

Partners Project Progress Report 2015 Pakistan

PARTNER: Shehri - Citizens for a Better Environment

RAPPORTEUR: Mrs. Amber Alibhai

SIGNATURE:

DATE: December 23, 2015

1. Short Profile of the Partner:

Shehri-Citizens for a Better Environment recently celebrated its activism silver jubilee at its office in Karachi. The event also celebrated the “Right to Information Champion Award 2015” given by CRTI- RTI to the organization for its effective and powerful “Freedom of Information” awareness campaign. Side by side, the organization promised resolve to commit to the uplift of natural and built environment of Pakistan.

To its credit, Shehri-CBE continues to pursue Public Interest Litigations to guard the rights of citizens of Pakistan. From Galiyat to Karachi, Shehri contributed to the eco-friendly campaigns and implementation of court decisions through activism. Moreover, the organization voiced its concern over the encroachment issue, lack of public transport in the metropolitans, absence of local government, nuclear power risks, and water distribution, contamination, and wastage.

2. Area of Work:

- Civic rights and private/public property rights
- Freedom of Information

3. Objectives Achieved (with examples):

Project Objective:

To spread awareness about effective local governance, environmental protection, conduct research on environment issues and lobby for respective legislation. In that sense SHEHRI will work towards improving a strong and well informed civil society in Karachi and in Pakistan the organization plans to conduct workshops, consultative sessions, and studies to see the impact of industrial parks on the utilities, services, and adjoining residential areas

Achievement Examples:

- a. 6000 impressions were at least cast through the publication of our Biannual English Newsletters.
- b. 4000 Biannual Urdu Newsletters were also distributed among the network influencing a positive change over each receiver.
- c. 1000 Sindhi Language Newsletters helped raise awareness among the people of rural and semi urban areas of Sindh.
- d. Almost 500 participants were sensitized about the environmental degradation in the country.
- e. 262 Freedom of information requests were dealt through the Shehri FOI helpdesk.
- f. Mass awareness was induced through newspaper publications and TV coverage about Shehri events and other endeavors to protect the environment
- g. Our events enabled a friendly environment for sharing knowledge, ideas, and action plans through collaboration between politicians, activists, media persons, businessmen and citizens.

4. Implemented Tools (mentioned with description)

Sr.	Activity (Seminars/Workshop/Conference)	Implemented Tools
1.	“Freedom of Information” held on April 25, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel, Karachi	Workshop involving civil society activists, media personnel, government officials, students and academia
2.	“Lack of Public Transport in Karachi” held on May 2, 2015 at IEP Auditorium Karachi.	Seminar involving civil society activist, media personnel, government officials, students and academia
3.	“Future of Local government in Karachi” held on May 20, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel Karachi.	Conference involving politicians, civil society activists, government officials, , media personnel, students and academia
4.	“Water Issue in Karachi” held on June 4, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel Karachi.	Seminar involving legislators, government officials, civil society, media personnel, students and academia
5.	“Freedom of Information” held on June 7, 2015 Indus Hotel, Hyderabad	Workshop involving civil society activists, media personnel, government officials, students and academia
6.	“Issue of Encroachment in Karachi” held on November 28, 2015	Consultation involving legislators, civil society activists, government officials, media personnel, professionals and academia

5. Number of Publications (If any published)

Sr.	Publication	Date of Publication
1.	Urdu Newsletter (2 issues)	1. June 2015, 2. December 2015
2.	English Newsletter (2 issues)	1. June 2015, 2. December 2015
3.	Study on Environmental Impact of Industrial Zones of SITE, KITE and LITE in Karachi	December 2015
4.	Shehri’s Five Year Achievements	December 2015

6. Success Indicators

Sr.	Activity	Success Indicators
1.	“Freedom of Information” (FOI) held on April 25, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel, Karachi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. During the interactive question & answer session, and the follow-up discussion, it was observed that participants had gained sufficient knowledge about the subject, and had become aware of their right to access information b. The participants through hands-on exercise showed keen awareness in developing skills to write FOI application c. The participants gave a firm commitment to use the FOI laws in empowering their rights and to hold the government accountable d. 104 participants were sensitized about the Freedom of Information Law in Sindh and at the Federal level.
2.	“Lack of Public Transport in Karachi” held on May 2, 2015 at IEP Auditorium Karachi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Background research and civic activism by Shehri helped increase awareness in participants about the lack of public transport system in Karachi. b. Recommendations on Bus Rapid Transit System program were developed c. Consensus on integrated action was developed and the citizens agreed to voice their concerns on this major lacking in the metropolitan’s system d. 96 individuals were sensitized during this seminar
3.	“Future of Local government in Karachi” held on May 20, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel Karachi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All main stream political parties representatives were present at the consultation b. Successful consultation between concerned citizens and politicians was conducted c. The participants exhibited greater awareness about the local government system after the program d. 99 individuals participated in this activity
4.	“Water Issue in Karachi” held on June 4, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel Karachi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sindh High Court had appointed Shehri-CBE “Amicus curiae” in CP No.2884/2010 in the year 2010-11 related to a case on Karachi’s perennial water problem; to assist judiciary in evaluating and elaborating upon reasons of crisis. This seminar was a follow-up on this. b. This conference was a follow up on the “Workshop on Water Shortage Crisis in Karachi: Causes and Consequences” held in 2014. c. The event gave plenty of information allowing citizens and Shehri to participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) hearing for the ‘Greater Karachi Bulk

		<p>Water Supply K4 Canal Project’ held on July 28th, 2015.</p> <p>d. 80 individuals at the event and even greater through media coverage and reporting of the event in the leading newspapers learnt about the gravity of the issue and consequently a consensus was reached to pressurize the government to undertake effective measures for crisis mitigation</p>
5.	<p>“Freedom of Information” (FOI) held on June 7, 2015 Indus Hotel, Hyderabad</p>	<p>a. During the interactive question & answer session, and the follow-up discussion, it was observed that participants had gained sufficient knowledge about the subject, and had become aware of their right to access information</p> <p>b. The participants through hands-on exercise showed keen awareness in developing skills to write FOI application</p> <p>c. The participants gave a firm commitment to use the FOI laws in empowering their rights and to hold the government accountable</p> <p>d. 45 individuals were empowered to use the FOI law</p>
6.	<p>“Issue of Encroachment in Karachi” held on November 28, 2015</p>	<p>a. The event was a follow-up of the seminar on “The Menace of Encroachment’ held on July 17, 2014</p> <p>b. Photographic evidence of various forms of encroachments prevalent in Karachi was further documented</p> <p>c. Members of Provincial Assembly of Sindh promised solidarity with Shehri-CBE in the anti-encroachment campaign through written and oral consent.</p> <p>d. Electronic, Print and Social Media Coverage resulted in awareness impact multiplication.</p> <p>e. Consensus of stake holders to stop KMC and City Government from using loose-ended legal clauses in their rules and laws, which promote encroachments in Karachi, was developed through discussion during the event.</p> <p>f. 64 participants were sensitized regarding the issue.</p> <p>g. A written write up was given to all participants about all the laws concerning encroachments to better understand them, and to facilitate their future complains.</p>

7. Target Audience (Mentioned activity wise)

Sr.	Activity	Target Audience
1.	“Freedom of Information” held on April 25, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel, Karachi	104 participants

2.	“Lack of Public Transport in Karachi” held on May 2, 2015 at IEP Auditorium Karachi.	96 participants
3.	“Future of Local government in Karachi” held on May 20, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel Karachi.	99 participants
4.	“Water Issue in Karachi” held on June 4, 2015 at Movenpick Hotel Karachi.	80 participants
5.	“Freedom of Information” held on June 7, 2015 Indus Hotel, Hyderabad	45 participants
6.	“Issue of Encroachment in Karachi” held on November 28, 2015	64 participants

8. What is the likely follow up?

- a. Our public interest litigations will be continued to ensure citizen rights in Pakistan.
- b. Media will be engaged to multiply the impact of each awareness seminar/conference conducted by Shehri.
- c. Policy Makers will be sensitized and engaged to bring about positive amendments/additions to the constitution to preserve citizens’ interest
- d. Our online presence will be strengthened to increase the media of information delivery
- e. We will continue to build our network to support civic rights in Pakistan
- f. Shehri will help citizens file FOI/RTI requests through its help desk
- g. Our newsletters, brochures, books and stickers will further our cause of civic awareness and activism
- h. Website will be further enhanced

9. Media Coverage (Print/Electronic/Social Media)

Print Media (Number of newspaper articles)?

- 14 articles were printed in various local newspapers

Electronic Media (TV and radio coverage)?

- Dr. Raza Gardezi was invited for an interview on FOI on Samaa FM
- Ms. Humna Mehwish was interviewed by Samaa FM on Freedom of Information in Pakistan
- Seminars/workshops coverage on Geo News, Dawn News and Metro one News

Number of downloads (publication)?

- 94,424,614 Kbytes of data was downloaded

Number of website hits?

- 2,293,927 hits

Number of Facebook? Facebook fans reached

- 1,020

Number of Twitter follower? Twitter followers are now

- 356

Strengths/Weaknesses

Strengths	Weaknesses
Shehri-CBE has strengthened its advocacy network for fulfilment of civic rights.	Lax attitude of legislators in implementing reforms.
Freedom of Information law awareness and use has increased	Court cases continue to lag for more than 5 years resulting in delayed justice for citizens
Shehri-CBE has received significant Newspaper, FM and TV coverage	
Legislators are supporting our endeavours	
Shehri-CBE has gained a good reputation with the higher judiciary in Pakistan	

10. Risks in Implementation

- Security situation often obstructs our event-planning schedule.
- Shehri staff and members are frequently given life threats to stop activism specially related to encroachment issue.

11. Comments

Shehri-CBE is thankful to FNF for assisting us in strengthening citizen rights in Pakistan.