

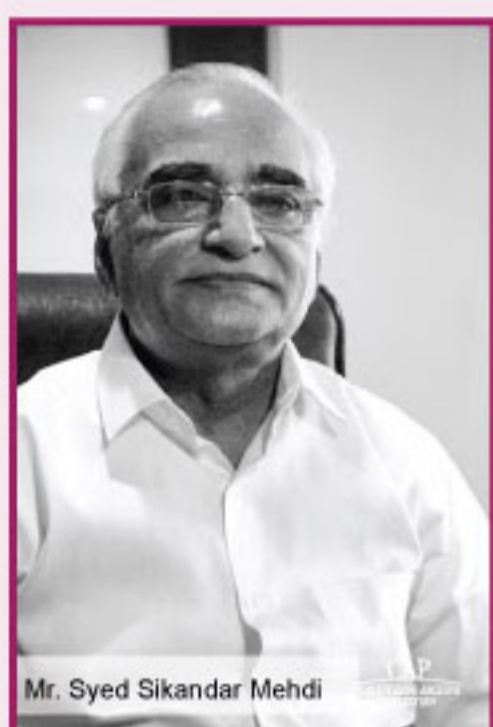
Each month The Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP) provides some insight into the stories and highlights of our projects. This newsletter is a way for us to share the highlights of our work in Pakistan and our efforts to preserve the history of our country.



Oral History Project

The Oral History Project (OHP) concentrates on interviewing senior citizens who may have witnessed partition in 1947 firsthand as well as first generation Pakistanis. The OHP team asks them to talk about significant events in their lives during the early days of Pakistan, thus providing an alternative perspective to historical literature. [Read more...](#)

Mr. Syed Sikandar Mehdi Karachi



Mr. Syed Sikandar Mehdi was born in 1948 in Bihar, India and migrated to Dhaka with his family in 1949. He was very active politically as a student and was part of the East Pakistan Students' Union. The student movement that he participated in was one of the many causes of Field Marshal Ayub Khan's downfall. He also shared with us his memories of the 1971 war, and the terror that prevailed during that time. He insisted that the people of Pakistan should be made aware of the scene that took place during the formation of East Pakistan. He said

"I feel anguished and sad that our progressive and enlightened half was separated from us."

He migrated to Karachi in 1971 because of violence and instability. He reminisced that once upon a time the people he lived with called themselves Pakistanis, and now they call themselves Bengalis.

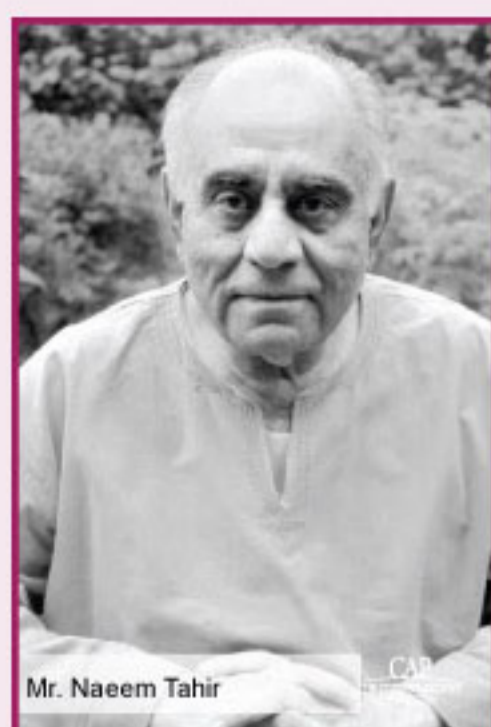
Mr. Anwar Kemal Islamabad



The OHP team in Islamabad had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Anwar Kemal, a former Ambassador. Mr. Kemal shared anecdotes about his childhood days in Bhopal before partition and shared stories about his family's migration from Bhopal to Karachi following the partition. Mr. Kemal also narrated the heartrending moment of Mr. Jinnah's funeral in Karachi, in September 1948.

Being a former Ambassador, Mr. Kemal also told us about his interesting experiences during his postings in Nepal, Qatar, New York and Egypt. We look forward to hearing more about his experiences in a follow-up interview.

Mr. Naeem Tahir Lahore



Mr. Naeem Tahir, an artist by profession, possesses vast experience in multifaceted roles during his career with PTV, Radio Pakistan as well as a Commercial Officer in PIA.

Mr. Tahir spent his childhood in a village called Ali Raza Abad, Lahore, where he spent most of his time participating in activities such as 'Kabaddi' and horse riding. Although he was home-schooled initially, Mr. Tahir displayed immense academic aptitude in his teenage years. He recalled the different adventures he and his friends took part in and shared one of his most cherished one, when Mr. Tahir and his friends applied to Center Model High School in Lahore without their parent's consent.



Outreach Tours

The CAP Outreach Tours project works with students in low-income schools in Karachi and Lahore to develop a culture of tolerance, critical thinking and an understanding of the country's history and heritage. [Read more...](#)

Karachi



In November the School Outreach Tours team discussed the constitution of Pakistan with their students. The children enthusiastically participated in the debate and voiced their opinions, while attempting to give solutions to the problems discussed.

The following words were narrated by a student who voiced Quaid-e-Azam's first address to the nation, where the rights of minorities were highlighted, "Without a constitution, the minorities would never get enough power or representation in a country and the reason we fought for our homeland in the first place would be in vain then." Similarly regarding the state of law, a student said, "Everyone should have equal rights and the law should be equally implemented for the rich or poor". Such responses strengthen our belief as a Pakistani and encouraged us to focus on debates in the classroom.

Lahore



The School Outreach Tours in Lahore provides an interactive forum where students are allowed to share their idea. The team adapted interactive teaching through dramatic enactments and competitive games in the month of November. The focus was on engaging and understanding the children through 'individualized interaction'. The students intensively discussed the cabinet ministers and later expressed what they thought and felt about Pakistani provinces through drawings. This allowed the children to express their interests and skills as the teachers compared them to the cabinet ministers.



College Outreach Tours

Karachi

The COT team in Karachi has begun conducting modules in four colleges. In one of the colleges the team has nearly completed module 9, which is about the history of wars fought by the Muslims. The strength of the classes varies from ten to a hundred students. We received a tremendous response at one of our partner girl's college, where students showed great interest in the classes followed by an in depth session of question and answers. Our students are highly involved in the program and this helps the COT team to successfully help them form an opinion and express it openly during the workshop.



Lahore

The COT Team in Lahore discussed the prevailing injustice and prejudice in society and collaboratively embarked upon an exercise to analyze and assess its causes and effects. During the workshops, a student had some interesting questions such as "if women and men have the same mental capacity and skills, then why are there different standards for each of them?"

The discussions were stimulating and motivated students to get involved in 'anthropological' fieldwork comprising of assignments and interviews of people from different walks of life. Meanwhile, the Lahore Education team made tireless efforts to bring public-sector colleges on board and COT is looking forward to working with them.



EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

Exchange for Change (EFC) is an interactive initiative introduced by The Citizens Archive of Pakistan in 2010 that works at improving relationships between school students of two different countries. [Read more...](#)

Pakistan • India • USA



EFC India (Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad)

We are extremely excited to launch the third round of EFC 2013 – 2015, which has now become the largest student oral history exchange program in the world. This time EFC India will be connecting a total of 5000 students across six cities from both countries. This fourteen month long project in collaboration with our partner organization in India, Routes 2 Roots, will connect students from Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi to

students in Delhi, Mumbai and Dehradun. Students and teachers from our partner schools are extremely eager to kick start the project and learn about their friends across the border.



Contact us

Email info@citizensarchive.org
Website www.citizensarchive.org



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