

## 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 to 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

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## **Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment**

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## Workshop

# Democratic Participation of Youth in Election

Organized by

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment

with the support of

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Pakistan

16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (10:00 am)

Mehran Restaurant, Pano Aqil

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## Programme

Time	Contents
10:00 – 10:15 am	<b>Registration/Arrival of Guests</b>
10:15 – 10:30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice breaker</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:35 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Note Sarwar Khalid, Shehri-CBE</li> </ul>
10:35 – 10:50 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of Participants</li> <li>• Review of workshop agenda</li> <li>• Expectations of Participants</li> </ul>
10:50 – 11:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tea Break</li> </ul>
11:15 – 12:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Democracy</li> <li>• Governance system in Pakistan</li> <li>• What is Politics</li> <li>• Importance of Vote</li> <li>• Voting as a Right under Constitution of Pakistan Shazia Jehangir/ Anwar Ali Mahar</li> </ul>
12:30 – 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content based activity</li> </ul>
1:00 – 1:10 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What an MPA/MNA does (short video)</li> </ul>
1:10 – 1:25 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of Youth in Election Process Mr. Asad Chachar Political &amp; Youth Activist</li> </ul>
1:25 – 1:40 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students Union</li> </ul>
1:40 – 2:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation</li> <li>• Vote of thanks</li> <li>• Certificate Contribution</li> <li>• Conclude</li> </ul>
2:15 – 3:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch</li> </ul>

Moderator: Shazia Jehangir/ Anwar Ali Mahar

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.

Voting process is a complementary part of modern democracy. It is conducted for the purpose to bring out public representative which decide on their behalf and bring development.

It is the election which turn public into voters and compel political activists to visit common people at gross root level

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 Dawn ([www.dawn.com/news/1656451](http://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.

The number and percentage of young registered voters gives huge clout to the youth, provided they are able to effectively use this power. Sadly, the youth has not been able to use this immense power in the past simply because a large majority – around 70% - of them failed to turn up for voting.

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 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Pano Aqil, aims to build capacity of youth on state governance structure, their participation in electoral process, civic roles and responsibilities etc.

Political parties must revitalize their party's structure by introducing young guns in senior positions – and ministries when in government, dis sever the prevalent culture of political dynasty within the party.

- Youth is the backbone behind development of any country
- Young voters are a potential game changer who can transform the country's traditional voting patterns. *Young voters can shape outcomes but they have to turn up at the ballot box.* Youth needs to be shaken from their slumber and made aware of the power they hold, in a democracy, to change things.