Planning and Development and the Karachi Development Authority. This plan became obsolete even before it could be implemented and still awaits final approval. Considerable expenses were incurred while preparing this plan. A major portion of the budget was spent on preparing computer models and on staff training programmes. Ten years down the road, the computer models have never been used, as the data needed to run the models is not available!

Development works suffer from corruption and inefficiency. Since the contractor has to grease the palms of a number of officials, he makes his money by compromising on the quality of work. As a result, contractors and consultants of sound reputation usually stay away from important devel-



opment works. Politicization of these bodies kills what little progress that is achieved, as a project opened with much fanfare by one administration is deemed unnecessary by another and dumped unceremoniously. So in the absence of any real planning or development, our local officials usually busy themselves with the mismanagement of what little exists on ground.

It is argued that elections of the local bodies will solve all the problems. There is no doubt that local bodies elections are the need of the hour, but they are not the only answer to the ongoing crisis.

What is needed is the initiation of policy based wide ranging reforms within the local civic institutions.

The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) needs to be decentralized in its functioning with greater powers and responsibilities transferred at the council level. The help of the private sector and local NGO's/CBO's could be sought in the management of the city. Greater involvement of citizen bodies, independent development experts, engineers, academics etc. should be ensured at all levels in the major development projects of the city.

This role should not be optional, but needs to be formalized. This could be done, by introducing the concept of "Steering Committee" which could monitor the progress of major urban projects, and could comprise of citizen representatives and government officials. Such a process would ensure public participation and transparency.

It is the view of some experts, that since the various phases of a project are shared by a number of

bodies, some involved in planning, while the others in implementation, the lack of coordination amongst themselves is a serious inhibiting factor in smooth development. It is therefore desirable that there should be a single "Metropolitan Body", entrusted with the task of planning and developing the city. Merit should form the sole criteria for selection, appointments, and transfers of local officials.

It is also felt that a special status of our growing urban centres, commensurate with their special needs and requirements, should be acknowledged, and additional incentives and attractions should be offered to the officials in charge, so as to attract a qualified

work force capable of meeting this serious challenge.

We can make as many grandiose plans at the national level as we may like, but if the fruits of such plans do not filter down to the common man, then we are undertaking an exercise in futility. A strong local body set up can ensure grass root change.

Let us not let it come to a point where some later day archaeologist rummaging through the ruins of present day Karachi, finds a city not buried under stone and ash but instead, a city under piles of garbage! □

(Farhan Anwar is Editor Shehri)

MANAGING OUR SOLID WASTE: NEED FOR URGENT ACTION

The city of Karachi generates 6000-8000 tons / day of municipal solid waste. Both the formal and informal sectors are involved in the collection, processing and disposal of solid waste at different levels.

Formal Sector

Karachi city is divided into 10 collection districts : 7 are served by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), the remaining by the airport authority, cantonments and Karachi Development Authority (KDA). KMC spends 40% of the municipal budgetary allocation on solid waste disposal. Only 30% of the solid waste is collected and disposed off by KMC, the remaining is dumped in storm drains, nallahs, nearby rivers and empty plots. Of the solid waste that is collected, much is taken to unauthorized sites all over the city and burnt, dumped into the rivers or seas and used to fill depressed land. KMC does not under take the recovery of reusable and recyclable material and there is no separation of waste. The KMC, which utilizes the conservancy / sewerage charges collected from residential, commercial and industrial units for solid waste management

says the tax is inadequate to cover the expenses incurred. It has to subsidise 75-100% of solid waste management expenditure from other budgets.

Informal Sector

A thriving recycling industry has taken roots at the non-formal level, which is responsible for collecting and than recycling about 15% - 20% of Karachi's solid waste. An invaluable contribution is being made by this informal sector in the overall solid waste management system of Karachi. However, the practice of exploitation of young illiterate boys (mostly of Afghani origin), who are forced to collect the recyclable components of the city garbage while exposing themselves to extreme health hazards is a highly objectionable component of this business and needs to be addressed. Another concern is that the formal and informal sectors presently function in isolation. A coordinated effort could yield better results. Several NGO's / CBO's are also carrying out solid waste management programs at the neighborhood level. □

- Farhan Anwar



SHEHRI ACTIVITIES

Workshop on the state of Karachi's municipal services sector

A day workshop was held on the 6th of December 1997, at Hotel Metropole, Karachi, by Shehri - CBE in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. The theme of the workshop was *'The State of Karachi's Municipal Services Sector, Analysing the Past: Planning for the future'*.

Need of the Workshop

Pakistan, in its 50th year of independence is facing a serious crisis of governance at all levels i.e. local, provincial and federal. This crisis of governance is manifested in the chronic breakdown of various important institutions of the state.

Among the long list of issues that bedevil the decision making organs of the state, is the issue of rapid urbanization and the number of complex problems that accompany this phenomenon. It is a problem, the significance and impact of which will magnify enormously in the near future. Among the institutions which bear the major brunt of the expanding cities, are the municipal organizations, particularly the sanitation sector. Karachi, the largest city of the country is a case in point. Karachi's sanitation sector is faced

with issues like financial constraints, technical and administrative inefficiency of the staff, corruption and above all a lack of political will.

Aims and Objectives of the Workshop

The main aim of the workshop was to analyze the causes of the crisis and come up with practical and workable solutions. Among the various functions of the sanitation services, the solid waste management sector was the main focus. Spotlight was also on the important and often unnoticed role of the informal sector and on strategies for increasing and enhancing the role of citizens in solving the civic problems of the city.

Proceedings of the Workshop

The day workshop was split into three separate sessions. The inaugural session was followed by two working sessions. **Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan**, the noted social worker and founder of the Orangi



(L-R) Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan (Chief Guest) and Qazi Faez Isa (Chairman, Shehri-CBE)

Pilot Project, was the Chief Guest and chaired the Inaugural Session.

Inaugural Session

In his welcome address, **Mr. Qazi Faez Isa**, Chairman Shehri - CBE stressed the need for developing plans and strategies relevant to our socio-economic and environmental setup, based on the ground realities existing in our society. Mr. Isa read out extracts from the *Muqadimah* of Ibn-e-Khaldun, the renowned muslim social scientist of the 14th century (see box) which dealt with the importance of establishing a clean environment, and asked the citizens to seek knowledge from our rich past and traditions and to strengthen this vital linkage.



(L-R) Farhan Anwar, Anzar Zaidi and Bahan Ahmed

Workshop participants



Mr. Isa, also lauded the services of Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan in the field of infrastructure and services development on a self help basis at community level and said that Khan Sahib was the type of person we should look towards for inspiration and guidance.

Mr. Farhan Anwar, member, Shehri - CBE, who acted as Workshop Moderator, outlined the basic objectives of the workshop and also put forward some suggestions for improvement in the system (see box) prepared by Shehri-CBE.

Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan, in his inaugural address, lamented the fact that in our society, there is a tendency to look towards others for the solutions to our own problems. This tendency, has over the years resulted in a growing dependency on foreign donations and foreign aid. Khan Sahib quoted verses from the Quran to establish the fact that God does not help those nations and communities which do not believe in the value of hard work and struggle for improvement in their conditions and quality of living. He warned that due to our own failings and desires for easy living, the situation could only worsen.

Khan Sahib, also talked about his experiences with the Orangi Pilot Project and felt that many planning and development guidelines can be set for improving our sys-

tem, if the example of OPP is given close consideration.

Morning Session

Mr. Anzar Zaidi, Administrator KMC was the first speaker in the morning session. He informed the audience about the launch of a new project in the solid waste management sector by KMC. In this project, nine (9) *Garbage Transfer Stations* (GTS) will be built in various parts of the city. Garbage would be transported from the neighborhoods to the GTS's, where waste would be segregated (recyclable/non-recyclable) and compacted. From the GTS's the waste would be transported to the final disposal sites. Mr. Zaidi also talked about the importance of increasing the role of citizens in civic affairs. He also informed, that in the GTS scheme, active role of local residents would be ensured.

Mr. Rehan Ahmed, a senior sanitary and environmental engineer was the second speaker. He gave a detailed overview of the solid waste management sector in Karachi. He stressed the need for improving the system and also emphasized the importance of citizen's involvement, particularly



The Shehri management team (L-R) Mrs. Mansoor, Younus Bhatti and Mohammad Fehan Ashtaf.

at the primary level of services. He deplored the fact that although as individuals we seem to take great pains to keep our houses clean, but as a community we fail to exhibit good civic sense. The speeches were followed by a question and answer session. Mr. Khalid Javed, Director Solid Waste Management KMC, Mr Omar Khan, Financial Advisor, KMC, and Mr. Rehan Ahmed, answered questions of the workshop participants.

Afternoon Session

Mr. Arif Hasan, Chairman Urban Resource Centre was the first speaker in the afternoon session. Mr. Hasan emphasized the need to take a close look at the existing state of affairs and devise plans and solutions which do not run counter to the ground realities. He felt that our dependence on imported solutions suggested by foreign consultants was making the task of improving and properly developing our infrastructure



(L-R) Arif Hasan, Perveen Rehman and Qadeer Baig.



and facilities even more difficult, as our planning efforts were failing due to their incompatibility with existing system and realities. He felt that the system could be rehabilitated at a very low cost, if we reshape our priorities and look more inwards rather than outwards.

Ms. Perveen Rehman of the Orangi Pilot Project, shared with the participants the results of her study in the Baldia Area of Karachi, which looked into the disastrous after effects of KW & SB's trunk sewer laying project in the area. She explained with the help of slides, how the project, which did not take into account the existing sewerage system of the area, failed completely, polluted the environment and resulted in complete waste of the taxpayer money. She also highlighted the need to first properly analyse the existing sanitation system of the city before launching multimillion dollar projects, otherwise we would end up with more fiascos like Baldia.

Mr. Qadeer Baig, Programme Coordinator NGORC, spoke on the need to properly assess the role of NGO's in the development sector and strive for greater coordination among the various NGO's / CBO's. He felt that the NGO's needed to think of new approaches to make their role more effective.

The speeches were followed by a lively question and answer session.

Mr. Farhan Anwar, then gave a summation of the workshop proceedings and thanked the speakers and participants for their valuable inputs. □

Suggestions for Improvement

Shehri suggests that the following steps be undertaken to improve the municipal services of Karachi.

Solid Waste Management

- Reactivate 'Garbage Train Project', as considerable funds have been spent on it and no alternative project for garbage disposal has been put forward.
- As about 40% of Karachi's garbage is organic in nature, its processing and reuse in the form of manure, through composting offers exciting possibilities, both economic and environmental. So, it is suggested that KMC starts an integrated composting project and also offers positive help and proper incentives to the private sector to make its contributions in this regard.

Parks and Recreation

- All public open spaces and amenity plots must be identified in one publication, which should be properly disseminated among the general public.
- All parks/amenity plots should be clearly demarcated, preferably by planting trees around their periphery.
- A 'Parks Zoning, Development and Management Strategy' should be formulated and implemented for City,

District and Neighborhood level parks.

- Parks should be run on sustainable basis. In this regard, for the irrigation of parks, use of manure prepared from composting and use of recycled sewage water is recommended.

Transportation

- Prepare and implement a comprehensive and integrated 'Transport Master Plan'.
- Build strategically located small under passes and overpasses to reduce the growing traffic congestion on an immediate basis.
- Introduce Cycle Paths. (20 feet wide)
- Introduce pavements providing unhindered access to pedestrians in all new commercial developments and provide conveniences such as ramps for the handicapped.

Incentives for Metropolitan Employees

- To attract qualified personnel, pay scales higher than those for town or district council officials be set for Metropolitan employees working in large cities.

Local Bodies Elections must be held immediately



'Sustainable Development: Views of a great social scientist

"To protect towns against harmful atmospheric phenomena, one should see to it that the air is wholesome, in order to be safe from illness. When the air is stagnant and bad, or close to corrupt waters or putrid pools or swamps, it is speedily affected by putrescence and it is unavoidable that all living beings who are there will speedily be affected by illness. This fact is confirmed by direct observation. Towns where no attention is paid to good air have, as a rule, much illness.

The principal reason for plagues is the corruption of the air by overpopulation, putrefaction and the many evil moistures with which the air has contact in a densely populated region. The reason for the growth of putrefaction and evil moistures is invariably a dense and abundant civilization. Therefore, science has made it clear that it is necessary to have empty spaces and waste regions interspersed between urban areas. This makes circulation of the air possible. It removes the corruption and putrefaction affecting the air after contact with living beings, and brings healthy air. This also is the reason why pestilence occurs much more frequently in densely populated cities than else-

where, as for instance, in Cairo in the East and Fez in the Maghrib.

In the East, the tradition of scientific instruction has not ceased to be cultivated. The inhabitants of the East are, in general, more firmly rooted in the craft of scientific instruction and, indeed, in all the other crafts (than Maghribis). Good habits in scientific instruction, in the crafts, and in all the other customary activities, add insight to the intellect of a man and enlightenment to his thinking, since the soul thus obtains a great number of habits. We have stated before that the soul grows under the influence of the perceptions it receives and the habits accruing to it. Thus, (the people of the East) become more clever, because their souls are influenced by scientific activity. The common people then suppose that it is a difference in the reality of humanity. This is not so."

Extracts from Ibn-e-Khaldun's Muqadimah (c. 1377), described by Professor Arnold Toynbee as "undoubtedly the greatest work of its kind that has ever been created by any mind in any time or place".

Second workshop on the KBCA Overseas Committee

The second workshop, to evaluate the performance of the KBCA Overseas Committee was held on the 15th of November 1997, at Hotel Metropole Karachi, in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Members of the KBCA Overseas Committee/Sub Committees, NGO's, concerned citizens, experts and media representatives were invited to take part in the workshop. Mr. Khatib Ahmed of Shehri-CBE acted as Workshop Moderator.

Aims and Objectives of the Workshop .

- To increase the efficiency of the Overseas Committee.
- To pinpoint constraints, problems, and find ways to solve them.
- To make workings of Overseas Committee more transparent by exposure to the citizens.

Workshop Proceedings

Mr. Khatib Ahmed, delivered the introductory speech outlining the

main reasons for holding the workshop and its objectives. He then invited Mr. Roland d'Souza to deliver his paper.

Mr. Roland d'Souza, member sub-committee on Public Participation and Transparency in the working of KBCA, informed the workshop participants about the performance of the sub-committee.

Mr. d'Souza said that since most of the people were not aware of the building bye-laws, rules/regulations a *Public Information Counter*, was opened to raise public awareness on the issue. He regretted the



fact that only four out of the nineteen members of the Oversee Committee turned up for the opening ceremony of the Public Information Counter.

Mr. d'Souza felt that public awareness can reduce chances of maladministration. He felt dissatisfaction with the efforts of KBCA to involve itself with the public information counter.

Prof. Mohammad Nauman, member Sub-committee on recommending immediate changes, measures required for improving performance of KBCA, was the second speaker. Prof. Nauman informed the participants about the functions of the sub committee and some of the objectives achieved. Among the issues that have been taken up by the committee include performance of legal section, suspension of architects, engineers licenses, parking bye-laws and public sale projects.

Prof. Nauman said that only about 20% of the total assignment objectives have been tackled. He was highly critical of the non-cooperative role of the KBCA. He lamented the fact that hardly any of the recommendations of the oversee committee and sub-committees have been incorporated by KBCA in their rules/regulations.

Prof. Nauman felt that there was an urgent need to improve the workings of the KBCA Oversee Committee and it was upto the government to show some political will for improvement.

After Prof. Nauman's speech, the floor was opened for general discussion by Mr. Khatib Ahmed.

Workshop participants were of the view that there was a need of doc-

umenting and disseminating information about amenity plots and Mr. Qazi Faez Isa suggested the putting of information plates on each such plot.

Unnecessary and unproductive political interference was regretted. It was felt that the rotation of KBCA officials should be on a two yearly basis as the practice of constant changing of officials after every two or three months causes massive confusion and harms the efficient working of the system.

Mr. Roland d'Souza suggested that the mandate and scope of the oversee committee needed to be enlarged. The issue of insufficient staffing also came up.

After an extremely lively and interactive general discussion session, Mr. Khatib Ahmed gave his analysis of the proceedings and thanked the speakers and general participants for their valuable inputs. □



The rapidly changing face (for the worse?) of Karachi

KBCA Oversee Sub-Committees

a) **Sub-Committee on Developing Regulations and By-laws, setting up process of Monitoring.**

Mr. Farhat Adil

Mr. Aftab Mohammad

b) **Sub-Committee on Public Participation and Transparency in the Working of KBCA.**

Mr. Roland de'Souza

Mr. Qazi Faez Isa

c) **Sub-Committee on recommending immediate changes, measures required for improving performance of KBCA.**

Prof. Mohammad Nauman

Mr. Farhat Adil

Mr. Zaidul Wasti - nominee of S.M. Misbah, D.G. KDA

d) **Sub-Committee on immediate improvements in KBCA performance.**

Mr. Farhatullah Qureshi - nominee of Misbah Najmi

Mr. Aftab Mohammad

Mr. Roland de'Souza

Mr. Farhat Adil



Shehri publications

Apart from the English and Urdu Newsletters, which Shehri regularly brings out on a quarterly basis, a few research projects were also undertaken this year, documentation and compilation of whom has been completed.

Citizen's Guidebook for Better Governance of the City of Karachi.

In this guide book, the rights and responsibilities of both the ordinary citizen and the administrative agencies of the city are established and discussed in detail. A profile of the city, providing information about the various districts of the city such as population figures, population growth rate, location, economic statistics etc. has been prepared.

The scope and functions of civic agencies (KDA, KW&SB, KMC, KBCA etc.) are also discussed, with the relevant data and statistics. After laying the proper framework for this study, the causes of the failure of governance in the city of Karachi are highlighted and certain solutions are put forward.

A special case study is done of the Karachi Building Control Authority, (KBCA) and Shehri's own experiences in this regard, to set some guidelines for the advisable methods and approach of citizen - civic agencies interaction.

Environmental Assessment of Residential Land Use Conversion P.E.C.H.S Block-2: A Case Study

Urban development is a fascinating phenomenon. Large urban concentrations are the power centres which regulate a nation's growth, and their constantly evolving dynamics act as a barometer to a country's strengths, weaknesses, hopes and aspirations. To regulate the sustainable growth of the cities themselves, the various functions and services, unique to a large city are designated land allocations known as land use regions, commensurate to the needs and requirements of the function.

It is a common practice in many cities of the developing world to change the land use status to meet the rising demands of a greater population load. Low density settlements are converted into high density regions and open spaces are encroached upon. Often, existing rules and regulations governing land use change are bypassed in the process.

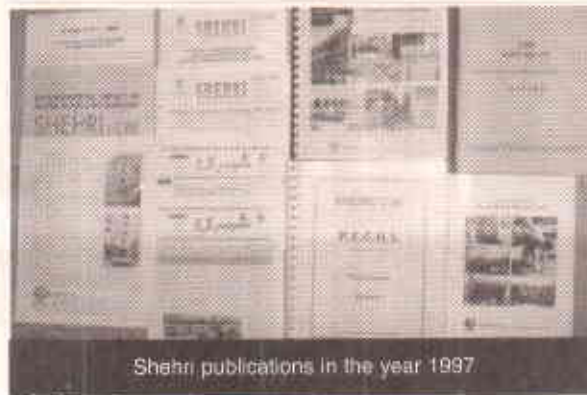
It is felt by many, that as a consequence to this practice, public utility services already under great strain are pressed even harder and more frequent system breakdowns lead to a higher level of environmental degradation.

In Karachi, land use conversion practices have registered a marked increase in the last few years. There is much debate in the city on how to tackle this problem, and NGO's, govt. officials, builders, political representatives,

have all been expressing their views on the subject.

However, not much effort has been made to gauge the mood of the general public and to find out what the common man thinks about the rapidly evolving face of the city. In this project, an effort has been made to document public opinion with particular reference to the impact, this practice of residential land use conversion is having on the environmental, social, cultural and economic lifestyles of the residents.

Various different aspects of land use conversion have been identified and the evolving trends, in both the land use status and public opinion on the issue have been determined. It is hoped that the findings of this project offer valuable guidelines to urban planners, citizen groups and other concerned groups / agencies over this important urban development concern. After all, the prime object of any urban planning exercise is the protection of public interest.



Shehri publications in the year 1997



**Legal Data Bank
(Authorized and Unauthorized Land Use
Status in the city of Karachi)**

A major obstacle in the future planning of Karachi, is that nobody exactly knows about the existing land use status of various parts of the city. Open spaces have been encroached upon, low density residential areas have been converted into high density districts and the once pure residential localities now exhibit commercial characteristics.

Shehri has taken the lead in this important issue also. A detailed, comprehensive 'Data Bank' for the city has been prepared which documents the existing land use status, plot by plot. All types of land use violations have been clearly identified and separate listings of the various uses of land have been prepared. The most important achievement of this project is, that it provides a model for similar more extensive studies in the future. The data bank is also available on magnetic disc.

**A Citizen's Guide to Solid Waste
Management.**

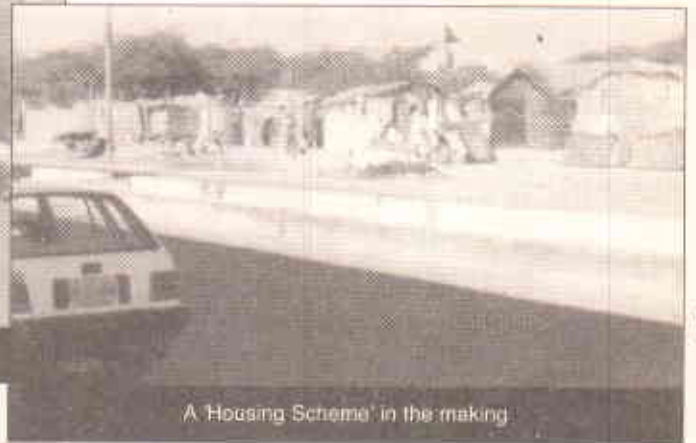
As the fight against environmental degradation continues worldwide, it is being realized by all concerned, that much benefits can be achieved by mobilizing the general public, whose role is now considered of vital importance. However, only an aware and educated populous can play its due role in environmental preservation programmes and initiatives.

Unfortunately, in our country, few steps have been initiated to raise such awareness among all sectors of the society. This document is an effort to raise public awareness on the important issue of solid waste management. It is an issue, which if not properly addressed, adversely affects the quality of living, health and mental well being of each and every section of a society. It is hoped that this document will help a citizen better understand the issue and its implications. □

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SHEHRI FACT SHEET

Blatant misuse of court orders: Contempt of court?

On 27-10-97, the Hon'ble Justice Rashid Rizvi of the High Court of Sindh vacated 15 status-quo/restraining orders that have been misused over the past 1-2 years by the builders' mafia to allegedly "prevent" the KBCA from taking statutory

action against 12 blatantly illegal buildings being constructed in broad daylight and in full view of all the concerned law--enforcement agencies.

from the Civil Courts and in violation of these orders of status-quo". The Judge ruled that the "allottees" who had filed the cases did not have a good prima facie case, the balance of convenience did not lie in their favour, and that as far as the question of irreparable loss and injury was concerned, the purchasers were entitled to recovery of their invested money and damages/compensation from the builders and/or KBCA.

Plot No.	Building	CMA	Suit No.
GRE 217, Garden East	Asma Arcade	5708/95	772/95
106-A/2, PECHS	Mumtaz Arcade	1275/96	177/96
JM 190, Jamshed Qtrs.	Madni Heights	2131/96	314/96
JM 665, Jamshed Qtrs.	Poonawalla Homes	2133/96	315/96
GRW 66/3, Garden West	Bilal Garden	4373/96	818/96
GRW 66/3, Garden West	Bilal Garden	4374/96	819/96
GRW 93/, Garden West	Saleem Terrace	4578/96	832/96
GRW 81, Garden West	Ana Castle	4579/96	833/96
GRW 258, Garden West	Lakhani Towers	4588/96	862/96
GRW 17, Garden West	Sana Arcade	4599/96	865/96
GRW 17, Garden West	Sana Arcade	4725/96	911/96
Sector 12, KDA No. 33	Chapal Gardens	4937/96	934/96
GRW 570, Garden West	Iqbal Arcade	5042/96	949/96
GRW 258, Garden West	Lakhani Towers	6383/96	1139/96
GRE 216, Garden East	Metro Garden	6432/96	1158/96

The Court also deplored the trend in the Civil Courts to entertain suits when prima facie valuation of the suits appears to be above Rs. 5 lacs, and directed the MIT to issue guidelines to the Civil Judges in this regard.

It is a cause of serious concern that such court orders are being used as a "shield" by the builders while continuing with their illegal activities.

These illegal constructions have been essentially completed during the last 2 years, and partially illegally occupied (without the KBCA Occupation/Completion Certificate mandated by the SBCO '79). The KBCA now has to act promptly under law to evict the illegal occupants and demolish the illegal buildings!

The Court held that "all buildings involved in these suits were raised in glaring violation of the approved building plans; that such buildings were raised, in many cases, after obtaining the order of "status-quo"

The citizens are confident that with the new sense of awareness in the Courts, their strengthened resolve to uphold their authority and dignity, and their renewed desire to provide justice to all citizens, there will be a

sharp decrease in this contemptuous and elaborate "noora kushti" game that is played by the builders' mafia and their partners in the KDA/KBCA, the Divisional/District Administrations, the Police - and many others who cannot be named! □



Despite legal constraints the builders are making merry

(Prepared by Roland d'Souza, Member Legal Sub-committee, Shehri-CBE)



ANALYSIS

Performance of the sub-committee on recommending immediate changes / measures required for improving the performance of KBCA (Sub-Committee C)

Mohammad Nauman, analyses the performance of the KBCA Overseer Committee in general and the Sub-Committee "C" in particular, expresses dissatisfaction with the prevailing state of affairs, and calls for immediate action to redress the situation.

Interim Government's decision to form the Overseer Committee was based on reports of illegal regularization of unauthorized constructions, illegal commercialization and conversion of amenity plots, massive violations of building regulations and corruption in the Building Control Department. The Committee was formed under section 4-B of the Sindh Building Control Ordinance, 1979 to oversee the functioning of KBCA. Various Sub-Committees were formed later.

Sub Committee C

The Sub Committee C was formed with the objective to propose immediate changes in regulations and immediate measures required for improving performance of KBCA. The functions included:

- Reviewing Parking Bye-laws.
- Identifying some areas for construction of High Rise buildings.
- Identifying roads for commercialization based on some criteria and procedure.
- Suggesting improvements in the Legal Section of KBCA and measures to vacate status quo orders and the court cases.
- Reviewing amount and method of security deposit by the builders.

- Reviewing and improving existing environmental regulations in regard to seepage/leakage, fire, emergency exits, internal and external aspects including safe disposal of waste.
- Suggesting improvements in the routine procedures of KBCA.

Objectives achieved

The Committee proposed suitable changes and measures in the following areas:

- Performance of Legal Section.
- Plinth Verification Certificate.
- Maintenance of Field Books.
- Suspension of Architect /Engineers Licences.
- Verification of particulars of Owners.
- Parking Bye-Laws.
- Public Sale Projects.
- Security Deposit.

The above recommendations constitute hardly 20% of the total assignment envisaged in the short term objectives, for which one month period was allowed for the working of this sub committee. It is interesting to note that not all of the recommendations have been placed in the meetings of the Overseer Committee and even the recommendations which have been put in practice, have not been incorporated in the relevant regulations and procedures.

Constraints observed in fulfilling the objectives

- a) Although the objectives of the Sub Committee C demand maximum input from KBCA but the department responded with apathy and reluctance. It did not put forward any proposal for better working of KBCA, for example, policy of promotion, transfer, posting, external interference, coordination with other departments, staff facilities and simplification of routine procedures.
- b) General lack of interest and initiative on the part of other members of the Sub Committee.
- c) No effort on the part of KBCA officials to incorporate these recommendations in the procedures and regulations.
- d) Some of the objectives, like identification of some areas for permitting High Rise buildings and commercializing additional roads, require input from Committee A (on zoning regulations and bye-laws). In the absence of progress in proceedings of Sub Committee A, the same could not be taken up by Sub Committee C.



Suggestions for improving the functioning of Sub Committees

a) Form a team of motivated and experienced officers of KBCA to provide input to this Sub Committee. But this requires political will to start a move towards reforming and restructuring KBCA. This would redefine the relationship between Overseas Committee and the department.

b) Openness, initiative and building of consensus among the members of the Sub Committee is required to get meaningful results.

Role of Overseas Committee

There is enough evidence to suggest that the role of the Overseas Committee became redundant within two months of its formation. The Minister HTP, Secretary HTP and DG KDA (Present DG attends since he is holding charge of CCOB) stopped coming to the meetings of the Committee, resulting in erosion of authority of this body. Large scale transfers, postings, appointments and postings against higher posts have been done without consulting or even bringing into the knowledge of the Overseas Committee. The Committee is not updated on many important issues and facts are concealed from it. Despite the best efforts from some of its members, its recommendations are generally not implemented. The working of the Committee is divorced from the organizational affairs of the KBCA and Committee is kept out while taking policy decisions on important matters like regularization, commercialization and High Rise Buildings.

Most of the meetings of the Committee end up after discussing the minutes of the previous meeting.

Constraints in performing the basic functions

There are two basic functions of the Overseas Committee:

a) To recommend Town Planning and Building rules and regulations, amendments in SBCO, 1979 and recommend policy measures to regulate growth of the City.

b) To take measures for effective enforcement and implementation of the Act, rules and regulations including monitoring.

The working of the Committee is divorced from the organizational affairs of the KBCA and Committee is kept out while taking policy decisions on important matters

The pre-requisite for the first function is to conduct studies for growth patterns of Karachi and its directions and to know the preferred land use. The existing bye-laws and zoning regulations are quite outdated and therefore do not correspond to the reality of the city. Even when the Committee recommends amendments, it all depends on the ruling party-how fast (or how slow!) it would like or not like to go for law making.

The second function of implementation requires the Committee to depend on the executive arm represented by Secretary HTP, DG KDA, CCOB and other staff of the KBCA besides the political will of the ruling parties.

Institutional constraints prohibit the KBCA to implement regulations and by-laws in letter and spirit.

Lack of political will due to vested

interest, comprising of a large number of the builders, KBCA officials, district administration and some politicians who benefit from illegal practices.

Lack of Public awareness and absence of its support for the Overseas Committee does not allow the Committee to assert itself.

How to make the Overseas Committee Effective:

Creation of political will, building of massive public support and public awareness, together with institutional reforms in KBCA, form the pre-requisite for effectiveness of the Overseas Committee.

The Committee members have to assume an active role in performing various functions prescribed in the notification of the Committee.

Pressure is to be built for enactment of amendments in SBCO, 1979 as recommended by the overseas committee.

Work on modification in zoning regulations and bye-laws has to be initiated immediately.

Exercise to simplify routine procedures in approving building plans, to make them transparent and to eliminate as far as possible, the discretionary powers, be taken up urgently.

The representatives of the stakeholders sitting in the Overseas Committee have to come to some consensus to protect and preserve the built environment of the City.

(Mohammad Nauman is Professor of Electrical Engineering in the NED Engineering University and a member of KBCA Overseas Committee)



MATTERS OF MOMENT

Review of Korangi-Landhi wastewater treatment plant project

Aly Ecrelatwn and Muhammad Nauman, analyse the recently launched \$ 100 million Korangi-Landhi Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, identify various technical, financial and administrative defeciciencies in the planning process and call for an immediate review.

Our review of the project relies upon the Project Briefing Paper; the presentation by KWSB and the ensuing response by Arif Hasan and Farhan Anwar; the articles by Azhar Abbas in HERALD, by Farhan Anwar in DAWN and letters in response; and discussions with partners. On the basis of our present information, the proposed ADB-funded Project appears to be illconceived for a variety of reasons. The citizens should therefore strongly object to the Project as currently formulated.

A brief decription of the Project is as follows. The Project cost of \$ 100 million is proposed to be met by a Bank loan of around \$ 70 million to the Government of Pakistan, to be utilised by Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) through a loan to the Government of Sindh (GOS). The Project agreement requires the GOS to ensure servicing of the loan via future revenues of KWSB, GOS and KWSB will contribute \$ 25 million to the project, and the remaining \$ 5 million will come directly from beneficiaries. According to the Project proposal, implementation will begin in 1998, to be completed by 2003.

The Project loan will cover the following components:

- construction of a waste treatment facility at Korangi and

interceptor sewers

- rehabilitation and extension of lateral sewers and lane sewers
- consulting services for these civil works; for capacity building of KWSB; for development of a Wastewater Management Master Plan; for developing the regulatory framework of private sector participation; and for project implementation.

Meanwhile, GOS continues preparations to hand over the entire water and sewerage system of KWSB to a long-term private concession by mid-1998. Pre-qualification bids are already being processed As you will recall

- privatisation is being defended due to lack of resources and failure of management
- the concession will get full control over all operations, revenues and investments
- all loans taken by and for KWSB before the concessionaire begins operations will continue to remain the liability of government rather than

the concessionaire.

As far as we know, the Bank has made no serious objections to these privatisation proposals. In fact, the concurrence of the Bank has been cited by the Managing Director of KWSB in his recent deposition to the High Court of Sindh.

it is not established that the economic and social justification for investing \$ 100 million in this project is preferable to doing it differently, to any other alternative of high priority, or even to doing nothing

Our objections to the Project are therefore as follows. The most significant problem with the Project is that it essentially ignores the impending privatisation of KWSB. In consequence:

- despite its management failure, KWSB is to be entrested with another major project
- the entire burden of the ADB loan is placed upon taxpayers rather than the private concession, even though the loan creates new system assets after privatisation of KWSB
- enhancing KWSB capacity to plan and implement sewerage investments is irrelevant, since any and all investments will be entirely the responsibility of the private concession, and the fact that KWSB staff will either be eliminated



or transferred to the private concession

- building KWSB capacity for regulation is irrelevant, since setting up and running the regulatory system is the responsibility of GOS rather than KWSB; and since the Banque Paribas - Halcrow consortium is contractually obligated to plan the regulatory framework
- all consulting services are problematic in view of the obligations of the private concession that would replace KWSB by mid-1998.

The second major problem with the Project arises from a failure to carefully integrate it with the existing sewerage collection and treatment system, and with the proposed waste water treatment plant by the Pakistan Tanneries Association (PTA). As a result:

- rehabilitation of idle sewerage systems is highly likely to be a failure, and replacement is unnecessarily costly
- redirection of sewerage flows

is most unlikely to succeed, in which case the new wastewater treatment plant will lie idle.

- the PTA wastewater treatment plant is quite unlikely to be assured adequate waste water supply in case the Project treatment plant does function to capacity.

The third problem is of inadequate documentation. In consequence:

- it is not established that the economic and social justification for investing \$ 100 million in this Project is preferable to doing it differently, to any other alternative of high priority, or even to doing nothing
- it is not apparent that GOS is reasonably likely to have the future capacity to service the loan without serious adverse repercussions on other social sector obligations of GOS such as the Rs. 40 billion commitment to SAPP-II.

Finally, there is no evidence of open, broad, and substantive con-

sultation by the Bank or KWSB with residents of the Korangi-Landhi area. Baldia is a vivid example of the enormous squander and plunder of donor assistance because plans for upgrading sewerage services are formulated and implemented without the active and informed consent of intended beneficiaries. To continue to ignore these lessons would be tragic.

The alliance should therefore urge ADB to:

- undertake a comprehensive review of the Project
- in the interim, not submit the Project to the ADB Board and if submitted, be immediately withdrawn
- If approved by the Board, provide assurances that no further action towards implementations will be taken until grievances are dealt with satisfactorily. □

(Aly Ercelawn and Muhammad Nauman are members of the Creed Alliance)

Update on Greater Karachi Sewerage Plan: (GKSP)

Comments on KWSB's Asian Development Bank financed, Greater Karachi Sewerage Plan, have been submitted to the Minister Local Govt. and Katchi Abadis. Some features of the plan are: 1) It ignores existing functional system in Karachi 2) It superimposes a new system, for which major realignments are needed all over Karachi 3) The cost involved in making use of the system will be many times higher than the cost involved in putting the system in place.

The above is illustrated in detailed documentation completed this quarter of i) KMC-ADB and KWSB-ADB Project already completed in Baldia and of ii) the existing sewerage disposal system in Korangi (KWSB-ADB future plan). In the project completed by KMC-KWSB-ADB in Baldia, the trunk sewers pick up only 10% of area sewage, the rest goes into natural nalas through the old

system in place. In many places people have filled up the manholes with earth, as the system being deep and not needed is a death trap for young and old. Already 3 children have fallen into the open manholes and died.

This quarter, OPP-RTI was invited to a meeting of the Minister with members of the foreign aided project. Details of the sewage plan were discussed. To review the GKSP, respective Minister has appointed a committee, with OPP-RTI as members. 2 meetings of the review committee were held. Another meeting was held with officials of ADB and KWSB foreign aided project. OPP-RTI expressed concern on the Korangi ADB-KWSB sewerage plan. □

(Prepared by Orangi Pilot Project)



HEALTH

Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) in urban areas of Pakistan

It is generally thought that Iodine Deficiency Disorders are a problem of the Northern Areas of Pakistan. However, surveys conducted by Dr. James Mayrides and Dr. Mushtaq A. Khan show that the urban areas are also not immune to the risks of this serious health concern. A special look at the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorder

It is well recognized that iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) are a major problem in the northern part of Pakistan. The Northern Areas have long been classified as one of the most highly endemic areas in the world. It was also suspected that IDD was common in other parts of the country including the Punjab. For Sindh and Balochistan less information was available. To examine the extent and the severity of the problem in the provinces, a survey was conducted during February and March 1994 in four major cities: Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta.

The iodine deficiency status of newly born infants was assessed by measuring the Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (TSH) level in core blood. The TSH level is a good indicator of the iodine status, directly reflecting the risk that iodine deficiency imposes on normal brain development. A high TSH level indicates iodine deficiency. Samples were collected from infants born during the survey period at Federal Government Services Hospital in Islamabad, Ganga Ram in Lahore, Civil Hospital in Karachi and Lady Dufferin Hospital in Quetta. The results were expected to be typical for the urban population in these cities.

The results are presented in chart and clearly demonstrate high TSH levels. According to

WHO/UNICEF/ICCIDD standards, a percentage at or above 40 indicates a severe IDD problem. Based on these data, all the above four cities would be classified as having a severe IDD problem. It had been thought that the problem of iodine deficiency was limited mainly to the mountainous areas. But it has now been confirmed that it is country-wide.

Conclusion

The scientific results indicate the existence of a pervasive and severe IDD problem in all the urban areas where these infants live. More than

City	Percent of Infants with high TSH levels	Number of samples
Islamabad	76%	201
Lahore	81%	256
Karachi	67%	148
Quetta	64%	279
Total	72%	884

70% of the infants tested were iodine deficient. The data confirms that IDD is a significant problem in urban areas in all the provinces. The data strongly argues that the problem exists also in rural areas and that iodization of salt is a necessity in the entire country. Universal salt iodization is necessary to eliminate IDD in Pakistan.

It costs only three rupees per person per year to iodize all salt for human and animal consumption

country-wide. A small price to pay to ensure that Pakistani's avoid the loss of 10-13 IQ points – a loss which exposes a large segment of the population to lower levels of mental capacity development, and thus to slow learning, a wastage of investment in education. Normal IQ is around 100, a loss of 10 IQ points lessens a child's ability to absorb knowledge. An IQ level of a moron is 80 points or less, and if many children in developing countries (including Pakistan) can fall below 95 or 90 IQ points, IDD must be seen as a serious cause of slow development in Third World countries.

The solution lies in the hands of all who mine, process, produce, transport, market and sell salt. Believe us when we state that the future development of this country hinges to a large extent on a microgram of iodine per day. Not to iodize all salt for human consumption would be criminal for our future generations. □

James Mayrides
UNICEF Representative in Pakistan

Dr. Mushtaq A. Khan
National Coordinator
Iodine Deficiency Disorders
Islamabad.

(Courtesy: The Medical Spectrum)



INTERVIEW

“The main goal of the NGORC is to strengthen the NGO sector, in order to involve fully, a broad range of people in the development process”.

Sadiqa Salahuddin

Saleka Enver of Shehri, talks with Sadiqa Salahuddin, Director NGO Resource Centre (NGORC) about activities of NGORC, the role of the NGO sector in the development process of the country and on prospects of public - private interaction

Q. Tell us a little about NGO Resource Centre (NGORC), its aims and objectives and the area of work.

The NGO Resource Centre is a support organization that aims to create an enabling environment for NGO's to function effectively. NGORC attempts to build the capacity of mid-level and community based non-governmental organisations (CBNGOs) through training, networking and information dissemination. The main goal is to strengthen the NGO sector in Pakistan, in order to fully involve a broad range of people in the development process. NGORC does not provide, or channel, any funds.

Q. What are the main hurdles you have encountered and what have been your major successes?

The initial problem the NGORC encounters is related to the fact that NGORC does not provide, or channel funds or financial assistance. However, this is only an initial hurdle, till people realize that NGORC is there to teach and train, and not to dole out money. It is a surmountable hurdle, and is easily overcome.

The major successes include NGORC's contribution to the development process in Khairpur. As a catalyst for change in the dis-

trict, NGORC can rightly claim credit in this direction. The other main success is the Satellite Information Centre (SIC) in Lyari. (see box).

Q. NGORC is directly involved with a number of selected urban and rural areas. Please explain your work.

NGORC is directly involved with a number of selected urban and rural community - based organizations and is assisting them in the capacity building process and development activities.

The URBAN module comprises community based organizations in Karachi, District South. During last 5 years, NGORC has been involved at different levels of partnership with approximately 45 CBNGO's. Through the process of this supportive attachment, some of the CBNGOs have enhanced their skills to the extent that they are now themselves providing support, guidance and training to the other CBNGOs.

The RURAL module encompasses District Khairpur. NGORC began its support activities here in early 1993 and it is now working with 59 village organizations. This process of partnership has promoted coordination and networking among the CBNGOs. It has also helped them to establish



With a Masters in Economics from Syracuse University, plus a Masters in Management from Arthur D. Little School of Management in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mrs. Sadiqa Salahuddin, not surprisingly, became a management trainer by profession. She rose to become the Chief Instructor, NIPA. It was here that the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) contacted her as they needed a trainer. She accepted the offer. Working for the AKF has proven to be a challenging and creative assignment and has involved a lot of hard work. But Sadiqa has no regrets. For her, it has been a continuous learning process.

In the AKF she was initially taken in as a trainee consultant for 3 months. In September 1993, NGO Resource Centre became a full-fledged centre and in November 1993 Sadiqa became its first Director and has since held the post with distinction. The NGO Resource Centre has its head office in Kenkashan, Clifton, Karachi. □



effective relationship with the local government educational institutions and various support organizations.

Q How do you see the development of the NGO sector in Pakistan, and its prospects for the future?

The NGO sector is relatively new in Pakistan. It started with well meaning Service Delivery Organizations, such as APWA, BEHBUD, Family Welfare Organisation, Vocational Centers, etc.

There is a need for change now as Service Delivery Organizations involve very few people. More integrated programs are the need of the hour. Social change has to start from the grass-root level with the help of training, networking, information dissemination, research analysis and documentation, these are also the tools used by NGORC.

Q. What are your plans for strengthening the NGO sector?

The main goal of the NGORC is to strengthen the NGO Sector, in order to involve fully, a broad range of people in the development process. It aims to make more effective a wide variety of development programs. To accomplish these goals NGORC is working on three parallel fronts:

1. Learning more about the process of strengthening Community Based Non-governmental Organizations as effective and sustainable entities in managerial, technical and financial terms. The

lessons derived from two learning modules (where NGORC is working directly with a number of urban and rural CBNGO's) and through observation and research on the experiences of other programs.

2. Disseminating and implementing these lessons broadly through publications, networking and specifically through working with : (i) selected mid-level NGO's that provide technical and financial assistance to CBNGO's and (ii) Social Welfare Departments (SWDS) at provincial level.

3. Assisting in the promotion of an enabling environment for NGOs in Pakistan through : (i) the commissioning of research on a few selected topics and (ii) the creation of a platform for policy dialogues within the NGO Sector and between that sector and Government, donor agencies and the business sector.

Q. Is there any hope for our Municipal Organizations?

Our Municipal Organizations are full of well-meaning, hardworking people, but extreme financial - and sometimes political - constraints restrict their work. The result is a very disgruntled public. The only hope is for the local bodies to work in collaboration with CBNGOs/NGOs - to evolve a system whereby they can be of help to each other.

Q. Should there be greater coordination between NGO's/CBO's and the public Sector or is it better to

isolate the workings of these sectors? Your views and suggestions

NGORC has always stressed - as part of its mandate as well as a capacity building measure - on a strong collaboration between the government and NGO's. The NGO - Government cooperation is a must in not only initiating development activities, but also in sustaining them. This can be achieved through learning about the process of strengthening CBO's and specifically also through working with selected mid-level NGO's that provide technical and financial assistance to CBNGO's and the Social Welfare Department at the provincial level.

NGORC encourages and facilitates networking among CBNGO's and between CBNGO's mid-level NGOs, government and donors. This increases awareness of similar work being done by other organizations and thus helps develop a supportive community of NGO's. It also creates linkages between organizations, which facilitates the sharing of technical expertise and experience and builds the partnership of CBNGO's with the government and donors. CBNGOs are becoming familiar with functionalities and procedures in the relevant government departments and complementarily, the officials are recognizing the importance and worth of organized communities. The initiative for building these bridges is, unfortunately, restricted to communities. We are waiting for the day when the government departments will exhibit a greater resolve and initiative in establishing these linkages.

Q. Your view on the option of privatization of public utility services such as water and sewerage and solid waste management.

I see no issue with privatization,

The NGO - Government cooperation is a must in not only initiating development activities, but also in sustaining them.



provided it is done properly. However, privatization should not give more money to some people without providing quality service at affordable rates.

Q. In the end, how do you think an ordinary citizen can be made to exhibit a greater level of civic sense?

Voluntary work is the need of the hour. Unfortunately it is not very visible. There is a need for NGO's to mobilize human resources, and for voluntary organizations - like Shehri - to continue doing the good work. Professionalism in voluntarism is what is needed. □

Model Project "Satellite Information Centre", Lyari

Satellite Information Centre (SIC) is a project of Voluntary Organization and Institute for Community Education (VOICE), which is a community - based organization active in Singolane, Lyari, Karachi. NGO Resource Centre is providing support to the development activities of VOICE since 1992.



In 1995, VOICE prepared a Rs. 0.75 million project proposal with the assistance of NGORC and submitted it to The Asia Foundation (TAF) for funding in February 1996. The proposal envisaged setting up of an information center equipped with latest communication tools to empower community based organizations, volunteers and informal groups in Lyari access to information, action research, networking with CBO's and government agencies and training of CBO's members. The proposal was accepted and the grant, spread over a 3-year period (1996-98), was approved by TAF in April 1996.

The VOICE constituted a 7-Member Management Committee for running the affairs of the Information Centre. Through consultation with NGORC's Information Service Unit, the VOICE purchased the hardware - computer, printer, fax machine, photocopier - designed and furnished the compact space, acquired the Internet Services, hired the field coordi-

nator and started its activities. In October 1996, in collaboration with NGORC, the SIC organized a 3-day training workshop focusing on NGO management, networking and documentation. Thirty-eight participants from 13 Lyari CBNGO's attended the workshop.

With the required infrastructure for desktop publishing, the SIC started a quarterly Urdu Newsletter "*Malomaat Nama*". The NGORC Publication and Communication Unit helped the SIC editorial staff in designing and production of the newsletter. The SIC regularly organizes introductory seminars inviting the city's NGOs to talk about their work. The SIC is run by three full time paid employees and a team of VOICE volunteers, including an 8 member managing committee.

Today the Satellite Information Centre, equipped with a library and a training room, is a unique resource centre and the first of its kind in Lyari. The aim of the centre is to support and facilitate the efforts of community-based organizations in Lyari, to achieve self-reliant, sustainable and participatory development in the area. □

-Saleka Enver



ECOLOGY

Imbalances in the coastal eco-system of Pakistan

Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg identifies some major causes for the degradation of Sindh's coastal environment and stresses the need of the effective implementation of the NEQS to stem the rising levels of pollution in the coastal environment

The coastal eco-system of Pakistan comprises the Indus delta and the creeks, the Karachi coastal region, and the Balochistan coast, as the three main regions. The ecosystem of Balochistan coast has so far remained undisturbed. The other two have, however, undergone some major ecological imbalances.

The delta area in the coastal region has itself become very vulnerable to development oriented environmental degradation, that has resulted in reduced flow of water below Kotri. Industrial discharges into the river streams from almost all over the country, amount to over 13 million tons per year. They flow into the farmland along with irrigation water, but at least one third of this amount flows into the coastal area with the flood waters.

Ecosystem of the Indus Delta

Reduction of silt load in the river water reaching the Indus delta and the system of creeks, as a result of construction of dams and barrages is, according to on site observations, the major factor for the loss of mangrove forests as well as ecological disturbances in the Indus delta.

Contrary to concerns shown with regard to loss of mangrove

forests from the creeks, and attributed to hypersalinity, owing to reduction in availability of freshwater, it has been noted that the latter do receive adequate discharges of freshwater by the flow from irrigation channels. This process has created swampy conditions in the creek area at Guno in the Gharo creek during the lean water periods which keeps diluting the seawater there. Similar conditions are prevalent in other creeks where the irrigation channels terminate.

It has been observed that the



Mangrove forests: Threatened from pollution

river channels as well as the irrigation system distributaries terminating at the coastal areas, are devoid of silt and the finer clay particles, mainly because of their diversion upstream. The loss of silt gives rise to erosion and this is the process that seems to disbalance the ecosystem in the mudflats in the delta region. The sustenance of the ecosystem of the mangrove forests is largely related to the subsistence of the

mudflats. The survival of the latter depends on the availability of silt laden water. Their depositions induced by the presence of the pencil like roots of the mangroves, which, if removed or lost will help the erosion process to dominate and cause the disappearance of mudflats.

The disturbance in the ecological balance in the mangrove forest system has been aggravated by allowing their use as fodder and fuel and by the indiscriminate removal of mangrove trees.

Camels eat away the leaves, while the tree branches and trunks are felled for firewood. Field observations suggest that the indiscriminate exploitation of the mangrove forests by the combined action of the camels and collection of branches and trunks for firewood, is responsible for the loss of large tracts of mangrove forests in the delta and the creeks. This has caused irreversible damage to the ecosystem of

the mudflats, since the capacity to withhold the silt by the combined action of mangrove roots and mud has been lost.

Another ecological disturbance has been caused in the delta area by the overharvesting of fisheries resources. This has depleted the river of some valuable fishes, e.g. the *Palla* and *Baramundi*, that were available from the delta area. Construction of a dam for



the storage of flood water is likely to be adopted as a mitigation measure for making freshwater available for irrigation as well as for sustaining the fisheries resources in the coastal area.

Ecosystem of the Karachi Coastal Area

Municipal and industrial effluents discharged into the Lyari and Malir rivers are responsible for land-based pollution at the Karachi coast and the harbour. Manora Channel on the estuary of the Lyari River, Gizri creek on the estuary of the Malir River and the coastline between the Manora Channel and Gizri Creek are the three major areas receiving land-based pollution and where the ecological balance has been greatly disturbed.

The Manora Channel serves as the main harbour and this is where the fish harbour, Naval Dockyard and the Shipyard are located. It has vast areas forming its western and eastern backwaters, characterized by mudflats

and mangroves. The discharge of industrial wastewater from the Sindh Industrial Trading Estate and municipal effluents from the northern and central districts into the Lyari river, has turned this river into an open drain. This, in turn, has caused a negative impact on the environment of the port, fish harbour, and the adjacent beaches.

The Gizri Creek receives industrial and municipal effluents from the Malir river as well as from several industries, including the textile mills, tanneries, and power stations. The highly degraded discharges from the Malir have negatively impacted the environment in this creek.

The Coastline between the Manora Channel and Gizri Creek, where the untreated municipal effluents are discharged by the

southern districts of Karachi, is responsible for the degraded environment of the Chinna creek, and also of the beaches and the harbour.

Manora Channel on the estuary of the Lyari River, Gizri creek on the estuary of the Malir River and the coastline between the Manora Channel and Gizri Creek are the three major areas receiving land-based pollution

The degradation of Karachi's coastal environment is the result of discharge of 250 MGD of wastewater, comprising raw sewage and industrial effluents. It is hoped that the industries and civic agencies, will

start effecting treatment of their wastewater now that the NEQS are to be enforced by the Environmental Protection Agencies for the industries to prepare themselves for living in peace with the coastal ecosystem. □

(Dr. Mirza Arshad Ali Beg is a former Director General, P&D/PCSIR)

MANAGING THE SEAS

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is working with other conservation organizations and seafood companies to develop a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) on the lines of the Forest Stewardship Council established by WWF to promote market-led solutions to the world forest crisis.

More than 100 companies and retailers throughout the world have made commitments to buy only timber certified as coming from well-managed forest. Now the aim is to find similar ways of certifying sustainably managed marine fisheries.

A steering group will overlook the work of a project team which will draft the broad set of principles for sustainable fishing, that will underpin the MSC, drawing on existing standards and guidelines and other expertise. It is hoped that the

Council can be created later this year.

The urgency of this work is spelt out in the latest of WWF's Species Status Reports on *Marine Fishes in the Wild*, by Elizabeth Kempf, Michael Sutton and Alison Wilson.

The report sets out 10 steps that are needed to save the worlds fisheries and rescue marine ecosystems and the millions of people that depend on them for food and employment. This will require the same public concern that outlawed commercial whaling and banned the ivory trade, say the authors. "That won't be easy" they add, "fish neither sing like whales nor look like pandas." But it must be done. □

The WWF Species Status Reports are available from WWF International, Avenue du Mont Blanc, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland.

Tel: (+41 22) 364 9111, Fax: (+41 22) 364 5358 (Courtesy: People & the Planet, Volume 6 No. 2)



RECYCLING

Composting of solid waste at household and community levels

Citizens can do much to improve the physical surroundings of their neighborhoods and reduce pollution levels in the city by contributing positively at the primary level of urban sanitation services. Radia Khatib informs the citizens about how they can recycle and reuse their wet household garbage by availing of the technique of composting.

Solid waste generation rate (from domestic and commercial sources) in Karachi is 0.5 kg/head per day. It is estimated that the city daily generates more than 6000 tons of garbage.

i) Approximately 89% material in garbage is of recyclable nature, out of which 54.55% is of organic putrescible matter (vegetable, fruit waste, kitchen and garden waste).

ii) 34-35% is bone, metal, tin, plastic, paper, glass etc. which is being very efficiently recycled in Karachi.

Community Participation in Solid Waste Management

Solid waste management serves as the basic element of the urban sanitation infrastructure. Improper management of solid waste exposes residents to serious health hazards.

The entire task of solid waste management should not only be left to KMC and related civic agencies as they have limited resources. In order to keep the environment clean and healthy, self-help policy should be adopted both at individual household and at community levels. Community participation is essential in maintaining pollution free surroundings. Composting of garbage at the household level is one way the community can con-

tribute.

What is Composting?

Composting is the necessary transition by which life is renewed and has been going on in nature ever since life began on earth. Thousands of years back, the Chinese practised the technique of recycling organic waste to raise their agricultural productivity in order to meet the nutritional demand of their highly dense population.

Agricultural textbooks define compost as 'a fertilising mixture of partially decomposed organic materials of plant or animal origin or both and may include substances such as ash, lime and chemical'.

Two Basic Requirements are essential for composting

- Material for composting should be of organic nature.
- Proper conditions have to be maintained in the compost pile to enable efficient decomposition (i.e. moisture, heat, air, etc.)

Advantages of Composting

- Preserve the recyclable materials so that items produced from the recovered waste are of higher grade (plastic, paper, etc.)
- It will protect the environ-

ment from pollution and degradation.

- It may also partially / fully provide financial support to the community for solid waste management programme of the area.
- It will reduce the bulk of garbage to be hauled away by civic agencies.

Compost may or may not have all or adequate amount of nutrients required for plants. It has to be supplemented with cow-dung manure or small amount of chemical fertiliser. Compost has the following physical characteristics.

- It has water holding capacity.
- It gives porosity to soil.
- It gives structure to soil.
- It controls salinity.
- It improves soil fertility and helps plant growth.

How to make Compost

First the garbage should be separated into

- i. Dry (bones, glass, material, tin, plastic, etc.)
- ii. Wet (organic putrescible matter)

Composting practice at household and community levels, not only keeps the environment clean, but also the resulting



Humus or compost is ideal for improving the fertility of soil and developing green belt areas and serves as a good manure.

- i) Sort out waste and remove bulky inert material.
- ii) Make a base with straw or bush, etc. on the paved ground or pit.
- iii) Place a layer of 6-12 inches green matter (organic waste).
- iv) Put 2-3 inch layer of inoculum i.e. (manure, poultry droppings, sludge, etc. or charge with active material from on going composting process).

- v) Sprinkle top soil, lime and water.
- vi) Repeat these layers till heap is 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 meters high.
- vii) Cover with layer of straws etc.
- viii) Turn over the piles after every 5 days interval thrice, or as required i.e. when the heap cools down (or leave it unturned for 5-6 months).
- ix) At the end of fermentation remove the matter and dry in air.
- x) Screen out the material by

separating composted, non compostible and uncompostible fractions.

- xi) Leave composted material for maturing.

Note:

- Do not make pile with just one type of material.
- Do not pack the heap tight.

(Radia Khatib was Chief Scientific Officer at PCSIR and is a member of Shehri-CBE).

Profile

**Department of Environmental Engineering
N.E.D University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi.**

It is a regrettable fact that scientific and engineering research are not accorded due priority in our country. Science and Technology is a sector which both provides the building blocks for a country's development and sustains the overall development process.

However, there are some institutions of higher learning which are providing commendable service in this neglected sector. Department of Environmental Engineering of the N.E.D. Engineering University is one such facility. Master's degrees are awarded in various disciplines of environmental engineering and post graduate level research is also carried out. According to Prof. Saeed Ahmed Khan, Chairman of the Department, efforts are also underway to achieve closer interaction between the research work carried out in the department and the real problems of the common man, such as transportation, public utilities sector etc. to make the process more productive and useful.

Regular workshops and conferences are also held to incorporate the views of noted experts, government officials and academics on issues of pressing public concern.

Profile

Young Professionals Training Unit

The following are the objectives of the Young Professionals Training Unit:

- To provide the young professionals exposure and understanding about the community development issues.
- To create an institutionalized alternative to explore their respective roles in addressing the issues related to low income communities.
- To facilitate training activities pertinent to action research and extension in liaison with community based organisations (CBOs), non governmental organisations (NGOs) and groups working in low income communities.

The YPTU is a collaborate organ of a network of institutions that include Organi Pilot Project - Research and Training Institute (OPP-RTI), Urban Resource Centre (URC) and the Department of Architecture and Planning, Dawood College of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. A fellowship programme has also been developed at the YPTU.

For information, please contact:

**Coordinator,
Young Professionals Training Unit**

Ground Floor, 66-Q, Block-2, P.E.C.H.S., Kashmir Road, Karachi-75400, Tel: (9221) 4526973 Fax: (9221) 4934260
E-Mail: rehand@paknet 3.ptc.pk



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

SHEHRI invites the residents of the city to share with us, their concerns, on issues which are adversely affecting their neighbourhood's environment. Please write to us, preferably with a supporting photograph, so that efforts are made and solutions sought - Ed.

Death hangs in the air

An 11 kV line passes through an under-construction balcony of building No. CA-6 and 7, near Latif Mansion, behind Chandni Cinema, Sabzi Mandi, Karachi. It is requested that the 11 kV line be immediately de-energised. A friend of mine lives in the area, who brought this issue to my notice. Children regularly play in this area and their lives are in constant threat.

Adjacent is another construction, the first floor of which is touching a Pole Mounted Transformer with its 11 kV outdoor bushings conductor. Its Plot No. is CU-27. As this is also a source of instant death for the construction workers active at the site, it is requested that the 11 kV line be immediately de-energised till safety of men is ensured.

As a deterrent to other building owners doing similar unauthorised and dangerous construction work it is suggested that the electric connection to their residential premises be disconnected. It is permissible to do so under Electricity Rules. "Exceeding connected load sanctioned as per their Test Form,".



Too close for comfort. A common sight in Karachi

The Building Control Authority should not have permitted construction of these buildings and KESC would be equally at fault to continue supply to the unauthorised construction. It will mean connivance with crime. □

(M. Haroon Khan, F.B. Area, Karachi)



News Event

Syed Ghazanfar Ali (Plant Protectionist), an active member of Shehri-CBE, at his stall during the visit of former president of Pakistan, Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, to the Agricultural Research Institute, Tando Jam, Sindh. □



JUNIOR SHEHRI

What is Recycling?

Recycling is processing and treating discarded materials so that they can be used again. Materials that are commonly recycled include aluminum, glass, and paper.

When we recycle, we save space. Things that would have been thrown away are kept and reused. Outdoor spaces can be left open instead of being filled to capacity with mountains of trash.

When we recycle, we save energy. Recycling requires less energy than making new products from raw materials.

When we recycle, we save natural resources. In the recycling process, old materials are made into new products so fewer materials are used.

Recycling saves space, energy, and resources – three things we can no longer afford to waste – and it helps to reduce air and water pollution.

- Recycling one aluminum can results in 97 percent less water pollution and 95 percent less air pollution than creating a new aluminum can from raw materials.
- Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.
- Manufacturing new paper products from waste paper uses at least one-third less energy than making new paper from wood pulp, saves trees, and results in 74 percent less air pollution.

Examples of Recycling

- Recycling is turning used paper back into pulp and then making new paper from that pulp.
- Recycling is crushing used glass bottles into small pieces and melting them down to make new glass.
- Recycling is melting aluminum cans, pressing the molten metal into sheets as it cools, and shaping these sheets into new cans.

- Recycling is chopping up grass cuttings and mixing them with organic garbage to make fertilizer.

Steps in Recycling

1. **Collecting** is gathering used material like glass, metal, paper, and plastic.
2. **Sorting** is separating these materials by type. Sorting is necessary because each of these materials must be recycled in a different way.
3. **Reclaiming** is doing something to collected materials to separate what is reusable from what is not.
4. **Reusing** is using reclaimed materials in new products.

(Courtesy: Earth Book for Kids)



Karachi Pollution

Rubbish everywhere, all around;
Here and there, scattered on the ground.

Colourful polythene bags,
With age resemble rags;
On every empty site,
They look such a fright..

Pollution in the air,
Black becomes the silverware.

The water is polluted,
Towards our homes it is routed.
Land, Air, Sea pollution and more;
It makes my heart ache and eyes sore.

Sewers flowing out on streets
Karachi pollution gives me the creeps

-Kiran Bashir Ahmad



ASK SHEHRI

Most residents when faced with any civic problem do not know which person or organization to contact in order to solve their problem. In this column we invite the readers to share their worries with us and seek our help, which is always forthcoming - Ed.

- Q. I read about KMC's 'Garbage Transfer Stations' scheme and prospects of citizen's participation in the project, with interest. I would like to get involved. Whom should I contact?

(Khalid Hasan, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi)

- A. Contact: Director Solid Waste Management (KMC)

KMC Workshop, Nishtar Road, Tel: 7779240

- Q. What is the annual budget of KMC?

(Sana Mirza, Clifton, Karachi)

- A. Rs. 4,800 billion (1997-98 Figures)

- Q. Who is the Minister of Forest and Wildlife (Govt. of Sindh) and how can he be contacted?

(Azam Ali, Malir, Karachi)

- A. Malik Asad Sikander
Tel: 2636396, 2633356

OBITUARY

Mr. S. H. Rehman, Managing Partner, Fikree Automobiles, who was a valued member of Shehri, died on 10th December 1997. May his soul rest in peace (Amen). The members and staff of Shehri extend their heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of Mr. Rehman, and join them in their hour of sorrow and grief.

Shehri needs volunteers

The various projects of Shehri are managed by its following six sub-committees:

- Anti Pollution
- Media & Outreach (Newsletters)
- Legal (Illegal Buildings)
- Conservation & Heritage (Old Buildings)
- Parks & Recreation Fund Raiser

Any person who wishes to help out in Shehri's ongoing and planned projects (cash / kind) should visit the Shehri Office for further information or contact the Shehri Secretariat through phone, fax or e-mail.

JOIN SHEHRI TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

If you wish to join shehri please send this card to

SHEHRI Citizens for a Better Environment,
208-G, Block 2, P.E.C.H.S.,
Karachi-75400, Pakistan,
Tel / Fax : 453-0646

With a cross cheque of Rs. 200/- (Annual Membership Fee) in the name of Shehri-CBE

Name : _____

Tel. (Off) : _____ Tel. (Res) : _____

Address : _____

Occupation _____

SHEHRI MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership for 1998! Join Shehri and do your bit as a good citizen to make this city a clean, healthy and environmentally friendly place to live in!



URBAN FOCUS

Moosa Colony: An urban nightmare

Issues like poor sanitation, improper housing facilities, lack of land use/zoning considerations, inadequate health and education services and crime, that confront the residents of Moosa Colony are reflective of a much wider crisis of governance being faced by the city of Karachi. Siddiqa Bano, Muhammad Uzair and Syed Saif-ul-Arfeen investigate the unfortunate state of affairs of Moosa Colony and call for urgent action.

Moosa Colony is located in the Mansoor area of Karachi. This colony was formed as a response to an emergency situation in 1966. During the monsoon season that year, it rained very heavily in Karachi, causing a flood like situation in the Lyari area. Settlements along the banks of the Lyari river were completely flooded. Hundreds of people lost their lives and thousands became homeless.

General Moosa Khan was then the Governor of West Pakistan. He immediately issued orders for the rehabilitation of the rain effected people and a piece of land was provided along the railway line in Federal B. Area for resettlement purposes. Because of the personal interest taken by Gen. Moosa in the formation of this settlement, it was named as *Moosa Colony*.

The area exhibits a rich ethnic mix, however, people of Burmese and Bengali origins are in a

majority. Moosa Colony consists of about eight thousand small dwellings and the estimated population is somewhere in the region of about 1 lac.

Most of the residents, both men and women are employed as manual labour.

Moosa Colony was developed in an emergency situation and without any proper planning, so there was a need to regulate and control its growth later on, which unfortunately did not happen. Today, more than 30 years down the road, things are going from bad to worse.

Concepts of landuse and zoning do not apply and growth of housing and commercial areas is taking place pretty much in accordance with the will of the residents. There is no distinction between a residential and commercial area and many houses have in built shops.

There is no proper park or play ground in the area and most of the open spaces have already been encroached upon. Due to lack of recreational facilities, the youth of the



The railway line is the main dumping ground

area, often turn to crime, drugs and other social evils. There is no hospital in Moosa Colony. Only one qualified M.B.B.S. doctor is operating a small clinic in the area for the last five years. Many fake doctors are therefore operating in the area and a number of pharmacies are operating without proper licences.

The instance of diseases, particularly asthma is very high in the area. Death rates among children are high. Due to lack of sanitation facilities, epidemics often break out.

Only two primary schools cater to the educational needs of the area. There is no secondary level school, what to talk of a college or university!



Sewage flowing in narrow lanes: A planning nightmare



Housing conditions are extremely poor. Only about 30% of the residents have proper leases. Most of the houses only consist of one to two rooms. No proper ventilation is available. Roofs are made of tin or asbestos, which is carcinogenic.

Effective sewerage and drainage connections do not exist, due to which filth and dirt accumulates and diseases related to poor sanitation are very common.

The houses are separated by lanes hardly 2-4 feet wide. On many occasions funeral processions are taken out via roofs of the houses!

Only about 20% of the residents get piped water, courtesy a pipe line laid way back in 1974. The rest purchase water, which is a further drain on their already meagre incomes. Even the water that is piped is often mixed with sewage and people often do not even boil this water. Stomach related diseases are very common. As the Gujro Nallah passes adjacent to the colony, digging of wells is not an option.

Sewers overflow everywhere. Sewers, in many cases run



The hazardous practice of leather processing takes place within the colony.

through houses, and houses are often flooded by sewage. Manhole covers are conspicuous by their absence, and manholes are used commonly for disposal of garbage.

Garbage is thrown everywhere. However, the largest garbage dump is along the railway line. Garbage normally consists of domestic, industrial (cottage industry) commercial, cow dung and wastage of fish, chicken from slaughter houses.

As there are no means of transporting and safely disposing this garbage and only about 8 to 10 sweepers of KMC normally show up for work, the garbage is openly burnt. Another serious health hazard. As a large fish market operates in the area, their solid waste is a major concern. It rots and fouls the atmosphere.

Dairy farming is also carried out on a large scale in the area and the waste that is generated in the buffalo sheds is another big nuisance. As large vehicles cannot travel inside the congested colony, most of the traffic consists of camel, donkey carts. Their excreta gets littered all over the colony and degrades the environment even further.

As the cost of land is very cheap, many people have established



Open burning of garbage

Sewers, in many cases run through houses, and houses are often flooded by sewage. Manhole covers are conspicuous by their absence, and manholes are used commonly for disposal of garbage.

industrial units in the area. These units include leather processing / stitching, cloth printing / dyeing etc. The use of chemicals in dyeing/processing units generates wastes, which are extremely toxic. No proper means exist in

the colony of safely treating and disposing such waste.

Moosa Colony seems to offer nothing good in the way facilities / utilities. Youth have engaged themselves in the use of drugs on an alarmingly large scale. Trading of refugee women is a big and thriving business.

If it is felt that localities like Moosa Colony, due to the enormity of social, economic and environmental problems that they face, deserve the immediate attention of the officials concerned. □

(Siddiqi Bano, Muhammad Uzair and Syed Saif-ul-Arfeen are engineering students.)