

Community Development Network

One of the aims of PURC is to network with organizations promoting pro-poor and self-help development. Among other forums, PURC remains in contact with community development network (CDN). PURC learns from the successes and failures of the members of the CDN to help its advocacy. As a result, participating in CDN is a regular activity for the PURC.

The basic purpose of the forum was to share key notes of CDN held in Karachi. Initially, a little introduction about objectives of CDN and development philosophy of Akhtar Hameed Khan through Component Sharing Approach was given by the speaker. Mr. Zahid explained the experience of a resident of Jampur that the city had lack of sewerage and government did not give proper attention for the development of internal sewerage. Therefore, community decided to develop their own sewerage system following Component Sharing Model which was successful. The process is still going on. Another person from Layyah in Punjab told that there were lots of problems in educational institutes in the area. Teachers were not coming in time therefore, educational activities of students were badly affecting. Community decided to involve parents and all salaries with resources were given to them. This was done to involve parents for the better education of their children. Now all the problems have solved, teachers are coming in time and students are enjoying their education with good spirit.

The next session of CDN was focused on the talk of Arif Hassan. He said that cities are becoming populous because of increasing population and migration from rural areas to seek better opportunities. Therefore, he insisted that we should understand trade and transportation of overcrowded cities, e.g. Karachi, Lahore, etc. We also need to understand the cities with all social and Psychological factors, for example, if you have given shelter to everyone in city but there is no place inside the city for recreation so people are not going to feel good about it. Therefore, if people are not happy how can you consider that some city is good? We really need to understand that multidimensional approach towards a city to make an easy start for the deprived or the poor. The understanding of low-income groups and how a common man can live an easy life and cherish his stay in a city is important. Economic uplift is a major but human friendliness of a city is also going to be very important. These things will help to understand the present shape of city and to design future shape of city.

Discussions during Community Development Network meeting broadened the vision of PURC's advocacy. CDN discussions help PURC in suggesting and advocating new models of prosperity in urban development. A list of suggestions would be there to help other organizations and government so that they could learn from these experiences and improve their working as well as governance. This activity also includes a very important learning outcome that if someone wants to be vocal about alternatives of development there must be some kind of networking so that you can get everyone's attention and it is going to make the life of a common man better.

In the end, Mr. Zahid gave answers of participants.