

URBAN PLANNING EDUCATION IN KARACHI: LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO TREAD INTO THE FUTURE

By

Architect/Planner Noman Ahmed

Professor and Chairman

Department of Architecture and Planning

NED University of Engineering and Technology

Karachi

ABSTRACT

Karachi has developed into a megalopolis as a consequence of various events in its recent history. The phenomenal urban expansion and growth experienced by the city has posed serious challenges of planning, administration and management for the concerned professionals – most significant of them being urban planners. Despite the complexity of urban issues confronted by Karachi, a very small number of trained and qualified urban planners was available to deal with the situation. One of the key reasons for this lack of corresponding professional input towards tackling the urban problems has been the acute dearth of locally available education opportunities in the city.

This paper attempts to study the various academic programmes in urban design and planning initiated in Karachi during the past. The paper analyses each of these programmes, draws conclusions and present recommendations for the future.