

Development of Lahore and Perspective of Concerned Citizen

PURC continues to seek the perspective of concerned citizens for the development of Lahore. In order to understand the present scenario of development in Lahore, PURC invited two lawyers who have a rich knowledge and critical views in development sector. Mr. Fahad is providing his services to Lahore High Court as a lawyer. He was also a petitioner against signal-free corridor, therefore; he is famous for public litigation. The speaker said that present government considers the solutions of all traffic issues by widening and developing roads, flyovers and underpasses, e.g. jail road signal free corridor, widening of canal road and Elevated Expressway. There is a need to understand that providing spaces to driving cars is not a sustainable solution at all. Lahore Master Plan was a guide for the development of the city but all the haphazard development that took place in the city was not according to the Lahore Master Plan. Government is not focusing on basic necessities of lives in all areas of city as well as there is a lack of environmental protection. He summed up that importance of environment, public spaces and energy should be realized by citizens, politics and government as well.

In the next half, Mr. Rafay Alam showed his serious concerns about the projects taking place in the city. He is also a very famous lawyer and has a rich experience on urban issues. He also holds an honorary position in Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) board and is also very active in public litigation. He critically explained that government does not have any serious concerns about the problems in the city. Their projects are just politically motivated and these projects have no future. It would be better to say that these projects are useless and this is not a development paradigm and nothing to do with the futuristic approach of the cities. We have very big roads but the concept of low emission due to signal free corridor is really confusing in all aspects. He concluded if we are going to encourage more cars through making roads signal free, we will create more serious problems for us. We should promote public transports and focus on making cities more pedestrianize and more human friendly.

The discussion revolved around the projects that took place in Lahore in last few years and intentions of government behind development. The most important problem is understanding city through an approach which excludes life and interaction of the city and makes it complex as well as problematic, by making it mechanized without taking care that how dangerous these things are for people, because these big roads irregular and massive commercial markets are costing us hundreds of lives but development do not consider these things important, that's why a lot of pedestrians got hurt every day and nobody cares issues of fire and building collapse are also a routine news for the city. Development must take care of its masses otherwise it is a debt for city which our future generations are going to pay.

This forum helped us in understanding the laws about development as an advocacy organization this is also going to help us in suggesting that if some project is not according to law so people can go in Court against it or they can mold it in a way that this is not going to hurt their interests or belonging.