

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment (Shehri-CBE)

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment was formed in 1988 (based in Karachi City), as a non-political, non-commercial, non-governmental organization (under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860) by a group of concerned citizens to provide the citizens with a platform to effectively voice their concerns in determining their future and taking action in arresting the deterioration in their living environment and propose reform with a view to improve the same. Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment is now fighting at the forefront of various issues of public concern related the environment. The organization is actively engaged in areas of work like public advocacy and public interest litigation, land use management, right to information, good governance, community policing, police reforms, urban mobility, climate change and last but not the least institutional reforms.

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF):

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) has been working for a peaceful and progressive Pakistan since 1986. FNF promotes a social and political environment where **every individual** can become the pilot of their lives!

The Foundation was established in Germany in 1958. It aims to promote the goal of making the principle of freedom valid for the dignity of all people and in all areas of society, both in Germany and abroad

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment

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Workshop

Youth Civic Education *Freedom and Political Rights*

Organized by

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment

with the support of

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Pakistan

24th June 2023 (4:00 pm)

St. James School of Nursing

13/D, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi

Programme

Time	Contents
4:00 – 4:15 pm	Registration/Networking
4:15 – 4:45 pm	Ice breaker
4:45 – 4:55 pm	Speech by Mr. James Watt Chief Executive St. James School of Nursing
4:55 – 5:05 pm	Introduction to Shehri-CBE Sarwar Khalid
5:05 – 5:15 pm	Youth's role in a democratic society Pervaiz Bhatti
5:15 – 5:45 pm	Understanding governance Hawwa Fazal
5:45 – 6:15 pm	Tea Break
6:15-6:35 pm	What does your local government elected representative do? Hawwa Fazal
6:35 – 7:00 pm	Energizer & Content based activity
7:00 – 7:15 pm	What does an MPA do? (A short documentary)
7:15 – 7:30 pm	Vote: Understanding the power
7:30 – 8:00 pm	Registering your vote Form 21, 22 & 23
8:00 –8:20 pm	Content based activity.
8:20 – 9:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation • Vote of thanks • Certificate Contribution • Conclude • Dinner

Moderator: Hawwa Fazal

Co. Moderator: Sarwar Khalid

Young people around the world are at a critical juncture as they inherit an array of complex challenges, including environmental degradation, growing inequality and insecurity. At the same time, their socio-economic opportunities are increasingly limited and they must contend with entrenched political power holders who are often inaccessible, unresponsive and corrupt.

Despite making up more than half of the population in many countries, young people (ages 18-30) often find themselves marginalized from mainstream politics and decision making.

Pakistan has one of the world's youngest populations, 64% of the Pakistani population is under 30 years old, while 29% belongs to the 15-29 years age bracket.

Young voter turnout is abysmally low. Based on Exit polls conducted by Gallup Pakistan for every election since 1998, the estimated average youth voter turnout for the past eight elections is a little over 31% which is way below the overall voter turnout of 44 percent – a gap of more than 13 percentage points. This means that there were around 18 million registered young voters who did not bother to vote in the 2018 election.

According to news published in Dawn (www.dawn.com/news/1656451) Young Pakistanis have a significant role in determining the outcome of 2023 general elections. The proportion of voters below the age of 35 years is 45%. Their active participation could tilt the results in favor of their preferred candidate.

There have been fragmented efforts by youth activists, from time to time to bring up issues. Social media was their primary channel to address their fellows, stakeholders and government officials.

The government of Sindh took a monumental decision on 11 February 2021 and passed Sindh **Students Union Bill**, 2019 lifting the 38 year old ban on student unions. Sindh also has a Sindh Youth Policy 2018, while the policy has stated some progressive ideas which would be undertaken but it has achieved little to nothing when it comes to its implementation.

Next general elections in Pakistan are scheduled to be held in 2023. Political parties will be in mode of election preparations. Therefore, this is good time to build capacity, especially of youth to take up issues as election agenda with political parties. This is the time when political parties are willing to listen to their voters and some parties may also give space to youth issues in their manifesto. This workshop scheduled on 24th June 2023 (4:00 pm) at St. James School of Nursing, Karachi, aims to build capacity of youth on state governance structure, civic roles and responsibilities, spaces of exclusion and inclusion, stereotypes etc.

There is an urgent need to bridge the gap between the government and the youth. The government policies and laws need to be implemented in real time. Meanwhile the youth needs to be shaken from their slumber and made aware of the power they hold, in a democracy, to change things.